

WENTWORTH COLLEGE BULLETIN

ISSUE 9

May 2008

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From the Principal



Academic achievement and development lies at the heart of Wentworth College, as it should in all learning environments. We unashamedly concentrate predominantly on the “traditional” academic subjects; entry into Universities is based on these subjects.

Recent Government funding changes to Universities has resulted in more courses becoming restricted in their entry requirements. Year 13 “alternative subjects” that many school offers, do not count for entry into these restricted programmes. Wentworth College offers course planning and guidance through the Year levels to give students the best possible opportunity to achieve academic success and readiness for tertiary study after they leave Wentworth.

Success relies heavily on establishing sound reading and writing skills along with confidence and ability in mathematics. Academic confidence and achievement in relation to an individual’s potential can then be realised. Specialist teaching in Years 7 and 8 has certainly helped achieve this and we are now observing the flow-through to the senior school of depth of knowledge and understanding.

The opening of Wentworth Primary will only further assist in this development of our students and ensure a seamless transition from the primary to secondary school with base skills and competencies in place.

During the last week of term I walked through a Year 7 Science class. The students were busily dissecting a flower, carefully exploring and identifying its structure. They were happily discussing the pollination and fertilisation process and their terminology and depth of analysis was impressive. This work is normally covered in the Year 10 and 11 syllabuses in most schools!

The establishment of students studying the International Cambridge curriculum will

complement this excellent work being achieved throughout the school. In 2009 all Year 11 students will sit Cambridge examinations on the IGCSE (International Certificate of General Education) course.

Preparation for the successful implementation of the Cambridge programme will continue next term with teachers attending an in-service teacher-only-day on Friday the 13th of June. Teachers will be visiting schools throughout Auckland that teach Cambridge.

A “Cambridge” information evening for parents will be held for Year 9 and 10 parents during Term 2 to give an update on progress and to communicate details and plans for 2009.

The support and individual acknowledgement of students throughout their schooling at Wentworth combined with the cultural, sporting and outdoor education opportunities helps to create happy, confident and mature young adults. Recently the University Studylinks liaison officers visited Wentworth to talk to our Year 13 students about scholarships, allowances and students loans. After the meeting the officers commented in an email....

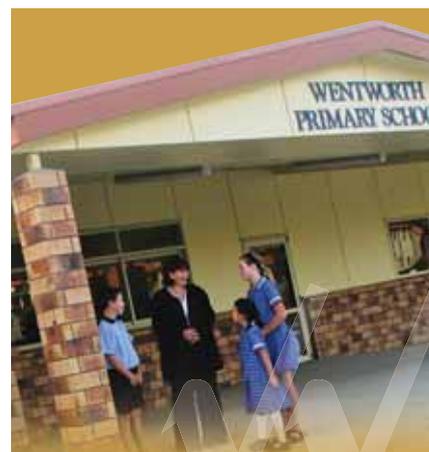
“It was inspirational to have people open and receptive to messages about budgeting, and planning ahead. Your staff may be used to working with these students; however their participation and contribution was noticeably mature compared to many interactions we have at other education providers, including Tertiary. Congratulations.”

My congratulations to students and teachers for a very positive and productive first term.

B.P. Tong
Principal

“Success never rests. On your worst days, be good. And on your best days be great. And on every other day, get better”

- Carmen Mariano



Primary School Opens

The Mayor of Rodney Penny Webster officially opened Wentworth Primary School on Monday April 14. Parents, teachers and students celebrated with speeches, songs and a morning tea. The mayor presented the students with foundation badges and commented in her speech how fortunate Rodney was for parents to have the choice of an independent school of this quality.

Congratulations to the Head of Primary Lynda Knight de-Blois and her team of teachers for a wonderful first term.



Drama

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The Sheila Winn rehearsals have taken up most lunchtimes and intervals over the past six weeks. One of the tasks to be organised was the design of the tattoos to

be worn by the two opposing gangs. This was done in Drama class and the favoured designs were tried out on some of the actors in the performance. Jono Robinson, Danny Goodwin, Jake Laws and Jak Charles were the models chosen to display the ideas.



Debating



The Wentworth Junior Debating Team

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The team's first win was against Long Bay College, arguing the affirmative case of the moot "This House believes that monetary rewards should be offered for information that leads to the solving of crimes." Hannah Strauss and Cullen Wooller were jointly awarded Best Speakers.

The team won its second debate against Rangitoto College, arguing the negative case for the moot "This House believes that New Zealand should be a state of Australia." Kyla Peters and Hannah Strauss were jointly awarded Best Speakers.

The Junior debaters continued to present formidable arguments when they won their third debate, this time against Westlake Boys. They argued the negative case of the moot "This House would close all zoos." Kyla Peters was awarded best speaker. Thanks goes to Dion Morley for his support.

The Wentworth Advanced Debating Team

The Advanced Debating Team, comprised of Sam Horner, Tim Wackrow and Ben Erren, has won its first debate in the Advanced section of the Auckland Schools' Debating competition. The team beat Rangitoto 1 arguing the negative case of the moot "The UN has failed in East Timor." Sam Horner and Ben Erren were jointly awarded Best Speakers of the debate.

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School Leaders 2008

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Tim Wackrow Head Boy
 Bridget Busfield Head Girl
 Corinne Ash
 Ben Erren
 Freya Fortzer
 Ryan Garnett
 Sam Horner
 Felix Mann
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Student Executive

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 Frazer Bond Samuel Tong
 Morgan Browne Chris Watts
 Brendan Ginnever Katherine Wyllie
 Kane Hurley
 Jesse Kay
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Year 12 Geography



On March 29 the Year 12 Geography students travelled to Tongariro National Park to do the Tongariro Crossing and the Geo assessment that followed. Our foggy, rainy hike over the 18 km crossing resulted in saturated clothing, soggy food and soaked workbooks, but it was an amazing (and challenging) experience. We felt proud of our accomplishment even though our muscles were aching. The walk the next day to Taranaki Falls proved to be even wetter and some crazy students actually decided to swim under the freezing cold waterfall. The following day's white water rafting was definitely a highlight despite Courtney's screams and Jono's near dunking.

A huge thank you goes to Mr Cowie for providing us with the opportunity to experience these challenges and to study in such beautiful scenery.

World Mathematics Day



Mrs Banyard's Year 11 are to be congratulated on an outstanding performance in World Maths Day. Their score was such that they received a prize of a year's subscription to Mathletics, a complete online learning programme.

Cambridge Success

Congratulations to our Top Cambridge Mathematicians.

Felix Mann	96%	AS Level
Alexander Garvey	92%	AS Level
Katherine Fraser	88%	IGCSE
Chris Watts	88%	IGCSE

Year 7&8 Picnic Day at Shakespear Park



The Junior school enjoyed a great day at our local regional park early in the first term. It proved an excellent opportunity to get to know new students, welcome our international students from Korea and take advantage of a beautiful setting in glorious weather.



Everyone braved the breeze at the beach and took to the water with great enthusiasm and abandonment. Clumps of seaweed made classy wigs, foam bats proved perfect for a battle of the harmless kind and a soft, grass filled drain was an ideal meeting place for friends and classmates to relax and gossip.

Many thanks go to our extraordinary EOTC coordinator Mrs Cathy Worthy for organising this fun day.

Past meets Present in Pentathlon World

Pentathletes from Wentworth College were put on track to future glory when they meet a former Olympic sportsman. Pete Little, a Pentathlete in the 1960 Olympic Games, shared his stories and expertise with the young Wentworth athletes.

Wentworth students Gideon van Zyl, Taylor Rhind, Jak and Harry Charles, Lizzie Morse, Jazmin Hopper and Louisa and Felix Mann and Auckland

University student Amanda van Zyl, make up the North Harbour Pentathlon team. They heard how Mr Little moved to the UK to join the RAF but was enlisted into the Pentathlon team when he was spotted training at the camp pool. Mr Little showed them memorabilia from his sporting days, including his 1960s Olympic Competitors manual, ID card, photographs, medals and cups.

Team member Lizzie Morse said: "It was really interesting and very helpful. It has inspired us to work hard and continue to improve." The sessions came after a chance meeting at a completely different sporting event. Mr Little's son John spotted posters for the team who were fundraising at the Stock Car Derby.



Year 11 Windsurfing

For a month in Term 1 Year 11 PE students participated in a series of windsurfing lessons as part of our Level 1 assessment. We had 5 sessions in total and by the last lesson we were all turning, tricking and surfing the wind and waves... unlike our first session!

Everyone improved so much throughout the five hours, and learnt so many new things thanks to our instructors, Paul and Mario. The weather was a huge factor throughout the lessons. On one of the days it was so windy that only Taylor could stay upright! Overall though, it was great fun and definitely worth doing again in the future.

Thank you Mr Harris for arranging this, it was great!

Katie Hay

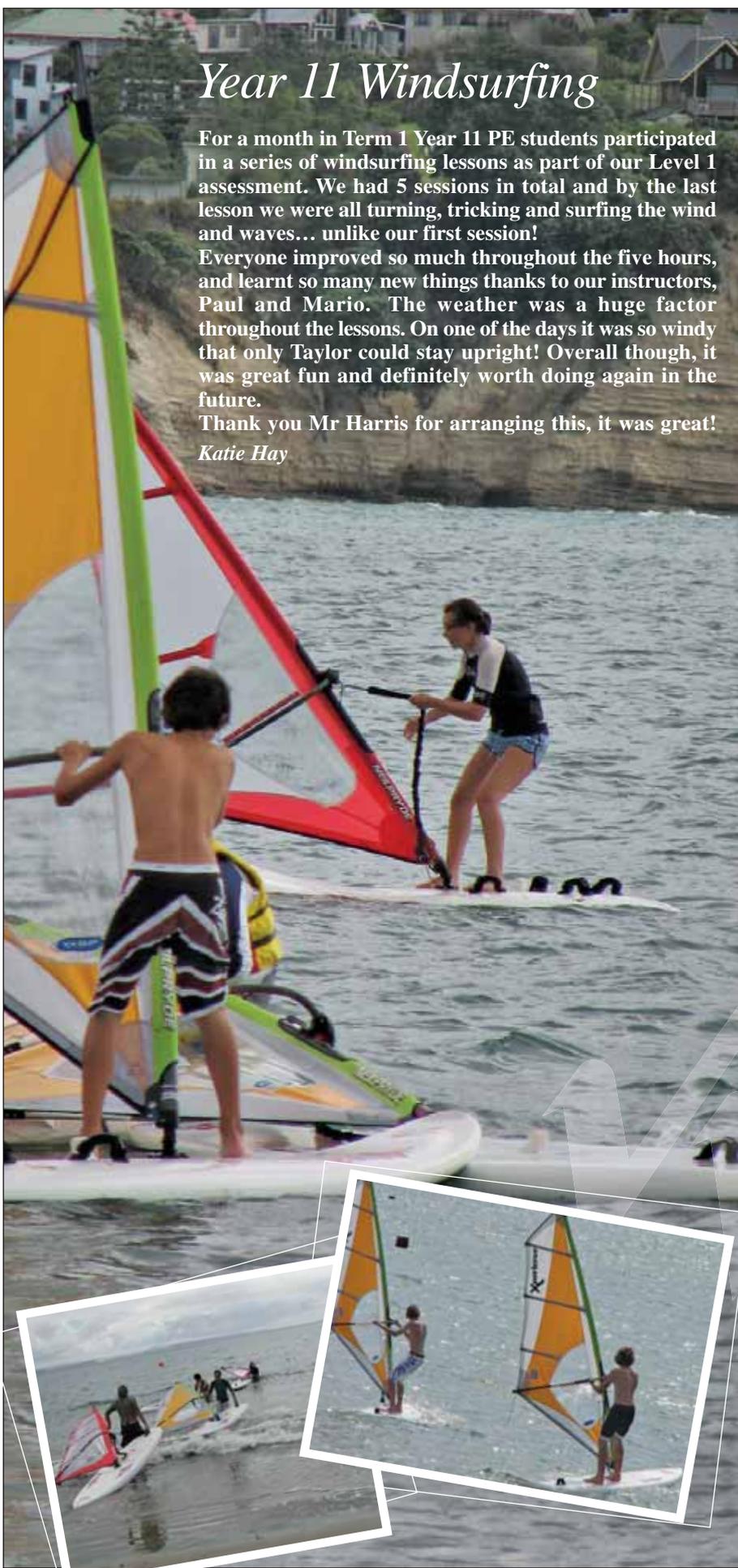
Swimming Achievement

Following her success in the New Zealand Swimming Age Group Championship we await the results of Bianca Rowley's efforts in the Australian Age Group Championships recently held in Brisbane.



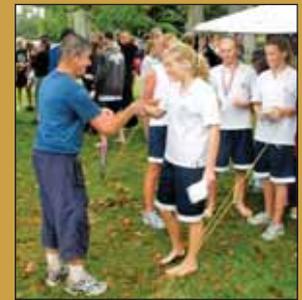
Congratulations

Congratulations to Matt Hughes who sailed his Optimist number 4224 (nearest the camera) in the Nationals on the Lyttelton Harbour over the Easter Break. There were 178 boats in the fleet with Matt coming 76th overall.



Orienteering

Congratulations to our Orienteering Team for winning the Junior title. The New Zealand Herald described it as the “biggest surprise” but we know it should not have been.



Year 12 Biology Field Trips

Year 12 Biologists were treated to a fantastic day for their recent Sea-shore field trip. We arrived on a sunny morning with a gentle sea breeze, ideal conditions for a day at the beach counting and observing sea-shore organisms. We were well armed with all the tools needed for the study and a great lunch to enjoy

once finished. A rope was used as a transect line and this was marked out at two metre intervals.

In March Year 12 Biologists were treated to a field trip where they learnt about the Dorper embryo transplant transfer programme. Colin Van Zyl explained that this is

carried out by Premier Genetics. Dorper ewes are given a hormone to increase the number of eggs produced. After four days these eggs are removed and implanted into Romney surrogate ewes. The students observed and assisted in both processes.

The Young New Zealanders' Challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh



The Young New Zealanders' Challenge aims to get young people between the ages of 14 and 25 to participate in an exciting, flexible and individually tailored programme to build skills, identity and self-esteem. The Challenge provides a framework for personal discovery and growth through service, skills, physical activity and adventurous expeditions; developing perseverance self-reliance and responsibility to themselves and service to the community.

It is a very prestigious award, recognised throughout the world and is increasingly recognised by employers and interviewers as an indicator of responsibility and achievement.

The award is offered in more than 106 countries. It started in New Zealand in 1963 and there are now more than 30 000 participants throughout schools and other youth institutions in our country.

The award comprises cultural, practical and adventurous activities, covering four sections:

Service, Expeditions, Skills and Physical Recreation. The award has three levels: Bronze, Silver and Gold – each demanding a different level of commitment and effort. With the assistance of adult co-ordinators, participants choose programmes that meet the requirements for each section and are encouraged to pursue these activities in their own time and at their own pace. The minimum starting age is 14 and participants have until their 25th birthday to finish the three levels of the award. Many students choose to finish the gold level before they leave school.

At Wentworth College we are proud to have 46 students registered at different levels of the award. This is a very high percentage of the school roll of eligible students and it reflects the calibre of students that Wentworth College attracts. A few weeks ago the first three silver certificates and badges were awarded to Gideon van Zyl, Shauni Furniss and Jak Charles. These students have since registered for the gold level of the award.

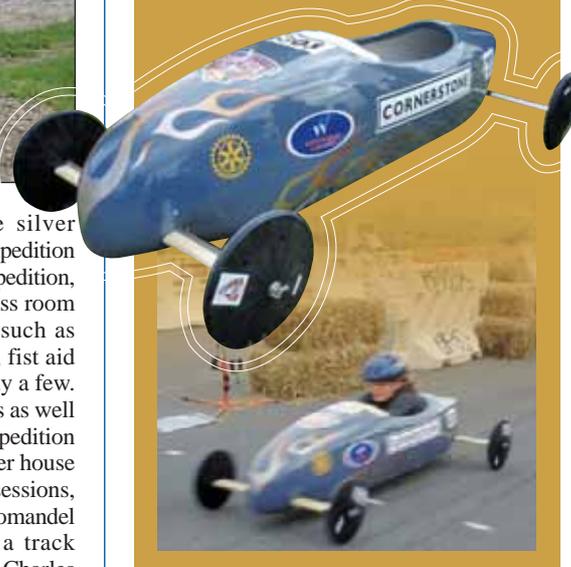
During the December break, the silver participants went on an adventurous expedition to the Coromandel. To arrange this expedition, the students had to undergo some class room training in aspects of the outdoor, such as camp craft, cooking in the outdoors, first aid well as kayak training to mention only a few. A great amount of effort from teachers as well as parents was needed to make this expedition such a success. Helen Taylor made her house available for the numerous planning sessions, Ray Ginnever had a contact in the Coromandel who allowed our students to use a track normally not open to the public, John Charles left wife and son behind to drive the group to their destination and checked on the group regularly during the expedition to make sure that they were safe and sound and Amanda, Gideon's older sister and holder of the gold award, assessed the group during the expedition. They tramped a gruelling 40 km over hills and mountains in very wet and slippery conditions. To top it off they went out onto the ocean in kayaks during the last day of the expedition to experience the outdoors in yet another and very enjoyable way. Four very tired, but fulfilled students returned home the day before Christmas.



Anyone interested in registering for this award can contact the Teacher in Charge, Mrs L van Zyl, to obtain an information pack with registration form. There is a fee of \$20 for the record book that has to be ordered from the office in Wellington. Students can join any time of the year as soon as they turn 14 years of age.

Whangaparaoa Rotary Soap Box Derby

This year Wentworth entered a trolley in the Rotary Soap Box Derby. Thanks to Mr Stephenson we built this in-house and then had it painted. A great time was had practising and then racing on the day. Our thanks go to Mrs Carr for her help with the project.



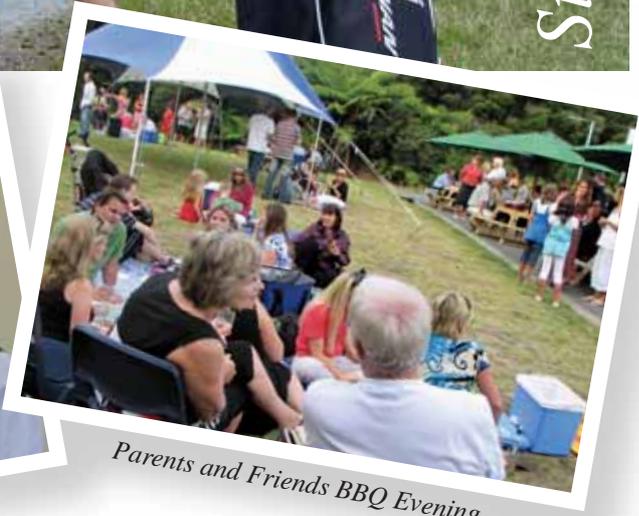
Carpe Diem

The Carpe Diem Club had a great day climbing earlier in the term. This followed an earlier expedition to the skating rink in East Auckland. The climbing day was a chance for teachers and students to pit their skills against a variety of challenging "rock" walls.





Staff Golf



Parents and Friends BBQ Evening

Art



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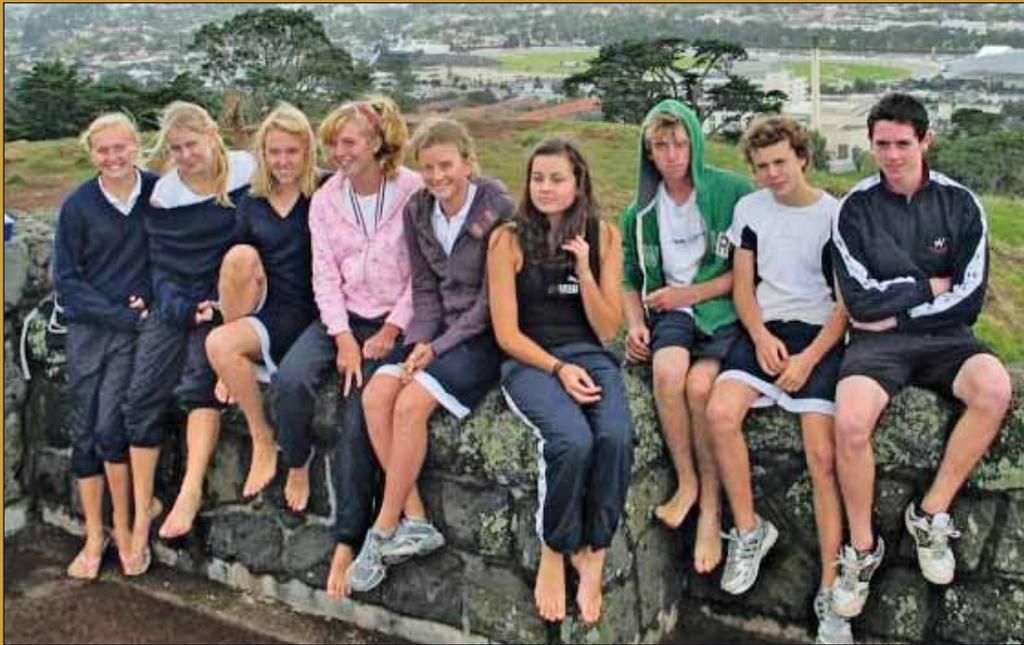
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