

# NEWSLETTER

NELSON COLLEGE  
Te Kura Tamatāne o Whakatū



20 Sept 2024

*Kia ora tātou,*

## **Kia ora whānau,**

As we celebrate Māori Language Week, it's an important time to acknowledge the rich cultural heritage that shapes our school and our wider community. At Nelson College, we are proud of the efforts being made to embrace Te Reo Māori and honour the values of whanaungatanga, manaakitanga, and kotahitanga. It's a time to reflect on how we support each other and strengthen our ties as a school whānau.

## **First XV Success at the Top 4 Tournament**

We are incredibly proud of our First XV rugby team for their outstanding achievement at the National Barbarians 1st XV Championship Final in Palmerston North, where they secured second place. This is a testament to their determination, skill, and teamwork throughout the season. Many of our boys have been rewarded with higher honours, a fitting recognition of their hard work and dedication. This is a significant milestone for our rugby programme, and we look forward to seeing more success in the years to come.

## **Ngā Aho Rau's Mana on Stage**

Our Ngā Aho Rau kapa haka group performed with immense mana and passion at the Te Taihū Regional Kapa Haka competition. Their dedication to their craft and their powerful performance truly exemplified the spirit of our kura. Next week, they embark on an incredible cultural journey to the USA with stops in LA and Hawai'i. We wish them all the best on this exciting journey and thank everyone involved.

## **Tangata Beats Triumph for Finesse**

We are thrilled to celebrate the success of our Smokefree Tangata Beats group, Finesse, who placed third in the national competition. Special recognition goes to Tamu Domoni, who was awarded Best Vocalist—a remarkable achievement that highlights his exceptional talent. The group has worked tirelessly, and their passion for music has truly paid off.

Manaaki/Care

Pono/Integrity

Kairangi/Success

## Musical Success at the Aurora Festival

Our Combined Nelson College and Nelson College for Girls Concert Band brought home silver at the Aurora Festival, along with the Brass Section Award—an outstanding achievement! The Combined Jazz Band and the Orchestra also secured silver, adding to a successful season of musical excellence. We are incredibly fortunate to have such talented young men representing our school in the arts and very lucky to have a strong relationship with Nelson College for Girls. Our musical prowess also extends to the visual and performing arts and all of these were on display at our Creative Showcase and awards ceremony this week. You can read more about this, and our sporting and artistic achievements below.

## The End of Term 3 – Reflection and Moving Forward

As we approach the end of Term 3, it's clear that the pace at Nelson College never slows down. Our students continue to excel across all areas—sport, culture, music, and academics—showing that by pushing their own boundaries and striving to be their best, they embody the values we hold dear. Community and kindness remain at the heart of our school, and it's through supporting one another that we create an environment where everyone can thrive.

We are privileged to have so many talented and dedicated young men in our kura who continue to represent Nelson College with pride and integrity.

As we look forward to what lies ahead, I leave you with this whakataukī, which reminds us of the importance of perseverance and unity:

*"Whāia te iti kahurangi, ki te tūohu koe, me he maunga teitei."  
Pursue excellence—should you stumble, let it be to a lofty mountain.*

Ngā mihi nui,

Richard Washington

Tumuaki/Principal



## music



Nelson College's music department has had an exceptional year, making waves across both national and local music scenes with impressive performances and accolades. From rock bands to orchestras, the college's young musicians are excelling in their respective genres, further solidifying the school's reputation as a hub of musical talent.

## finesse national success

One of the most exciting highlights of the year came from the college's rock band, Finesse, which achieved an outstanding third-place finish at the national Tangata Beats competition. This prestigious contest celebrates cultural diversity in music, and Finesse's success is a testament to their dedication, musicianship, and the strong support provided by the school's music department. In the same competition, Nelson College's Tamu Domoni took home the Best Male Vocalist award, impressing judges with his dynamic vocal range and electrifying stage presence.





Nelson College's other rising stars, The ShedHeads, earned an incredible opportunity for studio time to professionally produce a single. This achievement reflects the depth of talent within the school, with different groups exploring new creative avenues and showcasing their potential on a larger scale.



## aurora festival silver

Nelson College's classical and jazz musicians also shone brightly this year. The Combined Concert Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band attended the Aurora Festival in Christchurch, where they faced tough competition. All three ensembles impressed the judges, with all three earning silver awards for their performances. The college's brass section further distinguished itself, receiving the Best Brass Section award, highlighting their exceptional skill and cohesion as a group.



## creative arts showcase



What a night! The best of Nelson College's creatives came together for an unforgettable evening of music, drama, kapa haka, art and film this week. The Creative Arts Showcase is a celebration of the achievements of our young men in their artistic endeavours and a chance to formally recognise them with a prizegiving ceremony. Guests were treated to a visual feast as they mingled in the Crush Hall which was transformed into a gallery displaying offerings of Art Painting, Art Design and Art Photography from our Year 10-13's.



Ngā Aho Rau took to the stage performing haka and waiata with their customary style, perfect pitch and grace, again reminding us why they are top of the league in the region.





Drama took centre stage with a scene from *One Man-Two Guvvners*, this year's school production. The wonderful Tristan Compton gave us a glimpse into the duplicitous life of Francis Hensell, as he furiously juggles his double life. Flanked by slapstick sensation, Oliver Goldsworthy playing a hilarious decrepit waiter, and straight-man Jackson King, the trio delivered the chaos and convolution in a tightly choreographed scene.



Media studies students presented two films during the evening. *Nelson on Four Small Wheels*, a documentary about skateboarding by Miro Lawrey and Vincent Konecny that provided much food for thought about the social, cultural and health benefits of the oft-maligned pastime. The other film 'Passion', by Jaxin Dicks-Winter and Adam Bone, was a love letter to the region's bustling mountain biking scene. A beautifully shot film with the stunning backdrop of Nelson.

The Combined NC and NCG Concert Band treated the audience to a couple of gems including the wonderful Bossa Nova Soul by Quincy Jones. Rounding off the evening were Finesse, fresh from their success at Tangata Beats, performing original material to uproarious applause.



## te ara māori



## kapa haka

Ngā Aho Rau, the combined kapa haka group from Nelson College and Nelson College for Girls, recently secured first place in the Te Taihū Regional Kapa Haka Competition. The dedication and hard work of this talented group, who meet twice and sometimes three times a week to hone their skills, has truly paid off.

In preparation for the competition, held at the Trafalgar Centre last week, the group spent the past six weeks learning and perfecting a new haka. Ngā Aho Rau continues to uphold a kaupapa Māori environment at both schools, enriching students' lives through te reo Māori and ngā tikanga.

Their achievements and polished performances serve as an inspiration to other groups and a wonderful example of manaaki and kairangi to younger students. With next year's regionals on the horizon, it will be exciting to see who qualifies for the nationals – though we have a good feeling about our team! Kai pai, everyone! Credit to Te Taihū o te Waka a Maui Māori Cultural Council for the photos.





# sports office snippets



What an amazing Winter Tournament Week we had. Our Senior A Basketball team are continuing training with their National tournament coming up soon. In the meantime, we are sorting Touch and Volleyball teams. If your son wants to play either of these sports he should have sorted his team by now, or be attending trials (Volleyball). Please send your son to the Sports Office if he needs help with this.

## hockey



What a fantastic result for our 1st XI Hockey team, finally clinching the prestigious Johnson Cup and earning promotion to the top division for 2025. The victory was made even more special with Scott Brown, Kurt Ward, and Hogan Ward receiving their gold caps before the final, each celebrating the incredible achievement of 100 games for the team.



The NC 1st XI Hockey team had an outstanding 2024 season, collecting four trophies and remaining unbeaten with an impressive 17 wins and 1 draw. Their accomplishments include winning the Local Men's Prem 2 League, the Men's Prem 2 Shield, the Top of the South Secondary Schools title, and, of course, the Johnson Cup in the National Schools Competition. They also triumphed in interschool exchanges against Shirley Boys' and Marlborough Boys' Colleges.

Having narrowly missed out on the title the past two years, falling just short in the finals by a shootout and a single goal, this year's success was especially sweet. Now, with the Johnson Cup in hand, the team is set to compete in the prestigious Rankin Cup National Schools competition in 2025. What an incredible achievement!





# cricket



Our 1st XI Cricket team wrapped up a fantastic season in April, finishing as the top Tasman school and proudly securing the D'Arcy Cup. This victory earned them a well-deserved spot in the Central Districts Top 4 playoffs.

The team travelled to Palmerston North for the semi-finals, where they faced a tough match against Palmerston North Boys' High School, narrowly missing out on advancing to the final.

Since then, the boys have been hard at work during winter training sessions under the guidance of Mr Norris, and we are excited to see what the upcoming season will bring. Well done to the team for their achievements so far, and best of luck for the season ahead!

[Youth Grades/year 9 and year 10 sides](#)

[2nd Grade/ 2nd XI](#)

[Third Grade/ senior XI](#)

[Premier Grade/ 1st XI](#)

## Probrands Cricket Shop



## garry mac donald

The Nelson College 1st XV Cricket Team were treated to a visit from former NC 1st XV Cricket Coach Garry Mac Donald this week. Garry coached the team for a number of years, taking them to 4th and 5th in the country.

NC's Scriptorium Museum was the venue for the visit, a rare treat granted only with a promise to the archivist that absolutely no games of indoor cricket would be played! Students were treated to a lesson on NC sporting history and some pearls of wisdom from Garry. The boys were shown an exhibit on famous cricketer Doug Freeman who attended Nelson College from 1931-32, and a couple of Black Caps, one of which was Doug's, the other belonging to HM Mc Girr.

Thank you for the visit Garry, the boys really enjoyed meeting you.



**Winter Lunch Sessions - Old Gym Nets**

Tuesday's: Seniors  
Wednesday's: Year 9/10

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**Registration**

Open via PlayHQ

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**Year 9 Quad Tournament**

Term 4  
Dec 3rd, 4th, 5th  
Marlborough Boys, Christs College, Otago Boys

**Weedon's CC T20**

1st XI T20 match v Weedon's 1st XI

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**Saint Andrew's Tour**

2 x Year 10 XI matches  
Oct 7th, 8th

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**ProBrands Cricket Shop**

Open!

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**Nelson Rep Trials**

Year 9/10 team  
Year 11/12 team

**T20 WARM UP MATCH**

**NC PREMIER XI**

**COACH : BRAD NORRIS**

**T20**  
20/09/24  
3PM START  
BRANFORD PARK

1. H. Restieaux
2. J. Nicholls - wk
3. K. Ward
4. F. Roberts
5. B. Norris
6. D. Kelso
7. Z. Brown - vc
8. H. Ward - c
9. N. McLeod
10. G. Aerakis
11. C. Wilson
12. S. Nanayakkara





The 2024 Nelson College 1st XV have achieved more than any Nelson College 1st XV before them. They almost went unbeaten, winning 14 of their 15 matches.

Along the way, they won the Miles Toyota Premiership, the South Island Schools Final, the 98th Quadrangular Tournament, the Whangamoia Trophy & Trust Bank Cup (vs Marlborough Boys' College), and took the Moascar Cup off Southland Boys' High School. The team qualified for the National Barbarians 1st XV Championship held in Palmerston North.

They won their semi-final against Kelston Boys' High School and went on to the National final for the first time. They played Hamilton Boys' High School, but unfortunately lost 17–27. This was an amazing achievement for the team, and they should be very proud.

During the season, we acknowledged four boys for receiving their Gold Caps (40 games). They are Harrison Inch, Oliver Gibbons, Saumaki Saumaki, and Teina Thompson. Well done to these boys.

Several boys received recognition for outstanding seasons with selections for regional and National teams: Crusaders Junior XV Camp (held in October): Kobe Brownlee, Fanua Fa'avae, Oliver Gibbons, Harrison Inch, Linton Laiseni, Tom Perkins, Saumaki Saumaki, Samuela Takapu, Teina Thompson, Jack Trott & Jimmy West.



NZ Māori U18 Team:

Kobe Brownlee

NZ Barbarians U18 Team:

Fanua Fa'avae & Samuela Takapu

NZ Schools Team:

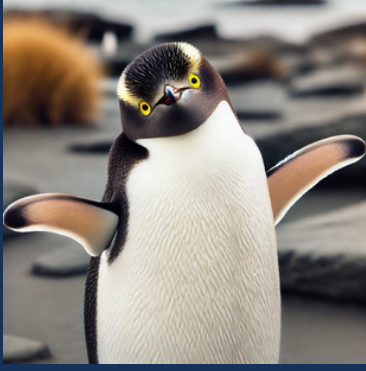
Harrison Inch, Oliver Gibbons & Saumaki Saumaki

A huge thank you also needs to go to the coaching and management team of Jono Phillips, Mike Fraser, Marty O'Cain, Greg Foe, Matt Doonan, and William Moloney. A lot of time and energy has been put in to achieve all this, and a huge amount of credit goes to you all. Thank you.





The Bird of the Year boys led a noble campaign, but unfortunately the kākā was no match for the mighty hoiho yellow-eyed penguin. The boys' feathers weren't too ruffled though as they came 17th out of a total of 74 'contestants'.



## Kākā-crazy college students

KATE HUSSELL

What does the kākā have in common with the average Nelson College student?

It's chatty, loud, clever, and can't be treated around chips.

Well, that's according to the school's social sciences teacher, David Van der Velde, who is helping his two Year 9 classes campaign for the bird to be this year's Bird of the Year. The nationwide competition, run by Forest and Bird, sees local groups and organisations campaign for a New Zealand native bird. Anyone can go online and place votes and the bird with the most votes by this Sunday at 5pm will be crowned the Bird of the Year for 2024. Since the competition began in 2005, the kākā has won the title. The students say they are proud to be the official ambassadors for the vulnerable parrot that is generally loved before it roasts.

food" says Hugo Fraser.

"In addition to making videos, getting themselves on the Ebon platform, and creating Facebook and Instagram pages, the boys also have a special mascot to help them reach voting status.

This is 'Yid', the kākā of Woodstock, a very out-kia and top. You can call him 'Yid' for short, and you'll see him around the school and the wider region in a dapper striped Nelson College vest, knitted by Miss Nicholls the chemistry teacher. He has been on plenty of adventures, including trips to the Abel Tasman, Nelson Lakes, and even Motueka for a round of golf. The boys are also hoping for celebrity endorsement from Snoop Doggy and have written him a letter, but have not heard back yet. The boys say they have been learning a lot on the campaign trail, including about endangered birds and invasive species. Today it is estimated that there are fewer than 30,000 kākā left.



From left are Nelson College Year 9 students Jason Sinclair, Talo Adair, Hugo Fraser, Zachariah Vengalis, Blake Chadwick (holding the mascot), Joel Steble, Cole Meisler, Anthony Turnbull, Zac Fleming and Ashlee Trezner, who are the official ambassadors for the kākā in the 2024 Bird of the Year competition. Photo: Kate Huswell.

in New Zealand. Requiring large sums of forest to survive, kākā are less than forest clearance for agriculture and logging have had a devastating effect, so have introduced pests. David says they all have just two words for Nelsonians: "Vote kākā".

And it kākā rejoice the supreme bird, topping vote celebrates with a victory lap around the school, and perhaps inspire a few votes. Check out the 'kākā' for Bird of the Year 2024 page on Facebook, or Talo, @birdoftheyear on Instagram. To vote, go to [www.birdoftheyear.org.nz](http://www.birdoftheyear.org.nz) by 15 September.



## Battle bots, hovercrafts and ocean exploration set to inspire

ELISE VOLLWEILER

It's not every day that our local youth get to blow things up, at least a local, or engine rebore to battle in a ring.

The 11th annual Battle Bot Festival, run by charitable trust Ministry of Inspiration, was held last week in venues at St Ignace and Nelson Adams club children attended the two day event from around the top of the town. The 40 odd workshops were all based on the principles of STEAMS education - that is, teaching the theory and practical skills involved with science, technology, engineering, art, maths, and society.

Organiser Cal Cornish says that the event "exposes kids to a variety of ideas and work that they have never been exposed to before".

The Battle Bot Festival is always popular, with 50,000 registrations coming through in the first 30 minutes at opening.

The Ministry of Inspiration also offers holiday programmes, as well as weekly STEAMS school classes, held in Nelson, Brightwater and Fenwick, with about 118 regular students and space for more.



Students from Nelson College and Nelson College Preparatory School had the chance to see what it's like to drive a Mars Rover and handle fossils dating back millions of years during a recent science visit to the school. Astrobiology educational programme sponsored funded visited the school last week with its interactive and immersive space science programme. Along with the passionate education came the inflatable Mars Discovery Astrobiology Dome that saw the latest available data from space to give an interactive look at the Moon and planets. Students also had the chance to control the six-wheeled robot. Mars Rover model and glass work for it. To take across complex terrain. Astrobiologist, Matt Magnuson kept the students engaged with fun facts like they could jump three times higher on Mars and cloning fossils extracted from earth that date back 3.4 billion years. Pictured are Romy Birmingham, 15, and Jack Todd, 13, with a collection of fossils and the controls to the Mars Rover model during the programme. Photo: Susie Hollway.



**Nelson College 1st XI win hockey promotion**

STEPHEN STUART Field to earn a place in next year's top division. The under-20 hockey jammers were runners-up at their tournament at Mount Margaret, while the junior basketball team reached the final for the third year running, finishing second in Christchurch's Hillmorton High School in Dunedin.

And Nelson College Under-15A and Under-16A rugby sides both finished second in their South Island tournaments in Christchurch. Meanwhile, Napier College club success by winning the B title at the South Island North Island Championships, being local rivals McLaren College #9.38 in the final in Christchurch. Both teams now promotion to higher grades in next season's club competition. And the New Zealand Girls A basketball team has qualified for the national championships for the first time in 12 years after reaching the play-off in the South Island finals in Dunedin.



Glenis Paul from the NZ Marine Studies Centre with the students Connor McKenzie, Finn Colley and Taimarino Luke holding seal fur and VR glasses during the Marine Studies day at Nelson College. Photo: Minou Jonatzke.

## Deep dive into marine study

MINOU JONATZKE

Last week, Glenis Paul, a member of the Marine Studies Centre, visited Nelson College Preparatory School to teach students about our moana (ocean) and how we can preserve and protect it through tiakitanga (guardianship). Using VR glasses and real whale teeth, she managed to transport the class from the Hauraki Gulf to the Fjordslands and even into the depths of Nelson Harbour in the blink of an eye.

The VR glasses allowed a face-to-face with seals, whales, and rare penguins, but even when you took them off, an endearing scene revealed itself.

The kids kept reaching for the animals, telling each other to turn around, and tried their hardest to keep down the noise with all the excitement in the room.

Afterwards, the children, who demonstrated a keen interest and understanding, discussed how we can save our environment from pollution and overfishing.

## To Asia and back: Nelson College principal all-in for all-boys education



The new principal of Nelson College Richard Washington recently returned to New Zealand after four years at a school in South Korea. BRADEN FASTIER/NELSON MAIL



# fine woodworking



These Year 9 craftsmen have been busy carving out a name for themselves in fine woodworking! In a technology programme called 'I am', students build picture frames using a mitre half lap joint and then create a representation of their cultural identity or roots. While the frames are made of pine, the designs employ a hardwood, donated by the Nelson Woodworkers Guild. The detail you can see etched into each design is actually achieved by burning with a pyrography pen. We think these designs are beautiful and no doubt are now being proudly displayed in each boy's home.

Left to Right: Jake Levett and his family bach in Okiwi Bay, Alex Rousselle, with a nod to his passion for boxing, Liam Schwartz, who loves mountain biking has a special place in his heart for the mountains and Ewan McInnes who grew up in Cape Town, South Africa and his representation of the iconic Table Mountain.



## preparatory school news

### epro8 challenge competition

Well done to the Prep boys who competed in the inter-school EPRO 8 challenges this term. We've had some incredible performances; two teams won their Nelson inter-school round and brought home the famous wooden cog trophy, and three out of four Prep teams reached the Nelson Marlborough Grand Final with the Prep team 'Epro9' placing second in an intense and thrilling final.



### spaceward bound workshop

We were really excited to have the Spaceward Bound workshops here at college. Spaceward Bound (SBNZ) is an astrobiology educational programme developed by the NZ Astrobiology Network. There were two workshops. The first was a stunning video of outer space, as captured from some of the most powerful telescopes in the world, viewed from inside a large planetarium which was set up in the college hall. For the second workshop, the educator showed astrobiology rock samples and a scaled down version of a Mars Rover. The boys even got to use a computer to make the Mars Rover move around the stage.





The team from Teen Dental Mobile are here for the rest of the term. If your son is not currently registered with a provider, sign up by filling out this [FORM](#)

## nc & ncg together



The Amnesty Committee from Nelson College (NC) and Nelson College for Girls (NCG) have come together to raise funds and awareness for ongoing crises in the Democratic Republic of Congo. This dedicated group, comprising 20 students from both colleges, meets fortnightly to discuss pressing humanitarian issues highlighted by Amnesty International and decide on causes they want to support.

The group is hosting a Quiz Night open to the public on Tuesday, 24th September, from 6.30 pm to 10 pm at Nelson College for Girls.

Entry is just \$15 per person, with all proceeds going directly to support the cause.

Light refreshments will be provided, and there are some fantastic prizes to be won! Stay tuned to our social media channels for more details on that.

So join us for an evening of fun, knowledge, and community spirit, all for a worthy cause. Let's come together to make a positive impact!



TUESDAY  
24TH  
SEPTEMBER

NC and NCG Present

**AMNESTY  
QUIZ**  
Night

**6:30PM Nelson College for  
Girls Hall**  
**Tickets \$15**  
**from Humanitix**



NELSON COLLEGE FOR GIRLS  
TE KURA TAMAWAHINE O WHAKATU

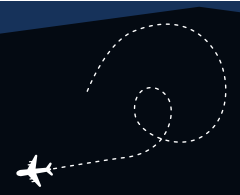


NELSON COLLEGE  
FOR GIRLS

[TICKETS](#)



keep us in the loop



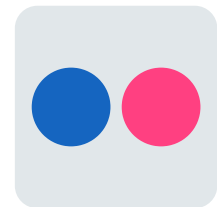
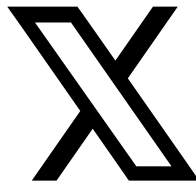
You know your son is  
awesome....but does everyone  
else????

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67 Waimea Road, Nelson 7010. Private Bag 16, Nelson 7010, NZ



## Holiday Programme



[Learn To Sail - Nelson Yacht Club](#)



Our amazing supporters, Lombardi's Nelson are opening the doors for a special evening in support of our team heading to the U19 National Youth Tournament in Napier in October

## U19 FUNDRAISER

Main of pizza or pasta  
\$25 per person  
Dessert  
\$16

5.30pm sitting  
7.00pm onwards sitting

Our U19 team will be your waiters

Book your table -  
admin@fcnelson.co.nz



**SUNDAY 22ND SEPTEMBER**

# AIKIDO



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