

Rangiora High School

Te Kura Tuarua o Rangiora

Whakautea **Respect**
Tohaina **Contribute**
Wawatahia **Aspire**

NEWSLETTER

February 2017



R E S P E C T

A S P I R E

C O N T R I B U T E



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From Julia Malcolm, Acting Principal

Ngā mihi ki a koutou

Welcome to the first newsletter for 2017. We are well underway for the school year and things are settling into a routine. In our first week we welcomed 353 Year 9s and over 40 students at other levels into the school, along with 43 international students from Austria, Chile, German and Japan. That is over 400 new people in our school and represents an exciting time for them as they transition into a new environment and search out opportunities for their learning and growth. I hope they are feeling a sense of belonging. Our school motto, Lux Cum Amore - Enlightenment with Friendship, is particularly relevant at this time. It was great to have two principals from our contributing primary schools to attend the mihi whakatau and 'hand over' the Year 9s to us. This occasion is the only time we gather together in a formal situation as a school.



Year 13s have certainly stepped up to the plate and enjoyed their role as peer support leaders for the Year 9s and for the international students. There is no better way to develop skills than taking on these mentoring and support roles and I thank them for their input.

Our six houses and their house leaders along with the Head Student team have already been away on a three day camp to the Boyle River. This camp is always a highlight for them as they are fresh from the holidays, no assignments hanging over their heads, and they are rearing to go. They are a great group and if the enthusiasm, determination, and camaraderie they showed on camp is anything to go by, they are set for a great year.

This year we have extended our Head Student group to six. They are proving to be a dynamic group and have already been actively involved in welcoming international students, attending a Community Reference Group meeting, speaking at school assembly, and acting as Peer Support leaders and ambassadors of the school. Each of the six has been assigned a portfolio area and an ex head student mentor. I am looking forward to seeing the impact they make on the school this year and wish them well.

This newsletter has photos from the House Big Arvo, and House Sports' day which were very successful days. I think our House Sports' day rivals the Wellington Rugby Sevens. Both the costumes, and the spirit and enthusiasm were in evidence. Hillary House came out as victors on the day. Open House last week saw the parents of Year 9 students come in after school to meet teachers and see where their children are learning. The combination of all these events sets us up for strong relationships among students, between students and their teachers and also between school and home. We spend quite a few days on this because we believe this is important work. If we get this part right, the rest will follow.



From Julia Malcolm, Acting Principal

Congratulations to Year 12 and 13 students on their exam results. It is pleasing to see Merit and Excellence endorsements for NCEA trending upwards. Scholarship results came out last week and we are very proud of the following students: Bryn Atkin (Statistics), Connor Cleary (Chemistry), Tom Hanson (Calculus and Physics), Max Ridout (English and Accounting), Nick van Rooyen (Accounting) and Callum Vartha (Chemistry). This places them in the top 3% in New Zealand in their subject areas.

This week our Year 9 Outdoor Education programme kicks off with Rutherford House up at the Boyle River. We have been lucky to receive some funding from the Southern Trust to help reduce the costs of the camp. Let's hope they have a good run of weather and can enjoy the experience of disconnecting from everyday life and reconnecting with nature and a bit of real New Zealand adventure.

The school is fully staffed – which judging by media reports and some Principals I have spoken to, is not the case for everyone. Some subject areas are becoming increasingly harder to find qualified teachers to teach. We have welcomed 14 new staff this year. Some are 'returning home' having taught at Rangiora high School before, others have seen the light and shifted from the North Island. All of them have made very positive comments about the students and the school and are looking forward to becoming part of our school fabric.

Unfortunately for many Year 11s a necessary timetable shuffle to balance some very big classes resulted in major changes for many of them. The timetabling team did their best to avoid this, (one was working on it at 3am on Saturday night!). I apologise for the upset this may have caused but it is better to get this sorted as soon as possible and students into their new classes.

Developments around the school

Later in this newsletter there is an update about property and building developments. It is exciting to see the Rakahuri building getting nearer to completion and we are looking forward to its opening in Term 2.

Year 9 students have already been working in their hubs so that when they transition to the new building their way of working will not change. Whilst for us the ILE (Innovative Learning Environment) is a big change in teaching and learning, for many of the Year 9s, it is an environment with which, they are quite familiar. Last week, I was showing the hubs to David Taylor, Principal of Fernside School and Community of Learning Lead Principal. In one classroom we were talking to a group of students who said that this was just the same as in primary school and they liked the style of learning. For others it will be a challenge and certainly for the staff who are teaching in a connected curriculum and team teaching it is a new way of working. I applaud their hard work and willingness to embrace what is a major shift in educational practice.

Another large group of staff reflecting on their practice are the 60 plus teachers who are part of our Kia Eke Panuku work. These teachers work together to develop culturally responsive practices in their classrooms with the underlying goal of strengthening Maori student achievement. A one day hui in late January saw new staff, Heads of House, Heads of Faculties and Deans spend the day getting to grips with the programme. Staff involved in the last two years describe it as the best professional development they have had, and they have enjoyed the chance to have others in their classroom and the challenge to their thinking. Our results for Maori students in NCEA certainly are looking good and are something to be proud of.

Finally I hope that the return to school has been a positive experience and that all students are looking to seize the opportunities that the school has on offer in academic, cultural, and sporting pursuits, as well as in service to the school and its community.

Please enjoy this newsletter. Ngā mihi

Julia Malcolm Acting Principal



From Bev Moore, Commissioner

Dear parents and caregivers

A very big welcome to our new and returning families. I hope that your sons and daughters have settled back into the school year after their long summer break and new students feel welcome.

As you will probably have seen 2017 has started at Rangiora High School with a lot of colour, celebration and fun for both students and staff – I have to say it's not often you find a secondary school where the senior leaders are seen around school dressed as Star Wars characters! There were also liquorice allsorts on legs running around, along with many colourful and creative characters. These events and moments demonstrate how much our staff are committed to their jobs and do everything possible to engage with students and create a vibrant school environment.



A very big thank you to Julia Malcolm for continuing in the role of Acting Principal until the new principal is in place (more on this below). Julia and the entire Strategic Leadership Team are particularly committed to doing the very best for students at Rangiora High School – I continue to be impressed by how they place students and their learning and wellbeing at the core of all decision making. Together with the extremely capable teaching and support staff, Rangiora High School is very well placed for a successful 2017 school year.

Over the next few days and weeks the senior leaders and I will be analysing the latest student achievement data and looking at how we can build on this and achieve stronger results for all of our students. As you may know we have also been working hard to ensure that school is a relevant option for those students who traditionally leave school early to join the work force. Preliminary results show that there have been some significant improvements for some of our targeted groups of students, with more work planned over the coming year. Julia Malcolm will be sharing this information with you once the analysis of 2016 data is completed and the plan for 2017 has been confirmed.

New Principal Appointment

For the past few weeks I have been working with the Rangiora High School Community Reference Group to set up a transparent appointment process and to ensure that there is strong community involvement in the process. This is very important as a new principal is a critical appointment for any school and its community.

As you may know the Reference Group is made up of 16 people including senior students, RHS parents and community members, senior leaders and a contributing primary Principal. The Reference Group has been fully involved in the development of the new strategic plan and provides me with a valuable link to the wider community.

To ensure strong community representation in the process I have delegated responsibility to the Reference Group for the development of the guiding principal appointment document - the Person Specification (which includes desired/essential skills and attributes). In order to do this a series of consultation opportunities are being planned and will include:

- Senior students are leading the consultation with all students.
- A Google Docs survey that will be sent to all parents over the next two weeks by the Community Reference Group
- A process to gather the views of all staff in what type of leader they think would best suit the school. This will be overseen by SLT and representatives from support staff, classroom teachers and middle managers.
- The Reference Group will consult with local principals who RHS is in partnership with through the Community of Learning (COL) ensuring the views of 17 contributing Primary schools are considered.
- The Reference Group will also be liaising with local businesses and the Council.
- Meetings with whānau classes and local Iwi (Tuahiwi)

From Bev Moore, Commissioner

All of the views will be fed back to the Reference Group who will develop the Person Specification, which will form the criteria for the advertisement, referee checking and interviews. Once this is developed and agreed I will hand over to an external recruitment agency with significant educational experience to put together the recruitment package and begin advertising and shortlisting.

The Reference Group and I are confident that this will provide a comprehensive process that reflects the views of the school's stakeholders and will lead to a successful outcome for the school, its students and its community.

I will update you further on the process after the consultation and development process concludes but can share the anticipated timeline to give you an idea of timing. This may change as the process gets underway but I am very keen to have a permanent principal in place during Term 3:

- Consultation with students, staff, parents and community – underway to be completed by 8 March to enable groups to review feedback, and write and refine the Person Specification by 15 March
- Advertisement ready to be submitted to the Education Gazette (this is the official jobs publication for schools) and other media – 17 March
- Education Gazette published – 27 March
- Applications close 20 April
- Short listing, referee checking and interviews will be completed early May.

I would like to thank those who are leading the consultation with our key stakeholders and hope that everyone who has an interest in the appointment of the new principal takes the opportunity to contribute during this important process.

I look forward to keeping you informed about this and other governance matters throughout the year. In the meantime, as always, parents are very welcome to contact me through the school office or directly by email bev.moore@xtra.co.nz.

Kind regards

Bev Moore Commissioner

Congratulations to our 2016 NZQA Scholarship Recipients



Bryn Atkin
Scholarship in - **Statistics**



Connor Cleary
Scholarship in - **Chemistry**



Thomas Hanson
Scholarships in - **Physics and Calculus**



Maximilian Ridout
Scholarships in - **English and Accounting**



Nick Van Royen
Scholarship in - **Accounting**



Callum Vartha
Scholarship in - **Chemistry**



Pictured above are new International students for 2017 with the Head Students

Year 9 Connected Curriculum

It was really encouraging to listen to David Taylor, the Lead Principal of our Community of Learning at the mihi whakatau week 1.

He talked about the incoming Year 9s as a “new generation of students who know their learning styles and take greater ownership for their learning journey. There are products of Modern Learning....we know their learning pathways need to broaden as they continue their growth as Lifelong Learners, and for this reason we bring them here today....we are collectively excited by the possibilities of the new learning spaces that Rangiora High School has created and applaud the vision, the energy and the scale of change that has been embraced.”

The connected curriculum approach to teaching and learning in Yr 9 entails an enormous amount of work from the 30 teachers who have volunteered to be part of this journey. Granted they were given some release time in Term 4 last year, but the reality of co-teaching with a colleague in a temporary ‘proto-typed’ space is here. Each of the 6 house-based learning hubs has 5 teachers and a teaching assistant allocated to it. Over time there will be an increase in project-based connected learning as teachers and students become more collaborative and self-managing.

There will be challenges: of timing; of connectivity; around planning and the use of the new spaces. But to quote David Taylor “We would like to acknowledge the efforts of all those who are involved. Rangiora High School is clearly putting the needs of the students in the forefront of their planning.”

At the Year 9 Open Afternoon last week, listening to staff explaining to the parents and whānau of their learning hub, how learning would look, emphasised to us just how much work had been done but also just how much more there is to do over the rest of this term and this year!

First assembly for the year



Property Update

Recently we signed off the new 10YPP.....10 year property plan for the school with the MOE. It's quite exciting with lots of projects to be completed over the next years.

So what's on in TermS 1 and 2?

- ILE/FLE Building or Rakahuri is on track for a Term 2 opening. Quite soon we have to fire up the boiler to test the underfloor heating in the new building so it could get warm in our classrooms.
- The naming of the six learning hubs and Science spaces in the building reflect the areas adjacent to the Rakahuri (our local river) such as Okuku, and Te Rua, the latter being the name associated with the Ashley Gorge from where Rakahuri flows.
- Prototyping and conversion of rooms to ILE or learning hubs mainly used by Year 9 before they move into the new building in Term 2, and in 2018 Year 10 classes will move back into them after being in Rakahuri. (This work is complete)
- Tennis courts/netball courts are scheduled to be re-surfaced.
- 115 East Belt property --phase 1 of a 10 year landscape plan has started with the aim of major student involvement in designing shade, shelter and seating there. We are hoping to open up this area in Term 2 for use after sown grass matures.
- In Term 2 after Rakahuri opens the demolition/removal of J2-13, G12/13, and the Auto Shed will be done and the areas regrassed.
- Other general work includes some major repairs to the gyms/sports centre on East Belt, Hall refurbishment and re-location of the classes currently operating in classrooms that are to be demolished.



HOUSE SPORTS DAY



HOUSE SPORTS DAY



Mihi whakatau



Leadership Camp



Boyle River Leadership Camp kicked off the year with three days involving some of the best school memories made for the lucky House leaders and Head students who were given the opportunity to go. You find the teachers getting excited at the mention of camp well before we knew what it was about, and with good reason. Camp brought together people you'd only ever seen across the classroom and old mates alike, getting to know one another and teaching us to work together while having a ball. Three days where you get far too emotionally attached to an egg, three days where you laugh until your stomach hurts, three days where for the first time in your schooling experience the louder you yell the more chocolate you win. Three days where everyone bands together to thoroughly enjoy themselves and grow in confidence in their leading abilities.

Lewis Pass karaoke after competitive sandcastle building brought us to the start of camp, where a parade of fun and games began. Low ropes, trust exercises, dangling from a fifty metre cliff face with an impressive view, the Flying Kiwi, crossing swamps wriggling with tadpoles, #pepper, blind piggybacks, problem solving, intense card games that are not likely to be forgotten and yoga, each played their part, but I'm sure anyone who went on camp could agree that the most entertaining of all were the skits. The quality of comedy from the teachers got us all questioning their career decisions. On an unrelated note, Ms McDonald will be performing her impressionist act alongside Mr Cotter and Mrs Howard's disappearing tricks in their upcoming show 'Follow My Lead', with a supporting act by the Boyle River instructors performing 'synchronized water sports'. Lydiard rightfully won the skit competition with a priceless sum up of 2016 featuring Tom H, while the head students' skit saw them performing their daily makeup routine. Needless to say, hilarity ensued.

Camp ended with a blast as we scaled the High Ropes in the pouring rain, which turned out to only make the tasks in the air more fun. The view from the top as the sun broke through the dense cloud layer painted a bold rainbow in the valley below, and the competition was on. Teams and pairs raced for time while others tested their trust as they leapt from heights, everyone in high spirits as they were cheered on.

I hope the bus driver didn't find too many popsicle sticks on the bus after our loud trip home.

One of the greatest things everyone gained from camp was getting to know people outside of the classroom, having fun while learning to work with everyone as a stronger team, ready to take on whatever the next year holds. To all of the teachers, instructors and drivers who organised, cooked and generally helped out, thank you for making the camp a brilliant one. To those who will be going in 2k18, enjoy it!





Rangiora High School Rose

Pictured above is the Rangiora High School Rose in full bloom looking beautiful outside the school administration building thanks to the property staff. The rose was propagated by Woodend Nursery for the school's 125th Jubilee

Uniform Shop

OPEN HOURS | Term 1 - School days
(7.02.2017 - 13.04.2017)

DAY	OPENING HOURS
Mondays	8.00am - 10.00am
Tuesdays	1.20pm - 2.20pm
Wednesdays	1.20pm - 2.20pm
Thursdays	3.00pm - 5.00pm
Fridays	CLOSED
Saturdays	CLOSED unless stated below

**Hours may be subject to change.*

The shop will be closed on Public Holidays and Teacher only days.

Monday 6 Feb - Waitangi Day - CLOSED.

Friday 14 Apr - Easter - CLOSED.

OPEN HOURS | Saturdays during Term 1

DAY	DATE	OPENING HOURS
Sat	11 March 2017	9.30am - 11.30am

Student and Vehicle Safety

We have been advised that Canterbury Police will be increasing their presence around High Schools throughout the district with the emphasis on preventing unnecessary Road Trauma for both students and the community.

Police will be focusing on several key elements throughout the operation. These include:

- Driver licencing offending (Restricted/Learner driver offences)
- Seatbelt offending (failure /incorrect seatbelt usage)
- Cycle helmet(Failure/incorrect usage)
- Unsafe speed.
- Unsafe vehicles (current vehicle Warrant of Fitness/Registration)
- Any other road trauma related offending.

Please make sure that you are observing the road rules for cars, motorbikes and bikes.

Be safe.



Sport Roundup

Netball

Netball Registrations are now open please. Follow this link on : <http://www.sporty.co.nz/view->

Super Touch

Our Super Touch team were super excited to attend Nationals in Auckland at the end of last year. This was the first time Rangiora High School had made it to Touch Nationals.

The team was rapt to be placed 14th out of 16 teams in the mixed competition. Opposition was really tough and the highlights would have to have been their win against Waitakere and being 'adopted' by a New Zealand 30's Touch player and the New Zealand 30's Touch coach. Also congratulations to Ihaka Abraham and ex pupil Luke Gold who were talent spotted at Nationals and have been selected to play in the Junior National Touch Champs for the Auckland U18 team from 10 to 12 February.



Cricket

Pictured above is Henry Sail after his century in cricket playing against Linclon High School.

Touch South Island Champs

We have 3 students who made the Canterbury Mixed Touch U16 team who competed in the South Island Champs in Christchurch in December. They came first in their grade. They came first in their grade.

Congratulations Damian Leary, Lily Thompson-Hood & Sophie Davies. These students will also be competing at the Junior National Touch Champs in the Canterbury U16 mixed team.



Sailing

Blake Grindley Jones has competed over the summer break at the SI Champs for the Waimak Club and placed 3rd. He also placed 1st in the 16+ age group. There are two upcoming competitions in February and we wish Blake the best of luck for



Surfing

Tegen has started this season with two wins at the South Island Groms and a Bronze medal at the National Champs in Piha in the Under 16 Girls division. Tegen also had heat wins in the Under 18's and Open Women's classes. Tegen had a just competed at the Surfing NZ Billabong Groms at Whangamata. She successfully contested quarter finals and semi finals and progressed to the final, taking 4th place in the Under 17 Girls Division. She's continued her run of national finals with this being the third in a row and now will be focusing on South Island events until heading to Raglan in April.



Cattle Handling

Rangiora High School has been competing at the Rangiora and Canterbury A and P shows for several years under the guidance of Philip and Kay Worthington, owners of Woolstone Park stud from Fernside.

This year some of the team will also be working with Woolstone Stud at the Oxford and Malvern shows this term in addition to the Rangiora and Canterbury shows in Term 4.

The 2016 team leader was Georgia Rhodes and the other members were Courtney Winter, Emily Dugmore, Caitlin Rhodes, Lily Elvin, Emily Winter and Rana Kumeroa.

At Canterbury the girls competed in the Junior Herdsperson competition which comprised stock judging, handlers, contribution to the team and duties around the stalls during the show plus an interview about cattle, career prospects and general knowledge.

They were also up for a special Lowline trip to Australia next August for the Royal Queensland Show, during which the winner will join the Pittsworth High School from Queensland for a week of competition. The winner of that trip was Georgia Rhodes.

Results from 2016 Canterbury Show

The highlight for the RHS team was the schools' team competition where Rangiora has an enviable record since the competition started. This year the RHS Black team took out the sash for first in the secondary schools competition, with the RHS Green team, third. The Black team consisted of Georgia Rhodes, Courtney Winter, Emily Dugmore and Rana Kumeroa. The Green team comprised of Caitlin Rhodes, Emily Winter and Lily Elvin.

Novice intermediate stock judging: Emily Winter 2, Rana Kumeroa 3. Intermediate stock judging: Courtney Winter 2, Caitlin Rhodes 4. Novice intermediate paraders: Emily Winter 1, Rana Kumeroa 2. Intermediate paraders: Georgia Rhodes 3. Overall junior herdsperson: Courtney Winter 2.

Rangiora High students also performed well at Canterbury with other cattle studs were Allie Miller - intermediate stock judging 1; intermediate paraders 4; junior herdsperson 1; – and Samara Singh – intermediate paraders 2; junior herdsperson 5. Allie won a sponsorship to Future Beef next May in Feilding and Samara won a scholarship to travel to Australia to visit Murray Grey studs and events. Both Allie and Samara have been in school cattle teams with Woolstone Park.

I would personally like to thank Kay and Phil for the many hours that they have put into our students over the last six or seven years as it is a huge commitment on their part. They have also helped with the sponsorship of two students attending the Royal Queensland show.

As a result of their involvement while at school with Woolstone Lowline Stud we now have ex-students competing in cattle showing throughout New Zealand.

Gillian Koster



The Spirit of New Zealand and the Spirit Trophy

The Spirit of New Zealand is a tall, 3 masted ship and is used for a year-round programme for youth development. On our voyage there were 40 trainees and 13 crew. Its home port is Auckland and it spends most of its time sailing around the Hauraki Gulf.

Schools from around New Zealand send a team of 10 Year 10 students to compete against three other schools for the bragging rights of winning the Spirit trophy. As a team, these students enjoyed a learning experience like no-other which guarantees challenge, adventure, creativity and reward.

The Rangiora High School team was represented by, Sarah Calley, Cameron Drake, Maggie Gaughan, Luci Grigg, Jack Grundy, James McEwan, Julia McIntyre, Rory Melville, Caleb Olliver and Trent Simpson.

There was one clear challenge of this exciting five day voyage and that was to win the coveted Spirit trophy! The 3 schools we competed against were, Mt Aspiring, Macleans College and Opotiki College. Activities in the programme include teamwork, problem solving, debating, ship-handling and water sports (in and on the water). Teams also go ashore and complete tasks against each other that involve ingenuity, leadership, team work and fun. The whole voyage is based on learning by doing and the goals were to improve our team's communication and leadership skills, learn the importance of self-awareness and being part of a team.

We were woken each morning to the heavy oscillating and moving parts of the ship's powerful generators. It was a 6:30 a.m. start to the day, on with our togs, a quick warm up then straight over the side of the ship for a refreshing wake-up swim. After our swim we had the luxury of a quick fresh water shower on deck. We changed into our day gear, had a huge breakfast then lined up for the colours ceremony. The colours ceremony consisted of the bell ringing, the raising of the ships flag, the daily weather report, quote of the day, points update and the reading of the pre-planned day's activities.

Each school had daily chores to do and took turns at vegetable preparation, cleaning the trainees' accommodation areas, scrubbing and hosing down the decks and 'special' duty (which is basically serving and cleaning up the dishes and galley after each meal). When these jobs were completed it was straight into the day's activities including Plastercine Pictionary, Flag making, Sand Sculpture, Dress the Teacher, Sing Star and an A and P Show (both with a twist), Raft Racing, Knot Competition, Hoisting the Sails, and Beach Athletics. We tramped, saw whales, made new friends, worked as a team, believed in ourselves and others and loads more.

We seemed to be eating all day. After a hearty breakfast we had morning tea, lunch, afternoon tea, and a roast meal and pudding in the evening. Activities continued after tea and by nine o'clock we were physically and mentally exhausted. Lights were out at 9:30 and not a peep was heard. All trainees paired up and did a 2 hour stint at night-watch. If you were lucky, you got to do the 10:00 p.m. to midnight shift! This watch was extremely important as there could be hidden dangers involving being too close to shore, wind changes, depth changes, possible May Day calls and Tsunami warnings.

The crew were all outstanding leaders and role models. If you ever get an opportunity to sail on board the Spirit of New Zealand, do it, as there is absolutely no reason why you can't be a trainee. This experience was one of the most amazing weeks in my life and I sincerely thank the Senior Leadership Team for giving me this opportunity.

To the 10 young adults who shared this journey with me, I believed in you all and watched on as you came to depend on each other, learned tolerance, acceptance and created close and lasting bonds with new friends and connections on your voyage. You, your families and Rangiora High School can be proud of your behaviour and the dedication and achievements you all displayed in winning the 'Spirit Trophy'.

Su Jeffcott

