



Issue 4
July
2009

Taita College

Newsletter

Dear Parents and Caregivers

Farewell to our Principal

On Wednesday, 5 August the college will be hosting a community farewell for our Principal, Mr Saty Candasamy after 25 years of service to the school.



Mr Candasamy came to Taita in September 1984 as HOD of Science and was appointed Assistant Principal in May 1990. He became Deputy Principal in November 1996 and was appointed Principal in May 2003.

Students will honour Mr Candasamy's service at an assembly on Friday 7 August, his last day.

Parents wishing to attend the community farewell are asked to contact Danielle Shields, extension 233 to reserve a ticket.

Mr Candasamy epitomises Taita College's motto: "Pride through Success; Honour through Service".

We thank him for all he has done for Taita College and wish him a long, happy and healthy retirement.

Gill Berridge
Editor

Important dates:

- 5 August Community Farewell in the Hall at 6.30 pm (entry by ticket only).
- 7 August Final Assembly
- 10 August The first day for Mr John Murdoch, the newly appointed Principal.

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**Pride through Success
Honour through Service**

Tourism Trip

At the airport we met up at 7.15am for the early flight to Auckland at 8.00am. Leaving the overcast southerly of Wellington behind us, we emerged through the cloud cover into the rarely seen sunny day of Auckland.

Touchdown was an hour later at Auckland airport and we discovered that the huge bright blue and yellow bus that we had been laughing at was in fact our transport. We were off to our first destination, Botany Downs Ice Arena. Some took to the ice superbly whereas others were not so lucky.



After only one short hour when we just started to steady ourselves, we had to leave to go to Kelly Tarltons. This wonderful underwater

world was delightful and enchanting albeit the slight stench of fish took away a bit of its charm.



After only one hour of being there we departed to the world famous sky tower, the tallest building in the southern hemisphere and tall it is. One adventurous American tourist opted to jump off this remarkable height of 53 stories. We watched in horror and awe as he dangled over the edge and leapt.



After this we were off to Rainbows End and Calypso Café for lunch. We found other

rides to amuse us, such as bumper boats and log rides, a bit slower than your average roller coaster but fun nevertheless. Finally the fear fall opens – the ride that takes you up 18 storeys, then drops you. It was just as much fun the second time until we reach the bottom only to realise that the safety harnesses are stuck. Consequently, we were trapped on the ride until a guy from maintenance came to save us.



Newly freed from our makeshift prison, we were off to experience the rest of the rides. The Corkscrew rollercoaster, the Power Surge, the Gold Mine were just a few of the awesome rides that we went on. A personal favourite was the Dodgems/ or bumper cars, where the students all hopped in and crashed into each other as much as possible.



At 5.00pm we unwillingly left the park to go to the airport where we grabbed dinner. After that we all sleepily slumped onto the plane and laid back for the hour flight back to Wellington.



The Auckland trip was an amazing experience and although the bruises and scars from the ice skating and theme park will heal and fade, it is a memory that will last forever. We thank the school, Mrs Gould and the teachers for making the trip possible.

Tara Fensom



Farewells

We farewelled Kerry Hirini, our community liaison person, who leaves to work in Maori Health. We thank her for her excellent work at our school. She will be sadly missed by staff and all of the students that she liaised with.

We also said goodbye to the delightful John Cunningham, who filled Mrs Desiree Mulligan's position while she was on study leave. We are delighted that Ms Katherine Haines has kindly agreed to stay on until the end of the year.

Returns

HOD of Science, Mrs Ava Szabo and Mrs Desiree Mulligan return from two terms of study leave. Both will have excellent stories to tell about the research that they were engaged in during their leave.



NEWS

Massey University officially launched the first of its 14 new training aircraft at the School of Aviation's Milson Flight Systems Centre in Palmerston North on 6 July 2009.

Six of the single-engine Diamond Aircraft 40 are now in use. Another eight planes, including two high-performance twin-engine DA42 aircraft, are due to arrive over the coming months. They are built at the Diamond Aircraft Industries factory in Ontario, Canada, and assembled in New Zealand by the Australasian agent, Hawker Pacific.

SWINE FLU – HOLIDAY RETURNS

At this stage, the Ministry of Health's advice is that if staff and students are well and symptom-free after returning from an affected area, they can return to school and do not need to remain at home for any period after arriving back.

However, this may change in the coming weeks and families need to plan for this possibility. The risk is that if an infected student returns to school and is in contact with other students and staff for even a day, Taita College could be closed for a week.

The school board asks you to carefully monitor your family's health closely as you return from overseas, or from within New Zealand.

If there are even the slightest flu symptoms, please do not send your son or daughter back to school until you have first telephoned to check with your doctor, or alternatively with the Ministry of Health Healthline 0800 611 116.

SADD Ambassador

Mani Tuki has been appointed as one of six Young SADD ambassadors from across the country to represent the student body at a national conference in Dunedin during the holidays.

Dozens of applications are received each year and Mani really stood out as a potential ambassador at the conference, displaying an obvious passion and dedication to SADD. Her leadership skills make her a valuable asset to this small group.

2009 Dates to Note



July

- 24 Reports posted
- 29 Report evening

August

- 5 Youth Transition Services visit Year 13
- 11 WelTec visit
- 12-30 CSW sports competitions
- 21 Whitireia Polytechnic visit

September

- 11-18 Practice exams for seniors
- 25 Term 3 ends
- 26 School ball for seniors

Rockquest 2009

Two Taita bands entered Smokefree Rockquest 2009 – Cryptic Warning and Samaori. It was the second year for Cryptic Warning, having picked up the People's Choice Award last year. Both bands put on an interesting performance and made it to the regional finals which were held in the Hutt Town Hall later that night. The C4 crew including Drew from C4 Select interviewed each band before we performed.

Samaori, made up of Henare Whaanga on vocals, Fraser Vailini on guitar, Aaron Ritchie on bass and Chri Ta'afi on drums put on an energized and solid performance playing hip hop infused rock.

Cryptic Warning – Josh McIntyre on vocals, Carlin Wakeham on guitar, Adam Hankinson on bass and Jesse Peratiaki on drums played an explosive set, with Jesse coming away with the award for MAINZ Best Musicianship which puts him in the draw to win a MAINZ Scholarship worth \$4800 towards study. This was particularly impressive because Jesse had only joined the band the day before.

The regionals were an awesome experience for both bands, both of which had an opportunity to play in front of a big enthusiastic audience with a massive PA sound system. Bring on Rockquest 2010.

Adam Hankinson



Barbershop Weekend

There were three groups (2 Quartets and 1 Chorus) from Taita College that entered the Young Men in Harmony Quartet and Chorus Competition held at the Te Rauparaha Arena in Porirua.

The two Quartets were the Freshmen of Barbershop and Tait4. This year Tait4 entered the competition for the first time with the Freshmen participating in their second competition. The performances were amazing to watch, with the Freshmen setting the standard early into the competition, but we all knew there could be other schools that could also do the same.

Taita now had done something for the first time in history — we entered the school's first ever Chorus. There were 13 boys directed by our lovely music teacher, Mrs Ferguson. Before we went up to sing we all felt the intensity coming from the crowd. We all said a prayer and went out and gave it our absolute best shot. The results coming back to us later on in the night were like Christmas. Although we weren't placed in the top three for Young Men In Harmony - school quartets, we were extremely pleased with our results. The Freshmen were placed 6th, and Tait4 came in at 10th place. Now for the Chorus finals, Taita Chorus was hit by what seemed like a train of intense excitement. We were given 5th place overall in the Wellington region school Chorus section. Overall, we had a very exciting and satisfying night.

I would like to say a HUGE thank you to our Barbershop teacher Graeme Gainsford, our dear Chorus director Mrs Ferguson and also to Rose for supporting the boys. Thanks to all our supporters who came out to hear us (Mr Hawke) and of course the boys, for their hard work, early mornings and their amazing voices. Next year will be ours, Boys. LET'S GO HARD! " TAITA NEVER DOWN...DO IT FOR THE FAMILY AND FRIENDS"

Jesse Peratiaki



The Freshmen of Barbershop are warming up for the Regional Barbershop competitions:

George Bower - tenor
Oswald Soane - lead
Jesse Peratiaki - bass
Patricio Ta'afua - baritone

The Tait4 are warming up for the regional barbershop competitions:

Joseph Tagaoi - tenor
Jesla Uilao - lead
Josh Faauli - bass
Chris Ta'afi - baritone



iCAN was a youth-run event aiming to illustrate hope and to inspire community action of food.

The iCAN project was created by a group of young leaders from the Wellington region at the 2009 ON THE EDGE Leadership Conference which students from the Senior the young leaders were challenged to create an Leadership and make a significant difference in iCAN was born and with the passion of Wellington's Secondary School Leaders the project was launched. iCAN was held during NZ Leadership week on Friday 26 and Saturday 27 June 2009.



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The aim was to break the Guinness World Record for the "largest canned food structure." To break the world record, a collection of more than 45,725 cans needed to be completed. Over four weeks, cans were collected in schools. Taita College participated with a mufti day which resulted with 1067 cans. We also organised a hot chocolate swap on a Wednesday and Thursday before school and at morning tea for extra cans. We were kindly sponsored by Scott Horton, owner and operator of McDonalds Lower Hutt with the ingredients to make them. There were 33 schools in the Wellington region involved in iCan with sponsorship from supermarkets and businesses. Door to door knocking also took place in various places around the region. The collected cans were brought to Civic Square by 26 June. Over the night of 26 June, the iCan crew set up the giant structure that spelt the word iCAN over the entire space.

On Saturday 27 June the community was invited to Civic Square to contribute further cans and witness the achievement of the students with an aerial photograph taken. The project covered 360 sq metres with the Deputy Prime Minister, Bill English and Wellington Deputy Mayor, Ian McKinnon coming to view the work. By the end of the night, 54,527 cans spelled the word iCAN smashing the previous Guinness World Record in the US.

On Sunday 28 June all collected cans were donated to the Wellington City Mission, the Salvation Army and the SPCA. This event displayed the potential of youth but it also benefited the community in these hard times. Taita College was privileged to be a part of this exciting project and the Taita iCan crew would like to thank every student that helped contribute to this successful event. We couldn't have done it without you! Your Taita College



Early Childhood Education

Our Early Childhood Education students are working well this year and enjoying their work placements in various childcare centres and kindergartens. They are receiving some good results with the unit standards they are studying through PORSE In-Home Childcare & Educator Training.

This year they were asked to enter the National PORSE Photo Competition for secondary school students. Entries were to show interaction between the student and a child at their workplace. We were proud of our four students who entered the competition from Taita College and very excited to receive two prizes.





Stage

Can you resist ...

...the temptation?

This year's Stage Challenge was based around the seven deadly sins. There were eight main characters with a lead male and a lead female for each sin. The sin allocations were: Lust: Kimberly Worth and Tione Albert; Vanity: Penina Stephenson and Jed Peniata; Greed: Judith Robinson and James Start; Envy: Alex Bengree and Jade Te Moananui; Sloth: Sandra Ivanov and Ben Te Hiini; Gluttony: Emma Edmonds and Ben Anslow, and Wrath: Mani Tuki and Dylan Hemopo. Each of the male lead characters was drawn in by the female lead characters, who played that sin. It was a test to see if each of the boys could resist the temptation and stay strong. There was a full cast of 80-95 performers on stage and 18 backstage. Shannan King did the lighting.

The 14 directors were as follows: GREED- Judith Robinson, Brittany Halligan; ENVY- Alex Bengree, Kimberly Gill; SLOTH-Sandra Ivanov; GLUTTONY- Kendall Sollitt, Brooke Margetts; VANITY-Penina Stephenson; LUST-Lynda Wallis, Marieke Hagenaars; WRATH/ FINALE- Loren du Chateau, Georgia Silk, Bianca Waikato and Kimberly Worth.

There were many rehearsals and practices and it was amazing to see the choreography compiled onstage. With the help of Melinda and Rebecca Lord, who were the costume directors, along with the help of their mums, Rose and Jennie Lord, the costumes were incredible. Although it was a very long day that started at 7am and finished at 11pm, it was definitely enjoyed by everyone involved. Taita came away with an Award of Excellence for Character Costume. All round, it was a very successful day. Thanks to Miss Henderson, Miss Glover, Mr McGillicuddy, Mr Strawbridge and Miss Haines who helped out on the day. Our thanks also go to Mrs Scott for facilitating the event. James Start



Challenge





Amy Jackman, a former Taita College head student, has completed a Bachelor of Arts degree endorsed in Communication from Massey University. She received a Dean's List certificate, which is a prestigious certificate that signals a successful academic career is to follow. Mr Candasamy attended the presentation ceremony.



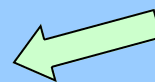
Model UN

Four representatives from Taita College enjoyed the experience of participating in a model United Nations Assembly for secondary students where they had the pleasure of meeting other delegates. Our representatives were — Jamal Edgecombe (Turkey), Heather Mclean—Parapara (Bosnia-Herzegovina), Alex Bengree (Belize) and Halayna Smith (Bolivia). All students enjoyed the four-day experience of learning what it would be like to represent a country in the United Nations Assembly.

The events were held at various venues such as at the Kelburn Campus and Rutherford House of Victoria University, and at the old town hall.

The schedule consisted of an initial training day, where students explored their allocated committee duties (there were three committees and three general committees). They then debated for three days on various topics such as the legacy of war, enabling the spread of literacy, or the responsibility to protect other nations. Debating was extremely formal and there was a procedures booklet to follow.

At the close of the debates, there was a formal ball, which was held at the St James Theatre. Some participating students were presented with certificates.



Heather, Halayna, Alex and Jamal.

Arbour Day

Halayna Smith and Malologa Gogo-Oti went to plant trees to celebrate Arbour Day. They were picked up by a Hutt City Council officer and taken to Stokes Valley. There they planted trees with some Tawhai School students.



Afterwards these two students went with the officer to Taita and planted trees in Cooper Street alongside the Get Start crew. There they met Gwen McDonald, the city councillor for the Northern Ward and the MP for Rimutaka, Chris Hipkins (see above photo at left).



Halayna Smith with her certificate.

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Resene
the paint the professionals use

Resene supported the *Drama Department* at Taita College by donating 100 test pots of paint for mask making.



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