

CHAPLAIN'S COMMENT

Dear Parents and Friends of the College,

The second half of the school year began with our Annual Service of Confirmation with our guest on this occasion the Anglican Bishop of Waiapu, the **Rt Rev John Bluck**. John spoke in his sermon of how significant it was that two Christian denominations – Anglican and Presbyterian – were able to work together and share in what was an important step for the young men involved. Congratulations to **Fergus Knight and James Harty**, confirmed into the Anglican tradition, and to **Simon Jones and Christopher and George Mackie**, confirmed into the Presbyterian tradition.

As is becoming a regular and accepted pattern, attendances at Sunday evening chapel services have been extremely encouraging, with both students and parents taking seriously their commitment to our college's special character. Again this year we have had on average, five Sunday evening services a term. This means that boys must try and plan ahead to ensure they are able to meet the required number of chapels. Generally they do extremely well with 95% of students fulfilling their commitment in terms of chapel attendance. They are to be commended for this.

What has stood out this year has been the standard and quality of our **House Chapel Services** at all levels. Well done to all who have led chapel this year, with a special acknowledgement of **William Reynolds and his group of Prefects** for the fine job they did in fronting the Prefect's Chapel service. William's sermon was exceptional and reflected his growth in confidence we have all witnessed this year.

I must also take this opportunity of thanking both students and staff for their support of the **Praise Be** programme recorded at Lindisfarne and featuring Herewith, Iona and Woodford back in October. All who viewed the finished produced agreed at all schools were presented very positively and although hymn singing may not be the favorite pastime, especially of the boys, all involved gave of their very best. Several Christmas pieces were recorded as part of the programme, and these will feature in the lead up to Christmas and on a Christmas Day special. So keep watching. This is not just a "one off" feature, but our church schools will continue to feature and benefit for some time to come.

My usual word of thanks must go to **John Snowling and Angela Warmke** for their involvement in fronting the various music groups that accompany our singing in chapel. Also to the students who make up these groups for their willingness to give of their time and talents in this way. Their contribution is enormous and very much appreciated. We wish Miss Warmke all the best in her appointment as Director of Music at Iona College beginning next year. Also to **Wendy Jones** and the ladies who do the flower arrangements in the Chapel and Homestead foyers. A special presentation was made to Wendy at the Prefect's Chapel Service in recognition of the fine service she has given to the College, both as a parent and in her willingness to organize the flower arranging roster.

With Christmas approaching fast, we become aware that this time of year is often difficult for many families. With this in mind we are asking all students in the school to once again bring along to the **Carol Service** on Wednesday, 7 December, a **non perishable food item** to donate to the **Hastings District Community Foodbank**, to support those in special need within our local community. This call has been well supported over the last couple of years and we trust that you will support it again this year.

2006 promises to be an exciting one for the Christian Cornerstone as the proposed alterations to the chapel become a reality. Initial indications are that these will certainly enhance the chapel area and make for more of a worshipful atmosphere. I would also be keen to hear from any families who would be interested in joining an envelop giving system that would allow offerings that are given at Sunday evening chapel services to be recorded and used for tax rebate purposes. This can very easily be set up, so if you would be interested, please indicate this to me or our Bursar, Mr Brian Cheer.

I take this opportunity to sincerely thank all those associated with the Lindisfarne College community for their support of the Christian Dimension and of my role as Chaplain throughout the year. The job is a challenging and rewarding one, and I greatly enjoy my association with your sons. They are, generally, a great bunch and they work extremely hard at upholding and living out the Christian values and standards talked of in Chapels and Religious Education classes.

I conclude with a prayer for the Christmas season:

**Lord
our God,
the heavens are
the work of your hands,
the moon and stars you made;
the earth and the sea, and every
living creature came into being by
Your word. And, all of us, too.
May this tree bring cheer to this house;
through Jesus Christ your good and Holy Son who
brings life and beauty to us and to our world.
May we all
rejoice
and be
glad in
this Promise.
Amen.**

May Christ, Emmanuel, God's love which waits to be born in us, lead us and all people into the ways of love, peace, justice and hope. Have a safe, relaxing and joyous Christmas season, and know God's richest blessings now and throughout 2006.

Every good wish to you and yours.

Sincerely

Rev. Warren Fortune
CHAPLAIN: