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October 3, 2022 / Alberton Avenue, Mt Albert, Auckland 1025 / +64 9 846 2044 / www.mags.school.nz

From the Headmaster

Key Dates

The ASB MAGS Farm – A Centennial Gift

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

Our MAGS centennial celebrations culminated with the Centenary Dinner held at The Millennium Hotel on Saturday evening.

The evening was a sell-out, and brought to a conclusion an outstanding week of reconnection and reminiscence for Albertians of all ages.

The legacy of our celebrations promises to continue well into the future. It has galvanised our alumni and the wider MAGS community in a powerful way. The generations of MAGS students to come will be the beneficiaries of this.

Click [here](#) for the Calendar

Monday, October 17

Start of Term 4

Monday, October 24

Labour Day holiday

Wednesday, October 26

Summer Sports Photos

Thursday, October 27

Sports Awards Dinner

Friday, October 28

Pasifika Awards Dinner

Tuesday, November 1

Senior Prizegiving

Friday, November 4

Arts Awards Dinner

Saturday, November 5

School Ball

Monday, November 7

Te Puna o Wairaka Awards
Dinner



The recent announcement by ASB CEO Vittoria Shortt (pictured above) to transfer ownership of the ASB MAGS Farm to the MAGS Foundation is a centennial gift like no other! This priceless resource has provided agricultural and horticultural courses for MAGS students since 1933.

Thanks to the generosity of ASB, MAGS will now be able to further retain and modernise this 8.1ha outdoor classroom into a state of the art AgriFood and Fibre learning centre.

The young people of MAGS as well as New Zealand's primary industries will be the winners!

Bringing ownership of the ASB MAGS Farm into the school provides a fantastic launching pad as we enter our second century.

Thank you to ASB and to all who have helped to mark our 100th Birthday.

The future is very bright!

Per Angusta Ad Augusta

Enjoy the holiday break.

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster

Sport

Trials and Registrations

Click [here](#)



Fixtures and Results

Click [here](#)



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



ASB CEO Vittoria Shortt presented Mr Drumm with a framed Certificate of Title at the official ceremony to gift the ASB MAGS Farm into MAGS' ownership. MAGS Foundation Chair Peter Thorp, below right, has been a driving force behind the farm along with, and as part of, the ASB MAGS Farm Advisory Committee.

In an extraordinarily generous gift in our Centenary Year, the ASB has handed the ASB MAGS Farm to our school. Previously leased from the ASB, the 8.1ha working farm (with an estimated value of \$150 million) was established in 1932 and features horticulture, a variety of livestock, and a classroom centre educating students in Agricultural and Horticultural Science. ASB CEO Vittoria Shortt said, "We're delighted to be gifting ownership of ASB MAGS Farm to the MAGS Foundation, ensuring that students will continue to benefit from this special learning environment for generations to come.



"Food and fibre production is the backbone of New Zealand's economy, and the farm plays a really important role in attracting young urban talent into these industries."

Mr Drumm said, "ASB MAGS Farm has a 90-year heritage and we're excited to continue its legacy.

"ASB's gift of this land will allow us to continue future-proofing the facilities and further diversifying the farm, and we have ambitious plans for the renovation of existing buildings

“Our students benefit greatly from this education, and it will be enjoyed by generations to come.”

Guest speaker at the handover ceremony was Albertian Fatima Imran, who is in her final year of an AgriCommerce degree at Massey University. She was initially attracted to the farm by the thought of looking after sheep and driving a tractor.

But she soon found out there was a whole lot more to the AgriFood and Fibre sector, and working and learning on the farm inspired her to pursue a career in AgriCommerce.

Watch TVNZ's Seven Sharp tonight at 7pm for an item about the farm and the handover.

You can learn more about the ASB MAGS Farm [here](#)



Albertian Fatima Imran speaks about her time at MAGS, her love for the farm and how it opened up pursuing a career in AgriCommerce.

Centenary Dinner celebrates the MAGS Way



Our Centenary Dinner was a celebration of the traditions, advances and diversity that make up the MAGS identity.

Our school is founded on the Four Pillars – Academia, Arts, Service and Sport – and follows the 'MAGS Way' values, and those were all on display and celebrated throughout the night.

MC'ed by Albertian Mark Watson, the event saw Albertians young and old packing out the ballroom at The Grand Millennium Hotel and enjoying musical performances as well as guest speakers such as Sir Bryan Williams, scientist Molly Swanson (pictured right) and our Academic Dean Warwick Gibbs.

First up was another stellar performance by our award-winning Centennial Choir, under the guidance of Terence Maskell. That was followed by a Headmasters Panel Q&A session with Headmaster Mr Drumm and former headmasters Maurice Hall (1970-88) and Dale Burden (2006-2015), and Noeleen Taylor standing in for her husband Greg, who was headmaster from 1988-2006. Mr Watson quizzed the panel about the changes they had seen and made at MAGS.



Then, Sir Bryan spoke about his time at MAGS and how that had prepared him for becoming an All Black at the age of 19 and a career in law. He said he had lived his life by the MAGS motto of 'Per Angusta Ad Augusta' (Through Hardship to Glory) as nothing had ever come easy in rugby or in law, and then balancing both with family life.

Ms Swanson, who is a research fellow at University of Auckland studying neurodegenerative disease, said she was a quirky teenager but found her place at MAGS and enjoyed the breadth of opportunity that was offered to her.

Before Mr Gibbs' speech, Albertian Tali Meavale and Deputy Head Prefect Isaiah Nin and Year 13 student Nathan Setefano (on guitar) performed a lively medley of songs.

Mr Gibbs, our Academic Dean, reflected on his 50 years (and counting) in teaching at MAGS and how times had changed since he was employed by Mr Hall fresh out of

Centenary Committee Chair Dale Griffiths wrapped up the evening with a toast to absent friends and one to the school, and presented our Events Manager Emma John with a bouquet of flowers in recognition of her bringing together such a great evening. To close, everyone got to their feet to sing the School Hymn accompanied by Mr Gibbs on keyboard.

You can see more photos from the event [here](#)



Albertians Day and Luncheon



wednesday, September 28, for a day that was all about '[Change and Tradition](#)' (funnily enough, the title of our newly released Centenary book).

The day began with a School Tour, which allowed Albertians to see the changes that had happened to the school campus since they were last here, and also reacquaint themselves with traditional elements such as the F.W. Gamble Hall and its Honours Boards.

A Centenary Tree planting then took place and was conducted by one of our oldest Albertians, Professor Russell Stone (the co-author of MAGS' 75th Jubilee book [Tradition and Change](#)) and Year 12 student Jessica Lamb, who is a relative of our first Head Prefect in 1922, C.C. Lamb.

Following the ceremony, there was a special assembly for Year 13s with

Albertians in attendance and former Headmaster Maurice Hall, aged 93, as guest speaker. Guests then adjourned to the W.O.H. Gibbs Room for the Albertians Centenary Luncheon, which was MC'ed by Frosty James and featured Dr Peter Phillips (pictured above right), an Emeritus Professor at Yale, who was Dux at MAGS in 1965.

Before he was introduced, Mr Drumm thanked Dr Phillips for donating trophies for our Girls and Boys Dux. As Mr Drumm observed, MAGS presents a multitude of cups at the end of the year but has never in its history had a cup for our Duxes. He said it was fitting that was rectified and that they would be presented during our Centenary year celebrations.

Our Centennial Choir, who sang at assembly, then performed another item before Dr Phillips spoke about how his early life and his time at MAGS had shaped him and put him on the path to becoming a leading academic and econometrician.

He spoke fondly of his time at MAGS and how his exacting, and sometimes eccentric, teachers had left a lasting impression on him and had helped to steer him into a career he loved.

You can read more about the day and see more photos from it [here](#)





Professor Russell Stone holds a photo of his rugby team from 1938 that won the Sixth Grade Championship, while Jessica Lamb holds a photo of the 1922 Prefects featuring her great-great-grand-uncle C.C. Lamb, Head Prefect.

Centenary Reunion Drinks



The MAGS Centenary Reunion Drinks on September 30 was one of the highlights of our Centenary Week as we welcomed Albertians back to MAGS to reconnect and renew old friendships.



to make for a fantastic gathering, with DJ Expo 88 playing hits across the years. You can see more photos from the evening [here](#)



The Alternative School Tour



Led by Albertians the Rev. Mua Strickson-Pua and Sofi Ulugia-Pua, the Alternative School Tour featured music, a lot of laughs and the sharing of many stories.

The Pua brothers, who have been doing Auckland Heritage walks for over 15 years, welcomed guests on their tour before taking them into the F.W. Gamble Hall, where they sat on the stage together and each shared their stories about their time at MAGS. Once everyone had introduced themselves, the tour set off around the school for more tales about MAGS life.

The Pua brothers said, "The Alternative Tour lived up to its name. There was a 50-year spread of Albertians who walked or rode their bikes to school. Then you had the House Boys who had a whole different level of stories. Some of these Albertians had not been back since the day they left school.

"One person came to honour her father as she discovers his journey at MAGS through letters written to his mother. While another Albertian relived his duty as the official bell ringer.

"They were amazed by the scale of development around the school. They also remembered a teacher or a mate that helped their time at school be enjoyable. Proud Albertians, who found their way through life by their time at school."



Centenary Golf Day



The Centenary Golf Day at Muriwai Golf Club last Thursday, September 29, raised \$4000 for the Sir Bryan Williams Rugby Fund, which supports teenage rugby.

Sir Bryan was among the 60 players who turned out for the day, which was a huge success thanks to the organisational efforts of Albertian John Liddell.

There was generous sponsorship of the holes and prizes, with players receiving \$8000 worth of prizes for their efforts in the Ambrose competition and by way of lucky draw.

Winners of the Ambrose were Innes Kerr-Taylor (who is a relative of the family that owned the land donated for the ASB MAGS Farm), Denise and Chris Webb, and Patrick Rowland

won the longest drive and closest to the pin.



Centenary Thanksgiving Service



The Centenary Thanksgiving Service on Sunday, September 25 in the F.W. Gamble Hall was a great multi-generational celebration of the last 100 years with thoughts on what holds the MAGS community together. The focus was on how MAGS has certainly changed and adapted with the times but also held onto meaningful traditions and brought continuity. The keynote address – Through Hardship to Glory – was given by Thomas Wynne (pictured top).



There were some terrific musical items from our Gloriana Choir, Isaiah Nin and Tali Meavale (pictured right), and Opeloge Ah Sam. A candle of remembrance for those that have passed was lit by Head Prefect Lucy Taylor while a [video montage](#) played. Mr Drumm closed off proceedings before guests adjourned to the W.O.H. Gibbs Room for refreshments, and more reminiscing and sharing of stories. Some people travelled from as far away as Tauranga for what was the only Centenary event they could make during the week. You can see more photos from the event [here](#)



100 years between badges

It was with great pleasure that MAGS received a visit from Albertian Murray Jenkin (1947-51), who wore the 1923 Prefect badge of his father Jack. He is pictured with Prefect Lukasz Swain, wearing his 2022 badge.

Albertian Jack Jenkin (1922-23) returned to MAGS as a woodwork teacher and coached the MAGS Rowing Eight to victory in the inaugural Maadi Cup (1947).

Jack then built the wooden base for the trophy in the shape of a pyramid to recognise the Egyptian origin of the trophy from WWII.

The Maadi Cup has since become the most prestigious trophy (and event) in secondary school rowing.



Scholarship Dance shows huge promise



The 2022 Dance Scholarship Concert was held in PA02 dance room last Monday, September 26, at 5pm and 7pm. Director Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "The standard of choreography and performance by Year 12 and 13 students was outstanding and bodes well for another year of outstanding scholarship results for MAGS."

"At the end of the evening the graduating Year 13s performed the Leavers Dance as is traditional – It was not only a fabulous dance but the performance was joyous and had the audience clapping to the music right from the outset. Congratulations to all involved."





Oli Sail receives Black Cap



Albertian Oli Sail (2012-13) attended assembly last Tuesday to receive his Black Cap in recognition of becoming a NZ representative in Football. Oli's most recent appearance for the All Whites as 'keeper was on September 25 in a friendly against Australia at Eden Park. As a national representative, Oli's name will also go up on the Honours Board in the F.W. Gamble Hall. Oli plays for the Wellington Phoenix in the A League.

Shave for a Cure coming up



Next term, MAGS is running Shave for a Cure to raise funds to support the cancer community.

The MAGS Shave Day is on Thursday, October 20 (Term 4, Week 1). Students can go the full mile and shave their head, or they can cut and donate their hair instead.

TIC Interact Miss Barlow said, "This is Interact's final fundraiser for this year so we would love your support. If you are able to give, our fundraising page is [here](#)

"For any students wanting to sign up, more information is on your year level Google Classroom. Alternatively, feel free to get in touch with interact@mags.school.nz

"Every year 25,000 kiwis are diagnosed with cancer. But, as always, we can do our part to support by fundraising. Our hair can grow back, but the money we raise can save lives."

Student artworks at Te Papa



A huge congratulations to two of our Visual Art students, Te Arini Roberts, left, and Aleisha Roulston, right, who are exhibiting work in the Ringa Toi student art exhibition at Te Papa



the artwork of secondary school students with a focus on Toi Māori.

The Ringa Toi Student Exhibition for 2022 will be open at Rongomaraeroa Marae, on Level 4 of the Museum of New Zealand, Te Papa Tongarewa, from September 28 to October 9.

Ringa Toi contains more than 80 artworks from students around Aotearoa New Zealand.



Sports Update

All MAGS Year 9 and 10 students can register for the Central Hub Athletics Squad where they receive coaching in fundamental athletics every Sunday, 11am-12pm, during Term 4 (and Term 1) at Lovelock Track.

Athletes are welcome to trial one session (free) before signing up for the term.

They also get free access to Auckland City Athletics Club nights for timed events every Tuesday, 6.30pm at Lovelock Track.

Details are available [here](#) and registration is [here](#)

Any questions can be sent to auckland.city.athletics@gmail.com



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