

## End-of-Year Good Wishes

As this is our final newsletter for 2023, we take this opportunity to wish readers, contributors, College whānau, students and staff all the very best of the end of the year and into the new year.

For those holidaying, travelling, and/or being with family members over Christmas – enjoy the time, travel safely and may many days spent re-charging batteries be for some. This is a difficult time of the year for many different reasons, and we acknowledge this.

As a College, we look forward to bringing more news of our student successes, activities and information on the life and work of our school to our community in 2024.

## Appreciation

In this final newsletter for 2023, Ashburton College Management would very much like to acknowledge the ongoing partnership it enjoys with the Ashburton Courier, as we publish our newsletter weekly for forty-plus weeks of the year, reaching across all homes in our community and beyond.

We appreciate continuing to place College information in front of our district and very supportive communities.

In putting these productions together, the welcoming and positive working relationship, professionalism of the Courier staff, and skills and flexibility, especially of Creative Manager Murray Thompson – is invaluable and greatly appreciated.


## Information

### Ashburton College Office and Uniform Shop Opening Hours

Please note that the College Office will be re-opening on Friday 13 January 2024

Hours: 8:00am–4:30pm Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday, and until 4:00pm on Friday.

Uniform Shop  
Will be open from Tuesday 23 January 2024, same hours as the office.



### Ashburton College School Board Casual Vacancy for an Elected Trustee

A Casual Vacancy has occurred on the School Board for an Elected Parent Representative.

The Board has resolved, under Section 105 of the Education Act 1989, to fill the vacancy by Selection.

If ten percent or more of eligible voters on the College Roll ask the Board, within 28 days of this notice being published, to hold a By-Election to fill the vacancy, then a By-Election will be held.

**Any eligible voter who wishes to ask the Board to hold a By-Election should advise this, in writing, to:**

Email: [tc@ashcoll.school.nz](mailto:tc@ashcoll.school.nz), or write Ashburton College School Board, P.O Box 204, Ashburton 7740

**Or on by: Wednesday 7 February 2024.**

## Newsletter 1, 2024

Due to space and deadline constraints some articles will be held over until the first newsletter of 2024.

## Staff – Farewells

At the end of each school year we acknowledge a number of leaving staff, shorter-term and longer-term, with significant appreciation of all they have collectively contributed.

We especially acknowledge two long-serving staff who, between them, have contributed the remarkable total equivalent of sixty-four years to the life and work of Ashburton College. We thank each for their individual and collective input into the College.

We are indebted with all they have given to students and their colleagues, and sincerely wish them all the best for a well-earned retirement, and all the opportunities that will bring.

It is never possible to cover all that is involved in these years of service but, in this recognition, we acknowledge some key factors, with sincere appreciation.

We are richer for having each of these people in our lives. They will be missed for all they have contributed but, most importantly, for who they are as people.

**Ron Carlson – 34 years**  
Josh Gilbert spent 34 years at Ron Carlson began at Ashburton College as an Assistant Teacher of Physical Education.

## Staff – Farewells

During this time at College he has held the positions of Assistant Head of Department; Teacher of Health; a Year Level Tutor - and then Dean as those roles became; Teacher-in-Charge of Sport and Recreation; Sports Coordinator; Operational Manager; Charge Co-ordinator of Outdoor Education; Recreational Co-ordinator; Head of Sport and, within his role, organiser of numerous Year 13 Leadership Camps, Swimming and Athletic Sessions.

Recognised in his early years at College as a valued talent and potential, Ron was a popular, competent teacher, a highly talented colleague and an integral part of the Phys Ed Department.

Ron's commitment to an active lifestyle and his personal fitness levels remain an example to us all to this day, and his preference for having outdoor coaching was evidenced by many years spent coaching, travelling with, and being Teacher-in-Charge for basketball teams of all levels, and supporting them to many successes, including at Nationals.

He was Orange House Sports master as it was called back in the day, coached Touch, Softball and Cycling; the College's inter-school triathlon team and had involvement in the College's Junior Ski Trips.

On the academic side, Ron was involved in the writing of NZQA Bursary Modules and Marking schedules was a Regional Moderator for University Bursary Phys Ed exams and prepared a number of health and well-being resources for College.

For many years he was a Faculty representative on numerous College Committees and College staff representative on the Ashburton Community Pool Board.

The Physical Education Faculty acknowledge they will miss his valuable experience and collegial approach, where his in-depth, broad knowledge of the curriculum has been an asset, with contributions to the development of our curriculum and department being significant.

Ron's passion for fitness led him to develop the Year 13 Physical Education Qualifier Programme, through which students not only learn about how to write an endurance programme but also about Exercise Physiology, Risk Management and the numerous personal lessons that come with being pushed outside their comfort zones.

**Annie Lees – 28 years**  
Annie Lees has taught at Ashburton College since 1996, thus committing 28 years to the life and work of our school.

Offering a friendly, positive and encouraging classroom environment Annie has taught across the subjects of Social Studies, Geography, Work Life Skills, Business Studies; and was Teacher-in-Charge of Geography from 2017.

Immense students will well remember Geography Field Trips (Kaikoura and Mt Cook to mention two), travel to Social Studies Quiz events plus her involvement in Year 9 and 10 ski trips and swim teams; and so on.

Time was given on the NZQA New Zealand Marking Panel, to the College Peer Support and Restorative Practices programmes, and to the ALES (American Field Scholarship) Inter-cultural programme. Behind the scenes, Annie helped to organise Lip Sync, and prepared costumes for several of College's productions.

For six years Annie was the Staff Representative to the Ashburton Community Board of Trustees.

Annie Lees has been a valued and integral part of the Science Faculty. As a passionate Geographer she wished her expertise with countless classes, entertaining them with great anecdotes of people, places and her own experiences. Annie has organised many NIE (Newspapers in Education) quiz teams and generously shared her resources and time with her colleagues. Her fantastic sense of humour and kind, caring nature will be missed by us all.

Additionally we thank, with real appreciation a number of shorter-term staff for their range of inputs into our College, during their time with us, and wish them well for their variety of future endeavours.

**Sarah Bartlett – 13 years**  
Sarah Bartlett has taught at the College Library in February 2011, as her first job back in employment after having her daughter. Prior to being a mother, she was a Social Sciences teacher at Macleans College in Auckland for a number of years.

While working in the Library, Sarah's greatest skills were her ability to make the most amazing book displays seemingly out of nowhere, and her relationships with students. She was the cherry face students saw when they entered the Library, and everyone was treated to the same cheerful greeting.

Sarah was responsible for the change from the printed Library newsletter onto Hall as a digital copy, and was the champion of many digital tools in her liaison with staff. During Covid lockdown, she linked the Library to the staff who were using Hall.

Interestingly, it was a result of the pandemic that she was able to move back into teaching by regaining her teaching registration during a fee-free programme through the Ministry of Education. Library Manager Della Achten said that the Library's loss was College's Social Sciences Faculty's gain.

Over the past two years, Sarah has returned to the classroom, teaching Social Studies, where she has been valued for her creative ideas and collegial spirit. Sarah has built strong relationships with her classes, with students producing some fantastic work under her guidance. Sarah is wished the best for her new teaching position in Christchurch.

**Kendra Maw – 13 years**  
Kendra started at Ashburton College at the beginning of Term Three, 2008, in a relief capacity. With time out for travel and parental leave, Kendra has taught at College for fifteen years.

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capability, and to help and plan for students' learning support needs. A working knowledge across a range of student syndromes, multi-sensory support devices, and programme approach was valuable.

As a part of the role Hannah was a part of the Learning Support Co-ordinator roles within term 4, please see Kāiwhi Kōwhiri.

Hannah also undertook, from Term 2021, a Fixed Term position as Lead Teacher of the College's PB4L (Positive Behaviour for Learning) programme which linked with our AshColl Way Values. This role continued through until January 2023.

We have appreciated her contributions to the staff and students at AshColl and we wish Hannah all the best as motherhood takes priority over individual and collective input into the College.

## Mandy Isaacs – 3 years

Mandy Isaacs has been a teacher of Food and Nutrition over the past three years, travelling to College and return as part of the commuter group who live in Christchurch. Mandy's day will be made much easier next year as she lives and teaches in Christchurch!

Mandy gained her teacher registration at College and has been described as a dedicated teacher, who spends her morning tea and lunch breaks in her room, facilitating extra learning sessions and supporting students.

Some words from students were that 'Mrs Isaacs is a fun, encouraging teacher, she is always prepared for cooking and goes out of her way for the sake of her students' learning; 'I see true dedication to teaching; I am very thankful that I could be taught by her; I have learned so much and it really shows'.

## Alister Emerson – 2 years

Alister has been at College for the past two years, as Head of Faculty Arts. He has been recognised as a body of energy and passion of, and for, the Arts; and each of the subjects within the Faculty.

College students and staff have benefited from his knowledge, vast experience and enthusiasm in delivering and promoting 'The Arts'.

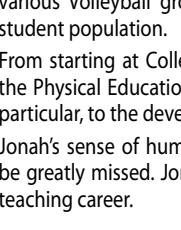
In relation to the College's new build, Alister was instrumental in designing the new drama rooms from a 'black box' to an all bells and whistles' performance area, which the Faculty will move into for the start of 2024. Alister's experience and expertise from previous school and community involvement was invaluable and we are sure that he won't go to work in this school next year. We appreciate the awesome legacy he has left.

Another feature of Alister's time at College was cohesively leading the Arts and indirectly with all they have given to students and their colleagues, and sincerely wish them all the best for a well-earned retirement, and all the opportunities that will bring.

It is never possible to cover all that is involved in these years of service but, in this recognition, we acknowledge some key factors, with sincere appreciation.

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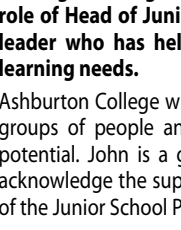
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## Parental Leave

**Georgia Keenan and Kate Gilbert**

Both Georgia and Kate were wished well as they uplift their parental leave entitlement and embark on their new stage in life.

Another group of staff has supported our programmes and student achievement in 2023, plus two we acknowledge as they uplift their parental leave. These people, who we are absolutely indebted to for their contributions, were –

## Ron Cresswell

Formerly a long-serving staff member and Deputy Principal Ron, in fact, retired at the end of last year. The word is that Ron just couldn't stay away, but the reality is that he returned to teach the Year 13 Furniture Course, for which a teacher was required. Ron spent countless extra hours with the class ensuring projects were finished to his very high standards.

Additionally, this year, Ron has retired from his Auditorium Manager role, where he has given countless years, and hours over each year, up in the sound and lighting box, and training student tech crews. Prior to the end of this year, Ron facilitated a special training workshop for the current tech crew as a final preparation for ongoing work, but also to ensure succession planning.

This year Ron was also on the stage as Fagan in Oliver! showcasing his considerable performance skills.

## Mary Buckland

Mary has been a regular returnee since 'retiring', expertly filling classes. This year this equated to two Year 12 Maths classes.

## David Tate

After being a 'casual' relief teacher, from mid-July we were very grateful to have David agree to being an on-call Faculty teacher a part-time role encompassing Art, Design, Digital Information Technology and Social Studies, and including Video Conferencing.

## Tori Kelland

Tori has been at College in the role of a Learning Support Assistant for the past six months, and has been valued in this role. We wish Tori all the best as she embarks on teacher training in 2024.

## Year 9 and Year 10 Prize-Givings

These were held consecutively on Monday 11 December and, for the first time for these years levels, held in the Ashburton Event Centre, which was a fantastic opportunity to celebrate more families advice while we were in the College Auditorium.

Both events were held in the evening, with the Year 9 event starting at 5:30pm, and the Year 9 at 7:30pm.

## Awards Criteria:

Criteria for the various awards is –

**The AshColl Way Award** is awarded to students who have consistently followed the AshColl Way of Quality, Pride and Respect throughout the year. To gain the award, students must be nominated by at least nine of their teachers (not necessarily all) and be a member of the AshColl Way Award.

**General Excellence in Subject Awards** are made to students who were placed from second to fifth in the particular subject.

**General Excellence** is awarded to the top student in each Core class based on results in English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies and Physical Education.

**Colours Awards** are presented to students who are either national champions or who have been selected for a national sports team or are a member of a national cultural group.

This prize-giving saw the inaugural presentation of Colours Awards, in recognition of the High Performance level of success the awards stand for. In 2024, this will be the presentation event for students gaining Colours Awards. Previously, and this year, they have been presented at our Blues Assemblies.

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