



# **WAIHI COLLEGE**

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

**Including Variance Report**

**For the year ended  
31 December 2020**

# WAIHI COLLEGE

## Board of Trustees and Senior Management For the year ended 31 December 2019

### BOARD OF TRUSTEES

<b>Chairperson</b>	Mr Peter Tai
<b>Secretary</b>	Mr Alistair Cochrane
<b>Members</b>	Mr Scott Spicer
	Mrs Alex Baker
	Mrs Kookie Koopu
	Mr Peter Tai
	Mrs Dot Carter (Staff Representative)
	Miss Kyla Walker (Student Representative)

### SENIOR LEADERSHIP TEAM

<b>Principal</b>	Mr Alistair Cochrane (B Ed, PG Dip SM)
<b>Deputy Principal</b>	Joanne Howell (BSc, PG Dip Tchg) Learning Design
<b>Deputy Principal</b>	Mrs Michael Hallett (Dip Tchg, B Ed) Learning Relationships
<b>Assistant Principal</b>	Ariana Te Wake (BA, Dip Tchg) Learning Enabler

# Aerial View of Waihi College



# Report from the Principal

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## INTRODUCTION

Our Latin motto *Lex Nostra Fides* translated means 'Our faith is the law'.

My interpretation of this motto: 'Our belief in improvement guides our actions.'

2020 has been a year to remember for all the wrong reasons. Covid 19 has made this the most challenging year of my time at Waihi College.

The rapidly changing landscape that Covid 19 brought to our lives not only heightened our anxiety and uncertainty but it also forced us to explore learning

opportunities that could be delivered in an online environment. Managing the vagaries of returning to school during the changing 'Alert Level' forced us to deal not only with the changing learning programmes but also with the emotional variances of staff, students and parents alike. I would like to acknowledge the tremendous work our teaching and non-teaching staff performed in sometimes extremely difficult circumstances.

In amongst that environment the senior leadership team was also re-establishing itself as a new team with the arrival of Assistant Principal; Ariana Te Wake to our team.

With all the stresses and tensions that 2020 has provided us with I am delighted with the way the school has functioned.

I am delighted to report that learning outcomes and achievements of our students was not detrimentally impacted by the vagaries of 2020. See the achievement data.

The school roll (March 1<sup>st</sup> 2020) was 735 enrolled in the school which included 35 international fee-paying students.

The new Board continued to work hard, supporting, guiding and monitoring the implementation of the initiatives set out by the Deputy Principals and Learning Leaders. They have also brought an energy and drive to explore different aspects of school governance. The school remains very clearly focused on student centred outcomes and programme to suit the needs of the students of our community.

A 'Connected Curriculum' focussed approach to Teaching and Learning for our Year 7 to 10 students has continued and the drive has been to improve student outcomes by closely identifying particular need and progress and then supporting teachers to ensure outcomes for students are a priority. This has also involved reviewing systems and structures within the school and making recommendations and adjustments which ensure quality outcome for students. This included a foci on upskilling staff on their capabilities with Te Ao Maori and becoming more conscious and skilled at support our Maori learners. This has also included continuing to help teachers to develop clear understanding of the curriculum levels appropriate for their learning and being able to accurately report against progress and achievement.

We set ourselves some very clear priorities and goals and have made good progress in achieving them. (See the attached Variance Report)

The on-going goal has been to focus on improving learning and teaching opportunities for our students. The following priorities were established:

## Annual Foci for Improving Student Achievement 2020

All staff will focus on providing quality teaching and learning opportunities for students. This will take the following priorities:

### Connected Curriculum

- All Y7-10 classes will develop programmes and learning outcomes which incorporate cross curricular connections and inquiry learning.

### NCEA

- Teachers will strive to ensure that 85% of all Year 12 students of Waihi College will attain NCEA L2.

### Priority Learners:

- Teachers will be supported to develop culturally responsive teaching practices that recognise the special place of Maori and Pacifica students to maximize effective learning relationships with students.

Along with these priorities went the necessary professional development to ensure that all staff has the necessary skills and knowledge to implement new ideas with added value.

I will discuss each of the priorities in more detail in the 'Variance Report' which is included as part of this report.

# Report from the Principal

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<b>NAG 1</b>	<b>Curriculum – Assessment, Achievement and Career Education</b>
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## (I&II) Learning Programmes and Assessment

The New Zealand Curriculum (NZC) and its intent are the foundations of all learning in our school. Values, Principles and Competencies are woven into the learning programmes and opportunities offered to our students.

One of the main curriculum initiatives for 2020 has been the continued development of Flexible Learning environments and collaborative teachings for all our Y7 and Y8 students. These new environments have allowed the staff to facilitate learning in a more collaborative way. There has been tremendous growth in this initiative and whilst it has not all been smooth sailing the learning programmes and outcome are much more focused on student achievement. Achievement Data indicates that our students are continuing to perform well and I am confident that as staff become more and more familiar and focused on using curriculum level data to make judgements on student progress, the gaps in student learning, will be identified and supporting programmes developed or modified to address these needs.

The other main priority has been in the continued focus on NCEA and getting better achievement results for our students. Again I am delighted with the results which show significant improvements in all levels of NCEA, exceeding both national and similar decile 4 comparisons. The continuation of APP's tasks at Year 10, Progress grades, The ART programme and removal of study leave have all had a significant impact on the focus of staff and students to achieve better NCEA grades.

Learning Areas and teams report to the Board of Trustees in a written Annual Report. They comment on Achievements, Staffing, Equipment and Resources, Teaching Programmes, Barriers to Learning and Future Directions.

2020 has seen an even broader range of transition programmes. Project based learning opportunities now exist in Food Manufacturing, Apiculture, Gateway, Trades Academy and Taster courses. These courses have not only provided learning opportunities for our students but have also continued to improve the linkages with our community and future employers.

2020 saw the continuation of an interest based learning programme called "Super Tuesday" The regular timetable was collapsed for the day (Tuesday) and Y11-13 students chose courses they had an interest in. Whilst these courses could generate credits towards NCEA, this was not the

primary focus. It was more about students exploring an area of interest and going in to greater depth with the learning.

### **(III & IV) Individual Needs and Learning Strategies**

Identifying and assessing the individual and collective needs of students continues to be an emphasis for the school. At Year 7-10 level classes are of mixed ability however teachers who had classes on at the same time were encouraged to focus their teaching programmes, particularly in literacy and numeracy, on individual or small group needs that challenge and develop the abilities and skills of every student with particular emphasis on bringing a local context to the learning..

At Year 11, 12 and 13 levels the school offers a wide range of subject options and the timetable committee endeavour on every occasion to give students their first choice of subjects. We have added to the diversity of subjects available to our students during 2020 by including a line of options that are particularly aimed at the more practically minded students. For example: Food Manufacturing, Apiculture Sport Development, Fitness, Urban Farming, Building and Construction and Tourism and Hospitality. The implementation of NCEA alignment has made a significant difference to courses we can offer and we are being creative with learning programmes to ensure students have appropriate learning opportunities. Teachers are adapting their programmes to suit the needs of the students, particularly in practically based subjects such as Workshop Technology, Catering, Automotive. etc. There has been a continued development of our relationship with outside providers eg. Wintec and Pacific Coast with our students performing well and gaining many credits.

## **Report from the Principal**

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### **(III & IV) Individual Needs and Learning Strategies (cont)**

The staff continue to become increasingly more fluent with electronic tools and the quality of the information/data on individuals, groups, classes and cohorts enhances teaching and learning as we use it to track the progress of students and cater better for their needs. Covid 19 has required us to rapidly develop online learning opportunities.

The RTLB, GSE and Alternative Education (off site and in house) programmes continue to be used as opportunities to develop individual students and their diverse needs.

### **External Examination Results**

Staff and students are working hard to improve the outcomes for students.

The results for NCEA Levels 1, 2 and 3 in 2020 have been exceptional particularly in the environment influenced by Covid 19. Teachers have continued to modify their programmes and approaches to offer students a better chance of success and will continue to do so for 2021 and beyond. Our emphasis for 2021 will be to maintain the high levels of achievement and to try to increase the number of Merit and Excellence grades that our students achieve.

The subject results and other data received from NZQA are extremely valuable as it allows individual departments to focus on areas of underachievement and to address the issues.

*See the attached Analysis of Variance 2020 Report*

The NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3 results continue to improve and I am delighted with the trend direction. The top five students also receive a \$2000.00 Newmont Gold Company Scholarship.

### **(V) Maori Achievement**

An analysis of the ASTTLE results for the junior school identified that there was a small difference (lower) between the achievement of Maori students and their non-Maori counter parts. During the year we established a group to focus on Maori achievement in the school and to develop a school wide philosophy and a range of strategies to target Maori Achievement. It is still a focus of the school to provide programmes and opportunities for Maori students that will not only build their achievement abilities but also their self esteem and self worth. This group will continue this focus into 2021 and we are confident that we will see even better results in the future.

The Maori perspective in the school continued to have a higher profile and the Whare (MAIA) Wananga is being used more and more as the cultural centre of the school and not only for Maori students.

Community members continue to provide support to the school although we are always looking for parents, whanau and community members to build an alliance with the students and the school to promote positive relationships and teaching and learning opportunities for the students.

2020 saw the continued expansion of the immersion Maori programme to include 9-10 (Te Mahuri) students This has resulted in a clear focus and commitment of this pathway into the middle areas of the school. We have also continued to see significant growth and confidence as these students aim to achieve NCEA L1 Te Reo Maori.

2020 saw a significant increase in the number of students studying both Te Reo Maori and Tikanga Maori . These curriculum options/choices have significantly increased the profile of Te Ao Maori in our school and many students are benefiting from the understanding and qualifications available. This will continue to be a focus for 2021.

A significant reaction to these curriculum developments has been the huge increase in the number of students happy to engage in Kapahaka 😊.

## **(VI) Career Education**

Career education continues to be catered for in 2020. The appointment of a new Careers advisor has lifted the profile and opportunities for students and their whanau. A variety of opportunities exist across the spectrum of Career education.

## **NAG 2 Strategic Planning, Self Review and Reporting to Parents**

### **(I) Strategic Planning**

2020 saw the Board starting to update the school Charter, Strategic and Annual plan (2018 – 2021) under the MOE's Planning and Reporting Strategy. The main thrust of the new strategic plan is to continue to improve Learning and Teaching particularly in the areas of Literacy, Numeracy, Integrated approaches, Priority Learners and NCEA. Programmes that focus on attendance and meeting minimum requirements have added to the search for improved achievement.

The Professional Development emphasis for 2020 was on increasing teacher capability in Te Ao Maori.

### **(II) Self Review**

The 5 year Self Review Plan continues to operate according to schedule.

### **Reporting**

Parents continue to be informed in a variety of ways regarding school activities, events and student progress.

Academic reporting went continues digitally in 2020 and all staff were required to report to parents via thus 'Parent Portal' which meant that it was live reporting. We are exploring other different ways to communicate with parents including electronic options.

The website and social media pages are gaining a stronger prominence in the strategies that we are using.

2020 saw the development of a new website and the installation of bicultural signage around the school.

## **NAG 3 Personnel Matters**

### **I & II Personnel and Industrial Policies**

Four new staff joined at the start of 2020. We continue to encourage beginning teachers to apply for positions here at Waihi College and also have a strong link with the Colleges of Education regarding Teacher Trainees. They bring a level of enthusiasm and innovation to the school and whilst they have plenty of learning to do they are adding significantly to the culture of the school.

I believe that the strength and success that Waihi College has enjoyed over the years is largely due to the commitment and concern that the staffs have for the students. I would like to acknowledge and compliment the staff for their commitment to the students of our community.

All staff is appraised and attested based on the 'registered teacher's criteria'. The Board of Trustees continues to be committed to the requirements of the State Sector Act 1980 regarding EEO and an employment policy that focuses on "the best person for the job".

## **NAG 4 Property and Finance**

### **I Allocated Funds**

The Budget for the 2020 year was set by my-self and the Board of Trustees. 2020 saw the collapse of the International Student programme due to the closure of New Zealand's borders. This has had a significant impact on the financial portfolio of the school. Not only were we fiscally challenged there was also an impact on staffing. We will need to continue to maintain a tight financial regime and a number of initiatives aimed at reducing the financial burden to ensure the school can operate within the income level.

There will be a continued need to work closely with staff and Education Services Ltd continue to provide an excellent service to the school and I work closely with them to ensure planned financial stability.

### **II Annual Accounts**

As you can see from the Annual Accounts presented as part of this report Waihi College is in a sound financial position. However continued vigilance will be necessary to ensure that the Working Capital reserves continue to stay positive. I am pleased to report that the audit revealed total compliance. The annual accounts were prepared and audited as required by the Public Finance Act 1989 and the Education Act 1989.

## **NAG 5 Students Welfare**

### **I & II Safe Environment**

Waihi College is a PB4L school and we have modified our practices and documentation to support this initiative. The tone of the school is extremely positive, friendly and supportive. The largest majority of staff work hard to ensure that the relationships between staff, students and parents is supportive and focused on the best educational outcomes for the students. We have developed a range of positive rewards for students (e.g. Achievement Certificates, Congratulations Letters) and there is also a clear emphasis on the celebration of achievement both academic and sport/cultural. A walk around the school during class or recreational time indicates a pleasant and friendly atmosphere conducive to learning, feeling safe with students and staff working well together and relating well to each other.

This is not to say that there are not some poor behaviours which require intervention. We have in place a variety of educational programmes and systems, designed to assist students to develop strategies that will enable them to become valued members of the school and wider community. (E.g. RTLB, BEST, Alternative Education, Deans, Counsellors, Community links with Waihi Resource Centre, Work Experience, Gateway) Most of the restorative interventions have been extremely positive. The strategies and practices of PB4L are continuing to have a positive impact on the school.

Inter-house competitions are contested with passion and commitment throughout the year. Extra-curricular activity continues to be a major focus; it is my opinion that these activities are the basis of the schools culture, tradition and the working relationship between staff and students. The Talent Quest, Troupe Waihi, Stage Challenge and Spirit Days all contribute to a wonderful relationship between staff and students and a belief that school is a fun place to be and learn.



The school was open for the minimum number of school days and in our opinion the NZC has been delivered in the best interests of the students of our community.

The student representative Kyla Walker was re-elected in September and the new student representative.

### **In Conclusion**

The successes of the year reflect well on a hardworking staff, the student body and the supportive parent community. I would like to use this forum to acknowledge the work and support of the Board of Trustees and thank BOT Chairman Peter Tai for their support and guidance throughout the year. Our search for continuous improvement and the eagerness to support the students of Waihi College are the basis of any good school.

I congratulate the BOT for their work and the support, guidance and governance they have offered Waihi College throughout the year

The Waihi Kahui Ako continues to develop with the focus being to increase staff capabilities around the development of place based culturally responsive practices and developing cluster wide strategies to support the transitioning of students through our educational organisations. Te Pumaomao hui have played a significant role in that development and by the end of 2020 the majority of our teaching and support staff have had their minds opened to the possibilities.

Alistair Cochrane  
Principal