



Western Springs College

Alumni & Friends

Issue 3 | May 2013

Forward this email onto friends and ex-students or send their details to alumni@wsc.school.nz

Passionate about our Alumni? We are looking for a volunteer to help build our Alumni. Please contact Paula on marxp@wsc.school.nz or 027 4510288 if you are interested. Flexible role and hours.

Feature in our next communication. Email your story to alumni@wsc.co.nz

Alumnus, Chris Harris talks about his road to Ninja Kiwi and balancing life

Chris is the managing director of Ninja Kiwi, which is a development and publisher of Flash and Mobile games. Ninja Kiwi was founded in Auckland in 2006, has produced about 60 games, including the hugely popular Bloons series. One of their more recent offerings, Bloons Tower Defence 5, hit number two in the US charts within 24 hours of launching.

Chris's career journey: I left Western Springs College to attend Auckland University, doing the sort of schizophrenic mix of subjects that can happen if a person is both eclectic and slightly aimless. I knew computers were likely to be a good way to get a job, but I just had to do History of Jazz and Italian too. I was crap at studying, and managed to get through High School with the gentle nudging along of my teachers. I clearly possessed a personality that would help me negotiate extensions. Last minute wasn't apparently last minute enough for me.

Without the prodding along by my caring teachers at Western Springs I found university very difficult. No one cared if I didn't do my work, I just failed. I didn't enjoy the idea of failing, nor did I like the idea of my hard earned holiday savings being wasted (I packed plastic bottles for 60-70 hour weeks through the holidays to get my fee money). I withdrew from those papers I hadn't already failed. By the end of the year and with the help from Student Job search I was doing database administration for a pharmaceutical company. Working clearly suited me more than university study. After several years of doing different things I ended up working as a teller in a bank. There was a pretty clear career trajectory there for me and I returned to study (correspondence with Massey) to earn a graduate diploma in personal financial planning, and this was a key step for me moving into investment advisory and personal financial planning. I loved working in the bank, but I got tired of the investment industry and when my brother called me to suggest working on an internet business together I was pretty well ready.



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.

Join at <http://westernsprings.school.nz/Alumni/>

Have your details changed? Email changes to alumni@wsc.co.nz

Parent Action Group (PAG) Fundraiser

This term's great PAG movie is Before Midnight, the final film in director Richard Linklater well-loved Before Sunrise trilogy.

When: Monday 1 July
Where: The Bridgeway
Time: 8.15pm. Come along at 7.45pm for a free glass of wine or non-alcoholic drink
Tickets: \$20 from Jan at jmcintosh@ihug.co.nz or 021414157

We founded Ninja Kiwi in 2006, and we're now 35 people across our Auckland and Scottish studios. Being your own boss is sweet.

Greatest achievement: Ninja Kiwi.

Source of inspiration: My wife Miju, and my family.

Greatest influence: My brother Stephen.

Working style: You have one life, and work is only a piece. Enjoy your downtime and make sure you get it.

Special to me: my wife and kids – time to play when I get home. I know no adversity can make me unhappy for long.

Likes: Winter, beer, rain and movies.

Dislike: Facebook

Thought on life: I've not met, nor heard of anyone on their deathbed saying that they wished they spent more time working. Your life is the achievement; you cannot call it a success if you neglect those things and people that made you.

Chris Harris attended Western Springs College 1989-1993.

Best ever Scholarship and NCEA results

The recently released 2012 Scholarship results and NCEA results, represent the best ever achieved by WSC students.

Scholarship Results

27 WSC students have achieved 39 NZQA Scholarships across 13 subjects with six gaining Outstanding Scholarships. WSC students sat 78 examinations in 21 subjects, meaning that 50% of these examination attempts were successful, a very high rate of attainment.

NCEA Results

WSC is the top school among the 54 state secondary schools in the Auckland region across Levels 1, 2 & 3 and University Entrance when pass rates are compared using both the Participation-Based and Roll-Based sets of data made available by NZQA.

WSC NCEA Pass Rates: 2012

	Participation-Based	Auckland state school ranking	Roll Based	Auckland state school ranking
Level 1	92.6%	2 nd	90.9%	2 nd
Level 2	94.2%	2 nd	94.5%	1 st
Level 3	93.3%	1 st	88.7%	1 st
U.E	92.3%	1 st	88.2%	1 st
Average ranking		2+2+1+1 = 6/4 = 1.5 average		2+1+1+1 = 5/4 = 1.25 average

For more information see www.nzqa.govt.nz

What's happening at The Auckland Performing Arts Centre (TAPAC)?

Term Two at TAPAC

- Hip Hop 10-14yrs
- Intro to Acting Adults
- Circus kids 7+
- Acting for Screen 11-14 years
- Singing Adults

<http://tapac.org.nz/>

Shows at TAPAC

- Patua
May 15th – 26th
- Dance Mobility
Dance class for ages 65+

<http://tapac.org.nz/>



BISC – is our local business group. They are an enthusiastic supporter of Western Springs College. Membership of BISC offers fantastic networking and marketing opportunities. To find out how you can be a part of BISC check out their website www.bisc.org.nz

Sustainability Movement at Springs Goes From Strength To Strength

Western Springs College can take great pride in the outstanding outcomes achieved through the school's recently completed **waste minimisation project**. The reason for the celebrations is that all of the challenging project targets have been exceeded.

Two years ago, deputy principal Thea Kilian successfully applied to **the Ministry for the Environment's Waste Minimisation Fund** for a grant to enable Western Springs College to undertake a Waste Wise project at the school. There was understandable elation within the school community when the news of the decision came through almost a year later: project funding of \$55,160 had been approved!

The background to Thea's application to the Ministry was a directive to the school management staff during the previous year from the **WSC Board of Trustees**. The Board's challenge was for the school to reduce waste to landfill by 50% within the next twelve months.

The **final aims** of the WasteWise project negotiated with the Ministry were to design and implement a recycling system across the site with the targets of reducing recyclable and compostable waste to landfill by two-thirds and reducing non-recyclable packaging by 50% - all within one year. One of the project aims was to provide a best practice model for other schools.

Significantly, the project budget allowed the appointment of **Waste Not Consulting**, a consultancy offering the expertise to work with the **WSC Project Committee** to set up and operate the systems needed for success.

The Project Committee included the following people:

- Deputy Principal (and project leader) – Thea Kilian
- Auckland University Representative – Niki Harré
- Auckland Council Representative – Nicky Elmore
- Enviroschools Representative – Bridget Glasgow
- Board of Trustee Representative & Chairperson – Gordon Ikin
- WasteWise Student Leaders – Madeleine Trusewich, Isabella Lenihan-Ikin, Ngatapuwaeh Henderson, Hugo Christian Slane and Madelyn Pyne
- Project Consultants: Sunshine Yates from *Waste Not Consulting*; Ron Sperber from *earthwhile*; and Lynn Green, a local horticulture and worm farming expert.

The **recycling system design** took account of the need to design bins to suit a range of locations and to receive the five different **waste streams**. There are five different waste streams which are being catered for across the site:

1. Commingled recycling
2. Paper and cardboard
3. Confidential paper
4. Food waste
5. Waste to landfill



Outdoor Bin Station

Thirty eight **bin stations** were strategically located across the campus, the vast majority outdoors in communal areas but also close to classrooms, with five indoors.

The decision has been made to declare classrooms “**Waste Free**” zones. All rubbish bins have been removed and replaced with paper recycling bins. Teachers and students have been asked to take waste to the outdoor bin stations as they leave their class. Each staff office has been provided with a paper recycling bin and a waste cube. Waste bins have been removed from all offices. Staff are asked to use the waste cube to store and transport waste from their desk to the staff room where the waste can be sorted into the appropriate bins at an indoors bin station.

The food waste processing system utilises a Bokashi system and a TAT-G worm farm with the product able to be used on site in the school’s vegetable gardens.

For an insight into other features of the project including the interesting range of educational activities designed by the project team to actively involve students visit the front page of the school website at www.westernsprings.school.nz in order to locate the final report.

Ken Havill
Principal

Voyage to the Kermadec’s fuels environmental passion.

In 2012, Year 11 student Isabella Lenihan-Ikin was chosen from over 300 applicants to go on a Young Blake expedition to the Kermadec Islands with 30 other bright, environmentally minded High School students from across NZ. They ventured on the HMNZS Canterbury to Raoul Island, and snorkelled, whale watched and explored the island. The 2012 trip marked the 10 year anniversary of Sir Peter Blake’s death.



Isabella Lenihan-Ikin (far right) with other Kermadec voyagers, before they depart.

The 12 day voyage had one constant – the continued focus on environmental issues that surround the Kermadec Islands. They rubbed shoulders with leading marine scientists, former Blake leaders like Mark Weldon – Former CEO of NZ Exchange and Sam Johnson – head of the Canterbury Student volunteer army. They saw marine life that they had never seen before and participated in a tag and release shark exercise with shark scientists.

The big issue for the students is the protection of the surrounding waters of the Kermadecs from the commercial fishing industry, who are exploiting the subtropical fish that inhabit this area. Currently the Marine reserve that surrounds the 15 islands extends to 12 nautical miles around each island. The aim is to extend the reserve to 200 nautical miles around the islands. Although that may sound like a lot of reserve, currently less than 0.3% of New Zealand waters are protected in marine reserves, compared with 30% of our land in national park or protected areas.

The students were so passionate about this issue and others they decided to package their passion into a group that strives to create social and environmental change at a national level and so SEAL was born – Socially and Environmentally Active Leaders. In their regions they aim to lead other high school students to create a sustainable future that we will all enjoy across

Aotearoa. SEAL will provide a voice for young people that is commonly neglected in Parliament and policy making.

Isabella's strong commitment and dedication to environmental issues goes back a long way. 'I have been interested and passionate about environmental issues for the majority of my life; my parents ensured that my family lives a very low carbon lifestyle and we leave a light tread on this earth, not a large one. Our dinner time conversations usually consist of debates and discussions about environmental/climate issues and how they are addressed by the government.'

I attended my first protest at 8 years old, which was on the GE issues. Since then I have decided myself to go to others that I feel strongly about including 350 day protests, and an anti-mining march. I have always wanted to make a difference to the health of our earth.

In 2010, my first year at Western Springs College, I saw the opportunity to go to a Make A Difference Camp (MAD), with Auckland Council and other high school students from around Auckland. I attended MAD for 3 years, once as a participant and twice as a leader. During that time I got involved in waste minimisation at Western Springs College. I saw the need for waste to be minimised and students to be educated about minimising and reducing waste.'

Isabella has been busy since her Kermadec trip. She has attended POWERSHIFT, along with 800 young people from across New Zealand and the Pacific. As a result of POWERSHIFT, Isabella has become more involved in Generation Zero, which is a youth-run climate action group that strives to create a carbon neutral Aotearoa by 2050. Isabella's vision is to actively engage high school students in climate change actions; she believes that this is an issue that all of her generation needs to support to help create change.

When Isabella leaves school, she wants to incorporate her passion for environmental issues and climate change into her career. She plans to study Law, Politics and Climate Science at Victoria University in Wellington. Isabella is inspired by NASA climate scientist Dr. James Hansen, whom she had the opportunity to speak with at the 'Festival for the Planet', in 2011.

Historic School Year Books

We have a number of spare copies of the Seddonian - the year book for Seddon Memorial Technical College and Seddon High School, and the Western Springs College Year book. The earliest copy is 1916 through to 2003, although we do not have spare copies for every year. If you would like a particular year of the Seddonian or WSC year book, please email Paula at marxp@wsc.school.nz, stating your name, address and the year that you would like.

To help cover the cost of postage and time we ask that you make the following payment
Living in New Zealand \$5
Living overseas \$10

They will be sent out on a first in, first served basis, **once payment has been received**. Payments can be made to Account: WSC 12-3020-0333033-00. Please put your name and YEARBOOK in as reference.

Do you have an old school uniform from Seddon High?

We would like to display a female and male school uniform (circa 1964) belonging to Seddon High School. If you have a uniform in satisfactory condition that you would be willing to loan or donate to Western Springs College, please email Paula on marxp@wsc.school.nz.

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