

Arcady Hall (formerly Bishop Julius Hall) 2022 Update

Arcady Hall, formerly Bishop Julius Hall (BJH) is a Hall of residence established in 1917 by Bishop Julius Churchill for women students wishing to train as teachers in the Church Schools. Today, it is a modern, co-ed facility, providing fully catered accommodation for 170 University of Canterbury (UC) students studying a wide range of subjects.

Following consultation with alumni and other key stakeholders, BJH was renamed Arcady Hall (derived from the Greek term, arcadia, meaning a welcoming, idyllic place) in January 2022. The name change was part of a wider modernisation strategy, designed to 'future proof' the Hall's mission and vision. Notwithstanding these changes, Arcady Hall remains committed to its founding values, namely respecting each other, celebrating diversity, and fostering an inclusive community.

To mark the above changes, the campus has had a makeover. Arcady Hall now has a distinctive, vibrant, and welcoming appearance inside and out, as well as new 'Arcady Hall' signage on Waimairi Road and Homestead Lane. The reception area has been reconfigured and a new, Makerspace (or 'hobby lobby') area has been created, complete with 3D printer, sewing machine, scanner cutter, Lego wall, and other equipment for students to hone their creative skills.

The Hall has a new leadership team. In November last year, UC Adjunct Professor of Public Policy, Dr Sonia Mazey, was appointed as the new Principal of Arcady Hall. An internationally recognized academic and former Pro-Vice-Chancellor, Business and Law at UC (2012 -2020) Sonia has extensive experience in university education in NZ and in the UK. In March this year, Mr Bruce White, former UC Deputy Registrar was appointed to the new position of Assistant Principal. Bruce is a chartered accountant and company director with extensive experience in public sector financial management and administration.

We have also welcomed new Board members this year including Tim Lonsdale, Peter Roborgh, Anne Hindson, Nick Mountfort, and Phil Ryan, who bring a wealth of governance, property management education and pastoral experience to discussions.

Inevitably, Covid-19 has cast a long shadow this year. Covid-19 restrictions notwithstanding, in February, we welcomed new students with a week-long programme of social activities and events. However, the virus reached us shortly afterward; within just a few days some 90 residents had contracted the virus. Thanks to willing volunteers (other students and Board members) we were able to ensure they were all well-cared for whilst self-isolating in their rooms. Thankfully, the omicron wave has now passed and following the recent relaxation of Covid-19 public health guidelines, Hall life has become more 'normal' again, and - for the moment at least - students are once again able to relax and socialize freely with each other.

Sonia Mazey,

Principal, Arcady Hall

