



**Otago Girls' High School**  
**ALUMINI**  
**APPEAL**



Otago Girls' High School

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APPEAL**

3 character-building activities making a special contribution to the growth and development of students at Otago Girls' High School.

**1 Choir**

**2 Kapa haka**

**3 Rowing**



CHOIR

KAPA HAKA

ROWING

# The 3 c's Commitment, Character, & Cash.

Every student taking part in these 3 activities at Otago Girls' High School - **Choir**, **Kapa haka**, **Rowing**, must commit to a rigorous programme of

- skill development and practice.
- building strength of character, to last the long season.
- providing extra cash to pay for coaching, regalia, materials, equipment, travel, and accommodation.

To maintain the successes being achieved by each of these groups on the national stage, we are asking for your support by backing this Alumni Appeal, helping to advance these 3 vital school groups equally.

3 quite different school pursuits, but each compelling, and excelling at the national level.

- Each activity is enormously character-forming.
- Requiring a huge commitment from the students, parents, tutors, and school combined.
- Each one expensive and draining of parent and school resources.

It might not seem obvious at first glance that taking part in either of these 3 activities would require prohibitive amounts of cash, yet they do, as we demonstrate below.

**We need your help. But first, here are our 3 applicants -**



CHOIR

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# Choir

The Nautilus Chorale



CHOIR

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ROWING

Singing in the choir has been a vital part Otago Girls' High School for a significant number of students over more than 150 years. Currently there are 35 students in The Nautilus Chorale.

- Boosting self-confidence.
- Demonstrating a strong work ethic.
- Creating a sense of whanau, of belonging, in a bigger group.

Singing is a low-impact aerobic exercise: lowering stress, boosting immunity, & improving mental health. Singing is a natural anti-depressant.

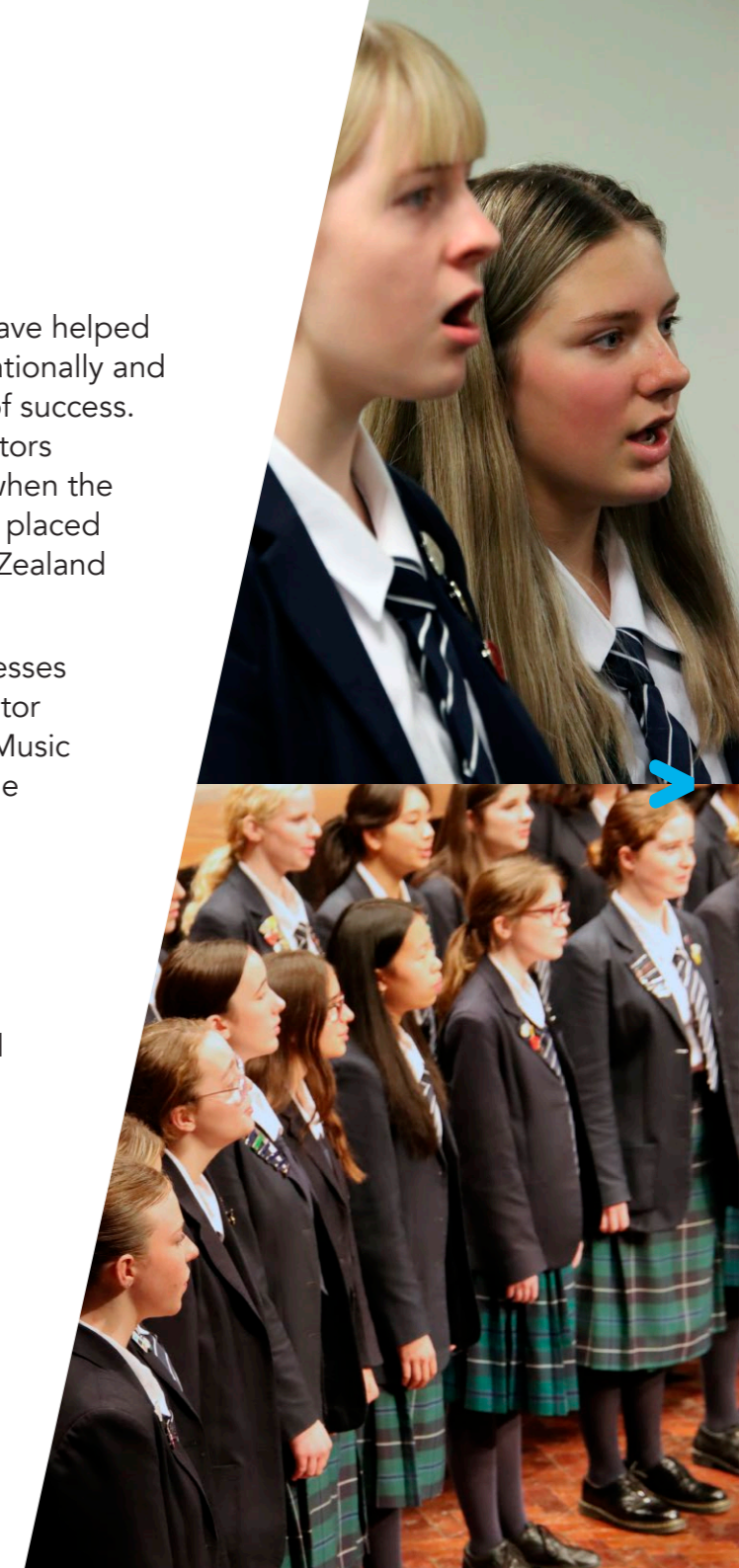
- Singing improves posture and mental alertness.
- Communicating in a way teenagers enjoy, entertaining others, being heard.
- Developing language skills.
- Improving memory skills, as all music is learned by heart.

From waiata, to classical music, and everything in between. Allowing singers to connect with many cultures and languages around the motu, and the world, providing insight into other's lives. Enhancing spiritual life and developing self-expression.

Over the last 50 years, our choirs have helped put the school on the map, both nationally and internationally, with a long legacy of success. Old Girls will remember choir directors Dulcie Gunn and Karen Knudson, when the Otago Girls' High School choir was placed in the top 20 school choirs in New Zealand for some 20 years in succession.

High standards and on-going successes have continued under current director Ben Madden. Ben is the Assistant Music Director and Vocal Consultant of the New Zealand Secondary Student's Choir and a member of Voices, the New Zealand Chamber Choir.

The primary focus of the choir is educating the singers on the immensely complicated, skilful, and collaborative art form of choral singing. If that is done well, success is likely to follow.



Recent Otago Girls choristers have recently taken part in the International Shanghai Choral Festival and the Big Sing Cadenza competition.

Surprisingly, putting a highly rated secondary school choir onto the national stage, year after year, is an expensive exercise. Competing with schools which tend to be substantially resourced, is daunting.

Typically, choir members at these competing schools are bonded to the choir for direction, practice, competitions, private vocal tuition, and touring. The expense of all this is an accepted reality of being in the choir. While our current choristers are producing great results, a significant financial contribution is seen as a major factor in maintaining and lifting the quality of our results.

**In a typical year, the choir's costs range upwards of \$50,000:**

- Director and accompanist                     \$14,000
- Big Sing Regional competition                 500
- Big Sing Cadenza Timaru                     12,000
- Big Sing Finale Auckland                     35,000
- Music Library                                     2,000
- Individual vocal lessons                     1,000 per student

If Otago Girls' High School Choir is to stay as a regular feature at a national and international level – the cost of professional vocal lessons are a necessity.





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# Kapa Haka

Wairua Pūhou



CHOIR

KAPA HAKA

ROWING



Wairua Pūhou is the combined Otago Girls' and Otago Boys' High Schools kapa haka group.

- Enhancing the character of Otago Girls' High School
- Selected to represent Otago and Southland Secondary Schools Kapa Haka at the Nationals (Ngā Kapa Haka Kura Tuarua o Aotearoa) twice in recent years
- Lifting the mana of the school, and their communities
- Empowering students; producing strong, confident, and successful young people
- Statistically Otago Girls' has one of the highest achievement rates for Māori students in the whole country

How has Kapa Haka contributed to the overall success of Māori students at Otago Girls' High School?

- High expectations are set as the group's ethos
- If you would like to be in the group you must try your best in everything you commit to
- if you play a sport you must commit to that sport and you come to kapa haka when you can
- You must attend your classes and do your best
- Treat the world with respect
- If you want to be in the front row in Wairua Pūhou, this is the highest accolade, and you must earn it
- Take part in fund-raising to help fund the group





Our vision is to grow the roopu (group) and develop a second tier kapa haka and develop a stronger Māori space in the kura (school).

The costs involved with running a second roopu are substantial. With tutor costs, travel, accommodation, and food costs reaching in excess of 20k per year and more if we are travelling to Nationals.

Today, Wairua Pūhou is in training for next year's regional competitions (Te Hautonga).

The current squad are achieving great results on the sporting fields and academically. To ensure that we have a successful campaign for Nationals (Ngā Kapa Haka Kura Tuarua o Aotearoa) we need your help.

**Annual costs for running Wairua Pūhou:**

• Tutors	\$10,000
• Uniforms	24,000
• Patu (clubs)	4,000
• Poi	2,000
• Travel & accommodation to festivals	20,000
• Second tier group uniforms, poi, & patu	26,000
	<hr/>
	<b>\$86,000</b>





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# Rowing



CHOIR

KAPA HAKA

ROWING

Rowing is a high-intensity sport which requires a high level of commitment from the athletes, parents, and school. Earlier this year the squad won medals at both the South Island Championships and at the Nationals (Maadi Cup).

- Everyone working together – the ultimate team sport
- Training twice a day (some days) leading up to major regattas
- 6am starts on the water
- Creating a community of young people, on the water, in the gym, on a run, training at the beach, travelling to regattas
- Building on the history of rowing as New Zealand's most successful Olympic sport
- Developing character, building confidence, having fun

Today, Otago Girls' High School Rowing is at the cross-roads. The current rowers are producing great results at South Island and national regattas.

Fund-raising, to maintain and grow the fleet, is now the challenge as we look to support a growing number of aspiring Otago Girls' High School rowers and coxes (22 at last count).

The squad travels to six regattas a season at Lake Ruataniwha and Maadi Cup (in Cambridge every second year). Plus, two 4-day training camps, either locally or at the Lake.

Harriet Thompson (pictured right) with her silver medal at Maadi Cup in 2022 (women's U17 single sculls) and her two coaches, Mike Goldsmith (left) and Matt Thompson, who is also her proud dad. Harriet was also stroke for the coxed U17 quad with a Bronze medal at Maadi. She won Gold and Bronze at the South Island Club Champs and 2 Golds and a Silver at the South Island Secondary School Champs. There were three other medals won by U17 and U16 teams at the South Island events. It was a very successful season.



Otago Girls' Rowing is uniquely placed in having the use of the school classroom-by-the-sea, Te Taiwhaka o Kā Moana e Rua, for the storing and launching of boats, including kitchen, showers, and an exercise room/clubroom.

The team has access to a fleet of boats that continually need upgrading. With a growing number of pupils wanting to row, the number and quality of our boats is insufficient to take us forward.

Rowing is an expensive endeavour and today's students row using facilities provided by the school and rowing parents of the past, who have donated generously of their time, energy, and money. We aim to leave behind facilities that were better than we found them, for rowers of the future.

The vision is to grow the capability of rowing at Otago Girls' to match the quality of equipment at our competing girls' schools. Specifically, we wish to:

- Purchase 4 new boats to enable all the rowers to get on the water at the same time for training and to give them the best chance of winning medals at regattas (\$55,000)
- Train on modern rowing machines in the school gym (\$12,000)
- Provide a third coach boat and motor (\$12,000)
- Purchase additional oars that cost \$1,000 a pair (\$8,000)
- Build a new boat trailer (\$20,000)

The current parents and the school pay for the coaching, uniforms, maintenance, travel to regattas, and accommodation, costing the parents of each rower \$2,000 plus a year.

With this appeal we are asking for help to upgrade the fleet of boats and equipment so that we can continue to train together, build capacity, serve more rowers and coxes, and win races.



## Make your tax-deductible donation to the Alumni Appeal today

Your donation will be applied equally across the three groups of Choir, Kapa Haka, and Rowing.

Use this form by printing it and sending it to the School, or donate online <https://forms.gle/iz8tVRtdnqCZFAjd6>

**DONATE HERE**

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Address:** \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

**Postcode:** \_\_\_\_\_ **Phone:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Email:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Amount of Donation:** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

### Method of payment:

#### Bill Payment

Date bill payment made: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

**Account name:** Otago Girls' High School

**Account number:** 12-3485-0014040-01

**Bank Name:** ASB

**Bank Account Address:** 144 Gordon Rd, Mosgiel, Dunedin 9024

**SWIFT Code:** ASBBNZ2A

**Reference:** Alumni

or

#### Direct payment to the school

#### I would like my name to be included in a list of donors

If this box is not ticked we will include your donation as "anonymous".



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