



Whangarei Girls' High School

November 2016



Rebeca McKean and Mihi Shepherd—2016 WGHS joint Dux



Dear Parents / Caregivers

Tena koutou katoa

I can hardly believe that this is the last newsletter for 2016. It seems hardly any time at all that we were operating out of the library, while awaiting the completion of the building renovations. So much has happened this year with ERO, new classrooms, a new Year Nine programme, change to a five day timetable, the implementation of Timatanga, introduction of the Work Day Scholarships and so the list goes on.

We have a number of staff leaving at the end of this term; some of them are long serving staff and some will not be returning from leave. We will miss them and wish them all the best for the future.

Suzanne Atkins is the longest serving staff member leaving this year. She has been on leave all this year and has now decided to make it permanent. As Head of Languages, her passion for the German language has always been evident and she has taken great pride in her students who have been awarded scholarships for exchanges to Germany and achieved high scores in the Language Perfect Competition. Suzanne was one of the early adopters of technology to enhance the teaching and learning in languages and used it to great effect in her classroom. Her vast experience and knowledge will be a loss for us and she will be missed very much.

We are thrilled for Deputy Principal, Doreen Bailey, who is moving north to take up the role of Principal at Taipa Area School. We thank her for all the valuable work she has done during her time at Whangarei Girls' High School, particularly her work with Maori students and we know she will do a great job at Taipa.

Marilyn Andrews who is on leave this year (but has been back to help us out on several occasions) will not be returning to fulltime work but we hope very much to see her often in a relieving capacity. Her experience and commitment to her students will be very much missed.

Amy Groome has also been on leave for much of the second half year and she has decided to stay in Nelson and enjoy the change. She will be greatly missed by us all.

Cala Rentoul is retiring at the end of this year, although we look forward to seeing her often as a daily reliever. She has been Head of Chemistry and Lab Manager and her superior knowledge and kindness to so many, in so many different ways, will be very much missed.

Ashleigh Young has only been with us for the last two years but has made a great impact in that short time. As our first Far Net teacher, Ashleigh has brought her own special brand to WGHS and we have enjoyed having her on our staff.

Another teacher who has been with us only a short while is Lucy de Pass. Not only is she a dynamic teacher in the

classroom, she has been invaluable in taking charge of hockey in the school and we wish her all the best for her overseas travels.

Jess Collins has been on leave this year and sadly has decided not to return. Although we will miss her greatly in the Drama Department, we will still have links with her in her new role at Northland Youth Theatre.

After two years on maternity leave, we will be farewelling Lysa Stewart at the end of this year as she has resigned from her position as Head of Sport, Manaia House Dean and Physical Education teacher and we wish her all the very best with her move to Kamo High School next year to take up a Senior Dean's position.

Kate Simeonides has also been on extended maternity leave and has now made the decision not to return to her position in the Art and Technology Departments. We wish her all the best as she spends time with her precious family.

Liz Gow has been working part time in the Guidance Department and will be greatly missed by the many students she has been working closely with. We wish her all the best as she pursues areas of interest in her work which are close to her heart.

We thank all these staff so much, as each and every one of them has made a significant contribution to Whangarei Girls' High School and we wish them all the very best for their futures.

As always with every downside, there is always a silver lining and opportunity and we warmly welcome new staff to our school.

Kim Rogers was welcomed with a powhiri last week when Kerikeri High School came to hand her over to us as our new Deputy Principal. She is quickly finding her way around and getting to know members of our school community. Mrs Rogers will be the Deputy Principal with responsibility for the incoming Year Nine cohort. We are thrilled to have her in our Senior Leadership Team.

Other new staff who have been appointed for next year include:

Megan Blundell – Guidance Counsellor. Megan has worked briefly in our school before and is coming to us from Te Roopu Kimiora

Amanda Yovich will be in the English Department, and is coming from Whangarei Boys' High School

Tom Cull will be teaching Physics and Science and is coming from Pakuranga College

Sheridan Mellor joins the Art Department and is coming from Tikipunga High School

Andrea Beazley will be starting part time in the Technology and Art departments and will be fulltime later in the year

We are delighted with the high calibre of our new appointments and warmly welcome them to Whangarei

Girls' High School for 2017.

Our students continue to achieve outstanding results in a wide range of areas and I am continually impressed at the depth and quality of their talent and confidence.

We were delighted to learn that Aria Zhang, Grace Elliott, Mihi Shepherd and Rebeca McKean were well rewarded for a Saturday spent in the library as part of a national competition, by being announced as the Runner-Up in New Zealand's Top Engineering Scientist Competition. They were awarded \$2000 in prize money and professor Rosalind Archer from University of Auckland came to senior prizegiving to present them with their prizes.

At our last whole school assembly for the year, Elite Colours were awarded to the following students:

Elite Academic Colours:

Soraya Hurrell and Mihi Shepherd – top in New Zealand in their respective age groups (Year Nine and Year 13) for the ICAS Writing Competition. They will receive medals at a special ceremony in early December.

Elite Service Colours:

Brianna Cossey, Pattina Halliday, Martina Whitaker, Ellen Wiggins – outstanding catering throughout the year for special occasions and functions and numerous events

Elite Sports Colours

Chloe Campbell – NZSS Gymsports Championships – 1st overall in Elite Women's Tumbling

Jaimee Mason – NZSS Gymsports Championships – 1st overall in competitive Level 5 Aerobics U15 division

Maia Prochazka – NZSS Gymsports Championships – 1st overall in A Grade Tumbling category

Genie Blasingame, Michelle Crawford, Holly Fleming, Heidyn Harrison, Jane Heapy, Gemma Lawton, Courtney Stoddart – WGHS Gymsports team who placed 2nd in Group performance category in NZSS Championships

Fern Manning -2016 Steel Challenge Speed Shooting National - 1st in junior age category and also won Rookie of the Year

Brylee Chapman, MacKenzie Johnson, Tia Saunders, Iyra Stewart, Gemma Turketo – WGHS Squash Team which placed 2nd at NZSS Squash Championships

Paige Lawgun – national Weightlifting Championships – 1st in over 15 years female 53kg weight class

Senior prizegiving was held two weeks ago and so many students are to be congratulated on their hard work and great success. Scholarships from: NZ School of Tourism, Northland A & P Trust, Weston Sisters, New World, Poolman Hookings Trust, Massey University, Waikato University, Victoria University, Otago University and University of Auckland were awarded and these will help ease the financial pressure they will be facing in their first year of tertiary study next year.

Special congratulations to our joint duxes, Rebeca McKean and Mihi Shepherd who simply could not be separated in their impressive academic achievements. Close behind them was Proxime Accessit, Brooke Soulsby. Congratulations must also go to Hiromi Beran and Tess Bevis who were the top academic students in Years 12 and 11 respectively.

You may remember from a previous newsletter that we were reviewing the changes to our timetable this year. We have now completed that review and will be moving back to a six day timetable next year. The main reasons for the change back are to regain the flexibility that a six day timetable gives us, to minimise the number of classes which share more than one teacher and to increase the amount of contact time. In the junior school all subjects have equal time allocation over two years and there will be no early finish on a Tuesday afternoon. School will begin at 8.45am every day and finish at 3.20 every day. Every day will begin at 8.45am with a ten minute whanau time which it is important for students to attend. On Tuesdays and Thursdays there will be a thirty minute whanau time. We will review this again later in 2017.

The timetable structure is shown on the following page.

:
2017 DAILY SCHEDULE

	Mon, Wed, Fri		Tues, Thurs
Whanau	8.45 - 8.55		8.45 - 8.55
Period 1	8.55 - 9.55		8.55 - 9.55
Period 2	9.55 - 10.55		9.55 - 10.55
Interval/ First break	10.55 - 11.20		10.55 - 11.20
Period 3	11.20 - 12.20		11.20 - 12.20
Period 4	12.20 - 1.20		12.20 - 1.20
Lunch/2 nd break	1.20 - 2.20		1.20 - 1.50
Whanau			1.50 - 2.20
Period 5	2.20 - 3.20		2.20 - 3.20

Although only three weeks remain for this year, there is still a great deal happening during that time. Planning is well underway for CREATE which is happening with all Year 9 and 10 students. Please encourage your daughter to embrace the huge learning which will come from these chaotic but exciting and challenging few days. As with everything she will get out of it what she puts into it. You are all invited to the market day on 8 December and we strongly urge you to come ready to be "wowed" by what these students have produced and to support them by purchasing their wares.

Year 10 students are heading off to camp very soon and again, please encourage your daughter to go on her camp. The personal growth, friendships and opportunity for new experiences will be a highlight of High School for these students.

Planning for Graduation Dinner, Junior Prizegiving, Document Day and for 2017 are all well underway.

Starting dates for next year have now been finalised and are as follows:

31 January Teacher Only Day
1 February Year 13 camp begins
2 February Year 11, 12 return
3 February Year 10 returns
7 February Year 9 and 13 students
8 February Whole school returns. Powhiri to welcome new students and staff and whole school assembly

If you have been past the school recently, you will have noticed activity on the site of the new building. Our historic old house has been relocated to its new home at Hukerenui and the Student Support Centre and adjacent classroom have been demolished to make way for the commencement of the new block. The Student Support Centre is temporarily located in a new portable building opposite the Canteen and the new weights room is nearing completion. It is exciting to know that after all this time that it is actually happening and our Art, Commerce and Student Support will be working out of wonderful new facilities from the start of 2018.

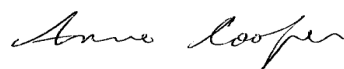
We thank all of you for your constant support in so many ways this year and hope you all enjoy a wonderful summer break and Christmas and New Year celebrations.

To our Year 13 students and students from other levels who are not returning next year, we wish you all the very best for your exciting futures and look forward to hearing of your progress. We look forward to seeing everyone else back next year.

Nga mihi nui

Noho ora mai

Anne Cooper



Anne Cooper
Principal

Head and Deputy Head Girls

It's so scary to think that this is the last article we will ever write for the WGHS Newsletter! This year has absolutely flown by - it feels like just yesterday we were gaining our first Level 3 credits and being thrown in the deep end, running our first whole school assembly! Being Head Girls this year has been such a once in a lifetime experience. It has provided us with the resources needed to form connections with so many girls throughout the school, and we have been completely blown away by the amount of support we have received in achieving our goals and aspirations.

Working alongside Mrs Cooper this year has been such a privilege, and we wish to acknowledge all of her support and guidance. Mrs Cooper surpasses all criteria for a principal - taking students' needs on board and epitomising a caring and conscientious leader. Her support for all of our initiatives, as well as her continuing interest and support of our academic lives has shown us, by example, that the best leaders are those who take those small steps, through the goodness of their hearts, to ensure the happiness and success of others.

This year, undeniably, has been a massive learning curve, and a bit of a rollercoaster at times, but there's no denying that we've made it out in one piece!! We couldn't be more proud to have held this position within a school filled with so much spirit, heart and talent. Every girl with whom we have crossed paths has truly inspired us, and we have no doubt that with the amazing calibre of Year 12 students applying for the position of Head and Deputy Head Girl, the future of Whangarei Girls' High is in the very best of hands. When we return to Girls' High in years to come, we just know that the passion and commitment to excellence which shines within the walls of our school will only have brightened, and we feel so privileged to have had the opportunity to leave a small legacy behind. Te Timatanga is well established in our everyday school lives- celebrating our cultural diversity and providing a burst of positivity to each new day. We feel so grateful to be able to hand out the very first round of Work Day Scholarships at the Term 4 Whole School Assembly- to be able to help out such a range of students who are in need of support is a chance we have grasped with both hands. We wish the scholarship recipients all the best - your applications were outstanding.

As Winnie the Pooh said, "How Lucky am I to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard." As our time as students of Whangarei Girls' High draws to an end, we reflect upon what will quite possibly be the best years of our lives. Making it through High School has been a challenge at times, but as we head out into the big wide world we cannot help but feel that we have the best foundations. The next

couple of weeks will undoubtedly be filled with many tears and heavy hearts, but as we say goodbye we can truthfully say that Whangarei Girls' High is the best school we could ever have wished to attend.

Nga mihi,

Head and Deputy Head Girls

Justice Hetaraka Mihi Shepherd

Jessica Fowler Dani Kirby



Senior Prizegiving November 2016

English Department Corner

We are drawing towards the end of a very busy year in the English Department. We have recently said goodbye to our senior students, and wished them well for their external examinations. I have been very impressed to see the number of practice essays being emailed through for feedback. This shows me that the seniors are taking their examinations seriously, and are still looking for ways to improve their writing. Thanks to all the teachers who have been giving timely and useful feedback to the senior students.

Congratulations to Dani Kirby, Deputy Head Girl, who won the recent Rotary Speech Competition. Her speech was based on the humanitarian aid work conducted by her grandfather. She spoke stirringly about our need, as humans, to work towards united goals, and selflessly contribute to making the world a better place. Dani won \$1000 to go towards her future studies.

Congratulations, too, to our junior Tuku Korero Speech Competition participants and winners. Thanks must go to Mrs Cooper and Mr Dean who gave up their valuable time to adjudicate the competition, held in the Hall Theatre on Friday 4 November. Their job was an unenviable one, as the standard of the speakers was so high. Year 9 joint winners were Soraya Hurrell and Sophie Saweirs. Third place in Year 9 went to Lexi Laybourne. The Year 10 winner was Pippa Saunders. Well done to the Year 9 winners who jointly won the Junior Speech Trophy. This will be awarded at the Junior Prizegiving in December. Special thanks to Mrs Jackson and Mrs Topper who organised the competition.

On Saturday 3 December, Soraya Hurrell (Year 9) and Mihi Shepherd (Year 13) will be presented with their medals as national winners of their respective year levels in the ICAS Writing assessment, held in June. They will be presented with their medals at a ceremony to be held at The University of Auckland. Well done, girls! This is an amazing achievement, and it is wonderful to have two winners from our school.

Well done to all of our students who have taken up opportunities throughout the year. The department coordinates a number of competitions throughout the year, and it is heartening to see that there is so much interest from students in challenging themselves beyond their classroom programmes in English.

Before signing off for 2016, I would like to just make a plea for the return of any of our text

books. We welcome back all of our books, no questions asked!

Nga mihi,

Marg Northey
HOD English

Media Studies

Congratulations to **Brenna Ahrens and Dharja Ward** for their winning entry KEEP CALM AND GUARD ON which won the Schools Documentary section in this year's Northland Short Film Competition on Sunday 30 October. Their film portrays the typical seasonal activities of volunteer life guards at the Ruakaka Surf club on any weekend and features students from various schools in the area, at work and at play.

Brenna was particularly keen that students viewing the film see "the fun side of being a guard" and wanted to demystify any stereotypes people might have about fitness levels, body image etc required in becoming a guard, and hoped their film would encourage other students to get involved in their local surf club.

Brenna and Dharja started filming in April using school supplied cameras – including the Go-Pro bought last year from funds provided by the PTA – and edited it over several weeks as part of their major production assignment for Year 13 Media Studies.

The judges commented on their quality footage, clever match of action shots to their lively soundtrack that worked strongly to support the ideas contained in their short film. They were presented with \$500 from the Dargaville Community Cinema Trust and have plans to enter their film into the national DocEdge Film Competition.

Our department is very proud of their achievement and hope that many of you can see it and give them the loud and long applause they so deserve.

Bridget O'Rourke
HOD Media Studies



Breanna Ahrens & Dharia Ward after receiving their Cultural Awards at the WGHS Cultural Awards Evening.



Photos from the WGHS Senior Prizegiving—November 2016



Science Corner



New Zealand's Next Top Engineering Competition

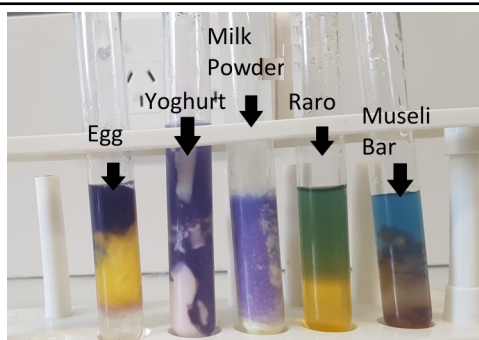
Congratulations to Grace Elliot, Rebeca McKean, Aria Zhang and Mihi Shepherd who came runner up in the New Zealand's Next Top Engineering Scientist Competition run by the Engineering Faculty at the University of Auckland. Professor Rosalind Archer from Auckland University presented the girls with their trophy at Senior Prize giving. It is pleasing to see our young women achieving so well in a male dominated domain.



As a Science Department we want to say a very big thank you to Mrs Rentoul for her dedication and enthusiasm she has given to her students, especially in Chemistry, over the last 26 years. We wish her all the very best for her retirement. The picture above is of Mrs Rentoul presenting to Mihi Shepherd, our top Year 13 Science student at prize giving.

Year 9 Food Testing

Results for protein testing of different foods.



Year 13 Zoo Trip

12 Environmental Science Trip

On 19th September our 12 Environmental Science class went on a geological exploration of the Whangarei area. They explored the different rock types in the area and the erosional impacts that have led to the current formations. We left school at 7.30am heading to Hikurangi, where we did the 20 minute loop track around Waro reserve, stopping to collect information from the information boards scattered along the walk. Then we visited Lake Waro, learnt about the history of the lake and the connection with limestone. After a stop at Whangarei Falls to look at this basalt landform, we travelled to Onerahi, where the focus was on basalt, sandstone and limestone. The next stop was to look at greywacke and basalt at Parua Bay. Around the corner at McLeod Bay we looked at the andesite of Mt Aubrey and Mt Manaia. At Taurikura Bay we explored the natural jetty, looking at the andesite and the erosion of limestone. Then to Ocean Beach for lunch, where we also looked at more andesite. After lunch we were off to Dyke Bay at North Ocean Beach, where we saw greywacke, limestone, basalt and sandstone. Lastly we headed across to Patua South to look at the roadside quarry of Chert before heading back to school via the Parahaki lookout. It highlighted the diversity that our region has in terms of geology. A great day was had by all.

On the 21st of September, our Year 13 Biology students had the opportunity to visit Auckland Zoo. The purpose of this trip was to attend lectures on human evaluation and speciation to support our students' understanding of these concepts for their upcoming external examinations.



HOMESTAYS REQUIRED

Next year we are hosting a group of 60 students from Shinwa Girls' High School in Japan.

The group is here from 18 March until 4 April 2017.

If you have an interest in hosting international students, enjoy learning about the Japanese culture and have a spare bedroom in your home I would love to hear from you.



Please contact me on email:
jill.brien@wghs.school.nz

Homestay Manager Whangarei Girls' High School.

PTA 2nd HAND UNIFORM SALE

PTA will be organising a 2nd Hand Uniform sale in mid January 2017. Further information on this sale will be on the WGHS web site.

If you would like to donate any WGHS uniforms to the PTA we gratefully accept all donated goods—please leave at the WGHS office.

INFO FOR SENIORS

Textbook Returns

All textbooks should have been returned by now, except for those that your teachers have allowed you to keep until after your exams. **Please bring those textbooks with you to the exam** and leave them in the box on the Hall Theatre terrace before your exam.

Document morning

Document morning is being held on Tuesday 13th December from 9.00 – 12.00pm. Once you have your signoff form completely signed you may collect your school magazine from the main office.

If you still have books outstanding, including library books, they must be returned before you are able to collect your school magazine.

Derived Grades

If you are very sick, have an accident or a bereavement in the family and are unable to sit your external examination for NCEA you must collect a derived grade application form from Neddy or the main office. In the case of sickness or accident this form must then be taken to the doctor as he/she has to fill this in for you.

Please check your NCEA information sheets very carefully to see if you are eligible for bereavement derived grade. Derived grade forms must be filled in and returned to school to Mrs Martin asap but definitely **before the 2nd of December**.

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Email: youth@tucker.co.nz

We will be calling for expressions of interest Term 1, 2017 for Voyages on the R Tucker Thompson. Check out the web site and look out for information early 2017. There will be voyages running from Term 1 school holidays throughout the year.

School Calendar

Nov

21	CREATE planning day
22-24	Market Place
22	Supporters Function
23-25	Year 10 Camp 1
24	NZ Jnr Beach Volleyball
28-30	Year 10 Camp 2
29	Beach Volleyball Yrs 9-10
30-Dec 2	Year 10 Camp 3

Dec

1-4	NZ Athletics
1	Music Concert
4-9	Get 2 Go Final
5	Graduation Dinner
7	CREATE—make and sell
7	National YES Awards WGTN
7	NZ Girls Cricket
12	Junior Prizegiving
12	Reports Issued
13	Document morning
13	End of Term 4

stowaway Lockers



LOCKERS

Be in quick – limited lockers available

If you wish to reserve a locker for 2017 or keep your current locker, you will need to fill in an online order form at www.stowawaylockers.co.nz as soon as possible.

If you no longer require your locker for 2017, please let us know by email stowawaylockers@ihug.co.nz. You will need to return your key at the end of the term, sellotaped to a piece of paper with your details on for your bond refund. Ensure the locker is left empty, as any remaining items will be disposed of at the end of the year. Keys will need to be received within one week of term 4 ending and can be posted to: Stowaway Lockers, 220 Ngunguru Road, RD3, Whangarei 0173. Refunds will be posted or direct credited to your bank account in January 2017.

- Shop Your Way - online, in-store, by phone or simply download a copy of the class list requirements for your child
- Price Match Promise - find a lower price and we'll match it^A
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