



# Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 7  
24 March 2022

## News

### Message From The Principal

#### COVID Impacts

As a community, we are well aware that Covid is now reasonably widespread in our region. This has posed a unique set of challenges for our school community, as for other schools also.

**Challenging times always bring the best out in most people and there are some groups I wish to acknowledge:**

Firstly, our students have been great at wearing their masks in our classrooms. They have brought into the collective understanding that this is one simple, practical step that they can do to protect themselves and their whānau.

A second group is our parents and caregivers who have accepted the necessity of rostering home and also the importance of keeping their children home when they are well.

Thirdly to our staff, who have faced teaching the students in front of them, plus providing online learning and, in several cases, preparing class work for ill colleagues. As a wider collective all of these groups have contributed to our well-being.

I would also like to acknowledge the Ministry of Education and, in particular, our local Christchurch office. The flow of timely communication, on complex issues that are constantly evolving, has certainly been appreciated. They have also done a great job of staying in touch with each school and looking to provide support as required.

My thanks to everyone mentioned for allowing us to thrive over the last month.

#### Learning Online Available

I have had several parents concerned that their child may fall behind during this time.

Remember that, when a child isn't at school, there is always online learning available as provided by their teachers. Plus, can I encourage you to return to the lessons learned during the first lockdown in 2020.

Depending on family circumstances, such enforced time at home can be a time for real-life learning, outside of school lessons. Despite circumstances, facing a new challenge can also have benefits.

#### Aon Maadi Rowing Championships

Our rowing team is due to be away to this prestigious pinnacle of the rowing season event. This year's event was always marginal in terms of being able to proceed but Rowing New Zealand has satisfied schools that this event can be run safely.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank our rowing parents who go out of their way to ensure that our teams are supported and that the costs for the season of rowing make the sport accessible to all. I would also like to acknowledge Justin Wall who has put hundreds of hours into coaching our rowers over past years.

#### Acknowledgement of Courage

There have been several acknowledgements in this column. I have been hugely impressed with the personal bravery of the Russian citizens who protested outside the Kremlin recently. The moral courage of these unknown individuals sets an example for us all.

Have a great week.



Ross Preece  
Principal • Tumuaki

### Staff - Farewell

**COVID impacts and mandates brought some changes to staffing at Ashburton College and we look now to acknowledge the significant input of these staff members, and their collective and much appreciated contributions to students and whānau.**

**We acknowledge, with appreciation, the combined years of service given to the life and work of Ashburton College, and note our two long-serving leavers: Elizabeth Ferguson and Annalie Henson.**

#### Elizabeth Ferguson – 28 Years

More regularly known to us all as 'Liz Ferg', and to students as 'Ms Ferg', Liz arrived at Ashburton College in January 1994, appointed as Teacher-in-Charge of Home Economics and Clothing, and charged with overseeing the management of the Home Economics Department. By 2003 Liz was officially appointed Head of Department.

Liz hails from Australia, and had spent from January 1990 in New Zealand in a variety of relief teaching roles around the South Canterbury area.

As can be seen from this citation, Liz has given an inordinate amount of time to Ashburton College, including outside of customary work hours, through her portfolios and involvement in additional College-related activities.

Liz has been an indomitable, characterful, committed contributor to staff and students, being involved over and above her teaching and Head of Department commitments, essentially from her time of arrival at College. This is a long time to sustain the demands and challenges of some of the roles she has held.

As a teacher she was well-organised, had a sound understanding of her specialist curriculum areas and was passionate about the place of Home Economics in preparing students for life beyond school. She was clear with classes about behavioural and learning expectations, but also made outcomes achievable, and gave full encouragement to students which they responded to, and were empowered by. Her subject enthusiasm was contagious, with students therefore engaged. Students respected her matter-of-fact, encouraging but firm manner; while she was also a supportive Family Form Teacher (now Ako). This led to a strong rapport with students, and also with parents and caregivers and her department colleagues.

In 2004 Liz began work as part of a group of NCEA Marking Panel Leaders, assisting in quality control of results, for external Achievement Standards.

Liz also did work with the Christchurch College of Education, as it was then, on the Health and Physical Education in New Zealand Curriculum Contract, working throughout the year with Contract Facilitators developing new units of work, examining resources, writing long-term plans and facilitating department professional development.

Through HETANZ (Home Economics and Technology Education) Liz was involved in participation within working groups.

*Included in her additional contributions have been –*

The time-consuming and crucial role of timetabler, initially solo from 2006, and more latterly as part of a two-person team. This has taken innumerable hours, often during student holiday breaks and weekends, and required the 'right kind' of brain to understand the many variables and adjustments needed to finalise a workable timetable across subjects, year levels and teaching staff.

A key driver/chair of the College's Staff Social Committee, in the last two years known as the Hauora (Well-being) Komiti, from around 2000. In this area, with the committee, Liz was a driving force behind the development, in the early years, of many social events for College staff and for children of staff. These have continued to current times, across a range of events catering to the cross-section of staff. The end-of-year farewells have been, of latter years, prefaced by power point staff 'funnies' while, on a more serious note, the Hauora Komiti also supports staff at times of bereavement or illness impacts.

From 2008, Liz held responsibility for managing and employing teacher relief staff. Contacting, allocating and juggling teacher relief staff is a daily commitment, with 'on-the-day' needs starting from early morning each school term day.

On the sports front, Liz organised the College Staff Netball team, for around ten years from 1999, and was Manager of the College Girls' Rugby team in the early 2000's, as well as a stint where her organisational skills were extended to the Staff Touch Team around 1999-2000.

In the early 2000's Liz was a staff Peer Support leader within the student programme, and a staff member on many school camps around this period of time.

As can be seen, Liz has given a huge amount of time, energy, expertise and innumerable additional hours to the life and work of Ashburton College; to the benefit of students, colleagues, and whānau. We are indebted to Liz as a Head of Department, and for her teaching, hard work and commitment, collegial support, humour, candid viewpoints and significant contributions. We wish her and Ivan all the very best as they pursue interests without the constraints of employment hours.



#### Annalie Henson – 18 years

Annalie started at College in January 2004, as a Teacher of Mathematics, having come from Zimbabwe earlier in the 2000's and having worked at Mt Hutt College immediately prior to Ashburton College.

Annalie's commitment to teaching, to the Mathematics Faculty, the students and their families, was an absolute. She was recognised as, and appreciated for, caring deeply for the students and their progress, and as a respected colleague.

An effective teacher and valued member of the Mathematics Faculty, Annalie taught through all year levels, and held a number of responsibilities over the years.

Some of these key responsibilities included – Assistant Head of Department to the Head of Faculty, from 2008; in the early 2000's responsibility for Gifted and Talented students and programme within the Maths Faculty; Teacher-in-Charge of Statistics, including involvement with implementation of the new curriculum; leadership of the Year 13 Statistics and Modelling, Year 12 Maths Applied and parts of the Year 10 Maths Courses; preparing Year 9 and 10 Units; and purchasing and organisation of department equipment and resources. Annalie had particular strengths around mentoring new teachers and was always willing to go the extra distance to help people out, and to provide resources and ideas.

Annalie facilitated a classroom based on praise and encouragement and one where students were motivated by the successes they gained in her classes. Annalie was able to both extend talented students and increase capability with students who didn't find mathematics concepts straightforward. A calm but firm manner with students was successful, alongside being a strong mathematician herself, with the relevant levels of knowledge and understanding to support and impart learning.

Outside of the Faculty, Annalie also contributed in a number of spheres – as a member of the College's then Promotions and Finance Committees; Liaison person for Immigrant Parents of College Students, a member of the wider-College Gifted and Talented Committee; on the Enterprise Teaching Network Committee for school-wide projects; helping with the College's Overseas Club; and being Manager of the Phoenix Chorus around the 2005/2006 era - with all the extra-curricular time such a role requires, inclusive of fundraising, particularly to provide new performance uniforms.

In giving appreciation to Annalie for her considerably lengthy, quality service we are acknowledging a very well-organised and effective teacher, and a kind and caring supporter of colleagues and students; a person who communicated well with parents and caregivers and who was respectful of all people and cultures. These attributes saw Annalie as an effective Family Form Teacher (now Ako) and, particularly also with a migrant Family Form. In all areas she formed positive relationships accordingly.

We sincerely thank Annalie for all that she has given of herself, and to others, at Ashburton College and wish her very well for future endeavours.



#### Michael Petrus – 10 years

Michael started at Ashburton College ten years ago, at the end of January 2012, as a Teacher of Music. The position, at that time, was fixed-term, but this became a permanent position by September of that year.

Michael came with sterling credentials, across a range of genres; including voice technique tutoring, audio engineering, classical vocal performance, theory and history of music. He was a lead singer in the nationally recognised *New Damage* band, a member of the New Zealand Opera Chorus, a choral singer, classical soloist, guitarist, composer, arranger and songwriter; a performer in pop, classical and rock genres; a guitarist, and latterly a drummer.

With a real interest in developing original New Zealand music, Michael was also committed to developing and bringing culturally relevant music to and for students, who were encouraged to explore and perform music of their own culture. Forming a part of this was work done on establishing a specific Māori and Pasifika Music CD. Michael was a person who knew his subject well, and facilitated this with students in a well-planned, relevant and interesting manner.

Michael was supportive of students as they developed in performance areas, with this of particular benefit to senior school students and their qualifications. Stage performance opportunities were a strength, with innumerable students benefitting from his encouragement and knowledge, in particular the Rock Bands who gained a number of successes at various events such as Rockquest, as did College Jazz Bands. These groups were regular performers at College occasions, Music Evenings and Prize-givings, thus gaining valuable performance experience. His technical live sound, mixing, recording, and software and hardware editing skills were of real value to students' learning and development, and to final outputs.

Students and groups were encouraged to perform within the community and through community music sectors.

Michael can indeed be described as an excellent musician, passionate about his subject area, and a teacher who looked to set high standards and outcomes. He had the knowledge and ability to effect an individualised approach to students, catering to the talents of each student, and encouraging own compositions many of which were performed individually or by bands.

Music, by its very nature, carries a performance component which means there is a significant teacher input out of regular school hours, in time which could often be regarded as one's own. We thank Michael for the many hours contributed in this way, and for all that many students benefited from in his time at College. Michael has our appreciation and good wishes for times and opportunities ahead.



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### Staff - Farewell

#### Milly Brown – 3 years

Milly joined our staff in January 2019 as Head of Faculty Arts, after time at Albany Junior High School, Auckland, as Head of Visual Art.

During her time with us Milly was on Parental Leave from February–July 2020, returning part-time subsequent to this but retaining her Head of Faculty position and teaching Year 9 Art.

A talented artist, Milly came to us with a love for the Arts and a passion for bringing Art to students as they discovered their own passions. She strived to have students make innovative, fun and outstanding pieces of art in class. Certainly, College acknowledged her creativity and passion for the Arts, for the benefit of many students.

Milly acknowledged she would miss the students and miss seeing their progress as they moved towards NCEA and beyond; and was wanting to be clear in saying that it was COVID-related national mandates which took her out of College.

From our perspective, we thank Milly for her work with students and staff, and wish her well in her new employment venture.

### Information

#### Outward Bound New Zealand – Funded Courses Available For Students With a Physical Disability

Outward Bound New Zealand is a not-for-profit organisation offering personal development courses in the outdoors for New Zealanders, young and old.

Their courses are run from their school in Anakiwa in the Marlborough Sounds.

Outward Bound say they are excited to offer two new fully-funded courses for youth with a physical disability.

#### OUTWARD BOUND NZ - YOUTH ACTIVATE

The fully funded Youth Activate is an 8-day course for physically disabled youth aged 16-17 years.

Their next course date is **10-17 May 2022**.

[Find more information about Youth Activate here](#) (put these words into your browser).



#### OUTWARD BOUND NZ - LEAPS & BOUNDS ACTIVATE

The fully funded Leaps & Bounds Activate 8-day course is for physically disabled youth (13 to 16yrs) and their parent or caregiver.

Their next course date is **10-17 October 2022**.

[Find more information about Leaps & Bounds Activate here](#) (put these words into your browser).

### Events

#### Outdoor Education

Fortunately for our Outdoor Education students their curriculum-related, outdoor activities have been able to go ahead and, below, Luke Martin Teacher-in-Charge of Outdoor Education outlines Kayaking and the Boundary Creek Hut trip.

#### Year 11 and 12 Outdoor Education Kayaking

Ashburton College Senior Outdoor Education students have started the year off enjoying the summer weather and learning introductory kayaking skills at Lake Hood.

During the first half of Term One, Year 11 and Year 12 students get the opportunity to 'have a go' at kayaking, to learn basic skills or develop the current skills they have. These activities range from understanding how to enter a kayak and make a wet exit from the kayak, to more advanced skills such as the Eskimo Roll.

Students from both classes have had one session each so far, on 15 February and 01 March for Year 12, and 17 and 24 February; and 10 March for Year 11. They have thoroughly enjoyed their time out on the water, with the weather fortunately playing its part.

Being able to make use of their double period gives the class enough time to have a good hour to an hour and a half on the water.

Luke said that the sessions are usually finished with a few manu's (bombs) off the wharf.

#### Year 12 Outdoor Education Boundary Creek Hut Hike

The Year 12 Outdoor Education class got their first trip underway on Thursday and Friday 03 and 04 March, with a hike to Boundary Creek Hut, behind Lake Clearwater.



(Pictured above): Break-time for the group.

Luke said the class was very fortunate, with perfect weather playing its part; although it was almost too hot on the first day! Sunscreen was certainly required by all.

The hike is a gradual climb through the valley which, although not steep, was tiring as it is a constant uphill. After 14km the group made it to their destination, greeted with beautiful surroundings; a flowing stream down to the river, a 115-year-old hut and the standard back-country 'long drop'.

### Events

All students chose to use tents after seeing the condition of the hut and hearing stories of rats saying hello during the night. There was a late afternoon activity for those who were keen to have bit of an explore around the area and check out the sites. After dinner a couple of games of good old spotlight were played before bedtime.

The next day it was pack up after breakfast and head back on the return journey, with Day 2 being slightly easier going on the slight downhill.

Luke said that this trip is the perfect practice for figuring out what gear should/should not be brought, and for students to get used to carrying all their gear for the next trip in Term Two.

The class is looking forward to this trip which will see them tackle the St James Walkway trail.



(Pictured above): Boundary Creek Hut.

#### Student Executive Ronald McDonald 'House to House' Charity Event

Remember this event, and our College Student Executive's cycling fundraising push, from Monday 07–Friday 25 March.

Despite challenges via COVID illnesses and rostered home days, the challenge continues on. Tomorrow, Friday 25 March, the plan still remains for the Student Executive and Year 13 Student Leaders to be outside McDonald's Ashburton, exercising and fundraising from 9:00am-6:00pm.

If you are in a position to donate, the Link is:

<https://fundraise.rmhcc.org.nz/fundraisers/ashburtoncollegestudentexecutive>



SCAN THE QR code to help donate!

#### Fundraising to Date

As at 17 March the fundraising total was sitting at \$1055, with the new target now being \$2000. This is an impressive total, resulting from students' hard work and the generosity of our school and wider community.

At this same date the team had cycled 287km, well in excess of the initial 210km target.



(Pictured above, left and right): Day Five (Friday 11 March) of the Challenge, with Abbey Bruce Head of Senior School substituting for an ill Executive Member; and Charles Savage, Blue House Captain, out on the field. At that stage the total kms were sitting at 166.

### Forthcoming Events

Please note: dates are as at the time of publishing. Alterations, due to COVID Omicron level restrictions will be advised to relevant groups as soon as details are known.

#### March

**23-25** Year 11 Outdoor Education Hike 1, Woolshed Creek Hut

**26-27** Cancelled South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis Champs, Christchurch

**28** Canterbury Secondary Schools' Golf Tournament, Templeton Golf Club, Christchurch

**29-31** Homework Hub, Ashburton Public Library, 4:00-5:00pm

**30** Mates and Dates, Ako time

**Tbc** – South Island Secondary Schools' Ultimate Frisbee, Hagley Park, Christchurch

**Tbc** – Mountain Bike Singletracks Round 5, Halswell Quarry Park

**31-01 April** Year 10 Outdoor Education Hike 1, Peel Forest

**01-03** Cancelled – South Island Secondary Schools' Athletic Champs, Invercargill

### Congratulations

#### College Lunchtime Science Club

With information from Year 10 student Ryan Heal

Science Club is one of the many clubs at Ashburton College.

Approximately a dozen members meet every Wednesday lunchtime and do awesome experiments, from launching small rockets, to dissections, to chemical reactions.

Starting last year, the Science Club has had elections to decide who will be the President (which this year I am running for), but we are yet to hold this year's elections as we will do it later in the term, when we are more organised.

Like last year, we plan on doing a few big projects that should last us a good few weeks, but we will also do some fun, short, one-day experiments.

The dissections we did on Wednesday 16 March were on rabbits. These rabbits were sourced from local farmers, from farmers who had shot them (don't worry they are not pets, but pests!).

The dissections were a fun and interesting experience, although someone cut open the stomach and the large intestines, and the smell was very nauseating as could be seen on some of our faces from time-to-time but, nonetheless, a cool experience.

The Science Club is always looking for new members with cool new ideas for what we can do, even if you're not the smartest or the most outspoken person, I recommend coming along as it's well worth it.

College notes the time put in by Physics Teacher Bryan Bell in terms of being available on Wednesday lunchtimes, and to the students.



(Pictured above, left to right): Theo Vannini, Ryan Evans, Lucas Wong, Ryan Heal, Ben Jurd and Teacher Bryan Bell.



(Pictured above and right): Dissection work underway.

- 04** Year 13AHA Water Sampling, Ashburton River
- 05** AshDance – online version
- 05-07** Homework Hub, Ashburton Public Library, 4:00pm-5:30pm
- 06** Postponement day: 13AHA Water Sampling, Ashburton River Mates and Dates, Ako time
- 07** Academic Blues Assembly, Chessboard
- Year 13AHA Water Sampling, Ashburton ECAN office

#### Summer Tournament Week

This much-anticipated week is obviously also operating on a reduced basis, with just some sports able to go ahead, as listed below. Changes of course, still remain on the horizon.

**28-31** Cancelled – New Zealand Secondary Schools' Tennis Champs, Auckland

**28-03 April** NZSS Rowing AON Maadi Cup, Lake Ruataniwha, Twizel

**29-31** Cancelled – South Island Mountain Bike Games, Queenstown

**29-01 April** Cancelled – South Island Secondary Schools' Volleyball Champs, Christchurch

**29-01 April** Cancelled – New Zealand Secondary Schools' Softball, Division 2, Invercargill

**30-02 April** Cancelled – New Zealand Secondary Schools' 3x3 Basketball Tournament, Auckland

**31** Aoraki Golf Croquet, Ashburton

Further information will be provided regarding:

- Year 8 Information Evening.
- Academic Blues Assembly.
- Cultural events and whether they can be held virtually.

#### Term Dates 2022 –

**Term One** – Thursday 14 April

**Term Two** Monday 02 May – Friday 08 July

**Term Three** Monday 25 July – Friday 30 September

**Term Four** Monday 17 October – Year level final dates to be advised, but final days for Years 13, 11 and 12 likely to be in the week beginning 31 October; while Year 9 and 10 students' final day is Thursday 08 December.