

WELLINGTON ACTIVITY CENTRE
THE YEAR UNDER REVIEW
Report for the year ended 31 December 2009

Students: A total of 30 students attended the Wellington Activity Centre during 2009.

Year Level	Gender	Ethnicity
Year 11 = 15	Female = 9	Maori = 11
Year 10 = 13	Male = 21	Euro. = 15
Year 9 = 2		P.I. = 4

Destinations for 2009:	Return to Wellington Activity Centre	10
	Return to Secondary School	9
	NZ Institute of Sport	1
	Challenge 2000	1
	Wellington Institute of Technology	1
	Whitireia	1
	Employment	2
	Home	3
	Correspondence School	1
	Actively seeking employment	1

Staff:
This year we said farewell to Janet Cooper who was our Language teacher for Term 1 and Tony Green our Maths and Science teacher. Tony has been at WAC for over 8 years and we wish him (and Janet) all the best for the future.

We welcomed and farewelled Chad Evans as our new male youth worker – he has become a valuable member of staff and is well liked and respected by both staff and students. We also welcomed and farewelled Charlotte Pascal as our new full time teacher.

As I said last year it is no understatement to say that it is the staff – their dedication, commitment and energy – that makes the Wellington Activity Centre what it is. So it is important that we also acknowledge Lea Costa, Ann James and Donna Murray as the ‘stalwarts’ of the Centre.

Highlights:
Throughout the year we were fortunate to host a variety of guests to our Centre. These included Judge Andrew Beecroft, members of Wellington Central Rotary Club, the author Victoria McHalick, Graffiti artist Michael Tuffery and Peter Gitau.

We now have our own website www.wac.school.nz and WAC brochures. These are important ways to let the wider community know who we are and what we’re about.

We have further developed our assessment procedures and tools and are now able to utilise the e-asTTle on-line assessment package. This is a really important tool which allows us to gather better information about where our students are at with their learning and then determine their next learning pathway.

After 21 months (I am told that this is quick!) we now have an entranceway that won’t scrape exhausts on your way in. We are also very close to having a building that is the same colour on all 4 outer walls. And, thanks to Mormon Helping Hands (and latterly PriceWaterhoueCoopers), we have well kept and attractive grounds. All of these initiatives help to give the Centre a welcoming and cared for feel.

Thanks to funding from the Elma Coxon Trust we have been able to employ an art teacher and our Y9 and 10 students now have weekly art lessons in our purpose built art room.

This year has seen a noticeable improvement in the way that we support students with non academic issues. We have implemented processes which mean that we have greater understandings of the (often complex) issues that our students bring with them and have been able to put in place supports which have begun to lead to significant and long term changes for the better.

Funding

Grateful thanks to the following organisations for their generous funding:

T G Macarthy Trust

C.O.G.S

Wellington Central Rotary

Wellington City Council

Joe Aspell Trust

NZ Federation of University Women

NZ Community Trust

Lion Foundation

Pelorus Trust

Lions Club of Wellington North

Nikau Foundation on behalf of Elma Coxon Trust

Winton and Margaret Bear Charitable Trust

(2009 budget showed a surplus, increasing our equity. We are building up funding in order to paint the outside of the building).

Appreciation

Our thanks to Newlands College who have provided the Centre with outstanding guidance, support and encouragement over the past year. In particular thanks to Grant Jones, Sandra Wood, Adele Seekup and Morris Barling. Thanks also to the Centre's Management Committee for your wisdom and oversight.

Thank you to Celia Felici and Jonathan Berkahn for bringing much needed joy to the Centre through the gift of music and singing.

Thank you to Victoria McHalick for finding the time to work with some of our students to develop their language skills – thank you also for putting their work together in book form.

Thank you to Nga Whakatauki Trust for working with our students on health related issues.

Thank you to Richard Dey for allowing our students to further develop their drama and acting skills.

Thank you to Dave Monastra for all of his project management work which has resulted in very noticeable differences to the Centre's appearance.

Thank you to Des Dunbar for all of his grounds and gardening work.

Thank you to the many people who have given of their time and energy throughout the year and helped to make the Centre the success that it is. (You know who you are!).

But most of all THANK YOU to the staff of the Centre for all of your hard work, enthusiasm and energy.

Literacy Report

This year 12 students participated in the Literacy Programme; this is 43% of our student population. The lowest assessment of those was a student with a reading age of 7-8 years and a chronological age of 13.11 years. The greatest increase in reading age was three years, and two of those who have completed the programme reached this. As sometimes happens, students leave Wellington Activity Centre unexpectedly which means no final assessment can be done, this year five students fell into that category.

The students who remain on the programme are all making good progress and will continue to participate in Literacy in 2010.

Analysis of Variance

See separate sheets for detailed 2009 Analysis of Variance. Overall we have been reasonably successful in meeting our Annual Plan targets, particularly in Property (Grounds and Driveway) and Student Achievement (Credits gained) though there is still room for improvement in regards to the use of e-asTTle for assessment purposes.

4 students worked extremely hard and achieved Level 1 NCEA – a huge achievement. (2008 – 3 students)
NCEA Credits – 555 gained this year by 13 students giving an average of 43 per student. (2008 average was 26).

Maori and Pacific Island Students

Of the 30 students who attended the Centre throughout 2009 11 were Maori and 4 were PI. Of the four level 1 NCEA passes 2 were Maori students.