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A Tradition of Excellence
9th-14th May 2022



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From the Headmaster

100 Years – A Tradition of Excellence



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

Our Centennial year has commenced with the welcoming back of students for the school year. Our Year 9 students entered through the recently completed Centennial Walkway on Wednesday as they were called onto site by powhiri.

These newest Albertians were the first group to use the newly blessed walkway – an entrance that now reaches out to our community, drawing them into our school and past the cenotaph that will carry the names of our 202 fallen Albertians.

So much of what underpins our Centennial Celebrations could be seen in that first official function of the academic year. The quality crafting, the solidity of the new walkway – a structure that recognises people so important to the MAGS 100-year story.

And the present young men and women of MAGS who will take such confidence from that story as they strive to be the best they can be during their own journey. In doing so, they will undoubtedly lay down the legacy for the future generations of students yet to walk onto our school site.

Our Centenary provides us all with such certainty in uncertain times. We have great hope for the year ahead, and I look forward to our students of 2022 bringing the school motto to life.

[Weekly Notices](#)



[Key Dates](#)

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Monday, February 7

Waitangi Day Holiday
observed



Tuesday, February 15

Swimming Sports Day, Mt
Albert Aquatic Centre



Thursday, February 17

Athletics Championship Day,
Mt Smart Stadium (TBC)



Sport

Per Angusta Ad Augusta!

Have an enjoyable Waitangi Weekend.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

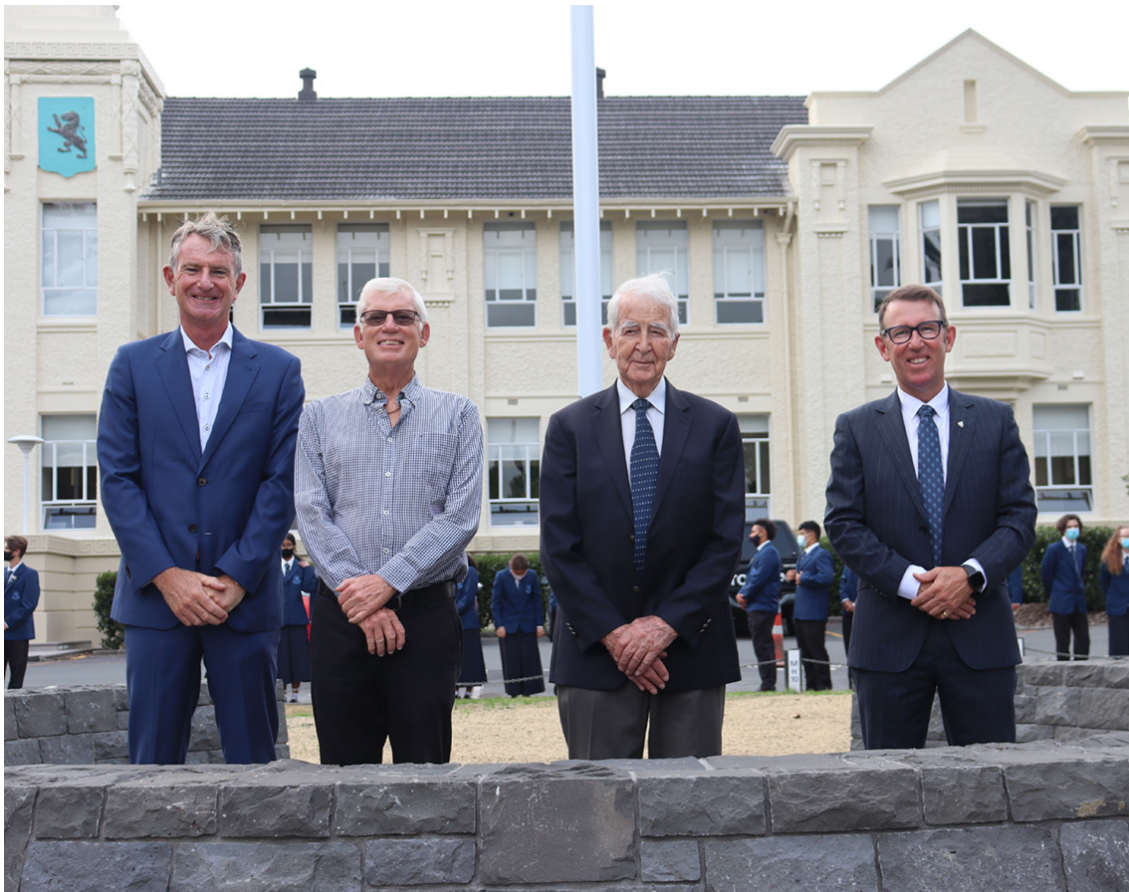


**Sign up for our
Centenary
Celebrations [here](#)**

Trials and Registrations
Click [here](#)

Fixtures and Results
Click [here](#)

Centennial Walkway Blessing



Pictured above, from left: Mr Burden, Mr Taylor, Mr Hall and Mr Drumm.

The new Centennial Walkway was blessed on Tuesday, with Matua Hare Paniora and Matua Peter Walters leading the ceremony and guiding invited guests from the entranceway up to the flagpole.

The ceremonial opening of the walkway kicked off our year of Centenary Celebrations. As well as providing better and safer access to the school, the walkway and its flagpole will be the focus of future Anzac celebrations, with the names of fallen Albertians inscribed on



the walls surrounding the flagpole. Among the invited guests were members of the Board of Trustees and the MAGS Foundation, as well as former headmasters Dale Burden, Greg Taylor and Maurice Hall.

There was a ceremonial raising of the flag followed by a speech from Headmaster Mr Drumm, who welcomed guests and talked about the upcoming academic year and the year of Centenary Celebrations that would go ahead despite the trying times we are living in. You can see more photos [here](#)



MAGS' 2022 Prefect Executive, in their Centennial Blazers, performed their first official duties at the blessing. Flanking Mr Drumm are Head Prefects Wesley Donald and Lucy Taylor, with

their deputies, from left at rear, Manas Chigurukota, Eva Wadsworth, Greeshma Kasuganti, Lorielle Cowley and Isaiah Nin. Absent: Ben Skelton.

Year 9 intake kicks off school year



Our Year 9s and new Year 10s received a special welcome on their first day on Wednesday as they were greeted with a powhiri and entered MAGS using the new Centennial Walkway.

Matua Peter Walters and Headmaster Mr Drumm welcomed our new students while Outdoor Education teacher Mr Whitehead, who has a daughter in Year 9, responded on their behalf. Mr Whitehead is one of several MAGS teachers with a Year 9 child starting this year.

Mr Drumm talked to the Year 9s about the school motto – ‘Per Angusta Ad Augusta (Through Hardship to Glory)’ – and how it meant that you had to challenge yourself to gain great results whatever area you were focusing on: whether it be Academia, Arts, Service or Sport.

Students were then organised into Mentor Classes before beginning their orientation with the help of our Peer Support team.

You can see more photos [here](#)





100 Years ago today



In 1922 there were 11 Assistant Masters to Headmaster FW Gamble when MAGS opened, with an official student roll of 291 boys.

In 1932 the number had risen to 25 Assistant Masters with AR Gatland as Second Master

and in Charge of Mathematics.

Science, English, Latin and French all had senior staff in charge of those four subjects.

In 1942 there were 32 Assistant Masters, and W Caradus was Second Master. Seven masters were on leave in the armed services during World War II.

Today, in our Centenary Celebrations year, MAGS has about 210 teaching staff (plus 70 support staff) and a roll of 3100 (boys and girls).

You can find out more about our Centenary Celebrations [here](#)



Arts Prefects announced



Our Arts Prefects for 2022 have been announced after being chosen by Arts HODS and the Director of Arts specifically for their dedication to supporting and showcasing the Arts pillar at MAGS, which is particularly important in our Centenary year.

Pictured above are, back row: Josh LI (Music), Jackson Absolum Leuluso'o (Cultural), Isaiah Nin (Exec and Boys Choir), Manas Chigurukota (Exec), Lorielle Cowley (Exec), Lucy Taylor (Head Prefect).

Middle row: Isaac Chisolm (Dance), Jessica Lal (Music), Chengyi Bill Liu (Arts Tech), Pipiana Coventon (Visual Art), Lara Grosev (Girls Choir), Soana Musie (Cultural)

Front Row: Mr Drumm, Ella Sutton (Centenary Arts rep), Sonia Airehrour (Spoken Word), Nyra Kanwar (Arts Management), Molly Cavanagh (Drama), Aleisha Roulston (Visual Art), Bella Krikorian (Media).

MAGS mourns loss of Soren Wislang



MAGS started the year mourning the loss of Mathematics teacher Soren Wislang, who died suddenly during the school holidays.

Soren had been with us for four years and made a huge impact during that time.

Headmaster Mr Drumm, who spoke at Soren's memorial service along with Soren's colleague Mr Walden, said: "As we know, the culture of our school rests upon our four pillars – Academic, The Arts, Sport and Service. And Soren was one of our very special colleagues who invested in students through every one of those MAGS Pillars.



"First and foremost, Soren was unquestionably an outstanding teacher – an expert in the teaching of Mathematics and particularly Statistics. His reputation went way beyond his own students. They loved being in his class because they knew they were going to be well looked after, the expectations were going to be high – and that *Mr Wislang* would make sure they were successful!

"And the best possible accolade we can ever get in our profession... students referred to him as a *great* teacher!

"And then there was Soren the mentor.

"He loved our burgeoning choral programme and supported the Centennial Choir as a double bass player. He helped with our orchestras and travelled to Melbourne with them in those good old days when that was possible. And he played electric bass in MAGitude – our staff band.

"Being an expert teacher and then supporting our Performing Arts programmes wasn't enough for Soren. He somehow found time to coach and manage both winter and summer sports – Tennis, Table Tennis and Football."

"Soren's legacy is one of generosity and service to the people of MAGS. And especially to the many hundreds of students who were lucky enough to be taught, mentored or coached by him – both at MAGS and at Rangitoto College.

"We thank Soren's wife Diana, his daughters Hannah and Kate for loaning their husband

and your Dad to us – for too short a time."

You can read Mr Drumm's full speech and Mr Walden's tribute [here](#)

Prefects Camp builds tight team



Our Prefects Camp, held late last month, saw 57 Prefects go through an intensive but fun-filled three days and nights based at School House.

Prefects engaged in workshops and physical activities aimed at stretching and challenging them so they could build a highly supportive team that could lead with a vision. They were also tasked with understanding leadership styles, dealing with difficult scenarios, looking after mental health, and presenting solutions to problems thrown up by the pandemic. Supported by staff and ex-Head Prefects, the group undertook 20 activities as well as self-reviews. At the start of the camp, our Prefects knew only about half of their group but by the end they were a tight-knit unit. Many thanks to teachers, staff and ex-Head Prefects who supported the camps – as well as School House staff and caterers for their annual support.



Enrol for 2022 Music lessons now

Students must sign up online if they want music lessons this year.

We have moved entirely to digital enrolments for music lessons, and only enrolments submitted online will be considered.



Please complete the form and provide all the correct information to help us plan this programme. You can click [here](#) for the Music Lessons Hub and click on 'Enrolment' to get started.

Keep up to date with app

Keep up to date with the MAGS app – free from the App Store or Google Play.

Search for “SchoolAppsNZ”, and load the app on to your phone.

You can then search for and add as many schools as you want so you can receive alerts from multiple schools.

MAGS parents can access school newsletters (under 'Links'), Daily Notices, the Kamar portal, teachers' contact details, and notify the school about absences.

If you are using the app to notify the school about absences, please load and use the child's Student ID Number as this helps to log absences more effectively.

On the app, parents and students can check the School Calendar and sync events with their own calendars, and choose groups about which they wish to receive alerts.

MAGS also has its own [Facebook](#), [Instagram](#) and [YouTube](#) pages where news, photos and videos about school life are posted.



Vaccine requirements for Sport

As advised last year, College Sport Auckland and School Sport NZ are restricting their events and competitions to fully vaccinated participants.

MAGS' Director of Sport Allie Wright said, "So, all competitions where MAGS plays another school require proof of students [My Vaccine Pass](#) on registration."



Language assistant job in Paris

Ruby Wilson, a 2021 Year 13 French student at MAGS, is heading off for a year in Paris as a language assistant at Sainte-Croix school, with which MAGS also shares an exchange programme. Ruby, pictured centre in the Paris Metro during an exchange, is our sixth pupil to get the job as English language assistant for a year, sharing a small apartment at the top of the school this year with an Australian and a German assistant. She will help in English classes plus give private lessons for the final year pupils who need extra coaching.

Our former HOD Languages Helen Selaries said, "This assistant opportunity has been a very important reason for the exchange with Sainte-Croix, and I hope it will be sustained in future. There are very few schools in France which offer such an opportunity, with live-in board and most meals. And, of course, Ruby lived for five weeks with her French host family so she has direct contact with people who will help and support her if necessary."



Public transport timetables

Auckland Transport's bus and ferry services have returned to full timetables, and, from next Tuesday, February 8, rail services will return to normal timetables.

AT advises that there is a chance that, as the current Omicron outbreak spreads, there will be staff shortages that will impact on the delivery of services as a result of staff calling in sick or having to go into isolation.

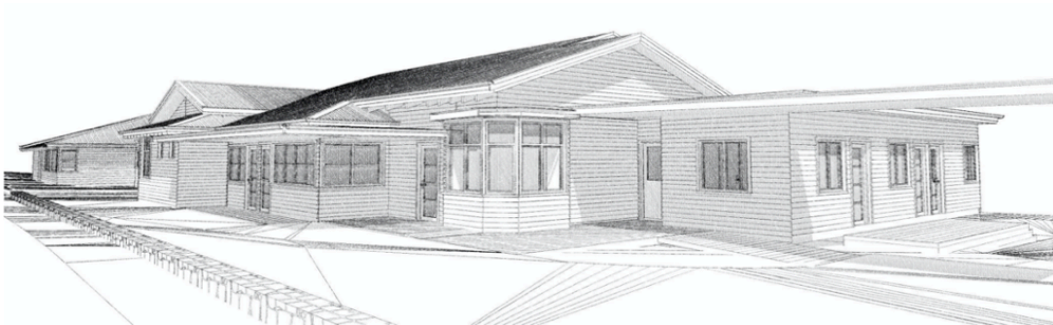
For this reason, services may be cut at short notice.

Please check before you travel by planning your journey online through the [AT Journey Planner](#) or on the [AT Mobile App](#)

Updates on any short-notice cancellations will be posted on these sites first.



Girls Hostel inviting applications



We are excited to announce that from Term 2, 2022 we will be able to offer our girls the opportunity to board at Mount Albert Grammar School in Centennial House.

The newly refurbished property can accommodate up to 28 female students and is located in a safe and beautiful residential street – six minutes' walk from school.

If your daughter would like the opportunity to join the MAGS hostel experience, please contact Clare Leon-Brown cleonbrown@mags.school.nz

Sprint to the finish



In this image, WH Kedgley enters the School gates to win the 1931 Steeplechase. This image is part of Set 63, recently added to our website's [Historical Images](#), compiled and annotated by our Archivist Brian Murphy. Mr Murphy says of the image, "The inner pillars have been removed. A modern truck could have not otherwise got in. The unsealed road and rank growth does not daunt the cyclists. Old-style electric poles had more wires than modern ones. The house on the corner remains."

Sports Update

Swimming and Athletics Champs



Time is running out to register for the MAGS Swimming Sports Day (to be held on Tuesday, February 15) and the MAGS Athletics Championship Day (Thursday, February 17).

The Swimming Sports Day will be held at the Mt Albert Aquatic Centre (entries close February 10), while the Athletics Championship Day is planned for Mt Smart Stadium (entries close February 11).

Students can find out all the details about, and register for, the Athletics [here](#) and for the Swimming [here](#)

Athletics coaching offered

The Auckland City Athletics Club (ACA) is starting the Term 1 Central Hub Coaching Sprint Squads for Intermediate (11-13 years) and High School (14-16 years) athletes this Sunday 11am at Mt Smart and they will run for 10 weeks until April 10.

These athletes will get free access to ACA club nights, 6pm at Mt Smart every Wednesday, for electronically timed events and 'guest star' coaching for other events such as hurdles, pole vault and long jump.

Details and the registration page can be found [here](#)

Mount Albert Grammar School students are welcome to try Sunday's session for free. If students want to continue, the cost is \$120 for the term. Students can turn up on the day and ask for Simon Yarrow. They must have their vaccine pass.

For more details, please contact Simon Yarrow via email at simonyarrow@yahoo.com

Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland
09 846 2044 www.mags.school.nz

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