

THE

AUGUST 2025

LION

*100 Years
of Service*

FOUR STAFF MEMBERS HIT 25-YEAR MILESTONE



**MOUNT ALBERT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**



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Cover photo:
Racking up 25 years of service to
MAGS are, from left, Pam Drake,
Shelley Mackinlay-Milne, Natasha
Charman and Pat Barrett.

Photo: Martin Sykes



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Natasha Charman, after her 25 Years of Service presentation, with the Headmaster, Mr Drumm, and former headmasters Greg Taylor and Dale Burden.

THE YEAR OF '25'

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

Welcome to the mid-year edition of *The Lion* in a milestone year for our MAGS community.

It's all about the number '25' in 2025 as we celebrate 25 years since girls were first introduced to MAGS.

Accompanying those first 125 girls who walked through our doors at the turn of the millennium were four staff also beginning their time as teachers at MAGS. Pam Drake, Shelley McKinley-Milne, Natasha Charman and Pat Barrett (as pictured on the cover) are also being celebrated for their 25 years of service to the MAGS community.

Since 1922, 41 teachers have been acknowledged for 25 years (or more) of service to our school. The loyalty and long service of many teaching staff is a unique characteristic of MAGS. These teachers carry the stories of our school. And they've provided confidence and certainty for parents and students in a changing world. Over time they have weathered the educational fads that are part and parcel of the political cycle. Good teaching has always been good teaching! Our long serving staff have stayed true to what they know works in the classroom and helped to create a MAGS education second to none! They have also borne witness to the transformation of MAGS over the past two and a half decades.

The year 2000 was a time of revolution for MAGS. The courage of those Foundation Girls, who bravely entered what had previously been an almost 80-year bastion of male education, was incredible. That revolution quickly became an evolution as the school community adapted to being co-educational – an outstanding place for young men and young women to be educated.

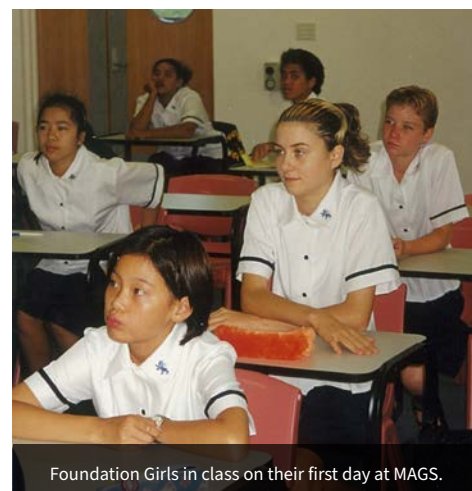
Build it and they will come! The 125 foundation girls were part of an overall student roll of around 1200 at the time. Fast forward to today and close to 1700 girls contribute to a total roll of 3600 students. The decision to enrol girls in 2000, while somewhat contentious at the

time, has proven to be the right one. The numbers don't lie! They bear testament to the confidence and support of our Mount Albert community in sending their sons and daughters to MAGS.

We have been marking 25 years of co-education in a number of ways and will continue to do so throughout the remainder of the year. The December edition of *The Lion* will cover this Silver Jubilee in greater detail but I do want to acknowledge a significant event held earlier in the year and the legacy it will provide for young MAGS women into the future.

The cover photo shows our 25 Years of Service recipients gathered around a statue. Earlier this year the school installed this stunning piece of artwork on our front lawn near the flagpole. This bronze known as 'Owairaka – Statue of a Cloaked Woman' was originally constructed by Christine Hellyar in 1994. The work honours the women of Mount Albert who have helped to shape our community – right back to Wairaka – an ancestor and tangata whenua of this area.

Originally poured on site and located in Alice Wylie Reserve, the artwork was vandalised in 2022, necessitating its removal and return to the artist. Through the support and



Foundation Girls in class on their first day at MAGS.



From left, sculpture installer Richard Mathieson, BoT Deputy Chair Greg Moyle, Donald Ensor (husband of sculpture artist Christine Hellyar) and Mr Drumm.

sponsorship of Albertian Greg Moyle, the piece was repaired and kindly offered to be installed here at MAGS.

The fortuitous timing of this offer allowed the school to mark the 25 year contributions of our own MAGS young women – alongside all women who have been part of the wider Mount Albert community.

'Owairaka – Statue of the Cloaked Woman' stands proudly at the front of our school facing towards the walkway steps – watching over and welcoming our students into school each day. She is a reminder of the people – including our long serving staff –

who have made MAGS and Mount Albert what it is today.

But she also issues a challenge to all who enter our school. Our 25-year journey (and the almost-80 years previous) has created a coeducational school like no other. But the job is not done yet – we can get even better!

I know the future young men and women of MAGS, their parents and our teachers will prove me right!

Per Augusta Ad Augusta

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster



Foundation Girls at prizegiving in 2000.



Foundation Girls and Staff in 2000.

25 Years of Service



At Staff Briefing on April 11, MAGS recognised four of its staff for their 25 years of service to MAGS.

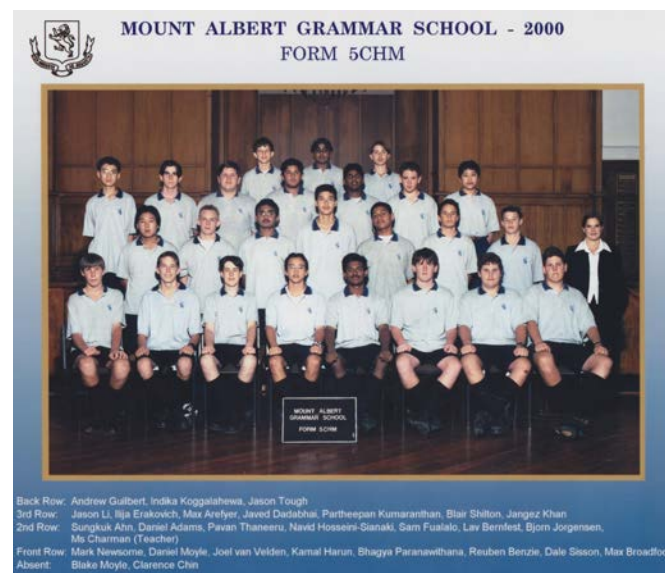
Mr Drumm commended Pat Barrett, Natasha Charman, Pam Drake and Shelley Mackinlay-Milne for their commitment to MAGS, saying long service was highly valued and part of the MAGS tradition. Long-serving staff were invaluable in mentoring staff new to MAGS.

All four worked with former headmasters Greg Taylor (1988-2006) and Dale Burden (2006-2015), who were both in attendance to celebrate the service of the latest MAGS staff to hit the 25-year milestone. They also began at MAGS at a historic time: when it first opened to girls in 2000.

Mr Barrett joined MAGS as a Science teacher and has taught Agriculture, Biology, Chemistry, Earth and Space Science, Physics, Mathematics, English and Social Sciences in his time at MAGS. He has also been in charge of Table Tennis teams and the Academic Council, served as a Football referee, a Quiz Master, a Health

Sciences Academy mentor, and Data Assessment Manager – as well as taking on the onerous task of organising exam timetables.

He said he had never felt the need to leave his job at MAGS because it was such a unique school and the constant changes – from attitudes to technology – had kept him on his toes and engaged.



Back Row: Andrew Guilbert, Indika Koggalahewa, Jason Tough
3rd Row: Jason Li, Raja Erakovich, Max Arefyev, Javed Dadabhai, Partheepan Kumaramanian, Blair Shilton, Jangeez Khan
2nd Row: Sungkuk Ahn, Daniel Adams, Pavan Thaneeru, Navid Hosseini-Sanaki, Sam Fualalo, Lav Bernfest, Bjorn Jorgensen, Ms Charman (Teacher)
Front Row: Mark Newsome, Daniel Moyle, Joel van Velden, Kamal Hanon, Bhagya Paranasarithana, Reuben Berzic, Dale Sison, Max Broadfoot
Absent: Blake Moyle, Clarence Chin

He said wiser heads had taught him to challenge himself, and to employ narrative and storytelling while teaching.

Mr Barrett said, "It's an honour and a privilege to teach at MAGS. Long service staff are culture bearers of the school. There has been hardship but much glory. I look forward to being a culture bearer."

Mrs Charman was a young mother and fresh out of teachers' college when she took her first teaching role at MAGS in 2000, just as the school was opened to girls.

She was very involved with the daunting task of welcoming, integrating and overseeing girls at MAGS in those early years.

Her talents were quickly recognised and she became a dean two years later, a role she filled for 13 years.

She has been the HOD Social Studies since the late 2000s apart from a stint as HOF Social Science and a period of leave.

She has also managed netball and lacrosse teams and has run the school equestrian team. For 10 years she also organised the school ball.

Mr Charman said she had received amazing support and shared some wonderful memories at MAGS.

"I have always been part of a wonderful Social Science Department, the people are what make it. We are a diverse bunch ... the daily support from this crew means the world to me and I love our laughs."

Mrs Drake, who retired this year as her 25 years of service ticked over, has been a teacher for 48 years.

She was appointed to the role of Head of Learning Support/ Special Needs Coordinator at MAGS, having worked as Remedial and Reading Specialist Teacher and Special Needs Co-ordinator at Glendowie College.

At MAGS at the time, there was no diagnostic testing so Mrs Drake had to find ways to identify learning needs, had to develop systems, and had to teach others the difference between Learner Support and ESOL.

During her time, Mrs Drake has not only helped to guide and develop the wonderful Learning Centre we have today but has also had to deal with some of our most challenging students – always with love and compassion.

Mrs Drake has long been a manager of Underwater Hockey teams due to it being a "quirky sport" and is played "in a world of your own – no spectators, no coach, no noise. It appeals to the neurodiverse".

She said she specialised in Learning support because "it is the students who matter".

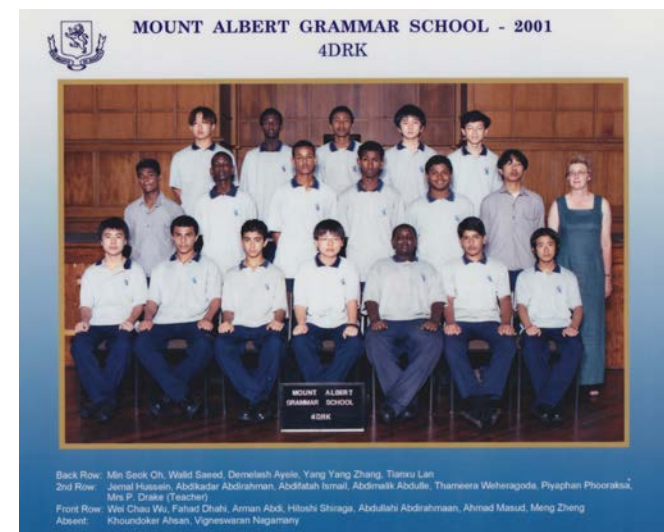
"I pay tribute to all the special students who've been on the path with me – to me, they truly embody the MAGS motto of from hardship to glory."

Mrs Mackinlay-Milne joined the Social Science Department in 2000 and has gone on to be a long-serving and outstanding dean for girls and boys. From 2002-2005, she was the International Dean in what she describes as the "Harry Potter cupboard". In 2006, she deaned the Year 9 girls and has been a dean from 2015 until this year, when she started a new round with Year 9 Girls.

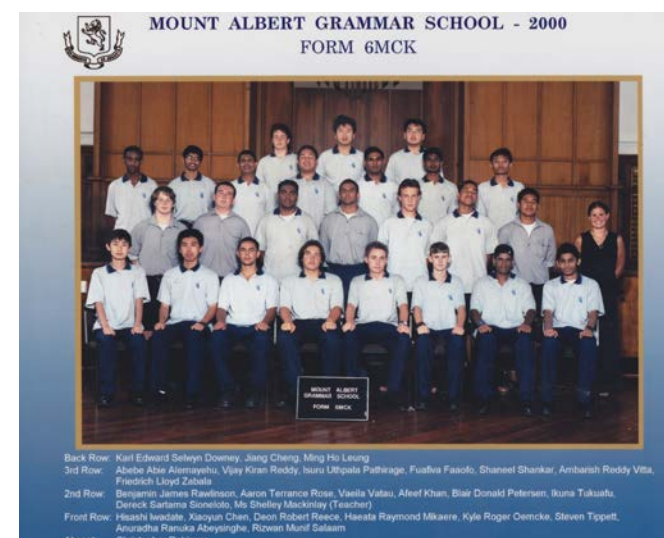
She has made huge contributions to the extra-curricular life of our school. She has coached netball alongside the legendary Bernice Mene and managed cricket with Jeff Anderson.

A keen rugby fan, she has served as rugby manager for both the Boys 1st and 2nd XV, as well as assisting with Underwater Hockey.

She has a passion for running and has helped with Xterra trail and distance running, and Orienteering events. She has never missed an Athletics Day in her time at MAGS and has supported the Relay for Life.



Back Row: Min Suk Oh, Waleed Saad, Demelash Ayale, Yang Yang Zheng, Tianru Lan
3rd Row: Jamal Hassan, Abdulkar Abdurrahman, Abdulsalam Ismail, Abdimaw Abdulla, Thameera Vahanagoda, Prayshen Phoorakul, Mrs P. Drake (Teacher)
2nd Row: Wei Chao Wei, Fahad Diah, Amran Abd, Hishu Shingra, Abdulhadi Abdurrahman, Ahmad Masud, Meng Zhong
Front Row: Khondakar Akbar, Vigneeswaran Nagamany



Back Row: Karl Edward Selwyn Downey, Jiang Cheng, Ming Ho Leung
3rd Row: Azebe Abbe Alemayehu, Vijay Kran Reddy, Isuru Uthpala Pathirage, Fawzia Fawzi, Shanel Shankar, Anbarash Reddy Vitta, Fredrick Lloyd Zetala
2nd Row: Benjamin James Rawlinson, Aaron Terrance Ross, Vasilisa Vabau, Ateef Khan, Blair Donald Petersen, Ikona Tukua, Derek Sartama Soneloto, Ms Shelley Mackinlay (Teacher)
Front Row: Hannah Inedele, Xinyan Chen, Dean Robert Rennie, Hawata Raymond Misaere, Kyle Roger Oemcke, Steven Tippett, Anuradha Ranuka Abeyaratne, Rowan Munif Saleem
Absent: Christopher Robinson

Mrs Mackinlay-Milne said, "Over the years, this school has provided me with so much that I am grateful for: countless opportunities, enduring and endearing friendships, and even a husband. Now, it brings me so much joy to see my own sons here, experiencing everything MAGS has to offer."



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June Gray Scholarship awardee Quinn Bell-Purchas with Mr Drumm and Academic Dean Mr Gibbs.

Scholars Assembly



Samuel Reeves with Chris Liddell.



Jacob Miller with Chris Liddell.

MAGS celebrated spectacular Scholarship results in February with many of its top academics and their families at the Scholars Assembly.

Our students achieved a record 192 Scholarships in 2024 with 16 of these at Outstanding level.

Jacob Miller was named a Premier Scholar, Natasha Deakin (Accounting) and Samuel Reeves (Earth & Space Science) were the Top Scholars in their respective subjects nationwide, and Samuel Reeves and Ryan Shen were named Outstanding Scholars.

Jacob achieved nine Scholarships with three Outstanding: (Physics (O), Calculus (O), Economics (O), Biology, Chemistry, Statistics, Geography, Classical Studies, Earth & Space Science), Samuel also achieved nine (Biology (O), Earth & Space Science (O), English, German, Chemistry, Statistics, Geography, Classical Studies, Health & Physical Education), and Ryan achieved six (Geography (O), English, Biology, Statistics, Media Studies, Religious Studies).

Overall, 20 MAGS students gained Scholarship Awards by passing three or more Scholarship subjects or gaining at least two Outstanding Scholarships. Along with the aforementioned three students,

the following students' names will go up on our Honours Board in the F.W. Gamble Hall: Ryan Antia, Felix Armstrong, Elias Beachman, Quinn Bell-Purchas, Samantha Chase, Catherine Chen, Victor Coen, Sophia DePledge, Owen Frear, Marie Gamage, Ethan Green, Cade Kelly-Watt, Felix McElwee, Gemma McKinney, Jonathan Sawers, Thomas Shaw and Jonathon Yu.

Of those 20, three already have their names on our Honours Board – Jacob Miller, Samuel Reeves and Ryan Shen – having gained Scholarships Awards as Year 12s in 2023. Jacob was also named an Outstanding Scholar that year. Also notable is that Victor Coen, as a Year 12 in 2024, made the Honours Board with five Scholarships, including an Outstanding in Physics.

The assembly also saw the presentation of the June Gray Scholarship to Quinn Bell-Purchas.

Albertian Chris Liddell was guest speaker at the event. In 1975, his final year at MAGS, Mr Liddell was Dux and Victor Ludorum. He then went on to enjoy a stellar business career at Microsoft and General Motors, before working in the White House.

He spoke to students about the need to continually strive for excellence and encouraged them to develop skills across many areas – but to be world class in one.



From left, Samuel Reeves, Natasha Deakin and Jacob Miller at the Top Scholar Awards.

He also emphasised that being a team player would take you places, and that taking risks was one of the best ways to succeed despite any failures along the way.

Mr Liddell has been a huge supporter of MAGS over the years, including his staff and student scholarships that are given out annually.

TOP SCHOLAR AWARDS

Three of MAGS' top academics were recognised for their outstanding Scholarship results at the Top Scholar Awards 2024 held at Parliament on May 7.

Following the 2024 Scholarship Exams, Jacob Miller was named a Premier Scholar, while Natasha Deakin (Accounting) and Samuel Reeves (Earth & Space Science) were the Top Scholars in their respective subjects nationwide.

These students were accompanied to the ceremony at Parliament by Mr Drumm, HOF Commerce Mr Gilbert and HOD Earth & Space Science Mr Dockery.

The Minister of Education, Hon Erica Stanford, presented 12 Premier Awards to students who received Outstanding Scholarships across multiple subjects; while

NZQA Board Chair Kevin Jenkins presented awards to the highest achieving student in each of the 37 New Zealand Scholarship subjects.



LEADERSHIP ASSEMBLY

Year 13s and whanau gathered in the F.W. Gamble Hall on February 7 as the Leadership Assembly recognised our 2025 Prefects and the Prefect Executive.

Prefects crossed the stage to be presented with their badges, followed by Head Prefects Campbell Buchanan and Khalen Quensell addressing the assembly.

Both spoke of their desire to stay

humble, listen to their fellow students and lift up those around them.

Our 2025 Prefects also debuted the pale blue '25 Years of Girls at MAGS' tie as part of their official outfit.

Following the event, refreshments were served on the front lawn, where parents, students and staff mingled – and many photos were taken.



Head Prefects Campbell Buchanan and Khalen Quensell with Mr Drumm.



ANZAC Services



Deputy Head Prefect Tyler Yare addresses the Anzac Assembly.

MAGS remembered its fallen Albertians on April 10 at the Anzac Service Assembly in the F.W. Gamble Hall with a special guest: Albertian Professor Russell Stone, who has just celebrated his 102nd birthday.

Professor Stone, who served in the Air Force and Army during World War II, joined other guests who were escorted by piper Andrew Wilkie into the hall, already filled with a Year 9 audience. Our Gloriana choir performed *Hine e Hine* following Deputy Head Prefect Tyler Yare reading *Sigh Not* by Albertian John Clarke.

Year 13 History students Nora Pecher and Head Prefect Campbell Buchanan spoke about our fallen Albertians.

Nora focused on brothers Reginald and

Ian Grant, and how Reginald, as his brother's commanding officer, had to report Ian's death to their parents.

Campbell spoke about the service of Roger Whitfield and Athol Kilner – and put their service in perspective as young men who gave their lives so we could enjoy peace and prosperity.

As at every ANZAC Service, the names of fallen Albertians were read aloud, the *Ode of Remembrance* was read, and a laying of wreaths was performed at our cenotaph during *The Last Post* and *Reveille*, played by student Kiri Lovatt, as the school flag was lowered and raised both inside the hall and at the cenotaph, where the names of the fallen Albertians are inscribed in stone.

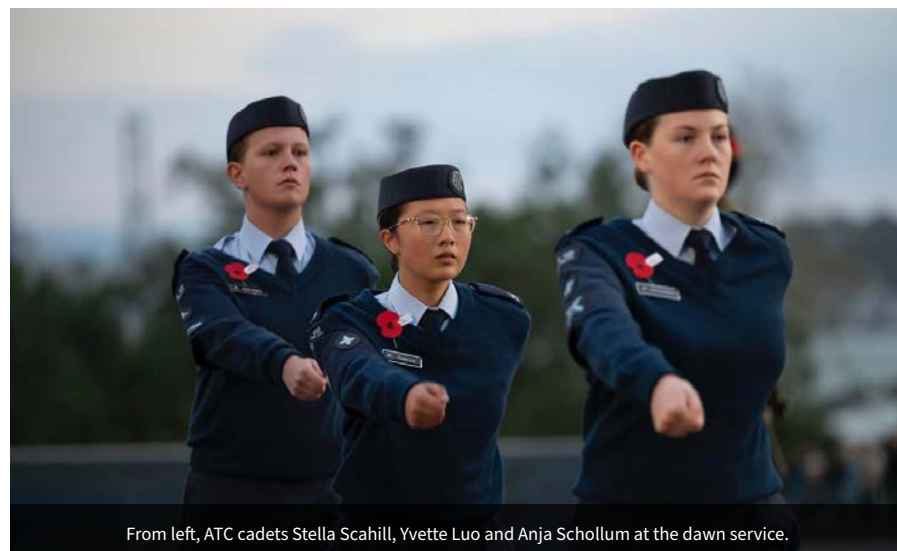


ANZAC DAY DAWN SERVICE

Three MAGS female cadets were front and centre at the Anzac Day Dawn Service at the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

Cadet Sergeants Stella Scahill and Anja Schollum and Leading Air Cadet Yvette Luo formed the Flag Party, which had the honour of lowering and raising the flags on the cenotaph at the April 25 service attended by thousands of Aucklanders.

The trio are members of the No. 3 (Auckland City) Squadron Air Training Corps.



From left, ATC cadets Stella Scahill, Yvette Luo and Anja Schollum at the dawn service.



MAGS rowers with their NZ team-mates at the Malta Service.



MALTA ANZAC SERVICE

The nine MAGS students who were chosen as part of the New Zealand Anzac Beach Sprint Team enjoyed huge success in the rowing events in Malta as well as some sombre reflection when they visited Anzac war graves.

Rowers Joshua Murphy, Aria Wallwork, Tim Reeves, Arlo Powell, Louis Collis, Hunter Whitten, James Neilson, Ziggy Miller and coxswain Amelia Jones were part of a NZ team that won seven of the eight finals. Australia won one and Malta none.

In advance of Anzac Day, there were five days of training and visiting historic military locations on Malta such as the Malta Naval Cemetery, where Albertian Herbert Earney is commemorated.

Our rowers took part in the main ANZAC Day Service before competing in Boys, Girls and Mixed Crew racing in single, double and quad coastal rowing boats.

One of the organisers, Roger McGarry, said, "The MAGS students represented the school with distinction and the parents group was brilliant as well."

"It was really a Classics trip with sport added in, with visits to so many historic and culturally significant sites, and the students took such an interest in it all. Also, [Assistant Director of Rowing] Holly Chaafe did an outstanding job on the coaching."



Professor Russell Stone with cadet Nick Blanks.



BOARD SHOW AND MARKET EVENING

Despite the dire forecast, the rain held off on the evening of June 4 as students, staff and visitors flocked to enjoy food, music and visual displays as part of the ever-popular Board Show and Business Market Evening.

There was a wide variety of food, drink and other handmade products for sale across stalls set up by Year 11 Business students in and around the Greg Taylor Building and the new Murray Nairn Building.

Inside both buildings, our Visual Arts students got to show off the work they have been doing in design, photography, painting and digital media.



YEAR 11 *Prizegiving*



Our top 2024 Year 11s were announced as Jack Tyler, who won the Warwick Gibbs Cup for Best All-Round Boy in Year 11, and Melepuopua Tevunga, who won the Brian Murphy Cup for Best All-Round Girl in Year 11, with Mr Drumm.



Sona McCormack won the Jo Williams Cup for Diligence, and Rafael Bevacqua-Kimi won the Robert Willmott Memorial Prize for Quality of Effort.



Because our 2024 Year 11s were doing MCEA rather than NCEA last year, they had to wait a bit longer for their academic prizes to be announced.

At a prizegiving assembly on February 5, our top 2024 Year 11s were announced as Jack Tyler, who won the Warwick Gibbs Cup

for Best All-Round Boy in Year 11, and Melepuopua Tevunga, who won the Brian Murphy Cup for Best All-Round Girl in Year 11.

Sona McCormack won the Jo Williams Cup for Diligence, and Rafael Bevacqua-Kimi won the Robert Willmott Memorial Prize for Quality of Effort.



Junior *Representatives*



Our Junior Year Level Representatives for 2025 were announced and recognised at assemblies in March.

Year 9 and Year 10 representatives are pictured above left and right respectively with Deputy Principals Miss Hayes and Mr Powell.

The Year 9 representatives are, from left, Iva Bernard, Tulsi Bayliss, Leo Cairncross and Aidan Ranchhod. The Year 10s are Te Awanuiarangi Mackwood, Soren Bell, Natalija Cowley and Gasologa Auia.



New Deputy Principal

At the start of Term 2, MAGS welcomed Matt Holdgate, who has started as our new Deputy Principal.

Mr Holdgate previously served as Head of Williams Boarding House at St Paul's Collegiate School in Hamilton for five years. Prior to this, he held a leadership role at Newington College in Sydney, overseeing the development and delivery of an extensive service learning and outdoor education program.

A teacher of both Social Sciences and Physical Education, Mr Holdgate holds a Master of

Educational Leadership from the University of Sydney, as well as additional postgraduate qualifications in Positive Psychology from the University of Melbourne.

An enthusiastic advocate for sport and the outdoors, Mr Holdgate has coached rugby and cricket teams at both club and representative levels. He is committed to fostering a vibrant, high-achieving school culture and looks forward to working in partnership with the wider MAGS community to support the school's continued pursuit of excellence in all areas.

New Staff for 2025

Before the school year started, on January 23, new teachers to MAGS received an official welcome with a whakatau in the

Te Puna Wānanga.

Following that, they spent the day in orientation sessions so they could hit the ground running the following week.

The new staff are, back row, from left: Sean Moon, Teaching Intern – PE and Health; James Coughlan, Teaching Intern – Social Science; Ethan Wai Poi, Teacher PE and Health; Dylan Thomas, Teacher PE and Health; Leon Bell, Teacher English.

Third row: Adam Taylor, Teaching Intern – Maths; Dale

Dempsey, Teacher Maths; Finn Cahir, Teacher Science; Michael Tillett, Director of Cricket; Matty Poi, Teacher Technology; Michael Zhang, Teacher Technology; Tianqing Gong, Teacher Maths.

Second row: Jo Reddy, HoD Learner Support; Kaylee Kilpatrick, Teacher Science; Annabelle Nadeau-Germann, Teacher English; Katie Hadfield, Teacher English; Craig Neeve, Teacher Commerce; Fahimah Khan, Teacher Science; Sophie Nicholson, Teaching Intern –

Science; Emma Newson, Teacher – PE and Health; David Marshall, Teaching Intern – Science.

Front row: Helen Geng, Teacher English Language; Rachel Hooker, Teacher Art/Technology; Natalie Green, Teacher Commerce; Mitchell Powlesland, Teacher – PE and Health; Hannah Brown, Teacher Social Science; Lisa Lobendhan, Teacher Maths; Aishah Bangi, Teacher English; Matt Tihi, Teaching Intern – English; Waana Araroa, Teacher Māori.



Chess

In May, the MAGS Chess team finished second in the Auckland Senior Regional Tournament.

They missed out on first place by half a point to ACG Sunderland. The top four players' points contributed to the score. They were Nguyen Bui, Victor Coen, Yaroslav Sidorenko and Janice Shi. This qualifies them for the National tournament.

Nguyen was placed third and Victor Coen fifth overall for the tournament.



From left to right: Matt Clement, Declan Kiwi, Victor Coen, Janice Shi, Nathan Bailey, Yaroslav Sidorenko, Varshit Sudi and Nguyen Bui.



Minister of Education Visits

MAGS welcomed Education Minister Erica Stanford to the school on May 22 to make a post-budget announcement about a boost to on- the-job teacher training.

She said the Government would be funding 530 new on-site teacher trainee places over the next four years as part of a \$2.5 billion boost to education in Budget 2025. MAGS has eight teacher trainees here currently learning on the job, and has

enjoyed great success with the programme.

"We know the most important part of a child's education is the quality of the teacher in front of them. Developing the workforce of the future is one of my priorities for the education system," Stanford said.

"We want to grow, promote and support the education workforce by backing and strengthening our educators who every day deliver real change in the classroom."

The Minister also took time to talk to students and teachers, in particular our Deputy Principal Mrs Cato, who taught Stanford at Rangitoto College.

She then dropped in on teacher trainee Mr Coughlan's Year 10 Social Studies class (pictured above), spending time with his students as Mr Coughlan took them through a lesson about early migrants to NZ.



Hi-Well Scholarships

Epeli Prescott and Nina Chalmers are our recipients of the Hi-Well Charity Scholarships for 2025.

They were recommended for the awards and presented them by National MP Melissa Lee at Takapuna in February.

The NZ Korean Association kindly awards these scholarships to worthy Year 13 students, who demonstrate significant leadership skills and balance to their academic studies.



Return to International Olympiad

Year 13 student Victor Coen was selected as one of four students to represent New Zealand at the International Olympiad in Informatics, held in Bolivia from July 27 to August 3.

Nicholas Grace, the Training Director – New Zealand Olympiad in Informatics, said, "This is a remarkable achievement, and Victor has our congratulations for his diligent work at our January training camp and in preparation for the contests held in February and March that we used to select the team."

Last year, Victor achieved a gold and a bronze medal at two different overseas Olympiads.

Farm Wins Environment Award



The ASB MAGS Farm has been recognised for its sustainability, winning the NZFET Climate Recognition Award at the Auckland Ballance Farm Environment Awards in April.

The judges were particularly impressed by the farm's dedication to health and safety, with strict rules for visitors and robust biosecurity measures.

"The ASB MAGS Farm serves as a powerful reminder that even in close proximity to one of New Zealand's largest cities, sustainable agriculture and

environmental stewardship can thrive," the judges said.

The farm offers students a diverse range of hands-on experiences, with a strong focus on animal welfare, sustainability and education.

Students learn valuable skills in animal husbandry, horticulture, business management and environmental stewardship. They participate in many aspects of farm life – from milking sheep to sunflower cultivation.

Clash of the Colleges

MAGS Agriculture and Horticulture students have again excelled at the Auckland Clash of the Colleges held at Donald's Farm in Whitford at the end of Term 1.

Our Junior team of Elle Musson, Zoe Mallett, Olivia D'Rose and Kara Slessor were victorious, while our Seniors – Abby Cook, Maddy

Cameron, Hanna Smith and Isla Stephenson – placed third.

At the Clash of the Colleges, Secondary school Ag and Hort students from across the Upper North Island competed in teams of four, battling it out in 15 modules, including gumboot throwing, as pictured below,, to be crowned champions



SPELLING bee

The inaugural MAGS Spelling Bee was a great success, despite a couple of shortened lunchtimes that caused delays.

In Term 1, over 70 students and teachers competed in the first round. They were tasked with spelling 40 words – 20 from a list they had been given to memorise and 20 unsighted words. Year 9 mentor Mr Gibbs was the only contestant to spell all 40 words correctly.

This term, oral rounds were held for the top spellers from Round 1 in the F.W. Gamble Hall to find a junior, senior and teacher winner. To add some extra excitement, the rounds were all themed.

To win, a contestant had to be the last person standing in their round and they would then be given a championship word, which they had to spell correctly to win.

Our senior winner, Year 12 Stephanie Zhang, was the only one with a chance at a championship word, winning with 'pantomime' in the Redemption Round. The runners-up were Julianna Chloe Galanida, Adriana Hillen and Isobel Knowles. Many of the teachers fell in the first round. Ms Jerabek got a chance at a championship word, but ultimately Mr Brown prevailed in the 'Colours' round by correctly spelling 'mulberry'.

The juniors provided the most excitement with two students, Year 9 Dee Jangam and Year 10 Aditi Duptala, making it through to Round 9. Both students had multiple chances to win by correctly spelling championship words but eventually Dee Jangam set herself apart by spelling the word 'zephyr'.

The student winners were presented with beautiful trophies crafted by the Product Design Club, plus a bar of chocolate, and \$25 vouchers for Event Cinemas and Whitcoulls. Runners-up won \$10 Westfield vouchers and some chocolate. The teacher winner received a cute bee pen, some chocolate and an extra-special trophy that featured a crocheted bee.

The event was promoted, organised and run by capable and passionate student leaders: Year 12s Francesca-Eti Tonu'u, Isobel Knowles, Peggy Taylor and Vedika Chugh, along with TIC Miss Barlow.

Miss Barlow said, "A massive thank you to Ms Laxon, Ms McEwan and English HoF Ms Glucina, who helped run the finals."



Our top spellers at MAGS, are from left, Stephanie Zhang (1st Seniors), Adriana Hillen (2nd= Seniors), Julianna Chloe Galanida (2nd= Seniors), Aditi Duptala (2nd Juniors), Dee Jangam (1st Juniors). Absent: Isobel Knowles (2nd= Seniors).



Relay for Life

On April 5, a team of about 210 students and 20 teachers led by Miss David and Ms Kajanova took part in the Relay for Life Central Auckland event at Millennium Stadium.

This event raises funds for the Cancer Society, and MAGS has been part of this initiative for many years now.

The event was a great success with 60

students running a full marathon or more, and the team completing about 14,000 laps, which adds up to approximately the distance from Auckland to Tokyo.

Ms Kajanova said, "The day was also filled with fun activities such as face-painting and a talent quest, but also more serious moments, which included the Remembrance Ceremony

when people who passed away due to cancer were remembered.

"Our team has raised more than \$74,000 and finished second in Central Auckland on the day of the event. One of our students, Paige Barnes-Kilgour also took the silver award for the top fundraising individual on the day after raising more than \$4400."





Interact

Interact's first fundraiser this year was a great success.

They fundraised for SHINE, who help victims of domestic violence, by collecting donations in form time and through a bake sale in March.

The bake sale sold out very early. Alongside baked goods, there were necklaces, loom band key chains and orange lollipops provided by SHINE to sell.

Overall, Interact fundraised \$1110.80, which will help make a real difference to those affected by domestic violence in our community.

Interact students raised \$1,040.14 at the end of Term 1 for the SPCA by holding a Cupcake Day bake sale and collecting donations during AMP time.

Co-TIC Ms Stünzner held two master classes in cupcake decoration in preparation for the day.

She said, "The baking group members did a brilliant job of creating animal-themed fondant cupcake toppers in the first session, and the second group made buttercream frosting and decorated over 120 cupcakes to be sold during the bake sale.

"With other Interact members also providing a range of baked goods, as well as some Kiwi classic sausage rolls on offer, it was a complete sell-out! This concluded what has been a fantastic term of service to the community for our Interact members."

During Term 2, Interact put together a committee of Year 12s to organise a can drive in support of Rotary Westhaven's annual Cans for a Cause that helps Auckland City Mission.

The committee, made up of Amelia Knell, Eliza Rodger, Katie Somerville, Jack Tyler, Amy Burnett, Connor Corby, Lachlan Paul, Eva Yarrow, Rachael Sang, Ziya Rajpara and Gabby Tavita, did an excellent job promoting the drive and facilitating collections.

TIC Miss Barlow said, "Amelia, Eliza, Katie, Jack, Connor and Lachlan went above and beyond, taking time out of their study-from-home day on a Tuesday to count, package and transport the cans ready for collection, an endeavour which took nearly two and a half hours.

"MAGS collected 39 boxes in total, containing a whopping 2363 items, which is just amazing and the most successful can drive I can recall seeing during my time at MAGS.

"I am very proud of how well the Year 12 committee has led this and how the school has rallied behind and contributed so generously. Several Interactors have also volunteered to spend two hours on their weekends at supermarkets to continue collecting cans alongside the Rotary. What a great start to Cans for a Cause!"

MAGS 40 Hour Challenge fundraising raised more than \$7000, easily surpassing

the \$5000 goal.

TIC Miss Barlow said the sausage sizzle and bake sale held in Week 7 of Term 2 raised an impressive \$794.64. She added, "Fundraisers were also able to bring their own baking to go towards their fundraising, resulting in lots of extra yummy baking for sale.

"Hype Day [on June 17] was a highlight of the school calendar for many students with teachers, prefects (including Head Boy and Head Girl), sports captains and even some Year 11s and 12s up for getting a pie to the face or being splashed. Even Mr Drumm got involved!"

On the side, there were sausages and sausage rolls for sale, and our talented music students also put on a show.

Overall, Hype Day raised an incredible \$1357.73. As a school, MAGS raised more than \$7300, which is the most the school has raised since it started doing the 40 Hour Challenge again a few years ago.

Miss Barlow said, "The fundraiser was organised from woah to go by the Interact leaders, Prefect Executive team and some of the service prefects, who are to be commended for putting together such a wonderful event and a successful fundraiser. This amount will make a massive difference to those affected by the impacts of climate change in the Solomon Islands."



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Spirit Week

Our Prefects did a fantastic job with the student-led Spirit Week, which was started last year to encourage MAGS Pride.

On Monday, June 9, there was a Teachers v Prefects Basketball game, with the Teachers winning 24-22.

On the Tuesday there was a concert in E block with a band and soloists Taiga Ueno and Analia Anisi.



The Wednesday was 'Hire a Prefect' day when students or staff could pay money to the Lion Fund and extract chores from the Prefects.

On the Thursday there was a handball tournament in the CS Quad, and on the Friday there was a Jump Jam session, as pictured below and above right, in the F.W. Gamble Hall.



Blood Donor Day

On June 9 we held our annual Mount Albert Grammar School Blood Donor Drive.

It was great to have the NZ Blood Service here at MAGS encouraging our students to be part of the incredible work they do.

School Nurse Claire Brown said, "We had another very successful blood drive this year with a total of 80 units of blood collected, this is an amazing number of donations. Of highlight, 72 of these donations were from new donors, a reflection of the incredible work done by our school Health Committee in promoting the event and encouraging new participants to get involved."

"To put this number into perspective, these 80 units of blood will go on to help



improve 240 fellow Kiwis' lives around the country! One blood donation (470mls) will be split into red cells, platelets, and plasma – these are the three lives you are saving with each donation.

"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.

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

"To everyone that was able to donate, thank you. You have made a life-saving contribution."

Duke of Edinburgh Award



On April 5, there was a formal Gold Award ceremony at St Kentigern's College, where 84 young people from across the country (1% of all participants) were presented with their Gold Award by Sarah Hillary, daughter of Sir Edmund Hillary, and Ken Hames, the National Chair of The Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award.

Among those gaining recognition from MAGS were Ryan Antia and Ryan Shen.

Award Leader Mr Belson, pictured right with Ryan Antia, said, "It was a wonderful occasion with lots of inspirational words from the young recipients and guests. I

would also like to congratulate Jamie Snow (pictured far right), who has also just completed his Gold Award."

Mr Belson added, "The weekend prior to this saw a group of silver students participate in their practice journey down in the Hunua ranges, as pictured above. It was a stunning weekend making for perfect tramping and camping conditions around the Upper Mangatawhiri Dam. Well done to all those involved and a thank you to Mr Knowles who gave up his time to help out."

"At the other end of the Award, there has been a number of Year



10 students starting their Duke of Edinburgh journey by signing up for the Bronze award, which is awesome to see."

Ryan Antia said, "Completing



the Duke of Edinburgh's Gold Award was transformative, teaching me resilience, leadership and the value of community."

Pink Shirt Day

Our Health Committee members took collections and held bake sales at interval and lunchtime on May 16 to raise funds for Pink Shirt Day.

Students were encouraged to wear pink clothing in place of their usual MAGS blouse or shirt. Many MAGS staff also wore pink for the day.

Pink Shirt Day is about creating a community where all people feel safe, valued and respected, regardless of gender identity, sexual orientation, age, ability, religion or cultural background.

Pink Shirt Day is funded by donations that help the Mental Health Foundation to reduce bullying through raising awareness about bullying prevention, funding education workshops and supplying thousands of free resources that promote inclusive workplaces, schools and communities.





Careers

Sion Kim started his career path in aviation by doing the Auckland Aero Club Gateway Aviation Program as a Gateway student in Year 12 last year.

He spent five weeks at Auckland Aero Club, in Admore, where he gained 20 credits towards a nationally recognised qualification and completed a flight lesson towards his PPL (Private Pilot's Licence).

While there, Sion was nominated by the Club to be considered for the Walsh Memorial Flying School Scholarship. After interviewing for this, he was successful and was told during the interview.

He was awarded the scholarship funds and was also sponsored by Westhaven Rotary to help attend flying school in Matamata in January 2025.

Sion attended two weeks of camping and flying, completing two Solo flights while there.

During the Wings Parade and Awards Dinner, Sion was awarded the Bruce Donnelly scholarship with funds going towards helping Sion complete his Aerospace qualifications.

Karen Caso, our Gateway Coordinator, said, "The Careers Department wishes Sion the very best with his future pathway into aviation."



Health and PE

The Health Expo on May 19 and 20 drew hundreds of students into the F.W. Gamble Hall to learn about a range of issues at stalls set up by Year 12 Health students.

The expo was run across lunchtimes with topics covered including mental

health, exercise, good nutrition, oral health, relationships, body image, and awareness of the effects of vaping.

The Year 12s are working towards an achievement standard, which is a health promotion assignment.

Students have had to identify a health issue in the MAGS community, research the topic, develop resources, present their expo and then evaluate the effectiveness of it. This is giving the students first-hand experience of how health promotion works.

International

Thirteen International students were presented with certificates at the end of Term 2 as they prepared to depart MAGS, with a fond farewell and best wishes for their future from the International Department.

Assistant International Director Mrs Elgueta-Clavelle said, "Some of these students started in July 2024 and others in January this year.

"They were a great addition to our international cohort and made the most of their time at MAGS."



Front Row: Matilde De Prato (Italy), Lena Kallis (Germany), Amy Echavarria (Argentina), Ilaria Melchiori (Italy), Jiahui Guo (China) 2nd Row: Ewen Cadiou (France), Lucas Millan Ruiz-Tagle (Chile), Tilda Malmbeck (Sweden), Isabelle Hentzschel (Germany), Federico Aimar (Italy) Back Row: Daigo Watanabe (Japan), Daiki Kurita (Japan). Absent: Arvid Port (Germany)



MAGS is proud to introduce our Pasifika Prefects for 2025. Back row, from left, Jarom Rowell, Liam Ng Shiu, Erich Retzlaff. Second row: Palepua Afoa, Kiva Carr, Epeli Prescott, Brendan Wright-Akeli, LA Tusialofa, Kingston Ballantyne. Front row: Romi Ropati, Grace Oloi, Manumea Matautia, Kyra-Leigh Masina, Khaleen Quensell, Catherine Makasini, Lavinia Craig, Emina Tiatia.

Pasifika Initiatives



At a Pasifika Assembly in the F.W. Gamble Hall on March 18, MAGS was honoured to host guest speaker Jenny Salesa, Labour MP for Panmure-Ōtāhuhu and Opposition Spokesperson for Ethnic Communities and Customs.

Mrs Salesa has been an MP since 2014 and was our first Tongan-born Member of Parliament and Cabinet Minister.

She spoke about her upbringing in NZ when she immigrated from Tonga at age 16 with her parents, who thought NZ was "the land of milk and honey".

Her pharmacist father could only find work as an interpreter and her mother, a

seamstress, worked in factories by day and did cleaning at night.

Mrs Salesa said it took many years of sleeping in overcrowded houses before her parents could afford to rent a place of their own.

She said these trying circumstances and her parents' belief in the power of education had driven her to study law and become a lawyer after she had dropped out of school to help her mother with the cleaning work. She also worked for a time as a dishwasher and did not want that to be her life.

While studying, she gained a scholarship that opened doors for her into the professional workforce.

Mrs Salesa told the assembly that she had taken huge motivation from people telling her she could not reach her goals, and enjoyed proving them wrong. She said if there was one thing that students could take from her speech, that was it: to chase your dreams and ignore negative opinions.

Languages

Adriana Hillen has been awarded the Jay Action Kiwi-Dragon Culture Exchange Scholarship.

The purpose of the scholarship is to provide a 10-day cultural experience of China to young Kiwis who are not of Chinese descent.

HOD Languages Ms Mollgaard said, "This is an exceptional achievement as only 14 students from across the country were selected for this opportunity.



This highly regarded scholarship includes 10 hours of language lessons before departure and a fully funded trip to three Chinese cities in the April holidays. It is a testament to Adriana's dedication and hard work."



The Samoan flag was flying at the cenotaph in early June as MAGS students and staff celebrated Vaiaso o le Gagana Samoa/ Samoa Language Week.

Activities during the week included cultural performances, games of Turbo Touch and fundraisers.

There was a huge boilder in the Turbo Touch Final when the Niuean team, winners of the student finals, came from behind to topple the reigning champion Teachers 5-3.

The 2025 theme for the week was 'La malu lou sã. Folau i lagimã' – 'A well-grounded self, is a successful self'.



Outdoor Education

Throughout the first half of this year the different Outdoor Education classes have experienced a plethora of outdoor pursuits, all with the intention of developing our students' transferable skills.

In term one, the Year 13 Outdoor Education programme started the year with a focus on Independence, which included school-based discussions and an Independence Surf Camp at Piha on February 13 and 14. When not developing their surfing skills and knowledge with Brett from Rapu Adventures, they had to camp and cook independently. A highlight was working with Jemarl from Te Kaiārahi to set goals related to health, routine, money, fitness, having order, academics, work, etc... with the intent to display these on a vision board in their room. We were encouraged to live in the moment, connect to nature, walk barefoot, meditate, reset and stay calm.

Students then touched on leadership, before the focus turned to 'Judgement' where students had to make considered decisions or come to sensible conclusions when preparing for and completing the Whanganui Journey. On April 1, the class travelled south to canoe the Whanganui River. Entering the river at Whakahoro, they spent four days paddling to Pipiriki. Highlights included the stunning scenery and fine weather, visiting the Bridge to Nowhere, unexpected capsizes and strengthening our friendships. This trip provided students with an amazing opportunity to practise their transferrable skills and focus on safety management issues and strategies. They all excelled at making considered decisions related to their self-management, choice of equipment and menu.

The two Year 12 classes also started with a two-day surf camp at Piha to provide an

opportunity for students to demonstrate personal responsibility and have an opportunity to work with Te Kaiārahi to set goals related to health, routine, money, fitness, academics, work, etc.. which was a great addition to the programme. The term continued with scuba diving. Once again, Robert Elmes from Epic Scuba provided tuition in the pool, the classroom and on an open water dive at Goat Island. All the students were excited and engaged in the course, all learning new skills and protocols related to scuba diving. This course enabled the students to complete part of their dive ticket and continues to be a highlight of the term.

The three Year 11 classes started the year with a focus on promoting Kotahitanga within their class. Through skateboarding, group activities and surfing, the classes started to unite. Their term one trip was an overnight camp at Piha where the classes participated in a range of activities before setting up camp and cooking their own meals. On day two, each class participated in a learn-to-surf session.

The eight Year 10 Outdoor Education classes started the year with a focus on Personal Responsibility through the outdoor pursuit mediums of skateboarding and surfing. School land, pool and classroom learning culminated in a visit to Piha Beach to learn to surf.

In Term 2, the Year 13 students trialled 'training with a buddy' and 'simulating the environment' to see if they were suitable strategies to use in preparation to be reliable Adventure Race team members. School-based sessions were intertwined with visits to Woodhill Mountain Bike Park and an orienteering event. Another visit to Woodhill to sprint the 6km assessment circuit saw

some incredible performances as they raced the clock.

Year 12 Outdoor Education learnt how best to manage risks in whitewater kayaking and climbing. Visits to Wero Whitewater Park and Vertical Adventures allowed them to put their knowledge into practice and then analyse their planning. The students then focused on preparing and practising the skills and knowledge to keep themselves safe, to navigate and tramp in the bush, including how to operate as a team, use a fly and prepare and cook nutritious food. Utilising the expertise of Stu Gilbert at SOS Survival, students were taught about the essential principles of survival, how to construct a natural shelter and build/prepare a fire to cook on, as well as keeping it going all night!

While this was happening, the Year 11 classes developed their navigational skills, with a particular emphasis on orienteering to use at an Auckland Orienteering event in Woodhill Forest. Next, the students took part in a three-day tramp in the Waitakere Ranges. The three days consisted of travelling over to the ranges by vans, tramping between Huia and Piha, on track and off-track navigation to the two campsites, shelter building and group cooking.

In Term 2, the Year 10 students used kayaking to develop their Positivity. Time in the pool allowed students to become familiar with wet exiting and paddling before each class visited Wero Whitewater Park. We then practised perseverance strategies through a range of physical challenges at school in order to prepare for a day of mountain biking at Woodhill Mountain Bike Park.

– Darren Whitehead
HOD Outdoor Education

Social Science



In April, Shane Henderson, Auckland Councillor for Waitākere and Head of the Auckland Stadium Working Group, returned to MAGS this year to present to Year 13 Geography students.

These students were investigating the issue of whether Eden Park should be upgraded or a new waterfront stadium (Te Tōangaroa) should be built.

The students learned a great deal from Shane's expertise and experience with the issue. He was able to provide all sorts of insights into the decision-making process over such an issue. This included: balancing the various stakeholder's perspectives and values, budgeting and costing, environmental impacts and how Auckland can become more of an international force when it comes to attracting world-class events.



On May 8, the 13 Geography 2 classes were out on Auckland's beaches collecting data for their research assessments.

Their focus is the differences between east coast and west coast. First stop was Muriwai in the morning for an analysis of the coastal features, wave data and beach profiles before heading to Point Chev after lunch to collect comparative data.

TIC Senior Social Science Ms Hobbs said, "For the Geography department, field work

has always been an integral part of our programmes, with hands-on study and seeing geographic processes in action reinforcing what we learn in the classroom. Many of our students take these practical skills with them when they head off for university, studying in areas such as engineering and environmental studies."

The 13GE1 Geography students visited the Muriwai coastal environment in May to gather fieldwork data at Maukatia (Māori Bay), Ōtakamiro Point and the Muriwai Beach dunes.

This was to assess the levels of risk each site has to coastal erosion. Data was collected on the atmosphere, waves, infrastructure, beach management techniques and the resistances of rock to erosion.

HOD Geography Mr Hobbs said, "To help with the latter, a team of geologists from the University of Auckland joined the trip to showcase ways of assessing rock resistance. Students were particularly interested in the rock hammering and acid testing!

"This data will be used for a report to prove which site has the highest physical and social vulnerability to the ongoing effects of coastal erosion, which is a hazard that will greatly impact our country in the years to come."



Also in May, The Year 12 Geography students visited the Waitākere Awa/River to gather data to support an internal assessment.

Their aim was to investigate differences

in river behaviour from its upper course at Cascade Kauri to its mouth out at Te Henga/Bethells Beach.

In between, they visited the education group at Matuku Link where the students learnt about river ecology (including the one-metre-plus ōrea/longfin eels!) and wetland restoration.

Data was gathered on water clarity and velocity, river depth and width, sediment samples and slope profiles.

HOD Geography Mr Hobbs said, "We tend to find knowledge about how rivers operate is often overlooked so we are stoked to provide students the opportunity to understand them more.

"Understanding the various positive impacts that rivers have on people and ecosystems means that our society can hopefully continue to manage them effectively for generations to come."



David Miller, a lead meteorologist at MetService (and a proud Albertian), visited MAGS in June to speak to the Year 11 Geography classes about his experiences.

This was with the aim of supporting their learning about the atmosphere and weather systems but also to open their eyes to opportunities that lie within the meteorology field.

David spoke about the various methods that are used to predict weather including modelling, radar and weather balloons. He mentioned opportunities in the field such as supporting the Air Force and trainee helicopter pilots along with advising meteorologists from all across the Pacific.

David also held a key role in predicting the recent Cyclone Gabrielle, highlighting the vital importance of atmospheric knowledge to help protect communities.

HOD Geography Mr Hobbs said, "Overall, the Year 11 students gained a fresh appreciation for the role of meteorologists in our lives, how weather is forecasted and the various supporting products the MetService provides for New Zealanders."

VISUAL art



ARA LODGE AWARDS

Congratulations to Alumni Alena McGill, pictured above, for achieving the Ara Lodge Fine Art Award and Scholarship for 2024.

The annual Ara Lodge Arts Awards are presented by the Lodge to up to 30 Auckland City secondary schools' top final year art students. Students receive \$1500 from the Lodge towards their continuing tertiary study in New Zealand Visual Arts.

Alena was a very successful Arts Leader last year in the Visual Arts, gaining a Scholarship in Photography and is studying Design at AUT this year.

CHARACTER DESIGN COMPETITION

The Visual Arts Department's Character Design Competition had an overwhelming number of entries this year, making the judging process incredibly challenging.

Year 13 Design Leader Noah Abbott took the lead in organising the competition, with support from Painting Leader Joe Mitchell during the judging.

Visual Art Teacher Mrs Gauntlett said, "Students from across the school were invited to design a character of their choice, inspired by the theme 'Contrast', using any medium they preferred. We especially enjoyed the thoughtful world-building that many illustrators included to enhance their drawings and ideas."

The overall winner was Year 11 student Jasmine Walker. Her entry, pictured far right, was praised by Noah and Joe as "a strong design with clear shapes and good contrast. Nice use of colours, texture, and lighting. The 'emotion screen' is a great touch and adds to the story. The idea has depth and is well thought out. High-quality rendering

with beautiful details – could work well in animation".

Mrs Gauntlett added, "We were equally impressed with the Outstanding Junior entry by Year 10 Eloise Fraser-House, pictured below, whose work "uses contrast in a cohesive way that sparks curiosity about the creature. A variety of elements come together seamlessly to create rich details and a strong sense of story".

Winners received art supplies, creative goodies, and Jasmine also took home a \$50 prize.

First Overall: Jasmine Walker 11SAS

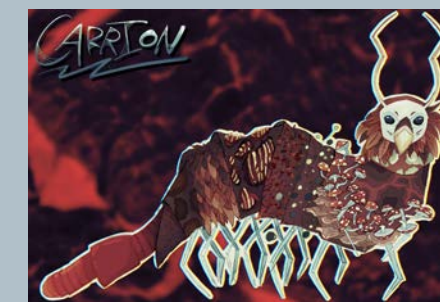
Outstanding Junior: Eloise Fraser-House 10SEO

Outstanding Senior: Finlay Robilliard 13BOW

Best in Theme: Gemma Wong 10PEH

Best Creative Storytelling: Ayushi Asthana 12JER

Teacher's Pick: Hiyori Yoshizawa 12JER



WEARABLE ART

Our Wearable Art team had an amazing night at the TOI Wearable Art Competition held at the Aotea Centre on June 19 as part of the nationwide ShowQuest.

At the TOI Wearable Art Competition, MAGS won six awards:

Awarded for both Excellent Garment



Construction & Creative Concept:

Kintsugi (3rd from left at top) – Year 11 Team: Leonna Banzuela, Jasmine Walker, Alice Bui, Eileen Shin, Lachie Gardiner

Awarded for both Outstanding Stage Presence Award & Powerful Storytelling:

Birkin Bombshell (2nd from left at top) – Year 11 Team: Emily Duke, Isla Nimmo, Olivia Appleton

Awarded for Powerful Storytelling:

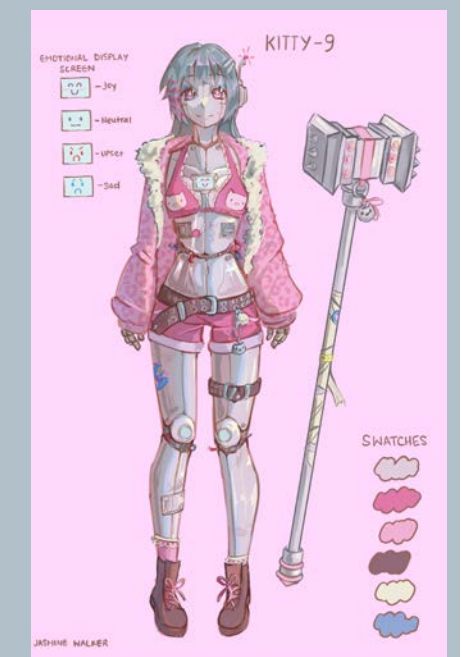
Grandmother Clock (left at top) – Year 13 Team: Phoebe Newcombe, Lucy Couling, Maya Woolford, Ella Williams, Ashlea Target, Macy Li

Taniwha o Te Moana (right at top) – Year 9 Individual: Mika Neeley

TIC Mrs Gauntlett said, "Many of our garments were hand-crafted from donated or recycled materials, and every piece was sculpted and sewn by hand.

"From our club of 50 students, 26 were selected to attend the event. We spent the day in a professional photo shoot, rehearsals, and, finally, walking the runway."

Out of 220 entries from across Auckland, MAGS submitted nine incredible creations.





Sound & Vision

Huge support for MAGS Dance saw three sold-out shows of Sound and Vision on June 24 and 25.

The very popular annual dance assessment concert was held at the Raye Freedman Arts Centre at EGGS.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "The audience was treated to a variety of dance styles and themes in a highly entertaining programme, with performances by MAGS classes from all year levels and performance groups interspersed with some very thoughtful and inspired choreographies by Year 13 and scholarship students.

"There were dances inspired by 25 years of girls, a reimagining of sports, tributes to Michael Jackson, and to one of the first Hip Hop dance films, and even to the legacy left by some of our 2024 students. Styles of Bollywood, Siva Samoa, Fosse Jazz, 70s Jazz, Hip Hop Ballet and contemporary dance were all on display – all performed with conviction, style and polish.

"A highlight was a stunning performance of 2024 scholarship recipient Khaleen Quensell's new choreography for her 2025 scholarship submission about her connection to her Tongan cultural identity."

Ms Cesan added, "The final item by an exuberant Year 13 class took inspiration from Greek mythology and the idea of the Alpha Male, and was both entertaining and well performed by this very diverse class and was a great way to finish what was a fantastic night of dance."





Pictured above, back row from left: Minna Bostwick, Harry Bannister, Manon Gilbert. Second row: Bailey Tomokino, Reuben Moffett, Peyson Mataroa. Front row: Joshua Wen, Makaia Quensell, Brooklyn Smith-Boyd, Alyssa Huang. Inset: Kyra-Leigh Masina.

BOLLYWOOD SHOWDOWN

After two long months of practice, the MAGS Indian group took part in Bollywood Showdown for the third year on June 14.

This performance also honoured the energy, resilience, and spirit of the girls at our school – qualities reflected in the elements themselves. The performance celebrated 25 years of girls at MAGS and Indian femininity through dance, with the group being led by Taya Govender and Sancy Prabhakar.

This year's theme was the four elements – Earth, Water, Fire and Air – expressed through different forms of dance from various parts of India. From the grounded strength of Bhangra to the flowing grace of Kathak fusion, and the fiery intensity of hip hop, the group took the audience on a dynamic journey through the elements.



Hip Hop

During all the weekends in Term 1 and during the holidays, a group of MAGS students were working up to six hours a day to perfect routines for national competitions held over the last month.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "These young dancers have all earned the right to represent NZ in International finals to be held later in the year. Congratulations to these outstanding young dancers."

WORLD DANCE CREW COMPETITION INTERNATIONAL FINAL

YUNG ID
Winners Youth Supercrow
Joshua Wen and Peyson Mataroa (Year 9), Alyssa Huang (Year 10), Reuben Moffett, Makaia Quensell (Year 11), Harry Bannister, Minna Bostwick and Manon Gilbert (Year 12)

IDCO
Adult Supercrow – 2nd place
Reuben Moffett and Harry Bannister Youth Division 9 Man
TRUE NINE – Harry Bannister 2nd place
DUCHESSSES – Bailey Tomokino 3rd place

WORLD OF DANCE NZ QUALIFIER

YUNG ID
Winners Youth Supercrow
THE COLLECTIVE
Winners Adult Supercrow – Kyra-Leigh Masina

WSB QUALIFIER

DUCHESSSES
Winners Youth 9 Man

HHINZ – NZ QUALIFIER

RANGERS – Brooklyn Smith-Boyd
Winners Varsity 9 Man



On April 7, MAGS Drama took 44 students to perform in the annual Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival at EGGS.

MAGS had seven items – from *Othello*, *Twelfth Night*, *Much Ado About Nothing*, *Macbeth*, *Love's Labour's Lost*, *Romeo and Juliet*, and *The Winter's Tale*.

HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "A huge congratulations to the students who performed to a full house of students from other schools, friends and family. A special congratulations to Alysha Dodampegamage, who took out the award for Outstanding Costume Design for her group of Junior students performing *Macbeth*."

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "The MAGS drama students were all outstanding – both in their performance and demeanour during this event, and I felt very proud to be there with them."

DIRECTORS showcase



Over 40 students from Year 9 to Year 13 put on their annual showcase for Level 3 Drama Directing on June 15.

There were excerpts performed from a variety of plays directed by six Drama Accelerate students.

From Aotearoa: *When Sun and Moon Collide* (written by Briar Grace-Smith and directed by

Alysha Dodampegamage), and *Chook-Chook* (written by Fiona Farrell and directed by Reanna Hinds).

From Europe: *Antigone* (written by Sophocles and directed by Imogen Bowman), and *The Play That Goes Wrong* (written by H. Lewis, H. Shields and J. Saye and directed by Sneha Mandadi).



From the US: *The Election* (written by Don Zolidis and directed by Jamie Snow), and *The Crucible* (written by Arthur Miller and directed by Alexandria James).

HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "The evening showcased a spectrum of genres and theatre forms, and was a wonderful collage of student work."



SHAKESPEARE showcase

On March 24, MAGS Drama hosted its third annual Shakespeare Showcase with 50 students performing extracts from plays.

This event fundraises for the students to compete in the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Competition at EGGS.

HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "We fully sold out, with friends, family, and fellow students coming through completely for our Drama students. We received so much positive feedback from the audience, namely for the variety of extracts – covering the three types of Shakespeare plays: comedies, tragedies, and histories."

"The night opened with a jaw-dropping solo from Casey Pahulu performing the titular character from *Richard III* and ended with a hilarious rendition by our Level 3 Accelerated students performing an extract from *Much Ado About Nothing*."

Polyfest

After a seven-year absence, MAGS again participated in the ASB Polyfest to help celebrate their 50th anniversary in early April.

With a theme of 'Legacy', groups dug deep to decide what this meant to them and produced some stunning performances from our six participating groups

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "Chinese and Indian groups performed on the Diversity stage on Wednesday [April 2], bringing joy to their performance despite the rain."

"On Friday, our Cook Island group was also

undeterred by the rain, giving an outstanding performance and were clearly a crowd favourite.

"Saturday saw our competing groups performing and the senior management team and teachers who came to support were kept running between stages as performances overlapped, having had some scheduling issues because of rain interruption the day before.

"However, all groups represented MAGS with pride and excellence, and all gave stellar performances."

The Kapa Haka group – who are in a very tightly contested Division 1 and competing with immersion schools – still maintained their position in this division, finishing 12th.

Meanwhile, the Samoan group took 5th overall and the Tongan group came home with two placings, finishing 3rd in both the Lakalaka and girls' Faa'uila.

Ms Cesan said, "We are very proud of all our students and acknowledge not only their hard work but also the commitment and time given to the students by the TICs and staff to get them to this standard of performance."



Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

On May 15 and 16, Level 1 Drama performed *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*.

HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "Over the two nights of performances, the students undertook with grace and care the task of doing Physical Theatre for 90 minutes with only one 10-minute break."

"This style of performance is

identified by its stripped back technology, with limited props (or in this case, none). The students contorted themselves into all sorts of different things: characters, furniture, weather, abstract concepts – you name it. The end result was a slick and beautiful performance by a great group of students."

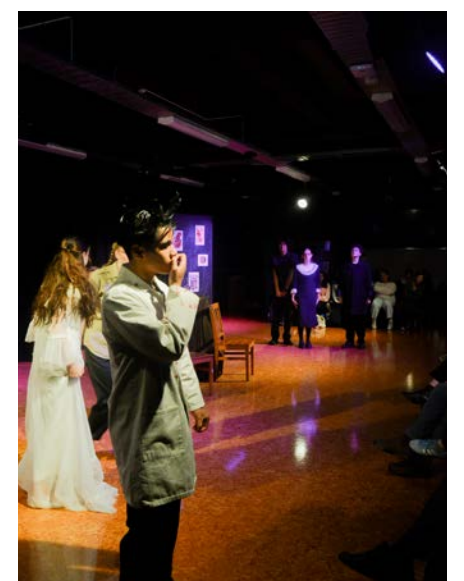
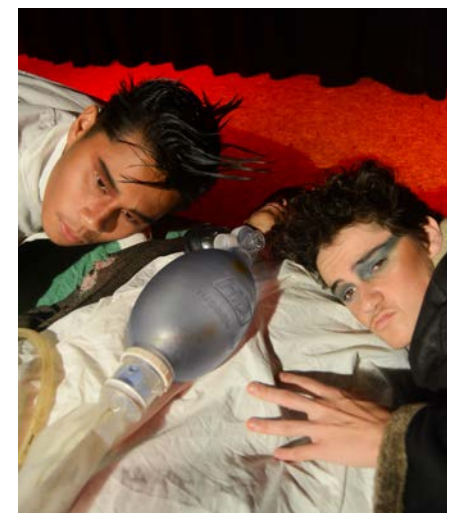


FRANKENSTEIN

The Year 12 production of *Frankenstein* played over two nights on May 5 and 6.

HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "The students were as excited to get into their hair

and makeup as they were to perform – 80s glam goth rock. The performances were electric and it was all stitched together well."



Slam the JAMS

The Slam the Jams contemporary concert showcased an incredible array of talent from our music students on June 19.

The evening opened with classic jazz selections performed by our very own Owairaka Jazz Ensemble, and the Magnaphonics. Following that, our Year 10–13 student bands impressed the audience with a series of well-rehearsed and dynamic performances developed during class time.

Highlights of the night included a stunning Adele cover by our talented sister

duo, Amelie and Niamh, and an original composition performed beautifully by Sophia. The concert concluded on a high note with Daniel and Markus (known as The Remedies) delivering powerful renditions of some classic rock songs.

Music Teacher Ms Fletcher said, "A huge thank you to our Head of Music, Mr Watson, and the whole music department for their outstanding leadership and organisation of this event. We are proud of all the students who participated and look forward to the next opportunity to celebrate their creativity and hard work."



BIG Sing

At the Big Sing Auckland Regionals on June 11, MAGS was represented by three choirs: Melodica (mixed choir), directed by Ms Anna Cooper; Gloriana (girls choir), directed by Ms Annabel Yu; and the Centennial Choir (boys choir), directed by Mr Terence Maskell.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "All three groups gave excellent performances, and were a credit to Mount Albert Grammar in both their appearance and demeanour, and we are very proud of these students."

"Huge congratulations to Gloriana, who were presented with the 'Spirit of the Festival' award and were runner-up for 'Commendable Performance of a Choral Art Music Composition' for the performance of *Sea Fever*."

These awards were presented at the final concert on June 12.



Pictured above are Gloriana members Sofia Onishko (Collaborative Pianist), Vanishka Das (Choir Leader), Jemima Flatt (Choir Leader), Melepuopua Tevunga, and Annabel Yu (Director).



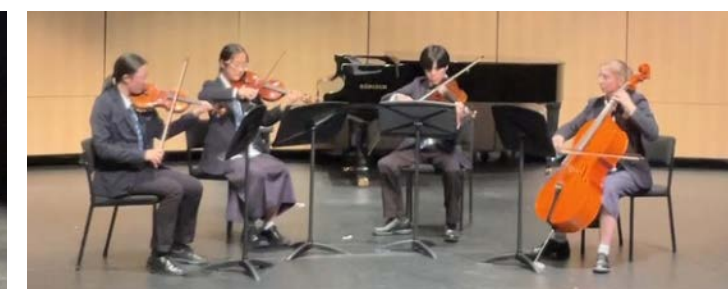
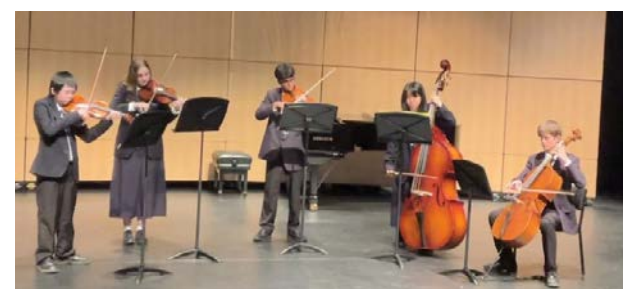
CHAMBER MUSIC

Moonstars, Harry Potter and the Chamber of Group, and ZILDAC represented MAGS at the NZCT Chamber Music Contest on June 5.

After months of preparation and practice, all

this hard work culminated in three fantastic performances.

The musicians also had the opportunity to listen to the wonderful performances from a variety of schools across Auckland.





Our 2025 Athletics Champions are, from left, Christiaan Findlay (Junior Boys Champion), Gracen Faumu'i (Junior Girls Champion), Maddie Earley (Intermediate Girls Champion), Nina Chalmers (Senior Girls Champion), Jy Gonzales (Intermediate Boys Champion), Benjie Fairclough (Senior Boys Champion).

Athletics

NZSS ATHLETICS

At NZSS Athletics in Timaru in December, MAGS students won three individual golds and one relay gold in a haul of seven medals.

MAGS sent 13 athletes, with Maddie Earley winning the Junior Girls 100m and 200m double, and Jirah Esekia taking gold in the Senior Boys Discus. Maddie added a third gold to her collection as part of the Junior Girls 4x100m Relay, with Zara Bint, Peggy Taylor and Ella Hill. Jirah Esekia claimed bronze in the Senior Boys Shot Put, while Peggy Taylor won bronze in the Junior Girls 400. There was also bronze for the Senior Mixed 4x400m team of Ty Gonzales, Nina Chalmers, Peggy Taylor and Benjie Fairclough.

Jirah was also named in the NZSS Athletics Championship team.

MAGS ATHLETICS

The MAGS Athletics Day was held on February 27, at Mount Smart Stadium with approximately 350 students taking part in sprint and field events.

The 800m, 1500m and 3000m events took place in the weeks prior at the Lovelock Track.

Kendra Scally-Tu'i, in her first year in the senior category,

dominated the Senior Girls 100m and 200m, breaking both these records with times of 11.84 and 24.20.

Nina Chalmers also broke two school records in her first year as a senior. They were in the 800m and 3000m. Her 800m time was 2:23.41 and her 3000m time was an impressive 9:56.50. She also beat the fastest senior boy by 24 seconds in the 3000m.

Other students who performed well were Maddie Earley. She won the Intermediate Girls 100m, 200m, 400m, long jump and triple jump.

Jirah Esekia showed why he is one of the most promising young throwers in New Zealand with wins in the Senior Boys Discus and Shot Put. This included an impressive 50.68m throw in the discus.

Ty Gonzales was strong across several events and topped off a good day with an impressive 1.85m high jump to win the Senior Boys section.

Benjie Fairclough showed his versatility across the Senior Boys with wins in the 400m, 800m, 1500m and a second place in the long jump.

The day was capped off with the 100m finals, which produced some close finishes.

Yannis Luggen won the Junior

Boys 100m by 0.09 seconds. In the final race of the day, the Senior Boys 100m final produced a thriller of a race. A photo finish was needed to determine the winner between Adam Gruebner and Adam Kaloga, with Adam Gruebner being declared the winner as his torso crossed the line first.

NZ TRACK & FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

A number of talented track and field athletes from MAGS represented Auckland at the NZ Track & Field Championships held in Dunedin from March 6-9.

Director of Sports Mrs Revell said, "There were a number of outstanding performances from our MAGS students, including the double sprint gold for Kendra Scally-Tu'i, and an outstanding win for Nina Chalmers in the 1500m. Other notable mentions include Maddie Earley, with her placings in the sprints, the first time in the U18 grade; Peggy Taylor securing the bronze for the 400m; and Ty Gonzales also with a bronze for the sprint hurdles."

For the Auckland relays, Maddie Early and Kendra Scally-Tu'i represented half of the gold winning U18 Women's 4x100m team. Nina Chalmers and Peggy

Taylor also represented half of

the gold winning U18 Women's 4x400m Auckland relay team.

AKSS ATHLETICS

This year, a new format was trialed by College Sport for the Auckland Secondary Schools Athletics Championships. The event was held over two days and replaced having a zonal meet prior.

The Championships took place on March 18 and 20. MAGS had 52 students compete and they put up a good showing with several podium finishes.

On the first day of competition, Kendra Scally-Tu'i impressed in the Senior Girls 200m. In the heats, she broke her own school record, a College Sport meet record and an all-time New Zealand Under 17 Girls record with an impressive time of 23.74s. She then went on to win the final with a time of 24.40s, 1.45s faster than second place.

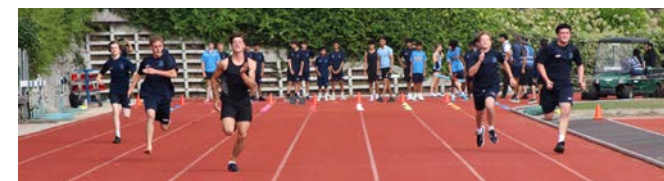
Nina Chalmers won in a close finish which included a fall at the finish line in the Senior Girls 800m. She set a school record of 2:19.64 in a good strategic race in a strong field.

Jirah Esekia recovered from two early foul throws to finish second in the Senior Boys Discus with a 45.08m throw. Benjie Fairclough finished second in the Senior Boys 200m with a time of 22.99s after qualifying fourth-fastest in the heats.

Our hurdlers also won some medals: Eric Zhao was placed third in the Intermediate Boys



Our Throws, Sprint and Distance Champs for 2025 are Back Row: Tani Fuemana (Intermediate Boys Shot and Discus Champion), Buster Garner (Intermediate Boys Shot and Discus Champion), Jirah Esekia (Senior Shot and Discus Champion & Open Field Events Champion) Front Row: Adam Gruebner (Open Sprint Champion), Kendra Scally-Tu'i (Senior Sprint Champion), Bella Falefatu (Junior Throws Champion), Malua Tipi (Junior Throws Champion), Anne-Theresa Napara (Best Performing Girl at the Auckland Champs) Absent: Reuben Adye (Open Distance Champion), Benjie Fairclough (Open 400m, 800m & 1500m Champion), Ty Gonzales (Open Field Events Champion)



300m Hurdles in 43.56s and Ty Gonzales was second in the Senior Boys 300m Hurdles with a time of 40.16s.

In the 4 x 100m Relay, our Intermediate Girls team of Zara Bint, Ella Hill, Peggy Taylor and Carys Douglas Jones finished third. A big thanks to Ella who filled in at short notice to ensure

we had a team in this category.

On Day Two, our students continued the good form. Kendra Scally-Tu'i backed up her 200m effort with a win in the Senior Girls 100m with a time of 11.87s. Nina Chalmers also did the double, winning the Senior Girls 1500m in dominant fashion, with a time of 4:31.99. This broke

ARCHERY

MAGS enjoyed some great results when the Auckland Archery season wrapped up.

Teams

Recurve: Div 1 (Premier division): Silver for MAGS White.

Barebow: Div 1 (Premier division): Silver for MAGS Gold, **Div 2:** Gold for MAGS Red, **Div 3:** Gold for MAGS Grey (first time in the archery competition)

Individual

(Medals for first three, awards up to the levels given):

Recurve Top 15: Ilaria Melchiori: 4th, Phoebe Newcombe: 6th, Peter Yeh: 7th=, Oscar Holmes: 15th

Barebow Top 5: Alex Whittet (Year 10): 5th

Compound Top 3 only – Simon Atkinson (Year 10): Bronze

TIC Jan Lees said, "The two Year 10s in particular have been working so hard and very much

deserve these awards. There is no age division, so they have beaten Year 12s and 13s to get these results."

MAGS Archers had some fantastic results at their AKSS Matchplay Championships on April 6. Every gold medal teams match had a MAGS team in it.

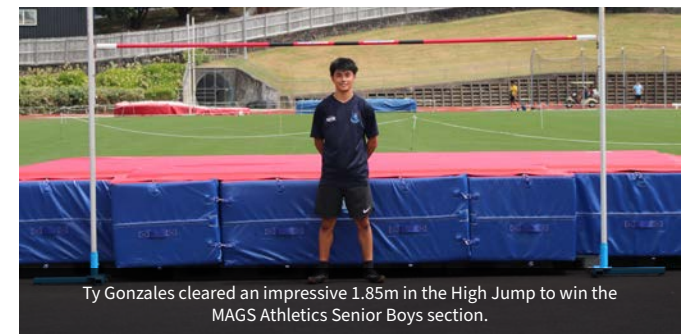
Recurve Team Gold: MAGS White (Phoebe Newcombe, Ilaria Melchiori, Oscar Holmes, Peter Yeh).

Compound Team Silver: MAGS Blue (Simon Atkinson, Luna Nicholson-Brown)

Barebow Team Silver: MAGS Red (Ben Whaley, Maiah Radu – in her first tournament)

Barebow Team Bronze: MAGS Green (Tom Jarrold, Ben Gladding)

The Individual matches had some big wins for MAGS as well. Phoebe and Ilaria both made the gold medal match. They tied scores at the end to take the



Ty Gonzales cleared an impressive 1.85m in the High Jump to win the MAGS Athletics Senior Boys section.



The NZSS gold-winning Junior Girls 4x100m Relay team of, from left, Maddie Earley, Zara Bint, Peggy Taylor and Ella Hill.

a school record as well as a College Sport meet record. Jirah Esekia won his second medal of the meet, coming first in the Senior Boys Shot Put, throwing 16.54m. Ty Gonzales showed his versatility with a win in the Senior Boys 110m Hurdles and the Open Boys Pole Vault.

Other students that won

medals on Day Two were Maddie Earley, who finished third in the Intermediate Girls 100m final in a close finish. Peggy Taylor finished third in the Intermediate Girls 400m. Etena Gibbons-Vaiouga came second in the Junior Boys Shot Put. Christiaan Findlay was third in the Junior Boys Triple Jump.

result to a one-arrow shoot-off. Phoebe won it by millimetres.

Recurve Individual Gold:

Phoebe Newcombe

Recurve Individual Silver: Ilaria Melchiori

Compound Individual Bronze: Simon Atkinson

TIC Ms Lees said, "Those Recurve medals are so, so hard to win. We have won an Individual Silver medal once before in the entire time we have been competing in this competition. This is one for the record books!"

Congratulations to Phoebe Newcombe, who has been selected to represent New Zealand at the World Youth Archery Championships in Canada in August this year.

She is the only female recurve archer in the team. Phoebe's selection follows a

stellar summer season which saw her win both the target and matchplay rounds of the U18 Women's Division in the National Championships over Easter, as well as the North Island Youth Championships.

Year 13 international student Ilaria Melchiori competed in the Nationals as well. She won the gold medal for the U21 Women's Recurve Target competition and made the bronze final of the team competition with two Albertian archers.



Phoebe Newcombe won gold in the Recurve Individual while Ilaria Melchiori won silver at the AKSS Matchplay Championships.

DISTANCE RUNNING



Our 2025 MAGS Cross Country Champions are, back row: Henry Hills (Senior Boy Champion), Nina Chalmers (Senior Girls Champion) Front row: Ethan Chan (Junior Boys Champion), Jasper Metcalfe (Intermediate Boys Champion), Sadie McInnes (Junior Girls Champion), Stella O'Sullivan (Intermediate Girls Champion).

MAGS CROSS COUNTRY

The school cross country took place on April 7 (Girls) and April 8 (Boys).

The Girls had comfortable conditions with a relatively clear day during their races on the traditional course.

On Tuesday, the boys had to battle a softer course due to some heavy rain in the morning. The course was modified slightly to avoid damage to the bottom fields.

The main highlight over the two days was the close finish in the Year 10 Boys race. Jasper Metcalfe finished three seconds ahead of Akaldeep Singh and Malua Tipi, who had a tight finish for second and third.

In the Senior Girls race, Nina Chalmers showed her prowess by winning by two and half minutes. This was fresh off setting a North Island Secondary Schools 1500m record on the weekend.

Henry Hills won the Senior Boys race, which consisted of two laps of the course, in strong fashion. He completed the race in 18:47.

Results:

Year 9 Girls

Sadie McInnes
Emma Bell
Marli Coverdale

Year 10 Girls

Stella O'Sullivan
Summer Bundock
Teana Carmichael

Senior Girls

Nina Chalmers
Anna Batcheler
Marley Pearce

Year 9 Boys

Ethan Chan
Max Morgan

Aidan Jarrold

Year 10 Boys

Jasper Metcalfe
Akaldeep Singh
Malua Tipi

Senior Boys

Henry Hills
William Wood
Tahi Harris

AKSS CROSS COUNTRY

The Auckland Secondary Schools Cross Country took place on June 4 at Sir Barry Curtis Park, a new venue for the event.

Twenty seven students competed across the age categories in very wet and challenging conditions.

Assistant Director of Sport Mr Crossan said, "All our students showed good grit and determination in their races, with all races having over 80 entrants in each race. Whilst we had no podium or top 10 finishers, we had several students finish in the top of their age categories."

They were:

Junior Girls (107 competitors)

Sadie McInnes - 23rd

Junior Boys (116 competitors)

Max Morgan - 27th

Aidan Jarrold - 45th

Ethan Chan - 58th

Intermediate Girls (105 competitors)

Miri Kent - 22nd

Hazel Helore - 31st

Olivia Appleton - 45th

Intermediate Boys (123 competitors)

Charlie Milne - 37th

Tahi Harris - 39th

Senior Boys (83 competitors)

Henry Hills - 32nd

William Wood - 35th



NZSS CROSS COUNTRY

Three students competed at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Cross Country at Barge Park in Whangarei on June 13.

It was a sunny day on a deceptively challenging course featuring one kilometre of flat sports fields followed by treacherous muddy descents and a brutal one-kilometre uphill staged climb to finish.

Nina Chalmers came 14th of 121 in the competitive Senior Girls category. This was an amazing effort coming off a lingering injury and still on crutches six days before the race.

In the Senior Boys race, Duke Gilbert was briefly in first place (ahead of teen running sensation Sam Ruthe) as he took off like a rocket to the first corner before settling down to complete the race further back in the field. Henry Hills, competing at his first nationals, put in a solid effort to finish mid-pack in 85th after three loops of the 2km track and three times through the climb.



HOCKEY

In early June, the 1st XI Girls Hockey Team travelled to Hamilton to play a game against St Paul's Collegiate.

Team Manager Ms Abraham said, "The weather conditions were tough, with cold and heavy rain at some points. Both teams put up a good fight, and, going into the second half, the score was 0-0. After the third quarter, St Pauls were up 1-0. However, Lily Cuttriss scored in the last 5 minutes, ending the game in a 1-1 draw.

"St Paul's hosted the teams' after-match and acknowledged that it would be great to keep this tradition going, and hopefully both schools can see each other again next year."

On June 23, the Hockey Boys 1st XI welcomed home their coach, Dylan Thomas, at the Auckland International Airport.

Dylan, who teaches health and PE at MAGS, was part of the successful Black Sticks hockey team that won the Nations Cup by beating Pakistan in the final 6-2.

Dylan, pictured right against Pakistan, scored three goals, including one in the final.

His tournament will be remembered for an incredible solo goal v Korea in the semi-final. Dylan was named player of the match on two occasions.

The Hockey Boys 1st XI were at the airport to celebrate the Black Sticks' win, meet the team in person and collect some signatures.



Fencing

Over Easter, several MAGS Fencers attended the NZ U17 Nationals held in Wellington.

In the Men's U17 Epee individuals, Patrick Barham-Wang came ninth, Xavier Edwin-Woollard 12th, Nico Meyer 15th and Thales Gomes Almeida 18th.

In the regional event, Patrick also won gold with the Auckland A Team, and Xavier and Thales placed fourth with the Auckland B Team.

In the Auckland Schools League on May 25, MAG students put in a great effort.

Boys Epee

GOLD: Nico Meyer
5th Elijah Yarr
Xavier Ewin-Woollard

Girls Epee

SILVER: Emi Mason

Boys Foil

9th Affan Sharif





KI-O-RAHI

At the end of Term 1, our Ki-o-Rahi team made history by competing in the Ki-o-Rahi Nationals held in Palmerston North — the first time MAGS has ever qualified for this prestigious tournament.

TIC Ms Frandi said, "After five years of hard work and development of the sport at Mount Albert Grammar School, it was an incredible milestone to see our students take the national stage and compete

with passion, pride, and skill. The growth and maturity of our players were on full display, and the fruits of their commitment to the sport were evident throughout the tournament.

"This achievement would not have been possible without the unwavering guidance and influence of our dedicated coach,

Boston Aiturai, whose leadership has been instrumental in building and nurturing Ki-o-Rahi at MAGS." Ms Frandi and Sean Hamilton also travelled with the team.

The team played seven games

over two days. They were up against more experienced teams, which included eventual winners Wainuiomata High School. There were signs of improvement as the tournament went on. The hard work paid off, getting a win on day two against Cullinane College, 23-8.

Ms Frandi added, "The tournament provided our players with an unforgettable experience and a valuable opportunity to grow not just as athletes, but as representatives of our kura. We are excited to continue this momentum and look forward to seeing the game, our players, and their skills continue to grow in the years ahead."



Lacrosse

For the first time in more than 10 years, MAGS has topped Auckland Secondary Schools Boys Lacrosse.

The AKSS Boys Lacrosse Summer 6s finals matched up MAGS Mana versus Rosmini in the 3 v 4 Bronze Final, while MAGS Roar took on a strong Westlake side for the Tournament Trophy at the Rosmini College grounds on March 29.

MAGS Mana fired on all cylinders for the entire match to shut out Rosmini in a dominant performance.

The final got off to a flying start with Captain Nate Lawson winning the face-off to charge down field and worry the Westlake 'keeper. Theo George was everywhere in midfield, dodging down the alley, taking on the defence, and scoring a hat-trick during the first quarter. An end-to-end first half had MAGS Roar just ahead, 7-5, at the turn.

The second half saw Nate draw on his NZ U18/U20 experience to strategically organise his troops.

The final score was MAGS Roar 11- Westlake 5, and a first taste of such success for Coach Sam Nash during his nine years' association with MAGS Boys Lacrosse.

Four MAGS lacrosse players represented New Zealand in U18 representative teams at the annual Australian National U18 Lacrosse Tournament, held in Adelaide from April 16-20.



Ceanna Toogood (#11) and Jasmine Kaur (#19), pictured above, filled midfield positions as part of the Auckland-based 'NZ Ahi' U18 Girls team, who competed in Division 2.

NZ Ahi were dominant during their round-robin games, with four wins over the Australian teams: 15-7 vs Victoria A; 17-3 vs South Australia A; 7-5 vs Victoria A; and 9-4 vs South Australia A.

On day four, NZ Ahi faced their Waikato-based counterparts, 'NZ Toa', in a divisional cross-over match that went to the wire.

Having been level after three quarters, NZ Toa eventually ground out the win 9-8 in a nail-biting finish.

NZ Ahi qualified first in their group to make the Division 2 Final, which they won 13-5 against Victoria A to take home gold.

MAGS lacrosse players Nate Lawson and Andrew Hung, pictured below, were midfielders in the NZ U18 Men's Lacrosse Development Team.



They faced off against experienced and well-drilled Australian sides from Victoria, South Australia and Western Australia. Despite not winning a game, the NZ boys played some excellent lacrosse, kept to their game-plan, and held high spirits throughout the tournament. The Australians were incredibly welcoming and showed respectful camaraderie to the NZ boys, who gained valuable international experience against Australia's best U18 players.

This was important to Nate and Andrew, as for the last nine months they have been trialling for the NZ U20 Men's Lacrosse Team, who, along with MAGS lacrosse coach Sam Nash as the NZ U20 offensive coach, are setting their sights on South Korea in August for the U20 Men's World Championships



Multisports

On February 18, a sizeable contingent of 25 students competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Aquathlon, held at Saint Kentigern College.

This event consists of a swim leg and a run leg. This can be done as an individual or in a pair. Thirteen students entered as individuals, and we had six teams across the various age categories.

Our best result was from Aston Rehm (Year 10). He finished 2nd in the boy's novice section, completing the 400m swim and 3km run in a time of 30:29.

Two other students had top 10 finishes in individual categories. Pia Vlok (Year 12) finished 7th with a time of 42:26 in the senior girls category. Agustin Venegas Uribe (Year 12) finished 6th in the senior boys section with a time of 37:38. The senior course distance was a 750m swim and a 5km run.

In the team events, we had five teams finish in the top 10. Caleb Powell and Aiden Jarrold (both Year 9) finished fourth doing the 400m swim and 2km run in the junior boys team race in 18:38. James Meaclem and Jamie Appleton (both Year 9) finished 6th in the same category with 19:09.

Ellie Gear and Olivia Appleton (both Year 11) finished 9th in the intermediate girls team category. They managed to edge out Holly Meaclem and Ellie Kerridge (both Year 11) by 13 seconds after being neck-and-neck for both the swim and run leg.

Connor Webby (Year 11) was second in the swim leg which helped him and James Hurdle (Year 11) to finish 8th in the intermediate boys.

On May 1, 17 students competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Triathlon, held at the Point England Reserve.

Five students competed as individuals and four teams of three were entered. This was rescheduled from early March.

The weather conditions were a mix of rain, sun and wind, making the course challenging. Our students put up a good showing with many doing their first secondary schools triathlon.

Two teams came away with podium finishes: Sammie Visser, Chloe Berry and Jaimie Harris finished third in the Girls Novice Teams section with an overall time of 49:32.

In the competitive Senior Under 19 Girls teams category, Macy Hains, Ailsa Taylor and Miri Kent finished a credible third against more experienced triathletes. This was on the back of a quick swim from Macy, who was second fastest out of the water.

In the individual categories, MAGS had several top 10 finishes with Jacob Aldiss finishing 9th in the Under 14 Boys section. Cameron Taylor and James McGrath finished 5th and 7th respectively in the Novice Boys section.

William Wood finished 9th in a strong Senior Boys field in his first time representing the school at a triathlon.

On May 29, 13 students competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Duathlon at the Pukekohe Park Raceway.

MOUNTAIN BIKING



During the first weekend of the April school holidays, Hunter Marsh (Year 11) competed at the North Island Secondary Schools Mountain Biking Championships, held at the Summerhill Mountain Bike Park in Papamoa.

Hunter entered in the cross country, endurance and downhill races in the Under 17 Boys category. His best effort was second place in the cross country, completing the four-lap course in a time of 1:09:23. In the endurance race he finished 9th and in the downhill he finished 12th.

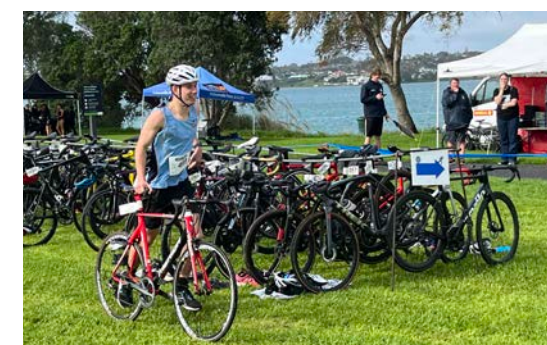
Overall, Hunter won the Under 17 Boys General Classification based on his efforts over the three races. He finished with a total of 121 points, beating second place by two points.

Seven students raced as individuals and six students entered in teams of two.

The run leg is on the horse racing track, and the bike leg is on the car racetrack. The race conditions were challenging with high gusts of wind on the course.

There were some positive results across the various age/gender categories from our students. The highlight was a second-place finish from the Junior Boys duo of Aidan Jarrold (Year 9) and Tom Gaskell (Year 10). They completed their course in a time of 44:31, finishing with a silver medal 34 seconds ahead of third place. Their course consisted of a 3km run, 11km bike and 2.4km run.

We also had podium finishes in some of the less competitive categories. They were: Maddie Earley/Ailsa Taylor: Senior Novice Girls Team – 1st
Jasmine Kaur: Open Bike Senior Girls – 1st
Olivia Appleton: Open Bike Intermediate Girls – 1st
Sofia Gough: Open Bike Intermediate Girls – 2nd



ORIENTEERING

SPRINT FINALS

MAGS had 30 orienteers compete at the Auckland Sprint Finals on April 6, with top orienteers from all Auckland Zones and Regions in attendance.

The day consisted of two sprint events, with both sprint times determining final placings.

MAGS gained two podium results: Charlie Milne, 3rd= in the Intermediate Boys grade and Max Morgan, 2nd in the Junior Boys grade.

Other top results came from Reuben Adye, 4th Senior Boys; Reuben Bruce, 5th Intermediate Boys; Quinn Harris, 4th Junior Boys.



NZSS ROGAIINE CHAMPIONSHIPS

April 6 also saw the New Zealand Secondary Schools Rogaine Championships taking place at Waikohā in the Waikato.

This was a tough four-hour event running through dense native bush, rugged farmland, and massive hills.

At the end of this navigational challenge, Anna Batcheler and Ava Poynter, pictured above, came out on top, winning the Senior Girls category.

NISS CHAMPS

During the last few days of the April school holidays, the MAGS Orienteering team headed to the North Island Secondary School Champs.

The competition consisted of three different events (Sprint, Forest Long, Team Relay) over three days.

TIC Mrs Mackinlay-Milne said, "The weather fluctuated from sun to torrential rain, with very low visibility, making the final day of competition on the Waiuku coast challenging."

Accumulation of points from the three events saw the MAGS Boys team crowned as Premier Boys Team and Top Overall Boys School for the ninth year running, winning by a huge margin of 172 points.

The MAGS Girls team finished 3rd overall, achieving a podium place for the sixth year in a row, putting in a fantastic effort on the final day to stay ahead of Havelock North High School.

Top results:

Sprint Event:

Junior Boys – Max Morgan 3rd

Intermediate Boys – Charlie Milne 2nd, Tahi Harris 3rd

Senior Boys – William Wood 2nd

Long Event:

Intermediate Boys – Tahi Harris 2nd, Charlie Milne 3rd

Teams Relay:

Junior Boys – 1st (Quinn Harris, Jamie Appleton, Max Morgan)

Intermediate Boys – 1st (Charlie Milne, Reuben Bruce, Tahi Harris)

Senior Boys – 1st (James Milne, Reuben Adye, William Wood)

Senior Girls – 3rd (Isabel Spreitzer, Ami McGowan, Anna Batcheler)

AUCKLAND RELAY CHAMPS

The MAGS orienteering team took out the top podium spots at the Auckland Relay Champs on May 6.

The Championship Relay event, held in wonderful Autumn conditions in the Riverhead Forest, featured challenging courses and difficult terrain.

The boys teams won all three divisions – Junior, Intermediate and Senior, and were awarded the Top Auckland Boys School trophy. In a fantastic display of navigational skill and teamwork, the Senior Girls also took out the Gold medal – claiming victory over Baradene and St Cuthbert's – a huge win for the girls orienteering team.

Relay Podium Results:

Senior Boys – 1st (James Milne, Reuben Adye, William Wood)

Senior Girls – 1st (Isabel Spreitzer, Ami McGowan, Anna Batcheler)

Intermediate Boys 1 – 1st (Charlie Milne, Reuben Bruce, Tahi Harris)

Intermediate Boys 2 – 3rd (Cameron Taylor, Logan Steer, Ben Spreitzer)

Junior Boys – 1st (Quinn Harris, Jamie Appleton, Max Morgan)

AUCKLAND INDIVIDUAL CHAMPS

Over 40 MAGS Orienteers headed to the Auckland Individual Champs at Waiuku Forest in May.

It was a stunning forest, with a physically demanding course.

There were some top podium performances: Quinn Harris first in the Junior boys and Tahi Harris first in the Intermediate Boys, Reuben Bruce third in the Intermediate Boys and William Wood second in the Senior Boys.

TIC Mrs Mackinlay-Milne said, "It was particularly fantastic to see so many of the



Junior (Year 9) orienteers enjoy and do well in the complex forest environment – their continued skill improvement and dedication to training is encouraging for the future of MAGS orienteering. The cumulation of top placings, resulted in the Boys Captains, Reuben Adye and James Milne, receiving the trophy for the Best Overall Boys Team."

Top placings:

Junior Boys: Quinn Harris, 1st; James Meaclem, 6th

Intermediate Boys: Tahi Harris, 1st; Reuben Bruce, 3rd; Charlie Milne, 5th; Hugh Cornforth, 7th; Cameron Taylor, 10th

Senior Boys: William Wood, 2nd; James Milne, 4th; Reuben Adye, 6th; Caleb Green, 7th; Jack Trowsdale, 9th

AKSS ROGAIINE

A huge team of keen MAGS orienteers headed to the Auckland Secondary School Rogaine Championship at Woodhill forest on June 8.

TIC Mrs Mackinlay-Milne said, "It was a stunning day as the students planned their route through the forest, aiming to collect as many controls and points as possible. They then had 90 minutes to complete their course and return to the event base without gaining any penalties. It was a wonderful event with a huge turnout of students from all around Auckland."

MAGS dominated the teams competition and gained some top podium results in the individual events.

Team Results:

Senior Boys: 1st (Reuben Adye, William Wood), 3rd (Jack Trowsdale, Caleb Green).

Intermediate Boys: 1st (Charlie Milne, Reuben Bruce)

Junior Boys: 1st (Quinn Harris, Max Morgan)

Junior Girls: 3rd (Matilda Trowsdale, Olivia Wong).

Individual Results:

Senior Girls: 3rd Anna Batchelor

Intermediate Boys: 1st Tahi Harris

Intermediate Girls: 2nd Olivia Appleton, 3rd Lucille Brendolise

Junior Boys: 3rd Jamie Appleton

Rowing

AUCKLAND SCHOOLS CHAMPIONSHIPS

Some of our rowing team competed at the Auckland Schools Championships at Lake Karapiro, Cambridge, on February 22 and 23.

Assistant Director of Rowing Holly Chaafe said, "Our Year 11, 12 and 13 rowers competed in their MAGS rowsuits for the first school regatta of the season and they represented the school with pride.

"Saturday was heats day, when our crews fought hard and many made it through the tough progression into finals. Everyone has been training really hard the last few months so it was great to see more of our crews progressing into that next step. The success of these crews making finals showed the strength and commitment of the whole team pushing each other to be faster."

On Sunday the team came away with six medals out of ten A finals.

Gold: Girls U17 Double – Molly Stewart and Pippi Somerville.

Silver: Girls U18 Coxless Pair – Lilah Martin and Emma Curnow. Boys U17 Coxed Eight – Louis Collis, Hunter Whitten, Ted Rattray, AJ Jacobsen, Joshua Murphy, Tim Reeves, Jack Maxwell, Johnny Gilmour.

Bronze: Boys U16 Double – Ari Botica and Gus Sinclair. Girls U17 Coxless Pair – Lilah Martin and Emma Curnow. Boys U17 Coxless



Pair – Joshua Murphy and Ted Rattray.

BEACH SPRINT RACING

In early April, a group of rowers took on a new challenge: racing coastal rowing boats for the first time at Orewa Beach in the beach sprint racing format.

This format is a contrast to the usual flat water 2000m race course they compete on. They had a much shorter and more intense race of 500m and had to navigate wind, buoys and waves.

Assistant Director of Rowing Ms Chaafe said, "The students represented MAGS incredibly well off the water as well as volunteering as boat holders to help each other and other schools at the regatta.

"Beach Sprints is going to be included in the Olympics for the first time in 2028, and it was exciting to watch these young athletes

excel at their first time taking part."

MAGS won a number of gold and silver medals:

Gold Girls U19 Coxed Coastal Quad: Aria Wallwork and Amelia Jones (They were in a composite crew with students from other schools)

Silver Girls U19 Coxed Coastal Quad: Olivia Appleton, Livvy Hasler, Lucy Senden, Sofia Gough, Arabella Douglas

Gold Boys U17 Double: Joshua Murphy, Ted Rattray

Silver Boys U17 Coxed Coastal Quad: Arlo Powell, Tim Reeves, Hunter Whitten, Louis Collis, Amelia Jones

Silver Girls U17 Coxed Quad: Georgia Neilson, Lucy Senden, Olivia Gough, Livvy Hasler, Moses Collis



SWIMMING

Our 2025 Swimming Champions were recognised at assembly during April. They are, Back Row: Connor Webby (Intermediate Boys Champion), Bianca Chan (Intermediate Girls Champion).

Front Row: Ethan Chan (Junior Boys Champion), Khalen Quensell (Senior Girls Champion), Taiga Ueno (Senior Boys Champion), Marli Coverdale (Junior Girls Champion).

TAG

MAGS Senior Girls qualified for the Tag Football Auckland Championships, which were held at Cox's Bay Reserve on March 6.

This Senior Girls team included six juniors girls, who did not look out of place for one minute.

The Senior Girls went on to win 2 out of 3 pool games against Botany Downs College, Howick College and Rangitoto College.

They went on to play Massey High School in a quarter-final, winning 6-2. The girls progressed on to a nail-biting semi-final against a strong Auckland Girls Grammar School, going down 3 points to 2.

The girls put on a phenomenal performance up against Rangitoto, who they lost to previously during pool play, in the 3rd and 4th playoff. With a dramatic ending of incorrect scoring, the girls went into a drop-off. The girls fell short 2-3, placing them 4th in Auckland.



Touch

GIRLS PREMIERS

Fifteen talented girls, including seven Year 9s, were coached by Auckland provincial coach Pete Samuels to create a dynamic and competitive squad.

The girls started off their season by winning two promotion/relegation games against formidable opponents Rangitoto College and Mahurangi College to gain entry to the Premier grade.

Assistant Director of Rugby Ms Wright-Akeli said, "The team displayed incredible skill, resilience and teamwork despite no training."

The season would see the girls playing two games each Monday. With standout performances from both seasoned players and rising talents, the team had some impressive wins to secure a spot in the semi-finals. The girls went down to Rangitoto and AGSS to end up 4th place overall in the

Central Zone competition.

Ms Wright-Akeli said, "Congratulations to the entire team on an outstanding first season, and thank you to our supporters and whānau."

MIXED PREMIERS

Our Premier Mixed Touch team won the Auckland Premier Touch title after a strong 9-6 semifinal win over Waitakere and a hard-fought final against Mahurangi, securing victory by one try.

This finished a very successful campaign as they went unbeaten.

Ms Wright-Akeli said, "It was a huge effort from our three girls, who played both games without subbing, showing incredible endurance and commitment. Captain Dylan led by example, making an impact on both attack and defence. The winning moment came when Hiro scored the decisive try off a great pass from Braydon.

"An outstanding team performance and a well-deserved championship for MAGS."

AKSS SENIOR TOURNAMENT

MAGS had a very successful day at this year's College Sport –

Auckland Secondary Schools Touch Senior Championship Tournament.

Our Senior Girls and Mix teams both medalled as one of Top 3 schools in Auckland at Cornwall Park on April 8.

Both teams performed exceptionally well throughout the day despite pouring rain.

The Senior Mix team went undefeated, winning 4 out of 4 pool games, beating a strong James Cook side 5-2 in the semi-final. Captained by Dylan Yare, the Mix team put on a phenomenal performance against One Tree Hill College in the final. They previously beat them in pool play and won again in the final, 8-4. The Mix team came away as undefeated back-to-back winners, placing themselves first in Auckland once again.

The Senior Girls went on to win 2 out of 3 pool games, qualifying for a tight semi-final against top contenders Auckland Girls Grammar.

Ms Wright-Akeli said, "With more than half the team being junior girls and making a return for MAGS Senior Girls touch this year, they should be extremely proud. Captained by Karamea Driscoll-Maruariki, the girls bounced back from their loss to then go on and face Massey High School coming away 3rd in Auckland."

Underwater Hockey

In mid-June, the MAGS Junior Open and Senior Open Underwater Hockey teams competed at the Northern Zone championships, which included teams from their usual Auckland competition as well as from the Tauranga/Rotorua region.

The Junior Open team are mainly players who are new to the sport this year and did a great job at their first tournament. They played a double round robin against strong Glendowie and Howick sides as well as an invitational team from various Auckland schools.

They had two 6-2 victories against the invitational team but lost to Glendowie 19-0 and 12-0, and Howick 7-2 and 15-0. They finished the round robin as third seed and played off against the invitational team

for bronze, again defeating them 6-2 and securing the bronze medal.

The Senior Open team would also end up playing off for third and fourth. They finished the round robin with three wins (Mahurangi 6-0, Howick 8-0, Taupo 6-0) and two losses (Glendowie 2-1, Tauranga 5-2) placing them as the third seed. They would play Glendowie in their semi-final and unfortunately would go down 2-0 in another close game. They would also win a bronze medal, defeating Mahurangi 6-1 in their final game.

Swim Administrator Mr Robertson said, "Congratulations to James Jeromson and Guy Neeley, who were named MVPs for their respective teams and to all those selected to trial for the Northern Under 18 squad later in the year.



"A big thank-you to our coaches, Paige Tyson-Taylor, Ryan O'Connor, Flynn Lakeman and Samuel Twhigg, for their efforts over the weekend and the season so far."



VOLLEYBALL

Our Premier Girls and Boys Volleyball teams have put in strong performances in the regular season and at Auckland Champs this year, particularly the Girls, who finished runners-up in both competitions.

The Boys played off for 4th-6th, finishing the season with two narrow losses and ending in 6th place.

The Girls went through the Premier season with 7/8 wins, meaning they qualified for the Premier finals versus Carmel College and Rangitoto College.

Game 1 of finals was a must-win to proceed through to the Final. Once the Girls settled into the game they came through with a convincing 3-0 win over Carmel.

The girls started strong against Rangitoto College in the final, however narrowly went down in the first two sets. The third set was a massive turnaround for the girls and they won 25-15. It was a tightly contested fourth set but Rangitoto managed to pull through and take the game 3-1, leaving MAGS Premier

Girls second for 2025.

Our teams then played Auckland Champs over three days in mid-March.

The Boys went through the tournament only dropping two games. They competed well with their final game being the Division 2 Final. The boys narrowly went down to De La Salle, finishing in second place.

On the Girls side, on Day 1 they had two must-win games to secure the top 16 in Division 1. The girls comfortably came through both games against Onewhere and Henderson, winning 2-0 in each.

Day 2 saw new pools formed in the top 16 against Massey, Kingsway and Long Bay, with the top two progressing to the quarter finals.

TIC Miss Kolose said, "MAGS proved dominant again on Day 2, closing out all three matches 2-0. Day 3 was finals day. Up first they faced Howick College in the quarter finals. These matches moved into five-set matches which meant the girls needed to work that little bit harder for longer.

"Strong service and passing allowed us to pull away and the Girls took the win 3-0. Our



semi-final was again versus Carmel College. MAGS started the game strong and went out with a good lead. We had a big push offensively in this game, which allowed us to pressure their ability to return. MAGS played an amazing game and took it 3-0."

The final was played against Rangitoto College again. The girls settled quickly and took a small lead, and were able to capitalise on a couple of Rangitoto errors and take the first set.

"The next two sets weren't quite where we needed them and we were down 2-1. The 4th had a lot of fast, aggressive volleyball but, unfortunately, Rangitoto were able to get a small lead and maintained that, eventually taking the fourth set and winning 3-1."

Miss Kolose added, "MAGS should be extremely proud of our Premier Girls team achieving the best results volleyball has seen at our school."

A massive highlight was three of our girls being named in the Tournament Team. Congratulations to Emina Tiatia, Gianna Tiatia and Mali Toleafoa.

WHANGAREI BOYS HIGH *Exchange*

MAGS retained the Challenge Shield when it travelled to Whangarei Boys High School in early April for the annual exchange. The two schools competed across seven events, with MAGS winning five: the Basketball Junior and Premier games, Debating, Rugby and Football, but losing the Squash and Hockey.



SUMMER TOURNAMENT WEEK

Our national champion Junior Girls Futsal team was congratulated at Staff Briefing on March 28 after returning victorious from Wellington. It is back-to-back wins for the Junior Girls after they won the national title last year. Two players from that side returned this year to play for the side coached by Victor Lim and managed by Hannah Brook. In the final, the Girls got revenge on Hillcrest High, who had beaten them 4-1 in pool play, by coming away with the win 2-1 after the sides were level 1-1 at halftime.



The girls' success was one of many highlights from Summer Tournament Week, including the Softball Premier Boys being runners-up at NZSS after a tight grand final that St Pat's Silverstream won 2-0 in Lower Hutt, also on March 28. There were also some outstanding results in Waka Ama – with LaRome Waihirere and Marnie Toloa gaining silver medals and Matahi Heta a bronze in their individual events. The Senior Girls Futsal team had some strong wins but a couple of narrow losses and a draw left them in sixth place at NZSS.



The Cricket Girls 1st XI started off their National Qualifying Tournament with two good wins but successive losses after that meant they ended up sixth. The Senior Boys Water Polo team had a strong tournament in NISS Division 2, finishing fourth, while the Senior Girls, also playing in Division 2, finished 15th. The Basketball 3x3 Premier Girls and Open Girls both finished third at their tournaments. In NZSS Volleyball in Palmerston North, the Senior Girls finished 8th in Division 1, while the Senior Boys claimed third place in Division 3.



ALBERTIAN *news*

FRANK GIBSON JUNIOR

The school was saddened by the death on May 21 of Frank Gibson Junior (1946-2025), one of New Zealand's leading jazz musicians. Frank attended the school from 1960 to 1964 and was a member of the Football 1st XI for three years. He was captain of this team in 1963 and in 1964, when the school won the competition two years in a row. By this time he had already gained a reputation as a drummer and was part of a group which was one of the highlights of the annual school concert. The school magazine reported: "A bright opening to the second half was provided by the jazz group. They showed a refinement lacking in much more experienced jazz musicians." At the time, Frank was playing with another MAGS student, Murray McNabb, who became a renowned keyboard player and composer, and a long-time collaborator with Frank. In 1964 Frank also served as a school prefect. His music career spanned nearly 70 years, both in New Zealand and overseas, and involved performing, recording, teaching and accompanying visiting artists. Frank was the founder of Dr Tree and toured with stars such as Dionne Warwick, The Temptations and Glen Campbell before moving to the UK in 1977 where he became a highly sought-after session and studio musician, and toured with Dusty Springfield and Leo Sayer. He returned to New Zealand and formed jazz funk band Space Case, which produced three albums. Frank performed at the 1990 Commonwealth Games opening ceremony. In 1992, he joined the Edith Cowan University as full-time lecturer in jazz music for five years. Frank was the winner of many New Zealand music awards for his albums. The school extends its sincere sympathy to Frank's family and friends.

ATHOL KILNER

Last year, our school archivist, Mr Cave, received a query from a historian researching New Zealanders who served in the Air Force during World War II. This request concerned Athol Eric Kilner, who had been killed in action over Bougainville in October 1944. In the photo above, Athol is at far right – and this has probably been taken at Torokina airfield on Bougainville. His name does not appear on our original roll of honour but it did not take long to confirm that he was indeed a former pupil of the school. It seems that his name may have been missed since his family had moved to Whanganui. We have now been able to include Athol in our roll of honour and, thanks to a family member, also have a framed photograph which will be displayed annually as part of our Anzac commemorations.



GEORGE CLARK
Our oldest living old boy is believed to be George Clark, who celebrated his 103rd birthday on Saturday, March 8. George was born in 1922, only a few weeks after our first students arrived and some time before the official opening of the school on May 25. He attended the school from 1936 to 1938, and followed the newly instituted Agriculture course. Coming from a farm in the Waikato, he entered School House, where the Head Housemaster in 1936 was Murray Nairn, later to be the school's third Headmaster. Murray Nairn's successor as Housemaster was J.G. Brown, who was to remain in the position until 1959. The School sends its congratulations and very best wishes to George, who is, according to his daughter and former Prime Minister Helen Clark, a very proud MAGS man. They are pictured below. There are not a large number of photos from the 1930s but George is certainly somewhere in a 1936 photo of the hostel. In 2027, the hostel will mark its 100th anniversary. – Greg Cave, Archivist



Photo courtesy of SunMedia/NZME



Photo /John Fenton, JazzLocal32.com

Frank Gibson Junior

ALBERTIAN news



DR ANNIE JONES

MAGS alumni Dr Annie Jones was in the class of 2009, where she was the Arts Prefect.

Annie went on to complete her undergraduate degree at the University of Auckland, before pursuing postgraduate studies in Health Psychology. Annie completed both her Masters and PhD in Health Psychology, where her thesis looked at how we can use visualisations, which are visual representations of illness and treatment (e.g. animations, 3-D models), to help patients understand and better manage their long-term condition.

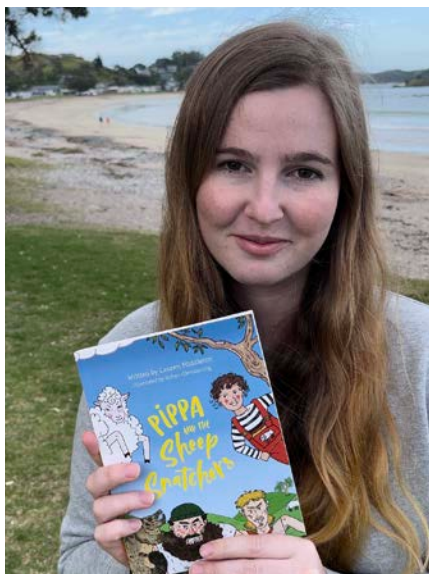
Annie's thesis was placed on the Dean's list for excellence at the University of Auckland. Following her PhD, Annie moved to the UK as she was offered a postdoctoral research position at University College London. Annie also worked at King's College London and ended up staying in the UK for 5 years working with world-leading health psychology professors.

Annie decided to move home to New Zealand in 2024, bringing along her husband who she met in the UK. Annie is back at the University of Auckland where she works as a Research Fellow in the Department of Psychological Medicine. Annie's research has consistently looked at how we can help support people living with long-term health conditions, with a strong focus on developing interventions which can be incorporated into routine healthcare. She has worked in many

illnesses including heart disease, cancer, HIV, tuberculosis, and inflammatory bowel disease.

Most recently, she won the highly prestigious and competitive Auckland Medical Research Foundation Postdoctoral Fellowship. This Fellowship will support Annie for 2 years to complete a new research project, developing a visualisation intervention to support patients and whānau undergoing radiotherapy for childhood cancer.

Annie looks back fondly on her time at MAGS, where she made lifelong friendships that remain today. Annie particularly loved being an arts performer and leader, working closely with our Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan, who she still bumps into at The Dance Studio where Annie still dances today.



LAUREN MIDDLETON

Albertian Lauren Middleton (2012-2016) is launched her debut children's book, *Pippa and the Sheep Snatchers* (Bateman Books), in May.

The book, which is aimed at ages 8-12, is based around a sheep-stealing epidemic in Dargaville. When Pippa's woolly best friend

Lulabelle gets snatched, she goes on an extraordinary adventure to get her friend back with the help of ex-professional-weightlifter-policeman Mike Te Hira.



SYLVIA BRUNT AND CALEB CLARKE

It was a pleasure to welcome back Albertians Sylvia Brunt and Caleb Clarke, two of our most successful rugby players, who were at assembly on March 12 to present the school with signed Blues rugby jerseys from their championship-winning seasons last year.

Sylvia and Caleb have both represented the Blues and New Zealand during their rugby careers and were star players while at MAGS.

Both players spoke of how their time at MAGS had furthered their personal and sporting development, and had given them lifelong values.

Members of our Rugby Academy, performed a haka for the pair after they spoke.

MICHAEL BOXALL

At the end of March at Eden Park, the All Whites defeated New Caledonia 3-0 and qualified for the 2026 World Cup.

The first goal was scored by Michael Boxall, who was playing his 56th game for the national team and had never scored before.

Michael attended the school from 2002 to 2006 and was Head Prefect in his final year.

He played for the 1st XI Boys Football team for three years and was captain in his final

year. Since leaving school he has carved out a successful career as a professional footballer, and is currently playing for Minnesota United in the United States' top tier Major League Soccer competition.

In June he was selected in the 2025 MLS All-Stars roster alongside the likes of Lionel Messi and Jordi Alba, with the All-Stars taking on the LIGA MX All-Stars in an exhibition match on



July 24 in Texas.

Michael's family has a very close connection to the school. His father Murray attended from 1965 to 1970 and in his final year was a prefect and a member of the Rugby 1st XV.

Casey, Michael's sister, was a foundation member of the girls' school in 2000, and also a member of the Girls' 1st XI Football team in 2003 and 2004. Nikko, the third member of the Boxall family, attended the school from 2006 to 2010 and is also a professional football player. Nikko was part of the 2009 1st XI that was Auckland and New Zealand champions. Nikko has played six games for the national side.

Another Albertian in the All Whites squad is Sarpreet Singh, who attended the school from 2013 to 2015 before joining the Wellington Phoenix academy.

PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE

Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit Awarded for services to rugby in the King's Birthday Honours List in June

Portia (Ngāpuhi, Ngāti Porou, Ngāti Kahu) is the top try scorer in women's Sevens history and has been a leading figure in New Zealand



women's rugby.

She attended MAGS from 2005 to 2009 and was a member of Te Puna o Wairaka in each of the five years she was at the school and was an active participant in kapa haka.

She played in the Premier Netball team for four years, as pictured below at front left, and represented the school in athletics. Portia



received the Junior Victrix Ludorum trophy in 2005 and the overall Victrix Ludorum Trophy in 2008 and in 2009. She was also a school prefect. At that time Rugby was not a sport available to young women at MAGS but Portia also represented the school in Touch.

Portia was initially a professional netballer before being introduced to rugby through the Go4Gold programme and joining the first Black Ferns Sevens team to play in the World Series in 2012. She has played a vital role in the New Zealand women's rugby sevens team since 2013, helping secure a silver medal at the 2016 Olympics and gold medals at the 2020 and 2024 Olympics. She helped the Black Ferns to Rugby World Cup victories in 2017 and 2022. She is considered one of the greatest women's rugby players ever, having been recognised as the World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Year, World Rugby Women's Player of the Year and World Rugby Women's Sevens Player of the Decade in 2020. She has broken several records, including the first woman to score 200 and later 250 tries in the Sevens Series. She has helped make women's rugby more visible, respected, and accessible for future generations. Portia has promoted gender equality in sports and encouraged more investment and support for women's rugby, including participating in various programmes providing mentorship, training, and resources to help young women develop their sports skills and confidence.

Portia was named Albertian of the Year in 2018, and in 2022 was presented with her Black Cap at MAGS (as pictured at left).

ANAE LUPEMATASILA LIMA (ARTHUR) JOHN ANAE

Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit Awarded For services to the Samoan community in the King's Birthday Honours List Arthur is a successful businessman who



has advocated for the wellbeing and rights of Pacific Peoples in New Zealand.

Born in Fiji in 1945 of Samoan parentage, Arthur came to New Zealand in 1951. He attended Mount Albert Grammar from 1960 to 1964 and was a member of the 1st XV, as pictured above at front, third from right. The team won the premier competition in 1964.

Arthur advocated for many decades to push for legislative reform to address the curtailing by successive governments of rights of Samoans in New Zealand. He instigated the petition of 100,000 names presented to the New Zealand Government in 2003 to deliver the Privy Council Decision that Samoans born between 13 May 1924 and 31 December 1948, and their heirs, were British Subjects and automatically became New Zealand Citizens on the 1st of January 1949. This was resolved with the passing of the Restoring of Citizenship Removed by the Citizenship (Western Samoa) Act 1982 Bill (RCRCA Bill 1982) in November 2024. He led the Mau o Samoa I le Sitiseni committee from 1997, keeping awareness of the issue alive and supporting the activism of transitional Samoans, which culminated in 24,500 Select Committee submissions on the Bill before its passing. He was a List Member of Parliament from 1996 to 2002, initiating several Pacific initiatives during this time. He was a Manukau City Councillor from 2004 to 2010 and an Auckland Councillor from 2010 to 2016, chairing the Economic Forum for both Councils. Mr Anae is a Pacific Islanders Presbyterian Church elder and chaired its Development Committee.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

A HISTORY OF MAGS AT POLYFEST



Hillary College (now the Sir Edmund Hillary Collegiate) was the first venue for the festival now known as ASB Polyfest.

In 1976, the festival was known as the Auckland Secondary Schools' Polynesian Festival and there were only four schools competing.

It is uncertain when Mount Albert Grammar first competed. There is a photograph of a Samoan group performing in the 1977 Albertian (as pictured above) but no caption or comment. The first mention of school participation is from 1982. The magazine of that year contains a report of a Tongan group competing at Henderson High School



along with several photographs.

From 1982, the school competed regularly, entering a number of groups and joining with Marist Sisters' College on occasion.

In 1994, the school hosted the festival, which was then called the Māori and Pacific Islands Cultural Festival. MAGS entered teams in the Māori (combining with Avondale College), Cook Islands, Niuean, Samoan (pictured right) and Tongan competitions.

The festival took place over three days towards the end of March and involved the whole school. The powhiri (as pictured left) was performed on what is now the Sir B.G. Williams Field and a haka was performed by all the students at the time.

In 1995, the festival was hosted by Mount Roskill Grammar School but by then it was realised that it had become too big for a single school to host, and since 1996 it has been held at the Manukau Sports Bowl.

Greg Cave
Archivist



KEY DATES 2025

TERM 3

14 July
Monday
Start of Term 3

2 August
Saturday
Student Art Expo

5 August
Tuesday
Careers Expo

7 & 8 August
Thursday & Friday
Arts and Culture Photos

25-31 August
Monday-Sunday
Winter Tournament Week

2 September
Tuesday
Senior Pre-requisite Exams Start

16 September
Tuesday
Service Awards Night

19 September
Friday
Staff Only Day
End of Term 3

TERM 4

6 October
Monday
Start of Term 4

15 October
Wednesday
Summer Sports Photos

22 October
Wednesday
Sports Awards Dinner

24 October
Friday
Arts Awards Dinner

27 October
Monday
Labour Day

1 November
Saturday
School Leavers Ball

4 November
Tuesday
NCEA Exams Commence

28 November
Friday
NCEA Exams End

5 December
Friday
Junior Prizegivings
Last day of classes for Term 4

2026 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

26 January
Monday
Auckland Anniversary Day

6 February
Thursday
Waitangi Day

3 April
Friday
Good Friday

6 April
Monday
Easter Monday

25 April
Saturday
Anzac Day
(observed Monday 27th)

1 June
Monday
King's Birthday

10 July
Friday
Matariki

26 October
Monday
Labour Day



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

