

Ipsa Duce

Issue No: 72, October 2018
Kavanagh College, 340 Rattray Street, Dunedin.

Celebrating Excellence!

A Premier Award for Ollie

Yr 13 student Ollie Meikle's research into horopito for the Otago Aurora Science & Technology Fair saw him win a clutch of prizes: the University of Otago Department of Biochemistry Award and Department of Botany Award, the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry Award, the Otago Polytechnic College of Enterprise and Development Award, and the Aurora Premier Award for Best in Fair. His report was called 'Ambulance at the bottom of the cliff,' an investigation into the relationship between leaf pigmentation in New Zealand's native horopito and predation at the Orokonui Ecosanctuary near Dunedin. This is a summary of his presentation.

BACKGROUND: Horopito (*pseudowintera colorata*), also known as the New Zealand Pepper Tree, is an evergreen flowering tree and shrub endemic to New Zealand. It is distributed throughout New Zealand. The most common variety can grow between 1–2.5 metres to 8 metres in height. Horopito gets its Pepper Tree name from the unpalatable peppery taste and burning sensation experienced when the leaves are chewed. The red colour in some Horopito leaves could be a warning to insects of the chemical action in Horopito which results in the unpleasant taste and a numbing effect on insect mouthparts. Interestingly some Horopito leaves are completely red, some have patches of red while others remain green.

AIM: To investigate the relationship between predation on the leaves of Horopito (*P. colorata*) and the amount of red pigment present on the leaves. I predict that the higher the amount of red pigment found on the total surface area of the leaf, the less predation there will be.

METHODOLOGY: The advantage of investigating Horopito in situ is that the ecology of the species can be investigated within its usual habitat which means that it is more likely that an accurate representation of the actual effect and interaction of different variables on Horopito can be seen. Variables could be light intensity, temperature, altitude, soil, water availability, seasons, the type of competition in the habitat and its effect, the existence and effect of foraging by animals, birds and insects and the presence and effect of diseases in the environment of the Horopito. **The dependent variable of the red pigment would be hard to control.**

SAMPLING: Because leaves were not to be removed from the Horopito within the Ecosanctuary (reducing harm to the plant), a sampling method has been developed which is not



invasive to the plant and which means a large enough sample can be obtained to give the best chance of obtaining reliable data. A five grade classification system has been developed to be able to select the leaves that are to become part of the sample under investigation; for example, Class 1 is 0-20%, Class 5 is 81-100%. **METHOD:** The ImageJ method for

data collection was chosen for its accuracy. Ten Horopito plants were located and five leaves were chosen from each plant for analysis, with one leaf for each of the five classes from each of the ten plants. To record the samples, a 10cm scale was measured on a page and the page was labelled with the plant sample number and the class the leaf was allocated to. Without detaching the leaf from the plant, the leaf was lined up against the 10cm scale and photographed with the label information and scale visible. The whole Horopito plant was then photographed and any significant details were noted about its location, surrounding environment and factors that might affect plant growth and health such as exposure to sunlight, altitude and water availability. After all samples were collected from the ten plants, the photographs for each plant were grouped in order, from class 1 to 5 of the HRPC. Next, the computer programme ImageJ was used to calculate the area of the leaf before predation occurred and then the area of the leaf after predation. All data was loaded on to Excel and the surface area percentage lost to predation was calculated and converted to a percentage to 2 significant figures.

RESULTS: The results were not as predicted and would appear to not support the hypothesis that, the more total surface area of red pigment on a Horopito leaf, the less predation there will be. It was thought that the red pigment is an anti-predation mechanism that helps Horopito to survive based on the fact that all new Horopito leaves in young plants are entirely red. Instead, as the total surface area of red pigment increases, the more predation there is.

CONCLUSION: The hypothesis was that, the more total surface area of red pigment there is on a leaf, the less predation there will be. This is because it was thought that the red pigment is an anti-predation mechanism that the Horopito uses to survive.

At first appearance, the results suggest the opposite of what was hypothesised. It has been observed that there is a direct correlation between an increasing amount of predation with increasing red pigment and this has been validated by the R2 value which indicated that 95.68% of the data followed this trend – a strong correlation that shows that any outliers do not have a



First place on Kavanagh Day went to McAuley House.

significant impact. However, upon further examination of the results and more in depth research to try to explain what seemed to be an anomaly at first, it can be concluded that the scientific principles behind the hypothesis are partially correct. It can be concluded that red pigment in Horopito leaves is an anti-predation mechanism but not as a preventive behaviour but as a defensive behaviour. The red pigment forms on green leaves of the Horopito in response to predator attack therefore it is a defense mechanism used to deter predators. Instead of the red pigment being present already on a green leaf, it forms only when it is needed. The Horopito leaf has most likely evolved with the ability to form red pigment to be able survive as a species (natural selection) and because interactions with predators have 'taught' it that this response takes advantage of the limitations of insect predators such as their need for camouflage and possibly limited range of photoreceptors. Also, other predators such as birds (as well as the insects) soon make an association between the red pigment and the unpleasant peppery taste/ odour of Horopito from the chemical polygodial and this works as part of the anti-predation mechanism. This could explain why the young leaves of a new Horopito tree are entirely red. The association between the red pigment and an unpleasant taste and possible toxic effects deters the predators and the young tree has a better chance of surviving the most vulnerable part of its life. However, to be able to continue to grow and be strong, Horopito needs energy and this is formed through photosynthesis which requires green leaves containing chloroplasts which contain the green pigment chlorophyll that is converted to energy. This could explain why the mature leaves only produce red pigment when they are damaged rather than already being red for protection.

In this investigation into red pigment and its relationship to predation, it can be seen that the Horopito plants that were studied have evolved to be able to adapt to their environment so that they can survive as a species. The findings suggest that Horopito form green leaves to be able to photosynthesise to gain energy for growth while also having the ability to respond to predator attack by triggering the red pigment. It would be interesting to further research the relationship between red pigment in horopito and predation in an environment where horopito have not been introduced by people deliberately but where they have just naturally grown. Researching the young plants and the mature plants separately would be recommended since the red pigment appears to take on a different function in each of them.

Kavanagh's first Youth Olympian: Erika Fairweather

Congratulations to Erika Fairweather, now part of the New Zealand Team to the 2018 Buenos Aires Youth Olympics in October. Erika will be competing in Swimming at the Youth Olympic Games, and we are sure she will make herself, her family, and her school very proud of her efforts.

The New Zealand Olympic Committee has named Erika Fairweather as one of four swimmers to represent New Zealand at the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games in October.

At 14 years old Erika will likely be one of the youngest athletes, if not the youngest athlete, competing at the Buenos Aires 2018 Youth Olympic Games as her birthday (31/12/2003) is the cut off date for eligible athletes.

The last twelve months has been a breakout year for Erika who now holds 12 national age-group records, including the girls 14 years 200m and 400m freestyle short course records set at the Otago Winter Championships. She will compete in the women's 100m, 200m, 400m and 800m freestyle events.

Erika is of Ngai Tahu descent and says "My career highlight was probably medalling at the NZ Opens in the 400 and 200 freestyle. I started swimming in a learn to swim program when I was very young and after completing most of the levels I joined the



Dunedin squad system and started racing. I love the competitive side of swimming, being able to race teammates and friends for bragging rights or chocolate is always fun! I love the way I move and feel in the water. I'm inspired by many people but most of all I'm inspired by my coaches and the older members of my team who love the sport as much as I do and are always supportive of each other while at the same time achieving at high levels."

Go, Erika!

KAV KWIZ, by Sam Meikle

1. What element does the chemical symbol 'Mn' represent?
2. Who wrote the well-known musical piece, Spring?
3. The owner of Tesla and leader of SpaceX, Elon Musk, recently came in controversy for..?
4. The sun is rising earlier and the sun is setting later and later - eventually reaching the longest day of the year when?
5. Where is the headquarters for Education Perfect located?

ANSWERS ON PAGE 4!

HAVE YOUR SAY!

Future positivity, by Ella Reilly, 8TSU

Do you really want your future children living in a nasty world where there is a struggle to find positivity? Our world has evolved and developed greatly over the past years, yet prejudice and biased actions still cause great havoc which has the impact to separate and divide people solely based on their unfair and uninformed perspectives. We even allow people to proceed with things we acknowledge are not right. We let people judge others based on a stereotype or on another person's actions. Our world must take action now. We all, as a community, need to stop judging people with diverse ethnicities, race, religions and sexualities. Some things need to change immediately. Firstly, a discussion on the undeniable negative influence named Donald Trump. Secondly, the immediate and unnecessary judgement of an entire community just based on one comment, person or action. Finally, prejudice in the workplace and the inequality that women face every day. We need to change minds so that we can change lives.

Donald J Trump was elected in late 2016 to become the next president of the United States of America. While a small population of America had quickly adjusted to this mad man in power, the majority of the world has been left in shock. With Barack Obama in charge the world felt like a safer place. Little did anyone know that the next most powerful man in America would change lives forever with his arrogant need for discrimination. His large antics were seen in his first moments in charge. Trump decided that he wanted to build a wall, excluding Mexicans. How can someone reach the shameful point that they wanted a clueless lunatic who is a disgusting person in every single way to lead our world with such bad intentions?

Secondly, our world is exceedingly closed minded. Not many people acknowledge this. Our judgement on a race or ethnicity, sexuality or religion is almost immediate. Why do people judge a book by its cover or by what they have heard before actually simply having a conversation? For instance, a terrorist attack on a certain place. Of course that means that should they be arrested they should definitely go to jail. Yet people then start 'hating on' a kind, innocent person based on their identical religion or race! In addition, sometimes if a person has a disadvantaged lifestyle they are instantly criticised them before we get to know them. This is significant because there is a lot of unnecessary mistreatment of various cultures. On the whole, nearly everyone is caring and considerate.

Thirdly, why should women be penalised for being 'women'? They are sometimes paid less in the workplace, because of their gender. This is extraordinarily sexist, biased and prejudiced. Women are capable of great things! In a female dominated workplace a man can be paid more. This means that specific areas in our current world still experience inequalities.

It is mandatory that we face these issues and as best as we can so our world can become a more just place. We need to elect intelligent leaders who have the potential to change it, positively. Crucially, we must stop judging others and accept them for who they are, regardless of race, gender or culture. We all need to have an impact on these issues, now!

School in New Zealand or school in Germany?



Scarlett with a bag she made in class.

My name is Scarlett Gebhardt. I am 16 years old and come from Leverkusen near Cologne. I have been learning English since year one at school. I had already learned a few words at kindergarten.

Right on the first day at Kavanagh College, I felt very happy. Everyone welcomed me and was so friendly. It is very nice to be part of this community for a year. On my first day I noticed immediately the school uniforms. In Germany Everyone can wear what they want, for example jeans and jerseys. In addition, the relationship between students and teachers is also different. Here it is more of a friendly relationship, which I totally appreciate, because in Germany, the students are clearly subordinate to the teacher. In addition, the lessons are very different. In my school a class or course usually consists of at least 25-30 students. During the lesson which is 90 minutes long (depending on the school), the teacher stands in front of the class and explains or asks something, and if we know the answer we have to raise our hands. Here it is more like a conversation

between the teachers and the students. There is also very high pressure to succeed in Germany but everything here is so relaxed. That is really nice and pleasant, which makes learning easier. Furthermore, I think it's great that there are some creative and practical subjects like Food Technology or Textile Design, because we do not have them. Another huge difference is the use of media. Of course, here in New Zealand you can use laptops or mobile phones in the classroom, but in Germany we write everything by hand and laptops and mobile phones are not allowed to be used.

Generally I can say that you are four years in the primary school and then go on to a further school. There are several choices of secondary schools. I go for example to a Gymnasium (high school) which one could compare with the Kavanagh College however from Grade 5 to 12. We could choose the 'normal' class, the bilingual class or the sport class. I was in a bilingual class which means I had History, Biology, Geography and Politics in English. From Grade 5-9 you have given subjects in community classes so everything with the same people until you can then choose in Year 10. My school is also relatively large with 1800 students, so we also have a large selection of subjects compared to other schools. For example, my school also offers Russian, Italian, Pedagogics, Psychology, Law and Technology. We also have to take 12 subjects and compulsory subjects. Our compulsory subjects are Religious Education or Philosophy, PE, one language (from Year 5 till Year 9 English), in year 6 we have to choose Latin or French), Music or Art, one social science, Math and one natural science. We could choose the 'normal' class, the bilingual class or the sport class. School starts at 8am and we do not have tutor time, so the lesson starts right away. If there is anything important to discuss with the whole year we have an assembly. For example at the beginning of the school year. In general, we have snow days, but I have only had it twice since my entire at school and that is not, because it does not snow. In winter we have snow, but just not enough that the school will close. In summer we have sometimes (heat free), so if it is too hot the principal may decide to let us go at 12pm. Our school year starts in August and ends in July. We have Autumn, Christmas and Easter holidays, all for two weeks. In addition we have a lot of public holidays. We write two or three exams for each subject every semester. At the beginning of high school we do in German a lot of grammar and writing stories.

Bunch of Seven



Monique
Hollis-Pye,
Yr 7

Finn
Watson,
Yr 8



Eva
Tindall-
Morice,
Yr 9



Shimmah
Matika,
Yr 10



Andrew
Wilson,
Yr 11



Jayben
Tohill, Yr 12



Masin
Kewene-
Masina, Yr
13



What was the best moment for you on Kavanagh Day?

Monique: Watching the other Houses do lip synchs.
Finn: The tug of war.
Eva: Watching the other Houses do lip synchs.
Shimmah: Going home.
Andrew: The Quiz.
Jayben: The Van Push: having everyone work together to win.
Masin: Winning.

What's the one thing adults don't know about teenagers?

Monique: Don't know. I'm not a teenager!
Finn: The trends.
Eva: That we find it hard to talk to them about certain things.
Shimmah: How much sleep we need.
Andrew: How late we stay up at night.
Jayben: We're a lot smarter, now that we understand how the world works.
Masin: Lack of sleep.

What's the best film you've seen this year?

Monique: 'The Greatest Showman.'
Finn: 'Sandstone.'
Eva: 'Adrift.'
Shimmah: 'Ocean's 8.'
Andrew: 'The Imitation Game.'
Jayben: 'Black Panther.'
Masin: 'The Incredibles 2.'

Who should be the guest speaker at your Prizegiving?

Monique: Jacinda Ardern.
Finn: Waisake Naholo.
Eva: A cancer survivor.
Shimmah: Jojo Siwa.
Andrew: Stephen Kilgour, the music student teacher we had earlier this year.
Jayben: A previous Head Student.
Masin: Witi Ihimaera.

What's your favourite snack?

Monique: Chocolate.
Finn: Noodles.
Eva: Pita crisps.
Shimmah: Mac'n cheese.
Andrew: Something edible.
Jayben: Pop corn.
Masin: Juice.

Wananga at Araiteuru

During August, ten of our Yr 9 and 10 students attended a three-day, two-night University of Otago science (pūtaiao) wānanga (place of learning) at the beautiful Āraiteuru marae in Kaikorai Valley. Hosted and fully funded by the University of Otago, this wānanga had three learning themes. Students studied physics, chemistry and pharmacology. The wānanga was a hands-on experience and our students had the opportunity to work alongside expert academics and postgraduate students, including former Kavanagh student, Jess Blythe. Liam Byers loved the laser and light spectrum experiments, while master chefs, Eternal Poto-Kaui, Irene Simeti, Leilani Kara, Siobhan



Stevenson, Liana Paerata and Jess Evans created a winning ice cream using milk, sugar, food flavoring and just the right amount of liquid nitrogen. Other activities included methane rocket launching, making silver mirrors and stalactites, catching sea-monkeys, and measuring heart rate and breath strength.

A highlight of the wānanga was the kai. The ringa wera (kitchen staff) did a fantastic job and Tama Iraia, Aidan MacRae and Paikea Haua-Barlett went back for seconds when a mouth-watering hangi was served on the final day! This year, the University of Otago are celebrating ten years of science wānanga events that have been run all over Aotearoa. A special thanks to the university, Āraiteuru marae, Dodd-Walls Centre and Hiria Palmer for organising another successful wānanga.

Leilani Kara looking at sea-monkeys.



Two from Two

For the second year in a row Kavanagh College has a finalist in the New Zealand Spelling Bee competition. Luca Holloway from Yr 9 is one of two participants who will represent the lower South Island in the Grand Final to be held in Wellington in November. Luca never hesitated or faltered in his delivery of the correct spelling of words such as 'delicious', 'caprice' and 'algorithm'. We also deserve to be very proud of the fact that Kavanagh had five students in the top 200 spellers

in the country after the preliminary round in June. These five (Jago Armstrong, Luca Holloway, Tobias Devereux, Riley Mortimer and Mitchell Stewart) then competed on Monday evening against nine other top students from Otago and Southland. Towards the end of the elimination rounds Kavanagh had three of the four remaining competitors, then two, and finally just Luca (above). He shared first place with Annie Schofield from South Otago High school. Luca now has the chance to take out the New Zealand title and win \$5000. We are all behind you, Luca.

Up for a new challenge

Great news! At the recent GrowingNZ Innovative Challenge Kavanagh College teams won 2 out of the 5 challenges recently. Around 100 Yr 10 students from nine Dunedin schools participated. Students were given a challenge within the primary industries and asked to develop and evaluate potential solutions; build a prototype solution; consider stakeholders; and persuasively present a solution

Joshua Chen and Riley Mortimer's team won the challenge to create value from an existing product that used the properties of crossbred wool. They designed a prototype biodegradable felted wool bag which would maintain the temperature of the items within. This bag would be suitable for fast food outlets and supermarkets. The judge thought this product was outstanding and indeed viable. She also commented about the delivery of the presentation, which was exceptional. Riley did a superb job fielding challenging questions from other teams.

Ella Munro and Meg Christopher's team won the challenge to develop a more accurate method for farmers to measure and record an animal's body conditioning score (BCS). Meg spoke with great conviction and Ella was the star in the role play presentation. Their idea was using a laser scanner to record the animals vital measurements. This information would be available to the farmer via smart devices.

Quinn Wilson, Liam Gould, Katie Wink, Rosa Garlick and Enrique Garcia



Thirty-two students, accompanied by three teachers, spent two days skiing and snowboarding at Coronet Peak in August, enjoying superb conditions.



Welcome to our 'new' Librarian!

My name is Colette Mahoney. I am a past Kavanagh student and now a mother to Kavanagh students of my own. I began working at Kavanagh as the library assistant in 2015 and have just taken over the head librarian role as Mrs. Van de Klundert has moved on to a teaching position. It is a dream job for someone who loves to help students with their learning and encourage them in their reading.

Books that I have loved: My favorite book this year has been 'The Woman in the Window' by A. J Finn and my all time favorite book is 'The electric Kool-Aid Acid Test' by Tom Wolfe which portrays a time in history that I love to read about.

Person I would love to have dinner with? Jacinda Ardern. I would love to meet such an inspiring powerful woman!

What do I love? Besides reading...I love my family and travelling around New Zealand exploring new places.

What do you plan to do in the library? I plan to keep the library running smoothly as a research, reading and learning centre. The library is a colourful warm place that many students enjoy. I plan to continue to foster a love of reading and learning that Mrs. Van de Klundert set in place.

Why is the library so important? Libraries are important as a physical learning space, a space where resources can be found online and also books can be accessed for research or personal interest. The amount and quality of information online can be hard for students to navigate and assess, that is where librarians can be of help with student's information literacy skills. I firmly believe that the act of holding a book in your hand can never be replaced but can be enhanced with up to date technology. I believe the library is the hub of Kavanagh and I feel honoured and blessed to have this opportunity to encourage student's in their reading and learning journey.



Science Fair Projects selected for Otago Aurora Science & Technology Fair



Briar Short, 8BON: 'Does Sleep Affect Reaction Times?'

Caolan Dowd, 8BON: 'Exploring Colour Perception. The Stroop Effect'; Dairy NZ Award, University of Otago Dept of Psychology Award, NZ Association of Optometrists Award.

Peter Wilson, 8BON: 'Do Seeds Grow in Salty Conditions?'

Jakob Oskam-Schmidt, 8BON: 'Potato Power'

Ted Kerr-Bell and Amalie Latton, 8CAM: 'Does taste deteriorate with age?'; University of Otago Dept of Human Nutrition Award, NZ Psychological Society Award. seen left.

Chloe Farr, 8CAM: 'Sugar Gets Activated.'

Israel Garcia-Martin and Jack Be, 8CAM: 'Repurchase or Recharge?'

Isabella Stewart, 8HAI: 'The Famous Disappearing Act.'

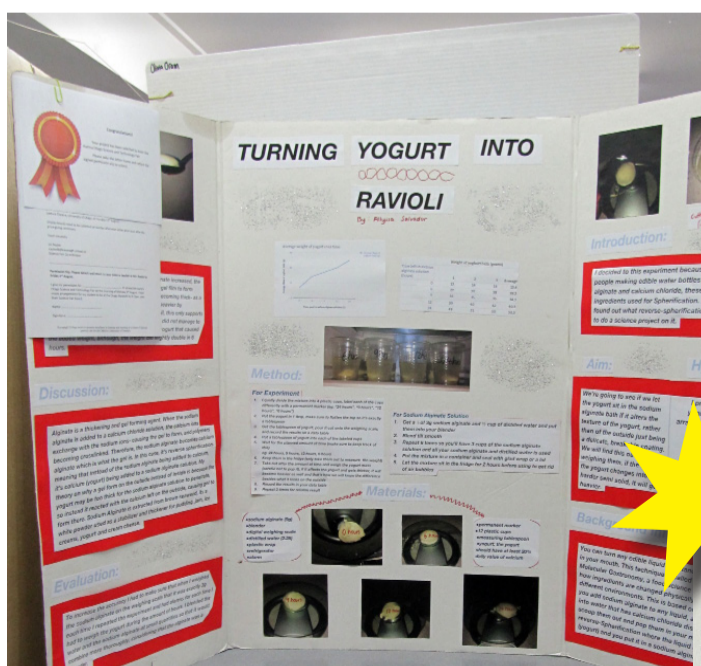
Olivia Oram, 8HAI: 'Throwing in the Towel'; Aurora Award for Excellence in Energy Research.

Allyssa Salvador, 8HAI: 'Turning Yoghurt into Ravioli,' seen left.

Troy Kubala and Iszac Bartrop, 8HAI: 'Learn how to make your animal poo useful!'

Kaela-Mae Bethune, 8HAI: 'Drawing on the right side of the brain.'

Jemma Mortimer, 8TSU: 'Is the Blue Seven phenomenon relevant in the 21st century?' Dairy NZ Award, University of



Otago Dept of Psychology Award.

Isaac Tili, 8TSU: 'In Your Face'; Cancer Society Award, Pasifika Excellence Award.

James Hanning, 8TSU: 'Does Smell Affect Taste?'

This year's Good One teeshirt was designed by Katie Pullar. Students who have received five Good One cards can swap them at the school Office for a teeshirt.

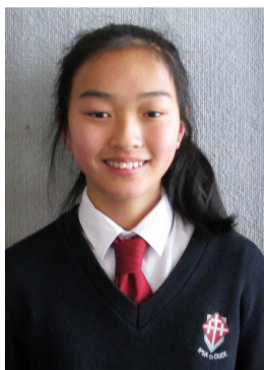




FULL NAME: Pauline Eleanor Ireland-Kenny, HOD English and editor of *Ipsa Duce* and the College Magazine. **BORN IN:** Oamaru. **AGE:** 38 (my French shoe size) but I'm actually a Heavenly Creature. **STAR SIGN:** Virgo. **WHAT'S THE BEST THING ABOUT KAVANAGH?** All the academic support given to all students. The application of the school values, even in writing literature essays. Respect, Service, Justice and Truth can take you a long way beyond the text. **AND THE WORST?** Students who waste time in class on their phones and their laptops. In particular, the failure to keep working on digital assessments outside the classroom, to realise that this in fact a very generous extension. Above all, students who don't take advantage of help, who do no practice work and then wonder why they fail. **WHAT DO YOU REMEMBER ABOUT YOUR FIRST DAYS AT KAVANAGH?** I was here in 1989 to teach German and French and recall how stressful it was. Terms were much longer, up to fifteen weeks. We didn't have the Mercy Block but there were five relocatable classrooms in the Mercy Yard. Commuting daily to the South Site in McBride Street to teach French classes was exhausting. And the noise! Lots more students, busy corridors, loud boys (I came from Moreau College). Disorganised classrooms. But there was a real sense that we were a whole new school, establishing 'new' traditions. **WHAT WILL YOU REMEMBER MOST ABOUT BEING AT KAVANAGH?** Apart from making things up as I go along as an English teacher? Seeing average students really take off. One managed to turn his 37% School Certificate exam mark to 73% in the final exam. Above all, I've really appreciated the collegiality of the English Department: resource sharing, cross-marking (I'm a markaholic), discussion of texts, arguing. And I've made many friends: I've kept in touch with many students after they've left school. **WHAT DO YOU LIKE READING?** **WHAT'S YOUR FAVOURITE BOOK?** I read any fiction for at least an hour at night. Sometimes I share bits of language or ideas in class, but really, I read because I need time to wind down after a busy day. My current favourite authors include Ian Rankin and Henning Mankell (I adore crime), Dorothy Dunnett and Hillary Mantel for historical fiction. And how could I not include Shakespeare? **IF YOU HAD A MASCOT OR SYMBOL WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE AND WHY?** A biro. I'm always scribbling things down, drawing diagrams, writing notes to myself. **WHAT SPORTS DO YOU PLAY?** I roll my eyes, turn pages, lift tomes, exercise my mind. It's called reading. **WHAT IS THE MOST IMPORTANT THING FOR YOU THIS YEAR?** Getting organised to do a Master's degree in History at Otago. I'm passionate about Dunedin in the 1860's and have been working on my Ireland family tree, and seven others, for over fifty years. I've even met students who are third cousins at Kavanagh. No nepotism, of course! Also on the list is to get immersed in re-writing "From Fife to Otago", the history of my Ireland family, and to dig in a vegetable garden at our new house. **WHERE DO YOU HOPE TO BE IN TEN YEARS' TIME?** Still researching and writing, probably chasing up my 39% Irish ancestry now that I've had a DNA test. Reading, of course! **WHAT ADVICE WOULD YOU GIVE TO STUDENTS FOR 2018?** Forget about the credits: make use of the time you have to learn transferable skills. Write five essays to nail that superb one. And never stop reading.

Kreative Korner

**ICAS Writing Competition:
High Distinction for Alice Kelsall, Yr 7**



Alaska was only fourteen years old when she lived her last day.

It was just another normal day in the library for Alaska. She had taken the five minute walk down to the library and was now with her mother, who was known among her class mates as the 'strictest librarian in the world.' Alaska was often bullied and had what seemed like hundreds of mean comments about her mother rained down on her. For Alaska, the library was her safe place. None of the kids from her class went there, so Alaska had a few hours in heaven each day.

Today she was exploring the section M-P. She had spotted an old, worn book with sliver writing on the spine, so thin that she couldn't read it when it was a few inches away from her face. As she opened the dusty pages, a sweet smell assaulted her. Rubbing her watery eyes (for the smell was so sweet that it had made them water), she noticed a colourful tab poking out of the back of the book. Alaska turned to the last page and was not surprised to see a bunch of flowers, not squashed at all, not a single petal ripped or missing, not even bent in the slightest way. Amazed, she took the perfect bunch out but placed it back quickly, as it had burned her. Shocked, she looked at the flowers, which were as innocent as ever. She touched a daisy with her pinkie, very cautiously. It felt as though it had been plunged in a bucket of ice cold water.

Just as quickly as before, she retracted her hand. She was still curious, though. Fire and water? What about the third element, plants? She touched a blood red rose, quickly. Nothing. Nothing but the feel of a rose. In excitement, she looked up to see if anytime had been watching. She wanted to show the world! But all she saw was devastation. The library was on fire, yet it was flooding. And to top it all, there were plants growing everywhere. Alaska knew she couldn't escape this. She closed her eyes as peacefully as though she was going to sleep. She dreamed of her mother that day.

Fly, by Oliver Lodge, 7 DGR

All was still on the dark side of planet Lehia. Utter silence. No air stirred the grass or leaves. No birds chirped. Not a sound could be heard either close at hand or in the far off distance. Dark shadows from tall trees crept over the soft sand like spreading ink. From a pitch black cave, a creature emerged, shuffling silently towards his destination. This mammal was a Miniman, a native species that lived in the forests of Lehia. Minimen were miniature, furry creatures. Their head, a solid sphere with jaws that open wide, unfolding layers like an onion and revealing rows and rows of yellow teeth. However this one miniman, was not showing teeth. Instead his mouth drooped and a single tear rolled down his cheek.

He was stranded.

Earlier this morning, his tribe had followed the seasons and flown to the other side of Lehia. Far across the vast ocean. He had been left behind. Left on this cold, dark side of Lehia. Left in the middle of winter. While his friends and family enjoyed a land of milk and honey, icicles formed in his small cave. He wasn't scared of water but he would have had to fly to the other side and he was afraid. Afraid that he would fall and drown. Afraid that he wouldn't be fast enough and get lost. He sank to his knees in despair, his hands covering his face. "Why wasn't I brave?" he cried in anguish. "Why didn't I fly with the others?" His shoulders quivered and shook as he sobbed and sobbed. Night fell and the depressed miniman stumbled back to his little home.

Morning came and he woke with a start. He had a dream. The greatest dream! He would build a boat to get across the water. He wouldn't have to worry about flying! The miniman's frown became a beaming grin that ran from ear to ear. He set to work at once. Lifting, pulling, tying.

Basketball saved me, by an anonymous Yr 12 student

My life is full of changes and struggles. The most significant change has to be being from the Philippines, then suddenly being surrounded with the cold winter weather of New Zealand but i'll get to that. My name is Justin, I am 16 years old. I like to play sports. I also play the guitar and the drums. I may look different to everyone around here but really I'm just another kid who hates school.

Basketball is the only thing that has stayed with me. People come and go a lot. Most of my friends are fake to so that doesn't help. All I do really is play basketball. I feel like once I'm on the court, it's like all my problems are gone. When I have the ball, I'm in charge, I call the shots. When I'm on the court, the heavy weight my heart carries is temporarily unloaded. Back then in my junior years, I would ditch school just to play basketball but of course I don't do that anymore since I'm a senior now. What I'm trying to say is that basketball is what I resort to to fix my problems. It's the love of my life. No girl can make me feel how I feel when I play ball. I probably has spent more time playing ball than the time I have spent with my family. Sometimes my parents get mad that I'm always out playing basketball but I don't really care. As long as I'm enjoying myself I am fine with it.

Looking back I would've laughed at myself. Just like how everyone else did to me. An Asian kid with a stereotypical bowl cut, short and chubby. What everyone pictures a typical everyday Asian. You can't blame me though. I came into New Zealand without knowing anyone or anything from here. To me it wasn't a move of countries, I moved into a whole new world. The language, food, school: everything was different. I didn't know if I should try fit in or just be by myself so I just sat alone eating rice. It was weird: I was feeding myself while I was feeding them more sights to laugh about. Even though I was a laughingstock my first few days here, I was able to meet new friends. But they were friends that didn't last long. Every time they'd say something I'd ask them to slow down or repeat it again. It was funny how frustrated they would get. At least I got my social status up. I used to be shy and quiet. Still am, but a little bit more talkative now. I can actually keep a conversation going now which is quite an achievement for someone like me. My conversations used to last about five seconds because of how much I lack skills in English but I'm glad it's not like that anymore.

What's more attractive than a guy who can play the guitar? Me. I'm just kidding but I do play the guitar. And the drums. Girls like a guy who can play the guitar but I don't focus on that. It's just a bonus to me. I started playing around when I was eight but stopped when I moved to New Zealand. Recently I picked up the guitar again. I'm quite good now actually. Quite impressed from the progress I made from the eight years of not practicing at all. I wish everything was like that. I used to be in my church band. I'd play both guitar and drums. Depending where they need me the most but I stopped because my laziness took over me. I always blame school when I don't want to participate in anything. It's not just laziness. It's also because of basketball. I'm addicted. School and basketball is my main focus right now so I guess that's a valid reason why I stopped. Internals after internals with a side of basketball is quite stressful. When it gets to much I take a break and play instruments, or eat. Sleeping works to but eating never fails to lighten one's heart.

What I have learnt from my past self is that I was too Asian. Not like it's a bad thing. I take pride in being Filipino but what I mean is that some of us are to afraid to embrace a new culture. Too afraid to adapt to the new. Too stubborn to realise that this is not the Philippines anymore. This is New Zealand. Natural selection. Those who are more adapt to their environment has a higher rate of survival. It's a little scientific term I learnt that is a little excessive when used in this context, but it works.

Kav Kwiz Answers: 1. Manganese, not Magnesium (Mg); 2. Antonio Vivaldi; 3. Smoking marijuana on camera at the Joe Rogan Podcast; 4. December 22; 5. Dunedin, New Zealand. Just down the road.



Editor: Pauline Ireland-Kenny.

Print Media Prefect: Olivia Ware.

Thanks to: Jill Armstrong, Elliot Blyth, Rebecca Meikle, Maria Menzies, Liz Naylar.

Printed by: Certa Solutions, 60 Fox Street, Dunedin.

Kavanagh College, 340 Rattray Street, Dunedin.

Ph (03) 477 3408. Email: pkenny@kavanagh.school.nz

