



Wadestown School

Board of Trustees

Sally Barrett
Sarah Feltham
Julie Gerrard
Amy Maddock
Anna O'Meeghan
Neil Paviour-Smith
Guy Pottinger

News from the Board – June 2019

This is the final newsletter from the current Board of Trustees and updates the school community on a range of matters.

Grounds and Playgrounds

In March the Board ratified the master concept plan for the school's grounds. The plan was developed by Mark Newdick of the Local Landscape Architecture Collective after consultation with parents, teachers and children.

A copy of the plan has been on display throughout the school and feedback has been extremely enthusiastic about the school seeking to deliver on as much of this as is possible.

Accordingly the Board has engaged Mark to progress parts of the plan through the Developed Design phase which will involve preparing landscape plan drawings, undertaking surveying work and obtaining estimated costings.

Following that work, a phase of detailed design and documentation (for construction) will be undertaken and consents obtained where necessary.

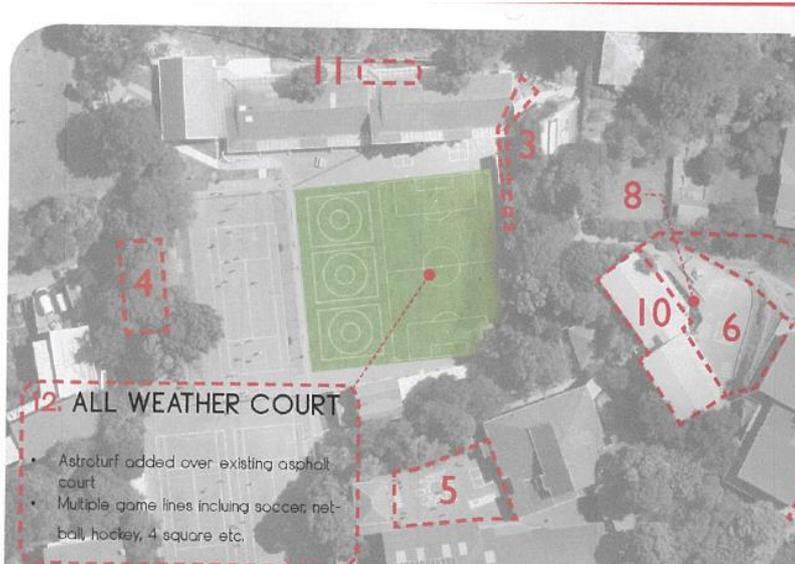
While in recent years the MOE's delays and various works stalled our plans to progress upgrading grounds and playgrounds using funds raised by the school community, it is very exciting to be getting close to work starting.

The Board has discussed what parts of the plan can be progressed in the school now noting there are ongoing property works in the school which inhibit aspects of the plan from being realised.

Taking that into account, the Board has resolved to undertake the following works (pictures of the work extracted from the master plan are shown as a reminder):

1. Astroturf the quad

This has been on the radar for many years but with new classrooms and related works it has not been possible to action it. Many other schools have undertaken works like this. The provision of an all-weather artificial surface marked for various sports and activities increases the potential utility of this space.



2. Nature play

Extending existing built structures down the bank at the area behind the top school block to enable greater utilisation of the space and encourage creative play in a natural setting.

9. NATURE PLAY AREA

- Add to existing decks to extend this popular element and allow larger groups and outdoor classrooms
- Add informal / abstract play elements which encourage creative play
- Steppers, balance beams, decks, nests, huts, cone houses, bamboo tunnels etc
- Soft strappy planting that withstands exploration
- Some seating / hammocks for passive occupation

Existing condition



3. Weld St courtyard

Demolition of the old pool and creation of extra green space and associated landscaping.

2. WELD STREET SITE

- Remove pool
- Provide trees to soften & provide shelter and shade without taking up space
- Consider more seating

Existing condition



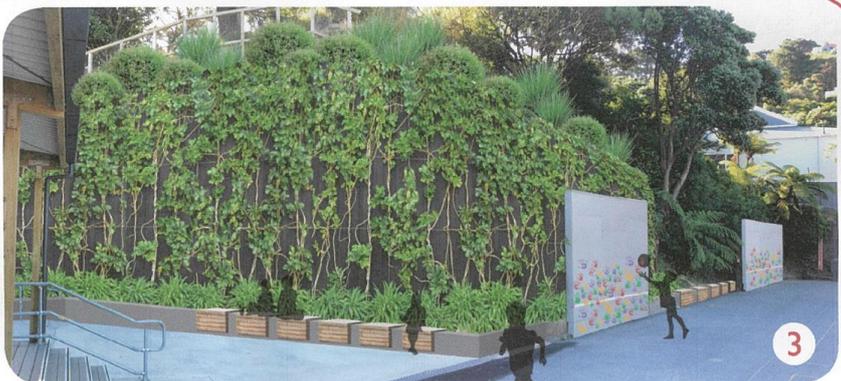
4. Greenwall

Construction of seating at the base of the retaining wall to form a retaining nib wall behind which climbers can grow and mask the retained bank.

3. RETAINING WALL GREENING

- Extend existing low nib wall along base of new retaining to make a new planter
- Plant climbing plants in planter and train up retaining wall wires
- Provide seating and new a volleywall with murals that the students can personalise

Existing condition



5. Amphitheatre

Conversion of the unused bank behind the top fence by the gum tree into seating and in an amphitheatre style with associated ground markings.



The Board has identified some or all of the following projects as capable of being undertaken as part of future working bees:

6. Weld St nature play

Development of the sloping bank into landscaped and nature play finishings.

7. Science garden

Developing the area between the tennis court fence and the Purakau Ave retaining wall fence into a nature or science garden.

8. Decking at the back of new classrooms

Constructing seating and decking in the bare concrete area behind the two new classrooms.

Please note, work is ultimately subject to final costs and available funds. For now however we believe these projects are capable of completion and the decisions enable our designer to progress with the next phase of work.

The Board is excited by the educational value of the works being progressed, picking up on the expertise of Mark Newdick who has considerable experience with similar works across many schools. The component parts of the master plan design reflect the educational philosophy of the school which encourages creativity, independence and connection with the environment the school is placed in.

Thanks

The Board wishes to thank all those parents who helped organise, and all those who attended, the annual fundraiser event at Wilton Bowling Club which has become a demonstration of the creative dressing-up flair of parents!

Other than raising funds for the school it was another great event on the social calendar of the school.

Special Thanks

The Board of Trustees farewells three parent trustees who have made a huge contribution to the school - with our thanks and considerable gratitude.

Anna O'Meehan has been a trustee for the past three years and brought to the Board her considerable experience in other voluntary organisations in the community. Thank you Anna for your sound counsel and enthusiasm for the school.

Sarah Feltham has been a trustee for the past six years and brought to the Board her experience in teaching and a love of learning and educational pedagogy. Thank you Sarah for your passionate contribution to the school and taking the lead on many other initiatives that have occurred in recent years.

Julie Gerrard has been a trustee for over 12 years, serving four terms and prior to that serving as Board Secretary and then being co-opted on to the Board. It is difficult to acknowledge and praise Julie for her outstanding contribution in

only a few words. But Julie's guidance and contribution has been enormous and we all owe you our considerable thanks for such a long commitment to our school.

During recent years these trustees have helped guide the school into the excellent position the school is in today:

- despite a chronic shortage of teachers nationwide, we are fortunate to have an outstanding group of teachers that would be the envy of any school in the country, led by our inspirational Principal
- this is driven by the excellent reputation as a school (reflected in the strong and growing roll with an out-of-zone waiting list)
- implemented a Strategic Plan that has put student achievement rightly at the centre of our priorities and directed resourcing (like teacher professional development etc) to ensure excellent student progress and achievement
- endorsement by College Principals of the capabilities of Wadestown children as they progress to College
- endorsement of the school's performance as noted in the last ERO report which commented on the school's "best practice" models and commitment to equity and excellence

These achievements (and many more) come about as a result of a lot of hard work and a determination for the best.

On behalf of the Board and school community **thank you** to the three of you as retiring trustees for your contribution to these outcomes.

Board of Trustees Elections

Please ensure you vote for those parent trustees you wish to see on the Board in the next three years.

Election papers and candidate statements have been sent and these must be back with the Returning Officer before noon Friday 21 June. If you have any questions, please contact the school office as soon as possible.

Kind regards



Neil Paviour-Smith
Board Chair