

Boarders' Assembly – Rector's Address

Christine Leighton

Friday 4 August 2023



Delivered in the Style of a TV News reporter...

Tonight on "StAC news":

- Senior College formal, a social highlight of the year;
- Jazz bands, impress enthusiastic audience;
- StAC Attack, packs a punch to sell-out crowd;
- two senior students travel to the USA for big basketball opportunity, and;
- hockey students gain national representative recognition.

Morena, good morning.

The Senior College Formal was a show of glamour and glitz at the Te Pae Christchurch Convention Centre in Ōtautahi recently. Not deterred by the wintry conditions, over 550 students dressed in their finest arrived to enjoy a night of socialising, dancing, and lining up for thousands of photographs.

The Senior College Council who organised the event were pleased with the student behaviour and the staff who attended commented what a pleasant, colourful and positive evening it was.

Last weekend the three jazz bands performed as part of the annual Ara School of Music JazzQuest. Thirty-four musicians represented their school with pride and impressed the appreciative audience with their musicianship, repertoire and vocals. These performances came on the back of their highly successful tour to Nelson where they performed with local schools in eight different events, including five primary schools and three evening gigs at local restaurants. Their next performances will be at Fat Eddie's on Saturday 2 September, and it is hoped many will support them at this event.

Also last weekend, another cultural group performed to a sell-out audience in the James Hay Theatre – Christchurch Town Hall.

The premiere Juvenile Pipe Band of New Zealand presented a concert packed with favourite tunes which showcased the talents in piping and drumming of the 130 students who are part of the Pipe Band community at St Andrew's College. A piping solo of the College song played by Pipe Major, Toby Cammock-Elliott (Year 13) set the tone for the evening; the performance enhanced with a Highland lilt from New Zealand U18 Highland Dancing Champion, Siara Clarke (Year 12).

A packed programme of competition favourites – hornpipes and jiggs, strathspeys and reels – and a showcase of the youngest pipers and drummers on their learner instruments, delighted the Pipe Band enthusiasts in the audience.



Also joining the St Andrew's performers was the Canterbury Caledonian Band, the New Zealand Grade One champions for 10 of the past 11 years, who played a complex and challenging competition medley. A talented group of our Highland dancers also added colour and energy to the evening's performance.

The Caledonian Band and the St Andrew's A Band leave next Sunday to travel to Scotland to represent Christchurch and St Andrew's at the World Pipe Band Championships in Glasgow and the best wishes of the College go with them.

And now to this morning's sports round up...

St Andrew's is proud to announce the success of members of the Girls' Senior A Basketball team who have been selected into international opportunities.

Lauren Whitaker (Year 13) has just returned from a week stateside at the inaugural Basketball without Borders wāhine-only camp in Las Vegas. Lauren had the opportunity to tour the Las Vegas Aces training facility and attend the WNBA All-Star game. Lauren's squad won the Basketball without Borders tournament, earning selection into the camp All-Star team.

Lauren's St Andrew's teammate Kavanah Lene (Year 13) was chosen to represent New Zealand at the NBA Academy in Atlanta, Georgia, in the United States of America in the holidays. "Kiki" was just one of 40 students worldwide and only five from Aotearoa to be chosen for this wonderful opportunity. Lauren and Kiki's whānau and school are understandably proud of these incredible young sports women. Tena koe, kei te whakahihi mātou ki a koe.

And now to Hockey... Three students have recently been selected in New Zealand U18 teams. In the Girls' team, Henrietta Nation (Year 12) and Penelope Taulafo (Year 13) have made St Andrew's College history in being named, not only in this team, but also in the New Zealand training squad to trial in the September holidays for the Junior World Cup team. Luke Slee (Year 13) has also been named in the New Zealand U18 Boys' A team. Outstanding effort from these talented players.

And that's "StAC News" for this morning.

Ka kite ano tera wa. (Goodbye until next time)