

---

## *Student Achievement continued*

---

**Brooke Cull** placed 1<sup>st</sup> at the Auckland Secondary Schools Pentathlon Champs. She has also been selected for the North Harbour Island Team. Brooke was also place 5<sup>th</sup> at the Club Nationals for Athletics.

Brooke also competed in the North Island Secondary Schools Athletics and placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the 200m Intermediate Girls and 4<sup>th</sup> in the 100m Intermediate Girls, 3<sup>rd</sup> in the North Island Secondary Schools North Harbour 4 x 100 Intermediate girls relay.

Takapuna Grammar School cleaned up at the 2009 Cheltenham 2.2km Sea Swim, with **Noah Orr** winning overall, and **Claudia Brick** winning the Women's events (6<sup>th</sup> overall).

**Andrew Ranford** has been selected for the Age Group Triathlon World Champs in the Gold Coast in September this year. He has also been selected for the New Zealand U17 Cycling Team to compete in the Tour of Canberra.

**Tom Cardno** has been selected by NZ Golf to play in the Junior Masters in Perth.

**Rose Crooks, Rebecca Nolan, Katie Philp, Hariette Moore and Jacqui Lane** (cox) recently competed at

National Championships at the Maadi Cup, Lake Karapiro winning the B final for bronze in the girls under-17 coxed quad sculls.

**Olivia Brackenridge** (right) recently competed for the New Zealand Elite Co-ed Cheerleading Team and picked up the Bronze medal at the World Champs in Florida.



**Caitlin Stevens** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the "Under 19 Female" category in the 10km Shore to Shore Run.

**Finn Drummond** sailed in the OKI 24 hour Laser race at Lake Pupuke with Nic Croft and was placed 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Youth Division.

**Nick Mead** placed 2<sup>nd</sup> at the Auckland Secondary Schools Orienteering Sprint Series, Rosmini Race and 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Auckland Secondary Schools Orienteering Sprint Series, Rangitoto Race. He was also placed 2<sup>nd</sup> in the U19 Boys' Downhill at the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Mountain Bike Championships.

---

## *For Your Information*

---

### From the PTA

As a follow up to the successful dance party held at the school in March, we now have a confirmed date for the ever-popular parent's ball being the 15th August at Duders in Devonport. This year's theme will be Casino Royale. Tickets will be on sale at the main school office or from Yarntons Clothing Shop, Victoria Road, Devonport.

In November we will be running the golf day at Waitemata Golf Club again, with the proceeds going towards the upgrade of the school swimming pool.

We are confirming guest speakers for two very different types of events. One is a breakfast meeting for parents and children to hear world class New Zealanders talk about their experiences. The other event will bring in respected experts to talk about parenting to teens. Look out for the times of these events so you can put them on your calendar.

The PTA is a very friendly, very small group of helpers who are having a lot of fun whilst working for the school community. We are always looking for new people to join in. For any information please contact Helen Whitehead Phone: 021 678 432 or email; [lighthse@ihug.co.nz](mailto:lighthse@ihug.co.nz).

### Home Stay Families Wanted

Short and Long Term: - if you have ever considered hosting an international student, the school has a new intake arriving in July this year. The students will be coming from many different countries, including Brazil, Argentina, Germany, Italy and Asia. The students require their own room and will be here for Terms 2 & 3.

We are also looking for short term host families to host a group of Japanese students who are arriving in August of this year. These students will be here for approximately 10-12 days.

Please contact Mrs Leanne Eaton, International Home Stay Co-Ordinator, on 489-4167 ext 226, if you are interested in hosting a student.

### Recycle Your Old Computer

Until September 2009 for a donation of \$25 to Takapuna Grammar School Cycling, families may deliver computing equipment, whatever the age or condition, to CORE which will recycle it so 99% will avoid landfill. Bring your computers to CORE Technology Brokers Ltd, 66C Barry's Point Road (behind Ballistics), Monday-Friday, 9am-5pm or telephone 09 4861685.

## From the Acting Principal



Dear Parents and Caregivers

It is a pleasure to be able to write this introduction as Acting Principal while Simon Lamb is on sabbatical. Leading such a great school, albeit briefly, with a talented teaching staff and such capable and pleasant students is a great privilege.

Term 2 is a busy term academically and it is important for students to focus on their learning as a first priority. In assemblies, I have been reinforcing the importance of developing learning dispositions. One of the key words in our teaching and learning philosophy is *knowing*. This means understanding how you learn - skills such as what strategies can be used to help solve problems, how information can be organised and recalled, and how the accuracy of information can be verified.

But learning how to learn is one thing - there is something else: wanting to learn. David Perkins, an American educationalist, uses playing the piano as a parallel to this. He says there are 2 questions that can be asked "Can you play the piano?" and "Do you play the piano." The first question asks about abilities and skills, the second about dispositions: desire, willingness, patience, application and perseverance.

The same 2 questions can be applied by students to learning. "Can you learn?" and "Do you learn?" In answer to the first question all students can learn. Teachers develop in them the abilities, skills and strategies to do so. The second question is about learning dispositions. Students need to develop in themselves a desire and a willingness to learn. These qualities enable personal excellence.

To support student learning, the Board of Trustees of Takapuna Grammar School has been focussed strongly on the property development programme. We are looking forward very much to occupying, at the end of the term, the third of our new buildings. I am delighted to announce that, in continuing the decision to name the new buildings after significant ex pupils, it will be called the Ralph Roberts Student Services Centre. This recognises Ralph, a widely respected sportsman and businessman. It also recognizes other members of the Robert's family including his ex-pupil brother, the late

Clive, a world champion yachtsman, and his mother Zella who advocated successfully that the school, rather than state houses, be constructed on the present site.

In addition, the BOT has within its strategic goals a number of property development objectives. One of these is upgrading the facilities for our Special Education students to support their teaching and learning needs. The present location for the Special Education unit has restrictions in size and available space which severely inhibit both the specialised learning needs and the personal development of our Special Education students. The School Management, the Board of Trustees and the parents of both present and future Special Education students are unified in their commitment to creating a facility that caters for their diversity of needs and one that will enable us to meet the principles of the New Zealand Curriculum which is due for implementation in 2010.

The Library is relocating to the Ralph Roberts Student Services Centre. This means the existing library could be redeveloped into a purpose built Special Education Centre. The BOT is now seeking the funding, both from the Ministry of Education and from local sources, to enable this redevelopment. We hope the community will get behind this project. If you are able to support it in any way, please do not hesitate to contact the school.

Regards



JT HOLDING

Acting Principal

Takapuna Grammar School

### Stop Press

Congratulations to **Jenny Matthews** and **Nicholas Cornwell**, second and third prize winners respectively, and **Jack Parker** Merit Certificate, prize winners in the 2009 Rodney Walshe Ireland Essay Competition.

Again Takapuna Grammar School has achieved a triple in Award winners, which is an outstanding accomplishment. Congratulations to the winners.

---

# Special Education

---



Left to Right: Hamish Allison and Annalise Cruickshank checking the plants that they have watered.

Takapuna Grammar School Special Education students have become involved with *Trees for Survival* which is a charitable trust promoting the growing and planting of native trees to help control soil erosion. Rotary Clubs sponsor the purchase of a plant growing unit (PGU) a special shade house, for the school and the *Trees for Survival* team installs it. Our PGU is housed near the Special Education vegetable garden behind the Old Gym.

Our students have enthusiastically planted 800 native plants in their plant growing unit. The seedlings will reach a plantable age in approximately 12 months.

On the 26 August Special Education students and staff will take part in a planting day on 'at risk' land. The planting will hopefully assist to combat the ravages of deforestation and climate change.

Special Education students are proud to support the *Trees for Survival* vision for the future by taking direct action to secure our future environment.

---

# Student Achievement

---

## Academic

Congratulations to the following students who in the University of Cambridge International Examinations, gained IGCSE, the International General Certificate of Secondary Education. The students are; **Hye Jeong An, Elbert Angkiriwang, Lyle Cardy, Seok Won Choi, Hwang Yulia, Shanon Jackson, Ji Su Kim, Ye Ji Kim, Yeo Eun Kim, Bella Piper-Jarrett, Olla Shimbereva, Naima Tighe-Umbers and Felmel Turner-Mwai.**

## Performing Arts

Bop Doo Wop performed for a private concert last week along with some of Auckland's best music theatre performers and with their teacher, Ms Jane Horder, in the line-up. They received plaudits from a highly discerning audience. They sang numbers on their own, one led by soloist, Catherine Campion.

**David Arrow, Amelia MacDonald, Joseph Daly and Beren Allen** performed a scene in the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare competition which will take them to Wellington over Queen's Birthday. Their self-directed scene was outstanding for its confident playing and slapstick action.

Three of this group won last year's Sheilah Winn regionals and took the best comedy and combat awards at the Nationals. This year 7 groups entered, performing scenes from Shakespeare in the regionals at Long Bay College on the 2 May. Two groups did scenes from this year's outdoor Shakespeare, "Romeo and Juliet". David Arrow and Beren Allen featured in both and this group won best combat for their lethal sword fight.

Scenes from "Comedy of Errors" featured **Harriet Maire** who won most promising actress. In "The Merchant of Venice", **Elliott Blakely** won entry into the National Schools Shakespeare Production workshops in September. From this gathering 24 students are chosen to go to the Globe in London. Students directed "The Tempest" and "Two Gentlemen of Verona" were also performed with credit.

New Zealand Music Month will get a look-in at the school with two concerts by curricular and co-curricular groups and soloists. A number of songs by our own song-writers and dance pieces by the Year 11 dance class will give that local dimension. The concerts of New Zealand music will be on 18 and 19 May at 7 pm in the School Hall.

## Service

### **Prefects**

34 Prefects attended a leadership training day at the YMCA, focussing on goal setting, communication skills, leadership qualities, role models, cultural awareness and team building.

Four prefects, **Katie Braatvedt, Mikey Jarvis, Antonella Pradel and Derrick Newton** attended an Auckland University AIESEC Developing Leaders Day.

Eight prefects, **Bianca Wildish, Jenny Kwon, Chloe Pryor, Billie Kessell, Bafreen Sherif, Lauren Frost, Neda Durdevic and Antonella Pradel** attended the International Women's Day breakfast run by UNIFEM.

---

# Student Achievement continued

---

The Head Prefects, **Vivien Hsu, Katie Braatvedt, Bruno Offner and Zac McEwen** attended the Young Leaders' Day run by the Halogen Foundation.

**The Sports Committee** of the Prefects organised an inter-form Touch competition held at lunchtimes and over 20 teams participated.

**Neda Durdevic and Bafreen Sherif** organised volunteers to collect for the Red Cross street appeal. The prefects also collected for the Child Cancer Foundation after school for a week in Devonport.

**The Community Relations Committee** organised an African Safari themed mufti day to raise funds for expupil Dr David Friend, who is a doctor in Zambia. They organised a bake sale and a sausage sizzle held on mufti day.

**The Year 11 Committee** of the Prefects organised a social at the end of the term, with a Disney theme.

## House Leaders

24 House Leaders attended a leadership training day at the YMCA focussing on communication skills, leadership qualities, event planning and team building.

The House Leaders encourage participation in swimming sports, athletics days, mufti day and the House Chant challenge. They help present at House assemblies.

## PSSP (Peer Sexuality Support Programme)

Five Year 12 students were selected to be a part of the PSSP team in 2009. They are **Alex Edney-Browne, Catherine Campion, William Godfrey, Rosie Smith and Lyle Cardy**. They attended a 3 day training/leadership hui with other students from the Auckland region.

## PLT (Peer Leadership Team)

A new approach to what has been Peer Mentoring and Peer Mediation. This new team will train in aspects of restorative approaches and mentoring. The 12 Year 12 students are **Leisha Calder, Rosie Cliffe, Elena Duranska, Donna Lee, Amelia MacDonald, Ani McGahan, Margaret Palmer, Alex Revell, Aimee Shearer, Jordan Stent and Joe Vergara**.

## Shore Youth Council

**Danielle Thrussell, Natasha Burgess, Freya Adam and Jack Parker** are the school representatives on the Shore Youth Council. They attended a leadership camp run by the North Shore City Council.

## World Vision Leadership

**Amelia MacDonald, Ani McGahan, Bella Piper-Jarrett and Chun-Lin Lee** were selected to attend the World Vision 40 Hour Famine leadership camp. Takapuna Grammar School aims to win a top award again in 2009.

## National Youth Environment Forum, Wellington

**Rosy Herstell** (Year 12) was selected to represent Auckland at the Sir Peter Blake National Youth Environment Forum in Wellington. This is a fantastic achievement and recognition of Rosy's outstanding commitment to various environmental forums.

## Making a Difference: Sustainability Environmental Hui

**Luke Carey and Lana Kennett** were selected to attend this student camp run by the Auckland Regional Council.

## Enviro-Schools Challenge

Students from Years 10-12 participated in the Enviro-Schools Challenge competition, they were: **Isabelle Verney, Victoria Timmins, Blake Rax, Rosy Herstell, Donna Lee, Monique Warder, Lucy Hawkins, Renee Yu, Margaret Palmer, Aless Smith, Alice Denne, Luke Carey and Mattea Mrkusic**. They achieved third place in the regional challenge - a fantastic first effort.

## Sporting Achievements

As part of the Year 11 Physical Education course, students are required to participate in two aquathlon events at Takapuna Beach.

This event is part of the Takapuna Beach Series and consists of a 500m sea swim followed by a 3km beach run. While for many students this was well out of their comfort zone, all students trained hard and performed extremely well in both events.

One outstanding performer was **Oliver Le Noel** who, on the first night, was the first student home and on the second night, tackled the Open Mens' race. Oliver had a brilliant race being the first person out of the water and finishing third overall.



*Takapuna Grammar School students braving the elements.*

---