

Tenei te mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Distinguished guests, members of the Board of Trustees, parents, staff and students of the college. It is my honour and very real pleasure to present the annual report for Taupo-nui-a-Tia College for 2009.

As usual this year's successes have been many and cover a wide range of activities. Not all can be mentioned, but a few are worthy of special mention and these will illustrate the scope and quality of the rest.

Nelson Mandela was once quoted as saying "Education is the most powerful weapon, which you can use to change the world". At Taupo-nui-a-Tia College we would like to think we have played our part in changing the world and I think the quality of our students leaving this college are a testament to that.

Our academic results last year were outstanding. Auckland's Metro magazine put our results through a formula they devised to indicate how much value schools added to their students. They noted that our results, and I quote, "were impressive" and that had we been an Auckland school our scholarship results would have placed us 6th out of over 90 schools in that region, and overall our results would have placed us amongst the best schools in Auckland. We have continued to perform above the national average in all three levels of NCEA and above the national average in those students gaining entry to university. Special mention should be made of Nicola Bryan achieving an Outstanding Scholarship in Geography and Jed Armstrong who achieved two Outstanding Scholarships out of the three he earned and was one of only 40 students in the country to receive an Outstanding Scholarship Award.

Academic initiatives for next year will see the introduction of the Te Kotahitanga project. The college was one of 17 schools to be accepted into phase 5 of this initiative. The project is based on national and international research and has a proven track record of improving Maori achievement through effective teaching practices. Results from schools currently in the project indicate that there is improved achievement for all students regardless of ethnicity.

It has been a busy year for cultural activities in the College. Our major school production once again played to sellout crowds and "Disco Inferno" proved an excellent vehicle to showcase the depth and breadth of talent in the school. This diversity of talent was again highlighted at the recent Principal's Concert and the Vocal Group Concert where we were treated to a mixture of opera, jazz, rock, classical and swing with several students performing pieces they had written themselves. Over the last few years we have developed a culture where students are happy to perform in public thanks mainly to the support they get from our music department and also the support they receive from their fellow students in the audience. I would like to thank all the staff, music tutors and parents concerned in nurturing the wide ranging talent we have at this school. Next year we look forward to a Specialist Performance Music programme operating in the College to support our top musicians.

Our Kapa Haka group travelled to Rarotonga to perform in the Myvenui festival after working exceptionally hard to fund raise for this trip. This group's level of performance improved markedly over the space of the year and they can be proud of their efforts. Thanks must go to Geoff Rameka and his wife Dini for the work they have put into this group.

Other outstanding performances in the arts include Kaleidosonic being the number one rock band in Taupo and reaching the regionals of the rock quest and year 9 student Josh White being named as "The most promising player" in the New Zealand woodwind competition. On the international stage Awhimai Fraser travelled to the United States as a member of "The Black Stars" to compete in the World Championship of Performing Arts.

Finally on the cultural scene I would like to acknowledge the efforts and achievement of the drama department. I was privileged to watch two student directed Year 13 performances in the college's little theatre this term. Both performances were outstanding and fully justified the many hours of rehearsal time the students put into their production.

The Year 11 drama performances were equally entertaining as were the Year 12 Shakespeare performances. We have a number of students going on to study either music or drama at tertiary level next year and I wish them all the very best in the years to come.

The sports programme in Taupo-nui-a-Tia College has continued to be both busy and successful. We have over 30 different sports codes in the college with teams and individuals competing in social competitions right through to students competing at national level. This year we have 19 students who are either national representatives or have national titles and we also have our very own world champion in Shea Reardon. Shea recently won the Xterra World Triathlon Championship title in her age group. Many of our top athletes openly acknowledge the benefits of being part of the High Performance programme that operates in the college.

In other extra curricular pursuits both the Zenith club and the Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award scheme have been very active. Our college Zenith club is the fastest growing club of its kind in the Southern hemisphere and continues to enhance the confidence and leadership skills of those that take part. The Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award scheme is well subscribed and there is an impressive list of students achieving their gold level award.

This year saw the formation of a Parent Teacher Association. This college has always been well served by a dedicated group of parents with a genuine interest in their children's education. We now have a very able team on the PTA who can tap into the skills and interests of our parent body to the benefit of the college. I would like to thank the office holders in this group for volunteering their time.

Another committee that is active at the college is the jubilee committee. Next year we turn 50 and I would strongly encourage everyone with an association with the college to attend. Planning is well underway for what should be a memorable weekend.

Our building programme has made some progress this year. We now have a new health centre and ablution block along with two renovated classrooms and three new resource areas in the Nelson block. The English department also has a new resource area. A project manager is about to be appointed and work will begin on our gymnasium extension in the next few months. This morning we were notified by the Ministry of Education that we are to receive over 3.4 million dollars to proceed with the building of a new technology, art and design and ICT centre.

At this stage I would like to thank our staff for their contribution to the life of the college. Their willingness to "go that extra mile" for our students makes Taupo-nui-a-Tia College a very special place. The good humour and support that exists amongst our staff flow through to the classroom and during my classroom visits I constantly witness positive environments and teacher/student relationships conducive to learning. I'm sure our teaching staff wouldn't forgive me if I didn't mention all of our support staff who keep the organisation running smoothly. Mention also has to be made of the senior managers in the college, Betty Wakelin, Bruce Forsyth, Di Henare and Liz Davis who have been a tremendous support throughout the year.

This year we farewell Lesley Park. Lesley will join her husband in Mount Maunganui and takes up a position as a PE adviser. Lesley is a former Head Girl of the college and during her 12 years teaching here she has gained a reputation for her madcap antics and for her competence as a teacher. Clarke Rainey also leaving and packing up his shillelagh and exploring the South Island - we wish him well.

I would like to thank the Board of Trustees for the support I have had from them this year. As a group they bring a lot of skills and knowledge to the table. The role is not always the most glamorous but everyone around the table has the interests of the college at heart.

Finally to our Year 13 students – Last week I received an email from a former student of the college who is now teaching in a secondary school in Wellington. I would like to share an extract from her message to me.

"Hi Mr. Moyle (still can't break that habit) How are you? I know this is out of the blue a little bit but I've been thinking about Taupo-nui a lot this year, and just how truly

awesome the school is. Of course it's because I am teaching at a high school that this is happening, and I've been telling students in my class about me as a student in Taupo and how great it was because of the things we did at school, like Spirit Week, Daffodil day, Activities Week etc. One of the big things about nui was the school spirit and the sense of belonging, which absolutely affects student life and their attitude towards school. I am happy to report that I only look back at Taupo-nui with the best memories, which now include training there last year when it was like being a student again".

Year 13 I hope you too leave this school with fond memories. I have to admit that I was a little nervous about you as a group when we started the year. However any doubts I had were completely unfounded. From the Year 13 leadership camp you hit the ground running. The level of cooperation, respect and energy you have brought into the college has been impressive and I thank you sincerely for your contribution. I wish you all the very best for next year and I am confident you are well equipped to succeed in your chosen endeavours.

No reira tena koutou tena koutou tena tatou katoa
Peter Moyle