



The Chariot

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RONGOTAI COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

Chariot March 2011

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

At 8 a.m. on Boxing Day I received a phone-call from Radio N.Z. News informing me that the Rongotai College Gym building had burnt to the ground over-night. The fire had started at about 1 a.m. and the building was completely destroyed.

I am thankful that arson has not been suspected and a possible cause of the fire was a Christmas Night fireworks display nearby. The loss of the building was only part of the loss to the college as there was also up to \$500,000 worth of gym equipment involved.

We were fortunate that as this building was adjacent to the swimming baths and situated some distance from the main college complex, there was no damage to any other college buildings.

The Gymnasium was opened in March 1969. It was built with money allocated from Education Department funds and fundraising by students and parents. It was extended several times, with one of the extensions built by carpentry students and designed by student Achilles Botes (whose son currently attends the college). The main part of the Gymnasium had, however, remained little changed since its opening.

Recently the school had decided to allocate money from its Ministry of Education funding to upgrade the Gymnasium, and the Board and a new Trust entitled "The Rongotai College Foundation for the Future" (see separate item in this Chariot) were working on fund-raising to enable another extension. At a recent Auction

Dinner the new foundation raised \$37,000 toward this project.

It may well be that this disaster will in the long run prove to be an opportunity for the college.

Instead of the remodelled old gymnasium planned, a new larger gymnasium will be able to be built. This will be a large undertaking and one that the Old Boys' Association could materially assist the college, as we did with the Arts Centre.

To this end your Association has donated \$2,000 from our funds to the Rongotai College Foundation for the Future towards the building of the new gymnasium.

David Boyer (1949-52), Chairman.

RONGOTAI COLLEGE GYM FUNDRAISING ACCOUNT

Message From Ross Findlay, Sports Director

Greetings to all Old Boys,

Since the fire on the 26th December that burnt our gym to the ground the response from Old Boys has been gratifying. Many have expressed shock and disappointment and also a desire to help.



We have opened an account at the ASB for those of you who wish to give a donation to help rebuild our gym. All monies received will help to make our new gym special. You can use internet banking or forward your donation to the college at P.O. Box 14-063, Kilbirnie, Wellington 6041.

The account number is ASB 12- 3141-0383117- 00.

If you require a receipt for your donation then please contact Ross Findlay Sports Director, email ross.findlay@rongotai.school.nz

The Principal reported that Wellington College students have made a donation to the gym fund. Their contribution is a fine gesture and much appreciated.

REFLECTIONS ON THE LOSS OF THE GYMNASIUM FROM SID TURNBULL.



Tears welled up in my eyes at the early morning TV news detailing the total destruction by fire of the college gymnasium and I am sure there would have been a similar reaction from Jack McManus, if he was still with us.

Before starting to write down my thoughts, I re-read my copy of John Martin's *Rongotai--Sound of the Sea* and gained a better understanding of why the college had been so poorly treated with sports facilities during my years as a pupil. We did our P.T. in an old army hut on the north side of the swimming pool, opened in 1956 following

years of fund raising. The building was called the M.T (Military Training), but would have been more aptly named the Empty Building. As I recall, its facilities included little more than a few medicine balls, wall bars, a horizontal ladder, a few gym mats and a tattered old rope hanging down from the rafters.

The Spartan facilities, as outlined in John Martin's book, revolved around issues such as the college's location in relation to the Wellington Airport and Miramar Golf Club and many other issues that the bureaucrats love to feast on.

As a young teacher of Physical Education at the college in 1964, I often questioned why my subject was so poorly resourced. During my teacher training I had been introduced to a number of indoor sports which I knew would have tremendous appeal to our students, and our later successes in Volleyball, Basketball and Badminton certainly endorsed these feelings. However, it was probably our first McEvedy Shield success at Athletic Park in 1966 that signalled change.

That wonderful result was a real tonic for the college and the enthusiasm it generated in the students quickly moved to their parents and the teaching staff. A gymnasium had been promised but it required financial input from the community as well as the college. Saturday morning "bottle drives" canvassing the Eastern Suburbs and Island Bay were held with a tremendous amount of parent help. Dunbar Sloan ran an auction of donated household goods. The Old Boys' Association gave some of its Renner Appeal Funds. At last, the gymnasium was built and opened in March 1969.

The gymnasium was designed with spectator facilities, so lunchtime inter-house and inter-form competitions were an important part of the Physical Education programme.

Through the 70's and 80's facilities such as enlarged storerooms, a weight lifting room and a Mondo Athletics track were added, as students and staff participated in FUN and FUNDRAISING activities such as the 100 miler, Badmintonathons and many other sportathon events. The Physical Education notes in the *Te Rama 1980* mentions \$8,000.00 being raised in the previous year.

Should these thoughts of mine be published in *The Chariot*, I will be reflecting the feelings and sadness of many Old Boys, former staff and parents and friends of the college. I concede that to many the destruction of a college gymnasium is just an ordinary piece of our daily TV news, but this facility made a huge contribution to the moulding of young people's lives and it gave the teaching staff immense satisfaction to be part of that development.

Acknowledgement: Letter from Sid Turnbull, former student and staff member.

OBITUARIES

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

Keith Backhouse (1938-41) died 29 September, 2010.

John Couper (1967-71) was both an Old Boy and a staff member in the position of Executive Officer. John died on 6 December, 2010 at Wellington Hospital following a heart attack. *See Tributes.*

Roger Evison died 25 September, 2010. *See Tributes.*

Kurt Filiga (2004-2008) died 10 September, 2010. *See Tributes.*

William Vernon Gazley (1931-36) died 26 February, 2011 at home in Wellington. He was a prominent Wellington lawyer.

Colin Hicks (1953-56) died Greytown, 27 October, 2010. *See Tributes.*

Brian Hudson QSM (1949-55) died 28 July, 2010.

William James Hudson (1946-51) died 30 October, 2010 at Waipuna Hospice, Tauranga.

Noel Lynch was a staff member 1961-66.

Denis McHalick (1938-39). *See Tributes.*

C.Ross McIntosh (1949-53) died May, 2010.

Thelma Powell (1967-76), secretary to the principal, died 19 March, 2011.

Keith James Stockley Smith (1934-36) died 13 October, 2009.

Cresswell W Thirkell (1937-43) died 29 September, 2010.

Warwick White was a staff member from 1988-1990. He was a Physical Education and Outdoor Education Teacher. He was stabbed and killed in Budapest on 12 September, 2010, having competed in the World Triathlon Championships representing Ecuador, where he had lived for a period.

TRIBUTES

John Tilyard Couper: This tribute was given by the Principal, Kevin Carter, at John's funeral.



It is entirely appropriate that we conduct this memorial service to John Couper here in the Renner Hall at Rongotai College.

John Couper was our Executive Officer and was also the Secretary of our Board of Trustees.

John joined our staff in 2006, but his involvement and attachment with our school went much longer and was much deeper than being just an employee. John was a parent and the spouse of a long-serving Board member, and was himself an Old Boy who attended the college between 1967 and 1971.

From John's school record, I can tell you that he had an active and successful school life. John achieved well academically while at college. He sat School Certificate in 1969, passing 5 subjects with most of his marks over 70%, although I don't know if he ever talked to his sons about the 24% he got in French!

John was accredited University Entrance in 1970, and gained Higher School Certificate and University Bursary in 1971, before going on to University.

John was involved in many activities during his time at Rongotai, playing a range of sports at various times, such as cricket, rugby, table tennis, badminton and squash - which of course was a life-long passion of John's. He was also a member of Interact, the Camera Club and the Tramping Club, another activity that John remained passionate about after leaving school. John was a school prefect in 1971; you can see his name on the 1971 Prefects' Shield on the left hand side of the back wall of this hall as you leave this morning.

I thought that it would be appropriate at this stage to quote several passages from John's school testimonial, written by the Principal of the time, and to see if Mr Mackay's perception of the younger John Couper matches your own.

- "John is a diligent boy of sound intellect who could do well. He has the ability to

think constructively and he works with consistency to make satisfactory progress. His conduct record is very good."

- "He suffered an unlucky series of accidents and ill health in the fourth form which limited a promising sporting career." As an aside, I know that this comment particularly amused John, and his comment to me one day when we were in the Records Room was that it was news to him that he had a promising sports career!

Mr Mackay also noted that "John seems to have overcome these difficulties and he has now developed a good physique and manly bearing," and that "He is neat, clean and tidy in his work and personal habits".

- "He is a boy of sound character with qualities of strength in loyalty, reliability and sense of thoughtfulness for others."
- "He has sound moral integrity. His personality is mature and pleasant. He has a friendly, courteous manner with a cheerful attitude in adversity. He has respect for good order in society and he mixes well with people of all ages."
- "He has been a good school prefect. He is co-operative and loyal and he is widely regarded as a good influence in the school."
- "John is highly recommended as a young man with common sense and good potential qualities for success in professional life."

Mr Mackay also made some further observations in a reference to a University hall of residence, such as "his health was first class except that he breaks bones easily"... and further added that "he is a boy who mixes well".

I think you will agree from your own interactions with John that not much changed over the years.

As I mentioned earlier, John joined our staff in 2006, appointed largely due to his experience as an accountant in the not-for-profit sector with the Capital and Coast District Health Board. By the time he started here, all three of his sons were attending the school, and his wife was a member of the Board of Trustees – so John's appointment cemented the family affair with the school.

John was able to bring his health sector accounting experiences successfully into the school environment, and his legacy is a school which faces the future in excellent financial shape.

John also worked tirelessly on managing the school's property and building programme, and played a significant part in the development of the magnificent new reception area of the school. The project John was working on currently was to initiate the renovation of the hall we are meeting in today. As you enter our school library you will notice magnificent stained glass windows of the school crest, that were made by John – like his name on the 1971 Prefects' Shield, this will be another lasting monument to John in this school.

John was respected within our school, by staff and students (especially those whom which he had regular contact with, such as those in our Water Polo teams). He was respected by the staff at the large numbers of local businesses with whom he had dealings with on a regular basis, and throughout the close knit community of school Executive Officers in Wellington and around New Zealand – many of that group are here today. John was a member of the executive committee of their association, and at the time of his death, was leading the planning of their

national conference to be held here in Wellington in 2011.

We will all miss his straight talking, his sound common sense, his hard work, his dry sense of humour and also his determination to allow our teachers the resources they needed to do their job. I will miss the sensible financial advice he has given me, and his willingness to articulate his point of view. Marg, Andrew, Matthew and David – rest assured we will not forget John at his old school.

Colin Hicks. Colin was a senior probation officer when elected President of the PSA in 1983, and is widely remembered as the President who led PSA members through bitter clashes with the government in the 1980's. During this time there were major strikes, stinging criticism by the PSA of government policy and threats by the Muldoon government to de-register the union when it gave notice of industrial action by electricity workers. Throughout, Colin retained a reputation for being a calm, unassuming, measured and statesmanlike figure.

Although the threat passed, Colin was involved also as chairman of the Combined State Unions, in a constant battle with the government during the next five years. In 1988 he led more than 50,000 PSA members through an unprecedented 24 hour strike against the State Sector Bill which removed several privileges of public service. He stood down as PSA President in August 1988 and was recognised with life membership for his outstanding leadership skills.

He resumed his career in the Justice Department where he concentrated on crime prevention and was involved in setting up the initial Safer Community Councils.

In 1987 he became a board member of the PSIS and served on the board continuously until his death.

He began work on public sector ethics and became a recognised authority. On taking up a position at the State Services Commission, Colin became an adviser on ethical issues. In 1999 he co-authored *An Ethics Framework for the State Sector* which is recognised as one of the most important contributions to public service ethics in New Zealand.

Also in the 1990's he began a long association with Victoria University, and taught the post-graduate ethics course in the School of Government for many years. He was regarded as a superb teacher whose students gained a great deal from the course.

Acknowledgement: Article by Rebecca Palmer, Dominion Post, 6 November, 2010.

Roger Evison, who died in Wellington on 23 September 2010, was a member of the Rongotai College Board of Governors from 1973 to 1988, and chairman from 1983 to 1987. With his wife, notable actor Dame Pat Evison, Roger was a long-time supporter of the College.

Roger was born in Christchurch in 1920. After part-time study at Victoria University while a civil engineering cadet with the Wellington City Council, he served with both the Army and the Air Force during World War II, being discharged with the rank of Major. He gained valuable experience in the United Kingdom and returned to the City Council in 1949. After a period bridge building in the Hawkes Bay Roger joined Ian Macallan & Co, consulting engineers, and soon became lead engineer. Among the significant projects with which he was associated were the second ferry terminal at Picton and the cooling tower at the Broadlands geothermal field. Roger was a Fellow of the Institute of Professional Engineers (IPENZ).

During Roger's time as chair of the Rongotai Board a number of improvements were made to the grounds and facilities. It was a difficult

period when zoning changes were impacting adversely on the school roll. Roger took a close interest in the work being done by John Keating and Padianne Neely in establishing the school's historical archives and at a practical level was particularly helpful in providing assistance with such assignments as the placement in the foyer of the Ralph Wallace Edwards Memorial Bell.

Acknowledgement: John Martin.(1947-52)

Kurt Filiga pursued and achieved his goal to be a film maker before leukaemia ended his life after a ten month struggle with the disease. His fifteen minute film was initially planned as a story of him beating cancer, but *Kurt E. In My Blood*, became a record of his death.

His documentary won the inaugural *Ellen Monague Award* for best youth work, at an international film festival in Toronto.

Award winning director, Louis Sutherland, heaped praise on the film in a review in *The Dominion Post*. The documentary premiered in New Zealand in Auckland on 4 November, 2010, and in Wellington on 16 November, 2010.

Acknowledgement; Article by Michael Fox, Dominion Post, 25 October, 2010.

Denis McHalick.

A *Tribute* to Denis was published in *The Chariot*, March 2010. A further *Tribute* has been received from Syd Turnbull an Old Boy (1953-59) and a former teacher at the college (1964 - 81). This is as follows:

“I began my schooling at Rongotai College as an intermediate pupil and Denis was our art teacher. The year was 1953, and as was mentioned in *The Chariot*, he was an immediate hero because of his association with the University Rugby team. His great love of sport flowed over into the lives of his pupils and I

remember the enthusiasm he developed in our rugby team as we prepared for a very special annual fixture against Marlborough College.

He coached our cricket team and throughout the years was always the chief official on the High Jump on sports day. With teachers like Hamish Fletcher, Laurie Gardiner and Bob O'Brien around at the time, it was not surprising that we all played sport and really loved the experience of it.

My decision to follow a career in teaching, specialising in Physical Education, was strongly influenced by Denis McHalick, who made the job seem like a whole lot of fun.

Returning to Rongotai College as a staff member in 1964 was quite an exciting time for me because I was confident that I could just slot back into that cosy sports environment. This was not to be the case, of course, and I was soon back again leaning on blokes like Denis for advice on how to develop a sound teaching style.

The authoritarian types like Dick Burke and Laurie Gardiner, while respected by me, didn't really suit my temperament, and so as I wished to work in a friendly, relaxed but controlled environment, then any advice from Denis McHalick would be right for me.

To this day I cringe when I think of the day I punished ALL of my third form class because a couple of lads, wouldn't own up. Denis had plenty to say about that incident. He also had strong views about the role of the Form Teacher and of the class as a unit within the school. He suggested that a visit to one's form room before staff meeting in the morning was a good practice as it gave pupils an opportunity to engage with you outside of the more formal class lesson time. It was a practice I adopted and it certainly led to a friendly but respectful rapport with my classes.

One of the real features of our successful Physical Education programme through the

1970/80's was our inter-form competitions. A strong appreciation of the form, as a unit within the overall college, led to exciting and much anticipated events such as inter-form basketball and volleyball competitions, and of course the 100- miler, into which almost every class in the college entered, as well as the staff and prefects.

So much more could be said about a significant group of teachers who taught at Rongotai during the 1950/60's, the Guthries, O'Briens, Fletchers, Gardiners, to name a few. My reason for singling out Denis McHalick is because, as well as being an outstanding classroom teacher of Art and Mathematics, he gave endless hours of time and commitment to extra-curricular activities. For example, his 3A rugby teams were superbly coached and frequently provided the "launching pad" for a 1st XV player.

To those who knew him, I'm sure it was the way in which he taught, coached, communicated, mentored, that left a lasting impression.

To me he was the man with a "stern smile," if there is such a thing.

Signed by S D Turnbull.

OLD BOY ACTIVITIES

Foundation for the Future Launch, 14 October 2010.

The Rongotai College Foundation for the Future was launched to bring young "old boys" back to the school and to help raise funds for the redevelopment of the gym to create an all purpose Sports Centre. This is expected to cost more than \$1.4million. The inaugural event was a charity auction held at the Miramar Links Function Centre, which attracted 150 Old Boys and raised more than \$34,000.

The former pupils ranged in age from the youngest at 20, national rugby sevens hero Julian Savea, who was this year named 'IRB

Junior Player of the Year', through to some of the older sporting greats like former All Blacks Clive Currie and Graham Williams, as well as former Black Cap Bruce Edgar. Oceania's Football Player of the Century, Wynton Rufer, was present and donated one of his strips as an All White (capped 38 times) that was auctioned for \$1,600.

Current All Black and local Lions and Hurricane player, Ma'a Nonu, was there amongst many other national greats, including a number of Tall Blacks, All Whites (Rongotai has produced 13 All Whites), Black Caps and Commonwealth Games medalists.

Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft praised his old college and spoke of the importance of school and sport in focusing the minds of youth and keeping them out of his court. Trade Me founder Sam Morgan is another Rongotai Old Boy, as is the chairman of the Wellington Phoenix and property developer Terry Serepisos.

The MC for the event was TV3's 60 Minutes reporter Amanda Millar, with as auctioneer, TV3's Chief Political Reporter, Duncan Garner.

The Rongotai community owes a great deal to all those responsible for such a successful launch of the Foundation. Particular mention must be made of the initiative taken by Amanda Millar and Andy Scotland, the non-stop energy shown on the night by Amanda, Duncan Garner's persuasiveness and Debra Honeyman's behind the scenes support.

*Acknowledgement: John Martin (1947-52).
Editor's note: Due to the total loss of the gym by fire, the original plan to redevelop it is now on hold while decisions about re-building are made.*

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15 SEPTEMBER 2010.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

Patron	John Lister (1952-57)
Chairman:	David Boyer (1949-52)
Vice-Presidents	Graham Williams (1956-63) Duncan Garvie (1968-73) Andrew Collins (1978-82) Keith Smith (1935-36) Alistair Robb (1954-57) Roy Crowley (1951-56) Maurice Coates (1953-57)
Treasurer:	David Boyer (1949-52)
Secretary:	Shirley McLaughlin (1978-2001)
Committee:	Bruce Cockburn (1963-92) Matt Eagle (1976-80) Ben Irving (1999-2003) John Martin (1947-52) Selwyn Moore (1937-42) Colin Carr (1958-62) Peter Coates (1950-54)
Auditor:	Ian Kirker (1954-56)

Financial Statement:

A statement of Income and Expenditure was published in the August edition of *The Chariot*. Audit showed those figures to be correct. Copies of the full financial statements, together with Ian Kirker's Audit Statement are available on request to the Secretary.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO

THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

15 September 2010

The last year has been another very successful one for the college, and continues the pattern of growth and success that have characterised past years.

Roll

Our roll at 1 March was 672, which was up from 658 the previous year. This was a pleasing figure for our college with good numbers in the senior school. Enrolments to date for 2011 are encouraging.

Staffing

Staff to have left the college during the last year include Ms K Bateson, Mrs E Davies (to retirement), Mr D Fowler (on promotion to Waitakere College in Auckland), Ms A Madsen, Dr A Matsumoto and Mrs L Morris (on promotion to the Correspondence School). Mr H. Carr (Hospitality), Mr C Fahey (Business Studies) and Mr R Heap (Graphics and Technology) have joined the staff in 2010.

I am sure the college community will be saddened by the sudden and untimely death overseas of Mr Warwick White (staff member 1988-1990) in the last few days. Our thoughts go out to his family and friends.

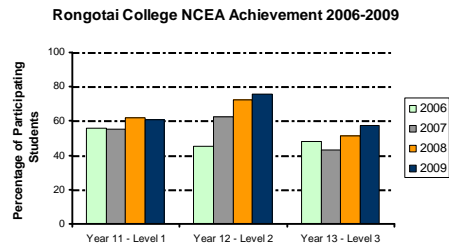
Academic Achievements

2009 showed some pleasing academic results for our students. In particular, we were pleased to see there were improvements in the percentage of students gaining:

- NCEA Level 3

- University Entrance
- NCEA Level 2
- NCEA Excellence endorsements

In these areas, our students are performing above or at our benchmarks



ERO Report

At the start of 2010 we received our confirmed ERO report, following our Term 4 2009 review. The full report is available on the college website. The review team's feedback to us was very positive and it was evident that the reviewers had been impressed by what they had witnessed in the college. Of particular interest were the following comments in the report:

- Strong, affirming relationships are evident.
- Analysis of a recent review of student well-being shows that they feel safe and supported.
- The principles of the non-violence policy permeate the culture of the college with students speaking of an encompassing feeling of 'brotherhood'.
- Pastoral care is given appropriate attention.
- The quality of teaching is generally sound with some high quality practice evident in many classes. Where teachers use effective differentiation strategies to meet the range of students' needs and challenge their thinking, students are authentically engaged in their learning and skill development.

- Literacy results indicate that most Years 9 and 10 students made good progress as a result of targeted programmes.
- Data from the National Certificates of Educational Achievement show a steady rise in student achievement at all three levels over the past three years.
- The Board of Trustees, management and staff have a clear understanding that self review is about improvement.
- Self review is informed by multiple voices that are actively sought and valued. Students', teachers', parents' and community input is gathered through a range of methods including surveys, data analysis, focus groups and quality assurance systems.
- A long-established partnership exists with the college's Maori community.
- Relationships between students and adults are positive, and students articulate that teachers have high expectations of them.
- Trustees are responsive to the aspirations of the Pacific community.
- Many Pacific students achieve as well as, or better than, their Pacific peers nationally in a range of assessments.
- The staff and students at the school embrace cross-cultural diversity.

Cultural Achievements

There have been several major cultural achievements of the year to date. A highlight has been the Polynesian Club performing in a most accomplished manner at the Tu Tangata Festival, again joined by our Kapa Haka group. Old boys Ben Makisi and Ben Lummis were the MCs for the evening which became a great showpiece for the college.

Our production this year was 'Cabaret Classics', which featured a number of musical, vocal and dance excerpts. It was an evening of polished performances produced by Ms Ami Tasker.

Sport

2010 has been another excellent year for sport in our college with a number of major achievements including:

- **Rugby** – 1st XV finished 3rd in Wellington; 4 of our 6 rugby teams made the semi-finals of the College Sport Wellington Rugby competition, with the 3rd XV winning their grade and the 2nd XV being runners-up.
- **Hockey** – 1st XI finished 4th in the College Sport Wellington competition, 5th at the Mayhill Cup Tournament.
- **Football** – 1st XI finished 5th in the College Sport Wellington competition and 24th in New Zealand; 15th Grade were Premier League champions; establishment of Rongotai College Football Academy in conjunction with Wynton Rufer.
- **Badminton** – Senior team finished 13th in New Zealand; Rongotai won 4 College Sport Wellington grades; Daniel Hakes and Jamie Young won the College Sport Wellington Senior Doubles Championship.
- **Athletics and Cross Country** – Rongotai College athletes competed at the Wellington Regional Athletics Championships at Newtown Park, with Chantra Khoun finishing 1st in Senior Long Jump and Hassan Roble was 3rd in Senior 3000m. Hassan also won the Regional Secondary Schools' Cross Country Open race.
- **Kwame Williams-Accra** – has been selected as a sprinter in the New Zealand Special Olympics team to compete at the World Championships in Athens in 2011.
- **Jerome Raemaki** – was selected in the New Zealand Under 19 Softball team and also the Black Sox (New Zealand Senior Men) training squad.

- **Luke Bryant** – was selected in the New Zealand Underwater Hockey representative team.
- **Hassan Roble** – was selected in the New Zealand Cross-Country representative team; Hassan also won the College Sport Wellington Road Race.
- **Sean Ford, Jed Harland, Finn O'Brien and Kel Quinn** – were selected in the New Zealand Under 19 Handball team.
- **Ardie Savea** (1st XV Captain) was selected for the New Zealand Under 17 Rugby Development Squad and also the Hurricanes Secondary Schools' team.

Grounds and Buildings

The major item this year has been the complete refurbishment of our school administration area. I am sure you will agree that the school entrance, offices and reception area have enhanced the image of the school, and are proving to be a warm and welcoming entrance to the school.



The next areas of the school scheduled for redevelopment include the Renner Hall and Gymnasium.

Board of Trustees

There have been major changes in the Board of Trustees this year. The new Board is Lynn McBain (Chairperson), David Smith (Deputy

Chairperson), Fa'alogo Va'ai, Toa Winters (an Old Boy) and Mike Heriot. The student representative has been Tane Johnson, and Keith Ferrel remains as the staff representative. Despite these changes, the new Board has carried on with the very effective governance of our school shown by the previous Board.

Kevin Carter

Principal

NEWS ABOUT OLD BOYS:

Costa Botes (1972-77) film maker, documented his visit to a Nepalese blues festival in 2009, and the result of the visit is a music documentary in DVD form called *Kathmandu Blues*, which combines his interest in music and Nepal.

He found that the Nepalese fans of blues music are predominantly younger than the blues fans in New Zealand, Australia and America, and that there is an enthusiastic following in the mountain state of Nepal. There is some evidence to suggest that Nepalese instruments and musical content were carried by Arab traders to Africa and subsequently carried to America.

Acknowledgement: Article by Jim Chipp in The Wellingtonian, 10 February, 2011.

Brendon Burns (1969-72). Since the 2008 parliamentary elections Brendon has been the Labour Member of Parliament for the Christchurch Central Electorate. Currently his parliamentary roles are: Member of the Finance and Expenditure Committee, Member of the Local Government and Environment Committee, Labour Spokesperson on Climate Change, Spokesperson on Water, and Associate Spokesperson on Environment.

His career has included journalist in the Parliamentary Press Gallery, Editor of the

Marlborough Express 1994-2002, Manager of the Government Communications Unit 2002-2005, and Principal of Indaba Communications 2005-2008.

Awards include: Best radio documentary 1986, Editorial writer of the year 1999, Press Fellowship Cambridge University 2000.

Adam Church (1997-2001) captained the Wellington Golf team to win the final of the interprovincial championship against the North Harbour team. This was Adam's fifth time as a member of the Wellington team which lost the final in 2007 and 2008 and their semi-final match in 2009.

A stroke of luck helped Adam when his duffed chip shot saw his ball teeter on the fringe and threaten to roll back down to his feet. However it remained on the ridge and he was able to make the 8ft putt to the hole on the 17th hole and head for the last hole 1 up on his opponent. He finished with a birdie on the final hole and won his match, with the team winning the final 4-1.

Acknowledgement: Article by Mark Geenty Dominion Post 13 December 2010.

Bruce Cockburn (former staff member 1963-92) featured in an article by Joseph Romanos in *The Wellingtonian*, 3 February, 2011. Joseph had commented earlier on deficiencies in the New Zealand Honours system and stated that Yvette Williams had set a world record in the long jump in Gisborne, of all places.

Bruce, a former Gisborne resident and an official at the meeting when the new world record was set, contacted Joseph and pointed out that he regarded the use of the words "of all places" as rather derogatory. In the 3 February article, Joseph defended his statement in the context of Gisborne being a long way off the beaten track in terms of cities hosting world record attempts.

Bruce's recollections of Williams competing in Gisborne in the summer of 1953-54 formed the balance of the article. Then a member of the Gisborne Amateur and Athletic Harrier Club, Bruce helped to mark out the track for the meeting at which Williams set her world record on 20 February, 1954. On 9 January, Williams had competed in the discus and long jump and told officials that the long jump run up was the best in New Zealand. Encouraged by that praise, officials invited Williams to return to Gisborne and make an attempt on the world record. She achieved the record with a jump of 20 feet 7½ inches (6.29 metres), beating the previous record of 20 feet 6 inches (6.25 metres).

Later that year Williams won three Gold Medals at the Empire Games in Vancouver. Some 57 years later Williams' sporting feats were acknowledged in the Honours List with a C.N.Z.M.

Andrew Collins (1978-82) has started a new job at the Sunshine Plaza, Maroochydore, Queensland, working for *Apple*. He is based in the Myer Store there and helps to promote and sell all things *Apple*, ie Macs, iPods, iPhones and iPads.

Jim Cornish (1941-46) is the oldest living member of the Worser Bay Surf Life Saving Club which celebrated its 100th anniversary with a series of events over the weekend of 28-30 January 2011. He participated in the swim from Seatoun Wharf to Worser Bay Clubrooms. Jim joined the Club in 1935 and has been a member for 75 years. He still swims about twice a week, either at the pool or in the sea.

Jim, who has a background in civil engineering, did the planning and navigation for the first successful swim across Cook Strait achieved by fellow club member Barrie Devenport. Jim also took over the role of pacer in this swim for the last one hour or two.

Jim was in charge of civil defence for the region and remembers well the Wahine disaster. He helped club members launch a boat which saved lives and also was instrumental in having helpers sent to Eastbourne where more lives were saved.

Acknowledgement: Article by Agnes Ginestet, City Life, Cook Strait News, 26 January 2011

Bruce Edgar (1970-74) and **Jason Wells** (1983-87) both played in the special 20/20 cricket match at the Basin Reserve on Sunday 13 March to raise funds for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal Fund. The television commentators, **Ian Smith**, **Grant Nisbett** and **Jeetan Patel**, had an obvious Rongotai bias.

Keith Ferrel (teacher 1974-10). At the end of the 2010 school year, Keith retired after 37 years of teaching in the Technology Department. His teaching responsibilities were in Woodwork and Technical Drawing. In 1978 his teaching abilities in these fields were recognised when he became the assistant Head of Department. In the 1980's he became supervisor of the Fourth Forms with responsibilities similar to those of a Dean, providing support to students so that they have the opportunity to reach their potential. At that time there was no release time or financial reward for undertaking this role. In 2003, Keith became Head of the Technology Department, a position he held with considerable success until his retirement.

Over a long period of time, Keith was involved with the governance of the college. In 1978 he was elected to the Board of Governors, a position he held for nine years. He was then elected to the Board of Trustees as a representative of the parents when the new system of governance for secondary schools was introduced. He held this position until 1992 when he became the Teachers' Representative on the Board, a position he has held since then.

He has had an expansive involvement in extra-curricular activities. He coached many rugby teams, including the 1st XV in 1980-81, and was a regular official at sports days including the McEvedy Shield competition.

As stated in *Te Rama 2010*, "He has served all stakeholders in education responsibly and in a dignified manner." The Old Boys' Association thanks Keith for his contributions and wishes him well in his retirement.

Raf de Gregorio (1991-95), a former All White footballer, is now co-owner of the former Kenny's Café in Courtenay Place where it operated for 28 years before closing its door in December last. Following extensive renovation it will re-open, in about two months, as a pizzeria.

Steve Gianoutsos (1983-85) was a finalist in the Business category of the Welly's 2010. It was reported that "Steve is the founder and inspirational leader of the Mojo Coffee phenomenon. Since opening in May 2003 Mojo has grown to 22 outlets, over 160 staff and sells more than 40,000 cups of coffee per week nationwide – making a little taste of Wellington available to all New Zealanders."

Acknowledgement: Dominion Post 25 October, 2010.

Rhys Harrison (1961-65). The Hon. Justice was appointed to the Court of Appeal during 2010.

Eric Heath (1939) was the cartoonist for *The Dominion* newspaper from 1964 to 1993. He went on to become one of New Zealand's best known cartoonists, free lance illustrators and artists.

From a young age when he played on Lyall Bay beach he has been fascinated by the marine life of the coast, especially fish. In 1958 when he

was free lance illustrating for Reeds, Publishers, and keen on fishing he persuaded the firm to publish a book on fishing. This book, *New Zealand Sea Anglers' Guide*, featured black and white line drawings of fish by Eric and ran into eight editions before new books were produced with colour illustrations.

In a period of six to seven years Eric produced 900 or so colour illustrations of fish. He kept all the original drawings and about seven years ago in collaboration with computer artist, Keith Cagney, has been compiling his water colour paintings of fish into coloured montages.

Eric has illustrated over a hundred books on shipwrecks and trains for publication.

Acknowledgement: Article by Margaret Irvine in The Wellingtonian, 13 January, 2011.

Richard Heron (1948-54), now deceased, was Head Prefect at Rongotai in 1954. An article in *Dominion Posts* Lifestyle section on 31 July, 2010 commented on the influence this role had on a number of Head Prefects who became prominent in later years.

Richard is commented on in the context of the character building role for a Head Prefect. The article refers to Richard being the son of H A. Heron, Headmaster of Wellington College at that time. "It was a live-in position so Heron would have to walk down the driveway every morning, dressed as head boy of Rongotai to face his school's arch rivals coming the other way. He later became a sometimes controversial High Court Judge."

Josh Ilton (2003-2007) celebrated his 21st birthday in hospital some six days after experiencing a near fatal heart attack in Courtenay Place. Fortunately two paramedics were in a queue at Burger King just opposite and they were able to render immediate aid by performing CPR and using a defibrillator to restart his heart. A second ambulance crew took

Josh to hospital with CPR continuing. It was only 20 minutes from Josh's collapse to his arrival at the hospital's emergency department.

At the birthday celebrations he was surrounded by friends and the two paramedics who saved his life.

Acknowledgement: Article by Kay Blundell, Dominion Post, 17 August 2010

Ben Irving (1998-2003); **Terry Serepisos** (1977-81); **Steven Gianoustos** (1983-85) were all photographed at the Wellingtonian of the Year Awards in November 2010

Neville Kean (1962-69) was a very proud father when he watched his son Gareth winning the Silver Medal in the final of the 200 metres backstroke at the Commonwealth Games in Delhi.

Chris Killen (1995-98). The All Whites Striker was released in July 2010 by English Championship Club Middlesborough to play in the Chinese Super League. He scored the winning goal for his club in the second half after coming on as a substitute.

Ben Makisi (1983-88), Opera Singer, performed in a fund raising concert last August to help send his niece to France for a six month rugby and school exchange.

David Martin (1980-83) is now a Senior Constable and one of five Skippers with the Maritime Unit in Wellington. The remarkable sea rescue of his family's Labrador, Lara, spurred David to forge a career with this police unit.

In 1976 five year old Lara was rescued by the Police Launch Lady Elizabeth II after three hours in the Wellington Harbour. David's father often set a fishing net in Karaka Bay and Lara would jump into the water and swim back after the boat. On that particular morning the wind

strengthened and heavy sea mist rolled in. Lara followed the boat out as usual but it was likely she got picked up by the tide. Lara was exhausted when plucked out of the sea by the crew of the police launch.

David says he thrives on the challenge of skippering the police launch in a range of conditions and helping people in trouble. There are far more happy outcomes than tragedies.

Acknowledgement: Article by Matt Calman in the Dominion Post of 11 September 2010.

Cameron Melhopt (1982-92) was the winner of the Technologies and Emerging Industries category in the Ernst and Young Entrepreneur of the Year Awards for 2010. Together with Janice Howell and Nigel Stanford, all three of whom worked for Trade Me, a new website StarNow.com was formed. It provides a platform for actors, models, dancers and musicians to find and apply for roles, and for casting agents to find the right people. Cameron Melhopt is the Chief Executive.

The website was launched first in the UK in 2004 and is used now in the UK, Australia, NZ, Ireland, South Africa and Canada but accepts membership from anywhere in the world.

Members pay a monthly fee of around \$3 and no commission is charged so it is just a platform for members to further their careers.

More than 150,000 projects have been cast through the site and businesses using it include Samsung, Nike and Dove Real Beauty.

Star.Now.com is rated number one casting and talent website in the UK, Australia and NZ.

Acknowledgement: Article by Rachel Wattie, Sunday Star Times 8 August 2010

Pen Moore (1932-37) was one of several World War II Veterans interviewed in January this year by a Russian television crew researching

material for a documentary and book on how New Zealand helped the Soviet Union during World War II. The story of Wing Commander Henry Ramsbottom-Isherwood who led a RAF fighter wing at Murmansk from 1944 will be featured.

Pen served in the Royal Navy and was involved in convoy escort duty to Murmansk from the UK.

We congratulate **Don Neely** (1947-53) who was made a Member of the Order of New Zealand for services to cricket in the New Year honours list. In 1994 he was appointed an MBE. Don, a member of the First XI for three years, and captain (and Deputy Head Prefect) in 1953, had a distinguished playing career for Kilbirnie (now Easts), Wellington, (captaining the side to a Plunket Shield victory in 1965/66), and Auckland. He served on the Management Committee of the Wellington Cricket Association for a number of years and acted as a provincial selector at different levels before becoming a New Zealand selector for 14 years (convenor for seven). Don was also President of Wellington Cricket and of New Zealand Cricket (2006-09) and is a Life Member of both. He is among New Zealand's most noted writers on cricket history: *The First Fifty Tests*, commemorating the fiftieth Test at the Basin Reserve, was published last year. Throughout his long association with the game Don has taken a special interest in young cricketers, nurturing, encouraging and coaching.

Acknowledgement: John Martin.(1947-52)

Ma'a Nonu (1999-2000) was a finalist in the sport category of the Wellys 2010. His nomination was supported by the following statement: "Ma'a Nonu is known as a good team player, whether that team's the All Blacks, the Hurricanes, Wellington Lions or Oriental-Rongotai. This season Ma'a has reached a new level and he's managed to nail the formula that

let him deliver quality performances on a regular basis.”

Acknowledgement: Dominion Post 25 October 2010

Ma'a continues to impress with the quality of his play from 2008 to the present day. In 2007 he missed out on the 2007 Rugby World Cup but since then he has moved into the second-five position from centre and wing and developed into the premier player in that position.

In 2008 he appeared in all 15 tests for the All Blacks starting in jersey 14, and in 2009 missed out only the Italy match, starting in 12 of his 13 appearances. In that time he scored 10 tries.

In 2010 he missed the June tests with injury but started in each of the all-conquering Tri-Nations series. Teamed with Conrad Smith these two players now form one of the great All Black mid-fields.

On the tour to the UK and Ireland Ma'a was paired with S.B. Williams in the mid-field against England which was Williams's test debut. Ma'a was dropped from the game against Scotland to allow Williams to play at second five, a game in which Williams was named man-of-the-match. For the game against Ireland, Ma'a started the test match with Williams on the bench. Ma'a is aware of the challenge from Williams for the second-five position but has handled the situation in a mature manner.

Acknowledgement: Article by Marc Hinton in Sunday Star Times 17 October 2010 and Chris Barclay in Dominion Post 20 November 2010

Jeetan Patel (1994-98). In an upset win by Wellington over Central Districts in their Twenty 20 match, Jeetan captured 2 wickets for 21 runs. He has been a regular member of the Wellington Firebirds cricket team in all three forms of the game. In the first win in the one day series for the Wellington team, he captured

the wicket of Scott Styris, one of Northern District's top run scorers. He has made a change to his technique and it came as a surprise when he was dropped from the Firebirds' team when the One-Day competition resumed in the New Year. Jeetan is a member of the Plunket Shield team for Wellington and is working on his game to regain his place in the New Zealand team.

Warren Rankin (1963-69), **Chris Wagstaff** (1980-84), and **Ian Greig** (1953-59) were three of the Life Members present at the open day of the Evans Bay Yacht Club in September 2010.

Peter Read (1936-39), known as the People's Astronomer, featured in an exhibition at the Carter Observatory from 20 October 2010.

He was a familiar face to many New Zealanders through his monthly television show *Night Sky* through the 1960s and 1970s, which brought the skies into living rooms along with the early space flight missions. He was a Wellingtonian who was inspirational in the development of the city's first planetarium.

Dominic Rowe (2005-2008) is both a commercial lawyer at Russell McVeagh and a striker for Miramar Rangers. He played in the Chatham Cup final against Auckland's Bay Olympic at North Harbour Stadium. Rangers won 3-1.

His family moved to New Zealand when he was 3 years old. He progressed through the ranks at Rongotai College, Wellington United and then Miramar Rangers and a stint with Manawatu while studying at Victoria University. He was faced with choosing between travelling for the New Zealand under 20 team and continuing his law studies. While Soccer was his passion, it wasn't something that was going to be his livelihood.

Acknowledgement: Article by Sam Worthington Dominion Post 9 September 2010

Tony Rush, teacher at the college from 1979 to 1985, was elected to the Horowhenua District Council in the 2010 local body elections.

Julian Savea (2004-2008) is one of the seven new players included in the Hurricane's squad for 2011. He was named most promising player at the Wellington Rugby Union's Annual Awards. Hammett from the Crusader's coaching staff is the new coach for the Hurricanes. While acknowledging Savea's natural talent Hammett's preference for hard work over talent is a clear indication of what lies ahead.

Terry Serepisos (1977-81), prominent property developer and owner of the Phoenix Football Club has been experiencing financial difficulties, with Inland Revenue taking action to liquidate five of the Serepisos companies for \$3.5 million in unpaid taxes. He plans to sell half of the Phoenix Football Club to the owner of a top flight Spanish football club, Ahsan Ali Syed, and has signed for a \$100 million plus loan from Western Gulf Advisory, a company owned by the same person.

Acknowledgement: Article by Dave Burgess, Dominion Post, 22 February, 2011.

Jeremy Simpson (1976-80) was one of the speakers from Forsyth Barr who fronted a seminar on 9 September "Opportunities in Listed Property." Topics included tax effective yields; updates from two leading New Zealand list property developers, and how property can be a diversified investment strategy.

Apoua Stewart (1993-98) plays full back for Wellington club Marist St Pats. His career also includes playing 2 tests for Samoa in 2005, 12 caps for Wellington since 2001 to present, 27 caps for Bay of Plenty 2003-2005, and Coventry England in 2006.

Apoua is a qualified builder who continues to practise his trade in between training. He is

working closely with the professional development officer to encourage his team mates to get work experience away from the game.

While playing in England he was caught up in a drug scandal, unwittingly using a training supplement containing ephedrine. Coventry Club paid him out of his contract and backed his innocence, but the IRB banned him for 18 months. He returned to New Zealand, finished his apprenticeship and got married.

When he resumed his playing career he found he was playing better than before and this was noted by the Wellington Selectors who regained his services in 2009.

Acknowledgement: Article by Toby Robson Dominion Post, 27 August 2010

Ray Wallace (1976-78) was elected Lower Hutt Mayor at the 2010 local body elections. In an interview reported in the Dominion Post, Ray commented on people, places and events that influenced him educationally.

Ray attended Rongotai College and later Wellington College. His favourite subject was geography. He was born in Scotland and has lived in New Zealand since the age of three years.

He credits teacher Paul Cameron with changing his life because he taught his students to enjoy life while balancing it with discipline and setting personal goals for the future.

His father got him involved in fighting for people's rights and inspired him to represent his community and serve the people. Before moving into politics he worked in a transport company and in the health sector.

Acknowledgement: Article in the Dominion Post (date not known)

Richard Watt (1978-82) is now assistant coach of the Wellington Lions in the ITM Cup after a career as a former Wellington provincial lock and recovering from a broken neck which ended his playing career, a stroke in 2004 and a winning battle against alcoholism.

An alcohol fuelled assault on three taxi firm staff over a cab fare resulted in a prison sentence for a vicious assault. While sobering up in his cell, Richard learned about the magnitude of his violence from his lawyer. The impact of his actions on his family as well caused him to make the decision right there and then to give up drinking. The day he got arrested, 18 June 2000, was the last time he had a drink of alcohol. Richard hopes that by talking openly about his own journey he will inspire others not to give up their battle against drink.

Acknowledgement: Article by Neil Reid in Sunday Star Times, 15 August 2010

Jack Yan (1986-89), who stood in the local body elections as a candidate for the mayoralty, received the third highest number of votes. Under the STV system used Jack received 5817 first preference votes and this number increased to 7426 when the votes were distributed. After a candidate is excluded from the counting, his or her votes are then redistributed to candidates still the race in accordance with individual voters' preferences.

FROM THE ARCHIVES

OLD BOY CONTRIBUTION

TO ALL BLACK RUGBY

With the sporting spotlight on the 2011 Rugby World Cup later this year, it is timely to focus on the contribution of Old Boys who gained All Black status. Seven Old Boys gained this accolade with one, Ma'a Nonu, still contributing as a player in the All Blacks.

Ron Horsley (1944-47) was the first to gain All Black status in 1960, and he was selected again in 1964. He played 31 times for All Black teams including three tests.

Ron was selected as a lock in the 1960 team to tour Australia and South Africa and was one of seven players gaining All Black selection for the first time. Controversy over the selection of a team which excluded Maori players raged, with "No Maoris, No tour" the principal issue. A petition signed by about 260,000 people opposed to discriminatory selection of the team failed to sway the government of the day and the tour went ahead.

On tour, Ron played in 18 of the 31 games, 3 of which were against Australian teams and the balance against South African teams. He was selected to play in the second, third and fourth tests against South Africa.

For the tour to the British Isles, France and Canada in 1963-64 Ron was again selected as a lock. He played in 13 of the 36 games included in the tour and scored a try against the Welsh team of Pontypool and Cross Keys.

Mick Williment (1953-57) was selected for the 1964 All Blacks as back-up full back to D.B.Clark, to play against an Australian team on a short tour of New Zealand. In his only appearance in a test that year he converted a try by McLeod and kicked two penalty goals. Of the three tests played that year New Zealand won two and lost one.

For the 1965 tour of New Zealand by the South African Springboks, Mick was again one of the two full backs selected and played in that position in the first three of the four tests. Neither of the two tries scored in the first test win was converted. In the second test win Mick converted two of the three tries scored by New Zealand and in the third test loss Mick converted

two of the three tries scored and kicked a penalty goal.

Mick was the sole full back selection for the 1966 All Black team to play the touring British Isles in New Zealand. In the first test win, Mick scored a try, converted one of the three tries scored and kicked two penalty goals. New Zealand won the second test with Mick converting two of the three tries scored and kicking a penalty goal. Three tries were scored in the third test win with Mick kicking two conversions and two penalty goals. Of the four tries scored by New Zealand in the fourth test, Mick kicked three conversions and a penalty goal.

In 1967 to mark the 75th Jubilee of the New Zealand Rugby Union, an Australian team played a test match at Wellington. The game was won by New Zealand with Mick converting all four tries and kicking two penalty goals.

This was his last appearance in a New Zealand team and he was a surprise omission from the team to tour the British Isles, France and Canada later in 1967. It is interesting to note that all his nine games for New Zealand were test matches.

Graham Williams (1956-63) was selected as an All Black in 1967-68. He played in 18 All Black games which included 5 test matches.

Graham was one of ten new players selected as All Blacks in 1967 for the tour of Canada, the UK and France. He played as a side row forward in 9 of the 17 matches played, scoring a total of 9 tries, including 2 against Eastern Canada, 2 against North of England and 2 against France B. He played in the international games against England, Wales, France and Scotland. It is interesting to note that due to an outbreak of foot and mouth disease in Ireland, the two matches scheduled to be played in Ireland were cancelled and no Irish players were included in the Barbarians team for the final match.

An All Black team of 25 players, which included Graham, was selected in 1968 to tour Australia with one match at Suva on the way home. After a hard tour opener against Sydney, the team travelled to Tasmania for the first visit by an All Black team. A crowd of 2,500 attended the game which was won by the All Blacks 74-0, with Graham scoring five tries in that game. He was selected for 9 of the 12 games played, scoring 10 tries and converting a try. The game against the President's XV in Suva, won by the All Blacks 33-6, was Graham's last All Black appearance. Family business commitments ended Graham's rugby playing career.

Clive Currie (1969-73) was an All Black in 1978, before a broken leg ended his rugby career.

Clive was playing for Canterbury when he was selected as one of three full backs in the 1978 All Black team to tour the British Isles. He played four matches including two tests. The first against Ireland was won 10-4 and the second against Wales was won 13-12.

The match against Ireland was Clive's test debut and it was reported that he came through the match with credit. In the game against Wales, Clive was tackled heavily early on and was replaced. Clive was ruled unfit for the rest of the tour and a replacement was summoned from New Zealand.

Brian McGrattan (1972) was an All Black from 1983 to 1986. He played in 23 games for the All Blacks, including 6 tests, and scored 16 points for the All Blacks but none of these were in a test match. For the tour to Scotland and England in 1983, Brian was selected as a front row forward. Of the 8 games played on the tour, Brian played in six of them including the test matches against Scotland and England.

The game against Scotland ended in a draw 25-25, while the game against England was lost 9-

15. In this game Brian and fellow prop Davie came away from a maul and surged over the line with Davie awarded the try.

A matter of concern emerging from the tour was the fact 221 penalties were awarded in the 8 matches played, an average of slightly more than one for each three minutes of playing time.

In 1984 Brian was selected as a front row forward for the tour to Australia and Fiji but was not selected for the test teams.

In 1985 he was selected as a front row forward in the All Black team to tour Argentina. He played in both tests on that tour.

Brian was not invited to tour with the Cavaliers to South Africa in May and June of 1986, but was selected as a front row forward in the All Black team which defeated France at Christchurch 18-9 later that year. His All Black career ended after the test match against Australia at Wellington in August 1986.

Junior Tonu'u (1983-85) was an All Black from 1996 to 1998. He played 8 games for the All Blacks including 5 tests. He scored 10 points but none of these was in a test match.

Before becoming an All Black, Junior declined a number of offers from rugby league clubs because of his desire to be selected as an All Black. He was bitterly disappointed at failing to be selected for the 26 strong 1995 World Cup squad. However by showing and maintaining a high level of ability he won selection as one of the two half backs in the All Black team chosen to tour France and Italy in 1996.

In 2008 the New Zealand Institute of Sport provided additional opportunities for its enrolled students to support their sporting performance alongside their academic progress. When the Auckland Rugby Union forged links with the NZIS a high performance Rugby Academy was developed at the Manakau Campus, with Ofisa

(Junior) leading the students toward reaching their potential on the rugby field and in the classroom.

Ma'a Nonu (1999-2000) has been an All Black from 2003, and each year through to the present. In that time he has played in 56 test matches for the All Blacks and scored 85 points. This dramatic increase in the number of tests played from 2008 reflects one significant impact that professionalism has had on the number of games played at the top level.

Ma'a's test list is:

2003, 4 matches; 2004, 3 matches; 2005, 4 matches; 2006, 5 matches; 2007, 2 matches; 2008, 15 matches; 2009, 13 matches; 2010, 10 matches.

His player profile on the website *allblacks.com* states: "The explosive, some would say flamboyant, Ma'a Nonu has built a reputation as one of the toughest marks in world rugby, able to break the line, off-load the ball and set up or score scintillating tries.

"Though he played mostly in the No.13 jersey for the Hurricanes during the Rebel Sport Super 14 in 2006, Nonu is equally comfortable at second five-eighths, where his distribution and kicking skills continue to improve.

"He is a powerful runner and has carved himself a niche as a huge impact player for the All Black coaching staff.

"A good team man, any break from his representative season will see Nonu turn out for the Oriental-Rongotai club."

Acknowledgements: Centenary 100 Years of All Black Rugby by R.H.Chester and N.A.C. McMillan and All Black website: www.allblacks.com

COLLEGE NEWS

From the Principal



2011 has started in an extremely positive fashion at the College. Our roll has continued to grow, albeit slowly, and now stands at 680 students. It is pleasing that much of the increase has

been at Year 9 (Form 3) level.

Old Boys will be absolutely delighted with the academic results of 2010, when Rongotai College gained its best results since the advent of NCEA in 2002. Each indicator of achievement in NCEA has shown a significant improvement, and the level of achievement is now well ahead of the benchmark indicators for the school (other decile 6 schools). At Level 1, the overall pass-rate has continued to trend upwards, and has improved from 59% in 2009 to 73% in 2010; 37% of all NCEA Level 1 certificates gained by Rongotai students in 2010 were awarded Merit or Excellence endorsements.

At NCEA Level 2, the overall pass-rate was 74%, up from 69% the previous year, while at Level 3, 66% of students studying for the qualification, passed.

There was further good news when the New Zealand Scholarship results were released in mid-February. Tom Baddeley (College Dux of 2010) was awarded New Zealand Scholar status by gaining NZ Scholarships in Mathematics with Calculus, Physics and Statistics and Modelling (Outstanding grade). NZ Scholarships were also gained by Campbell Reid-Tait (Statistics and Modelling), Mark Walbran (Statistics and Modelling) and Brooke Watene (Mathematics with Calculus). The 6 scholarships gained were a significant improvement on previous years.

2011's students have a huge challenge before them as we are committed to sustaining the trend of continuous improvement!

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kevin Carter', written in a cursive style.

Kevin Carter

SPORTS ACHIEVEMENTS

In 2010, 70% of the students were involved in sport compared to 63% in the previous year. Students participated in 21 different sports.

Congratulations to the following students who represented New Zealand: Luke Bryant (Underwater Hockey); Sean Ford (Handball); Jed Harland (Handball); Finn O'Brien (Handball); Kel Quin (Handball); Jerome Raemaki (Softball); Hassan Roble (Cross Country); Ciaran Ryan (Water Polo); Ardie Savea (Rugby).

Congratulations also to:

Daniel Hakes and Jamie Young who won the College Sport Wellington Senior Doubles Badminton Championship.

Kwame Williams-Acra, who won the Athlete With Disability Cross Country Race at the National Championships, and has been selected as a sprinter in the New Zealand Special Olympics team to compete at Athens this year.

Hassan Roble who won the College Sport Wellington 6 km road race and to Kwame Williams-Acra who was second in the AWD 1.5km race. Both students were award winners for their sport in the College Sport Wellington Sports Awards.

Ardie Savea who was selected for the Hurricanes Secondary Schools' Rugby team and for the New Zealand Under 17 Rugby Development squad.

Luke Ironside, Tuakana Metuarau and Ardie Savea who were selected for the Wellington Under 18 Rugby team.

Feta Luamanu and Jacob Taituave-Essau who were selected for the Wellington Under 16 Rugby team.

The **McEvedy Shield Athletics competition** for 2011 was held at Newtown Park on 1st March. Wellington College regained the Shield from St Pat's Town the 2010 winners.

Points scored were:

Wellington College	201
St Pat's Silverstream	181
St Pat's Town	135
Rongotai	68

Te Hauora Campbell won the Under14 Triple Jump with a record leap of 11.85 metres, beating the previous record of 11.58 metres set eight years ago. He also finished third in the Under 14 100 and 200 metres races..

Ardie Savea won the Open Long Jump, was second in the Open Triple Jump and third in the Open 100 metres.

Willem van Ommen won the U16 High Jump. Tyrone Whaaga was second in the Open High Jump.

Burkhad Mohammed was second in the U15 800 metres. Orlando Whaanga was second in U16 Shot Put.

Nuu Hauia was second in U14 Javelin.

CULTURAL ACTIVITIES

The principal reported that 2010 was an excellent year for cultural activities.

A number of Rongotai students performed in the Wellington East Girls' College production of *Brigadoon*. Chris Brown took the male lead role and eight other boys were involved.

The 2010 Rongotai production was *Cabaret Classics*. The Jazz Band, singing groups and soloists and others performed some old favourite musical numbers and scenes from musical shows and movies. It was a huge success and a credit to the staff and students involved.

Several successful NCEA performance evenings were held during the year. The Jazz Band and Gypsy Guitar Group performed at a number of functions. Simon Cross was selected as a saxophonist in the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Jazz orchestra.

The Kapa Haka group has performed at many important functions either by themselves or combined with Wellington East Girls' College. Highlights have included the welcoming ceremony for the Frigate HMNZS Wellington, the opening of the new artificial turf in Newtown, the Powhiri for the NZ Nurses Organisation's Hui, and variety concerts both at the college and at Wellington East Girls' College.

The Polynesian Club performed in outstanding fashion at the Tu Tangata festival last September. The college's Kapa Haka group opened the festival. Old Boys Ben Makisi and Ben Lummis were comperes at the festival.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE CHARIOT.

The Chariot is published twice a year, in March and August. Contributions are invited, and should be addressed to *The Chariot* Editor, RCOBA, Rongotai College, P.O. Box 14-063, Wellington 6041.

The association's email address is old.boys@rongotai.school.nz.

