

# Raphael House

celebrating 25 years

1979 - 2004

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**The Upper School Building.**

Concept design by Fiona Christeller in discussion with teachers. Developed design by Craig Roberts. Built by Bruce Mitchell & team. Opened by Hans Mulder, general secretary of the Anthroposophical Society, and Glen Evans, Mayor of Lower Hutt. Art pieces laid under step by students door. Completed for 1995.

## **The Upper School** **1991** **A play**

### **CAST IN ORDER OF APPEARANCE:**

<b>GERT CHRISTELLER:</b>	Class teacher for first class 8, in classes 1-4
<b>BRENDA GARLICK:</b>	Class teacher of the first class 8, in classes 4-8
<b>SARAH GAITANOS:</b>	Parent & Teacher of class 7
<b>MARIE BÜCHLER (DARBY):</b>	Employed since 1990 to design the curriculum for the new High School. Science teacher
<b>MICHAEL CARIS:</b>	Teacher - science, maths, gym & woodwork.
<b>ALLYSEN CARIS:</b>	Teacher English & history. Appears on the scene in 1992
<b>PARENTS / 12 STUDENTS</b>	

MARIE BÜCHLER: The land was cleared for this young and growing school built high on the steep hill farm pasture. Gorse, bracken, and regenerating native trees made way for classroom, playing fields, paths, road and garden.

Native broadleaf shrubbery fringes the deep gullies where a few old remnant podocarps and middle-aged nikau palm, treefern, tawa and hinau enclose fern bank; and where mossy streams are dimly lit by filtered light.

Over the forests large, dark blue-green, white-aproned kereru soar and dive in courtship acrobatics; honey-eaters, tui and bellbird chime high in branches; elusive shining cuckoo just arrived back from the Pacific whistles and trills; and riroriro warblers and piping fantails pirouette.

SARAH GAITANOS: The decision to commit our children to pioneer the upper school followed deep reflection and consideration of pros and cons. We had to be sure that the education was right, not only in its ideals, but also in reality. We had to believe that in the upper school too, Raphael House will give our children what they will need for their future lives in the world.

MICHAEL CARIS: Petone West ( moved on site in 8 sections in 1990) is classroom for classes 7 & 8. It is also science lab, gym and art room. Its corridor is used for storage, library, & our 2 computers. The staffroom is in the art store!

ALLYSEN CARIS: Debating was a big thing in the first three years. We keep winning - all the adjudicators love our team because we have a different attitude to winning than the other schools.

2 STUDENTS: We don't do it just to win/we do the best we can/we enjoy it.

MICHAEL CARIS: The first time I walked in parents were on tables, painting the ceiling.

ALLYSEN CARIS: The climb up the hill plays into our hands. Teams arrive out of breathe and puffing, and our team is cool and calm. Once we put Class 11 maths sums on the Class 9 blackboard to demoralise our opposing team - leading them to believe we are cleverer and do harder work!

TWO PARENTS SPEAK TO BRENDA GARLICK (ONSTAGE): The end result has been the Class 8 play *Diary of Anne Frank*. How wonderful it is. Now we can see how our children have been transformed into intelligent, sensitive young adults and we have so much to be thankful for, and to you Brenda, we say *thank you*.

GERT CHRISTELLER: We ask that it may come about that through the enthusiasm and the will of teachers, parents and pupils, the educational work in true Waldorf spirit guided by Michael shall flourish in this High School.

STUDENTS: (speaking one after the other) Basketball/debating/jamming out with all our guitars in the common room/I feel like I fit in/I like my teachers/like my class/It is cool/ I prefer our school to any other

MARIE BUCHLER: Even in such surroundings, the aliveness of nature and the awareness of what is going on by day and by night, by month, season and year can easily be overlooked in a 'busy' school. We need to look again and again and learn to have patience.

EVERYONE: To us it is given  
At no stage ever to rest;  
The active human beings  
They live, they strive  
From life to life

As the plants renew themselves  
From Springtime to Springtime;  
So human beings must grow  
Through error to truth.  
From fetters into freedom  
Through sickness and death  
To beauty, health and life.

DIALOGUE FROM RECORDED TRANSCRIPTS & LIVE INTERVIEWS. VERSE BY RUDOLF STEINER READ AT THE DEDICATION CEREMONY. SCRIPT EDITOR: JILL HEMMING