



# OTAGO GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

## DEPARTMENT OF INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS **NEWSLETTER** TERM 3 2024

### Message from our Principal, Mrs Bridget Davidson

Ake Ake Ake Kia Kaha E! Recently we celebrated Te Wiki O Te Reo Māori in New Zealand - Māori Language Week. We celebrate our country's indigenous language and learn a few more words and phrases each year. Many students at Otago Girls' High School study Te Reo Māori (Māori Language) and Te Ao Haka (Māori Performing Arts).

Ake Ake Ake Kia Kaha is the theme of Māori Language Week for 2024 and means 'Forever Brave!'. This phrase applies to our international students who leave their home countries and travel to New Zealand for their educational adventure. This is a big step and one that will benefit them throughout their life. It is not easy to adjust to a new place, new customs, a new school and a new home. The benefits are immense - not just in language and education, but also in life and the connections they make. Our international students make and take memories with them forever.

Thank you to Mrs Rose Gilani who has worked tirelessly to look after our international students.



We welcomed sixteen new students at the start of Term 3 and all of our international students are a joy to have in the school. Many are trying new subjects like Outdoor Education, Design and Visual Communication, Photography and Dance.

Mrs Christine Mulligan has been ably teaching ESOL while Mrs Boomer has been in Europe. Thanks





especially for the amazing programme Mrs Mulligan ran while the other students were in parallel examinations. This included card-making, baking, visits to the Art Gallery, museums, street art trails, Olveston House, and the botanical gardens.

We are sad to farewell six of our students back to their home countries. They will always be 'Otago Girls' and we look forward to them returning one day to visit.

Ngā mihi nui  
**Bridget Davidson**  
 Tumuaki ~ Principal





## Message from our Director of International Students, Mrs Rose Gilani

The flowers and cherry blossom trees are in full-bloom and the weather has been a mix of cool winds coupled with strong sunshine. Beautiful weather as we head into the term break.

I would like to thank everyone in our close-knitted school team who have gone above and beyond to support us in taking care of our lovely group of international students. Also, a huge thank you to our wonderful, dedicated homestay families and our group of well-experienced education advisors who have always been there for us. It has been a really busy, full-on term and the time has passed so quickly!

Mrs Katherine Boomer, our Dean of International Students, has been away on an exotic trip across Europe and the Middle East, competing in cross-country ultra-marathons. We are looking forward to hearing about her adventures.







This term has not been without its challenges, ranging from Covid-related medical issues to unexpected accidents, but we have remained strong and have worked together to ensure our international students are well taken care of and happy. I am proud to say that we have a really solid international team that works fast to find creative, workable solutions for any of the issues we face. And we work closely with our homestay families, education advisors, and families back home to ensure our international students are cared for in the best way possible.

This term, three of our students landed earlier in Dunedin and had the chance to explore our beautiful city before school started. One of the students enjoyed a week in Clyde and explored the surrounding areas while two of our other students went on an expedition where we headed off to the Moeraki boulders, looking at the spherical pre-historic rocks protruding from the sand and collecting beautiful shells from the pristine beach.

Also at the start of Term 3, we were very busy hosting our long-term sister school from Japan, Yasuda Girl's School. For two full weeks, we were packed with exciting activities ranging from Megazone laser tag to a visit to the peninsula and the albatross centre to touring Larnach Castle and exploring the University of Otago and the Otago Museum. The students were full of energy and enthusiasm, and I noticed that they loved to stop to sample our hot chocolates, sweets, and ice cream on display at every location we went. A huge thank you to all the homestay families who opened their homes and went all-out to host these lovely girls and show them around our beautiful city. I heard the story of one homestay family that bought all the ingredients to make sushi and the Yasuda student was happy to prepare it for them one evening. It is these types of cultural exchanges that we hope for during the homestay visits. It is a chance for the international student to learn from our culture, but it is also an opportunity for us to learn from them. It is my hope that as we grow, we will host international students from many different cultures and will thus have the opportunity to learn exponentially.

We have been inundated with many intricate pieces of writing this term, so I hope you enjoy the reading and the photos!

Thank you to all the teachers who encouraged our international students to prepare such beautiful pieces of writing and thank you to the students for taking the time to write these articles so that other potential students can have a feel for what our school is like.

As this term closes with all its memories, we look forward to another round of excitement in Term 4.





## International Team

Mrs Rose Gilani (Director of International Students)

Mrs Bridget Davidson (Principal)

Mrs Katherine Boomer (Dean of International Students)



## Term 3 International Students

YEAR 9	YEAR 10	YEAR 11	YEAR 12	YEAR 13
Moana Li	Nora Li	Christine Cai	Biluan Allison Han	Grace Dong
Felicity Zhao	Gale Jan	Chihiro Homma	Mai Someya	Hebe Leung
	Sumika Moriya	Ada Hu	Juliane Stormanns	Pauline Strauss
	Zimo Alisa Song	Kira Linnewedel	Marlena Siefke	
	Yiling Zhang	Josie Menzel	Hanne Grossmann	
	Silei Chen	Maho Shimizu	Yui Fujiwara	
	Lucia Jianing	Antonia Barten	Lea Graichen Diaz	
	Sana Ishikawa	Risa Hayafune		
	Emma Koch	Aya Noguchi		



## Reflections of Term 3 from our Deputy Principal Ms Kathryn Dick



Term Three has been a busy, active, and celebratory one with a focus on academic success but also underpinned by good humour.

We began the term by taking the opportunity to show off the amazing school that we are through our annual Open Night. Students from across Dunedin toured the school on Tuesday 30 July and were impressed with our fantastic facilities and positive student and staff community. They were treated to snippets of the best of our art and artists including Wairua Pūhou, our kapa haka group, our choir, rock bands, and instrumentalists as well as dance and drama in our Visual and Performing Arts suite. A plethora of sports opportunities were also on display over at our international-sized gymnasium. Academic success was on show through the many and varied subjects on offer and each of the young people was guided around the school with family by an enthusiastic student who was very proud of their kura.

In August we were delighted to host students from Yasuda Girls' High School in Hiroshima, Japan. Many of our students took the opportunity to invite their Japanese sisters into their homes where they were treated to fabulous Dunedin and Central Otago activities. During their stay, the students enjoyed English Language Lessons, truffle making, Māori culture, and visiting Larnach Castle and the Peninsula.

Our Jazz Band took a trip to Blenheim at the top of the South Island to perform in the Southern Jam Youth Jazz Festival in early August. Dr Martin, an accomplished jazz musician himself along with Mr Shields, our talented head of the performing arts accompanied the students from both Otago Boys and Otago Girls. Our Big Band, All Blues, earned a Silver Award for their stellar performance, while Minor Blues was honoured with a Bronze Award for their outstanding Combo set.

August was a huge month for the arts. The junior school took to the stage with a production called, "The Eco-Chronicles" written by Ms Dick especially for her cast. The juniors presented a delightful performance that included strong soloists, beautiful modern dance, and some lively hip hop that supported the actors on their journey. The choir went to Timaru for Cadenza, a national choral competition run for schools in the







South Island. They came away with a silver award. Our Pasifika group ran a showcase of talent up at Otago Boys' sto to fundraise for Polyfest, which came later in the term. We also had two students who participated in Pacific Voices, an oratory competition for students across Otago. Frances Tuigamala from Year 9 was first in the junior section while Tanya Moeono took second place in the senior section.

One cold Dunedin morning, the local branch of the New Zealand Council of Women hosted a breakfast for some of our up-and-coming leaders. Called the Inspiring Young Women's Breakfast, we were treated to a hot breakfast and presentations by influential and truly inspiring women, some of whom went to Otago Girls' some time ago and are out there in the community making creative lives.



In September we enjoyed a huge Cultural day where we had visiting speakers and esteemed guests who helped us celebrate the diversity of Otago Girls'. There was the annual Polyfest at the Edgar Centre where Tamaiti o le Moana and Wairua Pūhou blew the crowds away with their talented performances which celebrated the best of Māori and Pacific culture.

The sporting life of our young people is always on show, and we have some incredibly gifted and outstanding athletes. The Year 13s headed away on a cross-country ski trip. Winter Sports Week saw many of our sporting codes heading across the South Island for tournaments. On our Sports Blues night, we were also thrilled to welcome back ex-girl Kiana Pelasio as our guest speaker. Kiana shared her inspiring journey of resilience—after facing the disappointment of not being selected as a training partner for one team, she picked herself up and was soon offered a contract with the Central Pulse netball team. Since then, she has never looked back! It was wonderful to have Kiana back in school, sharing her story of perseverance and determination.



As the term comes to a close we reflect on a term that has also included senior examinations in preparation for the national examinations in November. We have celebrated the cultural success of our students of the Arts in our Cultural Blues evening and we are looking forward to Term Four when we will hold our annual and traditional Celebration Service at Knox Church. This will see us singing for the next few weeks joined by the talented rock band members and soloists who lead the way. We can't wait to see what Year 13 will come up with as they prepare for their 'always entertaining' farewell Medley.





# FAREWELL TO OUR LEAVING LEADERS



Wow ,



# Shuhan (Felicity) Zhao

**Nationality:** Chinese

1. How long did you study at OGHS?

*I studied at OGHS for four weeks and three days.*

2. What did you love about studying at OGHS?

*People here are nice. Students, teachers and many other staff in school are happy to provide help whenever they can. During my study, I always felt welcomed and cared for. The school environment is beautiful. Even in winter, the grasses are green and blossoms bloomed lively; beautiful sea or street views can also be seen from many classroom windows. The library is comfy and the books are interesting -- for a bookworm like me, this is a thing that could be quite worth being happy for. There are also many activities; even in my short stay, I have already been through a bake sale, a SpeechFest, an Omathalon and a shared lunch for internationals. School life is fun but meaningful at OGHS.*

3. What is one OGHS memory that you will never forget?

*Probably the first time I successfully sewed a 1.5 cm seam with the help of classmates. It's not perfect, but for someone who barely had an idea of what a sewing machine looks like, this is already a great achievement.*

4. How has your experience at OGHS transformed you?

*At OGHS, I saw people with different languages, nations and religions becoming friends and caring for each other, and I also saw the beauty and benefits it brings. This strengthened my belief in the bright future of humanity that shall be built if we truly work together. My study also earned me courage and experiences towards further foreign study chances in my future, since it brought me skills, drawing techniques and writing abilities.*



5. Would you encourage other international students to study at OGHS and why?

*Yes. Firstly, there is a complete system for international studying, and new students won't feel new when starting classes later than others. Secondly, people are welcoming, so it's not difficult to make friends and join in their society. Last but not least, the environment is beautiful, classrooms are bright and unique, and the gym is warm and well equipped.*

6. What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about studying abroad?

*Be welcoming and kind to others, and see others as welcoming and kind.*



**At OGHS, I saw people with different languages, nations and religions becoming friends and caring for each other, and I also saw the beauty and benefits it brings.**



# Sana Ishikawa

**Nationality:** Japanese

1. How long did you study at OGHS?

*Six weeks.*

2. What did you love about studying at OGHS?

*Maths and Science.*

3. What is one OGHS memory that you will never forget?

*My best friend, who talked to me when I was nervous in my first class. I got a badge, and I picked up trash with my friends after school!*

4. How has your experience at OGHS transformed you?

*I think I have experienced many things at OGHS and have come to see things from different perspectives.*

5. Would you encourage other international students to study at OGHS and why?

*I think so. Many of the students are very friendly and kind, and the teachers are very approachable.*

6. What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about studying abroad?

*I think it is very important to proactively talk to people you want to talk to!*



*I think I have experienced many things at OGHS and have come to see things from different perspectives.*





# Maho Shimizu

**Nationality: Japanese**

1. How long did you study at OGHS?

*10 weeks (one term).*

2. What did you love about studying at OGHS?

*I made a lot of friends from different countries and I learnt to study differently from Japan.*

3. What is one OGHS memory that you will never forget?

*Going hiking in my Outdoor Education class and volunteering for a school cleanup.*

4. How has your experience at OGHS transformed you?

*My English has improved and my mental health is stronger now.*

5. Would you encourage other international students to study at OGHS and why?

*Yes, because you can make friends from many countries, and there are things that you can only experience here.*

6. What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about studying abroad?

*Be proactive and talk to the students yourself, ask your teacher anytime you have a question, and spend time with your host family.*



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and talk to the  
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# Aya Noguchi

**Nationality: Japanese**

1. How long did you study at OGHS?

*For one term.*

2. What did you love about studying at OGHS?

*I really enjoyed lunchtime and talking with my friends.*

3. What is one OGHS memory that you will never forget?

*The pizza party with other international students and Kiwi students.*

4. How has your experience at OGHS transformed you?

*I was not very active before I came to OGHS and after studying here, I became very active and involved in lots of activities.*

5. Would you encourage other international students to study at OGHS and why?

*Yes, because studying at OGHS was very fun.*

6. What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about studying abroad?

*At first, I think you may be uncomfortable and sometimes find things difficult, but I think you will feel happy when you get used to your surroundings.*



*I was not very active before I came to OGHS and after studying here, I became very active and involved in lots of activities.*





# Risa Hayafune

**Nationality: Japan**

1. How long did you study at OGHS?

*For one term.*

2. What did you love about studying at OGHS?

*Lunchtime, going to the canteen with my friends and talking with my friends.*

3. What is one OGHS memory that you will never forget?

*I will never forget the ski trip: skiing and playing Uno with my roommates in our cabin.*

4. How has your experience at OGHS transformed you?

*Now that I can understand English, I have become more confident and my communication skills have further improved.*

5. Would you encourage other international students to study at OGHS and why?

*Yes, I recommend it. This is because you can choose and study the subjects you like, there are many events, and you can interact with a variety of people.*

6. What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about studying abroad?

*Have confidence in yourself, speak positively and have fun doing your best!*



*I will never forget the ski trip: skiing and playing Uno with my roommates in our cabin.*



# Nanako Muramoto

**Nationality: Japanese**

1. How long did you study at OGHS?

*I studied at OGHS for two months.*

2. What did you love about studying at OGHS?

*I loved the traditions of OGHS and learning about Māori culture. I also loved studying about geography, music, and food.*

3. What is one OGHS memory that you will never forget?

*I went to a market that was held at school. I experienced the foods and cultures of many countries. I also went on a sightseeing trip with the other exchange students. That was very memorable.*

4. How has your experience at OGHS transformed you?

*My experience at OGHS made me want to try more things. For example, I want to do volunteer activities and try new clubs. I want to communicate more with people from all over the world.*

5. Would you encourage other international students to study at OGHS and why?

*Yes because the school has many activities like volunteering, clubs, and lots of subjects.*



*My experience at OGHS made me want to try more things.*



*The students have many chances to try new things! The teachers are also very nice!*

6. What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about studying abroad?

*I advise that they try everything they want to do. Be friendly. Ask people to help when you need it.*





# Yui Fujiwara

**Nationality: Japanese**

1. How long did you study at OGHS?

*One term.*

2. What did you love about studying at OGHS?

*I really love the music programme. The Music Suite at OGHS is really impressive! I enjoyed playing piano, guitar, and the drums.*

3. What is one OGHS memory that you will never forget?

*When I arrived, I was very sick and my homestay family was really wonderful and took such good care of me for many weeks. I am very grateful to them for their help and care, and now I feel much better.*

4. How has your experience at OGHS transformed you?

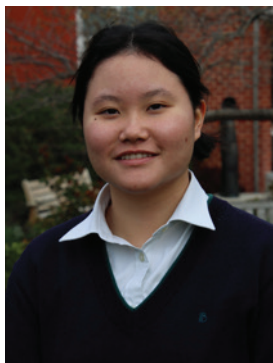
*After being sick for so many weeks, I appreciate school so much more and I had the chance to enjoy OGHS a lot more than I thought I would. I now feel very happy and grateful for school and all the classes and the teachers, more than ever.*

5. Would you encourage other international students to study at OGHS and why?

*Yes, I would encourage them to study at OGHS because the school is fun and exciting and the teachers are very friendly and so kind.*

6. What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about studying abroad?

*Have an open mind, don't be shy, and try new things.*



*I really love the music programme. The Music Suite at OGHS is really impressive!*





# Miu Kurahashi

**Nationality: Japanese**

1. How long did you study at OGHS?

*I studied at OGHS for two months.*

2. What did you love about studying at OGHS?

*I loved ESOL class. ESOL class is English class for international students. It really helped me improve my English skills.*

3. What is one OGHS memory that you will never forget?

*A memory that I will never forget is Culture Day. On that day we could learn about various cultures and try food from many different countries. .*

4. How has your experience at OGHS transformed you?

*Making new friends in NZ and keeping in touch with them has transformed me.*

5. Would you encourage other international students to study at OGHS and why?

*Yes, I would. Students and teachers at OGHS were very friendly and kind to us.*

6. What advice would you give to other students who are thinking about studying abroad?

*Studying abroad will be a great experience for you, and you will make many new friends and wonderful memories*



*Making new friends  
in NZ and keeping in  
touch with them has  
transformed me.*







## Mai Someya: Most Promising Player

Congratulations to our international student Mai Someya for being selected for both Otago Rugby u18 team and Rugby League Scorpions South Island rep team. She has chosen to do both. We are very proud of Mai's efforts to get into these teams. Mai recently played a fantastic tournament with the U18 Scorpions Rugby League team, securing 2nd place at the National Youth Tournament. Mai's hard work and talent were recognized as she was awarded **\*\*Most Promising Player\*\***! We are incredibly proud of your achievements, Mai! Keep shining on and off the field. Also, a huge thank you to Mai's homestay family for all their commitment in supporting Mai throughout her rugby journey in New Zealand.





# STUDENT ARTICLES

## OSSSA Olympic Sports Event By Sana Ishikawa

We went to the Otago Secondary Schools Sports Association (OSSSA) Olympic Sports Event on 22nd August. We played tennis, four square, cornhole, frisbee and cricket with other international students. I enjoyed cornhole the best because we were impressed by our efforts to work together to succeed, and by how closely we worked with our teammates. Also, it was my first time interacting with students from another school, which was a great experience. It was a really fun time.





# Student Perspective

*A local student's view on having international students in our school community.*

**By Edelweiss Von Hofler**

Whenever I come across international students at Otago Girls, the first thing that comes up in my mind is- how do I approach them? I feel like this is something that many students in our school ask themselves. It's the type of feeling when you meet someone you find really interesting and cool but still, you can't find the right words to say to them and I thought that this problem would become ten times harder for me if I tried befriending an international student. But in the end, I was completely wrong because I turned out to have so many things in common with them.

This term, I've made friends with three particular international students; Josie, Maho, and Antonia! Josie is my kindred spirit who shares the same worldview and opinions with me. Maho is the sweetest person and her smile is contagious. Antonia can be very random at times and because of that, she never fails to make me laugh. I spent time with them during small class talks, having lunch together, even sometimes hanging out with them in town.

I'd say that the hardest part of befriending an international student is language barriers. But then again, what really matters is trying your best at starting conversations with them. My advice is to do simple friendly things like following them



on their social media or inviting them to eat lunch with you. When I first met Maho, we didn't really know anything about each other until one day, she replied to one of my stories on Instagram. I posted something about a show I really liked and apparently she also liked that show! We then struggled a bit and I could tell that she would translate some of my messages into Japanese but it made the conversation more wholesome! From then on, we shared many things together.

I'm definitely going to miss my international friends but I'm going to make sure that I spend more time with them while I still can. Even when they leave, I'll definitely keep in touch with them and perhaps even visit them in their home countries in the future!

I've also been told that I could even become an international ambassador for our school in the future which is unexpected, but if it means meeting more interesting people, then I'm all for it.





# Introductory Letter

## By Emma Koch

Dear Otago Girls' High School,  
Dear Mrs Gilani,



I would be very happy to visit Otago Girls' High School for a year, so here is something about me:

I'm the younger one and have one sister. She is now 17 and I'm 14. My parents are both very supportive and do everything possible for us. We have two cats and a dog. We travel a lot.

I love to play basketball, it is very important to me. I'm afraid to lose a game and also always very excited when I'm playing. Through basketball I learned discipline and teamwork. Before I played basketball I was in a swimming club. I switched because I wanted to play and to be in a team. Because of basketball I have many friends who I can win or lose with, no matter what's going on. We're a team even if there are moments where someone doesn't like another person. The best feeling for me is when the ball is going through the net or when we play so well together that the other team has no chance.

I love to travel. I'm always very excited when I'm sitting in the plane and waiting for the departure.

I love to get to know new cultures and watch the sunset at the beach on a vacation. With my family we travelled all over Europe, Costa Rica and twice to the USA. For me traveling opens doors to new cultures and people, and helps you get to know new things like food... I love the smell of the ocean and feeling of the sand and sun. And also I have been to New Zealand before (say my parents, but I don't remember; when I was 2 years old).

My goals and wishes for my life later is that I want to become an architect and make vintage houses. I want to design my own house and my best friend's house directly near mine. I want kids and I want to give them the best life I can. I want a husband who is a good father for my kids and is a good husband.

I chose New Zealand for my exchange year because I wanted to improve my English so that I can live in other countries later without having problems. I want to get to know the culture and the traditions of the Māori. And I want to see how other countries and continents play basketball. I heard that the people are very open and kind. I love the beach, it is also an argument for New Zealand. I go frequently to basketball games so I want to see a rugby game one time. I'm very curious about new things especially when it comes to sport.





The host family, the Jacksons, is very kind, open and lovely. They are friends with us because my parents did a world trip where they met Chris and Rachael. I didn't know them until January this year. We met them in Norway to go skiing. Me and Orla were snowboarding while the others were skiing. It was very funny and cool, and since then we were in contact.

I want to study at your school because it combines the subjects I need and those which interest me. I can follow basketball. Maybe I could also have the opportunity to also try something new out of your sport selection. It is very serious to me that I can stay fit.

I'm very excited about "bring your own device" because at my school is that not allowed until the 11th grade, so that is something new, to work with a device in a school as well.

I hope to give you some impression about myself and I am looking forward to hearing your answer, if I can come to study with you.

Thank you for your time.

Kind regards  
Emma







## Ngāi Tahu Research

### By Marlena Siefke



In my English class my teacher asked me and the other international student in my class to do research about Dunedin or Otago. She gave us examples of topics we could choose and one of them was the local Māori iwi. After I saw the topic I was immediately interested. I heard a lot about Māori culture in my few weeks here so I decided it would be a perfect opportunity to learn more about it and to understand how important the Māori culture is for the people in New Zealand, especially because the Māori people make up 17.1 percent of the population of New Zealand.

So I started my research, and started with a clear statement who Māori people are.

Māori are the indigenous Polynesian people of mainland New Zealand (Aotearoa). Māori people originated with settlers from East Polynesia, who arrived in New Zealand in several waves of canoe voyages between roughly 1320 and 1350.

After I had a clear statement who Māori are I researched who the local iwi in Dunedin is. I had a little struggle with finding sources but my teacher gave me a really helpful website to get information about the local iwi. Because of that website I found out a lot of information about the local iwi called Ngāi Tahu.

The Ngāi Tahu are the main Māori tribe/iwi of the South Island. They made their home in the South Island over 800 years ago. The ancestors (tīpuna) of the Ngāi Tahu were long-distance seafarers, who were riding the ocean currents and navigating by stars on voyaging waka from Hawaiki Nui. They refer to whakapapa as their ancestral link which binds all Ngāi Tahu whānau.

Ngāi Tahu translates to the “people of Tahu”. With that it means that all tribal members can trace their ancestry back to the tribe’s founder Tahu Pōtiki, who is the name giver of the tribe.

The people of the Ngai Tahu iwi have strong connections with their land, the sea, the environment, the world and the universe. All of those aspects are found in their thinking, acting and talking. These connections the Ngai Tahu have are formed by



the whakapapa because they identify with it, and include connections with nature and life from their ancestors.

Because the Ngāi Tahu is the main iwi of the South Island they are living everywhere on the island. Their tribal territory (takiwā) stretches from Kaikoura in the north to Stewart Island in the south and covers the entire west coast of the island.

An important place for the Ngāi Tahu people is Castle Hill. This place has been recognised by the Ngāi Tahu Claims Settlement Act as the spiritual centre of the universe and should be treated with respect.

The history of the Ngai Tahu is an important part to understand them.

Their history starts with their tribal identity which is traced back to Paikea, who lived in the Polynesian homeland of Hawaiki. To flee from the dead the Ngāi Tahu came to New Zealand and settled on the east coast on the North Island first. Later they migrated to Wellington and through Cook to the South Island where they settled. As they moved down the island they fought several battles with two tribes that were already living in the South Island (Ngāti Māmoē and Waitaha). By the end of the 18th century they had reached Foveaux Strait at the bottom of the South Island, and occupied the west coast. Later on the Ngāi Tahu connected with the other tribes and formed unions through marriage.

In the 1820s and 1830s the chief Te Rauparaha led the North Island tribe Ngāti Toa Rangatira in attacks on the Ngāi Tahu. Even with the wars the Ngāi Tahu did not lose their territory but experienced a loss of their people.

Between 1844 and 1863 Ngāi Tahu sold most of their land to the British Crown, who had promised to leave them some land and food-gathering places for the tribe, and to provide schools and hospitals. These promises were not kept and for 150 years the Ngāi Tahu pursued a claim for compensation, which was settled in the 1990s. An important part of the claim was that the sacred mountain of Mt Cook (Aoraki) belonged to the tribe and that their ownership of pounamu (greenstone) was acknowledged.

With the history of the Ngāi Tahu comes their language.

The Ngāi Tahu speak Te Reo Māori like the other tribes of Māori in New Zealand. But there is a difference between the Te Reo Māori in their language to the one other tribes speak. The Ngāi Tahu have a dialect (mita) of Te Reo Māori.

For example, the Ngāi Tahu replace the generic 'NG' and use 'K' instead.

Also a variety of words (kupu) from the Ngai Tahu are unknown to those who descend from other iwis in New Zealand. The Ngai Tahu as well stepped away from using the generic nouns for whānau members. An example for that would be the use of 'pōua' instead of 'koro' for grandfather.







## Jazz Trip

### By Chihiro Homma



I'm going to share a story about my jazz club trip. Our combined Jazz Band from Otago Girls' High School and Otago Boys' High School went to Blenheim to the 2024 Southern Jam Youth Jazz. It was a long trip of 4 nights and 5 days that was so much fun and an amazing experience for me.

The first day I had to wake up at 5 o'clock because the flight departed at 6:20am. It was one of the things that excited me -- to go by plane. Our plan was to go to Wellington and transfer to another flight to Blenheim. We could see beautiful sunrise scenery from my seat. Wellington airport was so big and there were many people. The plane to Blenheim was so small. I've never seen a plane like that before. I was surprised and it made me laugh. After taking a plane, we arrived safely in Blenheim. We went to the New World to buy our meal for these 5 days. We cooked our meals ourselves in each room. After, we did our public performance. Of course our combo performance was great, but the other schools' performances were wonderful as well.

At the end of the day we went to a convenience store and had ice cream. So many fun things, but it was still the first day.

The second morning we didn't have anything planned for performance so we went to visit Blenheim. We went to a museum and bowling. We separated into three teams. It was my second time to do bowling. First I got a high score but it was not counted as a point because I'd crossed the line. I was disappointed. That afternoon we went to a restaurant to perform music. That was the first performance for All Blues after we arrived. I enjoyed playing music and the audience enjoyed listening as well. I'm very glad to have heard much clapping of hands. This second day was a busy performance day. At night we did three public performances. I was happy when we got an encore at one restaurant. There was so much excitement.

The third day, I had pancakes for breakfast. The pancake shaker was one of the things I wanted to try. I've decided to take it home as a souvenir. After having breakfast we had the Southern Jam competition, the highlight of this trip. We finished successfully. That night we went to a restaurant and we had dinner there. I ordered pasta. I was able to relax and enjoy a delicious meal.

The fourth day, we went to the ASB theatre for a prizegiving and workshop. We had a workshop first. We played short solos with tunes. I had to play alone in front of all the students, so I was a little nervous. But our teammate cheered me. And after it, prizegiving started. Our big band, All Blues, earned a Silver Award for our stellar performance, while Minor Blues was honoured with a Bronze Award for their outstanding combo set.

At night we joined the final performance, which was a gala concert. After that we listened to other school performances as well. I left with an impression of all-stars. I had a great time there listening to such a talented performance.

I was so glad to continue to play music and playing in other countries is such a great experience for me. I got this great opportunity. Through this trip I thought New Zealand has many talented music players. In Japan we practice every day and it is so strict, but In New Zealand they enjoy playing. I thought it showed in the performance as well. This trip was so much fun and I'll never forget it.



# Larnach Castle

## By Lea Graichen Diaz



William Larnach was born on 27 January 1833. He was an Australian banker and New Zealand politician. He died in October 1898 within the parliament buildings. Larnach Castle was built in 1871 by William Larnach. The castle was built for his first wife Eliza Larnach. It took three years to build the castle and 12 years to embellish the interior. The castle had a Scottish Baronial construction style.

William had three wives. His first wife Eliza for whom he built Larnach Castle; his second wife Mary Alleyne who was the half-sister of his first wife Eliza; and his third wife Constance de Bathe Larnach. He and Eliza had six children. Both Eliza and Mary died at the age of 38. William killed himself after his favourite daughter Kate died.

After Larnach's suicide there were legal battles over Larnach's property. The Government bought the castle in 1906 for 3000 pounds. The castle was used

as a hospital for mental patients and for soldiers who were hurt in the war. The castle was used by many different persons and was used for many different things.

In 1967 the Barker family bought the castle. They still own it to this day. Larnach Castle belongs to the Barker family for over 40 years now. They are doing restoration work on a lot of different rooms. They have the Castle open for visitors. You can do a lot of things there. You are able to have a tour around the Castle and its Gardens, have Victorian high tea, eat in the Ballroom Cafe and have dinner in the Castle. Larnach Castle is also a popular venue for weddings and big events.

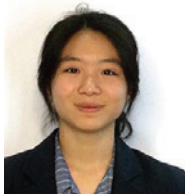
Larnach Castle has a reputation of being one of New Zealand's most haunted buildings. People said that they saw a bearded Victorian gentleman that is presumably Larnach. There are unexplained smells of cigar smoke in unoccupied rooms. People say that they felt as if they suddenly had been pushed in the back. All of that draws paranormal investigators from New Zealand and overseas. Larnach Castle appears as a location in various "ghost hunter" television programmes from both New Zealand and the US.





# My First Ski Trip

## By Ada Hu



At the end of August I went to ski with school. I was so excited on the way to the bus. It was my first time seeing much snow and my first time skiing. We went to the Remarkables ski area which is in Queenstown. I thought that in Queenstown it would be very cold, the lake would get icy and the whole town would have a bit of snow on the ground. But it is not that cold, the boat can still sail and the ground has no snow. But I still needed to wear a down jacket at night.

I was very excited and a bit nervous on the bus on the way to the ski area. Why was I excited? Because it was my first time seeing much snow on the ground even though I can make snowmen, play snowball fights and ski. Why was I a bit nervous? Because I felt skiing is hard and I might not find my balance. So I felt the two kilometre road up to the ski area was far. I could feel that my heart was jumping so fast. I could feel my mouth wanting to smile but I couldn't. This emotion was stopped by the sunshine coming in the window and shining on my face. I snapped out of it and realised that I was almost there. I got off the bus and looked at the road we were coming to, then my gaze focused on the mountains. The mountains also had snow on the top and the gold sunshine made it amazing -- the colour was pink mixing with gold yellow.

We borrowed skis and ski boots from the ski area. The shoes are hard to get into because they are very tight and they don't use shoelaces to tie them up; they use three fittings. I put on my helmet, goggles, gloves, and boots, then brought all my gear and walked up the stairs to go out into the snow. The boots are high-top and tight, which made it difficult to walk. I couldn't walk properly because the boots cover your feet, ankles and half the calf so that you couldn't move your ankle when walking. I walked like a robot -- my heel touched the ground first and kept moving up to my toes; it was harder to walk up and down the stairs even though you had to carry your ski gear.

I walked up the stairs and I saw a snow-white world. The whole area was covered in snow. Chair-lifts were moving in a loop; the coaches were meeting in a circle; people were skiing; I was standing there, looking at the whole area and holding my ski gear. Until I heard someone calling me, "Ada!" I followed the sound and saw my friends waving their hands. We tried to put on skis but I didn't know how to exert my strength so I just stepped on it hard. Actually you just need to put



your toes first and step hard at the heel, so it will feel easy to put on skis.

On the morning of the first day of skiing, the weather was lovely but when we started our ski lesson I felt a little bit sad. The lesson was supposed to start at 9 a.m. but the coach arrived late and they didn't have enough people to teach us. So we had 14 students in a big group and this group included first time skiers and skier in 'green' level. The coach couldn't really help someone who was a first time skier because someone skiing at 'green' level would feel bored. I felt that I didn't learn much in this lesson. I just learned the base position and didn't do it right.

If you ask me, "What did I do in the afternoon? Was it free time to ski with friends? When you didn't actually know how to ski, what did you do?" I would say, the time in the ski area, except lessons, was free time to ski with your friends (3 people less in the friends ski group). I felt that I could go skiing on the green trails, so I went to take the Sugar Bowl (a chair-lift) to go up to the mountain. We didn't talk a lot and just sat on it. They might talk but I was in my own world - there just was me and nature - which was a silent world. It was my first time leaving the practice area, so I followed



my friends. I was smoothly skiing, until I saw my friend fall. At that moment I focused on my friend and forgot to move my feet, then I fell. I noticed the snow was different from the practice area. On the higher area of the mountain the snow was more like natural snow. When I touched it, I felt more soft and comfortable; when I skied on it, I felt rather hard and it was difficult to control the skis. On the practice area the snow was more like artificial snow. When I touched it, it felt like crushed ice on the ground; When I skied on it, it felt soft and it was easier to ski.

I stood up and kept skiing until I skied back to the start. I fell 6 times, and every time I fell I stood up and repeated. Other people learned from the coach but I learned from mistakes. After every time I fell, I felt I was improving, because next time my number of falls decreased, even though it was zero for the last three times. Every time I took the chair-lift I was thinking, "Why did I fall? What can I do to decrease the number of falls?" I skied many times and I discovered that I was scared of other people near me and scared of fast speeds. If those things happened, I would quickly change my position and slow down. That's why I fell, actually I just needed to move my feet a little bit then I would slow down, but I always moved too much. Finally I overcame my worry, then I did it.

On the second day of skiing, I heard the weather was worse than the first day. Sure enough, there was snow the night before and this day was cloudy with some chair-lifts closed, but it didn't affect the skiing much for lower levels. Our lesson on this day was very fun. The coach was a lady whose first language is Spanish. She removed our ski poles and let us find balance and move without poles. When I first moved and skied without poles, I found balance but I did not feel safe. When I wanted to move on the flat ground, I didn't have my poles to help me move. The only thing

I could do was change my feet's position. Observing the coach, I noticed that she opened her front skis and closed the back into a "V" shape. Then she moved her feet as if rollerblades were being pushed to the side and back. Gradually, I felt comfortable to ski without poles even after the lesson finished and I went to grab my poles and I felt that it was weird to use poles. During the lesson, the coach played snow-fighting with us - she skied first and we followed her and threw snowballs to hit her. Before, I was so confused, why a snowman could stand and didn't fall. There is a thing I noticed, when you just grab it, it is soft but when you give it a bit of strength to bear down it, it will become stiff as a rock even though when you hit someone and the snowball won't break. So that's why if you make a snowman, it won't fall.

The last morning was really fun but the weather gradually got worse in the afternoon. The sky started snowing and the wind got stronger. So all the chair-lifts closed and the whole mountain closed at 13 o'clock. We just finished skiing early and went back to the place where we slept. Then all of us prepared to go to Queenstown to have dinner and go shopping but at the foot of the mountain it was still raining. Most people didn't bring their umbrellas (including me). So when we came back to the sleep area my hair was wet.

It snowed all night on the mountain. Everyone really wanted to ski and we were waiting for the ski area website to show if the weather was good enough for skiing, but things didn't work out. The mountain wasn't open on the third day. The teachers decided to go back to Dunedin early. After only skiing for two days, I am already looking forward to joining the ski trip next year. I love skiing not because of my friends. The main reason is because of this sport.





# TERM 4 EVENTS\*

**Week 1** Scholarship Morning Tea (16 Oct)  
Scholar and Service Blues (17 Oct)  
Spring Connect Alumni Event (18 Oct)

**Week 2** Celebration at Knox Church (22 Oct)  
Year 10 Market Day (24 Oct)

**Week 3** Labour Day (28 Oct) – No School  
House Singing Competition (30 Oct)  
Last Day for Seniors (1 Nov)  
Morning Tea for Yr 13 (1 Nov)

**Week 4** NCEA Exams (5 Nov)  
Junior Exams (8 Nov)

**Week 5** Yr 10 Geology Department at Otago University (13 Nov)  
Writers' Retreat (13 Nov)

**Week 6** Yr10 First Aid Session (Nov 18)

**Week 7** Yr10 Camp (25 Nov)  
First XI Cricket – Willows (30 Nov)

**Week 8** Leavers' Assembly and Prizegiving (3 Dec)

World Challenge Depart for Cambodia (3 Dec)

Juniors leave 12.30pm (4 Dec)

Year 13 Formal (4 Dec)

**\*There are numerous other events and activities taking place during the term.**



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