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MAHURANGI SCHOOL BALL

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Students conjure winter wonderland

A 'Through the Wardrobe' theme, based on the Narnia series, will form the backdrop for the Mahurangi College senior school ball this year.

The organising committee, which includes head boy and head girl Stephanie Baddock and Sam Clack, their deputies and two Year 13 representatives, having been meeting since the end of Term One to begin putting together the night's events.

Some attended a Ball Expo in Auckland in March, which Stephanie says gave them an appreciation of the resources available.

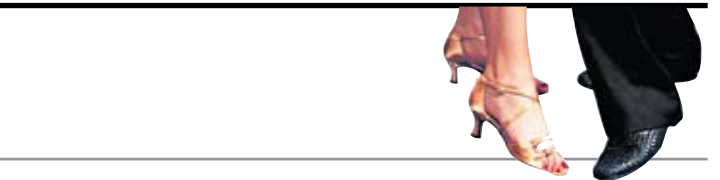
"Music agencies, decorators and dress suppliers were there to talk about how they could help, and there were some nice ideas like a photo booth where you could instantly email pics or videos," Stephanie says. "But in the end, it comes down to what we can afford."

All costs have to recouped from ticket sales.

The school ball normally attracts around 200 students and last year tickets cost \$80.

"I'd imagine they'll be a similar price this year."

The ticket includes dinner and, if things go according to plan, live music.



For most senior students, the school ball is the social highlight of their final years at college.

Stephanie says dresses modelled at the Ellerslie Expo ranged in lengths, although long dresses still seemed to be the most popular.

"It shouldn't matter whether you spend a little or a lot on your outfit, the important thing is that you feel comfortable."

This year's ball will be held at The Belfry, at Ascension Wine Estate, on Saturday, August 14.



Photos courtesy of Colin Stables at Kodak Express Warkworth.

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Creating something special with hair

While ball fashions change each year, there are a few classic looks that are always in style, and that includes certain hairstyles.

These styles are not often everyday wear, but styles that say "hey, look at me, this is special occasion".

Hair styles that may ordinarily seem old-fashioned may make perfect ball hairstyles with just a little updating. Upsweeps are time-tested favourites. From a perfect French twist to loosely pinned locks piled high on top of the head, upsweeps are very romantic, especially if a few curly tendrils frame the face and neck. Decorative pins and barrettes add to this charming style, and rhinestones, faux pearls, or tiny flowers and baby's breath are used to accentuate the look.

Another timeless look popular among the various ball hairstyles, is the princess style, recognised by its mounds of soft, spiral curls. Hair from the sides is pulled back loosely, allowing a few tendrils near the



hairline and the ears to escape. These tendrils are softly curled and allowed to fall where they may. The hair that is pulled back is held in place with a decorative clip or a ribbon. The rest of the hair is curled then left to cascade over the shoulders. A tiara may also be



added to complete the princess look. But remember, when selecting a hairstyle for the ball, make sure to choose one you feel comfortable in. If you love to dance, choose a hairstyle that won't fall apart the second you get out onto the dance floor.



Play it safe on school ball night

Having fun is what it is all about on school ball night, but it can also be a time when some teenagers will feel under pressure. The best advice is not to do anything that makes you feel uncomfortable. People won't look down on you for saying 'no', and if they do, they're not worth your time. A little bit of thought before hand is also a good idea – make sure you have a safe way to get home and make sure your parents know where you are. Act responsibly.

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