



Rangiora High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Rangiora

Newsletter - May 2010

From the Principal



Kia Ora Koutou Katoa. In May this year I celebrated seven years at Rangiora High School. It seems a cliché to say the time has flown, but it certainly has. We have achieved some outstanding things at over that time. These achievements include the reintroduction of our House system in 2005, our new Technology Block, the refurbishment of the Home Economics rooms into Science Laboratories, the refurbishment of F Block, our new Drama Suite, the extension to the Art Department, the refurbishment of B, C, D Blocks and the current work on the refurbishment of M Block. Our student achievement data continues to improve and our last ERO evaluation highlighted our focus on raising student achievement and improvements in teacher best practice. As a school I am confident that we demonstrate, on a daily basis, a commitment to excellence, to our students and to our parents/caregivers.

In order for the school to run smoothly and to achieve the excellent results we do there have to be some shared understandings and some agreement around expectations. We need to have an agreed understanding of who is in charge at school. When students are dealing with the staff they have to understand that the staff understand that they are in charge. It's not negotiable - they are in charge because they are trained and qualified, they are the adults and they are paid to be in charge. Students need to understand that if they are asked to do something by an adult in this school and the request is reasonable - they will do it. The staff expect that students will comply. Students also need to understand that if they refuse to do as they are asked there will always be a consequence for that refusal. It is my experience that sometimes youth culture finds it hard to understand the concept of who is in charge. For the purposes of school it is very clear - it's not their turn to be in charge yet and it won't be until they have a job, earn their own money pay their own mortgage, power, food, phone, clothes and other expenses. A good question for you as parents and caregivers to ask is - *who pays your way?* The answer to that question is also the answer to the question - *who is in charge?* Chief Youth Court Judge, Andrew Beecroft believes that our young people run the risk of not achieving to their full potential because adults don't expect enough of them and that adults let them get away with far too much. He said recently:

"Always we hear the cry from the teenagers, "What can we do, where we can go?" My answer is, "Go home! Mow the lawn, wash the windows, learn to cook, build a raft, get a job, visit the sick, study your lessons. And after you've finished, read a book. Your town does not owe you recreation facilities; your parents do not owe you fun. The world does not owe you a living. You owe the world something. You owe it your time, energy and talent, so that no-one will be at war, in poverty or sick and lonely again. In other words, grow up, stop being a cry baby, get out of your dream-world and develop a backbone not a wishbone. Start behaving like a responsible person. You are important and you are needed. It's too late to sit around and wait for somebody to do something someday. Someday is now and somebody is you."

I think the one thing I want the students at Rangiora High School to understand - to REALLY understand, is that it is time to grow up - but that they are not the grown-ups yet. If, as a student, an adult in this institution asks you to do something and it's reasonable - JUST DO IT - because as adults not only do we think we are in charge - we KNOW and UNDERSTAND that we are in charge because someone has to be.

Rangiora High School is a mirror of our community and this is a great community. Thank you for your continued support of our school. Kia Kaha. Kia Toa. Kia Manawanui.

Peggy Burrows
Principal

Ngata House Changes

Congratulations to Mr Tim Kirby, the Head of Ngata House, who has been appointed Assistant Principal at Papanui High School in Christchurch.

Mr Kirby joined us from Nelson College in April last year. He will leave us at the end of Term 2.



We thank him for his leadership of Ngata House and his contribution to the History department. We wish him well for his new position.

Congratulations to the current Dean of Ngata House, Mr Richard Winson, who has been appointed Head of Ngata House from the start of Term 3 until the end of 2014. The position of Dean of Ngata House (2010-2104) is currently being advertised.

Well Done Mrs McCracken

Congratulations to Mrs Deirdre McCracken, the Head of Science, who was recently honoured by the Royal Life Saving Society for her on-going contribution to the Society's aims.

Mrs McCracken was awarded the Society's Service Medal.



Mrs McCracken has acted as an instructor and examiner for the Society for many years.

The RLSSNZ commented that the level of Mrs McCracken's students is always high. In 2009 alone, she was responsible for submitting thirty candidates for assessment with nine of these gaining the Distinction Award.

Well done on this wonderful honour.

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 been on the charge in recent months. Excellent results have meant we have moved up the House ladder. As mentioned in the last newsletter, many of the Hillary students have been successful in their own pursuits this year. Here, Matt Summerfield 13HHK answers some questions about his chosen sport of rally driving. **What rally event did you recently compete in?** The Possum Bourne Rally section of the Rally of NZ. **What was the duration of the rally?** 4 days of pre-event, 3 days of competition. **How many stages were there?** First day was north of Auckland with a service in Whangarei. The second day was in south Auckland and counted for points for the NZ Rally Champs and the third day was in the Raglan area. **What was the hardest stage?** Whaanga Coast because over half the stage is extremely tight long the coastline. **Why do the foreign rally drivers like NZ roads so much?** Because NZ roads have a really good flow, they have a good camber on the corners. However, if you get on the wrong side of the camber you will go off the road. This makes checking pace notes very crucial, for safety and car speed. **Rallying is not a cheap sport to participate in. How do you fund your rally driving?** The car is essentially a free lease from a business owner in Auckland. I have some sponsors but not enough to cover the costs of the entire season. That is where I'm very grateful to my parents who support my rallying. I also have a very dedicated service crew and a team of ten who put in a lot of hours to make it happen.

Well done, Matt. Hillary House is very proud of you.



LYDIARD

HEAD OF HOUSE Mr D Palmer

DEAN OF HOUSE Mrs P Graham

Term 2 has been a busy one for the students and staff with the completion of the Senior SummerFest of Touch and Volleyball – 35 seniors were involved in this competition. Our highest placed team was the Mixed Volleyball team which was unbeaten in the early rounds, but missed out on the final. The Junior Winter sports began this term with the Girls' Netball team working really hard and the Boys' Soccer team just missing a place in the finals in a penalty shoot out. Well done and thank you very much to all the students involved in competing and supporting Lydiard House.

The Royal New Zealand Foundation for the Blind representatives came out to our Lydiard House assembly and the honour of presenting our donation of \$3900 went to Josh Hancock of 9LVE. Josh raised the most in the 2010 fun run. The RNZFB gave us an update on our puppy, Chelsea, who is currently training in Auckland. Rutherford House and Lydiard House students held a BBQ on Open Night and the profits (when the remainder of the bacon butties are sold) will go to the Waimak Coast Guard as they are there to "save our bacon". The current House activity is the Lydiard Choir of nearly 40 students with Miss Matthewson, Miss Van Echten and Miss Wiseman working hard to keep the proud record of Lydiard House intact in this competition.

Finally, sometimes parents contact me concerned that there is not enough homework. If there is no homework then ensure your child reads for 30 minutes or so as all assessments in all subjects involve reading skills.





MANSFIELD

HEAD OF HOUSE Mrs M Stephenson

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr A Drayton

The last few weeks have been terrifically busy in Mansfield House. A number of activities have been underway and Mansfield has had a really consistent year, maintaining third place on the ladder. The hard working team in the 48 Hour Film Festival (Lara Deniz, Brittany Farrant, Deanna Grindley, Sarah Overbye, John Lee, Scott Snell, Candice Bresser, Sophie McLeary, Jasmine Hill, Jess Tichborne, Liam Prisk, Jordan Moss, Lauren Racle and Hayley Wilson) did us proud! Our superb debaters (Renee Macdonald, Jordyn Smith, John Lee, Liam Prisk and Morgan Fowler) had two fantastic wins against Shepard House and Rutherford House and a very narrow loss to Ngata House among the five debates in the competition. Senior Summerfest got underway in great weather; our results were creditable – a fifth in Volleyball, with fourth and second placings for the Girls' and Boys' Touch. Well done all of you – Mansfield is proud of your efforts! Currently our juniors in Winterfest football and netball are waiting for the rain to stop so we can play off for first or second place in the final – the first time this has happened for both boys' and the girls' teams at the same time - what champions! Mansfield students are known for their big hearts! Mansfield has been a supporter of Child Cancer for many years. Last term we presented a large cheque to CCF for last year's fundraising and last week, members of the Mansfield Executive went door to door at form time selling the Child Cancer beads to class mates. Some even carried the buckets all day selling the beads. Well done team – and thank you to those who supported this most worthy cause. Go Mansfield!



NGATA

HEAD OF HOUSE Mr T Kirby

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr R Winson

Ngata is still first in the overall standings for the inter house competition! Notably, our junior students have the best overall graduation marks for Term 1 of any House in the school. So well done to 9NHB, 9NOL, 10NSL and 10NWE! Thanks go to our students who have helped with anything from distributing phonebooks in the community, to selling poppies for Anzac Day, to helping as guides on Open Night for parents. Congratulations to our Ngata House Captain, Holly Tullet, who was selected as the Youth MP for the Waimakariri constituency. Like a lot of Ngata students, Holly continues to "put her hand up" to participate and lead in activities over and above her academic studies at school. Congratulations to Tanisha Haumu 13NAS who won a Tu Mai Rakatahi scholarship to study Science and Maori next year. Tanisha was one of only two successful applicants for the whole of the South Island! This term we reinstated the 'Ngata Noble' award, which recognises a Ngata student who is making awesome contributions to the House or who makes a significant personal distinction. Our most recent recipient is Bernadette Goulding (pictured) who has been involved in senior touch rugby, senior debating, coaching junior netball and she is involved in leading the House choir – all for Ngata House. Well done, Bernadette! As many of you will know, I am leaving at the end of this term, to take up a promotion at a new school. I leave the House in very good heart and with fond memories of Rangiora High School. I would like to thank all students and staff in the House for helping to make Ngata successful, with a special thanks to Mr Richard Winson who has been a tremendous support as Dean. He will be a great Head of Ngata House.





RUTHERFORD

HEAD OF HOUSE Mrs S Reed

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr M Williams

The Rutherford House spirit has continued to shine with so many of our students stepping up and supporting in a variety of events. Senior SummerFest was enjoyed by all. Our teams showed determination and fair play. They are to be commended for their participation and effort. It was lovely to see so many juniors willing to add their skills to Netball and Soccer games in Junior WinterFest. All Houses have been focusing on House Choir, a performance the whole school anticipates with trepidation and excitement. The diligence and goodwill given by staff and students alike make this event a huge annual success. It is a great way for students to involve themselves in something different and enjoyable. We were also involved in fundraising with Lydiard House on Open Night. Thanks to the students who gave up their time to show parents around the school and help with the BBQ. We have also been raising funds for our community giveback projects by running a Baby Photo Competition with all proceeds going to the neo-natal department at Christchurch Hospital. Next term, school wide, "Foodbank" will run. This is organised by Rutherford House. All grocery items contributed go to the Salvation Army for those in our community needing an extra bit of help. We are also holding "Hire a Helper" with funds going to the Waimakariri Coastguard. The success of graduation continues with many of our Rutherford students celebrating success with progress certificates. Many of our students also achieved success with internal NCEA Excellence certificates which were presented in Principal's Assembly. It is always with great pride that we acknowledge and celebrate the academic achievement of our students.



SHEPPARD

HEAD OF HOUSE Ms A Hay

DEAN OF HOUSE Mr K Anderson

It was with great sadness that we farewelled Abby Sanford, our Deputy House Captain, at the beginning of this term. Abby has taken the opportunity to train as a snowboard instructor. We would like to thank her for her dedication and hard work for Sheppard House and wish her all the best for her future career. We are pleased to announce that James Tillman has been appointed to this position. Our interclass competitions have continued this term with 10SGB putting up some stiff competition to the other Sheppard classes and regularly winning the class trophy. Thanks to James Tillman, Calum Stephen, Pam McCoy and Jess Clark for organising these competitions. Eventually the weather cleared enough to allow the Senior SummerFest finals to be played. Our Girls' Touch team finished third, Boys' touch fifth and Mixed Volleyball sixth. We were extremely proud of our Debating team who ended up in fifth place. Our Junior Netball and Soccer teams had very narrow losses for second place in the Junior WinterFest competitions and will now play off for third place. We have a strong House Choir this year with 55 students taking part. This is the first year that we have had two students as the organisers and we would like to thank Tess Stephen and Emily Johnson for the wonderful job they are doing. It is a real credit to these girls and hopefully all of the hard work and dedication of the whole group will see success in the competition on the 15 June. On Open Night many of our Sheppard students helped as tour guides and with the numerous department displays. We felt so proud of our students who were great ambassadors for our school as well as for Sheppard House.



ANZAC Day

Each year our Head Students and those of our sister school in North Sydney, Turramurra High School participate in the ANZAC exchange. This year it was our turn to visit Australia. Robert Vincent and Florence Loader set off with Deputy Principal Ms Julia Malcolm in tow on the Thursday before ANZAC Day to summer temperatures and a warm welcome from the school and the Turramurra Head Students Natasha Sturgis and James Rallings. The four students got on really well right from the start and hit the beach on Thursday after school finished. On Friday we took part in the school's ANZAC ceremony with the whole school assembled. Florence and Robert spoke extremely well and we did our best to sing as loud as we could during the New Zealand national anthem. We later visited the local cenotaph and laid wreaths there and then attended classes for the rest of the day.



In the weekend Robert and Florence got a real taste of Australian life at a Swans vs Eagles AFL match and the chance to have a look around Sydney with their billets. On Monday we all decamped to accommodation in Darling Harbour so as to experience staying right smack in the middle of a big city. We spent Monday at the zoo and in the evening watched buskers around Darling Harbour and walked through China Town. Tuesday was our last day and we managed to do some damage in the shops and in Paddy's market. It was a fantastic opportunity to maintain the link between our two schools and also for us personally to be able to meet new people and have new experiences.

ANZAC at Home

Sam Keeling, Josh Moore and House Executive members ran a very moving service in our Court of Memories. Students were then flag bearers in the Rangiora ANZAC parade and attended the service in the Town Hall. Josh Moore and Michael McRae, our Student Trustee, also spoke to Rangiora Rotary about ANZAC and what it meant to them.

PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale

Clean Winter uniforms in good repair and dry-cleaned kilts are urgently needed for the PTA Second Hand Uniform Sale on...

Saturday 12 June

9.30am to 12.00pm

in the School Hall

Please drop off uniform items at the school office. We will sell on your behalf with 20% going to the hard-working PTA for the benefit of students.

Please telephone PTA President, Ms Su Jeffcott, at school on 03 3118888 for more information.

Reporting Changes

All students will receive a mid-year report at the end of Term 2 on Friday 2 July.

The clear layout of our reports has proved popular and will remain the same. We have made a minor change by re-naming each subject teacher's comment as "Next Steps for Improvement".

Staff will provide specific advice and guidance on what each student should do next in order to reach their full potential. This will allow parents and caregivers to assist with next steps.

We appreciate your feedback. If you wish to comment on the format of our reports please email admin@rangiorahigh.school.nz

Community Garden News

The Rangiora Community Garden would like to invite you to bring your gardening gloves and come along to a **community work morning every fine Thursday at 9.00am**. Morning tea in the garden will be shared at 10.30am. Meet new people and share your knowledge.

Rangiora High School is hosting the community garden at 115 East Belt which employs four young people as part of the Community Max Program. We have been working in the garden since late January and our produce is now being used to support the soup kitchen at the Breakthrough Christian Centre on Thursdays and produce is also being sent to Women's Refuge and is helping individuals and families in need.

Winter is on the way and we are harvesting the last of the summer crops. Recently we went to a sustainable living workshop at the Curator's House in the Botanic Gardens with Rhys Taylor; we are planting in our winter crops based around this information in our main beds and potager garden. Our worm farm is up and running and our Brown Shaver Hens are back on the lay.

Thank you to all those people who have contributed in many ways to the garden so far. We need your ongoing support to continue to make the garden a success.

If you would like to join us or assist in any way please come to the garden at 115 East Belt Rangiora (between Rangiora High School and the Baptist Church), we are there most days between 9.00am and 3.00pm or call Leanne in these hours on 03 313 9438 or email rangioracommunitygarden@snap.net.nz

Heart Stopper Challenge

Our Head Students Sam Keeling, Florence Loader, Josh Moore and Robert Vincent were accompanied by Deputy Principal Ms Julia Malcolm when they took on the challenge along with 24 other teams to plunge into a pool of icy cold water for five minutes to raise funds for Heart Children New Zealand.



The event took place in Cathedral Square in Christchurch where teams took their turn in the plunge pool and then thawed out in a spa pool. Our team won the Best Youth Team prize, based on our RHS retro superhero outfits and our enthusiasm! We have so far raised over \$1300. If you would like to donate go to:

www.heartstopper.org.nz/rangiora_high_school

This was a great project for the Head Student team and a really good cause. Each week in New Zealand twelve children are born with heart defects. We were glad to be able to do something to assist them and their families.

Academic News

This term academic certificates have been presented, in Principal's Assemblies, to students who are achieving academic excellence. As Achievement Standards which are internally assessed are completed students are gaining credits towards their NCEA qualification. This term there have been:

- 69 certificates presented for Excellence at Level 3
- 72 certificates presented for Excellence at Level 2
- 120 certificates presented for Excellence at Level 1, with fourteen of the Level 1 Excellences achieved by Year 10 students.

As the data for the junior graduation program is collated, students who are on track for graduating with distinction have been identified. Certificates of Distinction were presented to 114 Year 9 students and 96 Year 10 students. Those students who are in danger of not graduating from their year level have been identified and are being offered support so that they, too, can graduate.



Year 13 Biology: Kaikoura Field Trip

The Level 3 Biology classes completed their annual field trips to Kaikoura earlier this term. The students were completing an internal Achievement Standard and were tasked with studying aspects of marine ecology.

Part of their study was to collect an inter-tidal organism of their choice and carry out an investigation on an aspect of the organism's ecological niche. The students carried out their sampling on Kaikoura Peninsula and the lab work was performed at the University of Canterbury Edward Percival Field Station. Most of the students chose to look at their organisms' responses to varying temperatures, salinities or light intensity. Many high quality experiments were carried out.



Highlights of the trip included meeting Dean the Octopus Man (a University of Canterbury PhD student looking at octopus behaviour and cognition), the fantastic weather and the constant stream of seafood provided by Mr Scott

Although the workload was demanding, there was also time for some fun. The students on the second trip used "one minute dance parties" to remain fresh and focused.

It was a pleasure for the teachers on the trip to see these top academic students using all the skills and knowledge they have gained during their time in class at Rangiora High School and applying them in an academically pressured environment at a world-renowned research centre.

Thank you to the Year 13 Biology students for making the trips so enjoyable and thanks also to Mr Scott, Mrs Hamblin and Miss Bailey for taking the time away from their families and other commitments in order to make the trips so successful.

Science Department News

The Science department continues to organise fantastic opportunities for the students to excel at their curriculum with this term seeing Miss Bailey organising Astronomy trips up to the Oxford Observatory on Tuesday and Thursday nights of Term 2.

The seniors have also had field trips to Mt Thomas and Kaikoura where assessments for Senior Biology have been organised. Staff, Mr Aaron (Acting HOD Biology), Mr Scott, Mrs Hamblin and Miss Bailey have given up their time 24/7 for the students to aid their success at these challenging yet enjoyable assessments at NCEA Levels 2 and 3.



Our latest success was at Open Night where future students and their parents were treated to a taste of the junior Science on offer at Rangiora High School. Rat dissections, exploding hydrogen balloons and being 'zapped' by a static charger (a Van De Graaf generator) were all part of the entertainment and learning on the night. We had the wonderful support of many junior and senior students on the night that made the evening what it was. Thank you.

Other Science news to celebrate includes:

- Tanisha Haumu 13NAS has achieved an ESR Tu Mai Rakatahi scholarship to study Science and Maori next year – a fantastic achievement as only two applicants were successful from the South Island.
- Year 13 Chemistry internal Achievement Standard 3.2 results comprised 87% Achieving with Excellence, 11% Achieving with Merit and 2% Achieving.
- Year 12 Chemistry internal Achievement Standard 2.1 results included 70% Achieving with Excellence, 20% Achieving with Merit and 5% Achieving.

Moto-Cross Fun Day

The Rangiora High School Senior A Basketball team has organised a Moto-Cross Fun Day as a fundraiser on Sunday 27 June at Mound Road, Broomfield, Amberley.

There will be classes for MX, Trail, Pit Bikes and Hammers, Kids and Minis, VMX and WAGS all on a great miniature TT style circuit suitable for all skill levels. Entry on the day. No competition licence required. Sign on from 8.30am. Rounds start at 10.00am.

Rider fees \$40 (Adult) and \$25 (Juniors, under 15) with family concessions available. Bikes must be mechanically sound. Compulsory helmet, boots and gloves. Knobbies advised. Food available. No dogs. Enquiries to Stu on 03 3125177.

A Special Student

Humanitarian Scholarship

Our Mongolian World Vision Student, Ulzijargal Batsukh, arrived on the 26 March to take up a scholarship, which Rangiora High School has offered for the first time.



This is a humanitarian scholarship which the Senior Leadership Team has agreed to offer, every year, to a child from the Ulaanbaatar "Light House" World Vision homes, which cater for children in especially difficult circumstances.

Ulzii has been looked after by World Vision for ten years and money from the NZ 40 hour famine went to support this work. As a long time supporter of World Vision, it was felt to be very appropriate that Rangiora High School (whose emblem is also a Light House) make an even more significant contribution through this practical and life-changing offer. This came about due to our HOD ESOL, Mrs Helen Lord, having worked in Ulaanbaatar with her husband Don, for World Vision International.

Ulzii is here to learn English in order to better fulfill her dream of becoming a journalist.

"I want to tell the stories of the desperate needs of the poor children in my country," she says. "People here have been very kind to me and I have made many friends. My life and future have changed and I can see my purpose and hope coming closer. I want to thank everyone from the Light Houses, World Vision Mongolia staff and Rangiora High School for making this chance happen. I am enjoying the life-style and the beautiful scenery here."

Uniform and Weather

The onset of last week's cold and wintry weather highlighted for some students the need to get their Winter uniform together.

Winter uniform can include any or all of the following:

- School jersey / School cardigan
- School polar fleece
- School blazer
- School jacket
- Polypro top (blue/white)
- School scarf
- Plain bottle green or plain navy beanie

School Shoes

Many students are wearing shoes that cannot be classed as "school" shoes. Ballet slipper type shoes, canvas lace up shoes, kung fu shoes and slippers are not practical, not water proof, not sturdy and not up to getting around a school campus as large as this.

The uniform code states "plain black or brown polishable leather shoes". While these shoes are dearer and perhaps less fashionable, they are a better option for students.

We encourage you to look at McKinlay's shoes which are New Zealand made and built for our weather conditions. They are available at Rangiora Shoelines, Blackwells (Kaiapoi), Street Legal (Northlands and Riccarton), and Ballantynes.

Please help reduce congestion

With 18 buses operating on East Belt at the beginning and end of each school day, parents and caregivers are asked to avoid using East Belt when dropping off or collecting students by car at the beginning or end of the school day.

The school's car park outside the AMI Sport and Fitness Centre is used as a bus turn-around at the beginning and end of each school day. We are keen to reduce congestion in this area at peak times.

Please use Wales Street or Edward Street if dropping off or picking up students.

Thank you for your assistance with this matter of student safety.

Gateway

We have made another positive start to our Gateway Programme with students participating in various industry placements such as Early Childhood Education, Hairdressing, Motor Engineering, Engineering, Tourism, Hospitality, Vet Nursing, Agricultural Contracting, Agriculture and Farming.

Students are required to complete Unit Standards relating to the industry in which they have been placed. Rangiora High School works with local employers and Industry Training Organisations, as well as Tertiary Providers who run courses, to provide students with experience related to the field in which they are working.

The photos on the right show our Gateway students working in their industry placements. Pictured from top to bottom are:

- Martin Black – Patience and Nicholson (Engineering)
- William Hollis – McDonald's Restaurant (Hospitality)
- Brook Miln – Antarctic Centre (Tourism)

All Gateway students recently completed a Gateway National Workplace Health and Safety Course. This was run over two days and provided students with an appreciation of some of the main concepts of safety in the workplace.

We are proud of the efforts of our Gateway students. They are great ambassadors for Rangiora High School out in our community.



Spirit of Adventure

Early in February Justis Atkins, Sam Bolton, Blake Whelan, Rupert Jackman, Craig Oliver, Tom Taylor, James Penrose, Sam Fear, Angus Howat and teacher Ms Wilkins set off for what would be a remarkable, unforgettable trip on the Spirit of Adventure.

For the next five days we started a gruelling regime. Wake up call at 6:30am, then a quick dip in the bracing ocean, promptly followed by breakfast preparation, eating, day briefing then the clean up.

During our trip we learnt many new things like; how to put up sails, then take them down, how to row and tip a dinghy, how to navigate and steer a giant vessel, tie many knots and, of course, how to look after ourselves. We also learnt discipline.

By the time we finished we were exhausted; no showers, major sleep withdrawal, bruises, splinters - but too many good times to count. The Spirit of Adventure has given us all so much. We've learnt about sailing, teamwork, leadership and we have made friends that will last a lifetime. If you ever get the opportunity to go on such a voyage our advice is: Go for it!



Music Department News

On Thursday 27 May the Music Department held a very successful concert in the school hall.

The horrible weather that we had been experiencing all week did not deter the small and enthusiastic audience that attended the concert.

The school's sound and lighting crew had extra help from the talented students from MAINZ who brought out their sound and lighting equipment.

We are grateful that these hard-working students gave up so much of their time to ensure that the event would be a success.

Students from our senior NCEA classes performed to their usual high standard.



Tess Stephen, a solo performer also through to the regional finals of Rockquest, performs an original song.



Two members of The Cold Front, George Hollis (guitar) and Jack Readman (bass guitar) perform.

This band, along with Discord, are through to the regional finals of Rockquest which is to be held on 12 June at the Isaac Theatre Royal in Christchurch.

We wish our three regional finalists all the best for the Rockquest competition.

House Points Update

At the time of publication, the House Leader board is being topped by Ngata House.



The current overall placings are as follows:

| | |
|-------------------|------------|
| NGATA | 313 points |
| RUTHERFORD | 263 points |
| MANSFIELD | 223 points |
| HILLARY | 209 points |
| SHEPPARD | 200 points |
| LYDIARD | 177 points |

Results from the 48 Hour Film Festival:

RUTHERFORD
HILLARY
MANSFIELD
SHEPPARD
NGATA
LYDIARD

Results from the Senior Debating Competition:

LYDIARD
NGATA
HILLARY
MANSFIELD
SHEPPARD
RUTHERFORD

Results from the Junior Graduation Programme Progress Marks as at the end of Term 1:

NGATA
SHEPPARD
RUTHERFORD
HILLARY
MANSFIELD
LYDIARD

Finals' Day for the Junior WinterFest has been delayed by the recent inclement weather. The House Choir competition takes place on 15 June.

Towards Opportunity Programme (TOP) for Seniors

Rangiora High School is focused on raising student achievement rates. We are implementing a new initiative to improve academic outcomes and allow even more senior students to find success.

As part of our work towards the BOT's strategic goals, we have been undertaking an analysis of our 2009 achievement rates in relation to other decile 8 co-educational schools. This analysis has revealed some interesting trends. To provide some indicative data, the Year 11 statistics are as follows:

- Nationally, 72% of Year 11 students in decile 8 co-educational schools earned 80 credits and gained Level 1 in Year 11. At Rangiora High School, the figure was 60%.
- Interestingly though, 73% of Year 11 students at Rangiora High School who studied 1,2 or 3 subjects which were at least 75% internally assessed gained Level 1 in Year 11. Students in this group exceeded the national figure.
- Yet, just 33% of Year 11 students at Rangiora High School who studied 4, 5 or 6 subjects which were at least 75% internally assessed gained Level 1 in Year 11. Students in this group were well below the national figure.
- The situation was similar with our 2009 results at Year 12 and 13.

It is clearly apparent that Year 11-13 students who study four or more subjects which are at least 75% internally assessed are not finding the success they deserve.

In previous years, at the end of the year, all Year 11-13 students were released when NCEA examinations began at Show Weekend irrespective of the courses they were studying (that is, irrespective of whether they needed to sit end of year examinations or not). Many students who were not required to sit examinations were released from school without meeting the requirements to gain Level 1, 2 or 3.

In 2010, we wish to address this issue by offering more support to a targeted group of Year 11-13 students to allow them to find the success they deserve. **This year, we intend to lengthen the academic year for Year 11-13 students who study four or more subjects which are at least 75% internally assessed**, in order to give them more time and increased opportunity under the supervision of their subject teachers to meet the 80 credit requirement at each level of NCEA.

Students who fit these parameters will be offered targeted support in a programme we are calling TOP (Towards Opportunity Programme). **Students included in the TOP programme will receive a letter from the Principal shortly.** Students in the TOP programme who meet the 80 credit requirement and gain Level 1, 2 or 3 by Show Weekend will be released at the usual time. Those who have NOT yet met the 80 credit requirement and therefore not gained Level 1, 2 or 3 by Show Weekend will continue to attend ALL of their subjects until they do, or until Friday 3 December. They will undertake additional assessment opportunities in the three weeks after Show Weekend. Those with examinations to attend will be granted one day's leave prior to the examination.

The TOP programme is NOT a punishment, but an opportunity for further success. Once students in the TOP programme meet the 80 credit requirement they will no longer be required to attend any classes.

Our staff are committed to raising student achievement and know that the TOP programme will increase student motivation prior to Show Weekend and allow for more individual support for those students required to attend after Show Weekend. All staff will therefore continue to teach their senior classes after Show Weekend no matter how many students remain in their class.

If you have any questions about the TOP programme, please telephone your child's Dean or Head of House on 03 3118888.

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