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**MOUNT ALBERT  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

## A Tradition of Excellence

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



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October 28, 2022 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / [www.mags.school.nz](http://www.mags.school.nz)

## From the Headmaster

### Key Dates

## Exceeding Expectations



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

At the beginning of 2022, MAGS set a school-wide academic target of an 85% pass rate for Level 3 NCEA.

The focus of this target is our Year 13 cohort whose school exit qualification carries the highest stakes.

We have made this target consistent across the year group. We have deliberately not differentiated due to gender or ethnicity – an important decision to ensure our expectations as teachers remain high and to remove any deficit thinking (hidden bias) that could impact negatively on student success.

An 85% success rate at Level 3 NCEA would see 462 of our 543 Year 13s achieving their certificate. The 85% target also equates to 65 of our 76 Year 13 Māori students, and 111 of our 130 Year 13 Pasifika students being successful.

These targets are unapologetically ambitious. The numbers above represent real MAGS students whose aspirations and dreams will rely on the doors that an NCEA Level 3 qualification can open.

The school is being relentless as we work towards exceeding our 2022 academic targets. I trust our Year 13 students will bring the same determination to the time ahead.

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

**Tuesday, November 1**  
Senior Prizegiving, 10am, F.W.  
Gamble Hall

**Friday, November 4**  
Arts Awards Dinner

**Saturday, November 5**  
School Ball

**Monday, November 7**  
Te Puna o Wairaka Awards  
Dinner

### Sport

#### Photo Essays



Junior Girls Cricket v St

Have a good weekend.

Patrick Drumm  
Headmaster

Kentigern  
Click [here](#)



Junior Girls Touch v Baradene  
Click [here](#)



Junior Boys Touch A v B  
Click [here](#)

**Trials and Registrations**  
Click [here](#)

**Fixtures and Results**  
Click [here](#)

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**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



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**Sporting success celebrated**



*Natalie Brook (Cricket, Football and Squash) and Ben Skelton (Athletics, Basketball and Rugby) were named Victrix Ludorum and Victor Ludorum respectively.*

Last night's Sports Awards Dinner at Alexandra Park was a great occasion for students and their whanau to celebrate sporting success. Natalie Brook and Ben Skelton were named Victrix Ludorum and Victor Ludorum respectively, while rowing pair Nick Bryan and Cam MacGillivray (pictured below) were awarded the Headmaster's Cup for Team of the Year. The Te Aroha Keenan Cup for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Girls was awarded to orienteer Molly McGowan (pictured right) while Nick Bryan also won the comparable boys' award – the Olympic Cup.



Special guests on the night were Albertians Arun Panchia (NZ Hockey), Elle Temu (NZ Netball) and Adi Ashok (Auckland Cricket), who took part in a Q&A session about their time at MAGS and their sporting life with questions from student Ben Hellriegel.

Elle and Arun were awarded their Black Caps for becoming internationals along with Albertians and MAGS sports coaches Liam Chapman (Underwater Hockey) and Tutu Tairea (Sevens).

You can read a full report and see more photos and all the award winners on the night [here](#)



## Arts Attitude Awards



At a special assembly yesterday, Arts Lions (pictured above) and Arts Attitude Awards (pictured below) were presented to the top students across Cultural Activities, Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art.

The assembly was also treated to a performance of *Fly Me to the Moon*, with Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich on Vocals, Josh Li – Piano, Chengyi Bill Liu – Guitar, Mr Watson – Bass, and

Jackson Boswell – Drums.

You can see the list of Arts Lions and Arts Attitude Award winners [here](#)



## 2023 Senior Leadership appointments

MAGS is pleased to announce that, next year, Acting Deputy Principals Christine Cato and Toby Powell will assume those roles permanently and be joined as a Deputy Principal by our current Director of Sport Allie Wright.



Mrs Cato oversees Te Puna and Languages as well as the school-wide staff professional learning programme.

Previously our HOD Geography and a Dean at Rangitoto College, Mrs Cato joined MAGS as a part-timer in 2007 and was appointed HOF Social Science in 2010. She has continued to teach junior Social Studies classes.

Her three sons have all attended MAGS, which provided coaching and managing opportunities for her in basketball and football.

She is looking forward to continuing to support all of the four pillars of MAGS (academic, sport, arts and service) in her role.



Mr Powell oversees Junior Boys, School Assemblies, and Health, Outdoor Ed and PE.

Previously a Dean at MAGS, Mr Powell was a Progress Leader at Massey High School and taught in Massachusetts for two years before coming to MAGS in 2018.

Mr Powell teaches History and Social Studies and since 2020 has also been the Assistant Director of the School House boarding hostel at MAGS.

Toby has a son and daughter and lives on site with his family.

He has coached and played basketball for many years and coaches junior boys at MAGS.

Mr Powell is looking forward to continuing to support students to achieve their very best at MAGS.



Ms Wright first started at MAGS in 2005, and in that time has held multiple roles including Director of Sport, HoD of Senior Science and Dean.

Originally from Canterbury, she commenced her teaching career at Aranui High School in Christchurch, where she was HoD of Physics and Asst HoF. At both schools she enjoyed being closely involved in the many co-curricular activities for students.

Ms Wright lives locally with her husband and two children (one currently attending MAGS), and took a short break from teaching to care for her children during their time at Playcentre.

With a particular interest in sports management, Allie has managed many sporting teams to success including the MAGS Girls and Boys 1st XV's and has been involved with club, provincial and national teams.

She is looking forward to being able to help more students achieve personal excellence in all areas at MAGS.

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## Chess players shine at Nationals



*Above, left to right: Jacob Miller, Sam Taylor-Sinclair, Victor Coen, Alan Li, Devendra Johnston.  
Below: Jacob and Victor with their gold medals.*

The MAGS Chess Team came second at the Chesspower National tournament held in Rotorua last weekend.

This tournament was for the top school teams in New Zealand where each player played nine games. The total from the top four players contributed to the team score.

For second place, Victor Coen, Jacob Miller, Alan Li, Devendra Johnston and Sam Taylor-Sinclair each received a silver medal and Certificate of Distinction.

On Sunday, these students played as individuals in the Championship Trophy event. This was an invitation-only tournament for the top players. Victor Coen was second overall for this tournament and received a certificate of distinction. Victor also received a gold medal for coming first in the U-14 Division. Jacob Miller received a gold medal for coming first in the U-16 Division.



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## Order your Centenary book now

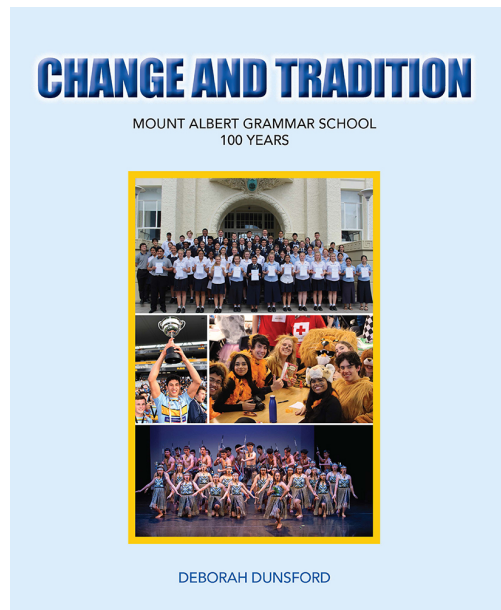
Our Centenary book, *Change and Tradition*, by Deborah Dunsford is available to [order online](#)

The book, which focuses on the period 1997-2022, is a companion to Professor Russell Stone and Neville McMillan's 75th Jubilee book, *Tradition and Change*, which covers MAGS' history from 1922-1997.

*Change and Tradition* has comprehensive coverage and photos of the past 25 years at MAGS.

The book has a RRP of \$45 but our Centenary pricing has it at \$35, and it can be bought in a bundle with *Tradition and Change* for \$50.

You can order these books online [here](#) along with MAGS Centenary apparel and merchandise.



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## Interact members receive Rotary certificates



Interact is part of the Westhaven Rotary Club, and two members, Judy Lawley and Rex Billington, came to MAGS and presented certificates to our Year 13s to thank them for their service over their time in Interact/at school.

Judy spoke about the importance of service and how she came to be involved in the Rotary Club through a scholarship to Oxford.

She encouraged students to continue serving beyond school and told them how they will always be welcome to join the Rotary Club and its many offshoots.

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## Junior Excellence Awards presented





The Junior Excellence Awards for Term 3 were presented to students from Year 9 (pictured above) and Year 10 (pictured below) at assemblies this week.

Certificates are awarded to up to two students from each mentor class at the end of each term. You can see the list of Year 9 students [here](#) and Year 10 students [here](#). 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



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## Junior Exam Timetables

Junior Exam Timetables for Week 4 are out now. Exams start on Tuesday, November 8. Click [here](#) for Year 9 and [here](#) for Year 10 for times, locations and instructions.

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## Rich legacy of academic trophies

## Mt. Albert Grammar School Staff 1936



ALAN BLARBY STUDIO

Back Row—J. W. Bailey, W. E. King, J. G. Brown, J. M. Tait, R. Willmott, W. R. H. Martin, T. Scott, E. H. Boulton  
Middle Row—W. C. J. Perry, C. T. Harris, J. H. Jenkin, N. B. Body, H. L. Calder, M. D. Nairn, M. J. O'Sullivan, J. L. D. Woolloxall  
Front Row—A. D. Trendall, R. B. Hardy, G. S. Coldham, W. Caradus, F. W. Gamble (Headmaster), J. H. Harvey, H. F. Brock, C. P. Worley  
Inset—W. S. Fleming.

With Senior Prizegiving coming up next Tuesday, it's interesting to reflect on the trophies named after past teachers that are still presented today.

Many of the 1936 staff pictured above have trophies named after them across a range of subjects.

They are: J.G. Brown Trophy for Deputy Head Boy, R. Willmott Trophy for Quality of Effort (Year 11), J.H. Jenkin Prize for Woodwork, H.L. Calder History Prize, M.J. O'Sullivan Prize for Biology, R.B. Hardy Commercial Prize. F.W. Gamble Trophy for The Best All Round Boy (Year 13), J.H. Harvey English Prize, C.P. Worley Chemistry Prize, G.S. Coldham Prize for Languages, and the H.L. Towers Mathematics prizes.

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## The School Hymn: A Back Story



A feature of the School's centenary celebrations was the obvious affection for the School song shared by past and present students, men and women alike. It has not always been so. Nor were the original lyrics intended to act as a school hymn.

It would be fair to say that the academic strength of the early school lay with physical sciences like chemistry. With one exception – English. In the 1920s there were two outstanding English scholars – Ron Holloway and J.A.W. (Jack) Bennett.

In his final year (1928), Bennett submitted for the school magazine, *The Albertian*, a poem entitled *L'envoi*. This French term stands for a poet's fond farewell to an institution like a school and in which (as in this case) he gives thanks for what the school's ethos has done for him.

Both the then-head of English, Mr J. H. Harvey, and the School's Headmaster, Mr F. W. Gamble, quickly recognised the merit of this poem and its potential as a school hymn. They set about commissioning a reputable local composer, Dr S. K. Philipps, to provide music to Bennett's lyrics.

"Dusk on the Walls" was first performed in public by the school choir in the 1930 annual concert. Since then it has increasingly figured in all significant Mount Albert Grammar School assemblies. In the early days, it was sung at a slow tempo, almost like a dirge. Fortunately, in more recent years, the school has sung it, as was originally intended, at a fast clip.

Aided by scholarships, Jack Bennett went on to study at Auckland and Oxford Universities where he won a stellar reputation as an expert in medieval English literature. He became a Don (lecturer) successively at both Oxford and Cambridge, and ultimately succeeded the renowned C.S. Lewis in the Chair of Medieval English literature at Cambridge. As a sixth former in 1939, I heard Jack, back here on leave, speak at a special assembly held in his honour in our school hall.

Interestingly, while at Oxford, Bennett was invited to become a member of "The Inklings", a high-powered Oxbridge literary group, that included J.R.R. Tolkien (he of *The Hobbit* and *Lord of the Rings* fame) and C.S. Lewis (author of *The Narnia Chronicles*) – philologists who wrote fantastic narratives which, in latter times, have been made into highly successful films.

Jack Bennett always considered *L'envoi* to be no more than adolescent versifying. But

authors are famously unfitted to evaluate their own work. Posterity has proved him wrong. He was far too modest. Generations of men and women, now that the years have given the School, in Jack's words, "royalty", see in "Dusk on the walls" the perfect embodiment of Mount Albert Grammar School's code of values, one hundred years on.

– Professor Russell Stone  
2022

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## Order The Albertian 2022 now



Our Finance Department is now taking orders for The Albertian 2022, which will be available in 2023. The yearbook can be delivered to Year 13 students, rather than picked up from MAGS, for a small extra cost. Please click [here](#) and fill out the form to order your copy of The Albertian 2022.

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## Sports Update

### Orienteers dominate again



*Our top Orienteers, who have represented NZ, were recognised with Black Caps at the Sports Awards Dinner last night.*

Senior students Molly McGowan and Daniel Wood both won the Under 20 Elite Grades at the Northern Region Club Championships in Woodhill Forest last weekend.

Held over three days with a last day chasing start, both MAGS Orienteers headed out together ahead of the pack.

Molly took out a highly competitive national field by over 11 minutes, extending her lead on the final day, with Daniel holding on impressively to win by nearly 2 minutes. Callum Wishart had a strong run on Day 3 to finish in 3rd place.

There was a full MAGS podium in the Boys 16 grade with Sam Carryer winning by 9 minutes, beating Matthew Greenwood and Reuben Adye. In the Boys 14 Grade William Wood finished 1st, winning by 12 minutes.

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## General Notices



THE  
GRADUATE  
CHOIR  
NEW ZEALAND

THE GRADUATE CHOIR NZ  
**21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary  
Celebration**

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*St Matthew-in-the-City*

**SUNDAY 30 OCT 2022**

*2:15pm*

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**TICKETS \$45** (\$40 concession)

[www.iticket.co.nz](http://www.iticket.co.nz) / 0508 iTICKET (484-253)

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

**iTICKET**

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

Centenary Week  
25th Sept - 1st October  
<https://mags100.ptly.com>

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