



June 19, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

## From the Headmaster

[Weekly Notices](#)

## Matariki – New Beginnings



[Key Dates](#)



Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

With the Winter Solstice and Matariki upon us, it is a great time for students to be taking stock of the year to date. 2020 has proven to be anything but a normal year, yet as a school we have come back strongly and can be proud of how quickly we have returned to business as usual.

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

### Thursday, July 2

Last day of classes for Term 2

### Friday, July 3

Staff Only Day

### Monday, July 20

Term 3 starts

As we move through the 'shortest' day on Sunday, we can begin to look forward to longer days and hints of Spring around the corner. With Matariki being a traditional time of renewal, our students can also take the opportunity to confirm their goals for the year ahead – both inside and outside the classroom.

There are still 22 weeks remaining until NCEA Examinations – plenty of time to ensure 2020 is successful academically.

Senior students will take great confidence from both the extended commencement date for external examinations along with the additional NCEA 'Learning Recognition' credits on offer. There can be no excuse for not fully seizing the opportunities that lie ahead.

As we turn the mid-winter corner, we can look forward to a fantastic second half of 2020.

Thank you to our families who supported the Senior Pasifika Evening this week.

All the best for our sportsmen and sportswomen over the weekend.

Patrick Drumm



[Sport](#)

### Photo Essays



Football Girls 1st XI v

Baradene College

Click [here](#)



## The show must go on



Recently, MAGS sent in their filmed submissions for the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival. HoD Drama Gerald Urquhart said, "Like everything this year, the lockdown forced changes with this annual event. Ordinarily we would attend a regional festival and perform live. This year we submitted filmed entries that preserved the theatricality of the performance. Despite the disruption and challenges, the students performed well and came together as a group. This was in large part due to the leadership from the directors and student leaders Ruby Taylor Sinclair and Cade Stevens. We also had two assistant directors – Yasmin Lakeman and Rose Leader." There were three scenes submitted. Ophelia Sykes and Sarah Norman reinterpreted Lady Macbeth's breakdown as a fracturing of her psyche into three distinct personalities. They used elements of physical theatre and contemporary dance in





their portrayal of her descent into madness.

David Laxon reimagined *Romeo and Juliet* in a modern context. It echoed the original tragedy of two people being prevented from loving one another, but this time by gender not name.

Finally, Mr Urquhart directed a more traditional take on a scene from *As You Like It*. The comedy was increased somewhat with the forced inclusion of a socially distanced wrestling match.

You can see more photos of the performances [here](#)

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## Exercising values in sport



On Monday, a workshop was held for Premier Sports Captains and Sports Leaders. The workshop examined 'The MAGS Way' values in a sporting context and was aimed at developing sportspeople who could model the right behaviour and attitudes for their peers.

Director of Sport Allie Wright spoke about the changing face of youth sport and the plans at MAGS to increase participation, develop our young people holistically and live out the school values when we compete.

The guest speaker at the workshop was former MAGS Director of Sport and staff member, and now New Zealand Cricket Players Association CEO Heath Mills (pictured above). Mr Mills was introduced to the audience by MAGS' Director of Cricket Tony Sail, who spoke of Mr Mills' time at MAGS and about his influence in setting up Sports Academies and attracting top class coaches.

Mr Mills talked about how he came to represent and work with cricketers and other

sportspeople. He stressed the importance of being a well-rounded individual, and having interests, education, identity and personal growth outside of sport because there was one certainty about a sporting career: it will end.

He said that on top of planning for a life after sport it was vital for professional sportspeople to remain connected to and supportive of their families and communities because those connections would give them a strong base from which they could forge a new path.

Senior students Luke Clements (pictured), Latonya Lole and Adi Ashok shared their experiences as young sportspeople and the things that drive them to succeed within their sports and in their other areas of interest.

Director of Football Peter

Smith presented on 'The MAGS Way'

values in the context of football, building on Mr Mills' message about the importance of developing oneself both inside and outside sport.



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## Senior Pasifika Evening





Last night, MAGS staff were blessed with the opportunity to speak to and with over 100 of our senior Pasifika students and their parents about changes to NCEA.

This included how Learning Recognition Credits (LRC) will be distributed whilst reinforcing the aims of excellence at MAGS, i.e. aim for the top, not the bare minimum.

The presentation also included information about SchoolPoint and the options within this website that provide assessment data and deadlines.

Pasifika Initiatives Coordinator Va Anisi

outlined the significant amount of support options available to our students and celebrated the many teachers who have made themselves available to tutor and support our children on their journey at MAGS.

Inspiration to succeed was provided by Albertians Alyssa Houma (2019 graduate, now Auckland Health Science degree) and Tess Tomokino (2018 graduate, now USA sports scholarship). They spoke about their university experience and showed that success at MAGS opened up future pathways with huge potential.

A Q&A session gave parents and students the chance to clarify any issues, and they were also able to chat casually with staff when light refreshments were served.



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**Bookings open for conferences**

Bookings are open for the Three Way Conferences involving parents, students and Mentor Teachers on Wednesday, 22 July and Thursday, 23 July.

The conferences will take place on the Wednesday from 2-7pm and on the Thursday from 10am-5pm. This means classes finish at 12.25pm on the Wednesday and there are no classes on the Thursday.

Students are to continue working on their learning from home when they are not at the interview. School uniform is an expectation for the meeting.

All parents should have received an email about these conferences with a booking code. Year 9, 10, 13 and Te Puna o Wairaka students have 10-minute long conferences and a different booking code to students in Year 11, 12 and English Language classes, whose conferences are 15 minutes long.

These conferences involve the Mentor Teacher looking at the big picture of student achievement, behaviour and patterns. For subject-specific concerns, please email the student's subject teacher (the subject teachers can be found on your child's timetable on the Kamar Parent Portal).

For any further details, please do check the email sent yesterday (June 18).

## Future Pathways Expo

**MH BLOCK 4-7pm**

**GROUND FLOOR**  
All NZ universities &  
a range of Industry Training  
Organisations &  
Private Training Organisations.

**UPPER FLOOR**  
Additional providers featuring  
Interactive displays.  
Faculty & Subject Rooms.  
Advice from Faculty staff.  
Deans & NCEA information.

**IMPORTANT**  
MAGS 2021 Subject Option  
Choices due 13 August.



# FUTURE PATHWAYS EXPO



Term 3 Week 3 Tuesday August 4th : 4.00-7.00pm

The Future Pathways Expo is back and will once again be set across both floors of the MH Building.

The Expo – on August 4 from 4pm – features information and advice from universities and training organisations, as well as interactive displays, faculty and subject rooms, NCEA information and advice from Deans.

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## Information Evenings for Year 8s

Mount Albert Grammar school holds Information Evenings rather than Open Days for prospective students.

The Information Evenings for 2020 will be held at 7pm on Monday, July 27 (Balmoral & Auckland Normal schools) and at 7pm on Tuesday, July 28 (Kowhai, Pasadena, Ponsonby & Wesley schools) for students enrolling in 2021.

These evenings are held in the school hall and are primarily for Year 8s who live in-zone. 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.

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## Community Planting Day on the Farm

Our stream restoration on the ASB MAGS Farm has come a long way since June 2019. We have planted almost 3000 trees, including riparian strips, wetland habitat and native bush. Culvert replacement and daylighting have been completed and we are ready to plant the upper stretch of the stream.

In conjunction with Watercare, Mount Albert Grammar School would love to have members of the MAGS community pitch in to help enhance our stream and learning resource on the farm on Sunday, June 28.

Our amazing planting partner Watercare will be providing food and coffee, and will have plenty of interactive information about the massive Central Interceptor project.

We anticipate the day will begin at 10am, with a lunch break at 12pm, and everything packed away by 2.30pm. By no means do we expect everyone to stay for the entire length of time, but we would love to have you plant some trees with us.

What to bring:

- Jacket
- Gumboots
- Gloves
- Water bottle

We have a number of spades but if you have a favourite please bring it along to use. A comprehensive hand washing facility is available on the farm.

Please RSVP by June 21 to [asbmagsfarm@mags.school.nz](mailto:asbmagsfarm@mags.school.nz)

Among those getting their hands dirty on the day will be the MAGS Environment Group (pictured left), which has already been busy planting on the school farm.

Enviro Leader Eva Wadsworth said, "The school has 5000 native trees for planting, and around 800 have been planted so far with the help of the environment group and agriculture students. The trees are mainly along the farm stream and, once the trees have grown, will provide a pathway for birds up to Owairaka and a wonderful ecosystem.

Students are having a great time getting stuck in, but there's many more trees to go!"





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## New Director of Aquatics

We are excited to welcome Mitch Nairn to MAGS as the new Director of Aquatics.

Mitch comes to us via Belgravia Franklin and the Pukekohe Swim Club, where he has worked as Head Swim Coach.

His swimmers have enjoyed success on the national and international stages.

One of his swimmers joined MAGS star Brearna Crawford in the NZ team at the World Junior Championships in Budapest last year.

The Aquatics Academy is set to start back with its full programme from June 29, with the Competitive Gold, Silver and Bronze squads back in action.

They will be linked to the Pukekohe Swim Club as a Mt Albert branch to enable swimmers to register and swim at Swimming NZ Club meets. A non-competitive swimming option is still available as we continue all programmes at the on-site Mt Albert Aquatic Centre.

Mitch will lead all Aquatics programmes at MAGS, where he will be Head Coach of the Aquatics Academy and also facilitate, with Assistant Coach and Aquatics Co-ordinator Liam Robertson, all MAGS aquatics sports.

For more information or inquiries about enrolment, please contact [aquatics@mags.school.nz](mailto:aquatics@mags.school.nz)



## Adventures with Outdoor Ed



Earlier this week, Year 12 Outdoor Education students once again experienced the thrill of whitewater kayaking at the Vector Wero Whitewater Park.

This was a great opportunity to put into practice skills learned in our pool. It will also act as a good stepping stone to a trip down the Waikato river later in July.

The main focus of this trip was on risk management and the application of strategies to ensure a safe trip by everyone. Students had identified risks and hazards before participating and are now asked to reflect on the strategies they used to mitigate these risks.

As with all their trips, personal and social responsibility was also a focus.



With the usual Mt Taranaki tramp for Year 13s postponed due to lockdown and then deemed too environmentally risky, it was decided to return to Lake Waikaremoana to tramp the Great Walk over four days.

Day one saw the class meeting outside the school gates at 3.45am to complete a seven-



hour drive to the start of the track and then a five-hour walk to their first hut. The weather remained fine across all four days and although it was cold, not having the rain was a pleasant surprise for a winter tramp, especially when sleeping under a fly shelter on the second night.

The trip provided students with a real life event to devise strategies for a physical activity outcome. Essentially, they had to plan and implement the entire trip themselves using distributed leadership. Everyone did well in their preparation which led to an enjoyable trip.



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## MAGS Parking Restrictions



Please be aware that Parking Restrictions are in place on the school grounds outside of normal school hours.

The only parking on site available to all supporters, visitors, students, parents and staff are a limited number of MAGS white parks in the top car park and the Blue shared car parks in the bottom car park. Once the parks are full, the school carpark will be closed and only pool patrons will be allowed to enter.

The 24hr tow away parks throughout the car park are enforced at all times, so please leave these free as any unauthorised vehicles will be towed.

Mt Albert Aquatic Centre patrons must have access at all times during the day – and in the bottom car park, the yellow car parks are allocated for pool patrons only.

All cars will need to display their parking pass or pool receipt on their dash to ensure that they are not towed from these council parking spots.

To make sure that you are not disappointed when travelling to watch games at MAGS, we recommend that you park on the surrounding roads and walk to the games via the Alberton



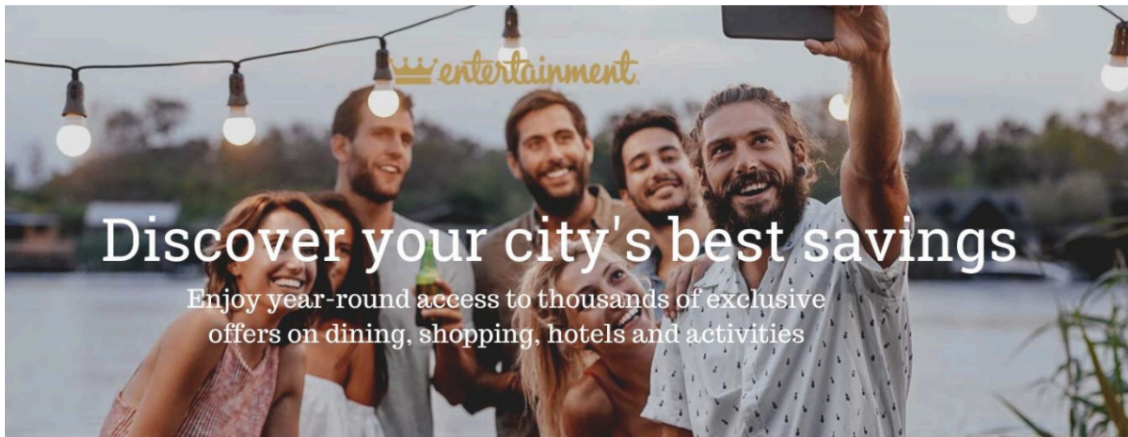
Ave entrances.

We understand the frustrations with parking in Auckland so want to make sure you are prepared when travelling to MAGS sporting events.

Thanks for your support of our sporting teams.

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## Support MAGS with Entertainment membership



You can save money on dining, shopping, accommodation and activities – and support MAGS by buying an Entertainment membership.

If you buy a membership and download the Entertainment app [here](#), 20 per cent of the fee goes to MAGS.

A choice of memberships provides access to thousands of 2-for-1 deals and up to 50 per cent off offers from thousands of business partners in dining, travel, activities and retail across New Zealand.

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## Lunch Orders' voucher giveaway



**Lunch Orders**

**PLACE AN ORDER & WIN**

We have 5 x Warehouse Stationery vouchers up for grabs! Place an order anytime from Wednesday 17th June - Sunday 21st June and you're in the draw to win!

[www.lunchorders.co.nz](http://www.lunchorders.co.nz)

Lunch Orders is celebrating the launch of its new Eat Smart Menu by giving away five \$20 Warehouse Stationery vouchers. All you have to do is place an order anytime up until Sunday, 21 June and you're in the draw to win.

The more orders you place, the more entries into the draw you get. And remember, you can schedule orders in advance by a day, a week, or even a whole year!

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## Paradoxical thinking

The paradox is that a static, infinitely old universe with an infinite number of stars distributed in an infinitely large space would be bright rather than dark.

This problem is addressed by the fact that the Big Bang theory also involves the expansion of space, which can cause the energy of emitted light to be reduced via redshift. If the assumptions are accepted, then the simplest resolution is that the average luminous lifetime of stars is far too short for light to have yet reached the Earth from very distant stars.

In the context of an expanding universe, it can be argued similarly: the universe is too young for light to have reached the Earth from very distant regions. The first one to address the problem of an infinite number of stars and the resulting heat in the Cosmos was Cosmas Indicopleustes, a Greek monk from Alexandria, who states in his *Topographia Christiana*: "The crystal-made sky sustains the heat of the Sun, the moon, and the infinite number of stars; otherwise, it would have been full of fire, and it could melt or set on fire." For more fascinating insights like these, go to the Astronomy Club [Instagram page](#)

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## Food for thought



The image above is of girls making finger food for an event in 2008.

This image is part of Set 41, the most recent collection of historical images added to the website [here](#)

This is an ongoing collection of images 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

### MAGS' Tennis Champions

The MAGS Tennis Championships were held last weekend and the winners are:

#### Junior Girls Singles

Final: Chelsea Wijntjes v Natasha Deakin

Winner: **Chelsea Wijntjes**

#### Intermediate Girls Singles

Winner: **Claire Jiang**

#### Senior Girls Singles

Final: Emma Johns v Jennifer Zhang

Winner: **Jennifer Zhang**

#### Junior Boys Singles

Final: Kelvin Annan v Finnbar MacGinley

Winner: **Kelvin Annan**

Intermediate Boys Singles

Final: Luke Eagles-Smith v Jacob Soloman

Winner: **Luke Eagles-Smith**

Senior Boys Singles

Final: Ethan Hicks v Freddie Lockhart

Winner: **Freddie Lockhart** (pictured)

Girls Open Doubles

Final: Chelsea Wijntjes & Shona Nakano v Jennifer Zhang & Emma Johns

Winners: **Chelsea Wijntjes & Shona Nakano**

Boys Open Doubles

Final: Oli Nixon & Lucca Everard v Luke Eagles-Smith & Freddie Lockhart

Winners: **Luke Eagles-Smith & Freddie Lockhart**

Mixed Open Doubles

Final: Shona Nakano & Jacob Solomon v Amelie Kelly & Reuben Solomon

Winners: **Shona Nakano & Jacob Solomon**



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## League team's fine pre-season form





The Sir BG Williams Field was in great nick and being used for matches again on Wednesday when the Rugby League 1st XIII played a pre-season game against Aorere College.

The boys looked fit and sharp as they outclassed Aorere 54-6.

## Upcoming Premier Sport

At Windmill Park tomorrow morning our Netball Premier 1 and 2 teams have grading at 9am, 10am and 11am.

In what should be a hard-fought game, our Football Boys 1st XI are at home tomorrow against Auckland Grammar at 12pm.

The Rugby 1st XV play a pre-season game away to Westlake Boys High tomorrow at 12pm.

Next Wednesday, the Football

Girls 1st XI play EGGs at home at 4pm, the same time as the Rugby League 1st XIII, who are also at home to Manurewa High. The same day at Lloyd Elsmore Park the Hockey Boys 1st XI face off against Pakuranga College at 5.25pm.

On Thursday, the Lacrosse Girls Premiers play a grading game away to Pukekohe High at 4pm, while the Hockey Girls 1st XI play away against Avondale College at 5pm.

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



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Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025  
Tel:64 9 846 2044 Fax:64 9 846 2042  
[www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

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