



Smiles all round at an ADRA constructed water tank in Vanuatu.
Photo credit: ADRA New Zealand



Vanuatu, here we come!

Service trips are a feature of the LAC calendar. In the past trips to Vietnam, Cook Islands and the Solomon Islands have occurred. Service trips provide an opportunity for our students to experience life in a different country and provide practical help to another community - Christianity in action.

In July 2016, 16 students & 11 staff / adults will travel to Santo Island*, Vanuatu, for a two week mission project.

The group will be part of an ADRA (Adventist Development Relief Agency) project to build water and sanitation facilities for a community on Santo island. As well as building latrines and water tanks, the group will help with hygiene education to the local community and high schools.

**Originally planned for Ambrym Island, the project has changed location to Santo Island due to logistical issues.*

On top of their individual flight costs, each student and staff member has committed to raise up to NZ\$1,680 to go towards project costs, a total of **NZ\$43,680**.

We understand that this is a huge task but the group is focused on the mission to make a big difference in the lives of a community in Vanuatu, a community that does not have the luxury of running water that we so easily take for granted.

Through the provision of latrines, water tanks and fun education classes, the health of the community will be greatly improved. For example, easier access to clean water, which usually requires many miles of travel a day, will instead mean that young girls now have an opportunity to receive an education.

If you would like to know more about the work of ADRA in Vanuatu, please visit their website: <http://adra.org.vu/>

For more details about the mission trip or if you would like to donate towards the project costs, please contact the trip coordinator, Eifion Paul: eifionp@lac.school.nz

We are proud of how our students perform!

Over the last decade LAC students have performed incredibly well academically. Here are some facts about how well our students have done:

Over the last 3 years 73.3% of LAC student leavers have NCEA Level 3 (national average 49.8% in 2014).

Over the last 3 years 90.9% of LAC student leavers have NCEA Level 2 (national average 77.1% in 2014). The national goal is 85%.

The 2015 LAC Year 13 class continue this trend, here are their results before NCEA external exams are marked:

In February there were 35 Year 13 students:

- **3** (8.6%) left during the year (work, tertiary study and one unknown)
- **4** (11.4%) have yet to achieve NCEA Level 3
- **16** (45.7%) have gained NCEA Level 3
- **4** (11.4%) have gained Merit NCEA Level 3
- **8** (22.9%) have gained Excellence NCEA Level 3.

These results will improve further when external assessment results are added.



A unique and great school



At the end of this year I retire as principal, and 23 years of association with LAC as either a student or a staff member will end. I have been privileged to be part of a unique college community and part of a great school. The reasons I call it a great school are:

LAC is a community and once you are part of that community you have connections for life. Earlier this year one of my classmates from college days returned to visit the college and although we hadn't seen each other for over 40 years the conversations resumed and we were 'family', part of an enduring community which reaches around the world.

Belief in Jesus is intentionally taught at LAC as part of the curriculum and in the attitudes and lifestyle we encourage our students to follow. This doesn't happen in most schools. In doing this LAC leaves an enduring positive impact on the lives of so many of our students. One of my great rewards has been to see students leave just better people for their time at college.

As a school LAC does a great job of educating young people. We have an excellent retention rate with the majority of our students staying on until Year 13 and attaining Level 3 NCEA. On this score alone we do better than most schools.

Yes, LAC is a great school. It is a place where students feel they belong, where they learn positive Christian values and where the academic success of students is maximised.

Bruce Sharp, Principal 2007 - 2015

LAC graduate, Sam White

Sam White first attended LAC in 2002 and graduated in 2008. He went on to study business at Massey University, graduating in 2011. In 2012 he was recognised by Massey University for excelling at accounting, scooping six of the 15 School of Accounting awards, and made the Dean's list.

In Sam's own words, "My dad is an accountant and I said I'd never do it. But in my first year of business studies, accountancy really stood out. It was interesting and I was all right at it. Out of all the topics, it came up trumps."

Sam completed an internship at Arohanui Hospice and then went on to an internship with the international accounting firm Deloitte. Currently Sam is placed in Melbourne. His time at LAC prepared him for his study at Massey University where he successfully gained his BBS.

LAC is delighted to have been a part of the pathway that has led Sam into the business world.



New principal for LAC

In 2016 Mr Brendan van Oostveen takes up the role of principal at LAC.

Mr van Oostveen has been Deputy Principal at LAC for the last nine years and previous to that he was a teacher at Tamatea College in the Hawkes Bay.

Mr van Oostveen, commonly called 'Mr Van', has for many years taught economics, coached soccer and has a love of adventure. He is married to Kim and they have three children, Georgia, Declan and Ellie.

Mr Van has a heart for God and the college and desire to see young people succeed.



Small vs large

One of the questions we often get asked by potential students and their parents is, "Does being a smaller school mean there are less subject options at LAC than a larger school?" The answer is a qualified 'possibly' but some factors need considering to get a clear answer to this question.

Firstly, there is a good range of subject choices on offer at LAC and none of our students have had their career options curtailed as a result of a lack of subject options while at LAC. Doctors, lawyers, scientists, nurses, builders and teachers number among our graduates and all of them credit LAC with helping them on their career paths.

Secondly, many of the so-called 'options' do not need to be followed at secondary school as a prerequisite for later tertiary study.

Deloitte's recently awarded one of our ex-students a post-graduate placement in recognition of his university study achievements in accounting - and he never studied accounting at secondary school!

Thirdly, more and more experts are advising students to specialise less at secondary school and ensure they have a broad education. Success at NCEA is far more important than specialised success in a subject area during the secondary school years.

Lastly, LAC students are effectively all '6 subject' students at senior level as Bible is a compulsory subject at LAC. It is also a NCEA subject and counts as a UE and literacy subject. Most NZ secondary schools don't offer this option so our students have an added subject to bolster their chances of academic success.



Bible a compulsory subject

Bible (Religious Education) has been and continues to be a compulsory subject for all students at Longburn Adventist College. As a Christian school the Bible is central to what we do, teach and learn.

At senior level, Bible is a subject earning credits towards NCEA. It can also count as one of the three approved subjects where students must gain at least 14 credits to achieve University Entrance.

Mr Stan Walsh, Assistant Principal, observes, "Bible enables an additional subject for Year 11-13 students to gain NCEA credits. This is a real advantage to our students".

Taking the Bible to schools

LAC students continue to be among the now dwindling number of people presenting the 'Bible in Schools' programme in state primary schools. This programme is an excellent opportunity for young people to share their faith through simple Bible stories and lessons. It is also a chance for our students to go into a classroom for a 'teaching experience'. Over the last few years, and as a result of being part of the Bible in Schools programme, some LAC students have elected to take up teaching as a career.

Our students report that the primary students are a delight to work with. "I love walking in the room and seeing their faces light up to see us. They are always so happy and cheerful and find amazement in the smallest things. It is a great privilege to serve God and the children this way", commented one of our students.

"The schools always speak highly of the LAC students and are very keen to continue with the programme. It's a great opportunity for our students to build their own faith and confidence", says LAC's Chaplain, Mr Gredig.





Year 9 camp

During the last week of term, 30 Year 9 students headed to Hawkes Bay for their annual camp. The camp is designed to challenge students to get out of their comfort zones and for them to experience activities they may not normally participate in.

This began on Monday with a two and a half hour walk to Sunrise Hut. This is uphill for the majority of the way. Everybody showed perseverance and all reached the top. Mrs Henry showed the youthful students that they had nothing to complain about!

On Tuesday the camp split into three groups to participate in a day of their choice. Some went rafting and horse trekking with Mr Hart, others enjoyed



Mr Van's mystery trip and the third group participated in Minigolf, Laser Tag and Kayaking with Mr Baldwin, Miss Grayson and Miss Henry.

Wednesday involved an exciting tractor ride along the beach to see a gannet colony and then archery, BMX biking, flying fox and rock climbing

back at Stoney Creek Ranch where they stayed all week.

Thursday saw the students cooling down and relaxing at Splash Planet before having a BBQ lunch and heading back to school.

All the students were fantastic and a fun week was had by all.



Te Ari Hunter-Ryan received the following awards: Citizenship, NZPUC General Excellence, Avondale Scholarship and 2015 Dux.

Graduation 2015

LAC's 103rd Graduation was held on 31 October this year. LAC's Graduation has always been a much anticipated event by our senior students. A dinner followed by a vesper service on the Friday evening, a Sabbath Service celebrating music, the history of LAC and the testimonies of some of the graduates, a praise service on Sabbath afternoon and the Graduation Ceremony on Saturday night make up a memorable weekend for our graduates.

All our graduates must have reached the required number of credits for NCEA Level 3 in their internal credits and their trial exams. The work students do to qualify for Graduation prepares them well for achieving both NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance.

Graduation is a well established tradition at LAC, a good tradition, something our senior students desperately want to be part of. A tradition that motivates LAC students to succeed.



For more photos from the Year 9 camp and Y13 Graduation, visit LAC's Facebook page: www.facebook.com/LongburnAdventistCollege/



Blessing gets congratulated by his mother, Marvellous Jaboon.

Hana Baken graduating with Merit



William Dihm, graduated with Merit after boarding for five years.



Rahama Fata won the Pasifika Award for 2015.



L.A.C. House



The name L.A.C. House was adopted in 2014 in recognition of the wonderful service provided by our Seventh-day Adventist Church owned and operated proprietors, LAC Board of Governors. We are blessed to be able to stand as the only Adventist boarding school in Australia and New Zealand.

As an integrated co-educational boarding school from Years 7 to 13, we are very proud of our boarders and their contribution to the wider areas of school life such as after-school sports, tutoring, music, arts, dorm worships and weekend fellowship.

Boarding life provides an opportunity for young people to develop socially, spiritually, physically and intellectually within a nurturing, caring SDA Christian environment. One such example was Te Ari Hunter-Ryan.

Te Ari started as a Year 10 boarder, with no clue about his future or God. However Te Ari studied with the school chaplain Mr Kevin Gredig and was baptised in Year 11.

In Year 12, Te Ari joined a Church mission team (Mosaic Community Church) and went to North Vietnam during the term break to help build a girls' dorm at Cao Bang.



"I thank the LORD for this school, because this college has made huge impacts on my life and other lives. I'm grateful for all the teachers and deans who have made it their mission to help us succeed."

Te Ari, 2015 Head Boy

Then in 2015, Te Ari became Head Boy. His duties to day and boarding school were very much appreciated but it was at Graduation that Te Ari received top prize as Dux of Longburn Adventist College 2015, making a name for L.A.C. House.

What made the difference for Te Ari and others like him at L.A.C. House? Making the choice to know God through prayer, study of His word and serving others.

L.A.C. House's motto is *'Kia Puāwai Tātou'*, which means to 'grow/flourish together', based on Jeremiah 29:11.

On behalf of L.A.C. House staff and boarders, we thank God, our parents/caregivers, sponsors and church communities for your support and belief that Adventist Education is educating for eternity.

Maria Henry, Boarding Director

Volunteer deans

As part of L.A.C. House, volunteer deans from various parts of the world come to work and experience life at LAC and in New Zealand. Over the last few years, enthusiastic young people from around the world have all worked with Head Girls' and Boys' Deans Mrs and Mr Henry, to care for and enrich the lives of our boarding students.

Below are some comments from our current deans (photo left to right) - Marianne Rasmussen (Denmark), Jacob Patterson, Caitlyn Hocker & Dustin Gienger (USA):

How would you rate your time as a volunteer dean at L.A.C. House?

Marianne: Well I was only supposed to be here for one year, then it turned into another year and by the time my visa runs out, I will have been here for three years. So obviously I love it!

Jacob: So far I would rate my time here very high; as I have found myself thoroughly enjoying LAC, getting to know/hang out with the boarders, and spending time exploring New Zealand.

Caitlyn: My time at LAC has been so much fun. I don't think I could rate it on a scale from 1 to 10 because it has been so much more. It's been challenging but every moment has been amazing.

Dustin: It has been an amazing experience, and shown me that I want to become a teacher so that I can continue working with young people.



What has been the most memorable moment of your time in New Zealand?

Marianne: That's got to be a few months into being here. There was a situation where the boarders stood up for me and it really made me feel like a part of their family.

Jacob: The most memorable moment so far would be the time I went out to the field with one of the boarders and took a moment to stop and gaze at the stars for a while. We chatted a bit and marvelled at the impressive display that the southern hemisphere sky has to offer.

Caitlyn: My most memorable moment so far was when the kids made a giant slip 'n' slide outside the dorm. That was so much fun even though I ended up with tons of bruises and was sunburnt.

Dustin: As a volunteer it would be getting to spend the weekends getting to know the boarders, talking and listening to stories, even late on a Saturday night.

ASPIRE

ASPIRE is a values based programme that began its implementation in 2010.

Mission Statement: To prepare and equip students for this life and for eternity.

Since its inception by the chaplain and principal, it has morphed and in 2015 it amalgamated with the MOE sponsored PB4L (Positive Behaviour 4 Learning) programme. LAC has adopted the following three behavioural "expectations" which umbrella the values:

Lead with **INTEGRITY**

Act with **RESPECT**

Cultivate **RESILIENCE**

Some of the values for 2015 have included: "self-control, thoughtfulness, trust, responsibility, co-operation, kindness, hope and diligence. Every three weeks, the chaplain introduces a new value to staff, and roll mark teachers use his prepared resources to assist in morning devotionals.

The objectives remain:

1. Develop into good men and women, people of strong character.
2. Develop their connection with God, and consequently their identity as sons and daughters of God.
3. Develop a clear and positive world view that provides meaning and life purpose.
4. Develop the commitment to serve others, to contribute to the community, and to leave a worthwhile life legacy.
5. Develop the self-motivation to learn, to accomplish worthwhile goals, to achieve and succeed.
6. Develop the ability to relate well to family, friends, future spouse and others through developing social and emotional relationship skills.

WHAKATUTUKI	ACCOMPLISHMENT
PŪKENGĀ	SKILLS
PŪTAKE	PURPOSE
TUAKIRITANGA	IDENTITY
WHANAUNGATANGA	RELATIONSHIPS
WHAKAMANA	EMPOWER

7. Develop the ability to empower others to succeed, and to receive empowerment from others.
8. Develop and maintain good health and a balanced lifestyle.
9. Develop practical life skill sets such as those involved in running a household, being a good employee, being a leader, personal organisation, parenting and decision-making.

Signage and visual reminders of the programme are around the school and in the classrooms.

Students are rewarded by teachers for demonstrating the appropriate behaviours using a reward system of stamps which can be exchanged for "freebies" at the end of each term. The stamps can be issued any time by any teacher to any student.



Gabrielle Tongs, Chalcedony Gali, Phoebe McNae and Samantha Wright with their rewards earned for positive behaviour.

Woodwork: LAC wins again in 2015!

Students taking woodwork/building construction at Longburn Adventist College have again done very well, winning three of the five prizes on offer in the Manawatu Secondary Schools' Woodwork Competition:

Chad Sparrow, Y11, came 1st with his bedside cabinet.

Tamatoa Warren-Peu, Y12, came 2nd with his blanket chest.

Will Peng, Y12, highly commended with his blanket chest.

The prizes they received were all new power/battery tools which they will find very useful.

It is very encouraging seeing the quality work the students are producing and at all levels.

Photo: Tamatoa and Chad display their work at PN Library.





A memorable chapel

Late in term 3, Mr van Oostveen spoke to the college during chapel. He asked everyone to bow their heads and close their eyes and invited a student to join him at the front. While everyone had their eyes closed he interviewed the student who had joined him at the front asking him how he came to be a student at LAC. This student, Apia Kaukare Yawha, told how he had received an Operation Christmas Child Box back in Vanuatu and in the box, along with the presents, was a message from a Year 13 student from LAC.

As a result of that message Apia's mother decided LAC was where she wanted her son to go to college and this year Apia has been a Year 8 boarding student at LAC.

We never know the results our little acts of kindness can bring and the power of an encouraging word whether it be spoken or written!

Operation Christmas Child (OCC) is a mission tool that was introduced into LAC a couple of years ago. This is part of a mission outreach organised and co-ordinated by Samaritan's Purse. It is a simple but effective means that brings joy to underprivileged children.

Students and their families fill a shoe box with a variety of items; something wearable, something personal, a toy, something for personal hygiene, some stationery... and pay \$9.00 for postage. It's that simple. The boxes are collected from LAC and are shipped to a designated country.



Photo: Apia Kaukare Yawaha with chaplain Kevin Gredig



In 2014, we shipped 90 boxes and in 2015 we shipped **315!**

Connecting with the past for the future of LAC



Longburn Adventist College has a rich history, since it was first established in 1908 in Pukekura and then moved to Walkers Road, Longburn where we have recently celebrated our 103rd Graduation.

For the last 17 years LAC has been collecting its history and the biggest project has been the Alumni database.

Our goal is to collect the names of every student who has attended college. There are currently over 6000 names on the database and over 3000 of these have both postal and email addresses.

The Archive department is set up to acknowledge the experiences and successes of LAC alumni, either during

their time here or after leaving Longburn. We want to connect with our past, preserve LAC's identity and help the College continue its mission to educate for eternity.

We aim to send out updates of the school's activities and hopefully collect more of our Alumni's stories to help inspire our current students.

If you have attended LAC or just want to keep up to date with LAC's alumni, please visit our website to register: <http://www.lac.school.nz/index.php/history-lac>

Also please feel free to contact LAC (details below) to arrange a tour of the campus and to see the Archives. You're welcome to view photos of staff, school groups and graduates taken over the years and many of the people in these photos have been identified.

Sheila McNabb, Archive Department

Considering LAC?

Visit our website or contact us to receive an information pack or to arrange a tour of the school campus.

LAC has one of the highest retention rates and among the best academic results of any secondary school in NZ.

You can view our latest report at:

<http://www.ero.govt.nz/Early-Childhood-School-Reports/School-Reports/Longburn-Adventist-College-22-10-2013>

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