



Papakura High School Alumni Panui Issue 1 - Term 3 2021

Kia ora Papakura High Alumni Whānau

Thank you for registering to be a part of our Papakura High Alumni. One of our school values is past, present and future. Our former students are an important part of where we are today and we are already seeing benefits to our current students from the new connections we have made.



Just to update on this term. Obviously, the lockdown has had a big impact on our school community. Over this period, our staff delivered over 200 chromebooks and many more hard packs to students homes. Our engagement online has been growing every week. Nonetheless, when we do return to Level 2, we will need to work hard to ensure that our senior students can achieve their NCEA qualifications.

During the lockdown we received the great news that the Ministry of Education has ended the Limited Statutory Management of Papakura High. This has been in place for 7½ years and before that there was a further five years of interventions. It is great news that PHS has now been returned to full community governance and is the reflection of many years of hard work by John Rohs, the staff team and the Board of Trustees. We will be looking to continue the improvement curve that has seen our roll grow to over 900 students. Next year we expect to grow to 1000.

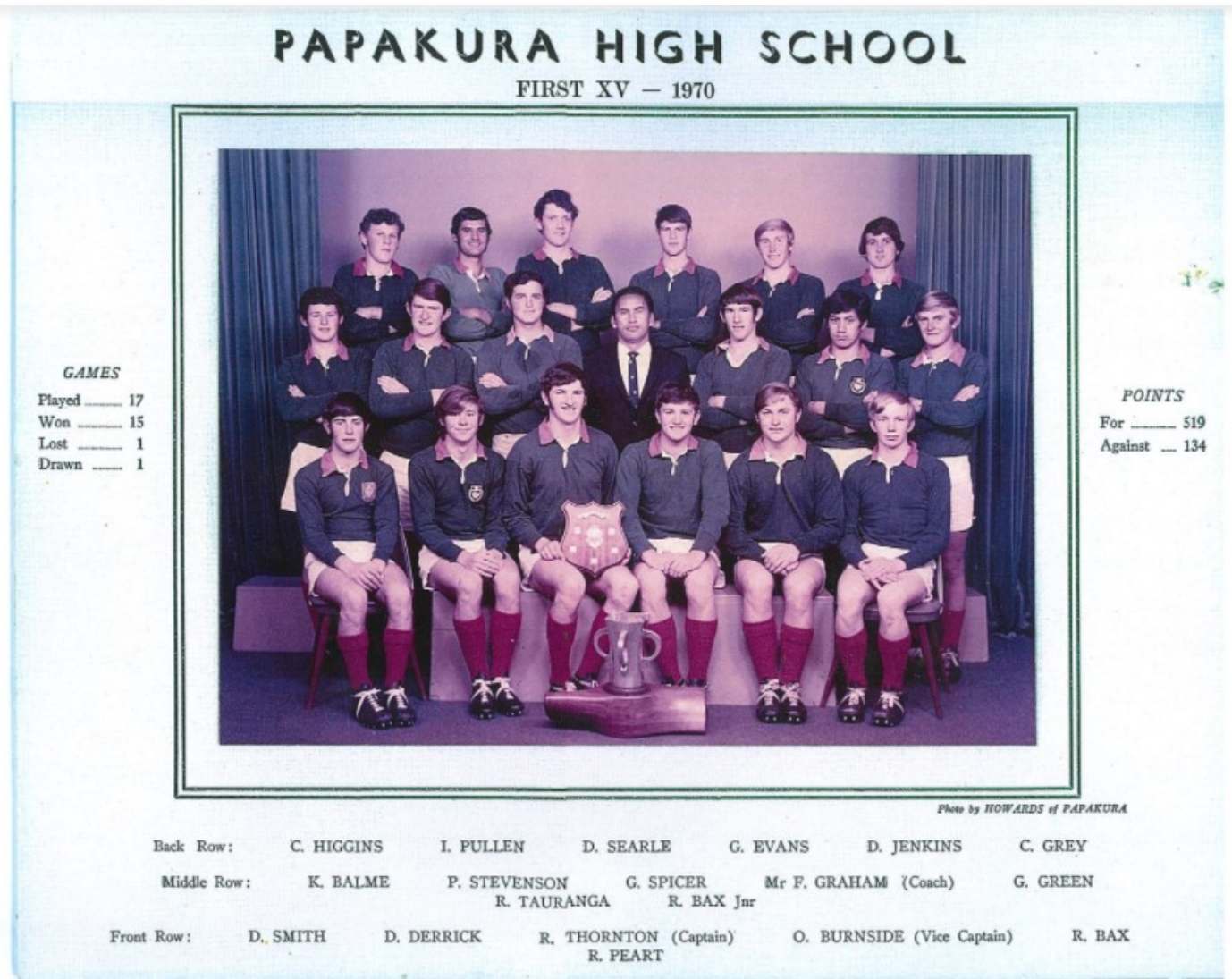
Below is an alumnus' account of a fantastic celebration that we hosted at the school just before lockdown. The 50 year reunion of the Moascar Cup winning PHS rugby team of 1970. It was great for our students to have the opportunity to hear of the exploits of our former students and to be able to honour them with a haka in return. Our U15 team also appreciated the support of the successful 1970 team at their semi final and the opportunity to swap rugby stories with their counterparts from 50 years ago. We hope to be able to host many more similar reunion events in the future.

We are currently looking for sponsors for our First XV rugby team for 2022. If you or your business would be interested in supporting our growing rugby programme, please get in touch with me on s.craggs@papakurahigh.school.nz.

Ngā mihi nui,
Simon Craggs
Principal/Tumuaki



Moascar Cup Reunion - 51 yrs is a long time



That was then.....

On the 5th August 1970, a bunch of Kura boys set out to challenge Wesley College for the coveted Moascar Cup – the Ranfurly Shield of 1st XV rugby.

Back then, Papakura High School 1st XV was a good team – but obviously not rated as a chance to beat Wesley College – the game was scheduled by Wesley to be played on the #3 field out the back of the farm – midweek.

Fred Graham, the now famous Artist /Carver, was the Coach and his final words to the team before we took the field were:

“If I didn’t think you could beat them, I wouldn’t have brought you out here – no go and do it”

A great game, in the mud, saw Papakura beat Wesley College 1st XV 14-9 and take the Moascar Cup – a major ‘David v Goliath’ upset.

This is now.....

51 years later, the 50th anniversary of this win was held in 2021 – delayed a year by Covid. Of the 18 lads in the team that day, only 3 couldn’t make the reunion – 2 locked down in Australia, and one who had passed away.



Papakura High School

Moascar Reunion - 51 years is a long time

Coach Fred, now in his 90's, was also with us along with ex All Black Bob Lendrum as a guest.

It was a very special event, highlighted by the welcome that the school gave us, the full assembly, the genuine interest shown by the kids and the “mind-blowing” full school haka to honour the team. The team was humbled by the occasion and extremely thankful to the School for their support.

Fred Graham, a close friend of Neville Thornton (ex Principal at Papakura High School), presented a beautifully carved, by Fred, “Neville Thornton trophy” for General Excellence in Academic and Sporting achievements and Bob Lendrum spoke of what it was like to become an All Black from his beginnings at Papakura High School.

The school assembly launched a weekend of walking down memory lane – first to the old Jolly Farmer for an “after match” and then to watch a bit of Rugby together at the pub and then at Massey Park the next day where the team watched with enthusiasm and delight when the Papakura High U15s beat Pukekohe in their semi-final.

Out to lunch after this game for more hours of chatting and catch-up finished off with watching the ABs deal to Australia.

A great weekend had by all.

Many of the team have since commented on how much they enjoyed the whole weekend, especially the school's part and then the opportunity to catch up with old mates. We have committed to keeping in touch and to meeting on an annual basis – such was the enjoyment gained from each other's company. Rugby is much more than just a game.

What started as a special game of rugby has ended with a bunch of “lads” from Kura sticking together as a team – committed to supporting each other into old age.

Kia Kaha	(Be strong)
kia maia	(be Brave)
kia manawanui	(be steadfast)



Visit our website www.papakurahigh.school.nz