

WAIMATE HIGH SCHOOL 2009

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Principal: Mrs Janette Packman **Deputy Principal:** Mr Russell Crossan
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Useful contacts:

BOT Chairperson:

Mr John Begg

NCEA / NZQA:

Mr Robertson

Year Co-ordinators:

13 Mrs McLachlan

Pastoral managers:

9/10 Mrs Foster

Guidance Counsellor:

Miss Fisher

TIC Sports:

Mrs Lyall

Uniform Co-ordinator:

Mrs J Mehrtens

Group Teachers:

CAK Miss Atkinson

GOT Mrs Ottley

LBR Mrs R Bell/Mrs J Rodokal

PTh Mr Thompson

Special needs Co-ordinator:

Mrs Geaney
11 & 12 Mr Robertson

7/8 Mr Marquet

Careers Counsellor:

Mrs McLachlan

Bus Controller:

Mr Robertson

CQU Miss Queree

CCD Mr Caird

GDL Mrs Dhillon

GWT Mr Watts

LDN Miss Dollan

LKM Mrs Kilmartin

PWR Mrs Warner

PYG Mr Young

3 April Newsletter:09:1:9

The Principal's word

Kia ora koutou

Congratulations to Tom Cochrane, who has been appointed Sports Prefect. We wish him well in this leadership role. This position has come available as Jared Matthews has left school to take up employment and training.

Thank you to parents who attended our NCEA Information evening on Wednesday. We appreciated the opportunity to inform you of the assessment systems that are now in place.

There has been some focus recently in the media on bullying in schools and I would like to take this opportunity to outline our procedures. Bullying is unacceptable and is treated seriously by all staff. If a student experiences bullying, whether it be physical or verbal, we hope that they will tell a staff member about what is happening as soon as possible after the actual incident. If they prefer, students can fill in a bullying complaint form. These are readily available from outside the office and once completed should be handed to a teacher. We guarantee that this form will be followed up as soon as possible in the most appropriate way.

As well, some students have recently completed the first part of the peer mediation training. We have a great group of keen students who want to have peer mediation running in our school. They are now working on the practical part of the training programme. We presently have a small number of trained peer mediators who are available to provide mediation as required, to assist students in working through issues in a helpful manner.

Janette Packman
Principal

Book Review by Jordyn Brunnenkreef ERAGON by Christopher Paolini

Eragon is the story of a 17 year old boy who, while he is hunting on a dangerous range of mountains called The Spine, finds a stunning blue stone. He takes it back to Carvahall, a small town on the edge of Alagaësia. Eragon can't trade it for meat so he keeps it. In the middle of the night the stone hatches and the first dragon in fifty years is born. When Eragon and the baby dragon first touch, Eragon gets a silvery swirl on his palm. Eragon doesn't know it but he has been unwillingly plunged into a world of magic and fighting. Accompanied by Brom the Mentor with a secret and Murtagh the Ally with a dark past. Eragon has to master his magic and sword fighting and get to the Varden if they want to survive and rid Alagaësia of tyranny.

It was a really good book and I think the other two books in the series are even better.

Historians explore Skippers Canyon

This year's Year 13 History trip to the Queenstown Lakes District followed a slightly different route. The 8 students, teacher and 1 parent travelled via Wanaka, through the Cardrona Valley and over the Crown Range into Arrowtown. This retraced the journey by early settlers William Rees and Nicholas Von Tunzelman, and later followed by many of the early gold miners heading towards the Arrow and Shotover Rivers. The group stopped at the Cardrona village and took the opportunity to look through its famous hotel which was built in the early days of the gold rushes. The view at the top of the Crown Range helped the students begin to appreciate the difficult terrain in which the early miners and other settlers endured. After a brief stop at the Arrowtown Holiday Park Lodge to unload the gear

and supplies, the group continued on to the Edith Cavell Bridge on the Shotover River to meet up with our Queenstown Rafting Guides. After donning wetsuits and listening to instructions everyone boarded the bus for the daunting journey into the Skippers Canyon via the historic Skippers Road. This road, which took seven years of hard physical labour to complete in the 1880's was frightening for some. Its narrow pathway, crumbling sides and sheer rock faces dropping away hundreds of metres bear testimony to the bravery of those who constructed it. One could only admire the skills of drivers past and present at negotiating this journey. The drive in provided the students with wonderful views of the environment which has been changed dramatically because of sluicing. Everywhere there were relics of the past to be seen.



On arrival at Deep Creek the rafts were unloaded, brief instructions were issued, and then the rafts were boarded. The next two hours were exhilarating as the 8 rafts navigated a series of rapids through the main part of the Skippers Canyon culminating in the 200 metre long Oxenbridge Tunnel. This tunnel was built to divert the water from the bed of the main part of the river in order to extract the gold more easily. The end of the tunnel beckoned in the largest and most fierce rapid which fortunately all rafts successfully negotiated. The trip through the canyons gave an opportunity for the students to gain a feel for the environment in which the miners lived and worked. Along the way there were also many metal relics of the mining technology abandoned after the main supply of gold dwindled. Sunday night back at the camp was spent watching the 1980's movie 'Illustrious Energy' which chronicled the trials and tribulations of Chinese gold miners in their quest for gold during the nineteenth century. The students gained an understanding of not only the extreme conditions facing all gold miners but also the racism and discrimination inflicted on the Chinese. The next morning, Kirsty, the Lakes District Museum Education Officer, instructed the students about

archives research before letting them loose on the Museum exhibits. Later in the morning she led them on a tour through historic Arrowtown including the Chinese Village. Monday afternoon and Tuesday were largely spent in and around the Museum completing archives research using mainly primary resources such as diaries, newspapers, photos, maps, gravestones, and personal stories as well as the storyboards visible throughout the Museum. The students immersed themselves thoroughly in this process and remarked how much they enjoyed this aspect of their study.

After a good three days information gathering the students were ready to return home, this time via Cromwell. They had enjoyed a productive trip and gained new empathy for those involved in settling in this region during the gold rushes in Otago during the Nineteenth Century.

STRIKE Performance

We are very excited to be hosting a concert by the modern percussion group STRIKE on **5 May** at 2.15pm. The cost to students is only \$2 as the school is subsidising the full fee. It is not often that we can confidently offer such a high quality performance, so all interested students in Years 7-13 are encouraged to attend. Parents, please support your child to experience this live performance as part of their Arts programme.

Winter Uniform

All students will be expected to be in their full winter uniform by Monday 11th May. Please ensure your child is wearing correct school shoes. If you are purchasing new school shoes we recommend that students wear lace up shoes.

Glamour Meets Gloss Fashion Parade 15th May 2009 7.30pm

The Committee are working very hard on getting this Fashion Parade going and are getting it together slowly.

Tickets will be available from both of these fashion stores and also our school office costing \$15.00 per person with supper provided.

The tickets are at the printers now as are the posters which you will see appearing around the town soon. We are working on getting our models now and will be using High School girls and some Mums.

We hope that you have this marked on your calendars as a great girls' night out.

The Ball Committee will be selling a raffle on the night also.