

Citations for Achievers Breakfast – 25 June 2009

Matthew Barraud
Vern Chow
Wei Hao Hsu
Michael Lee

AKA “The Chord Busting Four”

These four boys make up our award winning barbershop group who have just won, by a very large margin, the Auckland Regional Quartet Division of the “Young Singers in Harmony”. They now qualify for the National Competitions to be held in August. This result is especially praiseworthy as none of these young men were members of our last year’s winning quartet and so they have made huge strides in their singing and clearly worked very hard to achieve at this excellent level.

Matthew, Vern, Wei Hao and Michael are also in “Overtones” our male barbershop chorus made up of more than 20 singers. “Overtones” won this year’s Auckland Regional Champs and last year’s national Gold medal. If they take out the Gold again at this year’s nationals it will be the third time in a row for Rangitoto College and the first time ever any school will have achieved this feat.

Good luck to you and the rest of the group for that and in your pursuit of the Quartet Gold.

Kate Bennett

Kate received enormous support in the elections for Year 13 student representatives this year, which resulted in her being selected for the position of Deputy Head Girl. Kate is one of those students who is friendly to everyone and her ready smile and positive approach obviously won her a lot of support from her peers.

Kate gets involved in things for the sheer enjoyment of participating. She has played soccer for every one of her five years at Rangitoto. She has also participated in Stage Challenge for the last two years. Kate has willingly hosted exchange students after her own trip to Tahiti as a Year 10 student.

Kate is involved in the organization of the Year 13 Ball next week and has also helped in the running of a wide range of Student Rep activities this year. She has been kept very busy and we thank her for her contribution to life at the College.

Andy Chan

Andy Chan has been a student in Rangitoto College since January 2005. During his time in Rangitoto he has excelled academically while also being involved in basketball and in Future Problem Solving.

Excelling particularly in the maths and sciences Andy has a long list of awards to his name:

- Distinction in Mathematics 2005, 2006, 2007 and 2008
- High Distinction in Science 2006
- Academic Award for Mathematics Extension 2007
- Academic Award for Specialist Science – Physics and Chemistry 2007

- Academic Excellence Award 2007 and 2008
- High Distinction Award in Economics 2008
- Special Assembly Achievement Award – Physics Extension 2008
- High Distinction Chemistry Award 2008

In January and May of this year Andy sat his SAT s and achieved scores of
740 for critical reading
760 for mathematics
And
800 for physics
These are excellent results.

To balance his studies Andy has also been involved in basketball playing in our Under 17B Boys team in 2006 and our Boys Under 17A team in 2007 in which year he also represented the school in our Senior Boys team at the Western Heights Tournament. In 2008 he was a participant in our High Performance Basketball Programme. This year he is a member of our Premier Boys Basketball team which has been undefeated in 8 games played so far this season.

He has been involved in Future Problem Solving for the past two years and is fully committed to his team. Andy has also actively raised funds for 40 hour famine, and the Red Cross.

This year Andy was selected by his peers to be a student leader, a role that he takes seriously indeed.

And, to top this year off, he has been selected to be a participant in a “People to people leadership summit” being held in Harvard University. He will be over there from 11th until 19th July.

Andy is an outstanding young man who is hoping to study in the United States next year.

Andy, we know you will be successful in life, enjoy your Harvard experience, and we look forward to following your future which we know will be filled with glittering prizes. Please join with me in honouring Andy Chan.

Jack Hayashi

Jack demonstrated the huge respect his peers have for him when he was elected as Rang Toto College’s Head Boy at the start of this year. His feet have scarcely hit the ground since.

Together with the Head Girl Jack leads the team of Student Representatives and with the team of Deputies is responsible for the organization of a huge number of events throughout the year.

Jack enjoys a challenge and has participated in a Spirit of Adventure ten day voyage this year, as well as two major tramps, one on Ontario and the other on Great Barrier Island. His tramping is done with an ultimate goal in mind. He was awarded his Silver Duke of Edinburgh badge last year and Jack hopes to finish his Gold badge this year.

Concern about the environment is also one of Jack’s passions. He is one of the leaders of Planet People which is an amalgamation of two of our existing groups – the Environmental Committee and our Greenpeace group. He is also committed to our Cambodian House building project and travelled there last year with our school group.

Jack has involved himself with sport through soccer teams for the last five years and also dabbled in Fencing as a Year 11 student. With his myriad of interests and his preparedness

to give back to the school Jack is the sort of student who thrives at Rangitoto. We wish him all the best for the future and thank him for his contribution to life at the College.

Sam Henderson

Sam Henderson has been a student in Rangitoto College since January 2005. During his time in Rangitoto he has been fully committed to his studies, his involvement in sport, drama and his leadership.

Sam puts a tremendous effort into his studies and in 2007 achieved academic awards for English, History, Science, Spanish and Drama. He was also awarded an academic excellence award.

He has represented the school at soccer and cricket since 2005 and in 2007 was awarded a sports award for playing in the Cricket North Harbour U15 A Team. In 2008 not only did Sam play in our Soccer 1st X1 but also in our 1st X1 Cricket team.

Performing is also a strength of Sam's. From achieving first place in the Y9 speech competition to Junior and Senior Shakespeare productions and Stage Challenge. In 2008 Sam was awarded an arts award for Excellence in Stage Challenge and an Excellent Performance in Much Ado About Nothing.

Last night he performed in this year's Stage Challenge performance at the Aotea Centre although we have not yet heard the results.

Sam's peers acknowledge his contribution to the school. In 2008 he was elected to the position of Y12 School Leader a responsibility that he fully lived up to. This year he was again appointed to the position of School Leader and in particular to the position of Deputy Head boy.

Sam, we thank you for everything that you have contributed to our school and we honour you.

Suzy McKinney

Suzy is an academically outstanding student. She gained 4 grade 1's and two grade 2's for her College report for her six subjects at the end of last year. This placed her in the top 20 Rangitoto students for Level 2 in 2008. Significantly she received all V's, the top grade, for effort. She has continued in the same vein this year and her last report showed four achievement grade 1's and all V's for the key competencies. Covering a range of possible options, Suzy is studying Chemistry, Biology, Economics, History and Maths with Calculus.

Suzy is conscientious and very motivated. She contributes enthusiastically in class and her insightful comments and sharing of her ideas helps other members of the class clarify their concepts as well as her. She is well organised and a friendly and popular student.

Far from being narrowly academically focused Suzy has found the time to get involved in a wide range of activities including canoe polo and windsurfing. She played netball for three years. She has been in a range of different music groups including the big band which won a gold award at the KBB music festival and were finalists in the AAMP competition. She has been a member of a future problem solving team for the last two years and competed in the FPS International Competition.

We look forward to seeing Suzy's progress over the remainder of the year.

Josh Tattley

Josh always sets himself high goals in both his academic and sporting life.

He is a natural sportsman, excelling at both Athletics and Hockey in the former only taking the training seriously since the end of 2008. A few months later he won the North Island Championship 800m and was an impressive fourth at the Nationals. His goal for Athletics is to compete at the Youth Worlds in Canada next year.

It is his first sport of Hockey where Josh has had a lot of his success. He has been playing the sport since 7 years old and has been in a representative team for the last ten years. He is currently a member of the North Harbour U21 team.

His talent as a striker has seen him be a member of the 1st XI since Year 9 and also play Club hockey from the same age.

Josh has been a member of the North Harbour U18 Hockey team that won the national title. The team was also presented with the title of North Harbour Young Sports Team of the Year in 2008.

Josh's future goal is to make the New Zealand team and go to the Olympics in 2016.

Hope Thompson

Since coming to Rangitoto College in 2007 Hope has made a name for herself as a dedicated and talented sportswoman. She quickly established herself as a member in both of our top basketball and netball teams.

As a basketballer she was an integral part of second place at the New Zealand secondary schools championship last year. This year the team is currently undefeated. Hope has represented North Harbour at Under 14, 15, and 17 levels.

This year for the first time she has made herself available for representative selection in netball. She has met with immediate success in making the Netball North Under 17A team; the highest regional representative honour available.

Not content with excellence in two sports, Hope is also a top volleyball player. Last year she helped our senior girls' volleyball team win the third division national title with.

Hope is a quiet, modest person whose demeanour belies the talent and determination she displays on the court.

Johann Timmer

Johann is a natural when it comes to sports. Any sport that he puts his mind to he succeeds at.

However, it is volleyball that he has excelled in. With his height and impeccable timing he is a master at spiking the ball and scoring points.

He has been playing the Sport since Year 7. At the College he had an instrumental part of the junior team winning the Auckland Championships and coming runner-up at the North Island Championships.

At the senior level he has been a member of the Premier team since Year 11. Once again being a key factor in the team gaining 1st and 2nd at the Auckland Championships.

At both a junior and senior level he has made the tournament teams for the Auckland Championships and also at a National level.

He is currently a captain of the NZU19 Volleyball team that is competing at the Australian Interstate Volleyball Championships in Brisbane in the upcoming holidays.

Johann was also Captain of the Auckland Secondary Schools team that won the U19 invitational tournament. His outstanding play saw him awarded the *Most Valuable Player*.

His success in volleyball is not just indoors. He is currently NZU19 Beach Volleyball Champion. He is the only U19 player to represent NZ in both indoor and Beach Volleyball. In August he travels to Turkey for the World Junior Beach Volleyball Championships.

Johann's future plans for his indoor game are to gain a scholarship to a university in America and in beach he plans to play the world tour and then go to the Olympics in 2016.

Johann has a bright future ahead of him in his sport.

Debra (Yi-Chi) Yeh

Debra is another academically outstanding student. Her 6 grade 1 V's from the end of 2008 was as good as it is possible to get. Her grade point average for Level 2 in 2008 was a highly impressive 95. This put her clearly in the top 20 Rangitoto students. Her last report with four 1's places her in the top group again for Year 13.

Debra is an exemplary student, enthusiastic, conscientious and an inclusive group member. Well organised and mature, she is popular with her peers and is a student representative and peer support leader.

Debra has a wide range of interests. She has competed to Distinction in a large number of Maths and Science competitions and in the National SS Chamber Music competition. She has played netball for five years and has been a member of a Future Problem Solving Team that was second in the dramatic presentation part of the National Finals and competed in the International competition.

Debra has continued in a slightly unusual mix of subjects, Chemistry, Physics, Maths with Calculus, English and Spanish. She is also extending herself by doing a first year Maths paper at Auckland University. She continues to work at the top level and we are very confident that Debra will perform exceptionally well at the end of this year.