

HISTORY OF OREWA COLLEGE

Our Mission statement is:

Orewa College provides a supportive and challenging centre of learning for all students in their progress towards an enriched and responsible citizenship.

Our vision is:

Orewa College will be the pride of the district, promoting high student achievement, expectations of excellence in the curriculum and high participation and success in co-curricular activities. Its graduates will be responsible, independent, confident, proud, well-balanced and motivated young adults.

We fulfil this throughout our programme, both curriculum and in the co-curricular area. We have a strong values programme 'Manaaki Orewa' which we translate as 'to foster, to support, to journey together'.

It is based on respect – for oneself, others and the environment

Signs around the school, kindly donated by a friend of the school, reinforce our purpose. The environmental prefects chose the signs in 2003 and they will be reviewed at regular intervals.

Our learning programme 'Ako Orewa' is based on the best learning practices. We do not take up every new idea, rather we seek to develop understanding of how such factors as gender, learning styles technology and special interest impact on teaching and learning, and incorporate this knowledge into our teaching and learning programme. We belong to Farnet, a virtual learning network delivering on line lessons by video conferencing, and are currently establishing a virtual network in the local region. We are introducing one to one devices for all Year 9 students (preferably an iPad 2) in 2012.

The House system also reinforces our mission statement, and allows for support and friendly competition. The five Houses support Starship, Koru Care, World Vision, Child Cancer and guide dogs as their House charities. The House Boards were completed in 2002, the first year of the House system, and were painted by Mr Trevor Dowman, a local artist and ex caretaker of the school. The Houses are Batten, Sheppard, McLaren, Blake and Nepia, all New Zealand heroes.

School assemblies alternate between one week for year levels, and one week for House groups. There is a Student Council representing students from Year 7 – 13, which has input into the development and evaluation of school policies and programmes.

We have a large international programme with up to 100 students, as well as several exchange students each year through the Rotary and AFS programmes. Our biggest international student group is from Europe.

Orewa College started as a District High School in 1956 with a roll of 101. It translated to a secondary school in 1974, and a Year 7 – 13 school in 2005. The roll is expected to exceed 1900 resident students, as well as a strong international student group. Students up until Year 12 wear school uniform, with mufti at Year 13.

There has been significant property development over the past few years due to strong roll growth.

The Hopper Block was named after Bill Hopper in his capacity as a Trustee. Hopper families residing on the Coast also provided tree planting and some work at that time. It recently had a major upgrade in the Food and Fabric rooms and the Automotive and Motorbody facilities. The Hard Materials rooms and teacher resource are also being constantly improved.

Dalziell Block was named after Dr Dalziell who was Board of Governors Chairman from 1980 to 1989, and houses the English and Media Studies facilities. A specialist Lecture Theatre and Film Editing facility for Media Studies was opened in 2006 by Mr Ian Mune, the well known actor and movie director.

The Harvey Block is named after our previous chairman, Mr Ian Harvey, and was opened by Mr Michael King, an historian, and Mr Harvey, at a dawn blessing with a local kaumatua, Pita Pou on 18th November 1999. The Languages wing was opened 2nd April 2003, by Mr Harvey and the Mayor of Rodney Mr John Law. Three trees representing the Spanish language, (a Mexican Alder), Japanese (a Maple), and Te Reo Maori (a Titoki), were planted in the adjacent courtyard. The Languages mural

was completed in 2000 by Tim Stephens, a student at the time. The third wing of the Harvey block was opened in May 2005 by Professor John Raine, the Deputy Vice Chancellor of Massey University, Albany.

The Astroturf courts and the grounds are extensively used for Physical Education and Sport. The chess boards were constructed in 2005. The Beach Volleyball and Petanque courts were developed in 2010, as was the Fitness Trail on the edge of the fields.

The Rt. Hon Don McKinnon opened the extended Gymnasium complex on 19th November 1998, when seminar rooms, a commercial kitchen, a function foyer and new offices and changing rooms were added. The gymnasium floor was replaced with a sprung floor, and an extension added for weight training. A second gymnasium was completed in 2006.

The Art Block was opened by Mr Jeff Thomson, sculptor, in March 2002 and has three new rooms added to existing ones. It has a dedicated ICT pod for Art use.

Many of the gardens around the school were designed and constructed by the Horticulture classes over a period of years. The memorial flagpole garden was planted to commemorate New Zealanders who have fought overseas. The roses are called "Trumpeter" and were donated by the Silverdale RSA. The garden was blessed by the RSA Padre Reverend Campbell Jackson and kaumatua, Pita Pou, in a ceremony with all the Year 12 students in June 2001. The plants represent areas in the world, particularly the Mediterranean, where New Zealanders have fought. They include cyclamen combs brought back from Crete by Dr Holgate and donated by Mrs Bridgman from Auckland.

The Estuary Display board was designed and painted by the Year 10 Art classes in 2001.

The Searle Block, (Mathematics and Science), is named after Professor Searle, who was a geology expert from Auckland University, and was opened in 1976. Professor Searle was Chairman of the Board of Governors from 1974 to 1983. The Science department puts strong emphasis on investigative work, and has won the premier award at the North Harbour Science Fair several times, as well as national awards.

The OAEC (Orewa Arts and Events Centre) was opened in March 2010 by the Prime Minister John Key. It is used for school assemblies and events, as well as many community activities such as the annual Hospice Ball.

The Old Main block is the original part of the school. It is now home to ICT and Science labs. The Old Main upgrade was completed in 2007.

The Library extension was opened on 8th December 1998 by Mr Paul Burrell, a local poet, and is used extensively for both print and Internet research.

The Music department has a wide range of groups; orchestra, concert band, woodwind, senior and junior jazz bands, barbershop, choirs and other small groups. The groups give regular assembly performances and concerts. There is a band academy and the instrumental groups compete successfully each year in national events. The department moved into a suite opened in October 2003 by the Prime Minister and Minister of the Arts Helen Clark.

This left space for the construction of the Administration Block, opened on 6th April 2005 by Professor Stuart McCutcheon, Vice Chancellor, University of Auckland. Student art work is prominently displayed in this building. The eight wood relief carvings on the wall in the Deputy Principals foyer were created by seven of our Year 12 students from the Sculpture class, alongside artist Jeff Lockhart and Graeme Irving, HOD Art. They are named "Taku Taiao" and represent elements from our environment.

The coloured Perspex pop art in the main foyer consists of flat silhouettes cut out of coloured Perspex showing aspects of student life and our surroundings. Mr Irving instigated the idea and three students assisted him with the cutting and polishing.

The bronze sculpture, "Whirl" in the administration courtyard was designed and completed by sculptor, Richard Mathieson in August 2008. It was an Arts in Schools project and Richard worked over the year with twelve of our gifted artists from Year 9 to 12 who learned about the process of designing a sculpture to be site specific and the background skills required to complete it.

The Drama department do a number of productions each year including a Theatre Restaurant, a senior production (this year "The Crucible"), and a musical production held at Centrestage, this year

“Little Shop of Horrors”, a community theatre adjacent to the school. There are middle school productions at the end of each year, and an annual senior play, as well as smaller concerts throughout the year. The school enters successfully in the Subway Stage Challenge, this year with a presentation based on issues around animals, and bands compete annually in the Smokefree Rock Quest.

Because of roll growth in the district, an area strategy was developed involving all local schools on the Hibiscus Coast. For Orewa College, the outcome was the formation of a Year 7-13 school in 2005, and a halving of the school intake with the parallel development of Whangaparaoa College. It was our Board’s wish to remain as a moderate sized school, with the ability to plan and deliver the curriculum from Year 7 to Year 13. Significant growth since then means we need to re-look at our size and structure as we plan towards 2020.

Leadership and personal development opportunities are encouraged. Each year, Prefects are chosen after application and extensive staff consultation. There are four prefect groups; House, Sport, Performing Arts, and Community Service, and regular training and support, which includes a beginning of year camp, is given. These leadership opportunities are being further developed as the seniors work with Year 7 and 8 students.

The broad base of our education is further reinforced by separate award ceremonies at the middle and senior level, which acknowledge high performance and commitment to the Performing Arts, Sport, and to academic success. In 2009 we held our first Senior Graduation for Year 13 students, following the success of Middle School Graduation from Year 10 to the Senior school, which was first established in 2006.

Each term we have an Achievers Breakfast for the students who have achieved at the highest level, usually regional or national, that term. They are invited to attend with their families.

As well, each year we have a number of our students being presented at Government House with their Duke of Edinburgh Gold awards by the Governor General. This year eight students will be in the group.

All staff appointed to Orewa College are expected to support our values and practices and to help in the co curricular programme so that student opportunities can be maximised. Four existing staff members have been the recipient of Woolf Fisher scholarship awards for international study.

The school is involved with success in North Harbour and national sporting and cultural competitions, and has good relationships with local contributing schools and clubs. Many local businesses support the school via scholarships, work experience and sponsorship.

We believe that:

- Our prime purpose is the education of our students and all decisions effecting the school will be based upon improving the educational outcomes of all students.
- Student learning is directly related to the quality of teaching and all staff continue developing their skills to provide the highest quality of teaching.
- A comprehensive values programme, ‘Manaaki Orewa’ and a structured set of learning strategies, ‘Ako Orewa’ should form part of the school’s curriculum and culture, as does the House system.
- All staff at Orewa College will have an understanding of the school’s vision and programmes, roles and structures that support that vision. There will thus be consistency in what we do in the classroom, the school, and the community, aimed at the achievement of the vision.

