

Karanga Atawhai

The voice of Whānau Mercy Ministries JULY 2024



A return home for new Principal

Kia ora koutou, my name is Sarah Parkinson and I am privileged to be the new Principal of St Mary's College in Wellington. A Wellingtonian, born and bred, I live in Island Bay with my husband and three children.

I taught for 19 years at St Patrick's College in Wellington and have recently finished working at the Ministry of Education where I was part of the Review of Achievement Standards Team working on the development of new Religious Studies Achievement Standards and facilitating the Religious Studies Level 1 Pilot.

St Mary's College is a school close to my heart. My grandmother, mother and myself all attended St Mary's and my oldest daughter is a current pupil. I greatly enjoyed my time at the college and look forward to supporting other young women to have a positive experience here.



Sarah Parkinson, Principal, St Mary's College

174 years of proud history is the foundation for the future

St Mary's has occupied the current site on the top of the hill overlooking the Cathedral and Parliament for 174 years. We have a very proud history of educating young woman and preparing them to thrive in a complex world. To ensure the tradition continues, on Saturday 10th August 2024 Father Patrick Bridgeman, will bless the site so that our contractor, L T McGuinness can start the long-awaited renovation of the Carlow Block.

Dating back to the late 1970's Carlow is a significant four storey classroom block that is in desperate need of upgrading. The renovation includes the roof being completely redesigned and areas of failed glazing removed or replaced. The primary objective is to stop the major water ingress and also, with the new glazing, to significantly improve the thermal performance of the building. In addition, a lift and a three-storey link between Carlow and our other major tower block, McAuley will be installed.



Architectural Impression by Vorstermans Architects.

For students and staff, having a thermally improved and dry building and the ability to move quickly between the blocks without exiting will be a massive improvement. So many of our former students have commented on the enormous benefit this will be on a wet and windy Wellington day!

Continued on page 4...

Welcome to our new College Principals

Monday 29th August 2024 was a big day in the life of Whānau Mercy Ministries with pōwhiri's held at St Catherine's and St Mary's, Wellington to welcome their newly appointed principals.



Board Chair Denise Fox RSM with Sarah Parkinson, Principal of St Mary's College, Wellington.



Sarah addresses the large audience wearing the College's korowai cloak signifying the mana of leadership.



The St Catherine's hall was packed with guests for the Pōwhiri.



Amélie Kelder wearing the St Catherine's College korowai signifying the mana of leadership.



"No work of charity can be more productive of good to society than the careful instruction of women"

– Catherine McAuley, RSM



Another milestone reached in an illustrious 88 year history

In an impressive culmination to a ten-year development plan, on Monday the 8 July, a neurosurgery procedure signalled the opening of Mercy Hospital's ninth operating theatre. Chief Executive Richard Whitney said that the nine-month, \$7.5 million project was completed on time and slightly under budget, which is a real credit to the local contractors who had to work around the hospital and patient needs. The new operating theatre will enable the hospital to grow its services by 20% and is capable of accommodating orthopaedic, Ear Nose & Throat, plastic and reconstructive, and general surgery procedures. In addition to operating space and its state-of-the-art equipment, the new theatre is accompanied by an expanded theatre staff room, two additional recovery beds, staff facilities and storage space.



Richard praised his staff for their patience and flexibility during the construction process which started in October last year. Additional staff have been recruited as this also marks an expansion of the hospital's overnight stay facility to facilitate meeting the need for more complex surgery.

This is just another milestone in the 88-year history since the Sisters of Mercy started the Newington Avenue Hospital. The site has now reached its capacity and anticipates 10,000 surgical admissions annually made up of Te Whatu Ora outsourced patients, ACC, insurers and self-funding patients. Richard said that one of the additional outcomes was that increasing the capacity of Mercy Hospital surgical services would, in turn, enable Mercy's charitable outreach programme to continue.



...Continued from page 4

The Board of Proprietors is delighted to be able to commence this project that has been in development for 25 years. We acknowledge, with deep gratitude, previous board members who have worked on this project so generously over so many years. We also acknowledge the students, teachers and college leaders who maintained excellence in teaching and learning in less than perfect conditions. Importantly, however, we also deeply acknowledge Te Ngākau Kotahi, the new Mercy Collective without whom, this project would not have been possible. Whilst the College had significant savings to contribute to the project, they are not sufficient for such a major redevelopment.



The project will take over a year to complete and we are confident that future generations of staff and students will excel in the building for decades to come.

Catherine Fyfe, Board Chair

Haere mai, haere

This month, I participated in three celebrations that welcomed and acknowledged leaders of ministries within our whānau.

New beginnings

I was delighted to attend Pōwhiri to welcome new principals at our Wellington colleges. On 22 July, St Catherine's College Wellington welcomed Amélie Kelder, and St Mary's College Wellington welcomed Sarah Parkinson. Seeing both colleges in action, each showcasing their unique qualities while embodying the shared Mercy charism, was inspiring. Both principals bring diverse experience and knowledge to our colleges and the wider Whānau Mercy. Each Pōwhiri reflected the commitment of all present to walk alongside Amélie and Sarah. We ask for God's blessings as they serve their communities.

Transitions

While welcoming new leaders, we also recognise a significant transition. For a decade, Astrid Lambert has been a trusted advisor and Mercy leader. Astrid steps down from her role as Group Administrator, which has been instrumental during the transition to WMM.



Astrid wearing the korowai gifted to her to acknowledge her years of service.

We're hopeful that Astrid will be able to continue with us undertaking various projects. I have personally benefited from and deeply appreciate Astrid's support since I started as Ko te Hāpai Ō and celebrate her unwavering dedication to Mercy.

Looking Ahead

To live Mercy is to embrace change. Mercy is constant but never stagnant. As we welcome and acknowledge, grow and evolve, I reflect on Catherine McAuley's words: *"The simplest and most practical lesson I know is to resolve to be good today, but better tomorrow."*

Dave Mullin, Ko te Hāpai Ō



Te Ngākau Atawhai – Heart of Mercy: In Aotearoa, the Mercy Cross, central to Catherine McAuley's spirituality, is supported by a pair of koru. The koru represent the unfolding of new life and link our Mercy story to the spirituality of Māori and the ancient lore of this land.

Karanga Atawhai is the newsletter of Whānau Mercy Ministries, a Ministerial Public Juridic Person (MPJP) under Canon Law.

Postal Address: PO Box 6015 Wellesley Street, Auckland Central, Auckland 1141