



## **The Green Library and Innovation Centre Opening** **Friday 8 June, 2018**

Nau mai – haere mai – tena koutou katoa.

Welcome to this morning's special ceremony. Another milestone in the evolution of education at St Andrew's College.

Chris and Sarah Green and their children Harry and Sophie; Board Chair, Bryan Pearson; Board Members; Wilj Dekkers and staff; Tony Hoare, architect from Wilke and Bruce Architects; Representatives from Bushnell Builders, Holmes Consulting, Powell Fenwick and Rawlinsons; contractors, students and those representing our community groups.

Thank you for joining us this morning as we celebrate this wonderful new facility. Last year, we as a College celebrated and honoured 100 years of education, noting in our history book how schools, societal expectations, learning behaviours and attitudes had changed over that time.

This year, StAC 101, we have embarked on a new journey which is focussed on the future. We have tuned into the new demands of an ambiguous and uncertain world, where challenging consumer demands and technological disruptions are producing unprecedented rates of change...

We are mindful of the inevitable disruption to our educational landscape and thus we are building for our future.



In March we opened the new Stewart Junior Centre and Pre-school - a place to encourage, support and grow our youngest minds... those children who will be leaving school in 2032!!

Today, our new Green Library and Innovation Centre builds upon that and provides a space where inspiration, innovation, creativity and collaboration are at the heart of how we learn, understand and dream.

Eighteen months ago, year 6 teacher, Mr Wilj Dekkers was appointed to a new position as Innovation and Information Manager at StAC. He pretty much had to write his own job description, but what we did know was that we wanted to create a new kind of space for our learners.

This space is designed to encourage new ways of thinking that;

- Honours the traditional place of books.
- Preserves the joy of reading.
- Encourages productive, collaborative relationships.
- Supports innovative thinking.
- Celebrates new and exciting technologies.
- Respects the best of the past.
- Challenges the status quo.
- Opens our minds to possibilities.

The design and creation of this space has truly been a collaborative exercise led by Wilj and has included ideas from students, teachers, library assistants, Tony Hoare as architect, designers and industry experts. We couldn't be happier with the result.

A family who has come on board from a very practical sense has been Chris and Sarah Green from Ashburton.



Following a “business pitch” from a year 13 business studies group, they kindly gave generous financial support to this project.

Chris and Sarah Green, and their children Harry, who is in year 12 and their daughter Sophie are our special guests today and St Andrew's College is most grateful for their contribution.

It now gives me the pleasure to introduce Wilj Dekkers to you. A much talked about quality in leadership is vision, the ability to picture and articulate possibility.

A moari whakatauki which recognizes this quality says;

He rangi tā matawhāiti

he rangi ta matawhānui

A person with narrow vision

has a restricted horizon.

A person with wide vision

has plentiful opportunities.

Wilj is certainly an educational leader with wide vision and even better he has turned this vision into a reality.

This reality, The Green Library and Innovation Centre, will provide plenty opportunities for our tamariki – this is a true gift indeed. Mr Wilj Dekkers.

I am now pleased to invite Sarah Green to make a brief comment on behalf of the Green family.

Our final speaker this morning is our Writer in Residence Kerrin P Sharpe.



It has become customary for Kerrin to create a poem to commemorate special occasions at St Andrew's. These poems have included the restoration of Strowan, the deconstruction of the Memorial Chapel, and opening of the Centennial Chapel.

Given Kerrin's inspiration to our own StAC writers, it is appropriate that today she will share with us the poem she has written to celebrate this inspirational union of library and technology, the traditional with the innovative, the known with the unknown... capturing a world of possibilities in her poem "Kakariki Twins".