



**SAINT KENTIGERN**  
Independent Presbyterian Education

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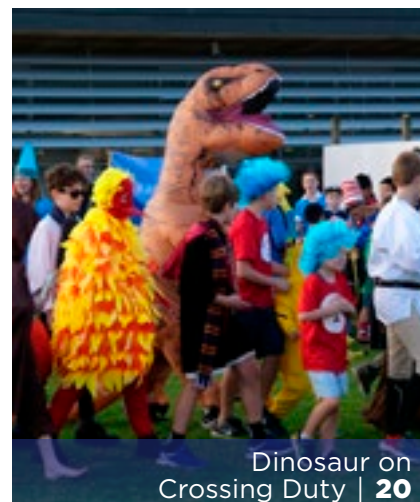
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# An Update on 'The Shed'

With thanks to College Chaplain, Reverend David Smith

**D**uring the first Lockdowns in 2020, we became increasingly aware of the financial hardships experienced by families across Auckland and The Shed was formed; a food distribution centre housed on the College campus, regularly filled with food donations from each of our schools. Our vision is that we, as the Saint Kentigern community, will provide food boxes for front-line workers (Principals & Social workers) from our partnership schools to distribute within their communities using their own guidelines/criteria. In this respect, 'The Shed' acts as a conduit between the resources and generosity of our Saint Kentigern community and the selected communities, but is not involved in the direct distribution to families.

### Reverend Smith reports:

'On the last day of an 'interesting' Term 3, I thought I would give you an update on the work of Saint Kentigern 'The Shed' initiative.

Up until the start of the Lockdown, we were distributing 30 food boxes per week. Since the start of Lockdown, this number has increased significantly and in the last week of the school term, despite the shortcomings of Lockdown, we distributed 88 boxes.

Indeed, in the six weeks from the start of Lockdown up until the end of the first week of the holidays, we will have delivered 505 food boxes at an estimated value of \$75.00 per box. This equates to \$38,875.00 worth of food.

In this time period, we have spent \$14587.00 on perishable stock and, more recently, we have purchased non-perishable items as

stock levels from our student Foodbanks are becoming depleted whilst Auckland remains in Lockdown. Currently, we are purchasing everything other than Weetbix, pasta & toilet paper, for which we still have some supplies.

**In this respect, we are hugely grateful for the amazing \$53,826 donated to The Shed by the Saint Kentigern parent community during Lockdown which, combined with the Trust Board's donation of \$25,000, has allowed us to continue this vital service to our wider Auckland community.**

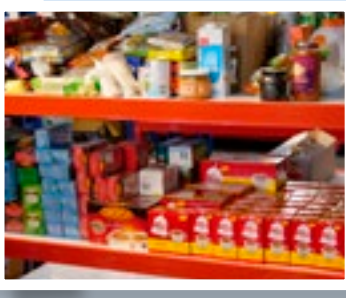
We are also very grateful to Mr Martin Piaggi (Director of Boarding) who has been packing the boxes during lockdown and ensuring they have been delivered.

### In the last week of term, boxes were delivered to:

- Schools in Glen Innes: 30 boxes (delivered to a Social Worker co-ordinator and then distributed by social workers to families in 10-11 schools).
- The Police: 10 boxes (which were then distributed by the Police to families they are working with).
- South Auckland Schools: 30 boxes (delivered to Presbyterian Northern Family Works Centre in Manurewa and distributed by their social workers to families in 8+ schools)
- West Auckland Schools: 18 boxes (delivered to Presbyterian Northern social workers in West Auckland & distributed by them to families in up to 15 different schools)

When we hopefully return to school in Term 4, our aim is to continue to deliver 50 boxes per week.

Our sincere thanks to our Saint Kentigern community for all your support in helping us to assist families in need. Without your support, there are many children who would otherwise go hungry.





## From the Chairman of the Trust Board

At the time of preparing this contribution, I find myself under Level 4 (and more recently Level 3) COVID-19 restrictions, staying at home in my bubble.

For the second year running I have celebrated my Birthday and Father's Day at home with my family under lockdown conditions. While they were a captive audience, it did remind me of Family and Community and how that is important it is also for Saint Kentigern.

I have communicated to our Saint Kentigern Community several times over the period of Lockdown; to update on our COVID response, advising of Fee support and announcing the Board's support of our broader response activity in our wider community through The Shed. We have been overwhelmed with how our school community has rallied around The Shed initiative, with financial support now surpassing \$65,000! Thank you for helping us to support others who are less fortunate at this time.

The Board has also expressed their appreciation and thanks to our leadership teams and staff who have ensured the pivot to distance learning has been (almost) seamless, despite in many cases having to deal with the impacts of lockdown on their own personal situations.

On behalf of the Board, I was also delighted to announce the appointment of Dr Kevin Morris to the new role of Executive Trustee, replacing the previous role of Head of Saint Kentigern. As I indicated, Dr Morris will stay on the Trust Board as a Trustee. This appointment strengthens the link between Governance and Management for the wider Saint Kentigern organisation.

In early October, the Trust Board accepted the resignation of Mr Russell Brooke, Principal of the College, with effect from 31 October 2021, following a period of leave that will continue until his last day. Mr Brooke has been with Saint Kentigern since March 2020, starting with us just before the first COVID-19 lockdown. The Trust

Board acknowledges Mr Brooke for his service over this difficult period of time.

I would like to acknowledge the contribution that Mr Duncan McQueen has made as the Acting Principal of the College. Mr McQueen has been a loyal servant of Saint Kentigern and we truly appreciate his willingness to fill this role while we work through a thorough recruitment process to appoint a new Principal of the College. We are confident that Duncan and the wider College leadership team, with the support of our new Executive Trustee, Mr Kevin Morris, will provide the appropriate leadership for the College in the interim.

In these challenging times for all organisations, Governance takes on a heightened relevance, requiring us to ensure we are across the many moving parts in our organisation.

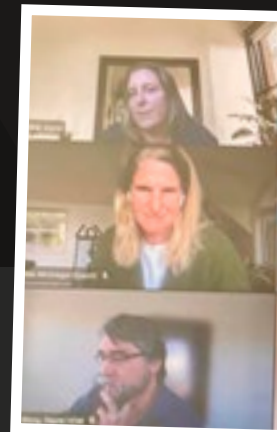
The Saint Kentigern Trust Board oversees a large operating entity, providing Education for over 3000 students (across four schools, currently on three campuses) and over 500 staff, resulting in a significant level of complexity and scale. To enable us to do this well, the Board has a number of standing sub-committees, listed below -

- **Main Trust Board:** 10 Trustees, chaired by Mr Mark Conelly (meets 4-6 weekly).
- **Finance, Audit, Investment and Risk sub-committee** - Includes five Trustees, chaired by Mr Murray King (meets monthly).
- **Property Control Group** - Includes three Trustees along with two external Board-appointed subject matter experts - Governance group chaired by Mr Mark Conelly (meets monthly).
- **Health and Safety Committee** - Includes two Trustees, chaired by Mr Haydn Wong (meets quarterly).
- **Chaplaincy Committee** - Includes three Trustees, chaired by Rev Martin Baker (meets quarterly).
- **Governance, Succession and Remuneration Committee** - three Trustees, chaired by Mr Mark Conelly (meets as required).

I am grateful to my fellow Trustees for the ongoing contribution that they make and the considered discussion that they lead or participate in so willingly on your behalf. We continually challenge ourselves to ensure we are considering and debating the right strategic topics.

When I reflect on our current focus, I wanted to draw your attention to a few updates -

1. The building projects on the Shore Road campus are taking shape. While the latest COVID lockdowns will have some impact on opening dates, the teams are working hard to catch up any lost time where





# Dr Kevin Morris Appointed as Executive Trustee

Following the retirement of the Head of Saint Kentigern, Mr David Hodge, the Saint Kentigern Trust Board has appointed Dr Kevin Morris as Executive Trustee, a new role in which he will provide oversight and leadership across the entire organisation, including Saint Kentigern's four schools.

This role replaces and builds on the previous Head of Saint Kentigern role, and will continue to take the lead in meeting both the educational needs of our students and the organisational needs of the Trust Board.

Dr Morris will lead and encourage educational innovation and excellence, while being directly responsible for strategic, commercial and organisational leadership.

As a Saint Kentigern Old Collegian (Head Prefect 1985), a former Bruce House boarder, a former Saint Kentigern teacher, a current parent and current Trust Board member, Dr Morris is already well known by many in the Saint Kentigern community. He brings a deep connection to Saint Kentigern's heritage and values, and is a leading educationalist in his own right.

Dr Morris lived in the United States and England for many years, earning a doctorate in education from Boston University, and working in independent schools, universities and corporations.

In 2003, Dr Morris returned to his homeland and has worked in various roles at the University of Auckland. For the past eight years, he has been Director of Learning and Teaching in the Office of the Vice-Chancellor.

Dr Morris has been a Saint Kentigern Trust Board member since 2018, is on the Executive and Finance committees, and will remain a Board Trustee.

The Executive Trustee is an important role that will bring value across Saint Kentigern operations as we seek to offer the very best educational opportunities for our Saint Kentigern families. Dr Morris looks forward to connecting with our families - hopefully in person when our schools can once again hold functions for all to attend.



that is possible. At this stage, we remain optimistic that the Specialist Block and the new Senior School classrooms will open early in Term 1 of 2022, followed by the new Girls School early in Term 2.

2. We are advancing plans for a number of new buildings on the Pakuranga campus, notably into the design phase for a new classroom block and the scoping for a new Performing Arts Centre. These will be great additions to the Pakuranga campus. Further details will be advised as we move through the various design/build phases.

3. We have recently undertaken an organisation-wide Health and Wellbeing survey among our Staff. Results have been collated and we expect to share the Board's thinking over coming weeks. A separate review of how we 'Care for our Students' (often delivered through Pastoral Care programmes) has been undertaken by a working group from across the Organisation. In these times, especially when we spend time disconnected from our cohort or our colleagues, the importance of how we Care for our Staff and our Students is paramount. I am proud that the Board has accelerated these initiatives such that we can better position ourselves to look after our own, while at the same time we are looking out for the communities around us!

Saint Kentigern is in good heart. There are many changes afoot and the Board and Leadership team are continually adjusting to ensure that we are responding in the most appropriate way on your behalf.

We thank you again for entrusting your sons and daughters to our care as they move through their education; it is greatly appreciated.

**Fides Servanda Est**

**Mark Conelly**  
**Chair of the Trust Board**

## Thank You, Mr Hodge

In June, we advised our community that the Head of Saint Kentigern, Mr David Hodge was taking early retirement for health reasons. We would like to sincerely thank him for his contribution to Saint Kentigern.

With previous experience in leading large schools, Mr Hodge took on this inaugural role in early 2017 and, in conjunction with the Trust Board, went on to lead a significant change programme. He developed a strong Senior Leadership Team across our four schools and Trust Services (the teams that provide Finance, Property, IT, HR and Marketing functions across the schools), and commenced the largest property development programme in our history, with the initial projects now coming to fruition on our Shore Road campus. He was also instrumental in establishing a clear and transparent 'Statement of Intent,' which has become a cornerstone of our Strategic priority.

Mr Hodge left Saint Kentigern in a position of strength, with positive growth in the school rolls on each campus. We wish him well for his retirement years, and pray that his health will not hold him back from making the most of the next chapter in his life.



# From the Chaplain

## Little by Little



Several years ago, I read about a woman who discovered she was pregnant...

The trouble was, she already had two sets of twins under three years of age and being pregnant again wasn't what she was expecting. When it came for her scan, she discovered she was having triplets! Seven children under four....

They are funny things, expectations, we expect this, we get that. We don't expect this, and we get it anyway. We set our expectations too high and they become demoralising, too low and we don't grow. It can be a surprise what life throws up. A moment of success we hadn't been counting on, a challenge we didn't see coming. So, what do we do, when life falls short of our expectations?

Job of the Old Testament was an ancient version of 'Murphy's Law', everything that could possibly go wrong went wrong and through no fault of his own. Indeed, we are told that Job was an utterly good person. But one day it all turned to custard and he lost the lot: his herds, his servants, his children and home. Job's wife said, 'If this is how it's going to be, you might as well just curse God and die,' which wasn't particularly helpful.

As for his mates, not knowing what to say, they resisted the temptation to say anything and just sat with him.

But eventually, they couldn't help themselves, and began offering useless explanations as to why his life had gone so horribly wrong. For 35 chapters, Job is subjected to their drivel, until mercifully, God finally steps in. But in truth, Job is never given an answer as to why he suffers. Instead, God points out that there are many things in the ordering of the world, and in its apparent disordering, that neither Job, nor any other human being, can hope to understand or explain or change. And so, Job is left to accept the challenge of holding onto his faith in God in spite of everything, and with the understanding that faith is real when it's held, not just in good times, but also in bad.

What can we do when life falls short of our expectations, or throws us a Covid curved ball? At the risk of sounding like Job's comforters, as his mates ironically became known, there is a thought summed up by the phrase, 'Little by little'.

When our kids were growing up, we had a

holiday ritual whereby around New Year's Day we'd measure their height and mark it on a door frame in our sleep-out. Have you ever noticed that growth from day to day, week to week, even month to month, can be hard to 'see'? Indeed, if it wasn't for the mark from the previous year, sometimes the kids would think they hadn't grown at all. But they always had, little by little.

What do we do when life falls short of our expectations? Sometimes the temptation is to lower our expectations, to settle for less. Some of our students may be struggling with online learning and with the sharp end of the academic season looming, can lose their motivation and convince themselves that it's all too hard. And so, rather than trying hard and risking disappointment, the temptation is to muck around, sleep in, switch off, with the idea being that if they don't try, they won't be disappointed.

It is easy to look at the destination or the finished product and forget about the steps that it takes to get there. If we are struggling, the trick is to try and stick with it, little by little, and if necessary, not so much to slash our expectations, but to recalibrate them. Indeed, making some adjustments to our expectations during Lockdown is probably something we are all having to do, a necessary part of being kind and gentle with each other and ourselves.

When we wake up for another Groundhog Lockdown day, perhaps we could say to ourselves, little by little I'll get through this and accomplish most of what needs to be accomplished, or enough of it anyway.

The writer J.R.R. Tolkien once said; 'Little by little one travels far'.

How will we get through this Lockdown? Little by little, day by day.

And as we tick off the days, I encourage you to be gentle with yourselves and with those in your bubble. And can I encourage you to be thankful for all that you can be thankful for.

In Psalm 91 we read;

'If you'll hold on to me for dear life,' says God, 'I'll get you out of any trouble. I'll give you the best of care if you'll only get to know and trust me. Call me and I'll answer, be at your side in bad times;

I'll rescue you, then throw you a party.'

That is some promise, that God is with us in this Lockdown journey, an unwelcome journey, but our journey, nevertheless. And when we eventually get back to Level 1, maybe we should throw a party!

**Fides Servanda Est**

**Reverend David Smith**  
College Chaplain





# Building Saint Kentigern Master Plan Phase 1 Developments



During 2018, the Trust Board was pleased to confirm the Master Plan for significant development of new, purpose-built facilities, and enhancement of current facilities, on the Shore Road Campus and Pakuranga Campus. The growth of Saint Kentigern's facilities across three campuses has been an ongoing process for over 65 years, keeping pace with continued roll growth and the changing needs of our students and their families. The latest building campaign, outlined in the Masterplan for the Shore Road Campus (available to view on our website), is the most ambitious building project ever undertaken by Saint Kentigern, with the initial phase is focussed on advancing the construction of a brand-new Girls' School and building new Specialist Facilities for use by both primary schools, along with the building of new classrooms for the Senior School boys. In addition, preparation work for the building of a new Preschool at Shore Road is also underway.

**If you have any questions or would like more information about the Phase 1 Projects, please email [masterplan@saintkentigern.com](mailto:masterplan@saintkentigern.com)**

## The New Girls' School

Unfortunately, for the second year in a row, construction was halted during the period Auckland was in Alert Level 4. Up to that point, the project was tracking well towards its originally anticipated completion date.

Work safely resumed when Auckland moved to Alert Level 3, allowing the construction company to return to work onsite. However, the net effect of the Lockdown has meant that the final completion date has been pushed back but it is anticipated that the new Saint Kentigern Girls' School will be open for business early in Term 2, 2022.

Excitement is certainly mounting at the Girls' School as they prepare for this historic move!



## Specialist Facilities & Senior Boys' Classrooms

Like the new Girls' School, the final stages of this building was put on hold during Alert Level 4. Work recommenced as soon as some of the restrictions were lifted at Level 3, allowing work to continue apace.

The period of Lockdown pushed back the date for practical completion but it is still anticipated that this will be achieved this year, barring another full Lockdown, and we will have access prior to Christmas to begin setting up the specialist and new senior boys' classrooms in readiness for occupation from the start of Term 1, 2022.

The boys have been alongside a construction site for the better part of the last two years and have had the advantage of seeing the new facilities take shape – and what an amazing sight the new building makes on campus!

Once the senior boys have moved to their new classrooms, the plan is to refurbish the existing Senior School for the Middle School boys. We anticipate work on this occurring between January and April next year – subject to Covid!



## Shore Road Preschool

The Trust Board signed the construction contract for the new Shore Road Preschool in mid-August, with Aspec Construction selected as the successful contractor. Early access was arranged for 17 August – the very same day that the government announced the Lockdown! Work resumed in Level 3, with clearing of the site underway ready to commence construction. We currently anticipate completion by the end of 2022, with the doors opened in January 2023. Another cause for excitement!

