



# **Glen Oroua School**

Living and Learning Today for Tomorrow

## **ANNUAL REPORT**

For the year ending 31<sup>st</sup> December 2018

### ***Glen Oroua School Charter - Strategic Goals***

Our Charter states that Glen Oroua School will provide a caring environment that empowers students to be confident, connected, life-long learners. We endeavour to achieve this through our Strategic Goals that reflect our mission: Living and Learning Today for Tomorrow.

In 2018 our Strategic Goals were -

- 1. Provide quality learning programmes that enhance knowledge, skills, attitudes, values and wellbeing to equip our akonga to become future focused learners, effective and participatory members of our community and society.*
- 2. Continue to build on the strengths of our local community as well as akonga understanding of the world they live in.*
- 3. Provide opportunities for staff to grow personally and professionally, creating diverse learning pathways to foster a love of learning in our akonga as they grow.*
- 4. Ensure the school provides an environment that promotes Glen Oroua values and the safety and wellbeing of all akonga, staff and whanau.*

This year has been one of many changes, both here at Glen Oroua School and nationally, with the disbanding of the National Standards for primary schools, but one thing that remains is the continuing successful achievements of our students across a range of academic and extra-curricular areas within our school and wider cluster.

Credit for all our student achievement goes firstly to the teachers, teacher aides and learning support staff, led by Mrs Franks, who do an amazing job of identifying needs and working together to address them. 2018 has seen some significant changes to the staffing at Glen Oroua School, with the retirement of Mr and Mrs Lightbourne at the end of Term 1. The appointments of Mrs Ireland in the junior room, and Mrs Mullin in the senior room have been very successful, with both teachers slotting into the culture of GOS and contributing to team planning and professional development.

An increasing roll, which was putting pressure on the senior end of the school, meant GOS received funding for an additional teacher from Term 3 and we were fortunate to be able to engage Miss Weeks to teach our year 5 and 6s through to the end of Term 4. Expectations are that MoE funding should allow us to keep this additional teacher through 2019 also.

The board recently met with our teachers to hear about their experiences with teacher professional development this year, and we were really impressed with their enthusiasm and how much they have been able to impact our tamariki in the classroom through their application and their dedication and ability to work collaboratively as a team. As Board Chair, I would really like to commend them. I also want to acknowledge all the work Mrs Taylor does keeping track of everything in the school office.

Many thanks must also go to the parents and caregivers and Friends of the School for all the support you have given to the school this year. Thank you for turning up early to help set up and serve supper, for helping organise extra-curricular activities and fundraising, for all the practical ways you have helped improve the school grounds, and for providing transport and supervision to many out of school events. Without your help, we really couldn't achieve all that we do.

Our Board members - Andy Davis, Claire Pedley, Marcel Holtslag, Cam McKelvie, Mrs Ebbett and Mrs Franks - continue to work hard behind the scenes for the benefit of the school and it is exciting to have such a diverse group of people who are passionate about our children's education and are not afraid to ask questions. I really enjoy working with you all and am proud of what we have been able to achieve over the last two and a half years - thank you. I would like to encourage some of our newer parents to consider standing for the board next year. It looks like the "Tomorrow's Schools" system is set for an overhaul which proposes to relieve Boards of Trustees of some of their responsibilities around employment, property, and health and safety, and allow them to spend more time on student achievement and well-being, which is what we really want to be focusing on anyway. Your role in the future may be an easier one!

We finish the year with a roll of 83, almost 20 more than last year. To our ten Year 8 students who are leaving us for High School next year, and the eight others leaving us for other schools - we wish you all the best for the next stage in your learning journeys, and look forward to hearing about your future

success. I am sure that the skills, strategies and values that you have learned at Glen Oroua School will stand you in good stead and allow you to soar.



Meg Gloyn  
Board Chair

December 2018

## **GLEN OROUA SCHOOL REPORT FOR 2018 ACHIEVEMENT**

### ***Academic***

This year our students have worked hard and our end of year results show 88% of our Y0-8 students achieving at or above NZ Curriculum (NZC) expectations in reading, 67% in written language, and 78% in mathematics. While these figures may be down on what student achievement against National Standards showed in 2017, there are a number of factors to consider, e.g. different student groups, new teachers and new moderation/assessment methods. We are confident that our students are receiving quality teaching and learning experiences that will enable them to reach their full potential, and are continually reviewing our practice and procedures to ensure on-going improvement in all areas.

Y5-8 students did an excellent job of writing and presenting their speeches, and our representatives came 4th in the Y5&6, and 1st in the Y7&8 at the Te Kawau Speech Competition.

Glen Oroua School had teams from Y5 (which included a couple of Y4), Y6, Y7 & Y8 competing in the Mathex competition in Palmerston North, and senior students once again participated in the University of Otago Problem solving challenge for Intermediate level children, in which some of our students achieved Merit, including two Y6 students.

Students in the senior room have had the opportunity to extend themselves in science through a series of projects/investigations with individual certificates given to those who complete each topic.

### ***E-learning***

Digital devices (iPads, chromebooks, computers) continue to be used as tools in the classroom in a variety of ways, from reading, writing, and maths learning apps on the iPad, to research and publishing writing with chromebooks. New apps are being introduced all the time to aid motivation and computational thinking. Senior students started publishing contributions to the blog on the Glen Oroua School website and See Saw is used across the school as a means of reporting class work to parents in “real time”.

### ***Co-curricular/EOTC***

Glen Oroua once again took out the Top Schools competition at the Gala day in Rongotea, taking home the McKelvie shield for their awesome teamwork.

This year our senior Y7 & 8 students participated in Kids n Us run by the Lions where they experienced various activities including archery, cycling and blokarting.

Y6-8 students undertook a Farming Inquiry and visited several different local farms (dairy, sheep and beef, deer, grain, poultry and beekeeping) as part of their investigations into how farming practices have changed over time.

GOS had three groups of students who made it through auditions into the final of Te Kawau’s Top Talent. Nineteen students from Rm1 also performed their NZ sign language rendition of “This is Me” from the Greatest Showman as a guest act.

There were also class visits to Te Manawa, FisherPrint and an Author/illustrator/Designer workshop held at Sanson School, as well as a junior room trip to see Zappo the Magician.

The whole school took part in the Glen Oroua School production “A Cloud in Space”, providing an opportunity for our students to perform on stage through drama, dance, and singing.

Our strong links to the rural community were again apparent through another successful Lamb & Pet Day. For the first time we had no calf classes due to the restrictions brought in to attempt eradication of *Mycoplasma bovis* in NZ, but there was a strong showing of lambs and three kids judged across four classes. Twelve students went on to represent Glen Oroua with their lambs at the Manawatu Agricultural Girls and Boys Championship Day in Rongotea, with Glen Oroua School once again taking home both the B&A Cup for most points on the Day, and the Craig Cup (for the 17th time!) for the most points overall. Several students also grew their own gardens as part of the agricultural competition.

The whole school visited the NZ Playhouse’s production of “Red Riding Robin Hood” at Oroua Downs Hall. This was a great opportunity for the students to experience live theatre.

Tall Poppies has continued to hold a class in the library for those students wanting to extend themselves in drama, with some of our students competing very successfully at the Manawatu Performing Arts competition at the Globe earlier in the year, and all Tall Poppies students performing in a combined production at the end of the year.

Students had the opportunity to practice and perform as part of a school choir, directed by Miss Weeks, with some students also playing guitar and ukulele at our end of year prize giving.

### ***EOTC - Camp***

This year thirty-one Y6-8 students spent 5 days at Resolution Bay in the Marlborough Sounds during Term 1. After travelling by bus, ferry and water taxi to get there, students enjoyed a week packed with activities including tramps to the Antimony mine and along part of the Queen Charlotte track, boat trips to Motuara Island, kayaking, swimming, beach activities and technology challenges. There were a high number of willing parent helpers,

and students completed traditional camp diaries as part of their learning activities.

### ***Sporting***

Glen Oroua students have participated in many school and cluster sporting events throughout the year, including swimming sports, triathlon, tabloid sports, rippa rugby, x-country, gymnastics, netball, and athletics. This continues to be an area in which we seem to “punch above our weight” with many successes despite our relatively small numbers.

Competing once again as a large school in the Te Kawau swimming sports, we had a very strong team of twenty-nine students who won the team competition by a whopping 130 points, winning five of the six relays. GOS students also had some fantastic individual results, as well as three students who broke Te Kawau record times.

Glen Oroua had many students participating at the fun triathlon at Sanson School, with 1st placings in the 9/10yr old and 11+yr old team events and individual top two placings in the 7/8yr, 10yr, 11yr, and 12+yr events.

We also excelled at the Te Kawau X-Country, with 4 gold medals, a silver and a bronze for Glen Oroua students out of 8 races, with many other top-ten placings.

The Glen Oroua Rippa Rugby team won the Sam Strahan Cup, their first time entering this competition in Palmerston North.

Twelve students participated in the ibike4kids (run by Manawatu Mountain Bike Club) and won the school a \$500 voucher for sports equipment.

Netball – our top Y7&8 team finished 2<sup>nd</sup>, while our Y5&6 team placed 3<sup>rd</sup> at the Te Kawau cluster competition.

Te Kawau athletics - Glen Oroua finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the large school competition, with students finishing 1<sup>st</sup> overall in the 7/8 year old Girls and 2<sup>nd</sup> overall in the 11+ year old Boys, with many other individual placings and personal bests.

Glen Oroua fielded a Y1/2, a Y3/4, a Y5/6, and a Y7/8 hockey team in the Manawatu Summer Hockey competition held at the hockey turf in Palmerston North during term 4.

We also had many students participate in the Weetbix Triathlon in Palmerston North, and sent a team of students to compete in the Tough Kids challenge at Ohingaiti.

### ***Leadership***

The BOT once again paid for our Y8 students to attend the National Young Leaders day in Palmerston North. Glen Oroua School also nominated three Y8 students for awards at the Young Achievers Awards in Feilding.

The senior room instigated a leadership programme, with students taking responsibilities across various areas of the school and demonstrating their leadership through serving others.

### ***Community***

Glen Oroua School has enjoyed strong links with the wider community in 2018. We had another very successful Daffodil Day - raising \$1350 through the bake sale and kids activities for the Cancer Society - with a great turn out from whanau and community members.

We had students involved with the celebrations surrounding the 115<sup>th</sup> anniversary School Reunion held in March, and enjoyed welcoming past students and staff, many of whom had not been back to the school since the completion of the Administration Block in 2015.

The Y7 & 8 students attended a Transitions day at Kopane School, to mix with other students across our cluster with whom they will be attending High School.

Friends of the School have once again supported the school through helping with sausage sizzles at Daffodil Day and Lamb & Pet Day, and fundraising through their bake stall and raffles at the Rongotea Gala, catering for the Glen Oroua School 115<sup>th</sup> Reunion, and their successful Trail ride held at Pukemarama Farm in April. FOTS donated \$12,000 for the school, which will help fund new books, water safety programme at Foxton Lifesaving in 2019, and an all-weather track around the playing field.

Students and parents worked on a School float for the Rongotea Christmas Parade, placing 2<sup>nd</sup> for their “Nutcracker” themed float. Glen Oroua students once again won the junior, intermediate and senior colouring competitions.

To finish off the year, the senior room prepared a traditional hangi and hosted the whole school whanau at a very tasty and relaxing social evening on the school grounds.

### ***Professional Development***

In 2018, PD has focused on developing teacher confidence in maths pedagogy, through Ministry funded PD supporting teacher inquiry into teaching practice and leaders into their capabilities to lead mathematics. Teachers are now more aware of best practice in mathematics, and are starting to trial and implement new strategies within their classrooms so students are now experiencing more equitable opportunities to learn. Many of these practices are applicable across the whole curriculum. Continued PD in 2019 should help develop the maths curriculum and further embed best practice across the school.

Teachers also benefitted through the Kotahitanga group PD continuing the focus from 2017 on literacy. Using practice analysis conversations - an observation with feedback cycle - with the Professional Learning and Development (Kotahitanga) facilitator, staff have focused on three major aspects of teaching writing. As a part of the Kotahitanga group, teachers have also been able to meet other teachers from across six schools and share their practice. The focus for 2019 will be on digital technologies.

Glen Oroua School is also a part of the Palmerston North and Rural Schools Community of Learning.

BOT parent trustees have attended a number of New Zealand School Trustees Association (NZSTA) workshops throughout the year on all areas of School Governance and continue to take these opportunities to upskill and strengthen effective strategic leadership.

### ***Property & Finance***

Upgrades to the classroom block completed in 2017 have proven to enhance our students' learning environment, although the library building is still in need of some upgrading, especially while it is being utilised as an extra classroom.

The BOT undertook an independent inspection of the school's playgrounds as part of a focus on health, safety and wellbeing, with identified concerns dealt with via a school working bee. A termly Health and Safety walkthrough was also conducted by a couple of Board members in conjunction with the Principal to ensure the school environment remains safe and any identified concerns can be mitigated or eliminated.

The BOT also investigated options for renovating the school swimming pool, which is starting to show its age and wear and tear. We hope that a new concrete lining can be actioned next year, with fundraising and future grant applications going towards the cost of this work.

We are grateful for additional funds received through fundraising by Friends of the School and other generous donations, of both money, services, and time, from community members that boost our operational budget and allow us to offer diverse opportunities to all our students.