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Griffin on guard

Collaboration sees Chatham year 12 students' parting gift come to life

By Sarah Parker

CHATHAM High School now has its very own 'griffin' guarding the premises, thanks to the Class of 2012, staff and Edstein Creative Stone.

The mythological creature was carved from white granite and has the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle – symbolising majestic strength, leadership and protection.

The statue is just over 1.7 metres tall (including the base) and is located at the entrance of the school.

Every year, the outgoing year 12 class donate a gift to the school. The idea for this year's donation – to bring the school's emblem to life – came from careers advisor Neil Locker.

School captains for 2012, Rebecca McGuire and Zac Sheather returned to the school to attend a special assembly yesterday, to unveil the Griffin.

"When Neil suggested the project, we all thought it was a great idea. Edstein were keen to come on board. They gave us a huge discount and even suggested some fundraising ideas for us," Rebecca said.

CEO of Edstein Creative Stone, Nigel Ferguson said their supplier in China carved the stone from a 2D sketch.

"We supplied the drawing and the artist carved the statue, which took about one week," he said.

"Then we had the statue shipped over.

"We inscribed the marble base with the names of the class of 2012, current staff and previous staff who sponsored the project," Nigel said.

The base and statue was in-



Unveiled yesterday: Chatham High's Neil Locker, Nigel Ferguson from Edstein Creative Stone and 2012 school captains, Zac Sheather and Rebecca McGuire with the school's new stone griffin statue.

stalled via a crane on Friday, ready for the new school term.

Neil Locker addressed the assembly and congratulated everyone involved, particularly Edstein

Creative Stone.

"Nigel and Edstein's backed the project from the beginning and were extremely generous in their support of our school," Neil said.

ABOUT THE GRIFFIN

AS the lion was traditionally considered the king of the beasts and the eagle was the king of the birds, the griffin was thought to

be an especially powerful and majestic creature. The griffin was also thought of as king of the creatures. Griffins are known for guarding treasure and priceless possessions.