



St Mary's
Catholic School
Tauranga

Our People Our Place



be.
Christ-like

be.
reflective

be.
creative

be.
the difference

13th Avenue, Tauranga
New Zealand

E office@stmarystga.school.nz

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www.stmarystga.school.nz

2019 reflections...

Message from the Principal



Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou katoa

Nga mihi nui ki a koutou katoa

Ki te atua - tēnā koe

Ki a papatuanuku - tēnā koe

Ki te whare karakia - tēnā koe

Ki te hunga mate - haere, haere, haere

Ki te hunga ora

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā tatou katoa

A warm welcome to everyone who has joined us today. It is a pleasure to be able to address you and to have the opportunity to celebrate our achievements this year.

My return to St Mary's early this term, after 8 months of study leave, confirmed for me that we have a truly amazing educational environment with amazing staff who are passionate and well equipped for taking our students into a future that is exciting and rapidly changing.

It confirmed for me our students strive to Be their best, strive to Be prepared for the world; And strive to Be true to their Catholic faith, to others and to themselves.

It confirmed for me that the parent, whānau and community involvement in and support of St Mary's School is a very real strength. In so many ways throughout the year this is evident.

Our learning programmes continue to move from strength to strength. In particular, I want to point out our development in four areas:

Our Collaborative learning practice that is resulting in the building of teacher capacity and student agency.

Learning through play which has seen the development of oral language skills and the dispositions of learning.

Our conceptual curriculum which had seen greater use of, and learning about, the environment around us.

And finally our commitment to the development of culturally responsive practices by honoring te tiriti o waitangi in our everyday lives. Our awareness of our Pasifika culture has greatly improved. We embrace and celebrate our diverse cultural community and know that this diversity brings with it very rich experiences and a greater awareness, of our world, for our students.

Next year, we will see consolidation of the great work that is already happening, and we will welcome Mr James Murray as our new Principal. We know that James will bring a new energy to the team and we look forward to learning from his experience and expertise.

Now for some thank yous:

I would like to thank Sr Alison, Sr Gabrielle and Sr Emelie, Fr Philip and Fr Rico. Thank you for supporting us all in our Catholic faith and bringing your presence to our school.

Thank you to our parents, whānau and community. The importance of a shared understanding and partnership can not be taken for granted.

I want to thank Mr Ben Fuller for his passion, energy and his future focused vision for teaching and learning at St Mary's which has resulted in new initiatives for our school over the last 7 years. Ben, we wish you all the best for your future endeavours.

I want to thank our Board of Trustees for being prepared to give their time and expertise for the benefit of the school. We appreciate your support, ensuring learners are at the centre of all decision making and for your commitment to enabling the development of staff in a number of ways.

I would like to thank our PTA who work tirelessly to support our school. It is impressive to see and hear how much they have accomplished. Many of the large items that we take for granted, wouldn't be possible without our PTA. They have an extremely positive impact, on the school, for all students.

For staff at St Mary's, 2019 has been another busy year with many changes. Thank you to the team of teachers, teacher aides, administrators, support staff and volunteers. You are all incredibly dedicated and hardworking.

The opportunities being afforded to our learners are of the highest quality and meet the diverse range of learning needs. I am proud and honoured to be working with such experienced educators that have drive, passion and determination.

Finally and most importantly, I would like to give thanks to our akonga, our St Mary's learners. Each year I look back at what our learners have achieved and how far they have all come. All our learners can be proud of their own growth - Spiritually, socially, emotionally and academically. You all have skills and talents and have been successful this year. You are the reason that we come to school everyday and you make that decision so easy for us.

I would like to conclude, by wishing our Year 6 students of 2019 all the very best for the next part of their learning journey. You have all worked so very hard, and will continue to do so. You are a special group, who have much to offer.

Remember to believe in your Catholic faith, believe in yourselves and believe in lifelong learning. Do a little good each day and Be proud!

Ko te pae tawhiti

Whāia kia tata, Ko te pae tata

Whakamaui kia tina.

Seek out the distant horizons,

And cherish those that you attain.

Ngā manaakitanga

God bless you all.

Anna MacKinnon



From Our Board Chair - Tony Lenton

Dear School Community and whanau

The Board that represents you is very focussed on delivering the best educational and spiritual environment we can for an increasingly diverse student body, including visitors from overseas. This ambition is realised through a wonderful, committed staff. The depth and quality of our students was never more evident than in the Graduation Mass held on the 12th December. All those who attended must have been so impressed and delighted - we wish those graduating students and leaving families our love and best wishes.

This year we mark the moving on to other fields of our Principal Ben Fuller who has left a legacy of innovation and excellence. Aroha nui Ben. By carrying the last term through for us as Acting Principal, we remain so grateful to Anna MacKinnon who was very professional and gracious in her duties. Next year we will have a new Principal James Murray - James will bring experience, energy and love for the Lord. We are planning a formal welcome for him at the beginning of Term 1 next year. We must also thank Fr Mark Field and greet our new pastor Fr Philip and offer our best wishes to Fr Rico now Parish Priest of Opotiki.

This is a Cluny school and the charism of Anne Marie Javouhey founder of this order lives on in the sisters (Sr Emeli is on our Board) who live so near us and constantly hold us in prayer.

As I write this, our nation is reeling from yet another tragedy, this time on Whakaari/White Island – it demonstrates what an amazing and resilient country we are but also what a tenuous hold we have on life. The point of Christmas is to acknowledge and celebrate the innocence of the hope of new life in all its forms.

Your Board prays that you will all experience the glory and joy of this loveliest of seasons.

Meri Kirihimete me te Tau-Hou

God Bless

Tony Lenton
Board Chair



Matariki

From Our Parish Priest

The virgin will conceive and give birth to a son and they will call him Emmanuel, a name which means 'God-is-with-us'. The miracle of Christmas is that the God of infinite glory and radiance should become human – should even want to bind himself by bodily limitations. But this is the truly remarkable miracle of this flesh – and – blood Christmas.

May this Christmas of 2019 be a miracle for each and every one of you and may you marvel, wonder at and experience the miracle of God's coming into our world and into your life each day. May the Lord reward you for your support of our parish throughout the year and for your efforts to live as His children. In a particular way I would like to thank those people in our parish who have said 'yes' as Mary the Holy Mother of God did and have been handmaids of the Lord: Parish Pastoral Council members; Finance Councilors; Ministers of Holy Communion; Ministers of the Word and commentators; the Liturgy team and Musicians who prepare and lead us in our worship of God; our altar servers; greeters; health and safety officers; those who operate the PowerPoint each week; home group leaders; those who quietly go about preparing food and serving the homeless and hungry each week; the many parishioners who have supported families in need this year – whether in time, furniture, household items or through donations to purchase school uniforms; our ministry team who visit the sick and house bound; our bereavement team; Board of Trustees and teachers of our schools, as well as many others who work with our young people and not so young in our parish forming them in their faith and supporting them as they find a home among us through children's liturgy, youth group, and sacramental programmes; those who beautify the inside of the church with flowers, who clean and tidy the church and its grounds weekly; those who have supported planned giving and other fundraising events during this year, raising much needed funds for pastoral needs, ongoing maintenance and other expenses that a parish of our size incurs every year, enabling our parish to be 'the Church' - God's presence - helping people in need throughout our community and overseas. Your efforts make the miracle of this flesh-and blood Christmas a daily reality in our community. 'God-is with-us'. I thank God for you.

Personally I would like to thank you all over these last three months for your prayer, love, and practical support during my time as your parish priest. I've enjoyed the challenge and the vibrancy of St Thomas Aquinas Parish which embraces the faithful, diverse and growing communities of St Joseph's Te Puna, St Theresa's Bethlehem, the Catholic community of Matakana Island, St Mary's School, Aquinas College, the Sisters' of St Joseph of Cluny Convent and Retreat Centre, and St Mary Immaculate Tauranga. I have learned over the years that as a priest you are formed and shaped by the people you minister to, so thank you for all you teach me about, faith, hope and love. Each one of us is a work in progress and that's very exciting!

May you all once again be renewed in body and soul this Christmas as we celebrate the birth of Jesus Christ Saviour of the world and may His coming among us bless you with comfort and healing, strength and hope, forgiveness and peace in 2020.

**Fr. Philip, Fr. Rico, Fr. Peter (Korean Chaplaincy),
Deacon Ricky, and the Parish team of the
St Thomas Aquinas.**



2019 Special Character Reflection

"Beloved sons and daughters of the Catholic Church, brothers and sisters in the faith: Catholic education is above all a question of communicating Christ, of helping to form Christ in the lives of others."

Blessed Pope John Paul II

We have had another enjoyable year celebrating liturgical highlights and growing together as one family of God. The school has welcomed new staff and students and farewelled some moving on to new horizons.

This year we have focused on actively living our mission. Helping others in need and being the best we can.

Highlights included Caritas visit, Andrew Chinn visit, School feast day and the Visit from Sister Clare the Mother General of the Cluny Sisters.

The Malaga - Mission trip to Samoa was an amazing way for our students, families and community to live our values and make lifelong connections. The Faith and Hope that we witnessed in those we met was truly moving.

This year we thanked and farewelled Father Mark from our School and Parish. We welcomed Father Philip and look forward to getting to know him. Thanks to Father Rico and Father Peter who have also been part of our faith journey this year.

Thank you to all the staff at St Mary's who always go above and beyond to help our students to become more Christlike and to come to know our loving God.

Thank you to all our whanau and community who support the Catholic character of St Mary's Catholic School.

I wish you and your whanau a very blessed and safe Christmas Holiday. May God bless you and your family.

God Bless

Teresa Rush



A Prayer for Hope and Peace

Heavenly Father, I am your humble servant,
I come before you today in need of hope.
I need hope for a calm and joyful future.
I need hope for love and kindness.
I pray for peace and safety.
I pray to be filled with your light.
Help me to walk in your light, and live
my life in faith and service.
In your name, I pray, Amen.

(Loyola Press)



Bria, Otis and Isla will have some of their poetry published



Sophie Van den Borst recently danced for the Royal NZ Ballet Company. Congratulations Sophie.



Rā Whānau Mai 2020

On Friday 31st January, St Mary's will open for Rā Whānau Mai (Family Welcome Day). This is a family open day and is a great opportunity for you, as parents and whānau, to share your expectations, your child's interests, strengths, and learning needs and the knowledge you value, directly with your child's teacher. There will be a coffee cart and lunchtime sausage sizzle.

Each time slot (one per child) will be 10 minutes long and can be booked by going to: www.schoolinterviews.co.nz and using the following code: dnxzv.

Please complete the following questionnaire in google forms with your child before the meeting on Friday 31st January - <https://goo.gl/NdaENV>

School is closed for instruction on the day but you are welcome to stay and enjoy a coffee or sausage sizzle with your child before taking your child home again.

We are looking forward to working together in 2020 to provide effective home-school partnerships in which parents and teachers are involved together in our children's learning.

From the PTA

It has been my great pleasure to be part of such a hardworking group of parents in 2019. I would like to personally thank our PTA members and friends of the PTA, who without your continued help and support, our planned events and fundraising efforts would not be possible.

In 2019 we continued to successfully raise funds for our school through our Math-a-thon, Disco's, Quiz Night and our the incredibly successful St Marys Fireworks. We took a break from holding sausage sizzles in 2019 but we are hoping to have a new look "sausage sizzle" back on the agenda next year.

Each event is organised by our PTA and helped run by our parent community. We are extremely proud of the funds we have raised for the school this year. I must extend a huge thank you to all of the fireworks committee for their tireless work! It was a spectacular event which brings our school and community closer together. This event is a joint effort from the PTA, school staff, Board of Trustees, and our school students and parents. It takes an incredible amount of time, resources and energy to make this event a huge success! A special thank you to Taylor Bros for being our major sponsor again this year, we thank them for their generosity and amazing support over the years.

Pastoral care continues to be a focus for our PTA, we have had several cook offs over the last year to provide healthy and nutritious meals for the freezer that are available for our families who need them, no questions asked. Our friendly PTA also organise the lost property, clean up and serve morning tea for the New Families Liturgies, and are generally on hand if needed by our community.

Our continued success would not be possible without the support from the Board of Trustees, Anna McKinnon, Ayn Harris, and our teacher representative Jo Meehan, who is vital for communication with staff. I would also like to thank Theresa Dunston and Karen Mulhern, who are at the heart of our school and are always incredibly supportive and happy to help. We could not be a success without both these wonderful ladies and all that they do. I would like to personally thank the outgoing chairperson Ana McFarlane for all her years of hard work and dedication to the PTA, and our outgoing secretary Courtney Thomson for her incredible contribution to all our events and remains an important PTA member. I would also like to say a huge thank you to our new treasurer Rebecca Morell who has worked tirelessly behind the scenes at every event for the past year, going above and beyond the call of duty. I would also like to welcome on our new secretary Aaron Sheeran to the committee, I look forward to working with you in 2020.

Every year we sadly say farewell to some valuable PTA members as their children finish their primary school years or they move on to new ventures. This year we say goodbye to some very long standing and hardworking PTA members. The PTA are sad to farewell Claire Stott, Quintin Moore, Fiona Pearce and Lucy Young. Thank you for your incredible contribution to our school community, you will be sorely missed.

On behalf of the PTA I would like to wish you all a safe and happy holiday season. See you in 2020 for another fun and successful fundraising year.

E te Atua e manaaki ki a koutou katoa

Tracey Phizacklea

PTA Chairperson



The PTA raised over \$40,000 for the school in 2019 and contributed/donated over \$19,000 to:

Pastoral Care \$1,000

Outdoor Adventure Day \$1,000

Year 6 T-shirts \$1,000

Sports equipment/playground \$16,000



Malaga 2019 - Mission trip to Samoa



On Friday 4th October, A large group travelled to Samoa for seven days to represent St Mary's Catholic Primary school and our parish community. Led by Ben Fuller, Teresa Rush, Sister Emeli, Ati and Charlie Aaifou-Olive, 26 students and their parents as well as two grandparents, 55 in total. We are thankful to the Board of Trustees supporting the trip which was initiated by Ati and Charlie Aaifou-Olive. After 18 months of fundraising and preparing it was very humbling to finally be heading off to Samoa.



On Saturday to start our Mission we visited the Samoan Victims Support Group (SVSG) a non-governmental organisation set up in Samoa in 2005 to support victims of crimes and the most vulnerable populations through advocacy, casework, shelter for children, community awareness and violence prevention programs.

This was a very emotional visit and the students certainly learnt that hope in God changes lives. That the good work of those who bring joy, peace, hope and love to those who suffer has a major impact on the dignity of others and their lives. We gifted the very generous donations received from the community including, sheets, underwear, other clothing and a Vege Pod.

On Sunday morning we attended a breathtaking Mass at the Catholic Cathedral in Apia. The Cathedral building was so beautiful we all felt blessed to be walking on the Holy ground. The liturgy of the Mass took our students by surprise, the singing and respect for the sacredness of Mass was awe-inspiring and something the students keep talking about since we have got back. The parish welcomed us in Christ's name with open arms.

On Monday we visited St Mary's Catholic School, Savalolo. They welcomed us with singing in Maori, Samoan, a Siva dance and were fed by a huge feast of popo and food. Students visited the classrooms, sharing NZ culture and about our parish, school and Cluny charism. We presented the school with sports gear and drink bottles.

Tuesday we went to Marist Brothers, Apia, where we were welcomed again with beautiful singing and entertainment. Students again visited classrooms sharing about our school and taking part in lessons. Then had a massive rugby game with the students on the field. Once again we were given a lovely lunch. We presented to the school rugby balls and a rugby uniform for the rugby team.

We thank our community who supported our mission, especially ITM Mt Maunganui who donated six thousand dollars worth of sports equipment. Other major donors included the Pacific Island Community Trust Tauranga, Uniform Shop, Vege Pod, Taumeasina Resort and Samoan Airways. Also thanks to Samoa Airways who allowed us extra luggage.

We also would like to thank the Parish and School community who also generously supported our fundraising events.

Excitingly the group was in the Samoan Observer (local newspaper) three days in a row. They reported on our Mission and St Mary's Catholic School. A lovely way to connect with more people in Samoa and to spread God's love. This also enhanced our students learning into how Faith is such an important aspect of daily life in Samoa. This trip most certainly supported an enhanced the School's Catholic Character and was a way for students to live the Gospel in their actions and prayer. Proud to be Catholic.





SHOT ON OPPO
by maomiva19



STUDENT REFLECTIONS

Name	What is your favourite memory and how has it changed you
Lacey Z-H	Visiting the SVSG [Samoan Victim Support Group] and for me to realise that I am lucky.
Loimata Paaka	My favourite memory was going to the Samoan Victim Support Group, because I got to learn all about them, and listen to their stories. I also loved to play sports with them and to see their faces when we gave them their sports equipment. That has definitely changed my life forever.
Adam Rush	Rugby at the Marist School and helping them to become better rugby players. Helping those in need.
Lily Davison	A favourite memory was going to the Victim Support and seeing how happy they were even though they got hurt mentally and physically. Samoa has made me feel grateful for everything I have.
Nina Young	Seeing how grateful the kids were when we gave them the littlest thing. It just showed how little they had. So sad.
Georgia Abernethy	I enjoyed visiting the schools and seeing the smiles on the children's faces, and I saw how fortunate we are in New Zealand.
Cailyn Hawkins	Going to victim support I know it sounds sad but I made a very good friend there she was just a little older than me by a year but still, we had fun playing catch with each other. I hope one day I get to see her again as I was leaving she gave me a big hug as I was there she kept on looking and my bracelets so I gave her and her brother some. They were so happy they started crying and hugging me really tight I hope to go to Samoa again.
Louie Gash	sharing my culture and learning to interact with the kids.
Ella Aaifou-Olive	Playing with my buddy at the victim support because she was a little 5 year old. Today I still think about them. I understand what their life is like every day now.



Prizegiving Congratulations

Liturgical Service Cup: Boy: Janssen Wijaya

Liturgical Service Cup: Girl: Tegan Holden

Special Character Cup: Boy: Otis Jones

Special Character Cup: Girl: Gia Dumbleton

Mathematics Cup: Samuel Waylen & Sooa Lee

Performing Arts Cup: Nathaniel Jarden

Visual Arts Cup: Alana Perrett

Literature Cup: Alessandro Goodin & George Holmberg

Music Cup: Serrie Park

Sportsperson of the Year Cup: Eva Jeffries

Kapa Haka: Nathaniel Jarden

Kapa Haka: Loimata Paaka

Maori Achievement: Otis Jones

Maori Achievement: Josephine Stott

Pasifika Achievement: Isabella Aaifou-Olive

Leadership: James Prince

Principal Cup: Sophia Mason

BoT CUP: Isla Martin





Senior Camp at Totara Springs



Pasifika



Estuary Studies



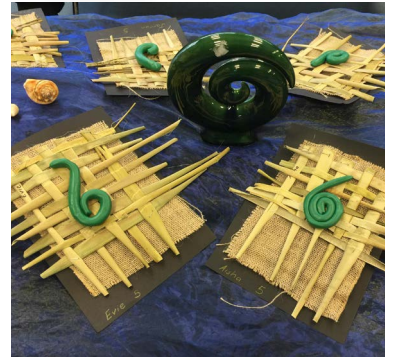
Senior Athletics Day



Stomp



Pasifika Art



CHRISTMAS MASS TIMES

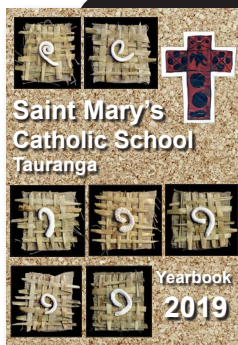


Christmas Eve

5pm - St Mary Immaculate
6pm - St Therese (Bethlehem)
7pm - St Mary Immaculate
10pm - St Mary Immaculate
Midnight Mass - St Joseph's, Te Puna (Te Reo Maori)

Christmas Day

9am - St Mary Immaculate
9am - St Joseph's



School magazine

The school magazine is a great snapshot of some of the events that have happened at St Mary's School this year. Many thanks to Kim Artus, Anthony Mills and Steven Finlayson for the many hours spent producing this wonderful keepsake for our children, parents and staff.

2020 Stationery

Lists of the 2020 stationery packs can be found on our school website www.stmarystga.school.nz. You are also welcome to buy your packs directly from Office Products where the packs will already be made up for you.

2020 Teaching Staff

Aroha Team Year 5/6

Megan Akkerman - Team Leader
Lisa Walter
Annette Laban
Gerardine Robbie
Teresa Rush

Maramatanga Team Year 2

Lisa Broadmore - Team Leader
Angela Cochrane
Randy Piceno

Whakapono Team Year 3/4

Tania Yorke - Team Leader
Suzanne Tanner
Catherine Wood
Donna Vincent
Louisa Strange
Jessica Rood

Tika Team New Entrant and Year 1

Lisa Broadmore - Team Leader
Janine Goldsmith
Adele Mayall
Erin Oates
Joanne Meehan

HOT OFF THE PRESS!

Our St Mary's Mum and Celebrity Chef **Nicky Smith** along with Aquinas PTA have produced this special cookbook as a school fundraiser - every sale contributes towards a new amphitheatre and more basketball courts at Aquinas College. 128 pages of recipes and handy hints!



\$39.95 OR 2 FOR \$70

Email ouraquinas@gmail.com to get your copy, or for more information.

Also available at **Pak n Save Tauriko, My Pharmacy Papamoa, Ooplah and Oscar & Otto.**

**FULL OF FAMILY FAVOURITES
& MUST-HAVE RECIPES**

2020 Term Dates

Term 1: Monday 3 February - Thursday 12 April
Term 2: Tuesday 28 April - Friday 3 July
Term 3: Monday 20 July - Friday 25 September
Term 4: Monday 12 October - Thursday 17 December
(End date to be confirmed)

2020 Dedicated school bus services

All school services drop off and pick up at the school gate on 13th Avenue. All dedicated services will start on Monday 3 February 2020 with the exception of route 803a which will start on Tuesday 4 February.

801b Maungatapu & Ohauiti
803a Welcome Bay (Waikite Road)
806c The Lakes
807 Freeburn Road & Pyes Pa Road
903d Pyes Pa (Cheyne Road)
905a Bethlehem & Otumoetai

PLEASE CHECK ALL DESCRIPTIONS OF ROUTES AS SOME HAVE CHANGED OR ARE NEW. GO TO www.baybus.co.nz

Bus run close to St Mary's Bayhopper Services - School Services

Route 1 Access on Fraser Street for travel to/from Greerton & Pyes Pa
Route 1 travels along Fraser Street between Tauranga CBD and Pyes Pa (via Chadwick Road).

Route 40 Access on 15th Avenue for travel to/from Welcome Bay
Route 40 travels along 15th Avenue to Welcome Bay.

Route 36 Access on 15th Avenue for travel to/from Papamoa
Route 36 travels along 15th Avenue towards Maungatapu and Papamoa.

Most St Mary's Catholic School bus services are operated by NZ Bus. For Bayhopper services and school services excluding 806c and 807, please contact NZ Bus on 0800 200 569.

If you have left an item on route 806c or 807 please contact Bethlehem Coachlines on 571 0360.

School students in uniform can travel for free on school days before 9am and between 2.30 - 6.30pm. This applies to all dedicated school services and Bayhopper services, excluding Te Puke, Katikati and Omokoroa services.

During other times the fare is \$2.00 cash or \$1.60 with a Smartride card.

Route descriptions and timetables are available on our website, www.schooltransport.org.nz

All rural bus routes will start Monday 3 February.

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Our People Our Place

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ACTING DEPUTY PRINCIPAL: Ayn Harris

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ASSISTANT PRINCIPAL: Anthony Mills

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PARISH: Father Philip Billing, Father Rico Enriquez, Margie Cooper, Katy Wealleans and Julie O'Connor

PTA EXECUTIVE: Tracey Phizacklea, Rebecca Morrell, Aaron Sheeran.

STUDENTS: Isabella Aaifou-Olive, Mina Aaifou-Olive, Salesa Aaifou-Olive, Maleyah Abalajon, Georgia Abernethy, Adrian Adelaide, Shania Adlington, Adam Alasad, Abigail Albert, Abel Albin, Andrea Arun, Noah Askin, Madeleine Askin, Jaythen Bag-Ayan, Madison Bakker, Samuel Baldwin, Milli Banbury, Eli Banbury, Frances Banotan, Teresa Barrett, Ivy Barrett-Hodgson, Cora Barrett-Hodgson, Nieve Barry, Alexander Bayliss, Rory Bell, Ryan Bell, Daisy Bell, April Bensley, Autumn Bensley, Rayn Best, Josh Binny, Samantha Bint, Kale Bint, Coen Bint, Korbyn Bird, Cody Blythe, Cooper Bos, Oliver Bradley, Maxi Brazendale, Luka Brazendale, Manaia Brazendale, Samantha Broadbent, Nadya Broadbent, Edwina Brobin, Piers Brooks, Tallulah Brooks, Madison Brown, Layla Brunnsden, Meila Butcher, Cillian Byrne, Leila Cafer, Maiya Cardey, Alexis Cardey, Zac Carey, Baxter Carlin, Alexander Carter, JayJay Carter, Felix Carter, Hajeong Cha, Summer Champness, Cruz Champness, Peter Chang, Luke Chang, Ella Chea, Ken Chennoth Smithesh, Kristy Chennoth Smithesh, Seth Chow, John Clarke, Hunter Clarke, Soul Clarkin, Tyler Coballes, Erena Coffin, Mikaela Cope, Ellie Cope, Kaitlin Cope, Oliver Dalton, Jono Dalton, Maverick Damasco, Lily Davison, Austin Day, Rose De Jong, Isaiah Deo, Charlotte Devoy, Francis Diaz, Kimberley Dobbie, Cassidy Dobbs, Regan Dobbs, Brody Dobbs, Bria Donald, Ryan Donald, Amelia Dow, Sepp Downes, Quinn Downes, Levi Drummond, Lila Drummond, Liam Du Toit, Gia Dumbleton, Evie Dumbleton, Arielle Duytshoff, Paige Eastergaard, Adelia Elphick, Eden Englehardt-Batchelor, Chloe Evans, Ryan Evans, Petra Fantham, Joshua Farrelly, Samuel Farrelly, Joshua Fauseit, Sophia Ferdinando, Bella Ferguson, Sophie Ferguson, Tristan Fernando, Dakota Finlay, Declan Finlay, Nikita Firioubine, Charli Firioubine, Jake Fitzpatrick, Angus Forsythe, Mason Francis, Sadie Frank, Ryder Frank, Makae Fuller, Henry Fulton, Blake Gadsby, Cormac Gardiner, James Gardiner, Flynn Gardiner, Khalia Gardiner Hano, Louie Gash, Casey Gerrand, Mason Gesalta, Greta Gilbert, Lenny Gilbert, Mollie Gleaves, Freddie Gleaves, Zachary Good-Vitali, Leif Good-Vitali, Marcello Goodin, Alessandro Goodin, Arabella Goss, Leo Gray, Teyla Green, Connor Greer, Harry Grosso, Jules Hansen, Dylan Harris, Jane Hartman, James Hartman, Emily Hattie, Cailyn Hawkins, Ben Haydock, Charleigh Herbert, Lola Hertnon, Lucy Hertnon, Max Hirst, Heidi Hirst, Zeke Ho, Liam Ho, Vincent Hodgson, Indee Holden, Tyson Holden, Tegan Holden, Esme Holmberg, George Holmberg, Tomas Hooper, Henry Hopkins, George Hopkins, Luca Hopoi, Cole Hulsebosch, Ethan Hunter, Matthew Indeer, Arthur Inglis, Oliver Jacobs, Coco Jacobs, Eddie Jacobs, Nathaniel Jarden, Elena Jaswil, Eirene Jaswil, Eva Jeffries, Savannah Jennings, Jehyun Jeong, James Johnstone, Otis Jones, Lotte Jones, Ellie Jones, Neil Joseph, Nia Joseph, Summer-Ann Joseph, Mia Joseph, Baron Juachon, Jenella Juachon, Rylee Jury, Mackenzie Jury, Kiwa Kahura, Areta Kahura, Isabelle Kale, Joshua Kell, Connor Kenny, Alana Kenny, Logan Kerr, Olivia Kerr, Swara Khot, Smit Khot, Gyulyn Kim, Jooyeon Kim, Seoyul Kim, Gyuwon Kim, Yeyun Kim, Leo Kirk, Henry Kirk, Xavier Kirk, Phoebe Kirk, Max Knight, Thomas Knowles, Jaehyun Kwon, Elliot Laurie, Oliver Laurie, Marriann Lawford Prendeville, Bodhi Lawrence, Mali Lawrence, Frank Lawson, Hyunwoo Lee, Sooh Lee, Elma Lee, Migo Legayada, Sennen Legayada, Kate Levis, Mandy Lewis, Gabriel Lewis, Olivia Lilly, Caleb Lim, Jacob Lim, Sam Lock, Henoa Lolohea, Mia Lowe, Ethan Lowe, Tommy Lumsden, Cameron MacDonald, Alexander Maisey, Lottie Mann, Ciaran Manning, Maebh Manning, Sumatra Mark, Caitlyn Markham, Felipe Markham, Francis Markham, Oliver Marr, Lucy Marr, Stella Marsters, Isla Martin, Mia Martin, Tilly Martin, Sophia Mason, Tom Mason, Lily McCarthy, Holly McElroy, Georgia-Rose McFarlane, Spencer McIntosh, Matilda McKee, Indie McKenzie, George McKinnon, Mathieson McKinnon, Flynn McMaha, Isaac McMaha, Cody McQueen, Madeline Mear, Jack Mear, Hannah Minkhorst, Farron Mobberley, Rohan Moby, Vanessa Moncrieff, Carter Montgomery, Joven Montuya, Daniel Moore, Abby Moore, Francis Morado, Caleb Morais, Ellie Morell, Ava Morell, Amelia Muller, Eli Murie, Willow Murie, Keegan Murphy, Cillian Murphy, Ezra Naidoo, Aja Nix, Brayden Nix, Niamh O'Connor, Briar O'Connor, Jazmine Oficial, Jared-Jaime Ogayan, Richard Oliver-Marshall, Charlie Olsen, Elliot Olsen, Gian Olvina, Gabriel Olvina, Sidney Orchard, Lauren Osterman, Loimata Paaka, Emma Page, Max Page, Carl Palad, Clover Palairret, Hugo Palairret, Vani Panchal, Yerie Park, Serrie Park, Montgomery Parkinson, Mitchell Parry, Matilda Parry, Carys Parry, Madeleine Parry, Johaan Paul, William Peeters, Maya Perrett, Alana Perrett, Luan Peterle, George Minh-Tri Pham, Vivian Pham, Nina Philp, Finn Phizacklea, Eva Phizacklea, Pearl Pivac, Angel Poli Tipi, Trinity Ponini, Flynn Porteners, Hannah Porter, Jackson Porter, James Prince, Sienna Prince, Charli Pryor, Ashley Pryor, Jack Quin, Kruze Quintus, Bryley Raass, Lucy Rabbidge, Symphony Rackley, Jessica Radley, Jahren Ralia, Grace Raymond, Morgan Redshaw, Isabelle Reeve, Samuel Reid, Oliver Reid, Rufus Reijthar, Gustav Reijthar, Liam Rhind, Tyler Richards, Mason Richards, Jarron Rigon, Jorren Rigon, Matthew Robinson, Matthew Rogers, Eamon Rogers, Austin Roper, Adam Rush, Murphy Rutherford, Blake Rutherford, Rebecca Ryder, Richard Salanoa, Cleo Sands, Addison Sands, Malu Santos, Nelson Santos, Faith Santos, Ella Saunders, Sophie Schiphorst, Kees Schiphorst, Kiana Schoeser, Will Schofield, Caitlin Schofield, Zara Scholes, India-Rose Scholes, Tayla Setefano, Aafreen Shaji, Andreena Shaji, Theo Shaw, Evie Sheeran, Conor Sherratt-Amaru, Johaan Shijo, Ethan Shiju, Felix Shin, Glenwill Shinoj, Erral Singh, Patrick Siron, Sienna Smart, Delilah Smith, Solomon Smith, Prince Sobiaco, Harry Son, Olivia Son, Emily Sowerby, Annabelle Sowerby, Ayrton Spain, Isabella Spence, Josephine Stott, Evelyn Strange, Beatrice Sutherland, Emma Swain, Luke Swanson, Jake Swanson, Zainab Syed, Hazra Syed, Aisha Syed, Elia Szulakowski, Ashleigh-Paige Taitumu-Boot, Annabelle Talbot, Lachlan Talbot, Benjamin Talbot, Peyton Tamihere Katene, Katara Tana, Jude Tarr, Lily Te Pairei-Bradshaw, Luca Thom, Oliver Thom, Palmy Townsend, Blair Trow, Jin Tumbokon, Janelle Tustin, Maria Tustin, Luke Tustin, Xavier Tustin, Bella Tutemahurangi, Vienna Vale, Prince Vallejo, Sophie Van den Borst, Will Van Eften, Hudson Van Eften, Annie Van Zyl, Lucy Van Zyl, Oliver Van Zyl, Tumeli Veitaladrua, Jope Veitaladrua, Vin Villegas, Thinh Vo, Thu Vo, Peyton Voice, Karlah Wadley-Freemantle, Nina Waites, Hunter Waites, Jonty Waites, Lucija Walker, Caleb Walter, Samuel Waylen, Xavier Waylen, Rhiannon Webb, Mitchell Alexander Weber, Ava Weber, Ruby Wheeler, Maddy Wheeler, James Whitaker, Janssen Wijaya, Joel Wilde, Austin Wilde, Frankie Willers, Zara Willers, Charlie Williams, Toby Williams, Olivia Williamson, Benjamin Wilson, Isabella Wilson, Konrad Wisniewski, Olivia Woodhouse, Tiare Workman, Bowen Xue, Isla Yeatman, Isabella Young, Holly Young, Nina Young, Ella Younger, Maxine Yu, Von Yu, Ian Yun, Lacey Zurcher-Herbert.