

July 2007

Greetings all

From all accounts the Kerikeri High School Ball was once again a resounding success. Congratulations to all those whose efforts made the evening such a memorable one and our thanks to the staff, students and parents who are so involved in the planning, preparation and staging of the event.

The Board was also pleased to see the great successes at the School in the latter part of last term. These were across a whole variety of areas. There was a great Drama Department production of *Much Ado About Nothing* which clearly delighted audiences as well as being a fantastic experience for the students. There were a number of sporting achievements including the Boys 1st XV winning the Northland competition. The School had major success at Culinary competitions, debating victories and all this amongst the academic midyear mayhem! This is by no means an exhaustive list but does show the breadth of what is happening. Well done to all the students involved and the Board's thanks to our hard working staff who make these possible.

The Board met last Thursday evening. There is normally a full agenda and this meeting was no exception with time spent discussing a number of issues.

The meeting commenced with Wendy Butler, Chair for the past 3½ years, advising the Board that due to increasing demands of the family business she had decided to retire from the position of Chair from the end of the meeting. Wendy will remain a parent representative member of the Board and has assured us that the energy, commitment and enthusiasm shown over her period as Chair will remain! Wendy has given a huge amount to the School and her contribution as Chair is something the Board is very grateful for.

Uniform is often a hot topic for students, parents and staff and often gets some time at Board level as well. For those of you who may not know the uniform is fully reviewed every 5 years by the Board, following consultation with the School community. The next review is next year so you will be hearing more about that late this year when the consultation process is likely to start. It is probably about evolution of current themes rather than revolution but nothing is written in stone. One specific point to clarify - the School jackets may be worn inside classes, but not labs or certain technology classes due to safety issues.

The major property project at the School is gathering momentum. At the moment the Board is grappling with issues relating to storm water drainage which have been highlighted by this years two major flooding events. Essentially there are some very costly drainage works to be undertaken to rectify what has been an increasing problem due to expansion of the School. The Board is seeking to resolve these issues while still retaining the core of the development which is the creation of 8 new classrooms and improvement to the Admin Block. When design work is finalized we will be providing further details of this exciting project for the School.

The Board has been advised that the major project of wiring all classes to the IT network has now been completed and thanks go to Guy Ellingham and his team for making all that happen.

The meeting concluded with the election of officers given Wendy Butler's resignation from the position of Chair. Rick Palmer has now been elected as Chair of the Board and Nici Curtis as Deputy Chair. The work will go on!

Naku noa

Board of Trustees