



# Rangiora High School

*Te Kura Tuarua o Rangiora*

## Newsletter - November 2010

### *From the Principal*



Nga mihi maioha ki te whaanau o te kura tuarua o Rangiora, kia ora koutou katoa. Greetings to parents, caregivers and friends of the school.

It has certainly been a very busy term and both students and staff have been working extremely hard to meet the myriad of deadlines set at this time of the year.

Senior students are focused on the challenge of NCEA and prepare for external assessments which begin next week. For our Year 9 and 10 students are focused on Junior Graduation and are really putting in the hard yards as the reality of this challenge hits home.

No doubt the devastation of the September earthquake and the unfortunate disruption due to the industrial action has tested, staff, students and parents alike. Our thoughts at this time are with those families who suffered damage during the earthquake. As a school we appreciate and are grateful for the public support we have received, personally and through the local media during this time.



During October I was fortunate to travel to Thailand, Vietnam and Japan to visit our sister schools and the parents of many of our international students. My visits to Mugugawa Gakuian (above) and Ikubunkan High School were a highlight for me.



Ikubunkan has a horticultural course; and amazingly the gardens are located on the fifth floor of their school building (pictured above). Their Gymnasium was located two floors below the ground floor of the building. It was certainly an interesting use of space.

Our international students and their families make a significant contribution to our school; and our international student programme is a fantastic opportunity to foster international relationships that benefit not only our students and school but the North Canterbury region as well.

I wish to take this opportunity to wish our senior students all the best for the upcoming NCEA examinations. As we often say at Rangiora High School, it's not how you start, but how you finish that counts. Through the hard work of both them and their teachers, I am confident our senior students are well prepared to finish well this year.

Finally, congratulations to all of our students on an excellent year. They have worked hard, played hard and achieved excellent results in all areas.

I am extremely proud and grateful to be the Principal of Rangiora High School and look forward to the challenges and rewards 2011 will bring us all.

Kia kaha, kia toa, kia manawanui.

Peggy Burrows  
**Principal**

## Upcoming Events

- 9 November Last Day for Year 13  
(except TOP students)
- 10 November Last Day for Year 11-12 students  
(except TOP students)
- 10 November Senior Prizegiving, 7.00pm
- 11 November NCEA examinations commence
- 15 November TOP (Towards Opportunity Prog)  
begins for identified Year 11-13  
internally assessed students
- 17 November PTA Meeting, 7.30pm
- 23 November BOT Meeting, 6.30pm
- 1 December Year 13 Graduation, 7.00pm
- 3 December Last day for TOP students
- 8 December Last Day for Year 9-10 students

## Gateway Prizegiving

On the evening of Thursday 21 October Rangiora High School held a combined Gateway Prizegiving ceremony with Kaiapoi High School and Oxford Area School. This ceremony was to acknowledge the achievements of more than 50 students involved in our respective Gateway programmes.

Over 100 people attended including students, parents, caregivers and employers. Guest speakers from the Building and Construction Industry Training Organisation, a Health & Safety training provider and a Gateway employer, all spoke very favourably about our students' workplace performance.

I would like to thank all of the parents, caregivers and employers who supported our evening. Thanks also to Ms Malcolm who spoke for the school and presented our Gateway certificates.

Bob Giles  
Gateway Co-ordinator

## Attendance

Please advise us of your student's absence EVERY day they are absent. This can be done either by phoning the school on 03 311 8888 or by going on to [www.school-links.org.nz](http://www.school-links.org.nz) and clicking on the Absence tab. Students who ring themselves in sick will not be marked absent and an electronic notification will go out to caregivers advising of their absence.

If a student is unwell at school they must come to sick bay, even if they have already contacted you to pick them up. You then know where they are and we will then enter their attendance. If they leave without us knowing they will be marked as truant.

If you are going on holiday a letter must be sent to the Principal, Mrs Peggy Burrows, for her approval. Please advise if this is an overseas or New Zealand holiday.

Please advise the school of any change of physical address, telephone/cellphone or email. If your child is hurt and we need to get in contact with you urgently, we must have these details correct.

## School-Links

Please register with School-Links if you have not already done so. With School-Links you can:

- Receive text and email alerts for all general communications such as school closures or in the event of an emergency
- Book parent/teacher interviews online
- Receive text and email alerts if your student has not turned up at school
- Receive newsletters and general notices online
- Notify the school of your student's absence 24/7

Register at [www.school-links.org.nz](http://www.school-links.org.nz)

Any queries, please phone our Attendance Officer, Mrs Leigh Bolton, on 03 311 8888 (extension 2160).

Once registered it is important to regularly check your details are correct by clicking on the My Profile link. Thank you for your support as we seek to continually improve our attendance monitoring processes.



## HILLARY

**HEAD OF HOUSE** Mr N Moyle

**DEAN OF HOUSE** Mr A Cotter

Hillary House has continued its rise to the top. In Junior Summerfest our Volleyball and Touch teams came through the competition with only one loss. Hillary House finished in first place. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the House Leaders for Hillary House in 2010. They have worked hard and shown great enthusiasm throughout the year to push Hillary up in the competition and maintain the seven principles of the House. The House leaders are Forrest Munro, Penny Page, Carenn Nakanishi, Kerriann Gardner, Rose Sutherland and Jessica Ross. Our students have also been excelling in other competitions. Recently, Georgia Rees, Laura Illingworth, Sasha Seatter and Rebecca Peterson (all of 10HML) gained first place in the BP Challenge:

**What preparation did you have to do before the BP Challenge?**

We did some research at home and in the lunchtime.

**What was the format of the competition?**

There were ten schools each with two teams and three challenges. In the first we had to make and take to the competition, another we practised and had to make there and a surprise challenge that we had no idea about.

**How important is teamwork in the BP Challenge?**

It is really important; we are close friends so we find it easy to work together. We think this teamwork is the main reason we did so well.

**What happens now? Is there a national competition?**

No. There are no more competitions that we know of.



## LYDIARD

**HEAD OF HOUSE** Mr D Palmer

**DEAN OF HOUSE** Mrs P Graham

Junior SummerFest has ended and we are all proud of the way our mixed Touch and Volleyball teams finished the competition. They played with good spirit as a team. It was really enjoyable to watch. As the 2010 Lydiard student leaders finish a year of hard work, laughter and fun to begin their examinations it has been a time to reflect on the past year. It is now mathematically impossible for Lydiard to win the coveted House Cup, but this year can be measured in other ways. The Lydiard student leaders have balanced their studies with other commitments and from day one "Team Lydiard" decided that class work was the main focus for the year and it was amazing to see the Lydiard student leaders gain twelve First in Subject results between them. As a new Head of House, it has been my privilege to work with such a fantastic group of young men and women.

One of the most difficult jobs this term has been the awarding of House trophies. The following prizes were awarded to the senior school:

**Academic Awards:** Allan Schori, Chelsea Williams, William Dieckermann

**Academic, Sporting and Cultural:**

Leah Woods, Charlotte Palmer, Chelsea Williams

**The Spirit of Lydiard Award (for Academic and House Contribution):**

Samuel Hinds (award pictured at right)





## MANSFIELD

**HEAD OF HOUSE** Mrs M Stephenson

**DEAN OF HOUSE** Mr A Drayton



The Mansfield Student Executive team share their reflections on the year:

**Best moments this year?** All have played in Summerfest and Winterfest teams and cultural events like Debating, Public Speaking, FilmFest and Arts On. They have participated in service activities for Child Cancer, the Cancer Society, Multiple Sclerosis and Parkinson's disease. For Hayley the 48 hour FilmFest was hard to beat as a fun experience. Jessica-Rose loved the Leadership Camp, Jordyn and Renee loved netball and debating, Lara said Arts On was great. Everybody said Big Day Out and Sports Day were fantastic.

**Why might you recommend others have a go?** Many said it helped them build their self confidence and that by doing things for others you got the feel-good feeling of helping people less well off. Lauren said being on Exec gave "opportunities to serve your House and do things for others like Foodbank." Lauren said it was "a great way to find your place in the school" while Jordyn thought it was "a great way to build team spirit." Hayley loved the opportunity to "meet new people."

**Future plans?** Year 13 go with some sadness. Leaving the security, fun and friendship that the year has given them won't be easy, but there is excitement at what the future holds. Sarah will pursue a career in the music industry. Jordyn will study Biochemistry. John will do Health Sciences. Jessica-Rose is going to be a nurse, while Lauren wants to do vet nursing.

**Last words?** Many thanks to the team for the hundreds of hours they have put in and the commitment and dedication they have shown. We wish them all the very best in what are certain to be very promising careers.



## NGATA

**HEAD OF HOUSE** Mr R Winson

**DEAN OF HOUSE** Mrs V Wilkins



The beginning of Term 4 heralds the start of the Junior Summerfest competition. Mixed teams of 6 compete against all the other Houses in the increasingly close House Competition. With all the senior events now over, the fate of Ngata House hangs in the balance and our success with our four junior classes. Yet again we have been overwhelmed with the 'stepping up to the mark' of our super young people in green. The remaining competition is the House Quiz, and with the quality of high achievers in all our form groups I expect another strong challenge from the green corner. Go Ngata!

At present our seniors are busy making the best of their last few lessons before exam leave. The House Executive recently farewelled our Year 13's in our leavers' assembly. This event was attended by the whole House and open to parents and caregivers and celebrated the achievements of our Year 13 by reminding them of how far they have come over the last five years. Which brings us to their replacements? We are currently looking over an impressive array of applications for House Executive 2011. Year 13 is a year where leadership roles and opportunities are many and varied. Shortlisted candidates are interviewed before the positions are announced at the end of the Peer Support training days. These may be highly visible roles in the House, but of course every pupil plays a part in our success.

Lastly, congratulations go out to Hamish Ainsley for gaining a \$5000 scholarship to Canterbury University. They are privileged to have him.





## RUTHERFORD

**HEAD OF HOUSE** Mrs S Reed

**DEAN OF HOUSE** Mr M Williams

A highlight this term was the team of very able Year 9 girls representing our school in the annual BP Technology Challenge. Sonia Howlett has written the following for us on behalf of her team, Rhiannon Mertens, Kiri Atkin and Anna Hendrie: "This competition consisted of 3 separate challenges that our teams had to work together. The first challenge was to make a skateboard ramp for a marble in 20 minutes out of newspaper and tape with as many twists and turns as possible. The second challenge was the prepared challenge where each team makes a device at home to solve a predefined problem. In our case we had to make a device to measure 3 separate volumes of water in a 1.5 L coke bottle, without weighing it. The third and final challenge was the mystery challenge - to carry a "radioactive" 500g book over obstacles by two team members two metres apart, in a newspaper and tape construction made in 20 minutes. We were thrilled to find we had earned two placings in the overall rankings, with the Year 9 team getting third and the Year 10 team coming first. A big thank you to Dr Griffiths for driving us in and letting us practice in his room at lunchtimes." One thing that amazes us is the incredible talent that we have in all fields. Well done to our SummerFest teams. We await in anticipation for the annual Year 9 and 10 quiz - the last event in the House competition. Recently, David Procter was awarded the Family Gilbert Trophy for Rugby. This acknowledges his dedication to the sport and team, and his talent, sportsmanship and all round efforts. Well done, David. We wish all Rutherfordians good luck for exams. If you are prepared, "the measure of success" will be what you have achieved this year!



## SHEPPARD

**HEAD OF HOUSE** Ms A Hay

**DEAN OF HOUSE** Mr K Anderson

This busy term started with the Sheppard/Hillary Sponsored Row. The proceeds from this event were to be donated to the Fred Hollows Foundation, but it was decided to donate the money raised this year to the Waimakariri Mayoral Relief fund. It was wonderful to see the majority of our Sheppard students getting behind this worthy cause by either rowing on the day or collecting sponsorship. We rowed 63km in the five hours. Sheppard House students raised \$1,309.90 - a wonderful effort which enabled us to present a cheque which will go some way to assisting the many families who suffered in the earthquake. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the AMI Centre, Push Bikes and Gibsons Appliances for donations of prizes for this event. Their support has been very much appreciated.

Junior students recently took part in the junior SummerFest, with our Touch team and Volleyball team gaining a variety of results. It is wonderful to see so many signing up to play for these teams and getting out and having a go. As well, there are many students who are there on the sidelines to cheer on our teams and are supporting our House, showing the true Sheppard spirit.

Thank you to all students who have been involved in House activities this year. You have served Sheppard House well and we are proud of you.

Thanks also to all of the students who have applied for House leadership positions for 2011. Interviews will be held soon and the successful applicants will be announced before the end of the year. We are looking forward to an exciting year with a passionate group of students to lead Sheppard in 2011.



## Koru Garden - Stage One

The first stage of the Koru Garden project was started on Junior Work Day.

The Koru Garden project was born out of the "Paper for Trees" paper recycling programme that the school has participated in for the last two years. Jim Gilbert signed the school up for the recycling project last year and our efforts in recycling our used paper enabled Rangiora High School to claim 75 native trees for planting on the campus.

Sondra Harrison put together the plans for the garden layout and organised funds from the PTA to help implement the project.

The PTA kindly came to the party and on the 29 October the first stage was initiated. Three junior students, Daniel Harrison, Ryan Ball and Jordan Seaton helped staff members Jim Gilbert, Sondra Harrison and Jason Aaron spread new topsoil and bark, place weedmat and build the koru shape that gives the garden its name.

Two trees were also planted to round out Stage One. Six picnic tables will soon be added for student use in the Koru Garden area

Stage two of the project will involve planting the rest of the trees and installing an irrigation system and will take place in autumn 2011.



## ***Animal Handling at A&P Show***

Rangiora High School has a group of eight students representing the school at The Canterbury Agricultural and Pastoral Show this year over Show Weekend.

The group are being trained by Philip and Kay Worthington of Fernside. They will be working with the Worthington's low line cattle.

The group are Georgia Davies, Tegan McNeish, Amber Millward, Emma Kemp, April Donaldson, Rebecca Hennessey, Stephanie Whitehouse and Anna Hamilton.

This group of students also competed at the Northern Agricultural and Pastoral Show in Rangiora at Labour Weekend where Stephanie Whitehouse won the Junior Handling section. Well done, Stephanie.

Gillian Koster  
**HOD Land-based Studies**

## ***PE Students in the Community***

Recently a number of our senior Physical Education students spent a day with younger students at Ashgrove School in Rangiora.

The senior Physical Education students were undertaking work towards a coaching module as part of their work towards NCEA.

The weather was fine and a great day was had by all involved.

This day not only serves to build the confidence of our senior Physical education students, but also nurtures important links with our local primary schools and provides a range of positive role models for these younger students.

A number of photos from the day appear below.

Jill Searle  
**HOD Physical Education**

## ***PE Students Coaching at Ashgrove School***

Well done to the senior Physical Education students who recently spent a day coaching students from Ashgrove School in a range of Physical Education activities as part of their NCEA work.



**Rangiora High School**  
**East Belt**  
**Rangiora 7400**  
**New Zealand**

**Telephone 03 3118888**

**Facsimile 03 3138005**

**Email [admin@rangiorahigh.school.nz](mailto:admin@rangiorahigh.school.nz)**

**Website [www.rangiorahigh.school.nz](http://www.rangiorahigh.school.nz)**