



Ashburton College

Individual Excellence in a Supportive Learning Environment

Issue 22
20 July 2023

News

Message From The Principal

Welcome Back

Welcome back to what promises to be a hugely busy term.

Over the break we had several of our students and whānau involved in acknowledging Matariki. This event is now well established on our national calendar but fell, this year, during the school holiday break.

Written Reports – Senior Students

In week one we are issuing senior students with their written reports.

This is, in some ways, very early in the school year but will enable any students who have fallen behind to rectify any academic perils.

The move to earlier reporting was in response to parent requests in previous years.

Some of Term Three's Events

Tokorozawa Kita High School Visit

In Week 2 of the term we have twenty five visitors from Japan's Tokorozawa Kita High School, Ashburton College's Sister School, with us for two weeks.

This is a long-standing relationship which hasn't been possible to enjoy during the Covid restrictions.

It is a reciprocal arrangement, as our students studying Japanese will enjoy Homestays with Tokorozawa families when the College tour group is visiting in September of this year.

Ashburton College Open Night

Our Open Night is being held on Thursday 27 July, in the second week back.

There are welcomes and tours starting from our Auditorium at both 5:30pm and 6:30 pm.

College Production

During Week 3 we have *Oliver!* as our major production for the year. This involves a significant number of staff and students and is the culmination of months of work.

Course Confirmation

In Week 4 we have our Course Confirmation Evening on Wednesday 09 August, from 6:00pm-8:00pm at the Hotel Ashburton.

This evening enables families and students in Years 9-12 to make informed subject choices for the following year.

Ako Interviews

In Week 6, on Thursday 24 August from 10:00am-8:00pm we have the second round of Ako interviews being held at College. These interview opportunities have been well-attended in previous years. Classes do not operate on this day, but students are expected to attend the Ako interviews.

Winter Tournament Week

Then in Week 7 we have Winter Tournament Week. This is the peak performance week for many of our sporting codes. This includes Netball, Rugby, Hockey, Girls' Football, Basketball and our Equestrian team; with the events scheduled throughout the length of the Mainland.

Our senior students will then have the last three weeks of term to wrap up any internal assessments. Obviously, the pressure will be on many and so personal organisation will be helpful to minimise stress.

Rangitata Block

Our new Rangitata Block is now fully enclosed and the internal framings are in place and thus the interior fit-outs are well underway. There have been over 100 'tradies' on site recently and I suspect that local bakeries are enjoying the extra business.

The refurbishment of Menorine and the completion of the new gym changing rooms are also due for completion this year.

Simon O'Neill Concert

As advertised within this newsletter, on Friday 04 August the Ashburton College Alumni is hosting Simon O'Neill and many other former College musicians on stage for a fundraising concert.

There is an incredible variety of musical talent being offered on this night and everyone performing has been very generous with their time and talent.

It is important to acknowledge the Alumni group who has put together this fantastic evening.

Ross Preece, Principal • Tumuaki



Information

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 helden-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.



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 Cabarnet and former College student Joe Danielson.

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

Guests: The lads from Cabarnet and Joe Danielson



Ticket Prices:

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

Congratulations

Sound Results at South Island Secondary Schools' Road Cycling Championships

The Ashburton College Road and Track Cycling Team took part in this event on Saturday and Sunday 01 and 02 July, at the Ruapuna Raceway Track in Christchurch.

Team members were: Eliza McKenzie (in the Under 15 category), Casey Brake (Under 14) and Charlotte Neal from Ashburton Intermediate also attending and competing in the Under 13 category. Charlotte has previously ridden with Eliza and Casey to make up a team of three at competitions.

Schools from all over the South Island were represented over the weekend, where conditions were clear but freezing, with the air coming off fresh snow on the Alps. Lungs were certainly burning, and keeping warm prior to racing was challenging.

Both Ashburton College students did themselves proud and left everything on the track.

Results:

Time Trial

Saturday was Time Trial day. This involves each individual riding on their own for a time, recognised as a test of individual endurance (known as the 'Truth Race' because there's nowhere to hide!).

The race was over one lap of 3.4km. An overall great effort by the girls resulted in -

Eliza McKenzie Finished 4th (only 4 seconds off a podium finish).

Casey Brake Finished 5th. This was a superb effort from Casey in her first ride at this track.

Charlotte Neal Charlotte also placed 5th in her age group.

Road Race

This took place on the Sunday which involved, for Eliza, a 4.5 lap race; and for Charlotte 3 laps. Casey did not ride on Sunday.

After a good tight bunch ride, with multiple attacks at the front, **Eliza came a creditable and close 5th.**

Charlotte Neal had a great race and claimed the Gold in the Under 13 girls category!



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



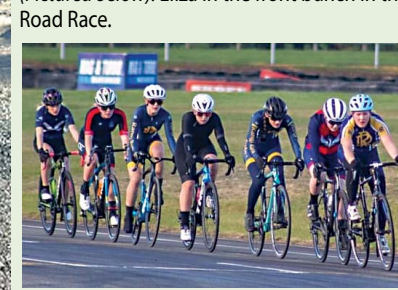
(Pictured above): Eliza McKenzie heading out of the start in the Time Trial.



(Pictured left): Casey Brake about to start her warm-down after a successful Time Trial.



(Pictured below): Eliza in the front bunch in the Road Race.



The riders now look forward to the South Island Secondary Schools' Track Championships, which are being held in Invercargill at the start of October.



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News

Congratulations

Volunteer Extraordinaire, Year 11

Taylor Doyle, meets with Governor General of New Zealand

In life one is often very fortunate to meet some amazing people. Taylor Doyle is one of these. Not only is Taylor an incredible volunteer, she has also lived with and managed health hurdles which would occupy the focus and energy of most of us alone, without giving to others also.

Taylor and her mother Zalie travelled to this function, held in Auckland on Friday 23 June as the official celebration for National Volunteering Week. The recipients were selected nationally for specific acknowledgement and celebration of their volunteering efforts and input.

Four volunteers only were selected from throughout New Zealand, with Taylor the only secondary school student.

A Courier newspaper article about Taylor, from Dellwyn Moylan, Manager of Volunteering Mid & South Canterbury, started the pathway to this selection and recognition, when recognising Taylor as an outstanding Mid Canterbury Volunteer and forwarding Taylor's story to Volunteering New Zealand.

During Te Wiki Tūao ā-Motu / National Volunteer Week from 18-24 June, the collective energies and mana of volunteers in Aotearoa are honoured.

Information re Taylor's contributions was forwarded to the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector Priyanca Radhakrishnan who is responsible for running National Volunteering Week. From submissions throughout the country, Priyanca chose two recipients, and Governor General Cindy Kiro also chose two.

Taylor described aspects of the presentation, held at Government House in Auckland, including the surroundings, a board with her picture on it and details about the newsletter article which had been submitted by Dellwyn Moylan. The four recipients mingled and talked, prior to each being taken to meet privately with the Minister and Governor General. Taylor noted that the chandeliers were impressive.

On return to the main function, both the Governor General and Minister addressed attendees of families and friends, and gave a brief speech about the recipients they had chosen. Only three of the four volunteers were available to attend. Afternoon tea followed. The Minister spoke at the event specifically about Taylor's health battles and her determination to achieve her goals since being given a second chance at life.

(Pictured right): Taylor beside the board showing her story.



(Pictured left, left and right): Taylor with the Minister for the Community and Voluntary Sector Priyanca Radhakrishnan.

A thoroughly challenging pathway

Prior to looking at Taylor's volunteering contributions, we look at the context Taylor and her family have operated within, which Taylor has shared with us. In May 2021, after eating a pie, Taylor developed severe stomach pains. This followed two years of NJ (nasogastric tube) feeding and hospital stays. An NJ tube is passed through the nose and stomach into the small intestine to enable food ingestion which, as Taylor described, was keeping her alive. Taylor said that she had always had pain after eating, but thought this response to be 'normal' for her.

Hospitalisation was the outcome for serious bouts of poor health, but her condition remained undiagnosed. When she was severely compromised, Taylor couldn't eat or drink; was malnourished; not able to walk a distance or take part in sports activities; she could barely stay awake and would be napping 8-9 times a day. Weight loss was a natural consequence and a feeding tube was required. This was a six-month stint, with two to three months at home when she could be, using the tube for feeding until, in December 2021, it 'got lost' and moved into the stomach, requiring a Christchurch Hospital stay. Her doctors made the decision not to replace the tube.

Taylor's longest continuous hospital stay was 70 days.

In March 2022, travel to the cause of M'Brien Lifehouse, Sydney resulted in a diagnosis of MALS, the cause of most of the pain. MALS stands for Median Arcuate Ligament Syndrome which occurs when the arc-shaped band of tissue in the chest area is out of place and presses on the celiac artery that sends blood to the upper abdomen.

Surgery was required as part of the Sydney process, at a cost of \$30,000. Taylor and her family remain hugely grateful to the Ashburton Community's fundraising contributions which essentially covered their costs.

The surgery went well but Taylor's health continued to worsen, and the decision was made to travel to Germany, to a clinic (Clinic Bel Etage) which focuses on compression syndromes. There Taylor was diagnosed with

multiple vascular compression syndromes, including EDS (Ehlers-Danlos Syndromes) that affects connective tissues and is linked with compression syndromes.

In May 2022, surgery in Germany resulted in the insertion of PTFE stents. Taylor has been back in New Zealand for over a year and, in her words, is 'basically fixed'. She said she isn't 100% but is 100% better than what she was. She is able to email/contact or talk with the clinic any time if she has concerns.

Taylor's Volunteering Contributions

A look into Taylor's Volunteer Calendar shows an impressive list and variety of contributions encompassing weekly volunteering at Rosebank Resthome; support of St John Youth related events; competition training of St John Cadets; assistance at Girl Guides/Camps; administration help at Citizens' Advice Bureau; attendance at Anzac Day Services as part of the St John contingent; helping at Melody Makers' Primary Schools' music concert backstage; helping renovate and paint a room at another person's house; making dog toys for SPCA; baby-sitting; voluntary work in a pet shop pre-covid; contributing to Children's Day.

Where to now for Taylor?

Taylor said that she is 'so happy to be better, to be able to do things again'. She suggested she may be over-working as, from a year ago when she couldn't do anything, she now wants to take every opportunity she can get and is so enjoying the fact that she can.

Currently she is rehearsing as part of the College's forthcoming production of *Oliver!*, 'doing heaps' within the College Phoenix Chorus, Target Shooting, has returned to St John and volunteering at Rosebank each Monday.

From a writer point of view, it was a privilege to speak with such an impressive, articulate and mature young person.

Succinctly, Taylor said she is not taking anything for granted; summarising that you don't know what you've got until you don't have it any more.



The official photo from Government House (pictured above, left to right): Nicki Liversage (Gisborne Volunteer Centre); Volunteer New Zealand Chief Executive Michelle Kintyre; Reagan Habib-Mitchell (Volunteer from the Gisborne region); Governor General Cindy Kiro; Minister of the Community and Voluntary Sector Priyanca Radhakrishnan; Dr Richard Davies, husband of the Governor General; Taylor Doyle; Zalie Doyle.

Basketball News –

Excellent Results at Aoraki Junior Boys' Basketball Championships

In this newsletter we look at the AshColl 1 team's results. In the next newsletter we will look at the AshColl 2 Boys' team results, the Girls' teams results, plus a guest visitor to the boys' basketball practice.

The Aoraki Junior Boys' Basketball Championship 2023 was held at the Southern Trust Events Centre Timaru on Wednesday 21 June, starting with the teams' 7:30am start from the College Bus Bay.

Competing in the A Grade was Team 1, alongside Geraldine High School, Roncalli and St Kevin's Colleges, and Waitaki Boys' High School.

Seven teams contested the B Grade competition, with Teams 2 and 3 from Ashburton College, alongside Geraldine, Waimate and Waitaki Boys' High Schools; Roncalli and Ophihi Colleges.

Results

AshColl Team 1 – A Grade

The team won each of their games in the Round Robin sector, in what reads as a competitive grade.

Manager Lisa Elliott said that, going into this championship, AshColl Team 1 was looking forward to seeing if playing in the Christchurch Grocott Trophy Competition 2023, had helped them perform at a higher level compared to the Aoraki Competition they played in on Friday nights against the South Canterbury regions' teams last year.

Against Waitaki Boys' High School

The AshColl team was also looking forward to facing Waitaki Boys' again, who they lost to in the final at this championship in 2022.

The Round Robin game saw them playing Game 1 against the Waitaki Boys' Team 1, in what became a goal-for-goal game. Lisa said that it took a while to settle into the tournament rules and use them to their advantage, being points for fouls rather than free throws, rolling subs, and no stop-clock. A physical tussle to begin, with fouls going both ways on defence. A total of 9 points were scored by **Liam Elliott**. **AshColl won 28-26.**

Game 2 vs Geraldine High School 1

14 points were scored by **Jack Spicer**, and 9 by **William Woods**, with a strong defensive game played by **William Woods** and **Liam Elliott**. **AshColl won 43-35.**

Game 3 vs Roncalli College

Strong defensive rebounding by **William Woods**, and **Jack Spicer** converting his 3-pointer, got AshColl off to a good start. Three successive lay-ups by **Liam Elliott**, and then **Jack Spicer**, took AshColl into a half-time lead of 15-7.

William Woods dominated the second half with two 3-pointers and three lay-ups, supported by **Reihana Harrison** and **Gian Ramos** contributing to the score. **Liam Elliott** soaked up the physical play by Roncalli, hitting the deck numerous times in an intense half. 15 points were scored by **William Woods**. **AshColl won 33-22.**

Game 4 vs St Kevin's College

This was a low-scoring game, with AshColl able to confuse the organised defensive system of St Kevin's by moving the ball quickly with their set moves. Fitness played a big part in the later part of the game with the St Kevin's taller boys fatiguing and becoming sloppy in their defence and uncontrolled. This was a good game for **Liam Elliott** (15 points). **AshColl won 26-23.**

A Grade Final – win to AshColl 1 (34-31)

St Kevin's won the tip-off and got off to a good start, with AshColl trailing 7-2 in the first 5 minutes and missing their 3-point attempts.

(Pictured right): William Woods, on target to gain more points through the basket, was one of the key players for the AshColl 1 team, on offence and defence. The opposition in this game was St Kevin's College.

Liam Elliott settled the team with two forceful lay-ups and **Jack Spicer** then added two 3-pointers in a row, and **William Woods** another. Roncalli finished the half in the lead by 19-17.

St Kevin's screens were effective and allowed their tall players to get through to the hoop.

Jack Spicer started the second half on fire and put two more 3-pointers through the hoop for College to take the lead. AshColl then became more physical on defence, securing rebounds from missed shots. However, they also conceded points with their fouls.

While pushing out to lead by 6 points from **Jacob Robinson**, **Jack Spicer** and **Liam Elliott**, a strategic time-out and keeping possession was used to run the clock down.

Reihana Harrison secured a crucial 3-pointer and then the opposition missed their 3-point attempt to even the score. From that miss, **Gian Ramos** got a turnover and **Jack Spicer** was able to convert one more 3-pointer to win the game by the margin of three.

Reihana Harrison collected ankle damage during the team's game the night before against Hillmorton High School but was available to play with the team at this fixture.



The Victorious A Grade Aoraki Junior Boys' Championship Winners: AshColl 1 Team

(Pictured above, left to right): William Woods, Jack Spicer, Reihana Harrison, Gian Ramos, Jacob Robinson, Paul Robinson (Coach), Liam Elliott.

Coming Events

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

July 21	Mid Canterbury Combined Hockey 2nd XI, Forster Park, Rolleston South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Boys'/Girls' Basketball Winter Competition, Southern Trust Events Centre, Timaru South Canterbury Secondary Schools' Junior Girls' A Basketball Competition, Pioneer Sports Complex, Christchurch
25	Basketball – Senior Boys and Girls, Junior Boys, Christchurch
26	College A Netball, Planning day Otago A Netball, SuperNet Competition, Christchurch Rugby Girls' 1st XV vs Timaru, Pleasant Point (5:00pm) Rugby Girls' Under 15 vs Timaru, Hinds (4:30pm)
26-27	Brain Bee competition, Otago University
27	Aoraki Girls' Football, various venues Open Night/Year 8 Subject Information evening, AshColl, from 5:30pm
27-07 August	Tokorozawa Kita High School (College Sister School visit)
30-05 August	Cook Island Language Week
31-04 August	Ashburton College Enrolment Week, at College