VOL. 18, 2025

Term 4 Week 7

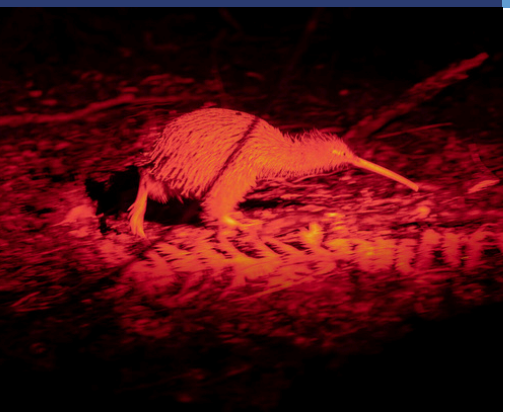
Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist School

Educating for Eternity

Friday, 21st November

Rāmere, 21 Noema

Shining Your Light



Growing up in South Africa, our family used to love visiting the many National Parks that were home to the 'Big 5'. While seeing these incredible animals up close and in the wild was exciting, that was not the primary reason we visited these parks. We were part of a very eclectic group of the population known as 'birders'.

I remember on one occasion, our vehicle was stopped on the side of the road with all of us peering through binoculars trying to identify a bird that we hadn't yet 'ticked' off the list. Other visitors to the game park stopped near us, pointing their binoculars in the same direction, trying to see what we had spotted. A lion? A cheetah? Perhaps even the very rare sighting of a leopard?

They heard our exclamations of joy and wonder at what we were seeing, and after a while, somebody would pluck up the courage to ask, "What are you seeing"? "It's a Carmine Bee-eater!" my Dad announced.

When they realised we were looking at birds, their vehicle quickly started up and off they went, frustrated to have wasted so much time searching for what they thought was one of the Big 5. I could never understand why a person wouldn't appreciate the beauty and diversity of bird species. But then again, not everybody is considered a birder.

I have never seen a kiwi in the wild before this trip. I had searched for them on two previous trips, but unsuccessfully.

All it took was having the right light to shine. Steph had bought special 'red light' torches, ideal for hunting kiwis. We divided the students into groups and, with very little hope, went searching for kiwis. There are two key things needed for spotting kiwi. A decent red spotlight and silence, which, with a group of kids, would be an impossibility. After searching for 15 minutes, as I was about to indicate to my group that we needed to head back so that they could go to bed, a kiwi popped out of the bush, walked towards us, paused, and scurried back into the bush again.

That was a once-in-a-lifetime experience for us. I had tried before, but without the right light, I hadn't been able to spot kiwi.
It got me thinking about the verse in Matthew 5:16, What light am I shining? Do others see Jesus in the light that I am shining?

"*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good deeds and glorify your Father in heaven.*"

Shaun Hurlow
principal@hamsda.school.nz

Karakia

Over the next two weeks we will be praying for the following families

Prayer	Term 4	
	Week 8	Week 9
Rāhina	Fuifui	Gardyne
Rātū	Foley	Gestupa
Rāapa	Fourie	Goodare
Rāpare	Fourie	Hodgson
Rāmere	Galdames	Hurlow

Our Deep Hope

Our students will encounter the heart of God, as they walk in a growing relationship with Him and with others, that inspires them to make a positive impact for His Kingdom

Waitangi & The Gospel

Last week, our Room 4 students traveled to Kororareka (Russell) as part of their NZ Histories Curriculum focus on the Treaty of Waitangi and the early involvement of Christian missionaries in the shaping and influence of modern NZ as we know it today.

With the use of the new school bus and the support of 8 parent helpers, we spent a day driving up to Northland, stopping in a few places to rest and stretch our legs. Despite the rain, we arrived at our accomodation safely, and quickly settled in.

On Wednesday, the next morning, we visited the Waitangi Museum, enjoyed a cultural experience at the Waitangi Meeting House, and explored the Treaty House, Ceremonial Waka, and the site where the treaty was signed.

After lunch, we visited the Stone Store in Kerikeri, NZ's oldest commercial building, an early trading post between Māori and Pakēha.

That afternoon, we headed across to Rangihoua Bay and hiked down to the Marsden Cross, the site where the gospel message was first preached to the residents of Rangihoua Pā by Rev. Samuel Marsden on Christmas Day, 1814.

Making the Most of the Sunshine

On Thursday, we spent the morning in Kororareka (Russell) and visited several significant historical sites - The Pompellier House (first printing press in NZ), Christ Church (NZ's oldest church), Flagstaff Hill (site of the NZ Flag wars), and then set off on a ferry for Urupukapuka Island.

On the way, we came across a pod of dolphins and enjoyed watching them diving and playing around the ferry, much to our kids' delight!

At Urupukapuka Island, half the group stayed at the beach where we were dropped off, while the other half hiked up and over to the other side of the Island to go snorkelling. We then ferried back to Russell, having enjoyed a day of glorious sunny weather.

"And we all, who with unveiled faces contemplate the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his image with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, through the Spirit.
2 Corinthians 3:18

Friday, 7th November

Upcoming events and important info...

Praying for Families

Every morning, our staff team pray for a family in our school community. We invite you to join us in praying for families listed on the front of the newsletter.

If it is your families turn for prayer and you have a specific prayer request, please email your request to the school office and we pray specifically for it.

Attendance Dues Increase

In 2026, Attendance Dues will increase to $660 per person ($30 increase). This increase is due to the rising cost associated with inflation in order to keep up with the maintenance of our school buildings.

Weet-bix Try-Athlon

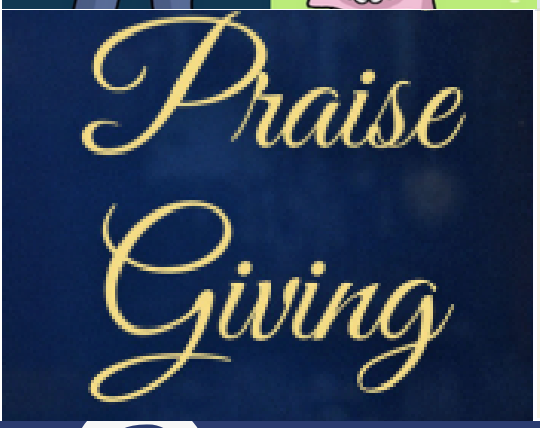
When: Sunday, 7th December
Where: St. Peter's School, Cambridge
Entry: Click HERE to enter our school team

You can opt to have your race pack sent directly to school if you enter at least within two weeks of the event.

School Production

When: Wed & Thurs, 10th & 11th December
Where: Clarence Street Theatre, 59 Clarence Street
Time: 6.30 pm *(Kids need to be there by 5 pm)*
Cost: $29.99 per person *(Our School kids don't need to buy tickets)*

To order tickets, go to:
https://premier.ticketek.co.nz/shows/show.aspx?sh=RETURNS25



Praise Giving

When: Wednesday, 17th December
Year 0 - 4: 1.45 pm at School
Year 5 - 8: 6.00 pm at Hamilton Central SDA Church (58 Palmerston Street, Hamilton Central)
Dress: Formal School Uniform

Please come along and join us as we farewell our Year 8s and celebrate the students and their learning progress.

Displaying Our Values

Scan QR to Purchase Tickets for The Rat Returns

RESPECT. RESPONSIBILITY. RESILIENCE.

Important Dates

Coming up in Term 4

Mon, 1st Dec	**School Board Meeting - Room 1 @ 5.30 pm**
Sun, 7th Dec	**Weet-Bix Try-Athlon -** St Peters, Cambridge, Click HERE to enter
Tues & Wed, 9th & 10th Dec	**Production Practice @ Clarence Street Theatre** - 59 Clarence Street, Hamilton (All kids dropped off between 8.30 - 9.00 am & Picked up between 3.00 - 3.30 pm)
Wed , 10th Dec	**School Production - 6.30 pm @ Clarence Street Theatre** (Students arrive by 5.00 pm)
Thur, 11th Dec	**School Production - 6.30 pm @ Clarence Street Theatre** (Students arrive by 5.00 pm)
Fri, 12th Dec	**Room 4 - Te Awamutu Pools** (Roaming Patrol End-of-Year Celebration)
Wed, 17th Dec, Praise Giving	**Year 0 - 4:** 1.45pm at School
	Year 5 - 8: 6.00pm at Hamilton Central Church **(58 Palmerston Street, Hamilton Central)**
Thurs, 18th Dec	**Last Day of the School Year**

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school App

Hamilton Seventh-day Adventist School
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