



# Western Springs College

## Alumni & Friends

Issue 1 | April 2012

### A visual artist inspired by the small things in life!

Alumna, Janet Lilo is a successful visual artist who works and lives in Auckland with her partner, son & nephew. Her documentary-style work has been exhibited both nationally and internationally, and she has been the recipient of CNZ funding and two international residencies. Janet's work has been included in group exhibitions in Japan, The United States, Taiwan, Indonesia, Europe, Australia and the Pacific.

Employed by the University Of Auckland as the SPEAR Pacific Doctoral Research Coordinator & a current board member of the Tautai Pacific Arts Trust. Currently exhibiting a video project called Identi-tee at the Tamaki Gallery in the Auckland War Memorial Museum. Future Projects in 2012 include work at the Auckland Art Gallery, St Paul Gallery and curating a show at the Papakura Art Gallery.

Attended Western Springs College: 1996 – 2000



**Greatest achievement:** My greatest achievement so far is definitely my family. My son Milo, nephew Harry & partner Sam are the best people to come home to everyday - even when they are a riot of noise and mess. I guess before that it was the achievement of finally finishing six years of Study at AUT University when I got my Masters in Visual Arts (at the same time working part time at a petrol station).

**Greatest influence:** All the places I have lived and the conversations I've had with people I know and people I've met on the street. It continues to be my main source of consistent influence, which I guess you would call – life.

**Source of inspiration:** I feel inspired by different things all the time and it usually happens when I least expect it. It's all the things that surround me and shape my identity. When I get inspired I find I start to question and investigate things a little more.

**Special to me:** Auckland City – I complain about it all the time, but when I'm away from it I miss it so much. I even start to miss the terrible transport system, the expensive real estate, the price of parking and the inconsistent weather! It's definitely home.

**Likes:** Coffee, art in the Pacific and family portraits!

**Dislikes:** People using cell phones in physical social situations – especially out to dinner. If you have real people to interact with then put your electronic devices away!

**Thought on life:** Live it! Enjoy it!

### What are we about?

Our mission is to re-connect with all students, teachers and friends of Western Springs College. We want to keep you up to date with what is happening at Western Springs College and build an Alumni community.

### Calling all Alumni!

Forward this email onto friends and ex-students or send their details to [alumni@wsc.school.nz](mailto:alumni@wsc.school.nz) Join the Alumni at <http://westernsprings.school.nz/Alumni/>

**Would you like to feature in our next communication?** Email [alumni@wsc.co.nz](mailto:alumni@wsc.co.nz) and let us know what you have been up to since leaving WSC.

**Have your details changed?** Email changes to [alumni@wsc.co.nz](mailto:alumni@wsc.co.nz)

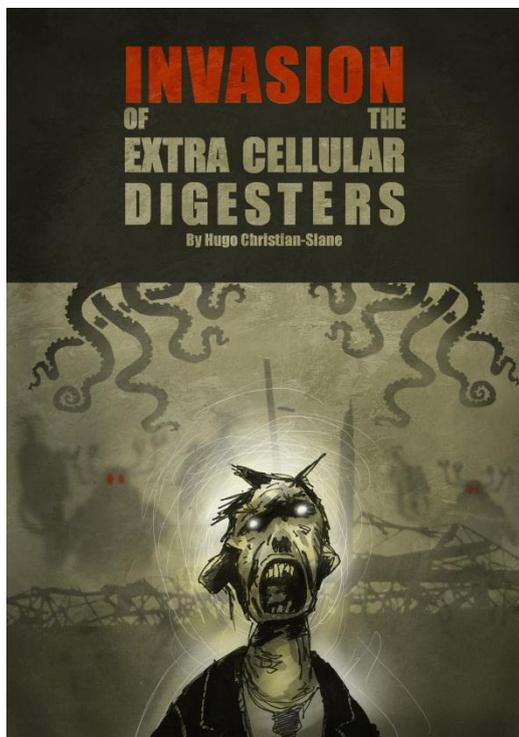
### Calendar of Events

**TAPAC Events**  
Nicholas Nickleby - Opens Thursday 19th April. A comic delight featuring a parade of colourful characters from the pen of the great Charles Dickens!

## Supported by a Family of Artists.

Hugo Christian-Slane is a year 13 student working towards Level 3 NCEA and Scholarship in painting, design and photography. He is certainly no stranger to taking on big challenges, as he has already successfully completed year 13 Art design in year 12, achieving an Outstanding Scholarship, and ranked 4th in New Zealand for his portfolio.

Here is how it happened ... Hugo says, "at the beginning of year 12, I was asked if I would like to have a go at year 13 Art Design. Initially I said no, and that even being asked was a big enough achievement for me. I went home that night and told my parents about the 'good news'...they were outraged that I had turned it down. So, I asked Pete Coxon (my design teacher) if the offer was still open. He said yes, as long as I had a go at scholarship. Realising the huge workload I had just taken on, I started working early in the year, optimizing my time management skills, pulling out dozens of drawings. By the end of my year 12, I had finished my 13 page comic book and had achieved an Excellence in both year 12, and year 13 art design, as well as the Outstanding Scholarship."



My main influences in my work, are my Mum (Julia Christian, illustrator and painter), Dad (Chris Slane, cartoonist) and brother (Henry Christian-Slane), who has now already graduated from AUT, and was the only other student at WSC to have been awarded an Outstanding Scholarship in design. Mum and Dad were very strong forces pushing me along the road. Although their feedback on my work can be harsh, they are only doing so, so that I learn from my poorer designs and gain an understanding on how I can better myself. Whenever I lost motivation with my work, Dad would nag me back into place, until I found myself inspired again. I cannot give him enough recognition as my force of encouragement.

The Art Department at Springs has really supported me in my journey by encouraging and allowing me to develop my own interests in illustration design. Individualised programmes in painting, design and photography at years 12 and 13 encourage students to explore genres, themes and styles of personal interest. Teachers support students to achieve at the highest level.

Going forward, Hugo plans to attend AUT and complete a Bachelor of Graphic Design

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## Principal's Comment - The New Springs

If you have been overcome with nostalgia recently and have felt like taking a sentimental journey to see the old school campus again, make sure that you don't leave it too long. Certainly, should you make a return visit in two years' time you are likely to have considerable difficulty finding or recognising the *old Springs*.

The truth is that in the aftermath of the Christchurch earthquakes the authorities are applying seismic risk criteria with a renewed rigour. The result is that B, C, D, E and F blocks have been scheduled for demolition and replacement. Furthermore, there is also a question mark over the administration block, the library and the gymnasium whose fate will be decided during the next three months when a master planning exercise will be undertaken to determine the location on site for all of the new buildings. The recent disclosure of serious leaky building problems affecting the 1999 extensions to the administration block and the 2001 library extensions have made it more likely that these buildings will have to be replaced as well.

The imminent prospect of designing and building a new school learning environment is currently provoking plenty of thinking in the school community about our vision for Springs. As part of the design process we are intent on bringing together all of our stakeholders – trustees, teachers, students (present, future and past), existing and prospective parents – to provide opportunities for input as we come to agreement about the big ideas which will drive the design.

We are very clear that the design of teaching and learning spaces must reflect C21st learning requirements: they must be flexible and adaptable, utilise the latest technologies and allow for positive

Rudali – The Mourner by the Prayas 18-27 May.

Africa Day - Saturday 26th May 7-11pm. All things African and exotic - food, music, dance, drama. Entry by Koha.

Copenhagen by Michael Frayn – Opens Wednesday 30th May

### WSC Parent Action Group Movie Night

Film: Chinese Take-Away  
Date: Wednesday 9th May  
Where: The Bridgeway  
Time: 8.15 pm.  
Price: Tickets \$20.00 including a complimentary glass of wine from 7.45 pm.

Get your tickets from Wendy Rhodes – wendyrhodes@clear.net.nz or mobile - 021 478 331.

and enjoyable social interaction, inside and outdoors.

Clearly, the *New Springs* will reflect our commitment to sustainability and protection of the environment.

And central to our thinking will be the place of the marae and the interface with Nga Puna o Waiorea, our “school within a school.”

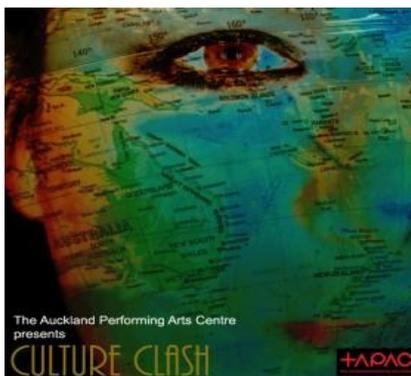
Look out for news of the soon-to-be-announced launch of the rebuilding programme!

Ken Havill  
Principal

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#### TAPAC- Where professionals and the community blend.

Margaret-Mary Hollins is the face of The Auckland Performing Arts Centre – [TAPAC](#), which is located at Western Springs College. She is currently producing [Culture Clash](#) - a project that embraces the TAPAC vision to integrate the professional community and the community at large. Culture Clash explores the theme of ‘home’ for newcomers to New Zealand and New Zealanders overseas. The show is extremely diverse including Bollywood and hip-hop dance, and a flash mob performance. Singing performances range from opera singers to a Russian choir, plus appearances from sword fighters and Scottish pipers.



Margaret-Mary is an avid supporter of Western Springs’ students and actively works with the Dance and Drama department to identify opportunities. Two positions have been created for promising Springs students to work with Culture Clash stage manager Amber Molloy – a third year Unitec student. This will give the students hands on experience that will help them ‘build the bridge’ from secondary to tertiary learning. This exposure gives Springs students incredible experiences and insights that are only made possible by the unique relationship that exists between TAPAC and Western Springs College.

TAPAC was developed out of a need for a shared performance space and became a reality through the tireless work of a number of committed individuals. Barbara Ward and Jo Kelly were the driving force behind the vision and the fundraising effort that made TAPAC a reality. It opened in 2003 and supports a unique partnership between TAPAC, Western Springs College and the Performing Arts School (PAS).

More than 80,000 people now pass through TAPAC’s doors on an annual basis.

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#### Shave for a Cure.

On the 27th March, thirteen Western Spring College students and Jared Hockly, the head of Mathematics participated in Shave12 – the annual fundraiser for Leukaemia and Blood Cancer NZ (LBC).

The aim is for the students to raise \$10,000 and present a giant cheque to LBC. To date they have raised just over \$9,000. So if you would like to help the Shavees reach their goal, you still can. Go to [http://www.shaveforcure.co.nz/view\\_group\\_event\\_profile/975](http://www.shaveforcure.co.nz/view_group_event_profile/975)

Mark Sainsbury from Close Up and Actress Amanda Billing attended the event and helped out with the shaving.



Year 13 Eden Roberts being shaved by Amanda Billing.

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