

## 2010 Chairpersons Report

As I sit to write this report I am reminded of our School Vision and Mission Statements.

### Waitara High Mission Statement

To motivate students to utilise and develop their academic, cultural, sporting and social potential.

### VISION

The school philosophy is summed up in its motto "Ulterius Tende" to strive and go forward and refers to the emphasis we place on developing skills and attributes which help us to strive to achieve success. Our aim is to develop our young people to leave school as well rounded young adults who have the skills and qualifications to choose any path they wish in the future.

We as a Board seek to flesh out these words as our main focus, to hold the welfare and success of the students of Waitara High School as our highest aim and each decision we do reflects back to the goal of supporting young people to reach " their academic, cultural, sporting and social potential.

2009 has been a very settled year and has seen the school effectively consolidate its huge progression over the last 5 years.

The prize giving in 2009 had significant evidence of the progress we have made as we entered through the newly completed admin block to the hall with its up to date academic honours board and the new sporting honours board installed. We are surrounded in the main hall with the photographed acknowledgment of former Head Boys and Girls and school Dux, along with the photos of past students who have achieved their masters. This resource is so valuable for students as they stand in the midst of local people, their brothers, sisters, aunts, uncles and parents, all of whom are high achievers and our students can recognise that they too can attain to the highest measure of success from the education provided at our school.

We celebrated high achievement in the arts, sport and the academic at the Prize Giving. We acknowledged students who face challenges in their learning with the same respect as those students who reached the highest marks in their subjects.

We recognised the kapa haka group being re-established in the school and the great success they have had through the hard work and determination of their group, and we acknowledged the students who are excelling in Te Reo and Korero.

We enjoyed the musical performance and also the haka for the Dux as it ended the evening. But the highlight for me was seeing a particular group of the Year 9 & 10 students who were receiving awards. As these young men came up onto the stage from the midst of the kapa haka group, fully supported by their friends and whanau, to receive awards for both sport and academic achievement, they seem to me to embody the work we do as a school community. To see these young Maori males on a path to success indicate to me that we are addressing national issues, raised by the Ministry of Education, about both the achievement of Maori students and the achievements of male students, pushing the boundaries of numeracy and literacy for them. They reminded me that as a school we have decided not to settle with achieving to a national average standard but to "Ulterius Tende" - to strive and go forward, to expect more from our students and push them onto that path to success - whatever that ends to be.

Seeing our young people getting awards spoke to me of the hours of work that have gone into getting each one of them to this place; the lesson planning, classroom management, professional development for teaching staff, the Board meetings, the support of family, the community consultation, the parent teacher interviews, writing reports, truancy monitoring, the upgrade of facilities to accommodate a positive learning environment, encouraging a genuine passion for education from staff, the school caretakers and the list goes on and on.

In this, my final report as Chair, I wanted to look at the 'Why?' we do what we do as a school community, it is then the 'how we did it' that will reflect the vision we have as a whole.

I am confident that our school has never looked better, both behind the scenes and in front of them.

The paper today has reported of our Kapa Haka Team winning the Mana Ariki Nationals and our drama class winning a short film competition, you cannot manufacture results like these but they are evidence of a committed Principal, progressive Senior Management Team and passionate teaching staff who are truly fleshing out the Vision that we as a community desire for our young people.

2010 brings another election year for the Board of Trustees, please consider standing for the positions of parent reps on the Board. You truly can use this opportunity to continue the momentum that already is in place and have your say on what our school will look like in the future. It is the voices of parents representing our community that get to shape the future of our school and make Waitara High School's vision a reality for your child.

Jo Parker  
BOT Chair