

Board of Trustees annual report up to April 2005

It has been a pleasure for the Board to work with our new Headmaster Trevor McIntyre in his first full academic year at the school. The Board fully supports the Headmaster's campaign to promote the Fine Young Man concept as this fits well with the traditions and values of the school. Together with a review of behaviour management system in the school, this campaign has produced noticeable results, and has prompted much positive feedback from the wider community. There has also been a renewed enthusiasm and focus on boys' education, stimulated by Celia Lashlie's visit to the school at the end of 2003 and again at the beginning of 2004, which emphasised the school's important role in developing responsible and resilient young men for our community.

On behalf of the current Board I would like to thank the previous chairperson Nigel Barnett, along with fellow Board members Defyd Williams, Colin Williams, Tim Andrews, and Peter Townsend who retired as parent trustees in April 2004. The school has benefited enormously from their careful stewardship over a number of years. Peter was co-opted for a further period to chair the Board's discipline committee, and we appreciated the experience and expertise he brought to this important role. Two new parent trustees, Nigel Mayson and Ian McKenzie, were elected at the April 2004 elections, to join re-elected trustees, Jon McAuliffe, Alan Gibbs, and myself. Bruce Harding also joined the Board as the staff trustee at this time, and Jonathan Stockwell who was our student trustee from October 2003 was replaced by Nick Stielow from November 2004. Our thanks too to Maurice Sinclair who became the acting staff trustee when Frank Driessens left the school at the end of 2003 until the elections in April 2004.

During 2004 the Board completed a number of planning activities. The Board developed and adopted a *Governance Manual* to chart the strategic direction of the school and to guide our day-to-day operations. We also reviewed the sub-committee structure and developed terms of reference for the Board's three committees – Finance, Property/Health & Safety, and Adams House. We are currently reviewing and updating the Board's policies and delegations to the Headmaster. A Ten Year Property Plan to provide a detailed schedule for ongoing property maintenance, and to take a longer term look at property development across the school is underway and due for completion mid-2005.

Increased levels of student achievement have also been the focus of the Board's planning, and the goals and targets for 2005 are focused on improving these areas. The feedback from a survey completed by parents and staff during 2004 has been useful to highlight areas in the school's direction and management that need attention, and this survey will be repeated regularly to assess progress. The Board also completed the Headmaster's annual performance appraisal earlier this year, using feedback from the school community, and reporting back to the school community in the April 2005 issue of the school's newsletter.

Earlier this month the Board reviewed the school's strategic plan, again using feedback from the school community, to develop some exciting and challenging goals for the

school from 2006 to 2009. Our school motto *Altiora Peto* – ‘we seek higher things’ is the ideal as a motivating vision to achieve our mission which is to be the pre-eminent educator of young men in New Zealand.

The school's reputation in the community continues to grow and the increasing demand for enrolments is putting pressure on the school's facilities. Applications for places this year were very high and the school is again at full capacity. The school has achieved some extra teaching spaces as the result of the refurbishment of the existing Caldwell Block during 2004, and the building of the new food technology block is currently underway.

The annual Sports & Cultural Awards celebratory dinner held at the school is proof of the school's ability to nurture and support top talent in these areas, and there has been a noticeable growth in opportunities over the last two years for students to experience drama, music and other creative pursuits at the school. I enjoyed my first experience of the School/College match in 2004 and this was an impressive occasion. It was a very well managed encounter between two proud local schools, so I felt disappointed by the inaccurate and misleading media attention that emerged after the event.

The school is very fortunate to have the support from parents through the PTA, in addition to the Old Boys' Association and the Te Kura Trust, and the Board greatly appreciates their input and contribution. On behalf of the Board I would like to thank the senior management, administration and teaching staff for their dedication and commitment, as our boys enjoy a positive and caring environment because of their endeavors. I would also like to thank Anne Johnston from Canterbury Educational Services for her excellent support as Board secretary. And finally, my personal thanks to my colleagues on the Board for their support, commitment and contribution.

Debbie Dawson
April 2005