

WELLINGTON COLLEGE
Report from the Headmaster
For the Year Ended 31 December 2009



Dr Quigley, members of the Board of Trustees, Mr Grant Robertson, distinguished guests, parents, staff and gentlemen of Wellington College. It is, once again, my very real honour and privilege to present the Annual Report of the College, the 142nd in our history and my fifteenth as Headmaster.

Despite the storm clouds of economic uncertainty sweeping round the world and the spectre of recession touching every community, 2009 has been another stellar year for Wellington College. It is my custom at this time to mention a number of personal highlights which illustrate both the depth and breadth of the achievements of our young men in a breathtakingly wide range of activities.

- Academic goals for each student are pivotal to our core business. We were delighted, therefore, to learn that Wellington College, with 115 New Zealand Scholarships, had gained more than any other school in the country in the 2008 examinations. This spectacular achievement was even more noteworthy in that those Scholarships were won in 19 different subjects and by 59 individual students, and these figures are also the highest of any school nationwide. All too often we may limit the horizons and dreams of our students. These results confirm the reality that dedicated staff and students together may achieve extraordinary outcomes. A special mention must be made of Jacob Diggle, our co-Dux who won one of the Premier Awards for the top ten students in New Zealand, achieving Outstanding Scholarships in Art History, Classical Studies, Drama and English and a Scholarship in History. Jacob is now reading History at Oxford. Hunter Douglas and Robbie Fyfe were in the next group of forty-seven students who won Outstanding Scholar Awards (at least two Scholarships at Outstanding Level plus one at Scholarship level). Hunter has won the prestigious Julian Robertson Scholarship to study at Duke University. A staggering thirteen other students (Michael Blaschke, Matthew Galt, John Gibson, Lewis Grafton, Paul Hunt, Nicholas Johnstone, Robert Kelly, Stephen Laing, Toby Newberry, David Reynolds, Stephen Tat, Asim Abdulhamid and Nick Hopman) all won three Scholarships or more and were therefore given national Scholarship Awards. The class of 2008 has provided both great inspiration and a challenge for the class of 2009 and, indeed, those that follow.
- Every three years, all schools in New Zealand are on the receiving end of a visit from the Education Review Office. Naturally, it is a time when the teaching at the College, as well as our systems, are put under scrutiny and evaluated. I am bound to say that the visit was conducted very professionally and we received a glowing report. In the introductory paragraph, the report states:

“The college culture of high achievement effectively blends its heritage and tradition with innovative teaching and learning. It is a thriving community.”

It continues:

“There is high quality teaching throughout the college. Teachers regularly engage in professional discussions to improve students’ learning. This is evident in, for example: the range and scope of digital learning opportunities; the adoption of a school-wide template for inquiry learning developed in consultation with contributing schools; feedback and discussion with the specialist classroom teacher following class observations; and voluntary professional development gatherings to share and discuss approaches to teaching and learning.”

While Senior Management and the Board of Trustees have an intuitive awareness that the quality of teaching and our extra-curricular programmes are of a high standard, it is gratifying to have such assumptions confirmed objectively by the Education Review Office in so resounding a manner. The complete report is available for perusal on the E.R.O. website.

- The World Vision Runathon has become an integral and eagerly anticipated event in the school year. Not only does it raise many thousands of dollars for a worthy charity, but it also provides great leadership opportunities and an integration of senior students with newcomers. Under the enthusiastic and inspiring leadership of Mr Ben Lau, the Runathon once again raised more than any other school in the country. Just as David Reynolds was chosen last year as one of five World Vision Scholars to visit Tanzania, Andrew McIndoe has been selected this year to visit Cambodia. We are proud of these students, and indeed, the hundreds of others who have demonstrated so graphically that ‘Coll Boys’ have a profound compassion for those less fortunate than themselves.
- What would any ‘highlights package’ be without a mention of Stage Challenge. It is always a highly charged evening at the Events Centre, and as reported at the Sport and Cultural Awards Dinner, *Take the Plunge* took dance to a whole new level at Wellington College, winning the national title for the first time. The brilliant set, colourful costumes, dynamic movement and rich mixture of students from all facets of College life produced an unforgettable scenario. The joy and pride taken by the students in being part of Wellington College shone through the entire performance, as did the stirring haka outside at the conclusion of the evening. It personified school spirit at its very best.
- Our sports teams have enjoyed another highly profitable year locally, without perhaps achieving the success at national level to which we are accustomed. The 1st XV won Quadrangular Tournament in Nelson for an unprecedented seven years in a row. Just as impressive was their victory over St Patrick’s (Silverstream) in the Wellington Championship for a sixth year in a row and by the record-winning margin of 43-7. Four members of that team, Lima Sopoaga, Norman Goodes, Solomona Sakalia and Hanipale Galo, were all selected in the New Zealand Secondary Schools side which played Australia. Our 1st XI Football team won the local championship, our Senior A Softball team were runners up in the national championship, and our Senior A Tennis, Senior A Waterpolo and Senior A Underwater Hockey teams all

made the 'Top Four' in their national championships. Clearly, our most successful team were the swimmers who dominated all competition locally, regionally and nationally. Our warm congratulations go to Gareth Kean, Wellington College Sportsman of the Year, who has broken numerous age-grade records and was named at the Wellington Sports Awards Dinner in June as 'Emerging Sportsman of the Year'. I cannot leave sporting triumphs without mentioning our narrow and unexpected victory in the McEvedy Shield. It was a genuine team effort, led by our champions in the Field events and, in particular, Ryan Tinkle who has contributed so much to Athletics during his five years at the College.

- For the last four years, I have thoroughly enjoyed attending the national *Big Sing*, where we have been ably represented by the Wellington College Chorale. This year was no exception as the Chorale performed with great credit in Dunedin winning a Bronze Award. The Jazz Band, under the direction of Alistair Isdale, shaded even the Chorale this year, by winning the National Secondary Schools' title in Tauranga. They followed up this success in winning the Manawatu Festival. It is a real tribute to the dedication of these young men to perform at such a professional and consummate level. To cap off such a stellar year, how can one go past the extraordinary performance of 'The Jessie Sheehan' in winning the national *Rockquest*, the first time that this prestigious and highly competitive award has been won by a solo performer. We, at Wellington College, share in Jesse's success and will watch eagerly his progress as a musician.
- Any Old Boy visiting the College cannot but be impressed with the recent changes to the campus. Over the past twelve months, we have seen the opening of the magnificent new Languages Block, with its state-of-the-art classrooms and refurbishment of the Technology Block. An attractive physical environment is important for learning, and these new facilities provide a welcome counterbalance to the architectural monstrosities of the 60s such as the Tower Block which bear witness to the unimaginative designs of a former epoch. We are grateful for the highly professional oversight of our architect, Ms Fiona Christeller, Mr Stephen Sawrey on the Board of Trustees, Mrs Heather Benfield our Administration Manager, and last, but not least, the indefatigable Mr Kelwyn D'Souza, our Property Manager whose expertise over the last twelve years must have saved Wellington College hundreds of thousands of dollars.
- Lastly, in my personal highlights for 2009, was the truly memorable ANZAC Service. It was on this wonderful occasion that the medals and diary of a fallen son of the College, T.M. (Hami) Grace, were returned to his *alma mater* by his niece, Mrs Wene McMillan. We were greatly honoured on this occasion by the presence of the Paramount Chief of Ngati Tuwharetoa, Sir Tumu Te Heuheu. In my view Hami Grace personifies the tragic loss of two hundred and twenty two Old Boys in World War One and represents the Maori dimension of the College which has been an integral, but perhaps quietly ignored, part of our heritage from the very earliest days. The contribution to the ceremony from our Kapahaka group is something I will cherish forever. Hami Grace's taonga, the diary and medals he won posthumously after being cut down on Chunuk Bair, now assume pride of place in our Library.

Wellington College is a school which has great breadth and depth of achievement. It is all too easy at times to focus on spectacular results and to ignore the wonderful work often carried on beneath the radar. In this context, I would like to conclude this section of my address by mentioning a group of Peer Support leaders who regularly gave up their lunchtimes to provide activities and friendship for a group of Year 9 students who had found it difficult to become part of a much larger school. The selfless contribution of these Peer Support leaders, a group of motivated Year 13 students, moved me deeply and reiterated the importance of servant leadership and the compassionate dimension which underpins so much of College life. It was Mahatma Gandhi who said:

“You will find yourself in service to your fellow man, your country and your God.”

And one of Gandhi’s greatest admirers, Martin Luther King, commented:

“Everyone can be great because everyone can serve. You only need a heart full of grace. A soul generated by love.”

APPRECIATION TO THE BOARD

It is always appropriate at this point to give thanks to the Board of Trustees for the hours of selfless commitment they give in ensuring competent governance of the College. Their collective expertise is a significant factor in the glowing report received from the Education Review Office.

Dr Neil Quigley is an incisive and highly effective Chairman, who sits on the personnel, curriculum and development sub-committees. He has Strategic Plan oversight for fundraising and financial support. As Deputy Vice-Chancellor of Victoria University, Dr Quigley already has a very time-consuming job and his commitment to Wellington College is quite sacrificial in its scope.

Mr Richard Grant is Chair of the finance sub-committee and sits on the I.T. sub-committee. He has Strategic Plan oversight for property, resources, facilities and technology.

Mr Andy Marshall chairs the personnel sub-committee and sits on the communication and discipline sub-committees. He shares Strategic plan oversight for communication and relationships.

Mr Stephen Sawrey is Chair of the property sub-committee and shares Strategic Plan oversight for property, resources, facilities and technology.

Mr Mark Unsworth is on the personnel, communication and discipline sub-committees and shares Strategic Plan oversight for communication and relationships.

Mrs Tofa Gush is on the discipline, communications/cultural and curriculum sub-committees. She shares Strategic Plan oversight for bicultural and multicultural activities, and communication and relationships. Her perspective on the aspirations of Pasifika students has been invaluable.

Mr Bob Hill is a welcome addition to the Board in 2009. His nomination, endorsed unanimously by the Board, came from Te Piringa, the Māori Whanau Support Group, which has gained considerable organisational structure over the past couple of years as a result of the Ministry Project. Bob Hill sits on the curriculum and communications/cultural sub-committees and provides Strategic Plan oversight of bicultural and multicultural activities, communication and relationships, and educational offerings. His wisdom in setting goals for Māori students is already making an impact.

Mr James Edgecombe has been elected as Staff Representative in 2009 and sits on the personnel, curriculum and discipline sub-committees. He has Strategic Plan oversight for educational offerings. A young, dynamic teacher, James Edgecombe provides both a thoughtful and insightful perspective to governance.

Mr Ben Isaacs, the Student Representative, has responsibility for the Student Council, and is co-opted to different sub-committees, such as discipline and property, for specific occasions.

The E.R.O. summary states:

“Members of the Board of Trustees bring professional expertise and knowledge to their roles. Many have multiple associations with the College, as former students and parents. Trustees have a sound understanding of governance.”

As Headmaster, I am truly grateful to be supported so wholeheartedly by a team of such giving, talented and diverse individuals. Collectively, they ensure that Wellington College continues to aspire to its vision:

“To inspire students to develop their talents, to reach well beyond the ordinary, to acquire a life-long passion for learning, and to become productive citizens who appreciate the importance of service, leadership and traditional values in a changing world.”

ACADEMIC RESULTS FROM 2008

It is worth noting the summary of academic achievement recorded by E.R.O. in their evaluation page of Wellington College achievement:

“Results in the National Certificates of Education Achievement (NCEAs) are consistently above national and decile comparisons and have been improving in the last three years. In 2008, 59 students were awarded 115 New Zealand Scholarships across 19 subjects. This record of consistent outstanding success places Wellington College students amongst the highest achievers in the country.”

In a year of review, it is appropriate to consider Wellington College’s academic performance over the past three years.

LEVEL 1 NCEA

- In 2006, 82.1% of Year 11 Wellington College students had gained Level 1 by the end of the year. This compares with 72.1% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained 87.8% of those at Wellington College were Achievement Standards, compared to the Decile 10 average of 81.8%.
- In 2007, 81.3% of Year 11 Wellington College students had gained Level 1 by the end of the year. This compares with 73.6% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained, 90.8% of those at Wellington college were Achievement Standards, compared to the decile 10 average of 80.6%.
- In 2008, 84.1% of Year 11 Wellington College students had gained Level 1 by the end of the year. This compares with 71.9% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained, 88.1% were Achievement Standards, compared to the Decile 10 average of 81.5%.

LEVEL 2 NCEA

- In 2006, 75.7% of Year 12 students at Wellington College had gained Level 2 by the end of the year. This compares with 72.9% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained, 71.5% were Achievement Standards, compared to the Decile 10 average of 73.8%.
- In 2007, 82.2% of Year 12 students at Wellington College had gained Level 2 by the end of the year. This compares with 72.9% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained, 72.5% were Achievement Standards, compared to the Decile 10 average of 73.5%.
- In 2008, 80.9% of Year 12 students at Wellington College had gained Level 2 by the end of the year. This compares with 70.4% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained, 74.1% were Achievement Standards, compared to the Decile 10 average of 75.4%.

LEVEL 3 NCEA

- In 2006, 69.3% of Year 13 students at Wellington College had gained Level 3 by the end of the year. This compares with 65.1% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained, 82.4% were Achievement Standards, compared to the Decile average of 81.9%.

- In 2007, 74.6% of Year 13 students at Wellington College had gained Level 3 by the end of the year. This compares with 65.0% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained, 82.5% were Achievement Standards, compared to the Decile 10 average of 81.4%.
- In 2008, 75.8% of Year 13 students at Wellington College had gained Level 3 by the end of the year. This compares with 64.6% for the average Decile 10 school. Of credits gained, 82.5% were Achievement Standards, compared to the Decile 10 average of 81.4%.

NEW ZEALAND SCHOLARSHIP

- In 2006, Wellington College gained 92 scholarships, 10 of which were at Outstanding Level. Only one school, Auckland Grammar, gained more scholarships this year.
- In 2007, Wellington College gained 85 scholarships, 7 of which were at Outstanding Level. Only two schools, St Cuthbert's College and Auckland Grammar gained more scholarships this year. However, Wellington College won scholarships in more subjects than any other school in the country.
- In 2008, Wellington College gained 115 scholarships, 19 of which were at Outstanding Level. This total exceeded that of any other school in the country. Wellington College once again gained scholarships in more subjects (19) than any other school and had more students (59) winning scholarships than any other school. With 20.41% of our Year 13 students gaining scholarships, this was the highest percentage for any state school in the country.

The performance of our students in New Zealand Scholarship, the premier examination, is 'simply the best'. In my view, it demonstrates the reality that boys respond well in an unashamedly competitive environment where their performance is compared not only to a standard but also to other students nationwide. This consistent, stellar success is also due in no small measure to the quality of teaching our students receive throughout the year. ERO commented specifically:

"There is high quality teaching throughout the college. Teachers regularly engage in professional discussions to improve students' learning. This is evident in, for example: the range and scope of digital learning opportunities; the adoption of a school-wide template for inquiry learning developed in consultation with contributing schools; feedback and discussion with the specialist classroom teacher following class observations; and voluntary professional development gatherings to share and discuss approaches to teaching and learning."

A committed, professional faculty is the foundation upon which any academic success is founded. I am deeply aware of the many hours, over and above classroom tuition, that my staff spend in ensuring our students are prepared to the very best of their ability.

SPORTING AND CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

While academic goals remain paramount at Wellington College, our wonderful school spirit is generated through our extensive and inclusive co-curricular programme. Sport is always central to the life of a boys' school and our successes in 2009 were many and varied. Wellington College students won no fewer than eleven awards at the Dominion Post College sport Wellington Awards dinner at the Duxton on November 8. Recipients included:

Athletics	Ryan Tinkle
Cricket	Chamika Gajayanaka
Golf	Chan Young Chung
Rugby	Lima Sopoaga
Softball	Ambrose Curtis
Swimming	Gareth Kean
Tennis	James Capovilla
Touch	Lima Sopoaga
Underwater Hockey	Sam Shillson
Waterpolo	Adam Pye
Yachting	Josh Porebski

From the eleven above, four of the six finalists (Lima Sopoaga, Gareth Kean, Adam Pye and Josh Porebski) for the supreme award were from Wellington College, and **Gareth Kean** won the Supreme Award. Gareth has had a wonderful career to date and is acknowledged as one of the most promising swimmers in the country.

Many of our teams performed very well at a national level. Our Senior A Softball, Senior A Tennis, Senior A Waterpolo, Senior Touch, Senior A Underwater Hockey teams all had Top Four rankings, and our Swimming team won the most gold medals at the National Games. Our 1st XV were unlucky to miss the Top Four when they lost narrowly to Napier Boys' High School, but had a wonderful season, winning Quadrangular Tournament for an unprecedented seventh time in a row and the Wellington Championship for the sixth time in a row. Four members of that team made the New Zealand Secondary Schools team, the most of any school in the country. The 1st XI Football team also had another successful season, winning the Wellington Championship yet again.

Mention must be made of the hundreds of Wellington College students who perform with pride, week in, week out. Whether representing a 'first' team or playing at a social level, the camaraderie forged on the sports field is pivotal to that sense of belonging which permeates life at the College.

Equally important as sport is the commitment of Wellington College students to the Arts. What a memorable year it has been! Winning the 2009 *Stage Challenge* was an extraordinary achievement, the first time that the title has been won by a boys' school. The Jazz Band won two national titles for the first time, at the Tauranga Jazz Festival and the Manawatu Jazz Festival. The Wellington College Chorale made it through to the

finals of the 'Big Sing' for the fourth year in a row. Their Bronze Award in Dunedin was just reward for another outstanding year. The Kapa Haka group maintained a high profile, frequently performing powhiri for important school events and earning many plaudits for their performance in the Mana Ariki Wellington Regional Competition.

Rayhan Langdana won the national title at the Race Unity Speech Awards. Thomas Gaynor, a brilliant organist, won the Under 18 section of the prestigious Sydney Organ Competition. We are all aware of Jesse Sheehan's remarkable achievement in winning the National Rockquest Competition, the first time this high profile award has been won by a soloist. As with the many sports teams, hundreds of students are involved with Debating teams, Public Speaking, music groups, Drama productions and cultural groups right throughout the year.

My very sincere thanks go to Mr David Keat, Sports Director, and Ms Kirsty Hazledine, Arts Director, who have both given so freely and productively of their time throughout the year. Without their contribution, Wellington College would be a much poorer place.

PARENT AND COMMUNITY SUPPORT

When *Tomorrow's Schools* was introduced twenty years ago, it was envisaged that staff, students and community would work together in a close, collegial manner. As Headmaster, I am deeply grateful to the various groups who work so positively for the betterment of Wellington College.

- The Parents' Association is a small but very committed group, led ably by Mr Beith Atkinson, who meet monthly in the Pavilion. The Parents' Association Donation is an absolutely essential fund which has enabled us to continue with the development of ICT in the College.
- College Mothers is a thriving group that has been in existence at the College for over fifty years. Under the very active leadership of Mrs Marilyn Scannell, College Mothers also provide a monthly forum at which guest speakers often address the group on matters pertaining to activities within the school. The Uniform Shop, run under the governance of College Mothers, provides a vital service to students and also raises crucial revenue for a variety of activities, whether it be the beautification of the grounds or assisting students in need. We are also very grateful for the fabulous catering provided on key occasions throughout the year.
- The Wellington College Old Boys' Association grows in numbers every year, thanks in no small measure to the leadership of Mr Bob Slade, our National President, and Ms Stephanie Kane, our Secretary. There are now active branches in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Hawke's Bay, Manawatu, Horowhenua, Blenheim, Nelson, Christchurch, Sydney and London. It is always a real pleasure meeting with Old Boys at these branches, and especially at the 40 Years On, 50 Years On and 60 Years On Reunions organised so efficiently by Stephanie Kane. The Old Boys provide the family context of which the current group of students are a part.
- The Foundation is the fundraising arm of the College, and I am deeply grateful to Mr Malcolm Johnson who has chaired the Foundation so ably for many years. On a personal level, I am very sad that he will be stepping down from this role as he has been a tower of strength for me over the fourteen and a half years I have been Headmaster.
- With so many sports clubs to run within the College, it would be impossible without the selfless dedication of so many parents and supporters. The Cricket club, Rugby Club, Football Club, Hockey Club, Basketball Club and Rowing Club are all in great heart. I am also thankful to the many who have helped out, either in a coaching or managerial role. Without your contribution, very little would happen.

APPOINTMENTS AND FAREWELLS

At the beginning and during the year, the following appointments were made:

- **Ms Jane Armstrong** in English and Drama
- **Mr Mana Bell** in Social Studies and Computing
- **Mrs Kathy Burn** as College Receptionist
- **Mr Matthew Caughley** in Science and Chemistry
- **Ms Kirin Cherry** in Mathematics
- **Mr Colin Green** in Mathematics
- **Mr Rob Hawley** in Mathematics
- **Mr Bevan Holloway** in English
- **Ms Mariam Isaac** in French
- **Mrs Mary Maddren** in English and ESOL
- **Ms Carey McDonald** in Music
- **Mr Alex Moore** in English
- **Mr David Mortimer** in Special Needs
- **Mr Shinichi Muroya** in Japanese
- **Mr John Rogers** in Commerce
- **Mrs Rachel Rusworth** in Science and Physics
- **Mr Kristin Savage** in Commerce
- **Mr James Smith** in Technology
- **Ms Beth Vincent** as College Librarian

The following staff were farewelled during the course of the year:

- **Mr Alan Coulston** retired from teaching after many years of dedicated service to the Mathematics Department. He was an excellent teacher of Scholarship Calculus and a highly regarded Athletics Coach.
- **Mr Stuart Douce** left at the end of Term 1 to take up a position as HOD Commerce at Lincoln High School.
- **Mr Bevan Jones** left at the end of Term 3 to do his 'O.E.'. He had made a great contribution in the classroom as a teacher of Biology and Science, and was a very effective Assistant Coach of the 1st XI Football.
- **Mrs Jenny Mainwaring** retired after Term 1 as a teacher of Japanese. She had given many years of dedicated service in establishing Japanese as the first Asian language to be taught at Wellington College.
- **Mrs Mary Sanderson** retired after Term 1 after many dedicated years as our Librarian. She had a deep love of literature and an uncanny knack of choosing books that appealed to boys.
- **Mr Matthew Sutherland** left as IT Manager after Term 2 to pursue further academic studies in Melbourne.
- **Mrs Alice Taggart** left after two years as College Receptionist to attend Teacher Training College in Christchurch.

- **Mrs Margaret Turner** left after Term 2 as the assistant to the Development Director.

There are a number of staff for whom this will be their last prizegiving:

- **Mr Scott Bain** leaves the P.E. Department after two and a half years to travel overseas. Mr Bain is a superb young teacher who has given wonderful service, both in the classroom and as Director of Rugby. He is a highly effective coach, much admired by those in his team.
- **Mr Grant Bundle** leaves the English Department after two years, also to travel overseas. An Old Boy of the College, Mr Bundle has also given excellent service in the classroom and in the extra-curricular area. This year he was coach of the Championship winning 2nd XI Football team.
- **Mr Tony Goodwin** retired from the English Department after eight years' committed service. A man of great humour and urbanity, Mr Goodwin has also been a very successful Debating coach. He and his wife will be returning to the UK to set up a Bed and Breakfast. We wish them all the best and 'Bon Voyage'.
- Mr Richard Hanlon has been a very energetic teacher of Science who joined us mid-year in a fixed-term position. We wish him all the very best as he takes up a job in Australia.
- **Mr Rob Hawley**, our former HOD Physics, helped us out by taking up a Maths position in Term 4. We wish him all the very best as he takes up a role in 2010 at St Pat's, Silverstream.
- **Mr Sam Lindsay** leaves Wellington College and the English Department after two years and a term to further pursue a career in Music. Mr Lindsay is a highly talented individual who has not only given excellent service in the classroom, but also as a Rugby coach. We hope to see Mr Lindsay back in a relieving capacity as he fills in the gaps between gigs.
- **Ms Kath O'Connor** leaves us after two years' part-time teaching History and Integrated Studies. A literacy specialist, Ms O'Connor has helped us enormously in identifying students who have problems with reading and writing and assisting us in putting in place programmes to address this. Her contribution will be sorely missed.
- **Mr Mike Pallin** retires as Deputy Principal but will remain at the College as the Director of International Students. Mr Pallin's dedication and loyalty to Wellington College is unequalled. He was appointed as a Science teacher in 1973 and has progressed through the ranks as Dean, HOD Biology, HOD Science, Assistant Principal (Curriculum) and Deputy Principal. For many years he coached Hockey and he still contributes at regional level to the Science Fair. He has, single-handedly, built up the network of international students over the last fifteen years. He has had a key part to play in the physical development of the campus and has made up in that area for the Headmaster's glaring deficiencies. Mr Pallin is the most loyal, reliable, creative and honest Deputy any Headmaster could ever want, and I will miss him greatly in this capacity.
- **Mr John Rogers** leaves the Commerce Department after one year to become HOD Commerce at Sancta Maria College in Auckland. He has made a remarkable contribution in a short time, not just in the classroom, but also in Rowing and Rugby.

TO THOSE WHO ARE LEAVING

May I first and very genuinely wish you all well in the forthcoming Scholarship and NCEA examinations. Many have been working hard for some time and for those who have not, it is amazing what can be packed into the last few days! I am amazed at the diversity of talent evident amongst our Year 13 students and look forward with anticipation to how those talents will unfold in the future. Some will become academics, others entrepreneurs. Some will achieve sporting fame and others national prominence in Music, Art and Drama. Whatever your skills, remember your responsibility to be a servant to others.

On occasion, tragedy may strike without warning. I am sure, like everyone here in the hall this evening, I was moved deeply by images of the devastation wrought by the Tsunami that struck Samoa and Tonga without warning. Whole villages were swept away, young children lost and families decimated. Disaster is made so vivid when it strikes close to home. The Samoan and Tongan people have had a profound influence on life in New Zealand. I have often said how the Pasifika students are the spirit of Wellington College with their sporting and musical charisma and wonderful sense of good humour. One of the most enjoyable evenings my wife and I have attended in recent years was the Leavers' function for our Pasifika students just ten days ago.

While the Samoan people were shattered by the crushing blow of the Tsunami, they were not defeated. Armed with faith and a determination to rebuild, they faced the present and got on with the task of helping each other. Such a sense of mutual responsibility is something we need to rediscover in New Zealand and, I would suggest, the Western world.

As I wish everyone here a Merry Christmas and a prosperous New Year, I would like to conclude by asking a group of Pasifika students to sing a hymn that sounds wonderful in Samoan. It is a song of hope, written by a man in great sadness, whose family had been lost at sea while crossing the Atlantic. The emotions, I am sure, will resonate strongly with our Pacific brothers and sisters, who are struggling to rebuild their lives in the face of great personal loss. The song is called, "It is Well with My Soul".



Roger Moses
Headmaster