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ROSMINI COLLEGE

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APRIL 2010

ROSMINI NEWS

THE ROSMINI OLD BOYS' NEWSLETTER

SCHOOL LEADERS 2010

The Rosmini College Head Boys for 2010 are Year 13 students Chris Waterman (17) of Albany and Lucas Brown (16) of Greenhithe. Chris is studying English, History, Geography, Economics and Classics. He is a member of the North Shore Youth Council and he is the Youth Representative for the Glenfield Community Board. Chris says that being appointed Head Boy has been, "one of the most humbling experiences of my life." Lucas was born in Toulouse, France and he is studying English, Calculus, Physics, Economics and Geography. Lucas has been an Under 16 North Harbour Rugby representative as well as representing New Zealand in Sailing at the World Championships. Lucas hopes to help the Rosmini 1st XV retain their North Harbour Secondary Schools Rugby Championship title this year and he wishes "to take my rugby as far as I can." Lucas ultimately hopes to do Engineering at either Auckland University or Canterbury University. Consequently he wishes "to help lead the school and show that both sport and academic results are achievable at the same time." The Deputy Head Boys are Joseph Bergin (17) of Birkenhead and Leroy Banse (17) of Birkdale. Joseph is studying Classics, History, Geography, Economics and English. He is this year's Student Trustee, the De Paul House Leader, the Captain of the Advanced Debating Team and a member of the school's Jazz Band. Joseph is also the Youth Representative for both the Takapuna Community Board and the Birkenhead/Northcote Community Board. He has a green belt in Judo. Leroy is studying Music, Geography, English, Statistics and Economics. He describes music as his "passion." Leroy wants to encourage students to take pride in their school as, he says, "Rosmini College provides students with quality teaching and gives them the confidence to achieve their full potential." The Sports Captains are Miles Lloyd (17) of Northcote and Rodrigo Costa (17) of Hillcrest. Miles is studying Calculus, Physics, History, Geography and English. He is the captain of the Rosmini College 1st XI soccer team. Rodrigo was born in Argentina and he is studying Sports Science, Economics, History, Calculus and English. Rodrigo is an Under 18 North Harbour Rugby representative although, he adds, he is "interested in many sports." Rodrigo is hoping to be a good role model for the other students this year. The Rosmini College Prefects for 2010 are: Jordan Brock, Jose Catapang, Joshua Chatterley, Benedict Choi, Theo Commissaris, Kevin Dalton, Jonathan Griffiths, Luke Hawley, Samuel Hoskins, Hae Won Lee, Duncan McCallum, Robert McConnochie, Michael Nacario, Thomas Oosterhof, Daniel Ross, Michael Ross, James Pasley, Matthew Slijp and James Tuitupou.



R. Costa, L. Banse, C. Waterman, Mr T. Gerrard, L. Brown, J. Bergin, M. Lloyd.

NCEA RESULTS

Rosmini College Principal, Mr Tom Gerrard is "delighted" with the school's overall 2009 NCEA results. Ninety-three percent of Rosmini students received NCEA Level 1 which is 13% more than other boys' schools of the same decile. Forty-four percent gained Merit or better. This is the school's best result ever for NCEA Level 1. Eighty-seven percent of Rosmini students received NCEA Level 2 which was 8% more students than other boys' schools of the same decile. Twenty-nine percent gained Merit or better. Eighty-one percent of Rosmini students received NCEA Level 3 which was 10% more students than other boys' schools of the same decile. Thirty-two percent gained Merit or better. Rosmini College's top scholars for 2009 were: in Year 11 – Joseph Choi, Jonathan Lee and Chris Duignan; in Year 12 – Matthew Slijp (who topped the entire Senior School), Hae Won Lee and Jose Catapang and, lastly, in Year 13 – Chris Rahardja, Liam Winter and Gabriel Cachero. Graphics, Art and Japanese had the highest pass rates and Graphics, Art and Accounting had the most Excellence grades. Graphics had "sensational results at Level 1 with a 100% pass rate and half the class gaining Excellence."



VIEW FROM THE TOP

The introduction of National Standards has got everyone excited at the moment. I prefer to worry about the forthcoming World Cups – Soccer and Rugby. However I am afraid I am not very knowledgeable about the World Cups, but I have read the National Standards, and I do not see any problem in trying to raise the standards of Literacy and Numeracy in our students. For those of you that I taught, that means counting and writing!

In reality, students will have to reach certain standards and teachers will have to try to get them there. It will mean more paper work for teachers, but let's hope that will regulate itself over time. I would warn against using test scores for League Tables, because the temptation then would be to indulge in ramming facts into kids so as to get results, at the expense of real teaching.

I love to quote Dickens' view of Education:
'Ram it in, ram it in, Children's heads are hollow;
Ram it in, ram it in, and still there's more to follow.'

We must avoid that.

Apart from National Standards there is plenty happening at the school. We have just completed a very successful Sports Day, where the House Competition was very much revived. Boys displayed banners representing Liston, Kelly, Emery and Curran – a fact that will please many Old Boys who were sorry when the House Competition disappeared for a few years. The winning House was Liston.

This year all our codes are well subscribed – Rugby, Soccer, Basketball and Hockey attracting strong numbers. Soccer has put into place a very fine development programme that will definitely raise the profile of Soccer at Rosmini. Rugby boasts about 12 teams and the 1st XV has the same coaches and managers that took us to the top of the table last year. I am confident that Mike Barry, Marc Camburn, Owen Hughes and Dean Nicol will ensure our boys are competitive as always. It is a fact that we don't have the big numbers to count on, so size and injuries are always key factors for us. There is an article that features Rosmini and Westlake in this month's Sky Sport, and the Rosmini vs Westlake game will be televised on 15th April.

Now for something completely different. I refer to an article in The New Zealand Catholic by Father Ronald Rotheiser, entitled, 'The Challenge of Accepting Pleasure Without Guilt.' Many of us have been taught from an early age that if you enjoy yourself you must be doing something wrong. Father Ronald goes on to say that we must not confuse Jesus with Hamlet. We don't need to nurse guilty feelings about pleasure. He reminds us that Jesus graciously accepted the gesture of Mary, (Martha's sister) anointing his feet with expensive oils. In fact the only one who complained was Judas.

God Bless.

Tom Gerrard
Principal



Old Boys Jack Whetton and Michael Mayhew at Rosmini's Blood Donation Day.



Liston House Captains Samuel Hoskins and Thomas Oosterhof encourage Liston's School Athletics Day winning performance.

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On the 29th, 30th April and 1st May, Rosmini College, together with students from Carmel College, will be performing Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat*. The musical is based on the Biblical story of Joseph. It has a family-friendly storyline and very catchy music including parodies of French ballads, Elvis-inspired Rock and Roll, Western, Reggae and Disco. Deputy Head Boy, Leroy Banse plays Joseph, a role which has also been played by Jason Donovan, Phillip Schofield, Donny Osmond and Boyzone singer, the late Stephen Gately. Once again Robert Letcher is the director of the show and HOD of Art, Ms Brenda Smith is the producer. These two have been responsible for Rosmini College's previous School Productions of 'Oliver', 'Jesus Christ Superstar' and 'Grease'. If you are interested in attending this fantastic production please check out the Rosmini College website: www.rosmini.school.nz

ROSMINI: STAFF CHANGES

At the end of 2009 Rosmini said a fond farewell to the following staff. Although we will sadly miss them, we wish them all well:

Miss Trudi Barr – Food Technology. Trudi joins her fiancée in Melbourne. Trudi has really put the Rosmini Hospitality Programme on the map.

Mr Christophe Canniveng – French. Christophe is off to St Cuthberts as their HOD French. Life for Christophe and his family will become much easier with a huge cut-back in travelling time.

Mr Mike Cumin – Economics and Business Studies. Mike has requested and been given leave of absence for a year. He is currently completing a TESSOL course in Vietnam.

Mr Brian Strang –HOD English. Brian is now teaching in Queenstown where he has family. Brian has had a great influence on the English Department and its improved success rate. He has given sterling leadership in his four years at Rosmini.

Mr Steve Wright – Sports Science and PE. An Old Boy who has contributed fully to Rosmini in the time he has been here. Steve joins his fiancée in the United States and London. We look forward to his return at a later date.

Miss Jennifer Yeh – Japanese and Chinese. Jun-Yi Yeh is off to Sydney to join her fiancée. She has made a great impression on our Asian language students.

Mrs Carolyn Mullins – Sports Coordinator and the Physio for the 1st XV. Carolyn has made the decision to work from home for her husband. She has put many voluntary hours into Rosmini, helping teams at all levels and staff members with her expertise.

New staff at Rosmini:

Mr Carl Herbst (H.O.D. Ed) is the new HOD of English. Carl was born in Bloemfontein, South Africa. He has previously taught at Brebner in South Africa and at Auckland's Sacred Heart College. Carl hopes, he says tongue in cheek, "to settle in well at Rosmini and not sink the ship!" He lists his interests as reading, Shakespeare, rugby and cricket. Carl regards, "being a dad" as one of his major achievements.

Mrs Kuniko Crosby (B.A, Grad. Dip. Tching) is teaching Japanese and Chinese. She was born in Japan but she has lived in New Zealand for 20 years. Kuniko previously taught at Pakuranga College. She is a member of the Japanese Yosakoi Dance Team. Kuniko would like students to enjoy learning about Japanese culture and language and she hopes to have more students achieving higher grades in NCEA this year. She concludes that, "Rosmini College is a great place to teach."

Ms Kim Hocking (BA (French and German)). Kim is teaching French and she would like to, "inspire and extend my Year 9, 10 and 12 students in French." Kim was born in Australia and she has lived in New Zealand since 2000. She has taught at Melbourne Boys Grammar, Firkbank Girls School, Matamata College and Mt Maunganui College. Kim has a German language scholarship from Goethe Institut. She has also trained as a Zumba Dance Instructor. Kim's other interests are Salsa, Ceroc, foreign films and plays.

Mr Nick Lorimer (B.Com, Post Grad, Dip. Tching) is teaching Economics and Business Studies. He previously taught at Westlake Boys High School. Nick hopes "to push students to achieve their best in NCEA results in the end of year exams." He lists his interests as hiking, camping and football.

Mr Paul Fordham (Bach.P.E, Dip. Tching) is teaching P.E, Academic PE and Health. Paul says he is, "proud to be a Rosminian" and he hopes to "begin teaching with passion and continue with that passion." As the new Liston House Leader, Paul was thrilled that Liston won the House Cup this year. He has represented North Harbour in all age groups for Hockey and wishes to "bring Rosmini Hockey to the forefront of North Harbour." As well as Hockey, Paul's other interests are surfing, running and playing the guitar.

Mr Marley Mackay (B.Hs (Health Promotion), Grad. Dip. Tching). Marley is a former Head Boy (2004) and he is teaching Maori, PE and RE. Marley lists fishing as a major interest. He hopes to try and encourage more boys to come to Thursday Mass this year.

Miss Verity-Jane Snedden (B.Com (Accounting)), Grad. Dip. Marketing, Grad. Dip. Sec. Tching) is teaching Maths. Verity-Jane has previously worked as an Accountant. She hopes to, "settle into the school and get to know the staff and students." Verity-Jane plays Soccer and Netball and she has represented New Zealand in Soccer. Her fiancée is Rosmini Old Boy, Stefan Boric (1995-2001).

Ms Irene Kim (B.Com (Marketing and Management), Grad. Dip. Tching) is teaching part time at Rosmini and she is assisting students with Maths, Economics, Business Studies and ESOL. Irene was born in Korea and she has a scholarship from Auckland University (Korean Language and Literature). She says she, "hopes to help all our International Students culturally, socially and academically." Irene adds, that "the staff members are very friendly and supportive and I am proud to be part of such a great school with such a great heritage." She lists reading, movies, travelling, swimming, Badminton and Hockey as her interests.

Mrs Melissa Tilbury (B.Ed majoring in Montessori Education) is teaching Food Technology to the Year 7, 8 and 9 boys. She was born in South Africa and came to New Zealand eight and half years ago. Melissa hopes to create a teaching programme which, "promotes the wellbeing of students and also encourages students to make healthy food choices." She says that food is her "passion."

Mr Richard Mayhew (BBS (Management)). Former Head Boy (2003), Richard is the new Intermediate Sports Coordinator. His enduring memory of Rosmini College is winning the 1st XV North Harbour Secondary Schools Rugby Championships twice. He says Rosmini is "a great school with awesome students and staff." He plans on working hard and getting to know all the students. He lists his interests as North Harbour Rugby, fishing and cricket. Richard plays Number 8 and Flanker for North Harbour alongside his brother, Michael (1998-2004), who plays Hooker.

Doctor Ju Cheol Wang (PhD (Musical Arts)) has previously taught double bass, orchestra and music ensembles from Elementary to University levels in the USA and Korea and he is teaching Music. Ju Cheol is Korean and he has been in New Zealand for four years. One of his degrees is in orchestra conducting and, consequently, it comes as no surprise that one of his goals at Rosmini is "to (re)establish the orchestra"

Mr Scott Woodcock (Dip IT Comp. MCSA, MCP) joins the school as additional ICT Support. He hopes to stay on at Rosmini and "make a difference." He lists his interests as soccer and the Bible.

LIFE IN THE NETHERLANDS

Julian Wilson (BSc (Maths), DipSci (Stats)) (1985 – 1991) lectures in English and Mathematics as part of the Bachelor of Engineering: Advanced Sensor Applications programme at the Hanze Institute of Technology (HIT) in Assen, The Netherlands. HIT is part of Hanze University Groningen, but located a short distance away in the neighbouring city of the previously mentioned Assen. Julian says, "How I came to teach in Europe is a long story, but the short version is that my wife is Dutch and that is why I came to live in Holland. At first, I started learning Dutch, while keeping my eyes open for a job in Mathematics or a related field. I was intrigued by the similarities between Dutch and English, and it caught my interest so much that I started learning about where both languages came from. It was a surprise to find out that the languages were closely related, possibly with a common source. Thus I became hooked on Etymology. Not long afterwards, a job opportunity arose to teach English as a foreign language, which I promptly took. It was over five years later that I heard about a new institute (HIT) starting up and got the chance to return to mathematics, while still continuing teaching English. The Bachelor's degree in Advanced Sensor Applications is a four-year programme in Applications of Sensor Technology. Sensors and sensor systems are increasingly important in today's world. You can find them in fields such as healthcare, agriculture, energy and robotics, to name just a few. The study programme is very broad, covering aspects of Electrical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, Mathematics, Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Computer Science and Human Technology, along with professional skills such as working in a multidisciplinary and multicultural team. I find the enormous variety of applications of Sensor Technology fascinating and challenging. I enjoy teaching and supervising groups consisting of students from many different countries. I also relish the opportunity to apply Mathematics to help solve real-life problems." He adds that those who are thinking of a career in Technology and Engineering should consider the Hanze Institute of Technology: www.hit.hanze.nl Julian says for those thinking about studying in Holland, a very useful website to look at is Nuffic (Netherlands Organization for International Cooperation in Higher Education): www.nuffic.nl/international-students. He describes life in the Netherlands as, "great. The Dutch are friendly and the rest of Europe is on your doorstep. Of course, there are lots of things I miss about New Zealand, like the ease of being able to get away from it all. On the other hand, the north of the Netherlands is much less crowded than the areas around Amsterdam, Rotterdam and The Hague. The advantage of living in a small country is that you don't have to travel very far. One mixed blessing is Holland's four seasons – there's a much sharper difference between winter, spring, summer and autumn than in Auckland. As I write, we're now at the tail end of a very cold winter – the coldest since I arrived here, with lots of snow. Beautiful, but inconvenient at the same time, leading to traffic delays and even accidents. When spring arrives, you definitely appreciate it." Recalling his time at Rosmini, Julian says, "I can imagine the school has changed since the almost 20 years ago when I was last there as a seventh former, although I would expect that it is still true to its fundamental character. I have numerous memories, from Mr Toh encouraging me to go into Accounting and take a BCom (unfortunately, I was dead set on doing a BSc in Computer Science, although I ended up switching to Mathematics) to Mr Roberts calling the class to order by asking us to, "put the playthings down." And then there was Mrs Mayhew who showed us a video of The Scarlet Pimpernel during French classes. I can remember that being popular. Another memory is singing with Mr Francis in Form 2, especially, "Bongo, Bongo, Bongo, I don't want to leave the Congo." I seem to recall us referring to him as Mr Bongo thereafter." Julian lists his interests as Mathematics and its applications, the English language and its history, the writings of J.R.R. Tolkien and Soccer.



PLAYSTATION RACER

Luis Cachero (2001-2007) was one of the 20 finalists invited to the 2010 Nissan GT Academy New Zealand National Final. The event was held in the Hampton Downs Motorsport Park on Wednesday 3rd of February 2010. Luis was browsing through the June 2009 edition of 'Top Gear' magazine late last year when he read an article about a competition held by Nissan and Sony Playstation where they select the fastest virtual racers from Europe and turned them into a professional racing driver. Luis says, "I did some more research about the competition online and was shocked when I found out that New Zealanders were eligible to take part this time around. At first I was sceptical thinking it was only a way for Sony to sell more Playstation consoles but with some thought I figured you don't get too many opportunities to become a professional race driver so I decided to give the competition a go. I was lucky enough to be lent a Playstation 3 (PS3) by a friend 10 days after qualifying for the competition started. I qualified 26th in New Zealand out of over 8000 but I reckon I could've qualified higher had I started as early as everyone else! The top 20 qualifiers eligible to compete were invited to the National Final. The experience gave me a good idea of what competing at a national level was like with mind games being played and a good number of journalists, photographers and camera men from the likes of PC World, with Shaun Summerfield from 3 News also present. The racing was fierce – my heart must've been going at a million beats per minute during my heats! I was grouped with the top seeded qualifiers where we had very little time to adapt to the simulators and race courses. I placed second overall in my group with one heat win and a second but I was t-boned off the circuit in the third. That effectively ended my day as I had to win in my group or have the sixth, seventh or eighth fastest overall time to progress to the semi-finals. We didn't leave the day empty handed as we had a blackboard session with A1GP and Porsche GT3 driver Jonny Reid where he talked to us about racing lines, braking technique; turn-in, apex and exit points, car control theory, how the game compared to real life as well as how impressed he was with the level of driving displayed by the competitors during the day. We also received track tours of the new Hampton Downs International Circuit, presentations of the new Nissan GT-R and 370Z, sampled some unreleased games from Sony and a nice goodie bag at the end of the day. Not bad for playing on the Playstation! With the experience and a certain level of success I achieved in the NZ Nissan GT Academy I feel I should make the next step up in a possible motor racing career.

I'd like to try my hand at a number of motorsport scholarships on offer with the main goal being the Speedsport Magazine Motor Racing Scholarship. I'll most likely spend the next few months preparing by attending some race driving tuition as well as making a few trips to the gym! There will be a maximum of 30 entrants for the scholarship and each entrant will spend a day at the Manfield School Track where they are judged on driving ability, presentation, professionalism and learning skills. The winner of the scholarship gets one season free in the televised Formula First Championship. I think these scholarships are an excellent opportunity to be able to make such a step up I otherwise wouldn't be able to make without financial backing. If things don't go according to plan (and they rarely do!) I will jump back into study and make racing a nice occasional hobby until I can afford to compete at a high level again!" For those interested in Luis' progress, check out:

www.facebook.com/LuisCacheroMotorsport

www.twitter.com/Luis_Cachero