

BOT CHAIRPERSON'S ANNUAL REPORT – 2018

2018 proved to be a challenging year regarding staffing matters at Waipara School. We started the year with Lydia Dufour in Kanuka, Murray Whitley in Tarata and Di Officer and Barbara McLean working in Harakeke. Lydia left at the end of Term One to get married and her position was filled by Rachael Green. During Term Two, both Murray and Rachael went on long term sick leave and both subsequently resigned. Thanks to Karen Ell, Alison Willis and Barbara McLean who assisted in teaching Tarata and Kanuka during Term Two.

It was the BOT's decision to temporarily split the Tarata class into two smaller classes for the last two terms of the year, namely Tarata and Raupo. This proved to be a productive decision all round.

In Terms Three and Four, the BOT welcomed Peggy Burrows to Kanuka and Edel Kelly into Raupo. Barbara McLean continued in Tarata. In 2019, we will see the reintegration of Raupo with Tarata, with Edel Kelly accepting the role as classroom teacher for 2019. Barbara McLean will be our Kanuka class teacher and Di Officer will continue to lead our Harakeke class.

Esther Kilgour requested a further twelve months of leave without pay, which was declined by the BOT. She remains on maternity leave.

Many thanks to our Principal, Di Officer, for securing teaching staff at short notice to fill these positions and to the existing staff members for ensuring that disruption was kept to a minimum and our children's learning was kept to the forefront.

In September, the children presented the wonderful school production Bush Creek to the community, which included a skit by the Board. The staff and children really did such a fantastic job and it was a resounding success. The abilities and self-confidence of the children was second to none and you could see that they were having a really great time. We really were being the best we could be!

The children of Waipara School are constantly the focus of targeted programmes where needed.

Throughout the year the BOT was supportive of staff involvement in PLD and the school has engaged in the Tipu Maia Community of Learning.

We provide support to our staff in line with Employer responsibility policies.

Professional development is an ongoing work in progress for BOT members.

2018 also saw the completion in Term One of our building project, with the renovated space being occupied by the children and staff from the beginning of Term Two – an engaging, modern space enjoyed by all.

A huge thank you to the staff, PTA, parents and greater community for their efforts and support over the past year.

Looking forward to the achievements of 2019.

Victoria McGuckin