

DECEMBER 2023

THE

LION



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Boarding at MAGS

A HOME AWAY FROM HOME



**MOUNT ALBERT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**



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 Head Prefects of Centennial
 House and School House
 Phonephimonh Monh Sabanhdit
 and Hokioramai Dunn.

Photo: Martin Sykes



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A Home Away FROM HOME

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

The early summer warmth and sun has provided some hope of a settled Christmas holiday period ahead. For most of us, the tempestuous start to 2023 seems a distant memory – yet it is still important to spare a thought for the MAGS families and staff who continue to rebuild after the weather events from the beginning of the year.

Our MAGS community as a whole has more than ‘weathered’ those challenges and forged ahead to come to the end of another year of outstanding student success.

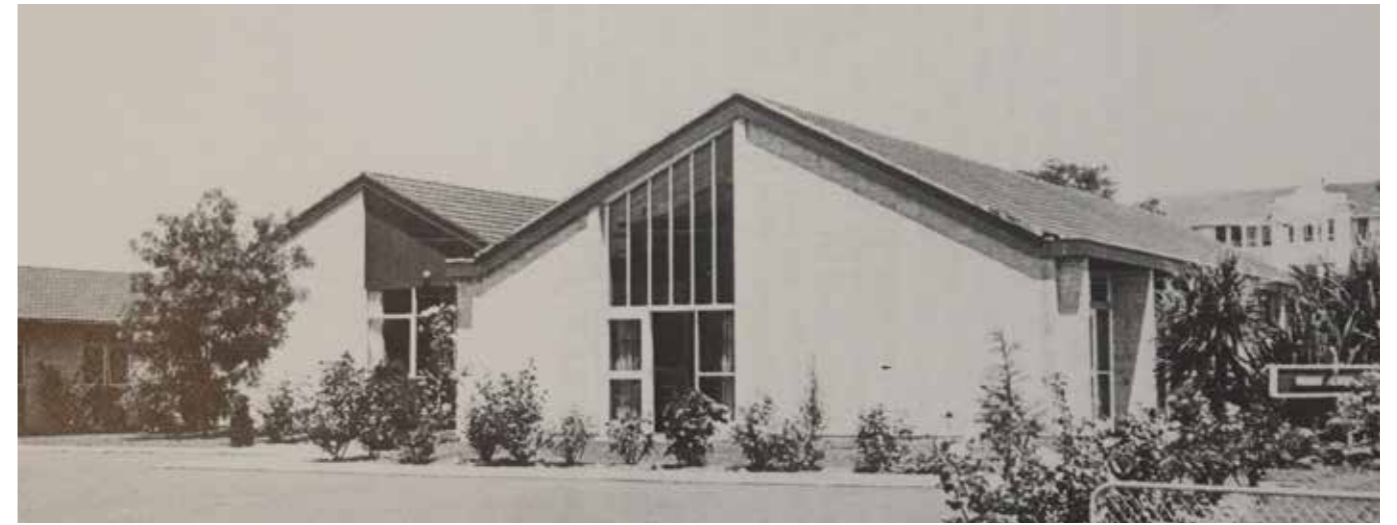
The Term 4 calendar is traditionally dominated with awards dinners, celebrations and prize givings as we acknowledge student excellence across the sporting,



artistic, service and academic dimensions of the school. These events showcase our students at their best.

A celebration which carries special significance for our community is the School House Leavers’ Dinner. The evening is an emotional one as our departing Year 13s give their valedictory speeches – often in front of parents and whanau who have travelled long distances to be present for the evening.

Reflecting on their five-year journey through MAGS, students keep coming back to the powerful influence of the School House environment on creating the person they are today. The strong bonds with fellow boarders, and the deep respect for the staff, and the gratitude at being able to attend MAGS are common references. These themes create a powerful sense of belonging – and a culture from which students can aspire to be the best they can be.



In 1926, foundation headmaster Fred Gamble convinced the Board of Governors of the time to purchase a large villa on New North Road, pictured on opposite page, for use as a hostel for boys from outside the school zone. Barely five years into its existence, MAGS was already facing high demand from boys and families across Auckland and beyond who wished to attend Mount Albert Grammar School (sounds familiar!). The original School House opened with 22 boys in 1927 before today’s purpose-built facility, pictured above, was constructed on the school grounds in the early 1970s.

was the success of our boys’ boarding facility which provided the impetus for the Board in 2017 to purchase a building a short walk from school, to house our first female boarders. After navigating the challenges of the Covid era, our Centenary year in 2022 finally saw that vision brought to life with the opening of Centennial House – a hostel for MAGS girls.

With those foundation girls joining Centennial House, MAGS became the only state co-educational school in New Zealand to offer boarding for both boys and girls. This unique point of difference has

been welcomed by parents from outside of Auckland, with many of them now able to send both their sons and daughters to MAGS. It has been another important step in providing equity of opportunity for both the boys and girls of MAGS.



The front cover is graced with the photo of the Head Prefects of both School House – Hokioramai Dunn – and Centennial House – Phonephimonh Monh Sabanhdit. Hoki and Mon have enjoyed stellar careers here at MAGS and they are destined for great things in the future. In many ways they epitomise the MAGS graduate we are trying to produce – young men and women who understand service, have high personal aspirations while understanding the obligations to their fellow students and school. Both Hoki and Mon will leave MAGS this year confident in their

own skin. Their time as boarders in their ‘home away from home’ has nurtured this journey. They and their fellow boarders are forever part of the MAGS ‘house’ family!



Thank you to our boarding staff who, under the guidance of Director Daryl Cartwright, create such a positive cultural epicentre of our school.

And thank you to the parents who entrust their already good sons and daughters to MAGS, and allow us to grow them into great young men and women.

Wishing all in our MAGS community a restful and happy Christmas.

Per Angusta Ad Augusta

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster



School House Head Prefect Hokioramai Dunn and Centennial House Head Prefect Phonephimonh Monh Sabanhdit with Director of Boarding Mr Cartwright and Centennial House Manager Mrs Kidd.

BOARDING at MAGS



One hundred years ago, MAGS first Headmaster, FW Gamble, saw the wisdom of creating boarding facilities for students.

In his first annual report in 1922 he noted that “frequent inquiries for boarding accommodation emphasise one of Auckland’s greatest liabilities – possessing no institution to receive children of outlying districts who have earned and desire the right to be taught in a Grammar School”.

In 1926 a large house at 807 New North Road was bought from the Child Welfare Department. It had been built 43 years earlier as a gentleman’s residence on more than 2.2ha of land, running the length of Burch Street through to Asquith Avenue and occupying half the block. After some refurbishment it opened in 1927 as the Mount Albert Grammar School Hostel with 22 boys. In the following years the numbers almost doubled.

The original School House closed in 1970. The new School House, built on the school’s lower hockey field, was up and running in 1971. It accommodates 110 boys and is always in huge demand.

When MAGS welcomed girls in 2000, there was no boarding facility for female students until last year, our Centenary year, when Centennial House opened and was able to accommodate up to 25 girls.

Director of Boarding Daryl Cartwright said Gamble’s vision has been borne out by the demand from students further afield to board at MAGS.

“Many boys from outside of Auckland choose to board at School House to be able to gain an excellent educational experience at our school. The school board and current Headmaster Mr Drumm wanted to be able to offer the same opportunity to girls and Centennial House was opened last year in the school’s 100th year.

“Boarding at MAGS aims to offer a safe, caring, and nurturing home away from home. School House and Centennial House allow students from outside the Mount Albert Grammar School zone to access a quality education rich in tradition and one that promotes high standards. Students not only have the opportunity to access many areas of the wider school life, but they also make significant contributions.

“We strive to always provide an environment that helps students grow emotionally, physically and spiritually into mature young people and leaders of tomorrow.

“Living at School House and Centennial House is about maximising opportunities for leadership and participation. The culture aims to allow each student to realise their potential through personal growth where they develop a sense of independence, learn to manage the challenges of communal living and foster lifelong friendships.”

Mr Cartwright enjoys the challenge of working with young people in boarding.

“It is not an easy thing to leave your family and friends to go to school. The teenagers we get to work with develop resilience and independence by leaving home and choosing to go into boarding. It is a significant responsibility that parents entrust us to care for their children; it is a key part of the role that we take very seriously.

“Seeing the change and growth in each of our boarders as they mature is rewarding. There is a real sense of pride in seeing our boarders grow into confident young adults; sometimes they can be a totally different person compared to when they began their journey at MAGS. The significant achievements and contributions that so many make to the school is also inspirational.

“As the Director of Boarding, I certainly can have a variety of challenges, but the aim is to always provide the best experience we can for our young people. I believe there are five fundamental qualities that make every team great, and these qualities are what we aim for everyday as a staff and for the students to develop over time here at School House and Centennial House.

These are: Communication, Trust, Collective Responsibility, Caring and Pride.”



Centennial House Manager Karen Kidd said, “Centennial House offers an excellent opportunity for young girls to enrol into Mount Albert Grammar School, where they can fully engage in a wide range of sports, academic and cultural activities.

“Within the secure and welcoming environment of Centennial House, the girls not only feel safe but also have clear support systems in place to address their pastoral needs. The house encourages the

development of positive daily routines, fostering independence and self-management skills over time.

Mrs Kidd adds, “It’s rewarding watching the girls’ growth, their bonding, and the development of strong relationships. It’s enjoyable watching them enjoying their sports, academics, and cultural pursuits, all while building valuable life skills for when they leave Centennial House.”

Debating

Both of our debating teams, who made it into the Octofinals, have continued to impress.

The Senior Open team made up of Ryan Antia, Nishka Arora and Arshiya Arora (pictured top right with Mr Ploeg), made it through to the Quarterfinals, and Ryan Antia was awarded the 6th Best Speaker award at the ASD prizegiving at St Kentigern College.

Our Junior Open team of Stephanie Zhang, Eliza Rodger, Isabella Caie, Sona McCormack and Lachlan Paul (pictured right with Ms Laxon) progressed right through to the final, which was held at MAGS in Spetember, and came second out of 106 teams across Auckland.

TIC Debating Mr Ploeg said, "This was an extremely impressive achievement. The chief moderator commented that the debate was one of the best Junior Open debates he had ever seen.

Furthermore, Stephanie Zhang and Isabella Caie were awarded 5th and 9th Best Speaker awards respectively. Their congratulations are well-deserved.

"This concludes a very successful year in debating, and highlights the quality of our students, who have conducted themselves to the highest of standards."



Ryan Antia, Stephanie Zhang and Isabella Caie were awarded 6th, 5th and 9th Best Speakers at the Auckland Schools Debating Awards.



BIOLOGY Olympiad

Jacob Miller (pictured left on arrival home) was part of the medal-winning New Zealand team who competed at the 34th International Biology Olympiad (IBO), in the United Arab Emirates in August.

Jacob, who won a silver medal, which is a first for MAGS, went one better than last year when he won bronze.

He was part of a NZ team that achieved international success against 1000 students from 80 countries. Jacob was one of two New Zealand students who were awarded silver medals, with the other two in the team claiming bronze.

Reflecting on the success of students at the IBO, NZIBO Chair Dr Angela Sharples said: "The ambitious target for New Zealand is for our students to compete against the best young scientists in the world and bring home both the medals and a lifelong passion for the biological sciences that will grow science research and innovation in NZ. To win four medals is an outstanding achievement by our students. They are truly among the best young scientists in the world."



REMEMBERING Soren Wislang

On October 11, MAGS unveiled a plaque in memory of Mathematics and Statistics teacher Soren Wislang, who passed away early in 2022, aged 55 years.

It was a privilege to have members of Soren's family – his mother Helen, wife Diana and daughters Hannah and Kate (pictured right) – at the ceremony, which was also attended by Soren's colleagues and past students in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Headmaster Mr Drumm said it was fitting that Soren now had a permanent place at MAGS where he would forever be remembered as "a passionate, creative educator and talented musician".



He said, "It is really special to honour Soren (pictured left) and his family today. His name as a permanent fixture in our hall will mark that legacy – as will the Soren Wislang Cup for Year 12 Statistics accompanied by a financial award – which Diana, Hannah and Kate have kindly donated to the school – and which was presented for the first time at last year's Senior Prizegiving.

"Soren represents all that is good about a MAGS teacher."

Colleague Mr Walden paid tribute to Soren's upbeat nature, work ethic, organisational skills and dedication to his students.

He said Soren had poured huge amounts of energy into creating outstanding coursework that would be part of his legacy at MAGS.

Soren's wife Diana said she was surprised and touched by MAGS' tribute to her husband, who was a passionate and incredibly dedicated teacher who could only be pried away from his work and hours of research by taking him away on holiday. She said Soren loved the camaraderie of his fellow teachers and seeing his students excel.

In his four years at MAGS, Soren also supported the choral and orchestral programmes, and managed tennis, table tennis and football teams. He also played bass in the staff band MAGitude, which reformed to pay tribute to him.

Mr Walden (drums), Mr Watson (guitar), Miss Hughes (vocals) and Mr Knowles (guitar and vocals) entertained guests with a medley of songs to wrap up the ceremony.



Ngā Manu Kōrero

Te Puna o Wairaka student Katie Watkinson gave an outstanding speech on September 21 as she represented Waitematā at the Ngā Manu Kōrero nationals in Dunedin.

She was competing in the Tā Turi Kara – Junior English category after winning that section at the Waitematā regionals in June.

In her speech – *I am Unapologetically Māori* – Katie spoke about the backlash against incorporating te reo into everyday New Zealand life, colonialism, and what it is to be Māori in 2023.

MAGS staff and students from Te Puna, who were at nationals to support Katie, were part of a waiata tautoko following her speech.



Leavers Day

Our Year 13s got to enjoy a fantastic Leavers Day on October 30, with lots of music, fun and laughter as they enjoyed shirt-signings, a sausage sizzle and their last assembly as our Leavers said goodbye to staff and fellow students before exams.



Cystic Fibrosis Fundraisers



In Term 3, Interact held a fundraiser selling chocolate fish to raise money for Cystic Fibrosis (CF) New Zealand.

CF is a disease that hits very close to home for the English Faculty at MAGS as two of the teachers have relatives with Cystic Fibrosis, including Mrs Papesch, pictured right, whose son has CF.

Mrs Papesch said, "Through their amazing efforts, Interact raised just over \$1400 for CFNZ. We were lucky enough to have both the Co-Chair of CFNZ Auckland branch, Jane Drumm, and 18-year-old Andrew, who has Cystic Fibrosis, in to present students with certificates in recognition of their efforts."

BLOOD DONOR DAY

The annual Blood Donor Day on August 18 saw NZ Blood Service collect 63 units of blood from students and staff in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

School Nurse Claire Brown said, "It was great to have the NZ Blood Service at MAGS allowing our students to be a part of the incredible work that they do." She said that one unit of blood can save up to three lives, meaning the donations from MAGS students and staff will save up to 189 lives.

"The NZ Blood Service have again commended our students and staff on their generosity in donating and the impeccable behaviour observed on the day. They passed on that our students are always a pleasure to work with and helped to make the day run smoothly.

"The tireless work of members from the Health Committee with spreading the word and recruitment of donors prior to the day, as well as their help on the day itself, contributed immensely to the success of the day – thank you for all your continued hard work."

DUKE OF ED



Several MAGS students/Albertians have recently completed their Gold Duke of Edinburgh's Award, which is an amazing achievement.

Ashleigh Muir, Louise Clarke, Caitlin Graham and Rishita Bharani have all achieved this pinnacle award through the five sections of physical recreation, skills, service, adventurous

journey and residential project.

They committed to each for a year so have shown great dedication and initiative in completing the award.

Rishita is pictured being presented with her award in Wellington earlier this year by Dr Richard Davies, the husband of the Governor General, Dame Cindy Kiro.

Environmental GROUP



On July 2 a group of 18 volunteers representing the MAGS Environment Group participated in a tree-planting day at Tāwharanui Regional Park, north of Auckland.

This tree-planting day is held in conjunction with Auckland Council and volunteer groups, with the aim of reintroducing native plants to this important reserve. The park is a predator-free zone, home to kiwi, takahe and wētāpunga.

Our MAGS group worked in challenging conditions, on a steep and muddy slope on a rain-swept coastline, to help plant over 1000 trees. These were all native trees, mainly manuka, kanuka and kahikatea.

TIC Ms Milich said, "Thanks go to Year 12 student Lize Deng for

organising a group of committed and hard-working students to volunteer in their school holidays."

This year, for the second year running, our Environmental Group has coordinated with their counterparts at Marist College to clean up the Roy Clements Treeway in August.

The walkway and waterway have long been associated with our school as former teacher Roy Clements initiated an effort to plant this area with native plants around 30 years ago.

Lize Deng organised a team of 35 MAGS students to assist with the clean-up, with a number of Marist students joining them.

They collected a trailer-load of rubbish, including everything from plastic pipes and baby wipes to fittings from a kitchen sink.

WORLD VISION CHAMPIONS



World Vision Youth Ambassador Hemi Pinfold Whanga visited assembly on August 11 to thank MAGS students for their fundraising efforts – bringing in \$6469.43 in the 40 Hour Challenge – and to present some awards.

Hemi presented several awards to students and one to Miss Barlow, the TIC of Interact, for being an 'Outstanding Organiser'.

Our top five fundraisers – Stella Anderson (\$755.63), Adriana Hall (\$700.00), Parum Nangia (\$552.34), Olivia Bennett (\$390.00) and Isabella Caie (\$304.00) – were recognised and the school was presented with a Silver Award for the funds it raised.

An Outstanding Student Leadership Team Award was presented as was the Most Creative Fundraising Award for the 'Hype Event' at school featuring dunking and cream pies in the face that was held to raise awareness about the challenge.

Mr Pinfold Whanga also presented MAGS with a Milestone Award to recognise the 25-year relationship with World Vision.



QUIZ NIGHT

Quiz Night on August 18 was energetic and spirited as 340 staff and students gathered – not only for friendly competition but also to raise money for charity.

The 42 tables raised around \$3000 to support Pasifika and Auckland youth and families through the Village Trust.

Everyone enjoyed seeing tables dressed up and decorated, with lots of laughs at a variety of unique themes. Best dressed individual was won by Snow White, while the best dressed table was won by Scooby Gang with honourable mentions to Senior Leadership Team and the Fifa Women's Football table.

The coveted first place was snagged by the English department's 'Deserters', followed by the teachers' team and the 'Giblets' from 12GIB.

Well done to the student-led Academic Council, Quizmaster Mr Barrett and Miss Hobbs for organising and running the event.



Agriculture and Horticulture

On September 8, the ASB MAGS Farm hosted the inaugural Clash of the Colleges in beautiful conditions.

The competing schools were St Cuthbert's College, Kaipara College, Onewhero Area School, Otahuhu College and MAGS, in both the Junior (Year 9 & 10), and Senior (Year 11-13) competitions.

Students competed in teams of four, over 16 five-minute modules. These ranged from fencing skills, artificial insemination, animal health, digestive systems, ATV safety through to gumboot toss and sulky harness racing. Academic ability, practical skills and team work were put to the test.

MAGS took out both the junior and senior competitions, the sulky race and the gumboot toss.



COMMERCE

On August 24 and 25 at lunchtime, our Year 10 Finance and Enterprise students treated the school to a range of savoury and sweet products.

There were over 19 groups that sold home-made products including burgers, nachos, cake pops, macarons and cupcakes, with all groups selling out.

HOF Commerce Mr Gilbert said, "The entrepreneurial spirit is alive and well at MAGS, and all students appreciated the opportunity to test classwork theory in a competitive selling environment."



CAREERS AND PATHWAYS expo

The 2023 Careers and Pathways Expo held on July 25 in the MH Block was a huge success with a record turnout.

Students and families were able to meet with teaching staff from all of our subject departments, see examples of student work, and get information on what they can learn in these subject options.

We also had a record number of tertiary education providers promoting careers and training in everything from Aviation, Defence, Trades, Technology, Hospitality and Design.

Karen Caso, our Careers and Gateway Coordinator noticed that "great conversations were heard throughout the evening and all of our university liaisons were impressed by our students' motivation and interest in pursuing their future pathways".





Luis Kerrigan, Ben Horton and Riley Anderson-Eddy reclaimed the Maatangi Whenua Year 11 Geography Trophy for MAGS.

Geography

This year, MAGS hosted the annual Maatangi Whenua Year 11 Geography Quiz in the F.W. Gamble Hall on August 15.

Seventeen different teams were in attendance and included schools such as Botany Downs Secondary College, Auckland Grammar School and Western Springs College.

The students competed over two-and-a-half hours in a rigorous competition that included eight rounds of questions.

The tasks included making geographic features from playdough, reading topographic maps, showing understanding of current geography issues, naming countries from a series of clues, and displaying general geographic knowledge.

Going into the competition, Avondale College were the holders of the trophy by winning in 2022 but MAGS had won five years straight from 2016-2021.

The competition was neck-and-neck the whole way with Auckland Grammar 'B' and MAGS 'B' challenging each other for the lead. The contest came down to the final round with Riley, Luis and Ben from MAGS 'B' holding off Auckland Grammar 'B' to take the win by 127 points to 123. Diocesan School for Girls placed 3rd on 119 points.

Social Sciences Teacher Mr Kerrigan said, "Huge thanks to Mr Haines for organising, Ms Hobbs for her quiz coaching and Mr Grimsey for performing his natural role of Master of Ceremonies."

LANGUAGES

MAGS students shone at the Goethe Society Orals competition in August.

Year 9 Pari Lohar claimed bronze, Year 10 Isobel Knowles won gold, Year 12s Owen Frear and Alistair Clarke won Distinction and Highly Commended, while Elias Beachman was third in category.

Year 11s Markus Lienaw and Ryan Quinn won Prizes of Distinction, while Victor Coen was highly commended, and third place in this category was awarded to Jemima Flatt. James Jansen and James Bateman were second-equal overall. Both first places at this level went to our students: Karsten Price in the general section and Nora Pecher in the 'advantaged speaker' section.

Year 13s Mehak Sehgal and Loane Chauvineau were highly commended, while Lilaina Marshall (Year 12 but competing in Year 13) gained second place in the 'advantaged speaker' category.

OUTDOOR Education

The 13 Outdoor Education students competed in a four-day Adventure Race in August in the greater Auckland area, the culmination of their group work over the past four years.

The race saw four teams pitted against each other in group work activities ranging from a water transfer activity at MAGS; tramping in the Waitakere Ranges, Riverhead Forest and Hunua Ranges; mountain biking at Woodhill MTB Park; and orienteering in Mahurangi Regional Park.

Each night the class stayed together at an Auckland Regional Council campsite.

Congratulations to Katie Finch, Freja Wood, Harry Innes and Felix Schollum of Team Delta for winning the inaugural race.



HEALTH AND PE

Year 12 Health Science students put in a huge effort on August 22 and 23 as they proudly hosted the MAGS Health Expo.

This event was an opportunity for them to make a real impact on the well-being of our school community.

As part of their Achievement Standard, these students were tasked with taking action to enhance an aspect of people's well-being within our school community.

Their journey began with thorough research and comprehensive surveys to identify the pressing issues affecting our student body.

For weeks, they worked on creating engaging expo stalls, and their efforts culminated in a two-day expo during lunchtimes.

The turnout was incredible with over 400 students visiting the expo on one day alone.

Each stall was thoughtfully designed to address key well-being concerns, covering a wide range of topics. Students had the chance to explore stalls dedicated to promoting mental well-being, offering valuable stress management techniques for the upcoming senior exams, raising awareness about bullying, fostering body positivity, sharing fitness insights, and even experimenting with a unique smoothie-making bike (pictured above right).

Acting HOD Health Ms Goff said, "The commitment and creativity demonstrated by our Year 12 Health Science students was truly inspiring. Their dedication to improving the well-being of our school community has left a lasting impact, and we commend them for their outstanding effort."

Some great results from our Year 12 PE students helped MAGS take out the Tough Guy/Gal competition at Kumēu on August 3.

MAGS fielded 100 students, with top results coming from Maia Lythe (second), Olivia Tattersfield (ninth), Millee Loxton (12th), Sam Carryer (first), Oscar Vink (third) and Hunter Sutton (seventh), all pictured right.





Pasifika INITIATIVES

As part of Tongan Language Week / Uike Lea Faka-Tonga, students and staff put on dance performances in the gym at lunchtime on September 5.

The theme for Uike Lea Faka-Tonga 2023 was 'E tu'uloa 'a e Lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá, which means 'The Tongan Language will be sustainable if used at home, church and in the wider community'.



MATHEMATICS

Congratulations to Anatol Coen, Jacob Miller and Ryan Shen for placing third in the team category at the NZ Senior Maths Competition, and Victor Coen for placing 4th in NZ as an individual entry – an amazing feat for a Year 11.

MAGS also had numerous Merit awards (for a score of 12+) – well done to Lam Nguyen/Kelvin Do, Cade Kelly-Watt/Carlos Fong/Sam Carryer, Felix McElwee/Elias Beachman/Lawrence Zhao, and Harry Zhu, Jay McElwee and Matthew Radcliffe.

Mathematics teacher Mr Walden said, "In 2023, 69 schools across the country participated, with 184 teams and 203 individuals (around 700 students total) so these are tremendous achievements."

Anatol Coen, Jacob Miller, Ryan Shen and Victor Coen received an Honourable Mention upon completion of judging in the International Maths Modelling Challenge.

They were competing against teams from around the world after their solution



Our students returned some top results in the Otago Junior Maths Competition.

had been judged as one of the top two entries from New Zealand.

The problem they worked on for five days straight was to come up with mathematical models to determine the best use for a specific plot of land in the vicinity of New York that factored in variables such as "geography, climate, business options, community needs and local culture".

In the Otago Junior Maths Competition, our students returned some excellent results.

Among the top results were: Danny Hu – Distinction, Irene Nguyen – Distinction, Joshua Radcliffe – Distinction, Victor Coen – Distinction, Harrison Fu – Distinction, Ava Poynter - Top 30 in NZ.



MEDIA STUDIES

The annual MAGS Media Studies Film Night was held at St Lukes Event Cinemas on October 12.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "This is always a fantastic night and this night was one of the best yet. The range and diversity of creative ideas coupled with the expertise of our young film-makers and editors bodes well for a bright future for the media and film industry."

"While the Year 12 students produced some amazing music videos, the thought (and research) that went into some of the Year 13 documentaries was outstanding. This was punctuated by some wonderful comedy in the mockumentaries."

Ms Cesan added: "The whole school and community should see the work of these talented young film-makers."



SCIENCE

On August 21, MAGS sent two Junior and two Senior teams to the annual Science Bowl held at Auckland Grammar, competing against the best science students across a select number of schools in Auckland.

Our Senior 1 team made up of Year 12 students Jacob Miller, Samuel Reeves, Eric Hu and Jonathon Yu (pictured right) competed well in the round robin and qualified for the semi-finals against a strong Year 13 Macleans College team. They decisively won that semi-final and progressed to the final against another Year 13 team from Kristen School.

TIC Mr Huang said, "The MAGS boys showed composure and held their nerve to take out their competition with a fantastic win, with 170 points for MAGS over 100 points for Kristen."

One of our Junior teams also made it to the semi-final rounds. The Junior 1 team of Parth Setiya, Isabella Caie and Campbell Buchanan were the only Junior team with just three members, putting them at a disadvantage.

Despite this, the team managed to get to the semi-final rounds only to be knocked out by a very strong Year 11 Auckland



Grammar team. Special mention to Isabella Caie for being the only Year 10 in the team and showing outstanding knowledge and contribution to their success.

Senior 2: Suvaji Kolugala, Lauren Xu, Ruby Dewerse, Joseph Gracie
Junior 2: Fearghal Reid, Ansel Weatherall, Ben Whaley, Mo Qi Li

This year MAGS had a record number of entries into the Chemistry Olympiad exam with six students participating in the exam and one student who had direct entry from last year's result.

All students given Gold, Silver or Bronze awards are offered a place in the training group. Next year in March they will sit another exam which will determine who

is offered a place on a training camp of 32 students from around the country.

At the training camp four students will be selected from schools across the country to represent NZ in the international competition held in Saudi Arabia in July 2024.

MAGS has, for the first time, had a student achieve a Gold certificate – Victor Coen – which puts him in the 90th percentile of the country's entries.

Cade Kelly-Watt, Jonathon Yu, Ryan Shen, Subhash Thirunahari and Laith Ikram were awarded bronze certificates and have also been offered a place in the training programme, along with Samuel Reeves who has direct entry from his participation last year.

Visual ART



Our senior Visual Art Design classes were treated on Monday to a visit from renowned New Zealand Artist Tanja MacMillan, aka 'Misery'.

Tanja shared her journey as a creative student, her inspiration, community, painting process, brand collaborations, creepy-cute characters and artwork composition design tips.

Students then designed their own Japanese Yōkai characters as a creative brain break from the digital design they are used to.

On Tuesday, selected Design students were also treated to a full-day workshop with Tanja.

Students were encouraged to interpret the theme of 'play' and to create freely, being inspired by Tanja's work and style. Students were guided to plan and consider composition then dabbled with spray paint, acrylics, ink and illustration techniques.

Visual Arts teacher Mrs Gauntlett said, "A big thank-you to Tanja for visiting MAGS, and a huge thank-you to last year's MAGS Art Show, whose generous donation to the Visual Arts Department made this happen."



Congratulations to Lucca Landon-Paniora, who was selected to exhibit in the 2023 Ringa Toi Student Exhibition at Te Papa Tongarewa – Museum of New Zealand.

Lucca, who is pictured with her artwork, attended the opening ceremony in September.

This year's exhibition focuses on Toi Māori and Pacific Arts at Excellence level.

Participants were also invited to attend workshops at Te Papa run by recognised Māori artists and given a 'behind the scenes' tour of Te Papa.



Natasha Greenway and Ignacia artinez Villela – pictured left and right respectively – were nominated for this year's 2023 Pat Hanly Creativity Award at Auckland Art Gallery.

Visual Arts teacher Mrs Gauntlett said, "Natasha [whose work is pictured above left] has shown outstanding creativity in both painting and design over her time at MAGS. Natasha is an arts leader, helping manage numerous clubs and activities. Natasha is currently exploring societal views on femininity in painting and illustrative tattoos and typography in Design.

"Ignacia [whose work is pictured above right] takes both Design and Painting and is consistently creating original work at a very high standard in both subjects. She displays excellent illustration and painting skills and has a great eye for composition."



To acknowledge and celebrate all the hard work throughout the year, our Year 11 and Year 12 Visual Art Students' (Design, Photography and Painting) folio boards went on display in MH Block Atrium on October 24 at lunchtime.

It was extremely popular, with teachers and students all crowding through to view the fantastic work on display.



Year 12 Photography students Aslesha Kheterpal, Lauren Kalolo Lealiifano (both pictured with their photos), Lize Deng and June Van Griffin had their beautiful photography exhibited at this year's The Trusts 36th Art Exhibition hosted by Waitakere Arts.

Their work was on show over the Term 3 school holidays at Corban Estate Arts Centre.



Big Sing Finale

Congratulations to The Centennial Choir and Director Terence Maskell for their amazing achievements this year – not only making the prestigious Big Sing Finale – and competing against the best choirs from across NZ over August 25-27 – but also winning a Gold Award and one of the special awards: the Tour Time Cup for Best Performance in the Art Music Category at the Finale.

The Cup was one of only four special awards presented at the Big Sing Finale, held at the Auckland Town Hall over three days.

On the Friday night, the choir performed Fancis Pulenc's *Tout Puissant*, Morten Lauridsen's *Dirait-on*, and Edward German's *Four*

Jolly Sailormen, arranged by Mr Maskell. On Saturday they performed Robert Schumann's *Die Lotosblume* and Chris Artley's *I Will Lift Up Mine Eyes Unto the Hills*. By request of the judges, they reprised their performance of *Dirait-on* for Sunday's Gala Night performance. The choir were also ably supported by accompanists Mr Gibbs, Soomin Kim and Orson Paine.

Mr Maskell said he was proud of the choir's achievements and thankful for "the mature and capable leadership" of Kairo and Henri.

He said the choir "punches well above its weight" considering it is up against private schools with dedicated choral programmes.



The Centennial Choir Director Mr Maskell is flanked by Head Chorister Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich, with the Tour Time Cup, and Deputy Head Chorister Henri Le Cren with the choir's Gold Award.



In August, Level 2 Drama put on some fantastic shows of *Count Dracula* by Ted Tiller.

HOD Drama Ms Hughes said, "Year 11s and 12s alike have been working solidly for the last two months to transform this dark comedy into a brilliant performance by all.

"Audience feedback has ranged from assurances that they're going to get nightmares after seeing the show to how they're always so impressed with the students' ability to learn lines and showcase such professional performance energy.

"What a way to end the senior productions for 2023!

"A special mention needs to go out to our backstage leaders and the wider Drama department for helping behind the scenes. We are so lucky to have the students we do."



COUNT DRACULA



KBB Music Festival



Three MAGS music ensembles performed and competed at the annual KBB Music Festival in August, each earning a bronze medal.

On Monday, August 7, the Symphony Orchestra performed during the morning session at the Holy Trinity Cathedral in Parnell.

Ensemble director Mr Bingham said, "I've been really impressed with the Symphony Orchestra's attitude and commitment this year. The Orchestra held themselves to a high level in the performance and represented the school well."

During the same day the Chamber Orchestra performed in the St Mary's Church venue. Directed by Ms Cooper, she had this to say: "They performed commendably in front of a large audience, and there were some beautiful moments of musical phrasing."

The Owairaka Jazz Ensemble performed on the Wednesday during the morning session, directed by HOD Music Mr Watson.

Of the week's performances, Mr Watson said: "All of the MAGS groups achieved some of their best performances this year. It was great to see the professionalism and respect that our music students displayed on and off the stage."

"It was also a great opportunity for the MAGS musicians to see and hear a number of other school ensembles perform."

Also as part of the festival, Year 13 Music Leader and Prefect Celestine Howard was selected to lead the Violin II section for the KBB Honours Orchestra that performed at the Gala Evening concert on the Friday.





ROCKQUEST

Congratulations to Solomon Woods and William Tinnock-Jones, whose band Parkdale has won the prestigious Smokefree Rockquest 2023.

Parkdale, which also features Selwyn College's Liam Beasley, gave their winning performance on September 16 at Q Theatre and took home a prize that includes \$10,000 worth of musical

equipment from the Rockshop, plus a NZ On Air recording and video grant. Solomon (guitar and vocals), William (drums) and Liam (bass) made it through regionals and won the nationwide contest ahead of 850 other bands.

Parkdale is an indie-rock band that has recently been recording music with award-winning producer Ben Lawson,

while steadily building their fanbase. The boys love playing gigs and have a very supportive fanbase, selling out headliner gigs every month.

HOD Music Mr Watson said, "Proving that perseverance can bring rewards, Parkdale had made it into the final based on a second chance re-submission."

Many of the biggest names in NZ music have come through Rockquest, including past winners Alien Weaponry, Jesse Sheehan and Evermore.

DANCE SCHOLARSHIP SHOW

On September 18, five of our Level Three Dance students presented their NCEA Dance Scholarship choreographies to an audience in PA02.

The choreographies make up a third of the scholarship portfolio. Many hours of rehearsals took place in order for students to produce a concept through original choreography and then teach and rehearse their work with dancers.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "Approximately 20 MAGS dancers performed in the works and gave up after-schools and weekends to commit



SHOW

to the scholarship process. We are very impressed with the outstanding effort of all students involved in the dance scholarship showing, and have high hopes that each of the five students will be successful in gaining NCEA Dance Scholarship this year."

THEATRESPORTS

MAGS took a team of four theatresports players to the Theatresports Youth Program (TYP) finals night on September 15.

The final was held at Saint Kentigern College, and MAGS competed against Saint Kentigern, Rangitoto College and Northcote College.

All four of these schools were selected out of 12 total schools who

participated in the TYP festival nights in the week before the finals.

MAGS ended the night by finishing in third place, and Mr Sipton, TIC of Theatresports at MAGS, received a joint award with the TIC of Theatresports at Northcote College for 'Best Teacher in Charge'.



The MAGS Musical Theatre Group performed a variety of items to a group of invited guests at MAGS on September 21.

The showcase was made up of group and solo numbers, from Broadway classics such as *Follies* and *Chorus Line*, to modern musicals like *Dear Evan Hansen* and *Hamilton*.

The group had been working hard since Term 1 to produce a selection of high-quality performances, and managed to wow the audience with their musical and choreographic talent.

MUSICAL THEATRE

ALBERTIANS IN THE ARTS



EDDIE MULIAUMASEALI'I (1979-1983)

A career operatic bass for over 35 years, Eddie Muliaumaseali'i has performed all around the world, singing Mozart, Puccini, Verdi and Rossini, as well as modern composers.

Eddie recounts how his career got started at MAGS:

"In 1981, Mr Roy Clements came to our classroom to speak to our teacher, Mr Desmond Coles. It was after lunch in Period 4 and Mr Coles was at his wits' end trying to get us to read John Steinbeck's *Of Mice and Men* aloud.

He was saved by Mr Clements. There was a shortage of singers for the *Pirates of Penzance*. Mr Coles said to us, "Do any of you boys want to be in the school musical". He was met with a silence until he said, "It's during class time", at which point half the class stood up and followed Mr Clements to the music room.

Thus the Polynesian arm of the Policemen's chorus arrived in Miss Tresedar's class. Already there were other misfits and rogue teenagers that had been roped into doing the show. This was due to the fact that the usual students who wanted to be in the musical, including my brother Sani, were already in the show but they needed more students. Houseboys were also press-ganged into show.

As fate would have it, my dear friend Stephen Nash decided that 1st XI Hockey was more important than rehearsal. Mr Clements, always a man of peace, completely lost it when he was told that Stephen, who was singing the role of the Sergeant of Police, wasn't available. He then turned to us and said, "Who has a low voice and wants to sing Stephen's part for rehearsal?"

When none of the boys volunteered, Gary Opetaita and Sofi Pua pushed me forward and said, "Eddie can Sir, he can sing it." I did such a good job that they gave me a performance.

It was the Thursday night show at the Mount Albert War Memorial Hall. I then went on to do the musicals in 1982, 1983 and 1984, playing the lead role in *South Pacific*, Koko in *The Mikado* and the Usher in *Trial By Jury*.

Forty years on, I am a professional opera singer. I have been singing in operas, musical theatre, session singing for recording studios, back-up vocals on rock tours, acted in TV shows like *Shortland Street* and dramatic plays, and sung in concerts with orchestras. This has taken to cities all over the world.

The tale of my first experience of performing in musicals is a result of chance. Had Mr Clements not come to see Mr Coles and if Stephen had opted to come to rehearsal thus denying me the chance of singing a solo role, I may not have continued my involvement in the arts.

My focus was rugby and I captained my team at Ponsonby as a 19-year-old, played for Auckland under 20s and then my brother

Sani said there was an audition at Mercury Theatre in 1987. We both got in and I have been in the Arts ever since.

Coming to Mags in 1979, I had no interest in the Arts. A series of events eventually led me to be part of the wonderful world of music. It gave me a community of which I have been part of since. The community of the Arts that is service to life.

So many of us as young students didn't really have set courses or goals coming into high school. Many of us just liked "hanging out" with our friends and having fun and a good laugh.



The Headmaster, DP and staff created an environment in this era that allowed us to really excel in either academia, sports or the arts but most importantly, have a very strong school spirit. A spirit where we looked out for each other as students no matter what your school affiliation was or age, you were a MAGS boy and that was enough.

I am grateful to the teachers who were strong and strict with my mob of rogues and outliers, and to the teachers who saw through the facade of teenage bravado and tomfoolery and gave us a break and encouraged our potential."



LUCY LYNCH (2004-2008)

Lucy Lynch is an Auckland-based multidisciplinary artist.

We celebrated Lucy in our *The Lion* December 2019 edition when she was working as a featured dancer with the New Zealand Dance Company.

Lucy danced in the majority of the company's major seasons throughout Aotearoa and has toured to some of the world's most prestigious dance festivals in Australia, Germany, Belgium, Luxembourg and The Netherlands.

Lucy is now involved in many aspects of the performance industry in NZ. Alongside her contemporary practice, she works for commercial dance company Diamond Entertainment, and is a burlesque artist and resident performer at the acclaimed cabaret show Club Burlesque.

She has just finished performing the lead of Giselle in Mary Jane O'Reilly's contemporary ballet and touring Ross McCormack's work *Artefact* with The New Zealand Dance Company.



JOSH CESAN (2006-2010)

Celebrated dancer and choreographer Joshua Cesan was honoured at the Variety

Club of NZ annual awards held in September for his contribution to the industry.

His citation reads: In recognition of his valued contribution as the founder of Identity Dance company, and as an award winning dancer and choreographer. We celebrate his passion and achievements and thank him for his unwavering dedication to the Entertainment industry."

Josh and his Identity dance company have been dominant on the hip hop world stage, winning multiple medals at the world championships over the past five years.



NATHAN KARA (2008-2012)

Nathan kara auditioned for and was cast in The Beatles LOVE by Cirque du Soleil, which plays in Las Vegas.

He now lives in Las Vegas, performing five nights a week, two shows a night in the LOVE theatre in The Mirage Hotel, a 360-degree theatre that seats over 2000 people a show. Initially he was cast as an ensemble dancer, as well as a back-up to the solo male performer for the song *Something*.

Nathan has since been offered the soloist role full-time, and performs the breathtaking number as the 'Crazy Lover'.

At MAGS, Nathan was a 2012 Arts prefect and always had a love of dance. He furthered this in his time at MAGS as an extension dance student and dance leader, eventually leading the school's dance team at the Bring it On and Street Dance New Zealand schools competitions.

BENJAMIN SINCLAIR (2002-2005)

Ben Sinclair has enjoyed a rapid rise with indie band The Beths, who have put out critically acclaimed albums and recently won the APRA Silver Scroll, NZ's top songwriting award.

Ben plays bass in the The Beths, who formed in 2014 and have released three albums that have received rave reviews and catapulted them onto the world stage. They have toured the world over the past few years, returning to play gigs around NZ.

At MAGS, Ben excelled in playing a number of instruments, including clarinet, bass, and flute as well as being an accomplished singer.

Ben went on to study Jazz at the University of Auckland and got his Honours in 2010.

In 2011 he completed teacher training and did his practicum at MAGS, before being offered a position teaching music. He left MAGS once The Beths started to gain recognition and began touring.



DIRECTORS' Showcase

On October 11, the 2023 Directors' Showcase featured students performing an extract from a famous play directed by a Level 3 Drama student.

HoD Drama Miss Hughes said, "We were blessed with a fantastic and supportive audience of teachers, family and friends."

The three performances were from *The Play That Goes Wrong*, directed by Emma Nash, *Death of a Salesman*, directed by Eve Thompson, and *Noises Off*, directed by Zoe Burden.



HIP HOP

Identity Dance company, run by Albertian Josh Cesan (2006-2010), was part of a dominant New Zealand effort at the HHI World Hip Hop Championship finals on August 6 in Phoenix, Arizona.

Featuring many MAGS students, Identity Dance company had all six of the teams it took in the finals and won three silver medals in the Varsity, JV Varsity and Mini Crew sections, and a bronze in Adults.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "Please congratulate Jacob Cameron (two silver medals for Swaggnauts and Yung ID), and Alecia Campbell, Billie Twigden, Harry Bannister and Hailey Martin for gaining silver with Yung ID – with Hailey and Alecia also dancing in finals and finishing 5th in Varsity with Masque.

"Year 9 student Makaia Quensell's team, Jnr ID, finished 6th in the Junior division – a major achievement for a new team.

"Please also congratulate Kyra-Leigh Massina, who was part of Lil Saintz and Saintz Mega, who made semifinals in Varsity and Megacrew divisions. Brooklyn Boyd Smith, who was part of Ambush, made semis in Adults, and Coco-Sabine Meikle's team, Fratpack, gave a fantastic performance for a first-year crew."



School BALL

Our Leavers Ball took place on November 4 at the Pullman Hotel with a glamorous theme of A Night in Vegas and a fit-out to match.

The Ball Committee along with Mrs Cato, Ms Smith and Ms Butler set the scene for the night with plenty of bling, playing cards and dice decorating the ballroom and tables.

White Door Event Photography was organised to video and photograph the evening, and the students had the use of different themed photo booths to capture the glamour of the evening.

There were also some awards given out on the night:

- Best Dressed** – Jorjia Fiu
- Best dressed to the Theme** – Maxi Bevacqua
- Best Dance Moves** – Jacob Cameron
- Cutest Couple** – Stella Nola & Hayden Turner
- Most Likely to Become Prime Minister** – Olivia Bennett
- Most Likely to Fall Asleep in Class** – Gabriel Aitu
- Please Get a Haircut** – Jules Webb





Senior PRIZEGIVING

Senior Prizegiving on October 31 was a celebration of academic excellence, leadership and service to the school in the F.W. Gamble Hall.

Professor Peter Phillips presented our Girl and Boy Dux, Ella Edwards and Oliver Tang respectively, with the Centennial Cups for Dux, which he kindly donated last year.

Head Prefects Tairahia Moata'ane-Mika and Olivia Bennett were MCs for the event and also gave their farewell speeches, reflecting on their time at MAGS. There were also two musical items by our award-winning Centennial Choir.

In 2023, the prestigious Gold Lion was awarded to five students: Ashleigh Muir, Hokioramai Dunn, Olivia Bennett, Jude Wilson and India O'Neill. The Gold Lion is awarded to students who have gained all four lions – in Academia, Arts, Service and Sport.

C.P. Liddell Scholarships, worth \$15,000 each, were presented by John Liddell to Olivia Bennett, Ella Edwards, Tairahia

Moata'ane-Mika, and Oliver Tang.

Our Boys and Girls Proxime Accessit for 2022 are Mattis Elwarth and Ella Graves respectively. Mattis was also the recipient of the Woolf Fisher Memorial Scholarship, worth \$4000 a year for three years.

The Prefects' Cup for the Best All-Round Girl in Year 13 was awarded to Olivia Bennett, while Tairahia Moata'ane-Mika was awarded the F.W. Gamble Memorial Cup for the Best All-Round Boy in Year 13.

The Jim Greatbanks Mount Albert Grammar School Engineering Scholarship was awarded to Anatol Coen.

Jamie Eickhoff and Leila Belt were honoured for Service to the School with the Isaac Gray Cup and the Girls' Foundation Cup respectively.

Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich and Celestine Howard were the winners of the Neville Watson Memorial Prize for the Student who Best Typifies the Spirit of Mount Albert Grammar School, while Hanna Moy was awarded the Sylvia Lamb Benevolence Cup.

The Harry Wichman Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Boy was awarded to Ryan Shen, while the The Linda Fraser Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Girl was awarded to Rosa Fox.

The Warwick Gibbs Cup for the Best All-Round Boy in Year 11 was awarded to Reuben Adye, and the Brian Murphy Cup for the Best All-Round Girl in Year 11 was awarded to Anna Batcheler.

The Best All-Round International Boy and Girl were Zhong Allen Long and Phonephimonh Monh Sabanhdit.

The Hanson Cup for Senior Progress and Endeavour for Year 12 Boys was presented by David and Robert Hanson to Lize Deng, while the Yvette Williams Cup for Diligence for Year 12 Girls went to Asinate Waqalevu.

The Jo Williams Cup for Diligence for Year 11 Girls was awarded to Piper O'Neill, and The Robert Willmott Memorial Prize for Quality of Effort for Year 11 Boys went to Epli Prescott.



Professor Peter Phillips presented our Girl and Boy Dux, Ella Edwards and Oliver Tang respectively, with the Centennial Cups for Dux.



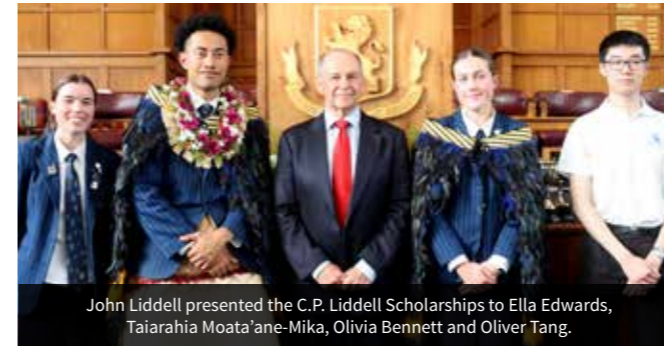
Our Gold Lion winners for 2023 are, from left, Ashleigh Muir, Hokioramai Dunn, Olivia Bennett, Jude Wilson and India O'Neill.



The Prefects' Cup for the Best All-Round Girl in Year 13 was awarded to Olivia Bennett, while Tairahia Moata'ane-Mika was awarded the F.W. Gamble Memorial Cup for the Best All-Round Boy in Year 13.



Our Boys and Girls Proxime Accessit for 2023 are Mattis Elwarth and Ella Graves.



John Liddell presented the C.P. Liddell Scholarships to Ella Edwards, Tairahia Moata'ane-Mika, Olivia Bennett and Oliver Tang.



Mattis Elwarth was the recipient of the Woolf Fisher Memorial Scholarship.



Jan Watson presented Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich and Celestine Howard with the Neville Watson Memorial Prize for the Student who Best Typifies the Spirit of Mount Albert Grammar School.



Hanna Moy was awarded the Sylvia Lamb Benevolence Cup.



Violani Afoa and Leila Belt shared The Fa'amausili Trophy for the Best All-Round Pasifika Student.



The Best All-Round International Boy and Girl were Zhong Allen Long and Phonephimonh Monh Sabanhdit.



The Jim Greatbanks Mount Albert Grammar School Engineering Scholarship was awarded to Anatol Coen.



Jamie Eickhoff and Leila Belt were honoured for Service to the School with the Isaac Gray Cup and the Girls' Foundation Cup respectively.



2024 prefects

MAGS is very excited to announce our 2024 leadership group who have been chosen from an exceptional field of students through a rigorous process.

2024 Prefects

Eved Ah Soon, Ryan Antia, Arshiya Arora, Nishka Arora, Quinn Bell-Purchas, Isabella Boersen, Dorothy Brunt, Sam Carryer, Darcy Clark, Alistair Clarke, Lisi Crichton, Lily Curnow, Lize Deng, Oscar Duffy, Iose Fatuleai, Stanley Fifita, Toby Forster, Rosa Fox, Joseph Gracie, Ethan Green, Noah Gregory, Seungyong Han, Chase Hartley, Max Jarvie, Sienna Laskey, Henri Le Cren, Rose Leader, Emily Lyon, Hailey Martin, Brianna McCready, Grace Moon, Emma Newland, Ella

Nguyen, Elijah Poliko, Jonelle Puletiutaoa, Charlotte Pullen, Sophie Rednall, Te Arini Roberts, Shubhi Roy, Ryan Shen, Ava Siakimotu, Dishita Singh, Priyansh Singh, Hugh Skinner, Anika Todd, Asinate Waqalevu, Joshu Waqanivalu.

The Prefect's role carries great responsibility around service leadership and guardianship of our school culture.

Our 2024 Prefect Executive will be announced after the compulsory Prefects' Camp (December 3 to 6) held at MAGS' School House.

Congratulations to all our 2024 Prefects on their appointment. We trust that the 2024 Year 13 student body will support this group in their significant role.



The Harry Wichman Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Boy was awarded to Ryan Shen, while the The Linda Fraser Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Girl was awarded to Rosa Fox.



The Warwick Gibbs Cup for the Best All-Round Boy in Year 11 was awarded to Reuben Adye.



The Brian Murphy Cup for the Best All-Round Girl in Year 11 was awarded to Anna Batcheler.



The Hanson Cup for Senior Progress and Endeavour for Year 12 Boys was presented by David and Robert Hanson to Lize Deng.



The Jo Williams Cup for Diligence for Year 11 Girls was awarded to Piper O'Neill.



The Robert Willmott Memorial Prize for Quality of Effort for Year 11 Boys went to Epeli Prescott, while the Yvette Williams Cup for Diligence for Year 12 Girls went to Asinate Waqalevu.

SERVICE LIONS

At a Service Lions Assembly on October 20, students who had gone above and beyond the call of duty in serving MAGS and/or the wider community were awarded or re-awarded Service Lion badges.

The guest speaker at the assembly was Brianna Connelly, from Shine, a charity that works to make New Zealand homes violence-free and one that MAGS has partnered with in the past with fundraising events at school.

Miss Connelly, pictured below, said serving your community was one of the most fulfilling things you could do – and didn't have to involve global campaigns or massive fundraising drives. Everyday, small acts of service or giving added up to create better and safer communities.

Guests were also treated to a performance by Gloriana of *Blue Skies*, directed by Ms Oxenham and accompanied by Mr Gibbs on piano.



Arts Awards DINNER



Arts Lions & Arts Attitude Awards

On October 24, MAGS held the Arts Lion and Arts Attitude Awards Assembly to an appreciative audience of parents and Year 9 students.

Arts Lions were presented to 45 senior students in recognition of their excellence in Arts Academia, Leadership, Creativity and Performance.

This was followed by the presentation of the Arts Attitude Awards. These awards recognise commitment, work ethic and going the extra mile to achieve personal and collective best practice, and also to serving the arts through lifting others. These awards reflect that "attitude rather than aptitude determines the altitude."

The Owairaka Jazz trio – consisting of Daniel Lees, Gene Todd and Theo Wright – performed to the delight of the audience.



The Arts Awards Dinner on October 27 was a wonderful occasion that not only celebrated the talents of our students but also showcased them with music and drama performances, a Dance video, and displays of Visual Art and video-making.

Congratulations to Jacob Cameron and Natasha Greenway, our Dux Artium for 2023.

Natasha is a student of Art History, Design and Painting and has 24 Level 3 Credits at Excellence across these subjects prior to external examinations. She is an Arts Lion awardee and has been an Outstanding Visual Arts leader in Pottery, Communities of MAGS and Mural projects. She is a Pat Hanley Arts Award recipient and won three prizes at the Arts Awards Dinner: Excellence in Painting, GI Shuker Senior Arts Cup and Leadership in Arts History.

Jacob is a student of Dance and Media and has 22 Level 3 credits at Excellence in this year prior to external examinations. He is a two-time Arts Lion awardee and Arts Prefect, as well as a Dance leader who led the MAGS Megacrew to victory in the NZ Secondary Schools competition and was also principal choreographer for this group. Despite his commitment to excellence at school, he still managed to maintain a brutal training schedule for the NZ Hip Hop Championships and get two first placings, and then went on to the World Championships where he won two silver medals.

At the Arts Awards Dinner he also won prizes for Outstanding Individual Performance in Dance, Leadership in Dance, Excellence in Film Making and Outstanding Individual Extra-curricular Representation.

The awards evening, which was MC'ed by Bella Houghton and Olivia Bennett, also saw several performances: Violani Afoa sang *If I Ain't Got You*, accompanied by Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich on keys; Emma Newland and Juwan Houma performed an extract from *Pride and Prejudice*; Solomon Woods and William Tinnock-Jones sang *Cyclone*; and there were also video presentations by the Dance Department and Media Studies.



Jacob Cameron and Natasha Greenway, pictured with Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan, are our Boy and Girl Dux Artium for 2023.





TE PUNA O WAIRAKA CELEBRATION DINNER

Pasifika Prizегiving Dinner

MAGS' Pasifika community had a lot to celebrate and turned out in force to do it at the Pasifika Prizегiving Dinner on October 19. At a packed-out venue, guests heard about Pasifika success in NCEA, Scholarships, sports, arts, service and particularly in the recently formed Health Sciences Academy. Head Prefect Tairahia Moata'ane-Mika and Leila Belt were named Best all Round MAGS Pasifika Students, Violani Afoa and Kairo Ah Kuo-Simich won the The Tagaloa Peter Su'a Award for Performing Arts, and Violani and Leila won the Ulugia-Pua Award for Outstanding Services to Mount Albert Grammar School.

Josie Gaoa and Isaiah Fale were awarded the Ah Kuo Family Cup for Services to MAGS Pasifika, while Meyuti Poutu and Fifita Uhila were presented with the Tupuola Apisaloma Taulapiu Cup for Cultural Leadership. The Top Year 13 Pasifika Sportswomen were Jorjia Fiu and Zahna Papali'i, and the Top Year 13 Pasifika Sportsman was Roy Tatupu. Year 12 Best All Round Pasifika Students were Ava Siakimotu and Eved Ah Soon, and the Year 11 Best All Round Pasifika Students were Khalen Quensell and Brendan Akeli, pictured below right.

The Te Puna o Wairaka Dinner on November 2 was a time for MAGS' ākongā, whānau and kaiako to come together to reflect on and celebrate a great year for Puna. Our Puna Leavers were also recognised and farewelled with speeches and haka. The awards dinner at Te Mahurehure Marae was MC'ed by Puna students Te Arini Roberts and Pomare Schulz, and featured Albertian (2009-2013) and NZ representative weightlifter Aotea Frandi as guest speaker. Aotea, pictured bottom right, said that she wanted to be a top netballer when she came to MAGS but soon realised the competition was too great and shifted her focus to Athletics and Sevens. She was still searching for her niche when our late First XV coach Mr Moon told her that her "Ngāpuhi legs" were more suited to weightlifting. From there, she went on to represent New Zealand, winning a bronze at the Oceania Weightlifting competition in 2013. Aotea said that success was driven by her strategy of setting goals and plotting the path to achieve them, something she applied to her career in Psychology: she is working on her PhD as part of the University of Auckland Clinical Psychology program and working with youth at residential facilities.

School House Head Prefect Hokioramai Dunn spoke on behalf of the Year 13 Leavers and expressed their gratitude to the Puna whānau and to Whaea Waimirangi Paul and Matua Peter Walters for all their care and dedication. When it came to the awards, Mihimere Hope won the Top Senior Academic Award and the "Manu Tute" Award For Services to Puna and the wider community, while Hokioramai was named All-Round Top Senior Student and won the "He toka tū" Award For Contribution to Kapa Haka. Brooklyn Smith-Boyd was All-Round Top Junior Girl and Top Junior Academic; the All-Round Top Junior Boy was Bailey Hamilton. The award for Top Senior Māori Language Orator went to Awanui Hope, and Kamaukiterangi Mikaere was named Top Junior Māori Language Orator. When it came to sports achievement, Jackson and Johnny Thompson won the top junior award and Waimarie Tawera the top senior award. Guests were also entertained by Hokioramai Dunn, Tyler Ngawati and Lisi Crichton, pictured bottom centre, who performed a rendition of *Tōku reo, tōku ohooho*.



The Village Community Trust Award went to Josie Gaoa and Tairahia Moata'ane Mika.



Sports Awards Dinner



Victrix Ludorum Anika Todd and Victor Ludorum Roy Tatupu.



Summer Temu won the Te Aroha Keenan Cup.



The Sports Awards Dinner on October 26 at Alexandra Park saw a huge crowd of students and their whanau celebrating a great year in sport for MAGS.

Anika Todd and Roy Tatupu were named Victrix Ludorum and Victor Ludorum respectively, while the Headmaster's Cup for Team of the Year was shared between three high-achieving teams: the Rugby Girls 1st XV, the Cricket Boys 1st XI and the Basketball Boys Premiers.

The Te Aroha Keenan Cup for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Girls was awarded to Summer Temu, while Marlin Toloa won the comparable boys' award – the Olympic Cup.

Anika has represented the school in athletics, cricket, football, curling and lawn bowls this year, and was also selected in the Aotearoa Maori Secondary Schools cricket team, the Auckland Women's A side and the Auckland Hearts Squad.

Roy has performed well in both summer and winter codes, competing in Athletics and playing Volleyball and Softball then 1st XV Rugby in the winter season – and he represented Rugby League during tournament week and a one-off tournament for Netball. Roy was also named in the NZSS Tournament Team for Volleyball this year. In only his second year of playing Rugby he was selected for the Auckland U18 team and the Blues U18 squad.

Summer is Captain of the Premier Netball team and has played in the team since Year 10. This year Summer was named in the New Zealand Secondary schools team who played Australia in June. She captained the MAGS team back to National qualification this year and was also named in the NZ U21 squad. Summer received her 3rd

Sports Lion award for Netball this year and this year the trophy for Best Player in Premier Netball.

Marlin captained the MAGS NZSS Waka Ama team this year and won the school's first Blue Cap for Waka Ama by winning the U19 W1 race as an U16 at NZSS. He also won the U19 World Championship W6 over 500m and 1000m and is the current National U16 W6 Champion and was placed 2nd in the World U16 W6 long distance competition.

The Team of the Year award was shared between Boys Premier Basketball – AKSS Champions for only the 8th time in the 50 years of the competition, Boys 1st XI Cricket – AKSS Champions, the 2nd time in 40 years of the Competition, and Girls 1st XV Rugby – AKSS Champions for the first time in MAGS history.

Guests also enjoyed a panel discussion that was hosted by students Benjamin Roache and Tito Tipi and featured Albertian sportsmen Paul Roache and Adi Ashok. There was also a musical interlude with a rendition by Hokioramai Dunn, Kairo Ah Kuoi-Simich and Eved Ah Soon of *It's Now or Never*.



Marlin Toloa won the Olympic Cup.



ARCHERY

MAGS' Archery team has claimed the St Peter's Cup, an invitational archery tournament for the top five archery schools in Auckland.

St Peter's hosted the competition and this year Baradene, Auckland Grammar, Kings and MAGS attended the tournament in June.

Archery coach Jan Lees said, "There are individual medals for each bow type [there are three bow types], and the team result is decided by the top seven archers from the whole squad, across any bow type.

"We won all three Barebow medals (Gold: Ben Whaley, Silver: Kathy Mitchell, Bronze: Eva Yarrow) and Bronze in the super-competitive Recurve (Nick Lees). Our top seven, who won the trophy, were five recurve and two barebow archers (Nick Lees, Orion Elward, Ben Whaley, Phoebe Newcombe, Cormac Fell, Kathy Mitchell and Sylvie Morrison). It was a superb win and they richly deserve it."

In August, eight MAGS students competed – in their new strips – in the Archery NZ National Indoor Championships in Palmerston North.

Five MAGS archers won medals at the two-day tournament, continuing the strong performance of the MAGS Archery team

In the Men's Under 21 Division, Nick Lees won silver in the target champs and gold in matchplay, Samuel Holmes won Bronze in both the target champs and in matchplay, and Orion Elward won silver in matchplay.

In the Men's Under 18 Division, Cormac Fell took Bronze in the target champs.

In the Girls Under 16 Division, Phoebe Newcombe claimed silver in the target champs and bronze in matchplay.



BASKETBALL

The Basketball Boys Premiers were crowned Auckland champions in August – for the first time since 2001 – following a one-point, 79-78, win over Rosmini, while the Girls Premiers, who played earlier, finished second after a loss to Westlake Girls.

The Boys Premiers took an early lead against Rosmini but, in a see-sawing last quarter, found themselves behind with a minute on the clock. Some big plays, including a steal in the last 13 seconds, helped them to take the win.

MAGS' Premier Girls Basketball team then finished fifth at the NZ Secondary Schools Nationals Tournament in Palmerston North during the Term 3 school holidays.

The top 24 girls teams from the 5 zones of NZ played in Regionals tournaments to qualify to attend Nationals. Our Premiers qualified in 2nd place in the Zone 1 Regionals, which covers the top of the North Island.

At Nationals, the MAGS girls finished pool play in third place. Wins over Sacred Heart College Lower Hutt, Waimea College and St Mary's College Wellington in the first games were followed by tough losses to Hamilton Girls and Takapuna Grammar.

Next up was a must-win preliminary game against Baradene College to make the top 8, with MAGS prevailing by three points.

In the quarter final, MAGS was beaten by the defending champions and eventual back-to-back National Champions, Westlake Girls.

With fifth place as the new goal, our MAGS girls defeated Rangiora Girls by five points in another close game to advance to a 5th/6th play-off against Napier Girls High.

Napier Girls was the more fancied team to win this game, as they were fresh from defeating girls basketball powerhouse St Peter's College, Cambridge. In the third close game of this tournament, once again our MAGS girls showed their resilience to fight back from being down to win 76-69 in the final quarter.

In addition, captain Waimanu Clarken was named in the Tournament Team, which was well-deserved recognition.

Our Basketball Boys Premiers finished seventh at their national tournament, with Dante Matakatea named in the Tournament Team.



Cricket

A MAGS senior cricket team visited Sydney from October 3 till October 8, playing three games against Sydney schools.

Director of Cricket Mr Sail said, "The goal of the trip was to prepare for the second half of the 1A competition, which resumes in Term 4 while providing unique and valuable challenges to the players involved, mostly Year 11 and 12 students.

"The tour was a great success with three wins from three games played at outstanding facilities in great cricketing conditions. The team was wonderfully coached by Mr Todd."



Game 1 v Sydney Boys Grammar – SGS 185/10 (50 overs) Y Rowe 3/25, J Sandhu 3/29. MAGS 187/6 (38 overs) H Oliver 79, O Patel 27.

Game 2 v Newington College – MAGS 340/6 H Verma 77, O Patel 52, T Iles 53, F Naish 28*. Newington College 76, A Sharif 3/7.

Game 3 v Shore School – MAGS 234/8 A Suddala 53, H Oliver 55, T Iles 25*. Shore School 126, T Iles 5/8.

CROSS COUNTRY

Three students competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Cross Country Nationals held at the Massey University Campus in Palmerston North over June 17-18.

Nina Chalmers (Year 11, pictured right) continued her strong performances in distance running events, finishing 10th in a competitive Junior Girls section. She completed the 3km course in a time of 11:48. Nina was also in the Auckland Region B relay team that finished 6th in the teams relay on the Sunday.

The other students that competed were Theo Bray (Year 11) and Duke Gilbert (Year 10). In his first year competing in the senior category, Theo finished 83rd out of a large field of 184 competitors. Theo also took part in the regional relay for Auckland A where they finished 9th. Duke competed in the Junior Boys category where there were 141 competitors. He finished 118th.



CURLING

MAGS' Curlers brought back some impressive silverware from the Auckland Secondary Schools Finals on September 21.

TIC Ms Hobbs said, "Commiserations to the nearly lads of Team Reeves (Samuel Reeves, Felix McElwee, Max Shallard and Riley Hobbs), who made the Premier grade, were one stone away from the Open semifinals, took bronze in the B final and, earlier in the year, finished runners-up in both the Auckland and North Island Boys championships. They will be off to Nationals next year.

"Congratulations to team Rolling Stones (Hugh Skinner, Oscar Vink, Jackson Candy, Cecilia Simpson and Anika Todd), who also made the Premier grade and finished third in the Auckland Mixed Grade. Their results saw them awarded the Novice Shield for the highest placed new team.

"And the biggest plaudits to Hugh, pictured right, who was also awarded the coveted Spirit of Curling Trophy – voted for by the competitors and coaches – for his infectious enthusiasm and support of other teams, even at 7am on live TV!"



GYMNASTICS

MAGS cyclists were out in force for the NISS Road Championships in Cambridge earlier this month.

In the U20 Boys Team Time Trial over 16km, MAGS finished 13th with a time of 26:40

In the U17 Boys 54km Road Race, Theo Bray came 23rd with a time of 1:39:28. He started five minutes after the U20 Riders and finished before them. Our other U17 riders were Sam Coats, 48th (2:02), and Lucas Duthie, 49th (2:03)

In the U20 54km Road Race, Ethan Green finished 40th in 1:51, Fraser MacGillivray 41st in 1:53, Max Jarvie 44th in 1:59, and Rohan Sharma 46th in 2:00.



Henru, Janko and Eras Viljoen came back with a haul of medals from the Gymnastics National Championships in Tauranga during the first week of the July school holidays.

Among some great results, Henru won gold in the 13-14 Double Mini Trampoline.

Janko Viljoen won gold in the Men's Artistic Gymnastics Team Level 6 and in the 13-14 Synchro Trampoline. He was second in the FIG 13-14 Individual Trampoline and in the FIG 13-14 Double Mini Trampoline. He was fourth overall in the Men's Artistic Gymnastics Level 6.

Eras won a slew of national medals and trophies, among them gold in the FIG 15-16 Double Mini Trampoline and the Men's Artistic Gymnastics U17 Parallel Bars. He won the Junior International Men's Double Mini Trophy (FIG 15-16 & 17-21), and the Junior International Men's Overall Trampoline Trophy (FIG 15-16 & 17-21).

Theo Bray and Eras took out the FIG 15-16 Synchro national title.

And Eras, with his NZ teammates, also took out the gold in the Trans-Tasman Challenge against Australia in Double Mini Trampoline.

DUATHLON

On June 28, the Auckland Secondary Schools Duathlon took place at a new venue, Ambury Regional Park in Mangere.

Students did the run leg on the roads through the park and the cycle leg on neighbouring streets.

Three boys entered for Mount Albert Grammar. Palepua Afoa (Year 11), Agelu Afoa (Year 12) and Theo Bray (Year 11).

Palepua and Theo competed in the Intermediate Boys section that consisted of a 3.5km run, 15km bike and 2.5km run to finish. Agelu was in the Senior Boys section which saw him do a 5km run, 21km bike and 2.5km run.

The highlight of the day was Theo (pictured top right) winning the Intermediate Boys race by 30 seconds. Theo took the lead in the first run leg. At the transition for the 2nd run leg after the cycle, he was in 4th position. A strong second run leg saw Theo overtake all three boys who were in front of him for the win. Theo has made a strong showing in a number of events this year, which also included a third place finish in the triathlon at the start of the year and first in the Central/West

Zone Cross Country.

Two students competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools Duathlon on August 13 at Ambury Regional Park in Mangere.

Agelu Afoa finished 9th in a competitive Senior Boys category. He was happy to complete the race after unfortunately getting a puncture at the Auckland event. The course consisted of a 5km run, 21km bike and concluded with a 2.5km run. Agelu completed the course in 1:20:12.

Theo Bray finished 6th in the Intermediate Boys category out of 21 competitors, continuing his impressive form in multisport events this year. The course consisted of a 3.5km run, 15km bike and finished with a 2.5km run. Theo was consistent right through the race, staying in the top 10 and finishing with a time of 44:14.

Assistant Director of Sport Carlin Crossan said, "A special mention goes to Mr Martin, who came 3rd in his age category competing in the adults section of the event that took place on the day as well."



CYCLING

FENCING



Pictured (left to right) are Patrick Barham-Wang, Nico Meyer and Thomas Pham.

MAGS had five fencers compete as part of the NZ squad at the Australian National Cadet and U15 Championship in Sydney during the July school holidays.

In the U15 Boys, Nico Meyer placed 6th and Patrick Barham-Wang was 9th.

Nico and Patrick were both selected for the NZ U15 A team and played a part in bringing home the silver medal after an incredibly tense 44-45 loss in the final in overtime.

MAGS Fencers dominated the Boys Epee at the Fencing North Individual Championships in early August.

In the Boys Epee, MAGS had four fencers in the top eight, with Jorge Lardies taking gold and Thomas Pham the silver, followed by Elijah Yarr in seventh and Nico Meyer in eighth.

The day started with the Men's Foil event, not a competition that MAGS usually participates in but Affan Aadil Sharif came home with a fifth place.

In the Girls Epee, Emi Mason also picked up a fifth place.



HOCKEY

Our Hockey Girls 1st XI, pictured above, won their Greater Auckland A1 grade in late August, with a 1-0 win over St Mary's.

Coach Mr Guy reports, "It was a tense encounter with Nina Chalmers scoring with just under three minutes to play. MAGS were the dominant team throughout and created numerous chances through a cohesive press and strong play but could not get the go-ahead goal they deserved until late. Special mention must go to Sophie Rednall, who needed five stitches the day before and played a full game at centre back.

"The team went through this competition undefeated and richly deserved their gold medal. The team is well led by co-captains Rosa Fox and Lizzy Robins."

The Hockey Boys finished third for the season after a win on penalties against Pukekohe High (1-1 after fulltime).

Earlier in the month, the 1st XI Boys confirmed top place in the wider Auckland A1 grade with a 5-1 win over Rangitoto. They won five games and drew one and finished with 16 points. Unfortunately, they lost to Orewa College in their semi-final.

The 2nd XI Girls won their section of the B grade with a 1-0 win over King's. They won all four of their games, scoring 16 goals and having none scored against them.



NETBALL



MAGS Netball won the Combined Points Tournament on August 9 after three of the four teams that were entered made the finals, winning two of them. MAGS last won this tournament in 2019.

For the first time there was a Boys Grade, and MAGS took that out by winning all five games in their section – beating Alfriston, Huanui, Papakura, Tamaki and Rosehill Blue – before registering a convincing win over Macleans College in the final.

Our Year 10s (who won the Year 9 grade last year) did it again, going through undefeated in their section and beating Hamilton Girls by three in the final.

Our Year 9 team went through undefeated in their section playoffs and got to the finals, where they lost to Carmel College.

The Premiers won all five games in their section, and met Howick College in playoffs, losing by one goal.

Director of Netball Kathy Henry said, "Losing by one was heart-breaking for the girls, however the effort and fight they put out on court was outstanding and the girls can take a lot of heart from that performance. They can go forth into their semi-finals and UNISS with confidence and knowledge they can play and compete against the best teams in the country."

Our Netball Premiers aimed to be in the Top 8 and finished seventh at nationals during the Term 3 school holidays, their best result since 2018 when they last attended nationals – and won.

Miss Henry said, "The team was extremely competitive, winning two out of three pool games to make Top 8 and then had a great battle against St Mary's, narrowly losing 35-38 after leading the majority of the game. Following this game, the girls played a very different style against a very tenacious, fit and fast South Island St Margaret's team, losing in the last quarter 35-39."

In their last game, the Premiers played last year's national champions Hamilton Girls High, and tied 36-36 at the end of regular time. This meant the game went into overtime – three minutes each way – with MAGS coming away with the win, 43-40.



ORIENTEERING

The National Secondary Schools Orienteering Championships in Blenheim saw the Boys team win the National Schools title again and the Girls match their best-ever third place result.

Over the Term 2 break, 30 MAGS Orienteers took part in three days of racing.

The Boys won the national title for a sixth year in a row and by a record-breaking 222 points, the points difference being more than that amassed by runners-up Cashmere and third-placed Auckland Grammar put together.

The Girls performed well on Day 3 to nudge into third place ahead of Havelock North.

In the Long Distance, on an exceptionally hilly course in the Marlborough Hills, there were Individual wins for Tahi Harris in the Junior Boys and Sam Carryer in the Senior Boys.

In the Sprint distance, held in the busy streets of Blenheim town centre on Matariki, there was a win for Sam Carryer in the Sprint, with a second place for Tahi Harris. There was also a strong fourth place for James Milne in the Intermediate boys race and an excellent 8th for Ella Edwards in the Senior Girls.

On the final day Relay event, MAGS had wins for the Junior Boys (Reuben Bruce, Charlie Milne, Tahi Harris) and second places for the Intermediate Boys (James Milne, William Wood, Reuben Adye) and Senior Boys (Luka Johnson, Matthew Greenwood, Sam Carryer).



A group of six MAGS Orienteering students represented New Zealand in the Junior Boys category at the ISF U15 World School Games in Rio de Janeiro in August.

Victor Coen (Year 11) William Wood, Caleb Green, Jack Trowsdale (Year 10s) and Charlie Milne and Tahi Harris (Year 9s) enjoyed a few days acclimatising to the heat in Brazil, and completed training runs, swims and activities at the Games Village.

Their first event was the Middle Forest event, where William gained an impressive second place and Victor a third. Other top results came from Tahi, 4th, Caleb, 7th, and Charlie, 10th.

The sprint event went well under 35-degree heat and with the back drop of Sugar Loaf mountain. Tahi Harris gained a super first to take the individual gold, by 2 seconds over Italy. William Wood was second. Victor 5th, Charlie 8th, Jack 9th and Caleb 12th.

The combined points earned the MAGS team the overall gold. Italy second and Brazil third.

The team finished the games by enjoying the international relay, with Charlie gaining third place with his Italian partner.



Road RUNNING

On August 15, 12 students competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Road Running Race at Pulman Park in Papakura.

With over 100 competitors in the Intermediate Boys section, Theo Bray (Year 11) finished 11th with a time of 12:17 for the 4 km course. This was an impressive effort as he had competed at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Duathlon two days before.

In the combined points 6-person competition, MAGS narrowly missed out on a medal, finishing 4th in the Intermediate Boys category.

Sam Carryer (Year 13) made a good showing in a strong Senior Boys field, finishing in the top half of the field in 19th. He completed the 6 km run in a time of 20:55.



The fourth and final round of the Auckland College Climbing Series took place on August 13 – this time bouldering at Boulder Co.

Over 200 students from different schools have competed across the various grades this year, from national representative climbers to novices.

Thomas Roberts finished 24th on the day and 26th overall, while Ronin Ng finished 10th-equal in this round and 13th overall in the Intermediate Boys grade. As Year 9s, they both have another year in this grade and they are looking forward to improving on these placings next year.

For the first time, however, MAGS had not one but two climbers make the final.

Anna Swan, pictured left, placed third-equal after a tough opening wall in the Senior Girls grade. This result also lifted her to sixth overall for the whole series, an outstanding result for a Year 11 student, and

she was acknowledged as the runner-up for the Most Improved Climber in this grade.

Riley Hobbs, pictured below, made his first final in the competitive Intermediate Boys grade, qualifying sixth, and improved this placing to fifth by nearly topping the second wall. This left him 11th overall for the series and his efforts saw him named Most Improved Climber for this year. He is relishing the challenge of stepping up to the Senior grade next year.



ROCK CLIMBING

RUGBY

Our Rugby Girls 1st XV defeated Auckland Girls Grammar School (AGGS) in a reversal of last year's final.

After losing the final to AGGS in 2022, the girls were intent on revenge and battled it out in miserable conditions at Colin Maiden Park on August 14 to win 15-14.

The foul weather didn't stop the supporters from coming out, with the crowd being filled with blue and yellow all around.

MAGS led 12-7 at halftime on the back of tries from Danny-Elle Fesola'i, who scored from close range in the first 10 minutes, and Gezreyal Maiu'u, who scored a 60-metre runaway try near halftime.

In the second half, after some sustained pressure, MAGS gained a penalty right in

front – kicked by captain Mataele Vaea to give MAGS a 15-7 lead.

The remaining 10 minutes was a nail-biter as AGGS bounced back, managing to score another converted try to trail 14-15. MAGS was able to hold out for the last seven minutes of the game.

This is the first time the Rugby Girls 1st XV has won the Auckland title after having success in 7s and 10s in past years.

The following week, they dispatched Bay of Islands College 82-7 in the Blues Region Final to make the National Top Four Finals.

Congratulations to three players in our Rugby Girls 1st XV, who have been



selected for the Auckland Storm rugby squad competing in the Farah Palmer Cup competition.

Four girls attended the NZ U20 Development Camp. They were Danny-Elle Fesola'i, Zahnia Papali'i, Mataele Vaea and Jorja Fruean.

Three girls made their Farah Palmer Cup debut for Auckland this year: Danny-Elle Fesola'i, Zahnia Papali'i and Mataele Vaea. The Auckland squad also includes Albertians Princess Elliot and Sylvia Brunt.



TENNIS

Our Tennis champions for 2023 received their trophies and were recognised at assembly in August.

They are, back row: Luke Eagles-Smith (Senior Boys Champion), Myles Kelly (Intermediate Boys Champion & Open Mixed Doubles Champion), Marcus Lum (Open Boys Doubles Champion)

Front row: Myah Douglas (Junior Girls Champion), Kamyia Joshi (Intermediate Girls Champion), Chelsea Wijntjes (Senior Girls Champion & Open Girls Doubles Champion), Amelie Kelly (Open Girls Doubles Champion & Open Mixed Doubles Champion)

Absent: Felix Schollum (Open Boys Doubles Champion), Jimmy Hannaford-Hill O'Neil (Junior Boys Champion).

Snow SPORTS

SNOWBOARDING

The Auckland Secondary School Snowboard Champs took place on June 8.

Mount Albert Grammar School was well represented with 10 students competing – the largest contingent at the event.

Students showed significant promise and there is a good foundation to build on for future years. Special mention to Cecilia Simpson as she managed to get into the final rounds for Female Slopestyle and only narrowly missed out on a medal. Lucas Turner also narrowly missed out on a medal in the Juniors Boys Slopestyle, finishing 4th.

Snowboard Team: Cecilia Simpson, Liam Simpson, Ryan Dew, Dan Graham, Ben Han, Seungyong Han, Harri Headland, Kelly Turner, Lucas Turner and George Wong.

SKIING

The Auckland Secondary Schools Ski Champs took place on June 22 at Snow Planet.

Eight students represented the school at the event across the various categories (Dual, Race and Slopestyle).

Darcy Stroud had a strong showing in the Junior Boys Slopestyle, finishing third with a combined total of 87 points from his three attempts.

Ski Team: Reuben Adye, Gina Fisk, Toby Forster, Amelia Jones, Nate Lawson, Blake Restall, Darcy Stroud and Hunter Whitten.

Waka Ama



Marnie and Marlin Toloa, pictured below right, claimed gold and silver medals respectively representing Aotearoa New Zealand in Waka Ama at the IVF World Long Distance Championships in Samoa in August.

They both competed in the U16s V6 ocean race, which was 16km.

Teams came from far and wide, including the Pacific Islands, Australia, Chile, Brazil, USA, Hawaii, Germany, Great Britain, Canada, Singapore and Hong Kong to compete on Apia Harbour.

The U16 Girls endured the worst start possible after getting caught in a crosswind and being tangled in the start buoy. By the time they cleared the buoy, the rest of the field had a 150m headstart. The girls kept their composure and went on to execute their race plan and started overtaking teams.

They came home several minutes ahead of second-placed Samoa to take the gold medal and world championship title.

The U16 Boys also raced the same day and were in a very fast field. The boys worked hard off the start line and were just in front of Tahiti heading out of the harbour. The boys also executed their race strategy well with downwind surfing but were passed by a very slick Tahitian team. They fought hard to stay with the Tahitians and see off any challenges from other teams. They claimed the silver medal behind Tahiti, with Samoa coming third.





WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK

Many of our teams made it to the finals of their Winter Tournament Week competitions but none of them could clear the final hurdle to become champions.

But in Wrestling, Max Shallard, Sean Harding and Jason Vincent broke through to win gold in the Senior Boys' Under 60 kg, Under 65kg and Under 110kg sections respectively. Max was also named the Senior Boys Most Scientific Wrestler. Aiden Vincent claimed silver in the Junior Boys Under 68kg section, and Caleb Murphy finished sixth in the Junior Boys Under 80kg section.

Our Basketball Premier Boys and Girls both finished as runners-up at regionals, with the girls losing 61-90 to Westlake Girls High. The Boys faced Rosmini in the final, after recently beating them to become Auckland champions, but couldn't repeat those heroics, going down 51-66. Earlier in the week, our Basketball Junior Girls and Boys teams finished third and sixth respectively in their regional tournament.

Playing in the Hawkes Bay, the Hockey Boys 1st XI fell just short – losing their NZSS Final 3-4 against Hastings Boys High. Our Hockey Girls 1st XI also lost in their NZSS Final, going down 1-2 to Whanganui Collegiate.

The Football Girls 1st XI finished third in their NZSS competition after beating

Westlake Girls High 4-0, while the Boys lost their 3rd/4th playoff against St Kentigern after drawing 2-2 then losing on penalties.

At Paradise Avondale, our Curling team finished second at NISS, going down 4-11 to Lynfield College in the final.

In Weightlifting, Eli Harford-Lewis, our sole lifter, came second in the Senior Boys 102 kg-plus category at the NZSS Nationals.

In their NZSS semifinal, the Rugby Girls 1st XV lost 5-28 to Hamilton Girls High and then lost the third/fourth playoff on Sunday against Christchurch Girls High 5-15.

Playing at UNISS in Hamilton, our Netball Premiers won their first five games but then faltered before beating Waitakere College 48-36 in their last game to finish fifth.

Two good wins saw the Lacrosse Premier Girls start their NZSS competition well at Cornwall Park but they could not maintain that momentum and ended up finishing fourth.

Our Rugby League 1st XIII made it to the NZSS Plate Final but lost that to Kelston Boys High 12-32.

The Rugby U15s finished 13th in their National Invitational Tournament in Hamilton after beating St Bede's College 26-22 in their last game.

In Underwater Hockey, our Junior Open team played in the NZSS tournament at

Westwave, and won their last game 6-1 against Mahurangi College to finish third.

At the NZSS Fencing championships in Wellington, Lize Deng won bronze in the Boys Epee, with Lawrence Zhao seventh.

Theo Bray competed in Cycling's NZSS Northern Tour in Mt Wellington, finishing the hill climb on Day One in 12th. On Day Two, in the Criterium, he was ranked into the U17 A race but was lapped and had to retire.





ASB MAGS farm

Lots has been happening on-farm. The weather has not been our friend, but we are finally getting there.

Paddocks up the back have been topped, harrowed and limed. Weeds have also been sprayed and after the third mow, I have noticed some of the good pasture grasses starting to come through and the kikuyu starting to lessen in those areas.

I have been working closely with our digger man, Paul Hale, who has been an absolute godsend. We had paddocks under water with blocked and inefficient drainage that have now been cleared. We have fenced off the permanently low-lying wet areas where drains will collapse causing problems if stock are allowed to trample them. We will plant those areas out in either natives or Tagasaste – a tree lucerne – that is great for the soil and can also be used for stock feed if times get tough (in a drought).

You may have noticed spraying occurring in the paddock by the school/farm drive. We are going to be planting this paddock into sunflowers, which will not only generate a very good income stream but will also regenerate the soil allowing us to follow with good pasture species to replace the kikuyu. Depending on the success of this, we will move along the paddocks each year as we renovate our pastures. “The Good Oil” company is on board with us on this project.



All stock has been drenched and vaccinated and we have our first Suffolk lambs finally on the ground. We also have our very first MAGSLAND East Friesian lambs being born now.

We have had Sethu from Groplus in to advise on the Kiwifruit block which has had PSA – a disease of kiwifruit. The whole Kiwifruit had not been pruned correctly in the past, so we are now on par for best practice in getting the block healthy and up to speed. We had soil tests done and these showed excessive nitrogen use in the kiwifruit – despite the wet this showed levels three times that of the maximum recommended levels. We are working with Groplus to get this right and will also be replacing any diseased or dead plants with new root stock and developing a full canopy as well.

We have started developing the races on farm so we can get to the stage where the students can easily move stock or bring them in as necessary.

Horticulture has had a massive clean-up which is ongoing, and we will continue to be committed to developing this part of the farm enterprise. We have done a lot of citrus pruning on specialist advice of the correct

way to prune these and hope to see much better plant health as a result in the future. We have the framework for a new vertical garden in place and are going to have both the irrigation system, which has electrical wires travelling under water, and the hydroponic shed revamped.

The pullets are laying well, and we are hoping to get the enclosure extension finished during the Christmas holidays, along with finishing the new fences. We are redoing the internal fences as the old ones were not functional. We have managed to repurpose most posts and gates already on farm for this.

I have made the decision not to rear spring calves this year. The prices at sale in comparison to rising costs of feed and milk powder, makes spring calves this year not economically viable. We are also predicted to be heading into an extremely dry summer so this could well cause a few farmers to destock early rather than buy in and accordingly affect the ability to sell or sell at the kind of margin we need.

Due to this, at this stage, I will continue to look at rearing Autumn calves and see how this goes sales-wise into next year.

Our milk vending machine and bottle dispenser have arrived, but we are stagnating

over our milking plant. The plant we are waiting on is still sitting overseas due to high clearance costs at the other end so if we are not up and running by the time the hoggets lamb, the lambs will just stay on their mums until we are set up. As the whole plant new is under \$4000 and other outfits in NZ have quoted from \$8000 up for similar units, I am at this stage happy to wait. Our big-ticket item will be the required head bails which currently are sitting around \$10,000 so I am just waiting for a secondhand set to come on the market and get a better price point.

School holidays has been a time of renewing old fences and I have most of the paddocks up the back where we held The Clash event re-fenced and looking nice. We have the CEO of Gallaghers coming to view progress. Hopefully he will be impressed enough to give us some funding to continue to develop the farm into a place to be proud of.

That is all for now from the farm but if any of you have any questions at any time please feel free to give me a call anytime – 021 064 1563.

Deb Crump
Farm Manager

Albertians IN THE NEWS



DR MOLLY SWANSON AND JAMIE HUCKLESBY

Congratulations to two Albertians – Dr Molly Swanson (2007-2011) and Jamie Hucklesby (2011-2013) – who have received generous fellowships from the Neurological Foundation of NZ to continue their research.

Molly, a research fellow at University of Auckland, has received a \$245,052 Philip Wrightson Fellowship for her ongoing research into amyotrophic lateral sclerosis (ALS), a paralyzing brain and spinal cord disease caused by the death of neurons involved in movement.

She'll travel to Australia to learn new techniques for working with microglia – brain immune cells that help the brain recover from damage and disease. She's also been awarded a \$15,000 small project grant to establish new microglia technology in NZ.

Jamie, also at University of Auckland, received a \$231,553 First Fellowship for his ongoing research into strokes.

He will use human brain cells to determine if the window for effective treatment after stroke can be extended, and if other medications could be combined with current stroke treatments to protect the brain and improve outcomes.



DANYON KEMP

Congratulations to Albertian Danyon Kemp (2008-2012), who was a member of the New Zealand Elite Men's team that won the 21st Underwater Hockey World Championships on the Gold Coast of Australia at the end of July.

The team won the gold medal after playing 14 games and winning every one.

They only conceded four goals during the whole tournament.

In the final, against France, they won 4-2.

FOOTBALL FERNS

Two of our four Albertian Football Ferns helped NZ score a historic win at Eden Park on July 20, with a 1-0 victory over Norway in the FIFA Women's World Cup opener.

Malia Steinmetz (2015-16) and Jacqui Hand (2012-16) played vital roles in the Ferns' first-ever win at a World Cup.

Grace Jale (2013-17) appeared in later games for the Ferns, while Milly Clegg (2019-22) was also in the squad but didn't get any game time.



At MAGS and at the 2023 World Cup: Football Ferns Malia Steinmetz, Grace Jale and Jacqui Hand then and now.



ADI ASHOK

Albertian Adi Ashok (2016-20), made his international cricket debut for the Black Caps in the T20 against UAE in Dubai on August 20 and took one wicket in his four overs.

Adi, a former New Zealand U19 rep, was a consistent performer for the Aces in the Super Smash, claiming seven wickets and producing match-turning spells.

At MAGS, Adi was a member of the 1st XI Boys Cricket team for five years and Captain in 2020. He also won the top school award for Most Outstanding Boy in an Individual Sport, Most Consistent Hockey player for the 1st XI Hockey team in 2020 and top awards in Cricket for three years in a row.

HALL OF Distinction

Five prominent and celebrated Albertian artists were inducted into the Hall of Distinction on July 28.

Albertians Association President John Kay welcomed inductees, their families and guests to the event in the W.O.H. Gibbs Room, and the citations for the inductees were read by Mr Gibbs himself.

Board of Trustees member Greg Moyle said he was delighted that Mount Albert Grammar School was able to recognise such prominent Albertians, who had each produced significant bodies of work and inspired others. The five inductees were:

John Puiatau Pule ONZM (1974-1975) – Accepted on behalf by Greg Moyle
For services to art and literature

Stanley Arthur Palmer ONZM (1950-1953)
For services to painting and printmaking

Stephen Bambury (1968-1969) – Accepted on behalf by wife Jan Bambury
For services to painting

Billy Apple ONZM NZ Icon (1948-1951) – Accepted on behalf by partner Mary Morrison
For services to pop art

John Stanley Edgar ONZM (1964-1968) – Accepted on behalf by partner Ann Robinson
For services to sculpture

The Hall of Distinction was established in 1997 as part of the 75th Jubilee celebrations. Membership of the Hall is an honour for past masters of the School who have significantly contributed to the spirit of the School and for Albertians in recognition of their efforts and achievements in the community.



Albertians Association President John Kay presented Stephen Bambury's certificate to his wife, Jan Bambury.



Billy Apple's certificate was accepted on his behalf by partner Mary Morrison.



Artist Stanley Palmer is presented with his certificate.



John Edgar's induction certificate was accepted by John's mother Rae Edgar, at left, and John's partner Ann Robinson.



John Pule's certificate was accepted on his behalf by Greg Moyle.



Mr Gibbs reads the citations.

From the Archives

Many of the prizes awarded recently at prizegivings were originally presented by people who have been very important in the development of Mount Albert Grammar School. Here is a very small sample.

THE F.W. GAMBLE MEMORIAL CUP FOR THE BEST ALL ROUND YEAR 13 BOY

F.W. Gamble was the first headmaster of Mount Albert Grammar School. He was appointed in 1921 and oversaw the first years of the school during which many of the traditions that are still followed today were developed.

He had the difficult task of seeing the school through the war years and retired at the end of 1946. Sadly, his retirement was a short one and he died in 1949.

His funeral was held in the school hall, and Alberton Avenue was lined with students as the cortege left the school. The prefects of 1949 were present at his funeral.

They held a 40th reunion in 1989 and decided to present to the school this trophy. Since 2004 it has been awarded to the best all round boy and has often (but not always) been presented to the Head Prefect. It recognises a student who has made an outstanding contribution to the school in a number of areas – academic, sport, the arts and service. This year's recipient is Head Prefect Tairahia Moata'ane-Mika.

THE MOUNT ALBERT GRAMMAR SCHOOL TROPHY FOR THE BEST ALL ROUND YEAR 13 GIRL

Girls first attended Mount Albert Grammar in 2000, and in 2003 five girls from Year 12 were appointed as prefects.

This was the last year that Year 12 students served as



Top Year 13s for 2023 Tairahia Moata'ane-Mika and Olivia Bennett with Mr Drumm.



The Year 12 Girl Prefects of 2003, with Katie Bowskill, second from left, the first recipient of the Top Year 13 Girl trophy. Second from right is Sosefina Fa'aumasillii the first Head Girl.

prefects and these girls formed the core of the prefects of 2004. Sosefina Fa'ausillii was the first head girl prefect. This group of prefects, like their counterparts

of 1949 presented a trophy which is awarded to the best all round girl. The criteria for this award are the same as the F.W. Gamble trophy and it has

also often been presented to the head prefect. This year's recipient is Head Prefect Olivia Bennett.



VICTOR LUDORUM

Victor Ludorum is Latin for "winner of the games" and is presented to the student considered to have made the greatest contribution across a variety of sports.

The victor ludorum trophy was presented by the Auckland Grammar School Old Boys' Football Club in 1922 and named the Senior Athletics Championship Cup.

Unusually, it was repurposed in 1945 and renamed the Victor Ludorum Cup. A number of the recipients have gone on to very successful careers in their chosen sport.

- 1948 – Mark Otway – New Zealand Tennis representative
- 1957 – Peter Snell – Athletics
- 1958 – Bruce Cameron – Weightlifting
- 1967 – Bryan Williams – Rugby (joint award with Bernie Allen)
- 1975 – Chris Liddell – was also dux in 1975
- 1978 and 1979 – Trevor Franklin – Cricket
- 1981 – Mark Grooby – Waterpolo
- 1985 – Olo Brown – Rugby

This year's Victor Ludorum is Roy Tatupu for his achievements in Rugby, Rugby League, Athletics, Softball and Volleyball.

VICTRIX LUDORUM

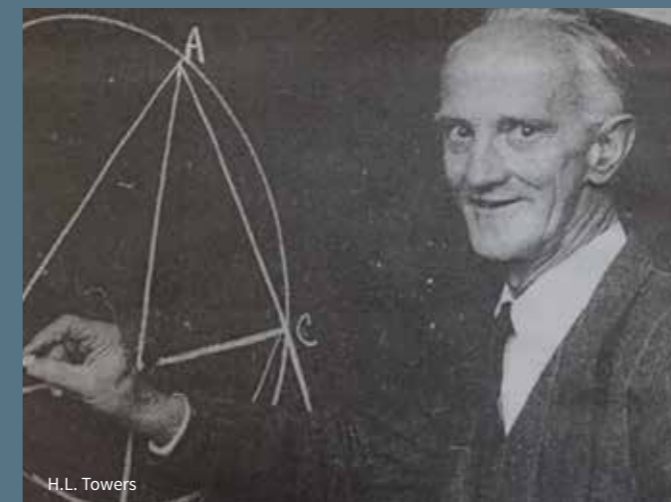
In 2004 the then headmaster Greg Taylor presented a trophy as the girls' equivalent of the Victor Ludorum. The first recipient was Casey Boxall, whose father had attended the school in the 1960s. Her two brothers, Michael and Nico, also attended the school and went on to successful careers in football. Portia Woodman, who is a member of the current Black Ferns, won the award in 2009.

This year's Victrix Ludorum is Anika Todd for her achievements in Cricket, Athletics, Football, Lawn Bowls and Curling.

HL TOWERS

H.L. Towers, more commonly known as "Herb", was a foundation master at the school and his career lasted from 1922 until 1978. He was best known as a Mathematics teacher but he also served as deputy principal from 1959 to 1960.

He was the first housemaster when School House opened in 1927 and was a successful rugby coach for a number of years.



H.L. Towers

He was responsible for setting up the inter-secondary schools athletics competitions in 1928 and was involved in athletics right up to just before his death in 1994.

In 1979 a number of his former students who had made their careers in Mathematics or related fields donated to a trust fund for the H.L. Towers Mathematics awards.

These awards are given annually to the top mathematics students in years 10, 11 and 12. The year 10 award is yet to be announced but the two winners for 2023 are Ava Poynter (Year 11) and Jacob Miller (Year 12).

CALDER HISTORY PRIZE

This prize is awarded to the top student in Year 13 History. H.L. Calder was a popular history teacher who taught at Mount Albert Grammar from 1923 to 1967.

He was also senior Housemaster from 1930 to 1934. When he retired in 1967, Jaz, as he was popularly known, donated money to the school to be used as a prize for the top history student in what was then known as 6A.

A number of his students enjoyed successful careers as historians, perhaps the most notable Professors Keith Sinclair and Russell Stone, along with Doctor Michael Bassett. The recipient of the Calder prize for 2023 is Hannah Moy.



H.L. Calder

KEY DATES 2024

TERM 1

31 January
Wednesday
Year 9 students only start school

1 February
Thursday
Full school in

5 February
Monday
School Closed

6 February
Tuesday
Waitangi Day holiday

29 March
Friday
Good Friday holiday

1 April
Monday
Easter Monday holiday

2 April
Tuesday
School Closed

11 April
Thursday
Last day of classes for Term 1

12 April

Friday
Staff Only Administration Day
End of Term 1

25 April
Thursday
Anzac Day

TERM 2

29 April
Monday
Start of Term 2

3 June
Monday
King's Birthday holiday

28 June
Friday
Matariki holiday

4 July
Thursday
Last day of classes for Term 2

5 July
Friday
Staff Only Administration Day
End of Term 2

TERM 3

22 July
Monday
Start of Term 3

26 September
Thursday
Last day of classes for Term 3

27 September
Friday
Staff Only Administration Day
End of Term 3

TERM 4

14 October
Monday
Start of Term 4

28 October
Monday
Labour Day holiday

3 December
Tuesday
Junior Prizegivings
Last day of classes for Term 4

2024 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

29 January
Monday
Auckland Anniversary holiday

6 February
Tuesday
Waitangi Day holiday

29 March
Friday
Good Friday holiday

1 April
Monday
Easter Monday holiday

25 April
Thursday
Anzac Day

3 June
Monday
King's Birthday holiday

28 June
Friday
Matariki holiday

28 October
Monday
Labour Day holiday



Please refer to our website www.mags.school.nz for the full Calendar, including all sporting events.

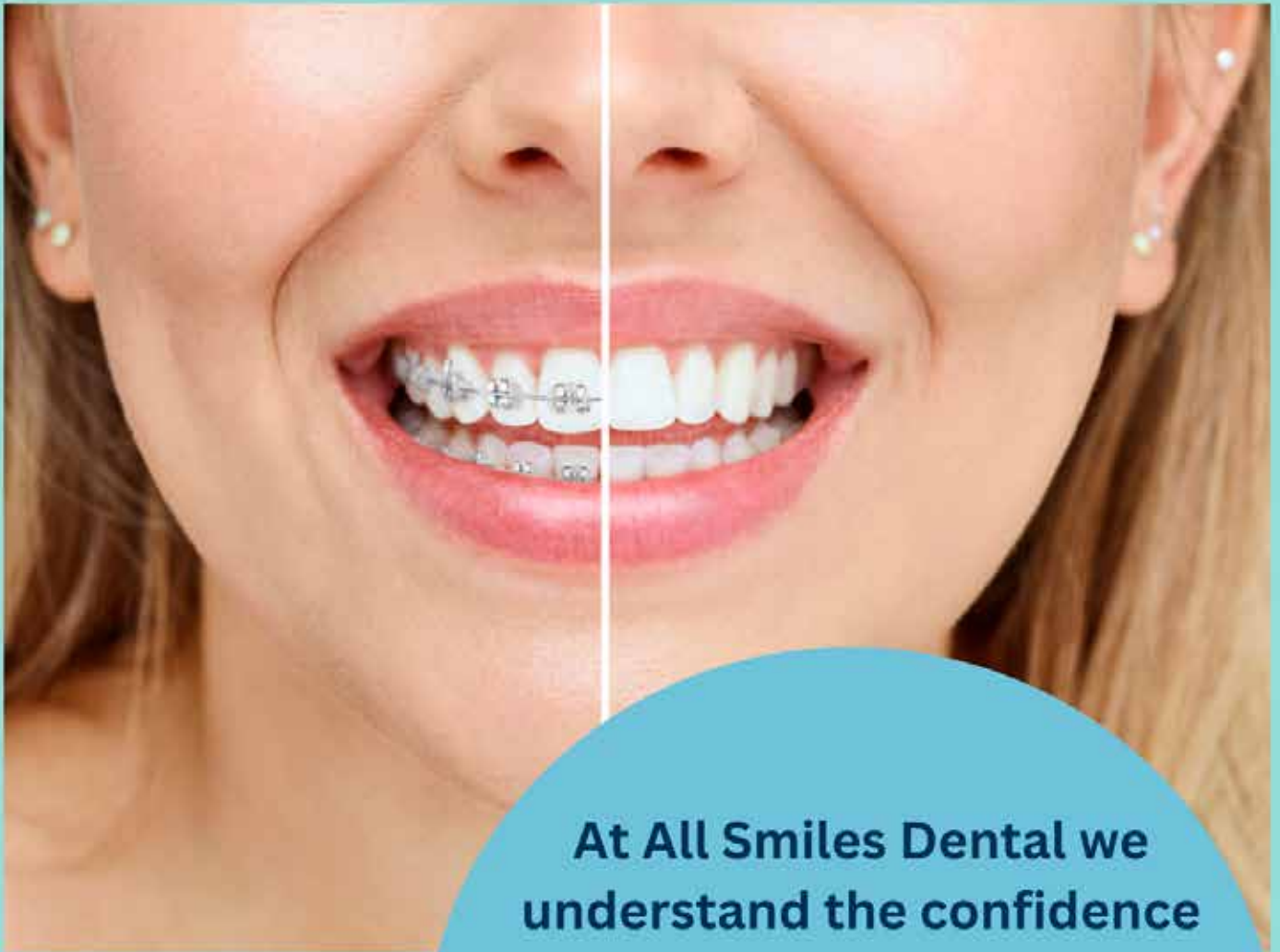
Lions of 2023

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK TO OUR YEAR 13 STUDENTS



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