

## German deputy head of mission presents language certificates

13 December 2018 - By Mick Jensen - The German Embassy's deputy head of mission to New Zealand was a special guest at Ashburton College on Monday, where he presented language certificates and prizes.

Dr Timo Bauer-Savage also delivered a special plaque showing that the college is part of the PASCH schools network, a language and culture promoting initiative backed by the German government.

Dr Bauer-Savage said there were 2000 PASCH schools worldwide and the network offered "outstanding experiences" for people learning the German language.

"I encourage you to keep learning German. It is not always easy, but you just have to keep going," he said.

He said 100,000 Germans visited New Zealand each year and 16,000 were here on working holiday visas.

"There are also 30,000 people with a German background living here, so there are plenty of opportunities for you to practise the language."

The diplomat presented 27 Year 10 German students with certificates for passing the German A1 examination.

He also presented annual Germany Embassy prizes to Ella Pearson (Year 9) and Tamaki Nishioka (Year 10).

At the special German-focused ceremony, students spoke about recent trips to Germany that have been made possible through the relationship with PASCH.

Departing head boy Caleb Livingstone said he had enjoyed his German exchange experience.

He said German was an "awesome language".

He said he had also enjoyed being taught by long-serving German teacher Ken Pow.

Year 11 student Lachlan Kingan said he had been fortunate to be selected for a "German Week" theatre workshop in Bali, which had been funded by the German Government.

He had made lifelong friends on the trip and would always remember his time there.

With long time German teacher Ken Pow set to retire, former Ashburton College student and current social science teacher, Tom Kitchen, will step up as his replacement from 2019.

German Embassy deputy head of mission, Dr Timo Bauer-Savage, welcomes incoming Ashburton College German teacher Tom Kitchen. Seated centre are Caleb Livingstone and Lachlan Kingan.

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