

# WENTWORTH COLLEGE

# BULLETIN

ISSUE 17

MAY 2011

Wentworth College, 65 Gulf Harbour Drive, Gulf Harbour, Whangaparaoa

Tel: 09 424 3273

Email: enquiries@wentworth.school.nz

Website: www.wentworth.school.nz



## FROM THE PRINCIPAL:

Wentworth College is the only school in Rodney to offer the CIE Cambridge International Examination system and as such it offers a clear alternative to the national NCEA qualification. The opportunity to choose from two qualifications systems gives parents of our community real choice.

Over 90% of Wentworth students now study under the Cambridge system through to Year 13. As Principal I have worked with both qualification systems and I see many advantages of the CIE model over NCEA for students who plan to go to University. Some of these advantages include:

a) The University qualification system is very similar to that of Cambridge. Grades and percentage marks are used and points accrued in much the same way for both systems. This is very easy for students and parents to comprehend. Strict deadlines are set and penalties are imposed if work is incomplete or handed in late. Students are required in most cases to sit examinations at the end of the semester. Cambridge International Examination qualifications certainly prepare students for this study environment.

b) Each Cambridge syllabus is academically challenging which requires sound organisational, study, revision and examination skills and hence prepares students very well for future tertiary studies.

c) Under Cambridge, students are awarded points towards their University Entrance from both their Year 12 and 13 results. This gives the advantage of accumulating points over two years to gain entry in restricted university courses such as engineering and health sciences. Students also have the opportunity to sit examinations twice a year to improve their marks.

For some students the NCEA method of accumulating credits over the year better suits their learning style. Under NCEA there can be multiple opportunities for reassessment; this is commonly referred to as mastery testing. Students continue to learn and be tested until they demonstrate understanding of the learning content. There is sound educational theory to back mastery testing. A difficulty here is that this is very time consuming for the school to continually re-teach and reassess and it becomes difficult to cover the syllabus requirements. NCEA certainly suits students who are aiming for a vocational career or who find the examination system very difficult.

Wentworth College has developed a dual academic



pathway offering the best education suited for students with a range of academic abilities.

The 2010 academic results for Wentworth College students were very pleasing. For our last year of NCEA, 92% of our Year 13 students passed their Level 3 and 85% gained their University Entrance qualifications. The Year 12 Cambridge AS results were sound with 55% of the students accumulating enough points from their examination results to gain entrance to University already. In Year 13 these students now have the opportunity to study subjects of particular interest and gain further points to assist their entry into restricted courses at University.

The Year 11, IGCSE (International General Certificate of Secondary Education) results were excellent. Of the 216 examinations sat, 88% of the marks were above 50%.

Congratulations go to the top student, Chelsea Pratt who gained IGCSE with A\* grades in all her subjects - Art and Design- 96%, Physical Education- 96%, English Language- 92%, English Literature- 98%, Mathematics- 95% and Co-ordinated Science- 100%.

CIE's Top Centre Award was again presented to Wentworth College from Cambridge University. This recognises the school as having a number of students finishing in the top 5 in their examinations for specific subjects within New Zealand.

This bulletin covers many of the excellent events that have occurred at Wentworth throughout Term 1. Two that deserve special mention are the gaining of Wentworth's first Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards and the fundraising effort for Canterbury.



The Duke of Edinburgh award programme continues to be hugely popular at Wentworth. Mrs van Zyl and Ms Worthy coordinate and lead this superb programme. Congratulations to two of our 2010 Year 13 students, Gideon van Zyl and Jak Charles, for completing their Gold Award. They were presented with their gold badges and certificate by the Governor General of New Zealand at a formal presentation ceremony held at Government House. Wentworth students have also been very active supporting the Canterbury Earthquake appeal. Led by Deputy Head Boy, Ashlin Hannon, and prefect, Ashleigh Ryder, numerous fundraising activities have operated in both the Primary School and College. We have enjoyed a mufti day, sausage sizzle, cup-cake stall and coin trail. The total raised is \$ 3,500. This has been forwarded on to the Red Cross. Thank you to parents who have also donated food and associated items that we have sent to Christchurch.

Already the winter sports codes have organised their teams, with most competitions commencing the first week back.

I look forward to Term 2 with a full academic and sports programme, school mid-year examinations in Week 6, as well as a number of students sitting the May/June Cambridge exams.

**Bruce Tong**

# SOAP BOX DERBY 2011

The event was held on Saturday April 9th in perfect sunny weather in Stanmore Bay, where 16 teams from local schools and organisations raced to establish the top six placings. These qualified for entry into the national finals held the next day at the same venue.

Our Wentworth team, superbly lead and managed by Hayden Purdy, won seven from the eight qualifying races. Each driver had one race on each side of the track and their times were then averaged in order from fastest to slowest. Having only two chances to get it right was daunting for our young inexperienced drivers but they all drove really well and with great determination. Unfortunately our times were just not quite good enough to qualify for the national finals. We all learned a huge amount and we will return next year with a vengeance!

A huge thank you to our great sponsors: G J Gardner Homes, Harcourts Real Estate in Manly, Takapuna Panel Beaters Ltd, Xplode Signs in Silverdale and the Hansens@harcourts, Manly.

We should be really proud of our kids and their efforts.

Well Done, Team !!!



## SCIENCE CLUB

After the success of last year's Science Club, senior students Stephanie Wylie, Kyla Peters and Hayden Purdy are offering the course to keen Year 7 and 8 students, under the supervision of our new Chemistry teacher, Mr Jon Hawkins.

An exciting programme has been put together where students have enjoyed experiments such as exploding eggs, making Coke and Mentos fountains, constructing play-dough and investigating neutralisation. We look forward to further exciting experiments and science fun over the next two terms.



## THE NEW CAMBRIDGE PSYCHOLOGY COURSE...

AS Psychology is a brand new course offered only to Year 13 students. The course consists of twenty psychology studies that investigate child development, cognitive development, and a range of psychological conditions. Students need to memorise a lot of details about all of these studies. To assist the process a range of practical tasks is included in the lessons, including interviews and an experiment with Year 7 students who were given an example of how **NOT** to behave and their actions were recorded. For the Freud study, which was very memorable, the students performed a role play.

The photo shows Chelsey, Lizzie and Westney performing their role play for the class.



# YEAR 7 AND 8 TRIP TO AUCKLAND PORT AND MUSEUM

In Week 10 the Year 7 and 8 students enjoyed an educational visit to the Port of Auckland and to the Auckland War Memorial Museum.

The students were amazed at the scale of operations at the port and were impressed with the displays at the museum.



# GEOGRAPHY TRIP



The AS Geography trip to Tongariro National Park was an amazing experience. Climbing the Tongariro Crossing was challenging but being able to relate what we had been learning about in class to what was surrounding us was particularly satisfying. Everyone learnt very quickly that Mr Cowie wasn't a fan of walking slowly. The white-water rafting exercise was an exhilarating experience for everyone. All-round it was a challenging and awesome trip. *Madison Clarke*



## School Leaders 2011

**Prefects 2011** Head Boy Scott Williams Head Girl Julia Tillett Deputy Head Boy Ashlin Hannon Deputy Head Girl Kyla Peters

**Prefects:** Jessica Daly, Rory Donovan, Bennie Hendricks, Jazmin Hopper, Matthew Hurley, Carl Leducq, Sam Pearson, Ashleigh Ryder and Stephanie Wyllie.

## Student House Leaders 2011

**Fleming House** Aidan Auld and Madison Clarke **Findlay House** Bennie Hendricks, James Ticehurst and Danielle Shrubsall

**McDonald House** Tim Hill and Jaimee Morley







# BRONZE DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXERCISE AT SHAKESPEAR

24 students finally managed to get organised and then spent the rest of the day tramping around Shakespear Park in the hot sun looking for orienteering clues. **They found heaps of them!** After setting up their tents and cooking a quick meal of dehydrated food it was time to start surviving with just the clothes they were wearing and a plastic sheet.



Luckily the weather was very mild and everyone managed this part of the weekend very well. The next day it was time to learn to use a compass and then walk home.

## YEAR 7 CAMP

The Year 7 students returned to the King's College Venture Camp at Ahuroa this year to find a new activity awaiting them – a very long and very, very high flying fox. Even Ms Worthy was a bit nervous!

Everyone made Mr Harris go first and, after putting on the special harness, he whizzed off and actually survived. We also enjoyed making our fern leaf bivvies again and spent a reasonably comfortable night in them. The weather was perfect the whole time and everyone went home tired but happy.



## YEAR 9 CAMP

Yet another perfect week at Tauwharanui for the Year 9 students on camp. Fantastic weather, great kids, nice neighbours and lots of things to do. A lot of time was spent walking around the park, including a night walk thrashing through the bush on an ill-defined track and along the beach.

We picked lupin plants out of the ground for several hours as part of our community service activity and discovered that a small lupin plant can have a root that is over a metre long! Those ones took three kids in to get the root out of the ground. Swimming, rock scrambling, archery and kayaking also featured highly.



## POOR KNIGHTS TRIP



A large group of Wentworth students and parents had an absolutely magical day boating out to the Poor Knights Islands for snorkelling and sight-seeing. We were even lucky enough to see dolphins on the way. Once kitted up with wetsuits and snorkelling gear, we got in and saw zillions of fish swimming around. It was like swimming inside Kelly Tarlton's Aquarium but way better. You actually had to push the fish out of the way sometimes – and they look quite a bit bigger under the water! The sea was glittering with the sunlight and the sky was completely cloud free – a perfect day.





## SHEILAH WINN SHAKESPEARE COMPETITION

Almost a quarter of Wentworth's students volunteered to take part in the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare performances. Students from Years 7 to 13 arrived at Albany Junior High and performed with a great deal of enthusiasm and professionalism. Carl Leducq as Mark Antony and Joshua Ovenden as Brutus got the evening off to an impressive start with their emotional performances that, some people claimed, brought the judges to tears.

For the Henry IV scene, William Taylor played Prince Henry and Ashlin Hannon put on a muscle suit to bulk up for his portrayal of the "corpulent" Falstaff. All the actors in the two crowd scenes were in-role and convincing, despite the cramped dimensions of the Albany stage. Wentworth College can be very proud of the standard of their performances.

Our next big drama project is already underway. Journey's End will be performed later in Term 2 in the College hall.



## FENCING

Two Wentworth students, Jurgens van Zyl and Joe Pearson, participated in the Under 17 Auckland Fencing Championship Competition. Jurgens came first in a field of about 20 fencers from various schools in the Auckland region.



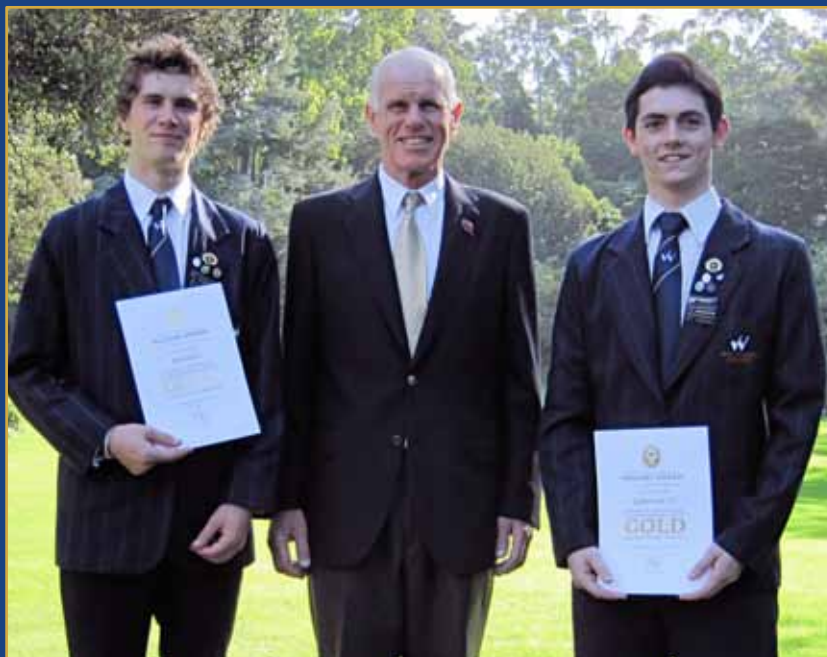
## WENTWORTH'S FIRST GOLD DUKE OF EDINBURGH HILLARY AWARDS

Every year, the recipients of the Duke of Edinburgh Hillary Gold award, their families, the coordinators of the programme and the principals of the schools involved are invited to attend the Gold Award Ceremony at Government House. This year, for the first time, Wentworth had Gold recipients Jak Charles and Gideon van Zyl.

For Jak and Gideon this was a tangible recognition of the effort they have made over an extended period of time. For their families and Mr Tong it was a moment of great pride. The boys received their awards from the Governor General, the Right Honourable Sir Anand Satyanand, who congratulated them on their hard work and achievement.

The boys and their families had the privilege to listen to a very enlightening speech by Mr Peter Hillary, the son of the late Sir Edmund Hillary, after which the Duke of Edinburgh award in New Zealand was conferred. They also had the opportunity to meet him afterwards in the beautiful gardens of Government House.

This very enjoyable occasion ended in a lovely afternoon tea where recipients had the chance to meet the other gold awardees and mingle with guests, Duke of Edinburgh officials and Their Excellencies, the Governor-General and his wife.



## SAILING

Four Wentworth sailors represented Wentworth College at the 60th Annual Inter Secondary Schools' Fleet Racing Regatta, held at Wakatere Boating Club, Narrowneck Beach.

Matthew Hughes won a medal for 3rd place in the Starling class. Olivia Geddes and Samantha McFarlane finished 4th in the 420 class. Cameron Hughes finished mid-fleet, sailing in the larger, highly competitive Optimist fleet.



## GOLFING SUCCESS

Year 8 student Sam Yoshifujii is a member of the Wentworth Golfing Academy. This term he won the North Harbour Intermediate Schools' Golf Championship at the Lakes Golf Course near Silverdale. Sam has been playing golf for four years and plays with a handicap of 13.4.



## FUNDRAISING FOR THE CANTERBURY EARTHQUAKE

Fundraising for the Canterbury Earthquake appeal raised over \$3,500, an impressive amount for the number of pupils at Wentworth.

Congratulations must go to all our senior students for their support of this very worthy cause, with particular congratulations to our Deputy Head Boy, Ashlin Hannon, for his drive, commitment and superb organising of the various fundraising initiatives.