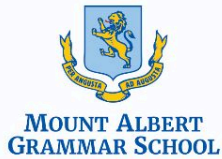




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**A Tradition of Excellence**  
9th-14th May 2022



November 20, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

From the Headmaster

## Duke of Edinburgh Gold Awards – an Evening of Excellence



*With Mr Belson, at left, and Mr Drumm, are, from left, Claudia Saunders, Lydia Finch, Georgia Sinclair, Caitlin Mitchell and Eric Shen.*

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

Following on from celebrations at our recent Senior Prizegiving, I attended another event recognising excellence on Wednesday evening with the awarding of the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Gold Awards (see report below).

Mount Albert Grammar School was well-represented with five current or former students presented with their Gold Award by the Governor-General, The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy.

The evening also saw MAGS staff member Mr Andy Belson recognised for service to the Duke of Edinburgh programme. Andy has worked tirelessly over the past 13 years at MAGS to bring the programme to our students. Hundreds of students have gained the Bronze and Silver awards along with a staggering 21 MAGS students reaching the Gold standard over the years.

The Duke of Edinburgh programme complements everything we do here at MAGS. A strong focus on service to community, physical

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

**Tuesday, November 24**  
Junior Bytes Concert,  
Centennial Theatre, 7pm

**Tuesday & Wednesday,  
December 1 & 2**  
Junior School Interform  
Competition



Sport

Photo Essays



Junior Boys Water Polo  
Click [here](#)

activity, skills and self-management reflect much of our MAGS Way Values. The award brings those values to life and it is no surprise that so many of our students feel at home in the programme, excelling right through to the Gold level.

I challenge all MAGS students to consider becoming part of the Duke of Edinburgh programme – whether it be Bronze, Silver or Gold.

Congratulations to our 2020 Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award winners. And thank you Mr Belson. We are proud of you all.

Enjoy the weekend.

Patrick Drumm  
Headmaster

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Junior Boys Touch

Click [here](#)



Junior Girls Touch

Click [here](#)

**Fixtures and results**

Click [here](#)

## School Ball well worth the wait



The School Ball finally went ahead following multiple bookings, two lockdowns and limits on social gatherings.

Despite this, a spectacular night was had by all at Ellerslie Event Centre on November 10 thanks to the hard work of TIC Mrs Phyn and the Ball Committee.

This year's theme was "Starry Night", with attendees walking down a red carpeted hallway lined with clouds, glittering lights and stars, and entering the ballroom through a tunnel of

brightly lit curtains.

In the ballroom, White Door Photography provided four photo booths and three areas of backdrop for students to capture their moment. There was also a roving photographer capturing all of the action on the dance floor. A live Facebook feed through the night was viewed by over 1000 people as the ball continued. Family and friends could follow the photos as the evening progressed.

N.Z.D.J Kieran had the dance floor pumping throughout the evening. Students danced to their chosen music, accompanied by lighting effects, smoke, confetti cannons, spark lights and Co2 guns.

Tuiaki 'Otulau, Dakota Stephens and Turouaiti Jack sang the slow jams for the evening. Then back to the dancing with the DJ right through until the end of the night.

The awards ceremony saw Ezra Purcell and Evie Lamb (pictured above right) crowned King and Queen of the Ball, the Cutest Couple award went to Ayleigh Loomes and Seth Dean, Kike Ogundipe and Oliver Moss were Best Dressed, Serena Zhang was nominated as Shining star of the Night, and Nicodemus Smith was named Best Dancer. Topping off the awards was the Best Dressed Teacher – the one and only Mr Coup.

Mrs Phyn said, "A fantastic night was had by all, including the staff who attended. It was an event that was well worth waiting for and it wasn't until the lights came on and the music stopped that the students started to leave. A big thank you to the Ball and SADD committees for helping to organise a memorable and fun night."



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## Duke of Ed Gold Awards



*Pictured with Mr Belson and Mr Drumm are Duke of Ed Gold Awardees and current MAGS students Eric Shen and Caitlin Mitchell.*

On Wednesday, three former students and two current students received their Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Gold Awards from the Governor-General at a ceremony held at the Vodafone Events Centre.

Claudia Saunders, Lydia Finch and Georgia Sinclair (2019) and Eric Shen and Caitlin Mitchell (2020) attended with their families. Eva Williams (2019) has also completed her Gold Award.

The Governor-General presented each award to the students and had a chat about what they had done in order to achieve it. In her speech, The Rt Hon Dame Patsy Reddy, GNZM, QSO said: "This award ceremony is well deserved recognition for a challenge completed ... there's a great feeling of satisfaction that the moment has finally come and all the hard work and time spent has paid off."

Mr Belson, who oversees MAGS' Duke of Ed programme, said "This is the pinnacle of the award scheme and one which has taken at least a year of commitment to serving the community, meeting new challenges and demonstrating perseverance and resilience. Students have had opportunities to learn life skills, make connections and engage with their community. I am so proud of their commitment and efforts in completing this prestigious award.

"Congratulations to all recipients on their outstanding achievement."

On the night also, Mr Belson was recognised for his 13 years of driving the Duke of Ed programme at MAGS.

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## **Junior Bytes tickets on sale now**

Tickets for the Junior Bytes Performing Arts and Music concert are on sale at the Finance Office.

The concert, at 7pm on Tuesday, November 24 at the Centennial Theatre, will feature


**Mount Albert Grammar School Presents**

# JUNIOR BYTES 2020



Junior performing arts and music concert

**TICKETS - Adults \$20**  
 - Students and pensioners - \$15  
 - MAGS staff, students and under 12s - \$10

Tuesday 24 Nov - 7pm  
 Centennial Theatre, (AGS)  
 Mountain road, Epsom

Dance, Drama and Music performances from our talented Juniors and is the last live concert performance of the year for students.

Ticket prices: Adults \$20, Students and Pensioners \$15, Under-12s and MAGS Students and Staff \$10.

## Art for the Planet



**ART FOR PLANET**

TO ENCOURAGE THE REDUCTION OF ONE TIME USE PLASTICS IN OUR COMMUNITY

**EVERY ACTION COUNTS.**

**THE SCULPTURE PROJECT**

Art for planet aims to raise awareness about pollution and our impact on ecosystems through the power of art. This sculpture project was done over the past few terms. Our aim was to build a large Albatross model that would hang in the library. We were able to use reusable materials to create the peice and managed to work together to build the amazing finished product.

Art for Planet group - Frances, Jonathan, Matthew, Reet, Lucy, Sonia, Leila, Chan, Josie, Grace D, Rosa, Violet, Yasmin, Farwa, Ben, Kike, Grace R, Vibhava, Jemma, Luca, Ana Ter Huurne

**EARTH DAY BY ABBY IRWIN**

"How have you allowed the mess to grow? I'm tired of cleaning up after you, you never help me around the house after all I have done for you. You've extended an olive branch that's already dying. I wish you were better, mother says be better and leaves me cleaning the same spot on the ocean floor."

"I'M RUNNING FROM A FUTURE WE WON'T HAVE, DROWNING IN CESSPIT SEAS, CHOKING ON LANDFILL LIES, MOUTHFUL OF PLASTIC AND HOLLOW PROMISES, AS I TRY AND SAY, AS I TRY AND SAY, AS I TRY AND SAY,

**MUM ... I LOVE YOU."**

LINK TO THE SPOKEN WORD POEM!

LINK TO A HELPFUL CONSERVATION WEBSITE!

Visitors to the library will have noticed an Antipodean Albatross soaring overhead as part of an Art for the Planet awareness campaign created by a group of MAGS students and led by Year 13 student Frances Belt and Visual Arts teacher Ms Ter Huurne (pictured right with some of the group).

The campaign aimed at creating change in the way we shop by avoiding single-use plastics includes an explanatory poster (pictured above) on the Library wall with a link to a video and Spoken Word poem. The endangered albatross is one of many species that is harmed by mistaking floating plastic for food.

Students have been working on the albatross sculpture, made with recycled materials, and the campaign in general over the past several months. Ms Ter Huurne said, "We are grateful to Jonathan Shaw-Lewis' mother for printing the

posters for the library, Matthew Batcheler for the design of the albatross and Ron Ter Huurne for providing the albatross body structure."

The video was made by Frances Belt and Abby Irwin, assisted by Reet Kamra from the Spoken Word group.

Ms Ter Huurne added, "All group members have had a valuable input and they come from a wide range of classes and year levels."



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## Albertians scoop music awards



Photo: Aotearoa Music Awards

Albertians were big winners at the Aotearoa Music Awards (AMA) on Sunday night, with Church & AP being named Best Hip Hop Artist, and The Beths (with Albertian and former MAGS music teacher Ben Sinclair, above left, and former MAGS music teacher Elizabeth Stokes, in front) winning Best Group, Best Album and Best Alternative Artist.

Church (Elijah Manu) & AP (Albert Purcell) had three nominations at last year's music awards, and finally clinched an award this year.

Last year, The Beths won Best Group for their debut album *Future Me Hates Me* but the release of their second album – *Jump Rope Gazers* – saw them claim three of the top awards.

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## Ranging far and wide



An expedition in the Kaimai Ranges at the end of October was the final adventure for 120E this year. TIC Mr Belson said, "Three days of mild weather, rugged terrain, steep climbs, ridges, river crossings and long days all made for a very mentally and physically challenging trip. The groups tramped for 42km over the three days. Again, there were some who were outside their comfort zones after long days tramping through the ranges and some who showed outstanding social responsibility and leadership whilst with their group. "The students have to be commended for their efforts over the three days – they fully immersed themselves into everything, listened to their respective leaders, navigated their way, got on with the jobs without moaning and were a credit to the school," Mr Belson said. "Cooperation and self-management were constant themes. Overall, it was an awesome trip, providing students with real life challenges, planning, problem-solving and making good decisions as well as learning to cook dinner in sometimes cramped conditions!" "My thanks go to Josh Bougen, Mr Whitehead and Miss Ripley for helping make this trip a success."



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## Albertians Luncheon & AGM





Our end of year Albertians Luncheon – preceded by the Albertians Association AGM – will be held at School House on Tuesday, 24 November.

The AGM is at 12.15pm, and the luncheon at 12.30pm. At the luncheon, our Headmaster Patrick Drumm will welcome guests and speak about our Centenary plans for 2022.

The cost of the luncheon is \$35 per person. Payment can be prepaid online to the Albertians Association account (12 3029 0376398 00) using your first name and surname as a reference – or by cash, cheque or EFTPOS at School House on the day.

**Please RSVP** to Emma John, Events Manager, either by email: [events@mags.school.nz](mailto:events@mags.school.nz) or by phone: (09) 846 2044 extn 8198 and leave a message.

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## Leavers' Dinner 2005



The guest speaker at the annual Leavers' Dinner in 2005 was Albertian Simon Mercep, broadcaster and journalist.

This photo of Mr Mercep is part of Set 54, recently added to Historical Images on the MAGS website [here](#)

These images are sourced and annotated by our Archivist Brian Murphy.

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## Sign up to the Centenary database

As we get closer to our Centenary in 2022, with events planned for May 9-14, we warmly invite all Albertians to sign up to the database [here](#) to keep up to date with information, communications and events leading up to the Centenary celebration.

Please encourage your friends and peers who were with you at MAGS to attend with you, and to also register at the link.



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## Sports update

### Junior Whitesox selection



Congratulations to Ocearn Mathews, who has been selected in the Junior White Sox softball team, which is preparing for the next World Cup, whenever that may happen.

The Junior White Sox will have game time together when they compete in the Bev Smith Tournament next month.

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