



Tena Koutou Katoa



## A Warm Welcome to Our New Teachers



### Ashley Cook

Kia Ora! I have a 4 year Bachelor of Science degree from Otago University in

Human Nutrition and Consumer Food Science. After graduation, I worked in a gym and as a nutritionist before deciding to complete my post graduate study in teaching at Auckland University.

While studying to be a teacher, I came to Selwyn College on a practicum and I also began to coach the Senior Girls' Volleyball team. I fell in love with this school and decided I would love to work here. Fortunately for me, a job came up and I was appointed! I am really looking forward to this year, the challenges, the triumphs and everything in between.

### Selwyn Hodges

This is my first year teaching, after studying for four years to complete my Bachelor of Physical



Education (BPE). During my BPE I was on placement at Selwyn College for a month, so I am thrilled to be back here full-time on the staff. My sporting background is over many sports ranging from tennis and cricket, to athletics and cross-country. My main sport is Football which I am very passionate about and I look forward to being involved in at Selwyn College.

It is a privilege to be starting at Selwyn College and I am excited to be working with enthusiastic staff, in a school with great facilities, that offers plenty of opportunity for its students and staff. I am looking forward to a year of growth and enjoying building relationships with the students and families of Selwyn College.

## A Stunning ERO Report for Selwyn College!

The Education Review Office visited us again in Term 4 last year and their report was made public in January. We are delighted with the findings. Here is a selection of quotes that reveal their tone:

*'Students at Selwyn College benefit from well led change that has resulted in significant improvements in the quality of teaching, the learning environment and school management systems.'*

*'Students are engaged in learning.'*

*'Students at all year levels report that they appreciate the increased emphasis on achievement and celebration of their attainment in academic, sporting, cultural and leadership areas.'*

*'Māori students interviewed by ERO during the course of this review spoke positively about the increased visibility of, and respect for, their cultural heritage within the school.'*

*'Despite the increased workload associated with the scale and scope of the changes, staff are positive and share the principal's determination to embed a school culture of learning and success for students.'*

I encourage you to read the whole report which can be viewed on [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz)

The report recommends the retention of the Commissioner to enable us to continue our focus on improving the teaching and learning and to develop a planned process to extend productive community engagement in the school and this recommendation has been accepted by the Minister of Education.

## Selwyn's NCEA Results Continue to Improve Dramatically

The unconfirmed NCEA results indicate that our student achievement continues to track up at an excellent rate. In the full school assembly this week, I congratulated this year's Year 12 students on an 8% improvement in the number obtaining Level 1 certificates over the previous year and the Year 13 students on a 4% improvement for Level 2. Indeed since 2006, there has been an 80% improvement in the numbers obtaining a Level 1 certificate and a 67% increase in the numbers obtaining a Level 2 certificate. The number of Excellence and Merit Endorsed Certificates awarded at Level 1 has increased significantly – with Excellence certificates being achieved by 6.6% of our students compared with 1.2% the previous year and Merit certificates being achieved by 25.3% of students compared with 23.2% in 2008. At this stage, approximately 91% of students achieved the numeracy credits at Level 1 and 83% the Literacy credits – however, these results are very likely to improve when the final adjustments are made. I will report to the community in full on our NCEA achievement in 2009 once the confirmed results, including the gender and ethnic breakdowns, have been published by NZQA.

## Our Declan – 1<sup>st</sup> in New Zealand in the Cambridge Examination

For the first time last year, Selwyn College ran a Cambridge Course – Year 12 Thinking Skills. We have just been informed that Declan Thompson, one of our Head Students in 2010 came 1<sup>st</sup> overall in New Zealand in the examination held at the end of the year. This is a fantastic achievement for which Declan was honoured in our full school assembly this week. For his achievement he will receive a certificate and monetary award at a special prize-giving for top Cambridge scholars later this month.

*Sheryll Ofner*

Sheryll Ofner, Principal

## Introducing Our Head Students for 2010

### Declan Thompson - Head Boy

Declan has attended Selwyn since Year 9. He says he has always enjoyed school, participating in musicals, clubs and trips wherever possible. His interests include computers, drama, science, music and mathematics.

This year, Declan wants to ensure that every student knows about the extracurricular events the school offers and to encourage everyone to get involved. He also aims to promote Selwyn's academic nature as widely as he can.



Declan Thompson

### Josie Do Nizza - Head Girl

'Hola a todos' from Josie who was born in Argentina and speaks fluent Spanish. She moved to New Zealand eight years ago with her family and has grown to love this country like her own. Her favourite activities are the arts - visual, drama and music - as well as history and reading.

Starting her fifth and final year here has reminded Josie of all the wonderful things Selwyn has to offer, such as the diversity of cultures, the infinite opportunities to learn and all the support that is given to help students achieve their best. These are things she has enjoyed and benefited from and this year she aims to encourage other students to take advantage of.



Josie Do Nizza

## Our New House and Mentor System

This year we have a significant new initiative in the college. Every student has been allocated to one of four new vertical Houses – each of which has their own logo, symbols, colours and core values. Students will remain in this House the whole time they are at Selwyn. Each one is lead by a Head of House who is the first point of call for parents/caregivers phoning about a matter relating to their student.

### The Heads of House are:

**Mangopare** – Stuart Frost - Extension 675

**Pitau** – Jane Phillipson - Extension 677

**Rautawa** – Mary Anne Foley - Extension 680

**Takeketonga** – Ashley Minton - Extension 679



MANGOPARE



RAUTAWA



PITAU



TAKEKETONGA

The House system provides further opportunity for students to take on leadership positions and it is our pleasure to announce the following **House leaders for 2010**:

**Mangopare** - Sabrita Alison & Chris Buchan, **Pitau** - Natasha Karlsen & Vasa Kostidis, **Rautawa** - Madeleine Edward-Paul & Hamish Brandon, **Takeketonga** - Kendall Mabbutt & Daniel Carver- Shadbolt

They will chair a House Committee made up of students from across the year levels, which will plan House activities and inter-house competitions (eg, sport, debating, wearable art) which will win points towards a House Trophy. The aim is to encourage greater student involvement in the wider life of the school and enable students to develop their full range of competencies.

The House system also enables us to establish a school-wide **Mentor System**. Each student has been allocated a Mentor Teacher, who has approximately 15 students in their mentor group. They will meet one-on-one on a regular basis using resources published on each student's e-portfolio on *Selnet*.

The overarching goal is to facilitate student achievement of higher academic, social and emotional learning outcomes through a system that enhances student engagement by relationship building, the monitoring of student performance and the provision of an avenue for problem-solving and support on their pathway through school.

## The Student Executive 2010

This year we are fortunate to have a very talented group of students as the leaders of our various councils. Together they sit on the Student Executive, which is chaired by the Head Students. It is responsible for ensuring a strong student voice and activities that promote widespread student involvement in school life.



Academic Council  
Henry Northcott



Social Council  
Cody Minhinnick



Environment Council  
Ally Buchanan



Arts Council  
Lane Worrall



Whanaungatange Council  
Bayley Meyer



Cultural Council  
Arefa Fayaz

Sports Council  
tbc

## Peer Mediation 2010

Selwyn College has a long history of using peer mediation to encourage positive ways of dealing with conflict. The Student Mediation Team is made up of 16 students drawn from Years 12 and 13 who attend training for one day at the beginning of the year and intermittently after that. Members of the team usually work together with two or more students in ways which are even-handed and non-judgemental. They visit junior classes at the beginning of the year to explain the mediation process and promote their service. Posters are displayed in every classroom and teachers and House Leaders all support the programme. The training day on Tuesday 26 January provided an opportunity to for new students in the team to work alongside the more experienced team members and to practise the new skills they are acquiring. If you would like to know more about how the Student Mediation Team works in the school, please ring the Guidance Counsellor, Michal Horton, on 5219611 or email [hortonm@selwyn.school.nz](mailto:hortonm@selwyn.school.nz).



## New Selwyn College Dress Uniform

This week in the full school assembly we launched the new Selwyn College Dress Uniform. The response from the students is extremely positive. It consists of the black skirt and trousers from the current new uniform teamed with a white shirt, black tie with red, silver and green stripes and a black blazer featuring the traditional Selwyn College crest. Students representing the college are able to borrow this uniform overnight from the Student Office.



Trina Rakovica



Agon Tairi

## Peer Support 2010

On Friday January 29 we were delighted to see 43 of our senior students from Years 12 and 13 arrive at school for a day of Peer Support training.



Many of them had already participated in the Leadership Training Day held at the end of last year and some had even been here earlier in the week for Mediation training. This level of participation demonstrates a high level of commitment to an aspect of school life that is critical to the successful integration of our new Year 9 students into the school. Even more students have since come to volunteer their services for the programme and the total number of Peer Supporters in the school now stands at 64. This represents an outstanding commitment from our senior students!

The Peer Support Programme/Te Aka Tautoko Akonga encourages and empowers senior students to give holistic support to their younger peers. It provides a forum for the development of leadership skills and helps to boost the confidence and self-esteem of new students at a time when they are particularly vulnerable. Activities are designed around a number of topics, including: orientation to the school, building the group, communication, cooperation, diversity, bullying and friendship. The programme runs weekly for the first term and thereafter as required. If you would like to know more about the programme, its aims and activities, please call the Guidance Counsellor, Michal Horton, on 5219611 or email [hortonm@selwyn.school.nz](mailto:hortonm@selwyn.school.nz)

## The Benefits of Learning to Play an Instrument through our Excellent Music Department



There has been considerable research done which proves that learning to play a musical instrument improves the mind by building self confidence, fostering creativity and imagination, teaching self discipline, commitment, the value of teamwork and pride of accomplishment.

In keeping with this philosophy, Selwyn College encourages students to learn an instrument through the itinerant music scheme at school or by joining a co-curricular music group.

The Music department is supported by a team of wonderful music teachers and itinerant teachers. These itinerant music teachers have contributed greatly to the ongoing success of our Selwyn musicians in their individual music lessons and in their support of co-curricular music groups.

If you are interested, please contact Sonya Montgomery HOD Music 521 9610 extension 668.

## School Dental Health Programme – Free dental care for students 13-17 years of age

As part of our commitment to fostering student's well-being, we would like to advise you about the School Dental Health Programme offered through Lumino, The Dentists. This service, approved by the Ministry of Health, is operated out of a high tech mobile unit on the school premises. Students are seen during school hours with careful consideration given to timetables in order to avoid unnecessary disruption.

**The scheduled dates when the Lumino Dental mobile unit will be at Selwyn College are Monday, 15<sup>th</sup> March through to Thursday, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2010.**



The mobile unit is well equipped and the staff are highly trained, New Zealand qualified dentists and dental therapists who have extensive experience in caring for the oral health of secondary school students. Pupils will receive a full examination (including x-rays where necessary) and will be provided with a full dental report. Basic treatments, including fillings will be carried out in the mobile unit. However, should a dentist require a more extensive procedure they will be referred to their nearest Lumino, The Dentists branch.

It is not compulsory to join this programme. However the school recommends that all senior and junior students seriously consider taking advantage of this opportunity. Enrolment forms are available from the school nurse. Please note parental consent is required for all students under the age of 16 years.

### All Students Require an ID Card this Year

It is essential that all students purchase the Student ID card this year as it has multiple purposes for use in the school and the community:

- A MAXX bus pass for student fares on public transport
- A photocopy, printing and library access card.
- A deals and discounts card for retail outlets (food / sporting goods)
- An id card for attendance at assemblies (barcode)

**Please pay \$7.00 to the Student Office urgently!**

### Punctuality to School is Essential in 2010

This year, period 1 starts promptly at 8.40am every morning. Hence, it is vital that students are in class with their books out ready to start the first lesson of the day by 8.35am. We would appreciate parental assistance in ensuring that your student arrives at school on time every day, so that their own learning and that of others is not disrupted.

## Important Message For Parents Of Girls In Years 10, 11 & 12

### Cervical Cancer Vaccination Programme 2010

Around 160 women get cervical cancer and about 60 die each year in New Zealand. Female students in years 10, 11 & 12 are offered vaccination against Human Papillomavirus (HPV), to help prevent cervical cancer. This vaccine is provided in a series of 3 injections.

Our school is scheduled to have HPV vaccinations on

**10 March 2010 (Dose 1)**

**12 May 2010 (Dose 2)**

**25 August 2010 (Dose 3)**

If you miss the scheduled date a catch-up visit to administer this dose IS offered approximately one week after each date.

This week the Public Health Nurse is talking to all year 10, 11 & 12 female students about this vaccination. The students have been given information and consent form to bring home for you to complete. **Please be sure to return the form to school to let the nurses know your decision.**

**Completion and return of the consent form is requested whether you give you consent or decline.**

For more information contact

- \* HPV Nurse: 630 9991
- \* Your family doctor or practice nurse
- \* Ministry of Health: website [www.moh.govt.nz](http://www.moh.govt.nz)
- \* Immunisation Advisory Centre: 0800immune (0800 466863) Website [www.immune.org.nz](http://www.immune.org.nz)  
[www.oneforthegirls.org.nz](http://www.oneforthegirls.org.nz)

PS: This is the final year of the free school catch-up programme and all female students in year 8 and above who have not yet received the vaccination are encouraged to have it now. Just ask for an HPV form at school.