

BOARD NEWSLETTER

The end of the school year is fast approaching and with it the sudden realisation that the Board has been so busy with school matters that we have not sent out a newsletter for 6 months.

We opened our last newsletter with a welcome to everyone, and an introduction to the Board members for our new families and whānau. During the year we said goodbye to one of our Parent Trustees. Martin Baker served 7 years on the Board and was an incredibly valuable member of the team, particularly on the Property Committee. He joined the Board two weeks before the devastating arson and worked tirelessly on the rebuild and subsequent projects. A recent increase in demands on Martin's time with his own work meant that he felt unable to continue with us; he has been missed around the table but as with a small community, you can never completely go into hiding and it's great for us to still see him around.

So just to remind you, the current Board is now:

- Wendy Butler (Parent Trustee)
- Elizabeth Forgie (School Principal)
- Chris Galbraith (Parent Trustee)
- Mariaio Hohaia (Parent Trustee)
- Roger Ludbrook (Parent Trustee)
- Chris McLellan (Parent Trustee; Deputy Chairman)
- Sue Richards (Parent Trustee; Chairman)
- Jasmin Winikerei (Student Representative)
- Emma Wise (Staff Trustee)

And we will also be saying goodbye to Jasmin in November when she leaves us with her year 13 cohort. It has been wonderful to have her opening and closing our meetings with a karakia. Her first words the first time were a confident and commanding "E tu" – and we all stood immediately! Jazzy, it has been a delight to have you on the Board and we wish you all the best – we have no doubt you will succeed beyond your wildest dreams at whatever you choose to do.

Earlier this year we noted that the first term ended with some unacceptable student behaviour that was dealt with by the Board Disciplinary Committee. We have continued to take the same tough stand. Kerikeri High School is vigilant in dealing with drugs and bullying – we will not allow violence or drugs in our school in any form and we encourage families and students to follow suit.

This year we had planned to work with the Principal and Deputy Principals (the Senior Leadership Team) on reviewing our Strategic Plan and seek student, staff and community input. Changes with the Ministry of Education forced us to put this on the backburner but we will be prioritising it next year. The Strategic Plan is not a tick box exercise, it is the foundation for everything that Kerikeri High School is and aims to be.

Our property and finance committees ensure that the school operates within budget. They have also been working towards a wonderful new facility that you can read about in the school magazine, a new student centre, to be constructed next year. We will be working to keep disruption to a minimum, just as the property committee have done with the Art project and now the library building.

In our last newsletter we noted 2016's NCEA results – in case you missed it, the pass rates were 88% at Level 1, 92% at Level 2, 82% at Level 3, and our best ever result of 83% for our Māori students at Level 1. Students will be taking their externals soon and we wish them every success for 2017.

This will be one of our last chances to wish all our students, teachers and families a peaceful Christmas and a new year full of promise. Take care on the roads and have a wonderful summer. See you all in February if not before.

Hei konā mai and goodbye for now.