

Additional Information on the “Chatham Griffin”

1. Where did the idea come from to have a griffin made for Chatham High School?

When Bruce Field and Neil Locker found a large stone carving of a griffin in a temple outside of Kathmandu, Nepal the idea was formed.

2. What measures were taken to reduce vandalism?

- a. Four large diameter (30mm) stainless steel pins join the griffin to the pedestal (base)
- b. A few coats of clear protective sealant have been applied to the griffin.
- c. A CCTV camera is being planned by Mr Holvast, our Principal.

3. Where did the design of our griffin come from?

The design was a combination of griffin statue designs from around the world with sketches emailed backwards and forwards between artist, Jian Zhikan and Nigel Ferguson from Edstein Creative Design. Neil Locker (teacher) also had input to check that the design was appropriate.

The challenge for the project was to carve a suitable but very durable griffin from white granite that would be vandal resistant. In this respect the wings had to be “pinned back” so that they were strong

It cannot be emphasised enough how important it was to have ex student and parent , Nigel Ferguson involved with a passion for the project.

4. Is there another griffin the same as the Chatham Griffin?

No, this griffin is definitely unique and truly reflects the description of griffins with the body of a lion with wings and the head of an eagle.

5. How much did the griffin project cost?

Commercially the cost of such a magnificent creature would be around the \$10,000 mark.

Nigel Ferguson, exstudent and parent gave Yr 12 and the school a fabulous deal of \$3,000.

This was a very generous **gesture** from Edstein Creative Stone.

Also Les Page from Coastal Crane services deserves thanks as he supplied the crane to lift our griffin into place for free.

6. How was the money raised?

Many Year 12 and present and past staff donated \$15 each to have their name placed on the griffin. This was Nigel Ferguson’s idea and mostly paid the cost of the griffin. The Careers Department at Chatham High School also donated \$400 via one of the enterprising projects operating to help support the project.

7. How did Edstein Creative Stone and Nigel Ferguson get involved in the project?

Credit for this must go to Taleah Putan from Year 12 who took the information home about the project and inspired Nigel Ferguson to help.