



Powhiri for the new Principal and CEO Hostel

On September 24 the rain descended in torrents, and the powhiri arranged for the welcome of Mrs Terehia Channings had to be brought inside. The very attractive and functional hall/wharenui – the result of the forethought and work of Dawn, our previous Tumuaiki – was again brought into use and enabled the Tangata whenua and the Manuhiri to meld comfortably into a united party of giving and receiving. The people of Terehia's whanau, and those associated with her at Te Kura Kaupapa Maori o Te Wananga Whare Tapere o Takitimu in Hastings accompanied her as she was firstly welcomed onto the TMGC marae.

Several people spoke, and I counted it as a real privilege that I was encouraged to be part of that process. Firstly I spoke on behalf of the Assembly Executive Secretary, Rev Martin Baker who had made the journey from Wellington to be present, welcoming Terehia onto the marae in the name of the Haahi Perehipiteriana o Aotearoa (PCANZ). In the absence overseas of the Chairperson of the Board of Proprietors (Rev Ken Wall) I welcomed her into all the whare of the College. And lastly I welcomed her into the mana wahine of the women of the church through our Association of Friends which is spread from Northland to Stewart Island.

After the welcomes and responses were completed Terehia and her husband, Malcolm, were brought forward by their support people and ceremoniously, with much haka and singing, presented to the College. This was followed by the customary hakari – our cook really did us proud. And into this was injected story time, where a number of folk addressed us, and the girls of the College sang the songs they do so well. All this was on the eve of the break up at the end of the third term.



Pictured: **L-R:** Ariana Toetoe (Dep. Head Girl), Sada Charlie (Head Girl), Mrs Terehia Channings, Isabelle Walker (Yr 13 Student) & Mr Roy Hoerara, BoT member.

More about our Tumuaki

Terehia has been associated throughout her life with Turakina Maori Girls' College. She is the third generation of her family to have received an important part of her education here. Her mother is currently minister at Te Kakano in Lower Hutt, and one of the representatives of Te Aka Puaho on the Board of Proprietors. For a short time Terehia taught at the College, and now has returned as Tumuaki (Principal).

At the time that Terehia has taken on this new position the school roll has dropped to under 100, and that has not helped the morale of the College. Part of this has been due to the policy taken over recent months that vacancies are better than places filled with disruptive elements. It is pleasing to see that this policy will continue with the new regime. Furthermore a scheme to reward good behaviour of both individuals and dormitories has been instituted, and this is having a very positive effect on the young ladies' self esteem and the morale of the College.

The drop in numbers has also meant that the number of teachers we are allowed to have has been decreased. However, there have already been indications that with a permanent Principal at the helm the roll for next year is again rising significantly, so we look forward to seeing this rectified.

As we commented in the last newsletter the APW has launched a nationwide appeal for funds to enable scholarships to be awarded to some who are finding the fees a hurdle. This is of great value as we had been relying somewhat on the fees being paid on students' behalf by CYFS and Mapihi Pounamu – but that often included some students exhibited negative behaviour.

Term 4

The fourth term hardly got started before we were into prize-giving. But before we consider that I would like to comment briefly on the rewards mentioned above. Terehia has encouraged the students to focus on respect and pride, and with that each fortnight a virtue, such as gratitude or kindness has been added. At the end of the fortnight two students, a junior and a senior, have been singled out for a prize – sometimes a small gift, voucher, or a meal at a local restaurant.

Friends' committee met for both its annual and general meetings on 11 November, at 7 Logan Grove, Feilding, after a pot-luck tea. It was an enjoyable evening, though Terehia and Heather had to depart rapidly after the formal meetings had finished because of a problem that had arisen to do with showers in the hostel. We had welcomed Rev Rilma Sands to our meeting,

thereby signalling her inclusion on the committee for the next year, with Mrs Jill Little, Ms Liz Breakwell, Mr Bernard Cousins, and with Rev Heather Mataamua and Mrs Terehia Channings, the last two being ex officio. Dr Nick Thomson was again elected President, and Mrs Jan Thomson secretary. Mrs Lynne Gibbs did not wish to stand as treasurer again, and we are thus in the process of working out a new way to cover this position. We thank Lynne very sincerely for the work she has put in over a good number of years. In the meantime could all correspondence be directed to the secretary, please.

In his report the president welcomed Terehia as an ex officio member of our committee, and also expressed his thanks for the extra burdens carried by the Chaplain and Deputy Principal over recent months. The Chaplain also expressed her thanks for the laptop computer that has made her work more streamlined, as this was bought with Friends' funds.

On November 14 a luncheon was held to farewell Mrs Mary Dinsdale who has been a tower of strength to TMGC for a long time, being the Principal's assistant in recent years.

Young ladies from the College continue to attend the monthly church services at Turakina, and from time to time also attend services in parishes of the Manawatu-Wanganui Presbytery.

In the last Newsletter mention was made of the visit of the Presbytery to the College. What was inadvertently omitted was the fact that a good number of big cushions (for the common rooms) and many jig-saws and games were donated by local APWs. This is all indicative of the strengthening links that are binding TMGC to the local parishes and the church in general. The girls themselves are quite excited about this relationship.

Senior prize-giving was held on November 21, and was again a remarkable occasion. The guest speaker was Mrs Dawn Mitai-Pehi who brought a message encouraging the students to strive for excellence. The Head Girl, Sada Charlie, also spoke very well, likening the students to caterpillars on entry, going through the metamorphoses through pupae to emerge as butterflies when they leave the school. It was also she who won the Highest Award for 2009, the 'Mavis Braddock Trophy'.

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