



Maungaraki School Annual Report Year Ended 31 December 2010

At Maungaraki School we *Aspire to Excellence* and this has well and truly shown in this years results across a wide range of areas of the curriculum. Some of the highlights included:

- A hugely successful inaugural Wearable Arts Show. 13 of our designs were selected to go on to the Wearable Arts in the Valley event where Maungaraki School designs won not only the Supreme Award but 4 of the 5 categories available.
- At the Battle of the Bands one of our students won the award for original song writing.
- The winner of the Meridian School Environmental Leadership Award was a Maungaraki School teacher.
- We had 4 winners (out of 10 categories available) in the Pride Awards celebrating young people's successes in a variety of fields (Academic All Round Student, Creative Achievement, Youth Leadership and Bright Spark).
- We significantly increased our representation at Western Zone, Interzone and other regional sports events, and even had a student who placed 15th in the Cross Country nationals.
- In record time the newly created Enviroteam attained the Bronze EnviroSchool Award for the school.
- One of our students was selected to trial with the Glasgow Rangers football team in Scotland.

It's great to see the results of the staff, assisted by parents, working together to provide our children with great educational and life experiences that are often the highlight of the students' school year and bring with them memories and skills which last them a life time.

Maungaraki School

Maungaraki School is a full state primary school, educating children from Year 1 to Year 8. The school is situated on the western hills of Lower Hutt commanding magnificent views across Wellington Harbour.

After a slight dip last year, the roll is again growing. The school roll has grown significantly in recent years and an enrolment scheme is in place to manage this growth.

Maungaraki School has a multi-cultural focus due to an ethnic composition that is closely representative of the national mix with:

New Zealand European/Pakeha	60%
Maori	10%
Other European	9%
Asian	8%
Indian	7%
Pacific	3%
Other ethnic groups	3%

The Maungaraki Team

The school is fortunate to have dedicated, hard working staff committed to providing the very best for our Maungaraki students and the school and community as a whole. The Maungaraki team consists of:

- 12 full time teaching staff (including the principal and 4 syndicate leaders)
- 6 part time teaching staff (including one job share position and a SENCO)
- 5 teacher aides
- 5 support staff (including office staff, a bursar, librarian and caretaker/cleaner)

Maungaraki School has a very skilled senior management team who continue to build on their leadership strengths. The principal has procedures in place for the leaders to learn from each other and to develop their skills by leading a team, carrying out appraisals and classroom observations, and leading curriculum professional development with all staff.

Home & School

Maungaraki School has the support of a wonderful, dedicated Home & School committee that consistently find ways of encouraging the local community to come together and willingly contribute their hard earned money for school projects. In 2010 the Home & School asked staff to produce a wish list of 'nice to have' resources they would like to enhance teaching and learning and that budget allocations could not cover. All the items requested (as diverse as dolls houses and worm farms) were given to the school and are being used and enjoyed by staff and students alike. Our sincere thanks go to the Home & School for their ongoing commitment of resources, time and energy.

Board of Trustees

In May the triennial election process saw two new members elected onto the Maungaraki School Board of Trustees. With a new Board, significant efforts were made to ensure an effective team base was created. An orientation day facilitated by the New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA) was organised soon after the new Board took effect as both an introduction to the role of trustee for the new trustees and a reminder for those re-elected! All Board members also attended the NZSTA Conference which was a significant commitment by both the school and the individuals concerned to professional development to enable them to understand and perform their role in the school.

Regular reporting from the school to the Board across all areas of the curriculum has meant that most, if not all, the teaching staff have been involved in this process over this year. This not only helps to build the relationship between the Board and staff but also informs trustees and demonstrates an ongoing commitment to achieving the strategic goals of the school.

Student Achievement

2010 saw the consolidation of the New Zealand curriculum at Maungaraki School. This aligns well with the core values of our school and the school's mission statement "to provide a learning experience for each individual enabling them to seize life's opportunities and meet future challenges with confidence".

2010 data confirmed that the reading target was exceeded across the school with 89% of our students reading at or above their expected level against the National Standards reflecting the high standard of teaching school wide in reading. We felt that committing to the National Standards was in line with our strategic goals and we are in fact regarded as an advanced school in relation to National Standards implementation.

We worked extensively with staff for half a year on written language, to develop an understanding of what teaching is required at each level of the curriculum and to assist them with the moderation of writing samples to develop consistency between classes. 71% of our students achieved their expected level or above, our school target was 80% however we must take into account that the bench mark for writing has risen with the introduction of National Standards.

84% of our children met or exceeded their expected level of achievement in mathematics using NUMPA. The staff worked intensively with a maths focus for the second half of the year implementing the changes required to meet National Standards and for teachers to feel confident in making their OTJs (overall teacher judgements). It was decided that we would not measure our children against National Standards in mathematics until 2011 as we did not feel ready for this.

Each year there are a number of activities that occur outside the normal classroom routine that we recognise as being important for our students development as having the skills and knowledge to enable a balanced lifestyle.

In the arts area there were a number of opportunities. A Japanese teacher, Chiko Mitsuyama, offered the children Japanese cultural and language experiences. Jane Lloyd the artist took two seasons with the entire school, with one session on *Perspectives* the other on *Comics*. About 40 Maungaraki School children sang at the Michael Fowler Centre as part of Artsplash. And of course the Wearable Arts Show mentioned earlier.

It was good to see the focus on physical activity and fitness result in a greatly increased number of students representing Maungaraki School across many sports at regional level. A visit by FIFA World Cup representative All Whites James Bannatyne and Andy Barren (both Maungaraki School old boys) also helped to

generate an interest in sports and motivate children to be involved. Opportunities in the sports arena included:

- Grasshopper tennis
- Western Zone cross country, athletics, swimming, soccer, netball and rugby
- After school touch rugby
- Saturday morning netball
- Swimming lessons at Huia Pool
- Year 7&8 Hutt Region Sporting Association events.

We also tried a few new things. Electives were offered for the first time in Term 2 providing the children with the chance to spend some time each week working on an area that they may not have experienced before or on which they wanted to develop some expertise – something we will definitely be doing again. And the school had its first Greats and Grans Day in Term 4, an interactive time where grandparents shared aspects of their childhood and experiences – so successful that our Greats and Grans have asked for it to be an annual event!

There was also the tried and true. The annual senior camp was again well supported by our students and parents and proved a great success in motivating our students to overcome fear and attempt activities they had not encountered before. Wheels Day again featured and was enjoyed by many as have school trips to places like Staglands.

Special Needs

The school provided a range of programmes to enhance student learning throughout the year. 99 students benefited from extra programmes which covered support and gifted and talented. The support programmes included:

Programme	No. of Students	Frequency	Commitment
Time to Talk	4 junior students	2 x ½ hr weekly	Terms 2, 3 & 4
Talk to Learn	5 middle school students	4 x ½ hr weekly	Terms 2, 3 & 4
ESOL	12 students	3 x ½ hr weekly	All Year
Social Skills	9 students	30 mins weekly	Terms 3 & 4
Writing (senior)	7 senior students	1½ hrs weekly	Terms 2, 3 & 4
Writing (middle)	4 middle students	3 x 45 mins weekly	Term 2
Reading and Writing	1 senior & 3 junior students	3 x ½ hr weekly (minimum)	All Year
Maths	7 junior students	30 mins weekly	Term 3 & 4

The school has made a significant commitment (through teacher aides) to provide additional support to the children who needed it. Teacher aides having the same set hours for the full year along with the involvement of the deputy principal, SENCO and part time teachers enabled many special programmes (see table above) to take place.

The school received its third ORRs child late in the year. It is important to note that the Government funding for the support of special needs children is not adequate for

full-time cover. Maungaraki School is committed to providing an effective environment for the integration of these children and commit the additional resources to do this.

Maungaraki School continues to get great support from the RTLB, as we continue to have high referral numbers in comparison to other schools in the Hutt Valley area.

Gifted and Talented

The school catered for its gifted and talented students through regular classroom programmes and through a range of extension programmes (see table below). Classes and syndicates are encouraged to cross-group to most effectively cater for those at all levels of the curriculum.

Curriculum Area	No. of Students	Frequency	Commitment
Literacy	9 senior students	45 mins weekly	Terms 3 & 4
ICT - Maungaraki Eye	13 senior students	45 mins weekly	All Year
Music	15 senior students	1½ hrs weekly	All Year
Maths	9 junior students	45 mins weekly	Terms 1 & 3
Environmental Studies	13 students	45 mins weekly	Term 3
Thinking Skills	12 students	45 mins weekly	Term 1
Art - Mural	10 students	5 x ½ days	Term 1

Our particular thanks go to Dan Mills for the work of art (mural) full of colour and life on what was previously a very dull wall.

Te Reo Maori

The school works hard to maintain strong links with its Maori community and to create an environment in Maungaraki School where things Maori are understood and respected.

Through the facilitation of our regular consultation with the school's Maori community the Board and staff ensure our Maori parents have a voice in the school. The school has this year reworked the Treaty of Waitangi Policy and the te reo Maori Implementation Plan to reflect the feedback received from the parent group. We have worked with our staff on the pronunciation of Maori names relevant to our school, established an annual Maori Language Week programme and a kapa haka group which is run by a staff member supported by one of our Maori parents.

The Board of Trustees and Maungaraki School are committed to:

- Respect for the diverse ethnic and cultural heritage of New Zealand people, with acknowledgement of the unique place of Maori, and New Zealand's role in the Pacific and as a member of the international community of nations.
- Increased participation and success by Maori through the advancement of Maori education initiatives, including education in te reo Maori consistent with the principles of the Treaty of Waitangi.

Teachers at Maungaraki School develop and implement learning programmes that provide opportunities for children to learn te reo Maori and tikanga Maori throughout the school. Where possible this is linked to our inquiry learning programme with staff introducing a Maori perspective and vocabulary related to the topic.

Sustainability

The school had four enquiry topics in 2010 (one each term) under the heading of sustainability:

- Knowing Me, Knowing You – developing a sense of belonging and community
- Recycling – a conservative nation
- Wearable Arts – as a nation we come from our history
- Different Worlds – mini beasts (junior) and solar system (senior)

The schools involvement in the Take Action for Water programme (supported by the Wellington Regional Council) was part of this.

2010 saw the establishment of an Enviroteam, also under the sustainability theme, who worked hard on recycling and achieved the Bronze Enviroschool's Award. The large red bin that was being emptied weekly with general rubbish, is now emptied approximately once a month which is not only good for the environment but is saving the school money. Food scraps are added either to the compost bin or to the worm farm and the resulting nutrients fed to the vegetable garden also established by the Enviroteam. This is flourishing to such an extent that it can now supplement the school lunches.

In other examples of environmental awareness and sustainability, children were successful in obtaining a grant for a water tank to provide rainwater for our gardens and in ensuring that the Hutt City Council approve the creation of the Envirohouse at the bottom of Dowse Drive for all schools to access in the future.

With the school being situated in a high wind zone, trees struggle to grow and it is an ongoing challenge to provide shaded areas for its students outside with a range of opportunities being explored. A group of students are working with an engineer to design a wind shelter to provide a quiet shaded outdoor area for our students.

The school employed a landscaper designer to develop a plan for beautifying the school grounds. Now that the plans have been finalised and the community consulted the work will begin in small projects with the total project expected to be spread over the next five years. We will be seeking assistance from across the wider community both in terms of labour and material donations to help progress this work.

Professional Development

2010 saw the school work with a Learning Media facilitator to help our staff come to terms with the National Standards. We divided the year in half with the first six months focusing on writing and the second half of the year focusing our staff on mathematics. Through this programme we looked at expectations of each level of the curriculum, moderating writing samples to develop closer consistency amongst the staff, and what information to use to develop accurate OTJs. We also looked at the content of these two curriculum areas to develop appropriate teacher knowledge.

Our thanks to Julie Beattie from Learning Media who was the facilitator who worked closely with the Maungaraki staff throughout the year preparing them for National Standards. We realise that we will need to continue developing our staff's knowledge and understanding in implementing the National Standards during 2011.

Property

21 April 2010 saw the opening of our marvellous new staffroom and our eleventh classroom by local MP Hon. Peter Dunne. The growing school meant growing numbers of staff. The new staffroom is a great space that is being well used not only by staff during breaks but also for professional meetings, parent information evenings and even class cooking sessions.

The building work caused a new entrant class, which started the year with low student numbers, to work in the library for several weeks, however they were fortunate to move into the new teaching space once it was completed.

We received notification of the impending arrival our third ORRs child late in the year and as a result the fencing of the school and a special needs bathroom were required. This process was complicated by the fact that the school uses Hutt City Council (HCC) reserve land as its field. Following negotiation this land was incorporated in the fencing with stipulations by the HCC resulting in a very attractive fence around the school. Neighbours were consulted as appropriate regarding the fence and its direct impact on their property.

The school now has two new classrooms built in the past four years, five recently renovated classrooms, with the remaining four classrooms scheduled for refurbishment when our next 5YP money is available mid-2012. The Board of Trustees have also begun investigating options to improve the overall effectiveness of the administration block (including the old staffroom).

Aspiring to Excellence – Future Directions

The Maungaraki Team will continue to be committed to providing Maungaraki School students with the educational and experience related learning opportunities that will serve them well across their life time.

2011 will be a year of consolidation in a number of ways. In terms of direction of the school this will particularly relate to National Standards implementation and reporting. The teaching staff will be working hard to continue to develop their

knowledge and to continue raising student achievement, primarily focussed in the areas of written language and mathematics, as we strive towards our strategic goals. We can also, finally, begin work on the first stages of the beautification of the school grounds!

2011 will also be a year of forward thinking. We will begin the consultation process with staff, students and the community with the aim of reviewing and revising our strategic plan and developing our next ten year property programme.

We can be proud that a number of this years accolades are a direct result of the Maungaraki School staff, assisted by parents, working together to enable our children to *Aspire to Excellence*.

Janine Foster
Chair, Board of Trustees

Carmen Jennings
Principal