

# THE RECORD 2020



WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL





# Whanganui High School 2020



## Contents PAGE

4	PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE
6	STAFF
10	HEAD BOY & HEAD GIRL
12	PREFECTS
26	CULTURE & ENRICHMENT
80	SPORT
100	TEAM PHOTOS
110	ACHIEVERS LIST
131	FORM CLASS PHOTOS
163	SENIOR MANAGEMENT & DEANS
164	INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS PHOTO
166	LEAVERS CLASS OF 2020





## PRINCIPAL'S *Message*

**MR M MCALLEN**

*MEd Leadership with First Class  
Honours, PG DipEd Leadership, BA, Dip Tchg*

*Tēnā koutou katoa,*

*Time will tell if the effects of Covid-19 continue into the year following this one but – at the time of writing this message for 'The Record 2020' – things are finally beginning to look more positive throughout New Zealand. We can only hope that the situation continues to improve elsewhere in the world over the coming months as well.*

*2020 has certainly been a most unusual year with a wide range of personal tragedies and triumphs experienced by many of our students, staff and whānau during the course of this start/stop/start year.*

*Across all year levels, some of our students absolutely thrived during the nationwide lockdown period – some students found the experience to be no problem at all and took huge steps forward during the time of remote learning with their teachers.*

*Some students, however, found the nationwide lockdown period to be very difficult due to social isolation, economic pressure, and a deep loss of bonding and connection to the regular expectations and routines of our school. Overall, I think nearly all of us missed the crucial reciprocal learning experience involved in face-to-face interaction between students and teachers in enriching classroom environments.*

*As a teaching staff, I believe we have all learnt valuable lessons this year about the best unique learning characteristics of every individual student in our school. All teachers moved significantly out of their own personal comfort zone in willingly adapting to new technology to ensure that all our students were being taught to the very best of their ability.*

*I am sure that all students and staff have – to a greater or lesser extent at various*

*stages throughout this year – reflected on who we are as a school community and how strongly connected we are to the well-being of our wider Whanganui community. Our school community has had real pressure exerted upon us during the year. I think we have adapted, responded well and then further strengthened the bonds and connections between students, staff and whanau as the year has progressed.*

*To our fantastic student leaders thank you for your great initiatives and mahi throughout the year. Your final year as school student leaders has not always turned out as expected but we have all worked together in flexible ways to maximise every possible opportunity so that almost every major school event was still able to be held.*

*To students leaving us at the end of this year I wish each individual person all the very best for your own individual future. Take great memories of school life at Whanganui High School with you – continue having a curiosity to learn and the application to work hard in whatever endeavour you pursue.*

*Thank you to all staff members and the Board of Trustees for your energy, focus, good humour, professionalism and resilience from the very beginning of the year until the end of the year.*

*Thank you to the multi-talented Yearbook team for expressing this year in the life of Whanganui High School so accurately and creatively.*

*A new sunrise,  
A new day.*

*Ngā mihi nui,*

*Martin McAllen*

*Principal*

*Whanganui High School*



## 2020 MESSAGE FOR OUR *Leavers*

Well, we have had quite a year. Never could we predict this, and the different challenges it presented to us all. If anything, it has taught us to be adaptable in the face of adversity. To look for new ways to do things which normally would be second nature to us. Building resilience, to be able to cope with the challenges of daily life. For many of you who have younger siblings, tolerance and patience would have been tested no doubt!

As you embark on the next stage of your life's journey, be it at university, on a course, in employment, or maybe you are unsure what you are going to be doing, life will be full of a host of new challenges.

My hope is that we have prepared you for this – to be well mannered, honest, decent and thoughtful citizens, able to make sensible decisions. That you are confident young men and women with hopes and dreams for your future success and well-being.

While at Whanganui High School you have been presented with many opportunities. I hope that you have made the most of these and been well involved – that you had a good relationship with your teachers and that you made lifelong friends. Do take time to reflect on your education here.

Like the Covid-19 situation, there will be many things to test you beyond the school gate. Hopefully you have developed some resilience and the ability to make sound choices, and that during your time at our school, its influences have resulted in you becoming a better scholar, sports person or simply a better person.

Thank you for your contribution to our school and my sincere best wishes for your future.

*Kia kaha, kia maia, kia manawanui*

Be strong, be brave, be steadfast

*Elizabeth Spooner*

**ASSOCIATE PRINCIPAL**



## CAREERS ADVISOR

Mr P Keene BSc, Dip Tchg, PG Dip Tchg

## DEANS

Awa - Miss G Brown BFA (Photo), GradDip Tchg (Secondary)

Awa - Mr M Metcalfe Med L, BA, Pastoral Dip Sec Tchg,

Dip Elec Eng

Maunga - Mr J Leonard BSc, PGCE

Maunga - Mr W Marr BComm (Mgmt), Dip Tchg (Secondary)

Moana - Mrs C Graham BExSptSci, GradDip Ed

Moana - Mr H Wilson Trade Cert Fitter, Dip Perf Music, BFA, Grad Dip Ed

Whenua - Miss L Martin (Head of Faculty Physical Education & Health) BEd, Dip Tchg

Whenua - Ms R Kennedy BA Maths

Māori Students (Acting) - Mr T Pauro BTchg

International Students - Mr B Ding BA, PostGrad Tchg (Lang), GradDip Tchg (Secondary)

## GUIDANCE COUNSELLORS

Mr T Tubman Dip Social Work

Mrs J McKenzie BEd, TTC, Dip Tchg, Dip Couns, MNZAC

## INSTRUMENTAL MUSIC TUTORS

Mrs M Brooks (Piano/Voice)

Mr M Franklin-Browne (Drums)

Mr G Herdman (Woodwind)

Mrs A Hunt (Strings)

Mr B Jellyman (Brass)

Mr F Loveridge (Acoustic, Electric and Bass Guitar/Jazz Band)

## INTERNATIONAL

Mr B Rudolph (Director of International Students - Term Two onwards) BEd

Miss R Cleary (Head of International English) MA (Dist), BA (Hons), Dip TESOL, Dip Tchg

Mrs S Crook (Homestay Co-ordinator) BSc (Hons) Env Bio with Int Ed, NZ Dip Career Dev

Mr B Ding (Dean of International Students) BA, PostGrad Tchg (Lang), GradDip Tchg (Secondary)

Mrs A Ferretti (Director of International Students - Term One) BA Spanish (Hons), PGCE, Cert TEFL

Mrs T Hoobin (International Administrator)

Mrs L Su'a

Mrs A Van De Vyver (International Support)

## LEARNING CENTRE

Ms G Cansfield (Head of Learning Centre/SENCO) Higher Dip Ed

Mrs K McKenzie

Ms T Baxter

Mrs J Cox Teacher Aide Cert

Ms R Hamilton-James BBS (Marketing), DipBS (Travel & Tourism)

Ms H Manuel

Mrs S Parker

Ms A Paul

Ms L Rapson

Ms S Tyler Dip (Dental Therapy), National Cert (Computing Lvl 2)

## LIBRARIANS

Mrs S Goldsbury BA, Dip Tchg, NZLS Cert

Mrs L Lamb Dip Information & Library Studies (Lvl 5)

## SPECIALIST CLASSROOM TEACHER

Ms J Ander (Specialist Classroom Teacher) BEd

## SPORTS

Mrs L Murphy (Director of Sport)

Miss K Morgan (Sports Administration Support)

Ms L Lock (Fitclub) Dip Sports & Fitness Management

## TE ATAWHAI (SPECIAL NEEDS)

Ms W Girven (Head of Te Atawhai Unit) BEd, MEd Spec Ed (Hons),

H Dip Tchg, TTC Com, PG Dip Arts (Disability Studies)

Miss K Blythe

Ms H Mael

Ms E Paki

Mrs D Parnell

Mr R Parnell

## VOCATIONAL STUDIES

Mrs D Howard (Head of Vocational Studies, External Education

Co-ordinator)

Miss J Gregory (Employment Co-ordinator) BEd, TTC, Dip Tchg

Miss S Battersby (Teacher Aide/ Administrator)

Mrs J Dunn PGCE, Sec Maths Tchg, BSc Maths

Mr C Friedel Dip Tchg, PostGrad Dip, BA

Mrs L Hardcastle (Head of Food Technology) BA (Hons 2:1), PGCE

Mr P Keene BSc, Dip Tchg, PG Dip Tchg

Mrs L Tahuaroa PGDipArts

Mr P Turner MEdAdmin (Hons), BSc, Dip Tchg

## OTHER SUPPORT & ANCILLIARY

Mrs N Kennedy (Bursar)

Mrs D Morpeth (Bursars Office) NZ Dip Business Studies (Banking)

Mrs S Ashworth (Bursars Office)

Mrs C Molan (Principal's Executive Assistant/Board Secretary)

Mrs C Hunter (Main Office) BSocSc (Psy), GradDip Tchg (Primary)

Mrs J Porteous (Photocopying Services)

Mrs L Barr (Student Centre)

Miss S Harding (Student Centre)

Mrs R Westwood (Student Centre) Teacher Aide Cert, Braille Cert (Proficiency)

Mr D Schlegel (Attendance Officer) BExercise & Sports Sci

Mrs S Crook (Alternative Education) BSc (Hons) Env Bio with Int Ed, NZ Dip Career Dev

Mrs W Jervis (Deans' House Support)

Ms H Johnston (Science Technician) BSc, DipMed (Lab Sci)

Miss J Leiasamaivao Turvey (Acting Science Technician)

Mrs L Sharp (Science Technician) - On leave

Mr A Gerrie (Computer Technician) A+CompTIA

Mr B Svendsen (Computer Technician)

Mr S Anderson (Network Administration Manager)

B Info & Com Tech (Applied)

Mrs C Cowan-Puru (Kaiawhina - Maori Dept)

Miss L Simon (Kaphahaka Tutor - Maori Dept)

Ms M Aki (Pasifika Tutor)

Ms K Bills (Food Technology Support)

Mrs K Bishop (Joint Canteen Manager) Food Safety Cert, Barista Course

Mrs M Kidd (Joint Canteen Manager) Food Safety Cert, Barista Course

Mrs R Coker (Canteen) BA (Soc Sci), Dip Tchg (Sec)

Ms L Carson (Canteen)

Ms D Holly-Filer (Canteen)

Miss S Matthews (Performing Arts Administrative Assistant)

Mr I Taylor (Technology Support)

Ms D Henderson (Staff Room) Dip Tchg (ECE)

Mr T Martin (Property Manager)

Mr G Jones (Property & Automotive Support)

Ms E Houltham (Property)

Mrs C Gibson (Cleaning Services)



WHS staff

**Back Row:** Warren Marr, Graham Hall, Bevan Hunter  
Jos Berkhout, George Jones, Adam Watkins, Tom Clark  
Philip Chiet, Matthew Metcalfe, Jimmy Leonard, Sean Anderson  
Lee Su'a, Neil Krishna, Joshua Barnett, James Sullenberger

**Fourth Row:** Kaye Coombs, Tim Sutherland  
Ravinesh Prasad, Beck Ding, Andrew Gerrie, Lisa Murphy  
Christopher Burrows, Craig Dunn, Steve Costelloe, Doug Ireton  
Catherine Sleyer, Christine Hunter, Caroline Peak, Hunter Wilson  
Brent Holt, Jason Duffy

**Second Row:** Lisa Burgess, Robyn Westwood, Wendy Jervis  
Kirsty Fecteau, Rebecca Hamilton-James, Sandra Ashworth  
Kerwyn Morgan, Timothy Pauru, Amanda Meade, Ian Thomas  
Jo Ander, Julie Porteous, Carol Molan, Noeline Kennedy, Elaine Hughes  
Stuart Miller, Cassey Graham, Helen Pederson

**Fifth Row:** Leah Viles, Sasha Matthews, Grant Hardy  
Anne Paul, Tara Jane Baxter, Riria Henry, Margot Bennetts  
Dale Morpeth, Nicola Gifford, Jemma de Smidt, Roz Armstrong  
Anna Van De Vyver, Cairiona Davies, Paul Keene  
Eve Coltman/Rebecca Kennedy, Collin Price

**Front Row:** Pete Coombs, Lorna Smith, Lisa Martin  
Craig Burgess, Michael Crook, Paul Turner, Elizabeth Spooner  
Martin McAllen Nola Todd, Chris Friedel, Natalie Campbell  
Craig Adam, Alexandra Ferretti, Rebecca Hardy  
Rajneeta Devi, Linda Hardcastle

**Third Row:** Sandy McAllen, Karen McKenzie, Suzy Harding  
Louise Barr, Joanna Love, Rekha Chand, Tui Burmeister  
Rosemary Cleary, Claire Libeau, Sue Frost, Glen Hutchins  
Beverly Stuart, Queral Scott, Stephanie Parker, Lisa Tahuaroa  
Mignon Stevenson, Vickie Lawson, Jo Dunn, Sarah Crook

# Head girl

**LEAH AIONO**

Reaching the end of a school year is always a strange time. Constant parallels with previous years are ever-present reminders of change and growth in ourselves, our peers, and our mentors. This has never been more true for me than as I write this, reflecting on my year as Head Girl and watching the future class of 2021 apply for the positions that have helped my cohort grow throughout 2020.

Speaking about our school in primary schools, watching Year 8s tour its grounds, and remembering myself in that very same position just five years ago, Whanganui High School becomes even more special to me. While five years may not seem a very long time, each student enters here a child and leaves a young adult. A high school is not only somewhere a curriculum is learnt; it shapes who we become as adults. I am so grateful for the passionate teachers, dedicated staff, and students of all ages at Whanganui High School, who have supported our year group and will continue to nurture its growth. I am so very honoured to have been chosen to represent Whanganui High School as Head Girl for 2020. It is an absolute privilege to be given the opportunity to have a say, and to help shape the experience of younger students at our school.

Moreover, I'd like to say a massive thank you to my year group and what they have taught me. Whanganui High School's size means there's incredible diversity of interest - it's a wonderful place to learn more about yourself, to focus your passions before you decide where to take your future. We are a large, but close-knit community - varied, tolerant, and accepting. It is this carefully cultivated friendly environment to which I'm sure many of us can attribute to our development and confidence.



Of course, 2020 has been memorable in more ways than one. A global tragedy is still greatly affecting all of our lives, even in our small corner of New Zealand. An unstable year has meant we've had to live our lives in entirely unprecedented ways, facing fear and uncertainty all the while. Whanganui High School's response to this is a testament to its staff leadership and student body. The care and consideration of our teachers and sense of empathy and kinship felt amongst High School's students is something I'll never forget. The support of Mrs Langrish, Mr McAllen, and Mrs Spooner amongst countless others including my fellow students has become the most powerful reminder to me of how to be both a considerate and kind leader and person. For this I will always be grateful.

To staff and students - thank you for the opportunities and experiences you have given me, and the knowledge you have imparted to our year group. I wish you all the very best for your journey, and thank you for being a part of mine.

# Head boy

**CONNOR HOSKIN**

Over the past few months the world has seen one of the most significant global pandemics in the last 100 years. Covid-19 has had a huge impact on the world, forcing us to go into lockdown, reduce our interactions with people and be more restricted within our communities. Although these may seem like gloomy outcomes, I believe that Covid has also taught us how to adapt to adverse situations, how to be kind and truly care for one another and ultimately how to be resilient.

Reflecting on my last five years at Whanganui High School, the journey has been filled with many challenges, opportunities, highs and lows. I've made many mistakes along the way, through which I have generated some of my greatest successes and now as my journey is coming to an end, I look back fondly and realise how grateful I am for every moment of this time.

My highlight at Whanganui High School has been the opportunity to play for the Boys First XI Hockey team, right from when I entered as a Year 9. I truly admire the senior students who were my first role models, guiding me not only through hockey, but also the way of high school life. I considered these students close friends and I guess one day, I always aspired to be the mentor they were to me, in someone else's life. My advice for anyone entering or currently at our school is that you too, find and become a role model, so that you can make the difference that these senior students made in my life.

This year has been one of my most testing and rewarding years to date. Never have I been more humbled to be a part of this school and share the grounds with some of the most



talented and friendly people I know. I owe thanks to many people, but firstly to the perfect team, which has been a privilege to work alongside. Each of the prefect groups worked so hard in a year full of uncertainty, epitomizing the values of persistence and resilience and pushing the boundaries of what was presumed possible. The successes of this year have been extraordinary. Athletics Day right through to the ball have all been initiatives that have added a layer of enjoyment and richness to a year full of doom and gloom. These events would not have been possible without the help of the prefect team, and for that I am so grateful.

I also would like to acknowledge the support of Mr McAllen and Mrs Langrish, as well other members of the staff, for their continued efforts in helping us reach our goals and aspirations. I have been proud to be Head Boy for 2020. It has been an incredibly enjoyable, eye opening and humbling experience which would not have been possible without the support of my parents and friends. I now more than ever realise as I move on, how lucky I was to meet the people I call my friends and to say that Whanganui High School was my home.



# 2020 Prefect Summary

***BACK IN JANUARY 2020 WHEN WE MET FOR THE FIRST TIME AS THE NEWLY APPOINTED PREFECT AND STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM, LITTLE DID WE KNOW WHAT THIS YEAR HAD IN STORE FOR US! THE GOALS AND CALENDAR OF EVENTS WHICH WE SET AT OUR INITIAL MEETING WERE WELL AND TRULY THROWN OFF-COURSE BY THE EVENTS OF A GLOBAL PANDEMIC.***

I have been so impressed with the perseverance and resilience shown by our student leadership group this year. Connor Hoskin and Leah Aiono, as our head students, have led by example and been supported by our deputies, Scott Emerson and Kara Adrole. We started the year with our prefects in the following groups: Academic, Culture, Sport, Maori, Social, E-Life, Community and International. Following a comprehensive and competitive selection process we had a team in place to run many events and activities and unite the school community.

Initial events included the ever popular Valentines Day cupcakes and gifts. A busy Social prefect team ensured that cupid made the deliveries on time across the school. Another event with a heavy prefect influence at the start of the year was the Year 9 Parents Evening. This was a great opportunity for new whanau to come in and meet the staff and prefects and hear what 'LIFE' is like from a student perspective. Swimming Sports was the next event and was well supported by a variety of year levels. This was a good warm up for the whole school participation at the Athletics Day at Cooks Gardens. This was a time for our Heads of House to shine (alongside Jakob Moorhouse and Sophie Andrews our Heads of Sport) and lead the houses of Awa, Maunga, Moana and Whenua.

A great connection between the school and local community was the beach clean up, led by our Head of Community, Aranga Molijn. This event was extremely well supported and the beach looked a lot cleaner thanks to the efforts of the volunteers. The first Quiz Night also got underway, led by our Academic Heads Callista Booth-Richards and Jack Fawthorpe. The next major event was the lockdown due the Covid-19 pandemic, so our prefect plans went on hold.

Mahina Barritt and Danny Ye (Heads of Social) coped well with the disappointment of the ball postponement and put together a fantastic evening, albeit a little later in the year than originally planned. At the time of writing this article plan b for the prefect leadership camp is underway and we hope to get to Wellington to participate in the 'Amazing Race'.

Overall, it has been a pleasure working with such a committed team of student leaders. They have shown that they can cope with whatever 2020 has thrown at them.

**DEPUTY PRINCIPAL**  
Ms J Langrish

2020

# Prefects



## Head & Deputy PREFECTS

Back Row: Scott Emerson (Deputy Head Boy), Kara Adrole (Deputy Head Girl), Connor Hoskin (Head Boy) Leah Aiono (Head Girl), Front Row: Mr M McAllen (Principal), Mrs. J Langrish (Deputy Principal)



## PREFECTS Heads of School

- Back Row: Garry Chen (Head of International), Jacob Brown (Head of Maori and Pasifika), Jack Galvin (Maunga)
- Liam Johnson (Head of Culture), Jayden Grant (Moana)
- Third Row: Sophie Andrews (Head of Sport), Divnesh Dayal (Awa), Vincent Ye (Head of Social), Jakob Moorhouse (Head of Sport)
- Mahina Barritt (Head of Social), Jack Fawthorpe (Head of Academia)
- Second Row: Shayla O'Mahony (Awa), Phoebe Brown (Moana), Ranita Kirk (Maunga), Rebekah Phillips (Whenua), Merle Chant (Head of E-Life), Callista Booth-Richards (Head of Academia), Dennihe Edwards (Head of Maori and Pasifika), Abby Squire (Head of Culture)
- First Row: Renee Teers (Whenua), Scott Emerson (Deputy Head Boy), Leah Aiono (Head Girl) Mr M McAllen (Principal) Mrs. J Langrish (Deputy Principal), Connor Hoskin (Head Boy) , Kara Adrole (Deputy Head Girl), Mathew Anscombe (Head of E-Life)
- Absent: Aranga Molijn (Head of Community), Miriama Joseph (Head of Community)





## Heads of Houses

Back Row: Renee Teers (Whenua), Jayden Grant (Moana), Jack Galvin (Maunga)  
 Divnesh Dayal (Awa), Mr M McAllen (Principal)  
 Front Row: Rebekah Phillips (Whenua), Phoebe Brown (Moana), Ranita Kirk (Maunga)  
 Shayla O'Mahony (Awa)



STUDENT COUNCIL



SCHOOL LIBRARIANS



PEER MENTORS

## ACADEMIC TIES





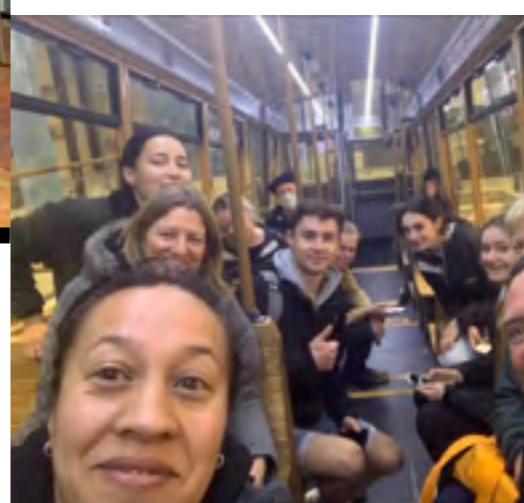
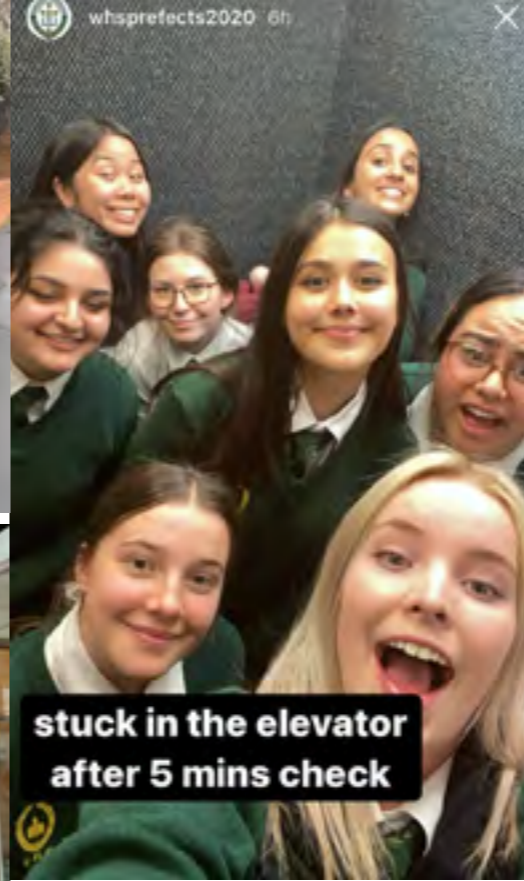
EXCELLENCE TIES



CENTURIONS ENDORSED

CENTURIONS





# ANNUAL Prefect CAMP

On the Tuesday and Wednesday of the last week of Term 3, we held our Prefect Camp, where forty one students went to Wellington. This was a good chance for our '2020 Prefect Team' to get to know each other and learn leadership skills, even though it was later in the year than intended. Even so, our Prefects made the most of the opportunity to grow and come together as a group. The excitement started prematurely, as within five minutes of arriving at the YHA, nine students were stuck in the elevator, so the team bonding started a little earlier than expected for them! We had a mixture of team games and also the 'Amazing Race', which was planned by the four Heads of School. Even though the weather provided a challenge for us, a great time was still had by all. Teams were faced with challenges and came together to conquer them as a team. After seven checkpoints and various bonus questions, 'The Amazing Race' competition came out as a tie for first place, with the *Pink Flamingos* and the *White Rhinos* taking victory. Many positive memories and bonds were made from what was a successful couple of days away, where everybody got to know each other better and reflect on the year that was as a Prefect. It summed up a successful year for the Prefect Team into which a lot of hard work was put, and with as Mrs Langrish says, "No Passengers!"



# DEB MAHONEY

## Scholarship

The AFM Award is presented in memory of Debbie Mahoney, who was a former student of Whanganui High School from 1984 to 1988 and sadly passed away in 2018 at home in Cranbrook, Canada after a long illness.

Debbie strongly believed in “fairness” in life which is why she believed everyone who goes through five years of high school education deserves a chance. This is why the award is made to a randomly chosen Year 13 student at Whanganui High School. There are no stipulations on what the money should be spent on. Debbie was a very kind and generous person who would help anyone who needed it and believed that after five years at high school the recipient could decide for themselves what best to do with the money.

We could not run the planned assembly due to Covid-19 restrictions and as the family had travelled to Whanganui especially, we decided to carry out the draw as planned in Mrs Spooner’s office. The trophy was presented to Paris Moore by Debbie’s sister Jo Mahoney, brother Steve Mahoney and his wife Mary.

*Written by the family of Deb Mahoney.*



# Central 6

Whanganui High School is part of a cohort of schools from our region, brought together to share best practice amongst Principals and student leaders (as well as sporting fixtures). In 2020, it was the turn of Whanganui High School to host the event, so we welcomed head students and Principals from Freyberg, Tawa, Taradale, Havelock North and Kapiti. We greeted our guests with a powhiri and then fed them pizza, prior to a friendly game of lazer tag out at Brunswick. Thanks to those students who volunteered to homestay our guests and for showing them a warm Whanganui welcome.

The following day, at school, was a time to share ideas and all the schools gave feedback on the structure of their student leadership, and on the best event that each school had run and why it was so successful. After the presentation, we walked down to the Council Offices to meet our Mayor, Hamish McDouall and hear his words of wisdom for the future leaders of New Zealand. The next stop was the velodrome, to take part in some leadership activities and meet some local Olympians. Ex-professional cyclist Cath Cheatley, a former Whanganui High School teacher and her husband Dayle, ‘Cycling NZ’s’ head track coach from 2012-2017, kindly loaned us some track bikes. All the student teams gave the leadership tasks and track cycling a good go. I can promise that it was not fixed, but I am proud to say that the home team of Whanganui High School took first place on the podium in what had proved to be a fun and competitive event.

We look forward to being the ‘away team’ next year and consolidating the relationships between the schools in our region.

**Jenny Langrish**  
Deputy Principal



## *Te Pakimaero o Te Awa o Whanganui*

# THE CREATION OF THE WHANGANUI RIVER

# RIVER

### THE CREATION OF THE WHANGANUI RIVER BEGINS AND ENDS WITH TEARS.

The first teardrop was the seed of the river itself, a gift to Ruapehu from an all-powerful god Ranginui. The last tears were those shed by another grieving mountain as it carved its tortuous path to exile. Like all good stories this one has its share of conflict, love and intrigue, but also of bravery and honour. Here it is as told by local iwi.

The Whanganui River is almost as old as the land itself. It all began when the North Island, as we know it today, was drawn from the ocean by the legendary figure of the South Pacific, Māui Tikitiki-ā-Taranga.

On that occasion Māui, ever the trickster, stowed away on his brothers' fishing expedition. He used the magic jawbone of his grandmother to hook and haul up Hāhā-te-Whenua, a heavy landmass that became Te Ika-ā-Māui / the Great Fish of Māui - the North Island.

The great fish had huge mana and it would not be calmed. Ranginui, the Sky Father, was forced to intervene to ease its tremendous thrashing, and placed Mātua Te Mana (Mount Ruapehu) at its centre. And so it was that calm came at last to the new land.

However, as time passed, proud and supreme Ruapehu, the only mountain on the land, came to feel his isolation more and more keenly. Ranginui, the Sky Father, was again moved to intervene. He placed two teardrops at the lonely mountain's feet. One teardrop was the beginning of the Whanganui River. The other flowed into the land of the Ngāti Tuwharetoa and the Waikato.

But this gift was not enough and Ruapehu's loneliness grew. Finally, in desperation, he pleaded with Ranginui for company. And so it was, over a period of time, that Ranginui sent Ruapehu four companions.

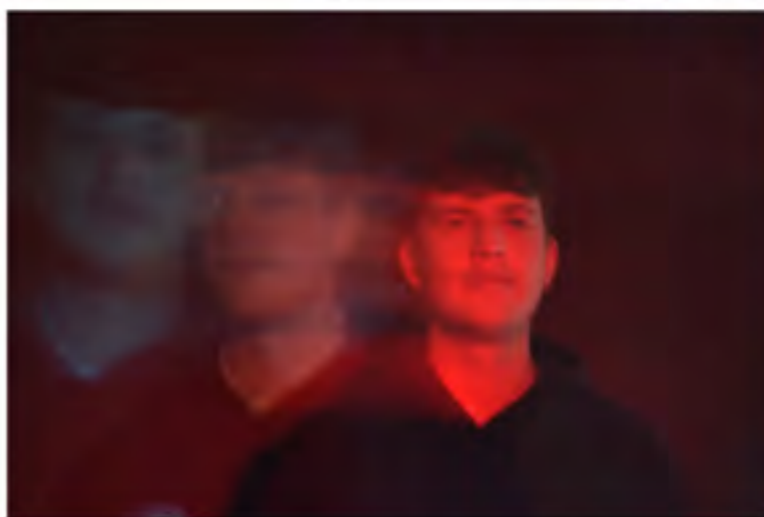
First came Tongariro, the warrior guardian of the two teardrops. Next to arrive was Taranaki, custodian of the new mountain clan's tapu. Third was Ngauruhoe, who acted as the mountains' servant, a role perhaps not as prestigious today but holding its own dignity in the old order. Last to arrive was the beautiful and fertile maiden, Pihanga. Pihanga was given as a bride to Tongariro, to ensure the survival and future of the mountain clan. So Ruapehu at last found peace in the presence of his new companions.

Peace, however, did not last forever. The harmony of the clan was menaced when Pihanga found herself tempted by the magnificence of the tall and elegant Taranaki. Discovering the attraction, Tongariro exploded in anger. Some versions of the legend tell of a huge battle between the rival mountains, with Taranaki defeated and Tongariro substantially depleted from his efforts.

The version of the Whanganui iwi is less spectacular and more honourable. They say that Taranaki, realising that he was on the point of making an error that might compromise his mana forever, sought counsel from his brother Ruapehu, patriarch of the clan. Ruapehu understood the sacred nature of Taranaki's role as custodian of the clan's tapu. He knew that if his brother turned to battle or to forbidden love, his mana would be tarnished. He also knew that a battle between Tongariro and Taranaki would have terrible consequences. The only alternative was to ask Taranaki to leave.

And so it was, with a heavy heart, that Taranaki drew away from the clan, following the teardrop of the Whanganui River. As he wound his way towards the coast, he widened that river's channel. The path he carved in exile and grief is the river as we know it today. When Taranaki arrived at the coast, near where the city of Whanganui stands today, he turned and continued northwards, finally settling in Te Hau-ā-uru, on the plains.

He remains there today, alone, forever guarding the place of the setting sun. From high points all around the western half of the North Island he can be seen looking towards the centre of the island, at the mountain clan he left behind.



**VISUAL ARTS  
COMPETITION  
AWARD WINNERS  
& FINALISTS**



**Zoe Bracegirdle and Rose Hird**  
FINALISTS in the NATIONAL YOUTH ART AWARD



**Nat Kirk**  
WDC Youth Committee Youth Recognition Award



**Kate Regan**  
Fine Art Gallery Young Artist Scholarship  
"PEOPLES CHOICE AWARD"



**Kate Regan**  
Kate Regan Trustpower Photographic Exhibition  
Finalist TOP20 - HIGHLY COMMENDED



**Grace Swanston**  
FINALIST in the WALLACE SECONDARY SCHOOL ART AWARDS

**VISUAL  
ARTS**

# DUKE OF ED Silver

## Queen Charlotte

Another epic qualifying trip for the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Award students. The Queen Charlotte Walkway is located in the picturesque Marlborough Sounds. This is the traditional qualifying expedition for many of the silver D of E students and a wonderful way to conclude the year.

29th November came and another group set off to Camp Elsdon for the first night. The shadow teachers were Mr Adam, Mr Sullenberger, Mr Ireton and Mr Costelloe. There were 17 enthusiastic students ready for the adventure. At camp we were able to complete preparation and briefings for the trip which started the next morning.

*Day Two* we set off to Wellington. We bordered the Wellington to Picton Interislander for a magic sailing across the Cook Strait. When we arrived in Picton we had a short walk to the Mailboat, which was our water taxi to Ship Cove. The Mailboat delivers mail throughout the Queen Charlotte Sound. We arrived in Ship Cove late in the afternoon. We first had a short walk to the waterfalls and then made our two hour journey to School House Bay campsite. This was also the first opportunity to take a chilly swim!

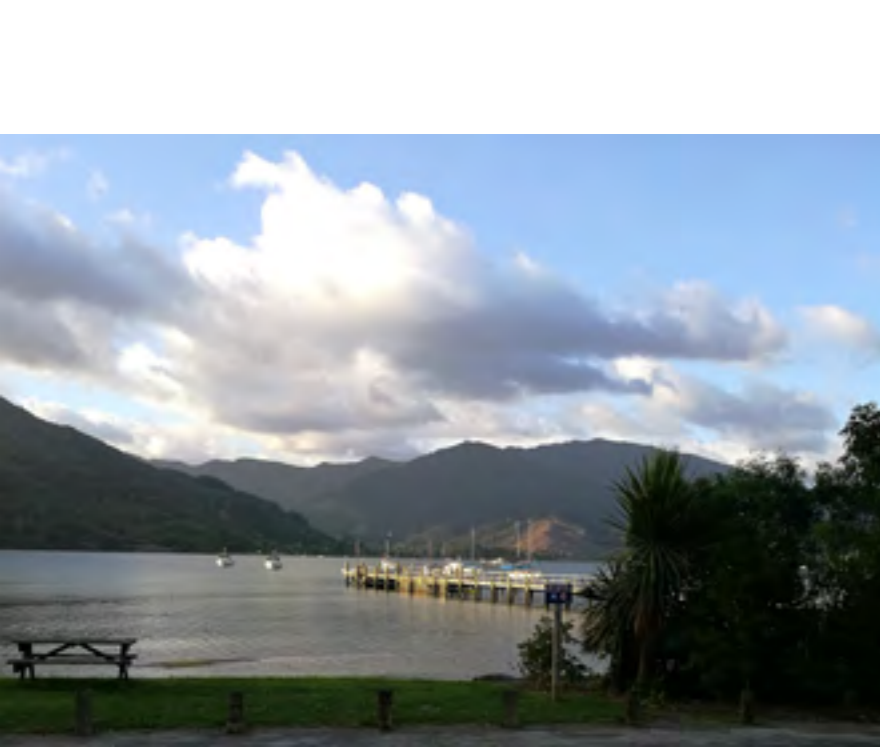
*Day Three* was another early start. We were heading to Furneaux Lodge for lunch. This was half way around Endeavour Inlet which took four hours walking. The track is generally flat but it is a long way. Lunch was well earned. After lunch we headed off to our next destination, Camp Bay. The entire day was 22km long. Again we enjoyed a chilly but refreshing swim.

*Day Four* was going to be a big challenge. It was the ridge line and the weather was looking a bit rough. This is the highest part of the track and the wind was going to be strong. We made great progress and everyone was working very well together, looking after each other. There were amazing views and everyone took the extra opportunity to go up Eatwells lookout. Late in the day we arrived at Blackrock Shelter. Time to put up tents and enjoy dinner in the shelter. One of the groups failed when putting up their tent. It ended up in a nearby tree. "Too much focus on the social events". It rained and blew all night and we all survived successfully.

*Day Five.* We were all up early and ready for the final big day. Lunch was going to be at Te Mahia saddle and Mistletoe Bay. It had rained all morning and all of us were very wet. Still in good spirits as we ate our lunch. The afternoon was another epic Queen Charlotte day. It rained so hard that the tracks turned into small rivers. By the time we arrived at Davies Bay the rain had stopped! But we were so happy! Everyone put up their tents and rested up.

*Day Six* was a very early start at 5am as we needed to be at Anakiwa for an 8am water taxi back to Picton. The walk was just an hour through the beech forest. But there was still a compulsory swim off the jetty at Anakiwa to finish our epic trip. After the leap there were great celebrations and also relief. The water taxi arrived on time and we were off to Picton to meet our Interisland Ferry to Wellington. The sailing was amazing and we enjoyed the relaxing time. We were met at Wellington and travelled back to Whanganui.

On reflection, I am sure, all of us were able to realise what we had achieved, made awesome memories and enjoyed this special place.







# Spirit OF ADVENTURE



Kia Ora, my name is Ranita Kirk. On the 15th of September, I received a very rare opportunity to venture out to sea for ten days. I journeyed with strangers who soon became family on the beautiful ship, the 'Spirit of New Zealand'. I would like to start by thanking Steve Thoms, who funded my trip and voyage. I am so grateful for his generosity. I would like to share my journey with you all.

Day one was nerve-racking. I was nervous enough finding my way through Auckland Airport. When I arrived at the ship, staring up at those giant masts and huge sails, I could not quite believe my eyes. It was incredible to think that I would soon be sailing on it. My first thoughts looking at the boat was, "this is not a sailing boat, it is a pirate ship." It was surreal. Everyone on the boat was so friendly, including the crew and the trainees. It helped that the trainees were in the same boat, literally. They were there just as I was, with no expectations or judgements. That is the great thing about 'Spirit'.

Day two was surprising. Nothing had prepared me for the cold morning swims at 6:30 am. We would wake up and jump in the freezing water, then swim to the ladder to climb aboard. The warm thirty second showers made up for it, however, and so did the chef J.R's cooking. The swims got easier as the days went on. The first time in the water, I was so frozen I could barely move and the last jump off the yardie swing was actually enjoyable.

My greatest achievement had to be tackling the mast, of course. I was freaking out on my way up but when you look up instead of down, it makes climbing a whole lot easier and it is incredible what you can do if you have a bit of faith. The view was incredible. I climbed right to the top, with support and encouragement from the crew.

Even though I did not want to do it, looking back I feel so proud of myself now. We sailed from Auckland Harbour to all sorts of places, including Te Haupa Island, Motukawao, The Coromandel and Waitemata Harbour. It was incredible seeing the beauty of New Zealand from a different perspective. Throughout the voyage, we played beach games, team-building exercises, learnt different rope knots and patterns, and mini-sailed in the luggers with our watch boards. My watch was called Starboard B, better known as Starry B. Every night we would have an activity in the after cabin. The sing-off was my personal favourite.

On Day nine (trainee day) of the voyage, the Captain decided to hand the boat over to the trainees, and we had to vote in a captain and crew. With eight days of learning behind us it was our time to shine. We sailed the boat, with a few laughs of course, but overall a decent effort. We did not sink it which was a bonus.

By day ten everyone was emotional. We had all become so close and being together while facing challenges, we had become like family. Just like any farewell, it was hard to say 'goodbye'.

Looking back it was a huge achievement. I overcame my fear of heights along with many other things. And the challenges I faced on the boat have taught me so much, that I can apply to many future situations in life.

**Ranita Kirk**



Over the July holidays, the Community Prefects ran a 'Writing and Illustration Competition' based on experiences of the Covid-19 Lockdown. Poetry and short story entries were judged by Mr McAllen, while Mrs Coombs and Mr Hall judged the art pieces. First, second and third places were awarded in each category, and winners received prizes including local business vouchers and sweet treats.

## COVID-19 Writing & Art COMPETITION

### Writing



1st Place **Kera Forrest**

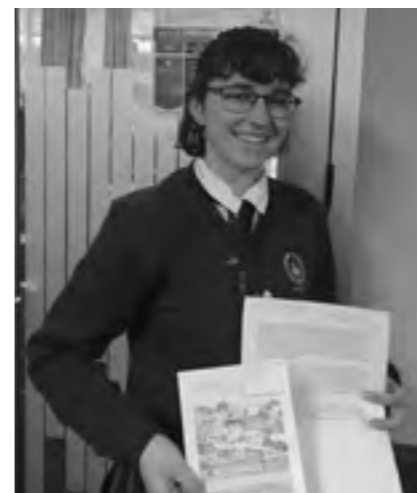


2nd Place **Abby Squire**



3rd Place **Rose Hird**

### Illustration



1st Place **Rose Hird**



2nd Place **Freyja Wrigglesworth**



3rd Place **Shiori Aoyama**



# Blake NEW ZEALAND

'BLAKE NZ' is an organisation founded in the memory of Sir Peter Blake, the champion New Zealand sailor, explorer and environmental activist. 'BLAKE NZ' focuses on inspiring environmental leadership in the youth of New Zealand. 'BLAKE Inspire' is part of this organisation and I was lucky enough to be chosen as part of this programme.

'BLAKE Inspire' consists of a week-long residential programme about environmental leadership and sustainability. Sixty secondary students from all around NZ were chosen to fly up to the Waikato region for a fully funded week of learning about biodiversity, conservation, freshwater ecology, marine conservation, sustainable agriculture, environmental policy, and water health.

We worked with NIWA marine scientists in the Raglan estuaries and had a kayak tour to see the ancient sea beds. We visited Waitomo glowworm caves to learn about ecotourism whilst also doing tours with geologists, and black water rafting. We met with Fonterra farmers to learn about sustainable agriculture in New Zealand and their future plans. We also worked with NIWA freshwater scientists to learn about water health and bug ecology in New Zealand waterways. Members from the Ministry for the Environment led a workshop where we learnt about policy and took part in a policy simulated debate about the carbon tax.

At the end of the week, each student presented action plans that they wanted to implement either in their own community or for the future in New Zealand. Mine was about using biotechnology and genetic engineering to increase sustainability in New Zealand, namely by using GMOs to make bioplastic far more eco-friendly to produce and to provide education on the proper disposal of bioplastics.

Students who are selected for 'BLAKE Inspire' can then be eligible to apply for 'BLAKE Expeditions'. I plan to do so next year and hope to either go on the expedition to the Kermadec Islands or Sub-Antarctic Islands, as well as applying for BLAKE ambassador programmes with NIWA.



Overall, this was a valuable learning experience that I will take with me and hopefully will be able to incorporate into my future. I am very grateful to 'BLAKE NZ', Westpac and the Ministry for the Environment for facilitating this trip. I strongly encourage students to get involved and apply for the 2021 'BLAKE Inspire' programme, as this can open so many doors for students passionate about the environment, and gives them the resources and experiences to go out and make a difference.

**Callista Booth-Richards**



# STUDENT VOLUNTEER ARMY Awards

In 2019, Whanganui High School joined the nation wide movement, the 'Student Volunteer Army' and during 2020, we are pleased to recognise fifty four of our students who have involved themselves in the 'Army', a charitable organisation that is providing meaningful volunteering opportunities across all primary, secondary and tertiary aged young people in Aotearoa.

The SVA Award is a five level badge based system within which students record, with integrity, a record of their volunteering within home, school and the community. Hours are cumulative over the time students are at high school

The following students have gained badges this year:



Students have logged 5+ hours  
Keighley Dunn, Logan Symes, Gemma Shaw, Anthony Sellers, Akshima Marwah, Will Southee, Declynne Bourne, Danja Grunwald, Lauren Phillips, Makyla Blinkhorne, Eva-rose Wakefield, Millie Frampton, Rebekah Bayler, Sophia Bedwell, Mira Meijer, Jemma Tan, Noah Jones, Chelsea O'Hara



Students who have logged 50+ hours  
Aliasha Waghorn, Sharon Xu, Kellie Hazeldine, Vincent Ye, Paris Moore, Jared Turner, Kate Regan, Kelahn Teawhe, Jason Milnem Callista Booth Richards, Kera Forrest, Maggie Jones, Kezia pickering, Hayley Bardell, Zavana Spence, Zoe van der Wees, Blake Hoskin, Priyansha Bangia, Scott Emerson, Molly Fothergill, Jamie Wong, Georgia Hiscotte, Shiori Aoyama, Charissa Loader, Emma Ogilwy, Jaycee Kohrt



Students who have logged 250+ hours  
Josephine Tuinman, Connor Hoskin, Alyssa Hartley, Charlotte Hardy, Nikhil Munagapati, Mathew Anscombe



Students who have logged 500+ hours  
Godfavour Akinyele, Aranga Molijn, Azariah Drummond, Rose Hird

These students have their Gold badges awarded at the End of Year Prizegivings.



# Peer MENTORING

Peer Mentoring is a support system in which fellow students work to support their peers in their academic journey in a range of ways. This year at Whanganui High School the roles consisted of supervising a safe room, in which students who needed a quiet friendly environment to go at breaks were welcomed; and individual mentoring, which had peers working one on one with students in need of a friend, or advice.

Not everyone excels in school and some students need a helping hand to encourage them to participate in the school community. Individual Mentoring is designed with these students in mind and is an effective way of making everyone feel included at school. This type of mentoring works as an example of a 'buddy system' and was started in 2017, providing friendships and positive relationships to those who need them most.

The safe room is designed for people who find themselves struggling to make friends, overwhelmed by the huge number of people, or anyone who would just like a quiet place to sit at break. This idea was introduced last year in the form of a games room and was continued this year, as it had a positive effect on many students who would otherwise struggle to fit in.

This year there were two Heads Of Peer Mentoring, and two senior mentors who lead the group alongside Mrs Glaister. Although this year was interrupted with the Covid-19 outbreak, Peer Mentoring was still largely successful thanks to the effort put in not only from the peer mentors, but also Mrs Glaister who played a large role in allowing peer mentoring to happen.

We hope to see Peer Mentoring continue to make a positive difference in the school in the years to follow.



## THE BREAKFAST CLUB

This year for the first time the Peer Mentoring group have organised a Breakfast Club. The Breakfast Club has been held in the Cooking Room every day from 8-8:30 am. The club was founded with the goal of minimising the number of students who are at school hungry, or have not had breakfast. Providing breakfast to students who either do not have time, or the means to eat before coming to school is important because it is not possible to fully concentrate when hungry. School is a place of not only learning but also a place to make friendships and start our lives. If people are unable to concentrate at school due to hunger, they may be missing out on important life lessons.

The club was sponsored by 'Kick Start Breakfast', which supplied milk and Weet-bix in return for being called Kick Start Breakfast Club. Although the club could not start until after the Covid-19 lockdown, it has been a valuable thing to have in our school community and will hopefully continue on next year. This being the first year that the club has happened has meant a few minor problems had to be overcome, but it now runs smoothly and will hopefully help many people in the future. School is a community and communities to help one another. If people are coming to school hungry and are not receiving help to fulfill their basic needs of nutrition then we are not doing our job as a community.

The Breakfast Club could not have happened without the help of the peer mentoring team who made the extra effort coming to school early to help run it. Thanks to the Peer Mentors for offering up their time, Mrs Hardcastle for the use of her classroom and to Mrs Glaister for helping run the club so that we have been able to provide students with breakfast.

**Kera Forrest and Bridie Knapp**  
Heads Of Peer Mentoring

# Student COUNCIL



This year was a successful one for the Student Council; however, there were interruptions due to Covid-19. Still, a lot was achieved. The Student Council's purpose is to give students a way to communicate their ideas directly to the Heads of School. The Council provides a direct pathway where students can have input on any school issues which concern them, ensuring that they have the best possible experience at Whanganui High School. The Council encourages students to follow our school LIFE values. This year, we have made an orientation booklet for future students. The booklet will help future students fit in and make the transition from their previous school smoother. It also gives an insight into the school LIFE values and what they look like at our school. We have also adopted a buddy system for all new students that will help support the transition from another school to Whanganui High School. Those students on the Student Council have had the opportunity to attend PB4L - (Positive Behavior for Learning); restorative practice workshops and PB4L school-wide courses. The courses have developed valuable leadership skills and techniques within the Student Council. Other projects undertaken have included a uniform proposal and seeking ways to improve our school recognition system. Moving forward, the goals we have set for 2021 include making a stronger connection between the Student Council and the house system. This is so there can be a more direct link to the form classes and make it easier for them to communicate any issues. The Council will continue to involve the Deputy Heads of School, Heads of House and Form Class Leaders. Collectively, our purpose is to encourage students to feel a sense of belonging and to have a direct input into the decisions that affect us.



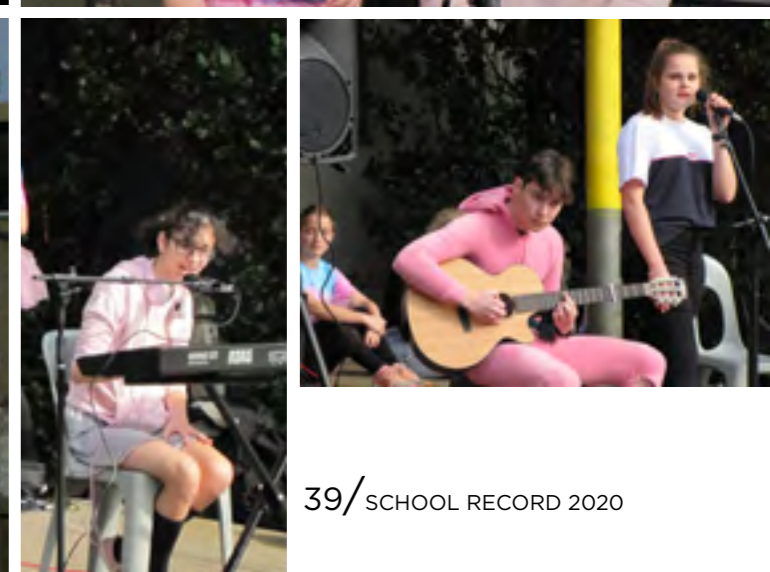


# PINK SHIRT Day

On Friday 26th of June, the Community Prefects organised a fundraiser for Women's Refuge by having a mufti day, which raised just over \$1,000.

As Pink Shirt Day was originally during the Covid-19 Level 4 lockdown, we decided that we would still support the anti-bullying message by holding 'A Cookie for a Compliment' during the lunch break. We would not have been able to do this without the support of all of the prefects, as they helped by bringing in baking.

The compliments were written on sticky notes and stuck on to two whiteboards, which ended up being very colourful and positive. It was great to have Open Mic next to us so that the audience could engage in both events. Overall, the outcome was amazing, with lots of smiles and fun on the day.





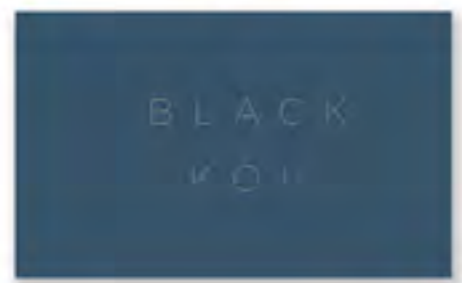
RESET  
SPOT



ART  
DES  
IGN



ART  
DES  
IGN



# Junior DEBATING



This year we had three teams competing in the prestigious John Prestage Debating Competition. It turned out to be a bizarre year with the Covid restrictions and the introduction of on-line debating. Our Kakariki Team has passionately worked and debated against two prestigious teams this year. They have wrangled over the very politically relevant topics of the 'End of Life Bill' and the need for a 'Junk Food Tax'. They performed very well and it was an incredibly close-cut call on both occasions. All members have grown as debaters phenomenally and we are looking forward to seeing how they'll do next year.

Kakariki team is made up of:

**Finnian Sinclair**, board game addict, who apparently likes board games very much, but sacrificed playing Magic on Fridays to debate..

**Harriet Buchan**, honorary art kid who draws in her debating notes to intimidate the competition by making them think she's analysing them.

**Ela Robbins**, who wanted me to say in her blurb that she really, really wants some raw brown sugar. I caved.

Our Kowhai Team, had many successes this year with winning all of their prepared debates, coming first in the Central North Island Impromptu Junior Debating Competition early in the year, and winning their impromptu debate against Palmerston North Boys High School for the Central North Island Junior Debating Competition. At the time of writing they are preparing for their semi-finals clash with a yet unknown opponent.

Kowhai team is made up of:

**Sophia Bedwell**, team leader who makes sure her other teammates don't write their speeches last minute.

**Charlotte Hardy**, a late-comer to debating who managed to climb her way to the top (with only a little bribery).

**Hazel Chant**, who has only ever done 3rd speaker for her team (... --- ...) and does expect monetary compensation for it.

Our Whero Team has debated the same pressing debate topics this year, but often from the other perspective. They conclusively won their debate against Cullinane College and fought fiercely this year, giving all the teams they've debated against a run for their money. As first time debaters they've grown massively with regard to their debating confidence and now they're ready for anything.

Whero team is made up of:

**Ivan Adams**, former drama kid, who joined to take his anger out in debating.

**Jayden Ferguson**, new time debater who has taken on a leadership role in the year 9 team.

**Bede McDoull**, who has decided to follow in his relatives footsteps and take the political side of debate.

Throughout the debates this year the teams had the pleasure of the Senior Debating Team adjudicating them. We want to thank these seniors for taking time out of their busy schedules to watch and judge our debates. Couldn't have done without you girls.

# Senior DEBATING

Whanganui High School's Senior Debaters have, despite many setbacks, had a very successful year.

In March, our school's debaters hosted and competed in the annual Central North Island Regional Competition, entering several senior teams ranging from Year 11 to Year 13 students. With our regional win still fresh from last year, our seniors ultimately came away with their efforts rewarded. Our two Year 11 teams were challenged by the dreaded half hour preparation style of the competition for the first time, and quickly adapted. Toni Adams, Year 11, was awarded the competition's Most Promising Speaker, an award for a particularly talented Year 11 or 12 student. Our Year 13 team (Merle Chant, Leah Aiono, Priyansha Bangia) lost their first round against Collegiate's seniors but quickly picked up their pace afterwards, beating Collegiate in the semi finals and then again in the finals. For the second year in a row, Whanganui High School has won the finals and had members selected for the Regional team to compete at Nationals.

Asides from the Central North Island competition, our debaters have had other successes. Our Year 11 team came away from their Hawera High Sports Exchange with a win, Toni Adams and Olivia Bedwell being named as best speakers. Students have additionally done various other mini competitions and come away with a myriad of wins (and experience, if wins were lacking). Our Year 13 team participated in the Premier league of Aotearoa Online Schools' Debating (a Covid 'Zoom Tournament' during lockdown) featuring debaters from all across the country and topics that still haunt them to this day (a Jurassic Park debate). Debaters Merle Chant and Leah Aiono participated in hours and hours of training to represent the Central North Island in the upcoming National New Zealand Schools' Debating Competition which ended up becoming New Zealand's first debating nationals held online.

Other aspects of debating outside of competing were also active. All of our Year 13 students adjudicated various debates. Members such as Ara Molijn helped coach junior teams, whilst our newer seniors were coached by Merle Chant.

Overall, despite obvious setbacks, the year has been nothing if not rewarding. On behalf of all Senior debaters, we would like to thank Mr Miller, Mrs Hughes and Mrs Kasner for their hard work. The time you've put into integrating our new seniors along with coaching the Year 13 students since Year 9 has done so much for Whanganui High School debating. The opportunities and experiences that have come out of it have been invaluable for all students involved, and the skills we've gained debating will stay with us thanks to you.

Leah Aiono and Merle Chant



# A LETTER FROM *Italy*

*I'm Anna and I'm from Italy. One year ago, I chose New Zealand as the place for my exchange experience. I spent two and a half months there, arriving on the 24th of January and leaving on the 3rd of April.*

*I had only spent three days in New Zealand, before my host mum told me something about an unknown virus coming from China. Two weeks after I was talking on the phone with my family in Italy: they were on holiday in the mountains and they told me that not too many people were on the slopes in those days. Just 3 days after they came back home, they were already locked down due to a virus -the same virus I was told about three weeks before. Hearing about that was unbelievable for me, what is a lockdown? I asked myself. The virus spread in my home country and deaths increased. Just to make sure my flight happened, I had a look on Qatar Airways website, and my flight was cancelled. I arranged another travel plan with the agency - at least I tried to. Plans changed five or six times, and there was bad news daily about the virus in Italy. The virus still wasn't in New Zealand yet, and I was hoping it wouldn't be for a while. I was still living my happy life in New Zealand with my international and kiwi friends, trying to make the most out of my experience, but every day uncertain about how I would return home.*

*Then the virus came to Aotearoa, and we were all quarantined. My friends from Germany, South America and I were every day receiving news about our return trip and we didn't really know if we still could go back. Then, from the 24th of march, we were locked home in quarantine. Internal flights were suddenly cancelled, and I had to leave one week later. Indeed, I had stressful days: what If we drive you up to Auckland? suggested my host parents and then the international staff. We couldn't, though. Then why not take a taxi? It's an essential service. We still couldn't. Things still changed one day before my departure, internal flights apparently happened, a decision had to be made: eventually I was driven by a policeman up to Auckland.*

*Sad enough I didn't have the opportunity of greeting all my friends: everything happened out of the blue. Though I was so pleased I could celebrate my 18th birthday on the 22nd of March, at the beach, with my friends.*

*That was a sort of a farewell as well. It was one of the best days of the whole experience: nobody was aware yet of the fact that 2 days later we would be in quarantine. For a moment, our feeling was carefreeness, at least mine.*

*Masks, gloves and hand sanitizer, and 49 long hours: that was my adventure on the way back. My dad came and collected me from the airport, and I felt I wasn't in the same place I used to live in. Italy was suffering and had a deep wound: motorways were empty, there were no cars on the streets around my neighbourhood. A weird and awkward silence and order invaded messy and loud lives of Italian people. It was different from New Zealand; indeed, I could feel the seriousness of the problem in Italy, and that was not pleasant: I was so happy I had the possibility of living cheerfully and safely in New Zealand in that tough period and my parents were, too.*

Anna xxxxx



# QUIZ NIGHT

On the 11th of March we had our annual Whanganui High School Quiz Night, in which students and teachers dressed up and came for a night of competition, entertainment and laughs. During the night, there were many memorable moments held between the students and the teachers bringing a sense of fellowship to our large school. There were many challenging quiz rounds covering a variety of topics, from riddles and Dingbats, to finish the lyrics, even to a special Mr McAllen trivia round. And of course we had to feed these teams for their mental exercise. Every team was supplied with hot chips to eat during the rounds, followed by a fundraising classic sausage sizzle at the intermission. Teams dressed up in themed costumes and chose hilarious team names, and prizes were awarded to the best.



The competition was close, with the team 'Mr Zhang and his Bunnies' in first, followed by a tiebreaker between 'Strings with Bevan' and 'The Amazing Whizbangs'. 'Mario Bros' were the best dressed team and 'Snow White and the Vertically Challenged' best name. A special award was given for what was deemed to be the best worst answer. "Q: What is the Islamic term for fasting? A: Hungry". Overall it was a very successful night with over 30 teams, raising over \$500 for the school yearbook, as well as raising the students' spirits.

# GEOGRAPHY TRIPS *Tongariro*

After the bizarre Covid times during the middle of the year, we were able to sneak out for a day in late July to explore the World Heritage area of Tongariro National Park. The students work through an assessment as to whether they believe tourism is sustainable in the park or not. Given no international tourists and people still apprehensive about travel, the day felt as though we had stepped back 20 years before the hustle and bustle of mass tourism. An early start as we headed up to the National Trout Centre to learn about freshwater ecology and how many things are connected through clear and clean water. Student learnt about trout, our native galaxiidae and the rare Whio (Blue Duck). After a picturesque lunch overlooking Lake Taupo, we ventured down to Opotaka Pa to learn of the cultural significance of the area including the korero purakau of how the mountains came to be, the writing of the haka and the gifting of the mountains by Horonuku. A drive up to Whakapapa Ski Field for a quick play in the snow and then a brisk walk to Tawhai Falls rounded off the day. The students were excellent and many are now looking forward to their big South Island trip in 2021.



# *Kapiti Coast*

The NCEA Level 3 Geography students took their first trip back in February to the Kapiti Coast. It is a key case study for the 'Coastal Processes' assessment and allowed students to gather some primary data. Armed with citrus fruit, for some very scientific measuring of the rate of longshore drift, the students set off. Spanning from the cusplate at Kena Kena right down to the arch at Pukerua Bay, students were able to see the vast differences in the features and extent of each beach.

We never quite made the second coast trip to the Gold Coast in Australia that we had planned.



# YEAR 12 SOUTH ISLAND GEOGRAPHY *Trip*

Despite all the challenges that 2020 has thrown, we somehow managed to squeeze our annual South Island trip in. After six different proposals and schedules, we eventually settled on version seven. So, with a much smaller cohort and a shortened version of what we normally do, we set off on a five day and four night adventure. We departed Whanganui High School at our usual crazy time of 4am and headed to Wellington. The forecast was rather frightening and rather than putting us at ease, the flight attendant warned of a very rough flight and the potential to have to return as three planes had to the day before. Thankfully despite the forecast and warning from the captain, the flight was tame and we touched down on time. After a brief supermarket shop, we arrived at a very quiet Kawarau Bungy Centre where 6 brave souls threw themselves off the 43m high bridge. A couple of zip zines were enjoyed before we ventured up the Crown Range. With inclement weather over the opposing hills, we patiently waited for the snow to fall but it never eventuated.



We arrived in Wanaka under grey skies and students settled into their accommodation quarters before being treated to my famous wraps which comprise of hot chips, cooked chicken, ham, cheese and cinnamon donut and eaten like an apple. The following day involved a fair amount of driving as we headed down the Clutha River inspecting the hydro-electric sites and then took a few back-road detours on our way to Te Anau. With the Milford Road being closed for the previous few days, our Milford Sound cruise was looking unlikely given the continued avalanche risk. But some fine work by the Milford Road crew enabled our safe passage so that we could enjoy a spectacular boat ride through the fiord. We were lucky enough to spot a Fiordland Crested Penguin, one of the rarest birds in the world.



After leaving the deserted streets of Te Anau, we headed into Queenstown and admired the views from high up on The Remarkables Ski Field Road. Then we headed to the Gondola and Luge for a bit of fun before heading into town and learning about the history through the Time Tripper experience. A hearty Fergburger was followed by Fear Factory.

Our final day involved a nice scenic drive up to Glenorchy and the Dart Bridge. We returned and headed up to Arrowtown where some struck gold in their prospecting pans. A quick game of Laser Tag and bumpy flight home followed by the van journey back to Whanganui. The students were great and whilst the teacher's singing still needed improvement, at least we the van was driven safely and returned everyone home.



Thanks to all for a great few days. Participants on the trip:  
**Scott Boyd, Alex Caird, Charlie Cohen, Cassandra Currie, Rose Hird, Wilson Mckee, Olly Rider, Riki Wainhouse, Grace Walford, Stephanie Waghorn.**



# EXPLORATION AND DISCOVERY CLUB

Wow. What a year this has been. It really is hard to think back to our trips with all that has gone on.

In March we embarked on our journey to Rotorua to engage in some sightseeing and activities. The drive up was fine, apart from Ryan Palazzo constantly asking "Are we there yet?". So much so that Miss Brown threatened to turn the van around and head back home. Upon arrival at the Rotorua Thermal Holiday Park, the crew organised themselves into their rooms. Cheyenne Barclay was quick to claim the double bed leaving her room-mates only the small singles. After a meal of pizza, cards dominated the evening session with Keylah Bouzaid-Hoggarth claiming supreme presidency.

The morning greeted us with beaming sunshine and a slightly grumpy Blake Collins who was unimpressed with some of the snorers in the room. We drove off towards Whakatane when suddenly raucous cries of "ducks, ducks, ducks" bellowed from Aleisha Waghorn's mouth. "Yes, ducks, Aleisha", grumbled Felicity Weston after having to hear about the said duck obsession for most of the journey. After viewing the coastal scenery, we headed back towards the lakes area and did a small walk around the northern side of Lake Okataina. Jamie Hogg, ever the fountain of knowledge and non-stop chatter, explained that the name translated to 'place of laughter'. So, for the next 36 minutes everyone decided to maniacally laugh like evil villains. If Miss Coltman thought her first year teaching was going to be smooth, then this surely tested her resolve.

Pizza was ordered for dinner and Myles Simpson was impressed with the dairy and meat free option.

The holiday park has some lovely thermal pools and this was the highlight for Sam Scott-Pages as he submerged himself in the mineral-rich warmth. Sunday was our day of fun. "How did the Raiders go last night against the Warriors, Sir"? enquired Ryley Cranston. "A 20-6 win, so not quite as emphatic as the game you watched live on last year's trip to Auckland", was my reply.

Upon arrival we took the gondola ride up to the luge. "Is that really how high the lake was 22,000 years ago", a startled Rachel Borthwick asked. "Yip, that high until the outlet at the Ohau channel opened and drained it by 30m", I replied. The supreme luge rider as judged by the group went to Iris Warner, although Lana O'Connor felt hard done by after a dubious maneuver at the end. In fact we had such a great weekend away that we decided to run it again in August.



Charlie Cohen eagerly downloaded a new playlist for the van karaoke and we set off again with Riccaia Field leading the vocals. This time we decided to venture to Motion Entertainment and engage in some lazer tag and ten pin bowling. The sharp-shooter of the group was Xanthe Cohen as she blasted every person that ventured near her. The bowling was much closer and a stunning double strike to finish meant that Liam Johnson was clearly the man you want rolling your bowls in a tight situation.

We managed to squeeze in an escape room experience and it was Libby Firmin who showed her academic prowess to lead her group to safety, well under the set time. Another luge and gondola experience was undertaken and this time it was Molly Green and Bella Jones who claimed bragging rights. Sadly for Mr Marr, it was not such a memorable experience as he strained his hamstring eagerly wanting to get to the top of the hill for his next luge ride. He then had the indignity of Charissa Loader mimicking his limp for the remainder of the trip. Eventually Chelsea O'hara talked some sense into Charissa as it was obvious Mr Marr's patience was at its limit.

Once again this experience drove us to wanting to book it all over again and we are set for a return in October. If only everything mentioned above had actually transpired then perhaps this article would have involved an actual trip and another trip somewhere else. Covid-19 certainly put the hand brake on lots of travel in 2020, but the club is looking forward to our October trip and the travels in 2021. A special mention to the Rotorua Thermal Holiday Park for refunding our money and then holding the credit for October when we had to cancel within a week of our expected arrivals.

So here is to 2021, safer travels and some new members wanting to experience travel, learning, laughs and friendship, which is what this club is all about.



## HISTORY TRIPS

In February, Year 11 and Year 12 History students were out and about looking into aspects of local history. The Year 11 students used the topic "How We Remember" to look at local monuments in and around the city. This year we took along our Matua, Tim, who was able to give the students an interesting perspective on some of the sites as well.

The Year 12's researched "New Zealand at War" and we went to the National Army Museum in Waiouru. By a strange coincidence, Jansen Condon-Ngapa had chosen the Maori 28th battalion as his research focus and on that day one of only two surviving members of the battalion happened to be visiting the museum. It was really a privilege for Jansen to meet with 'Bomb' Gillies and the two were able to spend a little bit of time together making connections across the generations.



# DANCE NZMADE REGIONAL ..... *Competition* 2020

## REGIONALS

The 6th and 7th of August were the dates for this year's 'Dance NZ Made' regional competition. Whanganui High School had forty two students taking part in workshops and competing in the two day event.

The two evenings were full of fantastic performances, with the first night consisting of the solo section. Students competed in their age range, taking away the wins in every category. The duo and trio sections were dominated by Whanganui High School, which took out first place overall for the evening.

Three students, Emma Henare, Rebekah Phillips and Mira Meijer, won top regional solo performances and were nominated to compete in the national event in Palmerston North.

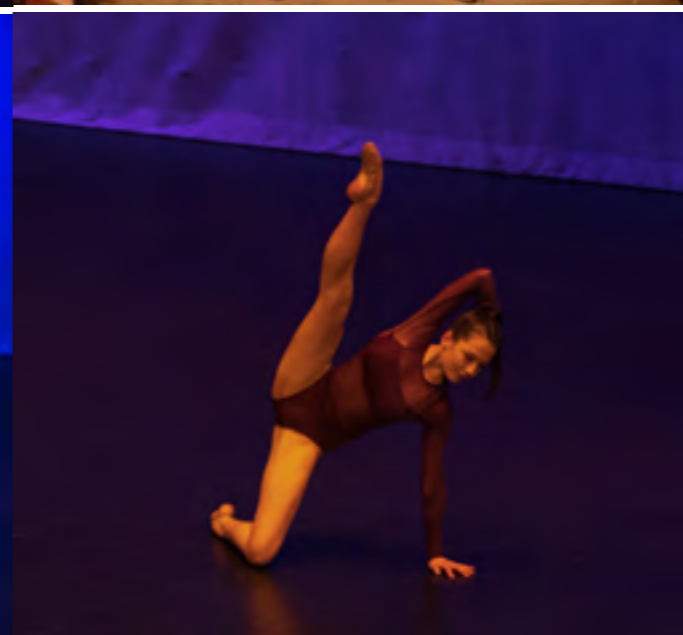
On the Saturday evening, our teams took to the stage for the group event. There were outstanding performances from all of our groups, with our *OnPointe* team taking third place and our Juniors, Seniors and Lyrical teams taking out second place in their age groups. Our *Lyrical* team gained a top score and went on to represent us in the national competition.

## NATIONALS

We had three teams representing Whanganui High School at the national event. It proved to be a tough competition, with participants representing schools from all over New Zealand. Sophia and Olivia Bedwell placed third in the Open category, an outstanding result for the girls.

There were wonderful performances from all of our dancers. The results didn't go our way, but an incredible level of skill in dance was displayed by all.

Emma Henare and Rebekah Phillips were awarded top regionals soloists on the night.



# CHINESE BRIDGE *Competition* 2020

Ni Hao! In August this year, the Confucius Institute of New Zealand held their annual nationwide schools speech competition. This annual event is usually held in Wellington and competitors prepare and deliver a themed speech in front of a live audience. Due to Covid restrictions, this year's competitors had to write a speech addressing the theme of "Flying High With Chinese", and deliver their speech via Zoom. They also had to provide an accompanying video showcasing their special talent.

A big congratulations to Whanganui High School student *Reina Jones*, who has been judged the winner of the 2020 New Zealand Schools Chinese Bridge Speech Competition - Junior category! Her speech and delivery impressed the judges in all categories, along with her special talent of playing guitar and singing. She will be looking forward to her prize for 1st place - the latest model Apple iPad!

Reina was joined by another Whanganui student, *Billie Dufty*, of St Annes School, who received a Merit in the Junior category of the same speech. Well done Reina and Billie. Special mention must also be made of Mr Beck Ding, who received the "Best Coach Award!"

Mandarin is certainly Flying High in Whanganui!



Billie Dufty



Reina Jones and Mr Beck Ding

# UNIVERSITY OF AUCKLAND'S ANNUAL *ENGINEERING SCIENCE Competition* 2020

On Saturday, 1st of August 2020, two teams of senior students from Whanganui High School participated in the University of Auckland's annual Engineering Science competition. At 10:00 am, a question was released to the teams, which they then had eight hours to research, solve, and to write a report detailing their solution to the question. This year's question was:

**"How many satellites can be launched into orbit before astronomers on Earth can no longer observe the night sky without interruption?"**

Both teams interpreted this question to mean that having a satellite in the astronomer's field of view was interference.

The first team (left to right: *Priyansha Bangia, Mathew Anscombe, Akshima Marwah, Jack Fawthorpe*) calculated the average length of time for an astrophotographer to take a photo, and determined its field of view. If there was a streak from a satellite in that photo at any time, they considered this to be interference.

They gained a final solution of 3.78 million satellites using this method.

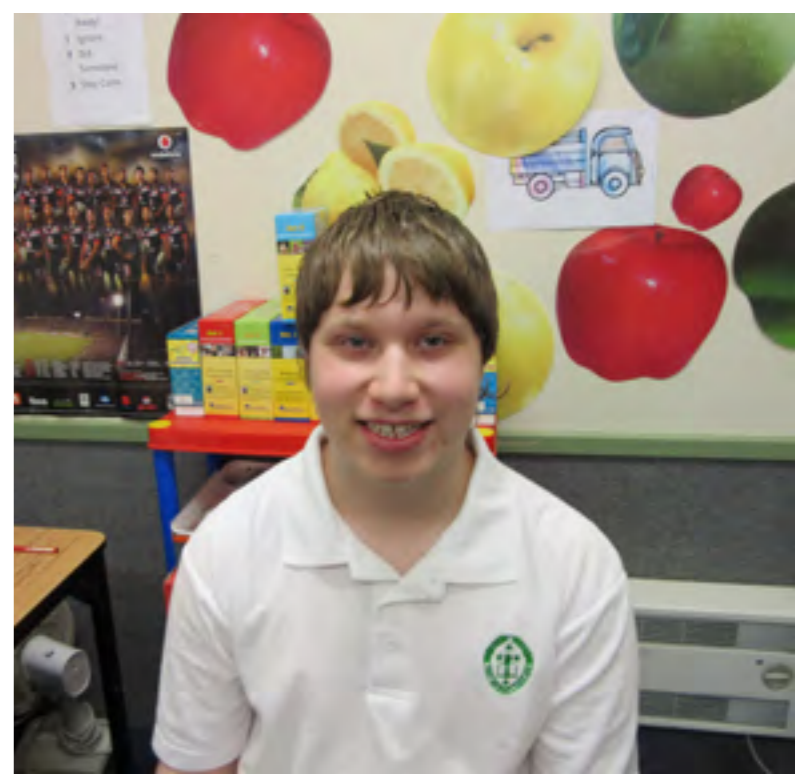
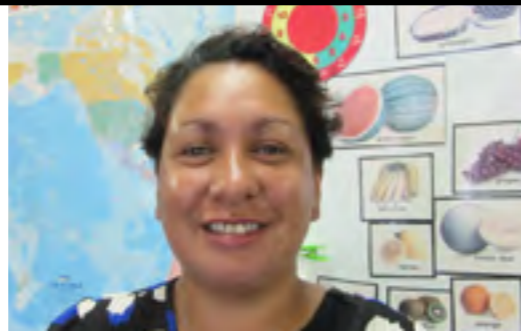


The second team (left to right: *Jared Turner, Blake La Roche, Nikhil Munagapati*) spent most of the first couple of hours researching and brainstorming potential methods for solving the problem, and eventually settled on finding the volume of space around the Earth out to geostationary orbit, then dividing that into conical slices which represented the field of view from an astronomer's telescope on the surface of the Earth.

By approximating a Poisson distribution, they gained a final solution of 5354 satellites.



# TE ATAWHAI





**Imogen Maguire** Y13 Painting



**Imogen Maguire** Y13 Painting



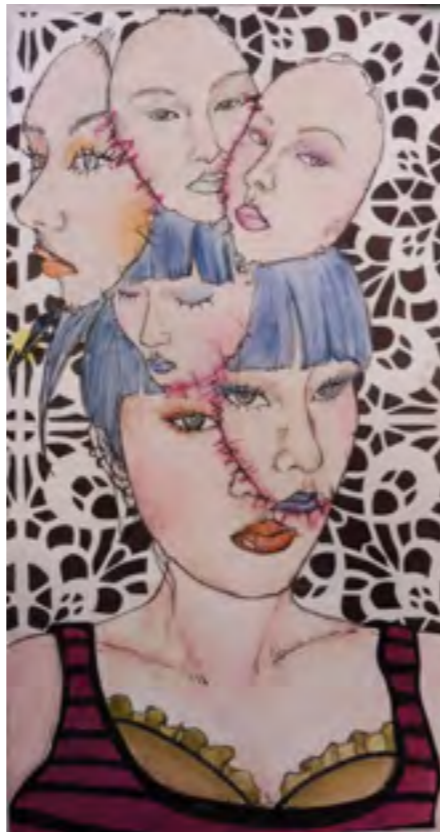
**Kate Regan** Y12 Printmaking



**Anita Hohaia** Y13 Painting



**Quella He** Y13 Painting



**Quella He** Y13 Painting



**Rose Hird** Y12 Printmaking



**Sam He** Y12 Printmaking



**Kate Regan** Y12 Painting



**Tanysha-Rochelle Jones**  
Y13 Printmaking

# WHANGANUI HIGH SCHOOL *Maori* DEPARTMENT

Due to Covid-19 there was a lot of negative side effects that hit the Maori department, however in saying that we kept strong striving for excellence and always carrying out the LIFE values of Whanganui High School. As the Heads of Maori we would love to say that this year has blessed us with many miracles due to Covid-19 as it has made our Kia Whaiora roopu that extra-close tight knitted group we've had yet so far. The Maori room - A1 and the whare, the 2 rooms where us Maori feel most comfortable, the place where we feel belonged too, a place where it somewhat feels we are attracted to in interval breaks, during periods of classes and after school. To our Maori students the Maori room will always feel like home away from home due to it having an unexplainable atmosphere, and because of that we are proud to have a place like that in Whanganui High School.

Kapa Haka

KIA WHAIORA



Our Kapa Haka roopu Kia Whaiora is a tight-knit group filled with compassionate, talented and bright young students who are eager to showcase the Maori culture. Unfortunately due to Covid-19 a lot of performances were either held back, postponed or cancelled and like many other extra-curriculars, our kapa haka roopu faced many challenges due to some of our main events such as Manu Korero and Paerangatahi, however we did not let the pandemic shelter us away from showcasing our talents as we did little performances within our region of Whanganui.

## WHANAU EVENING

Parents and caregivers were invited to a Whanau evening with shared kai and music held outside the whare, where they were able to meet the staff and our Maori Heads and Prefects to see what our Maori department had to offer. This was also a time where they were able to see what our Maori department had in store for the year!

## Year 9 Maori Orientation Day

To welcome our new taura coming into Kura kura, at the start of the year we held a year 9 Maori orientation day where all the year 9 students got a chance to meet our Maori Heads and Prefects through games, quizzes, and team-building activities. After activities a kai was held during the break where the Prefects and the new Taura had time to bond with each other. This was a good way in making our new Taura feel welcome.

## *Puanga* Celebration

In celebration of our Maori new year we had a big banquet and gathering of hangi, steamed veggies and meat straight from the pit, cooked and served on the last day of term 2. Students gathered to help prepare the kai before all school staff, international students and Whānau students gathered for the lunch held in the whare.

## Central 6 *Powhiri*

We held a Powhiri for the Central 6 Schools, which welcomed their Head Students from six other schools in the Whanganui-Manawatu Region. This took place on the -----. We had showcased our Kia Whaiora roopu as well as putting on a kai for them. This Powhiri was our first Powhiri of the year. This welcoming to our school felt different as we got to see other college prefects and they got to see us for what we are, Kia Whaiora.

## Whanganui East Primary School & Little Kiwis Kindergarten Performance

Kia Whaiora did manage to get little performances within the covid-19 restrictions. The first performance we took a small trip to Whanganui East Primary School to shed some light on what Whanganui High School Maori Department have to offer. So we sang along to waiatas with the babies and children of the school and enjoyed the day celebrating our love for Maori culture. We also did a mini performance for the babies at Little Kiwi Kindergarten enlightening them how we show our Maoritanga in performing, we also gave them a taonga, a poi which they loved, also we taught them a Maori action song. These performances may have only been small to Kia Whaiora but they definitely had a big impact on the little kids.

## Te Wiki O Te Reo Maori Language Week

This year for Te Wiki O Te Reo Maori Language Week we supported this kaupapa with a range of different activities for Taura and Kaiako. Ngā taonga tākaro/traditional Māori games, like poi toa, rakaunui and many more, were held at breaks for those who wanted to take part. Spot prizes were given out for those speaking Te Reo Māori around Kura. This was a good way to encourage everyone to embrace our culture and to learn more about Te Reo Māori.

*My experiences throughout my years in Kapa Haka have definitely been a ride. I remember the first day I went to join kapa haka, I walked in shy and did not know anyone. With the help and support of everyone in Kapa Haka I grew out of my shell and gained confidence. I can definitely say you start to grow close to those around and I have made many new friends for simply being a part of Kapa Haka. Some of them I would even consider family which is what Kia Whaiora holds within the roopu. So for those students who join, you may be shy or nervous, but don't worry as we all start somewhere. Don't give up and keep trying because when you look back at remembering all the memories it definitely makes all the time worth it.*  
Maori Prefect **Daya Hall**

*Throughout my 5 years as a member of Kia Whaiora I can say that being in the roopu has had a huge impact on my years at Whanganui High School and has been like having a family at school. I have met some of my closest friends in the roopu and have spent all of my junior and senior years growing up with them through Kia Whaiora. I have had the experience of meeting people of other cultures, performing, going on trips, welcoming manuhiri through powhiri, and doing Karanga. I thank all the whaea for teaching me everything I have learned while being in the group and who have helped shaped me into the wahine toa that I am today.*  
Head of Maori **Dennihe Edwards**

*I can say that I wouldn't be the Maori boy urging to show a little bit more of my culture to the world without Kia Whaiora. My roopu never failed to make me proud of who I am, and in saying that I am proud of Whanganui High School having a kapa haka group. Because of Kia Whaiora I was able to open up to a lot more crowds bigger being meeting people with different cultural backgrounds to conversation with other schools rangatahi with different tikanga. I'm truly grateful to have Whaea Riria and Auntie Cherie who have supported me in my little stay here at Whanganui High School they have shaped me into the Head of Maori I am today.*  
Head of Maori **Jacob Brown**



# PASIFIKA

Our Pasifika group is a place where we welcome one and all. Every culture and ethnicity can share, celebrate and showcase the beauty of the Pasifika cultures through traditional dance and song. Throughout the school we are known for being vibrant, bold and bright. Despite the hold up this year due to the Covid-19 situation, our Pasifika group has never failed to be lively in spirit and eager to get things started. With twenty three members in the group, we still managed to have online group video calls and virtual practices. This year we have been able to incorporate a wide variety of different cultures within the group, from Tahitian, Samoan, Tongan, Fijian, Cook Islander, Niuean, Tokelauan, Papua New Guinea, Kiribatian and more! Our main goals for this year were to welcome new people into the group, to bring diversity and to expand our Pasifika family. We are now planning and working towards the Pasifika Awards at the end of the year, on the 6th of November and want to give a huge 'thank you' to our amazing and hardworking, kind and caring tutor, Marie Vaiao, for putting her all into teaching us every year. It means a lot that she stayed back this year to help us with Pasifika. She always dedicates her time and energy to help us express ourselves. Another huge 'thank you' to Mrs Su'a and Mr Holt for taking the time to help organise and put everything into place, while supporting

and encouraging us. To our students and families, without you all we would not be a group today. Thank you for all the encouragement and support and love you give. We hope to see the Pasifika Group running for decades!

*Within the five years that I have been in the Pasifika Group, I can truly say that it has allowed me to become more confident in my own culture and has enabled me to express everything that I am. To Marie and the seniors I had, I thank you for welcoming me into the group with open arms. From the first time I ever attended a Pasifika practice in Year 9, my dream had always been to become Head of Pasifika, and look at me today. None of it would have been possible if it were not for you. You taught me more about myself and my culture and I thank you for the best five years of my life.*

**Dennihe Edwards**  
Head of Maori and Pasifika

*Although my stay here at Whanganui High School has only been a short period of time, my three years here in the Pasifika Group has definitely made an impact on my life. It has made me into the vibrant, colourful and confident person I am today, because of how I have performed and showcased my Pasifika talents, not only on the stage but on paper as well. I cannot be thankful enough to my Pasifika Group for always having my back in and outside of school. I'm also thankful to Marie, the lady who we could not have done all of this without. I am proud to say I was Head Of Pasifika 2020 for Whanganui High School*

**Jacob Brown**  
Head of Maori and Pasifika



## Tangata Beats

Dennihe Edwards and Toa Tawhitapou won this year's solo/duo category at the regional Smokefreerockquest in early July this year. Later news came that they had won the regional Smokefreerockquest Tangata Beats competition as well.

Dennihe and Toa placed first for the solo/duo category and Ruapehu's duo "Maui Wowee" placed second. After placing second with their band "The Outlaws" in 2019 and participating in Rockquest for the first time in 2018 with their band "Pakalagisasas", these two chose to springboard off to form their own duo. The duo performed for the Whanganui Labour Party rally in mid September.

If it had not been for the support, encouragement and help from Mr Holt throughout the past three years we would not have been able to come this far, but we still have a long way to go!





# INTERNATIONAL Cultural FESTIVAL

The Cultural Festival was created for International Students to share their own traditional culture or to showcase their special abilities. The Cultural Festival in Whanganui High School has been presented for over twenty years and it has become a traditional annual event. Normally, it would be organised at the end of Term 2. However, 2020 is a very extraordinary year because of Covid-19 and unfortunately, the physical Cultural Festival had to be cancelled. Meanwhile, the online Culture Festival was a good choice instead of the physical one. The "Culture Festival 2020" was uploaded on the school YouTube at the end of July to show different cultures in the Whanganui High School in action.

German, Italian and Japanese groups showed their traditional food; amazing cooking such as German-style bread, our Italian student Ann's Italian pizza and Japanese okonomiyaki. They all looked very nice and delicious. If we had not had the Covid-19 crisis all countries would have provided fantastic food on the night and everyone would have enjoyed it!

We also had some performances in our online Culture Festival. It started with New Zealand and it's Maori culture, next was a singing show from China, followed by the Vietnamese student, Danny's harmonic solo and the last performance was the South Korean pop dance "Forever Young". I enjoyed every single performance!

It was a challenging year for all our International Students and our "Online Culture Festival" is not perfect. However, I believe that every International student tried their best, filming videos in very limited time. We all made mistakes, but the whole point of the video was to have fun and have a good time. We were looking for happiness, not perfection and I would like to say thank you to everybody, for taking part in this spectacular online event.

**Gary Chen and Elli von Holst**  
Heads of International

## Kazuke Oiwake

*As a graduate of WHS, I'm so incredibly proud of us. Because of WHS, I am at where I am today. One of the great things that I've learned from my time at WHS was this; "Dream big and always chase dream!" in which lead me to travel to the USA to complete my master's degree and working towards my ultimate goal to become an entrepreneur one day. With what's happening the world with racial injustice, social reforms and pandemics, situations are not easy.*

*As an immigrant, we came to a new country to experience great things and achieve our goals to be successful and, with what's happening, I can totally understand how frustrated and stressful it can be. It's hard but we aren't defined by the virus. There isn't a stamp on us with the label "coronavirus graduate or coronavirus student". We've fought through more than that. We entered a new country and came out as different people now completely different world. If anything, we can handle almost anything thrown at us.*

*Everything that you are experiencing, learning and accomplishing will change your life. Have faith and always dream big! Anything is possible for those who believe that. Work hard and seek towards your dreams. Because you are worth it!*

## Shiori

*Hello! I am Shiori (Shi) from Tokyo, Japan. What I like in New Zealand are the people and nature. Kiwi people, and the people from other countries are all kind. I'm pleased that I could meet my friends, my teachers, my coaches and my host family here. I love the New Zealand landscape as it is different from Japan, so it is interesting for me. I also like the animals. I am feeding lambs now and they are so sweet. I'm sure that I will come back!*





# ZESTY Fashion!

Photography by **Kate Regan**

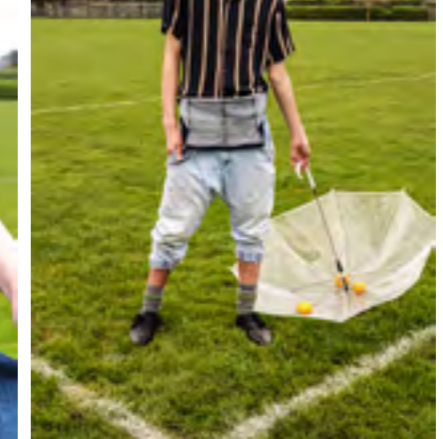
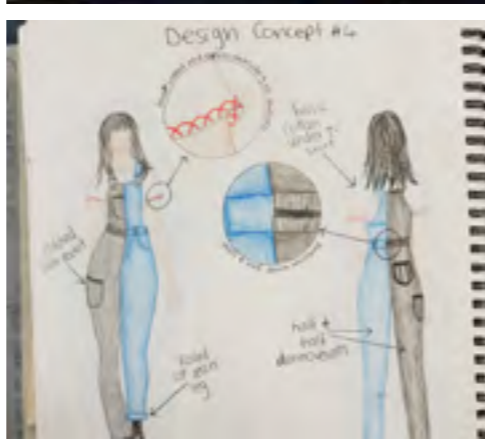
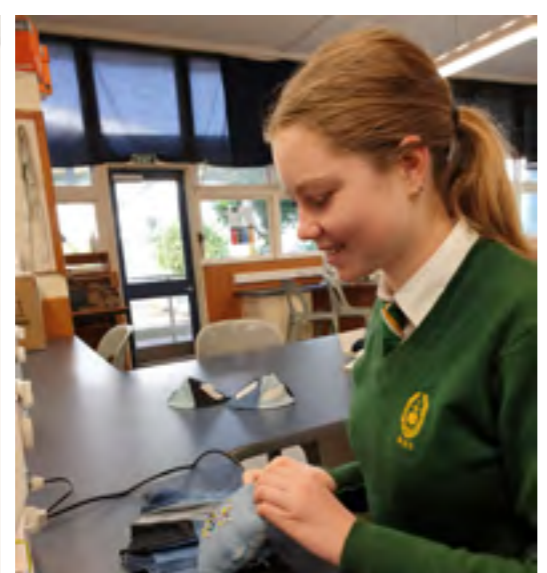
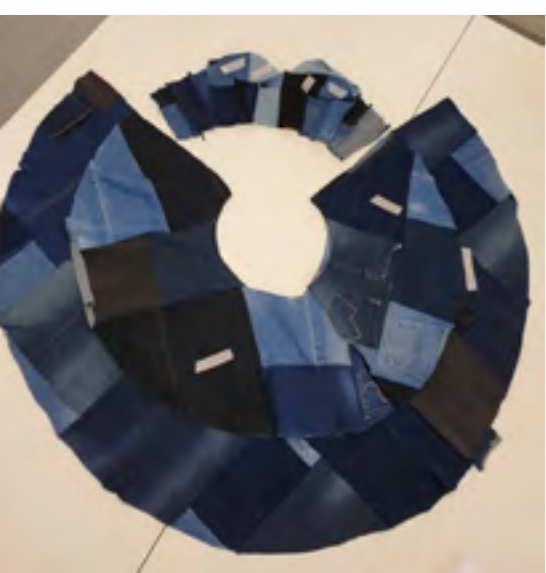
In preparation for the annual Hokonui Fashion Awards our talented multi-level senior class and year 10 class set out to create outstanding designs that would catch the eyes of anyone. Over the course of a few months, our students worked hard to make their visions come to life, with huge success! Denim, bucket hats to ballgowns and silk dresses, the list goes on!

Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 pandemic, the Hokonui Fashion Awards had to be postponed for another year, but we were determined not to let that stop us from showing off our amazing creations. That's when the idea of the fashion show formed, an awesome opportunity to share our garments with you all.

This experience added up to one of my favourite highlights from my fashion design year. With the help of our four talented models, **Stephanie Waghorn**, **Molly Fothergill**, **Emma Ogilwy** and **Riely Heka**, brilliant photographer **Kate Regan** and of course our wonderful teacher Mrs Fecteau. These few hours spent in front of the camera were filled with everything from dancing in the rain, juggling lemons and of course, adoring the two little Chihuahuas!

This environment was a perfect example of what we see in the classroom every day: supportive, hardworking and diligent students whose only limit is their imagination.

**Emma Ogilwy**



# House QUIZ



The House Quiz is an annual event, started in 2018, the very same year that the Whanganui High School house system was established.

The house Quiz allows students to experience some fierce but friendly competition, battling for the House Quiz shield. As a mid year event, it gives students an opportunity to take a short break from their regular classes but still challenge themselves, all while dressing up in house colours, earning house points, and being in to win prizes.

The Academic Prefects spent many weeks preparing for the House Quiz, from finding sponsors and prizes, encouraging and organising signups, to actually writing the quiz. The quiz was made up of eight rounds, each ten questions, with questions for everybody ranging from sports to world landmarks to tv and film.

The 2020 House Quiz had more than 400 participants at Jubilee Stadium, all competing for their house. The event was presented by the leaders of each house, who did a great job at encouraging house spirit.

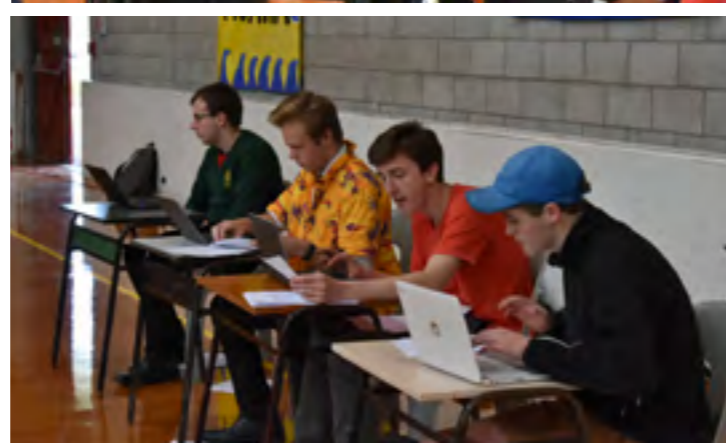
We are so proud of all of the participating teams but ultimately the day was won by Whenua, with *Foot* from Whenua gaining the most points out of all the teams, as well as Whenua taking home the individual trophy.

We would like to thank the Academic Prefects for their hard work, all the prefects that helped throughout the day, and of course all of our sponsors that helped us make the House Quiz a wonderful success.

**Priyansha Bangia**



THE EVENT TURNED OUT GREAT, PROVIDING THE 400 STUDENTS WITH AN ENJOYABLE DAY. IN THE END, WHENUA HOUSE CAME OUT ON TOP AND RECEIVED THE HOUSE QUIZ TROPHY.





# House QUIZ



# The Ball



The Whanganui High School annual ball had the students enter an elaborately decorated ballroom at the Whanganui Racecourse on the evening of Saturday, 8th of August. The Social Prefects and other Year 13 students had spent weeks leading up to the event preparing wooden crates, hessian and lace wrapped bottles, floral wreaths and other spectacular decorative features, with Friday 7th of August spent tirelessly transforming the Racecourse into a woodland fantasy.

The night began with a delectable array of nibbles catered by a local business, Pitter Platter. The nibbles went down an absolute treat, being completely finished by the end of the night, much to the delight of our dedicated waiters and waitresses of the evening. Our lovely photos were professionally shot by Beau Elton, a Palmerston North photographer, along with the help of student photographers and our amazingly dedicated videographer of the evening, Nadeem Wali.

Perhaps the biggest success of the night was our music for the evening. Jayden Musgrove, from the New Zealand company DJ 4 You, did an incredible job getting almost everyone out onto the dancefloor singing and dancing the whole night long.

Towards the end of the evening, the awards ceremony took place. Students were chosen for multiple different awards. Starting with the Best Dressed Male, which was taken out by Year 12 student Jordyn Leiasamaivao in a classy grey and black ensemble and Best Dressed Female, by Charlotte James, who stole the show in an ethereal gold jeweled gown. Next was the Best Dancer award, which was so difficult to choose we ended up with two, Brooke Ryland and Sebastian Newton. This year's Cutest Couple Award was deservedly given to Head of Awa, Divnesh Dayal and Abbie Trillo and our 'Prince and Princess of the Ball' titles were awarded to our Deputy Head Girl, Kara Adrole and our Head of Culture, Liam Johnson. Throughout the night, there was a voting booth where students could vote on who they wanted to be the ball's Student Choice male and female; this award was very deservedly given to our Head of Maori and Pasifika, Jacob Brown and Anita Hohaia, both of whom looked absolutely stunning. And finally to conclude the awards, the highly anticipated 'King and Queen' were chosen, our Head Boy Connor Hoskin and Alice Doney.

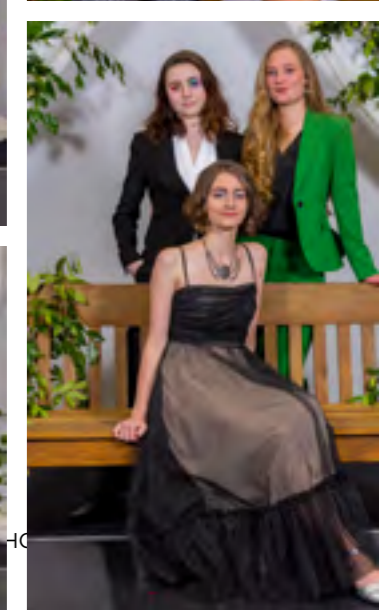
A huge 'thank you' to all those that contributed behind the scenes to the night, it would not have been the smash hit it was without the tireless dedication of the Ball Committee, your work did not go unnoticed. Finally, from your Heads of Social, we hope you enjoyed your night and have some amazing memories with all of your friends and peers.

**Vincent Ye and Mahina Barritt**  
Heads of Social



**A huge thank you to all those that contributed behind the scenes to the night, it would not have been the smash hit it was without the tireless dedication of the Ball Committee, your work did not go unnoticed.**







2020 has seen quite a few changes for our school library

When we came back from the long holiday, we were impressed by the freshness of the new paintwork and almost forgot the pain of having to move over 10,000 books and their shelves at end of 2019 to enable the painters to get to the walls.

Since then, the walls have been further decorated by new LIFE signage and a frieze made up of stunning new student artwork representing the school houses of Awa, Maunga, Moana & Whenua. Apart from the pleasure of interior decoration, the year has been challenging due to the COVID crisis.

The library became the distribution and collection hub for 115 new MOE laptops for seniors and for supplying emergency devices from our own borrowing stock for other students who didn't have access to one at home. We have helped over 250 students using library chrome books and MOE laptops for either short-term or long-term loans.

During the COVID Lockdown, we were, of course, assisting with teaching and learning from our homes for a few weeks and updated the library web app so students and teachers could easily access e and audio books from our ebook platform.

Luckily we had just subscribed to the Wheelers Ebook Shared Platform just before Lockdown. This enlarged our existing ebook collection and we now have nearly 3000 titles for our students and staff to read and listen to online. This proved to be really popular with students and staff. Our 25-strong student librarian team has been led by Merle Chant and it has been a pleasure to work with them. Their service is really appreciated. Thanks guys!

**Mrs Goldsbury and Mrs Lamb**  
Library Management Team



## RAINBOW DAY

*For the first time ever, Wanganui High School celebrated the LGBTQ+ community with a Rainbow Day on Thursday 5th of March. On this day we asked students to dress in rainbow accessories to support our Rainbow community. We had people with pride flags, bracelets, belts and even a rainbow sloth was seen. It was amazing to see so many people proudly supporting the community and even some students came out on that day! It was an awesome chance to recognise the students and members of the school that identify as being a part of the LGBTQ+ community, and were proud enough to express themselves.*

*The event was organised in an attempt to raise awareness of our rainbow community in the school and to provide a chance for those in the rainbow community to express their true authentic selves.*

## WEEK OF THE ARTS

*During Term Two, the Cultural Prefects pulled out all the stops to create some fun around the school to pull us out of the negativity of lockdown. Thus, 'The Week Of The Arts' was created!*

*Monday it began with chalk drawings at first break down Centre Court. Talented artists were able to create beautiful pieces, and those who just wanted to have some fun added some colour to the otherwise grey concrete. In the end, we had a rainbow walkway with hopeful messages and cute drawings for everyone to enjoy.*

*Next up, we had our dance classes on Wednesday. With a beginner class and an advanced class, Simone Sarup and Abby Squire taught students dance moves to 'Break My Heart' and 'Toxic'. Although there were some left feet, there were plenty of smiles and laughs around.*

*To finish up the week, open mic. was planned, however it rained and we had to postpone till next Friday. But when it did go ahead it was fabulous. Musicians came along, many deciding on the spot to give it a go, and they entertained everyone with renditions of 'Twinkle Twinkle Little Star' and 'Human' along with many others. It was a super fun week, with everyone getting to show off their creative talents.*

## SHOWQUEST

*In late Term Two, a group of over forty students took on the challenge of ShowQuest for this year. With over 2800 students around New Zealand joining in on this nationwide, Whanganui High School students were excited to get their competition shoes back on.*

*This year, the students chose the topic of the 2011 Christchurch Earthquake, which they later called 'Red Zone 6.3.' The story follows a girl and her experience through the earthquake. The six minute performance starts on a normal business day in the CTV Building, which quickly turned into a day New Zealand will never forget. Through Emergency Services, Citizens, News Reporters, and Families, we revisited the moments that remind us of the pain and struggle the Christchurch community had to face. The ending highlights that this pain is still very prominent, with some schools and businesses only just reopening nine years later. We sent in the video with hopes that we would remind people who have not thought about Christchurch's victims since it happened.*

*We came away with second place in the regional competition and the Papatuanuku Award which is the award for the best environmental story. Sadly, second place did not secure us a place in the national final. A special thank you to all seven of the choreographers for their outstanding work on this and to Vanessa Corlett for her fantastic work on the filming and editing of the video.*



# Creative Writing

## LOCKDOWN MEMORIES

Day 23 of isolation- Thursday 16 April.

Today is the second day of online school!! It was rather easy and actually fun. I really enjoy the work I get given. I've been riding more horses, wakeboarding, cutting wood and more. I haven't really been thinking about covid-19 as it scares me a little bit so I just put it aside. Today I've done some work. I did my 'dance with me tonight' and my PEE work which was a 30 minute workout. Being able to help out my family and have fun at the same time really inspires me to keep at it. Yesterday we got some brand new one-week-old calves. They are exceptionally cute. I've decided to call the small, brown one Bertha. He is really friendly and always wants cuddles. There are 18 in total and all very cute.

Day 32 isolation - 25 April

ANZAC day. My mum and I had stayed up late the night before planning the ceremony we were presenting. Waking up early was easy as I was very excited to execute our plan. Everybody made their way down to the lake as my mum and I stayed at the house saddling the horses. When the sun began to rise my mum and I made our way down to the lake on the horses. Everybody was down there waiting. When we arrived my uncle played 'the last post' for us and we waited patiently. We had a minute of silence at the end. Then Morgan and my grandad fired their rifles into the hill on the other side of the lake. This was one day that I will remember forever. After the ceremony we all went back home but sadly found one of the other horses lying in the paddock sideways. She had cancer and couldn't get up. We had to call the Vet and who came and put her down which was very sad. This ended my day sadly.

Estelle Murray Yr 9

## YEAR 9 ENGLISH: EXTRACTS FROM HEROIC JOURNEY

As I gently probed through Jack P. Rothmans' mind, I found out many things about his past. Some were too horrible to even contemplate, but one stood out to me the most. The historic day he rebelled against The High Church of Anthropophagy.

It was an ordinary Sunday. The entire community filed promptly into the local church and placed themselves in the ornate wooden pews. Jack seated himself in his ordinary spot in the back corner of the nave, furthest away from the stern priest, Father Davidson. The same Father Davidson who was presently standing at the golden pulpit, preparing to address the congregation.

A loud sneeze came from the front row. Father Davidson glared, evilly, at the person responsible. "You have brought a plague into our sacred place of holy treasure," roared Father Davidson. "Sorry," came the cautious reply. "Get out, before you corrupt us all with your satanic disease."

The person reluctantly departed from their pew and solemnly ambled down the aisle. When they struck the point nearest to Jack, he thought he recognised them. But he couldn't quite place his finger on whom it was. He watched forlornly, as the person left the church and suddenly wished he had followed him. But it was too late, Father Davidson had started the ceremony.

The ceremony endured for nearly three unreasonable hours and by the time it had finished there were only five precious minutes left till the daily hunt. Jack rose hastily from his pew and escaped out of the elegant, ebony doors. He flew past ruin after ruin until he reached his previous sleeping place, a run-down apartment building with only two walls remaining. At that instant the gong rang out among the ruins of the Valzoshas Empire. Jack swung his heavy backpack off his shoulders and pulled two daggers out of the main pocket. His eyes darted around watching for any sign of movement. Leaves scraped over the cracked cobblestone path and the wind whistled through the abandoned streets. He heard a muffled breath behind him and swung around into a fighting stance. A cloaked figure stood before him in deep purple robes.

"I mean you no harm," a familiar voice calmly spoke. "I just want to talk."

"What do you want?" Jack snarled, preparing to pounce.

The mysterious individual slowly pulled off their exquisite hood, and Jack gasped. It was the man who sneezed in the church.

Toby Clark Yr 9

## Broken

Eyes green, jaded and tragic. Her tears blue, the colour of sadness. I hold her hand and the panic eases. The cloud of depression that swarms in her head, envelops her happiness, stealing any laughs or smiles. She whispers softly, "There's someone in my head, but it's not me". She prepares her thoughts to go to war with her sanity. On the outside she looks normal, like she's wearing a mask. But inside, her mind is a battlefield and her heart is broken. She cries out, "I'm going down like the Titanic".

Sophia Bedwell Yr 10

## Hospital Visit

I walk into the hospital ward, my rubber shoes squeaking on the smooth, cold floor. The air smells like hand sanitizer. Martin is propped up in his big hospital bed examining his cracked and scarred face with his small pocket mirror. In the corner his parents sit, his dad's face a blank, showing no emotion. His eyes stare far out into the distance while his wife quietly sobs into his shoulder. The nurse is checking a monitor showing unreadable diagrams that reveal everything there is to know about Martin's current state. She scribbles information onto her clipboard. Outside the small window, the rain falls.

Ben Mackintosh Yr 10

## Skating

I squeeze my cold feet into the stiff boots of my skates. My mind is already on the track, skating with the imaginary breeze. Click, go the metal buckles on my skates, snap goes my helmet visor, sealing my face from the light wind. Excitement lifts me out of my chair, drags me over to the edge of the un-lit track and, instinctively, I leap into the Timaru banked track and warm up is on. I am joined by twenty other skaters who take formation behind me, experiencing the same freedom I feel. The first breath I take is cold and refreshing and reminds me of the sharp wind restraining me. I push through it, not letting it slow me down. After a few laps of leading the swarm of skaters around, I pull off to the side and slip in between two skaters further down the pack, asserting dominance and showing them that I mean business. Let the racing begin.

Chase Morpeth Yr 10

## A Snow Leopard's Hunt

Lowering it's long, sleek body silently to the cold, damp earth, its light grey tail swishes back and forth in anticipation. The Snow leopard's curved, black claws protrude from its large, flat paws. Large watchful eyes follow its prey as the deer lowers its speckled, elegant neck to graze. With one swift move, the Snow leopard stretches its powerful haunches, letting the momentum of its streamlined body propel it towards its unsuspecting prey. With a startled yelp, the deer straightens its hind legs, sending it high into the air. Within two strides the poor deer is lying in a dark, ever growing pool of its own blood and the Snow leopard stands victorious over it's prize, a look of proud accomplishment in it's eyes.

Keira Hodgson Yr 10

## YEAR 10 WRITING

### That was summer

Remember that time we bathed in the light of the midsummer moon, A crisp warm breeze that nullified the need for the worn out sweaters draped loosely around our shoulders. The lopsided grins that adorned your features grew the size of two suns in that moment, brightening the dimly lit night, rivalling the crescent in the sky. If I could, I'd string up your smile and hang it from the stars, and be content in life knowing you were smiling down on me. Do you remember the sky's canvas? That was summer.

Madi Doble Yr 10

### Broken Crown

Remember how you used to laugh at the smallest of things? How we ran next to one another, pretending to be kings. You outgrew your crown, replaced it with a frown. There were dragons to be slain, kingdoms to campaign. As you shed your crown, you shed me as well.

Remember when you gave me warmth during the coldest of times?

How we huddled together during the strongest of storms, singing each other rhymes. The tone went flat when you turned into a stone.

You lost your locks, as heat turned to frost.

Remember when you let me go?

How you laid in bed, losing your head.

You faded away, your skin slowly turning to grey.

The colour in your eyes was all I needed to summarise.

Remember when you lost your light?

How you looked at me with no life.

Machines breathing, while you began leaving.

The divide only grew when I cried as you died.

As one, we had played, birds of a feather,

flock together.

Remember when you didn't wake up?

Sometimes I still remember you singing your soft rhymes.

Remember the times?

Instead of a crown, flowers now adorn your brow.

Instead of a smile, only memorial writing,

the memory of you like lightning. With a flash it appears,

but then vanishes all the same. At least you're not in pain.

Georgia Haupt Yr 10

# Chamber MUSIC

With another year gone so too has a year of chamber music. With the pandemic in full force this year, things had to change around a little. With online submissions being the only way to compete this year, the teams from Whanganui High School gathered into the small cramped room we know as A9 for a round of performances.

In some ways we hated this. It will never compare to the other years, when we all had our time to shine on the stage and the interaction with each other as we darted from practice room to practice room to stage. But that was not to say that this year's competition was any worse. There were far fewer teams than normal, but this made it possible to play in an environment that was much better suited to the title of 'Chamber Music'. The whole idea of the competition is to perform music that would have been played for kings in their bed chambers hundreds of years ago, music that was not designed for the big stage.

The groups this year were amazing and we cannot wait to see the students achieve their musical aspirations. The teams that participated were; *GuitarsAFire* (Jack Fawthorpe, David Dale, Joshua Korewha and Matavesi Lewenilovo), *The Good Folk* (Jan Kruger, Will Southee and Angus Pitkethley), *The Tenuto Trio* (Olivia Bedwell, Alyssa Hartley and Jessie O'Connor); and Eve Parker-Groves, who performed in a mixed school team.

Congratulations to *Tenuto Trio* for taking home the highly commended award and to Eve Parker-Groves and her group for the Adjudicator's Award.



*The Good Folk*



*GuitarsAFire*



*The Tenuto Trio*

# SMOKEFREE 2020 ROCKQUEST

Following the yearly tradition, July brought 2020's Smokefree Rockquest back to Whanganui, for another night of amazing original live music by our music students. However, the Covid-19 lockdown and mass gathering restrictions meant the bands and solo/duo acts across Aotearoa were skeptical about the event happening at all. Limitations unfortunately moved the typical regional show at the Whanganui Royal Opera House to our own school hall, but that didn't stop our bands from putting on brilliant performances. Fewer bands than usual participated in our region this year due to the pandemic, but the lineup still provided a diverse mix of genres and sounds that got everyone dancing by the stage nonetheless.

Our bands for the Whanganui Regional Smokefree Rockquest 2020 were:

**Rhythm Vision** - Dan Goodwin, Chester Nevil, Imogen Maguire, Sophie Maxey

**In Business** - Faith Solomona, Max Hughes, Tomas Bidgood, Christian Garratt

**AMP** - Aspen Fell, Harvey Hughes, Oscar Toy, Theo Almazan, Gabriel Leggett, Caleb Squire, Luke Squire, Sjoerd Molijn

**SMSM** - Georgia Morris, Joseph Petersen, Sebastian Alcayaga-Rojas, Jack Burton

**Atlas** - Jansen Condon-Ngapo, Isabella Lamont, Katrina Anderson, Maori Scythe

Starting off the awards by showing off their impeccable performing skills, Imogen Maguire, bassist for *Rhythm Vision* and Harvey Hughes, drummer for *AMP*, both received MAINZ Musicianship awards. These awards were judged by the official Rockquest Judges and were based on stage presence, sound and overall performance with the rest of the band members. The Best Vocal award was handed to Jansen Condon-Ngapo of *Atlas*, and the APRA Best Lyrics award went to Imogen Maguire of *Rhythm Vision*.

Now for the most exciting and main point of the whole competition: the placings!

Smokefree Tangata Beats Solo/Duo Regional First Place - **Dennihe Edwards** and **Toa Tawhitapou**

Rockquest Regional Third Place - **Rhythm Vision**

Rockquest Regional Second Place - **Flower of Hades (Ruapehu College)**

And finally, first place was awarded to *In Business*, a four piece heavy rock/djent band, taking first place for a second year running. Sadly this year no one in the Whanganui Region made it into the next stages of Rockquest - The Nationals, but the event was still an epic night for our music students to show off their talent.

Rockquest 2021 is already around the corner, so our returning and upcoming bands will already be back to practicing and writing in no time at all.

And in first place,  
drum roll please...

*In Business*

Faith Solomona  
Max Hughes  
Tomas Bidgood  
Christian Garratt