



FROM FRIENDS TO FRIENDS

Newsletter, Term 1, 2010

Korihi te manu, takiri mai te ata.
Ka ao, ka ao, ka awatea! Tihei mauri ora.

The birds begin to sing, the morning breaks.
It's dawn, it's light, it's broad daylight! Behold the breath of life.

In our last Newsletter we brought you the news of the new Tumuaki and her welcome to the College. After a term last year in which Terehia Channings was finding her feet, this term has dawned with a renewed zest to continue to take the College ever forward. There is a new breath of life, a new expectancy around the College.

The present roll stands at about 100. Although this is fewer than we would like, it is what we would expect when there is a change of leadership, and with the fuller classes amongst the more junior years we anticipate that we shall hold on to most of those, building up the numbers as the newer students over the next couple of years will increase the total and spread the age range more evenly.

Some girls have not returned this year as they faced up to their inability to meet the financial costs. Unfortunately we have accrued a list of unpaid fees which we are attempting to eradicate as well as making sure that this problem escalates no further.

One of the off shoots of a lower roll has been a drop in staff numbers, which is regrettable, but we believe it to be only temporary.

Also, our chaplain, Heather Mataamua, has resigned. This is sad, for she and her whanau have contributed much to the College in the last couple of decades in particular. We thank her most sincerely for this and wish her well in her further studies.

Friends' Committee

We usually have a meeting each term, following which I, as president, like to send you a newsletter to keep you up with the play.

At our meeting last week Mrs Lynne Gibbs intimated her need to step down from membership, including the office of treasurer. Lynne brought a very personal touch to the work of treasurer, as many of you will appreciate, which made it very time-consuming and we thank her for a job very well done. We trust that she will enjoy being able to give more time to some of her other interests.

Mrs Jan Thomson has combined the offices of secretary and treasurer. Others on the committee are Ms Liz Breakwell, Mrs Jill Little, Mrs Diana Macdonald, Rev Rilma Sands, Mr Bernard Cousins, the Principal and myself.

Our aim is twofold:

1. to make the College a home away from home for the students, and over the last year we have provided all the dormitories with drapes

from our funds, and made net curtains. The cost of all these was a little over \$3000, but has been greatly appreciated by the young ladies. The Spartan appearance of the dormitories has been greatly modified.

2. to assist some of the students who are motivated but yet find the fees impossible, even though I believe they are the lowest in the country. To this end we provide scholarships totalling about \$5000 a year.

At present our Friends' membership stands at 125 life members, 85 ordinary members, and 86 group members (parish APWs, etc), from Stewart Island north to Ruakaka and west to Toowoomba. While membership fees are not high, it is important that they do come in (so far just over 50% have done so to cover the 2009-2010 year). When all are paid in full we could expect around \$2000 but with the low interest rates on the investments we have at present our total income would be only about \$5000.

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President	Dr Nick Thomson	7 Logan Grove, Feilding, 4702.	janick@clear.net.nz	Ph 06 323 1165
Secretary/Treasurer	Mrs Jan Thomson	7 Logan Grove, Feilding, 4702.	janick@clear.net.nz	Ph 06 323 1165

Our expenditure includes the cost of newsletters and postage as well as other correspondence, sponsorship of a page in the TMGC annual magazine, and fees for recognition as a charitable organisation (\$50).

You will see that for this and any expenditure for the boarding establishment we depend on donations or

dip into our capital, which we are reluctant to do.

In conclusion I wish to express our thanks for the dedication of so many people throughout Aotearoa over the last 55 years, and to encourage you to maintain an active interest in TMGC.

First Term Happenings

In the absence of a Chaplain the day to day pastoral care has been taken over by the TMGC Maori Department, while the Rev Hariata Haumate comes up every Sunday from the Te Ako Puaho pastorate in Lower Hutt to take a service. Te Aka Puaho is presently engaged in seeking a replacement for the Rev Mataamua.

Gala Day was a great success. Maori TV was present, filming as part of a hauora documentary to be presented later in the year. Over \$9000 was banked for the school.

On 8 March the whole school bussed to Wanganui to have their athletic sports at Cooks Gardens in glorious sunshine. On 18 March the swimming sports were held at the Rangitikei Active Centre.

There are eight prefects this year; the head girl being Ngarita Tamahana-Tama; her deputy is Kazia Makutu. Another prefect is Awhina Hoerara, one of the Friends' scholarship holders (year 12). The others are Sapphire McKenzie (year 10) and Toni-Jane Treanor (also year 10), all of whom have made a good start to the year.

The Boards

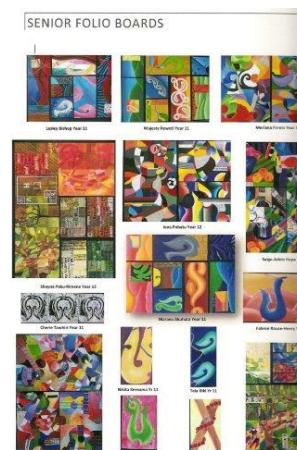
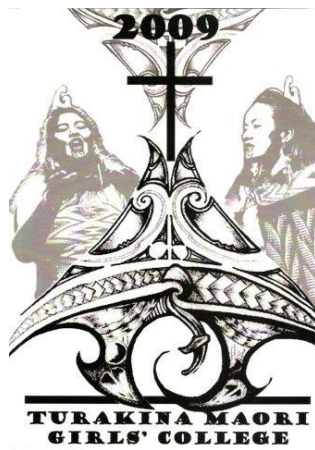
People sometimes become confused by changes in names and functions of the governing bodies of such things as schools and colleges. A brief word may assist you. Note that TMGC has two special features – it is a Maori Christian school, and both these features must be taken into account in all spheres of the school's activities.

TMGC is owned by the Board of Proprietors. This body has representatives appointed by PCANZ, the Manawatu-Wanganui Presbytery, Te Aka Puaho, parents of students, and Friends. It deals with all matters relating to the boarding establishment and

the Chaplaincy, as well as raising funds for specific non-curricular projects. Its basic funds come from the fees paid by the whanau of the students.

The Board of Trustees is made up of representatives of the staff, the parents, the Board of Proprietors, and the students. Its responsibility is to deal with matters related to the curriculum. Its funds come from the Department of Education.

The Principal and Chaplain are ex officio members of both boards, and the Bursar is their secretary.



The cover flanked by two of the inside pages of the College magazine.

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