



Whāia Te Tika - Hato Pāora College Celebrating 75 Years of Quality Education: 1947 – 2022

**Ta Mātou Kaupapa – Mission:
‘Taking good boys and growing them into great young men.’**

Located on farmlands in Cheltenham north of Feilding, Hato Pāora College was opened 1947 by the Society of Mary under the leadership of Marist priest, Fr Issac Gupwell. Pā 'Ike' remained at the school until 1964. He died in 1999 and was laid to rest at Pukekarakara.

Built on a former sheep farm, Pā Ike's vision was to create an environment for boys to grow into young men with strong te reo and tikanga Māori, to promote Catholic and Māori values, to provide a solid education and to encourage achievement and success.

Now one of just four Māori boarding schools in Aotearoa to survive and continue to be operational Hato Pāora is the only Catholic Māori Boys boarding school in New Zealand – and the world.

As times have changed and no priests remain, the school has worked to keep its special character alive through whānau links. Some staff are former students and some students are the third generation of their family to attend the college.

Chair of the jubilee organising committee, Tata Lawton, also a former pupil, says the college has survived 75 years because of the support of many Māori communities in Aotearoa.

Hato Pāora has been fortunate in that its very existence is due to Māori communities, particularly Ngāti Kauwhata, Whanganui, Manawātū, Taranaki, Horowhenua and Hawke's Bay whānau. They have remained staunch supporters of the kura and what it stands for along with the legacy of those early Catholic priests and brothers.

Tumuaki (principal) Dr Nathan Matthews, says Māori boarding schools have played an important role in Aotearoa in the development of Māori society and leadership, particularly through the 20th century. He says the school still has an important place today and it is unique with all the boys living on site. "The students attend from all tribal regions throughout the country."

Nathan, who is writing a book about the school, was a student in the 1990s when there were seven priests living on site. The last priest left Hato Pāora in 1997. "They did everything. They coached rugby, taught in class, drove the bus.

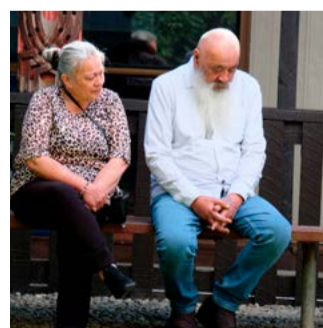
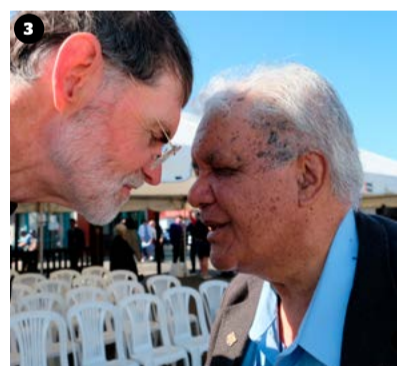
"A highlight for me was regularly being exposed to te reo and tikanga Māori, formally and informally. Above all else, was the camaraderie amongst the students and the development of lifelong friendships – greatly in evidence at this jubilee weekend."

Also in evidence were the numerous Hato Pāora Old Boys now or formerly in highly influential positions of leadership impacting lives for the better for many in Aotearoa New Zealand. From sporting greats to civic, government and Māori society leaders, from Church mission, teachers and other professionals, to large and small business operators and many more, Hato Pāora Old Boys in all walks of life, remain humble, staunch supporters of the school, strong in te reo and tikanga Māori, and continue to embody the school values with a profound reverence for life and loyalty to whānau.

The celebrations included pōwhiri, kapa haka, group photos, an archive exhibition, a jubilee book preview, 'future proofing the kura' discussions, taonga pūoro (traditional Māori musical instruments), waiata, a formal banquet dinner, karakia and a special Mass celebrated by Cardinal John Dew, and cutting the 75th birthday cake by one of the earliest Hato Pāora students.

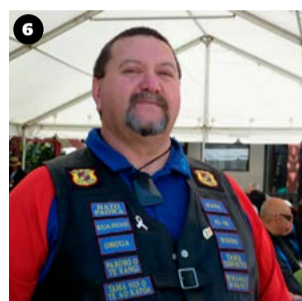


"It's been great to have so many Old Boys and whānau spending time together, renewing connections and back on the whenua. No one wanted it to finish. The boys here have felt the significance and we're looking forward to the 100th."
- Dr Nathan Matthews, Tumuaki



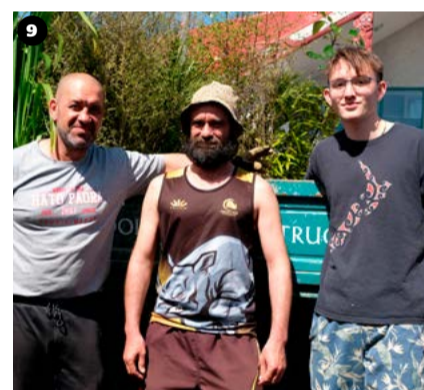
"Hato Paora is the only Catholic Māori boys' boarding school in the world - that is a taonga for us as Māori, but it should be an even bigger taonga for the Catholic Church."
- Tata Lawton

"It's been good to celebrate our 75th Jubilee weekend with the Old Boys and just getting amongst it all."
- Emery McGill, Head Boy

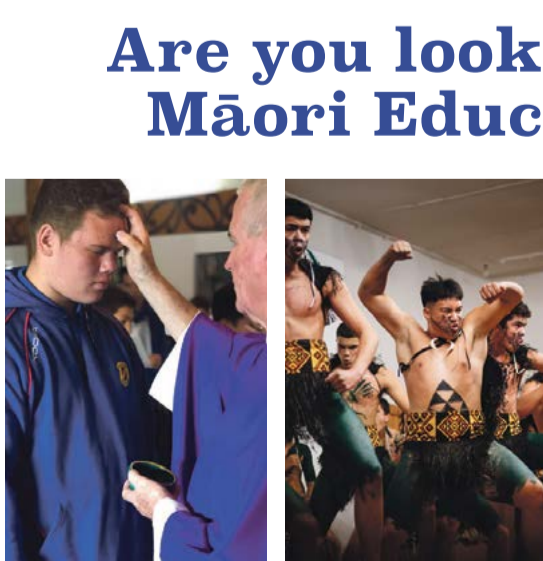


"This weekend has been a whole range of positive emotions - the calmness, camaraderie and humbleness of everyone here and the meeting of old and new, forever brings us together as one."
- Dempsey Broad

"A lot of the good things that happen in Māori All Blacks, which have spread to the Ferns and other teams, have come from Hato Pāora values. The journey here is about taking boys to men. When I look back to when that happened for me - it happened here."
- Luke Crawford



1. Cutting the 75th Jubilee cake, 1-r, Emery McGill, Head Boy, Peter Hakaraia, an early pupil of the kura from the 1950s, and Cardinal John Dew. 2. Jerome Kavanagh, Old Boy and Victoria University of Wellington's composer-in-residence 2022, presents taonga pūoro, traditional Māori musical instruments. 3. Pā Peter Healy and Brian Emery. Brian, a student of the 1960s is one of the organisers of the digital archives project underway to record all students' biographies. Contact Brian at brianemery2015@gmail.com about the project. 4. Head Boy Emery McGill, 2nd right, and fellow students at Mihi. 5. Māori All Blacks Kaumatua Luke Crawford, second from left, with fellow Old Boys. 6. Dempsey Broad, 1982-86. 7. Robin Hapi introduces Wānanga, Ō tātou mate – a digital archive project to locate and record all students' biographies, led by 1960s Old Boys. 8. Key members of jubilee organising team, Tata Lawton, chair, and Dr Areti Metuamata. 9. Jubilee logistics organiser Dean Wilson (l) with Waaka Poutu and Matariki Woolmer. 10. Tumuaki Dr Nathan Matthews stands with Hato Pāora students and Harete Hipango MP.



Are you looking for Catholic and Māori Education for your son?

At Hato Pāora our Vision is **"To Take Good Boys and Grow them into Great Young Men"** so they can be strong in Tikanga Māori and a beacon in our society for the promotion of the Catholic and Māori values.

Enrolments are now open for 2023. Please contact the Office on office@hatopaora.school.nz or 06 328 9731 for an Enrolment Pack.