



Tena Koutou Katoa

An Outstanding Performance by Our Selwyn Kapa Haka at Polyfest




On Wednesday this week the Selwyn College Kapa Haka performed at the annual secondary schools' Polyfest held at the Manukau Velodrome. They were simply outstanding! This roopu have clearly moved to a new advanced level of expertise and the students involved, their tutors and supporters are deservedly brimming with pride.

Last year our wonderful strong group of girls had been forced to join with Sacred Heart College because of a lack of boys. This moved Whaea Fiona Smith to throw out a challenge to our Selwyn boys to show their mana and get involved in 2011. We are proud to say that the boys responded superbly and this year the girls were joined by a strong team of boys making a powerful group of over 50 students, ably lead by Katriana

Lammas-Howell and Tahana Tippett.

The rules set by the Polyfest organisers required a 28 minute set. It began with a polished choral piece conducted by Whaea Fiona and went on to include a whakaeke entry with an airy and exciting wero (challenge) by three senior boys followed by a traditional chant, then an action song (about the Maori language) and poi (family involvement in raising our children).

The haka was particularly powerful and dramatic. It was related to the way our youth drive in vehicles and the safety matters that all drivers need to be aware of. The national statistics show that young Maori youth have a higher rate of road accidents than any other ethnicity in New Zealand. This message was made clear during the haka. The group dedicated the haka to ex-Selwyn student Brooke Thompson, her family and many other families who have lost loved ones in road accidents.

Our talented teacher and Kapa Haka tutor Whaea Fiona deserves huge praise for having written this and indeed, most of the other material that was performed.

The choreography for all of the items was dynamic and creative. The group's movement and timing clearly indicated that there had been a huge effort put into rehearsing. Indeed, three full live-in weekends and many weeks of rehearsal time have been put in by the dedicated students and tutors who, in addition to Whaea Fiona, included her husband Gary Smith and relatives Piri Davis, Piripi Davis (Junior) and Kingi Makoare. A huge vote of thanks goes out to these people and the parents who supported them and this group in so many ways – (costumes and cooking).



In addition, we would like to thank the many parents who got involved in supporting the group. One family took it upon themselves to make breakfast for everyone every weekend. It is amazing contributions like this that help to create strong and vibrant communities such as we experience at Selwyn College.

We are also very proud indeed of the Selwyn students who took on the challenge of preparing the poi, earrings and dressing the Rakau (male weapons). This was lead by Connie Mitchell (Year 12) and included Jade Edwards (Year 13) and Monika Kele (Year 13).

We are now eagerly awaiting the Polyfest prizegiving!

The Kapa Haka have been invited to perform their set at the next full school assembly on Thursday 31st March at approximately 10.00am. All whanau and families are invited to attend. We will have a seating area for you upstairs in the ASB Stadium.

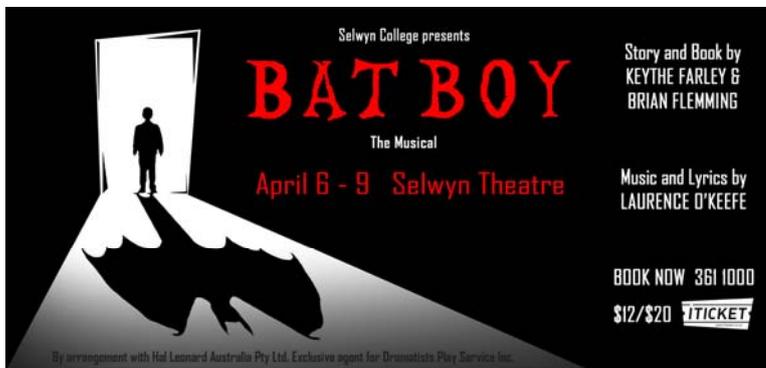


Sports News

Selwyn sent a small but keen Athletics team to the Eastern Zone championships on Tuesday this week. Xsara Hobson made the final for the Intermediate Girls 100 metres (6th overall) and 200 metres (4th overall). Stone Kelly made it to the final for the Intermediate Boys 400 metres.

The girls senior Volleyball team played in a tournament on their home ground at the ASB stadium last Thursday and Friday. They won three of their five games, finishing 9th in Division 1. This placed them 21st in Auckland, which is a huge improvement on previous years. Congratulations to all of the girls, their dedication has paid off and we can look forward to bigger and better things next year from this young group of talented girls.

The Senior Boys Volleyball team had a great vibe about them at the Auckland Volleyball Champs. Great leadership was shown from Tournament Captain, Chevez Tafunai. The boys had 5 close games and came away with 2 wins for a placing of 14 in Division 1. We have big plans for this team in the 2012 season ahead, stay tuned!



BAT BOY—The 2011 Selwyn Musical— is Coming!
Tickets are now on sale through iticket.

Mathematics Professor speaks to our students

In his early career Bill Barton worked in secondary schools, including a bilingual Maori-English unit, and also produced mathematics TV programmes shown on national television in the 1980s. He is a mathematics educator at the University of Auckland specialising in ethno mathematics, specifically the relationship between mathematics and language. In 2010 he became president of ICMI, the world body of mathematics education, and leads a project which is attempting to present the field of research in the mathematical sciences to secondary teachers in a way that will challenge and inspire them to better introduce mathematics to their students.

Two of our senior mathematics students (pictured right) are currently enrolled in a Stage 1 university paper, whilst still completing Year 13 at Selwyn College.



Quentin Burrell, Bill Barton & Jamie Chow

International Students & Homestay

Families Get Together

Last Thursday evening all the International students and their homestay families were invited to a BBQ at school. The courtyard was an ideal venue for the evening and the beautiful autumn weather added to the ambiance. The occasion was enjoyed by all with our BBQ chefs preparing tasty 'kiwi' BBQ food. The students had the opportunity to meet their friends home-stay families and mingle with each other.




SELWYN COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Courses starting this week

- Barista
- Photoshop Extension
- Writing Your Family History
- Digital Portrait Photography
- Reflexology
- Touch typing for speed and accuracy
- Managing your Money—Estate planning

see our website www.selwyncomed.school.nz
or phone 09 521 9623 to enrol

