



TAITA
COLLEGE

TERM 2 NEWSLETTER 2016

New era as Taita College welcomes new Principal

Kia ora koutou

Ko Taranaki tōku maunga
I tipu ake au i Opunake
I noho ana au i Te Whanganui a Tara, ki awakairangi ki konei
Ko Ashok tāku tane
Nō Ōtaki ia
Nō reira he awa whakahirahira ki a māua
Ko RMS Tainui te waka
Ko Te Pou o Tainui te Marae, i tērā tau, i whāngai ahau
Ko ngāti Pākehā te iwi
Ko Karen Morgan tāku ingoa.

Talofa lava, malo e lelei, ni sa bula vinaka, namaste, kia orana, taloha ni, fakaalofa lahi atu, tēnā koutou,

My name is Karen Morgan, and I am both thrilled and honoured to be appointed as Principal of Taita College.

I wanted to take this opportunity to introduce myself to you, because my intent once I officially start in Term 3, is for us to work collaboratively to ensure that your children receive the very best opportunities and education. Taita College epitomises the college I want to lead, as it is co-educational, multi-ethnic and a school that has strong affiliations with the community. I am committed to building on all of the excellent work already occurring at Taita College – where students, staff and the community are actively engaged and motivated to empower achievement, “tiro whakarunga ki ngā puke”. Together, we can continue to make a difference!

On a personal level I grew up in a small town called Opunake, in Taranaki. I am married to Ashok (partner for 26 years), and we live locally here in the Hutt. I have a strong sense of community and my core values include whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, kotahitanga and rangatiratanga. People are very important to me, and I build strong relationships based on respect, honesty and integrity. As a person I have a very high work ethic, I lead by example and commit myself fully to everything that I undertake, encouraging both staff and students to my mantra “be all that you can be.” I am looking forward to getting to know you as parents, family, whānau and caregivers, and I know that the next chapter for Taita College is going to be very exciting – where continued success is at the forefront.

Over the last two decades I have had the most fantastic learning journey and professional career, and I am both excited and ready to be the Principal at Taita College. For the past two years I have been studying and completed my Master in Secondary School Leadership, a Post Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration and Leadership, and a diploma in Te Reo Māori. I have been Deputy Principal at



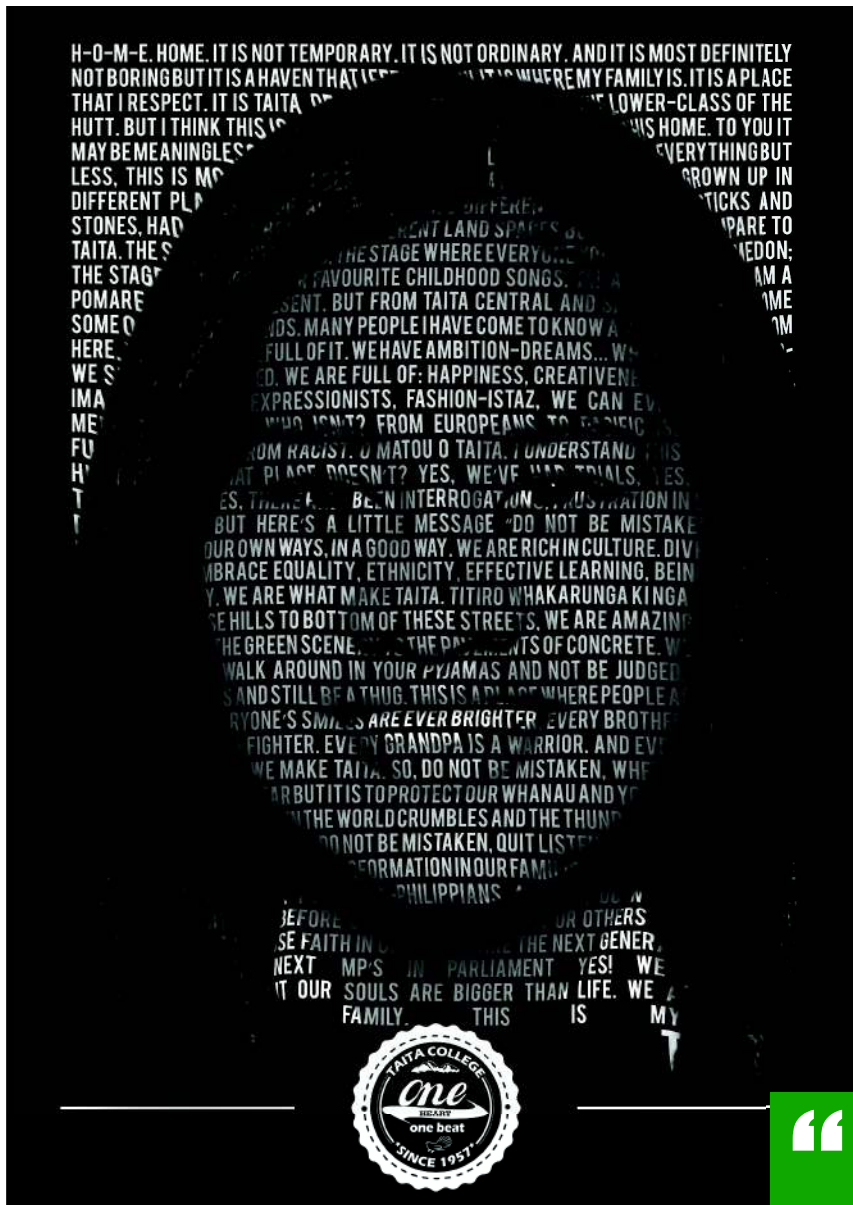
Wellington Girls' College since 2009, and prior to that I was Assistant Principal for three years at Ōtaki College. I have also been a Dean at Avondale College in Auckland, taught at Freyberg High school in Palmerston North, and worked with the police in Santa Barbara, USA, as a gang prevention specialist. I know that I will utilise my diverse experience and knowledge base to provide a positive learning environment at Taita College, so that your children will be supported and enabled to reach their potential.

My philosophy of education is that it is holistic and lifelong, and I am highly motivated to raise outcomes for all students. I believe in developing student voice, setting high expectations, supporting academic excellence, promoting meaningful pathways, and also fostering individual and social responsibility. Curriculum is everything we do in a school, and so I feel it is essential that all forms of achievement (including cultural and sporting) are both acknowledged and celebrated. A continued focus for Taita College will be to ensure that all teaching and learning programmes are robust and designed to meet the needs of all of our students. Academic achievement must be a focus, along with ensuring that students acquire the values, skills and competencies needed to be confident, active and participating citizens. It is important that students feel proud of themselves, their heritage, identity, culture and place in Aotearoa and the world.

It is going to be a privilege to be part of such a dynamic team of students, staff and parents at Taita. I am looking forward to working with you all, to make our new school vision a reality through action.

Ehara tōku toa i te toa takitahi, engari he toa takitini,
Success is not the work of one, but the work of many – One heart, one beat!

Ngā mihi ki a koutou,
Karen Morgan



Taita's own internet sensation

With over 50,000 views and more than 600 shares, Susana Bryce-Alapati has been setting social media on fire with her inspirational speech on what it means to be from Taita.

Challenging the reputation whilst embracing some of the stereotypical imagery associated with the neighbourhood and community, Susana is extremely proud of being part of the Taita whanau.

Head Girl, Susana wrote the inspirational speech for Tumeke Taita and also performed it during assembly, which is where it was filmed and uploaded onto social media.

Susana has been amazed at the outpouring of support. "I am shocked that people have taken the time to watch it. It feels good to know that people have shown support in changing the perception of what Taita is really like."

"I pretty much expected about 500 people to watch it, so to have 50,000 views is beyond my wildest dreams."



I am shocked...to have 50,000 views is beyond my wildest dreams

Outward Bound a life changing experience

"A life changing experience" is how Year 12 student Joshua Tollison sums up his time at Outward Bound.

"In April I was given the opportunity to go to Outward Bound for a leadership course for 21 days. Based in Anakiwa, Queen Charlotte Sound, at the top of the South Island, the course taught me how to be a leader and how to work effectively with others in a group."

Joshua says Outward Bound pushed his physical and mental limits by having him do things that he'd never done before or that was out of his comfort zone.

"I was hiking, sailing, white water kayaking, rock climbing, high ropes and running. There was a 3.2 km run every morning followed by a swim in the ocean, which lead up to a 21 km run at the end of the course.

"I did all of these activities with my team (Hillary 616), we were a group 14 and we shared all these experiences together. We worked as a fantastic team and are going to be lifelong friends. Our instructors were supportive and helpful as they guided us through the course.

"Outward Bound was truly a life changing experience and a once in a life time opportunity which I feel honoured to be part of and it is something that I will never forget" Joshua said.

IF ONE SUCCEEDS, WE
ALL SUCCEED.
IF ONE STRUGGLES, WE
ALL STRUGGLE
OLIVE SUA

WE ARE UNITED TO BE
THE BEST WE CAN BE
MRS NEL

WE HAVE A
COMMONALITY OF
PURPOSE THAT
DRIVES US TO
PURSUE A
COMMON GOAL
MR TUKUA

WHAT DOES
ONE HEART
ONE BEAT
MEAN TO
YOU?

NBA COACH PHIL JACKSON ONCE SAID
"THE STRENGTH OF THE TEAM IS EACH
INDIVIDUAL MEMBER. THE STRENGTH
OF EACH MEMBER IS THE TEAM".

WE ASKED OUR TAITA COLLEGE
WHANAU WHAT "ONE HEART, ONE
BEAT" MEANS TO THEM.

EMAIL BRYAN@TAITA.SCHOOL.NZ TO
TELL US WHAT ONE HEART ONE BEAT
MEANS TO YOU

WE WORK AS ONE
MICHAEL LITTLE

WE ARE ONE FAMILY
LEVA MULIKIHA'AMEA

YOU CAN'T SEPARATE US
GEORGE RAVENHALL

WE ALL DO THINGS
TOGETHER
JOEL ALHEIT

WE ARE A TEAM WITH A
COMMON PURPOSE
MR STRAWBRIDGE

TEAMWORK MAKES
THE DREAM WORK
ELIJAH LAKAI

ONE HEART ONE BEAT



Flying high

"A thrilling, heart-pounding and challenging experience" is how Year 12 student Mateo Setefano describes the High Ropes course in Wainuiomata that he attended with 20 other students, as part of the Level 2 PE EOTC assessment.

The PED 201 Physical Education Programme is designed to give students the opportunity to experience a wide range of practical physical activities whilst being able to gain level 2 credits. The high ropes course aim is for students to demonstrate social development through participating in the course over two days. The course involves starting on the low ropes where students learn how to trust, co-operate and communicate with each other. Then the students move onto the high ropes where students build on those skills and learn about safety requirements, care of the equipment, and how to belay their team mates correctly.

Day two for the students proved a challenge weather wise. Students showed great commitment while climbing their way through the different activities. Although by the end of the day there were a lot of tired and wet students, the satisfaction of conquering the high ropes challenge had been conquered!

"The students showed great determination during the two days," says PE teacher Tarsh Belsham, "I'm proud of their achievements!"



A thrilling, heart pounding and challenging experience

Wellington Zoo trip

Year nine students recently visited the Wellington Zoo and got to meet the local residents.

Science teacher Zena Kavas says the visit was an enriching experience that connected them to wildlife.

"We have been learning about animals' habitat and adaption. Many of the students haven't been to a zoo before so it was great for them to see these amazing animals up close and learn more about them."

Check out what the students thought about the visit:

"We learnt that chimpanzees are attracted to oranges and many other fruits. We found out some of the chimps' names, and that when they want to be cheeky they throw the fruit back at the crowd.

We also discovered that cheetahs camouflage themselves with their spots. They also use their camouflage to sneak up on their prey because even though they have great speed, their stamina is very minimal.

Later on that day, we discussed how some lizards and reptiles can disguise themselves as snakes. This protects them because predators see them as dangerous. Lizards can drop their tail so that the predator can eat the tail, while they get away.

We saw a chameleon change colour with our own two eyes and a huge tarantula spider. We also saw a meerkat getting dental surgery in the animal hospital!"

Fiafia Night



The colourful sights and sounds of the Pacific were enjoyed by a packed audience at the recent Fiafia night.

Run and organised by Year 12 students Brooke Crichton, Leva Mulikiha'amea and Tafi Tonga - with the help of the Poly Leadership team - it was the biggest and best Fiafia night yet.

Brooke says it was great witnessing the community coming together to enjoy and celebrate the culture and families of Taita.

"The Poly Club rocked that stage and made all of our Poly family proud of what we have achieved together.

"We also want to acknowledge our 'mini TCians', St Michaels primary, and their families for all of the effort that was put into their performance."

Thank you to everyone involved in organising Fiafia for all the support, time and effort put into making the event possible.

Jahkaya Atkinson
Cleveland Beach
Carson Bell
Heneriata Biddle
Joshua Boyd
Kiara Comp
Esther Dahm
Lupe Fetaui
Sione Fotofili
Godwin Gonzales
Ben Guillonta
Shaun Hayman
Bree Ieremia
Connor Jensen
Rachel Korewha
Elijah Lakai
Ellarose Lamberton
Faipaua Leafa
Ulamila Little
Ally Mairaro
Kristina Masae
Neyla Masima
Megan McCliskie
Amy McEwen
Kian McHardy
Lepeti Melesala
Te Awaroa Meteka
Misinale Misa

Tahu Munro
Aata Murdoch
Eloise Old
Serah Otineru
Quaylee-Ann Parekura-Tane
Michelle Quach
Ezra Sione
Josie Sitagata
Joe Spence
Vanessa Ta'afi
Levi Taylor
Devyn Te Puia
Zeta Thickett
Jay Tofa
Allan Tuitama
Emma Walker
Esther Yu
Joel Alheit
Cullum Barker
Connor Brownie
Brooke Crichton
Adele Dean
James Evans
Kaisa Fa'atui
Matilda Faifai
Sara Iosua
Ariana Judge
Caleb Little

Dani Lunn
Pisa Mase
Leyany Murdoch
George Ravenhall
Ruby Reid
Olive Sua
Jonnie Tiaki
Sione Tonu
Anna Trethewey
Marina Tuuaso Pale
Brittani Barrow
Shandan Beirne
Susana Bryce-Alapati
Finn Fairbrother
Tyler Fogarty
Jessica Hayman
Ariel Hemara
Delcia Hyde
Lupe Lama
Panapa Leatuavao
Sita Leimoa
Alana Levi
Danielle McLean
Tessa Porter
Tamar Rice
Ioana Tauiliili
Nila Ulberg
Kalatiola Viliamu





Ophelia

Over three spectacular nights, the students from Drama 201 and 301 plus one eager year 11, entertained the community with a twist on Shakespeare. 'Ophelia Thinks Harder' by Jean Betts and William Shakespeare takes the iconic play Hamlet and reimagines it through the eyes of its female protagonist, Ophelia. The play explores centuries worth of female oppression and one woman's fight for an equal voice. Mixing Shakespearean language with bawdy humour, the play was both challenging for the actors and entertaining for the audience.

Notable performances included Kalatiola Viliamu as Ophelia and Tyler Fogarty as the charming yet chauvanistic Hamlet. Special mention should be made of Kaisa Fa'atui's sensitive portrayal of Horatio in one scene followed by his hilarious role reversal as an underappreciated mother in the next. These leads were ably supported by Danielle McLean as the paranoid maid and Susana Bryce-Alapati as Denmark's reigning Queen.

The students of Drama 201 and 301 performed the play as part of an internal assessment and spent many late nights and weekends preparing for the performance. The actors were supported by a fantastic backstage crew, also made up of students from the class. The production wouldn't have been possible without the support of the parents, who helped the cast and crew throughout the season as well as the staff and members of the community who played an integral role.



Main entrance re-jig to improve safety

Changes are planned for Taita College's main entrance to make it safer for students, staff and the community. The changes - to be implemented in stages - are:

- Extend the pathway that takes students from the main school to the bus lane through the trees at the front of the school.
- Provide a 'zebra crossing' across the bus lanes.
- Barriers that prevent students running straight across the road.
- New safety signage.

Health and safety leader Phill Newborn says the changes are part of an ongoing review of the safety

throughout the school.

"The main entrance is particularly busy after school when most of our students are leaving and meeting head on with busses and cars that are trying to get into the college.

Taita College is grateful to the Rotary Club of Upper Hutt who will, as a community service project, provide the manpower, machinery and site management plan for the works by drawing on the expertise from within the club, entirely free of charge."

Stratford Sports Exchange

The weather gods smiled on Taita and helped to make the annual sports and cultural exchange with Stratford High School a fantastic event.

It was our turn this year to host 110 students from Stratford and they thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality shown by our families who billeted them overnight.

This year the senior teams participating were: Rugby, Volleyball, Basketball, Football, Hockey and Premier and Taita 2 Netball and Debating. Alongside these traditional competitions, Darts, Indoor Bowls and

Theatresports were added to the mix this year.

There were some really close games and a few surprises. Volleyball Boys and Girls had straight 3-0 wins and the Badminton Boys and Girls also won all of their matches. The Darts and Indoor Bowls teams had great wins against some excellent players from Stratford, including some national representatives. The Boys Basketball game was closely contended and the Girls Football team eventually won in a penalty shoot out. Stratford dominated in the Premier Netball but the Taita 2 team had a close result.

Ultimately Stratford won the exchange overall nine games to seven.

Sports Coordinator Debbie Elliott says "All of the games and contests were played in a good competitive spirit and some friendships were definitely formed amongst the students."

"This exchange has been occurring since 1990 and we hope that it continues for many years to come. It is a fantastic opportunity for students to experience a little taste of each other's lifestyles, as well as challenge each other in some great sporting and cultural matches."



Event	Score	Winner
Badminton Boys	4-2	Taita
Badminton Girls	6-0	Taita
Basketball Boys	83-84	Stratford
Basketball Girls	34-83	Stratford
Darts	14-5	Taita
Debating	241-276	Stratford
Football Boys	2-14	Stratford
Football Girls	0-0 (pens 4-3)	Taita
Hockey Girls	0-4	Stratford
Indoor Bowls		Taita
Netball Premier 1	23-37	Stratford
Netball Taita 2	28-34	Stratford
Rugby	7-10	Stratford
Theatresports	51-56	Stratford
Volleyball Boys	3-0	Taita
Volleyball Girls	3-0	Taita



Hard work pays off in senior PE

On Sunday 26 June, along with 4,000 other competitors, two Year 13 PE students, braved the cold winter conditions to successfully achieve their goal of running EXCELLENCE times in the 10km race of the Gazley Volkswagen Wellington Marathon.

Danielle McLean and Finn Fairbrother went into this Level 3 PE assessment with only one objective in mind and that was to achieve the Excellence times of under 56 mins and 48 mins respectively. Both students ran incredible races with Finn finishing in a strong time of 46 mins and Danielle absolutely smashing the girls' time, coming in at 51:34.

Danielle was extremely proud of her performance: "It was an unforgettable experience. The running never got easier, I just got stronger."

Congratulations to both students for their unwavering commitment to their goal. This achievement reinforces that setting goals, committing to them and working hard towards achieving them will always pay off!

“ It was an unforgettable experience, the running never got easier, I just got stronger ”

Technology eye opener

A number of Year 11 students were selected to tour Seaview Business Community to get an all-access, behind the scenes opportunity to see the scope for science, technology, engineering, mathematics and manufacturing on their door step. Some of the organisations that opened their doors for this event were Dulux, NZ Tube Mills and Metal Art.

Kian McHardy thoroughly enjoyed the visit: "It was great to see the industrial side of mechanics and engineering and to see what my future career looks like in the real world."





Grappling with success

Te Mangopare O Taita challenges young men to step out of their comfort zone and expose them to new experiences, whilst encouraging them to develop mentally and physically.

Ex-Taita student Chevron Hassett has been running jujitsu workshops in our marae, Te Whakaruruhau. Chevron is currently completing his honours in design at Massey University and has four national jujitsu titles, fighting in global competitions.

Te Mangopare o Taita is also building a traditional waka ama. Once we have completed the construction of the hull we will create a design for the waka. We will then paint the waka and fit it out.

As part of Groundwater 2017, we are hoping to bless the waka ama on the edge of Te Awakairangi at a public event, by way of a powhiri and haka, and make a ceremonial journey to the sea at Petone.

Hockey returns to Taita College

After almost a 10-year hiatus hockey has made a successful comeback at Taita College, thanks in part to the New Zealand women's team, the Black Sticks.

Hockey hadn't been part of Taita College's sports programme since 2007, but that changed last year when PE teacher Zara Golding and a group of girls keen to play the game decided to start a team.

As Ms Golding – a former Wellington hockey representative – explains, they almost had to start from scratch.

"Only three of the girls had played hockey before and that was at primary school. We also were short of equipment, especially hockey sticks. Fortunately Black Sticks I know kindly donated equipment they no longer needed, as did ex-Taita students and the community."

The fledgling team had a baptism of fire in their first game losing 14-0. Displaying a never-say-die attitude and a willingness to learn the team bounced back from this heavy loss to eventually finish third in their competition. Captain Sarah Pihema says with the return of most of last year's squad and some new recruits this season has seen further improvement from the team.

"We have only lost one game so far and are now ranked first in our division and hope to win it," says Sarah.



Things to look forward to

Mon 25 July	Term 3 Begins
	Community Meeting (6.30 pm in canteen)
Wed 27 July	Tu Tangata
Thur 28 July	Parent/Teacher Meetings (12.00 pm - 7.00 pm)
Sun 31 July	Year 13 Tourism Trip to Gold Coast
Mon 1 Aug	Board Meeting (6.30 pm)
Sat 13 Aug	Senior Formal
Wed 17 Aug	Careers Expo (outside providers on site)
Mon 29 Aug	Winter Tournament Week Begins Board Meeting (6.30 pm)
Fri 9 Sept	Senior Exams Begin
Fri 23 Sept	End of Term 3

Remember

Homework Club is open after school on Monday, Wednesday and Thursday and provides a great opportunity to get ahead.

Our app is a great way to stay up to date with events and notices. Download it now from the app store.

New format for Parent-Teacher meetings 28 July

We are trialling a new format for parent-teacher meetings so that as many parents as possible can attend. There will be no classes scheduled that day. Appointments can be made from 12.00 noon until 6.40 pm. Your child's report will form the basis of discussions with teachers.

Your child should have brought home an appointment request sheet to be filled in. If you have not seen the sheet, please phone the college office to arrange appointment times. Appointments will be between 10 - 15 minutes, depending upon feedback required from teachers and information you wish to exchange.

Feedback from these meetings will assist senior students, in particular, where to focus their studies in the lead up to the Taita College examinations towards the end of Term 2 and NCEA examinations in Term 4.

New board members welcomed

Taita College chairperson Gil McKenna has welcomed the newest members of the school's board of trustees.

"I am delighted to welcome Helen van der Raaij and John Woodall to the board for the next three years. We are looking forward to working with our new principal, Karen Morgan, and the wider community - this is an exciting new era for the college.

Taita College board members:

Kim Barnden
Peter Foese
Tania Hetaraka (co-opted)

Lesley Sliker (co-opted)
Vicki Taula
Helen van der Raaij
John Woodall

On Monday, 25 July the board is holding a community meeting in the school canteen at 6.30 pm. We would like to invite all parents and caregivers to meet with the board and principal. We look forward to seeing you there. Light refreshments will be provided.

Got an issue or a question you want to raise with the board? Call Gil on 027 8205248.



Did we miss anything?

We want your feedback!

Is there anything else you would like to see?

Has your child done something to be proud of?

Let us know so we can celebrate their success.

Email bryan@taita.school.nz to get your story in our newsletter.

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