



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Term 2, Week 9 (Tuesday, 25 June) 2024

TERM DATES

- Term 2** last day - Friday 5 July
Term 3 Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September
Term 4 Monday 14 October to Friday 13 December

COMING EVENTS

- Monday 24 June**
Board of Trustees' Meeting at 6pm in the staffroom
- Friday 28 June**
Matariki Holiday – no school
- Saturday 29 June**
Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi fundraising evening at Rongotai College
- Tuesday 2 July**
Parents' Association Quiz Evening
- Friday 5 July**
Last day Term 2
Reports sent home
- Monday 22 July**
First day Term 3
- Friday 26 July**
Tu Tagata Festival
- Monday 29 July**
Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi at 6pm in the staffroom

2025 TERM DATES

- Term 1** Monday 27 January to Friday 11 April
Term 2 Monday 28 April to Friday 27 June
Term 3 Monday 14 July to Friday 19 September
Term 4 Monday 6 October to Friday 5 December

Kia ora Rongotai whānau.

Friday 5 July is the last day of Term 2, marking the half-way point of the 2024 school year.

I would like to thank parents for their ongoing support for our teachers.

I would also like to thank our students and all those members of the school community who have worked so effectively to make this term successful, despite the challenges.

WELCOME FOR CHINESE PREMIER

Rongotai College recently had the honour of welcoming the Chinese Premier, Mr Li Qiang, at the official Government House welcome by performing the school haka.



Our Head Prefect, Nysi Soulis and Kapa Haka leader TJ Robinson, had the very special honour of meeting Mr Li Qiang and New Zealand Prime Minister, Mr Christopher Luxon, and briefly talking with them.



Fantastic effort boys – the feedback has been extremely positive and we are all proud of you!

ACADEMIC NEWS

REPORTS

End of term reports are currently being written by staff. This will

LATENESS and PUNCTUALITY

Punctuality is a habit and habits, either good or bad, are hard to break. We want our boys to develop good punctuality habits, so have been focussing on punctuality this term in an effort to change a growing trend of our boys turning up late to school or class. Arriving late impacts on learning and disrupts the class, so is unacceptable - as it is in the workplace! As I recently reported to our Board, boys were only on time 63% of lessons in Term 1 – this is not good enough!

We have two systems to help boys - 'Late Gate' (where late students report to a Dean on duty) and 'Attend to Play' (where boys who are frequently absent or late are temporarily withdrawn from sport until there is an improvement). Both of these initiatives have had a positive impact so far but there is still work to be done. Your help in encouraging your son to get to school on time would be really appreciated. Beginning the start of the day by getting to school on time sets up the rest of the day. If we can educate and encourage our boys to form good habits around punctuality we are helping them achieve success.

report on your son's progress over the first half of the school year, and are in addition to the Weekly Engagement Reports.

Reports can be viewed on the parent portal [from the last day of term](#) and will also be emailed and posted during the first week of the holidays.

Please take the time to discuss teacher comments and assessment results over the holiday break, so your son can start Term 3 with a clear idea of what he needs to do to

achieve to his potential in the weeks ahead.

SUBJECT SELECTION

An important event early in Term 3 is Subject Selection. Your son will receive his **Subject Selection Book** during Week 2 of Term 3. He will subsequently make subject choices for next year. This early notification of his intentions is necessary so that we can begin planning the timetable and staffing needs for the coming year.

Boys will be asked to list the subjects they want to study in 2025 by the end of Week 4 of Term 3. 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 by email: virginia.wilson@rongotai.school.nz.

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

- Year 9 Mr Sean O'Connor
- Year 10 Mr Whetu Henry
- Year 11 Ms Michaela Smith
- Year 12 Mr Pemerika Leiataua
- Year 13 Ms Anne Brailsford

Email addresses for our Deans and teachers can be found on our website.

MODEL EU SUMMIT

Four Year 10 students recently attended the Model European Union Summit at Parliament. **Sam Doggett, Oscar Cowdell, Ben Mein, and Marcus Young** enjoyed a great experience with students from 13 schools across New Zealand,

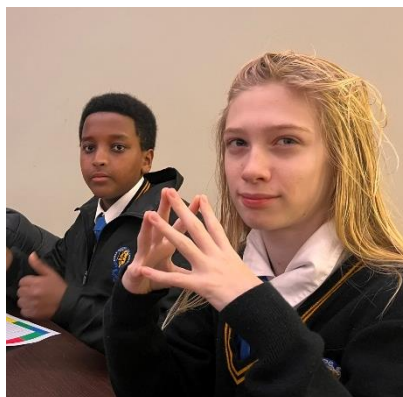
debating issues ranging from climate change to migration. We are very grateful to the EU and Parliament for providing this opportunity and look forward to participating in the future.



from left, Sam Doggett, Oscar Cowdell, Marcus Young and Ben Mein

STEAM COMPETITION

Congratulations to Year 9 students **Raz Crawford, Isaac Franklin, Matiws Hailesilassie, Zachary Lemmon, Ryan Parhizkari, Jasper Spencer-Stosser** and **Gagan Yadav** for stepping up to the challenge in the STEAM (science, technology, engineering, arts, and mathematics) competition against other colleges in Lower Hutt recently. They are part of our community of able and ambitious learners keen to take on a challenge.



Matiws Hailesilassie and Jasper Spencer-Stosser

THINK TANK

Another activity for our able and ambitious learners is Think Tank. The Rongotai Think Tank Team of **Raz Crawford, Sam Doggett, Chris Gray, Journey Mata-Taiaroa, Elias McKendry Lachlan Morris, Adam Pengelly, Mick Saunders, Taiki Sligo,** and **Loukas Winiata** worked with students from Wellington East Girls' College, Scots College and St Patrick's College to explore and push the boundaries of knowledge in the first of four Think Tank Sessions for ambitious learners.

In this session, the team explored mathematical models, design

strategies, and policy development for sustainable food systems.



ENROLMENTS 2025

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. We 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 our staff and the boys who volunteered to help at both the Rongotai Experience and the Open Evening – you are our best advertisement!

Enrolments for 2025 are very encouraging at this stage and we will be organising enrolment interviews starting in early July. If you have friends who are intending to send their son to Rongotai College next year who have not yet enrolled, please ask them to do so promptly in order to be part of these enrolments.



MUSIC

Three Rongotai bands played at the Manawatu Youth Competition over King's Birthday weekend with our students winning three of the major individual awards.

Congratulations to the following:

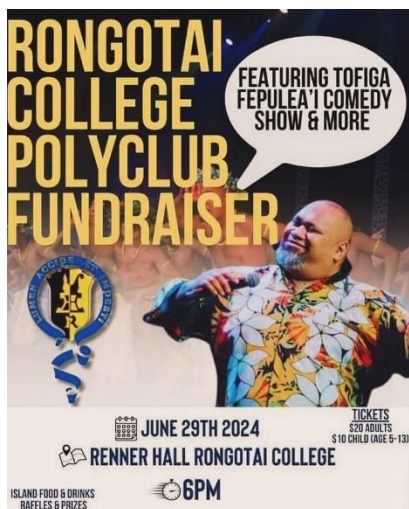
- **Angus Galloway** – Best Guitarist
- **Leo Stein** – Best Trumpeter

- **Junwei Chen** – Best Woodwind



Junwei Chen, Angus Galloway & Leo Powdrell
(standing in for Leo Stein)

FUNDRAISER FOR POLY CLUB



Tickets available from
<https://www.trybooking.com/nz/events/landing/12624>



SPORTS NEWS

Term 2 has been another busy one for sport at Rongotai College with badminton, basketball, football, hockey, rugby, table tennis and ultimate frisbee all involved in weekly competitions in and around Wellington. Students have also competed admirably in regional surfing events and both regionally and nationally in cross-country.

BASKETBALL

The Senior A team had a solid grading round and secured a place in the Pohlen Cup, which is the CSW Premier Competition. They have struggled in their three games to date.

The Junior A team have qualified for the Division 2 (the Rapson Cup), and currently lie in first position, while our Junior Bs are sixth in the same

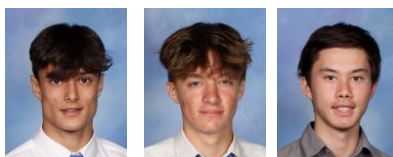
competition. Other junior teams are doing well in their competitions.

Well done to all those boys playing basketball.

FLOORBALL

Congratulations to **Harison Clulow**, **Marcus Locke** and **Ben Young** who have been named in the New Zealand U19 Men's Floorball squad to travel to Solomon Islands in September this year to compete in the World Floorball Championship Qualification tournament. Good luck boys!

Recent Old Boy Thibault Dunkin is also in the team.



Harison Clulow Marcus Locke Ben Young

FOOTBALL

Well done to the 1st XI for qualifying to play in the Trevor Rigby Cup competition, which is the Premier Competition in Wellington Schools' Football. The team put in massive shifts against two of our local rivals over recent weeks, coming away with a 4-2 win against Wellington College (in the traditional) and a hard-fought, 2-1 win against Scots College. In recent weeks however, they lost to HIBS 1-3, 2-6 to Silverstream in the traditional and 2-3 to Scots in the reverse fixture.

HOCKEY

The 1st XI came away from a strong pre-season at the top 8 ANZAC tournament and are currently second in the Premiership, recently beating Scots 2-0 and Paraparaumu 6-1.

RUGBY

It was a tough start to the season for the 1st XV but they have improved each week and despite their recent loss to Silverstream, they can still possibly make the Top 4 with a strong showing over the upcoming weeks.

Our 2nd XV have qualified to play in the Premier 2 grade (playing against 1st XV's) while our U55 and U65 teams are both very competitive in their respective divisions, and are playing well.

Congratulations to four of our rugby players who have been selected to

participate in the WRFU Under 16 Boys' Player Development Week (known as Williment Week) for 2024. Participants are selected from across the Wellington Region and WRFU Representative teams will be selected from this week.

The boys who have been selected are: **Faivalua Foua**, **Luka Palliser**, **Soni Sola** and **Lome Va'a**.

Of course, Williment Week is named after Rongotai College's second All Black Old Boy, Mick Williment, who played 9 tests for the All Blacks in the 1960s.

Good luck boys, and all the best for the week!

SURFING

In late May the Wellington Surfing Championships were held at Lyall Bay. There were many entries from around the region and Rongotai had several students entered in the U18 Men's category. Over the course of the day two of our boys progressed very well and in a closely fought battle in the final, **Stan Brough** pipped **Sam Jones** by half a point with Stan taking the win and Sam earning a well-deserved second place.

These results give both Stan and Sam selection to represent Wellington in the Wellington Board Riders team who will head to the Nationals event being held in Dunedin later this year.



Stan Brough in action



Sam Jones in action

GYMNASTICS

Congratulations to Fletcher Cowan (Year 12) who was named Level 7 Wellington Champion at the recent Wellington Mens' Gymnastics Championships. Fletcher finished

first in vault, rings and high bar and second on floor.



DRAWS AND RESULTS

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 the Sports Department, if you have any questions relating to the fees.

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

UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Students considering university study in 2024 may be interested in attending one or more of the open days. Register now. Dates for these are:

- AUT - 24 August
- Lincoln University – 19 July
- Massey University (Wellington Campus) - 23 August
- Massey University (Palmerston North campus) – 7 August
- University of Auckland - 24 August
- University of Canterbury – 30-13 August
- University of Otago – was held in May
- Victoria University - 23 August
- Waikato University – was held in May

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 September
- University of Auckland – 21 August
- University of Canterbury - 15 August
- University of Otago - 15 August
- Victoria University - 2 September
- Waikato University - 31 August

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