



## Trinity Schools Trust Board

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Trinity Schools are Hadlow Preschool, Hadlow School, Rathkeale College and St Matthew's Collegiate School

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21 December 2023

### Trinity Schools Trust Board – a year in review – 2023

In reflecting upon 2023, a prevailing theme is 'Kotahitanga' – unity and togetherness. Throughout the year we have seen the strength of our communities pulling together, and here at Trinity our 'Together As One' principle has been demonstrated each day. The year has been a testament to the power of partnerships—between communities, between individuals, and between our schools. Through shared efforts, we've navigated challenges, forged new connections and strengthened existing bonds. TSTB is grateful and humbled by the ongoing support we experience from our Trinity families.

As Trustees of the charitable trust that owns Hadlow Preschool, and is the Proprietor of Hadlow Preparatory School, St. Matthew's Collegiate School, and Rathkeale College, TSTB adheres to its Trust Deed. Our commitment revolves around preserving the Anglican Special Character of our schools to enhance the well-being of staff and students. Each school's Board of Trustees are partners in ensuring the best for our students, staff, and property and we work closely together. Trinity Schools has grounds and facilities to be proud of and we are able to maintain these at the highest standards through the financial support we receive from our families. Thank you for your commitment.

2023 has seen us embark on a strategy refresh to establish our vision for the future of Trinity Schools. Our challenge is to imagine the educational environment for the future and how we position ourselves for this with our Anglican faith at the centre. We aim to address each school's unique needs, fostering a cooperative environment for the benefit of all. Sustainability, teaching and learning excellence, and financial growth are key factors in our consideration. Strategic partnerships will help achieve our goals and we look forward to working collaboratively with our communities in 2024 to explore options.

### Our Trinity Special Character

The Anglican family of Trinity Schools educates for life in all its fullness. We welcome everyone, from all faiths and backgrounds into an educational philosophy of living by looking upward to God, inward to the school community and outward in the service of others.

In early 2023, we welcomed Rev Wendy Scott as our Special Character champion, bringing not only her dedication to our Anglican tradition but also a deep understanding of navigating the challenges for our whanau that have become hallmarks of our times. Rev Wendy has spent a significant amount of time engaging with the Wairarapa churches to profile the work of Trinity Schools and creating strong networks of support. She is also a regular feature at Hadlow Preschool, sharing stories and growing relationships with the children. We were blessed to have her lead the service at our combined Trinity Board Day and remind us of the distinctive nature of our Special Character.

### Look Up | *Tuia ki runga – unite with God*

The high calibre of our Chaplains is seen in the great work they do supporting the students to learn about the Five Marks of Mission and God's unending love. We saw Pastor Wendy Smyth answering the call to ordination, with St Matthew's staff and students supporting her in this important step of her journey.



*Pre-School visit to Epiphany Church*

**Look Out | *Tuia ki hapori whānui – unite with our community***

Our schools continue to put God’s love into action. Each school and the preschool have continued their service programmes supporting community projects and local foodbanks, and bringing joy to others.



*Hub 2 Hadlow Students at Masonic Village Christmas Concert*

This year also saw us invest in a partnership with Pukaha National Wildlife Centre to support the development of Te Whare Taiao o Manukura, a new Environment and Ecology Education Centre providing environmental and cultural learning experiences for students, staff and families. We are delighted to embark on this journey of collaboration over the next few years. Together, we aim to develop outstanding learning opportunities that will leave a lasting impact on young minds. This was made possible by our three School Foundations coming together as one, as it was their financial contribution that allowed Trinity to contribute. Our Pukaha partnership not only benefits all Trinity students but supports access for other students in the Wairarapa to have the opportunity to enjoy this special sustainability experience.

**Look In | *Tuia ki roto – unite within our schools***

Schools continue to support each other in everyday life and we saw this lived out in the tragic death recently of Murad Salayev from Rathkeale. Rev Ben Arcus was an ever-present support as our colleges grieved the loss of a much-loved student. Our thoughts and prayers are with Murad’s family.

Rev Mannie Marara has overseen the development of a new prayer space for Hadlow School, which we will officially dedicate early in 2024 with Bishop Justin.



*Buddy time with St Matthew's and Hadlow*



*Preschool buddy reading with Hadlow*

## **Property**

Hadlow's Hub 1 & 2 learning spaces were completed in 2023 with students and staff enjoying their refreshed environments and the advantages of small breakout areas. Rathkeale's new central ablutions were also completed with a much improved modern facility that includes showers for sporting exchanges. Repton boarding house opened officially in Term 2 and students are now enjoying a modern, refurbished facility. TSTB and the wider property teams thank the schools, staff and students for their patience while these substantial upgrade works took place.

St. Matthew's had a number of re-roofing projects undertaken during the course of the year, which included the library and administration block.

A number of smaller works continued throughout the year by our in-house Property Hub members and contractors.



*New breakout space – Hadlow School*

## **TSTB Staff**

The team at TSTB Central experienced much change which included the loss of some treasured colleagues as they moved on to new challenges. We farewelled Ann-Louise Gouws, Monica Hobbs, Kim Gillot and Chloe Dancy and thanked them for their hard work. In February we welcomed our new Chief Executive, Cath Archer. We also gained some great people in Helena Murphy (Payroll Administrator), Seth Rance (Property Foreman), Ber Cloutman (EA and Board Secretariat), Rebecca Treacy (Foundation Manager fixed term), and Rev Wendy Scott (Special Character).

The team embraced significant digital transformation in our operating systems and the learning that goes with new technology. It is testament to their loyalty and dedication that the team has provided an environment ripe for growth, governance and leadership in 2024.

## **TSTB Board**

TSTB comprises a dedicated group of trustees who generously contribute their time and expertise on a voluntary basis beyond their regular occupations. Special acknowledgment to Keri Titherington, Lana Stockman, John Kirkup, Paul Stevens and Matt Weston. Each of them has held guiding roles in their respective areas of expertise and actively

participated in a School Board of Trustees as appointees of the proprietor. We extend our sincere appreciation for their altruistic service and the value they each bring.

Sadly, Cath de Groot, Matt Boggs and Rev Pete Watson stepped off the TSTB Board during the year and we express our gratitude for the considerable time and effort they gave to the Board. In 2023, we warmly welcomed Chris Gregory and Rev John Hughes as new trustees.

It is also the end of my term on the Board. It has been an honour to serve as trustee and, for the last three and a half years, as Chair. The Chair has been a demanding role and I could not have done it (in addition to my day job in Wellington) without the unfailing support of my family and our Trinity family. A special call-out to our amazing Principals – Kiri, Andrew and Martin, our Head Teacher Annabel and our BoT Chairs – Peter, Alistair and Matt/Mark. There have been many challenges, many meetings and calls late into the night and many celebrations; the constant has been Kotahitanga | better together, and for that I am indebted to you all. Thank you.

Trinity Schools have a special place in my heart and I am fortunate to be handing the Chair baton on to John Kirkup. John has been on the Board for three years, has chaired the Finance & Property Committee and most recently been Deputy Chair. Trinity is in good hands. Thank you, John, for accepting the baton!

The TSTB Board is always looking for new trustees; if you have time and expertise to contribute and are committed to the long term success of the Trinity School system, please get in touch.

### Looking forward

As we look ahead, let us continue working together with compassion and optimism to build a bright future for all our Trinity families and wider community. As 2024 arrives, the principles of Kaitiakitanga and Manaakitanga will continue to shape our course, fostering an environment where guardianship, protection, kindness, and respect are integral aspects of our daily practices. We look forward to the journey ahead, mindful of the responsibilities we bear and those who have come before us.



*St. Matthew's Kapa Haka Group*

Sincere thanks to everyone involved in Trinity Schools during 2023. May God bless you, your families and everyone you hold dear.

Ngā mihi nui o te Kirihimete me te Tau Hou | We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.



**Lisa Rossiter**  
Chair  
TSTB



**Cath Archer**  
Chief Executive  
TSTB