



**First in:** Principal Susan Hassall enters the new gym ahead of board chair David Blanchett, left, and Mayor Bob Simcock.

# HBHS kaumatua honoured

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When Wikuki Kingi was the kaumatua at Hamilton Boys' High School he always advocated that the world's strength centred on people.

So it was only appropriate that the new gym at the school was dedicated to him at an opening ceremony yesterday.

Mr Kingi, who was also a renowned master-carver, died in September.

He was the school's kaumatua for more than 20 years and principal Susan Hassall said they wanted to

show how much he meant to them. "He was very special to our school," she said. "He gave so much to us, through many years, and in so many ways."

The ceremony was conducted by the school's new kaumatua, Koroneihana Cooper, and was attended by Mr Kingi's family.

Mr Kingi's son, Wikuki Kingi Jnr, cut the ribbon to open the new building.

Mrs Hassall said it was very touching.

"The ceremony was so beautiful and it was very special that we could

be joined by such guests as Bob Simcock, the mayor, and past headmasters as well as Wikuki's family and friends.

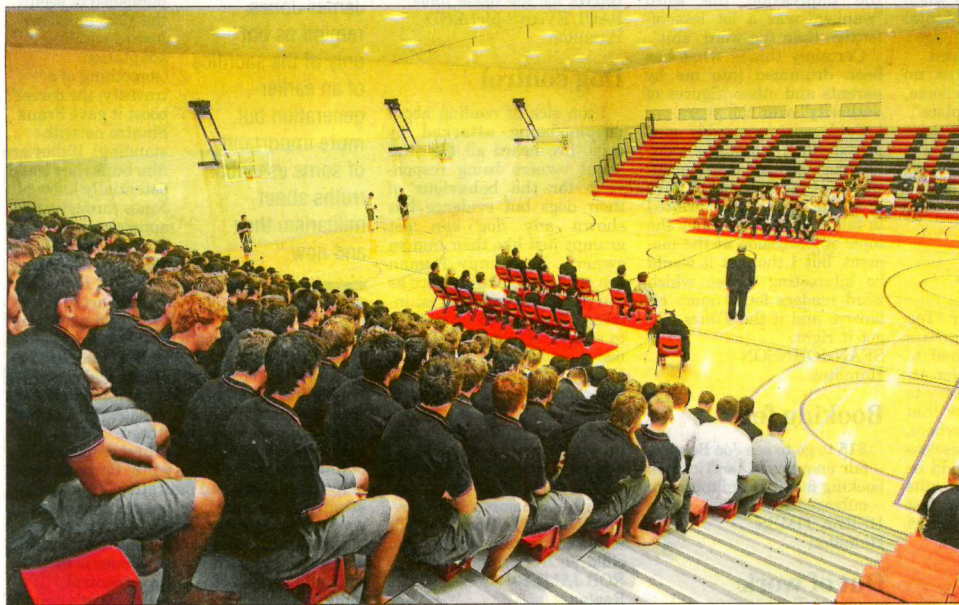
"It really was a blessing that had a great deal of meaning for our school."

At a cost of \$6 million, the gym has a fitness centre, two basketball courts and one viewing court.

Mrs Hassall said the students would benefit greatly from having the new facilities.

A plaque hangs in the gym in memory of Mr Kingi.

■ See [waikatotimes.co.nz](http://waikatotimes.co.nz) for a gallery of pictures from the event.



**Ready to play:** Hamilton Boys' High School students attend the opening of their new gym yesterday.

Photos: PETER DRURY