

KERIKERI HIGH SCHOOL BOARD OF TRUSTEES NEWSLETTER

Greetings all.

Firstly given that a new Board is in place even though there are some returning members a quick introduction to the Board:

Martin Baker – Martin is an engineer working as a Projects Division Manager with Transfield Services. He is Deputy Chairperson on the Board and is sitting on the Property Committee.

Wendy Butler – Wendy together with husband Steve operates well-known business Earl Gray Fishing Charters. She is also on the Property Committee.

Elizabeth Forgie – Kerikeri High School Principal.

Mario Hohaia – Mario is a Hapu Development Leader with Ngapuhi Iwi Organisation.

Rick Palmer – Rick is a partner in the Kerikeri Office of law firm Palmer Macauley. He is Chairperson of the Board.

Sue Richards – Sue is a Financial Adviser with Spicers. She sits on the Finance Committee.

Kim Rogers – Kim is the Staff Trustee and is a Teacher at the High School.

Natalie Snowden – Natalie is a Chartered Accountant with Byers & Co. She also sits on the Finance Committee.

Many thanks to all the candidates, including those not elected, who threw their hats into the ring for the Board elections and were prepared to make the commitment that the Board entails.

The Matariki celebration of Maori achievement at the High School was held last week at Whitiara Marae in Ti Tii. It was a memorable affair with the warmth of welcome from the marae to all visitors including a great meal. The awards themselves were well-celebrated and those in attendance also heard some fabulous music from present and past students.

Less enjoyably the Discipline Committee of the Board has had to convene a few times in recent months to hear cases relating to students who had decided to bring marijuana into the High School. There is an overwhelming weight of scientific evidence showing just how damaging marijuana is to the developing adolescent brain. Put simply teenagers who smoke it do irreparable and irreversible damage to certain brain processes. It has a different effect on adolescents to adults. Some of the students involved were excluded by the Board and while that is never an enjoyable result for any of those involved in the process all students at the School have now been told in year level assemblies that the Board takes an incredibly serious view of any student who elects to bring marijuana into the School and in particular anyone who supplies to other students.

This week the School hosts the Prime Minister who is coming with local MP Mike Sabin to have a tour of the new facilities at the High School and to meet with some of the students. The excellent academic achievements of the High School have not gone unnoticed by the powers that be.

Three years stretch out in front of the new Board. That time passes surprisingly quickly. Within the term of this Board there will be another survey of the School community as the next Strategic Plan needs to be developed. It will also see a visit from ERO at the end of a five year cycle. ERO's last report was glowing and the High School was one of the relatively few selected for a five year return cycle rather than the normal 3-4 year return cycle.

The target, as ever, is raising student achievement and that bar just keeps on going up.

Naku noa

The Board