



31 January 2018

Dear parents and caregivers,

Subject: Trinity Schools Trust Board - a year in review

In the January 2017 sunshine, the Governor General, Her Excellency The Right Honourable Dame Patsy Reddy, formally opened the newly strengthened and improved Upper Classroom Block and toilets at St Matthews Collegiate. This event marked the end of a significant programme of works for the Trinity Schools Trust Board – the completion of our major earthquake strengthening works.

In total, more than five million dollars was spent over five years, bringing the three schools and preschool up to appropriate strength, compared to the New Building Standard (NBS). While some of the work was clearly evident – St Matthew's Upper Classroom Block and the uniform shop / tuck shop at Rathkeale, other work was largely hidden from view. For example if you have occasion to walk around St Matthew's Main House to the uniform shop, look left and you'll see some of the steel framing, but most of it has been hidden within the brick walls of this beautiful old building.

Whilst the primary aim of our strengthening work was safety focused, the need to alter buildings provided the opportunity to make improvements. Bright, open classroom spaces, improved insulation and heating are some of the additional benefits this programme of works offered.

Principals and Head Teachers

In July this year Willy Kersten, Rathkeale Principal, and Michael Mercer, Hadlow Principal, advised us of their resignations at the end of Term 1, 2018 and Term 2, 2018 respectively. Whilst formal farewells will take place in 2018, we would like to acknowledge the dedication and commitment of both Principals to the Trinity schooling system. As school leaders, both have been significant contributors to the reputation and growing popularity of their schools.

Annabel Wyeth (nee Dodgshun), Preschool Head Teacher, will be taking three terms maternity leave from the beginning of 2018. We wish her all the best and welcome Niki Ladd who will be covering during Annabel's absence.

Trinity Schools Trust Board (TSTB)

In accordance with our Trust Deed, TSTB Board members include representatives from the Anglican church, wider Trinity Schools and Wairarapa community.

During the year we farewelled Marina Adams after six years as a Board member, Lawrence Field after more than four years as a Parish-appointed Board member and Leanne Allen-Jones after four years. Between them they also served as proprietor-appointed Board members on each of the school BoTs. We also welcomed Lisa Rossiter (Parish appointee) and David Hancock to the Board.



Trinity Schools Trust Board members during 2017. Back row from left; Lisa Rossiter (appointed July 2017), Leanne Allen-Jones, Esther Dijkstra and Richard Baker. Front row from left; Mike Shaw (Board Deputy Chair), Denise Beazley (Board Chair) and Marina Adams (resigned July 2017). Absent from the photo; May Croft, Matt Hood and David Hancock (appointed April 2017).

TSTB Staff

The TSTB staff work behind the scenes to ensure we meet our obligations as the owner of Hadlow Preschool and proprietor for the three Trinity schools. In addition, TSTB staff provide the accounting services for all the various entities throughout the wider Trinity family of schools, including the processing of expense invoices and school charges to parents / caregivers, financial reports and oversight of significant building projects.

This team are also tasked with implementing the TSTB Strategic and Annual Plans. One key aspect of these plans is to work in a coordinated way across the Trinity family of schools to ensure that we effectively implement the *Together as One* approach – maximising the benefits of a larger group while maintaining the unique qualities of each school / preschool.

In December 2017, Libby Kelly joined our team to provide greater focus and improved coordination to facility hire offering. Not only does this provide additional revenue but it's also a great marketing tool for our schools.



Trinity Schools Trust Board staff. From left; Kim Whiteman, Yve Frost, Deb Castles, Diana Trubshoe, Kim Gillot, Monica Hobbs, Sally Winslade, Shirlene Larsen and Rob Blackett. Absent from the photo; Melody Taylor (left May 2017), Elizabeth Ralls (left April 2017), and Libby Kelly (appointed November 2017).

As the 2017 year progressed, so did the capital investment planning process for the next 10 years. The Board wishes to acknowledge the significant work that has gone into this process by Trust Board staff, the three Boards of Trustees, school staff and teachers from across the Trinity Schools. In 2018, a number of new capital projects will commence as we continue to improve the quality and flexibility of our school facilities.

As proprietor of the Trinity schooling system, managing and improving the environment that our students, teachers and staff learn and live in is one of the key responsibilities of the Trinity Schools Trust Board. Through our integration agreements with the Crown, we are also responsible for the Special Character of the Trinity Schools and compliance with the Ministry of Education approved maximum rolls – the number of day students and the total roll of each school.

Looking Forward

Clearly, applications for places at Hadlow Preschool, Hadlow, Rathkeale and St Matthew's exceed the number of places available. We will continue to work with the three Boards of Trustees, our preschool and schools, the Ministry of Education and the new Government to explore ways to address this. Parents should have the right to choose where they want their children to be educated in New Zealand and we do not want to be an impediment to this, nor limit regional growth for the Wairarapa.

We welcome input from our wider community into the continued success of our Trinity family of schools. Feel free to talk to any member of the Board if you have questions or ideas.

Yours sincerely,

Denise Beazley
TSTB Chair

Rob Blackett
Chief Executive Officer