



Taita College

**Celebrating
50 years**

1957 - 2007

July 2007

Contents

Dear Parents and Caregivers

In the winter months we ask that parents support our uniform code by ensuring that students are wearing the regulation jersey and blazer. We have an excellent uniform and students can wear polyprop clothing hidden under it to stay warm. The blazer is smart and warm and students are asked to maintain uniform standards by wearing it with pride. Shoes also need to be regulation plain black.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The major drama production for this 50th Jubilee year is Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream. The production is set down for the third week in term 3, 31 July – 4 August and promises to be an entertaining and interesting interpretation of this well-known comedy. Bookings will open in term 3 through the school office. Demand for seats is usually very heavy.

Our website — www.taita.school.nz on which you can access information at any time, or students can study online.

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**Pride through Success-
Honour through Service**

Staff Leaving



Farewell Mrs Huffadine from Rebecca Wills and Stacey Shields.

Mrs Mary Huffadine started at Taita College as a student and returned in August of 2001. Her role as administrator and assistant to Gateway, along with casual teacher relief, means that she has been a valuable organisational asset for the school.

Mary was responsible for the rugby administration in schools at Taita College from 2002 – 2003 and was team manager for the rugby teams in Taita College from 2005 to 2006. She switched codes to be team manager for junior girls' basketball in 2002 and was team manager for senior girls' basketball 2003-2006. Later she switched codes again to be the team manager for the netball Collegiate 6 Team in 2007.

Her enthusiasm extended to being part of the support crew for the Go-4-12 Adventure Race Team 2006 – 2007. She was also a keen member of the "Taita Styles" Round Taupo relay team for 2007. She leaves to gain fulltime employment in business.

Mr Ray Prasad came to Taita midway during term 1 in 2005 until the second term of 2007 - that's almost two and half years. During his stay he was the teacher in charge/coach of the junior boys' soccer team for the year 2006. He also helped with the junior girls' lawn tennis team for a term in 2005. He is a physics and science teacher and his calm manner and cheerful disposition will be sadly missed.

He leaves to become a dedicated fulltime father to his son so that his wife can return to being a fulltime GP.



Goodbye Mr Prasad from Rebekah Reid and Sarah Burr.

Mr Reed Jeffrey has been at Taita College since 2006 as the music teacher. He has been a great exponent of choir and several choirs have been initiated this year. He also brought ukuleles into the school and students have enjoyed them immensely.



Staff Leaving continued

Mrs Alissa Morgan-Ziogas first came to Taita College as a student. She returned as a student teacher, and then as a teacher. In her latest stint she has given six and a half years' service as a teacher.

Mrs Morgan-Ziogas has taught English, physical education and been Head of the Music Department. She has assisted with basketball, touch rugby and her beloved Prem One netball team that she coached and managed. She is retiring to become a fulltime parent to her son.

Her farewell speech noted: "What defines a person is what you do, but also what you don't do." She urged all students to aim for "better than average". Her cheerful disposition and broad smile will be sadly missed.



Alicia Colledge and Margaret Scott gave a superb farewell as a Powerpoint presentation showing the photo highlights of Mrs Morgan-Ziogas' time here at Taita College.

Miss Paula Wightman has been at Taita College for three and a half years. Her enthusiasm for chemistry has been matched by her energy in coaching her students for the annual chemistry quiz.

At her farewell Miss Wightman played the euphonium and the students were impressed by her mastery of the instrument. Miss Wightman is in the territorial army band.



Connie Stedman and Rebekah Reid farewell Miss Wightman.

Mrs Awhina Hunt has taught since 2006 at Taita College. She managed the Māori Department and the Te Whakaruruhau marae. Her quiet, happy demeanour has been appreciated by her students. She leaves to become a fulltime parent to her children.



Homework Centre

We are trialling a homework centre and the details will be released soon. At this stage there has been limited response, which will mean that the centre will run as long as the students are supporting it. Staff and senior students are present to assist students with their problems, and this is a free service! Please encourage your child to make use of this, especially with senior exams looming on the rapidly approaching horizon.

Blessing of the Technology Block

The blessing of the new additions to the technology block took place on Thursday 7 June at 11.00am. The blessing was conducted by the college's Kaumatua Mr Henare Kingi and attended by representatives of the Board of Trustees, the contractors and the college staff. The blessing has allowed the college students to use the new areas once the council approvals were signed off.

The new areas blessed were the senior seminar room, staff offices and toilet facilities. Mr Kingi had previously blessed stages one and two of the block, which were the new food and nutrition rooms, the graphics room and automotive room, along with the refurbished workshops and storage areas.

Debating

The Wellington Speaking Union Intercollegiate Debating Competition is now well under way for 2007. Taita College has three teams in the competition and the second debate for the year has just been completed. The first debate was a learning curve for all teams as they found their feet in their new grades. Jacque Martin did the Junior Premier team proud by being judged best speaker in her first debate. She was also best speaker in round two where she was joined by team-mate Ellen Jackman who was judged second-best speaker of the debate. The Junior Certificate team improved significantly in their second debate, which they might have won had there been a more experienced adjudicator – look out round three opposition! The Senior Premier B team suffered the unfortunate loss of stalwart speaker Bhanyavy Kim and illness sadly forced the default of their second debate.

Since then we have had the round three impromptu debates. The Junior Certificate team had a convincing win over Here-taunga College with Susan and Holly Pater-son and Nicole Campbell debating very well indeed; the Junior Premier team debated well against an excellent St Patrick's College team but were unable to prove 'That the car is a curse'; the Seniors were unfortunately unable to debate again as this time their opposition defaulted to them.

All teams will be looking forward to round four. Good luck to them.



Reader/Writers

Students who have a learning disability are able to access reader/writer assistance for assessments. Taita College has a number of students requiring this assistance, particularly for examinations coming up. You need to be able to read clearly and fluently, write accurately and be compassionate. This is a voluntary commitment, but a very rewarding experience. We would very much like to hear from you if you are interested in providing this assistance for our students. Please contact Mary Tucker, HOD Learner support, if you would like more information.

Kapa Haka

A group of Taita College students were out of school Wednesday 27 & Thursday 28 June.

They were supporting our speakers at Manu Korero on Wednesday and performing at Kapahaka Regionals on Thursday.



Text Bullying

This practice does occur from time to time. The message to go out to our school community is that if a student tells an adult, and the culprit is spoken to, generally the messages stop.

Board of Trustees Staff Representative

A recent by-election gave staff the opportunity to vote for their representative on the Board of Trustees for the next three years. Three staff put their names forward. As with all elections, it was a secret ballot.

Owing to the result having a tied poll, a lot was drawn in accordance with the Education (School Trustee Elections) Regulations 2000. Mr Isimeli Tukua's name was drawn and therefore duly elected.



Queen's Service Order

Mr Kim Workman, one of the current members of the Board of Trustees at Taita College, was awarded the Queen's Service Medal for services to prisoner welfare. He has worked in the public sector since 1959 in various roles. He was appointed Assistant Secretary (Penal Institutions) in 1992 and has been on the Board of Prison Fellowship for ten years, currently as Executive Director. Our congratulations.

Open Evening

The annual Open Evening went very well with many more parents attending this year than last.



Student CHOGM

Our students did very well at the Student CHOGM.

They had a good grasp of the Commonwealth - coming a very close 4th in the Royal Commonwealth Society Quiz.

In particular we must thank the delegates, Puaseisei Nanai and Lolohea Bulamaibau, for all their hard work. It is a very big job. We are looking forward to receiving the completed communiqué, which will then be distributed via email to all delegates and teachers.



Tourism Trip

The Tourism trip around the Wellington region went well, except for the weather which was wet and cold with a southerly blowing.

Both groups enjoyed the Unimog tour around Wellington's hills culminating in Red Rocks, however Mrs Huffadine's group was fortunate to see snow. The same group also had the advantage of making it outside to sea kayak, which was not possible in the afternoon. Mrs Berridge's group was only able to climb their hearts out. Matthew Northway won the SNAG award with Kimberley Carlton being awarded the best secret climber award.



Some in Mrs H's group gained the best

saboteur awards for an unplanned cold swim.



Ms Kavas and her students planted trees for Arbor Day and earned carbon credits!

Geography/History Field Research

Geographers and historians all spent time amidst the volcanic landscape of the North Island Central Plateau this term. They were variously investigating the natural features of a volcanic area, looking at the conflicting and complementary land uses of the area, researching the Tangiwai rail disaster, visiting the Rotorua and Waiouru museums, inspecting the Te Porere battle site and a host of other activities that make this a rich area of research.



Getting up close and

personal with Mt Tongariro was its usual testing endeavour. The climb/walk over the mountain is stressful physically but everyone made it. There is no better feeling than confronting a really difficult challenge and overcoming all those reasons the mind invents for giving up or turning back. It tests character and builds confidence. In a much smaller way it is what Sir Edmund Hillary felt on Everest.



The way everyone pitches in and helps with food, or cleaning up; the mutual support that is offered spontaneously; the wonderful singing; retired 'Uncle' Bob's (Rosemergy of BRC fame) food and hospitality in his Turangi home, and the sheer enjoyment of first-hand experience and discovery all makes for education and learning at its very essence.



The staff involved: Mrs Mary Opie, Mr Stephen Gibson, Mrs Desiree Mulligan, Mr David Strawbridge and the ex-staffer, Mr Bob, all experienced the usual huge lift in spirits that is the result of working and sharing in such a wonderful experience with students. Life and learning, after all, is out there; we merely do our best to replicate it in our classrooms.



STAGE CHALLENGE

"Yeah, you know it! Taita shakes that thing!" The chants rung again loud and clear across the dressing rooms of the TSB Arena on Friday 22 June as 90 of our students prepared themselves to go onstage for what was our best performance yet! The students were absolutely amazing and scooped up awards for:

Excellence in Stage Design, Excellence in Student Achievement

(going to **Rebekah Reid** for her commitment to five years of Stage Challenge productions)

Excellence in Concept.

Gemma Dale Award of Excellence,

(which only Taita College received for the most Stage Challenge spirit), was by far the most rewarding award on the night and was voted for by all the other schools going to the event.



We all are aware of how much effort our student directors put in as well as our backstage crew and artists and thanks need to go to them for their time and commitment.



But we must also give special thanks to the unsung heroes: the teachers, parents and members of the Taita College family who offered their energy and time for no reward other than seeing the smiles of the students on stage. This sort of undertaking would never get off the ground if it were not for your support and generosity.

Certificates and DVD's will be available to the students at the beginning of term three.

Donna Devaroe
Performing Arts Coordinator



Year 9 Computing Capital E SoundHouse Trip

On 29 May the year 9 computing class went on the train into Wellington to go to the Capital E sound house. The purpose of the trip was to learn and gain some experience in how to use some creative sound making software.

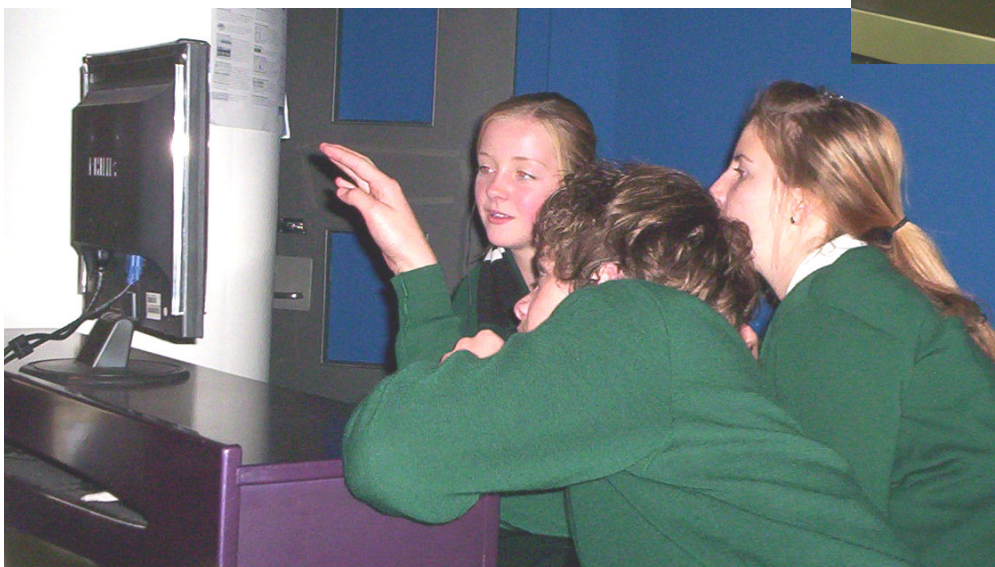
On arrival, we met up with Carl our tutor and he took us into the sound house. Carl spent the first 10-15 minutes teaching us about the Sony Acid program (used by professional international artists in their careers) to get us started in making our digital music. You can use the Acid program to make your own music.

We spent about an hour and a half mixing and making our own music. There were heaps of digital loop choices, for example: drums, bass, guitar, vocals and scratching. It was a great learning experience for everyone and we all had heaps of fun.



You can listen to our music on the SoundHouse network server through the internet at this address:

[http://soundhouse.capitale.org.nz/schools/albums/2007/May/Taita%20College%20\(290507\)/](http://soundhouse.capitale.org.nz/schools/albums/2007/May/Taita%20College%20(290507)/) Shaun Arnst



Rifle Shooting

The Taita College rifle shooting team has participated successfully to date in the Hutt Valley interclub competition. Megan Bogisch and Megan Stanyon have also shot in the Horowhenua and Hutt Valley open competitions. Megan Bogisch won her grade in both competitions and helped herself to several cups and prizes. Megan Stanyon has been shooting well too, but has the difficulty of being in a higher grade.

Two new shooters, Josh McIntyre and Jordan Bogisch have impressed the coach sufficiently to be offered the opportunity to begin training. Others have tried, and sadly not been able, to demonstrate the natural coordination and talent that can be trained to produce a good marksman.

The two Megans have now been included as reserves in the Hutt Valley inter-provincial shooting squad. This is the equivalent of the rugby NPC for shooters, so it is quite an honour to be able to shoot alongside Commonwealth Games gold medallists.

If anyone would like to give target shooting a try they only need to see Mr Strawbridge and give something different a go. There are future champions in the school that, as yet, remain undiscovered. We have a NZ level coach, great club support and it is fun. You never know!



Library News

With a two-week holiday break coming up and the weather getting colder, this would be the perfect time for students to tidy out their rooms, search under their beds, in the wardrobe, clean out their school and sports bags, check out the coffee table and **FIND ALL OF THEIR MISSING LIBRARY BOOKS!**

We ask that you start Term 3 off well and give Mrs Franklin a big surprise by returning those books back to the library. Remember, others would like to read those great books that have been already read.

**...where
are the
books?**



...please get them out



from under those beds!!

Research Roadshow

Thirty Taita College students attended the Research Roadshow, which was targeted at year 10 students. Half of the group came from our all boys' class and half came from the 10F class.

The road show had many hands on activities focused on measurement, data gathering and interpretation of facts. The research focused on gathering information about a real road crash, where the car body and lamp post were on display, to determine the cause of the accident. In fact the accident was classified as a non-injury car crash.

The students had to examine the broad variables and conditions that might have prevailed at the time of the accident. Students recorded an interview as a broadcaster, which covered their own conclusions based on their own research. They said it definitely made them more aware of the responsibilities involved when driving a vehicle and that the exercise was more with the real car present.



Night Classes



The Adult Community Education night classes are slowly increasing in both the number of classes and the students. The assistant coordinator **Fran Berridge** welcomes queries about any class currently running, or anyone contacting her to offer any ideas for classes.

This term the new wax art or encaustic card making class proved to be very popular along with the quilting classes, computer courses and social dancing. Floral art classes are not running in term 3, but are already being booked for term 4.

It is a pity that although we offer excellent photography tuition, we do not always have enough people to run the class. The same goes for assertiveness classes. The 'speaking up for yourself' techniques are very effective and are recommended to people who feel they want to go further in their careers.

Science Fair

During weeks three, four and five of this term the junior school (years 9 and 10) participated in the school science fair. To take part in this event the students worked in groups, firstly deciding on something they would like to investigate and then working out how. They gathered their resources and put together their experiment. Working out why things weren't working as expected was part of the fun. The last week was spent writing up the results of their labours and putting it all together in a presentation format.

The science fair was held on 13 and 14 June and there was a very good level of presentation with a total of 75 boards being put on display. These are to be judged at each year level with 1st, 2nd, 3rd and two merit awards and an overall 1st, 2nd and 3rd judging to be carried out by Mr Saty Candasamy, our Principal. Also offered this year is a certificate for the best artistic presentation at each year level, to be judged by our art teacher, Mr John Matthew.

The top eight projects have been selected and await final judging, which will take place before the end of this term. The top 10 displays will be forwarded to the Wellington Regional Science Fair toward the end of term three. Well done to all those who participated - not everyone can win the top prizes, but everyone is a winner for just taking part.

Practice Exams

This is an early reminder that exams will take place for Y11, Y12 and Y13 students from 5 - 14 September. All senior students will have study leave during this time. No senior classes will run during the exam period, with the exception of special tutorial sessions which are offered in some areas. The examination timetable will be given out and students are expected to attend all examinations for the subjects which they are taking. If an examination is missed, students will be required to sit the assessment in their own time. However, any assessment completed after the set date may be ineligible for contribution toward an actual NCEA qualification, unless a medical or acceptable reason is given for missing the examination.

It is from this time on that we would like to suggest that part-time jobs are carefully monitored to ensure students have sufficient time to complete the necessary study. After all, a focus on study today will pay large dividends for the students in the long run.



Winter Viruses

You may be aware that there is currently a respiratory illness at several schools in the greater Wellington region.

What can be done to limit the spread of winter viruses in a school?

Students remember to wash their hands

- ♦ thoroughly, using plenty of soap, and dry them well after going to the toilet and before eating.
- ♦ Cover mouth and nose with a tissue or your sleeve when coughing or sneezing, put the tissue in the rubbish bin and then wash their hands

Parents and caregivers can:

- ♦ Keep students who are sick away from school.

Limit the illness spreading to others

- ♦ Sick children should be at home and not return to school until they have been better for at least 24 hours.
- ♦ Make sure hands are washed and dried well – after sneezing, wiping or blowing the nose, going to the toilet, before eating and preparing food.
- ♦ Keep coughs and sneezes covered with a tissue; dispose of the tissue in a rubbish bin.

Looking after sick children at home

- ♦ Keep the child warm and give them frequent small drinks of clear fluid eg water or diluted juice.

- ♦ Give paracetamol, **not Aspirin**, if your child is irritable, miserable or appears to be in pain. Check on the child frequently, including overnight.

What to watch out for:

Most school-aged children will recover in 5 to 7 days, however it is important to watch out for signs that the child may have developed a bacterial infection or another serious illness such as meningococcal disease. If your **child's illness gets worse or you are concerned** ring the GP immediately.

Look out for these signs:

- ♦ Your child was getting well, fever had stopped for last day or so, then **high temp (>38.5) returns** - this may indicate that a secondary bacterial infection has started
- ♦ Your child is persistently breathing faster than usual or has **difficulty breathing** e.g. breathing is noisy or it is taking a lot of effort for your child to breathe.
- ♦ **Persistent pain** that doesn't go away and isn't relieved with paracetamol or requires more than 4 doses of paracetamol in 24 hours or regular paracetamol for more than a day.
- ♦ A **rash** that looks like small bruises under the skin and doesn't go away when pressed on with a finger.
- ♦ Your child is drowsy or not responding to the environment.

Golf

Carl Tupangaia, with his handicap of 3.5, has qualified for the Manor Park Junior Watt Cup team to compete in the Aaron Baddely Junior International Championships.



Callum Stinson will also be competing at the championships as an individual.

Rugby U16

Bradley Shields, Michael Kainga and Dylan Hemopo have been selected to take part in Williment week these holidays and from that training week players will be chosen for two teams to represent Wellington.

“What defines a person is what you do, but also what you *don't* do”
Mrs Morgan-Ziogas

Soccer—Craig Henderson

Old boy and former Head Boy (2005), Craig Henderson recently hit the news for heading into New Zealand's first youth World Cup match against Portugal as a mid-fielder.

Portugal has been champion twice and the match is a group C opener for the under-20 Junior All Whites. The match has been sold out with 25,000 expected to attend.

Craig is based at Dartmouth College in the United States and he stated that the team will be competitive to the aim of being an

Oceania qualifier. He stated that the team has had a two-year build-up to this event and that the team will not be overawed by the occasion.



Source: The Dominion Post, 29 June 2007.

Wellington Regional Cross-Country Championship

On Wednesday afternoon of 30 May, a small number of students represented Taita College at the Wellington regional cross-country championship held at Trentham Memorial Park.

It was a stunning late autumn day, with a firm surface underfoot, and surprisingly warm conditions for a cross country run which is normally associated with winter.

The year 9 girls fared the best against fierce competition, with Zoe Sargent earning 27th fastest finisher and Sapphire Cavie arriving soon afterwards in position 31.

Norman Donaldson, Tim and Matt Stannard enjoyed the run and no doubt have a renewed respect for those runners who make a point of vigorous training and 'competition running'. These boys finished strongly, however, and enjoyed the experience.

Sam Morrissey, although in good physical condition, found that the level of competition in the under-19 boys' field was 'hard'. He finished a creditable 37th, which was well ahead of many runners at the finish line.

Well done to all of those athletes who challenged themselves to take part in a running event of such high calibre. I am sure that all runners will learn something from this experience.

Henry Ballantyne





Taita College

**Celebrating
50 years**

1957 - 2007

Pre-loved School Uniforms

We would like to introduce you to Uniformtrade.com—New Zealand's only specialised school uniform site for selling and buying second-hand school uniforms.

If students/ parents want to buy or sell second-hand uniforms, sports uniforms or musical instruments, they will be able to use this service for free.

Our website can be viewed at
www.uniformtrade.com

Best wishes
Gareth Carter

Attention all ex-pupils

Have you registered for the Taita College 50th Jubilee celebrations yet?

Labour Weekend,
19-21 October 2007

Download your registration form and send to school with your \$25.00 registration fee.

Contact the Jubilee Committee email reunion@taita.school.nz or leave a message—
answerphone 5678728 x 247.

Reminders

Mrs Pye is able to take 5 more students onto the Gateway programme in term 3 of this year. Any student or parent who may want to know more about Gateway, or to take up this opportunity, can contact her on ext 206.

Also, this is a reminder that NZQA Fees are due into the college by 31st July. These fees are \$75.00.

Coming Up

16 July Start Term 3

18-19 July

Year 13 Career Interviews

25 July Australian Maths Competition

26 July Australian Chemistry Comp.

24-26 July

Year 12 Career Interviews

30 July-3 Aug. School production

17 August Sports Photos

5-14 Sept Senior Exams

