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**MOUNT ALBERT  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

## A Tradition of Excellence

**CENTENARY**  
**100**  
1922-2022



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**HYUNDAI**  
NEW ZEALAND

May 27, 2022 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

## From the Headmaster

[Weekly Notices](#)



## Key Dates

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

### Thursday, June 9

Board Show and Business  
Market Evening, 4.30pm-  
6.30pm, Greg Taylor Building  
(formerly E Block)

### Wednesday, June 15

Big Sing, Auckland Town Hall

### Saturday, June 18

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

## The W.O.H. Gibbs Room



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

The opening of our new staffroom/function centre in what was formerly the Science Block has been warmly welcomed by staff and the MAGS community.

This 'nine-month' refurbishment project began in 2019. Finally, after two and a half years we have use of this impressive facility for the school.

Yesterday, the space was formally named the W.O.H Gibbs Room in honour of Warwick Gibbs and his 50 years of teaching service to MAGS.



## Sport

[Photo Essays](#)



It was extra special to have the presence of former Headmaster Maurice Hall (pictured above with Mr Gibbs) to declare the room 'open'. Maurice appointed a newly graduated Warwick to his first teaching position here at MAGS in 1972 ... and the rest is history!

For the first time in many years, our MAGS staff are now able to gather comfortably under one roof. It is a space that will recognise the importance of the adults in our school – teachers, parents, Albertians – those who are invested in the success of our students.

The W.O.H. Gibbs Room promises to be a driver of culture and community in the years ahead.

Thank you Warwick for agreeing to lend your name to the room – and congratulations on your golden celebration in our Centenary year.

Have a good weekend.

Patrick Drumm  
Headmaster

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Basketball Junior Boys v  
Lynfield College  
Click [here](#)



Rugby Boys 1st XV v St  
Kentigern College  
Click [here](#)



Rugby Girls 1st XV v Otahuhu  
College  
Click [here](#)

## Mr Gibbs honoured for 50 years of service



Our Academic Dean Mr Gibbs was honoured yesterday morning for his 50 years of service to MAGS, with the new staffroom named after him.

Mr Gibbs, who began at MAGS in 1972 as an English and French teacher, has taught for half the history of MAGS, which celebrates its Centenary this year.

Colleagues packed out the staffroom and heard speeches from Headmaster Mr Drumm, long-time colleague Mr Cave (pictured below with Mr Gibbs in earlier years), and former students (now Deputy Principal and English/German teacher respectively) Mr Stradwick

and Mr Ploeg before Mr Gibbs entertained his audience with reminiscences and insights from his 50 years of teaching.



Mr Gibbs has been a driving force in the Languages Department – establishing German for Juniors as well as overseeing the introduction of Te Reo, Chinese and Japanese in his 30 years as HOD Languages. He still teaches German to this day.

In the sporting realm, Mr Gibbs has coached or managed cricket, rugby and golf (as well as chess) over the years. He has been the school pianist (“the piano man”, as some students know him) since the 70s, playing at assemblies and supporting musical

productions.

Mr Gibbs was named [Albertian of the Year 2021](#) for his service to the school, only the second non-alumnus (after our still-serving Archivist Mr Murphy) to earn that accolade. Mr Gibbs is renowned for going above and beyond the call of duty for his students, whether it be seeking scholarships for them, providing extra tutorials, or always spending intervals and lunchtimes with them.

In his speech, Mr Gibbs said it was the relationships – with students and colleagues – that kept him in teaching for 50 years.

He said: "It is a cliché, but it is true to say that school keeps you young and you have the privilege of seeing the pupils' lives through their own eyes, if you take the trouble to listen and talk to them."

Former Headmaster Maurice Hall, who appointed Mr Gibbs 50 years ago, presented him with the plaque bearing his name that will be placed over the doors to the staffroom, and declared the W.O.H. Gibbs Room officially open.

Mr Drumm explained that the plaque had been crafted by Technology teacher Mr Bailey, using demolition timber from the old Science Block that has been rebuilt to accommodate the new staffroom and Performing Arts spaces.

You can see more photos from the event and read Mr Cave's and Mr Gibbs' speeches [here](#)



## Albertian wins (another) prestigious art award

Congratulations to Albertian Jessica Gurnsey, who, at 18 years of age, has become the youngest person to ever win the prestigious \$20,000 Adam Portraiture Award.



Jessica (a Year 13 at MAGS last year), won for her self-portrait *Lady Day*. The acrylic on canvas is based off a photograph her friend Wilhelmina Heeringa (also a

Year 13 at MAGS last year) took of her. Jessica also won first prize for her age group and overall in the 2021 National Youth Art competition for another work.

In both instances she entered the competitions after being prompted to submit work by one of her Visual Art teachers at MAGS, Ms Gauntlett.

At MAGS, Jessica was a Visual Art Leader for Ceramics and Painting. She won the People's Choice Award at the MAGS Art Show and the Trophy for Excellence in Painting when she was at MAGS.

Jessica is now studying a conjoint Commerce/Fine Arts degree through the University of Auckland.

You can read the Stuff story about Jessica's Adam Portraiture Award-winning work [here](#)



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## Representing NZ in Bio Olympiad

Jacob Miller, of 11GIB, has been picked as one of the four students to represent NZ in the International Bio Olympiad (NZIBO) in Armenia in July.

Last year, Jacob passed the NZIBO Entrance Exam and was awarded a Bronze Certificate.



Early in March this year he was awarded a Silver certificate in the Practical Camp Selection Exam as one of the top 25 students in the country. This entitled him to participate in the Practical Camp in the April holidays where he was one of the top four candidates and was selected to represent New Zealand.

He will be competing against the top four Biology students from more than 75 countries at this prestigious international event.

Biology teacher Mrs Nisha said, "In my last 10 years of running this programme at MAGS, this is the first time ever we have had a student from MAGS who has been selected to represent NZ. This is huge. We know Jacob will represent New Zealand with pride and we wish him all the best.

"He has put in a tremendous amount of time and effort towards this since August last year and all the credit goes to him."

NZIBO fosters interest, participation, and excellence in biology through participation of secondary school students in the New Zealand Biology Olympiad Programme.

The programme provides University level education in Biology to those students selected to participate in the online tutorial programme.

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## Photo order deadline: June 12

Term 1 Class photos and Summer Sports photos are now available for ordering.

All parents and students have been sent an email with a personalised access code and instructions on how to order directly from PhotoLife.

The deadline for free delivery is June 12. Orders can be made after that but a postage and packaging cost will apply.

If there are any issues with the ordering process, please contact PhotoLife directly and they will be able to assist you. Phone (09) 262 1040 or email [enquiries@photolife.co.nz](mailto:enquiries@photolife.co.nz)

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## Youth advisory appointment

A great achievement for Year 12 student Leila Belt, who is one of four new members added to ProCare's Youth Advisory Group (YAG).

She will be among 11 young people in the YAG who provide guidance to ProCare, based on

lived experience, to help improve health outcomes for children and young people across Tāmaki Makaurau. The group also helps guide implementation of ProCare’s Population Health Strategy.

The ProCare YAG initially started in 2020 as a pilot and has since been implemented permanently.

The group will act as ambassadors for young Aucklanders by meeting regularly to provide insight into how young people think and feel about life in New Zealand, with a particular focus on how they like to interact with primary care and mental health services.



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## Save the date: Contemporary Music Concert



**Slam the Jamz** '22

**7 PM Saturday  
18th of June**  
Raye Freedman  
Arts center, Gillies  
Avenue, Epsom

**ADMISSION  
COSTS**  
Adult \$20  
Student \$15  
MAGS STAFF/  
STUDENT 10\$

Save the date for MAGS' annual Contemporary Music Concert – Slam the Jamz, coming up on Saturday, June 18 at the Raye Freedman Arts Centre. Ticketing details out next week.

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## Spoken Word teams contest regionals



Last Saturday, the MAGS Spoken Word Teams 1 & 2 auditioned in the regionals for the annual, fiercely contested inter-high school competition Word! The Frontline, at TAPAC in Western Springs.

"Both teams in this year's competition have worked so hard preparing their poems and did impressively well, smashing their trio, solo and duo pieces at the auditions," said TIC Becky Woodall.

Prefect and Spoken Word leader Sonia Airehrour said, "I am beyond proud of each team. They all did so well, especially Team 2, who had lots of first-timers participating in the competition."

Team 1 consists of Sonia Airehrour, Nishera Gnanendra, Alata Culpan, Ryan Shen and Rishita Bharani. Team 2 consists of Toby Forster, Kiho Chloe Irie, Ryan Antia, Mehak Sehgal and Vanishka Das.

Both Teams 1 & 2 will find out whether or not they made it to the semis on Monday.

Sonia said, "However, all poets did an amazing job of performing, representing MAGS and rising to the challenge. The semis will be held on either Saturday, August 27 or Saturday, September 3, depending on what heats the teams will be placed in, if they make it through. Ka pai to both teams."

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## **MAGS victorious in Theatresports**



On Monday, MAGS welcomed St Kent's for the first inter-school Theatresports competition of the year.

Three teams from each school went head-to-head performing improvised scenes and were given points for story, entertainment and technique.

The winning team of the night was MAGS' very own all-female team 'The Patriarchy', pictured in red.

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# Albertian Artists in the Frame



5 - 7 August 2022

Centenary Art Show

Mount Albert Grammar School



## John Edgar

Stone sculptor John Edgar (1950 - 2021), one of MAGS's most accomplished artistic alumni, came to sculpture via an unconventional route. After attending MAGS in the 1960s, he obtained a BSc in chemistry from the University of New South Wales and worked first as a chemist, then as a prospector before setting up a carving workshop in Auckland in 1978. Largely self-taught, he learnt a lot from the sculpting traditions of the Far East, travelling frequently to source stone and increase his knowledge. John's distinctive banded stones were his signature form: shaped yet unadorned, with lines or crosses in a contrasting material perfectly incorporated into the whole. Stone was sourced from places as varied as Scotland and the Coromandel and he executed every aspect of the work himself, from small pieces to monumental ones. John sought to convey a synthesis of natural opposites in his work: 'These slices of the land are revelations of how intimately the environment meshes. How seamless are the interrelationships of earth and sky, land and sea, heaven and earth, black and white? The convergence of the two into one.'

During his lifetime, John Edgar organised three major touring exhibitions of his work. His sculptures are in private and public collections around the world, such as Te Papa Tongarewa, the National Museum of Australia and the New Zealand section of the Savill Garden in Windsor Great Park, England. His sculptures are also in a number of prominent locations around Auckland such as "Red Cross", on permanent outdoor display in the Waitakere City Civic Centre, and the 3.5 metre "Transformer", standing tall on the Auckland Domain sculpture trail.

John Edgar was also a committed environmentalist and supporter of art in his local community, working to establish the Corban Estate Arts Centre and chairing the committee of the Waitakere Ranges Protection Society. He was made an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit (ONZM) in 2009 in recognition of his services to art, in particular sculpture.

## Revisiting 1981 Springbok Tour



Our former HOD Careers Mr Witten-Hannah returned to MAGS today to give History students a fascinating personal insight into the protests before and during the 1981 Springbok Tour.

Mr Witten-Hannah spoke about his decision to join the anti-apartheid movement protests before the tour in light of the South African regime's brutal oppression of black and coloured people.

When the Springbok rugby tour began, he made the decision to protest at the games, including being part of the group that took to the field at Hamilton and stopped the game. Mr Witten-Hannah said his fears for his safety were outweighed by the hardships of people being oppressed in South Africa.

## Board Show and Market Evening is back!



MOUNT ALBERT  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

# Centenary Board Show & Business Market Evening

Thursday 9th June, 2022 4:30-6:30pm GT Building

### PAINTING, DESIGN & PHOTOGRAPHY DISPLAYS



Come see the latest work created by this year's Visual Art students

### BUSINESS STUDIES MARKET STALLS



Business Studies students will facilitate market stalls offering handmade gifts and tasty snacks

**BRING CASH!**

Enjoy **LIVE** performances from

### DRAMA



### DANCE



### MUSIC



One of the highlights of the school calendar is coming up next month – our Board Show and Business Market Evening.

Come and see the latest work by our Visual Art students and buy handmade gifts and snacks from our Business Studies students. There will also be Dance, Drama and Music performances throughout. And bring cash!

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## Junior Excellence Awards



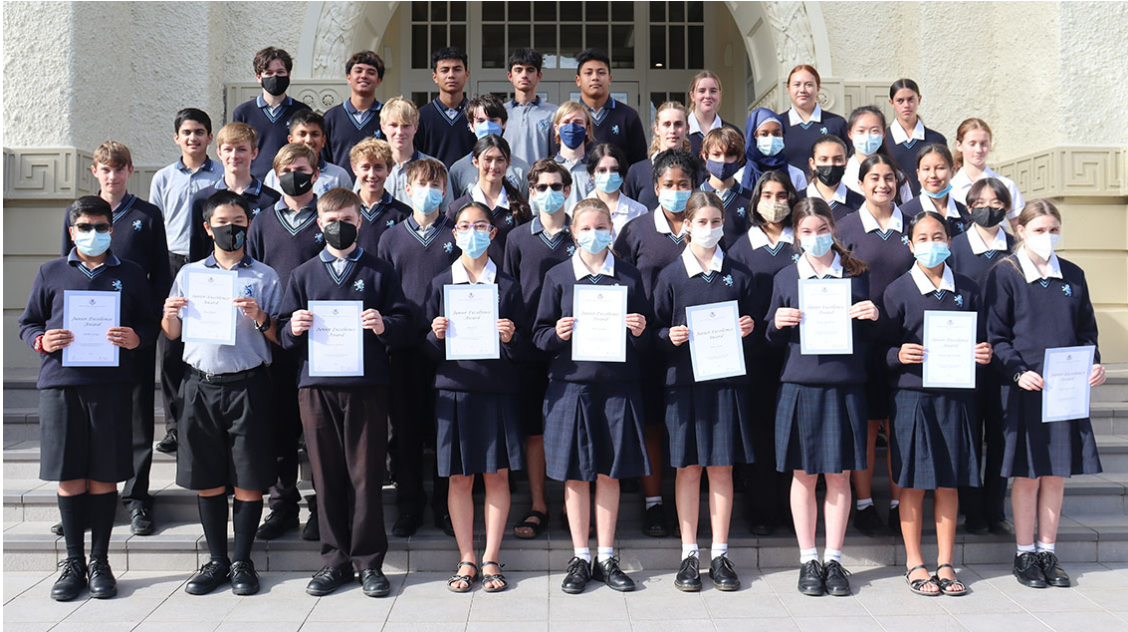
The Junior Excellence Awards for Term 1 were presented to students from Year 9 (pictured above) and Year 10 (pictured below) at assemblies this week.

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

Certificates are awarded to up to two students from each mentor class at the end of each term.

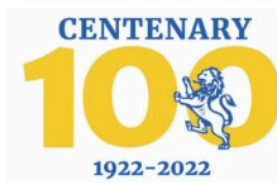
You can see the names of Year 9 awardees [here](#) and the Year 10 awardees [here](#)



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## 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](#)



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## Twenty three years ago this week

**MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL for Girls**  
**A New School of Quality and Standards**

Mount Albert Grammar School has applied to the Ministry of Education to admit Form 3 girls in the year 2000 as the first step in establishing, on the school campus, a separate Mount Albert Grammar School For Girls for Forms 3 to 7.

Mount Albert Grammar School for Girls will deliver an education of quality and standards. It will share in the excellent facilities of Mount Albert Grammar School, including the Philips Aquatic Centre, its technological, library and sports facilities, and its new Art, Music and Food Technology facilities, but develop its own heritage of spirit, pride and tradition in a unique arrangement intended to provide students with the maximum range of educational opportunities.

**YEAR 2000 CONDITIONAL ENROLMENT** for Form 3 girls to become Foundation Students is welcomed. Parents are invited to contact the School Office for information.

*Greg Taylor*  
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**MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL FOR BOYS**  
**A Heritage of Quality, Standards and Tradition**

Mount Albert Grammar School was founded in 1922 as a boys' secondary school. It has a heritage of spirit, pride and tradition, combined with the modern distinction of ISO 9001 accreditation of its systems. The school has excellent facilities set in spacious grounds. The school's main playing fields are fully sand-carpeted and equal to the best available. A hostel for 100 boys, *School House*, is on the campus.

The 75th Jubilee was marked with the conception, in collaboration with Auckland City, of a magnificent heated indoor swimming pool complex, the Philips Aquatic Centre, opened by the Prime Minister in May 1988. A superb Art, Music, Food Technology and general classroom block, and new tennis/netball courts, and cricket facilities will be completed this year.

**OPEN EVENING:** Families are warmly welcomed to view the school and talk to staff on Thursday 22 July between 6pm and 8pm. School tours will be run from 6pm.

There are places available for boys in Forms 4 to 7. Parents should contact the school office for information.

**YEAR 2000 FORM 3 ENROLMENT:** The following times have been set aside especially for the enrolments for Form 3 in the year 2000. Families should bring students' school reports and birth certificates/passports.

Thursday 22 July	3.30pm to 8.00pm
Friday 23 July	3.30pm to 6.00pm

*Greg Taylor*  
Principal  
Mount Albert Grammar School  
Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1003  
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NZ Herald ★ Tuesday, May 25, 1999 **D13**

These twin advertisements appeared in *The New Zealand Herald* on 25 May, 1999.

Our Archivist Mr Murphy notes, "It preserved the original ideal of two separate schools with one Board.

"The vesting letter from the Minister of Education Nick Smith, 29 July, 1999, noted that: "On 1 January 2000 Mount Albert Grammar School will become a co-educational school and will cease to be a single sex boys' school." [See also Set 35.4].

"That may have been the Minister's view, but we have been true to the original ideal. We are, in a sense, a hybrid. We maintain separate classes for boys and girls at all levels, although in the actual subject classes in the Senior School there are both boys and girls. There is a boy and a girl Head Prefect and boy and girl Duces.

"It may well be that we are the only school with this model. It works; since pupils and parent alike support it."

You can see more images like this one (part of the recently added Set 76) on our website's [Historical Images](#) section, compiled and annotated by Mr Murphy.

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# Sports Update

## Getting to grips with bouldering



Round 2 of the Auckland College Climbing Series was held early last Sunday morning. MAGS had 11 students trying to complete as many boulder 'problems' in two hours as they could.

All of the students pushed themselves to try their best.

Students had a great time meeting other schools, getting spot prizes and having fun.



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## Upcoming Premier Sport





Today, our Badminton Premier Open team plays Auckland Grammar at 5pm at Auckland Badminton.

Our Premier Girls and Boys Basketball team are away tonight at Carmel College, playing Carmel at 6pm, and Rosmini at 7.30pm respectively. On Monday, the Boys play a catch-up game against Westlake Boys at MAGS at 6pm.

Tomorrow, our Netball Premiers take on One Tree Hill College at 11.30am at Auckland Netball, our Football Boys 1st XI are at home to Macleans College at midday, and the Rugby Boys 1st XV play Aorere College at Aorere at 2.30pm, with the Geoff Moon Memorial Cup up for grabs.

At 4pm on Monday, there are two big games: the Football Girls 1st XI are at home to Rangitoto College, and the Rugby Girls 1st XV are away to Manurewa High.

On Wednesday at 4.15pm, the Premier Boys Squash team is away to Howick College, and at 6.50pm the Hockey Boys 1st XI is away to Auckland Grammar.

Draws for the Thursday games for Lacrosse Premier Girls and Hockey Girls 1st XI had yet to be released.

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

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Alberton Ave, Mt Albert, Auckland  
09 846 2044 [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

A Tradition of Excellence  
9th-14th May 2022

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