

Board of Trustees annual report for 2006

This has been another positive year for the School. The 125th Jubilee was an excellent opportunity to celebrate the enduring traditions and values of the School that we have retained and which are reflected in our current strategic plan. The sense of belonging and connectedness that many Old Boys still have with the School is impressive and shows that what happens for young men during these years will often have a very long term influence on their lives – we need to make sure that the time at school is a positive experience for every boy.

During the year the Board has deliberated over a number of factors that impact on the School's ability to deliver the learning results we want. The School continues to challenge our boys to do their very best with NCEA despite widespread community criticism of this assessment system, and to offer alternatives in recognition that the needs of our students are not all the same. The roll is at full capacity and this year we were unable to accept any 'out of zone' applications. In addition to the pressure on existing facilities and a limited ability to plan for the growth within the boundaries of the zone, there is also the wider concern that the desire for single sex education for many families in the city is unable to be met.

Our staff are to be congratulated for securing additional funding for a range of innovative new learning programmes. These include individual career advice and support for Year 10 students, programmes for our gifted and talented students, transitional support for boys leaving school for the workplace, and a recent grant secured with two other local boys' schools to focus on professional development for the increased use of technology in the School. The Board is concerned at the amount of effort required to secure this contestable funding where there is no guarantee of success or any provision for the future financial maintenance of the programmes that then have to be absorbed into the School's limited operational funding.

The main barrier to successful learning for the greatest number of our boys continues to be the ability of the School to manage disruptive behaviour. For some boys their own behaviour is the impediment while for many more it is the impact of others' behaviour that limits their learning. Senior management resources are then absorbed outside the classroom in attending to and following up these behaviours. A more sustainable solution is required so that boys remain in the classroom where personal discipline is the clear and accepted expectation and where they have the best chance of learning.

The School's new food technology block was officially opened at the end of March by the previous Headmaster, Colin Croudís. The result of much planning, this is a significant new facility for the School and just one example of the wide range of opportunities made available to our boys. The School's Ten Year Property Plan was completed with the support of a local architect Malcolm McClurg and is the result of extensive consultation. The Plan will ensure that any future developments of the School's infrastructure are planned in a coordinated way to improve the learning environment for the boys.

The Board has reviewed all School policy this year. The policies, which reflect the Board's vision and goals for the School, are included in the School's *Governance Manual*

which is available on the School's website at <http://www.cbhs.school.nz/board/governancemanual/>. The minutes of the Board's meetings and a regularly updated communication plan for the Board are also posted on the website. During the year an Audit Committee was established to coordinate activities that assure the Board the policies are being implemented within the School. The School's financial reporting procedures have now been aligned with the Board's information needs, and the School's health and safety planning and practices have also been audited to ensure that the School is meeting the required standards.

Jo Brady joined the Board in January to fill our parent Trustee vacancy. During the year we have welcomed additional support from others in the School community. School parent Hector Matthews has worked with a sub-committee of the Board to support the consultation with Maori in our community. Charles de Lambert and Brian Keen have been members of a sub-committee to assist with the development of the School's Ten Year Property Plan. In preparation for the tri-ennial Board of Trustee elections in April 2007, the Board is currently liaising with parents who are considering this opportunity to be involved in the governance and future of the School.

I want to thank the other members of the Board for their personal commitment and contribution during the year – Jon McAuliffe, Ian McKenzie, Jo Brady, Alan Gibbs, staff trustee Bruce Harding and our student trustee Andrew Dean who took on his role this year with great enthusiasm. The Board has also appreciated the support of the Deputy Headmaster, Paul McWilliam and Anne Johnston from Canterbury Education Services who provides secretarial services to the Board.

Once again I also want to thank the many people who contribute to the continuing success of this School. The input and contribution from the Old Boys' Association, the Te Kura Trust and the PTA is a special feature of the School and greatly appreciated. On behalf of the Board, I extend our sincere thanks to the senior management, administration, support and teaching staff for their contribution. The special character, culture, and positive learning environment at the School are in large part the result of their personal dedication and commitment to the education of our 'fine young men'. And finally, my personal thanks to the Headmaster, Trevor McIntyre for his strong and inspired leadership of the School. The Board values his thoughtful, determined and attentive approach to the management of the School and the achievement of our strategic goals.

Debbie Dawson

Chairperson

Board of Trustees

Christchurch Boys' High School

October 2006