

## **KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER – August 2007**

Greetings all.

These are exciting times at Kerikeri High School. Just in the last few weeks we have seen success with the 1st XV Rugby winning the Northland Secondary Schools title, the Year Seven and Nine Mathex teams succeeding in the Northland competition, a Junior Debating team taking out the Northland title, the Girls' 1<sup>st</sup> XI Soccer being crowned Northland Champions, and the Squash team also finishing on top for Northland.

The Year 13 Hospitality team will compete in the National finals having taken out top prizes at the Northern Region Salon Culinaire held in Whangarei. The team of seven won four Golds, one Silver and three Bronze medals at the two day competition.

Kerikeri High School also won the very prestigious Education Excellence Award for Innovation in an International Programme at the Education New Zealand Annual Conference held in Christchurch recently. The Award recognises the innovation of Kerikeri High School's Sailing Academy.

Well done to all the pupils, staff and parents involved. These sort of successes across such a broad spectrum bring in a great sense of energy and achievement to the School and are great at building a sense of school spirit.

### **Building Project**

As many of you will know we are undertaking a very exciting building project at the High School. This commenced some time ago with the moving of some 'Prefabs' and we are about to commence work on the really meaty part of the project which will involve the creation of a large car park down adjacent to the netball courts, the construction of a new eight classroom block at the front of the school where the current temporary car park is, and the renovation of the Administration block. The new classrooms in particular will be a fantastic addition providing much needed teaching space and allowing our long-suffering teachers to stop having to move with all their teaching materials between different classrooms on a period by period basis.

As with any major project on a site that continues to be occupied throughout the process, there will be disruption and inconvenience. While all involved are seeking to keep this to a minimum please note that as of today the driveway through to the netball courts and pool will be closed off to all until further notice. This will allow the construction of the car park and the upgrading of the access road to that car park. The Board would appreciate everyone's patience and cooperation as we go through the construction stages. We are trying to have as much as possible done during the summer break, but the sheer size of the development means that there will be elements of disruption for the balance of this term, term 4 of this year, and in terms 1 and 2 next year.

The Board held its monthly meeting last Thursday. A reminder that the meetings are public meetings and anyone is welcome to attend to observe the proceedings. There was a very full agenda which included the following matters that may be of interest.

### **Swimming Pool**

We are in the process of reviewing the position with regard to the swimming pool with the Far North District Council. The pool, which is a community pool, is located on High School land and is leased to the Council, who have the responsibility for maintaining and operating it. The School in turn pays the Council for exclusive use of the facilities during school hours, particularly during Term One of each year. The general public have access to the pool outside school hours. We are working with Council to try and improve the facility, including looking at ways of increasing the temperature of the pool to extend its usable season. This would be for the benefit of both the School and the greater community. The Council is also looking to carry out repairs to the fence in the short term.

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### **Theatre Arts Academy**

In an exciting new curriculum development the Board has given approval to the creation of a Theatre Arts Academy at Kerikeri High School. This Academy, which will cater for Year 13 students, will start in 2008. It will be run by our existing drama teachers Mr Nick Brown and Miss Nicky Fenton and will initially focus on Drama and Dance. The Academy will be offered as another unique selling point to international students who add a wonderful diversity to our School community.

### **Kerikeri Domain**

The Board debated the issue of whether it should be making a submission in respect of the Kerikeri Domain. As you no doubt know this is an extremely political issue within the community. The Board concluded that as the body elected to govern the High School it was appropriate for us to make a submission in respect of our students for whom we carry significant responsibility. In brief our submission is that the School would like the Council to consider as paramount issues of safety with regard to any future development of the Domain, given that a large number of our students use it as a thoroughfare to and from the town centre. The Board also submitted that the Council retain open spaces for the benefit of our students, and that the Council also provide for future use by the High School of the Domain as open space, given the School's continued growth and the limited amount of space that the School has at its disposal.

The Board did not consider it appropriate to support any specific design proposal currently before the Council, but rather to seek to work with Council to ensure that the needs of our current and future pupils are best met.

### **Sports Review**

We have previously advised that the Board wished to undertake a review of sport at Kerikeri High School. That review has commenced and one of the first steps is that Board members are liaising with local clubs for netball, rugby, soccer and hockey as to how to facilitate partnerships between the School and those clubs for the benefit of our students. There will be opportunities for parents and staff to have individual input into the review at a later stage.

### **Principal's Farewell**

As you know Principal Joan Middlemiss is leaving the High School at the end of this term. There will be a farewell function for Joan to be held at The Centre on Tuesday 18<sup>th</sup> September from 5:30p.m. to 7.00p.m. There is an open invitation to any parent or member of staff who wishes to attend. To assist with catering, however, we would be grateful if you would RSVP to Mrs Paula Purdie, phone 4078916 by 11<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Senior Leadership Team**

As a result of Joan's departure the Board has had to address, as a matter of urgency, the future structure of the Senior Leadership Team. After a consultative process with staff and the current leadership team the Board has decided to opt for the creation of a fourth Deputy Principal position, which is about to be advertised. As an interim measure for Term Four Mrs Glenys Ross has been asked to take on the role of Acting Deputy Principal.

Nice to see the sun is shining. The year is flying before us!

Naku noa

The Board