



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 10 (July) 2022

### TERM DATES

- Term 3** Monday 25 July to  
Friday 30 September
- Term 4** Monday 17 October  
to Friday 9 December

### COMING EVENTS

**Monday 25 July**  
First day Term 3

**Wednesday 27 July**  
Tu Tagata Festival  
Parents' Association Meeting at 7.30pm in  
the staffroom

**Monday 1 August**  
Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi  
meeting at 6.30pm in the staffroom

**Monday 8 August**  
Subject selection handbooks for 2023  
distributed

**Thursday 11 August**  
Board of Trustees' Meeting at 6pm in the  
staffroom

**Monday 22 to Friday 26 August**  
Subject selection week for 2023

**Monday 29 August to Friday 2 September**  
Winter tournament week

### 2023 TERM DATES

- Term 1** Monday 30 January to  
Thursday 6 April
- Term 2** Monday 24 April to Friday 30  
June
- Term 3** Monday 17 July to Friday 22  
September
- Term 4** Monday 9 October to  
Friday 8 December

Friday 8 July is the last day of Term 2, marking the half-way stage of the 2022 school year. Once again it has been a busy and productive term with many highlights but equally full of disruptions due to illness and the need for isolation. I would like to thank our students and all those members of the school community

who have worked so effectively to make this term so successful.

### STAFF CHANGES

Friday 17 June marked the last day at Rongotai College for **Mrs Ainsley Rawlings**. Mrs Rawlings resigned to take a promotion as Assistant Principal at Queen Margaret's College. We wish her well.

We welcome **Ms Alyss Sturgeon** to Rongotai College from the start of Term 3 to teach Geography and Social Studies.

With Ms Rawlings' departure, **Ms Michaela Smith** has been appointed as Year 9 Dean from the start of Term 3.

Best wishes to **Ms Martina Byrne** who left Rongotai College to return to Ireland today. Ms Byrne will be replaced by **Mr Simon Romijn**. **Mr Nick Tully** is rejoining our staff on a part-time basis.



## ACADEMIC NEWS

### REPORTS

Included with this newsletter are further reports on your son's progress.

Reports can be viewed on the parent portal and have been emailed as well.

### SUBJECT SELECTION

An important event early in Term 3 is Subject Selection. Your son will receive his **Subject Selection Handbook** on 8 August. He will subsequently make subject choices for next year. This early notification of his intentions is necessary so that we can begin planning timetable and staffing needs for the coming year.

Boys will be asked to list the subjects they want to study in 2023 by 26 August. This will be done on-line via the student portal to make this more straight-forward. We will give you more information regarding this in the next newsletter. We will follow-up the subject selection process by notifying you of your son's choices.

Students are encouraged to speak to teachers, family and friends about career choices and academic courses. They can access more information by visiting the Careers Office or contacting our Careers Teacher, Ms Wilson.

Ms Wilson is happy to follow up your enquiry with information which specifically targets your questions. You can reach Ms Wilson at her email address: [virginia.wilson@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:virginia.wilson@rongotai.school.nz).

In the meantime, if you have any immediate concerns about your son's schoolwork, please contact the appropriate year level dean via email. The deans are:

- Year 9 Ms Michaela Smith
- Year 10 Mr Pemerika Leiataua
- Year 11 Ms Anne Brailsford
- Year 12 Ms Esmee McAuley
- Year 13 Mr Phil Sparks

### ENROLMENTS 2023

Earlier this term, we began our enrolment process with the annual Rongotai Experience and Open Evening. Open Evening was an extremely successful event, with the hall full of parents and their sons. I have had positive feedback from families who attended, with comments about the attitude and manner of the students who guided them, and the engaging manner of the staff and their passion for the school. I would like to publicly thank the boys who volunteered to help at both the Rongotai Experience and the Open Evening – you are our best advertisement.

To date our enrolments for 2023 are encouraging and we will be organising enrolment interviews starting in August. If you have friends who are intending to send their son to Rongotai College next year and have not yet enrolled, please ask them to do so promptly in order to be part of this.



## CULTURAL NEWS

### SHAVE FOR A CURE!

A group of boys have supported the 'Shave for a Cure' campaign, with several having their head shaved at assembly on the last day of term. Their pledge is to help raise money to remember loved ones and support cancer patients. They want to help find more effective treatments to save lives and make sure people with cancer get the support they need to get through. Their goal was to raise \$5,000 and, at the time of writing this newsletter, they have already achieved much more!

If you would like to donate, please go to:

<https://shaveforacure.co.nz/rongotai/shaveforacure>

### RC BIG BAND

Members of the Rongotai College Big Band attended the national youth jazz competition as part of NZ's highest profile jazz festival at Tauranga. Our band entries (The Rongotai College Big Band and DoL Combo) won gold in their categories. Congratulations!



Two weeks before the Tauranga event, the big band and three of our combos (small jazz groups) attended the Manawatu Jazz Festival Youth Competition in Palmerston North, coming home with two category awards: **LIAM GEORGE** for best trombone and **TIMOTHY HONISS**,

**REX MORE** and **ISH NIGHTINGALE** who won the special judges commendation trophy for creative excellence with their 'Spiky Beans' combo.

A highlight of the festival for the boys was having Rodger Fox (NZ's high-profile jazz musician and national legend) directing the big band at the competition after Mr Crayford contracted COVID and was unable to attend.

Congratulations to all involved and especially to Mr Crayford for all the hard work getting the boys to this level.



## SPORTS NEWS

Term 2 has been another busy one for sport with rugby, football, hockey, basketball, table tennis, badminton all involved in weekly competitions in and around Wellington. Students have also competed admirably in cross country and swimming events across the Wellington region.

### CROSS COUNTRY

Congratulations to **DESMOND REDDY** (Year 9) who recently won the New Zealand Under-14 Secondary Schools' Cross Country in Nelson.



Desmond then followed it up the next day with a win representing Wellington in the team relays.

### FOOTBALL

The 1st XI have secured a place in the Lotto Premiership and are working their way into the Top 4 of the College Sport Premiership. This year we have 9 teams - 5 Senior and 4 Junior teams. It has been great to see the *Blue Black Yellow* spread across the football fields with our new box goals looking great.

### HOCKEY

The 1st XI has secured a place in the Top 4 for the first time in four years after beating HVHS 4-0. They have also secured a spot at the Rankin Cup which is the elite Secondary Schools' Hockey tournament. Recently captain **SUNEEL PATEL** become the first capped Rongotai Hockey player after playing his 100th game.

### RUGBY

The 1st XV currently sit 6th only being one win away from the Top 4. All our teams have been having a great run this season with a notable victory to secure the The Heron Cup with a magical last minute win over Wellington College.



It is pleasing to see great support on the sidelines throughout all sports and grades. This support does not go unnoticed. **Thank you** and we look forward to your support for the rest of the season.

### SWIMMING

A 9-strong team of swimmers represented Rongotai at the CSW Individual swim champs at the Huia Pools in Lower Hutt. It was a great day with many of our swimmers experiencing their first secondary school event. Some PBs and solid performances were highlight by:

**ELLIOT BROWN** winning gold in the Over 15 100m Freestyle, **ETHAN BUCHANAN** achieved bronze in the Over 15 200m Freestyle and **THOMAS WADDINGTON** also achieved bronze in the Over 15 50m Breaststroke - awesome work!

### TRAINING AND MATCHES

Remember that when you sign up to a sport team you are signing on your commitment to the team.

We have had a number of defaults and players not turning up to trainings and matches which makes the job tougher for our coaches but also your teammates. Commitment is an attribute you develop in sport which will help you in life – parents please help your son honour this with his team.

### FUNDING AND GRANTS

Not only have we had a busy time on the field but we have been working tirelessly off it. Thanks to Nadine Coulter who has been working with the Sports Department. We have been fortunate to secure a series of grants from the Infinity Foundation resulting new goal-keeping equipment and training balls for the 1st XI hockey team; training and match balls for football and rugby and a set of handball goals which will arrive shortly.

### DRAWNS AND RESULTS

As always the latest Sports Draws can be found on the noticeboard outside the Sports Office but for all the latest information please download the College Sport app. It is a free app and is the best source for all the draw information you need – download it now!

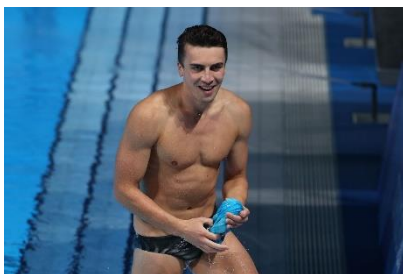
### SPORTS FEES

Sports fees are now overdue. Thank you to the many parents who responded and either paid the fees directly or have made arrangements to do so. Please contact Mr Hemant Lala, Sports Director, if you have any questions relating to the fees.

### OLD BOYS MAKING THEIR MARK

A number of Rongotai College Old Boys have been making their mark on the international sporting scene recently.

**ANTON DOWN-JENKINS** (2013-15) has been chosen in the New Zealand Diving team to compete at the Commonwealth Games in Birmingham in July/August this year.



**GEORGE JACKSON** (2013-16) has been selected for the New Zealand Track Cycling team for the Commonwealth Games. George will compete in the Track Endurance event. As part of the NZ Track Cycling Team, George attended the Nations Cup in Canada in May, where he rode as part of the NZ Team Pursuit, which came 4th. He also claimed a top 10 finish in the Omnium event (the decathlon of cycling). George is currently racing in the USA as part of the NZ Cycling Project. A few weeks ago he won the most prestigious road race in the USA, the Tour of Somerville.



**ARDIE SAVEA** (2007-2011) is a member of the All Blacks squad and is to play the three test series against Ireland in July. He was superb in the first test last week scoring two tries.



**BRADLEY SOMMERVILLE** (2012-16) has been appointed head coach of the New Zealand Under 19 Men's Floorball team. The team will look to qualify for the World Championships



in Denmark in April 2023.

**JOSEPH TAPINE** (2007-2011) was a member of the Kiwis Rugby League team who recently beat Tonga. We are hoping for Joe to be named in the Kiwis team for the Rugby League World Cup in England later this year.



**CHRIS TUPU** (1982-86) is currently in Spain with the New Zealand Under 17 Men's Basketball team at the World Championships. He recently returned from Doha, where the team were placed third in the qualifying tournament.



Lastly, be sure to enjoy the well-earned break and I hope to see you out on the sidelines supporting our boys next term as they don the blue, black and yellow and compete on the sports fields.

Ngā mihi

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**

# NOTICE BOARD

## SCHOOL BOARD PARENT ELECTION 2022

As mentioned in our last newsletter, our school will be undertaking a parent election for 5 School Board vacancies. This process will start with the issuing of nomination papers to our caregiver community by Friday 15 July 2022.

We have employed CES (Canterbury Education Services) to undertake the election process on our behalf. This year with legislative change, our nomination form and full instruction on how to place your nomination into our own School's Election website will be emailed to you if we have your email address in our database or you will receive it by post if we don't have your email in our database.

Nomination papers will also be available at the college office. The school will send those on to CES for processing upon receipt from candidates.

Nominations close on Wednesday 3 August at 12 noon. Election day is Wednesday 7 September.

We look forward to your participation in this process.

## UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Students considering university study in 2023 may be interested in attending one or more of the open days. Register now. Dates for these are:

- AUT - (virtual) 27 August
- Lincoln University – 22 July
- Massey University (Wellington Campus) - 26 August
- Massey University (Palmerston North campus) – 3 August
- University of Auckland - 27 August
- University of Canterbury – 9 September
- University of Otago – 31 July and 1 August
- Victoria University - 26 August
- Waikato University – (virtual) 17 August

Further information is available from the Careers Office.

University Scholarship applications are now open and information and guidance on these can be obtained from the Careers Office and/or the university websites.

Closing dates for School Leaver Scholarships are:

- AUT - 1 September
- Lincoln University - 15 August
- Massey University – 1 November
- University of Auckland – 24 August
- University of Canterbury - 15 August
- University of Otago - 15 August
- Victoria University - 1 September
- Waikato University - 31 August

## RONGOTAI COLLEGE

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