

## **SSA AGM 6<sup>th</sup> March 2018**

### **President's Report - Sarah Alderton**

Dear all,

Thank you all for turning out tonight for our 2018 AGM. It's good to see so many familiar faces and I am pleased to welcome those new faces amongst you.

#### Community Events

2017 was a busy year for the SSA in terms of its community and fund-raising aims. Our first community event was the annual Trivia Night. We were fortunate to have the support of amazing local businesses which allowed us to provide some great prizes for the night, we had a great turnout with over 150 people attending, the 80s theme was very well-received and has led to some fairly memorable photos from the night. In total it raised over \$11,000, boosted by the attendance of lots of new people, which was great for both our key aims of friend-raising and fund-raising.

The focus was on the children for the following Friday evening, with the Hollywood-themed SSA selling over 400 tickets sold, raising \$3,000. We also opened the Dining Room for parents again while the Discos were happening, which gave them somewhere to sit and chat with drinks and nibbles while waiting for their children to dance the hour away. So again we fund raised and friend raised simultaneously, and the intention is to make this a regular event during disco from now on.

In August, our Southwell Gala Dinner was an event for everyone, attracting parents, teachers, former parents & people from the wider community joining us in all their glitz and glamour for a night of fun & festivities.

We were fortunate to have many wonderful sponsors who contributed generously to our auction prize list, with donations from Old Boys, former parents, current parents and general supporters of Southwell. It is a reflection of the strength of feeling for the Southwell community that so many will support it in many different ways even when their children have long left the school. We have even had wonderful support from donors who are not connected with the school directly, but felt they had been made welcome by the Waikato community and Southwell families since arriving in Hamilton that they were only too happy to support the school in return. The Gala Dinner raised an amazing \$55,000 of which \$30,000 has already been used to contribute to the playground for the new Lovers Block.

The activity continued in September with Beauty and the Beast as the Opera for 2017 and what an amazingly successful production it was. Amongst the rush of parents helping with hair and makeup and costumes, the SSA ran the opera stalls during the interval for each show, and raised over \$3,000. Thanks to Mrs. Ross' creativity, we had some beautiful decorations in the foyer around the stalls, and this year we were ably assisted by some of the children who were helping with Front of House duties. Many cups of tea and coffee were dispensed along with a

significant number of ice creams, lollies and water. A huge thank you to the parents for organising and manning the stalls and particularly to the children who were such a great help each night.

In October, we introduced a new event, Family Movie Night, which turned out to be a relaxed fun affair for families. The weather prevented us from watching the movie on The Oval so we moved into the Great Hall. Children and parents had fun playing giant pick up sticks, giant Jenga, giant dominoes and giant connect four as well as choosing lucky dips, having their faces painted and perusing the book fair prior to the movie commencing at 7.30pm. We have had lots of positive feedback about the event and so we may repeat it this year with a view to making it even better next time round.

We would like to take this opportunity to once again thank all the people who put these successful events together, it takes a lot of work from a lot of people to make these events a success and we are very grateful. None of it would have been possible without the help of the school, the workshop team and office staff and finally to all our parents, whether it's organising, setting up, attending or clearing up. It is a lovely reflection of the Southwell community that we can run events like these with such amazing volunteer help.

#### Speaker Series

The first presentation in the Speaker Series was on 22nd June and focused on Health and Wellbeing presented by Jason Speedy. It was well attended and served as a good springboard for future lectures. In November, we joined with St Paul's and St Peters to access the Dr Nicholas Kardaras presentation "Glow Kids". This also received lots of positive feedback and offered an opportunity to reflect on what is a hot topic for parents.

#### SSA Grant Allocations

The SSA has also made more tangible differences to the Southwell community this past year. We have provided funds for specialist instrumental music chairs for the music department, a significant amount of specialised Junior free play equipment, continued support for the eBook platform in the Library with the purchase of 5 handheld devices and covers, and funds for the Audio Books program, and as I said, donated \$30,000 to a new playground. Towards the end of the year, we allocated funds towards social seating which you can already see in use around the school, and towards three Taranki jungle gyms to be purchased. In total, the SSA raised approx. \$76k in 2017. This is an incredible figure and speaks volumes about the efforts and commitment of the SSA members.

We have also striven to continually improve our processes to reflect the feedback we hear from parents. Our class reps this year again were able to volunteer online as well as directly with a teacher, and as soon as we had a class rep confirmed their class lists were distributed, rather than waiting for the entire list to be confirmed, something class reps have been keen to have happen in the past. While the SSA website cannot change much until the main school website does, it has had a mini-makeover, hopefully allowing parents to access information and events more easily. A generic "SSA@" email address has been re-activated, meaning that emails with meeting minutes or general

information etc can come from one place in future, rather than many or possibly none. Special thanks to Janet Reddish for her help and patience on that.

We've also tested some of our processes, in particular our grant allocation process. Not everyone agreed with decisions made but in the end, compromises have been reached and people have had their voices heard. The SSA survives 100% on discretionary effort from parents and to have that, you need parents who care about the Southwell community.

I'd like to thank the SSA Exec, Jason and Karen and Jeff and all of you as parents who have been supportive and enthusiastic during this past year and my time as SSA President, and to wish continued success to the SSA. Thank you.

Kind regards  
Sarah

## **Headmaster's Report- Jason Speedy**

### SSA Committee

Thank you to the SSA Committee of recent years for their dedicated service, commitment and support of the Southwell community. Each member has positively shared their expertise across so many SSA activities. Thank you Sarah for your leadership.

### SSA Activities over the past Year

Thank you to the SSA for their support of our students, staff and parents. Our students have benefitted from an array of donations from our Junior Playground to leisure seating. Every donation has improved or enhanced our children's learning opportunities. The friend raising and fund raising through activities like our Gala are significant and highlights on our bi annual calendar. All SSA activities enhance our sense of community and spirit. Thank you.

### School Roll

To start 2018 our roll is at 594, inclusive of 53 boarders, with students starting term by term through the year.

At the first Trust Board meeting of 2018 it was decided to cap the roll at 650 moving forward.

Southwell will focus on enhancing what we have in terms of facilities, opportunities and programmes. Quality rather than quantity.

### Staff Update

New teaching staff to start 2018;

- Rebecca Gillgren Y8
- Barbara Nicholson Y7
- Liz Southall Y6

- Rachel Van Heuven Y6

New Administration staff

- Miriam Ellis - Sports Administrator
- Mandy Purdie - School Administrator

New Boarding House Mother - Leanne Mckay

New Gap Tutors for 2018

- Paula Currie
- Ted Somers

Venetta Coetzee has resigned & concludes her time with us in two months, after 9 years. Moving to Australia.

Maternity Leave - Laura Stewart Y1- Terms 3 & 4. Keryn Bindon Head of Y0-5 - Terms 2 & 3.

Ron Govindon takes over as Head Chef following Ian Harris' resignation.

Service Awards to start 2018

- 20 years - Keith Rees-Gibbs, Mark Webb
- 10 years - Damian Mills, Kirsty McDonald, Angela Walker, Kerry Williams

Teacher in charge of I.T - Staff Pedagogy - Glen Mckay

Teacher in charge of Enviro - Caroline Hart

Teacher in charge of Akonui/Kapahaka - Elliot Tiffany

### Staff Goals 2018

#### **Teaching and Learning**

- Daily question how you are doing things via reflection and collaboration - to improve.

#### **Relationships**

- Know 5 things about every child you teach (outside of teaching and learning).

#### **Balance and Well Being**

- Do two positive things a day that are good for you and one nice thing to another staff each week.

#### **Spaces**

- Produce the best learning space & classroom presentation possible (work displayed is changing) that inspires.

### School Wide Staff PD 2018

1. Focusing on **writing**.
2. Reviewing our key termly concepts in relation to our Big Idea Theme for 2019.

In 2018 our termly themes are - Well Being / Innovation / Connections / Appreciation

### Website

Planning to launch a new look to start Term 2.

Constructing at present.

## Our Children

We are committed to educating the whole child in terms of their social, academic, sporting, cultural and service spheres of life.

We are committed to having a safe, stimulating and challenging environment with many opportunities.

We are focused on creating relationships, with small class sizes and a personalised education.

## New Build Update

Exciting times are upon us.

This Friday I will send a letter to our Year 2, 3 & 4 Parents with the detail of our classes moving in days and the official opening day.

## **Chairman of the Board's Report- Jeff de Leeuw**

Thank you very much for your attendance tonight, for your commitment to our school and congratulations on your fund and friend raising efforts in 2017.

A strong SSA forms a key part of our valued community providing camaraderie and affirmative school support. An active SSA with many people getting involved will determine the success of all the great initiatives and friend raising.

Southwell is in a firm position with a strong roll and positive growth happening daily.

We are extremely excited to have completed the new building with the children commencing their move. The official opening on 4<sup>th</sup> April will be a special occasion when we will recognise a very committed individual and family as lifetime supporters of Southwell. I'm sure you will agree this future-proofed building is a fantastic addition to our campus.

The campus is looking great with many physical improvements and we are appreciative of SSA members helping in this space. Thank you.

The Southwell School Trust Board has been busy working closely with Mr Speedy and the respective leadership teams to review what effective communication means within our community. You should be recognising positive change with the way we are keeping you up to date with goings on. We have recently updated and signed off our policies manual with the procedures within being currently reviewed.

This document is aligned with the ratified vision document and is also referenced with our recently completed draft 10-year campus plan.

All of these documents recognise the strength and skill sets from within the SSA and provide mechanisms and structure for your group to support with fundraising efforts. We will look forward to sharing this plan with you in the future.

Thank you for your support and best wishes for a great 2018.

Thanks.

Jeff de Leeuw

## **Southwell School Foundation Trust's Report- Glenn Holmes**

The Southwell School Foundation Trust has been in existence since 1992. It was formed by the Southwell School Trust Board as a separate, but related Trust, to endow Southwell School, and give financial assistance to those of the Southwell family who need support.

As Chairman of the Foundation, it is my pleasure to report to this AGM. As an Old Boy, former Parent, former Southwell School Trustee, and more latterly Fellow of Southwell you can see I have a long connection with the school. It is a place I am proud to put something back into, because it gave so much to me.

I was appointed a trustee of the Foundation shortly after its inception, and I have been its Chairman since 1999. The Foundation currently has seven trustees who govern the Trust and provide expertise in financial management and fund-raising events. The Foundation Board is made up of a mix of current parents, former pupils, and former parents. Each trustee has a deep interest in the well-being of the school.

The Foundation's reason-to-be is to raise money and seek donations for its Endowment and Scholarship Funds for Southwell School. Why do we do this - primarily to assist the underpinning of Southwell's financial position in the long term. Our job is different from yours in the SSA where you raise funds "for the now"; the Foundation is concentrating on the long term future.

Thus we need to co-ordinate with you and make sure our goals and projects are complimentary to the SSA. The fund-raising we each do shouldn't be competitive. Thus, your President has asked me to present this report to introduce the Foundation to those of you who are new to the SSA, and to show there is a linking and co-ordination of the two entities. We recognise the important work the SSA does within Southwell, and we applaud you for it.

Now a little bit about the numbers within the Foundation. The total of funds managed by the trustees is currently to \$1.4 MIO, made up of approximately 60% in the Endowment Fund, 30% in the Scholarship Fund, and 10% on loan to the School. The income generated from these investments is used to grow the Foundation funds, provide scholarships, and help administer the Foundation.

Although this seems like a large sum of money, in the context of what the Foundation is charged to do, it is small. Many educational institutions have Foundations, and most have larger funds under management than ours. It is one way that a school board can retain independence for the school over the long term. This independence has been important to Southwell since 1911.

So what do we do to raise funds? Last year we raised approximately \$60,000 in donations from the Annual Giving Appeal, and a special dinner event. You will be hearing a lot about a new project "Southwell Flavours", a cookbook production this year, which is being added to the Foundation's fund-raising for the school.

All our events are organised to work in a complimentary way to that which the SSA, and indeed the Old Boys and Girls Association aim to achieve. Co-ordination is important, and this is what we endeavour to create.

The School Trust Board has set goals for the Foundation. An important one is to increase the funds available for scholarships. It is pleasing to report that we have been able to achieve this in recent years. We are grateful, and thank those people who have and continue to fund scholarships. It is a valuable part of the Southwell context, as assistance has been given to those in need.

There will be other goals to be achieved in the future.

My fellow trustees and I consider that the role of the Foundation is important, as does the School Board, and as we undertake the task in an Honorary position the work is achieved by those who enjoy putting something back into this great school. Very much like the efforts that go into the SSA.

I trust you have learnt some things about the Foundation and that although it doesn't have a major profile, it does and will continue to assist Southwell in a financial way, and to help link the Southwell family in all its parts.

I must mention that I will be standing down as Chairman at the end of this month. Recent Southwell parent, Melanie O'Neill is the Foundation Chair-designate. I look forward to continuing as a trustee under her leadership, to assist in the governance of an integral part of Southwell.

Glenn Holmes

Chairman - Southwell School Foundation Trust