



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

April, 2019

### COMING EVENTS

**Friday 12 April**

Last day of Term 1

**Monday 29 April**

First day of Term 2

**Wednesday 8, Thursday 9, Friday 10 & Saturday 11 May**

The Wizard of Oz, 7pm in the Renner Hall

**Wednesday 15 May**

Parents' Association Meeting at 7.30pm in the staffroom

**Monday 20 May**

Rongotai College Pasifika Parents' Asosi at 6.30pm in the staffroom

**Thursday 30 May**

Board of Trustees' meeting at 6pm in the Mackay Library

**Friday 31 May**

Reports posted home

**Monday 3 June**

Queen's Birthday holiday

**Tuesday 4 June**

Teacher only day

**Friday 7 June**

Rongotai Experience

**Tuesday 11 June**

Open Evening

### 2019 TERM DATES

**Term 2: Monday 29 April to Friday 5 July**

**Term 3: Monday 22 July to Friday 27 September**

**Term 4: Monday 14 October to Friday 6 December**

### STUDENT PROGRESS

Overall, most students settled down to work well during Term 1 and have made good progress. Teachers reported on your son's progress in our Interim Reports in March. These were designed to provide you with a snapshot of your son's attitude and progress so far this year. Copies of

reports are available on the Parent Portal.

You also had an opportunity to receive personal feedback from teachers at Parent-Teacher Interviews. Many thanks to the large number of you who came along; I hope you enjoyed meeting your son's teachers and got some useful feedback from them.

The next set of reports will be posted on 31 May.

### PREFECTS

Last week we added a further four prefects to our Student Leadership Team.

Congratulations to **Dominic Coffin**, **Sonny Johnson**, **Fagalele Leota**, and **Ruhaan Saiyad** on their appointment as Prefects.



*Dominic Coffin*



*Sonny Johnson*



*Fagalele Leota*



*Ruhaan Saiyad*

### YEAR 9 OPTION CHOICES

During Term 1, Year 9 students have had the opportunity to experience the range of our option subjects, prior to selecting their two option choices for the remainder of the year. These option subjects will start at the beginning of Term 2. If you have any questions about options or wish to discuss your son's choices, please contact the Year 9 Dean Mr Ash Collier or your son's form teacher.

### PHYS ED UNIFORM

All Year 9, 10 and 11 students are required to wear the Physical Education uniform. This consists of the school PE top and blue shorts. It has been pleasing to see the majority of students are wearing theirs. Students who have yet to purchase the Physical Education uniform are required to purchase theirs from the college shop as soon as possible. If there are any issues in meeting this expectation, please communicate this to your son's PE teacher or Dean. I encourage your son to label their uniform so that it is easily identifiable.



## ACADEMIC NEWS

### ASTRONOMY SCHOOL

Academic Prefect, **Dean Banks** has been selected by the College of Science and the School of Physical & Chemical Sciences at the University of Canterbury to participate in the Elaine P. Snowden Astronomy School 2019. This will be held during the April school holidays.



Dean will have the opportunity to study the universe from UC's Mount John Observatory in Tekapo for two nights and get a taste of university life on the university's Ilam campus in Christchurch for three days. These days coincide with the New Zealand Institute of Physics bi-annual conference so there is an opportunity for students to listen in on some interesting talks and meet experts in the field.

Congratulations Dean!

## MATHS HOMEWORK HUB

The Maths Department is offering weekly sessions after school on Wednesdays. These are held so the boys can do their homework, revision, or help other students with their work. It starts straight after school and it runs until about 5:30pm, with snacks provided. Students are welcome to come and go depending on how long they want to work for and when they are needing to go home. This is a great opportunity for the boys to improve their understanding and to gain confidence in Maths.



## CULTURAL NEWS

### THE WIZARD OF OZ

Rehearsals are progressing well for the 2019 Rongotai College production of "The Wizard of Oz".

The show will be staged in the second week of Term 2 - Wednesday 8, Thursday 9, Friday 10 and Saturday 11 May starting at 7pm in the college's Renner Hall.

Tickets are now on sale from the college shop - come and see our rendition of the show we all love! Tickets are \$15 for adults and \$10 for children and students.

During the shows we will have raffles to sell to assist with the costs of the production. If you are able to donate vouchers or goods that could be included in the raffle, your donation would be greatly appreciated. Donations can be handed to Ms Honeyman.



## NZ PIPE BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS

Dominic Coffin and his Manawatu Scottish Pipe Band won the NZ A Grade Drumming section of the recent NZ Pipe Band Championships. Dominic is a valuable drummer in this team. Congratulations Dominic and your band.



### RONGOTAI COLLEGE BIG BAND

The Big Band participated in the NZ Youth Jazz Competition at the National Jazz Festival in Tauranga last weekend.

Rongotai had two ensembles in the competition – the Big Band, who performed admirably and was a crowd favourite, playing all four pieces well, with strong solos from Ben Parker, Leonardo Greer, Hamish Goodhue, Connor Waszak, Cameron Young, Darcy Boardman and Ryder Smith. Featured vocalist was Milan Sutich. The other was a smaller group, known as 'Isn't It', made up of five of the talented Big Band men.

The weekend wasn't about the prizes – it was a festival atmosphere – but the efforts of our musicians were acknowledged with two cups and two awards. **Thomas J. Moore** won the Best Bassist Cup, **Rex McKee** won the Best Big Band Drummer Cup, the Big Band earned a silver award and 'Isn't It', gold.

Coming soon are the Manawatu Jazz Festival Youth Competition during Queen's Birthday weekend, and the NZSM component of the Wellington International Jazz Festival in early June. The relentless pace for these musicians continues!

The band is looking for younger talent to keep the fires burning once our eight Year 13 students leave at the end of 2019. If you are interested in having your son learn a suitable instrument, or they play one already, please see Mr Crayford or Miss Lindsay. We need trumpets,

trombones, saxophones, piano, guitar, bass and drums.



## SPORTS NEWS

After two and a half years as Rongotai College's Sports Director, **Nigel Dixon** has decided it is time to move on to further his career in sport administration, as the General Manager of Bowls Wellington.



Nigel has been a tireless organiser of both participation and high performance sport at Rongotai College. Thanks and good luck Nigel!

### BASKETBALL

**Evyatar Tabor** has recently been named in the NZ U19 Men's Oceania Championship squad. Congratulations Evyatar!

A further three of our students, with Evyatar, have been selected in the NZ Basketball Academy teams to travel to Las Vegas in July this year to participate in a tournament. They are **Saul Barker**, **Lyric Samu**, and **Jaylin To'o**. Well done boys!



Saul Barker



Lyric Samu



Evyatar Tabor



Jaylin To'o

## CRICKET

Congratulations to our Year 9 Gold cricket side which won their grade after going through the term unbeaten.

Congratulations to **Bevan Cox** who was also selected in the Governor General's XI to play against the Wanderers at the Basin Reserve. Bevan is the captain of our 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket side who qualified for the final of Premier 2. Bevan has scored 496 runs (including two centuries) this year opening the batting, as well as taking 14 wickets with his fast-medium bowling.

The 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket team played in the Hunt Trophy T20 competition during tournament week. Unfortunately they struggled with the best playing against teams from the Premier Youth division.

## CROQUET

**Robbie Spooner**

recently won the New Zealand Open Handicap Singles tournament and with it the Arthur Ross Memorial



Trophy. Robbie lost just one game, on his way to winning the trophy (to the person he eventually beat 26-3 in the final). Congratulations Robbie!

Two Rongotai College Croquet teams played in the regional competition, finishing in second and third place overall.

## FLOORBALL

**Louis Scott** has recovered from a bad injury suffered early in 2018 to be included in the New Zealand team to complete, with the other four Rongotai students, at the Under 19 World Floorball Championships in Canada in May. Best wishes to Louis, Jack Cobden-Cox, Liam Fisher, Jackson Lewis and Alec Stewart (and old boy Tim McKibbin) for the World Champs!



Well done also to the Senior and Junior Floorball teams who won the

College Sport Wellington Premier grades recently.

## FUTSAL

Congratulations to our Senior A futsal side who won the CSW Regional Futsal Championships with Lucas Bertos scoring the winning goal in a hard fought final against Wellington College.

## GOLF

Sam Marsters recently won the Wellington Secondary Schools' Golf tournament (the Mark Hunt Cup) by one stroke. This prestigious event brings together the best age group golfers in Wellington. Congratulations Sam!



## LAWN BOWLS

Congratulations to **Jamal Fiso, Adam Wyatt** and **Ihaka Haenga-Sutton** who recently won the Wellington Regional Secondary Schools' Lawn Bowls competition.



from left Ihaka Haenga-Sutton, Adam Wyatt and Jamal Fiso

We have a greater number of students now playing lawn bowls and we are trying to build up the number of sets of bowls for use in our local competition.

If you have an old set in the garage or in a cupboard (or know of anybody who has) which are not

being used we would welcome their donation.

## SOFTBALL

Congratulations to **Ciaran Bolger** who has been named in the New Zealand Development Sox (Under 15) Softball training squad.



## TENNIS

Congratulations to the Rongotai A tennis team who have won the Regional Division 1 tennis grade. The team of **Jordan Chan, Angus Doddridge**, and **Kyosuke Enomoto** went through the grade convincingly beating all other schools.



from left Kyosuke Enomoto, Jordan Chan and Angus Doddridge

## VOLLEYBALL

The Junior Volleyball side won the Wellington division after beating St Pats, Town in the final. Well done boys.

## SUMMER TOURNAMENT WEEK

Teams from eight different sports competed at their respective summer nationals tournaments in late March. As the review below shows, it was a hugely successful week of sport.

### 3x3 Basketball (Tauranga)

A senior and a junior team travelled to this event. The senior team finished in 12<sup>th</sup> place and the juniors in 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Floorball (Wellington)

Congratulations to the junior floorball team for their win in the NZ Secondary Schools' championship, beating Scots College in the final.



The senior side finished second, going down to Wellington College 4-3 in the final.

### Futsal (Wellington)

Both our senior and junior teams finished in fourth place, each losing their semi-final to the team who eventually won the tournament.

### Softball (Christchurch)

The softball team finished in second place in the National A Division championship, losing the final to Mt Albert Grammar School.

Congratulations to **Dylan Jackson** who was the top pitcher (and second to top batter) and also named the MVP of the national tournament. Also congratulations to **Dylan, Gareth Bevan, Ciaran Bolger, Matthew Douglas** and **Thomas H Moore** who were named in the NZ tournament team following the tournament.

### Waka Ama (Rotorua)

Congratulations to all those who participated in this regatta. In particular, **Jesse Carter** who finished second in the U16 plate final individual race, the U19 W6 who finished second in the 250m bowl final, and **Mikaere Miratana-Stafford** who finished 9<sup>th</sup> in his final.



### SPORTS FEES

Students of Rongotai College are expected to pay fees if they represent the college in sport. If you are unsure about the amount of the fee then please contact Mr Nigel Dixon, Sports Director. The fees are vital to the operation of sport, and can be paid at the college shop.

### PROACTIVE PHYSIO

The physio will be back at school in Terms 2 and 3. Times and days are yet to be advised, but will be advertised in the school notices. Any boys with injuries are encouraged to make an appointment through the school office. The service is free and we are grateful to the continued support of Proactive.

### SPORTS COACHES

We would like to thank and acknowledge all the sport volunteers who have helped make sport possible in Term 1. Parent and staff support continues to be the driving force behind sport and without it, sport simply would not exist. Every parent who coaches, manages, transports or helps in any capacity, is appreciated and we sincerely thank you for your support.

Whether playing sport for fun with friends or competitively, sport remains an important part of life at Rongotai College and it was great to again see such high sport participation rates in Term 1. We hope all boys play at least one sport each year and it is not too late if your son hasn't registered for winter 2019. Please contact our Sports Department ([sport@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:sport@rongotai.school.nz)), to discuss what might be a good fit for your son and appeal to his interests.

Thank you to all those who have offered to help in winter too. We still need more volunteers so please contact the sports office if you can coach, referee, manage or help with transport in any of our winter codes.

We have boys competing in over 30 different sports at both senior and junior levels: national, regional, local and social.

If you would like to be a part of the development and expansion of Rongotai College sport please contact our Sports Department by phone (939 3050) or by email [sport@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:sport@rongotai.school.nz).

### PARENTS' ASSOCIATION

The Parents' Association have held two meetings this year and have been active in their intent to

support the boys with their learning and engagement in life at school.

### Winter Food Fair – 21 June

After the success of the 2018 Winter Food Fair, the Parents' Association will once again hold their fair mid-year (21 June).

While the Parents' Association has the capacity to organise and run the event they rely on the school community to make it a success. These are some of the ways you can help:

- Run a food stall – assist by covering food cost and help on the night with staff, signage etc. The various ethnicities represented at Rongotai College are encouraged to come forward and serve their local dishes.
- Donate to the fair – Year 9 and 10 parents, cakes and baking, parents of senior students are asked to donate food related tombola items – more on this closer to the time.
- Assist in the preparation of the fair – send us an email and we will assign you a task!

The Parents' Association can be contacted by email on [parents.association@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:parents.association@rongotai.school.nz)

Have an enjoyable and safe holiday and best wishes for Term 2!

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**