



Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 21
6 July 2023

News

Message From The Principal

Term Holiday

The holidays have arrived, and these provide a welcome break for both staff and students.

I know that this applies to many occupations but somehow mahi seems harder when you are arriving and leaving for the day's work in the dark and cold.

For most staff this is a chance to catch up on the marking mountain, with many internal assessments being completed for the end of the term.

Professional Development

Many of our secondary subjects have their national conferences and professional development during this break, with staff from several of our faculties involved.

We have thirty College staff involved in a two-day coaching course facilitated by Dr Nicki Knight, Growth Coaching New Zealand. This Professional Development was only possible for us due to grant support from Advance Ashburton.

This coaching model encourages staff to be honest and reflective as to the next steps to improve their capability as a teacher. This is an intensive and challenging programme for staff. Our long-term goal is to eventually extend this model to include our students.

Senior Students' Written Reports

Early next term full written reports will be issued for our senior students. In previous years these have been issued at the end of Term 3 or even early Term 4. The challenge with that timing is that it leaves no time to provide additional support to students to get them 'across the line'.

We are trying something different this year so that, when the students get these reports, they will still have a full term ahead to complete internal assessments and prepare for their external. Any feedback on this timing change would be appreciated.

Governance

Our College School Board has been continuing with their important governance work. Our Board has a wide range of professional skills and they also reflect our diversity as a community.

I have worked with many boards over the last eighteen years and the most important quality that anyone can bring to the governance table is common sense.

Our Board is starting the process of advertising for my replacement. For clarity's sake – 'Yes' the position has to be nationally advertised, and 'No' I am not involved in the process to find the next Principal.

Build Progress

Our new build is continuing but, due to the trenching for services, our campus footprint is getting smaller. Our students have coped very well with this and haven't been phased by the ever-changing maze of fencing that they encounter as they navigate to classes.

I would like to acknowledge the co-operation of Greg Donaldson Contracting (GDC) and Hawkins NZ as they have gone about their challenging work. Whilst the build itself is massive, the employees of these companies are doing their best to limit disruptions, keep the build site tidy and ensure that they move their vehicles safely through our campus.

College Open Night – 27 July 2023

Please keep Thursday 27 July available if you have a Year 8 child who is due to start secondary school in 2024.

Further information will be provided to schools but there will be two welcome times and two different guided tours.



Ross Preece
Principal • Tumuaki

Staff – Farewells

Sam Wakelin

Ashburton College has benefitted from Sam Wakelin's skills and talents since his appointment at College three and a half years ago in January 2019, as a teacher of History and Classics.

Sam came to Ashburton College from Ellesmere College and the Rudolph Steiner School Christchurch. He also had a career background preceding teaching - in design and various related industries. Consequently, he brought with him a number of capabilities and a purpose to 'inspire students through memorable, real-life teaching moments'.

His Social Science Faculty leaders and colleagues describe Sam as a creative and multi-talented member of their teaching staff who has worked across many subject areas. As a passionate classicist and artist; and an online NetNZ teacher of Senior Social Studies, he worked hard to support students at different levels to undertake often complex social inquiry projects.

Ashburton College farewells, with regret, a fun, interesting and knowledgeable member of the Social Science Faculty.

We thank Sam, with appreciation, for all that he has given to students and staff, and for being the person he is. Our very best wishes go with him as he leaves our shores to teach in an international school in China.

Ben Ward

Ben Ward, a former College student, has been with us since July last year; in a parental-leave fixed-term position, as a teacher of Physical Education and Health.

Ben came to us following time overseas and teaching employment at the High School of Glasgow.

A talented sportsman himself, Ben valued working to make an impact on students' lives, with an ethos of supporting them to become passionate, creative and resilient learners, who have the confidence to take risks and

Staff – Farewells

have the motivation to achieve.

Ben has certainly offered his skills, talents and philosophies in the year he has been with us. Appreciated by students and colleagues alike, Ben has been a popular and well-liked staff member who we are very sorry to lose.

Thank you Ben for re-visiting Ashburton College in a teaching role. We have appreciated your input, and you as a person, and we know you will be successful in your new life within the Navy.

Information

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

College Open Evening

Thursday 27 July 2023,
5:30pm–7:30pm

The AshColl Way
Quality/Te Ata Pai, Pride/Manawa Whakahihi,
Respect/Whakaute.

Future students, parents/caregivers, whānau and community members are warmly invited to attend our Open Evening.

A particular welcome, and encouragement to attend, is extended to students who will be in Year 9 in 2024, and family members.

During the evening you will have the opportunity to –

- Meet and talk with the Principal, staff and students.
- Hear and see what the College can offer your child and family.
- View our facilities.
- Meet with BYOD Retailers - College is a BYOD school [Bring Your Own Device]
- Enjoy a sausage sizzle, coffee, tea, juice in the staffroom.

To make decisions ready for Enrolment Week (31 July - 04 August) – There will be information available on:

- Option Subjects for 2024 (Year 9 students).

Option subjects: nine subjects to be taken from twelve available:

- Choose at least one from The Arts: Art, Drama, Music.
- Choose at least one from Languages: German, Japanese, Māori.
- Choose at least three from Technology: Agriculture, Design and Visual Communication, Digital Information Technology, Fabric Technology, Food and Nutrition, Hard Materials Technology.

- **Note:** all Year 9 students take English, Mathematics, Physical Education and Health, Science, Social Studies.
- **Additionally available:** English as an additional language for students for whom English is a second language.

If you have not yet chosen option subjects or require assistance in choosing them through SchoolPoint, there will be staff available in the College Office to assist you.

Presentations start in the College Auditorium at 5:30pm and 6:15pm.

These are followed by guided tours of the College, or you may choose to self-tour by following the signs.

EVERYONE MOST WELCOME

AshColl/Alumni Variety Concert

Once again we are delighted to have former Ashburton College Alumnus Simon O'Neill giving of his time and talent to perform in Ashburton, for the benefit of Ashburton College through the College Alumni.

Simon is acknowledged internationally as one of the finest hidden-tenors on the international stage and we are very privileged to be able to hear him as we do.

This will be a wonderful variety concert, also featuring former and current talented Ashburton College former students.

If you are available to attend, put this in your diary, and book your tickets.

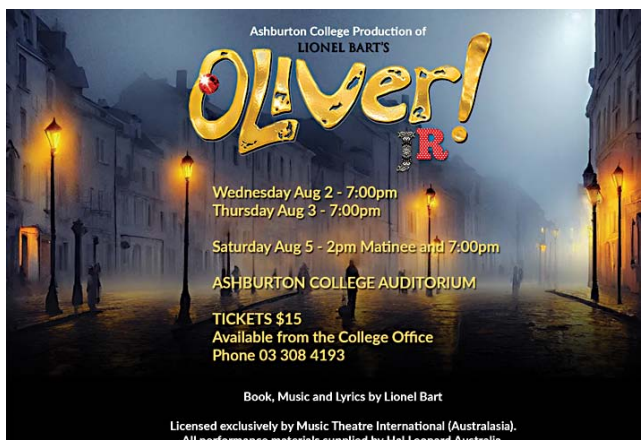


Information

Ashburton College Production

Students have auditioned, rehearsals are underway, and a great show will result.

Come and enjoy the talents of our students, staff and tech crew, and put one of these performance dates in your diary.



Former College Head Student, Tainui Kuru Returns to Ashburton to Perform

Tainui Kuru is returning to his hometown of Ashburton to sing the songs you know and love, with the lads from Cabernet and former College student Joe Danielson.

Tai will take concert-goers on a musical journey of his life: from singing with the Mid Canterbury Choir as a twelve-year old, shows he has performed in Ashburton, his time at NASDA and his world-class tours from his base, now in Canada.

It was with the Mid Canterbury Choir that his love for being on stage was discovered when he was just a young boy at St Joseph's Primary School and, while he has performed with the choir in a few other concerts, the opportunity to reconnect with this choir is always a symbol of home.

Tainui Kuru sings the songs you know and love
Sunday 30th July 2023 at 2:00pm
Ashburton Event Centre

Guests: The lads from Cabernet and Joe Danielson

Ticket Prices:
Adults \$30; Gold Card Holders \$28; Students \$10;
Family (2 adults, 2 children) \$70

Tainui is now an actor, singer, dancer and musical theatre performer who is, and always will be, proud to say that he grew up in Ashburton. He has a Bachelor in Musical Theatre from the National Academy of Singing and Dramatic Art, earning the degree prize for outstanding achievement and commitment to studies.

Musical theatre highlights include Beauty and the Beast, Les Misérables, H.M.S. Pinafore, Cats, Grease, Guys and Dolls and, most recently, the lead role in the National Tour of Saturday Night Fever. Acting credits include Much Ado About Nothing; Groundswell: Stories from the Quake; and a national tour of Four Flat Whites in Italy.

Tainui has enjoyed performing as both a solo vocalist and with bands for audiences as far as afield as Australia, England, Scotland, USA, Japan and China.

Tai performed during the Rugby World Cup in Japan in 2019 and promises to stay away from France this year in the hopes that we will bring the cup back!

Tai moved to Vancouver in January 2020 and while COVID forced a hiatus from singing, he is currently touring cities all across Canada with Sound the Alarm Theatre Company on their Canadian tour of 'Music of the Night'.

Tainui thanks his family for 'their strength and support to do what I love to do'.



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Events

Year 12 Students Attended RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) Day

This was another of our events which took place during past weeks, which we can now highlight.

Road Safety Education Limited (RSE) is a not-for-profit learning organisation which operates throughout New Zealand and Australia.

Their Vision is commitment to saving lives through the provision of road safety education to youth (their Mission Statement).

The RYDA programme is part of what RSE delivers, providing students with the tools and understanding needed to be active, responsible road citizens.



The one-day workshop front-loads students' understanding of road safety, providing tools, habits and motivation to take action and stay safe on our roads as both drivers and passengers.



The RYDA programme is co-ordinated locally through community partner Rotary.

The Day for College Students

All College Year 12 students undertook this programme, at the Hotel Ashburton, on Wednesday 07 June, from 9:30am-2:00pm.

During the day they were able to take part in workshop rotations, covering Drive S.O.S; Speed and Stopping; The 1 in Drive; Mind Matters; Road Choices; Crash Investigators.

Five fatal facts affect road safety: Seatbelts, Alcohol and Drugs, Fatigue, Distraction and Speeding.

Green Light Driver Training

Lainy van Vuuren, Driving Instructor, of Green Light Driver Training, along with local Salvation Army Mentor Driver Bob Verrall, provided the very realistic workshop involving correct use of a seat belt, keeping tyres inflated, tyre tread thicknesses, and the all-important following and stopping distances.

Students were asked to estimate how long it takes to stop in a 30kmh zone, and a 50kmh zone; and the risks of travelling over the speed limit. Bob, the driver, did a fine job of demonstrating some of the pitfalls.

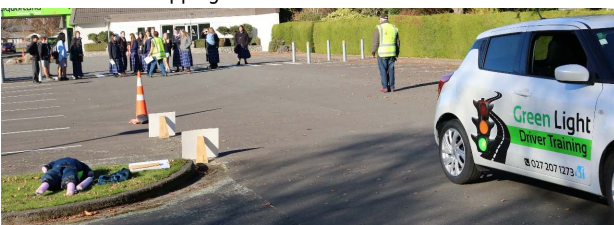


(Pictured above, left and right): Student Jack Halford, with Lainy in support, laying out the 30kmh sign where he thinks the stopping distance will be for a driver who brakes at the cone, when travelling at 30kmh.

(Pictured below): Travelling at 50kmh there wasn't sufficient distance to avoid hitting the 'dummy'. How does a driver feel if this was a human-being?

Following too closely –

Seldom do workshop participants correctly estimate the ideal open-road following distance, behind another car. Stopping distance also equals thinking distance plus braking distance, let alone the influence of good tyres and good brakes. On a dry road, travelling at 100kmh, reaction distance is calculated at 42 metres and total stopping distance at 98 metres.



(Pictured above): On the left is the dummy dismembered due to the driver not being able to stop in time. Further back we have students now standing at an appropriate open road travelling distance behind the vehicle in front.

Successful College Ball Held

Following on from last week's newsletter 'Glimpse of the College Ball', we now provide a fuller coverage.

Deputy Principal Helen Shore-Taylor said that the AshColl Ball held on Friday 23 June was the highlight of the year for many senior students.

The theme this year was the 'Roaring Twenties', with the ticket design depicting a different era.



(Pictured above): Telegram invitation to the Ashburton College Ball.

Planning

Planning for this starts at the beginning of the year, alongside the Student Ball Committee led by Alexia Wilson and McLeod Sherratt.

Student Ball Committee Members were –

Andrea Ciora, Sophie Smith, Maddy Soal; with Year 12 representatives Poppy Jemmett, Lorraine Paterson and Madison Tourle; and Honorary Member Head Student Henry Thomas.

Each committee member had a responsibility for an area and updated the progress at weekly meetings.

Deputy Principal Helen Shore-Taylor said that the committee members have worked well together and should be very proud of their achievements in organising another great night at the Ashburton Event Centre.

There have been many positive comments from the students attending.

Helen said that it was also great to see so many of the community brave the wet, cold weather to watch students walking down the Red Carpet in front of the Event Centre.



Ball Committee members (pictured above, back row, left to right): Sophie Smith, Poppy Jemmett, Lorraine Paterson, Maddy Soal, Madi Tourle, Andrea Ciora, Deputy Principal and Staff Ball Organiser Helen Shore-Taylor. (Front row, left to right): Ball Committee Leaders Alexia Wilson, McLeod Sherratt, Honorary Member Head Student Henry Thomas.

Student Awards

As has become traditional, a feature of the event are awards made at the end of the evening, chosen by a combination of the Ball Committee members and the staff.



(Pictured above, left to right): Best Dressed Year 12 students Olivia Fox and Mylee Williams; Best Dressed Year 13 student Iraia Langi; The Royals were Fletcher Hobbs and Molly McKenna, and The Royals in Waiting Sienna Skilling and Riley Broker.

(Pictured right): Best Dressed Year 13 student Jack Templeton.

Photo credits: Tony Stewart, Photoshots

Appreciation

College would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank the people behind the scenes who help to make this event run as smoothly as it does –

- Roger and Casey and the team from the Ashburton Event Centre
- Denise and her team from Balloons and Flowers for the decorations
- Band Double Talk
- The team at The Somerset Grocer for the food
- Photographer Tony Stewart, of Photoshots
- Spray Marks traffic management for the event
- Neumanns Tyres for allowing their yard to be the right-of-way for the Ball attendees' vehicles
- The many AshColl staff for giving their time to supervise the event.

Ashburton College adds its appreciation to Deputy Principal Helen Shore-Taylor for her guidance in supporting the students in their preparation of a quality, well-run event.

Congratulations

Strong Showing in New Zealand Schools' Cross-Country Event for Kalym Chalmers and a first Aoraki Team Relay Medal

Year 10 student Kalym Chalmers put out two strong performances at the above event, held on the Massey University Course, Palmerston North, on Saturday and Sunday, 17 and 18 June.

Patron of the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Athletics Association Barry Magee, former Bronze Medal Marathon winner at the 1960 Olympic Games, had a message for encouraging all competitors.

Barry had three advice areas –

- This event is great preparation for champions, as athletes compete against 800, 1500, 3000 and 5000m specialists, all in one race.
- Fight for every place you can gain, don't give up, give it your best shot, knowing it is how you finish that counts/not how you start.
- Do not let a poor result here determine your athletic or sporting future. Let it inspire you to not get bitter, but to get better.

Barry gave his own example of his best Cross-Country result at his own secondary school being 13th. Yet many years later he was an Olympic Medallist, number 1 in the world at two distances and sharing in a World 4 x 1 mile Relay Record.

Barry concluded by saying – Do Not Let Anyone Steal Your Dream.

On the Saturday, Kalym competed in the Year 10 Boy's 4km event, finishing in a positive time of 14 minutes 34 seconds to come in 28th from 141 competitors. Given the size of the field and that this is a national event, this was a placing to be proud of, albeit we know that Kalym is hard on himself re his results!

On Sunday Kalym was the first runner in the Aoraki A Junior Mixed team, which placed 3rd from the eight contesting teams.

This is a first-ever medal for an Aoraki Relay Team, which was an exciting outcome.



(Pictured right, far right): Kalym Chalmers with team members, and their Bronze Medals.

Coming Events

Please note - * denotes subject to confirmation of student availability.

- July**
- 03-14** July Term Break
- 09-15** Kiribati Language Week
- 16** South Island Cyclo Cross Championships, Christchurch
- 17** Term 3 starts
- 18** Basketball – Senior Boys and Girls, Junior Boys, Christchurch
- 19** College A Netball, SuperNet Competition, Christchurch
- 19** Rugby Girls' 1st XV vs Roncalli, Celtic (5:00pm)
- 19** Rugby Girls' Under 15 vs Roncalli, Pleasant Point (4:45pm)
- 20** Aoraki Girls' Football, various venues
- 20-23** * NZ Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships, Wellington