

Issue

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"Great Shot!"

Basketball at Scotch College

Distribution: Principal, Vice Principal, Heads of Year, Head of Sport, Coaches, Players and Parents

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Photo Submissions: Do you have access to a digital camera? Do you want to see all the action **from your team** pictured in the 'Great Shot!'. At the moment we have only 2 or 3 parents taking photographs for the newsletter. These are parents with involvement in the senior teams. Please send jpeg images to the editor by Sunday night for inclusion into the Greta Shot

We're Back!

It is the beginning of another exciting basketball season at Scotch College. Each week the 'Great Shot' newsletter will bring you the latest game results, photographs of players in action, news for parents and notice of upcoming events.

Look for it on the web each Tuesday at <http://www.scotch.vic.edu.au/Sport/Bball/Bball.htm>

Each week throughout the playing season an email alert will be sent to those parents, players and supporters who opt in to the SDC email list. You will be notified when Great Shot is up on the web, about changes to training times, and receive invitations to special events.

Register now by sending an email to nmallen@optushome.com.au

With 'subscribe to SDC Alert' in the subject line and the name and year level of your son(s) in the body of the email. You can unsubscribe at any time.

Senior Basketball Team Tours New Zealand April 10-17 2005

For many Scotch students the basketball season is just commencing. For a few, training commenced in February, with the challenge of playing the top teams in New Zealand presented to them over the past school holidays. Below is the report from the 1st coach Mr. Rob Hortin, accompanied by photographs taken by Mr. Mark Mason, assistant coach on tour and coach of the Scotch 2^{nds}.



This inaugural basketball tour to New Zealand was a successful venture and we hope to send at least one team across the Tasman again next autumn. An information night will be held late in 2005. **Please subscribe to the SDC email alert email if you wish to be kept informed.**

New Zealand Basketball Tour



Eleven prospective 1st Basketball players departed for the land of the long white cloud in search of adventures, challenges, and new experiences. We were welcomed by our hosts at *Auckland Grammar School* several hours later and spent the first night billeted with them. The following day we visited the Auckland museum and stood beside a Maori war canoe some 20 metres in length and began to appreciate the proud and war-like heritage of the Maori people. Something we would learn to expect from our opponents on a regular basis in the days ahead. A visit to the Sky Tower provided commanding views of the city

before we focused on our first game against AGS.

(above left to right); Mr. Mark Mason, Nick Thomas, Rob Blinkhorn, Alexander Zielke, Ed Cowan, Plato Mak, Angus Keech, Tom Barton, Jake Eadie, Matt Danos , Ollie Baxter, Daniel Nelson and Mr. Rob Hortin

AGS finished 12th in the national schools competition (2004) and we expected a hard game. We were not surprised, therefore, when they jumped to an 18-10 quarter time score. After a spirited contest, AGS defeated Scotch 73 – 49, but the game revealed much about our game that we would work to improve. *Nick Thomas* (14pts), *Ed Cowan* (8), and *Oliver Baxter* (7) were our major scorers.

The following morning we played *Rangitoto College* (12th 2004) and the final score reflected a better Scotch performance. At one stage Scotch trailed by 24 points but to the boys' credit we closed to within 2 in the final term. Unfortunately, the momentum swung Rangitoto's way in the final stages and they went on to win 70 – 58. *Cowan* (12), *Jake Eadie* and *Baxter* (11), and *Thomas* (10).

After a brief respite for lunch, we traveled to *Westlake Boys' HS* for what would prove our most difficult challenge. Westlake (3rd in 2004) have a superior group of players who asserted themselves from the tip off, quickly jumped to a 30 point lead at the break and went on to claim a profound victory 119 – 35! Three Westlake players stood over 2.12m tall and could really play(!). The rest of the team were merely outstanding. *Ed Cowan* (14) played extremely well against magnificent defence, and all of our players acquitted themselves well despite the clear difference between the two teams.

Tired but willing, we played Game 4 the next morning against *Avondale College* (**2004 champions**) and we expected another grueling encounter. Our opponents' speed up the floor, height, aggressive rebounding, and accurate shooting gave them the ascendancy early, and Avondale ran out winners 94 – 40. *Angus Keech* (14) provided a target inside, and rookie *Daniel Nelson* showed spirited offensive moves throughout the game.



Afterwards, many of the boys caught a nap in the bus as we traced the banks of the mighty Waikato River destined for Rotorua: one of New Zealand's most beautiful tourist destinations, home to *Rotorua Boys' HS*, and **VICTORY**.

At the end of a five game stretch and carrying injuries (*Rob Blinkhorn* – strained A-C joint; *Ed Cowan* – ankle; *Jake Eadie* – off colour) we knew this game would provide a genuine opportunity to turn the corner. Scotch took an early lead and held on to it throughout the game to secure their first win 51 – 40. *Keech* (16), *Thomas* (12), *Alex Zielke/Nelson/Baxter* (6) found avenues to the basket and we were very pleased with the team's determination and character after two hard days and little rest.

Our players held their heads high and looked forward to a well earned break and activity of a slightly different nature: the Zorb, Agrojet, and a wonderful view of the surrounding countryside from the 'Swoop'! The night was spent at Kiwi Paka after a relaxing dip in thermal spas that loosened strained muscles and joints.

Our next game was our best performance of the tour even though we lost to *Church College* 99 – 60. Church was probably as strong as Westlake in terms of all round ability, speed and skill, but our players played an outstanding game: *Cowan* (22 pts, 5 boards, 4 blocks, 2 steals), *Keech/Nelson/Thomas* (8) did well

offensively, and *Daniel Nelson* confirmed his ability as a quick thinking and agile offensive threat. *Zielke* and *Matt Danos* were strong, and *Plato Mak* and *Tom Barton* played with tenacity. The score might suggest a one sided match but this was *our finest hour*.

Finally, we played *St John's College* (Hamilton; 6th in 2004) and we needed a win to complete what had been a fine week for Scotch basketball. The game was hard fought, at times desperate, and when Scotch took an 11-point lead at the first break, we knew we would still need to earn our victory. At the half we led 38 – 28 but the effort of the previous few days began to tell in the third term. With 5 minutes to play before time, a 16-point lead had evaporated to 2, but smart transition offence secured victory for Scotch 62 – 55. *Cowan* (12), *Keach* (10), *Eadie* (9), and *Thomas* (8) were consistent, but the effort and determination of all our players held the day, and we were pleased.



So, 2 wins from 7 games, tremendous individual and team development, amazing cultural experiences, and generous hospitality from our New Zealand hosts! What could be better than that? Perhaps another win or two, but then we may not have gained as much as we did in terms of the way we think, train, and play. This was a wonderful tour to a magnificent part of the world: thermal wonderlands, Maori tradition, trout larger than *Nick Thomas's* boots, and fantastic basketball! A very suitable platform for our season's mission: to train hard and intelligently, to dedicate ourselves to the team, and to play to our individual potential every time we hit the floor.



Go Scotch!

Mr. Rob Hortin
Scotch 1^{sts} Coach



**You CANNOT miss the
Slam Dunk Club**

Family BBQ

(Supporting Basketball at Scotch College)

on Sunday (May 1st).

- Make new friends and catch up with old ones.
- Enter the **shooting competition** to win prize packs
- Meet **Matt Hammond** from **Kickz101**.
- Try your luck to **win** a LeBron James Nike basketball (as illustrated below)



10 Murdoch Street, Camberwell 3-7pm, \$25 per family for food and fun, or \$5 per single student

BYO Drinks

Get your reply slip in today or call Phil Mollison 0418388555
And tell him how many will be attending, then pay at the door.

Reply slip in the March edition of the Torch or see the basketball page of the Scotch College Website, for more information.

Teacher in Charge

Ms Grace Cardaci has taken on the role of Teacher in Charge of Basketball at Scotch College. Ms Cardaci can be contacted at Grace.Cardaci@scotch.vic.edu.au



The Slam Dunk Club, the parents group for basketball at Scotch College, provides support for the staff, assistant coaches and the players throughout the APS basketball season and looks for new opportunities to grow the sport at Scotch. The committee meets once a month (wine and cheese nights) throughout the playing season as well as a couple of times outside of the season. We have a lot of fun at our meetings and have a vision for making basketball at Scotch College a great sport to be associated with.

We are currently seeking a (second) year 7 representative to join our dynamic committee. If you are interested, please contact the secretary, Ian Hancock.

Members of the 2005 committee are listed below;

President	Peter Keech	0409332154
Vice president	Evelyn Danos	0418368477
Secretary	Ian Hancock	0417657847
Treasurer	Phil Mollison	0418388555

Newsletter	Ellen Eadie
Web Administrator	Nan Allen
Junior School	Drew Cossar

Year Level Coordinators;

Open teams	Sue Taylor, Ellen Eadie and Evelyn Danos
Yr 10	Trevor Baxtor
Yr 9	Nan Allen and Phil Mollison
Yr 8	David Marks, Ian Hancock and Sue Lowe
Yr 7	Carol Leith

Photography Coordinator	Dale Wickberg
Family Association representative	Sue Lowe

SDC email scotch.basketball@scotch.vic.edu.au