



# The Chariot

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RONGOTAI COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

**AUGUST 2011**

## **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 7pm on 21st September 2011. 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, 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2010.

Matters Arising

Correspondence

Chairman's Report

Financial Report

Election of Officers

Notice of motion: That Sel Moore and Graeme Jarratt be made honorary life members of the association.

Principal's Report

General Business.

## **Rongotai College Old Boys' Association**

### **Short Financial Statement**

#### **Year Ending 30 June 2011**

##### **Income**

Assembly Luncheon	604
Subscriptions	670

Donations 3687

Sale of merchandise 128

**Total Income 5086**

##### **Expenditure**

Archives Costs 66

Chariot Costs 675

Leavers' Presentation 809

Foundation for the Future 2000

**Total Expenditure 3550**

**Income Surplus 1536**

**Accum Funds at 30.6.11 5208**

##### **Represented by**

Cash at Bank 4310

Stocks of Materials 898

**Total 5208**

## **MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR**

The Old Boys' Association has now opened a Gmail account which will be used to advise Old Boys of coming functions and events. The Old Boys' Gmail address is [rcob.assn@gmail.com](mailto:rcob.assn@gmail.com)

The first occasion this e-mail was used was in early July to advise local Old Boys of a social function to follow the Annual 1st XV rugby game between Rongotai College and Wellington College who were competing for the Heron Cup and scarf. Unfortunately, the weather was less than kind, but this did not prevent a number of Old Boys attending

to witness the Rongotai team being narrowly defeated after leading at the end of the first half when playing into a strong wind.

If you did not receive e-mail advice of this event it may be that we do not have your correct e-mail address. If this is the case please advise your correct address to the new Old Boys' e-mail address shown above.

Principal Kevin Carter was unable to attend this function as he had been selected to attend a College Principals' Conference being held in London at the time. He asked me to tender his apologies for his absence.

Construction is well under way on the temporary gymnasium which is being built as a stop-gap while the design and plans for the new permanent building are being finalised. I understand that the architect is himself an Old Boy of Rongotai.

Sel Moore has produced and edited *The Chariot* for some years and during this time the size and content have always been of a very high standard. During this time he has enabled pictures to be incorporated which have given *The Chariot* a step up in the publishing world. He is stepping down from the role of editor but has agreed to remain on the committee. We are fortunate that John Martin, the author of *Sound of the Sea*, has offered to take over the editorship role.

Thank you Sel for your valued and dedicated contribution to the Old Boys' Association.

David Boyer (1949-52)

President.

## **OBITUARIES**

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

**Colin Nelson Harrington Bridge** (1952-56) died Wellington, 22 April, 2011. Colin, Bugsy to his friends, was a businessman, sportsman and a lively character. As a businessman he was a wheeler dealer, but all his operations except one succeeded. His last,

Harrington's Small Goods, in Mersey Street, Island Bay, made a comfortable retirement dollar.

He was one of nine siblings brought up in Vogelstown, and he and his six brothers attended Rongotai College.

His working career began with time at the Herd Street Post Office, a period working for Van Staveren Brothers, and several seasons at a Southland freezing works. When he was in his mid twenties he set up the first of his many businesses, operating a milk delivery in Oriental Bay and Roseneath. His freezing works experience led him into the meat industry, the area in which he made his mark as a businessman with butcheries in Newtown, Courtenay Place and Island Bay. In between times he bought and renovated houses, sold real estate for Harcourts in Kilbirnie, and went into partnership with Tim Reddish at the Bonanza Bargain House in Newtown.

Colin had a legion of friends, many of whom were associated with his sporting activities and interests allied to coaching rugby, rowing, and playing bowls. At rowing he was a national titleholder as a member of the Star Club's winning junior eight at the National Rowing Championships held at Picton in 1960.

He was a very hospitable character and greatly enjoyed visiting the Green Parrot restaurant with friends. He still holds the raw oyster eating title for the restaurant of 23 dozen.

Colin married the daughter of Jack McManus, a teacher at Rongotai College, in 1969. The couple had five children in the nineteen years they were together.

*Acknowledgement; Tim Donoghue, The Dominion Post, 11 June, 2011.*

**Raymond Leslie (Ray) Jermyn** (1941-45). Ray, who died at Waikanae on 25 April 2011 aged 82, was an outstanding student at Rongotai. Living at Seatoun, where his father was the Anglican vicar at St. George's, Ray was Dux in successive years – 1944 and 1945. In the latter year he was Head Prefect, a member of the First XV and the Second Cricket XI. He also threw the discuss with success and made a mark as a boxer. In the heavyweight class

against Stewart McKendry, who was at least six inches taller, Ray mounted a strong challenge: in the words of *Te Rama*, “What Jermyn lacked in height and reach, he made up in grit and determination.” Although Ray won the last round, McKendry took the title having won the first two rounds.

Ray also led the winning team in the annual Gow Scroll debate against Hutt Valley High School in 1945 and, in what was considered the best speech, “tempered sincerity with a nice touch of sarcasm.”

In 1950, after graduating from Victoria University M.A. (Hons) in History, Ray joined the Department of External Affairs. His first posting was to Singapore from 1955 to 1957. After a period in Wellington he spent three years in London as First Secretary. From 1964 to 1966 he was seconded to the Ministry of Defence before taking up the position of Minister in the Washington Embassy. He was Ambassador to Indonesia from 1973 to 1976, after which followed a spell in Wellington as Assistant Secretary and Director of the External Aid Division. The remainder of Ray’s service was overseas as Ambassador to Thailand (1981-85) and High Commissioner to Malaysia (1985-90).

Ray Jermyn had a fine analytical mind and a sharp pen. He was much respected by his colleagues and remembered for his special sense of humour. The Association sends its condolences to Ray’s wife, Heather, and his family.

*Acknowledgement: John Martin (1947-52)*

**Keith Martin** (1952-57) died in Auckland on 7 August 2011. Keith was a Prefect and member of the First XI and First XV in 1957, and later played rugby for the Wellington Club and cricket for University. Keith spent much of his working life overseas as an executive of Coca Cola International. His brothers, Ross, Alan and John, also attended Rongotai.

**Neville Matthews MNZM** (1963-68) died in Wellington Hospital on 24 June 2011 after a serious fall at his home. Neville held the rank of Superintendent in the New Zealand Police and retired in 2008 after 37 years of police service, which culminated with his role as Police Liaison Officer in Washington D.C. from 2004.

From 1993 until 2004 he was Manager of Operations at Police National Headquarters as well as National Commander of the Special Tactics Group. He was responsible for developing new methods to deal with violent offenders, including the introduction of pepper spray.

He deployed five police contingents to East Timor, four international peace monitoring teams to the Solomon Islands and the first four rotations of peace personnel to the Solomons. He was also a key figure in adopting the slogan “Safer Communities Together.”

*Acknowledgement: Article by Shabnam Dastghelb in The Dominion Post.*

## **ROLL OF HONOUR**

### **RONGOTAI AND THE FLEET AIR ARM**

The recent publication of *Flying Navy: The story of New Zealanders who flew in the Fleet Air Arm in World War I and World War II* (David Allison with Ray Richards ONZM, DSC, Fleet Air Arm Museum of New Zealand, Auckland 2009) drew attention to the high representation of Rongotai Old Boys in the Fleet Air Arm (FAA). The Fleet Air Arm was the name given to the aircrews that flew from aircraft carriers. From 1940 New Zealand sent volunteer recruits every 6 months to the UK as trainee aircrew. The following is a quote from the blurb for the book.

*Over 1200 young New Zealand men, aged 18 to 25, volunteered to fly for the Fleet Air Arm of the Royal Navy. Few of them had flown before or had seen an aircraft carrier. They knew nothing of the aircraft they would fly in the war and had not the vaguest idea of how they would land them on the deck of a pitching and rolling carrier. All they wanted to do was to fly.*

*And so they did. Seven hundred and sixty men graduated as trained pilots or observers (navigators) – [some 20 percent of the total operational aircrew strength of the FAA] – some became TAG’s (telegraphist airgunners). Many died in action – hit by flak or enemy fighters, some died on carrier-deck crashes, others were lost at sea, were urgently executed by Japanese captors, or flew into mountains at night. In the two World Wars 179 young Kiwis died in Fleet Air Arm service.*

The Roll of Honour in the book lists the following Old Boys.

**Lonsdale Wiren, known as Dale** (1930-33). Keen sportsman (First XV and XI); volunteered 1940; commissioned Sub-Lieutenant (A), RNZVR, Canada, May 1941; attached to 785,766, 805 and 878 squadrons; Egypt, Kenya; killed in flying accident, 4 June 1943; buried Kirkwall, Orkney Islands, Scotland (age 24).

**Albert Eaton** (1930-35). First XV; volunteered 1941; commissioned Sub Lieutenant (A), RNZVR, March 1942, Canada; attached 766 and 827 squadrons in Scotland; killed in practice dive-bombing, Scotland, 14 July 1943, buried Crail, Fife, Scotland (age 24).

**Harold Hawken** (1929-33). Prefect 1933, Ist XI 193-33; studied accountancy at Victoria University; volunteered July 1940; commissioned Sub Lieutenant (A) RNZVR, Canada, May 1941; attached 828/830 and 785 squadrons; Malta; killed flying accident, Scotland, 14 August 1943; buried Crail, Fife, Scotland (age 26).

**Leslie Hayward** (1931-34). NZ Railways, Army Territorials; volunteered May 1942; commissioned, Canada, RNZVR, April 1942; attached 774,821, 838 squadrons; Malta, North Africa, Coastal Command, English Channel; shot down over Brittany, 1 May 1944 (age 24).

**Donald Jenkins** (1930-34). Silk screen artist; volunteered January 1942; commissioned, RNZVR, Canada, August 1943; attached 808 squadron; killed while flying Spitfire, 26 May 1944; buried Winchester, Hampshire, England (age 25).

**John Chittenden** (1933-38). Army Territorials; volunteered May 1941; commissioned RNZVR, Wiltshire, March 1942; attached 733, 889 Squadrons, Ceylon; crashed while landing 29 June, 1944; buried at sea (age 23).

**Edward Gambrill** (1931-37). Radio technician; Army Territorials; volunteered March 1943; observer, commissioned Trinidad December 1944, RNZVR; attached 733, 786 Squadrons; killed in flying accident, Scotland, 4 July 1945; buried Crail, Fife, Scotland (age 25).

**Oliver Lobb** (1936-39). First XV; Valuation Department; volunteered December 1941; commissioned Mid.(A), RN, Canada, 1943; attached 754, 766, 824, 1790 Squadrons. Extended service commission Lieutenant (A), Royal Navy, April 1946;

instructor Lee-on-Solent, Hampshire; night flyer units, Scotland, Malta, Cornwall; killed in flying accident 19 May 1949; buried Helston, Cornwall, England (age 26).

**Kenneth Young** (1936-40). RNZAF ground duties; transferred FAA May 1941; trained with US Navy, commissioned Sub.Lt (A) Florida; attached 792, 788, 742, 800 Squadrons; after war flight instructor Wellington, Middle Districts Aero Clubs, top dressing pilots; rejoined FAA 1951, 783 Squadron, Cornwall; killed in flying accident 7 June 1952; buried Helston, Cornwall England (age 29).

*Acknowledgement: Article contributed by John Martin (1947-52).*

## OLD BOY ACTIVITIES

### ANNUAL SCHOOL ASSEMBLY AND LUNCH

This annual event has become a highlight of the association's activities. The Old Boy invited to speak at the assembly this year on 3 June 2011 was Dr Alex Malahoff (1951-56), Chief Executive Officer of the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences in Lower Hutt.

Alex was born in Moscow and emigrated to New Zealand as a 10 year old, and entered Form 1 at Rongotai College in 1951. He gained an M.Sc in geophysics from Victoria University and a Ph.D. from the University of Hawaii where he later worked as Professor of Oceanography from 1984-2002. He pioneered the use of submersibles to observe undersea volcanoes and study the unique thermophillic organisms that live in active vents. In 2001 Victoria University recognised his contributions by conferring on him an Honorary D.Sc. degree.

### Alex's Address.

*I would like to give you my address with a focus on luck. There is often the statement of question such as, "you are so lucky." Yes people do experience luck, but in the longer term it is that the lucky ones have prepared themselves for luck. How do they do that? It is not luck, it is that they have prepared themselves well and have taken the opportunities that have come their way. So how do the lucky ones do it?*

*The lucky ones are you. You are getting an excellent education at Rongotai. Aim high, use your education well and then move on to higher challenges such as higher education at the University.*

*I know that study is hard. It is you and yourself, it is not a team sport. This is a paradox because in the end, even if you are a Nobel Prize winner, or a businessman, or a builder you will have to work in a team and that is why school sports prepare you for this.*

*Let me talk to you about education. Education will provide you with skills that will allow you to move positively and with security during times of uncertainty. Take the road to wisdom and success. Most importantly be secure in yourself and know what you want out of life, because tomorrow you will be facing profound changes that no previous generations have faced. Education is a continuing effort. For those of you that will be choosing your careers, graduation from Rongotai with good academic marks is only the first step and the first fork in the road to your future. You may want to go into the technical trades, into your family business, or on to the university. Once in the university you will again be making a choice: do you want to be a lawyer, a banker, an accountant, a medical doctor, a teacher or a scientist.*

*It is very difficult in today's world to be any one of these without a university degree. If you want to be a scientist, be prepared for a long self-disciplined drive through a bachelor's degree, through a master's degree, then a doctorate. Today a doctorate is essential for you to be a leader in science. If you go down this path, you will be studying at the university until late in your twenties. Why do it? Because it offers you a very rich life, not necessarily rich in money but very rich in personal satisfaction.*

*What has driven me is curiosity. Why do things happen as they do? What are the driving forces? I have a personal passion for discovery in science, which has been my driving force in my life, the desire for knowledge, the thrill of pursuing the evidence, and then sharing the discovery with others and working in a team of like-minded colleagues.*

*I am an oceanographer, an earth scientist, an ocean engineer and now a Chief Executive Officer of the New Zealand Earth Science Institute, GNS, with its headquarters in Avalon, Lower Hutt. We have projects in New Zealand and all over the world. I have been a Professor of Oceanography at the University of Hawaii for 40 years, became an Emeritus Professor and now spend part of my time as*

*Professor of Geology at Victoria University. I received my bachelors and masters degrees from Victoria, my Ph.D. or Doctor of Philosophy degree from the University of Hawaii, and a Doctor of Science degree from Victoria. I have spent most of my life exploring the floors of the world's oceans in deep diving submersibles and a mother ship that I designed and had built in the shipyards of Mobile, Alabama, USA.*

*I would like to tell you how I got there. Like some of you, or your friends, I was not born in New Zealand. My mother, grandmother and I came as immigrants to New Zealand after the Second World War, with nothing except the determination of my mother and grandmother that I should succeed in the academic world. I learned Russian from my grandmother and German from my mother. Before we came to New Zealand I was already tri-lingual. I went to Miramar South Primary School, Rongotai College and then Victoria University of Wellington.*

*My knowledge of languages came to the attention of the Government and while a student was offered opportunities to be a government translator to visiting overseas delegations. After getting my Masters Degree, I was offered transportation to the USA to study for my Ph.D., and at the same time help in the translation of Russian scientific articles. After completing my Ph.D. I was offered a faculty position at the University of Hawaii and started a project on using aeroplanes to study the earth's magnetic field. And then an opportunity arose to work in Washington DC USA where I met Admiral Rickover, the father of the US nuclear driven submarines. This led to an opportunity to use the newly built nuclear driven submersible, the NRI. This led to my desire to explore the world's oceans and build my own research centre at the University of Hawaii.*

*I returned to New Zealand ten years ago with a personal mission to give back to New Zealand in the form of my knowledge that I gained overseas. I have been very fortunate to grow up in New Zealand and be offered the opportunities that I have described to you.*

*So my message to you is work hard and be willing to use your knowledge when you are presented with opportunities, have a strong belief in yourself and a commitment that you can carry through.*

*I would like to end my address to you with this ancient Irish Blessing.*

*May the road rise up to meet you,  
May the wind be always at your back,  
May the sun shine warm upon your face,  
May the rain fall softly on your field.  
Until we meet again  
May God hold you in the palm of his hand.*

**Old Boys attending totalled 42.**

**Bob Alexander (1941-43); Stan Andis (1950-54);  
Ian Austin (1947-52); Ian Barr (1938-43);  
Charles Blades (1950-56); Kevin Boon (1952-56);  
Roger Bould (1954-59); David Boyer (1949-52);  
John Christie (1942-48); Peter Coates (1950-54);  
Bruce Cockburn (1965-92); Jim Cornish (1941-46);  
Roy Cowley (1951-56); Moss Delany (1953-56);  
Philip Dinniss (1959-63); Peter Graham (1945-49);  
Bill Hamilton (1940-45); Alan Hitchens (1951-56);  
Bryan Johnson (1951-57); Ian Kirker (1954-56);  
Doug Law (1928-52); Philip Mansford (1962-68);  
Rex Mansford (1934-39); Brent Marshall (1957-62);  
Peter Marshall (1950-56); John Martin (1947-52);  
Fred McCausland (1942-47); Shirley McLaughlin (1973-01);  
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); Rodney Reid (1952-56);  
Ivory Sanders (1936-41); Ernie Sellens (1928-30);  
Ian Stewart (1933-38); Rhys Watson (1946-52);  
Allan Young (1936-42); Stuart Young (1947-51).**

There were fourteen apologies including one from the Patron, John Lister.(1952-57)

**THE HERON CUP**

On Saturday 9 July in inclement weather a hard core of Old Boys joined the supporters of the First XV when Rongotai and Wellington College competed for the Heron Cup at Rongotai. The school, having beaten St Pat's, who in turn had defeated Wellington College, had high hopes for a home victory. Against the wind Rongotai deservedly led 8-3 at half time. In the second half Rongotai went ahead 12- 3 but two tries (one converted) late in the spell enabled Wellington College to emerge the winners 15-12.

The match was followed by an enjoyable Old Boys' function in the school staff room. It is hoped that this occasion can become a regular fixture on the Old Boys' calendar

*Acknowledgement: John Martin (1947-52)*

**Background to the Trophy**

It was donated in 1988 by the Heron family on the Golden Jubilee of Rongotai College. The Heron family had two sons, with one attending Rongotai College whilst the other attended Wellington College. The spirit of the competition and rivalry between the two sons was recognised by the mother. The family decided to honour this rivalry by donating a trophy and scarf for which the schools would compete. The scarf is perhaps the most cherished prize. It was knitted by the mother of the two boys with one end reading, "Rongotai" and the other, "Wellington." It is this scarf which provides the base for the tradition.

The tradition is that the coach of the current holders of the trophy must wear the scarf during the match. If defeated, the scarf is immediately presented to the coach of the opposing team.

The game is played as part of the regular College Sport Wellington competition, usually in the second round. However the host college can stipulate which round they wish to play.

### Winners of the trophy

1988 Wellington College	1989 Wellington College
1990 Wellington College	1991 Rongotai
1992 Rongotai	1993 Rongotai
1994 Wellington College	1995 Wellington College
1996 Rongotai College	1997 Wellington College
1998 Rongotai College	1999 Wellington College
2000 Wellington College	2001 Wellington College
2002 Wellington College	2003 Rongotai
2004 Wellington College	2004 Wellington College
2005 Wellington College	2006 Wellington College
2007 Wellington College	2008 Wellington College
2009 Wellington College	2010 Wellington College
2011 Wellington College	

*Acknowledgement: Ross Findlay*

### ARCHIVES

We have accumulated a large number of newspaper articles featuring Old Boys involved in a wide range of activities which include sports, business, law, music and drama, academic achievements, community involvement, and also articles about staff members, and college buildings. John Martin, a member of the archives committee, has spent a considerable amount of time sorting the articles into categories and placing them in plastic sleeves in file books with an index for each file for easy reference.

A significant number of duplicate team photographs have been located and these have been accessioned and re-located in a filing cabinet at the Archives Room.

We still have a significant number of individual and group photographs we are unable to process because they do not have a name or names to identify who appear in the pictures. Usually the occasion at which the photograph was taken is not included with the photograph either. Recently we accepted a kind offer from Jack Moir to visit the archives and assist us with our work. He was able to provide names for a number of rugby players in team photographs in the late 1940s and in the 1950s. We are very grateful to him for his assistance.

Recently another blazer was added to those on display in the cabinet in the corridor leading to the library. This is a light blue blazer with several vertical black stripes each with a narrow gold stripe along each edge. In the same cabinet there is a small sample of similar material labelled, 'Used for Honours Pockets.' We would be grateful to hear from Old Boys who could shed some light on this matter as there is some speculation that the blazer was an Old Boy's blazer.

### NEWS ABOUT OLD BOYS

**Acquisitions:** Visitors to the college will notice that the new entrance features recent donations of New Zealand representative gear. **Jeetan Patel** (1994-98) **Cricket**; **Chris Killen** (1995-98) **Football**; and **Ma'a Nonu** (1999-2000) **Rugby** have kindly donated shirts and jerseys bearing the Silver Fern. As well as a traditional All Black jersey, Ma'a has donated to the school the white jersey worn against France in 2009.



Also in the entrance foyer is the large colour photograph of the boxing match, March 1930,

between Peter Sarron and Tommy Donovan at the Kilbirnie Speedway Stadium, which was later incorporated into the college playing fields. The impressive photograph was generously presented to the college by Fuji Xerox

**Owen Catchpole** (1977-81) is a scientist with Industrial Research Ltd, Lower Hutt, a crown owned science organisation. Currently there is considerable debate about the future of IRL and whether its resources should be moved to Auckland and Christchurch where the key sites of industry are located.

*Acknowledgement: A comprehensive article by Patrick Smellie, The Dominion Post, 18<sup>th</sup> June, 2011.*

**Adam Church** (1997-2001). In the space of five months Adam captained the Wellington Interprovincial Golf Team to its first national title in nine years and his Miramar Golf Club team to its third consecutive Duncan Cup win, a rather rare feat in interclub competition.

In interclub competition Miramar defeated Shandon 8½ -6½ at Paraparaumu Beach in a marathon final which began in cold wind and rain and ended in near darkness at 5.30 p.m. When Adam teed off on the par five 18<sup>th</sup> hole, Miramar still needed a half with two matches on the course. His tee shot landed 190 metres from the centre of the green with his second with a two-iron landing five metres from the hole. His putt was successful and Adam had defeated his Shandon opponent 1 up. Miramar's performance in the singles clinched the trophy for Miramar.

*Acknowledgement: Mark Geenty, The Dominion Post, 23 May, 2011.*

**Bruce Edgar** (1970-74), currently a resident of Sydney, had appeared in only two charity cricket matches since he retired in 1990, but when invited to play in the charity match at the Basin Reserve in March this year to raise funds for the Christchurch Earthquake Appeal, he was happy to help. He joined the Martin Crowe Legends XI in the Twenty 20 match against Stephen Fleming's Canterbury XI.

Bruce's Wellington record of 6494 runs stood until last season when it was broken by Matthew Bell. He played for Kilbirnie, Wellington and New Zealand. In a first class career from 1975-1990 he played 175 matches scoring 11,304 runs at 40.22 which included 61 50s, 24 100s, and a highest score of 203. His test career spanned 1978-1986, playing 39 matches and scoring 1958 runs at 30.59 with 12 50s, 3 100s, and a highest score of 161.

He coaches at club level and runs the level two batting programme for aspiring coaches in New South Wales. Bruce has been Sydney-based for six years, working as a consultant in financial services. *Acknowledgement: The Dominion Post, March 2011.*

**Nick Garland** (1948-53) has established a reputation over many decades as one of the leading political cartoonists in the United Kingdom. His recent retirement has been recognised by Charles Moore in *The Spectator* (26 March 2011).

“Nicholas Garland has left the *Daily Telegraph*. He is 75 years old, and has been the cartoonist there (leaving aside a brief midlife-crisis-style relationship with the *Independent*) since 1966, the year of David Cameron's birth. He was talent-spotted by the deputy editor, Colin Welch, on the strength of a caricature of Richard Crossman which he published in the *Spectator*. It is an astonishing fact that Garland was the *Telegraph's* first political cartoonist. Until the Sixties, such a thing was considered too racy for a serious paper. Today, almost the opposite is the case. People are so used to visual gags and newspaper photographs have become so much more enticing than the past. Animations are all over the internet, and can be easily computer-generated. As a result, political cartoons have come to seem old-fashioned. You can see this in the way many cartoonists- though emphatically not Garland- strain for shock effect. Garland is in the great tradition of Low and Vicky. As a reader, as his colleague, and eventually as his editor, I learnt more about politics from Garland than I did from a thousand political columns, including my own.”

*Acknowledgement: John Martin (1947-52).*

**Steve Gianoutsos** (1981-85) was photographed when attending the *Visa Wellington on a Plate 2011* launch at Mojo Coffee Central.

*Acknowledgement: The Dominion Post, 21 June, 2011.*

**John Lister** (1952-57), the Association's Patron, after a long involvement with the *Spirit of New Zealand* and a term as a city councillor, was asked by an organisation known as Youthtown to be Project Manager for their *Break from the Quake*, for 600 Christchurch children over the July school holidays – one week free of charge in Auckland for an Auckland experience and a break from all the earthquakes.

The most affected schools were asked to choose 300 kids for week one, and 300 for week two, of the July

school holidays. There were thousands of applicants and 600 very lucky kids were invited.

According to John, Air New Zealand nearly had a fit when asked for 600 seats over that time, but agreed, as did many other Auckland businesses, and did so free of charge. They visited Sky Towers, Auckland Zoo, Motat, Rainbow's End, The Snow Planet, Bike Park, and Tree Adventure. Some of them saw games at Eden Park.

Mother nature moved in on the second Monday and all flights out of Christchurch were cancelled, so the 300 who missed out have been invited to come to Auckland in the October school holidays, which will be during the Rugby World Cup.

Congratulations to John who used his wide range of contacts, considerable logistical planning experience and understanding of youth to organise this most worth while venture.

**Ben Lakomy** (1997-2002), employed by the SPCA, featured in *The Dominion Post* of 9 May, with two stray eight week old pups which were stolen from the society's Newtown premises and found next day dumped in the grounds of nearby Wakefield Hospital. Staff at the centre are mystified as to the motives for the break-in as no other animals and neither money nor equipment was stolen. Thieves broke in through the quarantine area by removing a window. Staff named the two dogs Marco Polo and Christopher Columbus in light of their adventures.

*Acknowledgement: The Dominion Post, 9 May, 2011.*

**Ian Logan** (1974-78). His latest art exhibition of water colours, which ended on 4 July, was dedicated to *Tones of Taputeranga* and featured impressions of local landscapes, with particular attention to colours of rocks, the sea and the light.

Ian studied art history at Victoria University and exhibited in various galleries in Wellington in the 1980s. In the 1990s he opened his own gallery in Island bay before moving to Europe in 1998 to further his career. While overseas he took part in and organised exhibitions at the National Trust's Sutton House and Stoke Newington Library gallery. He also presented his work at NZ House in London and in Paris. In 2006 he moved to Aberdeen to paint the Scottish landscapes before returning to Island Bay.  
*Acknowledgement: Article by Agnes Ginestet, Cook Strait News, 22 June, 2011.*

**Ben Lummis** (1992-96). A recent *New Zealand Herald* magazine article featured what happens after the reality TV cameras stop rolling by following up

five New Zealand winners. Ben Lummis, *New Zealand Idol 2004*, was one of the five featured winners.

Ben is a committed Christian who believes in doing good works, inspiring others and making music. He is now a youth worker for the Youth Horizons Trust and helps wayward teenage boys sort themselves out. His background allows him to break down barriers and find common ground with these boys more quickly than others might.

After his *Idol* win he got full time work in the music industry for about four years, released one of this country's biggest selling singles, *You Can't Take That Away*, and toured New Zealand and other parts of the world. It was a busy time touring with fellow finalists on the *NZ Idol Live Roadshow*, and flying to Athens to perform at the NZ Olympic team's official dinner.

Ben found there were the inevitable disappointments too. Although his debut album was certified Triple Platinum, he was dropped by his record company three months after its release. He considers that it stymied his potential to learn more and to develop as a singer/song writer. His biggest disappointment has been the attitude of the music industry. He felt that their attitude was that there were other artists who deserved success more than he did. He kept making music full-time for four years before taking up his present job.

*Acknowledgement: Article by Dionne Christian in "Canvas, Weekend Herald Magazine", 2 July, 2011.*

**Ben Makisi** (1983-88) featured in the 2011 Daytime concert organised by Operatunity Entertainment Ltd and in *The Dominion Post* Summer Concert on 6 March, 2011.

Ben performed in the concert entitled *Three Tenors and a Soprano*, which was a tribute to the great tenors. In addition to items involving all three tenors, Ben sang two solo items and a duet with soprano, Susan Boland.

*The Dominion Post* Summer Concert with the Vector Wellington Orchestra, scheduled to be performed in the grounds of Government House, was forced by the weather to be performed in the Michael Fowler Centre. Ben, tenor, and Aivale Cole, soprano, were credited with singing brilliantly, and the orchestra with playing with great success.

**Troy McLean** (1993-97), who plays guard, is the captain of the Saints Basketball Team, which got the season off to a faultless start with six wins from six

games. He has played 15 years for the Saints and stated that this year's team is probably the best one he has played in, and talent-wise all the players from 1 to 12 can contribute in some way. The team has so much fire-power it can expend a lot of energy in bursts, bringing players on and off and not really losing much. Troy featured in the National Basketball League match when the Saints defeated Taranaki 107-99 to secure the regular season title.

*Acknowledgement; Article by Sam Worthington, The Dominion Post, 9 May, 2011.*

In the play-offs for the National Title, Troy contributed to the Saints win in the semi-final and in the final when the Wellington Saints defeated the Hawkes Bay Hawks 106 to 97.

In a thirteen year career to date, Troy has played 258 games, scored 3,000 points and taken part in three national titles, in 2003 and in back to back wins in 2010 and 2011. He has dodged injury and absence since 1998, playing all but one of the next 12 seasons for the Saints. It is a run believed to be unequalled in the National Basketball League. He is averaging more than 20 minutes a game this year and is arguably the league's leading three point shooter at 51.5 per cent (34 of 66), and from the free throw line where he has hit 11 of 12. He has a game scoring high of 25 points against Southland.

*Acknowledgement: Article by Toby Robson, The Dominion Post, 13 July, 2011.*

**Sam Morgan** (1989-92) is regarded as a big name in New Zealand venture investment. He has boosted his level of investment by \$2.5 million in New Zealand's largest social game company, Auckland-based *Small Worlds*, so that it can capitalise on the market for games played via social networks.

Gaming is the fastest-growing entertainment sector globally and has already overtaken both the music and film industries in revenue. *Small Worlds* is a virtual reality game that allows users to create their own spaces, outfits, missions and activities. It has two currencies, one that is earned through game experience and achievement and another that can be bought for real money. Researchers estimate that \$US7.1 billion was spent globally on virtual goods in 2010. *Small Worlds*, which gains about 60,000 players a week, aims to be a \$100 million export earner by 2013. *Acknowledgement: Article by Rob O'Neill, Sunday Star Times, 15 May, 2011.*

**Ma'a Nonu** (1999-00). For several weeks Wellington's rugby news was dominated by the decision of the Hurricanes' management to not offer Ma'a and Andrew Hore contracts for the 2012

season. That decision effectively ended Ma'a's contribution to Wellington and Hurricanes rugby since 2002. It is rumoured that ill-discipline on the field, attitudes to standards of training and an unwillingness to change were the main concerns of the franchise's new coach.

For a period Ma'a contemplated a move overseas, but he is seen as too valuable a member of the All Blacks to be moving from New Zealand. He has signed a two year contract to play for the Blues franchise in 2012 and 2013 and has been granted permission to play overseas for a period in each of those two years. *Acknowledgement: Various articles by Toby Robson in The Dominion Post.*

**Jeetan Patel** (1994-98) had an anxious wait to find out if he would be named in the list of 20 cricketers selected as contracted New Zealand Cricket players. Unfortunately he was not included in that list. The highest annual retainer in that list is currently \$177,000, plus match fees and a captain's bonus. Payment reduces in increments of \$6,000 to the bottom three who each receive \$72,000 plus match fees.

Jeetan has 12 tests, 39 ODI's and 11 Twenty 20 internationals to his name and last played for New Zealand in the Ahmedabad test last November. His form for Wellington dipped last season and he was dropped from the one-day side in January. Toward the end of last season Jeetan felt he was making progress. His batting improved markedly with scores of 99 against Northern Districts, and 51 against Canterbury. For a period his bowling had become a bit flat and a bit quick with not much spin on the ball. He considers he is starting to spin the ball a lot harder and getting a lot more action in the air.

*Acknowledgement: Article by Mark Genty, The Dominion Post, 11 May, 2011.*

**Brook Rapson** (1985-89) and **Murray Phipps-Black** (1970-75) jointly received the award for the *Rescue of the Year* at the Capital Coast Awards of Excellence. Both are life guards at the Worsley Bay Life Saving Club and their award stemmed from their successful rescue on 1<sup>st</sup> March this year of the 43 people aboard *The Dominion Post* ferry when it was in trouble with its nose going into the water. The two life guards launched an IRB rescue craft and assisted passengers to safety on shore.

*Acknowledgement: Article by Agnes Ginestat in City Life, Cook Strait News, 22 June, 2011.*

**Peter Read** (1936-39). The Carter Observatory has recently held an exhibition, *Peter Read: The People's*

*Astronomer*, dedicated to the life and work of Peter Read. Born in 1923, Peter became interested in the stars as a teenager and started an astronomy club as a third former at Rongotai. His teacher once wrote on an essay on astronomy, "Very interesting, you should try and develop your ideas further." His strongest subject was art and in 1939 he left school to join the National Publicity Studios where he created posters, displays and murals. After war service in the RNZAF in the Solomon Islands, Peter began acting in NZBC radio drama and later released two comedy albums. He also took up painting and his works were hung by the New Zealand Academy of Fine Arts over the next decade.

From 1947 Peter lectured at the Carter Observatory, going on to become Vice-President, then President of the Royal New Zealand Astronomical Society, President of the Wellington Planetarium Society, and a Fellow of the Royal Astronomical Society. He also built his own observatory in the backyard of his Miramar home.

Peter is probably best remembered for his television broadcasts about astronomy. In the first year of television in Wellington in 1961, Peter presented *A Closer Look at the Moon*, a 20 minute special followed by a ten part series, *The Infinite Sky*. *The Night Sky* ran on a monthly basis from 1963 until 1974. He also played a major role in the building of the Wellington Planetarium. Peter Read was characterised in the recent exhibition as "a happy extrovert, a natural and friendly man who perpetuated boyhood by making his hobbies and pleasures earn him a living." He died in 1981.

*Acknowledgement: Carter Observatory and [www.nzonscreen.com/person/peter-read/biography](http://www.nzonscreen.com/person/peter-read/biography). Article prepared by John Martin.*

**Mark Reddish** (1998-2002) and **Julian Savea** (2004-08), both of whom have been in impressive form for the Hurricanes Super 14 team, assisted Oriental-Rongotai to defeat Marist St Pat's in a recent Jubilee Cup match.

*Acknowledgement: Report by Matt Buck, The Dominion Post, 4 July, 2011.*

**Wynton Rufer** (1975-81) is one of two players inducted to the Wellington Football Hall of Fame. The judging panel selected eight finalists from twenty-nine nominees. Only retired players were considered, with the panel declaring that Wynton and Barrie Truman were the two outstanding candidates. Rufer, an outstanding player for Rongotai College, went on to play for German Club Werder Bremen, winning a Bundesliga title, a UEFA Cup winner's

medal and being named Oceania Player of the Century.

*Acknowledgement: The Dominion Post, 1<sup>st</sup> April, 2011.*

**Peter Sellers QSM** (1933-39) is regarded as a legend of New Zealand sports broadcasting. Recently a group of six current sports broadcasters, including Rongotai Old Boy Grant Nisbett, and a cricket statistician, joined Peter in Dunedin to celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday.

Peter worked for Radio New Zealand from 1952 to 1986, in Wellington initially, and then from 1958 in Dunedin. In addition, from the early 1960s until 1975, he fronted a popular television sports programme. A distinguishing feature was his flat generally gravelly voice, but even more apparent was his love of sport and the depth of his knowledge and memory of it. He was considered to be at his best when interviewing visiting sports stars and he was responsible for interviews with hundreds of them including Don Bradman, Eddie Charlton, Jesse Owens and Mark Spitz. He corresponded with many of them afterwards as well as with actors and American musicians through his interest in Hollywood. Although Peter left Wellington long ago, he maintains a keen interest in it and in the state of rugby in the capital city.

*Acknowledgement: Article by Joseph Romanos, The Wellingtonian, 16 June, 2011.*

**Graeme Steel** (1968-72) both an Old Boy and former teacher at the college, is now chief executive of the government anti-doping body, *Drug Free Sport New Zealand*. He is reported as recommending that any athlete considering supplement use should first seek professional advice. He considers that supplements for the most part are not necessary for athletes with proper diets, but from time to time can be important such as when deficiencies exist. If taken their use should be limited. His advice arose from an investigation carried out by *Sunday Star Times*, in which it linked the NZ Academy of Sport, the country's top sport stars and the \$1 million a year deal with Integra Healthcare, to unwitting positive doping tests.

*Acknowledgement: Sunday Star Times, Special Investigation, 10 July 2011.*

**Ian Wells** (1950-54) won the Community Trust of Wellington Lifetime Contribution to Sport Award at the 2011 Sport Wellington Awards. This award honoured his long and distinguished career in sport governance in Wellington.

Ian has been a member of the *Cricket Wellington* Board since 2004, and was its Chairman from 2006 to March 2011. Ian's careful stewardship steered *Cricket Wellington* through a period of extensive change in cricket, including ongoing contributions to New Zealand cricket at the national level. He has also been heavily involved in tennis and football in Wellington over a long period, is a former Chairman of Wellington Tennis, and was Chairman of New Zealand Tennis for 27 years, and was a Board Member of New Zealand Football for eight years. He is a Life Member of both Wellington Tennis and New Zealand Tennis and also a Life Member of the Miramar Rangers Football Club.

*Acknowledgement: Posted in News, 28 May, 2011.*

**Graham Williams** (1956-63), a legendary "hard man" of Wellington and All Black rugby, has the ability to ignore the pain of injuries and carry on for the cause. In a match against Auckland, Graham lost an ear and tried to persuade the trainer to tape it back on so he could continue playing. Of course his request was refused and the ear was stitched back in place at the hospital. In another match Graham lay on the ball and one ear was cut to shreds as opposition players raked for the ball (and his head). Further evidence of his high pain tolerance occurred recently when he slipped on a foot bridge and dislocated his shoulder during a golf match. He insisted on playing on and completed the 18 holes to square the match.

*Acknowledgement: Article by Toby Robson, The Dominion Post, 18 May, 2011 and a Dominion Post article of 20 May, 2011.*

**Kwame Williams-Accra** (2004-10) was selected to represent New Zealand in the sprint events at the Special Olympics in Athens in June this year. He had impressive secondary school results, winning the 100 metre and 200 metre national secondary school titles, and the athlete with a disability class at the senior national championships. Kwame trained for the Greek Special Olympic Games for eighteen months. He trained with other athletes at Newtown Park every Sunday and every other day for at least two hours a day. Athletes from 175 countries competed in 22 sports at these Special Olympics. Kwame has a condition called microcephaly which affects some areas of brain development. *Acknowledgement: Article by Robert Johnson, The Wellingtonian, 16 June, 2011.*

**Martin Woodbridge** (1993-97) is a Wellington medical student involved in a research project to influence the behaviour of injecting drug users in New Zealand, and prevent the spread of blood-borne diseases. He has been contracted by the Drugs,

Health and Development Project to investigate ways health professionals can collaborate to reduce the harm caused by drug use through injection.

The current project which has operated since 1989 includes one-stop-shops providing new injecting equipment for users, and a service for the safe collection and destruction of used needles. This has been effective in reducing hepatitis C rates from 75% five years ago to 50%, and has lowered New Zealand's HIV infection to one of the lowest rates in the world.

Martin considers that a new and more diverse health approach is now needed because of financial constraints, a finite health profession, and a wider range of drugs involved with injection usage. The use of drugs by injection now includes not only heroin but also pharmaceuticals, methamphetamine and steroids. He considers a more diverse response is required for this mixed group.

To ensure the harm caused by injecting drug use is reduced, Martin considers that pharmacies, sexual health workers, Accident and Emergency professionals and needle exchange staff need to work in collaboration. He aims to up-skill health workers at a workshop in August and to examine better networking amongst health professionals.

*Acknowledgement: Capital Times, 22-28 June, 2011.*

**Tony Woods** (1980-84) is receiving considerable publicity in the USA for the way he has taken solar and wind power to the people of Afghanistan. His involvement in renewable energy had its origin when biking through Pakistan and noting numbers of failed micro-hydropower generators. He asked New Zealand Aid for help and they hired him to fix the generators and train the locals to maintain and repair the plants.

In 1999 he visited Afghanistan and realised it was perfect for renewable energy, with abundant water in the northeast region, steady wind in the west, and strong sunshine in the east. In 2007 he moved to Kabul and established *Sustainable Energy Services Afghanistan* (SESA) using US\$4.8 million to bring electricity to remote villages and create a model of local development. It is a means to an end, to stability, to employment, and to growth. The team from SESA does the installation and the training of the locals to maintain the plants.

*Acknowledgement: Article by Michael Field, stuff.co.nz, May, 2011*

**A Special Note: Wade Thompson and the Park Avenue Armory, New York, USA**

The generosity to the College of the late Wade Thompson (1952-57) is marked by the Wade and Reid Thompson Arts Centre opened in 2007. (Wade's late brother, Reid, was also a Rongotai Old Boy).

Wade was also a generous benefactor to his adopted city, New York, USA. His Rongotai College contemporary, Peter Jackson (1956-59), recently visited the Park Avenue Armory (to which Wade contributed significantly). Peter has kindly made available to the College Archives brochures about the Armory obtained on his visit in May 2011.

The 7<sup>th</sup> Regiment Armory building has been described as "America's single most important collection of 19<sup>th</sup> century interiors to survive intact in one building." It was built by the National Guard as a response to President Lincoln's call for volunteers in 1861 and was completed in 1881. After half a century of poor maintenance the building has been restored over the past decade.

The Wade Thompson Drill Hall features 55,000 square feet of open, un-columned space. Over the years it has been home to a range of musical and other events, and can now host visual and performing art that cannot be mounted elsewhere. Most recently it was the venue for visionary artist and filmmaker Peter Greenaway's 'multimedia reverie' of Leonardo da Vinci's *The Last Supper*.

Wade's work with this national landmark was recognised by the award of the Jacqueline Onassis Medal for Outstanding Contribution to the City of New York, and in 2008 an award from the National Trust, Washington DC, of the 'Restore America Hero Award,' for his dedication to landmark conservation.

The Park Avenue website is:  
<http://www.armoryonpark.org/index.php/about us/>

Peter Jackson recommends a visit to the Park Avenue Armory to remember and acknowledge 'the boy from Rongotai.' LUMEN ACCIPE ET IMPERTI.

## **A LOOK AT FIRST XV's IN EACH DECADE**

The college's *Te Rama* magazine is the source used for this article. Until 1986 statistics giving the number of games played, won, lost and drawn were

reported each year. Unfortunately, with the exception of 1996, from 1987 through to 1999 those statistics were not included in the notes on the First XV in each of those years. From 2000 through to 2009 the amount of statistical information varies from some to none. It is a pity that editorial policy during those years allowed this to happen as there is no other source of the missing statistics. It is pleasing to note that statistics of games played, won, lost and drawn were included in the 2010 *Te Rama* report. Those researching information for the next Jubilee publication will welcome this change.

**1<sup>st</sup> Decade, 1928-37:** The most successful team was the 1936 team. Played 10 games, Won 8, Lost 2. Until 1933, all games were against colleges in Wellington and the Hutt Valley. In 1932 an annual fixture versus Stratford High School was instituted. Rongotai won 8 – 6.

**2<sup>nd</sup> Decade, 1938-47:** The 1941 team was the most successful. Played 12 games, won 9, lost 3. The 1944 team won the Secondary Schools' Championship. Played 13 games won 8, lost 4, drew 1. The 1943 team was the first to defeat Stratford High School at Stratford.

**3<sup>rd</sup> Decade, 1948-57:** The 1954 team was the most successful. Played 13 games, won 12, lost 1. The 1957 team was the first to play in an open grade – Third First Division Competition. Played 20 games, won 11, lost 3, drew 6.

**4<sup>th</sup> Decade, 1958-67:** The 1961 team was the most successful. Played 19 games, won 15, lost 3, drew 1. Graham Williams, a future All Black, played in the First XV from 1960 to 1963 and was captain in 1963. The 1960 team was the runner-up in the Third First Division and the top secondary school. Played 18 games, won 14, lost 4. The 1966 team was the first to beat Hutt Valley High, St Pat's Wellington, Wellington College and St Pat's Silverstream in the one season. The First XV played 7 years in the Under 20 grade.

**5<sup>th</sup> Decade, 1968-77:** The 1976 team was the most successful. They played in the Open Grade Under 19 1<sup>st</sup> Division and were joint winners. Played 20 games, won 17, lost 2, drew 1. The 1971 team played 21 games, won 17, lost 3, drew 1. Clive Currie, later an All Black, was the captain.

The 1968 team was 4<sup>th</sup> in the Open Grade and equal top college with Hutt Valley High. It was the first Rongotai First XV team to be undefeated in college games since entering the Open Grade in 1957. Played 23 games, won 15, lost 5, drew 3. Grant Nisbet, Sky

Sports Commentator, was captain. The 1977 team was runner up in the Under 19 1st Division Grade and the first placed college team. Played 19 games, won 16, lost 3.

**6<sup>th</sup> Decade, 1978-87:** The 1<sup>st</sup> XV played in the Under 19, 1<sup>st</sup> Division Grade until 1983 when the team rejoined the college competition at Premier Grade after grading matches. The 1986 team was the most successful, winning the Premier 1 College competition. It played 18 games, won 16, lost 2. The 1985 team was 1st equal in Premier I College Grade. It played 20 games, won 17, lost 2, drew 1. Junior Tonu'u, later an All Black, played in the 1987 team and was vice-captain of the 1988 team.

**7<sup>th</sup> Decade, 1988-97:** In this decade, 1989 and 1996 were the only years statistics such as Games Played, Won, Lost, Drawn, were included in the *Te Rama* report. From 1989 the team played in Under 19 First Division grade. The 1996 team had a successful year. It won the Under 19 Open Grade Competition, won the Secondary Schools' Premier 1 Grade and was third in the NZ Secondary Schools Top Four Competition with 240 teams competing. Played 27 games, won 24, lost 3. In 1997 the First XV won the Wellington Secondary Schools' Premier 1 trophy for the second year.

**8<sup>th</sup> Decade, 1998-2007:** The team of 1998 won the Premier 1 Wellington Secondary Schools' Competition for the third time; won all the traditional inter-collegiate matches; won the Wellington Secondary Schools' Sevens title. Some statistics were provided in 2000. In 2003, the team won the Premier 1 Division, the Williment Cup, The Heron Trophy and Scarf.

**9<sup>th</sup> Decade, 2008-10:** Statistics were provided for the 2010 season. Played 18, won 12, lost 6. In the semi-final of the Premier 1 College competition, the team played St Pats Town but lost 3-19.

## COLLEGE NEWS

**2010 NCEA RESULTS:** The Principal, Kevin Carter, reported that *The New Zealand Herald* published the results of all schools in New Zealand, and this showed that across all NCEA levels Rongotai College's results improved dramatically. The NCEA results at Level One for the college were amongst the most improved in the country.

*The Dominion Post* published the results for schools in Wellington and this showed that the NCEA results

for the college were the same or better than some of the higher decile local schools.

He attributes the improvements to a number of factors including:

- A focus on improving the literacy and numeracy achievement in Years 9 and 10 over recent years.
- The Qualifications Attainment Programme instituted in 2010.
- Hard work by staff and their involvement in their own Professional Learning which is based around improving learning outcomes for the students.
- The hard work of the students who have responded to the messages given to them about pushing themselves to be the best they can be in all they do.

**SCHOOL BUILDINGS:** The Ministry of Education has confirmed the allocation of \$2.2 million to replace the 40 year old gymnasium destroyed by fire last Boxing Day. Work on the new building alongside the rugby field is expected to start in August. It will feature a full size basketball court, more changing rooms and a weights room. It will be bigger than the old gym and designed for the 21<sup>st</sup> century.

A temporary gymnasium, pictured below, has been erected, and gym classes will continue to operate during the winter.



A recent article in *The Dominion Post* listed Rongotai as one of the schools with earthquake prone buildings. Only buildings two storeys high were evaluated and this was done through a preliminary evaluation of the building materials and construction type. In 2006 the school buildings were evaluated by structural engineers against the 1998 earthquake code, and the main block was strengthened at a cost of just over \$1 million.

During the planning for the redevelopment of the Renner Hall, the Board of Trustees commissioned a report by a structural engineer into the integrity of the Renner Hall. This was a comprehensive report which highlighted that the Renner Hall does not meet the current earthquake code.

As part of the planned up-grade of the Renner Hall, the Board resolved to strengthen the hall as part of the up-grade plans. The hall upgrade has been delayed due to the need to replace the gymnasium. The renovation and earthquake strengthening of the Renner Hall is planned for 2012 after completion of the new gymnasium. An application has been lodged with the Ministry of Education for financial support to undertake the earthquake strengthening.

## **STUDENT ACHIEVEMENTS**

### **Academic**

**Joshua Rippon** was one of five New Zealand students selected to attend the Professor Harry Messel International Science School in Sydney during July this year. Joshua aspires to work at the Large Hadron Collider in Geneva. One of the speakers at the Sydney Science School was Professor Allan Clark from the University of Geneva, who is a scientist at the Atlas detector at the Large Hadron Collider.

### **Cultural**

**Simon Cross**, Year 13, has been selected again this year to play the saxophone in the New Zealand Youth Jazz Orchestra. He enjoys the improvisation aspects because it's a chance to be creative rather than reading what is on the page. The band will tour and attend the Southern Jam Youth Jazz Festival in Blenheim, as well as play in Wellington with the Rodger Fox Wellington Jazz Orchestra.

**Ben Paterson**, Year 12, played the role of Tony in the Wellington East Girls' College's production of *West Side Story*. He made such a good impression he has been invited to be one of the singers in the production of *42<sup>nd</sup> Street* by Wellington Musical Theatre in September/ October.

**Bryson Ahuriri, James Boag, Conor Burr, Chayse Conroy, Joel Hardwick, Andrew Hodren and Jah Seng Lee** were also part of the Wellington East Girls' College's production of *West Side Story*.

**Jason Daniels and Tane Williams-Accra** have been selected as models in the 2011 production of *WOW* in the *Men Unleashed Section*.

### **Sport**

**The Senior Water Polo Team** won Division 2 of the Northern Zone championships held in Hamilton in April.

**The Handball Team** won the Wellington Regional Competition defeating Kapiti in the final.

**Ciaran Ryan** was selected in the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Water polo training squad.

**Hassan Roble** (Year 13) finished third in the Regional Secondary Schools' Cross Country Open race.

**The First XV** finished in 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Wellington Secondary Schools' Competition and played Wellington College in a semi-final on 30 July. This game was Ardie Savea's 50<sup>th</sup> game for the 1<sup>st</sup> XV having joined it as a year 10 student.

**Ardie Savea and Tuakana Matarau** were among 28 college players from Wellington Area Secondary Schools selected in a total of 75 students to attend the *Hurricanes* schools coaching camp in Feilding during July. The *Hurricanes* team was announced after the camp and **Ardie Savea** was included in the squad.

**Jerome Raemaki** (Year 12), a member of the Poneke-Kilbirnie Men's softball team, was selected in the national team for the June /July tour of North America.

## **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 6241.