

The Green Machine, Hobson. Over the years, we have earnt these fearsome titles through skill, sportsmanship and consistently good results. Although we have not taken the cup in the last 20 years, we as a brotherhood, always put in the hard yards, keeping the other whanau under the pump.

As always, the first term of the year hit like train, with two large inter whanau events straight off the bat. Traditionally Hobson takes the win on these whole school events with large participation across the board and some highly skilled athletes racking up the points.

The first event, swimming sports, did not go as hoped for Hobson. Due to other whanau 'unknowingly' entering competitive athletes in non-competitive events, as a result the other whanau blew us out of the water. We placed rather low, taking fourth place, setting us out to a rocky start.

Later the same term we had another whole school event, athletics. After taking a hit at swimming sports, Hobson needed a win more than anything. With an amazing show of skill, dedication and solid mahi, Hobson pulled through to take the first of many first placings.

With the two biggest events out of the way, it was onto the smaller events with touch rugby next on the list. During this time, Hobson was sitting with seven points under the belt, which was second equal, one point behind Grey and on equal points with Carruth. In this event we placed third equal, luckily this was just enough to push past Carruth by half a point on the table, a solid position for the end of term one.

As term two rolled around so did more events, the first being basketball. This event was for juniors only. Out of the two junior school teams, Hobson only had two players, the least of any whanau. This really did reflect in our result of fourth place.

Lucky the next event was cross country, an event we consistently place well. This year was no different, with a large participation from our Hobson athletes putting in the hard yards we once again secured first place in this event. A well-needed five points we can lock into the bank after our two previous lower ranking events.

The first non-physical event was next, the quiz. The widely anticipated quiz is always an absolute blast for all. Being one of only three non-physical events, this is a way for those who are not physically gifted, yet have a bright mind, to contribute a considerable amount of points to the whanau. Due to our gifted minds and some of the other whanau being a few sandwiches short of a picnic, we managed to take out yet another first place.

With two firsts in a row, this put us into first place overall, in a highly competitive and close competition with only one and a half point difference between the top three whanau. With such a narrow lead every event counts, the next being badminton. Unfortunately for us we lost our winning streak at this event, coming third.

The next event and first event for term four, speeches. With outstanding performances from Hobson, we managed to place second, a highly respectable position, a good start to the term.

Only four events remained and volleyball was the next up. After rustling up the best boys who were keen to play, we gave it our best shot. However, this did not quite cut the mustard and we ended up placing third.

Closing in towards the end of the year with 2 events left on the calendar, it was time for the haka. The last whole school event, a time to show our culture and mana. Even though it is always a great time, this event is always a spanner in the works and has a highly inconsistent scoring, to the point where before the event your best bet of anticipating a winner could be decided by a coin. During this event, Hobson had a major blow out, placing fifth. This was the final nail in the coffin for our hopes of being the champion whanau, putting us in third place five points behind the leader, Grey.

With the end in sight one event remains, football. This event is always an absolute blast, it also signifies the last physical event for the competition. Even though we gave it our best shot we didn't quite get there, we still placed third equal. With this placing, even if we won academics and Grey came last we still would not knock them off the podium.

The very last event remains, academics. Based on class placings from all year groups this is the deciding event on who is the 2018 whanau champions. With Hobson not having a chance at surpassing Grey our only hope is that Bledisloe is able to pull though and beat Carruth achieving their 'anything but last is winning' goal.

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