Red & Black

The Scots College Student Newspaper

Best Hakataetae ever?

In Term 3, Scots College came together for the school's annual Hakataetae event, celebrating Te Ao Māori through a spectacular house competition. This year's event was especially significant as it was rescheduled from the end of term to Week 8 so that it could occur during Te Wiki o Te Reo Māori and further celebrate the language.

Each House performed a karanga and whaikōrero, in addition to a waiata and haka as a full House. The atmosphere at the event was electric, with each House bringing passionate performances. Matua Emerson even described the event as "the best Hakataetae ever."

Each performance began with a waiata that helped establish the wairua of the occasion. Humanities teacher Mr Sargent said it was "great to see staff at Scots College getting directly involved in Hakataetae." He described the event as "a celebration and active revitalization of Te Ao Māori in our community." he also mentioned how the performance helped create kotahitanga between staff and students. As a member of MacKenzie House, he praised the Year 13 students and House Leaders for sharing their knowledge and recognised the Year 7 and 8 students who stepped forward to help lead the group. Mr Sargent also stated that students built confidence through the practices, creating "a whānau within our house."

MacKenzie House ultimately claimed victory. For many, however, the significance of the event extended beyond the result. Overall, the 2026 Hakataetae showed how cultural celebration and House competition can create unity between staff and students.

- Neel J and Hristo H

By Year 12 students Augustine Hayes, Adam Mackey, and Nyasha Chikobvu

Teacher Feature

For the second teacher feature, we interviewed Mr. Lubbe, a math teacher. His incredible stories are known among his students, so we decided to learn and share more about him.

1. **What are the activities you enjoy doing in your free time?**

I like to spend as much time with my family as possible, watch movies and tv series, and also play golf.

2. **Are there any movies you like?**

Loads, I watch almost anything except horror. I've outgrown it now.

3. W**hat do you think is your greatest achievement in or outside the school?**

I like to identify problems and then develop solutions, and in every company and employer I've worked with I've managed to do that. Some of the things I've done have been rolled out to other schools. I've also just finished my Master's degree last week, so that's a big deal.
In terms of personal, I used to play volleyball at the national level when I was a teenager. That was pretty big.

4. **You mentioned before that you nearly went to the Olympics.**

Yeah, we were supposed to go. It couldn't happen though.

5. **What is your home country/town, and have you lived in other parts of the world?**

Yes. I was born and grew up in South Africa, but we moved around a lot. I do not really have hometown because I was in six different schools throughout my 13 years. We moved around a lot.
Then in terms of other countries, I have lived in three countries, worked in six, and I've travelled to 25.

- Chenghao (Samuel) Y

Farewelling our Year 13 Leavers

Tom L leading the MacKenzie House Haka

This year's Year 13s have been central to our year at Scots this year. Events from Mā Pango Mā Whero week to our weekly assemblies and Chapel services, they have been instrumental to our successes this year and have left big shoes to fill for next year's leadership team. To hear about their times at Scots and what they've learned, we've interviewed two Year 13s.

First, Tom L, who is on his fifth year at Scots, advised younger students to, "take full advantage of your time here." At Scots, we are lucky to have chances to succeed in sports, music, and our own personal endeavours. For Tom, the variety of opportunities available has been what he has most enjoyed about school life at Scots.

"My favorite moment at Scots was winning the House Haka," shared Tom, who won with MacKenzie this year. "It's something I've always wanted to win and to win it in my last year was amazing"

Austin K, who is also in his fifth year at Scots, explained that "the culture" was what made Scots different from the other places he has been. Often at Scots, our "special character" is discussed in relation to our school culture, which emphasizes how students' character mirrors the teachings upholded by our Chapel services. One way this manifests is in the House Haka, which Austin also shares as his favorite memory from Scots. As Year 13s prepare to leave Scots, these traditions become especially significant, as they are not only memories but events that shape us.

Ultimately, for this reason, Austin encourages younger students at Scots to "try new things." For many Year 13s, experiences at Scots have helped shape their characters; likewise, it will likely form the people that we are, which is why we ought to fully appreciate our time here.

House Activities

Fresh off the stage after an incredible, high-energy House Haka competition, students carried that intense house spirit straight into the House Quiz. The energy in the room was electric as teams switched from powerful performances to sharp trivia battles.

When the final scores were tallied, Plimmer claimed a brilliant victory, taking first place overall after putting up a solid effort in House Haka. Fergusson put up a strong effort to secure second place, while Smith captured the bronze medal. Mawson finished in a solid fourth, followed by MacKenzie, who couldn't go back-to-back after winning House haka, came in fifth. Aitken showed true resilience, despite missing the finals, their strong round-robin performance earned them sixth place, just ahead of Uttley in seventh. That leaves Glasgow looking to make their mark in the next inter-house event!

- Ollie C

Students' Quote of the Day

This edition's quote was provided by the Year 13 Noah R:

"Be strong enough to be gentle"

This quote, originally from Peter Cullen, the voice actor best known for his role in the Transformers, shares that true strength is not achieved through putting others down but by lifting others up and showing kindness to people instead of being negative. Often times, when we have positions of power or responsibility, it is easy to treat others harshly. However, Cullen's quote emphasizes that it takes even more strength to treat others kindly than it does to be rude. Requiring patience and calmness, it can be very difficult to be gentle with others; in contrast, lashing out can be even easier. So, in any situation where you may be tempted to become angry with others, remember that really being strong means being gentle.

- Elijah R

Word Unscramble

Easy: ZUQI

Medium: VLAREES

Hard: ALOLBELYVL

Easy: Quiz
Medium: Leavers
Hard: Volleyball