



# MENZIES COLLEGE

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**6 March 2015**

## **From the Principal's Desk**

**Kia Ora**

### **Board of Trustees Report**

The Board held its Annual General Meeting on Thursday 26 February and at that meeting I was returned as the chairperson. Mrs Megan Lindsay was also returned to the position of vice-chairperson, un-opposed. Mr Allister Gaudie and Mr Nigel Scarth were elected to the position of financial officers to take responsibility for reporting on this to the Board.

This meeting was followed by a general meeting at which Catherine Kelly from Solutions and Services (the company that prepares our monthly accounts on behalf of the school) spoke to the board about our current financial position and last year's financial result. The school has in the last three years moved from a position of the retraction of our net worth to a return of a cash surplus and increase in our net position. This has been achieved by careful budgeting and management of some areas that were not performing well. The Board wish to thank our Principal, Gerry Ward and our Executive Officer Judy Gould for their efforts in achieving this and also the staff for their support of the belt tightening that has been required. Also to Mrs Rachel Durry who has turned the canteen into a popular and profitable venture. A more stable financial position gives the school more options around expenditure in the future for major projects.

Our budget for 2015 was also tabled and will of course be the focus of our financial tracking throughout the year. Managing the school's financial affairs is one of the main roles of the Board of Trustees but monitoring the achievement of the students and making the financial plan meet their needs is the most important goal for us. Mr Ward presented preliminary NCEA results to the Board on Thursday night and on participation rates we have achieved very well with one highlight being our pass rate was the highest since the inception of NCEA in 2002. In Levels 2 and 3 we were comfortably above the national average. As with most things at Menzies though, the highlight for the staff and the Board alike are always the individual results that staff and students work so hard to achieve when they are finally rewarded for their efforts. Statistics do not tell the whole story, but our staff can tell you a lot of stories behind those statistics.

Mr Ward also reported on the school variance (the difference between the goals that the school set for last year and what was achieved) and although we have generally made significant advances in all of these we may have set unrealistic goals to begin with.

Other general matters dealt with included reports on the technology building upgrade, approval of camps and a request for a report on the senior uniform proposal and community consultation so the board can make a final decision on whether we should proceed with this.

*Carole Bee  
Chairperson*

### **PB4L**

Congratulations to Maximus Ashman, Jordan Medley, Peregrine Visser, Aaron Ross and Mrs Williams for winning the achievement draw for this week. Jordan earned his slip for being co-operative in group work. Well done all of you.

## Super Seniors

There have been a number of students in the senior school who have, over the last week or so, requested a change in their course. Whilst officially we like to complete the 'tasting' of courses by week three of term one, we can often be flexible when students seek a change in subject. However, there are some important points which must be considered before we allow a student to change a subject at this stage of the term.

- Is the change prompted by a genuine desire / need to explore another curriculum area? We will not allow students to leave a subject because it's become 'tough', or because they may have been reprimanded by the classroom teacher. In these instances, we would encourage the student to look at strategies for dealing with these issues.
- Will the change impact on their future career goals? As much as possible it's wise to keep learning 'wide'. Students will generally explore a variety of careers whilst in the senior school, so keeping options 'open' (especially at Level One) is really important. In all aspects, we would like to think that our Menzies College students are well 'rounded'.

Some students in the senior school have adapted well to the suggestion that they study at a level different from their peer group (for example, a Year 12 student taking Level One subject). We really do applaud and encourage students to make decisions like this - it can be hard to feel that you're 'different' from your peers, but at times we must all follow our own individual pathway. It's really important that our students keep their eyes on the 'bigger picture'.

One word of caution: The secret to success at NCEA Levels One to Three (whilst made easier by natural ability) is generally ATTENDANCE. It is impossible to succeed if you regularly miss class. Not only do students miss the actual content, more importantly, they miss out on learning conversations. These conversations (whether with peers or the classroom teacher) help to solidify and then extend knowledge. Whilst we can photocopy work, it's impossible to catch-up on these important conversations. Recently, we've had to advise students who have missed huge chunks of learning in previous years to repeat courses of study. This is disheartening, and often avoidable. Often this happens in Year 11 and the result is (sadly) that students can play 'curriculum-catch-up' during Year 12 and 13.

### **So who can students approach should they need some advice on subjects / careers?**

The first contact should be with the current subject teacher. This is a courtesy and yet can also be really helpful especially if a student feels that he/she is struggling with the subject content. Sometimes a quick chat with the classroom teacher can help to reduce feelings of stress and negativity and put the 'issue' into perspective... perhaps the current section of learning is nearly finished? Maybe the student is being too hard on him / herself?

Students can also approach the Heads of Curriculum areas: Mr Wallace, Ms Youngson, Ms Swale, Mr Kerlake, Mrs Cade and Mr Dakin.

Students should definitely seek advice from our Careers experts: Mrs Williams, Miss Hall and Mr Clark.

Lastly, the Senior Deans Mr Landreth and Mrs McKelvie are always happy to discuss courses, career goals and further learning with our super seniors.

If you have any questions or concerns about students in Year 11-13, please don't hesitate to contact us at school,

*Mrs Lucy McKelvie & Tim Landreth*  
Senior Deans

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## Special Needs Department

### **Easter Raffle**

Once again the Special Needs Department are having an Easter raffle with the proceeds going towards the students' sports programme. Tickets are available at the Menzies College office for \$1 each and the Special Needs students will also be out in the community selling them so please don't hesitate to buy a ticket. The draw will take place on Wednesday 1 April. Thank you in advance for your support.

*Mrs Toni Halliday*  
Teacher in Charge - Special Needs

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## Blanket Consent Forms

Education Outside The Classroom (EOTC) is the name given to all events/activities that occur outside the classroom, both on and off the school site. This includes sport. Here at Menzies College we use a range of environments and experiences to enhance our students' learning. We feel that our students need to learn how to be safe and value the concept of providing students with a range of opportunities. Thus, some of the learning for students occurs beyond the school site and this document is seeking your consent for your child/ren to participate in such learning.

All new students to Menzies College have been given a blanket consent form to fill out and return to the school office. This is used to cover students participating in activities on school grounds and off-site short visits in the local community within school hours (horticulture, agriculture, adventure based learning, measuring in maths, museum, art gallery, sport events, cross-country training). If you have any queries around this, please don't hesitate to give me a call at school for further discussion.

*Mrs Alice Cade*  
EOTC Co-ordinator

## Careers Department

Our Maori students have been invited to an On Campus Experience at University of Otago and the city of Dunedin. Students will have the opportunity to attend lectures in their areas of interest, as well as meet academic staff and current students. They will experience life in a residential college and will meet the Maori Centre staff who provide great academic support and pastoral care for Maori students when they arrive at the University of Otago.

**Date:** 27-30 April 2015

**Applications close:** 27 March 2015 (5pm)

For more information please consult the following link - <http://www.otago.ac.nz/prospectivestudents/maori/otago086752.html>  
If you have further queries please contact me at school.

### Important Dates

Monday 9 March – Canterbury University in Careers room  
Wednesday 11 March - Otago Polytechnic 2.30pm in Careers room  
Thursday 12 March – Aoraki Polytechnic 9am in Careers room  
Thursday 19 March – Lincoln University 9am in Careers room  
Thursday 19 March – New Zealand Defence Force 10am in Room 5  
Friday 20 March – Otago University 9am in Careers room  
Tuesday 28 April – Tertiary information day (see information below)  
Wednesday 29 April – C.P.I.T 1pm in Careers room

All Parents/caregivers are welcome to attend and support their son/daughter at these liaison visits. Decisions are quite big for some students and your guidance is strongly recommended.

### Tertiary Information Day

The Dunedin tertiary institutions will be holding their Information Day on Tuesday 28 April 2015. As this is term time, it allows visiting school students the opportunity to experience the uniqueness of the Otago campuses, to attend special presentations and tours and to visit the Residential Colleges.

Menzies College will be taking a bus of Year 12 and 13 students interested in studying in Otago. I have allowed plenty of time advertising this as it gives parents/caregivers the opportunity to get the day off work to go along with their son/daughter. A permission slip will be issued closer to the time and you can indicate if you wish to travel on the bus. There is plenty of space and we encourage you to attend as the whole experience can be quite daunting. I look forward to seeing you all there. For more information go to: [http://www.otago.ac.nz/about/open\\_days.html](http://www.otago.ac.nz/about/open_days.html)

### Defence Careers Experience (DCE) (13 April -17 April)

This is a five day residential course involving NZDF trade skills, leadership exercises and displays. The Defence Careers Experience (DCE) lets you experience what it is like to be in the NZDF. It will give you a taste of the Navy, Army and Air Force. The Defence Careers Experience is open to secondary school students throughout the South Island. However, it is targeted at Year 12 secondary school students.

*Miss Katie Hall or Stuart Clark  
Career Advisors*

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The advertisement features a smartphone displaying the 'Occupation Outlook 2015' app interface with various career icons. Two QR codes are provided for downloading the app from the iTunes and Google Play stores. The background is a light grey with a green vertical banner on the left.

## Parent/Teacher Interviews

These will be held on Thursday 19 March. Bookings will be made via an online booking system. Details about this will be in the newsletter next week and will explain how to make appointments with your child/children's teachers. If you have any queries concerning this, please don't hesitate to get in contact with the school.

## Important Dates

<b>March</b>	7-8	Paddles Up
	9	HPV Vaccination Canterbury University visit 9am
	11	Otago Polytech visit 2.30pm
	12	Aoraki Polytech visit 9am
	13	Year 12 First Aid
	16	Incubator visit 1.20pm Sexwise Parents evening - time to be advised LMV Athletics
	17	Sexwise Year 9 & 10
	18	Sexwise - Seniors
	19	Defence Force visit 10am Lincoln University visit 9am Parent/Teacher interviews
	20	Otago University visit 9am
	24-27	ERO at school
	25	Incubator hospital visit No. 1
	26	Art exhibition
	27	Literacy Day
	30 - <b>April 2</b>	Wanaka Camp Year 12 & 13 Adventure Experience
<b>April</b>	2	Last day of Term 1
	3	Good Friday
	20	First day back of Term 2

## Menzies College Australian Sports Tour 2015

### 36 sleeps to go .....

Thank you to those who attended last week's meeting. The next meeting is on Wednesday 25 March at 7:30pm in the school library. We really need all travellers or their representative to attend this meeting please.



In the meantime, remember that you must pay your Menzies subscription for Rugby and Netball. If you missed rugby registration day this week contact Bob Wallis as you must ensure that you are registered with the NZRFU. Netball will need to wait until after next week's AGM for their sub. This is to ensure that you are covered for ACC and any major injuries that you may suffer while you are playing in Australia.

The draft itinerary was circulated at the last meeting and has been emailed to the addresses I have. If you still require a copy please let me know and I will send a copy home with your traveller from school. The finer details with regard to times are still to be worked out but the bones are well in place. The accommodation and flights have been paid for and are now confirmed and insurance will be purchased by the end of the week.

*Carole Bee*

### Netball Girls

All Australian netball girls are to be at the gym on Monday 9 March at 4pm to get uniforms and information about the tour. It is important that all girls taking part in this tour attend.

## Menzies College Rugby

Thanks to all players and parents/caregivers who attended the registration day on Thursday. We have a great team of coaches and managers set up so we can get into the season. Players and parents/caregivers please note, all teams will train on Tuesdays and Thursdays after school from here on.

### Season subs are due as per below:

Team	Sub	Sub After 31/5/15
Year 7 and 8	\$50	\$65 (Jersey supplied for the season)
U14/U16	\$50	\$65 (Jersey supplied for the season)
First XV	\$150	\$175 (Jersey and socks supplied)

### The following gear is also available:

Red rugby shorts - \$27.50; rugby socks - \$15.50; green tie - \$18. (Under 14 teams and above, to be worn with a white dress shirt and blue jeans to all games). This offer is only available until 28 March, as bulk buying has given us the opportunity to purchase at these prices. Order forms and subscriptions payment forms are available from your managers. Payment options are also listed on the order form which was sent home with the boys. Please do not worry if anyone missed registration. Join in with the appropriate team at practise and we will get the necessary registrations etc completed. Contact Bob Wallis on (03) 2066346 if you need more information.

The next committee meeting is Wednesday 11 March at 7.30pm. All welcome.

*Bob Wallis*

## Menzies College Netball

A reminder that the netball AGM is on Monday 9 March at 5pm in the school library. All parents/caregivers are welcome. Well done to all the girls that took part in the trials which have occurred over the last two weeks. It is time now for the girls to focus on fitness and there is a fitness session every Tuesday starting at 3.30pm.

*Miss N Speakman  
Teacher in Charge - Netball*

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## Sports News

### Southland Athletics

Southland Secondary Schools Athletics are in Invercargill at Surrey Park on Friday 13 March. Entries close on Monday 9 March. If there are any enquiries about events, these need to be addressed before I have completed the entries on Monday afternoon. Students have a permission slip that they need to return to the school office. I will hold a meeting with all students going next week to go through the competition rules and run some training sessions during lunchtimes. If there are any enquiries please contact me at school.

*Miss Katie Hall  
Sports Co-ordinator*

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## Menzies College Soccer

### Soccer Subs 2015

These are \$40 per player which covers entry fee and administration costs. Payment can be made immediately and cheques are to be made payable to Menzies College. Other costs that could occur are transport if we do not have enough parents to help out and in these instances, students will be asked to make a contribution towards travel. A letter has been sent home about helping with transport and if you can assist, please fill out the details and return this to Mr Lambert. This will help keep costs down.

### Soccer Playing Equipment

Players will need soccer boots and shin-pads (\$5 to \$6 at The Warehouse) for the coming season. If you need boots we do have some second hand ones for sale at very cheap prices. Players will be provided with a playing shirt and they will also need black shorts and socks which can be ordered if needed.

### EOTC Permission Form (Very Important)

This form must be signed and returned to Mr Lambert as soon as possible.

### Ordering Menzies College Soccer Gear

Players can order hoodies (black and green) and we also have a polo shirt that can be worn to games. There is also a warm-up jacket, black shorts and socks available. **Any orders must be given to Mr Lambert not the office.** Please remember orders must have the money attached before they will be placed.

### Trainings

This year training for girls will be on a Wednesday during Term 1 from 3.30pm to 5.00pm. In Term 2 the following changes will occur:

1st XI Girls:	Tuesday from 3.30pm to 5pm (Term 2)
Development Team:	Thursday from 3.30pm to 5pm (Term 2)
1st XI Boys:	Thursday from 3.30pm to 5pm (Term 2)

### Team Officials

1st XI Girls	Mr Lambert (Coach), manager TBA
Development Team	Mr Lambert (Coach), manager TBA
1st XI Boys	Mr Landreth (Manager), coach TBA

### Up Coming Dates

11 March	Girls Training 3.30pm to 5pm
18 March	Girls Training 3.30pm to 5pm
25 March	Pre-Season friendly 1st XI vs Development Team

If you need any more information please contact me here at Menzies College; Carl Lambert (03) 2064979 or email [clambert@menzies.school.nz](mailto:clambert@menzies.school.nz)

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## Sexwise Performance at Menzies

We are extremely excited to once again host the acclaimed THETA – Sexwise Performance. This riveting and thought challenging performance and associated workshop will be made available to parents and caregivers to view on Monday 16 March at a time to be advised, (but will be in the evening) before being introduced to our students. We encourage all parents and caregivers to be involved with the sexuality education of their sons and daughters and there is no other education tool at present that will provide you with an excellent starting point, than what this programme will offer. The Theatre in Health Education Trust (THETA) is a Dunedin based organisation that works nationally. They specialise in delivering applied theatre-based programmes on health related issues to rangatahi/youth in mainstream schools. If you have any further questions please do not hesitate to call me at school on (03) 206 4979 or to research this exciting opportunity further, go to [www.theta.org.nz](http://www.theta.org.nz)

*Mark Kerslake  
Head of Department - Physical Education & Health*

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