

# Vanguard News

NOVEMBER 2014

EFFORT BRINGS REWARD

## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

ROCKLEY MONTGOMERY

Welcome to the November edition of the Vanguard Military School newsletter.



As the 2014 school year draws to a close and we now review and reflect on our first year of operation, we are overwhelmed by an enormous sense of pride. What has been achieved in such a short time and the degree of success is beyond even our most optimistic planning. Using the analysis to date, it is evident that a number of the school's planned educational strategies have not only worked to the expected level, but the cumulative effect has surpassed expectation. The old adage of an outcome being greater than the sum of its parts is all too evident. It is not always possible to identify every single

component in an educational model that has contributed positively to an outcome, nor to what level each component has contributed to the whole, the only indisputable aspect being that measurable final result. The Vanguard Military School Educational Model has too many integrated and subtle components to quantify each independently, but there are some obvious components without which the spectacular outcomes achieved this year would not have been possible.

**The first acknowledgement must go to the Vanguard staff.** A harder working more dedicated and focused group of educational professionals would be difficult to assemble anywhere. We are all indebted to them and they have the thanks of the school board, management, recruits and parents.

The staff at Vanguard this year have demonstrated a level of professionalism, dedication and collegiality any Principal and Board of Trustees would be proud of. Those examples of going the extra mile for their recruits are too numerous to list, but some of the examples are classic

"above and beyond the call of duty". For example, a Level 2 recruit struggling with punctuality and needing to sit an assessment is not only called up and given the hard word when late one morning, but actually hauled out of bed and brought to school by the staff member. A Level 1 recruit who was determined to leave school on his sixteenth birthday, with or without passing his Level 1 certificate, is fast-tracked by bringing a performance standard forward, being taken up to the local athletic track and paced, motivated and encouraged all the way by the staff member. This recruit narrowly missed achieving a Merit Grade, but the acquired credits ensured a handshake, a planned exit from school with a Level 1 Certificate and a successful year for all concerned. Thank you Vanguard Staff.

**The second acknowledgement goes to the Vanguard recruits** - the young men and women who had listened to the rhetoric and were influenced to the degree where they were prepared to enrol at Vanguard Military School with a vision of being successful. At first they listened and learned and did everything asked of them because that was what

they had chosen to do. However, it was not long before the affective learning that occurs all day and every day at Vanguard kicked in and they started coming to school because they could now see the advantage of accepting the Vanguard Educational Model for themselves, feel the confidence they were developing and enjoying that feeling of success. They learned that Vanguard was not just another school they were zoned to go to, but rather this was a school of their own choosing, a school where, in most cases, they were prepared to get up long before first light, catch multiple modes of transport to get to school and were motivated to such an extent by what they were receiving from Vanguard, that they continued to do this all year. These young men and women have undoubtedly etched into their very psyche, the school's philosophy of always doing their very best and never giving up, otherwise they would not have been able to sustain this enormous effort, just to get to school every day. Well done Vanguard Recruits, we are all very proud of you.

**The third acknowledgement has to go to the parents/caregivers of our recruits.** Vanguard could never promise a silver bullet or a quick fix to gaining an education, only that with hard work and our unique systems, could success be guaranteed as the final outcome. To have parents/caregivers who were prepared to become part of their children's educational team and then support this team tirelessly all year, has been truly fantastic from the school's point of view. Here at Vanguard we have had, all year, parents/caregivers who are prepared to support their children through this school's systems, learning to work with and appreciate the difference of this unique educational model and then to unequivocally support the school with this mission of educating their children. There is no doubt in anyone's mind as to the enormous part played by our parents/caregivers in the success of our recruits achieving to the degree that they have this year. A big thank you from the Vanguard Staff and Recruits for tirelessly supporting the team, by

contributing and fulfilling your role as part of your child's educational team and for the school always knowing that we can count on you when needed.

I would like to wish all those recruits who have graduated this year all the best for the future and I hope that you can take what you have learned here at Vanguard with you to help you maintain control of your own destiny and guide you positively in the future.

To those recruits coming back next year, I wish you all a safe and fantastic summer break and look forward to you continuing your educational development with us next year.

A merry Christmas and happy new year to all who have been involved with Vanguard Military School's inaugural year.

## HISTORY LESSON: TRENT SECTION

Group Captain Leonard Henry Trent VC was born in Nelson on 14 April 1915.

In 1919 the family moved to Takaka, where three years later, after taking a short ride in a Gipsy Moth aircraft, Trent became captivated by flying. Trent was educated at Nelson College and boarded at the school between 1928 and 1934.

After induction training at Taieri near Dunedin, he undertook Royal New Zealand Air Force flight training in Christchurch, gaining his wings in May 1938. A month later he sailed for Britain to join the Royal Air Force.

In September 1939, Trent went to France as part of No. 15 Squadron RAF, flying Fairey Battles on high-level photo-reconnaissance missions over enemy territory. Trent flew numerous combat

missions after Germany invaded the Low Countries and France in May 1940.

Trent was promoted to Squadron Leader in March 1942. He flew many different raids on targets in the Low Countries during late 1942 and early 1943.

He was a 28-year-old squadron leader in the Royal New Zealand Air Force, serving with No. 487 Squadron RNZAF, under Royal Air Force control when he was awarded the Victoria Cross.

On 3 May 1943, the squadron was ordered to undertake a Ramrod diversionary bombing attack on the power station in Amsterdam. The escort Wing Leader, Wg Cdr Blatchford, vainly attempted to recall the bombers, but they were soon hemmed in by fighters. The Squadron was virtually wiped out. Trent shot down a Messerschmitt Bf 109 with the forward machine guns of this plane. Immediately afterwards, his own aircraft was hit, went into a spin and broke up. Trent and his navigator were thrown clear at 7,000 feet and became prisoners. Trent, whose leadership was instrumental in ensuring the bombing run was completed, was awarded the Victoria Cross.

After his capture, Trent was assigned to Stalag Luft III Sagan, Germany. He



*Leonard Henry Trent*

participated in the "Great Escape" of 24 March 1944, although he was recaptured almost immediately. Trent received solitary confinement because of this immediate surrender outside the camp. Trent survived the war in a POW camp.

Trent was liberated by British forces on 2 May 1945. He returned to England and promptly recommenced RAF service. Continuing in the Royal Air Force after the war, he trained in jets and later commanded No. 214 Squadron RAF with the, then, new Vickers Valiant.

Trent moved to Forestdale, Western Australia, in 1965, and took a job with MacRobertson Miller Airlines. He returned to NZ to live at Matheson Bay, north of Auckland in 1977, dying on 19 May 1986 at North Shore Hospital. Trent's ashes were returned to Western Australia, where they were interred at Fremantle Cemetery alongside those of his daughter.

## FIVE MINUTES WITH....

**SCOTT ROBERTSON, HEAD OF PHYSICAL TRAINING**

Every month a student will interview an educator at school. Five minutes, five questions, go!

This month, Tori Hohaia, a year 11 student in Trigg Section, has interviewed Head of Physical Training, Scott Robertson.

### 1. How long have you been educating?

*I've instructed Physical, Adventurous, Leadership and Management from 1993, so 23 years.*

### 2. Where did you go to school?

*I went to Craigalea Primary, then Castlehead High School in Paisley, Scotland, on the outskirts of Glasgow.*

### 3. What made you want to become an educator?

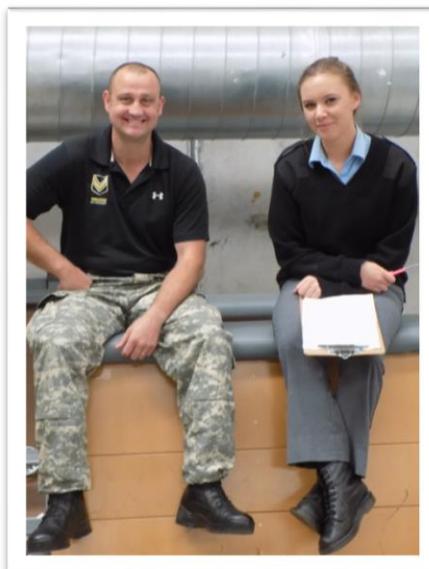
*It was part of the natural process in the British Military where they would develop and encourage you to become an instructor in everything you did, as this ensured a quality of person that could teach, as well as do. Also, there are plenty of military aspects civvies don't use, therefore in-house instructor training was required. For the subjects that were relevant in civvy street, the army ensured that we were accredited to the civilian equivalent.*

### 4. What are you passionate about?

*I'm passionate about doing the job right and having people I teach stick to the highest standards without them losing their sense of humour. Not to mention my family.*

### 5. What's one thing we wouldn't know about you?

*I have had the King of Jordan's brother Crown Prince Hamza come to attention and call me staff whilst meeting him on an official visit in a place called Petra in Jordan. His entourage did not look impressed, so I stood him at ease. This was whilst I was an instructor at the Royal Military Academy Sandhurst and he was a Cadet. However, at that time, he was home on official business. We were out, in Jordan, using their parachuting systems,*



Scott Robertson (L) and Tori Hohaia (R)

*training their soldiers, climbing Jebel Mountains and tabbing dry Wadis (dry river beds).*

## STUDENTS IN ACTION

**Congratulations to Brielle Cadwallader (Year 11) and Sarah Samuelu (Year 12) who made the following representative rugby teams:**

North Harbour Secondary Schools Girls Under 19s Open Weight, North Harbour Women's 7s Open Weight, and Marist Women's Rugby Club 7s.



Brielle Cadwallader (L) and Sarah Samuelu (R)

## PARENTAL PERSPECTIVES

*We love hearing your feedback on what it's like to have your child attend Vanguard. Here is a response we have recently received.*

*Before joining Vanguard, our son had no aspirations with regards to his future and he lacked motivation for anything (other than computer gaming).*

*He is now three quarters of the way through his basic training in the NZ Army, and he is loving it. He has enlisted as a rifleman, but is already talking about pursuing various other roles and moving up the ranks, with his big goal of wanting to join the SAS after a few years of service. It is amazing to see the complete change in him, and we put it down to the experience of being part of Vanguard.*



**Dylan Wood**

*After seeing the **positive changes in our son**, we decided to pull our other son out of his school and enroll him into Vanguard Military School. He also is thriving in this environment, and can't wait to turn 17 so that he can join the army too.*

*We are huge advocates for Vanguard Military School, and recommend it to anyone and everyone. We are very proud to have our children associated with the school. You provide your students with so many opportunities that most would not get in a mainstream school. Keep up the great work that you are doing. You have proven all the critics wrong, and we believe there should be more schools like Vanguard.*

*Riaan and Shanny*

## STUDENT CORNER

*Each month we'll be providing excerpts from our students about their time at Vanguard. This month, the contribution comes from Trent Section.*

*To be a part of the first year at Vanguard Military School has definitely been a huge honor and privilege.*

*The discipline and expectations required from every recruit is set to a high standard, enabling us to become better individuals. In almost 11 months being here, my attendance and grades have improved well beyond what I thought I was capable of. I thank the valuable staff here at Vanguard for making me a better person.*

*At my previous school I felt as if I wasn't unlocking my full potential, I lacked motivation and self-discipline, but now I feel motivated and I have unlocked my full potential.*

*I have had the opportunity to meet a diverse group of students from different areas of Auckland and the friendships I have made from this are disciplined friends who have had a positive influence on my life. Vanguard is much more than just a school, it's a family.*

*Mason Peteli*

## UPCOMING EVENTS

<b>12 December</b>	Graduation Ceremony End of Term 4
<b>12-16 January</b>	NZQA results available
<b>2 February</b>	Term 1 commences for newly enrolled students
<b>4 February</b>	Term 1 commences for returning students

## MEDIA WATCH

Our school features frequently in a number of media articles. In case you missed them, check them out below:

Radio New Zealand's Education Correspondent, John Gerritsen, featured an article on two of the charter schools, including Vanguard Military School, who have been given positive reviews by the Education Review Office. Have a listen at [www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player/20154415](http://www.radionz.co.nz/audio/player/20154415)

ACT Leader David Seymour delivered his Maiden Speech to Parliament on 21 October 2014, quoting a student from Vanguard Military School in his opening paragraph. His full speech can be viewed here: [www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1410/500117/maiden-speech-to-parliament-david-seymour.htm](http://www.scoop.co.nz/stories/PA1410/500117/maiden-speech-to-parliament-david-seymour.htm)

The North Shore Times reported on Prime Minister John Key's visit on 31 October 2014. It was the first time he's set foot at Vanguard Military School.

See: <http://northshoretimes.realviewdigital.com/?iid=105595&startpage=page000007#folio=1>

Look out for the story on Vanguard in the Sunday Star Times (available through Stuff.co.nz) on 9 November 2014. The article discusses success with struggling students in just over eight months.

See: [www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/10716336/Charter-schools-claim/early-success](http://www.stuff.co.nz/national/education/10716336/Charter-schools-claim/early-success)



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