

# Wellington High School

## NEWSLETTER FOR JUNE 2012 FROM THE PRINCIPAL



### Greetings to the school community



I am pleased to present to you another celebration of the achievements of our students that reflect the vitality and strength of our learning community.

I would also remind you that this is the time of the year that year 8 youngsters throughout Wellington are deciding on schools for 2013. We believe we offer the very best opportunity for all students to learn, grow and develop in a supportive and encouraging environment. Word of mouth is the most powerful promotional strategy and your voice is important. You can help us sustain and grow our school by sharing your "good news" stories with friends and neighbours. We have a lot of which to be proud and we want to share this.

### Transit of Venus Forum



Oska Rego

Earlier this month the Royal Society of New Zealand sponsored Oska Rego's attendance at the Transit of Venus Forum in Gisborne, a meeting of NZ's leading scientists, academics and leaders. We witnessed Venus transcribing the face of the sun and the unveiling of several community projects as well as discussions and seminars. The forum was a huge event for New Zealand, and is sure to instigate some positive changes for our future. As the only secondary school student there Oska had the opportunity to learn from everyone. It was inspirational and is already leading to further opportunities for him.

### Junior Impromptu Cup taken by WHS!!



Shakked Noy and Jessica Eaton

On Saturday the 9th of June, two juniors, Shakked Noy and Jessica Eaton, represented Wellington High School in the junior division of the debating Impromptu Cup. Both Jessica and Shakked are year 9's whereas the majority of the teams from other schools are comprised of year 10's. Our juniors started the day with a bye, and then fought furiously through 3 preliminary rounds - winning all of them.

Shakked Noy and Jessica Eaton broke into the grand final against Wellington East Girls College. Our team affirmed the moot, "that all schools should be co-educational" and won. This victory meant they won the whole junior division of the competition bringing us the Evening Post Impromptu Cup for the first time ever.

### Latina Loca Benefit



Lorena Henriquez

Friday the 15th of June saw the Riley Centre transformed into a festive, festooned fiesta in honour of the late Lorena Henriquez, our much loved late Spanish teacher. The staff of W.H.S have been overwhelmed by the support shown by the wider community and would like to thank all those who generously donated auction items to this event. Kim Hill did a fantastic job of presiding over the evening, and we thank her for her great humour and excellent auctioneering. We are very proud to have raised over \$10,000 for the benefit of Saul Henriquez as a result.

### Winter tramp



Tramping Club enjoying the snow

Winter tramps often need a plan B in case of bad weather. Our intention was to walk to Rangiwahia hut, climb to the Mangahua trig on Sunday and out via Deadmans track. Snow on the roads meant we had to park up and walk just to get to the start of the track. Once at the hut we found that the water tank was frozen. The half hour it took to get the heater going was a chilly time (probably warmer than -8°C with no wind chill once we closed the doors). Perfect weather produced the most beautiful tramp the next day.

### Maatangi Whenua 2012



*Congratulations to the following students: Second place- Hunter Eagle, Elsie Russell, Jeremy Sutton, Fifth place- Meghan Evans, Zoe Isaacs, Josh Mann*

On Monday the 18<sup>th</sup> of June, 6 year 11 geography students made their way to Scots College to compete in this year's Maatangi Whenua. This is a Regional Geography Competition that tests the students on their understanding of geographic concepts and general knowledge with a geographic twist. There were 18 teams on the night and the two teams representing Wellington High School came in second and fifth place. This is the best result we have ever had at this competition!

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## Underwater Hockey Success



*Underwater action in the pool!*

A combined team of junior players from Wellington High School and Rongotai College played in the tournament from June 8-10 at WRAC, finishing 4<sup>th</sup> overall. There were nine teams in the junior open grade with most from boys' schools. The team would have qualified for Nationals but they are ineligible because they are a combined team.

This team has made huge progress this year. All the WHS players, including captain **Caitlin Fitt-Simpson**, were playing in their first tournament. **Tess Breitenmoser**, **Hunter Cannon**, and **Zoe Corrin** all contributed to the team's goal tally of 25, and **Campbell Tacon** assisted several times.

## World Record Attempt



On Friday the 22nd of June, pupils and teachers at Wellington High School, together with local youth centre Zeal, attempted a Guinness World Record by making a 100.26 metre vanilla ice cream sundae.

The sundae stretched across the school field in spouting donated by local business Capital Continuous Spouting, and was made up of 400 litres of ice

cream, 500 bananas, 20 cans of whipped cream, and 20 bottles of chocolate sauce donated by Tip Top, All Goods Bananas, and PaknSave Kilbirnie. Sprinkles and cherries decorated the top of the icy treat.

While the sundae took 25 minutes to prepare with the help of 50 pupils and five teachers, it was gone in less than 20 minutes as hundreds of hungry punters took to the field to gobble down the monstrosity. Zeal and Wellington High will find out from Guinness Headquarters in London in the following weeks if they have officially broken the record.

## Frisbee pair flying high



*Rennie Pearson, left, and Conor Ivory  
(Photo Dom Post)*

Two Year 12 students, Conor Ivory and Rennie Pearson are part of the first New Zealand squad to compete in the under-19 ultimate Frisbee world championship in Dublin, and will be putting their accuracy and agility to the test against 22 other teams. Connor said training comprised of four matches a week, and "intense" sprint and vertical height training, and two 10km runs a week. "There's a lot of fitness involved. Endurance is really important and you've got to have your throws down."

## Chinese Calligraphy



*Yr 9 Chinese Option class*

On 30 May, 21 Year 9 students had a Chinese calligraphy lesson with Stan Chen. Mr Chen is a professional Chinese artist who specialises in ink painting and calligraphy. For most students it was the first time that they had the opportunity to hold a bamboo brush or practise the

basic strokes of Chinese writing on rice paper. Students also learned how to draw a baby panda eating bamboo leaves using traditional ink painting techniques.

## Latest news from Food Technology and Hospitality Department

Wellington High School has a growing hospitality department with ongoing success of students at various secondary cooking competitions and the installation of our new industrial style kitchen. We would like to announce that WHS has been accredited to offer Level 3 Hospitality. This allows us to provide a next level of training to better prepare students for entry into the industry. It is our aim to develop students' confidence, skills and understanding vital to entry into any industrial environment. We are also proud to announce that many industry professionals serve on our advisory board.

## Library News



*William Johnstone in Antarctic gear!*

Professor Peter Barrett from Victoria University Antarctic Research Centre was our first Library Lunchtime Lecture presenter. Peter is a geologist who has been a member of and led expeditions to Antarctica and he spoke about **Antarctic Exploration Then and Now**. This talk coincided with a year 9 **Icy Ecosystems** Inquiry topic.

Victoria University Associate Professor Hon. Luamanuava Winnie Laban visited on 5 June to talk to our Pasifika students about the support that is provided for Pasifika students at the University. This was to encourage more of our students to seriously consider tertiary study

We are lucky to have David Rutherford, Chief Human Rights Commissioner, presenting a Library Lunchtime Lecture on Thursday, 19 July at 12.30 pm. His topic will be the impact of violence on students' learning. Parents are welcome to attend.

Next term students will be able to download eBooks from the school library. Also available next term will be home access to our ClickView videos and recorded television programmes.

