



Rangiora High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Rangiora

Newsletter - June 2011

Rangiora High School Dominates Canterbury School Road Championships

Rangiora High School athletes excelled at the Canterbury Secondary School Road Championships held at Hagley Park on 18 May in perfect conditions. The athletes were competing against 28 schools and won four of the eight titles at stake.

Year 9 student Hannah Brotheridge overcame a strong challenge in the U14 girls' race out sprinting her rivals to win. Brotheridge was well backed up by very strong runs from her teammates Mairi Law 5th, Chelsea Brown 11th and Lizzie Hawes 51st to finish 3rd in the teams' event. In the U14 boys' race Fergus Eglesfield also had to fight hard over the 3km course, again sprinting to the line for the title. Eglesfield also was backed up with some strong performances from Robbie Salton 14th, Zack Kenny 30th, Liam McCoskrie 47th with the team finishing 5th.

Kiri Atkin replicated the efforts of the younger athletes in the junior girls' race sprinting to 1st place. Again Atkin had a strong team behind her which also secured 3rd spot in the teams' competition with Holly Deaker finishing 8th, Zoe Ladd 9th and Ffion Sutton 41st. The junior boys' event saw mountainbiker Ben Oliver swapping wheels for running shoes finishing the 3km course in a creditable 9th place, with Cai Evans in his first race coming in at 42nd.

Laura-Kate Bean was the school's sole competitor in the intermediate girls' race and finished 17th while Craig Oliver, brother of Ben also took time out from mountainbiking to finish a creditable 3rd in the intermediate boys race.

Triathlete Jaye Atkin had made it a double for the Atkin family winning the senior girls' title with her team mates Kasey Mackinnon 10th, Charlotte Gannaway 21st and Maree Edwards 35th bringing their team home in 4th. In the senior boys' 5km race Jaega Bangma finished 25th.

The athletes will be aiming to dominate again when they compete in the Canterbury Secondary School Cross Country Championships in Hagley Park, which will be a rehearsal for the New Zealand Secondary School Cross Country Championships which are to be held later this term in Tinwald on 18 June. We wish them well for that competition.



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From the Principal

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa. Greetings to all.

I was extremely fortunate to attend the Hawker Brownlow Education conference in Melbourne with our four Deputy Principals and one member of the Board of Trustees recently. I was often asked what I am most proud of about our school. My instant reply is always 'the students'. It is easy to be proud of our students and this newsletter emphasises just why that is. As well I am proud of our staff. I firmly believe that teaching is not just a job; it is a calling, a vocation, a lifestyle and a way of life. Great teachers are those special people in our society who seek to shape the future and see that working with young people is not only a challenge but a privilege as well.

It has been a privilege to welcome new students to our school since February. Not all of these students have arrived as a result of the earthquake. Some have travelled from the other side of the world to settle in North Canterbury and have made the sensible decision to attend their local school. Some have chosen to attend their local school after their family's decision to move from Christchurch to North Canterbury; whatever the motivation the decision has been a positive one.

I have always thought it is important to attend your local school because it is located in your local community where you choose to live. I said recently at our annual Open Night that our school delivers an education second to none and it is true. We demonstrate on a daily basis that focussed students who are well supported from home who work hard, can and do achieve well above national norms. They achieve excellence, gain scholarships, go to university, polytech, gain apprenticeships, distinguish themselves in the Arts, on the sporting field both nationally and internationally and make a significant contribution to their community through fundraising and community service. Most importantly students at our school are happy, well balanced and know what is important in life. Our school ensures that each and every student has a sense of familiarity, a sense of family and a sense of connectedness that comes from knowing they belong.

It is ironic that some parents/caregivers believe they need to send their sons and daughters away – to get a good education. It is simply not true. So when people ask me what am I most proud of about our school ... well it is obvious isn't it ... it is your son, it is your daughter and it is what they have and are achieving.

Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui.

Mrs Peggy Burrows
Principal



School-Links

Please register with School-Links, our text and email attendance notification and monitoring software.

You can register online with School-links for free. It's an excellent way to keep track of student attendance and school information. You can:

- Receive text and email alerts for all general communications such as school closures or in the event of an emergency
- Book parent/teacher interviews online (the next interviews will be held on 5-7 April, 2011)
- Receive text and email alerts if your student has not turned up at school
- Receive newsletters and general notices online
- Notify the school of absence 24/7

Registration is free and easy to do. You can register at www.school-links.org.nz

If you require assistance with School-Links, or have any queries, please phone our Attendance Officer, Mrs Leigh Bolton, on 03 311 8888 (extension 2160).

Once registered it is important to regularly check your details are correct by clicking on the My Profile link.



HILLARY

HEAD OF HOUSE Mr N Moyle

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr A Cotter

Our talented students, directed by Antony Kamstra, gained first place in the House FilmFest with their film "Super Steve". In July we have the "Shave Your Lid for a Kid" fundraiser – lots of heads being shaved to raise money for Rangiora Cancer Support. We also have the annual Hillary climb up Mt Aicken to celebrate Ed Hillary's birthday at the start of the holidays. In this newsletter we celebrate the success of Hillary House swimmers George Eglesfield 13HMG and Max Gills 13HHK:

What training do you undertake for swimming per week?

G – 7/8 swimming sessions; 2/3 gym sessions. 16+ hours.

M – 7/8 swimming sessions, 2 hours per session. 14-16 hours.

Who are the swimmers that you really admire? Why?

G – Ian Thorpe, a legend. Ryan Lochte, the only swimmer to break a world record in 2010, and Willie Steele, he makes me look forward to training.

M – I'm self motivated.

What is the best piece of advice a coach has given you?

G – It is all about the middle part of the race.

M – Keep going and stay focussed. Technique is the key.

What do you think is your best swimming performance?

G – 2010 Spring Nationals – 200 fly; National Age Group 2011 – 400 free.

M – Achieving 8 Division Two times.

What swimming event is your favourite?

G – 200m butterfly; 1500m freestyle.

M – 100m individual medley; 200m back stroke.



LYDIARD

HEAD OF HOUSE Mr A Drayton

DEAN OF HOUSE Mrs P Graham

This term welcomed in a new Head of House for Lydiard, Mr Drayton. It is great to see his energy and enthusiasm for the House. We wish him all the best and look forward to working with him for the rest of the year. The year is zooming by. We have been busy with Stage Challenge, where our students yet again, performed superbly. Along with that we have had the FilmFest, House Debating and Quiz, where our teams consisting of Angus Howat, Georgia Caughey, Olivia Hamilton, Emily Glendenning, Brooke Hewitt, and Hannah Mackintosh did us proud. We are rapidly gaining momentum and we are well on our way to ascending the score board. We look forward to the House Choir where Lydiard has a long history of winning the competition and our biggest fund raiser for the year, the 'Fun Run' raising money for the Foundation for the Blind guide dogs. Our senior students have been collecting prizes from our local community and we are asking all students to provide their full support for this event. Our students are doing very well in sporting and cultural activities outside of school. Craig Oliver won the Mt Isobel Challenge. He came first in the Open Men's section. Congratulations to him on this great achievement. Overall the students are making good progress in school. Our Junior Graduation marks were outstanding and all Year 9 and 10 students are to be congratulated. Our seniors are working diligently in classes. This has been a very busy time at the school for both staff and students. The results so far from internal assessments appear very positive, giving our students a good foundation for end of year examinations. On behalf of Mr Drayton, we wish you all the very best for the rest of the term.





MANSFIELD

HEAD OF HOUSE Mrs M Stephenson

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr A Gebbie

There has been a great deal happening in Mansfield since the Senior Summerfest in Term One. During national CCF Week, child cancer was our priority. Over ten days we sold beads and our students and the community supported this very worthy cause. At the end of it we had raised \$1583 which was even more special this year because the earthquake had made it impossible for CCF to run their usual collections in the Christchurch area.

Two weeks before the holidays began, the Senior Debating team tackled the first of five weekly moots that would go on to test their quick thinking and verbal skills. The strength of Renee Macdonald, Ellis Annesley, Nick Deerson, Caleb Carson, Liam Prisk, Morgan Fowler, Tiz Deerson, Jordan Moss and Hannah Fortune won through to a worthwhile third place. The fantastic FilmFest Team gathered over the first weekend of the holidays to write, act and produce Mansfield's entry. Even another earthquake of 5.3 during the weekend did not stop the movie with the Superhero theme and we came in with a heroic second. House events continued on Open Night with the Mansfield Year 11 Quiz team. The team of Amy Whiteman, Courtney Cooke, James Penrose and Hannah Fortune fought their way through several rounds of testing questions and came in a very close second place.

All of these successes have kept us at the top of the Leader board, proving our students live the Mansfield motto: "To be all I am capable of becoming."



NGATA

HEAD OF HOUSE Mr R Winson

DEAN OF HOUSE Mrs V Wilkins

It has been great to see that, once again, Ngata students are thinking of others and being active in the community. On 19 April a group of students helped out Rangiora RSA selling poppies for ANZAC Day. They had a fun time and were pleased by the positive response the public gave them. As a House we have also been stepping up our involvement with Riding for the Disabled North Canterbury with students becoming members and signing up for volunteering sessions at the NCCC. Ngata also raised several hundred dollars on the recent Open Night for RDA and Ngata House funds through our sausage sizzle. The Open Night was a double success as our Year 11 Quiz Team, made up of Jack Goman, Olivia Hobby, Holly Diepraam and Robert Fox, won the Inter-House Quiz held that night. The competition was through all curriculum areas and very closely fought, the top three teams only separated by three points! Other results saw our FilmFest entry gain a respectable 4th, with a thoroughly entertaining spoof 'Superhero' theme. Filming in the driving rain at the start of the holidays saw our team not only covered in rain but also tomato sauce as 'Mustard Man' and the 'Ketchup King' battled it out in Matawai Park! The on-going Senior Debating competition also came to a climax leaving us trailing in terms of overall results but competing at a high level none the less. Debate results came down to just a handful of points in the end. We now look forward to the huge event that is House Choir! The Ngata Choir is sounding great and 21 June will see us perform to the whole school! The Junior Winterfest Competition is straight after that with football and netball teams competing in a round robin tournament. Go Ngata!





RUTHERFORD

HEAD OF HOUSE *Mr M Williams*

DEAN OF HOUSE *Mrs S Reed*

The first day of the last holidays saw 17 students complete the Rutherford entry for FilmFest. The students had to write and produce a five minute film. We ended up in 3rd place. Our Senior Debating Team competed well and although we ended up in 6th place, our speakers did very well. Nathan Hunt won Speaker of the Day twice. The team members were: Connor Doyle, Nathan Hunt, Charlotte Flay and Joe Piggott. Connor Doyle has spent 10 days on a Spirit of Adventure trip and has come back full of confidence after the experience. He will share his experiences at House assembly soon. Our Year 11 Quiz Team competed well and although our final position was not too flash, I was proud of the students who volunteered their time and effort for this. Alex Mayers 11RFA visited Parliament and received the Wallace Scholarship for outstanding academic effort at RHS. Our choir is busy preparing and again I cannot emphasize enough how much pride I have in the students involved. Our Year 12 students have applied for leadership positions for 2012. They will now interview for these roles and also organise junior students for events in the next two terms to give them the opportunity to enhance their skills and have a taste of leadership. Academic progress is the backbone of our goals for this year. Our juniors have done extremely well in the Junior Graduation Programme. We are currently monitoring a few students and we hope they can pick up their work ethic. We are raising money for the Coastguard later this term in the form of a Coin Trail. Information will be sent home soon. Each Form Class will compete to see who can manage the build the longest line of coins. GO THE RUTHERFORD KNIGHTS! GO BLUE!



SHEPPARD

HEAD OF HOUSE *Ms A Hay*

DEAN OF HOUSE *Mr K Anderson*

There is great excitement in Sheppard House with the results of recent competitions taking us into second position on the leader board. Term 1 ended with Filmfest. Although we finished in 5th place, our enthusiastic film team once again faced the fun, excitement and challenges that go into producing a short film and the team are to be congratulated for their efforts. Our Year 11 quiz team – Alysha Rigter, Zoe Williams, Bryce Franklin and Ben Lane – took Sheppard House into 3rd place in this competition. The Senior Debating Competition was hotly contested and our team of Madeleine Wesselingh, Logan Pocock, Brydie McFall, Tess Stephen, Kate Robertson, Ben Lane and Jordan Hampson won the competition and also Speaker of the Day in all but one of their debates. I am sure the parents of these young people have some interesting discussions with them! I would also like to acknowledge the achievements of some of our students who have had their skills in sport recognised by their selection in some prestigious teams. Firstly, we are extremely proud of Sarah Hayman who was selected in the NZ Secondary Schools' Netball Team. This is a huge honour and we wish her well in the upcoming tournament. We will follow her progress closely over the next few years, as we may well see her in the Silver Ferns in the future. Congratulations also to Marnie Block, Hannah Graham and Alex Svoboda who have been selected in the North Canterbury Under 19 Basketball team and we wish these girls well in their tournament. Our choir is going to present some interesting competition for the other Houses. Junior WinterFest will give our younger students a chance to earn points. Work hard, Sheppard House.



1st XV Rugby

The season is now well and truly underway and the team has been performing well for its first season in the Press Cup. The intensity of the competition was known but it has to be experienced to be fully appreciated. Inexperience has proved costly in a number of games but the team is learning fast and is improving weekly. The team trains 3 times a week and has a recovery/conditioning session. The level of fitness and conditioning required to play rugby at this level cannot be underestimated. I have been impressed with the preparation put in off the field and the players are enjoying their footy as a result.

The Traditions

One of the sporting traditions associated with 1st XV Rugby is the awarding of 'caps' to players who have played 12 games for their team. We have introduced this tradition in 2011 and were able to present caps to 7 players who are in their second season for the 1st XV. The caps are worn before games and form part of the pre-game haka tradition. Caps are not earned without considerable effort and are therefore highly valued.

The Funding

We are very grateful for the contributions a number of local businesses have made to the cost of running the 1st XV. With games spread between Nelson and Timaru it becomes an expensive exercise and without sponsors and a considerable fundraising campaign the cost to players and their families would be prohibitive. I would like to particularly thank Phil and Christine Vink of Kitchen Studio in Christchurch and Tony Brand of Brand Logging who have come on board as our major sponsors for 2011.

Old Boys' Association

Rangiora High School has not had a continuous tradition of 1st XV rugby but it has over the years had some very strong periods of 1st XV Rugby. We would like to connect the teams and players of the past to the present by establishing an Old Boys' Association for former 1st XV players and those who have a connection to High School rugby. If you are a former player or know someone who is please make contact with your details and we can then follow up with a membership package and rugby newsletters.

Facebook

You can follow the team on our facebook page – Rangiora High School 1st XV. Match photos, draws and results are posted weekly.

Finally, thank you to all those who have encouraged and supported the team in its efforts this season. The young men that make up the 2011 1st XV are a credit to themselves, their families and to the North Canterbury Rugby community.

Jim Gilbert

Teacher-in-Charge Rugby & 1st XV Co-Coach



PTA Trivial Pursuit and Art Auction

An extremely successfully combined Trivial Pursuit and Art Auction Evening was held by the Rangiora High School PTA Committee in September 2010 and we would very much appreciate your contribution of art work towards a similar fund raising evening later this year.

We are again approaching former Rangiora High School teachers and students, current Rangiora High School students and their parents, local Art Clubs and artists or those of you who are keen to donate art pieces for this annual event.

This year's funds will be put towards a number of items that are needed including two electric guitars and amplifiers for the Music Department and more seating, tables and shelter for our students to enjoy. These items will be used for the whole school.

Art work will be available for viewing between 4.00pm and 6.00pm on the day of the Trivial Pursuit and Art Auction (to be advised at a later date) enabling us to show off amazing local art and an option of placing an absentee bid on your behalf.

Please supply your business card or any other advertising you wish us to display on the night.

Donations of art will need to be available for pick up or drop off on or before Friday 5 August, to enable us to finalize the auction night details.

We very much appreciate your contribution to Rangiora High School in this way and guarantee promoting you and your business on the night.

If you are able to help, please contact me at school on 311 8888 extension 5300.

Thanking you in anticipation.

Ms Su Jeffcott
PTA Chairperson

Out and About with Land-based Studies

Field trips are an important part of our courses to bring students in contact with the latest research and technology, commercial scale farming and local business and expertise.

Year 12 Agricultural Science visited Lincoln University with Mrs Koster to see the ins and outs of embryo transfer technology. Year 11 Rural Task Force who are growing their own plants in the school's horticulture plots, enjoyed their visit to Mitre 10s Retail Horticulture Nursery. They also had a road trip to mid-Canterbury to two farming industry highlights, the Five Star Feedlot and the Stradbrook Robotic Dairy Farm.



Year 11 Agricultural Science were privileged to visit Mr Murray Taggart's farm at Cust to look at irrigation technology, cropping, growing seed for export and farm management decision making. Mrs Roberts took both Animal Care classes to the Ashley Boarding Cattery to see how a professional cattery is run and admire the gorgeous Japanese Bobtail cats bred by Mrs Iris Baker. A vet nurse also visited the classes to demonstrate cat handling and health care with help from 'Ginger' the NZ Equestrian Academy stable cat.

Year 12 Rural Skills teams trained by Mr Fleck and Mr Murray competed in the Agricultural High School Skills Competition at Mclean's Island. In the advanced competition the A team were only three points behind the winners, Christ's College. Stand out individual performances were Lutz Kaiser 2nd, and Rod Saunders 3rd. Craig Musson of the National Trade Academy said the standard of agricultural skills was high with students excelling in quad bike riding and stock handling.

Plea for Volunteers

The Learning Centre supports the students of Rangiora High School in a number of ways. One of our important roles is to supply adults to sit alongside students and act as **Reader Writers**.

Students eligible for this support are only eligible for this when they have a diagnosis for Dyslexia or other SLD conditions. This condition prevents them from achieving at a level that their intellectual assessment shows they can reach.

I would like to hear from anyone willing to be on a volunteers' list for Reader Writers. Skills required are patience, tolerance and reasonable Literacy skills. You will be working with Year 9 and 10 students (13-14 year olds). You do not need any particular subject knowledge – just a desire to help teenagers to reach their potential.

It is not a regular commitment – you might only be rung three times a term.

Please telephone me and leave a message or email me. My contact details are:

Margaret Neate

311 8888 extension 4700

margaret.neate@rangiorahigh.school.nz

Thank you for considering this request. Your support of our students is much appreciated.

Margaret Neate

Head of Teaching and Learning

Mongolian Student Update

On the 26 March we said a sad farewell to our first World Vision Mongolian student, Ulzijargal Batsukh, and then welcomed this year's new recipients, two boys, Burenkhaan Erdenechimeg to Rangiora High School, and Batbaatar Buyanbaatar to Rangiora New Life School. The boys are 15 years old and come from World Vision's Light House 1 in Ulaanbaatar where they were living with 20 other boys in similar circumstances.



They are eager to learn English, and have already made incredible progress. They come with vibrant personalities and strong musical talents, and have sung with the Mongolian "Children of the Blue Skies" choir for 7 years. We thoroughly enjoyed hearing them sing in harmony at our assemblies recently and the Open Night, dressed in their traditional Mongolian costumes.

If any family wishes to contribute financially to the support of these boys, please contact Ms Julia Malcolm at Rangiora High School on 3118888, or Mr Hans Berends at Rangiora New Life School on 3136332.

Gateway to the World of Work

All our 22 Gateway students are engaged in their work placements with local businesses – ranging from automotive, builders and bakeries to hospitality and Early Childhood centres. We thank employers for accepting our students in these difficult times.

As well as working one day a week, students must complete a theory package from a tertiary provider or an Industry Training Organisation for their respective industry/sector and these are well under way.

Already this year, we have had success with three of our students starting apprenticeships at their Gateway workplaces or other associated businesses.

Students are finding that having Gateway work experience on their CV helps them achieve the next step on their career path.

The photo at right shows Paul Tillman at North Canterbury Truck and Tractor. Paul has gained an apprenticeship at Blackwell Motors.



Year 12 Biology Trip

The Biology Department enjoyed another successful field trip to Kaikoura in week 3 of this term. The students spent three days working at the Edward Percival UoC field station studying the behaviour and responses of a marine invertebrate to fulfil the requirements for the Level 3 internal achievement standard that is a core part of the biology programme at Level 3.

The trip was blessed with 5 days of calm and settled weather and the students produced an interesting range of investigations. Of note was an investigation into starfish response to different concentrations of an extract of one of their prey species. A large number of investigations were on a range of different organisms and their responses to temperature change.

The students had the advantage this year of the most favourable tides that the trip has ever had, with the spring tide conditions for the week enabling students to sample areas that are normally underwater. The quick incoming tide almost caught both groups out on their return walks, and an unusually large number of seals kept staff and students alike on their toes.

Overall the students worked well and produced a high calibre of work. Some interesting interpretations of the recipe for chocolate pudding and a new technique for tea towel flicking were the highlights in the kitchen, as well as the now famous crayfish and paua provided by Mr Scott.

A big thank you is due to the staff that accompanied the trip, and without their on-going support the trip could not run. So thanks to Mr Gilbert, Mr Scott and Ms Bailey for taking the time to travel to Kaikoura and support the students for the duration of their trip.



Library News

It is proving to be a great year in the Library. Teachers and students are using the Library and it is proving to be a very busy place. Students are becoming more aware of the resources that we have and are also recommending books that they would like to see in our collection.

Changes will be taking place this year in that we are buying a new Library software programme, which will benefit teachers, students and library staff. It is going to be web-based, so that will open up a whole new world for us in the Library.

At the moment the Library staff are organising a Library Challenge. It will run over five months and the students are encouraged to read as many books, of 180 pages at least, in that time. There will be spot prizes and other challenges as time progresses for the students to aim for.

Let's all have fun taking part in this challenge.

Creative Writing Club

One of our talented teachers of English, Mrs Thompson, has started a creative writing club.

The club meets every Monday at lunchtime in Mrs Thompson's classroom, G13.

Mrs Thompson works with students on haiku, poetry, story writing and more.

There are also opportunities to enter international and national creative writing competitions.

Some Rangiora High School young writers are coming along regularly.

All students are welcome to come and discover their hidden writing talents.

Why not come along and have some fun with others who enjoy writing?

We look forward to welcoming you.