



TAITA  
COLLEGE



TERM 1 NEWSLETTER 2016

# Mana gets John, but John's got Mana here

1 April 2016 was a sad day for Taita College. John Murdoch, our principal, who has been with us since 2009, was farewelled by students and community, after accepting the role of Principal at Mana College.

Mr Murdoch was farewelled at a school assembly in his honour. There was a rousing performance by the school's Poly Club, a heartfelt speech from members of his tutor class, and a spine tingling haka.

Later that evening, staff, ex staff, community members, parents and students gathered at the Walter Nash Centre for Mr Murdoch's formal farewell. Speeches were made by Matt Reid, General Manager, Community Services at Hutt City Council, the Board of Trustees Chairman, Gill McKenna and several other members of the community.

The evening was rounded off with gifts, kai and another performance by the Taita College Poly Club. The school wishes Mr Murdoch well at Mana College, and Mrs Pye will be acting Principal, until a new principal is appointed.



## Students' Key questions answered

On 22 March, a group of students in the Senior Executive attended an afternoon tea at the Boulcott's Farm Heritage Golf Course, where Prime Minister John Key spoke and answered student questions about many topical issues, such as the changing of the flag, the TPP and issues relevant to youth. After this, the students were able to speak with Mr Key and ask him individual questions. As always, our students made us proud

Pera Tutahi enjoyed the experience, saying "I thought it was great that we had the chance to ask questions in a forum setting and then talk with the Prime Minister on a one to one basis. It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me."



It was a once in a lifetime opportunity for me





It was an awesome experience...  
it was great to give back to my old school

## Coaching in the community

This term level 2 PE students have been involved in a leadership programme at Avalon Intermediate. Students were required to plan a series of coaching sessions, in which they had to demonstrate leadership skills and strategies.

Joel Alheit said "It was an awesome experience because I got to work with my old teacher from Avalon Intermediate and it was great to give back to my old school."

All students led by example serving as brilliant ambassadors for the Taita College and the wider community, Tino Pai!



## Taita bowls 'em over

Taita College entered four teams into the regional bowls tournament at Johnsonville.

All of our teams did well, winning most of their games and represented the college proudly.

During the regular season, Taita competed in the Upper Valley competition every Thursday against Heretaunga, Upper Hutt and St Pat's at Silverstream Bowling Club.



## Youth conference an “enriching experience”

“An enriching experience” is how Year 12 student Kaisa Fa’atui described the World Vision Youth Conference that he attended with four other Taita College students in Wellington recently.

The purpose of the global leadership conference, run in four locations across New Zealand with over 200 secondary schools, was to empower and mobilise young New Zealanders, equipping them with leadership tools to create change in both their own communities and globally.

The day involved interactive simulation games, dynamic video and leadership content and international keynote speakers. This year’s conference was centred on the current refugee crisis in Syria.

Kaisa said the key learning for him from the conference was that “anybody can make a change, and that we are ambassadors of a better and brighter future.”

The conference organisers praised the Taita College students who attended: “It was an absolute pleasure to meet some of your students ... they represented your school wonderfully.”



Anybody can make a change... we are ambassadors of a better and brighter future

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## History visit “invaluable” for NCEA

Taita College history students recently spent the day in Wellington learning to find, access, and use resources contained in the National Library, Alexander Turnbull Libraries and Archives New Zealand.

According to history teacher Scott Dennison it was an opportunity to “expose the students to the huge collection of historical material that is available to help them with their NCEA history assessments. This includes books, old newspapers, photos, diaries and letters, databases, cd-roms, vinyl and journals.”

The group, consisting of Y11, Y12 and Y13 students, were given a tour of the recently refurbished National Library,

and had the opportunity to see Tiriti o Waitangi – The Treaty of Waitangi and 1893 Women’s Suffrage Petition, both of which are on display at Archives New Zealand.

The students also got the chance to visit historic Old St. Paul’s church and Parliament grounds.

“One of the most interesting things was reading the soldiers’ letters from Gallipoli at the National Library,” said Y11 student Ellarose Lamberton. “It’s incredible the range of items the Library has in its collection.”

“The visit was invaluable for preparing us for NCEA history this year,” Ellarose added.





## Reaching new heights

Ten of our Year 12 students had a week's adventure at Hillary Outdoors Education Centre at Tongariro National Park.

This course allowed the group to work together as a team, develop leadership skills, step out of their comfort zones and learn outside of the classroom.

As part of the week the group got to do things such as caving, bridge jumping, high ropes and hiking. Together it was decided they would climb to the summit of Mount Ngauruhoe, a total of 2,291 metres high!

Everybody did extremely well and made it to the top successfully, where some spectacular views awaited them. The students all achieved group and personal goals and should be proud of their success.

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## Throwing it out there

A huge congratulations to Anilese Baldwin for her outstanding achievements in Intermediate Girls (U/16) Javelin for 2016.

Anilese started the season with a record breaking performance at the Taita College Athletics meet by breaking the school record that had been held by J. Bailey since 1988 of 30.15m by throwing a massive 31.05m.

She followed this up with two further exceptional performances at the Hutt Valley Secondary Schools meet, winning that event with a throw of 33.08m which also broke the HV record and then threw an extra 20cms (which is huge in throwing terms) at the Regional meet, throwing a whopping 33.28m which made her the Intermediate Girls (U/16) Wellington champ.

With these outstanding performances it was only to be expected that Anilese would be selected for the Wellington Secondary Schools' Athletics team (the best athletes selected across all Wellington Schools) that travelled to Auckland from 1-3 April to compete in the North Island Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships. Here Anilise competed amongst the top Javelin throwers in the North Island, most of whom are professionally coached, and is now ranked 5th in the North Island for Javelin.





This visit will provide me with an early taste of what it will be like

## Otago On Campus Experience

Congratulations to our Sports' Captain, Ariel Hemara, who has been selected to spend a week at Otago University, as part of the On Campus Experience Programme.

"My plan when I leave school is to study at Otago, so this visit will provide me with an early taste of what it will be like," says Ariel.

The On Campus Experience is a programme that enables a group of Year 13 Māori students to travel to the University

of Otago (from Sunday 8 May to Wednesday 11 May), to experience what it is like to live and learn in Dunedin.

All of the successful applicants were selected based on their all round academic ability, their attitude to learning, a character reference from the school, and an essay highlighting their involvement in their school and the Māori community.



## Poly Club world famous in Hawaii

Taita College has been represented on Hawaiian TV. Senior members of the Poly Club performed for the visiting Hawaiian entourage at Koraunui Marae who were here to take back their ancestors cloak from Te Papa.

Susana Bryce said "It felt good to give them a piece of all of our cultures combined and show that we're all one family."

The Poly Club has been involved in many other events this term, one of the highlights was supporting our brothers in Te Mangopare by attending the rare exhibition of the famous cloak Kaitaka Paepaeroa o Ruhia Pōrutu at the Boys' and Girls' Institute.

Like many of the Poly Club students, Adonai Pese said "I like going to different venues, performing for different people and seeing their reactions."

We now set our sights on the illustrious annual 'Tū Tangata' festival to be held on 27 July at the Michael Fowler centre. Kia kaha rā!



# Taita shine at Softball Nationals

Taita College Girls' and Boys' teams competed at the NZSS Division 1 National Softball Championships in Hastings during the recent summer tournament week.

The teams acquitted themselves very well and played some fierce games against powerhouse softball schools such as Waimea College, St Peter's, Alfriston and the eventual tournament winners Mount Albert Grammar, and Wellington East Girls' College.



Congratulations to Victor Misa and Kross Tekira who were named in the Boys' Tournament Rest Team. This was no mean feat as the field of male players was very strong.

Kross really enjoyed the week. "It was a great experience, getting to know all of the other boys. None of us knew each other before, but now we talk to each other around school. I was really proud of our efforts and amazed that I was named as part of the Tournament Rest Team."

Huge thanks are due to all of the coaches, parents and managers who gave their time to travel with the teams and worked tirelessly throughout the week.

Thanks also to the following people and organisations who helped by sponsoring our teams with goods or funding:

- Woolyarns
- Taita BP
- Full Throttle Motorcycles
- Jayden Findlay
- Mexican Supplies

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# Weetbix Tryathalon

On 22 March, a group of 20 Year 12 and 13 students volunteered at the Weetbix Kids' Tryathalon, at the Hutt Recreation Ground. They marshalled the event, supervised children and were, overall, fantastic ambassadors for the school.

# Kī o Rahi

Taita College hosted a team of 30 French students and teachers in a culture and sporting – Kī o Rahi exchange.

The French students were from the Ecole College Lycee in the province of Dieppe and was a continuation of the relationship forged by the French and Māori Battalion in the war.

The kids are all wondering, "When are we going to visit them!"



# Things to look forward to

6 May	Nominations open for parent representatives on the Board of Trustees
20 May	Nominations close
23 May	Board meeting
25 May	Voting papers sent out
3 June	Election closes
6 June	Queen's birthday
8 June	Open day
9 June	Votes counted
15 June	Open night
27 June	Board meeting
27 June	Start of school production week
8 July	End of Term 2 - Reports Posted

## Don't Forget

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.

## Elections for BOT

This year is Election year.  
At Taita College our board consists of 7 parents, a staff member and a student.

Election date is 3rd June.  
Nomination forms will be sent out at the beginning of term 2.

For any information you can contact  
The Returning Officer  
Lynn Offord  
[lynn@taita.school.nz](mailto:lynn@taita.school.nz)



## 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 to get your story in our newsletter.  
[bryan@taita.school.nz](mailto:bryan@taita.school.nz)