



UPCOMING EVENTS [Full calendar on Page 2](#)

4 September

Mid-Term Break

Rongotai College will be closed today for students and staff.

10 September

Senior Exams Start

Exams will run through to 17 September. Please refer to Page 2 for the time-table.

18 September

Leavers' Ball

An annual highlight for our Senior Students. Further details on Page 3.

25 September

End of Term

Reports will be issued to all parents/whānau.



FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

It is a privilege to connect with you as Acting Principal while Mr Kevin Carter is away on sabbatical

until November. I am grateful for the opportunity to lead Rongotai College during this time and look forward to continuing to work alongside our students, staff, whānau and wider College community.

As we move into September, Term Three continues at a remarkable pace. It has been a particularly full few weeks at Rongotai College, with our students involved in academic, sporting, cultural and musical activities, both within the College and further afield.

This edition provides a wonderful snapshot of that activity and of the many opportunities available to our young men.

Our sports teams have been particularly busy, representing Rongotai across a wide range of codes and competitions. As you read this newsletter, a number of our boys are away representing the school in Winter Tournament Week and I am sure you will join me in wishing them every success.

Included in the following pages is a recap of our recent sporting results and achievements. Regardless of the result on the scoreboard, I am always proud to see our students representing the College with determination, teamwork and

pride. My thanks also go to the coaches, managers, staff, parents and supporters who make these opportunities possible.

There has been plenty happening back at school as well. Our recent Cultural Food Fair was a great success and brought a wonderful atmosphere to the College. Staff and students enthusiastically ate their way around the world, sampling food from different cultures and celebrating the diversity within our school community. My thanks to everyone involved in making the event such an enjoyable occasion.

Our Music Night was another highlight. Renner Hall came alive as our talented musicians took to the stage, performing an impressive range of musical genres and styles. From bands and vocal performances to classical pieces and ensembles, it was a spectacular evening and a pleasure to see so many of our students having the opportunity to shine on stage. Congratulations to all of the performers and to our Music staff for the considerable work that goes on behind the scenes.

For our Y13 students, thoughts are increasingly turning towards life beyond Rongotai. We have recently welcomed a number of tertiary providers to the College to showcase the study and training opportunities available, while students have also had the opportunity to visit local campuses and experience these environments first-hand. Choosing

what comes next can be both exciting and daunting, and I encourage our senior students to make the most of the advice and support available to them as they consider their options for 2027.

It was also an honour to attend the 2026 Imperti Awards Assembly and Dinner, where we recognised three illustrious Old Boys and celebrated their achievements and contribution beyond their years at Rongotai College. These occasions provide an important connection

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REPORTING A STUDENT ABSENCE

If your son is going to be absent from school, please notify our Attendance Office on the first morning of his absence.

EMAIL: attendance@rongotai.school.nz
PHONE - 24/7: 04 939 3050 - press 1

Please include your son's name, reason for absence and, if known, his expected date of return. If his return date changes, please keep the Attendance Office updated.

For a planned or extended absence, please contact your son's Dean in advance in the first instance if you need to arrange school work.

Please use the Attendance email or phone line for all absence notifications, rather than contacting the Principal or individual staff members. Thank you for helping us keep our attendance records accurate and up to date.



FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

between our past and present and give our current students an opportunity to see where their own talents, determination and aspirations may one day take them. You can read more about this year's recipients and the celebrations in the following pages.

SENIOR EXAMINATIONS

For our senior students, the immediate focus now turns firmly towards their upcoming examinations. Senior examinations will be held from Thursday, 10 September to Wednesday, 16 September.

These exams are an important opportunity for students to gauge their progress, identify areas requiring further work and gain valuable experience under formal examination conditions ahead of the NCEA external examinations in November.

I encourage all senior students to use the remaining time wisely. A consistent approach to revision, good routines, sufficient sleep and seeking assistance from teachers where needed will all contribute to being well prepared. Parents and caregivers can also help by taking an interest in their son's study programme and encouraging good habits over the coming weeks.

CAA WEEK

Many of our students will be undertaking CAA (Literacy and Numeracy Testing) over the week. Parents will be kept informed on the results in the forthcoming school reports.

COLLEGE BALL

We are also looking forward to the Rongotai College Ball, always a much-anticipated occasion on the senior

school calendar. It is an opportunity for our students to enjoy an evening together and celebrate what has already been a very busy year. We look forward to a memorable evening and know our students will represent themselves, their families and the College with pride.

There is much to celebrate in this edition. Whether in the classroom, on the sports field, on stage, experiencing another culture or considering their next steps beyond school, our students continue to embrace the opportunities available to them.

I wish our senior students every success with their examinations and all our students a positive and productive remainder of Term Three.

Venkat Reddy, Acting Principal

SENIOR EXAM SCHEDULE

ALL EXAMS ARE THREE HOURS LONG AND TAKE PLACE IN RENNER HALL UNLESS TOLD OTHERWISE.

Thursday, 10 September		Friday, 11 September		Monday, 14 September		Tuesday, 15 September		Wednesday, 16 September	
Morning 8.55am – 12.00pm	Afternoon 1.10pm – 4.15pm	Morning 8.55am – 12.00pm	Afternoon 1.10pm – 4.15pm	Morning 8.55am – 12.00pm	Afternoon 1.10pm – 4.15pm	Morning 8.55am – 12.00pm	Afternoon 1.10pm – 4.15pm	Morning 8.55am – 12.00pm	Afternoon 1.10pm – 4.15pm
1EN 1EL (digital)	1SP	1MA	1HI (digital)	1SC (digital)	1COM	1GE 1SA 1MU	1MR (digital)	1ES 1ELF (digital)	
2AC 2MR (digital)	2EN 2EQ (digital)	2MD (digital) 2SP	2CH 2CS (digital)	2GE 2MP	2MA 2MS	2HI (digital) 2SA	2PH 2ES 3ES (digital)	2EC	2BI
3GE 3SP	3AC 3CS (digital)	3MD (digital)	3MC 3SA	3MR (digital) 3EC	3PH	3BI 3DR	3EN (digital)	3CH 3HI (digital)	3MS

TERM THREE CALENDAR

4 September	Mid Term Break (School Closed)
7 September	CAA Week (Literacy & Numeracy Testing)
7 September	Asosi Meeting @ 6.00pm
8 September	Aviation Careers Expo
10 September	Senior Exams (to 16 September)
17 September	Board Meeting @ 6.00pm
18 September	Leavers' Ball
24 September	RC Big Band/Combos Music Works Festival
24 September	Barbershop Nationals
25 September	Reports Posted
25 September	Term Three Ends

OCTOBER 16	OCTOBER 20	OCTOBER 23	OCTOBER 30
Arts & Cultural Awards Assembly	Extracurricular Photos	Sports Awards Assembly	Parents' Association Annual Food Fair

TERM DATES 2026 | 2027

Term Three 2026	Monday 20 July to Friday 25 September
Term Four 2026	Monday 12 October to Friday 4 December
Term One 2027	Thursday, 28 January to Friday, 9 April
Term Two 2027	Tuesday, 27 April to Friday, 2 July

! NOTICES

SEISMIC ASSESSMENT UPDATE FROM THE BOARD

As previously advised in our newsletter in June, the Ministry of Education has completed updated seismic assessments of buildings at Rongotai College.

The assessments confirm that the majority of our buildings are above 34% of the New Building Standard (NBS). A small number of localised issues have, however, been identified within the south wing of the Main Block. These have resulted in this part of the building receiving an overall rating of 15% NBS, and seismic strengthening work will be required.

The College Board and school leadership have been working closely with the Ministry of Education and specialist engineers. We have been advised that the building can continue to be safely occupied and used while the strengthening programme is developed and implemented.

Detailed design work is expected to begin in the coming months, with strengthening work anticipated to commence as early as next year.

We will continue to keep our community informed and will provide a further update once contractors have been appointed and the timeframe for the work becomes clearer.

WE'RE LOOKING FOR A

TEACHER AIDE!

Know someone who would be great at supporting our boys?

Rongotai College is looking for a caring, patient and enthusiastic Teacher Aide to join our Learning Support team.

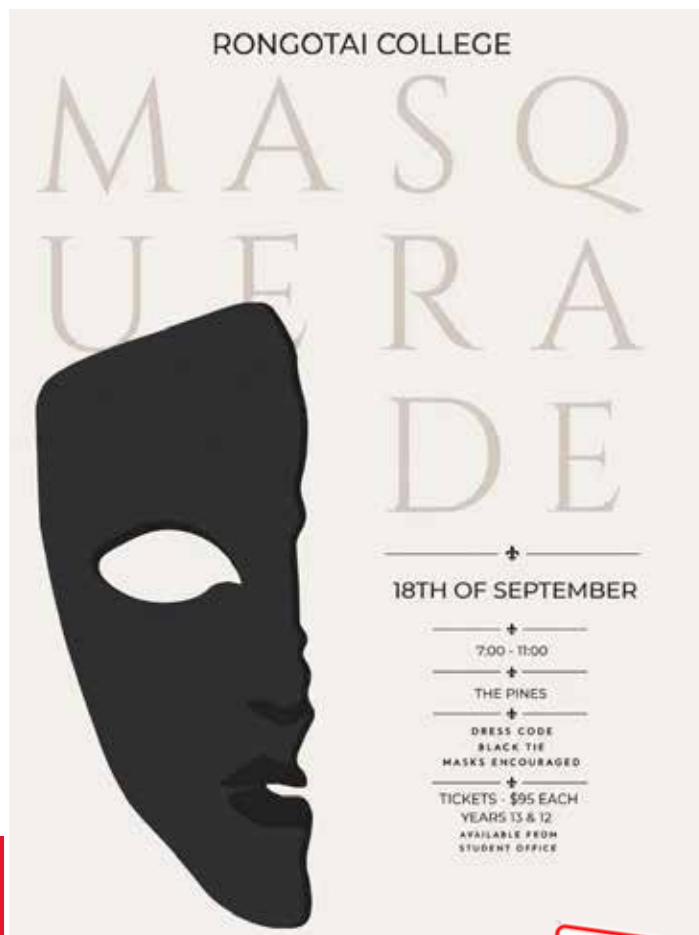
This is a fixed-term, part-time position (25 hours per week, term time only) through to the end of Term 4, 2026. The role involves supporting students in the classroom and helping boys with a range of learning needs to participate confidently and successfully in their learning.

Experience working with young people or in learning support would be an advantage, but is not essential. A positive attitude, good communication skills and a genuine desire to help our boys succeed are what matter most.

Starting as soon as possible, or by negotiation.

Interested? Send a covering letter and CV, including two professional referees, to the Principal's Executive Assistant at steph.kane@rongotai.school.nz.

Please feel free to share this opportunity with someone you think would be a great fit for Rongotai College.



IMPORTANT PARKING REMINDER!

We continue to have parents and caregivers entering and parking in the main school car park by Reception at the end of the school day, despite previous requests not to do so.

Please do not use the main car park for student pick-ups or drop-offs.

This area needs to remain clear for school buses, taxis transporting Tamatoa students, official visitors and delivery vehicles. Additional vehicles entering the area at this busy time create unnecessary congestion and, importantly, a safety risk for students.

Parents and caregivers should use the available parking along Tirangi Road for drop-offs and collections.

We appreciate your cooperation and ask all families to please respect this request so we can keep the area safe and accessible for those who need to use it.



ACADEMIC NEWS

SUCCESS AT THE WELLINGTON EARTH & OCEAN SCIENCE FAIR

Congratulations to our students who represented Rongotai College with distinction at this year's Wellington Earth & Ocean Science Fair.

The competition challenges students to plan and carry out high-quality scientific investigations, analyse their findings, and confidently present and defend their work before a panel of experts – putting both their scientific knowledge and communication skills to the test.

Special congratulations to Blade Boardman and Jackson Coleman – recipients of the Victoria University of Wellington Faculty of Education Award and the NZ Institute of Food Science and Technology Award. Hwanhee Kim and Sam McNaughtan were the recipients of the Callaghan Innovation Award in Measurement Standards.

These are outstanding results and a wonderful reflection of the curiosity, hard work and scientific talent of our students. Well done, Blade, Jackson, Hwanhee and Sam!



Sam McNaughtan and Hwanhee Kim



Blade Boardman and Jackson Coleman

BIOLOGY COMES TO LIFE AT ZEALANDIA

Our Level 3 Biology students recently took their learning beyond the classroom with a visit to *Zealandia* as part of their study of speciation.

Exploring the sanctuary provided students with the opportunity to see first-hand how New Zealand's remarkable and unique biodiversity has developed over time. Along the way, they encountered some of New Zealand's fascinating endemic species and were able to connect what they have been learning in class with the natural world around them.

A great way to bring Biology to life and make the most of an incredible learning resource right on our doorstep.



3OE HIT THE SLOPES

Our 3OE students have been making the most of some epic conditions on the mountain, enjoying plenty of action on the slopes while developing new skills both on and off the snow.

The trip is about much more than skiing. With some students beginning to think about life beyond Rongotai College, it's also a valuable opportunity to build independence, confidence and practical life skills – from fending for themselves to working together and taking responsibility.

The class thoroughly enjoyed the experience, led by Mr Chris Tupu with Science Technician, Mr Tim Henderson, joining the group for the trip.

Great conditions, new experiences and plenty of learning along the way – both on the mountain and off!



ACADEMIC NEWS

SPANISH CULTURE, FOOD AND FUN!

It's been a busy and enjoyable few weeks for our Spanish students!

Our Y11 Level 1 Spanish students recently took part in a Spanish Immersion Day at Scots College, giving them a valuable opportunity to put their language skills into practice, build their confidence and prepare for their upcoming exams.

The Spanish Department also joined in the festivities at our Cultural Food Fair, serving up nachos and beans that proved extremely popular – so popular, in fact, that they completely sold out!

It was fantastic to see students embracing the language, culture and flavours of the Spanish-speaking world.



COMMUNITY NEWS

FUTSAL HOUSE COMPETITION

In Weeks 3 and 4, our four Houses went into battle on the Futsal Court. After fierce round-robin games, Heron met Mackay in the play-off for third place with Mackay ranking third. The hotly contested final between favourites, Renner, and dark horses, Lock, saw a crowd-pleasing skirmish involving pivots, back door cuts and planned (and unplanned) slides. A one-all draw on the full time whistle saw the teams go into extra time with the first-to-score rule applied. After much shouting and excitement, Seb Heaphy scored, carrying **Lock House** to a 2-1 triumph.



PREFECTS' MANA WEEK

It's been a busy few weeks for our Prefects, with one of the highlights this term being the launch of our inaugural Mana Week – a week designed to bring students together through competition, connection, culture and service.

There was plenty of friendly rivalry during 'Cohort Chaos', with cohorts going head-to-head in a range of sporting challenges to see who would emerge victorious. 'Man Time' provided an opportunity for our boys to connect with and acknowledge the important men and role models in their lives.



The week also featured 'Jersey Day', with students and staff encouraged to wear their favourite sporting jerseys and get behind a lunchtime sausage sizzle. The barbecue was a huge success, with students enjoying some kai while supporting a very worthwhile cause.

All profits from the sausage sizzle will go to the Hoa Motuhake Sports Trust, which helps provide sporting opportunities for young people who may otherwise face barriers to participation.

A big thank you to our Prefects for the enthusiasm and leadership they brought to Mana Week, and to all the students, staff and whānau who got involved. It was a fantastic celebration of school spirit, connection and giving back to our wider community.

LOVE TENNIS OPEN DAY

Looking for a new sport, thinking about returning to tennis, or keen to introduce the family to the game?

Kilbirnie Tennis Club is holding its Love Tennis Open Day on Sunday 13 September 2026, from 10.00am–2.00pm at 14 Crawford Road, Kilbirnie.

The day is free and open to everyone, with coaching, tennis games, jumbo racquets, loan racquets, give-aways, a free BBQ and plenty of opportunities to get on court and give tennis a go.

There will also be chances to win prizes, including a VIP trip to the ASB Classic 2027, a family membership and coaching lessons.

For more information, visit the Kilbirnie Tennis Club website.

COMMUNITY NEWS



CULTURAL FOOD FAIR

In its third year running, the Cultural Food Fair was a huge hit with the students.

In Week 5 on Thursday, The Renner Hall was packed with multitudes of people sampling different food from only a handful of cultures that are represented here at Rongotai College. There was sapaui (Samoa), biftekia (Greece), curry (Fiji), pretzels (Germany), parāoa parai (Maori) and nachos (Spain). The Fair fundraised for groups such as The Multicultural Club, The Greek Club, a future Spain trip and Kapa Haka. Kali orexi!

GOOD SPORTS: CONVERSATIONS ON WELL-BEING IN SPORT

Rongotai College recently hosted **Good Sports: Conversations on Well-being in Sport**, bringing together students, athletes, coaches, parents, Old Boys and members of our wider community for an evening of valuable conversation about well-being in sport.

The event was a collaboration between the Rongotai College Old Boys' Association (RCOBA), our 1st XI Hockey Team, and the Rongotai BEST Academy and Foundation (RBA).

Registered psychologist Taylor Noble, who specialises in sport and performance, opened the evening with an

engaging discussion about the pressures, expectations and challenges athletes can face. She also shared practical strategies for recognising and managing these pressures and supporting positive well-being.

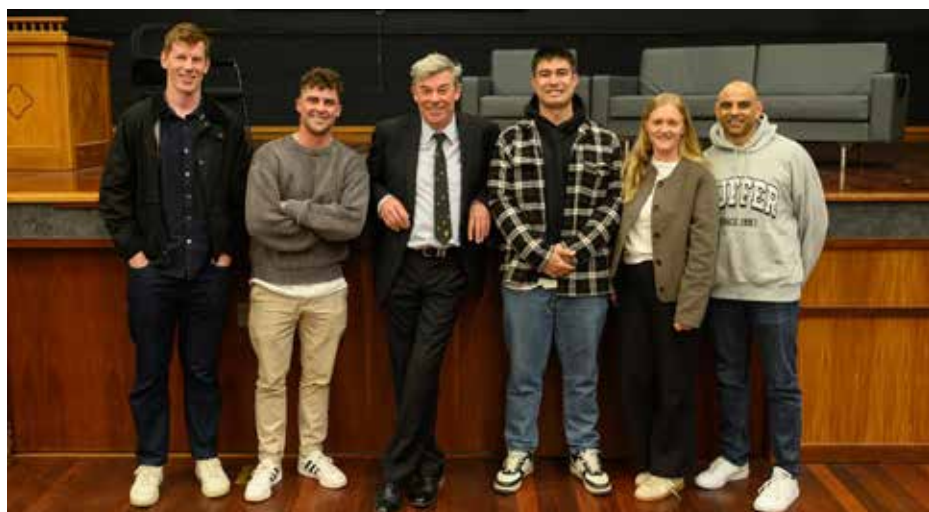
Rongotai Old Boy Vijay Vallabh followed with a session exploring the importance of managing physical loads and stress, including an interactive component that gave everyone plenty to think about both on and off the field.

The evening concluded with a lively fireside chat led by Rongotai Old Boy and current Director of Sport, Ross Bond,

alongside Wellington sporting identities Jackson Garden-Bachop, James Blackwell and Peter Younghusband. Together, they shared their experiences and perspectives on sport, performance and well-being.

Thank you to everyone who contributed to the evening and to those who came along and took part in the conversation. Events such as this provide an important opportunity to look beyond performance and competition and ensure the well-being of our young people remains at the heart of school sport.

Photos: Mark Tantrum, RC parent



(L-R): James Blackwell, Peter Younghusband, Ross Bond, Jackson Garden-Bachop, Taylor Noble and Vijay Vallabh.



Vijay gets a group participation into his presentation.

ARTS & CULTURAL NEWS



WHAT A FANTASTIC MUSIC EVENING!

Renner Hall came alive for a wonderful celebration of music, talent and creativity at our Rongotai College Music Evening.

Our students certainly rose to the occasion, showcasing the impressive breadth of musical talent we have within the College. The audience was treated to a fantastic variety of performances across different genres and styles, from bands and ensembles to classical pieces and vocal performances.

It was great to see our young men performing with such confidence, enthusiasm and energy. For some, taking to the stage comes naturally; for others, performing in front of an audience takes considerable courage. Every student who participated should be extremely proud of what they achieved.

It was also wonderful to see so many parents, caregivers and whānau filling Renner Hall and supporting our performers. Having such an appreciative audience adds enormously to the atmosphere of the evening, and your encouragement of our students is greatly valued.

A huge thank you must also go to our dedicated Music staff and everyone who worked behind the scenes. An evening like this represents many hours of rehearsals, organisation and preparation, and the result was a terrific showcase of music at Rongotai College.

Congratulations to all our performers on a spectacular evening. We are very proud of you!

CAREER WISE

If you haven't heard of CareerWise, it's a website built specifically for students and families. It's NZ's only platform with a live feed of careers news, events, scholarships, jobs, resources, and other opportunities, all crowd-sourced by fellow career advisors, businesses, and tertiary liaisons. Visit the site and keep up to date with events etc. www.rongotai.careerwise.school

SPORTS NEWS

It has been another outstanding few weeks for Rongotai College sport with success on the international stage, championship titles across several codes and plenty of action as our teams head into Winter Tournament Week.

DESMOND REDDY REPRESENTS NEW ZEALAND



From representing Rongotai College to representing his country – congratulations to Desmond Reddy, who proudly wore the New Zealand singlet at the Australian National Cross-Country Championships.

Competing in the U20 8km race, Desmond finished an impressive 24th out of 90 runners in tough, heavy underfoot conditions. He then joined the New Zealand U20 mixed relay team, helping them race to a gold medal.

After representing Rongotai College with distinction over the past five years, Desmond has now taken the next step onto the international stage. It is a

tremendous achievement and testament to the hard work, commitment and determination he has shown throughout his time at Rongotai.

Congratulations, Des – we are incredibly proud of you!



JUNIOR COLTS HOCKEY - CHAMPIONS!

The future of Hockey at Rongotai College is looking bright, with our Junior Colts crowned champions after an outstanding unbeaten season.

After several seasons of building and developing the junior programme, 2026 has seen the team reach another level. Throughout the season, the boys displayed skill, grit and determination, playing an exciting, high-energy and high-pressing style of hockey.

Led by captain and top scorer Lucas Henwood, who amassed an impressive 24 goals during the season, the Colts went through the regular season unbeaten to set up a Grand Final showdown against Scots College Juniors.

The boys saved one of their best performances for the final, producing an emphatic 8-0 victory to claim the championship. Lucas, and Player of the Match, Leif Schaefer, both scored hat-tricks in a superb all-round team performance.

It caps off a strong season that also included a thrilling 9-7 Traditional victory over Feilding and an excellent third-place finish at the Miskimmin Cup.

At Miskimmin Cup, the boys recorded a

narrow 0-1 loss to eventual champions HIBS, defeated Wairarapa College 3-2 and then prevailed over Scots College following a 4-4 draw, winning the shoot-out 3-1. The third/fourth playoff even featured 15-20 minutes of snow – certainly a memorable way to finish the tournament!

A special acknowledgement must go to Mr Tim Henderson, who has led our Junior Hockey programme since 2023. His commitment to developing the players and building such a positive and successful style of hockey has been instrumental in the team's achievements.

Thank you also to the 1st XI, teachers, friends, families and the Supporters Club who brought plenty of noise and Rongotai spirit to the sidelines throughout the season.

WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK UNDERWAY

Winter Tournament Week is now underway, with Rongotai teams competing across the lower North Island:

Junior A Basketball – Steelformers Y9/10 Tournament	Hāwera, 29 August–1 September
U14 Rugby – Hurricanes Tournament	Wakefield Park, Island Bay, 31 August–2 September
1st XI Football	Memorial Park, Petone, 31 August–4 September
1st XI Hockey	Palmerston North, 31 August–4 September
Senior A Basketball	Palmerston North, 2–5 September

SPORTS NEWS

There has already been plenty of action. The 1st XI Hockey team drew 3-3 with Takapuna Grammar, while the 1st XI Football team went down 2-5 to Macleans College.

Our Junior A Basketball team has made a particularly impressive start, defeating New Plymouth Boys' High School in their quarter-final to advance to the semifinals - the only Wellington team to progress to the final four. They will face Westlake Boys' High School for a place in the final.

We wish all our players, coaches, managers and supporters the very best for the remainder of Tournament Week. We look forward to sharing their final results in our next update.

RONGOTAI STUDENTS SHINE BEYOND THE COLLEGE

Several Rongotai students have also enjoyed outstanding success representing regional and national teams.



Boshu Zeng (Y12) had an excellent weekend at the Secondary Schools' Fencing Tournament in Auckland, winning Gold in the Mixed Team event and adding a Bronze Medal in the Individual Foil.



Marcus Young (Y12) celebrated a special milestone while representing New Zealand at the Asia Oceania Floorball Qualifiers in Singapore, scoring his first international goal during New Zealand's victory over Hong Kong China. As a defender, opportunities to get on the score-sheet don't come around every day, making the achievement even more memorable.

Congratulations also to Taua Telea (Y11), who was a member of the Hutt Valley U16 Basketball team that won the U16 National Tournament. A fantastic achievement at national level.

Congratulations to Boshu, Taua and Marcus on representing Rongotai so proudly.



FINALS SUCCESS ACROSS THE CODES

There was plenty to celebrate during finals season, with Rongotai teams featuring strongly across basketball, football and rugby.

BASKETBALL

Our Junior Blue team defeated Tama Teina Te Kura 48-35 in their final, while the Rongotai Bisons claimed the Senior Boys Division 2 title with a 50-43 victory over Wellington College White.

Our Junior B Basketball team also capped off an unbeaten season by winning their grade, defeating Ngā Mokopuna in the final. Congratulations to the players and coaches on a fantastic season.

FOOTBALL

Rongotai hosted Football Finals Day on Saturday, 22 August, with some excellent results for our teams.

In Junior Boys Division 2, Rongotai Yellow defeated Rongotai White 6-1, while the Rongotai Bisons claimed the Junior Division 6 title after a dramatic penalty shoot-out against Raphael House. The match finished 3-3 before Rongotai prevailed from the spot.

Our Y11 team also finished strongly, defeating Scots College 3-1.

RUGBY

Our rugby teams were involved in two extremely close contests at Finals Day on 15 August.

In Premier 4, Rongotai went down narrowly 15-17 to St Bernard's College, while our U65kg side was edged 7-10 by Aotea College.

While the results didn't fall our way, both teams can be proud of reaching their respective finals and representing the College with determination.

MEET OUR DIRECTOR OF SPORT - ROSS BOND

Introducing Ross 'Bondy' Bond, Rongotai Old Boy and now the College's Director of Sport.



Many Wellingtonians will recognise Ross as the voice of Wellington rugby, having been a radio commentator and rugby analyst for over 30 years.

He has spent endless hours at Athletic Park and Hnry Stadium and is only a handful of tests away from the century for All Black commentaries.

But his connection to sport goes considerably further than the microphone.

Ross attended Rongotai College from 1976-1980, where he was a Prefect and represented the College in both the 1st XV and 1st XI. Highlights included, in 1979, being the top points scorer in NZ Secondary School rugby with 204, and in 1980, captaining the NZ Secondary Schools' Cricket team to Australia.

His own sporting career included representative rugby for Wairarapa Bush, Hawkes Bay, NZ Teachers, and cricket for Wairarapa, Hawkes Bay, as well as selection for the Wellington 2nd XI.

Then came coaching - and plenty of it.

A highly-respected figure in Wellington rugby, Ross has coached at premier club

and representative level over several decades. His record includes taking teams to seven Jubilee Cup finals, winning the title with Pōneke in 2003, coaching Horowhenua-Kāpiti (two NPC finals), leading the Wellington Pride (Championship win), and most recently, completing another three-year stint as Premier Head Coach at Pōneke, culminating in Hardham Cup success in 2025.

Away from the field, Ross also brings extensive leadership, governance and management experience. Most recently, he spent 13 years as General Manager of Shandon Golf Club and has served at Board level with both the NZ Golf Managers Association and Netball Wellington.

And now, after nearly half a century, he has found his way back to where much of it began - the 'Coutts Street Academy'.

For Ross, taking on the role of Director of Sport is an opportunity to give something back to the College that gave him so much, while helping the next generation of Rongotai students make the most of everything school sport has to offer.

With decades of playing, coaching, managing, governing and talking about sport behind him, we're fairly confident Ross knows his way around a sports field. And if not, we'll certainly hear about it over the PA.

Welcome home, Bondy.
Lumen Accipe Et Imperti.

OLD BOYS' NEWS

2026 RCOBA IMPERTI AWARDS

Last Friday, we had the privilege of celebrating the 2026 RCOBA Imperti Award recipients and welcoming them and their families back to Rongotai College.

It was great to have Bruce Edgar (1970–1974) and Tofiga Fepulea'i (1988–1992) join us at Rongotai College, alongside family members of Bryan Johnson ^{ONZM} (1951–1957). Bryan had hoped to join us, but unfortunately was unable to attend at the last minute. We were grateful to have his children with us to celebrate his recognition.

The Imperti Award recognises Old Boys who exemplify the values of Rongotai College on the national and international stage. Through their achievements, leadership and service, recipients embody our school motto, *Lumen Accipe Et Imperti – Receive the light and pass it on.*

The day began with a mihi whakatau, led by Kaiako Māori and Old Boy, Whetu

Henry (1999–2003), formally welcoming our recipients and their families back to their school alongside students and Senior Management including Acting Principal, Mr Venkat Reddy. This was followed by an engaging interview led by Sports Director and Old Boy Ross Bond (1976–1980), with our recipients reflecting on their time at Rongotai, their journeys since leaving College, and the values and experiences that have shaped their lives.

The celebrations continued with a full-school formal assembly, attended by students, staff, the Presiding Member of the Board, Mr Devon Heaphy, RCOBA Committee Members, the Chair of the Pasifika Parents' Asosi, and the Chair of the Rongotai BEST Academy and Foundation (RBA), Mr Jeremy Simpson.

As the Imperti Award recipients were to be presented with their Honours Caps, it was particularly fitting that all those in attendance who had previously earned an Honours Cap donned theirs throughout the Assembly, including

past and present Prefects and Premier Sportsmen who have earned the honour. It was a wonderful display of the tradition, achievement and shared history that connects generations of Rongotai men. We then had the opportunity to break bread with staff, recipients and their families over lunch, prepared by the incredible Hospitality teacher, Mr Gabe Chambers and our Hospitality students.

A massive thank you to Old Boy Zeneth Talasinga (2004–2008), Ms Mckayla Woodroffe, and our students Upuia, Dylan and Sam for their work capturing and documenting the day's events. We are incredibly grateful for the time, effort and care that went into preserving the memories of such a significant day for our College community.

The day concluded with the RCOBA Gala Dinner, bringing everyone together for a wonderful evening of celebration. More about the Gala Dinner will be shared soon.





RONGOTAI COLLEGE



