

October 2022

Howick College Principal/Tumuaki Appointment

As you may be aware, Mr Iva Ropati's resignation in May this year resulted in an extensive consultation and recruitment exercise. This, coupled with the Board's desire for Howick College to be the secondary school of choice in East Auckland, culminated in applications from a field of exceptionally high-quality candidates. Interviews for the position took place over this past weekend, on the 1st and 2nd of October.

From that field, the Board has selected Mr Dale Burden to be our new principal/tumuaki. He will take up his position at the start of **Term 1, 2023**. The decision to appoint Mr Burden is in line with our college values and is true to our stated intention to select the best person possible for this critical role.

About Mr Dale Burden

Mr Burden, who describes himself as a servant leader, puts students first and ensures that teachers and staff are as well supported and resourced as they can be. This enables them to do the very best by the students that attend the schools he leads.

He has been one of the top-performing secondary school principals in New Zealand for many years, and impressed the Board with his calm and thoughtful manner and his knowledge and understanding of what it takes to meet the educational needs of the community he serves.

Track Record of Success

Mr Burden led the transformation of Mt. Albert Grammar School from a school that had little local support into one which is actively sought out and selected by people who are zoned to attend. His success at Mt. Albert saw him selected as the principal at St. Peter's School, Cambridge. Again, he delivered on and exceeded the Board's expectations.

He is currently working with Rivercrest and Hillcrest Colleges in Melbourne as the Establishment Director of the Senior Secondary Campus. In this role he is on each school's management team and is working with a design team, staff and students to create a modern senior secondary campus with best practice frameworks for teaching, learning and well-being in place.

We are confident Mr Burden will apply his experience to Howick College with extremely good effect.

A Decision Based in Reality

We were aware of the negative media attention Dale has received in the past however, following engagement with referees and reports from independent parties, an interview was offered and ultimately, our decision was made.

This decision was based on the character, mana and reality of the person that was revealed to the Board during the recruitment and interview process, not on any subjective online commentary.

Looking Ahead

The Board is excited by Mr Burden's appointment.

When Mr Burden set out his plans for beginning his work as our principal, these included opportunities for wider community engagement, giving those who are interested the chance to meet him and experience first-hand the qualities we saw when we made our selection.

Between now and then, the Board is happy to make itself available to staff, students and our wider community to provide more details and background regarding our decision and to answer any questions you may have.

We are confident you will enjoy the same level of certainty around our decision that we ourselves have.

Miles Stratford

Presiding Member 2022

On behalf of the Howick College Board