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June 17, 2022 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Saturday, June 18

Slam the Jamz Contemporary Music Concert, 7pm, Raye Freedman Arts Centre

Thursday, June 23

Centennial Unity Concert, 7pm, Dorothy Winstone Centre

Tuesday, June 28 &

Wednesday, June 29

Winter Sports Photos



Friday, July 1 &

Saturday, July 2

Dance Concert, 7pm, Raye Freedman Arts Centre

Tuesday, July 26 &

Thursday, July 28

Year 8 Information Evenings, 7pm, FW Gamble Hall

Singing – The Most Human of Activities!



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

This week our two MAGS Choirs – Gloriana and The Centennial Choir – headed into The Big Sing at the Auckland Town Hall as part of the Secondary Schools Choral Festival.

The performances of both groups were simply outstanding, with Gloriana winning the Spirit of the Festival Award (pictured above), and The Centennial Choir winning the Te Tohu Waiata Award (pictured below being held by Head Chorister Isaiah Nin) for An Excellent Performance of a Work Using Maori Text.

Months of practice and preparation by our students – often in restrictive settings – saw both choirs take command of the stage as they sang. The expertise and belief of Directors Catherine Oxenham



and Terence Maskell, so well supported by Ruth Pearson and Tali Afele respectively, allowed these young MAGS people to produce something quite magical on the day – a triumph over the challenges of recent times!

Singing is an ingrained part of being human. Fossil evidence from over 500,000 years ago shows that those early humans also had the capacity to sing – and that singing may have been a precursor to language development. The health and community-building benefits of singing have certainly been with us for a long time!

Our MAGS choristers are cutting a new path for one of the most beautiful of performing arts – and I thank them for their leadership.

We want more MAGS students singing for MAGS! Bring your voice, join our choirs and give it a go!

Have a good weekend.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

Our Lion Fund programme aims to provide financial support to allow every MAGS student to access the breadth of opportunities we offer at our school.

Donate to the Lion Fund now



Sport

Photo Essays

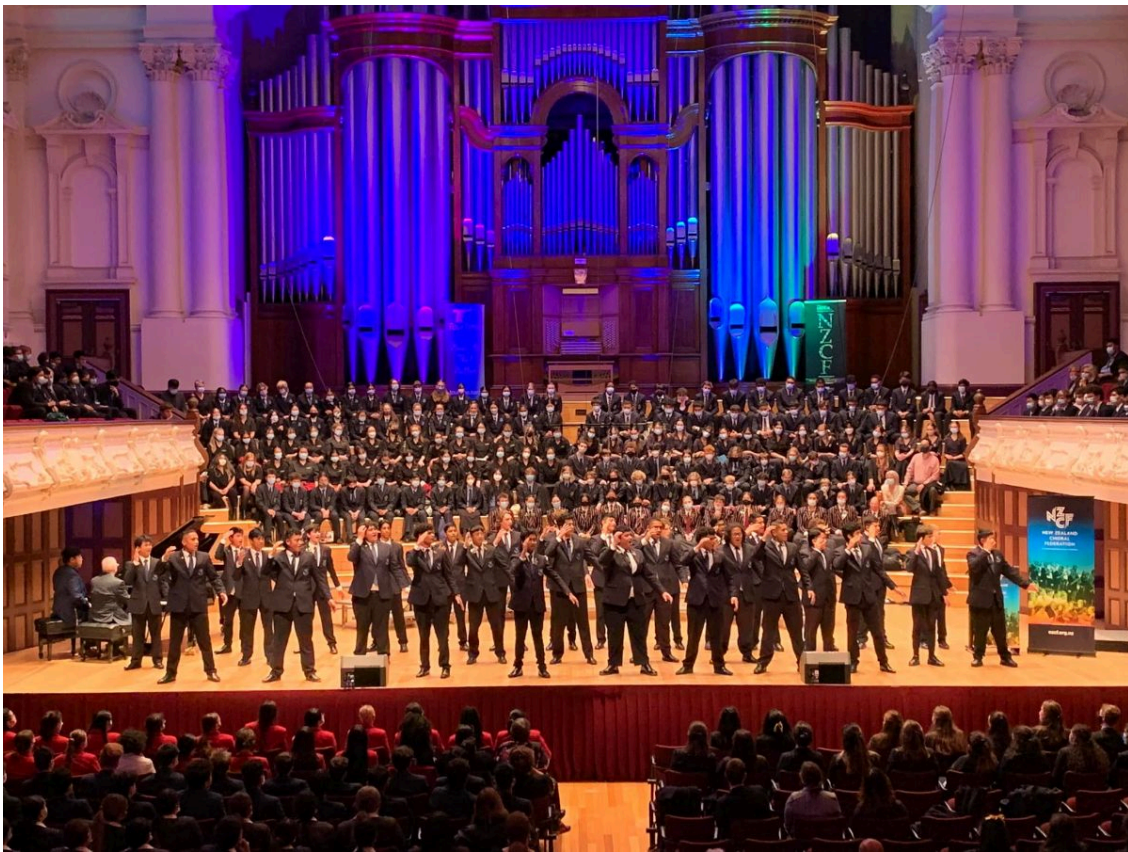


Rugby Boys 1st XV v
De La Salle College

Click [here](#)



High notes for both choirs



Terrific performances by MAGS Boys and Girls choirs – The Centennial Choir and Gloriana – saw them both pick up major awards at the NZCF The Big Sing on Wednesday at the Auckland Town Hall.

Gloriana sang before an appreciative crowd and was the proud recipient of the Spirit of the Festival – Youth Ambassadors Award. This \$500 award is sponsored by the Ministry of Youth Development.

Choir Director Catherine Oxenham said, "Since its launch in 2021, Gloriana has given its members individual purpose, a shared goal and the experience of the collective power of authentic choral music."

She said that she and Associate Choir Director Ruth Pearson couldn't be more proud of the choir's achievement, and its renditions of *Hine e Hine* and *I Sing Because I'm Happy*.

"This particular award recognises the special character of this group and its student leaders Lara Grozev and Sanskriti Roy (pictured right with Mrs Oxenham).

Receiving this award will allow Gloriana to continue to develop technical choral skills and purchase new, exciting repertoire.

The 35-strong Centennial Choir, directed by Terence Maskell, sang *Linstead Market* and *Te Aroha* as part of their repertoire.

Linstead Market was a crowd favourite and many enjoyed the upbeat sound from the boys.



Te Aroha was also well-received, with audience members being moved by the wairua and mana from the boys, and it had the biggest standing ovation of the night. This performance won the choir the Te Tohu Waiata Award for An Excellent Performance of a Work Using Maori Text

Both choirs await results from the Auckland Regionals to see if they go on to the National Finale or regional Cadenza competitions. They will also perform in the end-of-term music concert.

Hip hop dancers off to World Champs



From left to right: Ally Taylor, Hailey Martin, Alecia Campbell, Jacob Cameron and Billie Twigden.

Five MAGS Dance students will represent New Zealand at the World Hip Hop Dance Championships in Phoenix, Arizona in August.

They are all members of the Identity Dance Company teams which, two weeks ago, won all three sections of the NZ Hip Hop Championships they entered.

All five are also members of the two-times-NZ champion YUNG ID Megacrew, with Jacob and Hailey also part of Varsity Division crews the Swagganauts and Masque respectively.

Moon Stars win again



Our Moon Stars chamber music group won the Best Performance of an Original Composition for the sixth year in a row at the NZCT Chamber Music Contest this week. The group – comprising Bella Houghton (Violin), Helen Wen (Violin), Celestine Howard (Violin), Ally Qiu (Viola), Karen Zheng (Cello), Chingya Hu (Double Bass), Violani Afoa (Percussion) and Alex Moon (Percussion) performed *Moon Dance*, composed by senior Music student Vedant Sheth.

This year, MAGS had two groups competing at the contest, the other one being a piano quartet – Torschlusspanik – who performed well, and judges complimented them for playing the hardest piece of the competition.

Sports Captains announced



At assembly today our Sports Captains were announced and acknowledged by their peers.

Front row: Ruby Burge (Rowing), Harrison Wills (Squash), Greeshma Kasuganti (Lacrosse), Wesley Donald (Hockey), Hope Nomani (Rugby).

Second Row: Dhruv Patel (Cricket), Sharon Tomokino (Football), Headmaster Patrick Drumm, Misha Simpson (Hockey), Roy Tatupu (Volleyball), Liam Baber (Softball).

Third Row: Caitlyn Mossman (Water Polo), Maya Azam (Under Water Hockey), Natalie Brook (Cricket), Danae Tait (Basketball), Lily Brislen (Archery), Catalina Young (Netball), Isaiah Fale (Rugby League), Molly McGowan (Orienteering).

Back Row: Callum Wishart (Orienteering), Victor Keil (Basketball), Amber George (Swimming), Riki Ruben (Rugby), Taine Wilson (Football), Ben Skelton (Athletics), Marylynn Penn (Volleyball).

Albertians giving back



Tech entrepreneur and Albertian Fia Jones is pictured with Prefects Nishera Gnanendra and Max Davison.

MAGS students were fortunate to be able to hear about, and be inspired by, the experiences of two high-flying Albertians in the past week.

Last Friday, Albertian and tech entrepreneur Fia Jones (2013-17) addressed an assembly focused on Scholarship opportunities.

Fia, along with her Astrix Astronautics co-founders, are developing lightweight and efficient solar arrays for satellites. One of their prototypes was part of the payload for Rocket Lab's Electron rocket launch in April.

Fia talked to students about working hard but maintaining balance, and emphasised that rather than worrying about time management, she focused on energy management. She also advised students that failure was a great teacher, and not to be afraid of taking on challenges for fear of failure.

On Monday, Albertian Kevin Jia (2005-2009), a Professional Teaching Fellow at University of Auckland's Department of Engineering Science, spoke to our Prefects about his experience at university. He graduated in 2014 with a conjoint Bachelor of Engineering (Honours) with First Class Honours in Engineering Science, and Bachelor of Arts in Economics and Statistics. He then graduated with a Master of Science in Statistics. Kevin (pictured below) said while studying and passing exams was important, so was being a well-rounded person who took part in extra-curricular activities regularly. He advised students to be engaged with their lecturers and classmates as that would not only improve learning but also give them greater value from their campus life. He said he had carried with him the mantra that had been passed on to him by Mr McKinney (from 09MKY in 2005): "Be the best you can be".



Orienteers win Girls and Boys Champs



Yesterday in Riverhead Forest the MAGS Orienteering team won the Top Schools award for Girls and Boys in the Auckland Schools Relay Champs, winning 5 out of the 6 events and finishing second in the other.

MAGS had wins in the Senior Boys, Senior Girls, Intermediate Boys, Intermediate Girls and Junior Boys, with the Junior Girls finishing second. Our second Intermediate Boys team finished third.

Team manager Neill McGowan said, "This is the first time the Girls have overpowered the

dominance of St Cuths, Baradene and Diocesan and is a fantastic result. "There were amazing performances all around. The Senior Boys winning by 46 minutes and the Senior Girls taking the win in the last few controls over Baradene. Special mention goes to Antony Wood, who filled in at the last minute for a late illness withdrawal on his first ever Orienteering event, taking the win in the Junior Boys."



Spoken Word team into semis

Congratulations to MAGS Spoken Word Team 1 for making it to the semi-finals of WORD! The Frontline 2022.

Team 1 consists of Spoken Word Leader Sonia Airehrour, Ryan Shen, Nishera Gnanendra,

Alata Culpan and Mehak Sehgal. While Team 2 didn't make it through to the semis, Team 1 is now busy preparing for the semis with rehearsals, writing workshops and practices. They will represent MAGS in the fierce competition of the semis, which will take place around late August-early September.



MAGS
ART
SHOW

SPONSOR AN ART PANEL

5 - 7 August 2022



Each year the MAGS Art Show is a highlight on the school and community calendars, and 2022 being the Centenary year makes it even more special. On display will be more than 110 exhibiting NZ artists and over 300 talented MAGS arts students; including music & dance performances throughout the Art Show weekend.

The success of this major fundraising event relies heavily on sponsorship from businesses and individuals in our community and we are very grateful to those who generously support us each year.

This year we would like to provide the opportunity for any family or business to sponsor an Art Panel, with all profits raised going to the Lion Fund. This fund was established to offer financial assistance to those families and students who require just that little bit more support for their schooling activities.



Support your community and add your family's name, or the name of your business to an Art Panel.

*The cost of sponsoring an Art Panel for our Centenary Art Show is \$350 + gst.
Please email Sarah Blaikie at magsfom@gmail.com to secure your panel.*

French Quiz winners



Last night, two senior MAGS French teams entered the Auckland Interschool Senior French Quiz for the first time, with our Year 12 team, Les Cinq Filles, winning the top prize. Held at St Mary's College, it's the first time the event has been held since 2018 and the first time MAGS has entered.

Les Cinq Filles, from Ms Thomson's class, pictured above, from left, are Heather Smith, Kaden Nguyen, Stella Roberts, Natasha Armstrong and Emily Russell, and they won out over other top Auckland schools.

Our Year 13 team placed fifth.

Dance Concert tickets on sale soon

Our annual Dance Concert will be held on Friday, July 1 and Saturday, July 2 at 7pm at the Raye Freedman Arts Centre.

Ticket details for Taking Flight will be published next week.



Duke of Ed Silver in the Hunuwas



Last weekend, a group of 16 students completed their Duke of Edinburgh Silver qualifying expedition in the Hunua Ranges.

Duke of Ed co-ordinator Mr Belson said, "They tramped from the Suspension Bridge Track, up and over to Upper Mangatawhiri to camp in some pretty atrocious conditions.

"Tracks were extremely wet and muddy and the rain was on and off! Saturday saw them walk Ernies Track and return to camp, just in time for a huge downpour as they started to cook dinner. Sunday was a relatively short tramp along the Pukapuka Track in improving

conditions.

"It was a good trip in varied conditions for the time of year. All the students who completed the tramp – carrying all their own gear, food and tents for three days – were still able to remain cheerful to the end. I hope they all learned a lot, both about bushcraft and about themselves. "My thanks to Miss Murray for her assistance on the trip and giving up her time."



Mean while, congratuatio ns are due to Alberti an

Norah Anderson (2016-2020), who was presented with her Duke of Edinburgh Gold Award by Governor General Dame Cindy Kiro at a ceremony on Saturday.

Students get frontline insights



This week, Year 11 Geography students studying ram raids got some valuable insights from the NZ Police.

Albertian and Senior Sergeant Ryan Lileby (2001-2004) and Jonathan Lee, from the NZ Police Communications Team, came to speak to the students on Wednesday afternoon about ram raids.

Students are inquiring into the geography of ram raid crime in New Zealand, analysing different viewpoints and proposing a range of solutions for the issue.

Sergeant Lileby spoke about the pattern of ram raids and other youth offending in Auckland, and then discussed the sort of crime prevention strategies that are being undertaken.

HOD Geography Mr Haines said, "It was a very engaging talk and the students benefited from gaining some first-hand knowledge that will help them with writing their assignments."

Tickets on sale for Unity Concert

Tickets are on sale from the MAGS Finance Office for the Centennial Unity Cultural Concert – a celebration of cultural diversity – coming up on Thursday, June 23 at 7pm at the Dorothy Winstone Centre at Auckland Girls Grammar.

Tickets are \$10 for general admission, \$5 for MAGS staff and students and Under-8s.



Centenary Cultural Event

UNITY CONCERT

**23 JUNE
7PM**

**Dorothy Winstone Theatre
AGGS. Howe St, Auckland**

\$10 general admission
\$5 MAGS staff and students
and under 8 year olds.

Available at MAGS finance office

A Celebration of Cultural Diversity

Albertian Artists in the Frame



5 - 7 August 2022
Centenary Art Show
Mount Albert Grammar School



Grace Popplewell

Grace Popplewell graduated from Mount Albert Grammar School in 2017, where she achieved Excellence in Painting and Design and was awarded the Senior Art Cup. This will be her sixth Art Show. Art has been her passion since she was able to hold a pencil, and with the help of some inspiring teachers and opportunities at MAGS, she was motivated to make it her career. She is now applying artistic, design and commercial skills on a career path which began with her experience as a student here.

After graduating, Grace undertook a Bachelor of Design majoring in Communication Design at AUT, supported by a Vice Chancellor's Significant Student Scholarship. During her final year, she joined the team at Ponsonby's endemicworld® gallery, where she designs artwork for the gallery's in-house art print collections and provides graphic design, promotion and gallery assistance.

Grace also works as a freelance artist from her home studio, creating new art for her own enjoyment and taking on commissions and collaborations. Recent design projects have included a billboard thanking the essential workers of Aotearoa for LUMO Digital Outdoor, and t-shirts for Macpac which will be in stores in time for summer. She has also built up her own online business, marketing both original artworks and archival quality open edition prints of her work.

Grace enjoys being able to explore different creative avenues over the course of her working week. This is reflected by her diverse portfolio of styles and media, which range from bold digital illustrations, to intricate detailed realism, to expressive paintings.

Year 8 Information Evenings

Mount Albert Grammar school holds Information Evenings rather than Open Days. These evenings are primarily for Year 8s who live in-zone and will take place in the school hall on **Tuesday, July 26, 2022, from 7pm** (Auckland Normal Intermediate and Balmoral School) and **Thursday, July 28, 2022 from 7pm** (Kowhai Intermediate, Pasadena Intermediate, Ponsonby Intermediate and Wesley Intermediate).

The evenings include a visual presentation about the school for prospective Year 9 students, and there is enrolment procedure information and the opportunity to ask questions about the academic, sporting, service, arts and cultural opportunities at the school.

Eighty One Years Ago Today



School Concerts began in 1926 and continued in this form until 1967.

Our Archivist Mr Murphy notes: "For most of the time they were held in the Town Hall. Items sung by this jumbo choir were listed in the programme as by 'The School'.

"In this 1941 concert they presented four brackets. In all they sang: *Caudeamus*, *The King is Still in London*, *The Army the Navy and the Air Force* and then *There's a Boy Coming Home on Leave* and *The Woodpecker Song*. The third bracket was *Bridge Builders* and the hymn *O God our Help in Ages Past*. The last numbers were *Ferry-Boat Serenade* and *O Ain't it Great to be in the Navy*.

"It was wartime and all these songs would have been well received."

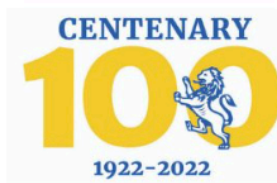
You can see more images like this one (including those in the recently added Set 79) in our website's [Historical Images](#) section, compiled and annotated by our Archivist Mr Murphy.



Centennial Events on sale now

Tickets are now on sale for two of our MAGS Centenary events – our Reunion Drinks (Friday, September 30) and the MAGS Centenary Dinner (Saturday, October 1).

You can buy tickets for the Reunion Drinks [here](#) and for the Centenary Dinner [here](#)



Ticketed Centenary Events

Mt Albert Grammar School Centenary 2022

 **Reunion Drinks Evening** - all decades
Friday 30th September, 6pm (\$35 & Cashbar)
F.W Gamble School Hall, MAGS.

 **MAGS Centenary Dinner**
Sat. 1st October, 6pm (\$125 & Cashbar)
Grand Millennium Hotel, Mayoral Drive, Auckland.

Limited Tickets On Sale From 1st May
Join the Albertians and/or buy tickets at
<https://mags100.ptly.com/nz/mags/#centenaryevents>



Get your Centenary apparel now!



MAGS Official Centenary apparel is now available to order, with more Centenary merchandise to be added over the coming months.

Available now are stylish hoodies, rugby jerseys, basketball singlets, caps, beanies, ties, scarves and face masks – all in MAGS colours and most of them boasting the Centenary logo.

You can order MAGS Centenary apparel [here](#)



Sports Update

Albertian debuts for Black Ferns



Congratulations to Albertian rugby player Sylvia Brunt (2017-2021), who made her Black Ferns' debut off the bench against Canada in the Pacific Four Series last weekend.

Sylvia, who plays in midfield for the Auckland Storm and the Blues, was called into the squad as injury cover, and had a strong showing in the Black Ferns' 28-0 win.

Upcoming Premier Sport



Today, our Premier Basketballers are away at Sacred Heart College, with the Girls playing Baradene at 6pm and the Boys facing Sacred Heart at 7.30pm.

Tomorrow, the Netball Premiers play Westlake Girls at Auckland Netball at 11.30am, the Football Boys 1st XI are at home to Westlake Boys at midday, and the Rugby Boys 1st XV

play away to Liston College at 2.30pm.

On Monday, the Rugby Girls 1st XV play Auckland Girls Grammar at 4pm at Colin Maiden Park, and the Rugby league 1st XIII also kick off at 4pm on the Sir BG Williams Field against De La Salle. Our Premier Basketballers are back on court with games against Rangitoto College, with the Girls at 6pm and the Boys at 7.30pm

On Wednesday, the Rugby league 1st XIII are away to Manurewa High at 4pm, the Football Girls 1st XI are away to St Kentigern at 4pm, and the Hockey Boys 1st XI face Mahurangi College at North Harbour Tiger Turf at 5.10pm.

On Thursday, our Lacrosse Premier Girls are home to EGGS at 4pm, and the Hockey Girls 1st XI play Macleans College at Lloyd Elsmore Park at 5.30pm.

For more fixtures and results, click [here](#)

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

A Tradition of Excellence
9th-14th May 2022

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