



IN BLACK & WHITE

ISSUE 34 – 26 JUNE 2012

FROM THE HEADMASTER

This is the last edition for the term, and the last I will write before leaving for a sabbatical break. First stop is Melbourne for a conference (where there was recently an earthquake), a brief holiday in Corfu (where no-one can tell me which currency they are likely to accept at the moment), Italy (where they have had an earthquake) and England (where they are having one of the worst Summers on record). Whilst I wing(e) my way round Europe, the school will be in Rob Donaldson's very capable hands.

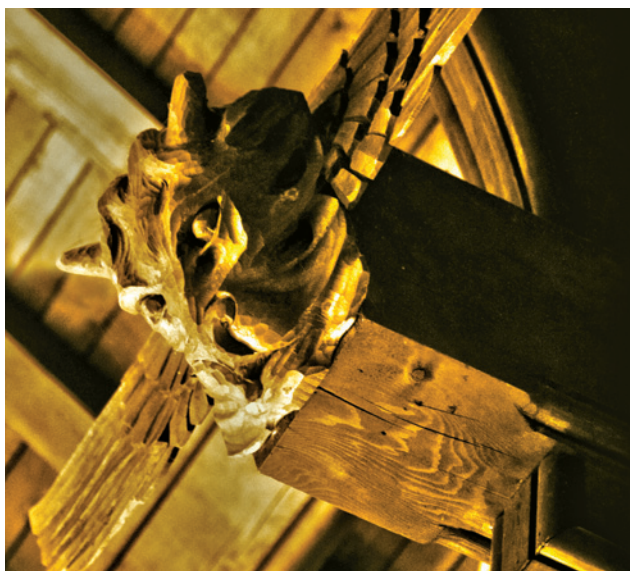
We have recently completed the entrance testing and scholarship awards process, with offers of places going out this week. Every year, scholarship awards raise one or two issues, and I thought it would be useful to reiterate some principles. Christ's College is able to distribute a number of scholarships, coming from endowed funds generously left to the school in the past. The awards are made against regulations and descriptions usually with conditions laid down by the providers many years ago. Thus, no current parent in the school subsidises any other boys.

This is not always the case with other schools, who may be offering a discounted fee. Every year I am invited to 'offer more', or told that another school has promised to 'match any other offer'. We lose entrants to this approach, but in a recent discussion at Board level we reaffirmed the College's position that the education we offer should be valued, and those

paying substantial fees should remain confident that others would not be enjoying the same for less, unless supported by a genuine scholarship endowment. Our scholarships are earned on merit, and funded independently. One persistent parent this year tried three times to get me to 'offer more' than another school – they wanted another 5%. With such a fundamental choice in the life of their son hanging on that margin, I eventually suggested black and white were probably not the colours for them after all. We wish we could offer more to deserving cases of financial need but I hope this insight is both of interest, and reassuring.



The CBHS match went very well – our 1st XV produced a thrilling match and were admired for their skill and resilience; they were very competitive, and when most of a relatively young side returns next year, the 2013 match could be 'the one'. Of course it provoked an attack on the school in 'The Press', which when followed up the next day with two equally aggressive letters, earned a headline on the letters page. At that point it was likely our community would expect a response, and the paper published my reply. They edited it slightly - I had called the allegation of a 'racist' use of a chant a 'malicious invention'. I must attribute the final reference in



Parents are warmly invited to

*Mid Winter
Drinks*

**Friday 29 June 5.45pm, Dining Hall
\$28 per person**

HAVE YOU GOT YOUR TICKET?

Flyer at the end of this newsletter

the piece to Brian LaVaillant, who told me of the distinguished old boy who was financed through College by his mother working as a cleaner. Of course, you would have had to follow the whole controversy to recall that it started over a reference to 'a cleaner' to fully appreciate the reference; sadly one lady didn't, and in yet another letter took it as an affront to that particular employment. I received a long email of abuse containing threats to the school from one gentleman of doubtful sensibility, which has been filed with others of the ilk ready for my memoirs. I was however most appreciative of the positive follow-up, including a phone call from a CBHS old boy.

Altogether more substantial was a brief visit to the College by Lesley Longstone, the Secretary for Education. It was a whistle-stop tour; we stumbled into a junior English class unannounced, which carried on in a delightfully unaffected way; she enjoyed it and was then able to see the layout of the 'temporary' campus. As break had started, I spontaneously led her over to the Harper/Julius encampment which was a taste of good-natured earthquake improvisation, and then into Flower's on the way back, where George McKnight and Finn Stokes found themselves appointed instant tour guides; they responded splendidly. The Secretary asked many questions as we hurried back, about my earlier suggestion to her that the Ministry should actively consider the role the independent sector could play in the restructure of education in Christchurch. Whilst the new Minister got herself into an uncomfortable controversy over the class size issue, it appears both she and the Secretary have a far more open and appreciative view of the sector than we have seen in the past. I am very optimistic.

Many parents took the opportunity to hear a recent presentation I gave about our management of drug related issues in the school. Such matters, when they occur, are testing and we have been obliged to deal with an episode over the weekend. Three senior students have been suspended and will return to College under strict conditions and expectations agreed with their parents, and with them. Their co-operation has, as usually happens, enabled others to be counselled and guided. The first priority is safety of our young men, both those involved and others who might be affected. Provided there is openness and mutual trust, almost anything can be achieved. Any proven incidence of trading, supplying, bringing drugs into the school, or deliberate encouragement to indulge in the misuse of drugs is likely to end in expulsion. However, occasional irresponsible personal behaviour is usually manageable. I once again encourage parents to approach the school in confidence with any concerns they may have – we are in a good position to share an overview of groups, and social relationships within the school. As always, mutual support between parents and school is the key to a successful outcome, as in this case.

As I write our Year 12 Leadership Day is underway, and started this morning with the presentation of our 2012 Leadership Medal to Sir Miles Warren. He was warmly welcomed by the boys, whose sustained applause underlined our collective appreciation of his persistence in ensuring our campus has emerged as we see it today. On which subject, the boys are now able to see the stonemasons at work on the front of Harper Julius, as the gable which provided the most dramatic episode during the earthquakes is finally being rectified.

I look forward to seeing dramatic progress on the campus when I return for term 4, and to hearing how the school has flourished in my absence. I am sorry we will miss both the Quadrangular Tournament, and the Balls, which are both enjoyable highlights, and the House drama festival always provides lasting memories. I know it will all go very well. Before then, many parents will be at our Midwinter Drinks on Friday, an annual event which has proved a great success thanks to the energy of our Parents' Association.

I wish you all a shake-free and (low level) snow-free Term 3.

Simon Leese, Headmaster

ASSEMBLY NOTES

[Click here for Assembly Notes](#)

THE COLLEGE CLOTHING SHOP

HOLIDAY HOURS

Monday 2 July – Friday 6 July
10.00am-4.30pm

Saturday 7 July CLOSED

Monday 9 July – Friday 13 July
10.00am-4.30pm

Saturday 14 July CLOSED

Monday 16 July – Friday 20 July
10.00am-4.30pm

Saturday 21 July CLOSED

TERM 3

From Monday 23 July
10.00am-5.00pm

10 Gloucester St Christchurch

Phone 03 3648613

Email uniforms@christcollege.com

FOR YOUR DIARY



Parents' Ball – 14 September

Boys' Ball – 15 September

CONGRATULATIONS MATTHEW!

Matthew Trengrove (Somes 2011) is one of six winners of a 2012 IPENZ Foundation Scholarship, and the only winner from the South Island. The

scholarship, worth \$5000, is offered to those studying engineering as a career and is awarded on motivation to succeed, academic merit and contribution to the wider community.



CALENDAR EVENTS

Week 9

W 27		CSS Sports ends
	9.00am-12.30pm	Grass Kart challenge, SIT
	7.00pm	Years 9 & 10 music recital evening, Music School
Th 28	12.45pm	Interhouse senior basketball, Gym
	5.00-7.00pm	Years 9 & 10 parents/staff interviews
	6.00-9.00pm	CSS interschool senior debating
F 29		SISS Swimming Championships, Invercargill
	4.00-5.30pm	Years 9-13 boarder parents/staff interviews
	5.45pm	The Parents' Association Mid-Winter Drinks, Dining Hall
Sa 30	5.40am	Japan tour group leaves
		SISS Cycling Championships begin, Ruapuna
		Term ends after sport

July Holidays

M 2		Year 10 Spirit of Adventure Trophy challenge, Auckland begins
Th 5		National MUN Assembly, Wellington begins
F 6		Year 10 Spirit of Adventure Trophy challenge, Auckland ends
M 9		National MUN Assembly, Wellington ends
Sa 14	1.00pm	Japan tour group returns
Sa 21		Big Band Jazz Quest, CPIT begins
Su 22		Big Band Jazz Quest, CPIT ends

CURRICULUM NOTES

It was during mid 2011 that a colleague coined the phrase 'a culture of urgency' to describe our approach to overcoming the challenges of an earthquake ravaged academic year. Whether or not it was the cause, 2011 saw College boys produce some of the finest academic results that anyone could remember.



This phrase has stayed with us, and staff have pondered how we replicate this 'culture of urgency' without any of Mother Nature's histrionics. What we can say is that a powerful determinant of those final academic results is a hunger for success, and the work ethic of the boys.

We are nearly at the end of the second term, effectively two thirds of the way through the academic year, and we are all looking forward to an uncharacteristic three week break. However, it can't be entirely a 'holiday' for anyone, we still need that culture of urgency. It is important that boys have a break from the demands of the academic term, but they cannot afford three weeks with no work. Every senior boy in particular needs to make sure that he undertakes what ought to be a reasonable volume of prep. He should be starting his revision programme for the remainder of the year. Senior examinations occur from the middle of week 5 to the middle of week 6 of the term, and these trial examinations are important for several reasons. They are a very useful indicator of progress at that point in time. But do the grades count?

The short answer is 'yes'! They provide some of the essential data that we need for 'derived grades', those grades that are awarded if anything unfortunate and unexpected should occur immediately prior to or during the final external examination season of the year that prevent a boy from sitting those all important external examinations in November.

So, definitely make sure that your son takes a break. But also make sure that he spends time beginning his revision programme. Perhaps the most useful thing you could do at this point in time is to talk with your son about his 'revision timetable', his programme of when he will revise what. It's certainly not unreasonable for senior boys to start right now with perhaps 20 to 30 minutes a day, and building up to what might be between 90 to 120 minutes a day as examinations approach. Remember, of course, that even as examinations come ever closer, a couple of days rest each week is certainly in order. And even in those weeks immediately prior to and during examinations, physical activity is also important. Participation in sport or physical activity of some sort has a positive effect on academic performance. The same advice applies to junior boys, although their daily revision target may be a little smaller.

Of course underlying this should be regular daily revision of each day's lessons. This in itself makes that pre-examination workload that much easier.

Mr R Sutton, Senior Master Curriculum

CAREERS

Events since the last *In Black & White*

- Monash University Liaison (Melbourne)
- University of Otago Information Evening
- CPIT Open Day, 2–6pm
- Queenstown Resort College visit



students with the initial set up costs such as textbooks, fees and accommodation. www.engineering.auckland.ac.nz
Application forms available from the careers room.

University of Canterbury: Parents as Careers Educators

Guiding teenagers through the various career and study options available to them in the modern world can be a challenge. UC Career Consultant Dave Petrie will talk about how you can support your child's career decisions. It will cover: career pathways, supporting your child with career decision making, choosing tertiary options to suit your child, communicating effectively with your child. Please register by Wednesday 18 July to reserve your seat. alumni@canterbury.ac.nz

Pricewaterhouse Coopers Scholarship Programme

Each school is able to nominate one student to be considered for a PWC scholarship. Boys can collect information from the Commerce Department. The website address for student use is: www.pwc.co.nz/pwcscholarship

Russell McVeagh School Leavers' Law Scholarship

Candidates need to send a completed application form with support material to arrive at Russell McVeagh no later than 5.00pm on Thursday 16 August 2012. Short-listed candidates will be interviewed in September. Application forms are available in the Careers office.

Lincoln University – Some quirky facts

It is the only university in NZ to house an entomology museum (insects) housing over 250,000 specimens. It started NZ's first professional qualification in landscape architecture and has had over 700 graduates since. Sir Charles Upham's grandchildren have graduated from Lincoln University and there is a scholarship available, established by the Charles Upham Trust. On average, Lincoln University has had one rugby sports scholar named in the All Blacks each year, since the sports scholar programme started 14 years ago. Lincoln University was the first in the English speaking world with programmes that emphasise cool climate wine production.

IPENZ Foundation Scholarships

The IPENZ Foundation is a Charitable Trust formed by the The Institution of Professional Engineers. There are a number of scholarships available for those studying a Bachelor of Engineering (BE), a Bachelor of Engineering Honours (BEHons), or a three year Bachelor of Engineering Technology (BEngTech) degree. Applications for the 2013 IPENZ Scholarship will close at 5.00pm Friday 5 October 2012.

www.foundation.org.nz/Foundation_Application_Form.pdf
Further information available on www.foundation.org.nz/Scholarships.cfm

2013 MESNZ Engineering Scholarship

A scholarship worth up to \$5,000 is being offered for the specific purpose of covering tuition fees in 2013. Available to those studying towards an IPENZ accredited engineering degree, diploma or certificate through a New Zealand University, Polytechnic or Industry Training Organisation. Applications close on 31 August. Further details on MESNZ website <http://www.mesnz.org.nz/scholarship/>

Study @ Vic Day (Victoria University) Friday 31 August

I would like to know the names of boys and parents who will be attending the study@vic day. I will be attending and will meet up with the boys on Friday morning.

Mr CP Sellars, Careers Advisor

Dates

TERM 2	Important Dates:
	26 June: Leadership Day, Year 12 - for Christchurch Schools
HOLIDAYS	2 July: NZ Broadcasting School, CPIT TV Block, Madras Street, 7.00pm
	4 July: Youth Forum, University of Canterbury, "Building a Model City"
	5-6 July: University of Canterbury Open Day
TERM 3	11 July: Lincoln University Open Day
	25 July: Parents as Careers Educators, University of Canterbury
	1 August: Victoria University, Christchurch Information Evening
	7 August: Year 9-12, Course Options/ careers evening
	10 August: Study Link – Student Loans & Allowances, Year 13
	25 August: University of Auckland, Courses & Careers Open Day, Auckland
	31 August: Study at Vic Day Open Day, Victoria University, Wellington
	5 September: Swiss Education Group, Swiss Hotel Management School, Chateau on the Park, 7.00pm
	13 September: Queenstown Resort College Information evening

Year 13 University Halls/Colleges 2013

Year 13 have received information about Hall applications. They apply online from 1 August and collect a Confidential form from Mr Sellars, handing it back to him by August 17. Housemasters will then complete the remainder of the form. They can apply online for several universities.

University of Auckland Open Day

25 August, 9.30am-3.30pm. All faculties will have lectures and displays for prospective students. www.coursesandcareersday.ac.nz. An event programme will be available in early July. There will be a travellers' breakfast in the morning from 7.30am-9.30am. There will be free Airbus tickets for those requiring transport to the university. For both of these services, students and their families must register and then details will be sent to them regarding these events.

The University of Auckland – Engineering

Faculty of Engineering: The guaranteed entry requirement rank score will be increasing for 2013. The rank score for 2012 entry was; NCEA: 240 with a minimum of 18 credits in Maths with Calculus and 18 credits in Physics. The new rank scores will be confirmed and communicated in July. The Kick Start scholarships are closing on 7 January 2013. They are a one year award of \$2000 aimed to assist first year engineering

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

The appalling violence in Syria is a daily presence on our television screens. Having some understanding of Islam, the divisions between Sunnis and Shiites, and the different attitudes to secularisation, help our understanding of this complex tragedy. This understanding will also help us in our own country to relate positively across differences.

It is difficult, then, for me to make sense of the large percentage of New Zealanders, highlighted in some recent polls, who continue to seek that knowledge and understanding of religion not be part of quality education.

The relatively recent growth of the opinion that religion is irrelevant, or that it is "dying" in the contemporary world, may lead to a lessening of serious study of world religions. That would be a tragedy. The academic reflection on religion, on philosophy, on ethics, and on spirituality are needed more, not less, in a world where rapid technological advances will continue to pose more and more complex conundrums to our living full and fulfilling human lives.

In Year 9 we have been looking at Christianity, and are now in the foundations of Judaism. Year 10 classes have so far included Buddhism, Islam, Christianity, and Philosophy. Year 11 classes have been taking a primarily historical approach concluding in 6 credits of work for NCEA, and will, next term, be looking at ethical issues and different models for making ethical decisions.

In weekday Chapel services we have been looking at the values of our school.

This week, at parent/staff interviews I am unable to be present on Thursday, sorry (my ability to bilocate is weak at the end of a long term). For the Tuesday and Friday interview evenings, I tend, as I teach about half the school, not to make specific appointments – so do come up and say "hi" to me.

And have a great holiday.

Bosco Peters, Chaplain



COACH OF THE YEAR

Christ's College's Peter O'Connor has been awarded the cup for the Canterbury Rowing Association's Coach of the Year. Mr O'Connor, who was one of the coaches of this year's Maadi Cup winning College top eight boat, was presented the award on Friday night at a dinner. He had previously won the cup in 1988.

Old boy, James Lassche (Jacobs 2007) was also honoured at the dinner with the award for the Best Physically Prepared Canterbury rower of the year.



BIOLOGY

On Wednesday 13 June our Year 10 biology class, taught by Dr Swanson were invited by the Christchurch City Council and Downer Engineering to see what was happening on the Avon River down by Park Terrace. The council is replacing earthquake damaged sewerage pipes under the river.

First we spoke with the engineer in charge who explained to us how they were trenching half a metre under the river from each side. They will then run a pipe through the trench to connect Hagley Park's sewerage scheme to the city's scheme. We also spoke to the biologist in charge. His role is to make sure that the species which live in the Avon are not affected by the construction site sediment. Learning about all the types of species found in the Avon was very interesting. I learned that the trout in the Avon re-spawn in part of the river outside our school.

Sam Wilson, Year 10 biology



WILLIAM VAGG

On the wall of Big School opposite the Hare Memorial Classroom there is a simple plaque which reads "William Vagg a faithful servant of the School 1886-1918."

Who was William Vagg? When Don Hamilton wrote *College!* in 1996 we didn't have the advantage of all the online resources that are now at our fingertips, so it's possible to add a little more to his life story.

William Vagg married Annie Olsen, who had been born in Norway, at the Presbyterian Manse in Papanui on 24 July 1876. He had come to New Zealand from England as a 20 year old in about 1874. At the time of his marriage he was a gardener, but he also spent time as a butcher and cab driver, and was declared bankrupt before becoming the Christ's College caretaker. By the time he and Annie moved into the Caretakers Cottage on the cricket ground in 1886 they had added Henry William (b 1877), Elizabeth (b 1880) and Robert (b 1884) to their family. Edward John had died aged five months in 1879. In the following years they were to have at least two more children – Annie Jane (b and d 1891) and John Martin (b and d 1892). In 1912 they moved their family into a cottage on the College grounds, near the riverbank.

In May and July 1900 *The Press* carried a story that William Vagg had suggested a subscription to make a presentation to Robert Baden-Powell in recognition of his defence of Mafeking. The Christ's College boys subscribed £3.4s.1d towards a pendant that consisted of a heavy gold Brazilian nut, cut in the rough, with a polished shield for an inscription. The gift was to convey the idea that Baden-Powell was "a hard nut to crack". A transcript of the letter of thanks from Baden-Powell appears in the Christ's College Register of December 1917.

In 1890 Vagg appeared at an inquest of a woman who had been found by the side of the river and in 1905 he found himself in court again accused of having taken flowers from the Domain Gardens. The Head Gardener and Vagg had obviously misinterpreted their conversations, but he was fined 15 shillings as he had clearly cut the flowers.

While he was at College he did everything from filling up coal buckets and keeping fires going in the classrooms, growing flowers, tending to his horses, helping to build snowmen, building a bonfire when the news of the relief of Ladysmith reached Christchurch and making tea for the Corsair Bay picnics. He also mowed the football and cricket grounds. Indeed all of the known photographs of William Vagg show him tackling grass in one form or another.

Annie Vagg died in 1917 and William Vagg died in November 1918 as a result of the flu epidemic. His obituary in the *Christ's College Register* of December 1918 suggests that he survived the first bout, but succumbed when he contracted it for the second time. He and Annie are buried in the Linwood Cemetery. In 1919 the Christ's College Old Boys' Association,



The plaque on the Big School Wall



William Vagg in 1908 from the CS Thomas album

with the permission of the Board ensured his permanent memorial in the place he worked for thirty-two years, with the plaque pictured above.

References:

Christchurch City Council Cemeteries Database
Christchurch City Libraries Card File Index of Church Records
The Press, 18 November 1879; *Evening Post* 19 July 1919

J Teal, Archivist

LIBRARY MATTERS

"Literacy is a platform for democratisation, and a vehicle for the promotion of cultural and national identity...For everyone, everywhere, literacy is, along with education in general, a basic human right...Literacy is the road to human progress and the means through which every man, woman and child can realise his or her full potential." Kofi Anan, Ghanaian diplomat, 7th Secretary-General of the United Nations, 2001 Noble Peace Prize

So, please remind your son to pop into the library and grab a book or two for the holidays.

On a different note, you may have heard your son telling you he has to do his prep on Google Docs (or Google Drive as it has just been upgraded to). Google Docs is a suite of products that lets you create different kinds of online documents, work on them in real time with other people, and store your documents and your other files – all in the 'cloud', and all for free. With an internet connection, you can access your documents and files from any computer, anywhere in the world. Why use it? It automatically saves your work; it eliminates any concept of forgetting the pen drive, failing to print it off or losing it at the bottom of a locker. Teachers can check when students last worked on a piece of prep and it saves every change made



to a document. Teachers can 'chat' online whilst a student is working or provide invaluable comments and feedback. Lastly, the difficulty of converting documents from Apple to Word is again, eliminated. Please encourage your son to use this fantastic tool as it, quite simply, protects his work.

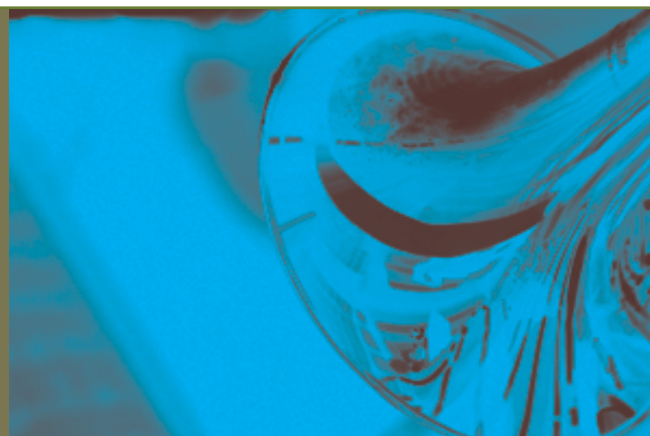
Ms LD Banks, Teacher Librarian

YEAR 9 & 10 RECITAL

As part of our Instrumental Music programme there will be a recital of music given by Year 9 & 10 boys on Wednesday 27 June in the Recital Room, upstairs in the Music School, starting at 7.00pm.

This is an opportunity for boys to perform in front of an audience in a semi-formal setting. This is a public event and all are welcome.

Mr NM Coxon, Head of Instrumental Music



TERM 2 IMAGES



Volunteers clear upper of snow in time for the CBHS fixture



Rathkeale tournament



Rathkeale tournament



ANZAC Day Service



Combined Concert with St Margaret's College



Baptism



Ready, set for the cross country



Rock climbing at the Roxx



Haka competition



Rathkeale tournament



Act 2 of Jesus Christ Superstar



Mr Cooper's geography class



14A Football



Blood Donation day



Vocal support at the CBHS fixture



Year 9 Dance



You are warmly invited to
Mid Winter Drinks

Enjoy Mid Winter cheer in our Dining Hall on the final day of term. There will be mulled wine, hot ham and the wonderful company of other College parents and staff.

Friday 29 June 5.45pm

\$28 per person

Tickets essential



Please return your completed order form to: Mid Winter Drinks, Christ's College, Private Bag 4900, Christchurch 8140 or fax to (03) 364 5295

Your Names: (for nametags) Phone: Email:

Address:

Number of Tickets: Total \$:

METHOD OF PAYMENT:

☐ I enclose a cheque payable to Christ's College Parents' Association

☐ Please charge my credit card:

☐ VISA

☐ MASTERCARD

Name on card: Signature:

Card No: Expiry date: ____ / ____

Or Debit my Son's Account (Son's Name):