



From the Acting Headmaster

Excellent Role Models Close to Home



Tena koutou ki te whanau o Mount Albert Grammar School.

While there is much media debate on the appropriateness of the term 'role model' being applied to high profile individuals, perhaps it is wise to keep our eyes more firmly focussed on the outstanding role models provided to our

school community by our student leaders.

Our MAGS Megacrew student leaders choreographed, coached and cajoled to create the cohesive environment needed to produce a team driven to perform at its best and win a national title. These young women willingly accepted – head on – the significant challenges that come with leading and directing their peers, shouldered this responsibility and modelled commitment and dedication.

Equally impressive was the poise and maturity displayed by our Head Girl Takunda Muzondiwa over the weekend. Racing from her Spoken Word performance to the 2019 Race Unity Speech Awards Finals, she performed to much acclaim, challenging the audience and prompting an invitation to appear on The Project. I urge you to take the time to open this [link](#) and view Takunda's provocative and moving speech.

Across the weeks ahead, our sports captains will also be challenged to demonstrate the commitment, dedication and maturity required to lead one's team. Stepping up to always give their best and be role models of sportsmanship through leading by example – winning humbly, accepting loss graciously but not being defeated.

Our MAGS student leaders are already our role models.

Have a good weekend.

Jo Williams
Acting Headmaster

Weekly Notices



Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the 2019 Calendar



Tuesday, May 21

Board Show & Market Evening,
4.30pm, E Block

Friday, May 24

Pasifika Assembly

Monday, May 27

Year 11 Exams start



Sport



Fixtures and results

Click [here](#)

Sport trials and registrations

Click [here](#)

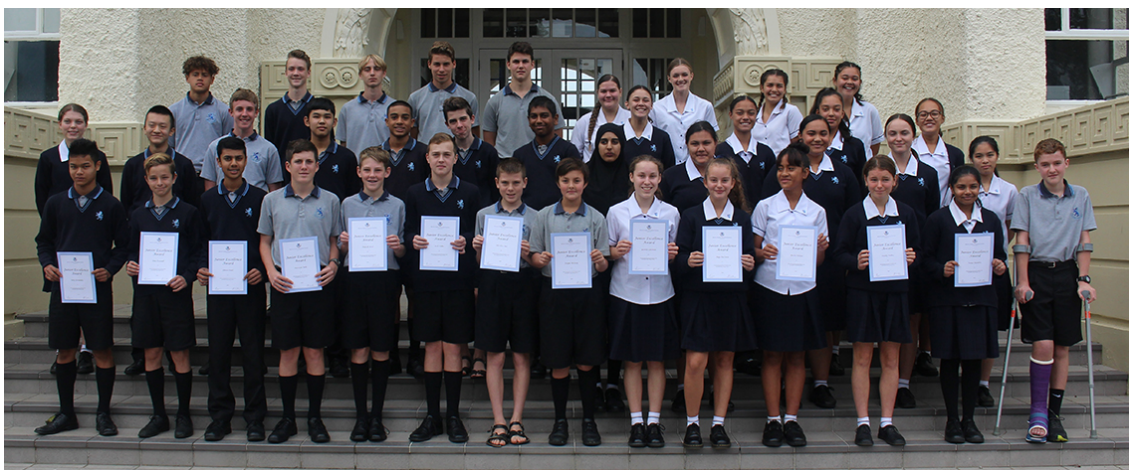
Head Girl speaks out about racism



Head Girl Takunda Muzondiwa made waves at the National Finals of the Race Unity Speech Awards with a [poetic and emotional speech](#) about race, equality and justice. So much so, she appeared on TV3's current affairs show [The Project](#) along with the eventual winner Robbie White.

Takunda made great use of her drama and poetry slam skills as she spoke about her Zimbabwean heritage, colonisation and overt, institutionalised and casual racism.

Junior Excellence Awards



The inaugural Junior Excellence Awards were presented to Year 9 (pictured below) and Year 10 (above) students at assemblies on Monday and Tuesday respectively. Certificates are awarded to up to two students from each mentor class at the end of each term. These awards recognise students who have demonstrated personal excellence by doing one or more of the following:

- shown huge improvement in the quality of work
- submitted outstanding work
- shown significantly improved effort
- exemplified the 'MAGS Way' values
- been a highly supportive and helpful member of their mentor class
- persevered through hardship to achieve success

The recipients for Term 1 of this year can be seen [here](#)



Planned teacher strike on May 29

If the strike action planned by both primary and secondary unions on Wednesday, 29 May goes ahead, Mount Albert Grammar School will be closed for instruction across all year levels 9-13.

However, exams for Year 11 students, and others sitting Level One NCEA Practice Examinations, will still go ahead on that day with supervision by non-union staff, and students are expected to attend their examinations.

Drama unfolds at Alberton



Historic homestead Alberton was the backdrop for Year 11 Drama and Year 10 Academy Drama students as they performed short plays set in the late 1800s to early 1900s.

The performances on Wednesday were part of their Level 1 Drama Devising unit, which challenges them to create a scenario that might have happened in the time of the Kerr-Taylors, the original owners of Alberton.

The works focused on issues such as women's suffrage, arranged marriages, army conscription, and dysfunctional families – and were staged in the ballroom apart from one set in the kitchen.

Students visit Alberton early on in the unit to learn about the house and family, and to scout sets. Victorian/Edwardian costumes are sourced to evoke the feel of the era.

Art Board Show & Market Evening

Save the date for next Tuesday evening when E Block will come alive with art displays, markets and musical entertainment:

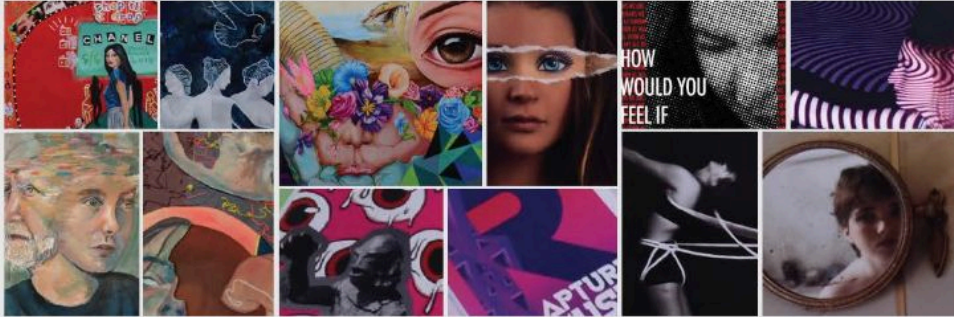


Mount Albert Grammar School

Board 1 Show & Business Market Evening

Tuesday 21st May, 2019 4:30-6:30pm in E Block

Senior Painting, Design and Photography Board Show



The Board 1 Show will be exhibiting the latest work created by all of the 2019 Mt Albert Grammar School Senior Visual Art students.

Business Market Evening



Year 11 Business Studies students will facilitate market stalls offering tasty light meals and drinks to eat at school or take away. Affordable food options from as little as \$3.

Bring cash as no EFTPOS will be available.

Art Show update

The MAGS Art Show is a key event in the fundraising calendar for our school, and last year's show was our best yet with several thousand members of our community attending – resulting in very strong art sales.

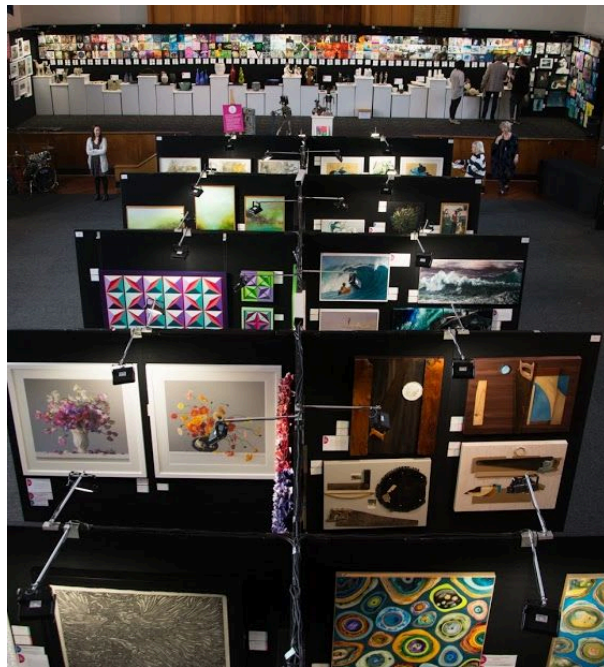
The show will run over the weekend of August 17 & 18, opening with a ticket-only Gala Evening, Friday August 16. This is a marvellous event and is always a sell out!

The show offers a fantastic line-up of NZ artists' work for purchase, includes some of our best student work and also showcases performances from our music, dance and drama students across the weekend. The money raised from the show is a tremendous help to the school and will be used to strengthen our school's Arts programme and facilities at MAGS.

The ongoing support of our community and local business ensures this show continues to be a wonderful success for MAGS. If you are interested in supporting the MAGS Art Show, we'd love to hear from you.

In particular, the Art Show Committee is looking for businesses that could make a modest contribution (from \$400) to the running costs of the show in return for naming rights to one or more of the display panels used to exhibit the art, and recognition through other Art Show marketing mediums. We also welcome any other suggestions you might have for supporting the show.

If you are interested in finding out more, please email the Art Show Committee at magsfom@gmail.com.



Market Day returns



Year 10 Business students put lessons into practice when they opened food stalls at lunchtime yesterday and today.

Students flocked to the stalls selling drinks and food such as sushi, burgers, kebabs and fudge brownie.

As part of Market Day, the Year 10 Business students formulate, carry out and review a business activity that involves selling food and/or drinks. It also tests their marketing and presentation skills.

Groups fund their own start-up costs and share profits among business owners.

After Market Day, students are encouraged to reflect on where their businesses had succeeded or failed. Market Day is a taster for business activities to follow in years 11, 12 and 13 when business students build on earlier skills to develop more sophisticated products and services.



Year 11 exams

Year 11 exams take place in Week 5 – from Monday, May 27 through to Tuesday, June 4 inclusive.

Exams will go ahead on May 29 despite the planned teacher strike, and please note that Monday, June 3 is Queen's Birthday and there will be no exams as school will be closed. Students should read the exam timetable and instructions carefully. They can be downloaded by clicking [here](#). All students need to check the timing of their exams carefully as they vary from normal lesson times.

Year 11 students are on exam leave during this time. Year 11s must only attend school to sit an examination or, with the written permission of a staff member, for tutorial or study purposes. At all other times they must be at home studying. Year 11 students taking Level 2 or Level 3 subjects may be able to attend these classes within their study and exam commitments. However, Level 1 exams take precedence and subject teachers are aware that Year 11 is on official exam leave.

Students should have been contacted via email by Miss Rose if they have a clash, with a new date for one of their exams. It is important that they check their email carefully and follow the instructions for the new date. If they have not received an email or if they have approved leave during the exams, then they will need to go to the Student Centre to request a change.

Miss Rose is the Deputy Principal in charge of the Year 11 exams, so if you have any questions, please feel free to contact her on trose@mags.school.nz



Albertian making it in Dubai

During a stopover in Dubai, while heading off on his Woolf Fisher Fellowship, Headmaster Patrick Drumm caught up with Albertian Shane O'Brien. Mr O'Brien (1974-78) is on the school's Honours Boards for various achievements. Most notably, he won a Gold medal in rowing as part of the Coxless Fours at the 1984 Olympic Games as well as a Silver medal in the Coxless Four and a Bronze medal in the Eight at the 1986 Commonwealth Games.

He was a Prefect in 1978, played for the First XV from 1977 to 1978, was the Rowing Eight captain in 1978, and an Auckland Secondary Schools' rugby representative.

Mr O'Brien also returned to MAGS for a short time to teach.



He has just been appointed Director of Jumeira English Speaking School in Dubai – regarded as the top International School in Dubai. He had been Head of the Senior School at JESS for the past eight years.

Helpers on the farm



In sunshine and showers, various groups of cheerful and hard-working students have helped Peter Brice and Richard Fullerton to clear the neglected area of native wetland that was overgrown with what is thought to be alligator weed.

This plant grows in waterways and chokes streams. Its incredibly long stems intertwine and make it hard to remove without cutting with flax knives then rolling into a ball. These balls of stems are very heavy and require several people to lift them.

Students from a Duke of Edinburgh Silver service programme, TeenAg Club, and, of course, the Enviro Club slaved, sweated and got wet and muddy and the job is not yet finished.

Over the coming months, more weeds will be sprayed, cut and generally removed – and hopefully the surviving natives that have been released from



their weedy prisons will thrive.

PE, in particular the Tough Guys and Girls, will help to cultivate the area by running through and over the weeds.

Next year, the area will be densely planted with a range of native plants to help suppress weed regrowth and it is intended a short boardwalk will be constructed from the stile to the centre of the stream to allow water sampling.

Signing in and out of school

Should a student need to leave school early, they must sign out of school via the Student Centre – this includes pre-arranged departures or illness.

Should a student suddenly take ill while at school, they need to visit the School Nurse, who will assess the need to go home and ensure their attendance reflects exactly what has taken place.

Health & Safety regulations guide the requirement for your child to sign out, specifically related to school-based emergencies such as a fire.

In such an event, if a student is marked present at school and has left without signing out, we have a duty of care to check our facilities to locate them in case they are unable to exit a building. Please ensure your child is aware of this requirement.

Steak tasting draws a crowd

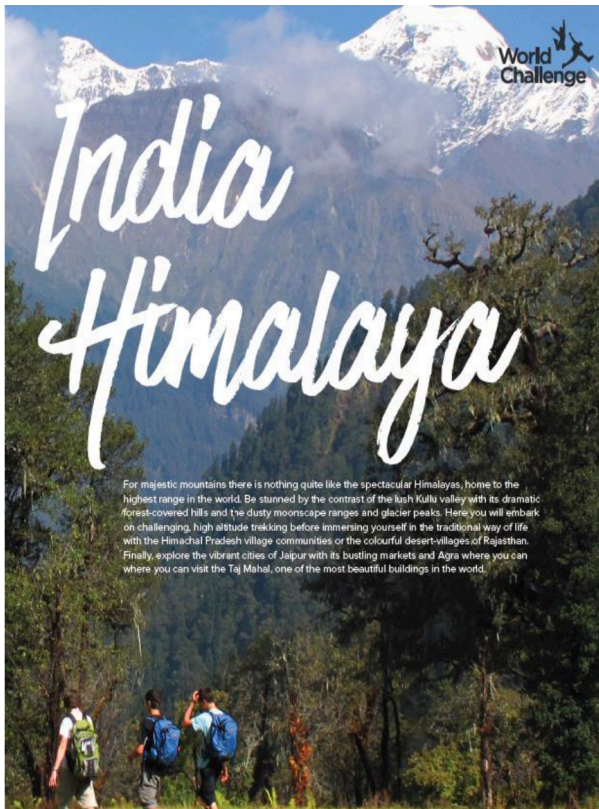
Last Friday, while the farm was being visited by some National MPs, 13 Agriculture set up a blind taste testing of three different breeds of steak.

The point of the investigation was to discover whether high value is a better strategy for New Zealand beef farmers than high volume.

Many thanks to the nearly 20 staff who trekked up to the farm to try out the Wagyu, Angus and Charolais cross barbecue-cooked rump steak.



World Challenge trip to India/Himalaya



For majestic mountains there is nothing quite like the spectacular Himalayas, home to the highest range in the world. Be stunned by the contrast of the lush Kulu valley with its dramatic forest-covered hills and the dusty moonscape ranges and glacier peaks. Here you will embark on challenging, high altitude trekking before immersing yourself in the traditional way of life with the Himachal Pradesh village communities or the colourful desert-villages of Rajasthan. Finally, explore the vibrant cities of Jaipur with its bustling markets and Agra where you can where you can visit the Taj Mahal, one of the most beautiful buildings in the world.

MAGS is holding an [information evening](#) for parents whose children might be interested in the July 2020 World Challenge trip to India/Himalaya. The event will be held on Tuesday, May 21 at 6.30pm in the MH Building Atrium. The World Challenge programme offers students the opportunity to plan, fund and ultimately lead their own 21-day long expedition next year in northern India. MAGS has been running these successful student-leadership expeditions since 2010 but parents always have questions. Please come and ask them in person on the evening. You can get more information about the trip [here](#)

Board of Trustees nominations open

Nominations are now open for positions on MAGS' Board of Trustees and will close on May 24.

Parents should have received instructions in the mail about how to vote for candidates. Results will be declared on June 14.

If you would like to stand for the Board of Trustees or find out more about the process, click [here](#)



Registering for your School Board



Spectacular Mt Taranaki trek



Last week, the 13 Outdoor Education class tramped the Around the Mountain Circuit in Taranaki/Egmont National Park over three days.

Students had to plan their routes, find out about the significance of the place they were visiting, create a gear list, consider the environment they were entering and how they could care for it, plan their menu, and identify the likely risks and how to mitigate them.

As the class was split into small groups and because they were walking from dawn to dusk each day carrying 15-20kg packs, they could practise their leadership skills under testing conditions.

The Around the Mountain Circuit goes through forest, across rivers and has spectacular alpine scenery.

A definite highlight was staying in Syme Hut. At 2000m above sea level, it is the North Island's second highest hut and provides extensive views of the Taranaki region, the central plateau and the Mt Taranaki summit. Thank you to Mr Belson for helping with this trip.



University under the microscope



Last Friday, Health teachers Haana Bovaird and Jess Lythe took their three Year 13 Health Sciences classes to Auckland University faculty of Medical and Health Sciences. The day consisted of a mini lecture, a tutorial and then a tour of the labs and the anatomy museum.

Students had the opportunity to speak with other students about life at uni, and to the Maori and Pacific Admission Scheme group and other important people regarding university enrolment.

Understanding Your Teen – Part Two



Off the back of last year's exclusive presentation to MAGS parents, we are excited to announce a second instalment of 'UnderstandingYour Teen' on Thursday, June 6 at 7pm in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Come and hear some tips and stories about Kiwi teenagers and their habits – and ponder some new ideas on how to relate to these wonderful young people. Brought to you by [Parenting Place](#)

Stories behind MAGS' trees

MAGS Archivist Brian Murphy has been taking stock of the trees on the school grounds, and has compiled what is known about the various native and exotic species. Some of the mature trees are intertwined with the history of the school, while the provenance of others is unknown.

You can read more about MAGS' trees [here](#) or take a wander through the online archives [here](#)



Sports update

Silver medal for Princess Elliott

Terrific effort from Princess Elliot, who came back with a Silver medal from the Touch World Cup and was the Open Women's Touch Blacks' top try-scorer at the tournament in Malaysia.

Princess was the youngest player in her team but that didn't stop her from racking up 20 touchdowns in the tournament as the Touch Blacks won all eight pool games, beat Singapore in the semi but lost to Australia in the final. She played all but one of those games.

Next, she will join the Warriors Touch Team who are playing other NRL teams' touch sides home and away this year.



Luca Taylor in Football NZ U17s



Congratulations to First XI 'keeper Luca Taylor, who has been named in the New Zealand U-17 Men's Football squad for the three-match Panda Cup in China later this month.

The tournament, based in Chengdu from May 25-29, will see NZ play China, South Korea and Thailand, and will be used by the squad as preparation for the U17 World Cup in Brazil in October.

Upcoming Premier sport



Both the Premier Girls and Boys Basketball teams are playing Rangitoto College away tonight, with their games at 6pm and 7.30pm respectively.

Also playing tonight are the Football Boys 1st XI, who take on Sacred Heart at Bill McKinlay Park at 7pm.

Tomorrow morning, the Netball Premiers have their first game of the season – against Aorere College at the Auckland Netball Centre at 9.30am. In the afternoon, the Rugby 1st XV face off against Liston College at 2.30pm on the Sir BG Williams Field.

On Monday, the Rugby Girls 10s will be hoping to get a run after Edgewater College defaulted the first game of the season. MAGS play Lynfield College on the Sir BG Williams Field at 4.15pm.

Six Netball teams – from Year 9s to Premiers – will be travelling to the North Harbour Tournament held at Netball North Harbour next Tuesday.

Next Wednesday, the Football Girls 1st XI are away to Avondale College at 4pm.

Also on Wednesday, the Hockey 1st XI Boys play Saint Kentigern at Lloyd Ellsmore Park at 5.30pm.

For this week's fixtures and results, click [here](#) and for next week's, click [here](#)



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