

Synod Report 2022

The 2021 year has been another successful year for St Margaret's. While we reflect on another challenging year, and the ever-changing environment we find ourselves, we are buoyed by the resilience shown by our girls, staff and school community. Throughout these challenges and pressures, the academic, sporting, and cultural achievements of our St Margaret's students remained strong, as have the values and community spirit of the College.

The special character of our school community is never more valuable than in these uncertain times, as we draw together to navigate our country's response to the pandemic. It is in these moments that the founding values of our school come into their own, they are our guiding truth and they provide a firm foundation for our girls, parents and staff.

The priority of the Trust Board is to ensure St Margaret's remains financially sustainable, whilst providing the very best possible education for our students. This is aligned to the SMC Sustainability Charter, which adapts ways of thinking and patterns of behaviour, by the Board and our school community as a whole, that meet the needs and aspirations of the present generation without compromising the ability of future generations.

The core aspects of our Sustainability Charter are – environmental, social, cultural and economic – which all operate in an integrated and dynamic way for staff and students.

Economic Sustainability ensures responsible and efficient fiscal management to future proof SMC for coming generations. This year we reviewed many areas and aspects of the College to align it to very best practice. There has been some great work done in this space, including the redevelopment of the Strategic Intent for the SMC Foundation to optimise the sustainable financial support provided to the school in partnership with the community. The Foundation has established the SMC Foundation Fund to create a legacy for the future. These initiatives ensure that the generosity of our community – past and present – is carefully stewarded to generate an ongoing source of revenue for SMC, now and into the future.

Environmental Sustainability is about maintaining the integrity of systems that support all life on the planet. It has been inspiring to see remarkable examples of our students taking action in many areas to raise awareness and adopt mitigating practices to a changing climate.

Cultural Sustainability means SMC nurturing and share attitudes and values that represent diverse ways of viewing the world, in a respectful and appreciative manner. Our students have enabled many opportunities to respect and celebrate our bi-culturalism and strengthen our relationships with local rūnanga and Ngāi Tahu, and also acknowledge our multiculturalism within the SMC community.

Social Sustainability provides the framework for SMC to facilitate and demonstrate equity within and between generations, ethnic and social groups. It is inclusive of student, family and staff well-being and the cohesion of their communities. This is highlighted through our Old Girls Association who continue their great work of maintaining and supporting the networks of SMC alumni, and the invaluable work of our PFA who tirelessly work to build community spirit and parent connections.

We would like to take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of our Executive Principal, Mrs Diana Patchett, and her team of staff. These dedicated people lead, educate, and support our students, encouraging individuality, while building solid academic foundations, ethics and values.

Last year we welcomed Reverend Stephanie Clay as our new Chaplain. In a short time she has found her way deep into the hearts of our school community, and been warmly embraced by our girls and fellow

staff. Through worship and relationship building Stephanie is providing spiritual and wellbeing support for our girls, staff and wider community, while maintaining the Anglican values and ethos which are the foundations of our school. We thank her for her love, care, compassion and encouragement.

Finally, I'd like to acknowledge and thank the volunteers who give their time so freely to support the College, including the Parents' and Friends' Association, the Old Girls' Association and the Foundation for their efforts in maintaining and growing the connections that make us stronger together. The past year has seen considerable success for our school, but we have also seen effects on our everyday lives that we could never have imagined, with many of those impacts still ongoing globally. At these times we are challenged to live out our faith, to support each other, and to make the most of every opportunity.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Di Humphries', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Di Humphries
Chairperson