



RONGOTAI COLLEGE

PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 10, Term 2, 2018

COMING EVENTS

Friday 6 July

Last day Term 2

Monday 23 July

First day Term 3

Friday 27 July

Tu Tangata at the Michael Fowler Centre

Tuesday 31 July

Subject selection books for 2019 distributed

Thursday 2 August

Study Skills Seminar for parents 6.30pm

Friday 10 August

Interim reports posted home

Monday 13 August

Subject selection for 2019 week

Thursday 9 August

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

Monday 20 August

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

Wednesday 22 August

Parent interviews 4-7.30pm

Monday 3 September

Mid Term Break

Monday 3 to Friday 7 September

Winter Tournament Week

2018 TERM DATES

Term 3 Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September

Term 4 Monday 15 October to Friday 7 December

Today is the last day of Term 2 marking the half-way stage of the 2018 school year. Once again, it has been a busy and productive term with many highlights. 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.

STUDY SKILLS SEMINARS

We have been fortunate to have gained the services of Study Skills specialist, Karen Boyes, to work in our school this year as part of our Study Skills Programme. Karen is a sought after speaker and is an international expert, passionate about providing students practical ways to study and achieve success. "Passing exams is supposed to get you ahead in life - not make you a nervous wreck", says Karen.

On **Thursday 2 August**, Karen will be working with our Year 11, 12 and 13 students and her workshops will provide easy-to-implement strategies and techniques for successful revision. She will also work with our teachers. She will provide a workshop for parents outlining things that you can do at home to assist your son with revision and study. Karen will also help you understand some of the challenges that your son may go through as he gets ready for external assessments, and ways that you can help him manage himself. Entry to the Parent Seminar is free, and we encourage you to attend. **The Parent Seminar will start at 6.30pm at the college.**

CHANGE TO BUSES

Metlink has recently announced changes to bus services starting Sunday 15 July. Many of these changes, particularly related to bus rounds and timetables impact on how our students come to and from school. This includes big changes to all bus routes and numbers, and includes our school bus service.

For more information, visit <https://www.metlink.org.nz/on-our-way/>

A summary of the changes to the Rongotai College school services is included with this newsletter, while a copy of the new timetable can be found on our website.

SUBJECT SELECTION

An important event early in Term 3 is Subject Selection. Your son will receive his **Subject Selection Handbook** on 31 July. 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 state which subjects they want to study in 2019 by 17 August. There will be an on-line process 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.

LATE START – THURSDAY 26 JULY

So our staff can attend a seminar as part of their Professional Learning and Development Programme, school will not start on Thursday 26 July until 10.10am.

Unfortunately, school buses will run on their usual timetable.

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.

ENROLMENTS 2019

Earlier this term, we began our enrolment process with the annual Rongotai Experience and Open Evening. Despite the wet and chilly weather, 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 all 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 2019 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 to be part of this.

2019 TERM DATES

It has now been confirmed that dates for the 2019 school year will be:

Term 1: 28 January to 12 April

Term 2: 29 April to 5 July

Term 3: 22 July to 27 September

Term 4: 14 October to 6 December

NZQA FEES

NZQA fees are collected by the school on behalf of NZQA, and are not payments to the school. These fees are a registration fee to have all credits earned this year recognised by NZQA.

The last date the school will accept NZQA fees is 24 August 2018, and fees not paid by this date must be paid direct to NZQA. Non-payment of NZQA assessment fees will mean that your son will not have any credits he gains this year recognised by NZQA and he will not receive any qualifications that may result.

NZQA fees can be paid by automatic payment. Please contact the college office for more information about this.

If your son is eligible for assistance, a Financial Assistance Form must be completed and returned to the school by 24 August 2018. If you require assistance completing the form or have questions about examination fees, please contact the school office.

ACADEMIC NEWS

Interim school reports will be posted to you on 10 August and a subsequent Parent Interview Evening will be on 22 August.

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

Year 9 Mr Nick O'Halloran

Year 10 Ms Esmee McAuley

Year 11 Mr Justin Gray

Year 12 Mr Kit Norman

Year 13 Mr Phil Sparks

ART STUDENTS AT TE PAPA

Evander Tere-Rongotaua and **Tuki Tutaki**, two of our art students, recently participated in the Michel Tuffery project at Te Papa, involving 14 high school students from across Wellington.

The project, Ngā Whetū o Matariki, saw the level 1 windows at Te Papa transformed into a cascading mural, drawing inspiration from both Te Ao Māori and the Pacific, as part of Matariki.

Michel's kaupapa behind bringing artists together was all about the process. He said, "We're empowering the kids, we're not just making another mark, it's about the meaning behind the mark-making."

The windows are on display throughout Matariki, and through until early August.



GREAT KIWI ENGLISH COMPETITION

Ten members of 9GM and 10BK participated in the University of Canterbury Great Kiwi English Competition. Rongotai College had more students enter the competition this year (the second year it has run) than in 2017. The competition, run by The Centre for Evaluation and Monitoring at the University of Canterbury, investigates students' abilities to read and understand various types of texts, and tests reading comprehension, grammar and spelling, and understanding of audience and purpose skills. The boys had 50 minutes to complete 40 questions of varying degrees of difficulty. This competition gives the boys advanced practice for NCEA Unfamiliar Texts examinations at Levels 1, 2 and 3 in English. We wish them well with their results which will arrive in Term 3.



From left: Miha Mitcalfe-Matthews, Oscar Watson, Daniel Turner, Reuben Ballara, Oscar Cole, Angus Doddridge, James Sutton, Luke Gibbs, Jagan Buckman and Armin Ruckstuhl.

LEVEL 2 GEOGRAPHY

Recently Wellington Mayor Justin Lester took time out of his busy schedule to speak to our Level 2 Geography students who visited the CBD as part of their preparation for an internal assessment on graffiti patterns in the city. They were also addressed by one of two old boys on Council, Cr Simon Woolf and Cr Chris

Calvi-Freeman, who spoke fondly of his time at Rongotai College.



LEVEL 2 HISTORY

Our Level 2 History students, who have been learning about the Vietnam War, had the opportunity to hear from retired Air Vice Marshall Robin Klitscher CBE, DFC, AFC, who flew Iroquois helicopters during the conflict. Listening to a first-hand account from someone who was there helped the students gain a deeper understanding of New Zealand's involvement.



UNIVERSITY INFORMATION

Students considering university study in 2019 may be interested in attending one or more of the open days. Dates for these are: Canterbury University - 12 July Massey University (Palmerston North Campus) - 1 August University of Auckland and AUT - 25 August Victoria University - 31 August Massey University (Wellington Campus) - 31 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.

CULTURAL NEWS

NZ YOUTH ORCHESTRA

Congratulations to **Hamish Goodhue** who has been accepted into the NZSO National Youth Orchestra 2018.



Hamish will be performing with the orchestra at the Michael Fowler Centre on Friday 6 July and then at the Auckland Town Hall on Saturday 7 July.

TUTAGATA FESTIVAL

The TuTagata festival is on Friday 27 July at the Michael Fowler Centre.

Tickets are on sale at Ticketek from 13 July. Adults \$30, children \$15. This is the only avenue for purchasing tickets.

Thanks to all those who supported the boys at their excellent Poly Variety Night last week, which entertained the large crowd who attended and helped to raise funds for uniforms.



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.

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.

As the weather has got colder and wetter, it has been a little disappointing to hear that some boys are not attending training.

When you join a team, you make a commitment to your coaches and team mates to attend practices – please make sure your son fulfills that commitment.

Following an incident on the side-line last year involving a dog on a leash and a rugby player, we must remind all supporters that **DOGS ARE NOT PERMITTED** anywhere on school grounds (either on or off a leash). We should also mention that the college (including its grounds) are a **SMOKE FREE ZONE**.

SPORTING SUCCESSES

New Zealand U19 Floorball Team

Congratulations to the six Rongotai students who have been named in the NZ U19 Floorball team. The team will play in the World Cup qualifier against Japan and Australia in September.

The boys are **Jack Cobden-Cox, Liam Fisher, Jackson Lewis, Tim McKibbin, Louis Scott and Alec Stewart**. Well done boys!

New Zealand Rugby League & NZ Flag

Congratulations to **Evander Tere-Rongotaua** who has been selected in the NZ U16 Rugby League squad. If this wasn't impressive enough, this month he was also selected in the U18 NZ Flag team.



New Zealand Yachting

Congratulations to **Albert and Wilbur Stanley** who have been selected for the NZ Youth sailing team in the Laser Radial and 420 Class respectively.



Albert will compete in the Laser Radial World Youth Championships in Germany, while Wilbur will be going to Rhode Island, USA to compete at the World Youth 420 Championships. Both events will take place at the same time. Good

luck to these brothers and their crews.

Surf Lifesaving

Congratulations to **Kit Jones** and **Che Pulepule** who were acknowledged by Surf Lifesaving NZ and presented with a gold, silver and silver medal respectively at the Wellington Regional Surf Life Saving Awards for Excellence. Well done boys!

Cross Country

The cross country team travelled to Upper Hutt to compete in the CSW Championships. 14 boys competed, including a strong 7-man team from Tamatoa who won both the 3-man and 6-man team events. Individually, there were 4 top 10 placings including **David Anas** who came 3rd, **Daniel Voresara** 6th, **Aidan Warrington** 8th and **Kesh Mistry** 9th in the AWD event.

Table Tennis

Congratulations to the Rongotai 5 table tennis side who won the CSW Division 3 final against Rongotai 6 to complete the table tennis season for this year.

St Pat's Traditional

Our premier rugby, hockey, basketball and football sides travelled to St Patrick's College, Silverstream to play the annual traditional fixtures. While we

couldn't repeat our win from last year, we managed to secure a draw with the fixtures 2 a-piece, thanks to good wins by hockey 4-1 and basketball 106-58. Unfortunately, the rugby and football lost 67-0 and 4-0 respectively. Nevertheless, this was a fantastic day and we would like to thank St Pat's for being great hosts and playing the games in good spirit.

Swimming

The swim team competed at the CSW Individual Champs at Naenae Pool recently. Swimming continues to grow in popularity at Rongotai College and I am delighted to say **Sam Brown** had an exceptional meet claiming gold medals in the 100m Individual Medley and 200m freestyle events, while also picking up two silvers in the 50m backstroke and 100m breaststroke for the 14 and under age group, setting four new Rongotai swimming records. In the over 15 age group **Che Pulepule** won bronze medal placings in the 100m IM, 100m breaststroke and 100m freestyle, breaking his own 100m freestyle record in the process. Special mention must also go to Year 9 **Jacob Timmins** who broke the Rongotai records for 50m breaststroke and 100m backstroke in the 14 and under category.

SPORTS ENROLMENTS

Although the winter season is now in full swing, there are still plenty of opportunities for your son to play sport in 2018. Whether he is a complete beginner or has experience, he would be most welcome to join a sports team in Term 3 or 4. For details about sporting options for the rest of the year, please contact the Director of Sport, Mr Nigel Dixon (sport@rongotai.school.nz).

SPORTS FEES

I mentioned in the last newsletter that sports fees were 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 Nigel Dixon, Sports Director, if you have any questions relating to the fees.

Lastly, can I wish you a very relaxing July holiday, and we hope to see all our boys return fresh and ready to hit the ground running for the start of what will be a busy Term 3.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter
PRINCIPAL

MID-WINTER FOOD FAIR

The Rongotai College Mid-Winter Food Fair was a fantastic success and is much more than a fundraising event – it's an opportunity for the wider Rongotai community to get together, enjoy each other's company and enjoy some great food. This year we were also lucky enough to have some wonderful entertainment provided by our students. The event was hugely successful, with the Renner Hall full and buzzing. All the stalls sold out, and over \$4,500 was raised by the Parents' Association. (This is after deducting food costs and the cost of our spanking new banners and signs, which we hope everyone noticed!)

A huge thanks must go to the Parents' Association, the Whānau Group, the Pasifika Parents' Asosi, the staff (particularly Mr Tavernor, Mr Burt, Mr Bhindi, Mr Baird and Ms Honeyman), all the stall holders and volunteers, the parents who baked, and the students who helped on the night and contributed to the success of the evening. A special thank you to Kash and Araj Patel who made 1,000 delicious samosas!

A big thank you also to the entertainers Hoani Cowan-Rauhihi, Rongotai College Big Band, Rongotai College Choir, Jahsoul and Ground Floor. Cultural Prefect, Ethan Makisi did an outstanding job organising the evening's entertainment, with support from Mr Crayford.

We are also very grateful for the support of the Mid-Winter Food Fair by the following businesses, and thank them for their generosity:

- Bunkhouse Graphic Design
- Havana Coffee
- Mojo Coffee
- Sushi Lunches
- The Larder, Miramar

School services change for Rongotai College.

Route name	Route number	What's changing (effective from 15 July)
Miramar, Kilbirnie & Hataitai - Rongotai, St Pat's, Wgtn East, Wgtn Coll & St Mark's	712	No change
Strathmore Park - Rongotai, St Pat's, Evans Bay & Wgtn East Girls	714	Additional trip
Wellington Station (Vic Law School) - Kilbirnie Schools	751	Route change & incorporates 750
Rongotai College - Wellington Station via Hataitai	754	No change
Rongotai College - Wellington Station via Newtown	755	No change
Rongotai College - Miramar & Seatoun	762	Journey time changes
Karori & Kelburn - St Patrick's & Rongotai College	765	Route changed and journey time changes
Mairangi - Wellington, St. Patrick's & Rongotai Colleges	768	No change
Kowhai Park - Basin, St Patrick's & Rongotai College	770	No change
Rongotai, St Pat's, & Basin - Vogeltown, Kingston & Kowhai Park	771 (old) 770 (new)	Route number changed to 770
Houghton Bay, Owhiro Bay & Island Bay - Sth Wgtn Inter, St Pat's, St Cath's & Rongotai	774	No change
Rongotai College - Berhampore, Island Bay	776	No change
Wellington Station (Vic Law School) - Scots College via Roseneath	782	St Pats added to route and journey time changes