



Rangiora High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Rangiora

Newsletter - July 2010

From the Principal

Kia Ora Koutou Katoa.

It has been an extremely busy and satisfying term and we have achieved many of the goals we set ourselves way back in February. It is exciting to note that the B, C, D Block structural re-strengthening and refurbishment project has been completed on time and within budget. This completes the two million dollar project and provides our students with classrooms of which they can be proud. Many parents and caregivers might well remember their own time in these three old buildings and will be pleased to see that they have had a facelift. Their refurbishment preserves part of our rich history and at the same time allows us to enjoy up to date technology and design. The classroom environments are vibrant and staff report high levels of pupil satisfaction. Please feel free to visit if you would like a quick trip down memory lane and want to walk those corridors again! I am sure as an ex-student you would be interested and proud to see the transformation.



It has been very pleasing to note the increased student engagement in the first half of the year. With the introduction of the Junior Graduation Programme students' progress and achievement has been a priority and focus for staff and students alike. We have introduced 'Winter School' in the first week of the school holidays for students in Years 9-10 who have not met the required half-year graduation standard. This is an extension to the very successful 'Summer School' programme we ran in December 2009. A group of passionate and committed staff have agreed to tutor those students who are yet to meet the half-year requirements for graduation. It is our goal that all students involved in 'Winter School' will complete the work required at the standard required so that when they return to school in Term 3 they have made the gains that will assist them to graduate at the end of the year.

Another initiative we have introduced into the senior school in 2010 is the 'Towards Opportunity Programme' [TOP]. This programme is designed to assist students to achieve to their true potential and identifies students studying mainly internally assessed subjects for NCEA who are at risk of not achieving the 80 credits required. The programme provides these students with an extended school year and opportunities to study in a smaller more intimate learning environment. Once again our teachers have committed their time and energy to ensure that all students have access to quality teaching and learning opportunities and can achieve the number of credits they require at each level of NCEA.

Our key focus in 2010 is on raising student achievement and allowing students to meet their true potential. The challenge for us, as we look ahead to the second half of the year, is to continue to find new and exciting ways to engage our students and provide further tangible benefits to them. As a school we are committed to increasing our understanding of our students' educational needs and requirements so that we can, as a school, deliver programmes of learning and co-curricular activities that will challenge them.

Students and staff have worked hard this term. I would like to thank all staff for their contribution to our success this first half of 2010. There have been so many highlights along the way and some of these are reported in this newsletter. I know you will enjoy reading the newsletter and will be amazed at just what our students have accomplished in their daily school life. They are great students and this is a great school and as always it is a privilege to lead this amazing team. Best wishes to all students for a well earned break. I look forward to seeing you all back in Term 3 rejuvenated, revived and ready to go!

Kia Kaha. Kia Toa. Kia Manawanui.

Peggy Burrows
Principal

RockQuest Regional Finals

The regional finals of the 2010 RockQuest were held at the Isaac Theatre Royal in Christchurch on 11 June. We had three entries of the fourteen playing on the second night of the finals. The band "Discord" was voted people's choice. The enthusiastic audience responded to their original material delivered with humour and energy. The drummer, Aidan Stewart, dressed in a gorilla suit reminiscent of a certain television commercial, certainly captured the audience's attention. "Discord" now has an opportunity to go on to the national final which will be held at the Founder's Theatre in Hamilton on 11 September. The members of the band - Aidan Stewart, Robert McTavish, Tom Lee, David White and Callum Stephen - have a month in which to produce a 15 minute DVD in which they highlight their song-writing and performance abilities. Tess Stephen who won the women's musicianship award and the \$150 prize attached to this category. "The Cold Front", were unrewarded on the night but impressed also with a very professional performance.

The Big Sing

The Big Sing takes place annually throughout New Zealand. Canterbury's two day choral festival took place recently, and featured choirs from throughout the region. Our choir of 24 singers, conducted by our singing teacher, Karen St. Guillaume, participated on the second day. They sang two songs, "Above my Head", a spiritual, and a New Zealand song by the band Crowded House, "Don't Dream It's Over". For the gala concert that evening, each of the twenty schools that participated sang just one song from their repertoire. The evening concluded with a massed item, "Zadok the Priest" which was first performed at the coronation of King George II of England in 1727.

As a sequel to that performance, on Tuesday 22 June, the choir went down to "Soundwaves" recording studio in Victoria Street to record "Don't Dream it's Over." We are recording a 'best of' each year and hope to have a CD available for purchase later in the year.

Attendance

Please advise us of your student's absence EVERY day they are absent. This can be done either by phoning the school on 03 311 8888 or by going on to www.school-links.org.nz and clicking on the Absence tab. Students who ring themselves in sick will not be marked absent and an electronic notification will go out to caregivers advising of their absence.

If a student is unwell at school they must come to sick bay, even if they have already contacted you to pick them up. You then know where they are and we will then enter their attendance. If they leave without us knowing they will be marked as truant.

If you are going on holiday a letter must be sent to the Principal, Mrs Peggy Burrows, for her approval. Please advise if this is an overseas or New Zealand holiday.

Please advise the school of any change of physical address, telephone/cellphone or email. If your child is hurt and we need to get in contact with you urgently, we must have these details correct.

School-Links

Please register with School-Links if you have not already done so. With School-Links 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
- Receive text and email alerts if your student has not turned up at school
- Receive newsletters and general notices online
- Notify the school of your student's absence 24/7

Register at www.school-links.org.nz

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. Thank you for your support as we seek to continually improve our attendance monitoring processes.



HILLARY

HEAD OF HOUSE Mr N Moyle

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr A Cotter

Hillary House has had a superb term. Our Junior Boys' football team and our Junior Girls' netball team have set the pace in the House Competition. We also completed a major fundraiser for North Canterbury IHC and the Rangiora Cancer Support Group. We raised \$300 for each of these charities when collecting donations from spectators and selling bacon and egg sandwiches at the Canterbury Rally held at Queen's Birthday weekend.

This month we speak with **Antony Kamstra 11HMH** who helped choreograph the winning Stage Challenge this year and is performing the role of Oberon in "A Midsummer Night's Dream – Rewritten" in the July school holidays:

When did you audition for this role?

At the end of March 2010

Why did you audition for the role of Oberon?

Because I thought it would be a fun role to act in.

How do you juggle the time demands from both school and the theatre?

Doing drama is my decision so it becomes my spare time and my social life.

What training have you undertaken to be an actor?

I have been at the Dale Hartley School of Speech and Drama for four years.

What is the most embarrassing moment you have had on stage?

I was singing and I accidentally broke the microphone so no-one in the audience could hear me.



LYDIARD

HEAD OF HOUSE Mr D Palmer

DEAN OF HOUSE Mrs P Graham

The highlight of Term 2 would have to be our wins in the Senior Debating competition and the House Choir. Thanks so much to all who gave up their time to make this happen. We are pleased to profile some members of Lydiard House. **Angus Howat** joined the Lydiard House team this year as Junior House Leader. He is a Year 10 student who has "always wanted to be on the executive" and felt it was the right time to do it. He has so far done an excellent job for Lydiard including getting involved in Sports Day and Junior SummerFest Volleyball. Academically he enjoys Maths, English and Japanese and hopes to go to University after finishing school. He is also an avid rower and competes for the school in 8's, 4's and Quad's where he has experienced success, placing second this year in the Maadi Cup. Angus is a true asset to Lydiard and someone to watch for the future. **Emma Woods** is proud to be a Lydiard House Captain. She is an enthusiastic member of the team who's always proud to wear orange. She has been impressed this year with fellow members of Lydiard, "we've had full House effort and now we have won choir, we're back!". Academically Emma enjoys Biology and hopes to attend the University of Canterbury to further her studies in this area. Emma has an active sporting life in and outside of school competing in Canoe Polo, Surf Life Saving and was also part of the Tennis team that went to the National Championships. Recently she has been awarded North Canterbury's rescue of the year which is a huge achievement. As busy as Emma is she still finds time for another passion, playing the euphonium for the Addington Brass Band. Emma is leading the way for the younger members of the House.





MANSFIELD

HEAD OF HOUSE Mrs M Stephenson

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr A Drayton

This term has been an incredible one for Mansfield House. Our Child Cancer bead sales were a huge success. Mansfield students raised several hundred dollars for this extremely worthy cause. They have really taken cancer victims to their hearts. Choir was the usual feverish excitement for the dedicated fantastic singers who performed and the enthusiastic audience. Mansfield juniors have two Winterfest finals to play in - netball and football. This is the first time that Mansfield has been in both junior finals in the same year.

In this newsletter we profile Jordyn Smith, our House Captain. **Why did you want to become a member of the Mansfield House Executive?** I wanted to give back to the House that had given me such a sense of belonging by taking on a role that would allow me to contribute my voice and opinions. I thought it would be fun to be a role model for others and encourage house pride, and I guess my enjoyment of public speaking meant that any spoken House task would be not too daunting for me. **What are your goals – both academic and for the House?** I want to achieve University Entrance and Level 3 Endorsed with Excellence. For the House, I would love Mansfield to be high up on the Leader Board at the end of the year. I want to use my role to encourage participation and pride in others and continue to help others- particularly juniors, to continue to settle into the House. **What are your future ambitions?** My immediate plans next year are to attend university to study Bio-chemistry and Chemical Engineering. Further down the track, I would love to travel overseas, experiencing different languages and cultures.



NGATA

HEAD OF HOUSE Mr T Kirby

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr R Winson

At the time of writing this article, Ngata is now a full 116 points ahead of all the other Houses in the inter-House competition. We are on 413 points and our nearest rivals have not even got to 300 points yet. That makes us incredibly proud and eager to keep a big lead by trying our very best in all the remaining activities this year. This lead was not possible without the outstanding performance of our choir in finishing second. Last year we finished sixth so this is a huge improvement. While all students who participated were magnificent, it is worth acknowledging the great singing voice of Bonnie Tainui, who we believe was the best singer out of all the House performances on the day. Special congratulations to Mr Richard Winson who becomes the new Head of Ngata House. This will be a popular choice. His experience as Dean of House should be invaluable as he takes on this new role. Richard will start this at the beginning of Term 3. Because of Richard's elevation, a new Dean has been appointed. It is with great pleasure that Ngata House welcomes Mrs Vanessa Wilkins to this position. Mrs Wilkins comes from Sheppard House and will be well known to lots of students. Vanessa teaches Health, Business Studies and Pre-Employment. A big thanks to Mr Mark Planner who is helping 10NWE as form teacher while Mrs Fleur West is on leave. Mid-year reports are being sent home soon. Close scrutiny of these would suggest that while most Ngata students are performing well, lots of students have aspects of their learning to work on. It is important that students sit down with parents to assess this progress with students then setting appropriate, achievable goals for the rest of 2010.





RUTHERFORD

HEAD OF HOUSE *Mrs S Reed*

DEAN OF HOUSE *Mr M Williams*

Rutherford has stepped up to have a successful result for the Baby Competition with a representative coming in to Principal's Assembly in Week 11 to be presented with the proceeds collected over the two week duration. It was a privilege to know that the money was going to such a good cause. We had good support from the school, our community, Westpac and The Northern Outlook. Tracy, the bank manager, provided a generous prize to the winning baby with Monteiths donating a prize for a voter. We had a selection of keen students who battled out the House Choir competition. They gave up numerous hours at both form time and lunchtime to practice. Their participation and efforts are to be commended – it would not have been as much fun without their input. Well done with the participation – you tried your best. Rutherford would like to acknowledge a special thanks for the following staff members' ongoing help: Miss Bailey, Mrs Power and Ms Hannah. A shared lunch for staff and students is on the agenda for those who gave up so many hours. Preparation is being geared up for Foodbank, with students starting to collect food ready for Week 2 of next term. Assembly continues with the weekly theme incorporated into associated clips ranging from the serious to the comical Mr Bean. Check out next term for the great T-shirt House design that Ms Aldhamland designed for us – let's get into full gallop ahead for the remainder of the year. Well done to the Cantamaths teams this term. We look forward to seeing all "Rutherfordians" succeed next term in House, academic and sporting events. Well done and keep up the great Rutherford House spirit. Go blue!



SHEPPARD

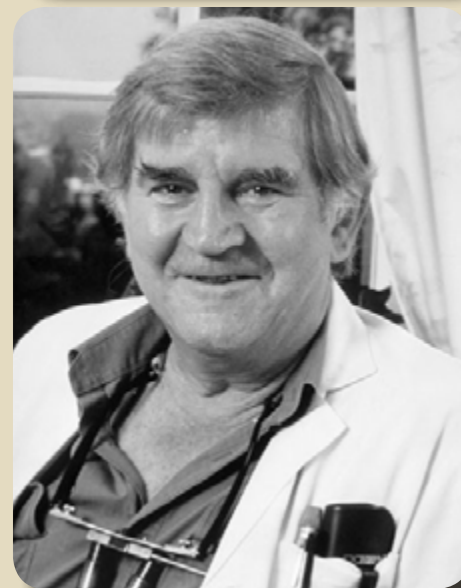
HEAD OF HOUSE *Ms A Hay*

DEAN OF HOUSE *Mr K Anderson*

Next term Sheppard House and Hillary House will join together for their annual fundraising Sponsored Rowing event to raise money for the Fred Hollows Foundation NZ. The Fred Hollows Foundation NZ works for a world where no-one is needlessly blind. Their work focuses on the prevention of blindness, and restoring sight for people who are blind from cataracts or other disorders. The foundation works in over 20 countries worldwide and has helped restore the sight of over one million people.

In September, Sheppard House students will be completing a "Sponsored Row" to help restore sight to over 80,000 people in the Pacific Region who are needlessly blind. The aim is to row continuously on a rowing machine for 6 hours. Students will take turns rowing and will have to work hard to make sure the rowing machine does not stop. We will be collecting sponsorship for completion of the row or per kilometre we row. During the day we will also be having other fundraising activities such as 'blind' games and a sausage sizzle. This is where we need your help. We particularly need donations of prizes for the activities, but any assistance in terms of items or goods we can use on the day would be greatly appreciated. It is for a very good cause and we hope that our efforts on the day will be able to make a big difference in the lives of others.

If you can offer any assistance in terms of sponsorship, donations or prizes, please contact us on 03 3118888. Your help will be greatly appreciated.



Year 13 Business Success

Four Year 13 Rangiora High School students, Angus Forbes, Brianna Honson-Morris, Jessica Chuck and Drew Solakof, from the company StickIt experienced success at the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Scheme's Canterbury oral business-plan competition held recently.

They were one of two winners in the business-plan competition which saw 34 teams from 11 schools detailing their plans to three judges, all experienced and successful business people.

StickIt have been designing and producing skins for their customers' iPods. The company's Managing Director Angus Forbes said that he wanted to both protect and give some individuality to customer's iPods, which are usually one of the more expensive items that many young people own.

As part of the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES), a nationwide competition, StickIt are required to experience the real world of business by researching, marketing and producing a product.

The business plan competition is one of the many steps that the students are required to take in their journey in Year 13 Business Studies. It began with their product launch on Rangiora High School's Open Evening and culminates with the submission of their annual report in October.

My Security, a Christchurch Boys' High School team, running a private security company for youth parties, shared the honours with StickIt.



Arts On - Wearable Arts Event

The countdown is on... just six weeks until the students and staff will exhibit a creative array of wearable art creations. This year the theme is outer space and we are anticipating lots of crazy modernistic stuff!

Join us for a galactic adventure at 7.00pm on Wednesday 11 August in the School Hall. Tickets can be pre-purchased from the school office or at the door on the evening at a cost of \$5.00 per person. See you there.

WOW Wellington Trip

Senior textiles students are now underway with fundraising to assist them with their trip to the fantastic World of Wearable Arts event in September this year.

Students are offered the opportunity to attend the show bi-annually. The students will visit attractions in Wellington as well as watch the amazing evening show.

One lucky student prizewinner participating in Arts On, our own school wearable art competition, will accompany the group on the WOW Wellington trip.

Your attendance at our Arts On event will aid their fund-raising efforts.

Risingholme Orchestra

The Risingholme Orchestra has met every Thursday morning since 1992 in the Risingholme Community Centre in Opawa.

This orchestra is presently conducted by Tony Ferner, principal flute in the Christchurch Symphony Orchestra.

The Risingholme Orchestra presents concerts to schools and community organisations throughout the year, and on Thursday 25 June this orchestra, comprising some 50 players, played in front of an appreciative audience of Rangiora High School students.

The highlight of the presentation was the soloist, the 16 year old Anna Kiriaev who impressed with her virtuoso performance. It was a wonderful experience, on a cold and wet winter's day, to go down to the Baptist Church and hear the warmth of this well-established community orchestra.

Reports Issued

All students will be issued with a mid-year report on Friday 2 July. We appreciate your feedback.

If you wish to comment on the format of our reports please email:

admin@rangiorahigh.school.nz

House Choir Competition

Our annual House Choir Competition was held on Tuesday 15 June. The whole school watched all six choirs in two venues - the senior school was in the School Hall, the junior school was in the Baptist Church Hal.

Congratulations to Lydiard House, winners of the House Choir competition for 2010. Lydiard House has won this competition four times in the six years since Houses were re-introduced. Lydiard House has been second on the other two occasions.

The results of the House Choir competition for 2010 were:

1st	Lydiard	120 points
2nd	Ngata	100 points
3rd equal	Mansfield	70 points
3rd equal	Hillary	70 points
5th	Sheppard	40 points
6th	Rutherford	20 points

Well done to all of the students who sang for their House. Thank you to the staff who facilitated the choirs.

Every year the choirs get larger and the standard gets higher. It is an exciting event. We look forward to House Choir 2011.

PTA Art Auction

As part of our annual fundraising, the PTA Art Auction will be held mid-year in a location and on a date yet to be confirmed.

This year's funds will be put towards a number of items that are needed including replacing the old Hall microphones and stands, extension cables for general use in lighting and sound in the hall and a perspex drum enclosure for the Music Department. These items will be used for the whole school in assemblies, productions and concerts.

We would very much appreciate your contribution of art work towards this fund raising evening. We are approaching ex-Rangiora High School teachers and students, attending Rangiora High School students or their parents, local Art clubs or those who are keen to donate art pieces for this annual event.

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

Donations for the Art Auction will need to be available for pick-up on or before Friday 23 July 2010, so that auction night details can be finalised.

We very much appreciate your contribution to Rangiora High School in this way and guarantee promoting your business on the evening. Please feel free to contact Su Jeffcott at school on 03 3118888. Thank you in anticipation.

Land-based Studies

Field trips and practical work are an important part of learning in the Land Based Studies Department.

Rural Skills

Ten students competed at the National Trade Academy's Skills Day in May covering six modules that would do the Young Farmer of the Year proud. Year 12 students have finished their chainsaw courses and have chopped up lots of firewood in practice. They look good in their orange safety gear. Fencing skills are coming along really well and the new cattle loading ramp is finished thanks to Mr Fleck and Mr Murray who has building skills to add to his teaching and farming qualifications.

Animal Care

Animal Care students have had visits from the vet nurse (and her faithful dogs) and Danny Templeman of the Animal Health Board who showed us the story of TB control in New Zealand.

Agriculture

Year 12 students saw embryo transfer work at Lincoln University and artificial insemination of dairy cows with LIC at the Belfast freezing works. Year 11 students visited the Lincoln Deer Farm breeding unit.

Equine Studies

The Equine Studies students recently spent a day at Kowhai Riding School working on practical skills and testing themselves either over cross country jumps or ground training on cavaletti.

Course Selection / Careers

Students will be choosing their next year's subjects at the beginning of Term 3.

Year 9 and 10 students should choose the electives they have enjoyed the most, as all job options are still open to them in the future.

Year 11 students choosing their Year 12 subjects need to choose most carefully, as the choices they make now may preclude them from some careers in the future. We offer career seminars to Year 11 students in the first three weeks of Term 3 during class time. They can choose up to three seminars by signing up in the Careers Room, J2.

If senior (Year 11 and 12) students have a career in mind, they should ensure they take the correct subjects so they meet the pre-requisites for future education or training.



Any student can come to the Careers Room, J2, any lunchtime, to look at the prospectus or information for prospective students from most training providers, or they can look at the Career Services website www.careers.govt.nz at home or at school.

If students do not know yet what career they want in the future, they can also go to the website and take the CareerQuest quiz to start thinking about career options. Find it in 'Popular pages' on the Homepage, or Plan your career/Interactive Tools/CareerQuest.

They can also look at the Career Circle posters in the Careers Room to find a range of careers where their favourite subject is important.

Upcoming Events

It's always a busy time for staff and students at Rangiora High School. Here are a few of the key dates for your calendar:

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|--------------|-----------------------------------|
| 2 July | Year 9-13 Reports Issued |
| 2 July | Term 2 ends |
| 19 July | Term 3 begins |
| 21 July | PTA Meeting, 7.30pm |
| 23 July | UN Model General Assembly |
| 26 July | Foodbank Week |
| 27 July | Senior WinterFest begins |
| 29 July | BOT Meeting, 6.30pm |
| 5 August | Year 8 Parent Evening, 7.00pm |
| 6 August | FREE Mufti Day for Houses |
| 10 August | PARENT INTERVIEW DAY |
| 11 August | Arts On, 7.00pm |
| 13 August | Course Selection Sheets due today |
| 17 August | SENIOR SCHOOL EXAMINATIONS |
| 18 August | PTA Meeting, 7.00pm |
| 23 August | BOT Meeting, 6.30pm |
| 30 August | Winter Tournament Week |
| 10 September | Rutherford House Hire-a-Helper |
| 13 September | PTA Meeting, 7.30pm |
| 15 September | PTA Quiz Night |
| 16 September | Year 11 Social (subject to sales) |
| 20 September | Year 9-10 e-asTTle Testing Week |
| 23 September | Blood Service on site |
| 23 September | BOT Meeting, 6.30pm |
| 24 September | Term 3 ends |
| 11 October | Term 4 begins |

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