



Rangi Ruru Girls' School

Media Release

Friday 20 July 2012

Concept Plans Illustrate Inspirational Approach to Rangi Ruru Redevelopment

“Inspirational.”

That’s how Rangi Ruru School Principal, Julie Moor describes the concept plans from architects McIldowie Partners, for the redevelopment of the school site.

Lead architect, McIldowie Partners director Craig Brown, was in Christchurch yesterday (Thursday 19 July) to speak with Rangi Ruru parents about the revolutionary campus redevelopment plans.

“This will be a living, evolving, vibrant learning environment specifically designed for girls, and teaching and learning in the next century,” he told them.

Julie Moor says having 123 years of history and tradition, and being in a position to be able to redevelop the whole school site specifically for female-focused education, is an unprecedented opportunity for the staff and students.

“While the internal learning spaces are yet to be designed, the campus concept design including external spaces, shapes and connections reflect common themes from our knowledge, research and consultation. These include aspects like curving lines, green spaces, inclusion of environmentally sustainable components and a large number of sports and social spaces.”

Moor adds that the concept plans integrate what is known about how learning spaces enhance the experience of learning, while reflecting discussions relating to questions including, ‘what is a classroom?’ and ‘where and how does learning take place’?

“We want to reflect our belief that learning happens everywhere and anywhere, not just in a classroom, and break down some of the traditional barriers between subject areas. Craig Brown and his team have taken this philosophy and made it real through the designs,” she says.

Craig Brown says the shape of buildings and garden areas, incorporating environmental sustainability and the latest technology in the concept design, will enable Rangi Ruru students and staff to be a part of an exceptional learning environment.

Plans are on track to clear areas of the school site in October this year in preparation for the redevelopment, and building will commence soon after that. The first new classrooms should be ready in mid 2013.

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Media note: Craig Brown is available for interview on Thursday 19 July, in Christchurch.

Please contact Ali Jones on 027 247 3112 for more information or to arrange an interview.