



# RONGOTAI COLLEGE

## PRINCIPAL'S NEWSLETTER

Week 5, Term 2, 2018

### COMING EVENTS

**Monday 4 June**

Queen's Birthday holiday

**Friday 8 June**

Rongotai Experience  
– no school for most students

**Tuesday 12 June**

Rongotai College Open Evening  
– no afternoon school for most students

**Wednesday 13 June**

St Patrick's College Silverstream, sporting exchange at Silverstream

**Monday 18 June**

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

**Friday 22 June**

Winter Food Fair from 5.30pm in the Renner Hall

**Thursday 28 June**

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

**Friday 6 July**

Last day Term 2

**Monday 23 July**

First day Term 3

Chem-Dry, had flowed into our basement classroom (A19), basement corridor and storerooms, power switchboard and gas boilers and caused the problems we have experienced.



Water in A19 corridor

The water pipe was a relatively straightforward fix and electricity into the school was reconnected on Tuesday 22 May. It has taken about a week for the basement to be dried out. Wall linings should be replaced at some stage this week.



A19 on Wednesday this week

However, the gas boilers are the ongoing issue. They provide heated water to radiators in classrooms and offices around the main building of the school. With these not working, we have had to rely on electric heaters in our classrooms, and they are not efficient. The cold snap we have experienced this week has made the school seem even colder.

It is not as simple as just turning on additional electric heaters, as our power system can't deal with the extra load placed on the system by heaters in 36 classrooms all being turned on at once. We have had

short power outages Monday-Wednesday this week as a result. We will phase turning heaters on before school in the days ahead.

Classroom temperatures are now hovering between 12-17°, which while not ideal, does allow us to keep the school open for instruction.

I certainly have appreciated the goodwill of staff and students as they are making do with this situation. Thankfully, one of the gas boilers is now working and it is hoped the other will be by the end of next week.

Despite all of this, our boys seem to be coping well. For seniors, the school year is more than one-third of the way complete, and our deans, academic mentors and classroom teachers are working hard to ensure that students meet their academic commitments and are as successful as they can be.

As I have walked around the corridors of the school over the past few weeks, I have seen a number of senior students heavily involved in NCEA internal assessments. I have been impressed by their efforts. You should receive feedback from teachers as part of our next reports, which are due to be posted with this newsletter. You can also check for results on the Parent Portal.

### RONGOTAI 90<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS

The Rongotai College Old Boys Association has organised a programme over Queen's Birthday weekend to celebrate Rongotai College's 90<sup>th</sup> 'Birthday'.

The celebrations start with a special 'Old Boys' assembly on Friday 1 June, followed by luncheon and tours of the school. That evening, there is a function at the Roxy. On

It is proving to be a hectic and disruptive start to Term 2, with floods, school closures, power outages and issues with heating, all distracting us from our purpose of boys being in class to learn.

The cause of these problems was a burst joint on a water pipe under the administration area of the main block. The over 250,000 litres of water pumped out by the NZ Fire Service and

### 2018 TERM DATES

**Term 2** Monday 30 April to Friday 6 July

**Term 3** Monday 23 July to Friday 28 September

**Term 4** Monday 15 October to Friday 7 December

Saturday, there are 1<sup>st</sup> XI football (10.45am) and 1<sup>st</sup> XV (2.30pm) games against Scots College, while there is a basketball game in the gymnasium.

If you are an old boy of Rongotai College yourself and wish to be involved, you can find details of the events on the RCOB Facebook page.

## UNIFORM

While we have allowed boys to wear extra garments to keep them warm over the past week or so, after Queen's Birthday weekend we will be insisting that students wear the correct uniform, even on the coldest of days. The regulation jersey and school jacket provide ample warmth, although we also allow students to wear **plain black or navy blue jackets** as part of the uniform. We have a uniform puffer jacket, and these have proven extremely popular. They can be purchased from the college shop.

Recently, we have noted a large number of boys not wearing regulation shoes. **Shoes should be black leather-look polishable dress shoes.** *Sports or 'skate-type' shoes are NOT part of the uniform.*

**We ask for your support in ensuring that your child has the correct uniform items, including the correct shoes.**

We don't wish to disrupt learning to get the uniform sorted but we do have a uniform that must be worn correctly.

## YEAR 10 DEAN

**Ms Esmee McAuley** has

been appointed the Year 10 Dean, taking over from Mrs Sheridan Mackenzie, who has left Rongotai College to move back to her hometown of Nelson.



Ms McAuley can be contacted by email on [esmee.mcauley@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:esmee.mcauley@rongotai.school.nz)

## SKOOL LOOP APP

Parents are reminded to download this app, then select 'Rongotai

College'. From here you are able to easily send attendance emails, view newsletters, access the daily notices (linked through the parent portal) and in the event of an emergency, we are able to send a notification direct to your phone, as we did when we had to evacuate the school due to the flooding that occurred recently.



## ENROLMENTS 2019

We are presently involved with enrolments for 2019. The first enrolment event is the **RONGOTAI EXPERIENCE** when we invite Year 8 boys from our contributing schools to Rongotai College to experience our school. This takes place on **Friday 8 June**. The Year 8 boys come into our school in two groups from contributing schools and spend the morning or afternoon involved in various learning activities in different subject areas. **There will be no formal classes for your son(s) on this day although some of them will be asked to help with our Rongotai Experience.**

If you require your son to attend school on this day he will be supervised. Contact the office before the day if this is the case and please tell him to report to the office at 8.55am.

The second important event is our **OPEN EVENING** which will be held on **Tuesday 12 June**. Please encourage any of your friends who have a son in Year 7 or 8 to come into the college and experience the "Rongotai Way". The evening begins at 7pm and concludes around 8.30pm.

Departments will be setting up displays for the Open Evening from 12.30pm onwards. Some students will be required to help with this, but

if your son is not required **he will be released from school at 12.30pm.**

If you require your son to stay at school for the afternoon he will be supervised. Please tell him to report to the office at 1.30pm.

If your friends would like further information subsequent to the above two events, please tell them to contact the college, and I will take them on a tour of the college facilities.

## CANTEEN WINTER MENU

A new winter menu has been put in place in the school canteen. This is available on our website for you to view. They have brought back the ever popular butter chicken wrap, the sushi sandwich and the chicken wrap.

## BREAKFAST

Breakfast is the most important meal of the day.

We understand that for a range of reasons, boys may not come to school having had an appropriate breakfast. Consequently, we have partnered with Fonterra and Sanitarium (as part of their 'Kick Start Breakfast programme') to provide breakfasts for boys who require it in the Hospitality Room each morning. Boys are able to have breakfast from 7.45 each morning. Weet-Bix and milk are free, and boys can purchase toast if they choose to.



We hope this allows all our students to have a 'Kick Start Breakfast' each day.

## ACADEMIC NEWS

### NZQA FEES

An invoice for NZQA fees is included in this newsletter for Year 11-13 students. These fees are collected by the school on behalf of NZQA, and are not payments to the school as such. They are a registration fee to have all NCEA 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 directly to NZQA. Non-payment of NZQA assessment fees will mean that your son will not have any credits gained 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.



### ROCKQUEST / TANGATA BEATS

Congratulations to all the Rongotai College boys who performed so well at this event recently.

**Tyrone Daniel** was a member of the band 'Toa' which was a combination of students from Rongotai and Aotea Colleges. Toa won the Tangata Beats section of the event.

### INTERACT CLUB

The Interact Club has approximately 60 members. This year they are extending their community service to include working alongside Papa Taiao Earthcare. They are fortunate to be working alongside Mark Taylor and Joakin Liman (a previous Wellington bird zoo keeper) to assist with this.

Papa Taiao Earthcare have opened up an exciting range of new activities for the Interact Club. This includes conducting a bio diversity survey at Rongotai College and a penguin survey at Evans Bay and Lyall Bay, habitat restoration at Lyall Bay, tracking and trapping of predators that endanger our native birdlife, making gecko and weta hotels and nectar feeders for tuis, tree planting

on the Miramar Peninsular and working alongside the penguin house group. The students are able to work towards gaining Level 2 and Level 3 Unit and Achievement Standards as part of this programme.

To this end we are looking for native timber to build the gecko and weta hotels and tui nectar feeders. The wood can be treated or untreated. If you have any lying around your property or know of someone who has, and would like to donate the wood to the Interact Club, please email [Virginia Wilson](mailto:virginia.wilson@rongotai.school.nz) ([virginia.wilson@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:virginia.wilson@rongotai.school.nz)) or [Phil Sparks](mailto:phil.sparks@rongotai.school.nz) ([phil.sparks@rongotai.school.nz](mailto:phil.sparks@rongotai.school.nz)) to arrange for it to be picked up, if you are unable to deliver it to the college.



## SPORTS NEWS

Winter sports are now well and truly underway and this season we have football, rugby, basketball, shooting, table tennis, badminton and hockey. It is great to see our football, hockey and basketball numbers continue to grow, while for the most part, our other winter codes have remained steady in terms of participant numbers.

While most codes are still in the grading rounds, it is great to see the progress all the teams have been making under our volunteer coaches and managers. It is particularly exciting to have four student coaches involved. Steven Raj (Year 13) and Ben Beardsworth (Year 12) are currently coaching the Junior Black Football team, while Satish Cussins and Alex Lowcay are coaching the 2<sup>nd</sup> XI hockey side.

In addition to this, we welcome back recent old boys, Harrison Bellve and Qais Fawzi (2016 Head Prefect), both current university students, who are coaching football this year. It is great to see present and former students giving back to the school and contributing to sport at Rongotai!

In senior codes, our Senior A Basketball and 1<sup>st</sup> XV have already qualified for their respective

premierships. Both have started with wins in the opening rounds, against Hutt Valley High School and Wairarapa College respectively.

There are still a few boys who are not wearing the correct sport uniform, especially evident in football where boys are wearing incorrect socks or shorts. This is also the case with many of the badminton teams. Please ensure your son wears the correct sports uniform as agreed to in the terms and conditions of registration. Continued failure to do will result in them being stood down from competition.

### BASKETBALL

Congratulations to **Ezrah Vaigafa** who has been named in the New Zealand U17 Basketball team to compete in the FIBA World Championship in Argentina in June.



### SWIMMING

For the second consecutive year, Rongotai sent a swimming team to the Wellington quad meet. While all boys did exceptionally well, we would like to acknowledge **Jacob Timmins** who won the U14 33.3m Breaststroke, **Che Pulepule** who won both the Senior 33.3m and 66.6m Breaststroke and **Sam Brown** for his win in the U15 33.3m backstroke.

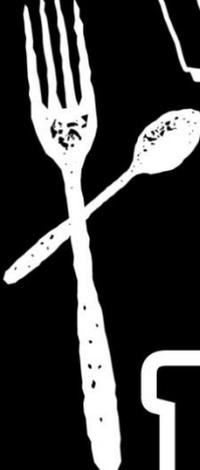
Thank you to the parents and community volunteers who work tirelessly to provide opportunities for all boys at Rongotai to enjoy and experience sport. Please make sure, if your boy is in a sports team this year, you acknowledge the effort from these people who coach, manage and provide transportation in order for your son to have such wonderful opportunities.

Best wishes to the school community for the term ahead.

Kind regards,

Kevin Carter  
**PRINCIPAL**

RONGOTAI COLLEGE  
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 **WINTER  
FOOD  
FAIR** 

  
**ON**  
**JUNE**  
**22<sup>ND</sup>**  


**5.30**  
**TO**  
**8.00<sup>PM</sup>**

**RONGOTAI COLLEGE**

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