



Tēnā tātou katoa.

It has been fantastic this term to have Brendan back at the helm and, more recently, Steve returned from a richly-deserved sabbatical. Brendan is now back most days, having continued his tenacious path to full recovery from his concussion. He still needs to take care not to overdo it, but we are delighted that he is once more an almost permanent presence at the school continuing to lead fantastic initiatives aligned with the school's strategic plan.

We thank the Wellesley Senior Leadership Team and all the staff who worked over and above during Brendan's staged return to work, and while Steve was away earlier this term. Our particular thanks go to Veronica and Gavin for covering for Steve. But, really, we are grateful to all the staff for their ongoing enthusiasm, dedication and leadership. It has not been an easy year for them, given Andrew Herrick's departure and Brendan's injury, but we could not have asked for more. A big thank you from the Board.

### **Deputy Principal Update**

A committee comprising Brendan, me and one other will shortly be interviewing short-listed candidates for Deputy Principal – Teaching and Learning. The plan is to make that appointment before the end of this term, to ensure the successful candidate is able to start from the beginning of the 2019 school year.

### **Update on Board Projects**

In addition to interviewing DP applicants and its usual monitoring of the school, the Board has continued to revise and update school policies – including revising and updating the treasury (and financial delegations) policies, finalising its review of child protection and behaviour management policies, and reviewing its suspension / exclusion and debtor management policies. We have also given the go ahead to more detailed work on a brand refresh, having been treated to an exciting presentation from Glen Jorna on the work the Brand Team have been leading, which will inform a desperately needed new Wellesley website! A survey has gone out to get your views on this, which will help move the project forward.

Another area of Board focus supporting Brendan and his team has been achieving IT stability within the school's systems. This has been critical ahead of implementing an enhanced Student Management System with cutting edge data management capability to provide parents with better visibility of their child's progress and school information. This also forms part of the digital review and strategy work which Brendan is leading. It is pleasing to see good progress being made in this area.

## **Wellesley College Independent Primary School for Boys**

### **Masterplan Next Steps**

We have formally adopted the Masterplan and approved the transition of the previous Masterplan Committee into a Property Committee. As with the Masterplan Committee, the Property Committee comprises board and staff representatives and will continue to be chaired by someone with property experience. (Having this expertise available has already proved invaluable, as it saw the Junior School roof project come in materially under budget.) The Property Committee's immediate task is to present recommendations on implementation of the Masterplan. The likely initial focus will be playgrounds (for which the Parents' Association has already made tremendous fundraising contributions) and the tennis court areas (which are coming up to the end of their life and of the current Hutt City Council lease). Bigger ticket items such as the new STEM building will then follow further fundraising. The Property Committee will present its recommendations to the Board, following which we will communicate next steps to the school community.

### **New Board members**

While on the topic of the Masterplan, I am very pleased to announce that Alan Blundell and Peter Dowell will (subject to completion of formalities) be joining the Board. Both Peter and Alan have a wealth of experience in property design and development, and were members of the Masterplan Committee from the outset, where we were able to see first-hand the value they can bring. Peter and Alan both have boys at Wellesley. We are delighted to welcome them to the Board and look forward to continuing to work with them.

These appointments follow the appointment earlier this year of Ruth Lavelle Treacy who, as many of you will know, has been working with us for some time on communications and engagement, an area in which she has considerable experience. Ruth, who has three boys at Wellesley, has already had a noticeable effect on our communications (including, but not limited to, being a reliable prompter of emails from the chair!).

We are also delighted to welcome David Chinn to the Board (subject to completion of formalities). David, who has two young boys in the Junior school, is a child and adolescent psychiatrist who recently presented at Wellesley. With the school's focus on mental well-being and education for the 'whole boy' we are very fortunate to have someone with David's skillset on the Board, and look forward to working with him.

### **Board / Foundation farewells**

James Coleman, the Bishop's representative on the Board, steps down at the end of this month. We would like to take this opportunity to thank James for his calm and sage advice. We look forward to welcoming his successor.

**Wellesley College Independent Primary School for Boys**

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Kit Jackson will shortly step down from the Board, after coming to the end of his five year term. During that time, in addition to being an energetic Board member, Kit has been chair of the Wellesley College Foundation, a position from which he is also retiring. Kit's contribution as Foundation Chair has been very significant. Under his leadership, the Foundation's funds have increased significantly, the scholarship programme has really taken off, and specialist fund managers have been appointed to ensure the Foundation's funds are prudently invested. We will miss Kit's good sense, his dedication and his relentless championing of the Foundation. Kit has had two boys at Wellesley, with his youngest, Charlie, currently in Year 6.

Matt Mallet stepped down from the Board earlier this year after coming to the end of his term. Matt has had three boys through the school, with Caleb, his youngest, moving into Year 7 next year. Matt was a truly excellent deputy chair for a number of years - a wise and calm counsellor who lent a steady hand to the tiller as the school steered through change. His dedication, and considered and incisive contributions, have been enormously valued by the Board, Brendan and the SLT - and in particular by me, and by Murray Sim (the previous chair).

Happily, Jason Green (who has been on the board and chaired the finance committee for some time) has agreed to fill the deputy chair role. Thanks, Jason!

#### **Vacant Board and Foundation Positions**

The appointments of Alan, David, Peter and Ruth as Board members follow our call last year for expressions of interest in joining the Board to address the gaps we perceived in board experience in property and communications. We are now interested in receiving expressions of interest from persons who have finance expertise, to ensure continuity of this vital skillset when current board members retire. If you have a finance / treasury / accounting background and are potentially interested in joining the Board, please email me at [chair@wellesley.school.nz](mailto:chair@wellesley.school.nz)

Finally, as a result of Kit's retirement, the Foundation is currently looking for a new Chair (who can also sit on the Board) as well as one other Trustee. The current Trustees are a mix of current and previous parents. They are responsible for managing the Foundation's investments, overseeing the provision of scholarships, and fundraising for major projects. With \$2M currently invested (c\$1.7M of which is the scholarship endowment fund), the Foundation has made great progress in recent years to ensure the future financial security of the school. Any inquiries would be welcomed to [chair@wellesley.school.nz](mailto:chair@wellesley.school.nz)

I look forward to seeing you at pre-production drinks this week.

Nāku nei, i roto i aku mihi nui, nā,

**Geof Shirtcliffe**  
*Board Chairperson*

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