



Columba College

# SCHOOL NEWSLETTER

Issue 2, 2005

Dear Parents and Students,

With the first month of school complete and March about to start, we look forward to the following events:

- Visit from Edogawa Girls' High School from 28th February to 19th March (the Edogawa students will be at Columba the week of Monday, 14th March).
- Hosting the St. Andrew's Summer Tournament with John McGlashan College from Sunday, 6th to Tuesday, 8th March.
- Friends of Columba function at the Rialto on Sunday, 6th March. Drinks at 5.00 p.m., followed by "The Aviator" at 5.30 p.m. Tickets at \$15.00 each can be ordered through the School Office. Present parents are very welcome to attend.
- School Fair on Saturday, 19th March at 11.30 a.m.

Thank you for the great support of the Year 7 barbecue and the Years 7 to 10 "Meet the Teacher" social function last week. The staff also enjoyed having a more informal opportunity to meet parents at the start of the year.

## **2005 Prefects and Positions of Responsibility**

Head Prefect

Stefanie Brocklebank



Deputy Head Prefects

Lisa Debono and  
Sarah Eckhoff

Stefanie Brocklebank

President of the School  
Council and School Prefect

Rachel Laing



Lisa Debono

Sarah Eckhoff

School Council Prefects  
and School Prefects

Martha Hackshaw  
Jane Guthrie  
Cara McMeeken

Head of House

Bridget Wright



Rachel Laing

Deputy Heads of House

Cecilia Cheon and  
Rebecca Cochrane

Chapel Prefect	Amber Everett
Deputy Chapel Prefect	Stacey Offen
Sports Prefect	Jane Marshall
Deputy Sports Prefect	Chelsea Whitaker
Music Prefect	Emma Matheson
Deputy Music Prefect	Jane Rendall
Head Librarian	Patty Tsai
Deputy Head Librarian	Jodie Hsieh
International Prefect	Chu Zhang
Deputy International Prefect	Yumi Choi



Stefanie Brocklebank and Bridget Wright

### **NCEA Scholarship (Level 4) Results**

No doubt, the media reports on Scholarship last year have been of interest, while also causing concern. There is substance in the criticisms being expressed and clearly NZQA has a duty to ensure that similar problems do not occur again this year.

Our girls gained 10 Scholarship grades compared to 32 the previous year (2003) which was the last year of Bursary. There were no Scholarship grades in the Sciences which was most unusual for us.

Michelle Russell and Laura Hughes each gained two Scholarship grades which is a very good result especially in light of the controversy surrounding last year's examinations.

The Scholarship grades came from:

English 3, Statistics 4, Calculus 1, French 1, Japanese 1

<b><u>Student</u></b>	<b><u>Subject 1</u></b>	<b><u>Subject 2</u></b>
Keryn Bryant	Mathematics with Statistics	
Laura Hughes	English	French
Jacqueline Kao	Japanese	
Michelle Russell	Mathematics with Statistics	English
Catherine Simpson	English	
Rebecca Smith	Mathematics with Statistics	
Kelly Walsh	Mathematics with Statistics	
Gloria Wong	Mathematics with Calculus	

### **2004 Cambridge AS Level English Language and Literature Examinations**

Twenty-four girls sat the Cambridge International English Language and Literature Examinations in November of last year with all of them passing more than comfortably. All the marks gained were above 65% with ten of the girls achieving 90% plus.

Four girls shared our top mark of 96% - Rachel Laing, Brianne Mathieson, Elize Wium and Chu Zhang.

As the examination was marked out of 120, it was possible for Cambridge to make a differentiation between the top mark of 96%.

To our delight, Rachel Laing has been named “Top Student in the World” in this particular examination, continuing on from Laura Hughes who gained the same award the previous year. Rachel attended the Cambridge Prize-giving in Auckland this weekend – we were proud to have her represent the College at this prestigious event.

The complete list of girls who all passed the Cambridge AS Level English Language and Literature Examinations follows:

Stefanie Brocklebank	Rachel Laing	Charlotte Skerten
Felicity Buckham	Cara McMeeken	Sophie Smith
Lisa Debono	Emma Matheson	Chelsea Whitaker
Sarah Eckhoff	Brianne Mathieson	Elize Wium
Amber Everett	Jemma Moody	Lillian Woung
Martha Hackshaw	Emma O’Connell	Bridget Wright
Leah Hamilton	Jane Rendall	Briary Zachernuk
Tamsin Jenkins	Susan Robinson	Chu Zhang

### **Otago Anniversary Day 2005**

Mention was made in a school newsletter last year of the possibility of observing 2005 Otago Anniversary Day on the Thursday before Good Friday (24th March) rather than on Monday, 21st March. Comment back about the proposal was invited by a date given. None was received. The main reason for the proposal is the proximity of Anniversary Day to Easter this year, and the fact that boarders would return for three school-days before going home again. Consultation with staff has occurred (last year and this year), with the staff in support of the proposal, i.e., adding it to the Easter holiday.

The Board of Trustees has submitted its application to vary the observation for this particular year to the Ministry of Education by the due date of the 18th February, and we are waiting on the outcome of the application. Parents will be advised promptly when we hear from the Ministry.

### **Anonymous Complaints about a Parent made to the School**

On the 2nd February, we received an anonymous complaint about a parent (a name was given) in the school mail which alleged that the parent was involved in an offence of a sexual nature and that students were at risk.

The allegation made was checked out with Dunedin Police and we were informed that there was no substance to the allegation, that it was “totally malicious” and that the person who committed the particular offence had no connection with the name given in the anonymous note.

Last week, in the school mail, anonymous letters were sent to two Year 13 students, from the same person or persons, alleging that the School was “hushing the matter up”, stating that the parent (who was again named) was a risk to students and asking the girls to tell other students about the man.

We contacted Dunedin Police again immediately, and they did a further check for us. The person named in the letters has no criminal convictions, nor is there a case pending. The Detective Senior Sergeant to whom I spoke re-iterated the malicious nature of the anonymous correspondence. The three communications received (2nd February and the two letters sent to the girls) are with Dunedin Police.

We hope that no-one from the School is involved with the correspondence, and indeed that if someone did have such concerns that the person would come forward and discuss them direct.

## **Nightly Security Patrols of the School Grounds**

Towards the end of last year we became concerned about the level of disturbance from intruders on both campuses and along Highgate in the vicinity of the College's frontage. It became clear that neighbours on Highgate shared this concern as well as some of the neighbouring schools. Four schools (Columba, Balmacewen Intermediate, Kaikorai Primary School and Maori Hill Primary School) put in place nightly security patrols over the Christmas holidays. While we cannot say for certain that the lack of damage/disturbance over the holidays is attributable to the patrols, we would like to think they contributed.

We have decided to continue with the nightly patrols of both campuses throughout the year with some nights fixed and a "floating"/alternating component. The cost per night is modest especially in view of the increased sense of security that we are providing for the girls and staff who live in the boarding-house and also for school property.

## **Meningococcal B Vaccination (School-Based)**

[www.immunise.moh.govt.nz](http://www.immunise.moh.govt.nz)  
freephone 0800 2030 90

The school-based Meningococcal B vaccination of all school pupils from Year 1 to Year 13 will take place this year.

This nation-wide campaign involves each child/young person, subject to parental consent, receiving three vaccinations six weeks apart. The vaccinations will be administered at no cost to parents by the Public Health Nursing Service.

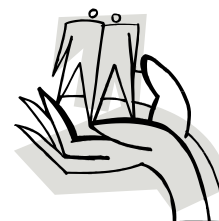
Dunedin schools have recently received the dates for the vaccinations. Ours are:

<b>Main Date</b>	<b>Catch-up Date</b>
22nd June	29th June (Years 1 to 7) 4th July (Years 8 to 13)
17th August	24th August
12th October	19th October

The Ministry of Health will be responsible for the parental consent forms and for the parental information sheets (mailed out through the schools).

## **"Caring for Families" Appeal**

The students responded so well to the suggestion made by Mrs D. Thornton, HOD Religious Studies, to have a school-wide appeal to assist victims of the tsunami and through their form class efforts raised a total of \$2,772.60. A wonderful result!



Each form class had a goal of raising \$70.00 which will provide a family with food for a week, utensils, blankets/bedsheets, clothes and medicine. It has been good to hear that many students did chores to raise the money for their contribution.

The money has been forwarded to World Vision New Zealand which will use it to assist families in South East Asia.

Footnote: The offering of \$1,348.85 from the combined Service with John McGlashan College at Knox Church has also been forwarded to World Vision NZ to go towards the Tsunami Appeal.

## **Eight New Records at the Athletic Sports**

It was remarkable to have eight new records established at the Sports – a record in itself. The conditions by the afternoon when the Championship finals were run were ideal – no wind and not too hot.

The new record holders are:

Primary U12	80m	10.37	Sophie Napper	Year 7
Intermediate U15	400m	1:02.17	Sarah Aitken	Year 11
	Long Jump	5.02m	Sarah Aitken	Year 11
Senior U/16	100m	12.93	Lucinda McMeeken	Year 11
	200m	27.09	Lucinda McMeeken	Year 11
	800m	2:39.89	Jessica Shields	Year 11
	1500m	5:15.34	Jessica Shields	Year 11
	3000m	11:28.31	Jessica Shields	Year 11

Another highlight of this year's Sports was the large number of girls who entered and completed the 3000 metre event. This is a challenging event, and the level of participation was outstanding, as was Jessica Shields' win and the way she ran the race.



Sophie Napper



Sarah Aitken



Lucinda McMeeken



Jessica Shields

## **A new Sport at Columba takes off - Triathlon Successes**

Our Head of ICT, Mrs J. McMahon, has a real interest in Triathlon and is a regular competitor. Thanks to Mrs McMahon, now Teacher in charge of Triathlon, the sport is growing in profile at school.

Certificates of Recognition were presented at assembly last week to Annie Manning and Karolina Wojtowicz in Year 11 as they are the first Columba students to have completed all three parts of a Triathlon: Cycle, Run and Swim.

In the Bloke-free Triathlon at Macandrew Bay the team of Kate Johnson, Charlotte O'Leary and Michelle Hayman was placed 2nd in the Junior Girls' Competition with a time of 1 hour 2 minutes.

In the Southland Police Triathlon for Otago Secondary Schools, a fine effort by the Columba team of Jayne Lambie (Swim), Janina Dierks (Cycle) and Jessica Shields (Run) saw it gain 1st place in the girls' event.



*Front row: Annie Manning, Karolina Wojtowicz, Michelle Hayman, Kate Johnson, Courtney Joyce, Stephanie Wiseman and Hannah Tyrrell.  
Back row: Mrs C. West, Ms P. McNeill, and Mrs J. McMahon*

## Year 10 Camp at Tautuku      8th – 11th February

The Year 10 girls had a successful and enjoyable camp in the second week of term. They were based at the Tautuku Outdoor Education Centre in the Catlins and participated in activities such as kayaking, tramping and abseiling.

Ms J. Riethmaier and Mrs S. Warburton were co-leaders of the camp with Mrs L. Piebenga attending to the school-based organisation. Staff were very capably assisted by a group of parents who contributed significantly to the success of the camp: Ian and Denise Bryant, Heather Brown, Peter Clulee, Patrick Dawes, Carol Hayes, Linda Hayman, Tony Warwick and John Whitaker.

### House Captains for 2005

	<u>Captain</u>	<u>Deputy Captain</u>
<u>Braemar</u>	Emma O'Connell	Charlotte Skerten
<u>Girton</u>	April Jelley	Alexandra Turner
<u>Iona</u>	Rebecca King	Tamsin Jenkins
<u>Solway</u>	Emma Brocket	Lucy Crawford

### Sports Captains for 2005 (Summer)

<b>Athletics</b>	Jane Marshall	<b>Cricket</b>	Courtney Winsloe
<b>Rowing</b>	Bridget Wright	<b>Tennis</b>	Jane Guthrie
<b>Touch Rugby</b>	Bridget Wright	<b>Volleyball</b>	Chelsea Whitaker
<b>Water Polo</b>	Charlotte Skerten		



Jane Marshall



Bridget Wright



Charlotte Skerten



Courtney Winsloe



Jane Guthrie



Chelsea Whitaker

### The Young New Zealanders' Challenge

Well done to two senior girls on their recent awards.

<b>Silver Award</b>	Jane Marshall
<b>Bronze Award</b>	Tamsin Jenkins



Jane Marshall



Tamsin Jenkins

#### 2005 Open Day and Evening

Thursday, 4th August

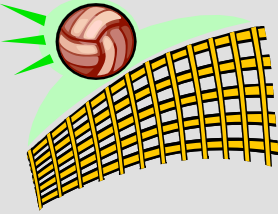
#### Closing Date for 2006 Applications

Friday, 12th August

#### Notification of Successful Enrolment

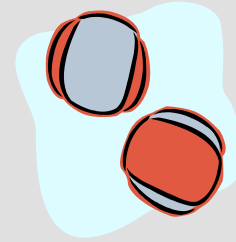
Friday, 19th August

## Sports Centre Update



The final contract price is being settled at the present time, hence the lack of activity on site.

The Board of Governors will be discussing the contract for the Sports Centre at its meeting this week, and activity is expected to begin in earnest on the site shortly afterwards.



### Copy supplied

**The New Zealand Blood Service will be collecting blood at:**

Columba College

Blood bus shuttle to Donor Centre, Corner of Cumberland and St. Andrew Streets  
**Monday, 14th March from 9.15 a.m. – 12 noon**

### Information for Parents, Guardians and Whanau

The Guardianship Act 1968 allows people 16 years and over to make their own decisions about whether they wish to give blood or not. Students may choose to donate blood at this session.

The NZBS recommends you discuss blood donation within your family. If you have any particular objection to the student choosing to make a blood donation then please make those issues known to the student and to the school before the collection date stated above. More information about blood donation will be available on the day of collection. If you need more information now please call 0800GIVEBLOOD or look at [www.nzblood.co.nz](http://www.nzblood.co.nz)

It is important that we encourage students into a lifetime habit of donating blood and making a worthwhile contribution to their community.

### Becoming a Blood Donor

**Age:**                    First Time Donors                    Existing Donors  
                                 16 to 60 years of age.                    Up to 71 years of age.

**Weight:**            You must be **50 kg** or over.

#### **Health:**

- You must be in good health.
- You cannot donate if you have a cold, flu, sore throat, cold sore, stomach bug or any other infection.
- If you have recently had a tattoo or body piercing you cannot donate for 6 months from the date of the procedure.
- If you have visited the dentist for a minor procedure you must wait 24 hours before donating; for major work wait a month.

**Travel:**            You must not have lived in the United Kingdom between 1980 and 1996 for 6 months or more.

### *Important Facts on Blood*

There is no substitute for human blood – healthy donors are the only source of supply.

Only 4% of New Zealand's population currently donate blood – yet over 80% of us will need a blood product in our lifetime.

A blood donation is separated into different components, each of which is used to treat different patients – accident trauma, patients undergoing surgery, people with leukaemia, transplant patients and many others. Blood products are also used for immunisation to help prevent diseases such as hepatitis A and B, tetanus and chicken pox.

Each donation is able to help up to 3 people – blood donors are literally lifesavers.

Parents are welcome to come to the school to donate blood at this collection.

## Dance Success for a Year 12 Student

Paula Good in Year 12 has been selected, with her dance partner James Moore, to compete in the Australian Television Show, "Strictly Dancing", which is being filmed in Sydney on the 10th March.

Paula and James auditioned for "Strictly Dancing" last month while attending the Asian-Pacific dance championships in Christchurch with about 80 couples from Australia and New Zealand being selected to compete in the series. They have competed successfully in Latin American, ballroom and new vogue dance styles and are consistently placed in the top six at the Asian-Pacific Championships.

The ABC network website bills "Strictly Dancing" as the search for Australia's ultimate dancing couple with one million viewers tuning in each week to watch the programme.

Best wishes to Paula for the filming and trip to Sydney, and congratulations on her dancing achievements.



Paula Good

## South Island Secondary Schools' Swimming Championships

Jayne Lambie, Sarah Skinner and Kate Johnson all qualified to compete at South Island level with Jayne and Sarah going forward to the nationals.

Jayne Lambie	15 and over	2nd in 50m Breaststroke Also made the finals in the 100m and 200m Breaststroke, 50m, 100m, 200m and 400m Freestyle
Sarah Skinner	15 and over	3rd 100m Backstroke 4th 50m Backstroke 4th 200m Backstroke 7th 200m Medley



## Tennis News

It is good to note the selection of school tennis players for Otago Women's teams.

Rebecca Walker	Division 1
Jane Guthrie	Division 1
Trudy Cockroft	Division 2



Rebecca Walker was placed 3rd in the Otago Open and runner-up in the U18 Otago closed. Well done, Rebecca.

## Senior Librarians

The following girls in Year 12 have earned their Senior Librarian's badge:

Esmé Hanton, Julia Hughes, Kate Le Brun, Melissa Letica and Yvonne Tsai.



With good wishes to you all,

Yours sincerely,

Elizabeth Wilson  
Principal  
28th February, 2005

### Websites of Interest

Outward Bound [www.outwardbound.co.nz](http://www.outwardbound.co.nz)

Youth to Everest [www.everesttreks.co.nz](http://www.everesttreks.co.nz)

"The Spirit of New Zealand"  
[www.spiritofadventure.org.nz](http://www.spiritofadventure.org.nz)