



# *Ōtorohanga College Magazine 2023*



Honour Before Honours  
Ko te mana mō mua i te whakamana





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This magazine, representing our 2023 year, is brought to you by the team that makes up Ōtorohanga College-The College Board, Staff, Students, Parents and Community.

## Ōtorohanga College School Board

**Vision without action is merely a dream  
Action without vision - just passes the time  
Vision with action can change the world....**

The Board completed strategic planning last weekend, and this quote was shown to us as motivation for our role at this college. It is relevant to every single one of you in this audience, a challenge that when combined, vision with action, of how absolutely powerful that can be.

Tēnā koutou katoa, greetings to you all, and welcome to the Senior Prizegiving of Ōtorohanga College.

My name is Kim Ingham and it is my pleasure to be a Board member at this kura, and work alongside some great people, who collectively feel we are now in the wonderful position to take this College and our rangatahi, on an upwards journey to be a College of choice, and one we are all proud to talk about in a very positive light.

The Board has many duties to perform and amongst those are we have to create an environment for our staff that is supportive and well resourced. This year, through sound financial decisions, and with the significant assistance of our Better Off Funding we have been able to resource our college to a level that hasn't been seen for many, many years. This has contributed to the success of our popular Junior Module programme. We sincerely thank Rodney Dow, one of our district's Councillors, who promoted our kura to receive this funding, and we thank the other Councillors who were absolutely supportive as well.

The Board has shown our wonderful staff that we support and appreciate them, by funding Professional Development to a level not seen previously.

We have been working very hard on overdue maintenance at the College, with projects booked in during the next holidays as well. You may not notice the new roofs when you return, but we think you'll notice the quad improvements, stage one of which has been completed. The Ministry dictates we must plan and pay for any of this urgent maintenance before we can assign money to our New Science Block Project. We are hopeful we are nearly to the stage where we can engage an architect to plan the refurbishment of our Library, into 3 new modern fit for purpose Science Laboratories and Classrooms. We also intend to move right through the school, upgrading our classroom environments as funding allows. We are also now aware of the need for more toilet facilities for our rangatahi, and will now begin exploring firstly temporary and then permanent facilities.

The Board has an ongoing focus on ensuring we have a more sustainable Hostel model for the College and our rangatahi moving forward.

With all these and other pieces in place, the Board feels we are well placed to be very focused on lifting student achievement in 2024.

On behalf of Co-Chair Duncan and myself to offer some thank yous and the first one is to our fellow Board Members for their commitment to the role. Our Board meetings are robust, strategic, and held in good humour and heart, and always with a lens on our rangatahi. To our teaching and support staff, you are the biggest asset we have and our sincere thank you to all for your dedication to your students you have in your care.

It is incredibly important we care and look after our young people, they are our future. I'm sure the adults in this audience remember back to when a certain teacher made a difference in their lives, we know our staff are capable of doing exactly this.

To our parents, caregivers, whānau and wider community, thank you. We feel the warm support for the Board, we see you coming into the College as the doors are now wide open, and we love that. Thank you for your trust in allowing us to help care for your young people.

To Lyndsay, Vanessa, and Stoffel, our senior leadership team, we thank you for your incredibly hard mahi, the long hours you spend going over and above your job descriptions. We thank you for your visions, so the rangatahi of our community may be the best versions of themselves when they leave this kura. We support you wholeheartedly.

And now to our senior students, congratulations to you all. For those accepting awards this evening, well well done. Awards do not come without hard work and sacrifice. We hope you will look back on your time at this kura with good memories. We hope you have learned academically, we hope you have learned about being a good person, about loving yourself and your whānau, and you have learned how to contribute to the world many of you are about to embrace. Ōtorohanga College Rangatahi can succeed anywhere, never forget that. And always remember - **Vision with action can change the world.**

**E noho rā  
Kim Ingham**



Kim Ingham  
Co Presiding Member



Duncan Coull  
Co Presiding Member



Lyndsay Kurth



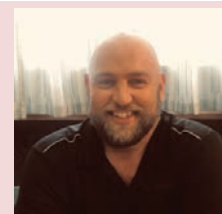
Jennifer Roughton



Yvonne Mita



Michael Ritch



Aaron Cornelissen



## Principal's Report

**E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e ngā iwi – tēnā koutou ka-toa.**

**Ki te atua – tēnā koe. Ki te kīngi Māori - pai mārire.  
Ki te whare e tu nei, ki te papa e takoto nei – tēnā korua.**

**Ki te hunga mate – haere atu ra.**

**Ki a tatou te hunga ora – tēnā tatou.**

**No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tatou katoa.**

I extend a very warm welcome to members of the Board, parents, grandparents, caregivers, whānau, staff and most importantly students - I say most importantly because tonight is about you.

Tonight, we gather to celebrate and honour the exceptional achievements of our students. It is a time to reflect on the dedication, hard work and unyielding spirit that our students have demonstrated throughout the academic year.

Tonight is a time of thanks - a night when we acknowledge all the people who have been with our students every step of the way. Your unwavering support, encouragement and partnership are instrumental in helping our students reach their full potential. Together, we are a formidable force, committed to shaping the future of these young minds.

Tonight is a time for us as educators and learners, of which we all are, to reflect on the world and the space of change we are navigating in the way that we approach education. The world our students are stepping into is very different to the world I stepped into on leaving College or the one you as parents are experiencing. It is critical that we provide an education which prepares our students for their future, which enables them to embrace diversity and play a role in meeting and solving the problems they will face as global citizens. This will require multiple talents, thinking and aptitudes. Producing excellent NCEA results is not sufficient in itself as an end goal, important though it is. There is a clear need to ensure that we as a College offer rich, stimulating, connected and exciting learning environments for our students, where our community willingly shares its skills, strengths and values and where learning is of paramount importance.

The heart of this College is its people. Every member of this staff team, both teaching and non-teaching, has a critical role to play in the success of this College. Please know that your contributions and efforts are most valued and appreciated. Your dedication, expertise and unwavering support have been instrumental in guiding and nurturing our students on their educational journey.

Ensuring our vision is at the forefront of everything we do is our leadership team. I would like to acknowledge the work of the Deputy Principals in their considerable contributions to our successes this year. It is the countless hours that go on behind the scenes that keep the waka sailing and I am very privileged to work with such dedicated and passionate educators whose unwavering commitment does not go unnoticed.

Our College is governed by a committed Board with members who bring technical acumen and fierce advocacy on governance issues. They are loyal supporters of our educational philosophy and are focused on opportunities to enhance our vision. To each of these generous individuals I extend my heartfelt thanks.

To you, our amazing and resilient senior students, you have all worked hard at improving your academic achievement and set and achieved clear goals towards your futures. Many of you are heading into examinations with your level of NCEA already achieved. Do not rest on this success - continue to work hard, study hard and strive to improve your grades through each examination. Let us remember that success is a journey, not a destination.

To our current Year 12 students, next year's leaders, you are now the future of the College and the standard you set will lay the path for those who follow. Rise to the challenge of being the best you can be and aspire to the values we uphold.

Finally, to our Year 13 students who leave us tonight to step out into the world - we are so very proud of you all. Walking towards an uncertain horizon is both liberating and scary, however, you each have the vital essence to become your dream. To the Year 13 leavers, led by Head Students Laura Hunt and Sam Veart, I extend the College's appreciation for the collective talents and contributions of your year group. As the Year 13 leavers, your journey through our College culminates tonight - for many of you, this marks the last five years of your life. Step out into the world with pride and always rise to the challenges life offers you. Face your future with inspiration and a drive to make a go of any opportunity that comes your way. Model human worth, explore, examine and ultimately embrace the diversity of people and ideas. Carry the spirit of integrity, empathy and resilience with you. Maintain a thirst for knowledge, a hunger for growth and a compassionate heart. Be the change-makers, the leaders and the role models that this world desperately needs. Remember the people who shared your pathway as you have been growing up - your parents, grandparents, caregivers, whānau and friends should never be forgotten. Each of us is the sum total of those who have walked with us; there is no future without a memory and acknowledgement of our past. Above all else, remember that you are good people, you come from the heart of the King Country, Te Rohe Potae, you will always be a part of Ōtorohanga College.

**In closing, congratulations to all the prize winners and thank you to all of you for making this night and this year so very special for Ōtorohanga College. May each of you experience a peaceful Christmas and summer, surrounded by love and loved ones.**

**No reira, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tatou katoa.**



Lyndsay Kurth

## Head Boy Speech

Before I get started I would like to thank you all for being here tonight. Prizegiving is our traditional way of closing out the year and celebrating the achievements that the students here at Ōtorohanga College have accomplished. Prize giving is something special and for a few of us here tonight it is your last time in this hall.

I would like to start things off with thanking the people who helped me during my time as head student. So thank you to the senior student leadership team, teachers, my fellow peers and my family who supported me, it really meant a lot to me having your support so once again thank you.

To the leadership team, thank you all for your dedication, time and hard work this year. We had a lot of problem solving to do throughout the year whether it was due to low numbers when it came to House competitions or being faced with the challenge of organising completely new House competitions. No matter what the issue was, we all stuck together and helped each other out and because of that we should all be proud of what we were able to accomplish as a team this year. And now to my fellow head student, thank you for always being there to encourage me and for giving me the confidence to step up and do such roles as speaking in front of you all. I don't think I would have gotten through the year without you, so thank you.

I would also like to thank the staff, teachers and coaches and managers. Thank you for helping me gain everything I need to start my life outside of school, but also making school a little bit enjoyable as well. To my deans and PE teachers, Thank you for all your jokes that weren't really funny during PE. Thanks for giving me achieved when I really deserved excellence, I am also really thankful for all the staff and coaches helping me to achieve what I needed to during my years here at the College.

To my fellow year 13s, I think it is quite an achievement that most of us have been here since year 9. Making it to year 13 is something we should all be proud of. I have seen you all grow and mature over the years. From just mucking around in class and not really knowing what the future holds for you. To actually getting the work done and gaining the qualifications you need to achieve your future goals. You all should be proud of making it this far and I wish you all the best in your next chapter. this is the start not the end.

I honestly can say I have enjoyed my time here at Ōtorohanga. I have learnt a lot of valuable lessons over the years and most importantly I have made a lot of great memories. Memories such as winning our rugby division this year or beating Te Kuiti High School by 1 point in 2020. Whether it was representing the college or just mucking around with the boys. Each day has given me memories I will remember forever. However the most important memories would be the ones I spent with Laura.

I am happy to say I am leaving this kura with her by my side ready to take on the real world.

I have saved my last thank you for my family. Mum and dad thank you for all you have done for me over the years and continue to do for me. Whether it was taking me to trainings and games or paying for school trips or whether it was giving me motivation and belief that I can achieve whatever I put my mind to. So for that thank you, I wouldn't be who I am today without you guys and I don't think I would be standing up here at all if it wasn't for the two of you. I would also like to thank my Nana which I call Nani, my aunty, and uncle for also being there for me throughout my journey. I hope I have made you all proud.

Before I go I would like to wish all the best to the next student leadership team. I hope you all enjoy your time as leaders and represent our school with pride by always showing our school values. But remember the experience will only be as good as you make it so make sure to have fun as well. With that being said it is now time for me to say goodbye to you all and I wish nothing but the best for this school and you all in the future.



Sam Veart





## Head Girl Speech

Tēnā Koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa  
Ko Pirongia te Maunga  
Ko Waipa te Awa  
Nō Ingarani, Aerana me Kōtirana te whenua ō ōku tīpuna  
Nō Ōtorohanga ahau  
Ko Hunt toku whanau  
Ko Laura toku Ingoa  
No reira, tēnā Koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Good evening. I am privileged to have the opportunity to speak to you today, in my last address as Head student of Ōtorohanga College.

Firstly, I would like to thank the senior leadership team, Mrs Kurth, Whaea Vanessa, Mr Wilken and Mrs Joyce for believing in my abilities and giving me the opportunity of being a Head Student. I would like to thank my family for continuously supporting me and for always encouraging me to get involved and give everything my best effort.

In reflection of the experiences I have had here, my favourites were the production in 2021, tough guy gal, sports tournaments and game days, snow trips, leaders events, and inter house comps. Despite coming to such a small rural school, I will always be grateful for the range of opportunities I have been given.

One of my most memorable experiences prior to becoming head student last year, was a trip to my primary school with Mrs Kurth, to encourage the Year 8s to come to the college. Long story short, at the end, I opened the car door directly into my face, and broke my nose. That is the first time I have ever seen Mrs Kurth speechless. Despite this one experience not ending as well as the others, the message I want to give is simple. Take every opportunity you can. You don't always know the outcome, as I've found, but having these experiences help you to be able to look back at your time here knowing you've made the most of it and are left with good memories.

I would now like to acknowledge my fellow leadership team. I value the work we have achieved together this year, and we should all be proud of the skills we have developed for our next chapter. Specifically, thank you to Sam for making this year as Leaders so enjoyable, being a great role model for the future students, and helping me to be better. To the Year 12s up for the leadership positions, I wish you good luck. I know exactly how you feel sitting there right now, but regardless of the outcomes of titles, you all have the potential to be great leaders.

Further, thank you to each and every one of my teachers throughout my time here for tolerating me, supporting my big ambitions and no longer calling me my siblings names. Pemby and Whaea Vanessa for always listening, supporting and giving me snacks, Mel and Mrs Buckley for tirelessly helping me achieve my barista achievements, Mrs Parsons for helping me realise that energy and facial expressions were enough to compensate for my lack of dancing ability, Mr Parsons for

being fizzed to hear anything sport related and helping prepare me for my study next year, Miss Hayward for her work starting as my Dean and for being so supportive through each and every one of my moon boots, Mrs Flay for all her funnies and effort throughout my years of netball, Mrs Allison for helping me to add journalism to my list of potential careers, Mr Ekholm for helping me get through said list of careers and set me up for uni or a miraculous career in football, Whaea Areta for hassling Sam more than I do, Miss Rymer for always understanding the inability to work last period on a Thursday, Mr Wilken, Mr Drummond and Mr Mudge for all helping me get through Maths, Miss Baker for being so bubbly it made it hard to be annoyed in statistics and when we lost every house competition, but the pie eating, Peata for always supporting me in every sporting ambition, Ms Ward for her encouragement in our business and great taste in music, Ms Roughton for loving cricket as much as I do and finally, Mrs Joyce for her amazing support as my Dean these past 5 years, and her amazing hugs.

To my fellow Year 13s, especially Jamie and Sam. Thank you for making this time so memorable, and for being the best people I could have had during this journey. This has been such a big experience for us all, 5 years of growth, challenges and memories happening to each one of us. Gossip girl once said "Who you travel with is more important than the destination." I can't wait to see the amazing things everyone does.

In closing, thank you to the college, and the people in it, for helping shape me into the person I am today. I am so grateful for the opportunities and experiences I have had here. I feel privileged to have worn the Ōtorohanga College crest everyday for 4 years on my uniform, on my sports uniforms, and now on my blazer as head student.

No reira, tēnā Koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa



Laura Hunt





## Badging Ceremony



A formal assembly was held to present our Student Leadership Team with their badges and also celebrate and acknowledge last year's Level 1, 2 and 3 students who gained Excellence Endorsements in NCEA. Family members were invited on stage to pin the badges on.

A rousing haka was performed by students. Head Students are Sam Veart, Laura Hunt, Falloon House Hostel Leaders Pihopa Waata-Parnell, Nique Te Uira, Brown House Leader Sian Hobbs, Eveleigh House Leader Angel Greener, Hotson House Leader Tui Roach and Kedgley House Leader Te Wainu Wanakore.





Student Leadership



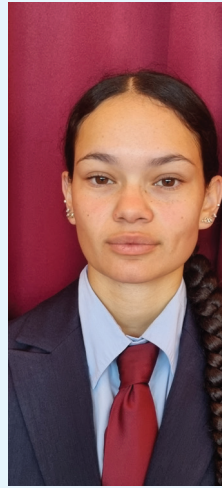
Sam Veart  
Head Student



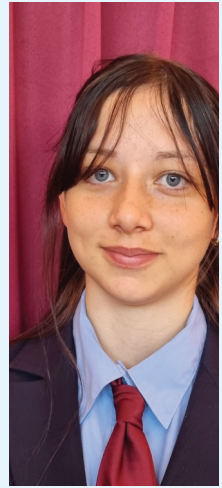
Laura Hunt  
Head Student



Sian Hobbs  
Kedgley House  
Leader



Tui Roach  
Hotson House  
Leader



Angel Geener  
Eveleigh House  
Leader



Pihopa  
Waata-Parnell  
Falloon House  
Leader

Absent: Te Wainu Wanakore, Jaymee Smith - Brown House Leader



Photos (Bottom left and right - University of Waikato Leadership)



# ANZAC



**ANZAC DAY**  
 Up and down the country, at memorials big and small, New Zealanders gathered to remember the loved ones who served their country in times of war. Head Students Laura Hunt and Sam Veart remembered fallen soldiers with others in our community by laying a wreath at the Cenotaph. "We will remember them."

