



## St Margaret's College Synod Report 2020

This time last year we wrote about the response of St Margaret's College (SMC) to the violence and religious and cultural intolerance of the Mosque shootings in Christchurch. We have come through an unique period in New Zealand's history, and by circumstances and actions, have developed new vocabularies that include everyday terms like lockdown, bubbles, community transmission and social distancing. Instead of concentrating on the future of education and how we prepare our students for an uncertain world, the Trust Board and school Management have instead been forced to turn to short term responses to the Covid-19 lockdown with remote learning, community worship services and providing pastoral support to our students and school community through online methods.

Throughout the events of the past few months the staff and students at SMC, as well as the entire SMC community, again exhibited those Anglican principles of love, inclusiveness and support for one another that we are so proud of. From the lockdown of the school premises to helping our families deal with the new "normal" of isolation, the faith that is so important to the SMC community united us.

The Trust Board and school administration has now turned its attention to the economic impact of the various virus lockdown levels on the country's economy. We are preparing for the resulting economic pressures that many in our school community will be under by setting up a hardship fund to assist those most affected by the economic downturn with the costs of keeping their daughters at SMC. At the same time, we have continued our focus on the school's strong pastoral care culture to help students, staff and parents to deal with the increased anxieties about the world around us.

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 global pandemic. It is in these moments that the founding values of our school come into their own, for they run deep in us all, they are our guiding truth and they provide a firm foundation for our girls, parents and staff. Acknowledging and passing these values from one generation to the next is also our collective responsibility to ensure the spirit of SMC continues to flourish.

It should be no surprise that our school values align beautifully with those of the five-fold Anglican mission statement, for we continue to develop these marks made on our history by Bishop Julius and the Kilburn Sisters over a century ago.

1. **We tell good news** - this year's theme SMC - She's My Champion, offers opportunities to share positive examples of girls and women from all walks of life.
2. **We teach and nurture** - we have recently published an SMC Wellbeing framework, a document that outlines the centrality of pastoral care and personal growth to an SMC education. A stylised



camellia logo represents the five key tenets of wellbeing at SMC and offers a visual connection to Aotearoa New Zealand's proud history of empowering women.

3. **We tend and care for people in need** - the eyes of SMC are always open to the need of our community and we continue to uphold our responsibility to service culture and social conscience, even when facing her own adversity.
4. **We transform unjust structures and pursue peace** - SMC continues to be a place of encouragement, a school with 'a rising tide that lifts all boats'. Our mission to educate girls to live and lead and to empower women extends beyond the campus through our support of EGG (Educating Girls Globally) and our recent investment as an activator for female entrepreneurs through SheEO.
5. **To strive to safeguard, sustain and renew the life of the earth** - our SMC Sustainability Charter continues to influence operational and strategic initiatives, with active community engagement across the cultural, environmental, financial, and social domains. We have doubled our native nursery stock to over 3,000 and our carbon footprint is rapidly shrinking.

Our Anglican traditions, our founding values, and the glorious commitment of our SMC family to uphold the special character of St Margaret's College will carry us through times of joy and challenge for at least another 110 years.

As always, we are thankful for the efforts of those who support the SMC community. Be it volunteering for sporting or fundraising events, serving on the Trust Board or on any number of school support facilities, the SMC community is as engaged and committed as ever. 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. At these times we are challenged to live out our faith, to support each other, and to make the most of every opportunity.

Albert Brantley  
**Chairman**  
**St Margaret's College Trust Board**

Diana Patchett  
**Executive Principal**  
**ST Margaret's College**