

ANDREW WILLIAM HARMOS
At Mount Albert Grammar School
1972 -1975

Andrew Harmos came to the school where his father, also Andrew Harmos, was Head of Commerce. Andrew Harmos Senior, had arrived in New Zealand after escaping from Hungary in the 1956 uprising and the invasion of the Soviet Army, and that experience and hardship created a set of values which he passed on to his son – and which have been key contributors to his success.

The younger Andrew was in the top classes all the way through his years at Mount Albert Grammar School and found time to play cricket and football, be a librarian, a member of the Mathex team and a prominent Scout. His sport of choice was fencing where he won a number of national titles and represented New Zealand in the World Student Games and World Championship events.

Andrew sat what was then the University Bursary examination. He did not return for a fifth year but went on to The University of Auckland in the early days of conjoint degrees and graduated with an Honors Degree in Law and a Bachelor of Commerce in 1981. During his time at University he won the Auckland University Sportsman of the Year Award and also won a NZ University Blue in Fencing.

After law school Andrew joined the well-known law firm Russell McVeagh and he was one of the youngest lawyers ever in the firms history to become a partner from 1986 – 2002. He then left to form his own firm, – Harmos Horton Lusk Limited, an Auckland-based specialist corporate legal advisory firm, which recognized as being at the top of the corporate law field in New Zealand. Andrew has a formidable reputation as a lawyer, and has for many years advised leading global and New Zealand clients, on New Zealand's most complex transactions.

Until recently Andrew was Chairman of the New Zealand Stock Exchange, having joined the Board in 2001. He is a Director of several firms: Scentre Group, which owns and operates the Westfield Shopping Malls in Australia and New Zealand; AMP Life Limited, the Trans Tasman life insurer, investment manager and Kiwisaver provider; Pascaro Investments Limited – a farm

investment company and Elevation Capital Management Limited – a boutique fund manager.

Andrew is also a Trustee of the Arts Foundation of New Zealand, and as a Trustee of the McCahon House Trust which was established to restore and present Colin McCahon's House in French Bay, Auckland, and also establish a residency for artists in his honour.

In business, Andrew is a strong advocate of New Zealand Inc: a believer in the importance of retaining ownership of strong and viable businesses and people infrastructure in New Zealand.

Andrew William Harnos, scholar, lawyer, businessman, Albertian and now member of the Mount Albert Grammar School Hall of Distinction.