



## Canterbury and Chatham Islands Regional Newsletter 01 July 2019

### Kia ora,

You all make such a difference to the experiences of students and their whānau, and as we come to the end of another very busy term I would like to thank you for all the work you do with us, and for the way you and your staff build young people's capacity to cope with changes and challenges. The past three months have certainly been a challenge for the education sector in Christchurch and we commend you for everything you continue to do. Your commitment and time makes sure that every child has the care and education they deserve.

The Minister of Education took the opportunity to visit Hagley Community College earlier this month while he was in Christchurch for a speaking engagement. Hagley Community College is home to 65 ethnicities and serves and supports its diverse and multicultural community, this was particularly evident after March 15. The Minister met with Hagley Principal Mike Fowler and senior leaders at the College, as well as staff and children at the community-based pre-school located in the college grounds.



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### Grow Waitaha

#### Local solutions best meet local needs

The Grow Waitaha project recently featured in [this article](#) from the Rātā Foundation. In the article, Garry Williams, a manager education for the Ministry, shares how Grow Waitaha began, the key lessons from this project and how it is working to support wellbeing.

#### Ao Tawhiti: Enabling learners to be in the driver's seat

Coming up in Term 3 is an awesome opportunity to visit one of Christchurch's innovative schools in their new spaces.

The school's philosophy is to promote student-centred learning and to give young people a say over their education, no matter their age. The new learning spaces at [Ao Tawhiti Unlimited Discovery](#) are expected to support this and the "diverse and flexible individual learning pathways" it promotes.

Keep an eye out on the [Grow Waitaha events page](#) and social media spaces for more information.

## Recent milestones celebrated by our schools

### Ao Tawhiti Unlimited Discovery

Education Minister Chris Hipkins officially opened the new \$30 million Ao Tawhiti Unlimited Discovery School on 25 June.

A vital part of the school's special character is its connection to the central city. It is wonderful the school can now take full advantage of city resources to support its curriculum including museums, galleries, sports facilities and the wonderful new city library just down the road from the school.

Congratulations to Ao Tawhiti Director Steven Mustor, your board of trustees, leadership teams, staff and community for all the work you have done to ensure the success of the fantastic new school.



### St Martins

On Monday 17 June, St Martins School celebrated the opening of its remarkable school entrance Te Waharoa, and the official opening of Whare Kūkūwai, a new eight classroom and library block.

It was a privilege to join the school and its community to celebrate this milestone. The school's whānau group have done an amazing job of Te Waharoa – congratulations to everyone involved in this project.

### Knights Stream School

Knights Stream School | Mingimingi Hautoa celebrated its official opening on Monday 17 June, joined by local MP Amy Adams who had the honour of the official duties.

The event marked the culmination of a lot of hard work by a lot of people. The school celebrated with many of those who were involved in the project. It was great to be able to celebrate with the school.



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## Kidsfirst Kindergartens

Thank you Kidsfirst Kindergartens for sharing your video "look through the eyes of our tamariki" with us.

What an absolutely fantastic and meaningful way to acknowledge diversity and to celebrate the support and love people have shown following the events of 15 March 2019.

[Watch the diversity video on Vimeo](#)

## Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards 2019

The annual Prime Minister's Education Excellence Awards celebrate groups of teachers and educators working together, and with students, whānau and communities to deliver excellent outcomes for children and young people.

Congratulations to Halswell Residential College, for being a finalist in the Excellence in Engaging category. This category celebrates those working together as a community to transform relationships and strengthen achievement, leading to improved and sustained outcomes for all children and young people.

Congratulations also to Waimairi Primary School, for being a finalist in the Excellence in Leading category. This category celebrates leadership and its influence on strengthening professional capability and creating a change in conditions, leading to improved and sustained outcomes for all children and young people.

I wish you all the best at the awards ceremony in September.

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### Netsafe

[Get help for race-based online abuse](#)

Netsafe takes complaints of harmful digital communications and informs people about their options to remedy the situation. If you need help, free confidential advice and support service is available seven days a week.

Online bullying, abuse or harassment based on your colour, race, ethnicity or nationality is not OK and there is help available if you're experiencing it.

[Click here to get help for race-based online abuse.](#)

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### Latest Interagency news

Please [click here for the latest newsletter](#) with updates from local agencies working to support people after the 15 March attacks.

Feel free to share this information with your networks.

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Please do not hesitate to contact us if you wish to discuss any ideas or issues. You can always call me on 03 378 7345, 0274 200 251 or [email](#) me. I look forward to hearing from you.

Enjoy this fortnight's bulletin.

Mā te wā

**Coralanne Child**

Director of Education for Canterbury | Chatham Islands