

THE

DECEMBER 2024

LION



Champion Attitude

FOOTBALL GIRLS' ALL-CONQUERING SEASON



MOUNT ALBERT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL



Tony Sail:
Outstanding
Innings at
MAGS



**MOUNT ALBERT
GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

Mount Albert Grammar School
Alberton Avenue
Mount Albert
Auckland 1025

Ph 09 846 2044

www.mags.school.nz

The Lion is the official
magazine of Mount Albert
Grammar School

Editorial and advertising
inquiries to editor
Graham Hepburn
communications@mags.school.nz
ph 09 846 2044, x 8236

Cover photo:
Year 13 members of the Football
Girls 1st XI, from left, Rosie
Robson, Nevaeh Rhoades, Sophia
De Pledge, Anika Todd, Emily
Lyon, Roxy Persson and Holly
Rennell.

Photo: Martin Sykes



Designed & printed by SCG



Contents

- 4-5**
From the Headmaster
- 6-9**
School News
- 10-13**
Community Service
- 14-19**
Academic News
- 20-25**
Performing Arts
- 26-27**
School Ball
- 28-39**
Prizegivings
- 40-47**
Sport
- 48-49**
MAGS Foundation
- 50-53**
Corridors
- 54**
Key dates
- 55**
Lions of 2024





SPORT’S LESSONS IN LIFE

Tēnā koutou, e te whānau o Mount Albert Grammar School

Welcome to the second edition of The Lion for 2024 as we come to the close of an excellent 2024 for the young people of MAGS.

It has been a year of resurgence as students re-engaged in activities across the school in numbers not seen since 2019. Almost 1800 students pulled on the Cambridge Blue and Gold of MAGS and headed into the sporting arena to represent their school. Individuals and teams drawn from within this group have brought multiple national and regional titles back to MAGS.

Standing proud amongst these achievements has been the journey of our Girls Football 1st XI. The front cover showcases the Year 13 members of the team and the clean sweep of trophies they have claimed this year. Unbeaten across the season, they have claimed every major trophy on offer – The Auckland Premier Championship, Auckland Knockout Cup, Grammar Cup and National Secondary Schools’ Championship!

These seven Year 13 students have been instrumental in creating a culture of success within the wider team. Working alongside their coaching staff, the girls built on the experiences and challenges from previous years, growing into a formidable team in 2024. Perhaps the greatest credit this group can claim is the succession they have ensured with the champion premier squad consisting of students from Years 9 – 13!

The key role of sport as a driver of culture at MAGS cannot be underestimated. The Foundation Masters of the school in 1922 had an intrinsic understanding of the power of sport to create identity and belonging – to create community.

The inaugural year of the school saw Foundation Headmaster Freddie Gamble make the bold decision to enter MAGS teams into Premier competitions across Auckland. With the oldest students at MAGS that first year being barely 15 years of age, our earliest MAGS

sportsmen were confronted with older and bigger opposition every week! Yet setting the highest expectations early on for our new school quickly paid dividends with MAGS teams claiming many Auckland titles in its first few years.

Courage, pride, resilience, humility – the sporting arena provides an unparalleled context for developing core values – and growing good young men and women.

Fast forward 103 years and that formula has changed little. Sport (along with the Arts and Service) continues to build the character and values we want in our young people. Sport done well provides a counter-cultural focus in the modern age. It allows people to genuinely connect with each other – in person, face to face, liberated from technology (for a while at least). It’s difficult to catch a ball, row a boat or shoot a hoop with a mobile phone in your hand! And we like it like that!

It is these multiple lenses we can use to measure success that elevates the true value of sport at MAGS. We love bringing home the silverware – and our bursting trophy cabinet speaks loudly to the importance of winning.

But sport brings so much more to a school. The opportunity to show leadership – particularly when the results don’t go our way – when the disappointment is high in the post-match changing room! It’s easy to steer the ship when the sea is calm – to be a great team-mate when we’re winning! But real leaders step up and reveal their character when we are faced with stormy waters! Those times when the scoreboard is not our friend! That is when your team-mates really need you!

Like all things in life, the journey of our champion footballers has been anything but a straight line. They have triumphed over adversity from previous years and rebounded from the brutal lessons that narrow sporting losses can bring.

Yet, here they are triumphant, enjoying success in the present and looking forward to life after school. As a point of interest, this years’ Olympic Football Ferns included four Albertians – three who were part of the last MAGS National Champion Premier Girls Football Team in 2016! We will certainly follow the future of our latest champions with great interest!

Congratulations to our young women footballers and to all (students and adults) who contribute to this special pillar of our school.

Enjoy a safe and restful Christmas break.

Per Angusta Ad Augusta

Patrick Drumm
Headmaster



FROM THE HEADMASTER



TONY SAIL’S SERVICE TO MAGS

This year we farewell our long-serving teacher and Director of Cricket, Tony Sail, who is retiring.

Mr Sail was guest speaker at the Sports Awards Dinner in October, and reflected on his 22 years at MAGS.

He came to MAGS after deciding to put his family first and quit top-level coaching with the Auckland Aces

Mr Sail recalls: I’m always so proud to be able to say I teach at MAGS. To wear the lion. To be part of the Pride.

From the day I arrived in 2003, it has been a very special place to be. The diversity and culture within the campus is incredibly special. We greet each other with genuine care.

I was fortunate enough to see it transition from quite a self-deprecating and unassertive place, where everyone seemed to want to do okay, but no one really wanted to put up their hand or head.

It had reasonable students, an alumni to be proud of and talented and comfortable teachers, some just brilliant, and many part of a wonderful core of long-serving ‘MAGS for Lifers’.

We were all comfortable, and under-achieving.

The school was about to shed its deprecation and unassertiveness and re-announce itself. It was now shouting to all and sundry that we are going to be the king of the jungle.

It was ‘The MAGS Way’ of excellence in all things academic, arts, service and sport. You didn’t want to be left behind. As a director and coach you could certainly feel the expectation.

We were a bit light on cricket talent. Cricketers had tended to drift to other schools.

The development of academy classes allowed for greater skill development, a point of difference, a chance to aim for excellence.

But there was another problem. The lack of self-belief, and the important portion of mongrel required to compete, was in short supply at MAGS. The imposter syndrome was a ball and chain.

Our players felt they didn’t belong.

The school-wide change, created a platform, from which, we could instil in our teams the desire for excellence that was now an expectation.

We worked hard, developed great cohesion, produced a few magic tactical manoeuvres here and there, and became very competitive.

We played more games of cricket against schools from other regions and we embarked on a few tours, to the home of Bradman in Australia and to the home of cricket, Lords in London.

On the mezzanine floor at the cricket nets at Lords there is a picture of the 1949 Blackcaps team that toured England. There were three former MAGS students in that team. There is a legacy.

We included trips to the Battlefields of Ypres and Passchendaele where we viewed the headstones of those lost from our community, while giving service to our country. We played at and against some of the best schools in England and Australia and top clubs in Belgium and France.

I’m very very Proud to say that MAGS is now recognised as a cricket school, and we expect to win every time we play.

Per Angusta Ad Augusta



HEAD PREFECTS' REPORTS

Rosa Fox

Our time at MAGS has been full of unforgettable moments. After only seven weeks at high school, our journey took a sharp and unexpected turn. COVID-19 hit, and we were suddenly back home unable to attend school and to foster the connections we had begun to make.

Instead of growing together in person, we found ourselves staring into our laptops on Zoom, cameras turned off and microphones muted. Our poor teachers tried endlessly to engage with 28 muted boxes on the screen.

We developed a sense of resilience. Lockdown reminded us that it is a privilege to have face-to-face connections and to be part of a school community.

One of the things I love most about MAGS is its diversity - not only the people we meet but also the opportunities we have.

As you know, we have a vast number of sports codes, arts opportunities and clubs ensuring there's something here for everyone.

But it's the friendships we've built along the way that we'll remember most. We've shared a lot of laughs. Our time at MAGS won't be defined by grades, popularity, or likes on a post; it'll be remembered by the relationships we have built, the values we hold and the differences we have made. These are our true legacies.

This year, I've seen countless examples of people stepping up to make a difference. Students came together to raise funds for Cystic Fibrosis, World Vision and the Auckland City Mission. Others have shown advocacy for climate change through

artwork or beach clean-ups, and some started new initiatives like the Pasifika Drama Club, Pride Week, and MAGS spirit week strengthening our school's sense of community. These actions remind us that, even as students, we can bring positive change.

In his leaving speech, Mr Stradwick said he had become a teacher to make a difference in students' lives. So, on behalf of us all, a massive thank you to our teachers. Thank you for all the hours spent marking our work, preparing lessons and being involved in the extra-curricular activities. One of my teachers, even with a newborn at home, was giving me feedback on an assignment at 11pm.

I would also like to say a huge thank you to Toby who has been incredible to work with.

As we embark on this new chapter, let's go forward with purpose and drive.

The future is in our hands, and it starts today. Let's be proud of where we've come from and excited about where we're headed.

Toby Forster

I would like to begin by thanking the people who have allowed us as students to get where we are today. Family, friends, staff, and of course all our teachers. These are people who have provided us with the resources we needed to succeed.

I've always believed this. MAGS as a school embodies the idea that when the student is ready the teacher will appear. If you have a goal, and are prepared to take it on, then MAGS will always provide an opportunity to help you get there. When I started at MAGS, I decided that I was going

to push myself as hard as I could, and make the most out of every opportunity that the school provided. Despite me standing in front of you today as Head Prefect, for me, what mattered more than getting the role, was how I got there. I realised that getting to where I am today was the most important part, and to be honest it was the most enjoyable. I would do it all again if I could. Make the mistakes, face the challenges, and accept the successes. Whatever your journey is, don't give up.

Starting high school, back in 2020, I did not have the pleasure of walking through those doors on my first day, like many of you. Instead, I walked through the doors of a different high school. When I entered that school, I felt like I didn't fit in. After many years of reflecting on the time I spent at that school, I realised that it wasn't the school that stopped me from fitting in, it was myself.

Since coming to MAGS, I have never looked back. I have learned so much about embracing the new, accepting where you are, and using whatever opportunities there are around you to grow. So, I suggest to all of you, open up your arms always, embrace where you are and what is to come, accept it, and make the most out of it.

And thank you to Rosa. She has been the most amazing partner on this awesome journey this year.

My time at MAGS has been amazing. I've loved every bit of it, and it will be hard to leave, but out there is a world full of opportunity. It all starts with a good attitude and a desire to enjoy it all.



Champion Attitude

A simple strategy powered the success of the Football Girls 1st XI this year.

Head Coach Kate Inwood said the team set out to build on the successes of last season, with a goal to place in the top two of each competition it entered.

"Not only did we meet that goal, but we exceeded it, finishing the season undefeated and claiming the Grammar Cup, the APC Cup, the AKSS Premier League title, and the national title. This incredible achievement was made possible thanks to our extended squad of 32 players, all working tirelessly in training and games. Their dedication was evident, as even our 2nd XI won their league."

At the NZSS Premier Tournament in Nelson, well-taken goals in each half were enough for MAGS to defeat Baradene 2-1 in the final. Team manager Mrs Wilson was also named Manager of the Tournament.

In the Auckland competition, the Girls went undefeated (10 wins and a draw - 32 goals for, 6 against) and finished on 31 points. The last time MAGS Girls won the league was in 2016.

Our Girls Junior A team also won their APC Final, beating Baradene 1-0.

Ms Inwood added, "I'm incredibly proud of the entire squad, especially our leadership group. Thanks to the fantastic leadership and role models throughout the team, our team culture has transformed into one that's supportive, fun, hardworking, and driven."

Heading into Nationals, we were a relatively inexperienced group, with only 7 of our 16 players having competed at nationals before. This year also marked the first time we brought more than one junior, with four juniors in the squad, as well as three sets of sisters, making the tournament even more special. "Professional" was the keyword for us, and we lived up to that, earning praise from tournament organizers, officials, and other teams alike."

Ms Inwood said she was supported by a "dream team" of Michael Brook, with his coaching support; Jess Wilson, for her outstanding job managing the team; and Rosie Missen, who brilliantly coached the 2nd XI.

"And of course, heartfelt thanks to all the parents who cheered us on through all kinds of weather—your support was invaluable!"

"Finally, a massive shoutout to our incredible Year 13s—Emily Lyon, Nevaeh Rhoades, Sophia De Pledge, Rosie Robson, Anika Todd, Roxy Persson, and Holly Rennell. You will be deeply missed next year, and you've left big shoes to fill."



DONNA LIM
ORTHODONTICS

Thinking about orthodontic treatment for yourself or your child? For the ultimate patient experience, exceptional care, and stunning results, trust Donna Lim Orthodontics. Ready to transform your smile? For specialist orthodontic care, contact us today!

09 869 8288
hello@donnalimorthodontics.co.nz

www.donnalimorthodontics.co.nz
161 Stoddard Road, Mt Roskill, Auckland



Chess



The MAGS' Chess team, pictured with TIC Mr Frank, are, from left, Jacob Miller, Felix McElwee, Declan Kiw, Victor Coen and Janice Shi.

MAGS' Chess team played in the Auckland regional tournament in late July. This tournament was for the winners of the cluster tournaments held during the year. The MAGS team of Victor Coen, Jacob Miller, Janice Shi, Felix McElwee and Declan Kiw came second to Mount Roskill Grammar. MAGS narrowly missed out on first place by half a point (19 to 18.5) but qualified for the national tournament in October.



DEBATING

The Advanced Open Debating Team, comprised of Year 13 Prefect captains Ryan Antia and Nishka Arora, pictured at front, along with Year 11 students, from left at rear, Eliza Rodger, Lachlan Paul and Stephanie Zhang, continues to excel as a leading debating team. Over the past four years, the team has achieved numerous victories and has progressed to the Octo-finals each year. This year, they have won nearly all of their regional debates, securing impressive victories against schools with strong debating traditions. Ryan Antia was recognised as the best speaker during these competitions. These successes have placed the team in the Top 10 among the 354 teams competing in the Advanced Open category in Auckland. In their last debate in late July, they faced Westlake Boys High School in their final Octo-finals but lost in a closely fought debate.



MOOTING

The Senior Division Mooting Team, comprising Year 11 students Lachlan Paul, Eliza Rodger and Stephanie Zhang, and Captain of the team, Year 13 Prefect Ryan Antia, attended the Auckland Schools Legal Mooting Prizegiving in late July at Meredith Connell Law Firm, in the city. Despite competing for the first time this year in the competition, the team remained unbeaten against several experienced and professionally coached teams. The Prizegiving was held at Meredith Connell's Courtroom where Ryan Antia was awarded the Kilian and Associates 'Best Mooter' trophy. This award was presented by Mark Henaghan, Professor at the University of Auckland Law School and member of the Royal Society of NZ. While presenting the award to Ryan, pictured, Head of Competitions Richard Alley stated, "This year there was one really outstanding name, who won by a significant factor. Your mooting has been exceptional and all the judges who judged you this year agree." Ryan said, "Hopefully, the establishment of the new MAGS Mooting Club will mark the beginning of a long tradition of excellence in mooting at MAGS."

JUNIOR SPEECH COMPETITION



The Junior Speech Competition, a prestigious event that sees fierce competition each year, once again delivered an outstanding evening of oration. This year's event, at the end of August, featured 13 entries, along with three participants vying for the Fred Free Prize for Junior Reading Aloud. The competition was judged by esteemed academics Dr Esther Fitzpatrick and Dr Claudia Rozas-Gómez, who found choosing one winner very difficult.

The first prize in the speech competition was awarded to Natalia Perry for her risky speech on the necessity of risk-taking, commended for both its insightful points and superb delivery. The runner-up, Harry Wilmshurst, entertained with his persuasive and funny piece, 'Why I Would Make an Excellent Mr Powell', which left even Deputy Principal Mr Powell himself convinced. Joint third place went to Fern O'Connor, whose scintillating

presentation 'Birds Aren't Real', had the judges pondering the merits of tinfoil hats, and Milly Malpas, whose kind approach to procrastination resonated with the judges and audience alike. Special mention was also given by both judges to Katie Watkinson for her powerful speech 'I Am Unapologetically Māori' and Nicholas Cowie's on 'The "Justice" System'. The Fred Free Prize for Junior Reading Aloud was awarded to Kawiti Albert Campbell for his dynamic and dramatic

reading of an extract from Malorie Blackman's *Noughts and Crosses*, which thoroughly impressed the judges. Overall, the evening was filled with good humour and an outstanding display of talent from our Year 10 students, making it a memorable event for all involved. Special thanks to Jess Papesch and Danielle Cole, Heads of the English Committee, for organising such an enjoyable event.

Student BOT Representative



Year 10 Kawiti Albert Campbell has been elected the Student Representative on MAGS' Board of Trustees. Kawiti is a high-achiever involved in all Four Pillars at MAGS. He is in the MAGS Pasifika Theatre and Melodica Choir groups. He was the top fundraiser of the 40 Hour Challenge and helps out at Metro Football Club on a weekly basis. He is on the Māori Committee, is a year level representative and a class representative. He competed at Mathex this

year, is part of the Academic Council and the student blog *The Roar*. He has just finished his season in rowing, quitting to play in the Senior WMR Netball tournament, and is competing in the badminton Internal pairs tournament. He says, "MAGS has given me so much and, in return, I want to give back to the MAGS community. My intent is to make a difference. I want students coming to MAGS ready to learn and to enjoy high school."

OLYMPIAD MEDALLIST



Congratulations to Victor Coen, who has achieved a gold and a bronze medal at international olympiads in Egypt and Saudi Arabia recently. The International Olympiad in Informatics (IOI) was held in Alexandria, Egypt from September 1 to 8, and Victor was awarded a bronze medal for his efforts. In late July, the NZ Olympiad in Informatics was informed of a new AI Olympiad in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, from September 8 to 13. Victor was one of two students from the NZ IOI team who wished to attend this event. Despite very little preparation time, he and the other student achieved outstanding results, with Victor receiving a gold medal. Most of the other contestants had also come from IOI, so the standard was comparable. Margot Phillipps, the Executive Director, NZ Olympiad in Informatics, said, "Both of Victor's results are phenomenal. In other countries, winning a medal at the IOI often results in University scholarships being offered at prestigious universities."



Daffodil Day

Our dedicated Health Committee members were out in force on August 30, taking collections and handing out ribbons and flowers for Daffodil Day, which helps to raise money for, and awareness of, the Cancer Society's work.

They collected more than \$700.

Funds raised mean the Cancer Society can help getting people to treatment via their free driving service, or specialist nursing and psychology support, and accommodation for those needing life-saving treatment far from home.

Our Technology Leaders ran their annual Digital Day at MAGS on September 24.

The lunchtime event raises awareness among students about digital citizenship by getting them to answer some questions in order to receive chocolate.

This year, the technology leaders decided to focus on the topics of being safe online, scamming and the student use of AI. They created multi-choice questions for students to answer.

The Technology Leaders typically help students with printing in the library at lunchtimes and help the ICT department after school on Fridays

DIGITAL DAY



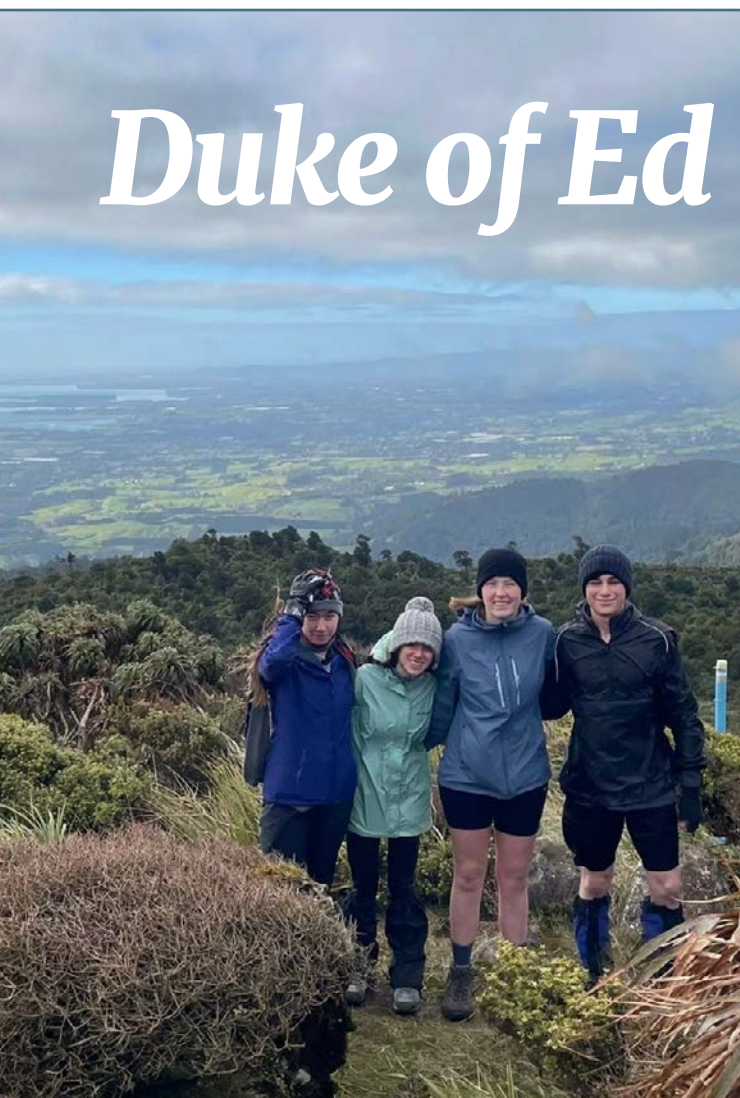
LEAVERS DAY

Our 'Lions of 2024' ended the school year in high spirits as they made the most of Leavers Day on October 29.

They attended their last assembly, where there were speeches from Headmaster Mr Drumm, Deputy Principal Mr Todd and Year 13 deans Miss Goff and Mrs Mackinlay-Milne, as well as the playing of the Leavers Video and a final singing of the school hymn.

Our Year 13s signed shirts, enjoyed a barbecue and had a final photo at the front of the school.

Duke of Ed



Deputy Head Prefect Ryan Shen and Prefect Ryan Antia have successfully completed their Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Gold Award.

Ryan Shen had the fantastic opportunity to represent the New Zealand Secondary Schools Football Team in the Sydney tour earlier this year, as pictured below, as a part of his residential project. He was able to continue developing his leadership skills and was lucky to meet some of the top secondary school footballers in the Oceania region.

Also among his top highlights, Ryan participated in a final expedition in the Tongariro Ranges for nine days in early 2023, and was lucky to have finished just before the onset of Cyclone Gabrielle.

He said, "The Duke of Edinburgh Award is a highly rewarding journey, and I strongly encourage future students to participate. It offers an incredibly rewarding and fun opportunity for personal growth across physical, cultural, technical, and community pillars."

Ryan Antia, who had completed most of the requirements last year, deferred one of his final requirements, a Six-Day Adventurous Journey in the Kaimai Ranges in order to accompany students Zoe Burnett, Asmara Hillen and Agam Aharon on their treks to achieve their Duke of Edinburgh Journey.

For his Residential Project, Ryan attended the Rotary Youth Enrichment Programme in Hunua Falls and the Students Against Dangerous Driving National Conference at King's College. These programs culminated with Ryan leading an organising committee for a Youth Parliamentary event in Mt Roskill, which was well-attended and included the local Member of Parliament.

Ryan, pictured at right in the lefthand photo, said, "The most satisfying aspect of achieving this award was collaborating with other participants on their respective journeys".



images missing?



Interact

Interact held an assembly in September that gave outside organisations the chance to recognise the hard work and the funds and awareness generated by Interact members and staff under our Service Pillar.

Quincy Filiga from World Vision, Elaine Mead and Clare McCall from Westhaven Rotary, and Lizzie McKay from Cystic Fibrosis NZ attended the assembly to speak about their work and thank Interact members and TICs for their contributions.

Parum Nangia and Toby Forster were recognised for their contributions at the World Vision Leadership Camp and the World Vision Youth Conference respectively.

MAGS raised \$7089.41 for the World Vision 40 Hour Challenge, and our top fundraisers were acknowledged at assembly. They were: Kawiti Albert Campbell (Year 10) \$695, Adriana Hall (Year 13) \$622.20, Katie Somerville (Year 11) \$600, Ella Burton (Year 9) \$200 and Chelsea Wijntjes (Year 13) \$190.

Ms Stünzner, with \$630, was the teacher who raised the most money, cooking and selling 40 dozen cupcakes. In recognition of her service work, Miss Barlow was made a Paul Harris Fellow by the Rotary Foundation.

Rotary also recognised a group of Year 13s who have been highly involved in service throughout their time at MAGS, and Miri

Kent and Jessica Loxton spoke about their experience at the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) Leadership Camp.

Lizzie McKay spoke of her experience with Cystic Fibrosis, and thanked the students for their fundraising efforts that help many Kiwis struggling with the disorder.



tree PLANTING

On August 11, a group of environmentally-conscious students travelled up to Tāwharanui to take part in volunteer native tree planting.

This was part of an event organised by Auckland Council on behalf of The Tāwharanui Open Sanctuary Society (TOSSI). The Sanctuary is a unique blend of conservation,

recreation and sustainable farming within Tāwharanui Regional Park.

The open sanctuary includes mature and regenerating native bush, wonderful beaches, spectacular coastal cliffs, wetlands, heritage sites, a marine reserve and extensive areas of rich pasture.

TIC Mr Hobbs said, "The students were a credit to MAGS with their efforts across several hours planting native trees (ranging from manuka and kānuka to kōwhai) across a steep slope.

"Several students had taken part in previous years' plantings and were able to see some promising results of

these efforts.

"Several members of the public were surprised that these students were doing this purely for volunteering and making a difference as opposed to being part of a formal school assessment. Overall, it was a great way to spend a Sunday morning out on the coast."



Quiz Night

The 2024 Academic Council Quiz was held in the F. W. Gamble Hall on August 16.

This year, just over \$4000 was raised for the I Have A Dream Foundation, which supports children and their whanau to achieve positive educational and life outcomes.

Thirty three teams gathered for the challenge, and across eight rounds brains were tested in categories such as sport, literature and food.

At the end of the night, the teachers team, and as their team name suggests, "Reigning Champs", were victorious, managing to beat "The Gibblets", a team of 13GIB students into second. Third place went to the Year 12 "Freedom" team, who have the teachers in their sights for next year.

Prizes were also awarded to the 10th, 20th and second-to-last team (who received some trivia games to help them practise!) as well as the best dressed teams – 1st Place, The Wizard of Oz, 2nd Place, Willy Wonka and the Oompa Loompas – and Best Dressed Individuals – Princess Jasmine and the Fairy Warrior.

TIC MS Hobbs said, "The \$4000 raised will support the local community and current and future MAGS families.



Careers

The Careers Expo held on July 30 was another hugely successful event, with students exploring exciting future opportunities.

Representatives from universities, industry training organisations, tertiary institutes, police and the army visited our school to promote educational and vocational opportunities. Teachers from each department and Deans at MAGS were also available to discuss course options and the strengths of their subject area.

HOD Careers Ms Hanson said, "All the providers gave very positive feedback about our students and we have continued to forge positive relationships with our tertiary and private providers."

COMMERCE



After a five-year hiatus, the interschool Pursuits Competition, organised by the New Zealand Commerce and Economics Teachers' Association, returned to the University of Auckland's Business School.

Students faced seven rounds of questions – a mixture of subject-related content as well as current events and general knowledge.

HoF Commerce Mr Gilbert said, "Competition was fierce and our students performed well against many elite schools. Our Business Studies team finished 5th whilst our Accounting team narrowly finished 4th. "Although not winning either of the two competitions, our students performed well and represented the school extremely well. We look forward to entering this competition next year and pushing to get into the top three places."



The Lion Foundation Young Enterprise programme spans the entire school year and helps students, from schools all over New Zealand, discover their potential in business and in life.

In July, two Year 13 Business Studies students, Noah Curtis and Rimu Frandi, joined 64 others from across Aotearoa to participate in the Entrepreneurs in Action (EIA) event. This was a four-day, action-packed, immersive learning programme hosted by Young Enterprise Scheme (YES) in Wellington.

The students were mentored by NZ businesses and tackled two real-world problems.

Each participant received a \$1000 Massey University Scholarship, and the winners of each business challenge were awarded an additional \$3000 scholarship. Noah Curtis, pictured above at front left, was one of the recipients of this scholarship award. His team won the second challenge issued by NZ Trade and Enterprise, which was to form a market entry strategy for a Kiwi skincare brand.

Noah was also selected as one of eight New Zealand students to travel to Brazil for LatAM Biz, a joint programme between the Latin American Centre of Asia-Pacific Excellence and YES.



In August, four of our students – Ryan Antia, Nishka Arora, Nika Rahmati and Krish Patel – attended the Deloitte Case Challenge YES Workshop Event and spent the day problem-solving and networking.

They got the opportunity to collaborate with other Auckland school students and tackled a hypothetical business case with guidance from Deloitte mentors.



In September, students Eva Glengarry, Nishka Arora, Krish Patel and their teacher Ms Gill, all pictured above with Prime Minister Christopher Luxon, attended the YES-sponsored NZ Business of Hall Fame event at Cordis Hotel.

It offered an excellent opportunity for our students to hear the stories of the seven laureates who were welcomed into the Hall of Fame. Each of these shared their tale of enterprise, hard work, triumph and contributions to the community.

The students also thoroughly enjoyed their korero with Mr Luxon, Sir John Key, and two of the laureates, Sir Owen Glenn and Ranjna Patel.

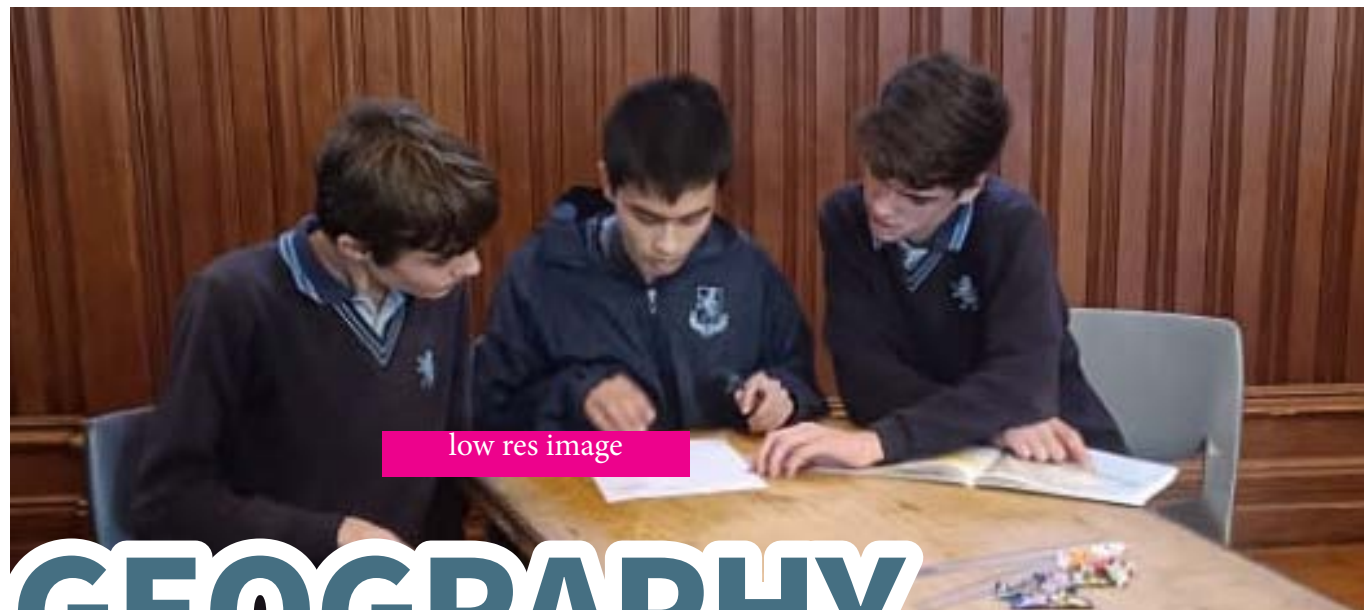
On September 24, the Auckland Regional Coordinator of the Young Enterprise Scheme (YES), Hannah Watson, held classroom workshops with Commerce students participating in the YES Business Competition.

Students are required to start an innovative business and complete an Annual Review of the company's financial and non-financial practices and information.

One of the YES businesses, Tipu Seedlings, who sell innovative seed bombs consisting of native flowers, spoke with Hannah regarding their business.

The business had scored one of the highest marks in the country for their pitch, validation and promotions challenges and has been featured in the *Indian Weekender* newspaper, and also by NZ social media influencers 'The Modern Singhs'.

Ryan said, "We recommend for any students who have a passion for innovative thinking and entrepreneurship to join the YES Challenge, which the Commerce Department offers."



low res image

GEOGRAPHY

The Auckland regional round of the Maatangi Whenua Year 11 Geography competition saw a range of schools come together at this year's hosts Diocesan on August 7.

As usual, the rounds tested different aspects of geographic knowledge and skills from flags and countries to geography in the news.

It was a close competition with MAGS Blue, pictured right, consisting of Isobel Knowles and Lucy Richardson, finishing a highly commendable and quintessentially Kiwi fourth despite being a team member short.

Our MAGS Gold team, pictured above, of Joshua Radcliff, Louis Allison and Ronan Simpson were vying for the lead throughout but, unfortunately in the end, St Cuthbert's superior Play-Doh sculpting skills saw them pip MAGS at the post for the trophy and MAGS finished second.



TIC Ms Hobbs said, "Both our teams should be proud of carrying on the MAGS Geography legacy that has seen our teams finish as either winners or runners-up of this competition for the past twelve years, and we look forward to competing again next year."

Mathex

On August 21, 16 junior MAGS students participated in the annual Auckland Mathex competition at Barfoot and Thompson Stadium, Kohimarama.

TIC Mr Walden said, "Our MAGS teams participated with spirit and determination and enjoyed the opportunity to problem-solve against other schools."

"The 2024 questions proved tricky with only one of the 100 Year 10 teams scoring the maximum of 100 points within 30 minutes."

"Our top Year 10 team scored 75, narrowly missing out on a Top 10 finish. In the Year 9 division, our top team scored 85 points – an admirable achievement!"

AGRICULTURE AND horticulture

Sophie Chandler has won a \$1000 Agri Futures Scholarship, which is offered in collaboration with the New Zealand Rural Games Trust to support tertiary education costs for students from a rural background whose school has participated in the Clash of the Colleges, or is a rural sports athlete.

Despite growing up in the city, Sophie spent significant time on her grandparent's dairy farm in South Auckland and frequently visits family farms across the North Island. Her connection to rural life deepens through monthly hunting trips on friends' rural properties, and next year she will begin a cadetship to become a shepherd at Pukemiro Station in Dannevirke.

During her cadetship, Sophie will complete several agricultural qualifications, including the New Zealand Certificate in Agriculture (Operational Skills) and (Breeding Livestock Farming) facilitated by the Eastern Institute of Technology. Her ultimate goal is to work her way up to farm management.

In addition to her farming ambitions, Sophie has demonstrated a strong commitment to her community by working as a volunteer farm hand and cooking over 120 meals for community pantries. She has also been successful in rural sports, being part of winning the Auckland Clash of the Colleges twice, winning the Northern Region Junior Farmer of the Year in 2024 and placing fifth in the National Junior Young Farmer of the Year competition.

The scholarship will help Sophie purchase her first heading dog, dog box and other essentials to start her dog team.



PASIFIKA INITIATIVES



MAGS celebrated Cook Islands Language Week with language videos posted to our website and various activities across the week beginning August 2.

The 2024 theme for Cook Islands Māori Language Week was 'Ātūi'ia au ki te vaka o tōku matakeinanga - Connect me to the canoe of my tribe'.

During the week there was a hula dance demonstration, a multi-sports competition in the gym, and a cultural performance in the gym.

Tongan Language Week (Uiike Kātoanga'i 'o e lea faka-Tonga) was rounded off with a game of Turbo Touch then a Tongan performance in Gym 2 on August 23.

The 2024 theme for Tonga Language Week was 'E tu'ulua 'a e lea faka-Tongá 'o ka lea'aki 'i 'api, siasí (lotú), mo e nofo-'a-kāingá - The Tongan Language will be sustainable when used at home, church and in the wider community

MEDIA STUDIES



The MAGS Media Studies' Film Night was sold out, and a very successful evening on October 17.

This year, parent actors were a highlight in the Zombie mockumentary *The Walking Dad* (Charlotte Pullen, Yann Rowe, Jonelle Puletiuatoa) while Rose Leader's *Precious Days* was a mature take on the value of living in the present.

Stanley Fifita's *The Raids* was a sobering take on his extended family's lived experiences of the dawn raids, shot with gritty realism and challenging content. The evening was capped off with Cormac Fell

and Phoebe Newcombe's *Weird Fishes* – a Radiohead music video highlighting the editing talent prevalent in the media studies student body.

HOD Media Studies Mr Allen said, "Students, family and friends stayed behind for nearly half an hour after the event, thrilled at the diverse and professional quality of MAGS filmmaking. I would like to personally thank the Media Department – Tom Dale, Hollie White and Thomas Husband – for all their hard work with this amazing group of students."

"We are looking forward to next year!"

LANGUAGES



The Year 11 Japanese classes participated in a Japanese cultural day event at Takapuna on August 6.

The event was organised by five Auckland school teachers from Takapuna Grammar School, Albany Senior High School, Lynfield College, Orewa College and Mount Albert Grammar School to provide opportunities for our students to deepen

their understanding of Japanese language and culture and use Japanese outside of school in a real life situation.

Nearly 200 students participated and experienced a variety of activities such as kimono dress-up, traditional games and Japan trivia quiz.

Science

MAGS Science students enjoyed a resounding win over Auckland Grammar, Epsom Girls Grammar and St Cuthbert's College at the 2024 North Island Secondary School Science Bowl Competition in August.

MAGS 1 and MAGS 2 teams qualified 1st and 3rd after the round robin, allowing them to advance into the semifinals, with MAGS 1 vs AGS 2 and MAGS 2 vs AGS 1.

MAGS 1 easily defeated AGS 2 to have a place in the final to defend their title.

MAGS 2, led by Victor Coen, managed to beat AGS 1 due to a last-minute save from Ava Poynter to get a seat in the finals.

The MAGS 1 vs MAG 2 final was a tight battle between the Year 13 team, led by



Jacob Miller, and the Year 12 team.

TIC Mr Huang said, "It was back and forth between the two teams but in the end MAGS 1 took it out and are champions for a second year in a row."

Winners – MAGS 1: Jacob Miller, Samuel Reeves, Jonathon Yu, Felix McElwee

Second Place – MAGS 2: Victor Coen, Ava Poynter, Cameron Lai, Macy Li.

Victor also won top individual scorer of the night, with Jacob Miller gaining runner-up.

MAGS students entered eight projects into the Auckland Science Fair in September and four of them returned with awards, including a first place for Reuben Bruce for his 'Airy

Architecture' project (pictured).

TICs Mr Huang and Mrs Nisha had been working with the students every Wednesday afternoon to compete at the fair.

Mr Huang says, "The fair is a display of the brightest young scientists in Auckland, with not only innovative ideas but also methodical execution."

"On the presentation day students were tested and questioned by over 40 judges. Our students were confident, enthusiastic and showed excellent knowledge in their field."

The other awards were:

Eva Yarrow – Aphid Attack! (special prize)

Ella Burton, Fiona Le – Hue Knew

Matthew Clement – Fertilizer Face Off

Te Puna o Wairaka



On September 11, Year 10 Te Puna o Wairaka student Katie Watkinson represented MAGS for the second year in a row at the national Ngā

Manu Kōrero speech competition held at Te

Tōangaroa / Spark Arena.

Katie had created her own topic, 'Empowering Future Generations', which she used to speak about the importance

of having a vision, pursuing education to the highest standard, and the utmost importance of unity.

Competing in the Sir Turi Carroll - Junior English section against 14 other students from across the country, she definitely went up against some wonderful orators, however, in the end, she placed 2nd equal overall, as well as winning 1st equal for Best Female Speaker, both alongside Aania Paranihi from Cullinane College (Whanganui/Taranaki region).

HoF Māori Ms Paul said, "We are extremely proud of Katie for her hard work, determination and perseverance this year in preparation for this moment. She represented our school with much mana, poise, passion and humility".

Te Wiki o te Reo Māori (Māori Language Week) at MAGS in mid-September featured



activities based around our new Whare Wānanga. On Monday September 16, there was a Korero Cafe at the Whare, with free kai for those who ordered in te reo; a Te Wiki o te Reo Māori Kahoot on the Tuesday; a screening of The Lion King in te reo on the Wednesday; and a poi workshop on the Thursday. A staff waiata outside the Whare planned for the Friday was abandoned due to the wet weather.

The theme for Te Wiki 2024 is 'Ake ake ake – A Forever Language'. It represents the resilience, adaptability and endurance of te Reo Māori.

TECHNOLOGY

Four Product Design students from MAGS – Krish Patel, Sam Chadha, Lars Stock and Min Luong – were selected to participate in the prestigious Grapple24 competition in Christchurch in July.

Grapple24 brought together 20 of Aotearoa's top young innovators to tackle this year's challenge: how New Zealand could be self-sustainable if imports and exports were halted.

Over seven intense days, they worked in teams, received mentorship from industry experts and showcased their solutions in a final pitch event.

BioTiles, which included Krish and Min, pictured third and second from right respectively, and five other amazing teammates from across the country, won the competition.

Their project, a Bio Gas Generator that converts food waste into gas for cooking and fertiliser for crops, impressed the judges and

earned them the \$1500 prize.

HOF Technology Mr Bailey said, "This achievement was a fantastic experience, and we are incredibly proud of what they accomplished together. Congratulations to everyone who participated."



Visual ART



In late July, a range of students from MAGS displayed and sold work at Auckland Art Gallery as part of the Auckland Zine Fest.

TIC Mrs Leonard said, "Members of the public were blown away by the inventive and creative talents of our students. Over \$100 was raised for the Visual Arts, and

students got to engage with members or the community and showcase their skills to a wide audience of art lovers.

"Many thanks to Miss Vercoe and Ms Mulgrew for all their work with the students as part of this rewarding and exciting project."



Congratulations to Oli Neary and Misaki Nakamura, who were selected in the top 30 finalists in the Arts House Trust Annual Secondary School Art Awards, which had over 300 entries this year.

Oli's and Misaki's work, pictured right and above respectively, was part of an exhibition that ran at Pah Homestead, Hillsborough for several weeks through September and October.



In August, MAGS was very lucky to have professional photographer and artist Spid Pye present to our Senior Photography classes and run a two-day workshop with a group of Year 13 students.

The students learned about portraiture photography and how to use natural and studio lighting in different ways to take creative portrait photos, as pictured below. Spid also taught them how to best edit their photos using his own professional practice to demonstrate.

Here are some comments from the students:

Rose Leader – "It was great gaining insight into professional practice and extending my knowledge on technical skills."

Alena McGill – "It was really good learning more about Lightroom and creative camera techniques and lighting for portraiture."





Big Sing

The Centennial Choir, under the direction of Terence Maskell and accompanied by Claire Caldwell, achieved gold for the second year straight in the Finale of The NCF Big Sing competition.

The Finale was held in Wellington at the Michael Fowler Centre, with the Centennial Choir performing on August 29-31.

The Big Sing regionals are held throughout NZ in June with over 200 schools competing nationwide. Only 24 are selected for the Finale, and the Centennial Choir was one of

them and one of only six all-male choirs so this is a particularly strong endorsement of their ability and dedication.

The Centennial Choir certainly made an entrance when they landed in Wellington, singing for travellers at the airport.

Among their repertoire across a series of concerts, they performed *Let All Men Sing*, by Keith Christopher, *In Flanders Fields* (David Hamilton), *Ubi Caritas* (Ola Gjeilo), *Gruss* (Felix Mendelssohn) and *Shenandoah* (arranged by James Erb).



Bollywood Showdown

MAGS' Indian Group put on a great performance at the Bollywood Showdown, coming fourth and winning the Spirit Award as well as Parum Nangia, pictured below, being named the Best Male Dancer.

The group of nine students, led by Parum and Niesha Dighe, were up against 17 other schools in the competition at the end of July.

TICs for the group Mrs Nisha and Miss Sharma were thrilled at the result.

Mrs Nisha said, "I have not had such a huge victory in my last 15 years of managing this group. Our group was the only one who received a standing ovation from the audience."

The theme for the showdown was 'War', and the leaders acknowledged the fallen Albertian servicemen during their intro.



HIP HOP

Six of our MAGS dancers were crowned Junior World Champions at the World Of Dance International Finals in Los Angeles in late July.

Alyssa Huang (Year 9) Makaia Quensell, Rueben Moffett (Y10), Manon Gilbert, Minna Bostwick and Harry Bannister (Y11) were part of IMPRINT crew from IDCO who won the Junior Teams Division.

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "Even more impressive is that this competition has a final round that gets all division winners and runners-up to perform again for the overall prize and these junior dancers came fourth overall, a stunning result for them."

SCHOLARSHIP Dance



The MAGS Dance Department finished off Term 3 with a Scholarship Showing in the dance room on September 24.

Twelve students have been working at Dance Scholarship this year, and this was their moment to have their work filmed and performed to some of the Mount Albert Grammar community.

Dance teacher Mr Grace said, "The night was a great success, full of outstanding choreography, neat performances and the annual Year 13 Leavers dance signing things off in the show, full of charm and vibrant energy."

"Congratulations to all students involved in performances, and a massive thank you to Sneha Mandadi and Miss Deborah



Fletcher for operating the lighting and music on the evening.

"There was outstanding work from our choreographers, Anna Borthwick, Sam Chase, Iose Fatuleai, Rosa Fox, Lola Funnell, Sofia Hart, Hailey Martin, Brianna McCready, Stella McKenzie-Smith, Grace Moon, Khalel Quensell and Joshua Waqanivalu."

Photos / Lize Deng



Junior Drama Showcase

MAGS Drama hosted its first ever Junior Production Showcase, with 65 students performing across three shows on September 20.

HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "Parents and students alike were able to watch a variety of performance styles, with the Year 9s executing Physical Theatre and the Year 10s using Elizabethan Theatre and slapstick comedy to show off their stories."

"The evening went off with only a few hitches – and we look forward to being able to do it again in 2025."



MUSICAL THEATRE

The Musical Theatre Group, which has been run this year by Year 13 student Isla Ross and Year 12 student Paige Barnes- Kilgour, presented a showcase of items they have been working on this year to the delight of an audience of their parents and peers.

Held in PA02 in September, the show consisted of a variety of ensemble, solo and duo musical numbers, opening with a very slick performance of *When You're an Adams* by the whole cast.

Director of Arts Co-Curricular Ms Cesan

said, "The love that the students displayed for Musical Theatre, and some great performances, made for a very enjoyable night for all, and bodes well for the future of this club next year."



Dawn Raids

MAGS Drama invited family and friends to watch the Level 2 production of *Dawn Raids* on September 25 and 26.

This play is a comedy-drama written by Samoan/New Zealand playwright Oscar Kightley (*Sione's Wedding*, *Niu Sila*, *BroTown*).

The play is set in the 1970s, when Pasifika were subjected to dawn raids by police, who were cracking down on alleged illegal overstayers.

HOD Drama Miss Hughes said, "The cast

did themselves and their whānau proud by treating this play with the respect and hard work that it deserved.

"We received extremely positive responses from the audience, including a lot of people who felt moved by these young actors and the story they were telling. It was a successful season, and it rounds off for us the last production of 2024."

– Photos / Jamie Reaiti & Lize Deng



KBB MUSIC festival

In mid-August, three music ensembles performed and competed at the KBB Music Festival and all three came away with bronze medals.

The MAGS Camerata Chamber Orchestra, directed by Ms Cassandra Fletcher, performed during the afternoon session on August 12 at St Mary's chapel.

This group of 15 string players performed *Palladio* by Karl Jenkins, *Libertango* by Astor Piazzolla and the *Theme from Star Trek* by Alexander Courage.

MAGS Symphony Orchestra performed later that evening in the Holy Trinity Cathedral. Led by Ms Anna Cooper, this group of 41 students performed music from *Lord of the Rings* composed by Howard Shore, Brahms' *Symphony No. 1* and a medley of Stevie Wonder classics arranged by John Whitney.

The Owairaka Jazz Ensemble performed on August 14. Directed by Mr Neil Watson, this group's repertoire included the samba *Chega De Saudade* featuring Anouk Blackburn on

vocals, the jazz standard *Stella By Starlight*, and *Backlash* that featured soloists Amie Jerschke, Felix McElwee, Julien van Omen, Will Poynter and Sylvie Edwards. They finished with Emma Newland singing *Shallow* from *A Star is Born*.

Senior music students Catherine Chen, Jonathon You and Nora Pecher were selected to perform with the KBB Honours Orchestra on August 15. This group features talented musicians selected from competing orchestras across the Auckland region.





Leavers ★ ★ Ball

The MAGS 2024 Leavers Ball was a roaring success on November 1.

Under the theme of 'Starry Night', students enjoyed an evening of dinner, photos (White Door Photography) and Music (NZDJ) hosted by the Pullman Hotel in Auckland CBD.

Led by the School Ball Committee and TICs Megan Butler, Christine Cato and Alexandra Smith, the ballroom was fitted out in an array of lights, stars, chandeliers and more.

Awards for the evening included those pre-voted for by the Year 13 cohort, 'Cutest Couple': Charlie Heath and Cassie Taylor, 'Best Bromance': Elijah Poliko & Eved Ah Soon, 'Most likely to Return as a Teacher': Ryan Antia, 'Most likely to become Prime Minister': Lize Deng; and those selected on the evening, 'Star of the Night': Melbourne Ariki, 'Best Dressed': Queeny Ale, and 'Best Dance Moves': Sam Cotton.





Senior Prizegiving

Senior Prizegiving on October 30 in the F.W. Gamble Hall was a celebration of our best and brightest.

Ryan Shen swept the top boys' awards, being named Boys Dux and Best All-Round Boy in Year 13, as well as winning a C.P. Liddell Scholarship.

Ciara Anand was named Girls Dux while Brianna McCready was named Best All-Round Girl in Year 13.

There were three more C.P. Liddell Scholarships, worth \$15,000 each, presented by John Liddell to Rosa Fox, Rose Leader and Toby Forster.

Head Prefects Toby and Rosa were MCs for the event and also gave their farewell speeches, reflecting on their time at MAGS. There was a musical item – Ubi Caritas – by our award-winning Centennial Choir under the direction of Terence Maskell.

In 2024, the prestigious Gold Lion was awarded to three students: Rosa Fox, Khalen Quensell and Te Arini Roberts. The Gold Lion is awarded to students who have gained all four Lions – in Academia, Arts, Service and Sport.

Our Boys and Girls Proxime Accessits for 2024 are Jacob Miller and Rose Leader respectively, pictured left. Jacob was also the recipient of the Woolf Fisher Memorial Scholarship, worth \$4000 a year for three

years; while Rose also won the Sylvia Lamb Benevolence Cup.

The Jim Greatbanks Mount Albert Grammar School Engineering Scholarship was awarded to Agam Aharon and Andrew Kim. Toby Forster and Asinate Waqalevu were honoured for Service to the School with the Isaac Gray Cup and the Girls' Foundation Cup respectively.

Eved Ah Soon and Emily Lyon were the winners of the Neville Watson Memorial Prize

for the Student who Best Typifies the Spirit of Mount Albert Grammar School.

The Best All-Round Pacific Island Student was Elijah Poliko while the Te Puna o Wairaka Whanau Award for Best All Round Māori student went to Oscar Duffy. Te Arini Roberts won the Nga Uri o Matui Tupuni Award for a Māori student who demonstrates outstanding leadership.

The Harry Wichman Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Boy was awarded to Brendan Akeli,

while the Linda Fraser Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Girl was awarded to Khalen Quensell, both pictured below.

The Best All-Round International Boy and Girl were Seunyoung Han and Dishita Singh respectively.

The Hanson Cup for Senior Progress and Endeavour for Year 12 Boys was presented to Campbell Buchanan, while the Yvette Williams Cup for Diligence for Year 12 Girls went to Sneha Mandadi.



The Te Puna o Wairaka Whanau Award for Best All Round Māori student went to Oscar Duffy. Te Arini Roberts won the Nga Uri o Matui Tupuni Award for a Māori student who demonstrates outstanding leadership.



Ryan Shen and Brianna McCready were named Best All-Round Boy and Girl in Year 13.



Ryan Shen was named Boys Dux and Ciara Anand the Girls Dux.



The Gold Lion was awarded to three students: Khalen Quensell, Te Arini Roberts and Rosa Fox.



Boys and Girls Proxime Accessits for 2024 were Jacob Miller and Rose Leader respectively.



The Jim Greatbanks Mount Albert Grammar School Engineering Scholarship was awarded to Agam Aharon and Andrew Kim



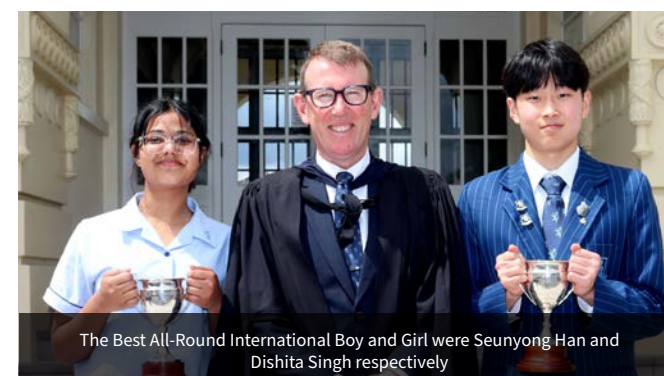
Head Prefects Rosa Fox and Toby Forster were each awarded the Prefect's Cup.



Jacob Miller was the recipient of the Woolf Fisher Memorial Scholarship.



C.P. Liddell Scholarships, worth \$15,000 each, were presented by John Liddell to Ryan Shen, Rosa Fox, Rose Leader and Toby Forster.



The Best All-Round International Boy and Girl were Seunyoung Han and Dishita Singh respectively



The Best All-Round Pacific Island Student was Elijah Poliko.



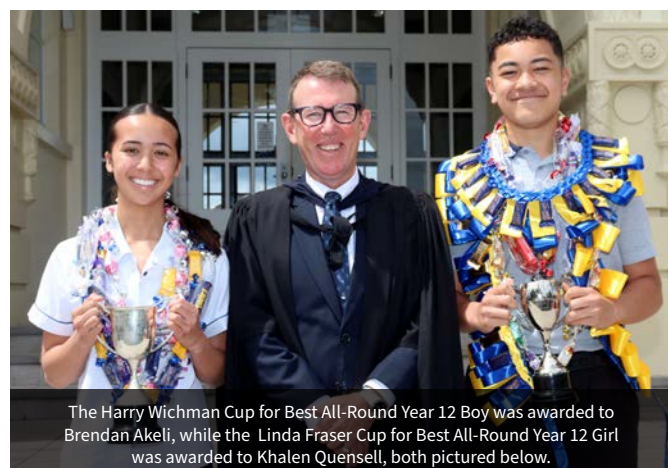
Jan Watson presented Eved Ah Soon and Emily Lyon with the Neville Watson Memorial Prize for the Student who Best Typifies the Spirit of Mount Albert Grammar School.



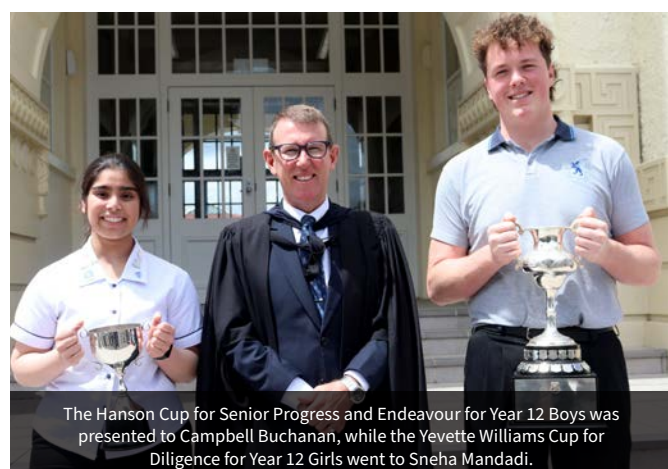
Toby Forster and Asinate Waqalevu were honoured for Service to the School with the Isaac Gray Cup and the Girls' Foundation Cup respectively.



Rose Leader was awarded the Sylvia Lamb Benevolence Cup.



The Harry Wichman Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Boy was awarded to Brendan Akeli, while the Linda Fraser Cup for Best All-Round Year 12 Girl was awarded to Khalen Quensell, both pictured below.



The Hanson Cup for Senior Progress and Endeavour for Year 12 Boys was presented to Campbell Buchanan, while the Yvette Williams Cup for Diligence for Year 12 Girls went to Sneha Mandadi.



SERVICE LIONS

The Service Lions Assembly on September 26 saw students acknowledged for their sustained service to MAGS and the wider community.

Service Lion badges were awarded to first-time recipients while re-awardees received certificates.

The recipients were announced by Service Pillar Lead Teacher Miss Murray and congratulated by Mr Drumm and Board of Trustees members Greg Moyle and Thomas Tarurongo Wynne.

Guest speaker at the event was our Pasifika Liaison Officer Danny Liuliu-Afoa, pictured right, who concentrated on themes such as 'When you teach, I remember and when you involve me, I learn' and 'The path to leadership is through service'.

Mr Liuliu-Afoa said those themes were at play when he helped to build a new church in Glen Eden, and he learned from his elders about service, selflessness and humility.

He encouraged students to become involved in service because helping others was a great way to lead a fulfilling life.

The assembly was also treated to a musical item by the Gloriana Choir under the direction of Charlotte Nicklin.



MAGS STUDENTS OF SERVICE

On September 24, MAGS was able to celebrate the hard work and commitment our students have shown to the Service Pillar this year.

Service Pillar Lead Teacher Miss Murray said, "The MAGS Students of Service event highlighted the achievements we, as a school, have managed to obtain this year.

"We were able to look back at the many events executed by our staff and students



and recognise exceptional leadership and commitment to the pillar this year.

"A few highlights from the year were our success in fundraising for Relay for Life, the hype event for the 40-hour Challenge where you could 'pie a prefect', and getting the whole school involved through Spirit Week.

It was such a great opportunity to celebrate our pillar and commend the students for their participation."

Special recognition awards were presented to the following students:

Junior Service Award for Outstanding Contribution to the MAGS Service Pillar: Kawiti Albert Campbell.

The John Stradwick Award for Outstanding Contribution to the MAGS Service Pillar: Parum Nangia.

The Leah Murray Award for Outstanding Leadership in the MAGS Service Pillar: Georgie Muller.

2025 Prefects

MAGS is excited to announce the 2025 student leadership group who have been chosen from an exceptional field of students through a rigorous process.

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

All 2025 Prefects must attend the compulsory Prefects Camp in early December to be held at MAGS' School House.

Congratulations to all our 2025 Prefects

on their appointment. We trust that the 2025 Year 13 student body will support this group in their significant role.

2025 Prefects:

Reuben Adye, Palepua Afoa, Brendan Akeli, Kingston Ballantyne, Paige Barnes-Kilgour, Anna Batcheler, Campbell Buchanan, Kiva Carr, Nina Chalmers, Victor Coen, Lavinia Craig, Yanine de Boed, Divya Desai, Jemima Flatt, Evie Fraser, Mia Gardiner, Issie Hasler, Awanui Hope, Ben Hori-Elliott, Fei-Chang Andrew

Hung, Tamatea Jones, Amy Jordan, Luis Kerrigan, Cameron Lai, Thesadi M.k, Catherine Makasini, Sneha Mandadi, Brooke Margison, Kyra-Leigh Masina, Manumea Matautia, Ami McGowan, Phoebe Newcombe, Liam Ng Shiu, Piper O'Neill, Grace Oloi, Ava Poynter, Epeli Prescott, Khalen Quensell, Erich Retzlaff, Romi Ropati, Jarom Rowell, Alyssa Tamihere, Emina Tiatia, Sasha Tobin, LA Tusialofa, Taiga Ueno, Jason Vincent, Claudia Wen, Michael Xue, Tyler Yare.

Arts DINNER



Dux Artium Josh Waqanivalu with Dance teachers Mr Grace and Ms French.



Lize Deng, pictured with TIC Photography Ms Smith, was recognised for his outstanding work photographing MAGS events.

The annual Arts Dinner, recognising the highest achievers in the Arts, was held at Sorrento in the Park on October 24.

The event had the highest attendance ever, reflecting the growth and popularity of the Arts at MAGS.

The event was ably MCed by Head Prefects Rosa Fox and Toby Forster, who were also recognised as Most Dedicated Arts students for their involvement, support and advocacy for the Arts.

Mrs Cato, Deputy Principal overseeing Arts, opened the evening by saying, "The arts matter because we matter, and our stories matter.

"The arts matter because they allow us to express ourselves and illustrate the world around us in a different light, helping us to gain understanding and give hope.

"So to you, our MAGS Arts students, your artistic expression helps you discover more about who you are, but in doing so you help shape who we are. Our school culture, our connectedness and our collective identity can be reflected in your work and by your work."

Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan said, "HODs of each Arts subject gave an overview of the year in their subject, and read the citations of each prize winner, clearly demonstrating both their pride in the achievements of each student and passion for their subject area.

"There was entertainment spread throughout the evening, and this was a testament to both the talent and diversity of expression in the Arts."

The first item was a Pasifika medley by three of the senior members of the award-winning Centennial Choir: Eved Ah Soon, Elijah Poliko and Josh Waqanivalu.

Best Male Actor Koru McDonald gave a powerful performance of Awhinatia Ahau, a piece he had devised himself, and two of the award-winning music students, Theo Wright and Gene Todd, performed a guitar piece, Oh Tengo Suerte, accompanied by Mr Watson.

The audience also had an opportunity to see a short compilation of the special moments from the Dance performances and events this year and one of the excellent music videos from Media Studies students Cormac Fell and Phoebe Newcombe – helping to remind everyone of the breadth of talent at MAGS.

Among the special awards, the Centennial Choir was recognised as Outstanding Extra-curricular Performance for their Gold award at the Big Sing Finale; Lize Deng was recognised (for the second year running) for Outstanding Support for the Arts for his amazing photography of so many of our events; Hailey Martin won the Award for Excellence in Arts Management, not only for her role as Head Arts Prefect but also for her outstanding management of the MAGS Megacrew, who won back-to-back titles for Blueprint NZ schools competition.

The Dux Artiums were named as Rose leader, an outstanding student of Media Studies and Visual Arts, and Josh Waqanivalu, a talented dancer, singer and cultural leader.



ARTS LIONS AND ARTS ATTITUDE AWARDS

At a special assembly on October 22, Arts Lions and Arts Attitude Awards were presented to the top students across Cultural Activities, Dance, Drama, Music and Visual Art.

The awards were read out by Director of Arts Co-curricular Ms Cesan and presented by Deputy Principal Mrs Cato and BOT Chair Mrs Murphy.

The assembly also enjoyed a musical

performance of the One Direction song Night Changes by Eved Ah Soon, Stanley Fifita, Henri Le Cren, Iose Fatuleai, Elijah Poliko and Erich Retzlaff (on guitar).



Dux Artium Rose Leader with her Media Studies and Visual Arts trophies.





Pasifika Awards Dinner

On October 22, MAGS students, staff and families celebrated the achievements of our Pasifika cohort at the annual awards dinner.

At a packed-out venue, guests heard about Pasifika success in NCEA, Scholarships, sports, arts, service and in the Health Sciences Academy.

Deputy Head Prefect Brianna McCready and Prefect Joshua Waqanivalu were named Best All Round Year 13 Pasifika Students, while Ava Siakimotu and Lockyer Timaloa were named Top Academic Year 13 Students.

Eved Ah Soon and Joshua Waqanivalu won the The Tagaloa Peter Su'a Award for

Performing Arts, and Eved, Joshua and Asinate Waqalevu won the Ulugia-Pua Award for Outstanding Services to Mount Albert Grammar School.

Eved and Brianna were awarded the Ah Kuoi Family Cup for Services to MAGS Pasifika, while Asinate and Melbourne Arika



Year 12 Best All Round Pasifika Students Khaleen Quensell and Epele Prescott.



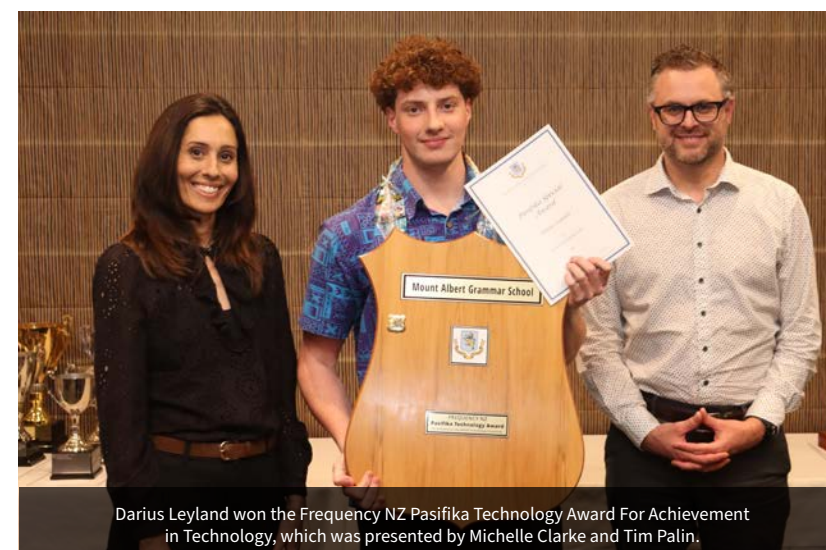
Elijah Poliko and Catherine Makasini were awarded the Tofa Aiga Cup 'For significant changes made in their MAGS journey'.



The Top Year 13 Pasifika Sportswomen were Danii Mafoe and Danny-Elle Fesola'i, and the Top Year 13 Pasifika Sportsman was Zacherye Taulapapa.



Asinate Waqalevu and Melbourne Arika were presented with the Tupuola Apisalomā Taulapiu Cup for Cultural Leadership.



Darius Leyland won the Frequency NZ Pasifika Technology Award For Achievement in Technology, which was presented by Michelle Clarke and Tim Palin.

were presented with the Tupuola Apisalomā Taulapiu Cup for Cultural Leadership.

Elijah Poliko and Catherine Makasini were awarded the Tofa Aiga Cup 'For significant changes made in their MAGS journey'.

The Top Year 13 Pasifika Sportswomen were Danii Mafoe and Danny-Elle Fesola'i,

and the Top Year 13 Pasifika Sportsman was Zacherye Taulapapa.

Year 12 Best All Round Pasifika Students were Khaleen Quensell and Epele Prescott.

Darius Leyland won the Frequency NZ Pasifika Technology Award For Achievement in Technology, which was presented by



Eved Ah Soon and Brianna McCready were awarded the Ah Kuoi Family Cup for Services to MAGS.

Michelle Clarke and Tim Palin.

Brianna and Eved gave heartfelt and moving speeches about their time at MAGS as part of the Year 13 Address, before the Year 13 Taulaga and the Leavers Video.



Eved Ah Soon, Joshua Waqanivalu and Asinate Waqalevu won the Ulugia-Pua Award for Outstanding Services to Mount Albert Grammar School.



Deputy Head Prefect Brianna McCready and Prefect Joshua Waqanivalu were named Best All Round Year 13 Pasifika Students.



Te Puna o Wairaka Dinner



Chase Hartley and Te Arini Roberts, pictured above at left, handed over the kaitātaki tāne (male leader) and 'kaitātaki wahine (female leader) roles for Kapa Haka to the two new leaders: Kingston Ballantyne and Awanui Hope.



Guest speaker Dharyin Colbert spoke about his te reo journey.

The Te Puna o Wairaka Dinner on October 30 was a time for MAGS' ākonga, whānau and kaiako to come together to reflect on and celebrate a great year for Puna.

Our Puna Year 13 Leavers were also recognised and farewelled with speeches and haka.

As well, there was a formal hand-over of the kaitātaki wahine (female leader) and kaitātaki tāne (male leader) for the Kapa Haka group in 2025. The sounds of waiata and haka rang out as this year's leaders Te Arini Roberts and Chase Hartley handed over the 'mauri' in the form of a patu and taiaha to the two new leaders: Awanui Hope and Kingston Ballantyne.

Guest speaker was Albertian Dharyin Colbert (2011-15), who works in Māori health at the Department of Corrections.

Dharyin, pictured right, spoke about his te reo journey and how it had been different from that of his older siblings who were more immersed in te ao Māori. He found his

way through Kapa Haka and performing at Polyfest and the Unity Concert, which were highlights for him in his time at MAGS.

He said his time at MAGS had given him a good grounding for his life's journey and ongoing connections with the Puna whānau.

The awards dinner at Te Mahurehure Marae was MC'ed by Puna students Awanui Hope, who also performed a waiata, and Jarom Rowell.

Te Arini and Chase gave the Leavers' Address on behalf of Year 13s, mixing in a lot of humour while speaking about their gratitude to the Puna whānau and to Whaea Waimirangi Paul and Matua Peter Walters for all their care and dedication.

When it came to the awards, Te Arini won the Top Senior Academic and was named All-Round Top Senior Student.

Kingston Ballantyne won the "Manu Tute" Award For Services to Puna and the wider community, while Milla Logan won the equivalent Junior award.

Chase Hartley won the "He toka tū" Award For Contribution to Kapa Haka.

Katie Watkinson was All-Round Top Junior Girl and Top Junior Academic; the All-Round Top Junior Boy was Te Awanuiarangi Mackwood.

The award for Top Senior Māori Language Orator went to Awanui Hope, and Isabella Dunn was named Top Junior Māori Language Orator.

When it came to sports achievement, Milla Logan won the top junior award, and Marnie Toloa the top senior award.

Some new awards were introduced this year, including the Toi Whakaari Award for Contribution to the Arts Pillar, won by Mahara Sialafau. The junior and senior Ngākau Titikaha awards for Upholding Tikanga and Reo Māori within Te Puna o Wairaka and the wider community were won by Patariki Mendes and Riley Golaboski respectively.



Whaea Miri and Matua Pete with prizewinners on the night.



Whaea Miri and Matua Pete with some of the Year 13 Leavers.



Awanui Hope and Jarom Rowell were MCs for the night.





The Football Girls 1st XI won the Headmaster's Cup for Team of the Year.

Sports Awards DINNER

Outstanding achievements and displays of sportsmanship were celebrated at the 2024 Sports Awards Dinner on October 23.

MAGS also honoured our Director of Cricket, Mr Sail, who is retiring after 22 years of service to the school.

Mr Sail, pictured ????, was presented with a signed cricket bat by 1st XI Cricket Boys captain Felix Naish, after he spoke about his journey in the game of cricket – from a young hopeful player to coach of the Auckland team before coming to MAGS.

Oscar Vink and Anika Todd were named Victor Ludorum and Victrix Ludorum respectively, while the Headmaster's Cup for Team of the Year was won by the all-conquering Football Girls 1st XI. The team, coached by Ms Inwood, won the national tournament this year, were unbeaten Auckland Champions and winners of the APC Cup. They also won the Grammar Cup earlier in the year, meaning they won every competition they entered this season and did not lose a game throughout.

The Te Aroha Keenan Cup for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Girls was awarded to rower Olivia Tattersfield, who was the first MAGS female to win a Maadi Cup gold medal.

Marlin Toloa again won the Olympic Cup for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Boys for his continued excellence domestically and internationally in Waka Ama.

Anika, who was also Victrix Ludorum last year, has represented the school in athletics, cricket, football and curling this year. She has excelled in cricket and has been announced as an Auckland



Oscar Vink and Anika Todd were named Victor Ludorum and Victrix Ludorum respectively.



The Te Aroha Keenan Cup for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Girls was awarded to rower Olivia Tattersfield, and waka ama paddler Marlin Toloa again won the Olympic Cup for Outstanding Individual Achievement for Boys.

Hearts contracted player for 2024/25 and was Auckland Under 19s co-captain.

Oscar has represented MAGS in Hockey and Orienteering with distinction. He won the MAGS Trophy for Best Player 1st XI Hockey (Boys) and is 1st XI Boys captain. He has earned a Sports Lion in Hockey and Orienteering for three years in a row. He was part of the U18 Auckland A team that won the U18 Nationals tournament in Hawkes Bay. He has been selected to attend the Future Black Sticks U18 camp, and was part of the Senior Boys Orienteering team that placed 1st at NISS and NZSS.



Mr Sail was presented with a signed cricket bat by 1st XI Cricket Boys captain Felix Naish.



SPORT LIONS & SPECIAL TROPHIES



At a Sports Assembly on October 28, Sports Lions were presented and special trophies were awarded to MAGS top sportspeople. Sports Lions are earned by accruing points for representing the school at Premier level or competing at tournaments.

Curling

At tournament week, MAGS had three Curling teams in the much-expanded North Island Secondary Schools Curling Championship. 'Sweeping Beauties' – Abby Whittle, Georgia Nansett, Imogen Bowman and Sophia Bourne – were competing in the Girls Division. 'Clean Sweep' – Maiah Radu, Finlay Ross, Sean Cavanagh and Thomas Runnells – were in the Open Division and 'Premier' – Samuel Reeves, Felix McElwee, Max Shallard, Riley Hobbs and Jacob Miller – were in the Boys Division.

TIC Ms Hobbs said, "There were some early starts, some hard games and some lucky, and unlucky, ricochets!"

"Going into the Thursday night finals our teams were still in the running."

"Ultimately, whilst two of our teams got podium finishes, the shields eluded us once again." Sweeping Beauties finished 6th in the Girls Division and 16th in the combined tournament. Clean Sweep – all novices – finished 11th in the combined tournament and took bronze in the Open Division. And Premier, 7th in the combined tournament, were, for the third year in a row, runners-up in the Boys Division.

September 12 saw the culmination of the Auckland Curling Championships. MAGS had four teams in this year's competition. Our novice girls team 'Sweeping Beauties' – Abby Whittle, Imogen Bowman, Georgia Nansett, Sophia Bourne and Casey Pahulu – finished with a resounding win in their last game to finish a creditable 7th. The other novice team 'Clean Sweep' made an impressive debut with their 3rd place in the Open Division, meaning they just missed out on the novice shield.

Meanwhile, our two seasoned teams continued to prove they are amongst the top competitors. 'Rolling Stones' – Hugh Skinner, Jackson Candy, Anika Todd, Cecilia Simpson and Aaqib Aadil Sharif – clinched 2nd place in the Mixed Division and 4th in the combined tournament placings, and 'Premier', who won the title in 2022 and were runners-up last



Hugh Skinner won the Spirit of Curling Award for a second year in a row.

year, again claimed 2nd place in the very competitive Boys Division. TIC Ms Hobbs said, "The final trophy of the evening is the Spirit of Curling Award. This is presented to players who have not only demonstrated their curling skills but have also done so with the utmost sportsmanship, enthusiasm and support of others. We were very proud when it was announced that, for an unprecedented second year in a row, the boys award was presented to Hugh Skinner. He has been the embodiment of the MAGS Way every game."

The Curling Boys travelled to Naseby for the Curling Nationals – the first time a MAGS team has ever competed.

TIC Ms Hobbs said, "It was a competition unsurprisingly dominated by the South Island teams but we at least held our own with MAGS finishing 8th in the Open competition (we were the only North Island team to beat two South Island teams), 3rd in the Boys grade and an impressive 3rd in the draw shot challenge, where Max got the shortest distance of any player.

"A shout out, too, to Albertian Tahlia Petersen – now coach at Bayfield – one of whose teams just missed out on the bronze medal by one stone."

Felix and Samuel (and Maiah Radu from our mixed team) have been invited to join the Youth Development programme.

archery

MAGS Archers secured second place overall as a team in the Winter AIM archery competition in September. In the U16 Recurve team, MAGS could only field two archers, Eliza Rodger and Ayushi Asthana, who did phenomenally well as a two-archer team against the full four-archer teams. Fielding a full team might have swung the title in MAGS' favour.

Results:

Individual U16 Barebow Bronze: Alex Whittet

Individual U19 Barebow Bronze: Kathy Mitchell

Individual U19 Recurve Silver: Phoebe Newcombe, Bronze: Cormac Fell

Team Barebow Bronze: Tom Jarrold and Ben Gladding (U16s who beat out nearly all the U19 teams to win)

Team U19 Recurve Gold: MAGS White

CLIMBING

The final round of this year's Auckland College Climbing Series was held in August at Boulder Co., the home bouldering gym for MAGS' core squad members.

In the junior division, novice Brennan Scouller continued to improve his skills by completing a set of 2 grade walls, whilst Thomas Roberts again broke his personal best with a score of 25, which gave him 16th place. For our top performer, Ronin Ng, his score of 28 was not good enough to make the final, missing out on countback.

In the senior division, Anna Swan again turned in a solid performance with her score of 25 being just two points short of a finals placing, and Riley Hobbs, our top scorer with 32, again finished as the highest placed Year 11 student in the senior boys grade, just six points short of some of Aotearoa's top young climbers.

This was the biggest ever competition with nearly 300 students taking part, including 100 senior boys, and with results across all four rounds tallied the final season placings were also announced.

In the Junior Boys grade, Brennan has enjoyed his first season and finished a respectable 51st which he can improve upon next year, Thomas was 18th and Ronin 12th. Both are ready for their step up to seniors next year.

Anna finished 19th in the Senior Girls division and whilst Riley just missed out on a place in the top 20 in the Senior Boys grade, his efforts were acknowledged when he was announced as runner-up for Most Improved Senior Climber, an award he also won last year as a junior.



DISTANCE RUNNING

On August 13, 19 students competed at the Auckland Secondary Schools Road Running Race, held at Pulman Park in Papakura.

Two students managed to gain top 10 finishes in their age group. Nina Chalmers (Year 12) finished third in a hotly contested Intermediate Girls section. She ran at the front of the leading pack for most of the race and finished strong in the last 100m to gain a podium finish. She completed the 4km race in a time of 13:54, two seconds behind the runner up.

Theo Bray (Year 12) ran a smart race in a high-quality field to finish 6th in the Senior Boys category. Theo stuck with the front pack for three-quarters of the race before the leading four runners broke away. Theo's time was an impressive 18:51 over the 6km race.

Our Intermediate Girls six-person team managed to accumulate enough points to finish third. The team consisted of Nina Chalmers, Olivia Appleton, Hazel Helmore, Peyton Curle, Sofia Gough and Ashley Lo.



Cycling

Theo Bray (Year 12), pictured at left, competed at the North Island Secondary Schools Road Cycling competition on July 6 & 7 in Cambridge.

He competed in both the individual road race and criterium. Theo came away with two top-10 finishes in the Under 20 Boys section, showing his ability to compete well against some of the country's top cyclists in his age group.

In the road race, Theo finished 6th, completing the 54.8km course in 1:27:36.52. He stayed close to the breakaway group of the top four riders but wasn't able to gain on them. In the criterium, Theo started well, coming second after three laps to finish a credible 10th overall.



Shubhi Roy, left, and Emi Mason.

fencing

The 2024 School League wrapped up with a thrilling day of finals on August 18 in Henderson, where 24 schools competed fiercely for the championship titles.

Both the boys' and girls' finals featured all-MAGS showdowns. In the boys' final, Nico Meyer, showcasing his experience, secured a solid 15-11 victory against his schoolmate Thomas Pham. For the second year in a row, Thomas earned the silver medal.

Not to be outdone, the MAGS girls delivered a spectacular performance as well. Emi Mason claimed the gold after defeating her fellow Commonwealth team-mate Shubhi Roy.

Twenty students competed to become the 2024 MAGS Fencing Champion, with Elijah Yarr winning the boys' section and Emi Mason the girls'.

A couple of upsets early in the day for last year's winner, Lawrence Zhao, put him into the knockout stages early against one of the Commonwealth representatives, Nico Meyer. Nico won that hard-fought quarter-final before losing his semi-final match to Commonwealth team-mate and eventual winner Elijah Yarr.

The other half of the boys draw had Year 13 newcomer Max Shallard reach the final, where he initially put up tough resistance before Elijah settled down to dispatch his less experienced opponent.

In the girls section, the two Commonwealth bronze medalists fought out the final. Emi managed to edge into the lead midway

through and then quickly capitalised on a couple of opportunities to establish an unassailable lead. Emi took the title for the third year in a row.

In the Beginners section, it was no surprise to see Max Shallard come out on top for the Boys Beginners title. And Kavya Wad took home the Girls Beginners title.

When MAGS hosted the New Zealand Secondary School Championships, our top girls took centre stage over the weekend of September 7-8.

Emi and Shubhi were once again battling for podium positions. In an electrifying semi-final clash, Shubhi employed a fresh tactical approach that unsettled her teammate but Emi came back to edge ahead then put the result beyond doubt.

Coach Kyle Macdonald said, "With her confidence soaring, Emi cruised through the gold medal bout, launching some early surprise leg attacks that quickly dismantled her Rangitoto opponent's defences."

Girls Epee – Gold: Emi Mason, Bronze: Shubhi Roy

In the team event, the four MAGS girls advanced to the final to face a strong composite team from Christchurch. The regional team's depth proved insurmountable, leaving MAGS as the top-performing single school and securing the silver medal.

MAGS Girls Team - Silver (Emi Mason, Shubhi Roy, Lauren Xu, Natalia Perry)



Four MAGS students were involved in the National Under 18 Hockey tournaments played in the first week of the school holidays.

The girls played in Christchurch, with Michayla Lili-Moa playing for Auckland Blue, who finished third.

Ava Murphy and Rosa Fox played for Auckland White, who finished 19th.

The boys tournament was played in Napier, with Oscar Vink, pictured ??????, playing for Auckland Blue, who won the tournament, beating Canterbury in the final 3 – 1.

At NZSS, our Boys 1st XI finished seventh after losing two penalty shootouts, and the Girls 1st XI finished 13th.

On October 18, the annual Old Boys/Girls hockey games took place with Albertians taking on our Hockey 1st XIs at Auckland Grammar School.

The Girls played first with the Old Girls winning 6-2 after the 1st XI girls had taken an early lead.

The Boys followed with the Old Boys also winning but this time with a closer score of 2-1. There was a significant performance from Harry Wilmshurst who was playing his first game in goal for the 1st XI. As a Year 10 in his first year of hockey, Harry had been asked to fill in at lunch that day and did an amazing job.

The games were significant this year for the presentation of Black Caps to three outstanding Albertian players between the two matches.



Danielle Jones

MAGS 1st XI 2005-09 and captain 2007-09

Danielle has played 100-plus games for Auckland and 26 games for NZ.

The Black Cap was presented to Danielle by Albertian Pat Kika (captain 1972) and Rosa Fox (Head Girl and 1st XI captain 2023-24)

Stewart Mills

MAGS 1st XI 1961-62

Played for Auckland through the early 70s with and against a lot of the NZ Gold medalists from Montreal 1976.

Stewart played for NZ in the 1975 series v Canada.

The Black Cap was presented by Albertian Arun Panchia (captain 2005-06) and Oscar Vink (co-captain 1st XI 2024).



Brian Rogers

MAGS 1st XI 1957-58

Auckland player in the 1960s and played for NZ in 1967-68.

Brian was accompanied by Mel Jarvis, who played 1st XI and Auckland hockey with Brian as well as being Auckland tennis champions together for MAGS in 1958. The Black Cap was presented by Albertian Barvant Soma (captain 1979) and Neel Govind (co-captain 1st XI 2024).

Hockey Academy Director Mr Dempster said, "The celebrations continued next door at The Good Home after the games, where Albertians young and old could mix along with parents and supporters. It was a great evening and a nice way to finish the season."



Albertians and Hockey Internationals –from left to right – Brian Rogers, Stewart Mills, Arun Panchia and Danielle Jones.



Mountain Biking

Hunter Marsh (Year 10) has competed in the last two legs of the Auckland Secondary Schools Mountain Biking Series.

He has finished with two top-10 placings in the Under 16 Boys Category.

In June, he finished sixth in the race at Totara Park.

At the start of August, he finished on the podium with a third place at Waitawa Regional Park.

For his age category, riders do three laps of the course, totalling a 15-18km ride depending on the course.

Riders accumulate points based on where they finish in each race to determine an overall series champion.

KI-O-RAHI

The MAGS Ki-O-Rahi Senior Mixed team participated in a highly competitive AKSS regional tournament at Bert Henham Reserve on September 18, delivering outstanding performances throughout the day.

The team won all three pool games, showcasing skill and determination as they dominated their opponents.

In the crossover round, they faced the

current regional and national champions, Westlake High School. Despite a hard-fought battle, MAGS narrowly lost in a thrilling match.

However, they bounced back strongly in the 3rd/4th playoff against King's College. After a tense match that extended into overtime, MAGS secured the bronze medal with a well-earned victory. This top-four finish is especially significant, as it marks

the first time the team has qualified for the national tournament, to be held in 2025.

A special mention goes to Boston Aitaurau, whose tireless efforts in developing Ki-O-Rahi at MAGS have played a crucial role in this success. His dedication and leadership have paid off, as reflected in the team's incredible results.





MAGS was unlucky not to retain the Combined Points Championship title for 2024, having won it in 2023.

While all our teams were competitive in pool play in the August tournament, our Year 9 and Year 10 teams both narrowly went down to Hamilton Girls. The Boys were also unfortunate not to progress through to semis, having not lost a game, but drawing against Avondale.

Director of Netball Mrs Henry said, "Our Premier 1 team, whilst winning their pool play games, had an unfortunate crossover with 2023 NZSS Runners-Up St Kentigern where they were soundly beaten. Positives from the day was the debut of a number of players playing Premier 1 for MAGS at Combined Points: Faith Taihia, Muriwai Mikaere and Jorgina Holt."

This year MAGS has entered the Premier 1 and MAGS Senior A teams and some of



our top Year 10 players into the Auckland Club Competition.

Our MAGS Year 10, pictured top, were entered into the U16/U18 Auckland Club Grade as MAGS Junior Premiers.

After two rounds of round robin, our Junior Premiers played off against Trivialist Falcons to decide the winner of the grade.

Having lost to Trivialist by one goal earlier in the round robins, it was always going to be competitive.

Forty minutes of netball couldn't separate the two teams. Extra time saw our Junior Premiers finally achieve the win by two goals, 32-30.

Meanwhile, on the indoor courts at the same time our MAGS Premiers had their semifinal game against a very strong club team, Eastern. After trailing for the majority of the game, the girls pulled ahead in the last quarter, dug deep and held onto their three-point lead to take the win and a spot



in the finals.

They won the Senior A club final 60-56 on August 17 against a very tough and experienced TSC club team.

It was another come-from-behind-win in the last five minutes to take the game.

The last time MAGS won the Senior A Championship Rose Bowl was in 2007, when Te Aroha Keenan coached the team to success.

During Tournament Week, our Netball Premiers finished fourth in their UNISS competition at West Auckland's Te Pai Arena after suffering losses to Avondale College and St Kentigern College on finals day on September 6.

The Netball Premiers ran a strong campaign, winning their first seven matches but were undone by those two losses on the last day.



Our Orienteering Boys are pictured with, from left, the NZSS Premier Boys Team Award, the NZSS Top Secondary School Award, the NISS Top Boys School Award, and the NZSS Intermediate Boys Relay Champions Award.

ORIENTEERING

In July, four MAGS Orienteers were selected to represent New Zealand at the annual Southern Cross competition in Australia.

This year the team travelled Armidale in New South Wales to compete against the top Australian teams over 10 days, during September/October.

In the Senior team were Sam Carryer (who also competed in Europe at the Junior World Cup) and Matthew Greenwood – both Year 13. Anna Batcheler and William Wood were non-travelling reserves.

In the Junior team were Jack Trowsdale (Year 11) and Charlie Milne (Year 10).

The MAGS Orienteering team headed to Wellington for four days at the end of the July school holidays to compete in the NZ Secondary School Champs.

TIC Mrs Mackinlay-Milne said, "The Boys team had a superb competition and came away with their seventh national title in a row. Winning the Top School award (by 116 points over second place Cashmere High School) and also winning the prestigious Premier School award.

"The Girls team also had a very successful event. They gained third place in the Top School competition, with their best ever overall points and results."

Sprint Event: Senior Boys, Sam Carryer 2nd; Intermediate Boys, Tahi Harris 3rd;

Junior Boys, Ben Spreitzer 2nd; Senior Girls, Anna Batcheler 3rd.

Long Event: Senior Boys, Sam Carryer 3rd; Intermediate Boys, Tahi Harris 1st, William Wood 2nd.

Relays: Senior Boys, 2nd – Reuben Adye, Oscar Vink, James Milne; Intermediate Boys, 1st – William Wood, Charlie Milne, Tahi Harris; Intermediate Boys, 3rd – Jack Trowsdale, Reuben Bruce, Caleb Green; Senior Girls, 2nd – Charlotte Spence, Anna Batcheler, Ami McGowan.

Mrs Mackinlay-Milne added, "The NZ competition drew the 2024 school orienteering season to a close, and a farewell to a significant number of Year 13 students who have contributed so much to the MAGS orienteering team.

"We thank those Year 13 students for their service to the sport, their mentoring

of younger orienteers and acknowledge their super success over the past five years. A special acknowledgement to Captain Matthew Greenwood, who has been named in the NZ Secondary Team every year of his time at MAGS – five consecutive years."



ROWING

Year 13 students Olivia Tattersfield and Max Jarvie represented New Zealand at the U19 World Rowing Championships in St Catharine's, Canada, with Olivia racing in the quad event and Max in the eight event.

Both of these athletes competed at the highest level of international rowing for the U19 age category, with Max's NZ eight coming fourth in the A Final and Olivia's quad fourth in the B Final.

After a bronze medal in the Girls U17 2- at the National Rowing Secondary Schools 2023, a silver

medal in the Girls U18 2- and a gold medal in the Girls U17 1x at the National Rowing Secondary Schools 2024, Olivia came home with not only the pride of the MAGSROW community, but a trial for and acceptance into the U19 NZ team.

After gaining a bronze medal in the Boys U17 2- at the National Rowing Secondary Schools 2023, a bronze medal in the Boys U18 4+, and a silver medal in the Boys U18 2- at the National Rowing Secondary Schools 2024, Max also secured a trial for and a place in the U19 NZ team.



SWIMMING

The MAGS Swim Team had some great results at the New Zealand Secondary Schools Swimming Championships on July 25-28.

The championships, at the Sir Owen Glenn National Aquatic Centre on the North Shore, featured schools and top swimmers from all around the country.

MAGS sent a team of 22 swimmers that competed in individual events as well as several relay events. The team did a great job with a lot of personal bests swum as well as some great results.

Top results:

Individual

2nd – Kiri Lovatt, Girls 15 years 50m Breaststroke.

Relays

1st – 4x50 Freestyle Girls U16

(Bianca Chan, Kiri Lovatt, Elena-Rhys Uta'i, Macy Hains).

3rd – 4x50 Freestyle Mixed U16

(Connor Webby, Elena-Rhys Uta'i, Haden Stone, Macy Hains).

3rd 4x50 Medley Mixed U16

(Tarquinius Schwalger, Bianca Chan, Connor Webby, Macy Hains).



winter TOURNAMENT WEEK

In Winter Tournament Week results not already mentioned in this sports section, we had four Basketball teams – Premier Boys and Girls, and Junior Boys and Girls – represent MAGS during the week, with the Premier Girls coming fourth in the National Qualifiers and the Premier Boys ninth. In the Junior Premiership, the Girls came third and the Boys sixth.



In the Hockey, our Boys 1st XI finished seventh after losing two penalty shootouts, and the Girls 1st XI finished 13th. The Rugby League 1st XIII finished fifth at NZSS after bouncing back from some early losses. Likewise, the Rugby U15s suffered early losses but finished with three wins to claim ninth place at their Invitational Tournament.

At the Underwater Hockey Nationals, our Senior Open team finished eighth. Theo Bray finished seventh on the Northern



Secondary Schools Cycling Tour.

In NZSS Weightlifting, Minia Prescott came second in the Senior Girls 87 kg category, while in Wrestling, three boys won their categories. They were Aiden Vincent (Junior Boys Under 68kg), Max Shallard (Senior Boys Under 65 kg), and Sean Harding (Senior Boys Under 71 kg). There were also trophies for Aiden Vincent, Most Scientific Junior Wrestler, and Sean Harding, Most Scientific Senior Wrestler. In the 80kg category, Caleb Murphy came 8th.



GYM SPORTS

Three students from MAGS competed in the NZ Secondary School trampoline and Double Mini Trampoline Championships in early August.

In the Junior Men's Division (15-21 age):

Eras Viljoen, pictured left, was 1st in Double Mini Trampoline and 2nd in the Individual Trampoline. Henru Viljoen, centre, was 3rd in both Double Mini Trampoline and Individual Trampoline.

In the Sub-Junior Division (13-14 age):

Janko Viljoen, right, placed 2nd in both Double Mini Trampoline and Individual Trampoline.





MAGS ART Show

The MAGS Art Show was as impressive as ever, thanks to our volunteers, and had sales in excess of \$100,000 over the weekend of August 2-4.

The Art Show Committee, pictured above, said, "Massive thanks from MAGS to all our contributors – the Artists, Sponsors, Volunteers, the Art Show team, Student Performers, and all those others who helped make it happen. And of course to our audience – thanks for coming along and making it such a success. We couldn't do it without you. Hope to see you all again in 2025."

Process from the show will go to the Artist in Residence program at MAGS as well as the proposed new Performing Arts Centre.

As part of the MAGS Art Show, there was some stunning student artwork on show and for sale that was evaluated by various judges.

And the judges' verdicts were:

Senior Painting: 1st Prize: Oli Neary, "That's Not Art - Triptych".

Senior Photography: 1st Prize: Rose Leader, "Edge of the World".

Senior Digital Design: 1st Prize: Milo Henshaw, "Connection".

Top Junior: Ash Norris, "Untitled".

People's Choice Award: Misaki Nakamura, "Omedetou".



ASB MAGS FARM

Lots has happened on farm since the last report.

Labels and packaging for our sheep milk soaps and lotions have been designed by Media Studies students and look great. We are just working through economic printing options with these.

The sunflower paddock has been sprayed out, harrowed, fertilised and planted ready for a stunning display around Xmas/New Year (weather permitting).

Due to poor spring growth, the cattle have been moved on a lot earlier than normal.

The Kiwifruit canopy is looking great, and we should have a very good fruiting season this year.

The ACES students have been coming in twice a week and have planted out the fruit trees so generously donated by Board of Trustees member Greg Moyle. Melena Myles has also been integral in the running of the orchard and horticultural area, and her knowledge of all things "plant and tree" is much appreciated.

The ACES students will also be planting veggie gardens, with the produce from these being used to give back to those in our community who need a hand up.

We have just started harrowing and topping paddocks and spraying with an NPK seaweed fertiliser.

I have a number of students who are very keen on the practical side of farming and who turn up at 6.00am seven days a week! Great commitment and an excellent opportunity to get them involved with skills such as milking, weighing, drenching, vaccinations, B12 shots, hoof treatments, mastitis detection and weaning and feeding of stock.

I also have three farm cadets for a full day every Wednesday; whatever I am doing on farm they are doing, from fencing to spraying.

Deb Crump
Farm Manager

albertains in the news

D'ARCY BROWN

One of our most successful academics, Albertian D'arcy Brown (2015-2018) returned to MAGS to talk about his Scholarship journey at assembly and inspire students to take on the exams.

In his final year, D'arcy was Proxime Accessit (runner-up to Dux) after being first in French, Classics, Economics, English and History in Year 13, and winning the Calder Senior History prize and gaining the John Williamson Scholarship.

D'arcy, who was introduced to the assembly by Deputy Principal Mr Powell, above, entered three scholarship exams, French, Classics, and History, gaining scholarships in History and Classics.

He spent his first year post-high school in France, learning a new language and culture before returning to NZ to pursue an Arts degree, majoring in Philosophy, Politics and

Economics at Victoria University Wellington, graduating last year.

While at Victoria he was Vice President of the Student Volunteer Army in Wellington, awarded a Te Tini a Rehua award as a top Maori undergraduate student, co-taught an inaugural Global Studies program and tutored French.

Last year, after finishing at Victoria, he started working for All Good, a social enterprise in New Zealand giving back to communities in Ecuador, through investment in schools, female-led businesses and fair wages for banana farmers. He's currently a candidate for a Rhodes Scholarship, which allows students to study at Oxford University.

D'arcy spoke about how sitting the Scholarship exams was not just about achievement but also about the lifetime

benefits of aiming high, taking on challenges and being disciplined in the pursuit of your goals.



PORTIA WOODMAN-WICKLIFFE

Albertian Portia Woodman-Wickliffe (2005-09) has signed off on a glittering international rugby career with gold for the Black Ferns Sevens at the Paris Olympics in July.

The Black Ferns defeated Canada 19-12 in the final to claim gold at the Games, which Portia had already

announced would be her last campaign for the Black Ferns.

Portia, of Ngapuhi descent, has been a record-breaking try-scorer for the Black Ferns and had already won gold in the Sevens at Tokyo 2020.

In her Black Ferns XV's and Sevens career, which began in 2013, she has won World Cups twice in each format as well as Commonwealth gold in the Sevens.

FOOTBALL FERNS

Congratulations to the four Albertians who were named in the Football Ferns squad for the Paris Olympics.

Forwards Milly Clegg, Jacqui Hand and Grace Jale, and midfielder Malia Steinmetz were part of the 18-strong squad that had close losses to hosts France, Canada and Colombia, and exited the tournament at the group stage.

They had also been part of the Football Ferns squad for the Women's World Cup, hosted by New Zealand and Australia.

Malia Steinmetz, pictured at top left in the squad photo, is playing for Danish club Nordsjælland in the top Danish women's league, Jacqui Hand (No. 16) is playing for Sheffield United in the English Women's Championship, Grace Jale (No. 18) is



playing for the Wellington Phoenix in the A League, and Milly Clegg is playing for Racing

Louisville in the National Women's Soccer League in the United States.

ALBERTIAN OF THE year



JOHN STRADWICK

Our former Deputy Principal John Stradwick was named Albertian of the Year 2024 for 'Leadership and Service to Education'.

Mr Stradwick, who has been appointed Principal of Cashmere High School in Christchurch, was acknowledged at the Year 13 Assembly on September 25 and at Staff Briefing on September 27.

Mr Stradwick was Head Prefect at MAGS in 1993 and rejoined the School in 2018 as Deputy Principal from Ormiston Junior College, where he was Deputy Principal.

He and his wife Anna had lived in Mt Albert with their three sons, two of whom were attending MAGS before their move south.

At the assembly, Headmaster Mr Drumm said Mr Stradwick's contribution to our school and students over the past six years has been very significant.

Among his many responsibilities, Mr Stradwick oversaw Year 13, the Prefects group and student leadership, led curriculum, was involved in the school's strategic plan, and oversaw the Arts Faculty and professional learning for teachers. He had also coached football and cricket, as well as supporting the numerous service programmes that so many staff and students are involved in.

Mr Drumm said, "We often talk about the importance of you as students being involved right across our MAGS Pillars. But this is also important for our staff – and Mr Stradwick has modelled that in every way.

"He has led the Curriculum area of the school working with all of the Heads of

Faculties.

"He has also managed a number of sports teams, including the 1st XV Rugby this year. Mr Stradwick recently travelled to Wellington as manager of the Centennial Choir as they won Gold at the National Finale.

"He has redesigned our student leadership programme with a real focus on growing leadership right across the school – and a big part of that has been looking after the Prefects group."

Before the Albertian of the Year salver was presented to Mr Stradwick at assembly by Albertian and MAGS Foundation member Dale Griffiths, pictured ????, Mr Drumm said, "On behalf of all of our MAGS community, I thank Mr Stradwick for what he has done for our school. You leave our school in great heart and we wish you all the best with your new adventure at Cashmere."

The Centennial Choir then sang a humorous song about and for Mr Stradwick to the tune of Edelweiss, and students performed a haka for him.

At Staff Briefing, Mr Gibbs, pictured ???, presented the Albertian of the Year salver to Mr Stradwick in front of staff, and reminisced about being his German teacher back in the 1990s.

Mr Gibbs said, "To me he is still the small enthusiastic boy with a shock of blonde hair. He moved from third stream to second stream to first stream in succeeding years. His reports speak of his gift of the gab. Sixth Form accounting: "It was with his sense of humour and excellent communication skills that he impressed me most". A bit of a backhander. From PE: "John always

has a lot to say but I have no complaints about his attitude". Seventh Form History: "John approaches the subject with good-humoured easiness".

Mr Gibbs added: "He is an honest man, a truthful man, and a decent man. He is a man bubbling with ideas: he brought us mentoring, for which I have only just forgiven him."

Mr Stradwick thanked everyone for their generous words but said he felt like he was just getting started and the Albertian of the Year award was "more a vote of confidence for my future endeavours in education".

He said his time at MAGS highlighted how dedicated and compassionate staff made a difference to students' lives every day.

"It's the people—the highly skilled, passionate, dedicated staff—who truly define what Mount Albert Grammar is all about.

"Great expert teachers, highly skilled coaches, and excellent support staff. It's impossible to get outstanding outcomes with average adults."

He added, "I have been incredibly fortunate to work here at MAGS, a leading school in the country. I am proud of how MAGS fosters a sense of belonging for everyone in our large community. Opportunities to lead, contribute and grow are woven into the fabric of our school, and I encourage everyone to get involved and push yourselves to the next level. While I am excited about the new opportunities ahead, I will deeply miss the people and the vibrant environment that make MAGS so special."



Newton Wickham, at centre, in the North African desert.

FROM THE ARCHIVES:

MORE THAN JUST A CHAIR

Most of us do not enjoy a visit to the dentist but at least we can be sure that we will not be treated in a World War II folding army field dentist's chair.

This chair is part of the school archives and belonged to Newton Wickham (aka 'Wicky'), who used it extensively in the North African campaign and the Italian campaign.

Wicky was born in Stratford in 1917 and attended Mount Albert Grammar School from 1931 to 1934. He went through the school in the "A" stream, passed University Entrance in 1933, and in 1934 gained a pass in the Scholarship exam.

He was involved in a variety of activities in the school but was a particularly good hockey player and played for the first XI in his last two years at school. After leaving school he studied dentistry and graduated in 1939. During his studies he also represented Otago University College in hockey.

At the outbreak of war in 1939, Wicky was practising as a dental surgeon at Wellington Hospital.

He joined the army medical corps as a First Lieutenant in 1940 and treated troops at Burnham Military camp prior to them going overseas.

In September 1940 he left for the Middle East as a Dental Corps Officer. He served throughout the North African Campaign (1940 to 1943) and was promoted to Captain and later Major.

His dental truck (see illustration and pictures) was developed into a full dental unit which operated very close to the front line.

Besides ordinary dental cases Wicky had to deal with facial battle wounds. On one



Newton Wickham at MAGS in 2009 when he was inducted into the Hall of Distinction.



Newton Wickham set up a trust to fund the Junior Dux awards at the annual prizegiving. Last years' recipients were Alodia Ke and Joshua Radcliffe.

occasion, after being separated from his unit, he brought 24 men and four trucks back to safety. For this he was mentioned in dispatches.

The New Zealand troops were transferred to Italy in late 1943 and Wicky continued his work until the end of the war in May 1945. He then went to England where he treated prisoners of war released from Germany.

Wartime Decorations

1939-1945 Star
Africa Star
Italy Star
Defence Medal
War Medal 1939-1945 with oak leaf
New Zealand War Service Medal

Postwar

Wicky studied at the University of Toronto where he graduated Doctor of Dental Surgery. He returned to New Zealand and set up practice as the country's first practising periodontist, also continuing research and development of dental devices. In 1983 he was made a Commander of the British Empire, CBE, for services to dentistry. He was also Colonel Commander of the Territorial Royal New Zealand Dental Corps.

Newton Wickham was a man of high moral principles and a philanthropist.

He was an active campaigner against smoking, worked as a volunteer dentist in villages throughout the South Pacific and Indo-China, and was Honorary Vice Consul for Brazil for nine years.



KEY DATES 2025

24 January
Friday
Senior Course Confirmation
(10.30am-12pm)

27 January
Monday
Auckland Anniversary holiday

TERM 1

30 January
Thursday
Year 9 students only start school

31 January
Friday
Full school in

6 February
Thursday
Waitangi Day holiday

10 April
Thursday
Last day of classes for Term 1

11 April
Friday
Staff Only Administration Day
End of Term 1

18 April
Friday
Good Friday

21 April
Monday
Easter Monday

25 April
Thursday
Anzac Day

TERM 2

28 April
Monday
Start of Term 2

2 June
Monday
King's Birthday holiday

20 June
Friday
Matariki holiday

26 June
Thursday
Last day of classes for Term 2

27 June
Friday
Staff Only Administration Day
End of Term 2

TERM 3

14 July
Monday
Start of Term 3

18 September
Thursday
Last day of classes for Term 3

19 September
Friday
Staff Only Administration Day
End of Term 3

TERM 4

6 October
Monday
Start of Term 4

27 October
Monday
Labour Day holiday

3 December
Wednesday
Junior Prizegivings

2025 PUBLIC HOLIDAYS

27 January
Monday
Auckland Anniversary Day

6 February
Thursday
Waitangi Day

18 April
Friday
Good Friday

21 April
Monday
Easter Monday

25 April
Friday
Anzac Day

2 June
Monday
King's Birthday

20 June
Friday
Matariki

27 October
Monday
Labour Day

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

Lions of 2024

FAREWELL AND GOOD LUCK TO OUR YEAR 13 STUDENTS



GREAT SMILES START HERE!

..... X



Want a
straighter
smile?



..... X

Call us on 0800 ALL SMILES
to book an Orthodontic consultation

www.allsmiles.co.nz

