



The Chariot

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RONGOTAI COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

August 2010

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

This is your official notification that the Annual General Meeting of the Rongotai College Old Boys' Association will be held in the Mackay Library at 7 pm on 15 September 2010. You are urged to attend and take an active part in your association. Light refreshments will follow.

AGENDA

Apologies

Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting 14th September 2009.

Matters Arising

Correspondence

Chairman's Report

Financial Report

Election of Officers

Principal's Report

General Business.

Rongotai College Old Boys' Association

Short Financial Statement

Year Ending 30 June, 2010

Income

Assembly Luncheon	\$285
Subs and Donations	\$5015
Sale of Merchandise	\$115

Total Income **5415**

Expenditure

Archives Costs	\$507
Chariot Costs	\$617
Leavers' Presentation	\$790
Scholarships	\$2000
Video for the College	\$488
Hassan Roble S/ship	\$1000
Other Expenses	\$496

Total Expenditure **\$5898**

Income Deficit **-\$483**

Accumulated Funds at 30 June 2010 - \$4305

Represented by –

Cash at bank	\$2601
Merchandise Stocks	\$1220
	\$3821

NOTE: These accounts are not yet audited.

Copies of the full financial statements together with Ian Kirker's Audit Certificate will be available on request to the Secretary.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

The college's major modernisation of the administration and reception areas is completed and will considerably enhance the functioning of these important aspects.

The Old Boys' Annual Assembly and Luncheon in June was again well attended and a great success. Prominent Old Boy, and our Association's Patron, John Lister, made a special flight down to Wellington from his home in Auckland, to give a polished address to the college assembly.

Student, Hassan Roble, took the opportunity to thank the Old Boys' Association for making it possible for him to travel to represent New Zealand at the ISF World Secondary Schools' Cross Country Championship in Slovakia. Hassan told me there were a number of late defaults at the starting line from boys who probably had failed to obtain finance to enable them to travel to Slovakia to compete. Hassan acquitted himself well, coming in nineteenth in a very large field from all over the world.

Hassan came to New Zealand as a refugee from Somalia some years ago and has very much valued the opportunities and education that Rongotai College has provided him.

I am pleased to report that our funds have enabled us to contribute a further \$1,000, making \$2,000 for the year, to the college's Scholarship Fund up-grade project started by the late Bill McCabe.

The recent building alterations have created some additional work for the archives team of Ian Newton, John Martin and Sel Moore, but good planning by college staff have kept changes to existing records as low as possible. The whole archives project is still making good progress. The college's Board of Trustees has approved the Memorandum of Understanding, drawn up by John Martin, which formalises the creation, ownership and future of the College Archives.

David Boyer (1949 -52)

Chairman

OBITUARIES

Sadly we record the deaths of the following Old Boys and ex Staff, to whose family and friends we extend our sympathy.

Barrie Devenport (1948-51), died 25 July, 2010 on the Gold Coast, Queensland.

Tribute to Barrie: His feat of being the first person to swim across Cook Strait on 20 November, 1962, earned him hero status. Eight months earlier, his attempt failed when he was plucked from the water, shivering and semi-conscious, less than two kilometres from the finish.

The second attempt in November was successful with Barrie hauled on to the rocks at Wellington Head at the tip of the South Island at 7 pm, just over eleven hours after setting out on his twenty-six kilometre journey. Radio 2ZB ran hysterical up-dates of his swim and when the boat returned with the group to Wellington in darkness, there were heaps of people at Island Bay to greet the group. The next day there was a packed Town Hall civic reception. It was a great day. Among gifts he received from a breathless nation were a new television set and a truck load of manure for his garden.

Before his second attempt he trained to super fitness. He swam all over Wellington Harbour in the freezing winter, and with coaching from Arthur Lydiard, Peter Snell's coach, ran 10 to 15 kilometres a day both morning and night. Lydiard urged Barrie to "Treat the crossing like a training run. You have to be able to train to do it to the point where you hop in the water, it's just another training run."

Acknowledgement: Article by Mark Geenty, Dominion Post, 27 July, 2010.

Walter Charles Drake (1930-35), died in Auckland in April, 2010. He was a very good cricketer and played for the 1st XI in 1935. He was also a Prefect in 1935.

He served in the navy in World War Two going overseas in the first draft of Scheme B. He became a lieutenant in 1944 as senior officer of the 51st Motor Launch Flotilla. He was awarded the Distinguished Service Cross for taking part in 34 successful mine laying operations in enemy waters in the North Sea.

Acknowledgement: Pen Moore (1932-37).

Graeme Lex (Mick) Connolly (1942-47), died from a brain tumour in Sydney on March 6, 2010. After leaving Rongotai in 1947 he began his career in journalism at *New Zealand Truth*, where he worked for five years, making his name as a court reporter.

In 1952 he joined the press gallery to work for the South Pacific News Service supplying parliamentary news to small papers. In 1961 he moved to Melbourne where he joined the local office of the AAF, Australia's national news agency. Within a few weeks he was posted to New York. In 1963 he reported on the assassination of President John F Kennedy.

An assignment to Vietnam followed in 1965 and he regarded this as the highlight of his reporting career. His despatches from there contributed to a posthumous Victoria Cross award. In 1965 he was wounded by shrapnel in both legs. He recovered and in 1970 he was assigned to London for three years as AAP's bureau chief.

He was also regarded as a perceptive sports reporter, covering the Olympics at Munich in 1972 and at Montreal in 1976.

Later he was bureau chief at Canberra before being appointed senior journalist and then administrator at AAP's head office in Sydney. He then became AAP's company secretary, retiring in 1995.

Acknowledgement: Peter Kitchin, Dominion Post, 10 April, 2010.

Brian Kenneth Hudson QSM (1949-55), died 28 July 2010, at Mary Potter Hospice,

Wellington. Brian trained as a primary school teacher, but after a short period decided to make a career as a radio broadcaster, joining the staff of Station 2YA. His next career move was to the UK where he joined the staff of the BBC for ten years. He and his wife and family returned to New Zealand and he resumed his career as a radio announcer with the New Zealand Broadcasting Service. His latest position was as head of the International Division. Both Brian and his wife maintained considerable involvement in drama and their services were recognised by the award of the Queen's Service Medal.

Tribute to John Turnbull Mehaffey (1928-33). At the 69th anniversary celebrations of the Battle of Crete, a veteran of the 22nd Battalion paid tribute to the bravery of Jack Mehaffey, saying that Jack Mehaffey sacrificed his own life to save others from being killed by a grenade thrown into a trench near Maleme Aerodrome on May 20, 1941.

The battalion's official history recalls: "Mehaffey unhesitatingly flung his helmet over it and then jumped on it in an attempt to save the lives of his two comrades. Both of his feet were blown off and he died soon after. His behaviour and gallantry throughout the entire scrap until his final act of sacrifice, was indeed of a high order."

Jack Mehaffey was recommended for a posthumous Victoria Cross, but it was never awarded.

Acknowledgement: Dominion Post, 21 May, 2010.

Colin MacDonald (1944-47) was a member of the 1st XV in 1947. Later he joined the New Zealand Police and rose to the rank of Sergeant. He was severely injured while attending a traffic accident on Marine Parade, Napier, and spent twelve months in hospital. Until his retirement in 1988 he was able to undertake only light duties. He retired to Taradale. He maintained a

keen interest in cricket, and became official scorer for Central Districts Cricket and developed a manual “Wagon Wheel” showing shot placement before the TV version now in use. He was a keen horse follower and became a syndicated horse owner. Old Boys Bob Denby, Jack MacDonald and Jack Moir attended the funeral.

John (Jack) Alexander Newbold (1936-41, died 5 July, 2010 at Lower Hutt. From 1937 until 1941 Jack was a member of the college orchestra and was the only trombone player. In 1941 he played in the First XV. On leaving college he joined the RNZAF and later entered the family household appliances business.

William Harold Holmes Simms (1933-39), died Wellington on July 16, 2010. After leaving the college he worked at the Department of Education, Wellington.

Hennie Tonu’u (1972-76), died 9 June in Apia after a brief illness. Hennie was a stalwart of the Poneke Rugby Club from the time he left Rongotai College and joined the Poneke Club in 1978. He went on to play well over one hundred Premier games for Poneke, represented Wellington A, Wellington B and Wellington Samoans on numerous occasions. He relinquished his position in the Poneke Premiers in the early 1990s to younger brother Ofisa Junior Tonu’u who went on to become an All Black. Hennie coached the Poneke Premier team along with Paul Hakaraia before moving to Apia.

Acknowledgement: Duncan Garvie, Poneke Club Chairman.

NEWS ABOUT OLD BOYS

Andrew Becroft (1971-75), who is New Zealand’s Principal Youth Court Judge, believes that marae justice will put wayward Maori youth back on the right path.

Recently he opened the country’s fifth rangataki court at Waitara’s Owae Marae, where young offenders undergo marae-based justice. He commented that while Maori make up 15% of the population they account for nearly 50% of prisoners. Among young people in custody that figure is 66%.

He said that bringing the Youth Court to the marae setting made an impact and is significantly different. He considers the power of the marae and what it can unlock to be quite profound, and that the attitude of the young offenders is totally different. He says that it is still the same law but approached in a different way.

Acknowledgement: Dominion Post, 28 June, 2010.

David Binning (1952-58) advises that in 1961 his brother **Brian Binning** (1948-54), together with **Roger Burns** (1949-55) and **John Fernyhough** (1952-56), were all awarded Fullbright Scholarships. This was the first time three students from one college received this award in the same year.

Roger Blakely (1959-63) has been appointed to the key position of Chief Planning Officer in the new Auckland City Council. This is a further step in Roger’s stellar career in the public service and in local government. Roger studied engineering and graduated PhD from Canterbury University and MS from Stanford University Graduate School of Business while on a Harkness Fellowship). His early years in the public service were in the Ministry of Works and in 1984 he was appointed General Manager of the State Coal Mines. Two years later he became Secretary for the Environment, a position he held until appointed Secretary of Internal Affairs in 1996. In 2000 he took up the post of Chief Executive of the Porirua City Council. During Roger’s nine and a half years at Porirua the City has, in the words of the Mayor, “been seen as perhaps the most innovative council in New Zealand,” having in 2009 won the Prime Minister’s management

award for the whole of New Zealand public sector for the *Safer Porirua* project.

Roger was Head prefect and Dux in 1963 and was a prominent cricketer, being selected as a New Zealand Brabin Shield representative.

Acknowledgement: John Martin (1947-52).

Peter Coates (1950-54) has had a painting selected for display at the Beijing Biennale Arts Symposium and Exhibition, Asia's largest, which is being held during September and October this year. Seventy artists have been invited to submit works for display. Peter will also present a paper at the Biennale.

Aldwyn Cockburn (1953-59) owner of the *Parade Café* on Oriental Bay Parade, Wellington, has closed it down because a six storey, 22 metre high apartment complex is to be built on the site. Aldwyn and his partner bought the *Tug Boat* restaurant opposite his former café when the owners went into receivership. Before re-opening the *Tug Boat* will undergo an extensive refit.

Konstantin Dimopoulos (1968-72) gained a degree in Sociology at Victoria University of Wellington in 1977 and started work as a social worker with the elderly. However, his interest in art prevailed and he attended the Chelsea School of Art in London. On his return to Wellington he decided on a career in art, painting by day and having a manual job at night.

In 2002 his sculpture *Pacific Grass*, located in the round-about at the northern end of Wellington Airport, won the Wellington Civic Initiative Award. Subsequently he moved to Melbourne with his family. He now works full time as an artist, creating and installing sculptures around the world. This year he has been commissioned to install works in Canberra, Melbourne, Gisborne, Abu Dhabi, Denver, Boston, Palm Springs and Vancouver. Most of his installations contain global themes, such as deforestation and migration.

Acknowledgement: VUW Alumni News.

Andrew Fagan (1976-79), with Karyn Hay, "stalwarts of the new Zealand music scene," hosts an early evening show on *Radio Live*. Andrew, well known as lead singer for *The Mockers*, circumnavigated New Zealand in his boat *Swirly World* three years ago, and is a poet and children's book author. He also designs replica boats (the first, *Davilion the Morocat*, was launched last November), and is also music programmer for *Kiwi FM*. He has recently recorded a new album, *Admiral of the Seas*, and is completing a documentary about his 2007 expedition.

Acknowledgement: Dominion Post, 24 March, 2010.

John K. Fraser (1974-78) was in Wellington earlier this year to deliver a lecture on stem cells at the Malaghan Institute. Amongst other research posts, John is Principal Scientist at *Cytori Therapeutics* in San Diego, California. He is also an Associate Professor and member of the Department of Medicine at the University of California, Los Angeles. In 2008 during the Bush Administration, John made a submission to the US House of Representatives Subcommittee on Health on the desirability of continuing stem cell research.

Daniel Gebreezgiher (2004-08) came to New Zealand six years ago with his parents as refugees from Eritrea, Africa. He was a member of the Rongotai First Football XI in 2008. After leaving Rongotai he played football for Wellington United and then Stop Out, his current club. Leeds United, a second division Club in the UK, has offered Daniel a month's trial and he left for Leeds on 11 July.

Acknowledgement: Dominion Post, 9 July, 2010.

Evan Hopkin (1974-78) was a member of the Wellington Rugby Football Club's Senior First team of 1985 which won the Jubilee Cup and Swindale Shield. In 2010 he is assistant coach working with former All Black Murray Mexted,

who was also a member of that team, to build the club's under 21 side from scratch with the mission to restore the fortunes of the once mighty Wellington Football Club.

Acknowledgement; Article by Tony Robson, Dominion Post, 14 April, 2010.

Adrian Humphris (1986-90) is co-author with Geoff Mew of *Ring Around the City*, the first history of Kelburn and Kilbirnie. They spent six years researching material and found it difficult to ensure accuracy because there was no previous written history of the suburbs. They unearthed dozens of previously unpublished documents including photographs and maps that feature in the book.

The focus of the book is on the establishment of Kelburn and Kilbirnie in the early 1900's when Wellington was expanding and overcrowding was a major problem. When the electric tram system was built forming a circle around the city, new suburbs were opened giving access to areas previously difficult to develop.

For Adrian, who is operations co-ordinator at the Wellington City archives, this is his first publication.

Acknowledgement: Article by India Lopez in The Wellingtonian, April 8, 2010.

Chris Killen (1995-98). A *Dominion Post* article of 25 March, 2010 reported that the All Whites football striker continued his scoring run with Middlesborough in the English Championship. The former Celtic player scored the first goal in his team's 2-0 win over Preston North End and another in a 1-1 draw against Reading.

In another *Dominion Post* article, 21 May, 2010, Fred Woodcock comments on Chris's playing future when he comes off contract with Middlesborough at the end of July. Chris is in talks with that club about continuing there but he is keeping his options open as other doors may open for him following the All Whites' efforts at

the recent Football World Cup in South Africa. He sees Middlesborough as a good club with a good standard and a good set-up and would be pleased to return there if he is not offered a contract at a higher level.

The *Dominion Post* of 27 July reported that Chris has joined Chinese Super League club Shenzhen Ruby., and on 29 July reported that Chris scored the winning goal in his first game for his new club.

Ben Lakomy (1997-2002) has been an animal welfare inspector with the SPCA for five years. On any given day he can be responding to complaints of animal neglect and abuse through to applying animal first aid aboard the twenty-four hour animal ambulance service. Rescuing animals can result in some cuts and bruises but that is nothing compared to the type of abuse regularly hurled at him while on cruelty investigations. He has been physically assaulted twice by animal owners, often verbally abused and often there are threats of violence. A stab resistant vest is a compulsory part of his uniform.

Ben is adamant that the good aspects of his work far outweighs the bad. With the Animal Welfare Act behind him he feels great that he can go in and directly help animals without too much red tape.

Acknowledgement: Dominion Post, 29 March, 2010.

Bruce Luxford (1953-58) is now a full-time artist after working in the advertising world for much of his working life. At school he did well at art even though at the time there were no Art teachers as such.

After leaving Rongotai, Bruce studied at the School of Philosophy seeking more knowledge and greater understanding of the cause and effect relationship between man and nature and the surreal. For a period he had a tutoring role. At the same time he dabbled in art. Later he moved into the advertising and graphics world where he

quickly established a substantial clientele. All went well until the stock market crash of 1987 when he found it necessary to scale back the business. He dovetailed this into his art as he moved towards becoming a full-time artist.

Bruce comments that “He finds his art style of classic pictorial surrealism a particularly satisfying mode of visual art. The artist has a responsibility to respond and comment, to generate narratives, as with musicians and writers recording and commenting on events.”

Acknowledgement: Article by Jill Wild, Dominion Post, 17 July, 2010.

Grant Nisbett (1964-68) celebrated his 203rd test rugby commentary when the All Blacks played South Africa at Wellington on 17 July, 2010. His first test commentary was in 1984 when the All Blacks played France at Christchurch. He considers the most memorable games are: the All Blacks versus France at Christchurch in 1986 for its shock value; the All Blacks versus Springboks at Pretoria in 1996, the dramatic and historic win over the Springboks which clinched the series; and the All Blacks versus the Wallabies, Sydney, 2000, the epic against the Wallabies sealed by a Jonah Lomu try after the All Blacks led 21– 0.

Grant rates Christian Cullen as the best ever. “Christian Cullen by a long way. Best rugby player I have ever seen. Cullen was just phenomenal, he really could do it all and he had this amazing ability to pop up and score tries. Some of them were out of this world.”

Grant spends time on a Friday preparing statistical lists and phonetic pronunciations of tricky surnames, and apart from a scripted opening line, it's *all off the cuff*.

Keith Quinn, a fellow commentator, sums up Grant's qualities: “He's a terrific bloke. Friendly, supportive and loyal in his private life and in his work, thorough, professional and exact. His hall mark has been consistency.”

Acknowledgement: Article by Mark Geenty, Dominion Post, 17 July, 2010.

Ma'a Nonu (1999-2000), after missing the All Black games against Ireland and Wales through injury, featured in the two All Black matches against the Springboks in the Tri-Nations series. In both games he scored a try and contributed significantly to the attacking flair shown by the All Blacks.

Robert O'Brien (1947-51) was honoured by the Seatoun Football Club in 1991 when it presented the *O'Brien Shield* to Capital Football to be used in the top men's league from 1992. Bob O'Brien was a member of Seatoun's Chatham Cup-winning teams of the 1950s and the club's secretary for more than thirty years.

The shield has been competed for on 197 occasions since 1992 but during the past five years its significance has waned to some extent. This year the shield is an integral part of the Central League competition and all ten clubs this year have a chance to challenge and win.

The *O'Brien Shield* is a Ranfurly Shield style challenge trophy with the holder accepting challenges at home matches only. The record for the longest shield reign of thirteen successful defences is held jointly by Wainuiomata (1994-95), Miramar Rangers (2004-05) and Western Suburbs (2006-07)

Acknowledgement: Article by Fred Woodcock, Dominion Post, 27 March, 2010

Jeetan Patel (1994-98) is gaining renown as one of the most stylish cricketers New Zealand has seen for a while. These comments do not refer to his bowling or batting at international level but to his dress style. According to several sports writers Jeetan is regarded as a sharp dresser who would definitely give *Miami Vice's* Don Johnson a run for his money.

Jeetan's comments on being stylish included: “Every man should have a cashmere coat, or failing that a long trench coat. You'd never catch

me wearing a whole lot of colours. My morning ritual is about enfoliating and moisturising. I shave my head so I don't have to worry about my hair. Other than that it is about making sure I am happy with what I am wearing. I never leave the house without being happy about what I've got on. I'd describe my style as pretty straight up and down, nothing too elaborate, may be contemporary. Come the weekend I usually pull on a tracksuit and certainly my jeans."

Acknowledgement; The Dominion Post, Life Section, 14 April, 2010.

Wynton Rufer (1975-81), with some financial backing from Sam Morgan (1989-92) of *Trade Me* fame, launched a *Wynrs* coaching academy at the college on 3 June.

The academy is for young players to learn techniques and maybe make it into the Phoenix and All Whites team one day. There will be four coaching programmes in place after twelve months, and with the college having a good school programme, *Wynrs* coaching will build on that.

Nigerian born coach Tayo Agunlejika will run the Rongotai Academy with help from some of Rufer's coaching interns from Germany. Programmes would be run at lunch times, after school and during holidays to supplement, not replace, the coaching students already had through club and school teams, with an emphasis on developing techniques.

Acknowledgement: Dominion Post, 4 June, 2010.

Julian Savea (2004-08), the 2010 IRB World Junior Player of the Year, nearly missed out on selection for New Zealand's under 20s team to play in the Junior World Cup in Argentina. He was told to make serious changes to his diet or miss out on selection. In just over a month after heeding the warning he led New Zealand to the world junior title with one eye-catching display after another, scoring four tries in the opening game against Samoa.

Julian credited Wellington's fitness trainers, players and coaches for helping him to realise his potential, but the coach of the Junior World Cup team said it was Julian's desire to succeed that was the key.

His next goals are to make the New Zealand sevens squad for the Commonwealth Games and then to focus on Wellington's NPC campaign. Julian scored a try in Wellington's first NPC match versus Tasman.

Acknowledgement: Article by Toby Robson, Dominion Post, 29 June, 2010.

Austen Warren (1932-36) celebrated his 90th birthday recently and still lives in the house in which he was born. Three of his neighbours have lived to be over 100 years old and his goal is to outdo them.

When recalling events in his lifetime he spoke of steamships in Evans Bay, the building of Mt Victoria tunnel, feeling the Napier earthquake of 1931, and losing a chimney in the Wahine Storm. He remembers Hataitai being mostly farm land with gravel roads during his youth, houses were few and far between, and he sees Wellington as a wonderful city.

Acknowledgement: Article by John Anthony in The Wellingtonian, 27 May, 2010.

Simon Woolf (1974-78), well-known Wellington photographer, did not set out to be fully involved in his father's photography business. Rather he had aspirations to be a professional footballer, but a serious knee injury ended that dream. While in plaster for eighteen months he began shooting sports photographs and then added some weddings. Since then he has been passionate about photography and when his father died in an air crash in 1987 he took over his business.

His enthusiasm for his work stems from a love not just of photography but also of people. His profession has given him opportunities to be part of people's most auspicious moments,

documenting their weddings, their children's progress, and visits from dignitaries and celebrated politicians, religious leaders and the occasional member of royalty. Simon's most recent assignment with a dignitary was to document Prince William's visit to New Zealand in January this year.

Acknowledgement: Article by Alexandra Johnson, Dominion Post, 13 March, 2010.

OLD BOYS' ACTIVITIES

ASSEMBLY AND LUNCH

Another successful annual Assembly and Lunch was held on 4th June at the college, with 35 in attendance. The group assembled in the library prior to taking a seat on the stage in the Assembly Hall. The Principal, Kevin Carter, welcomed the Old Boys and noted that Ernie Sellens, a foundation student (1928-30) was among the group on the stage. Following the pattern of previous years, an Old Boy addressed the assembly. On this occasion the speaker was John Lister, (1952-57) the Association's Patron. His address is printed below.

Following the assembly, lunch was served in the library and further opportunity was taken for fellowship. David Boyer welcomed the group, and introduced Hassan Roble, one of six athletes selected to represent New Zealand at the World Secondary School Cross Country Championships in Slovakia in July. Hassan's placing of 19th was a very creditable performance. The Old Boys' Association contributed \$1000 towards the costs involved. Hassan expressed his thanks and commented on his experience.

Prefects were on hand to assist at the lunch and to conduct college tours for those who wanted to see around their *alma mater*.

John Lister's Address.

It is indeed a pleasure to address you today as a past pupil and now Patron of the Old Boys' Association.

I could not have imagined 53 years ago when I left this wonderful college that one day I would be asked to return and address my school.

The college 50 years ago was a very different place than it is today. I believe the school roll was then about 700 and a schoolboy's life was seven days a week if you played school sport.

We had school cadets, put on a military uniform and marched around the grounds and even had the chance to fire a rifle – blanks of course. Sport was more important than school work as were the Wellington East Girls at dancing class and at the weekends.

No, I was not a bright scholar – two years in the 5th to get School Certificate. But being in the 1st XV, the school tennis team, cross country, physical education and and Drama Club were much more exciting than books, exams and the class room.

Yes, I did get the cane – 6 of the best from Alfie Lock the Headmaster. I threw a chair across the room but unfortunately it hit one of the teachers. He must have forgiven me as reading from the reference he gave me in 1957 it said, "I have pleasure in recommending John as a mature, sensible, willing and trustworthy boy whose qualities of personality and character have commanded my admiration and respect."

My seven years at Rongotai College were some of the best years of my life – some of my teachers became my best friends. Many of my school mates of the 50's are still good mates today – we have a strong Old Boys' Association in Auckland and around New Zealand.

When I look back over my working life of 50 years and list my achievements – I believe it was my school life, what I learned and how I

respected others that helped me achieve so many challenges. Several that I regard as successes include –

The 1990 Commonwealth Games, as a member of the Board and organiser of the Queen's Baton Run from Invercargill to Auckland, with 1,200 Kiwi runners who held the baton and played their part in the games.

Ten years running Watties' Industries world wide with responsibility for 80 countries resulting in my honour from Her Majesty the Queen.

Years representing New Zealand exporters, leading Trade Missions and advising Government on export matters and international joint ventures.

And the jewel in the crown for me, the last 15 years as Chief Executive Officer of the Spirit of Adventure Trust. 75,000 youth have sailed on the Spirit of New Zealand, a life changing experience and one I recommend to all of you should you get the chance.

One would have never considered that a little old Rongotai College school boy from Wellington would one day be an Auckland City Councillor telling Aucklanders what to do and being a part of running New Zealand's biggest city with portfolios including Deputy Chair of the Transport Committee, Councillor responsible for Civil Defence and Emergency management and Auckland City Events.

I wish to leave you today with four thoughts – 4 things that helped me make my life a success.

Enjoy your days at this great college.

Honour and listen to your teachers.

Respect your parents

And most of all have ATTITUDE – the right attitude can make your dreams come true.

Thank you all and Good Luck.

ATTENDEES – ASSEMBLY LUNCH

Ian Austin (1947-52); **Ian Barr** (1938-43); **Charles Blades** (1950-56); **David Boyer** (1949-52); **Don Bray**(1947-52); **Colin Carr**(1958-62); **John Christie** (1942-48); **Bruce Cockburn** (1965-92); **Jim Cornish** (1941-46); **Adam Coxon** (1974-81); **David Dentice** (1941- 44); **Trevor Fitz-George** (1952-56); **Ken Fraser** 1946-52); **Ian Kirker**(1954-56); **Doug Law** (1948-52); **John Lister** (1952-57); **Alexander Malahoff** (1951-56); **John Mansford** (1972-75); **Rex Mansford** (1934- 39); **John Martin** (1947-52); **Fred McCausland** (1942-47); **Shirley McLaughlin** (1978-2001); **Jack Moir** (1942-48); **Penwill Moore** (1932-37); **Selwyn Moore** (1937-42); **Don Neely** (1947-53); **Ian Newton** (1945-49); **Bob O'Brien** (1947-51); **Ken Orman** (1934-39); **John Parkin** (1934-39); **Alastair Roger** (1957-62); **Ivory Sanders** (1936-41); **Ernie Sellens** (1928-30); **John Weston** (1941-45); **Allan Young** (1936-42).

FROM THE ARCHIVES

FOOTBALL AT RONGOTAI

1948 TO 2010

Football World Cup 2010, with Old Boy Chris Killen a member of the All White's squad, is the catalyst for tracing the development of Football at the college and to highlight the contributions Old Boys have made at international level.

In the period from 1928 until after the Second World War there was a limited range of sports on offer for boys in both the Upper School (Forms 3 to 6) and the Lower School (Forms 1 and 2). In winter the compulsory sports on offer in the Upper School were rugby and cross country running, while in summer cricket was the principal activity, with tennis offered to a limited number. Voluntary sports available outside scheduled school hours were boxing, swimming and athletics, except for a Swimming Sports day and Athletics day held in school time. In 1935-36 Life Saving tuition was introduced with the Maranui Life Saving Club providing

tuition for students wanting to qualify for Royal Life Saving Society Bronze Medallions.

In the Lower School, hockey was introduced in 1937 for those boys, who, for various reasons, were not able to play rugby. Football was introduced in 1945, but restricted to Form 2 boys. .

Despite its location in the Eastern Suburbs where three football clubs flourished, Rongotai resisted attempts and pressure to introduce the code, with the then Principal, F. Martyn Renner, strongly opposed to its introduction. In 1948 this policy changed under the new Principal, H.A. Heron, and football was officially sanctioned.

In *Rongotai, Sound of the Sea - a history of Rongotai College 1928-2003* John Martin wrote: *“In 1948 two teams were entered in the Secondary Schools’ division of the Wellington Football Association competitions. Although some boys such as Trevor Rigby (who was to captain the side the following year) were not able to play for the school because of an age bar, the standard was high.”* Both teams were very successful with the Second XI winning all its matches thereby winning the B-grade competition, while the 1st XI was placed second in the A grade. Alex Meicklejohn, Ted Fox and Doug Youl were selected in the first Wellington Secondary Schools XI and several players represented Wellington in the Fifth Grade.

Interest in football remained high in 1949, but as only one coach was available only two teams were entered. It was the most successful winter sport that year. The 1st XI played in the Junior First Division, losing only one game and winning the grade by six points. The Second XI lost only one game and were runners up in their grade. Ten boys were selected for three Secondary School Representative teams with R.C Fox, Alex Meicklejohn, Trevor Rigby (capt), C.R. Rimmer and C. C Stewart selected for the Open Grade. For the first time the First XI team played a college from another centre,

namely Palmerston North Boys’ High School and won 6-0. This became an annual fixture.

In 1950 Football was again the most successful winter sport. The three teams entered in the secondary schools’ competition played 31 games and lost only one. The First XI played 13 matches and scored 97 goals with only 10 against. (E.C. Fox scored 31 goals and Bob O’Brien 26). In all, sixteen boys were selected in three Wellington Secondary Schools’ Representative teams, with J.C. Martin, R.W. Wotherspoon, C.C Stewart, M. Johnson, D.A. Youl and E.C. Fox in the Senior team. Rongotai won the game versus Palmerston North Boys High School 9-1

FOOTBALL IN THE 1950s

During this decade Football was affected by two influences, namely the small number of coaches available and the number of students playing for outside clubs. Six teams were fielded in 1952 and 1953, but this reduced to four teams for the rest of the decade.

John Martin wrote: *“Ronnie Kearns, the complete footballer, captained the First XI from 1954 to 1956. He and Rodney Reid, a clever footballer, were the centre of very successful teams over these years and were both to go on to represent New Zealand. Others to stand out were Bill Arcus at centre forward, Marcus Ulyatt on the wing, Brian Hudson at full back, and goalkeeper Barrie Bolt. Highlights were the choice of the 1955 side to play the curtain raiser before the Chatham Cup final at the Basin Reserve - unfortunately rained off - and the 1956 game against Palmerston North with Reid scoring six goals and Kearns five - but the final score unrecorded in Te Rama. G.G. Robinson and Bob O’Brien were the coaches during these years.*

“Two future New Zealand players – Graham Bilby and goalkeeper Peter Whiting - appeared in the First XI in 1957. 1958 (captained by Bill Tate) was a most successful season for soccer at

Rongotai. It is most unlikely that Rongotai has ever had a more successful team than this year's First XI, which throughout a most strenuous season remained unbeaten in 22 games played."

FOOTBALL IN THE 1960s

In his comments on the 1960s John Martin wrote: *"Rongotai soccer teams continued to be so dominant in local competition that there was a wry regret that stiffer challenges were not available. And there were still more boys wanting to play than masters available for coaching. In 1960 the First XI, with Ian Redward as captain, lost only one out of 18 games; Nelson College and Wairarapa were defeated and the Palmerston North match was drawn. Next year Rongotai played Mt Albert (lost 0-1) as the curtain raiser to the second test between England and New Zealand in Auckland, while maintaining an unbeaten record in the local competition. In 1962 strong teamwork was the foundation for a most successful year for the First XI undefeated in school and annual games."*

In 1961 only three teams were fielded but in subsequent years the number of teams increased reaching 7 teams by 1969. This was no doubt mainly due to a decrease in the number of boys permitted to play for outside clubs.

John Martin wrote: *"1963 was an outstanding year for the first XI – all games were won, and 136 goals were scored, with Arvis Brikmanis recording an astonishing 74. Stuart Smith was captain and Bob O'Brien in his last year as coach encouraged a new system of positional play copied from the European and South American teams. 1964 was equally successful with the First XI winning the schools championship and the Second XI runners-up – indeed Rongotai had not lost a local championship game since 1960, a record maintained in 1965 and 1966. Smith was again captain in 1964 – representing Wellington in the U18 grade. Dave Farrington (later prominent in Miramar Rangers and Wellington soccer) was*

vice-captain. After a blip (with a young side) in 1967, coming second equal in the schools' championship, Rongotai was back on top in 1968. The First XI, now coached by Ken Simpson, unbeaten in all games. There was a slight decline in 1969 – one championship game was lost and Rongotai was runner-up in the New Zealand Invitation Schools' tournament held in Wellington. Paul Cameron, the College captain (and later to play soccer for New Zealand) and centre-half, was chosen as captain of the tournament selection. Ian Robertson (goalkeeper), Ross Powell (left-half) and Donald Paterson (full-back) were also selected.

FOOTBALL IN THE 1970s

Despite a roll of 868 in 1970, a lack of coaches meant only four teams were entered in the competitions, and there were only 5 teams in 1971. By 1977 the roll had risen to 1085, with 12 teams in the competitions and 50 boys released to play for club teams. In 1978 there was a policy change from the Wellington Football Association which allowed boys to play for clubs and not allowing a college first pick. In that year only six teams played in the college competitions. However in 1979 with a roll of 1068, 15 teams were entered in the college competitions

In 1970 and 1971 the college First XI was the runner-up in the Junior 1st Grade competition. John Martin wrote: *"But by 1972 Rongotai was back on top – the First XI was unbeaten in championship and annual games. Captain Howard Wedekind's steady control of play inspired the team to greater heights and the ubiquitous Bruce Edgar and Hugh Buchanan formed an effective double forward duo. This was a strong all-round team and five were selected for the Wellington Junior First representative team. The Junior First championship was retained in 1973; all annual matches except for the PNBHS game were won – Nelson College suffered their first loss in 53 games and Rongotai were the winners of the North Island Secondary Schools' tournament*

played at Gisborne. Among other representative honours, Keith Brodie, Peter Rowe, Bruce Edgar, Ian Smith and Costa Leonidis were chosen for the North Island.

“1974 proved to be the most successful for Rongotai’s First XI. Rongotai proved itself to be not only the best in Wellington but also the best in New Zealand. The Junior First title was retained, all games being won. And at the National Secondary Schools Tournament in Auckland, Rongotai, although going down (2-3) against Auckland Grammar in the first game never lost again, beating Rotorua BHS (1-0) in the final. Over the season thirty games were won and only two lost. The leading goal scorers were Edgar (captain) 37 and Rowe 28.

“Rongotai (captained by Peter Rowe) were in 1975 again winners of the New Zealand Secondary Schools’ Tournament. Over the season the team played 31 games and lost only one - in the semi-final of the Junior National Cup, having won the Wellington Championship. The 1976 side met the stronger competition some of its predecessors had sought. Nonetheless they won the Cable Price Toyota Cup for local competition and were runner-up to Auckland Grammar in the National Tournament.”

Additional note: That year two boys were selected for the New Zealand Secondary School Tournament XI and Wynton Rufer, along with nine other Rongotai boys, was selected in the Wellington Under 14 representative team.

“The team of 1977, captained by David Beder, again registered notable success, winning the local Premier Youth grade and the National Secondary Schools’ Championship. The U16 Regional team also won its League competition. Such was the strength of soccer at the school that twelve teams involving 220 boys were entered in the Wellington competition – another 50 boys were released to play for clubs.”

Additional note: Wynton Rufer was a member of the Under 16 League team and played in the First XI during the National Secondary Schools’ competition.

“1978 witnessed temporarily a major change of direction for Wellington school soccer. Previously colleges had first preference over clubs for players; that was no longer to be the case and the immediate result was that instead of twelve teams Rongotai fielded only six. Nonetheless, a very young First XI captained by Simon Woolf and including Billy Harris (later to play for New Zealand, and now a writer about the sport) and Wynton Rufer lost only two games, finishing runners-up in the Cable Price Toyota competition. The situation was reversed in the following year, with the school again asserting priority; the numbers playing school soccer rose dramatically with Rongotai entering 15 teams in the WFA competitions. The First XI added more laurels to the school’s illustrious record winning the New Zealand Secondary Schools’ Knockout Cup at Auckland, beating Auckland Grammar in the final. Billy Harris scored 14 goals in the tournament.”

FOOTBALL IN THE 1980s

During this period there was continuing tension between the college and clubs over which had priority for players at the college. Although the college asserted its priority, a shortage of coaches and parents to manage teams created other problems. In 1989 four age groups were catered for by the National Mutual Miramar club and were known as Miramar/Rongotai teams. Ken Simpson was coach of the First XI from 1968-78 and its manager in 1979.

John Martin wrote: *“Wynton Rufer captained another successful soccer First XI in 1980. They went through the Cable Price Toyota Premier Youth grade unbeaten, but after some “gutsy” performances in the early games lost a penalty shoot-out to Rosmini College in the semi-final of the NZSS tournament played at Waitakere College. A number of the team achieved*

representative honours but Rufer's extraordinary ability was reflected in his selection for a New Zealand team chosen to tour Malaysia, the New Zealand Under 19 team and the Central Region's Senior Representative team. 1981 did not reach the same heights, the First XI finishing a point behind Wellington College in the Premier Youth grade and losing both annual matches. Nigel Simpson was a consistent scorer with 30 goals.

"1982 was the year of All Whites World Cup glory, in which Rufer shared and Rongotai's sixteen teams reflected the popularity of the code. The First XI's record was up with the best Rongotai teams of the past. They won the U18 Premier grade and the Wellington U19 Shoot out competition and were runners-up at the National Secondary Schools' tournament at Christchurch. David Fagaloa, Glenn Davis, Nigel Simpson and Ross MacDonald were selected for the New Zealand Secondary Schools' team. A young team retained the Premier title against the odds in 1983. The following year Rongotai were runners-up losing to the eventual winners, Wellington College (2-3).

"Despite the arduous and sometimes underhand tactics of some individuals to persuade boys to play for clubs, soccer continued to be a very strong Rongotai sport. Thirteen teams were fielded in 1985. The First XI with the outstanding performance from Lawrence Malofie (captain) won the Premier Youth Grade again, beating Wellington College 2-1 in the first annual match for the Paul Cameron Cup. Tournament results however were disappointing. In the following year Rongotai's national standing lifted from eighteenth to fourth and the XI was fourth in the Premier grade. Malofie and Paul Kotrotsos were selected for the New Zealand secondary schools' team. The First XI had a very mediocre season in 1987, but peaked at the right time and won the August tournament. Michael Utting (later to be the All Whites goalkeeper and a well-performed

professional player here and overseas), Nat Parbhu and Richard Manhart were selected for the tournament team. The fact that twenty boys represented Wellington was evidence of the strength of soccer throughout the school. The 1988 XI won the tournament at Auckland and also the Wellington Premier grade, both titles again defended in 1989."

FOOTBALL IN THE 1990s

In this decade football at the college slipped from the successes attained in the previous decade. With only five or six teams entered in the competition, there was considerable concern about the depth of football at the college compared with a few years prior. The claims of the college and the claims of clubs remained an issue as did the availability of coaches. Reorganisation of football under the auspices of a club was introduced early in this period.

John Martin wrote: *"The 1990 First XI was a creditable third in the Premier Youth competition and fourth in the National Championships, losing a penalty shoot-out in the semi-final. The annual matches against Palmerston North and Nelson were won, and the Auckland Grammar match was drawn. Paul Bagshaw was selected for the National Youth team (U 19) and was unavailable for the national tournament. 1991 was a year of some great heights and some grave cause for concern. The concern was about the lack of real depth in soccer at Rongotai in contrast to the position only a few years before. Only six teams were entered in competitions and the perennial problem of the influence of clubs was reflected in the lower numbers playing. The high point was the achievement of the First XI (coached by Imre Kiss, former Hungarian and New Zealand international) in reaching the last 32 in the Chatham Cup, losing 0-5 to Synfuel at New Plymouth after holding the National League team to a scoreless draw at half-time. In the Premier Youth Grade Rongotai finished second equal. Chris Osborne was selected for the*

tournament team at the “Pony Nationals” held in Auckland.

“In 1992 the College accepted that without sufficient coaching capacity it was difficult to insist on boys playing for the school rather than clubs. The consequence was that about twenty boys played for clubs and Rongotai fielded only five teams. With coaching assisted by Old Boy Gary Minshull, the First XI finished third in the Premier Youth Grade. Both annual games were drawn (1-1) – the Wynton Rufer Cup presented at the game was shared with Auckland Grammar. The XI was outfitted in a new strip funded by donations from Old Boys and local firms.

“In 1993, on Trevor Rigby’s initiative, the College adopted the cricket model and organised the sport under the auspices of a club, the Rongotai Soccer Club, with Wynton Rufer as Patron. Although the First XI were runners-up in the Premier Youth grade they finished only twelfth at the nationals, and both annual games were lost. The very successful National Tournament was held in Wellington jointly organised by Rongotai and Silverstream. The 1994 XI finished fifteenth at the Nationals with Raf de Gregorio, later to be an All White, standing out, scoring six goals in seven games. Next year Rongotai struggled in the first half of the season and finished in the middle of the local competition table; for the first time for many years Rongotai did not attend an August tournament. De Gregorio, who held a place in the Super Club side, and Dion Adams were released to play for Miramar Rangers and were available to the school side only in mid-week games. Chris Killen, later the New Zealand striker, came into the side as a third former.

“In 1999 Rongotai returned to the Nationals at Palmerston North finishing twenty-first. Jamie Farrington (captain) and Sivaly Kadeth were the goal scorers with fifteen and sixteen respectively.”

FOOTBALL FROM 2000 TO 2010

During this period reports in *Te Rama* indicated that the number of teams in the competition varied, with two teams mentioned in 2008 and 2009, while five teams were mentioned in 2007. Teams achieved creditable results for much of the decade, especially in 2005, but for the two years 2007 and 2008 the senior team did not play in the Premier division.

John Martin wrote: *“The soccer XI moved up to fourteenth in 2000. Jamie Farrington was selected in the New Zealand Secondary Schools’ team. In 2003 both the First and Second XIs competed in the Premier Grade”.*

The 2003 First XI, coached by B. Eager, successfully defended the Wynton Rufer Trophy for seven weeks, losing it to Tawa, but reclaiming it at their next meeting. The team made the grade final but missed claiming the title on goal difference. The Sixteenth Grade team lost only one game and won that grade.

The First XI of 2004, coached by B. Eager, was a largely new squad and was in the top three for most of the season. Fayasal Muketar finished second highest goal scorer in the Premier League. In the Jim Wishart Secondary Schools’ Tournament the team finished eighth out of twenty-four teams. Michael Eager played for Miramar Rangers when it won the Chatham Cup by defeating Waitakere City Senior Men’s team. He also played in the Mario Vespagnami tournament in Italy and in the United Premier Cup in Malaysia.

Eleven of the 2004 First XI were in the 2005 First XI squad. It defeated Silverstream for the first time in five years and Wellington College for the first time since 1998. Although the team played in the Secondary Schools end of season tournament, the *Te Rama* does not give the team’s placing. The Second XI won the Wellington Region Division 2 Championship.

After a promising start the First XI faded in its efforts to win the league in 2006, but it retained the trophy it gained from Silverstream in the

previous year. Michael Eager headed overseas at the end of the season for some trials.

Five teams were fielded in 2007, with the First XI dropping down to the Youth One Division for most of the season. It was second in that competition and won the final against Upper Hutt. It went on to win the Challenge Trophy and the Winter Tournament.

An important event in 2008 was the establishment of the Rongotai Football Club Academy which operated every Tuesday and Thursday after school. The First XI played in the 1st Division and was unbeaten until the loss to Onslow in the final. It won the Knock Out competition for the second year and in the Malcolm Cowie Tournament was placed third. The Second XI won the Annual Kapiti Tournament and was winner of Youth Division Two.

Rongotai had not been in the Premier Division for two seasons but in 2009 qualified to do so when it was third in a series of grading matches. It finished the season in fourth place. It qualified for the National Tournament but missed the play-off stage. The Second XI played in Youth Division Three, losing the final to Kapiti.

In 2010 the First XI competed in the Chatham Cup competition after qualifying with wins against men's teams. In the first two rounds the team had wins against more senior players. Unfortunately the team lost their third round match against the Marist Senior team. A highlight in June was the launch by Wynton Rufer of a Wynrs Coaching Academy to develop the techniques of younger players.

In the period covered by this article, the top college Football teams performed very well indeed in the appropriate grades of the secondary school football competitions. Their efforts are even more meritorious when it is realised that the number of boys involved and the number of teams formed has been affected

over the years by the number of teaching staff prepared to coach, and by the demands of conflicting loyalties to outside clubs and to the college.

Another measure of the college's contribution to football is the number of Old Boys who have represented New Zealand in international football matches. With a total of thirteen such people it is likely that few other secondary schools can match, or better, that figure.

New Zealand Representatives.

Charles Mackie (1929- 33); **Ronnie Kearns** (1952-56); **Rodney Reid** (1952-56); **Graham Bilby** (1953-58); **Peter Whiting** (1953-55); **Paul Cameron** (1963-69); **Keith Brodie** (1972-76); **Billy Harris** (1973-79); **Shane Rufer** (1973-75); **Wynton Rufer** (1976-81); **Michael Utting** (1986-87); **Raf de Gregorio** (1991-95); **Chris Killen** (1995-98).

Old Boys involved at club level as players or coaches and or administrators.

Ken Yeoman (1928-29), **Rob Cocks** (1929-33), and **Len Willing** (1930-36) all played for Seatoun Club and Wellington. **Charlie Yeoman** (1930-33) captained the Seatoun team and played for Wellington for a number of years. He also played for the North Island in 1946.

Doug Alexander (1931-34), **Ralph Jenkins** (1938-39), **Bill Marr** (1933-37) and **Glyn Tucker** (1933-39) all played for the Diamond Football Club in the post-war years.

Toby Janes (1937-39) captained Waterside in their Chatham Cup victory in 1947 and scored the winning goal in extra time.

Wayne Nichols (1969-71) coached Rongotai First XI 1992-93. and was also a player and team manager; **Gary Minshull** (1982-84) played in the National League and was assistant coach of college First XI in 1992. **Matt Calcott** (1987-88) coached a combined Seatoun-Rongotai College under 15 team in 1993-94.

Trevor Rigby (1943-49), player, referee, coach, administrator at club level, and at Wellington Football Association level chairman of the executive. He is a Life Member of the WFA and the NZFA.

David Farrington (1960-64), player and coach and administrator at club, WFA and Central League.

Bob O'Brien (1947-51), a player until 1998, teacher at Rongotai, coached Rongotai teams, held administration posts at club and association levels with two periods as President of the WFA.

The college has been a force in secondary school football since 1948 and can be proud of its many successes.

Acknowledgements: Rongotai, Sound of the Sea, A History of Rongotai College 1928-2003, by John Martin (1947-52); material supplied by Bob O'Brien (1947-51) ; Te Rama the official college magazine..

GIFTS OF MEMORABILIA

J.A.Parfitt (1929-32)

The committee recently received a collection of memorabilia from the estate of J.A. (Jack) Parfitt (1929-32). Jack died in 2001, and his wife Marie, earlier this year. The items included a First XV cap, photo and and honours pocket (1932) sports medals, and a certificate awarded to Jack for First in Woodwork, Form 3A 1931. Also included were copies of early *Te Ramas* and photographs of Jack's war service in Fiji. We are grateful to Mrs Maureen Williams, a friend of the Parfitt family, for passing the material on to the college.

Jack Parfitt was a prominent member of the 1932 First XV, playing as half back inside well-remembered Rongotai identity, Oscar Wrigley. *Te Rama 1932* describes him as "*The pluckiest half the school has had. Strong in defence. As an attacking half will improve with more direction in his passes. Always a keen player and was a*

great asset to his side". In the account of the Stratford match, won by Rongotai (8-6) Parfitt is described as "*undoubtedly the best player on the field. He was in everything, was absolutely tireless and flinched at nothing. His departure will be a distinct loss to Rongotai Rugby*".

Jack Parfitt played rugby for Miramar and worked in the jewellery business. His family home in Calabar Road was required for the airport and his later life was spent in Newtown. He attended the 1971 and 1988 reunions.

Brian Binning (1948-54)

We were pleased to receive the blazer pocket belonging to Brian Binning who was captain of the First XV in 1953. It was forwarded on to us by David Binning at the request of his brother Brian.

COLLEGE NEWS

NCEA: In a Term 2 Principal's Newsletter, Mr Carter stated that there had been an improvement in the students' performance over the last four years, 2006 -2009, with the most notable improvement for Year 12 students working at Level 2. At all levels, the students are working close to or above the level of the benchmark for the school. Another very pleasing aspect of the NCEA results was the number of students gaining Excellence endorsements, which has also significantly improved.

Rongotai offers more Achievement Standards and fewer Unit Standards than most schools of a similar decile and type because it believes this gives the students the academic challenge each needs to achieve to his potential. There can be a temptation with NCEA to construct courses made of a high number of Unit Standards which may be easier to pass, because this makes the school's results look good. Rongotai has not been tempted to do this.

NCEA is not a simple pass/fail situation. Students accumulate credits over time until they

have enough to receive a qualification. All students at Year 11 study English, Mathematics and Science because this provides a broad base to give the students options for the future. Some students need to work more slowly to receive a good grounding and do not pass Level 1 in Year 11. For instance, 21.5% of the year 12 students gained NCEA Level 1 in 2008. That meant most of the Year 12 students gained a qualification in 2009, and all of the Year 13 leavers last year left with at least the NCEA level 1 and Level 2 qualifications.

BUILDING ALTERATIONS: Alterations to the Administration area, as explained in the *March, 2010 Chariot*, are now completed. A feature of the new reception desk area is the large built-in Rongotai Crest. The carpet leading to the reception desk also features the Rongotai crest.

RECENT STUDENT SUCCESSES

Luke Bryant gained selection in the New Zealand Under18 Boys' Underwater Hockey Team.

Hassan Roble was 19th in the ISF World Secondary Schools Cross Country Championship held earlier this year in Slovakia. Recently he won the Regional Secondary Schools' Cross Country Open. Despite falling at the first jump he finished in first place in a very strong field of runners. He led by 40 metres for most of the race.

Barkhad Mohammed finished fourth in the Intermediate race at the Regional event.

The Intermediate team of **Barkhad Mohammed, Ciaran Ryan and Andy Hodren** finished in 4th place at the same regional competition, and the six man team with **Shane Drage, Ivan Wilby and Joseph Wesney** included also gained 4th place

Jerome Raemaki was selected in the Junior Boys' Development Softball team to participate in a tournament in Sydney in July.

The **First XV** won 19-15 against St Pat's Silverstream in June and against Scots College also in June. The win over Scots returned the Mick Williment trophy to Rongotai.

Jed Harland, Sean Ford, Kel Quin and Finn O'Brien are part of a New Zealand under 19 Handball team competing in Sweden and Denmark against teams from India, Egypt, Scotland, Zimbabwe, Spain and Brazil.

Jonathan Woods is keen on orienteering as a sport. He has finished first in one race and second in another as part of the College Sport Wellington series.

Simon Cross has been selected as a saxophonist in the New Zealand Youth Jazz Orchestra. This is quite an honour as only two tenor saxophone players are taken from across the country.

CONTRIBUTIONS

The *Chariot* is published twice a year, in March and in August. Contributions are invited and should be addressed to The *Chariot* Editor, P.O. Box 14-063, Wellington 6241.

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