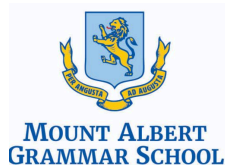


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A Tradition of Excellence
9th-14th May 2022



October 16, 2020 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

[Weekly Notices](#)

Hope Not Dope



[Key Dates](#)



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

As a school community this year, we have spoken a lot about hope as an essential value in the toolbox of a MAGS student. As the world has wobbled, our young people have rightly looked to the adults in their lives to provide the guidance and wisdom to help navigate a purposeful way forward.

That guidance and wisdom is needed now, more than ever, as we address the disturbing prospect of a future for our young people where cannabis is legalised.

The seemingly frivolous approach of some commentators to tomorrow's referendum has been concerning. The overwhelming evidence of the disastrous impact of cannabis on the young brain has been dismissed and even been a source of humour for some. Despite some arguments to the contrary, it can never be okay for a young person to get 'stoned', 'wasted' or 'high'. And the impact on learning? ... It's not called 'dope' for nothing!

Yet in a legalised and normalised cannabis environment, that message is going to be much harder to sell. And if we think that the government and authorities can police underage access to cannabis, just turn up any given Saturday night to a party of 15-year-olds and see how effectively alcohol and vaping laws are being enforced!

More than ever we need young people fully present and engaged with friends and family – choosing getting *into* life rather than getting 'out of it'!

I trust New Zealanders will put those young people first tomorrow.

Click [here](#) for the Calendar



**Tuesday & Wednesday,
October 20 & 21**
School Cross Country

Wednesday, October 21
Sports Prizegiving Evening,
6.30pm, MAGS

Friday, October 30
Pasifika Prizegiving Dinner,
7pm, Sorrento in the Park

Friday, November 6
Arts Prizegiving Dinner, 7pm,
Sorrento in the Park



Sport

I'm backing hope to be the winner on the day!

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster



Fixtures and results
Click [here](#)

Geoff Moon memorial plaque unveiled



Geoff's wife Angela with children Sean, Dylan and Jess at the plaque ceremony.

MAGS commemorated the immense contribution to school life of former School House Director and 1st XV coach Geoff Moon by unveiling a plaque in his honour in the FW Gamble Hall on Wednesday.

At an intimate ceremony – at the request of Geoff's family – Headmaster Patrick Drumm paid tribute to Geoff, who passed away suddenly early last year.

Mr Drumm said that Geoff was a dedicated and inspirational educator who had made a big impact on the school in his six years here.

He said unveiling a plaque to Geoff was part of a school tradition of honouring serving staff who had passed away, and "Moonie is now a permanent part of our where".

Geoff's plaque has the motto 'Culture produces results', and Mr Drumm said those words drove Geoff's approach to his teaching, coaching and mentoring through his time at MAGS and when they worked together at Aorere College.

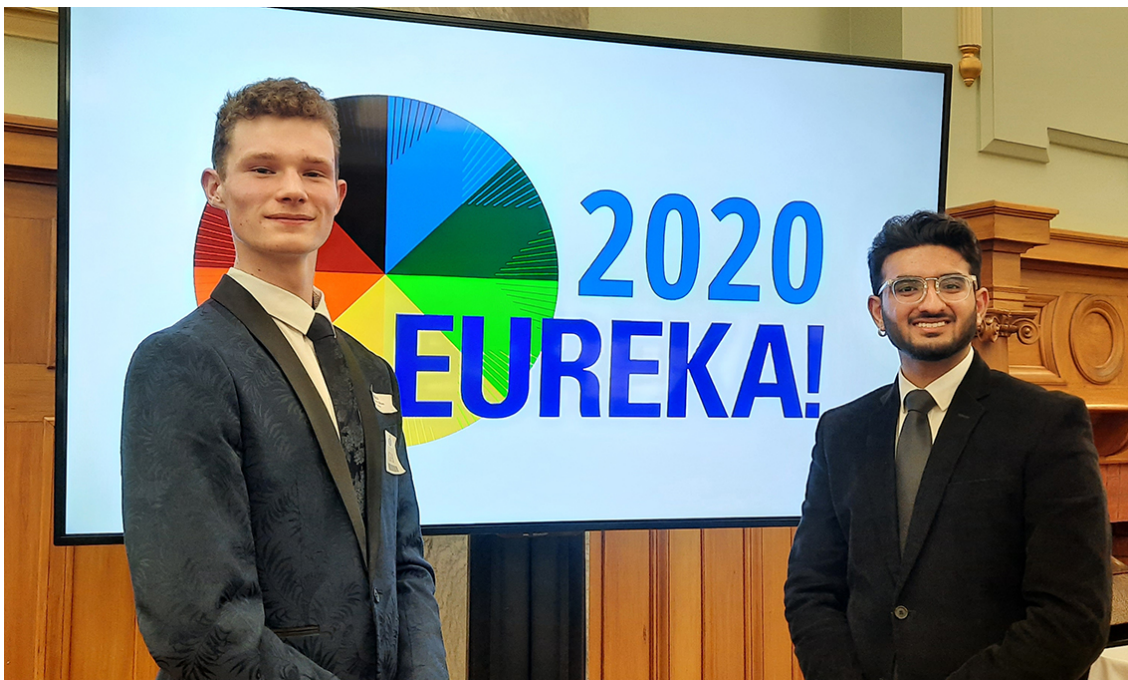


Mr Drumm also introduced the Boys Choir, under the direction of Terence Maskell, who performed *Sons of Gallipoli* in Geoff's honour, saying that, being a music lover, Geoff would have loved the tribute.

Mr Maskell also spoke at the ceremony, recalling his years at Aorere College with Geoff and the debt of gratitude he owed him. He asked if Geoff could get some of his rugby players to sing in the Aorere choir, and soon it became a tradition that the 1st XV players joined the choir because Geoff could see the value in the culture and teamwork of a choir. Mr Maskell said the choir became such a big part of the 1st XV that the coach would watch their practices and use that to inform his choice of team captain.

Speaking for the family, son Dylan said Geoff would have loved all the fuss over him – he would have tried to be humble about it but would have been taking photos of the plaque and showing it off. He thanked the school for the tribute and all it had done for the family. You can read more about Mr Geoff's legacy [here](#)

Faolan's Eureka! moment



Congratulations to Prefect Faolan Okan (above left), who cleaned up at the Sir Paul Callaghan Eureka! Awards, collecting \$15,000 worth of prizemoney and Scholarships – and taking home the People's Choice Award.

Faolan won:

- The Ministry for Primary Industries Gold Scholarship (\$5000)
- The Federated Farmers New Zealand Gold Scholarship (\$5000)
- Highly Commended for being in the top four in the finals (\$5000)

He was one of 12 national finalists – along with Albertian Shalin Shah (above right, who was also Highly Commended) – chosen to deliver a presentation about how an application of science or technology will benefit New Zealand.

His [video presentation](#) was about using biodigestion to produce a sustainable gas supply. Faolan, who is also a talented film-maker and dancer, said that talking with the judges

afterwards, they told him that the science in his presentation was strong but it was the fusion of artistic influence and creative direction that complemented the science to create a truly convincing story that anyone could understand.

Last year, Faolan made the finals and won a Department of Conservation internship for his presentation about wastewater treatment.

Passing of Johanna McHardy

During the school holidays, MAGS was saddened by the loss of former teacher Johanna McHardy, who passed away after a long illness.

Mathematics teacher and colleague Michael Walden recalls, "Johanna was a teacher at MAGS from 2002 to 2014 with the rare ability of being able to harness the talent of every student that was lucky enough to be taught by her.

"Her innovative teaching nearly always saw her doing things 'her own way' as she was not afraid to break with teaching norms at the time. This approach meant that many positive changes were made that still resonate through the Mathematics Department today.



"She was the champion driver of our accelerate and Scholarship mathematics programmes and is still the primary reason for our consistent success at the national level. Her dedication to the creation of resources and inspirational mentoring has helped many teachers, even stretching beyond the MAGS community.

"Former Headmaster Dale Burden often referred to Johanna as a 'Rockstar of a Teacher', which would be fitting given the number of national teaching awards she had achieved through her short teaching career, yet Johanna never seemed to enjoy the limelight.

"She epitomised the meaning of service, always putting others before herself. During her time at MAGS, Johanna showed outstanding commitment to many areas of school life, including passionately leading the MUNA (Model United Nations Assembly) and Amnesty International groups; she led these initiatives not just with words, but by her selfless actions.

"At her funeral service, we learnt about how Johanna's leadership extended to a global scale; her family detailing the work she had done with Oxfam, which saw her direct our Air Force to send over three containers worth of water pumps to East Timor following their move to independence, benefitting the lives of thousands of people.

"Even amid the years of treatment she had faced, Johanna was still using her talents to serve others, volunteering her time to tutor mathematics in Mt Eden Prison just to name one example. What a woman!"

You can read a Stuff story about Johanna winning the Woolf Fisher Fellowship [here](#)

National Shakespeare honours



During the school holidays, Lara Chuo had the rare opportunity of attending the SGCNZ National Shakespeare School Productions (NSSP) as a direct entry participant, which allowed her to go through straight from Regionals without going having to go through Nationals.

Lara said, "The week was filled with workshops such as fencing, cha cha, waltz, improv and tours of landmarks in Dunedin such as Larnach Castle, the old Cadbury factory, and the new state-of-the-art facilities of the University of Otago.

"Whilst all of this was happening, we had to rehearse for a production of three Shakespeare plays, performed by the end of the week. The plays were *Much Ado About Nothing*, *King John* and *Merchant of Venice*. I was cast as Constance and Messenger for *King John* by my director Alexander Sparrow, who I had the greatest pleasure to work with and who gave us a lot of crowd-working tips inspired by the Globe performances and his stand-up work.

Lara added, "I have learnt a lot, made new friends and even gained new mentors – soon the cast for the Youth Shakespeare Company (YSC) will be announced (chosen from half of the 48 participants) and they will have an opportunity to travel to the UK and perform. I have enjoyed my time at NSSP 2020 and would be delighted if I also get chosen for YSC 2021."

Pink Shirt Day



MAGS' Senior students and staff joined the [Pink Shirt Day](#) movement today, spreading the message about working together to stop bullying by celebrating diversity and promoting positive social relationships.

Students handed out pink ribbons and stickers to reinforce the importance of creating a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of age, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, ability, or cultural background.

The theme for Pink Shirt Day in Aotearoa was 'Kōrero Mai, Kōrero Atu, Mauri Tū, Mauri Ora – Speak Up, Stand Together, Stop Bullying!'

Pink Shirt Day is led by the Mental Health Foundation and supported by various agencies, with any money donated going towards free activities, resources and merchandise for schools, workplaces and communities to make Aotearoa a kinder, safer place for everyone.



Drama Academy Showcase



On Wednesday, the Year 13 Drama Academy Showcase gave our senior accelerated students the chance to show off their directing and writing skills. There were two performances on the evening.

The first was *Romeo and Julian* (pictured right), directed and edited by David Laxon. It reimaged Shakespeare's classic tale of forbidden love through the lens of sexuality.

HOD Drama Gerald Urquhart said, "He combined strong performances with interesting technical decisions to great effect. It built off his [successful submission](#) for the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival that was selected for consideration at the National Festival".

The second piece was a staged play reading of *If It Weren't For Me* (pictured above), written by Ophelia Sykes.

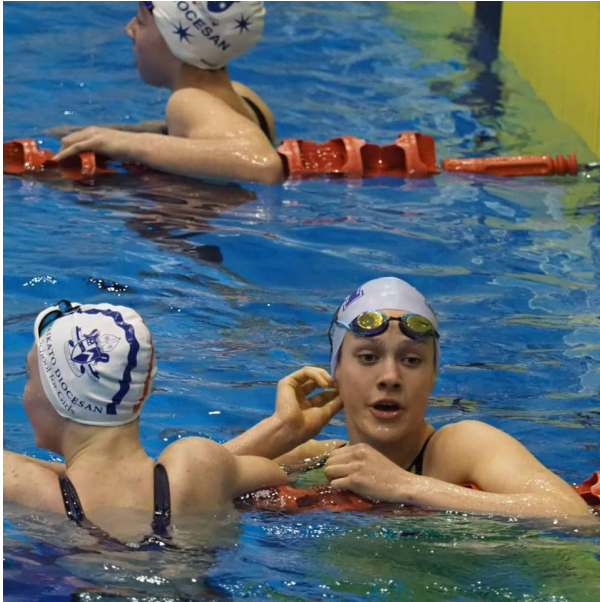


Mr Urquhart said, "This was an impressive work that explored the guilt a student community feels after an unfortunate accident at a party. The skilled reading of the performers allowed Ophelia's characters and relationships to leap off the page. The audience laughed when appropriate and were moved as the story unveiled itself; no mean feat for a read-through.

"Both David and Ophelia, their casts and technical crews are to be commended for their work in staging these performances. It has been a long process with the disruptions throughout the year. Their determination and resilience to follow through with something

they have worked on since February is recognition of their huge passion for the dramatic arts."

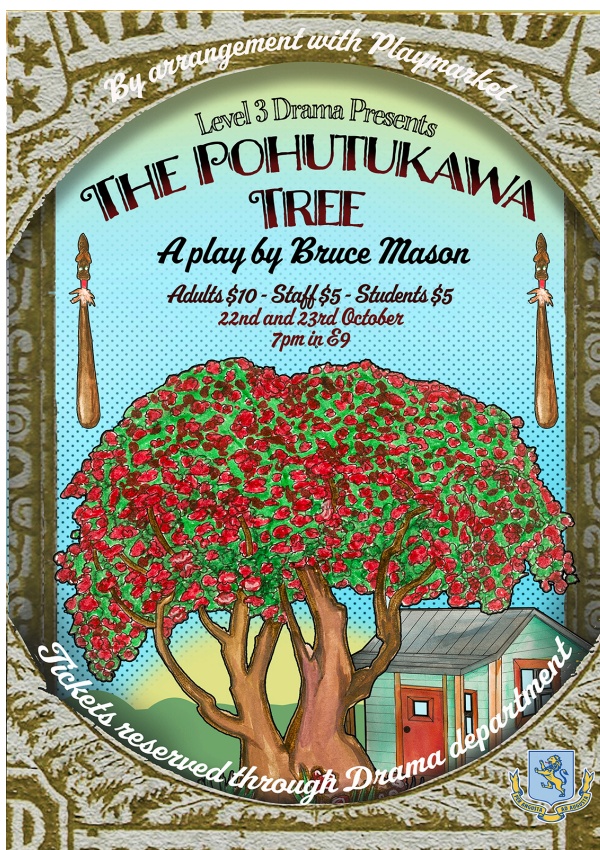
Brearna sets more swim records



In another stunning performance, champion swimmer Brearna Crawford broke the NZ Open Short Course Record in the Women's 100m Breaststroke at the 2020 NZ Short Course Championships in Hamilton during the school holidays.

In doing so she set a record of 1:06.60 in the 17 Years Age Group as well. She also broke the 17 Years Age Group Record during the heats of the Women's 50m Breaststroke (31.58s) and then swam even faster when she won the final in 31.31s.

Classic play coming your way



The Pohutukawa Tree by Bruce Mason, is a classic of New Zealand theatre though not known nearly as well as some of his other plays.

HOD Drama Gerald Urquhart said, "It is a play that I have long wanted to stage. It follows Māori matriarch Aroha Mataira as she holds steadfastly to both Maori and Pakeha traditions, leaving little room for her two children.

"It is set in 1950s Bay of Plenty and examines the place of Maori and the generational differences after World War II. The cast are honoured to bring this New Zealand classic to life. It has been a long journey but we are excited to invite you to our show."

Tickets can be booked for the October 22 and 23 shows through

gurquhart@mags.school.nz

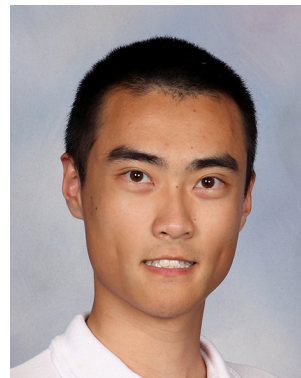
Bio Olympiad silver medal

Congratulations to Junjian Zhang, who won a Silver award in the NZ International Bio Olympiad (NZIBO).

He passed his Camp selection exam in March and was selected for the NZIBO Practical Training Camp in April. Unfortunately, this 10-day residential camp was cancelled due to COVID-19 restrictions.

Junjian competed against over 365 students in 2019 and 2020 to gain one of the 25 places on the training camp and earn the Silver award.

Biology teacher Robina Nisha said, "This award demonstrated an outstanding academic ability in Biology as the learning is at University level."



Rocket League Champions!



Say hello to your Oceania Rocket League Champions: MAGS Pureial.

Pictured with TIC Jack Su are (from left): Lewis Duguid-Jones (SavageLewis), captain Drew French (DarthDrewbie), Noah Banks (Arky) and Luka Jeremic (Applecrash), who beat Australia's Yarra Valley High 4-1 in the Grand Final last weekend to claim the title.

Three of this year's team competed in the Grand Final last year, held in Melbourne, but came up short against Unley High.

Captain Drew French credits the addition of Luka Jeremic with making the difference this year, with Luka being named MVP in the Grand Final.

The team won the Meta High School Esports Oceania Rocket League Champions trophy and get \$400 computer monitors for their efforts.

Talking their way into the final

The MAGS Spoken Word team has won their semi-final and progressed to the finals of the Word – The Frontline competition.

MAGS also made the final last year in what is a fiercely contested event.

The competition changed drastically this year due to lockdown, with works being pre-recorded for a livestream rather than an in-person event.

Despite the disruptions caused by COVID-19, the team of Ryan Shen, David Laxon, Reet Kamra, Sonia Airehrour, Abby Irwin and Katherina Cooper-Light

beat Aorere, De La Selle, and Saint Dominic's for a spot in The Grand Slam, which will be held on Saturday, 7 November.



New student BoT representative

Year 12 student Leilani Ginnen has been elected as the new Student Representative on the Board of Trustees.

Leilani said, "I am very much looking forward to working with the members of the Board of Trustees and making a difference as the representative of the student voice.



"I wanted to be on the Board of Trustees to speak on behalf of the wide range of views, beliefs, and concerns that exist within the diverse student body at MAGS. I am also interested in learning about the processes and decision-making that goes on behind the scenes that determines the way in which our school runs.

"While on the Board, I would like to engage in activating change where needed to improve the experiences of students at MAGS, so all students can feel empowered to participate as fully as I have been able to."

This year, Leilani is studying Painting, Chemistry, English, Health, Calculus and History. Her

extracurricular activities include the Pasifika Council, Komiti Faufautua, and the Health Committee.

"When I leave MAGS I hope to study Law and Psychology at university, while also studying visual arts and continuing painting."

Upcoming prizegivings and celebrations



Despite the disruptions that COVID-19 has inflicted on the school year, there is still plenty to celebrate. Upcoming events include:

Sports Prizegiving Evening –

Wednesday, October 21, 6.30pm, MAGS.

Pasifika Prizegiving Dinner – Friday, October 30, 7pm, Sorrento in the Park.

Arts Prizegiving Dinner – Friday, November 6, 7pm, Sorrento in the Park.

Te Puna o Wairaka Prizegiving Dinner – Thursday, November 12, 7pm, Te Mahurehure Marae.

Senior Prizegiving – Tuesday, November 10, 10am, MAGS.

School Ball – Tuesday, November 10, 6pm, Ellerslie Event Centre.

Year 10 Prizegiving – Monday, December 7, MAGS (afternoon).

Year 9 Prizegiving – Tuesday, December 8, MAGS (moming).

Picture of success

The news just keeps getting better for Ruby Clayton, who last month won first prize in the youth category of the Waitakere Art Expo 2020 and picked up \$500.

Following that, she sold her painting – *Old Man Take a Look at Your Life* – for \$1200 and won the People's Choice Award (worth \$250).

Ruby credited her painting teachers Ms Leonard and Mrs Mulgrew for their help and inspiration. She said the work was also a product of having time to paint during the COVID-19 lockdowns.



International Cricketers 1937



According to the notes on the back of this photograph, the six men on the front steps were: "Dave Sumner, H.G. Vivian, Mr Gamble, Merv Wallace, G.L. Weir and G.T. McNiel, after presentation to Vivian, Weir and Wallace, members of the New Zealand Cricket team travelling [to] England. Sumner and McNiel, President and Secy. Of Old Boys' Association". The text on the back and the photograph are the work of Nelson Body who, our Archivist Brian Murphy says, had the presence of mind to write on the back of all his photographs. This photo, and others by him in MAGS' possession, are a gift of his estate. This image, is part of Historical Images Set 51, recently added to the MAGS website, and is

part of an ongoing collection of images sourced and annotated by Mr Murphy.
For more photos like this, click [here](#)

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.

Sports update

Caleb Clarke to start for All Blacks

After a strong test debut off the bench for the All Blacks in last weekend's drawn match with the Wallabies in Wellington, Albertian Caleb Clarke (pictured) is set to start on the left wing in Sunday's second test against Australia.

Caleb has been a star for the All Black Sevens team and he has carried that strong form into the 15-aside game. Albertian Alex Hodgman has been named on the bench, along with Albertian Nepo Laulala, and is a good chance to make his All Blacks debut at Eden Park. With Albertian Jack Goodhue also in the starting XV, there could be four Albertians on the field on Sunday.

Photo / allblacks.com



Footballers at NZ U17 camp



Football players Milly Clegg and Sharon Tomokino (pictured above) attended the NZ U17 Women's Football Camp in Cambridge during the school holidays. The camp ran from October 7-10, and is part of the build-up to the rescheduled FIFA U-17 Women's World Cup. It is planned to be held in India in February and March next year after

it was moved from its original dates in November this year.

The NZ U17 Women's team were nominated to represent Oceania at the World Cup in the absence of playoffs due to COVID-19.

Rugby League honours

Several MAGS Rugby League players were selected for national teams or honours during the school holidays.

Kyson Kingi and Cassius Cowley were selected for New Zealand Maori Rugby League (NZMRL) U17s, and may get to face Cassius Tia and Tre Fotu, who were selected in the NZ Resident U16s team. The two sides face each other on October 24 at Rotorua International Stadium. The fixture will be live-streamed on NZMRL and NZRL Facebook pages. And Te Waaka Popata-Henare was chosen in the NZMRL U15 Tournament Team.

General Notices

Mt Albert Primary School



1870
150
Years
2020

We are turning 150 years old!

We would like to invite all past and present:

Students | Parents | Family | Staff

and anyone who feels connected to our amazing school. To recognise this once-in-a-lifetime occasion, we are planning to hold events on Friday 6th and Saturday 7th November 2020.

Please go to the school website for more information and register your interest

www.mtalbertprimary.school.nz/150th/

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