



Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 15
25 May 2023

News

Message From The Principal

Principal's Study Group Tour

Earlier this term I was lucky enough to be part of a Principals' Study Group that had three days in New South Wales, Australia, visiting schools and also a seminar at their centre for Educational Leadership. We were offered a choice of schools to visit and I chose schools similar to ourselves – eg: a large high school in a rural setting. It's always tempting to compare our education system to the Australian state system (every state runs education differently).



New South Wales pays extra salary and provides housing subsidies for Teachers and Principals to go to rural/isolated areas (this was three hours out of Sydney). They also have plenty of high-quality professional development available but, in rural areas, they struggled to get relievers so that staff could upskill (sounds familiar).

The day-sides were that they had a centralised bureaucracy and that schools couldn't choose their own staff or Principals. Plus, the level of funding varied significantly. The school I visited was clearly high-functioning with great staff, students and vibe but it was in a very stable electorate and had clearly sub-standard classrooms and buildings.

The next rural school, thirty minutes closer to Sydney, was in a marginal electorate and had just been promised a new auditorium and gymnasium. I came away with the impression that, overall, New Zealand does state education in a far preferable manner.

Parent/Teacher/Student Subject Interviews

This week we have carried out our traditional subject interviews. Due to the current industrial action, and to limit missed class time, we made the decision to have one day equivalent of interviews rather than two days.

My thanks to all our parents and caregivers who made the effort to attend these meetings. I would also like to acknowledge College's teaching staff. If they were fully booked, then they had 112 interviews in one day. That's a significant amount of talking to be done.

New Build

Our new build is now fully enclosed and the number of 'subbies' on-site has greatly increased.

Menorlue is due for a major refurbishment and will become a specialist music space (apparently older buildings have better acoustics).

Our new visitors' car park area with eleven spaces is welcome, plus the new drop-off area should ease traffic congestion at peak times.

We do ask parents, to please have your child walk from the stop-off bay.

School Leadership

Finally, I have signalled my intention to finish as Principal at the end of this year. I have been a Principal now for eighteen years and the time is right for me to pass on our school leadership. We are very well-placed as a school and I would like to acknowledge the overwhelming support I have enjoyed from staff, students and our wider community.

Ross Preece
Principal - Tumuaki

Staff - Internal Appointments

We are pleased to acknowledge two internal appointments made recently. The staff members retain their current roles, as teachers of English, and Art/Art History Video Conferencing respectively.

Cheyenne Parris Sports Facilitator

In this role the staff member assists with scheduling, organising and running sports activities over school lunch breaks. The position includes co-ordinating House sports events.

Nicky Lewis

Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator

This involves facilitating programmes and promoting opportunities for Gifted and Talented students.

Staff Appreciation

Jayne Cornelius - Sports Facilitator

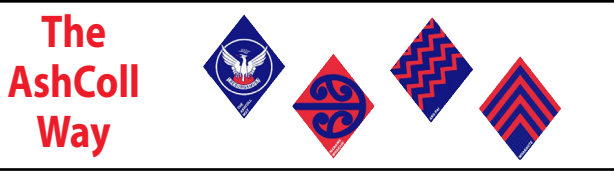
We acknowledge, with sincere thanks, the ten years that Jayne has given to this role at College; alongside her work with students as Withdrawal Room supervisor, which she retains.

Engendered by Jayne's customary positivity, strong relationships with students, and organisational skills, numerous lunchtime events have been enjoyed at competitive and social levels, along with student leaders' support, organisation and encouragement to students to be involved.

Activities have covered a multitude of sports, including the all-important House Sports opportunities to gain House points towards the coveted House Trophy; and a raft of Student v Staff events, where there are no holds barred on teacher competitiveness!

We thank you Jayne for your energy, time, commitment and, at times, innovation, given to the role and its success. Students and staff have benefitted from these fun-filled events.

We look forward, however, to continuing to have Jayne's valued expertise on-site.



Staff - Farewell

Ellie Hammond

Ellie joined us at the start of the year as a Science and Agriculture teacher, and we appreciated her eagerness to take on a curriculum area outside of her training.

She also came with a wealth of experience in teaching in the outdoors, having taught in New Zealand and overseas in the outdoor pursuits arena.

This was Ellie's first year in secondary teaching and her Head of Faculty said that she did an amazing job to get lessons prepared for her classes and take on a demanding full junior class load.

Ellie's friendly face will be missed around the Science Faculty, and across the school, by students and staff.

Ellie is wished all the best for her future challenges and endeavours.

Cleaning Staff

In this newsletter we acknowledge two of our cleaning staff who have made the decision to finish their roles at Ashburton College.

As can be appreciated, cleaning is not the easiest of jobs to undertake at the end of each day, but it is an essential role, and we appreciate and value the time and effort put in for the benefit of students and staff at College.

Katrina Moore

Katrina Moore has been a valued member of the College's Cleaning staff since February 2016, when she began as a 'Casual', but quickly became a permanent member of staff from May 2016. For those who know the College layout, Katrina started her position cleaning in T Block but, in later years, she has been working throughout A Block. A Block has the highest number of rooms of each of the blocks, including Labs, and is often a challenging environment. Willing to help out also, where needed, we thank Katrina sincerely for her input over her seven years.

Katrina is wished well for a more relaxed lifestyle after finished at College on Friday 12 May.

Trevor Vessey

Trevor has been at Ashburton College for a significantly long time, having worked on-site for Spotless Cleaning for six to seven years, from 2004, before Ashburton College took the cleaning service in-house in July 2010.

Trevor, over the time, has cleaned in the Arts Room, but long-term worked in the Technology Block, and particularly the woodwork, metalwork areas which, in themselves, create an amount of their own matter needing a clean-up.

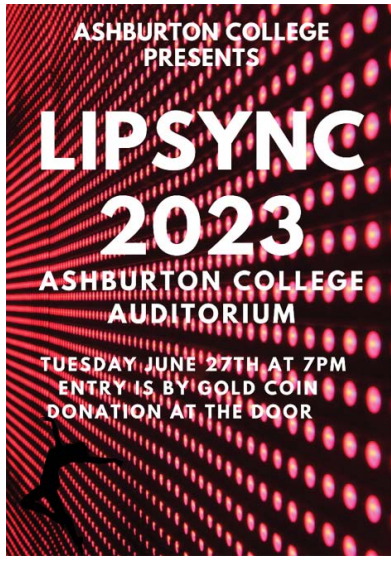
Trevor is an interesting person to talk with, with a raft of knowledge gained from his reading, and Radio New Zealand information.

We wish Trevor well in 'retirement', officially from 24 May, and thank him sincerely for his eighteen years working on-site at Ashburton College, and employed by Ashburton College for the past 12 and a half years. His work has been valued.

Information

Ashburton College - Annual Lip Sync

Put this date in your calendar, if you can join us in the audience to enjoy the talents of College students.



Ashburton College - Pasifika Whānau/Family Fono

Pasifika Second Whānau/Family Fono

Thursday 01 June
5:30pm - 7:00pm

Ashburton College Auditorium

This evening will have a focus on unpacking how NCEA works, and introducing the Talanoa Ako App

(an interactive educational App for Pacific parents, developed by New Zealand's Ministry of Education).

The evening is facilitated by
Gabby Makisi, Manager, Strategy and Integration,
Te Pae Aronui.

Light refreshments will be provided.

Information

Suspension of PPTA Industrial Action for Secondary Schools

Please note:

Suspension of Strike Action - from 7:00am Monday 22 May to 11:59pm Tuesday 30 May 2023

The National Executive of PPTA Te Wehengarua has directed that strike action by PPTA members covered by the **Secondary School Teachers' Collective Agreement (STCA)** and the **Area School Teachers' Collective Agreement (ASTCA)** is to be suspended.

Purpose of the Suspension

The purpose of the suspension of strike action is to allow the Ministry of Education to work with urgency to explore options for revised offers.

Between Monday 22 May to the end of Tuesday 30 May:

Normal Timetables

There will be **no industrial action**, and school/activities will operate as normal.

All previously advertised dates are to be ignored currently.

Schools will be advised of PPTA's stance in advance of Wednesday 31 May 2023.

Events

Year 13 Geography Field Trip To Kaikōura

Teachers Annie Lees and Jemma Hurst led the annual Year 13 Geography Field trip to Kaikōura, from 10-12 May.

Annie Lees outlines some details, saying the class was based at the Canterbury Underwater Club Lodge on Torquay Street.

Day One involved getting to Kaikōura, accompanied by rain most of the way. Once there, because the weather forecast was rather dire for Thursday, it was decided to visit four beaches and take measurements and collect data on each of them. Annie said that the students started slowly but by the fourth beach they were used to it and it was a much faster process. Taking measurements and data involves collecting beach profile data and sediment sizes.

Thursday dawned very cold and very windy after a southerly had swept through during the night, making this one of the coldest Kaikōura trips in the twenty years of Annie Lees being involved in organising this outdoor education trip!

Since it was still raining around 10:30am it was decided to go into town so the students could have a look around (some coffee and retail therapy may have been partaken of by teachers!).

As predicted, the rain eased off around mid-day and after lunch the group set off to do the customary walk around the peninsula although, on arriving at South Bay, the wind was extremely strong and very cold.

Since the group had data from the day before, it was decided to record those beaches again and do a short walk from Seal Point for an hour or so, during which the students got to see seals more closely than they maybe wanted to.

Day Three the group left the lodge by 10:00am and, after a quick trip to the lookout, set off for Ashburton.

Overall, as always, Annie said that this was a good trip, despite the rain. She said that the students were great and she and Jemma valued their co-operation. Students are now putting their knowledge to working on their internal assessment.



(Pictured left): Snow very low on the Seaward Kaikōura Range.



(Pictured above): On the beach near Seal Point (standing, left to right): Eli Clement, Josh Broker, William Armstrong, Gian Vicente, Sam Orr, Nick Freer, Teacher Annie Lees, Laura Jensen.

(Sitting: left to right): Sarah Bradley, Paulina Cuadrado, Harmony Shea, Lily Williams, Teagan Clark.



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Youth Driver Mentor Programme -

Can You Help as a Mentor?

One important skill that improves job prospects is holding Restricted or Full driver's licence.

A 2016 report, sponsored by ACC and Waka Kotahi/New Zealand Transport Agency, looked at the impact of having a driver's licence. The report found that 70 per cent of jobs required a licence and just 9 per cent of beneficiaries aged between 18 and 24 held a Full licence. That is a big problem for young people looking for work.

Ashburton College, in partnership with The Salvation Army and Waka Kotahi, is excited to continue to be part of the 'Youth Driver Mentor Programme'.

The Youth Driver Mentor Programme matches our students who have their Learner driver's licence with fully licensed volunteer mentors who coach and teach safe driving practice and skills so the driver can pass their Restricted driver's test. A student will go out twice a week with a mentor to learn self-awareness, road-awareness, personal responsibility and self-confidence.

We are needing more mentors to meet student numbers

We have an increasing number of students wanting to register, we have support for the mentors, and we have a car but -

We Are Needing More Mentors! We Need You!

What Mentors do:

- Help a learner driver prepare for the Restricted driver's test.
- Mentors volunteer to supervise the learner's driving and help them become safer on our roads.
- Act as a coach and supervisor for a range of practical driving experiences.
- Help foster positive safe habits that will follow the learner throughout their lifetime of driving.
- Transform lives.

What is required of Mentors:

- Meet up twice a week for 1 hour with your student (times that work for you) for twelve weeks.
- Have held your Full licence for more than two years.

What the Mentor receives:

- Use of the programme's automatic car and fuel.
- Full training.
- Have the support of a qualified instructor and will be given the tools to assist the learner driver.
- A chance to help make our students more employable.

Please help us make this programme a success and help our students!

Become part of the Solution

You can help make our roads safer and support our young people to do the right thing.

If you can help

please contact Anne Sheehan sn@ashcoll.school.nz or Abbey Bruce br@ashcoll.school.nz

Coming Events

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

May 26 * Aoraki Secondary Schools Swimming Championships, Ashburton South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Boys/Girls' Basketball Winter Competition, Southern Trust Events Centre, Timaru

26-28 * NZSS Rhythmic Gymnastics Championships, Auckland

28 * Southern Cross Country, Timaru

28-03 June Samoa Language Week

30 Junior Boxing Programme, Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy Basketball - Senior Boys and Girls, Junior Boys, Christchurch

31 College A Netball, Supernet Competition, Christchurch Rugby Girls' 1st XV vs Roncalli College, Pleasant Point (4:45pm)

June 01 Canterbury Cross Country, Christchurch

02 * Smallbore Postal Challenge, venue tbc

04 Aoraki Girls' Football, Timaru

05 Pasifika Family Fono, College Staffroom, 5:30pm-7:30pm

06 Year 13 Forklift Licence, Ashburton District Council

07 South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Boys/Girls' Basketball Winter Competition, Southern Trust Events Centre, Timaru

08 South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Junior Girls' A Basketball Competition, Pioneer Sports Complex, Christchurch

09 NZSSS Triple S Smallbore Rifle Shooting

10 King's Birthday Weekend - public holiday

11 Junior Boxing Programme, Mid Canterbury Boxing Academy

12 Basketball - Senior Boys and Girls, Junior Boys, Christchurch

13 Year 11-13 Japanese Workshop, University of Canterbury

14 * Aoraki Secondary Schools' Squash tournament, venue tbc

15 Year 12 RYDA (Rotary Youth Driver Awareness) Day, Hotel Ashburton

16 College A Netball, SuperNet Competition, Christchurch

17 Rugby Girls' 1st XV vs Timaru, Pleasant Point (5:00pm)

18 Rugby Girls' U15 vs Timaru, Hinds (5:00pm)

Congratulations

Canterbury Interscholls' Dressage

Competition 2023

With information provided by Year 10 student Olivia McFarlane, for the AshColl Blue Team and by Year 11 student Ella Richardson for the AshColl Red Team

Held on Wednesday 05 April, the last week of Term One, at McLean's Island, Christchurch, Ashburton College was represented at this event by two teams - AshColl Blue and AshColl Red.

AshColl Blue Team



(Pictured above, left to right): AshColl Blue Team members - Olivia Pearce and Elrancho India, Kate Rickard and Bee Trux Cee, Olivia McFarlane and Mr Silver, Chloe Foster and Amberleigh Prima Donna.

Natasha McFarlane was Coach/Manager.

Chloe Foster and Olivia McFarlane were Riders 1 and 2, at Level 2; with Olivia Pearce and Kate Rickard riders 3 and 4, at Level 1. Each level, from Level 1 through, contains additional, progressive standards.

Sizeable fields of horses and riders contested each level; with the Level 2, Rider 1 category comprised of 26 competitors; Level 2, Rider 2 - 27 competitors; Level 1, Rider 3 - 28 competitors; and Level 1, Rider - 27 competitors; with a total of 28 teams overall.

AshColl Blue Team Key Results were -

Olivia McFarlane, on Mr Silver 1st place, Test 2A
Chloe Foster, on Amberleigh Prima Donna 3rd place, Test 2A
Olivia Pearce, on Elrancho India 5th place, Test 1C
Ashburton College Blue Team 12th placed across all 28 teams.

Olivia said that all team members rode very well, all having something to be proud of, with the placings that the team achieved being great accomplishments given the number of competitors in each of the classes. Everyone was very supportive of each other and a fun day was had by all.



(Pictured above, left to right): AshColl Red Team members Macy Lewis-West riding Sir Captain, Ella Richardson (Captain) riding Forest, Lily Jessep riding Ginpol, Hannah Thicket riding AA Bedazzled.

Team manager was Genevieve Kirwan.

The Red Team finished 25th out of the 28 teams and Ella said that the Ashburton College Red Team worked so hard and should all be really proud of what they achieved considering Ella was riding a young and inexperienced horse, it was Hannah's first time stepping up to Level 2 and our two Level 1 riders were competing at their first competition of this size.

(Pictured left): 3rd placed, 2A test rider Chloe Foster and Amberleigh Prima Donna, competing.

(Pictured right): 1st placed, 2A test rider Olivia McFarlane and Mr Silver competing in the dressage ring.

(Pictured above, left to right): AshColl Red Team members Macy Lewis-West riding Sir Captain, Ella Richardson (Captain) riding Forest, Lily Jessep riding Ginpol, Hannah Thicket riding AA Bedazzled.

(Pictured right): AshColl Red Team members Macy Lewis-West riding Sir Captain, Ella Richardson (Captain) riding Forest, Lily Jessep riding Ginpol, Hannah Thicket riding AA Bedazzled.

Canterbury Inter-Schools' Show Jumping Event

With information provided by Ella Richardson

As we round-up our equestrian teams' calendar to date, Ella also provided us with information from a 'water-logged' inter-schools' Show Jumping event held earlier this year, on 22 February, forming the two equestrian events held to date, with additional events pending.

Ella advised that, for this event, two Ashburton College riders braved the torrential rain to compete at the Canterbury Interscholls' Show Jumping.

College's two riders ended up in a composite team with Oxford Area School as our other two riders were unable to compete due to injuries prior to the event.

Our two competitors were -

- Ella Richardson, riding Forest in the 95cm jumping height
- Hannah Thicket, riding AA Bedazzled, in the 85cm jumping height

Genevieve Kirwan was team Coach and Manager.

Twenty five teams took part, with twenty five riders in the 95cm class, and fifty in the 85cm class.

Individual Results

Ella Richardson - 15th placed in the 95cm 2 phase
- 4th placed in the 95cm Instant Jump Off
Hannah Thicket - 23rd placed in 85cm 2 phase
- 85cm Instant Jump Off - retired due to weather conditions

Ella and Hannah, with Genevieve, are to be commended for their fortitude in taking part in such challenging conditions! We're unable to advise where the team finished overall, as only the top three placings were listed, maybe due to the complexities of listing placings due to weather impacts and riders retiring, or choosing not to continue to compete.

We look forward to reports of events where the weather is more supportive!



(Pictured right): Ella Richardson and Forest well-placed to clear the 95cm jump.

Successes for College Students of Japanese

Japanese Language Proficiency Test

The Japanese Language Proficiency Test (JLPT) has been offered by the Japan Foundation and Japan Educational Exchanges and Services (formerly Association of International Education, Japan) since 1984, as a reliable means of evaluating and certifying the Japanese proficiency of non-native speakers.

College Teacher of Japanese Hiromi Horsley said that, in the beginning, there were approximately 7,000 examinees worldwide. In 2011, there were as many as 610,000 examinees around the globe, making JLPT the largest-scale Japanese language test in the world. In 2017, the number of applicants exceeded 1 million, and in 2019, about 1.36 million applicants.

Four Ashburton College students sat the JLPT at the end of last year and all of four students passed the JLPT NS.



(Pictured left, left to right): The four students who passed the JLPT NS test - Gabe Rigor, Iela Mangubat, Ashley Gee, Jesse Nieman.

Certificates of Excellence

Three Ashburton College students received the certificate this year from the New Zealand Association of Language Teachers (NZALT).

To recognise exceptional achievement in the field of language learning, NZALT provides certificates, suitably endorsed, for NZALT members to award to their students.

A student is eligible to receive a Certificate of Excellence if they have gained, in a language in any one year, at least NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3. For last year only, they were required to gain 12 or more credits at Excellence level, and at least three of these credits each from externally and internally assessed standards.

(Pictured right, left to right): Certificates of Excellence recipients Jesse Nieman, Iela Mangubat, Patrizio Novello.

