

Marsden House History

Originally Marsden was known as Town House, which was formed in 1926 with 100 boys in the care of L Delph. A tree planted in Marsden commemorates his service to King's. Prior to 1926 for the first four years after the move of the College to Middlemore, day-boys had no House in the full sense of the word, and were divided largely for participation in sport into two groups under the names of "City and Manukau".

In 1928, A Thomson was appointed Housemaster, a post he was to retain for 14 years. This was a testing and difficult time through the years of the Depression, with the House lacking many of the facilities enjoyed by the boarding Houses.

1943 marked the beginning of the long Housemastership of L C M Saunders. As Town House numbers increased from 87 to 198 in 1947 when "Town" ceased to exist and the House was divided into two day-boy Houses, 'Marsden' retained by L C M Saunders and 'Peart', under R B Sibson.

The Marsden Housemasters have been

- * L C M Saunders 1947-1965
- * R E C Hogg 1966-1970
- * R W O Williams, R G Bass 1971-1972
- * R W O Williams, D Jeffrey 1973-1975
- * J A E Bean 1976-1986
- * T J R Sinclair 1987-1989
- * C Klaassen 1990-1993
- * M Olm 1994-1998
- * G McKibbin 1999-present

With the advent of girls to the College in 1980, they were welcomed into the House and played a very active part there, always aware of the history of the House and prepared to maintain the good traditions held so dearly by the boys. For three years they were an important part of the House structure.

Marsden House along with the other Day Houses was accommodated under the old gymnasium until in 1977 when they moved to new buildings, along with Major and Peart, on their present site.

The Marsden shield has the Celtic Cross that featured on Samuel Marsden's Coat of Arms.