

MARIST SCHOOL PROPERTY UPDATE

June 2022



The last few years have been transformational in the history of Marist School. After years of planning and discussion, in late 2018 work finally got underway with the new classroom block. In just over a year, the works were completed and it was awesome to move into the new hubs at the beginning of 2020. Just in time for the first Covid lockdown!

In conjunction with the construction of the new hubs, the PTFA provided \$150,000 for new classroom furniture and to fund the conversion of the old classrooms into the Hub 5 Innovative Learning Environment.

These funds were raised over many years by families who, in many cases, have long since left Marist.

With the new buildings in place, in the past two years the Board's attention has turned towards developing the school grounds to provide opportunities for outdoor learning, seating, shade, planting, and exercise. None of these works are funded by the Diocese so it is the responsibility of our School & community to raise the funds needed.



In early 2020, we established our Garden to Table programme for Year 5 and 6 students with funding from grants and parent donations. Now in its third year, the programme is thriving and is a well-embedded and valued part of the curriculum.



Also in 2020, we applied for, and were accepted, to become part of the Bikes in Schools programme. The pump track, bikes, helmets, and storage shed were all funded through grants at no cost to our school community – \$85,000 in total. It was fantastic to see the pump track open at the beginning of 2022 and awesome to see how much use that it is getting – both in school hours and after school.



As part of the implementation of the bike track, many parents will recall that the Board of Trustees conducted a survey in 2020 asking parents what their priorities for the school grounds were. Out of 145 responses, there was a very clear message that seating and shade should be prioritised next. To that end, in 2021 the Board engaged Creo to develop a masterplan for the courtyard area in front of the new hubs. The resulting masterplan was accepted but, because the overall implementation costs were just under \$300,000, we decided to implement the masterplan in two stages. The first stage –involving seating, shade, surface markings, and planting was completed this year in time for the start of Term 2. The second stage involves further shade and seating, a water play feature, play equipment, and more planting. These works will require fundraising and grant applications of \$160,000 and are expected to be implemented in 2023 or 2024.





Marist School 2013

In 2021 we were delighted to hear that NZ's Catholic Schools would be eligible for the Government's Essential Property Maintenance Package as part of the Covid recovery response. The funding allocation for our School is \$204,000. Whilst there are strict rules as to what these funds can be used for, we are very fortunate the upgrading of our much-loved and very-original school hall meets the criteria.

Working with the Auckland Catholic Diocese and Delamare Architects, plans have been developed to remove a 12m-long section of the wall facing the courtyard in order to install bi-folding doors and a west-facing deck. This will make the hall much more usable and create improved opportunities for indoor - outdoor learning.

The works will also involve reconfiguration of internal walls to create a proper teaching kitchen and Garden to Table dining area, as well as painting the interior and polishing the original wooden floors. The total cost of these works will be approximately \$500,000 which will be largely funded through the Government grant and the School's working capital. There is, however, a \$100,000 shortfall that will need to be met through fundraising. Assuming the funds can be raised, these works will be completed in 2023.



Since the opening of our School in 1927, there has never been such a sustained period of development works. Much has been achieved in the past four years but there's still a couple of important pieces of the puzzle left to do in terms of finishing off the upgrades to the hall and outdoor areas.



In 2019 we set ourselves the goal of having all of our property works completed in time for our School centenary in 2027. We are well on the way with completing that goal but we need your assistance to get the final parts of the plan in place.

Later this year, as part of the Centennial Project, the PTFA will launch a significant fundraiser to raise \$100,000 to complete the hall works. Next year there will be a further significant fundraiser for \$160,000 towards the implementation of the second stage of Creo's courtyard masterplan.

The works completed to date have cost approximately \$500,000. As well as some grant funding, the majority of these funds have been sourced through many years of PTFA fundraising and through the generous support of our school community.



As with the generations of families who have supported our school in years gone by, we hope that you will get in behind these fundraisers so that we can all leave a legacy that we can be proud of for decades to come.