



# The Chariot

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RONGOTAI COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

**August 2009.**

## 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, Rongotai College, at 7pm on Monday 14<sup>th</sup> September, 2009. PLEASE ENTER THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW.**

### AGENDA

Apologies  
Confirmation of the Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of 17<sup>th</sup> September, 2008  
Matters Arising  
Correspondence  
Chairman's Report  
Financial report  
Election of Officers  
Principal's Report  
General Business  
You are urged to attend and take an active part in your association. Light refreshments will follow the meeting.

## Rongotai College Old Boys' Association

### Short Financial Statement

**Year Ending 30<sup>th</sup> June, 2009**

#### **Income**

Assembly Luncheon	393
Subs and Donations	5912
Sale of Merchandise	285

**Total Income 6590**

#### **Expenditure**

Archives Costs	251
Chariot Costs	607
Leavers' Presentations	870
Furniture Restoration	2790
Anna Renner Scholarship	1000
Other Expenses	384

**Total Expenditure 5902**

**Income Surplus 688**

**Accumulated Funds 4305**

#### **Represented by**

Cash at Bank	2825
Merchandise Stocks	1480
	<b>4305</b>

**Note: These accounts are unaudited.**

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

### MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

Our new Principal, Kevin Carter, has now settled in. One of his first major tasks is to supervise the revamp of the reception and office areas inside the main doors of the college. It is very much appreciated that Kevin has found time to attend and contribute to the meetings of the Old Boys' Committee.

Bruce Cockburn hopes that we may be making some progress at last in getting the Old Boys' web-site up and running again. This has been a long and thankless task and we are indebted to him for his perseverance with this important venture.

Our Annual Assembly-Lunch was again a great success. Old Boy Sam Morgan of Trade Me fame was guest speaker and his address to the Assembly was very well received, especially as he is not much older than the senior students. We were also privileged to have Ernie Sellens (1928-30) a foundation student of the college and John Parkin (1929-32) present on this occasion. The caterer was an hour late with the lunch because of a motor accident on the Hutt Road, but everyone enjoyed the unplanned opportunity to converse with other Old Boys. As Bryan Johnson had once again donated some of his excellent wines, and the lunch when it arrived was of a high standard, this little hiccup added colour to the occasion.

The Archives team of John Martin, Ian Newton and Sel Moore are working away steadily each Tuesday morning and have made great progress in establishing a college archive of which we can all be proud.

John Lister, now an Auckland City Councillor, and who has for many years organised functions for Old Boys in the Auckland area, has agreed to stand for the position of Patron of our Association. John is making a special visit to attend our Annual General Meeting on 14 September, so I trust we shall have a good attendance.

Peter Coates recently visited Xiamen representing the Arts in the Wellington City's delegation to their sister city in China. He has offered to speak to the college students of his experiences and to give some advice and suggestions of a technical nature to the Art Classes.

We are grateful once again to Ian Kirker, who has agreed to audit our Annual Accounts.

**David Boyer (1949-52)**  
Chairman

### OBITUARIES

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

**Paul Anthony Bagshaw (1986-90)** died in a motor cycle road accident near Beverley, Yorkshire, on 23 April, 2009. He emigrated to New Zealand with his parents in 1975. He attended Rongotai College and was Head Boy in 1990. Paul was a talented amateur sportsman who played both football and rugby. He played for the Miramar Rangers Football Club and was selected for the Youth All Whites National team before returning to Beverley in the UK in 1991. He had trials for Newcastle United and played football and rugby for local teams. He was also a keen triathlete. For fifteen years he was a fire fighter at Calvert Lane Fire Station in the city of Hull.

**Donald Palmer Black** (1932-37) died at Sprott House on 11 January, 2009. He lived at Seatoun and served in the navy during World War Two.

**Neil Thomas Caradus** (1931-34) died at Matua Lifecare on 12 June, 2009. He served in the 2nd NZEF from 1940-45. He held the rank of Warrant Officer and was Mentioned in Dispatches. All his working life was spent with the Union Bank (which later became ANZ bank) and became a senior manager. In his younger days he was a member of St Giles Presbyterian Church Bible Class and a keen dancer.

**Ian James Catanach** (1947-51) died in Christchurch 20 May 2009. Ian was Dux of the college in 1951, a Prefect and winner of Upper 6 class prizes in English, French and History. He also edited *Te Rama* that year and in his editorial called for "A re-examination of educational aims...if a proper balance is to be preserved, an entirely new concept of teaching and learning must be evolved. This has been done before; it can be done again." After being awarded an Honours degree in History at Victoria University, Wellington, in 1957, Ian went on to complete a Doctorate at the School of African and Oriental Studies, University of London. His dissertation *Rural Credit in Western India 1875-1930* was later published by the University of California Press. Ian had a long career as a member of the History Department of the University of Canterbury, retiring as Reader. He taught and researched in Asian, particularly Indian, history and is fondly remembered by staff and students. *Acknowledgement: John Martin.*

**John Barclay Cowan M.B.E.** (1931-34) died 28 October 2008 at Tauranga. John held the rank of Lieutenant in the 2<sup>nd</sup> NZEF.

**Albert Edward (Bert) Enting** (1932-37) died 7 December, 2008 at Matamata.

**Albert Alfred (Alby) Flaunty** (1928-29) died 18 August 2008 at Lower Hutt, in his 96<sup>th</sup> year.

He was active in the Old Boys' Association early in the post World War Two years and was involved in the organisation of the 25<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of the college.

**Andrew Roger Humphreys** (1980- 83) was working for the Aviation Security Service at the time of his death on 9 February, 2009.

**Wayne George Kibby** (1976-81), a former staff member, died suddenly in Korea on 17 April, 2009.

**William James (Bill) McCabe Q.S.M.** (1940-45) died 14 March, 2009. Bill's career was as a scientist in the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. He began in the 1950's as a technician for a world authority on radio carbon dating. Bill developed other techniques for dating rocks and devised methods for using radioactive tracers to study the dispersion of fluids and gases. His studies involved putting radioactive tracers into the Moa Point sewer, studying the Wairakei geothermal region, fixing heat exchangers at the Marsden Point oil refinery and pinpointing gas leaks in one of the Cook Strait power cables so it could be repaired. Bill, a resident of Wainuiomata from 1959, was passionate about its environment. He was the foundation Chairman of the Wainuiomata Volunteer Bush Fire Service which was set up to assist the fire brigade to fight the numerous scrub fires in the valley. He enlisted the help of the Forest Service for training and equipment. When the Forest Service disbanded in 1987 Bill was involved in the formation of the Forest and Rural Fire Association, with the Wainuiomata force the first volunteer group to join it. He won brigade honours and in 1995 was awarded the Queen's Service Medal. In 1989 he led the Rimutaka Forest Park Trust, inspiring a group of volunteers to eradicate pests in the forest park to make it safe to re-introduce kiwis. For ten years their traps killed opossums, stoats and rats in about 10,000 hectares of bush, with their efforts rewarded three years ago with the

liberation of seven little brown kiwis. Earlier this year another twenty birds were flown from Little Barrier Island and released in the same area as the earlier seven. Bellbird numbers, as well as those of whiteheads, tui and native falcons, have also increased. Bill's other community commitments included President of the Wainuiomata Beautifying Society, membership of the Hutt County Council's Wainuiomata County Town Committee, the Wainuiomata Choir and Tomorrow's Trees organisation. *Acknowledgement: Dominion-Post 14 May, 2009.*

**Robert Richard McKnight** (1942-46) died 12 March, 2009 at Wellington.

**Warwick Burns Petry** (1938-42) died 21 March, 2009 at Waikanae. During World War Two, Warwick served overseas in the RNZAF.

**Stanley James Ting (Jim)** (1946-52) died 25 May, 2009 at Lower Hutt. After completing his secondary school education he completed a science degree at Victoria University at the end of 1955. For the next two years he followed a career in pure science as a laboratory technician with Shell BP Todd. He found the tedium of laboratory work not to his liking and turned to teaching at Rongotai College where he had been a student. Jim was a member of the teaching staff from 1959 to 1995. He became HOD Mathematics, taught general science and chemistry, and became Deputy Principal from 1974 with a period as Acting Principal. He left in 1995 when the Board of Trustees looked elsewhere for a principal. He was noted for his empathy with teenagers and for his adeptness at detecting students whose gifts had not been tapped and at unlocking confused minds so that abstract problems could be resolved with certainty. In 1997 Jim was appointed to the staff of Wellington College where he remained until 2004. He contributed with both his class room teaching skills and his considerable rugby coaching skills. His next teaching appointment

was to St Bernard's College, Lower Hutt, where he taught mathematics and managed the First XV. His teaching career encompassed forty seven years. Jim was a Justice of the Peace, a Marriage Celebrant, a Mason and senior Grand Warden of his lodge and a prominent member of the Tung Jung Association of New Zealand. *Acknowledgement: Dominion-Post 20 June, 2009- article by Peter Kitchen.*

### NEWS ABOUT OLD BOYS

**Brendan Burns** (1969-72), a new M P, is Labour broadcasting spokesman. He is concerned that the review of broadcasting regulations started by the Labour Government in 2007 has been terminated by Broadcasting Minister Jonathan Coleman. Brendan has concerns that the New Zealand broadcasting sector is the most unregulated one in the western world with "no real regulation of broadcasting, no anti-syphoning legislation, no cross media ownership laws and no requirement for New Zealand content." It is his view that anti-syphoning legislation would prevent Sky TV from buying exclusive rights to broadcasting events of national importance such as All Black games. He also stated that Labour wants to ensure free-to-air television survive. *Acknowledgement: Dominion Post 29 June, 2009.*

**Christopher Hainsworth PhD** (1959-6 ) studied organ with Ernest Jamieson (St Mark's Church, Wellington), Maxwell Fernie (Westminster Cathedral and St Mary of the Angels, Wellington), and Jean Ferrard (Professor at the Conservatoire of Brussels). He graduated with an M.A. in French and B. Mus from Victoria University of Wellington and subsequently completed a Doctorate at the University of Toulouse. He later extended his keyboard studies throughout Belgium and France, concentrating on French classical organ

music and developing his interest in the fortepiano. He has held various church music positions in Europe and New Zealand including Director of Music of Hamilton's Anglican Cathedral. He was Head of the Early Music Department of the Conservatorium of Beziers from the mid-1980's before becoming its Director. As inaugural Associate Professor of Music at the University of Waikato from 1996 to 2000, he helped establish the wide ranging course prescriptions the department now enjoy including research and performance options in harpsichord and organ. He now specialises in French Organ repertoire and presented a paper on the Organ Music of the French Revolution at the Biennial Convention of the American Guild of Organists in Seattle in 2001. Since retiring from the Conservatoire of Beziers he is now a free lance musician as well as devoting time to his duties as Titular Organist and artistic director of organ concerts at Beziers Cathedral. He returns to New Zealand frequently and is in strong demand as a recitalist, lecturer and accompanist. This year he recorded a full length CD on the organ most associated with his student days, at St Mary of the Angels.

*Acknowledgement: John Martin*

**Chris Killen** (1995-98), who is currently contracted to the Celtic Football Club in Scotland, has been approached by the Wellington Phoenix Football Club with the goal of attracting him to return to New Zealand and signing him for their club. Chris was signed by Celtic from Scottish rivals Hibernian on a three year deal in 2007, but recently he has not made the first team on a regular basis. In January he was on loan to English Championship side Norwich City but made only four appearances as a substitute during the rest of the season. He went to Africa with the All Whites for the Confederation Cup. In their last warm-up game against Italy, Chris scored two of the team's three goals to four loss. Prior to the warm-up games in Africa, Chris has scored 15 goals in 28

appearances for the All Whites. He has always indicated that he saw his future in Europe. In the *Dominion-Post* of 6 June Chris was reported as declaring that a return to Wellington and playing for the Phoenix won't happen any time soon. He said, "I'm in no hurry to leave. Celtic is such a great club and I'm just not ready to leave at the moment." *Acknowledgement: Dominion-Post 4 June and 6 June, 2009*

**Rob Knowsley** (1963-69) completed a Law Degree at Victoria University in 1973, and after practising law in Wanganui, in 1981 took his family to Australia, where he practised in Sydney until 1988. On retiring from practice Rob set up a Management Consultancy specialising in the legal profession, and has assisted over 1,100 firms in Australia and New Zealand over a period of twenty one years. He regularly delivers seminars to the legal profession throughout both Australia and New Zealand, and with this activity and many law firm clients in New Zealand, he is "back home" quite often. Rob and his wife have lived on acreage outside of Bathurst in western New South Wales for the past ten years, and indulge their joint passion for dressage horses.

**John Lister** (1952-57) retired from the position of CEO of the *Spirit of Adventure Trust* on 31 March this year after fourteen years of service which began as a five years only commitment. A month after he joined the trust in 1995 the *Spirit of New Zealand* ran aground on Great Barrier Island where it lay on its side for days before being returned to deeper water, virtually undamaged and with no injuries. This incident was the start of a passion for the trust and for getting young people to sea on ten day voyages that changed the lives of many of them. When John joined the trust it had two ships. The older of the two, the *Spirit of Adventure*, was sold to pay debts and reduce costs. As a result, the *Spirit of New Zealand* became one of the busiest tall ships in the world, sailing for 340 days of the year. In more than 35 years the trust has taken

76,000 young New Zealanders to sea, with 25,000 of them during John's time at the helm. In 2008 the Trust won the Sail Training Organisation of the Year award, beating organisations in twenty other countries. John said it was a huge reward seeing young people come off the ship after discovering a lot about themselves and with a dramatic improvement in their self confidence. The trust became John's passion. *Acknowledgement: Dominion/Post 30 March, 2009.*



**For an opportunity to join *Sprit of New Zealand* for a half-day cruise, see AUCKLAND FUNCTIONS below.**

**Ma'A Nonu** (1999-2000) continues to feature prominently in sporting new, playing second five-eighth for the Hurricanes in the Super 14 competition. His ability to break through opposition back lines and to pass well to those outside him contributes greatly to his team's efforts. His try in the semi-final match against the Chiefs was his ninth for the year and made him the leading try scorer in the Super 14 competition. He scored a try in the first test loss against France at Carisbrook in June, and another in the second test win in Wellington.

**Jeetan Patel** (1994-98) is one of four Wellington players to secure a county cricket contract in the UK. He has signed with Warwickshire and will play in the first division. Originally it was intended he would play for the Warwickshire 2<sup>nd</sup> XI, but when the First XI

became short of a slow bowler he was moved into the 1<sup>st</sup> XI. In May, Jeetan scored his maiden first-class hundred while batting at number 10 for Warwickshire against Yorkshire in a county match, and this in his first match for the county. He scored 120 runs from 153 balls to help lift the score from 241 for 8 to 474 for 9. The stand of 253 in 47 overs with Jonathan Trott is the ninth highest ninth wicket partnership in first class history. He also became the first player to score a century on first class debut for Warwickshire since Kumar Sangakkara in 2007. His previous best first-class score was 58 not out. However he was not so successful with the ball, finishing with 1 for 190 from 47 overs. For New Zealand, Jeetan has taken 22 test wickets at an average of 32.72 and 148 first-class wickets at 40.37. His inclusion in the test team against the Indian cricketers earlier this year is regarded by some commentators as overdue recognition of his ability to dismiss good players. Jeetan has been selected to tour Sri Lanka in August despite an injury to his right knee which caused Warwickshire to sideline him for six weeks. He is returning to New Zealand after moderate returns for the county side. At first class level he scored 131 runs in three matches at 43.66 and captured six wickets at 66.50. In the one-day competition he fared better capturing seven wickets at 33.40, with an impressive economy rate of 3.86 runs per over. *Acknowledgement: Dominion Post 16 May, 2009 and 4 July, 2009*

**Liston Peilua** (1992-97) and **Ben Uili** (1996-2000) are both prominent in the Hip Hop Dance scene.. Liston Peilua is Director of Hip Hop Aotearoa New Zealand and he welcomes the growth of this form of dance especially in the Wellington area with seven teams competing in the regional competition before the National Championships. Six of the seven teams qualified for the finals in Auckland. Ben Uili is founder and leader of the Wellington group *Legacy* which came sixth in last year's Hip Hop championships in Las Vegas, USA. This

involved some 1,500 dancers from 30 nations. Ben considers Hip Hop incredibly stressful but he will keep going as long as his knees and lungs hold out. Each team must have a minimum of five dancers and a maximum of eight and is required to create an original dance routine lasting no longer than two minutes.

*Acknowledgement: Kapi Mana News March 31, 2009.*

**Luke Pierson** (1994-98) was photographed at the launch of the New Zealand Affordable Art Show when patrons were able to meet the artists ahead of the show in July at the TSB Bank Arena.

**Julian Savea** was the college's Sports Captain in 2008. He built up a reputation as a rugby player of the future. While still at college in 2008 he played in the New Zealand Sevens Rugby team competitions in Dubai and South Africa. In 2009 he has played for New Zealand in the World Cup Sevens competition in Dubai, Hong Kong and Australia. He was also selected in the Junior All Blacks.

**Terry Serepisos** (1977-81), a Wellington property tycoon has an air of confidence despite the current economic recession affecting economies world wide. He rules a Wellington property portfolio of sixteen buildings estimated to be worth \$50 million. Two of his latest developments, the Century City Hotel Apartment and Parking Complex and an eight storey IBM Office Block are near completion. The Century City complex, built on what used to be Wellington's Produce Markets, has 140 apartments, a hotel made up of 100 serviced apartments and 750 car parks. The hotel operates under the Accor brand and opened in February. Work on the upper floors is due to be finished in about two months. The car parks are selling at \$50,000 each and about thirty of the furnished apartments with prices ranging from \$390,000 to \$1.2 million have been sold. The \$30 million IBM building at Petone is nearing completion

and Terry is confident of getting tenants. At least three of Terry's properties, the former World Trade Centre, the Burger King Building in Manners Mall and the retail complex at 286 Lambton Quay, are on the market as he is consolidating and re-investing while interest rates are so low. *Acknowledgement: Dominion-Post 23 May, 2009.*

**Nevan Wright** (1954-58) completed his B.Com in 1964 (part time study) and joined the Air Force where he attained the rank of Squadron Leader. He left the Air Force in 1973 and held various positions including Finance Director of J Inglis Wright, working with Chris Eills {RCOB contemporary) and subsequently he joined Tyree Power Construction as Director and General Manager until that company was taken over. Nevan joined the Open Polytechnic in 1990 where he met up with Dave Hornblow (also a contemporary RCOB). He gained his Masters in 1994 (Massey University), and subsequently his Doctorate (PhD) from Brunel, London in 2001. He is now an Associate Professor at Auckland University of Technology. Over the last 14 years Nevan has spent several months each year lecturing in the northern hemisphere. In 2008 he was a visiting Professor (Operations Management) at Kingston University, London, and in December 2008 he was a visiting Professor at 'the Academy of National Economy, in Mosco, Russia. In 2009 he will be lecturing in Germany at Kassel University (he has visited Kassel on three previous occasions). He is the author /co-author of 12 management text books: the most recent (2008) is "Total Supply Chain Management". Nevan is also a Justice of the Peace and a rather ugly golfer (by his own admission-Editor.)

## OLD BOY ACTIVITIES

### ANNUAL ASSEMBLY AND LUNCH

On Friday 5 June, thirty four Old Boys attended the college assembly and met after for lunch and a get-together in the library. From 1.30 pm Prefects conducted tours of the college for those who wished to do so. At the assembly the Principal, Kevin Carter, welcomed the Old Boys and made special mention of Ernie Sellens, a Foundation student in 1928, and now 95 years old, and John Parkin, who enrolled at the college in 1929. Both received very generous applause when invited to stand. This year the speaker from the Old Boys was Sam Morgan (1989-92). A copy of Sam's address follows.

*“Good Morning Rongotai. It's nice to be back. This is my first time back here since I left in 1992 – 17 years ago, I think that back then, the thought of giving a speech at the Friday assembly probably would have made me puke. That feels a long time ago.*

*I started here in 1989 in 3SR, Sue Randal's form class. I remember a few things about that year – I remember the gym weigh-in. I weighed 35 kilos and the biggest boy in my class, a Tongan friend, Joey, weighed in at 120 kilos. I remember getting caned in science class on the last day that corporal punishment was legal. I remember laps of the field when misbehaving in Mr Castle's Music class.*

*‘Technology-wise, we were a different era. I don't think I used a computer at school the whole time I was here. We had one at home, but almost all assignments were handed in hand-written. Anything typed was impressive – anything off a computer suspicious. We didn't have cell-phones, no text messages, no email, there was no Internet, no Google, no Trade Me, no Facebook.*

*I had a little business at school selling computer games on 3.5 inch computer disks.*

*I had a good time here and left Rongotai to go to University – but I had no idea what I wanted to do, so I chose the subjects I thought would be easiest, but still got rubbish marks – I was not getting a degree in a hurry. I lasted a couple of years, but didn't make much progress. I left and started working for a company as a graphic designer. After a couple of years doing this I decided I wanted to learn how to build a website – I got started on a real project – a classifieds website – and in the process, over a few months, created the first version of Trade Me.*

*I asked a couple of mates of mine if they wanted to help out for a share of the company – but they didn't want to work in their evenings, so said no thanks. Trade Me now has 150 staff and \$100 million of annual revenues. I sold that company in 2006 for \$750 million. It was a wild ride. Those mates must be kicking themselves.*

*Trade Me started very small, we worked really hard, hired our friends and just tried to do the best we could every day. Over 8 years, this turned into a big business. Two friends from Rongotai worked with me and we all did very well. Those friendships started here.*

*Someone who builds a business is typically called an Entrepreneur. Entrepreneurs come in all shapes and sizes – some are good at school, many are not. I don't think you can easily teach how to be an entrepreneur. Entrepreneurs often have no idea what they want to do-but know they don't like the path laid out in front of them – working for someone else telling them what to do. I think this is why I chose to start a business.*

*Some of you will be natural entrepreneurs – unable to be employed by someone else. Some of you will need to work on your entrepreneurial talents. Some of you will need to get stuck in a job you hate to decide you need a change. Many of you will stay in that sucky job and just moan about it. You don't want to get stuck hanging out with those guys.*

*You should all start thinking about starting a little business. Most successful companies start with partnerships between friends from school or university.*

*Everyone has different skills: Some of you will be good at new ideas. Some of you will be really good at selling – selling stuff people want is how you make money. Some of you will be good at accounting, marketing, design, talking people into stuff they don't want, whatever ...*

*Find mates who can help you do it – get a tall, good looking mate to do the sales, get your computer geek mate to do the computer– stuff, get other mates to do the work and help out.*

*Think about starting a little business with a mate: Start sketching your business idea this weekend. Nobody will give you any NCEA marks for doing it – but it can open up a world of possibilities.*

*Thanks for listening – have a great weekend. “*



**Head Prefect Joshua Smith & Sam Morgan**



**David Boyer & Ernie Sellens**

Following the talk, the Principal acknowledged the achievements of several boys and the first college choir for eighteen years, the O Le Ala choir sang an item. It was a very impressive rendition. This group won the Festival Cup at the Wellington Big Sing Choral Festival.

**LIST OF OLD BOYS' ATTENDING:**

Ian BARR, (1938-43), Charles BLADES (1950-56), David BOYER (1949-52), Don BRAY (1947-52), John CHRISTIE (1942-48), Bruce COCKBURN (1965-92), Jim CORNISH (1941-46), Roy COWLEY (1951-56), Bill HAMILTON (1940-45), Bryan JOHNSON (1951-57), Ian KIRKER 1954-56), Doug LAW (1948-52), Rex MANSFORD (1934-39), John MARTIN (1947-52), Shirley McLAUGHLIN (1978-2001), James McMULLAN (1967-70), Liam McMULLAN (2003-07), Jack MOIR(1942-48), Pen MOORE (1932-37), Selwyn MOORE (1937-42), Sam MORGAN (1989-92), Don NEELY (1947-53), Jack NEWBOLD (1936-42), Ian NEWTON (1945-49), Bob O'BRIEN (1947-51), Ken ORMAN (1934-38), John PARKIN (1929-32), Trevor RIGBY (1943-49), Alistair ROBB (1954-57), Ivory SANDERS (1936-41), Ernie SELLENS (1928-30), Rhys WATSON (1946-52), John WESTON (1941-45), Allan YOUNG (1936-42).

## AUCKLAND FUNCTIONS

John Lister, who has been active for a number of years in organising an annual get-together, has arranged for a sailing of *The Spirit of New Zealand* on Waitemata Harbour on 18<sup>th</sup> September. He has used e-mail addresses to contact Old Boys in the Auckland area, inviting them (and wives, partners and girl friends) to enjoy the sailing departing Princess Wharf at 9am and returning at noon. Reporting time is 8.30am. The cost is \$50 per person. As numbers are limited, the first 100 to register with John will sail.

Those who miss out, or would prefer to stay ashore, are invited to meet at the Wharf Café Maritime Museum about noon for lunch when the ship berths after the morning sailing. To book for both the sailing and the lunch, or for the lunch only, contact John as soon as possible by e-mail or phone or letter. Please send cheques for the sailing by post.

A number of e-mails sent out did not reach the intended recipients, probably due to a change to their e-mail addresses. If you did not receive an e-mail and are interested in the sailing and lunch or just the lunch, please contact John.

His contacts are; e-mail [JGRLister@gmail.com](mailto:JGRLister@gmail.com) or [Cr.Lister@aucklandcity.govt.nz](mailto:Cr.Lister@aucklandcity.govt.nz)

Home telephone: (09) 6344486; Mobile; 021 963045. Home address is: 838 Manukau Road, Royal Oak, Auckland 1061.

Chris Ellis, who has organised a reunion of the 1959 First XV, has linked with John and the 59ers are invited to join the sailing on the morning of the 19<sup>th</sup> September. In an e-mail, Chris advised the 59ers to advise him if their "better half" would be joining the sailing. After the ship returns, the ladies in the re-union group lunch at Potifino Restaurant, the best seafood restaurant at the Viaduct Basin. Shopping in nearby Queen Street, Vulcan Lane and the

Chancery is recommended as post-lunch therapy.

The 59ers stag reunion continues at the Cavalier Tavern in Ponsonby. A pub style lunch and drinks, mainly draught beer, will be served.

## FOR THE RECORD

### THE 1959 FIRST FIFTEEN

R.I.Charlesworth; J.D.Haswell; G.J.Lucas;  
S.D.Turnbull; D.Morrison; J.H.Hartley;  
B.A.Hay A.D.McKay; C.H.T.Ellis;  
R.P.Cameron; K.N.Grant; E.M.Cornford;  
R.A.F.Wilkie; W.N.B.Cunliffe;  
N.D.R.McKercher; D.H.Hand; R.A.Dyett;  
I.R.Fisher. Coach: L.F.Gardiner

Honours Pockets for Rugby were awarded to.  
K.N.Grant; R.P.Cameron; W.H.B.Cunliffe; R.A.  
Dyett; C.H.T.Ellis; I.R.Fisher; D.H.Hand;  
J.H.Hartley; B.A.Hay; G.J.Lucas; A.D.McKay;  
N.D.R.McKercher; D.Morrison; R.A.F.Wilkie;

Results: Saturday Third First Grade games:  
v.Wellington, won 8-5; v.Marist, lost 5-12;  
v.University, lost 6-9; v St Pats Old Boys, 3-3; v  
Oriental, won 11-0; v St Pats College, won 8-3;  
v. Silverstream College, won 9-5; v.Poneke won  
14-6; v HCHS, lost 5-8; v.Onslow, won 35-6;  
v.WCOB, won 11-3; v.Taita, won 27-11;  
v/Wellington College, won 15-9, v.Wellington,  
lost 6-9

Summary: Played 14, won 9, lost 4, drew 1

Annual Games: v. Wairarapa College, won 16-3;  
v.Horowhenua College, won 27-3; v.Stratford  
Technical High School, drew 6-6; v.Rongotai  
College Old Boys, lost 12-14.

Total summary: Played 18, won 11, lost 5, drew  
2. Points For 224; Points Against 118.

Source: *Te Rama of 1959*.

**ARCHIVES:** The committee continues to meet regularly on a weekly basis, and to date considerable progress has been made cataloguing pictures and photographs as well as other items of memorabilia. 487 pictures and photographs and 274 other items of memorabilia have been processed.

The committee is grateful for donations of items since those listed in the March *Chariot*. The following have been received. Russell McIsaac gifted his school blazer; John Weston gifted a photograph of the entire 1945 school population with school buildings as the background, a copy each of *Fifty Years Rolling Along, Rongotai 1928-49, Still Rolling Along 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee 1928-1988, Te Rama A Rongotai 1987, and the Rongotai College Cook Book.*; Peter Jackson gifted a tape of the Banquet Speeches given at the 50<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Banquet.

The committee welcomes gifts of photographs of Old Boys, staff, college life such as individuals in action, ATC, Cadets etc; early copies of Old Boys' Association Newsletters, medals, badges, awards, War Medals, school reports, certificates etc. If Old Boys wish to retain possession of their documents and photographs we can make copies and return originals within a short time. Please address items to RCOBA Archives, Rongotai College, P.O.Box 14-063, Wellington 6241.

### **REUNION OF 3<sup>rd</sup> FORMERS OF 1969**

Preparations are under way for the next reunion and the organisers are seeking contact information they do not currently have for 40 former class mates. Of the third form intake in 1969 of approximately 220, they have 180 individual e-mail and postal addresses but are searching for contact details for:

Logan G.A; Zittersteijn W.J; Vandermeer L.R; Te Kira S and J; Ludlow D.R; Paish J.A; Gush H.C; Govind R; Donaldson G.N; Black S.W;

Bartlett T.M; Radford D.P; Morris D.G; Lane W.E; Kalman P.D; Henry A.K; Gunther J.A; Copp T.J; Burson, D.P; Unuka N; Pauling G; Moug G; Meagher J.R; Logan G.A; Crown M.T; Afamasaga A.R; Magalous E.P; Goodall D.K; Diesenaar P.S; Froome R.S; Alison T.L; Janson P; Fowler P.H; Anderson M.E.G; Roigard B.J; Gibson M.F; Botica G.W; Evans R.J.C; and Jamieson P.R.

The last get-together in Wellington in 2005 attracted 95 former third formers from the 1969 intake, plus the Principal Graeme Jarratt and teachers Jim Ting, Bruce Cockburn and Ivan Bowden. Other get-togethers were held in 1991, 1995 and 1999.

If you know the whereabouts of any of the above Old Boys, please contact **Brendon Stone (1969-74)** on [brendonstone@paradise.net.nz](mailto:brendonstone@paradise.net.nz)

### **COLLEGE NEWS**

#### **END OF AN ERA**

A function to farewell retiring Principal Graeme Jarratt was held at the Pines Restaurant, Houghton Bay on 3 April, 2009. Those attending included Hon Annette King, MP for the Rongotai electorate, the Principal of Wellington East Girls' College, representatives of the Boards of Trustees, representatives of the Old Boys' Association's committee and the staff.

Speakers were Allen Shanks, current Chairperson of the Board of Trustees, Trevor Rigby and Russell Lewis, both previous Chairpersons of the Board of Trustees during Graeme's time at the college, Joshua Smith, the Head Prefect, and Suze Randal, the Deputy Principal.

All speakers highlighted Graeme's personal qualities and how they impacted on the college.

References were made to his diplomacy skills, enthusiasm, courage, decisive decision making, integrity, commitment to the school, compassion, wisdom, industry, loyalty and his ability to relate well to the students. References were also made to the great respect of his peers, to his ability to bring out the best in his staff and in the students, to the improved discipline in the school, to his leadership and as a role model.

In his reply Graeme emphasised that his approach to his role is always governed by what is best for the students. He paid tribute to Suze Randal's contributions and to those from other senior staff and expressed thanks to the Boards of Trustees for their support during his principalship.

*A number of those present commented very favourably on the speech given by the Head Prefect, Joshua Smith. His address is printed below. Editor.*

#### JOSHUA'S ADDRESS.

*Thank you for allowing me the privilege of speaking here tonight.*

*Mother Teresa once said, "It's not what you do, but how much love you put into it that matters." To me, this sounds like Mr Jarratt; not because what he has done is unimportant, it's anything but, but rather because of the amount of love he has for this school, its students, its staff, its reputation and its future.*

*And while we're on quotes by famous people, Franklin D Roosevelt said of public speaking, "Be sincere, be brief, be seated." That's what I'll try and do tonight.*

*I once read that the essence of love is not what we do or provide for others, but how much we give of ourselves. And that the best way to spell this kind of love is T – I – M – E. When thinking about Mr Jarratt, one thing that I find hard to overlook is the amount of time that he has been*

*the principal of Rongotai College. In fact, just to put things into perspective, the 24<sup>th</sup> of June 1991 (the day Mr Jarratt started) was 34 days before I was born. Now, I know that time is a very subjective thing, but as far as I'm concerned, that seems like a lifetime. Mr Jarratt is now the second longest serving principal this school has had. And when you consider that Rongotai has only had six principals in its eighty-two year history this is an impressive achievement that, in its own right, deserves to be congratulated.*

*But we can hardly leave it at that because Mr Jarratt has given this school far more than just his time. He has given his skills, his knowledge, his attention and focus. He has gone far beyond the job description in almost every area and the school has benefited greatly. As a student, right from my first day Mr Jarratt has been a great role model and a very visible principal. I have always enjoyed hearing you speak in assemblies, sir. The fluency and apparent ease with which you manage to get your point across and your use of interesting stories. You seem to have a story for every occasion and there aren't too many that I've heard you tell more than once. But I will never forget one occasion earlier this year when you wore a bright yellow beanie in assembly in order to show the school how bad beanies looked with the uniform. We definitely got the point.*

*As for Mr Jarratt being a visible principal, this is the part that will stick out in my mind the most. Here's a man with quite possibly one of the busiest jobs on earth who still finds time to be a presence in the day to day happenings around the school. Sir your words at the meetings and practices of our many sporting and cultural groups have been both encouraging and inspirational. And of course, how could I not mention your sideline support of our sporting teams dressed in the usual suit and tie but coupled with gumboots. The long and short of this whole matter, sir, is that with you retiring*

*you're leaving behind some pretty big gumboots to fill!*

*But in all seriousness, on behalf of the students past and present, of Rongotai College (of whom, many would love to be standing here tonight) I would like to say a huge thank you. Thank you for your constant presence and support, for your wisdom, leadership and knowledge, and for your vision and your hard work to make that vision reality.*

*Finally sir, I want to thank you for being you. Your leadership and your personality will be greatly missed at Rongotai. I wish you all the best for what is a well-deserved retirement. Every happiness in all you do in the future and I hope we'll see you around.*

### **THE START OF A NEW ERA**

The Board of Trustees appointed Mr Kevin Carter MA Hons, Dip Tchg, as the principal from the beginning of Term 2, 2009. Kevin's previous position was Deputy Principal (Learning) at Tauranga Boys' College, a position he held since 2003.

Kevin commenced his teaching at Auckland Grammar School in 1984 and remained at that college until 2000. During that time he was appointed Head of the Social Science Faculty in 1997, and Director of Information Technology in 2000. In 1988-89 he was granted leave during which time he taught in London, England.

From 2001-2002 Kevin held the position of Assistant Principal at Napier Boys' High School with major responsibilities for student management, prior to his appointment at Tauranga Boys' College, a school of 1,700 students.

Kevin is married, and has two children of primary school age. He is a keen sportsman, and has coached extensively in all the colleges with which he has been associated.

### **SPORT**

**Ardie Savea**, younger brother of Julian Savea gave an impressive performance when he came on in the second half of Rongotai's win by 27 to 8 against St Bernard's in the second round of premier rugby. Ardie is fifteen years old and plays at flanker.

**Bharkha Mohammed**, a year 9 student won the junior boys' race at the Wellington Cross Country Championships held at Trentham. The Year 9 three man team was placed third. In the Karori Relay Barkha broke the Year 9 course record over the 2 km course with a time of 6 minutes 55 seconds. At the National Cross Country Championships at Nelson, Bharkha was second in the Year 9 boys' race, only 3 seconds behind the winner.

**Jerome Raemaki**, has been selected for the New Zealand Junior Boys' Development Softball team to take part in a tournament in Sydney, Australia from 13-17 July.

**George Amosa and Hennie Tui** were selected to attend the Hurricane's Schools' Coaching Camp in the July school holidays. At the conclusion of the camp the Hurricanes' Schools' team was named to play in the national tournament in Auckland on 14, 15 and 16 July.

**Ist XI Football**, has qualified for the Premier round of the College Sport Wellington Football competition. This is the first time for a number of years.

**Rongotai First XV** defeated St Pat's Silverstream 20-16 to win the Old Boys' Cup.

## CULTURAL

The college's O Le Ala choir, the first Rongotai College choir for eighteen years, performed at the Big Sing at the Old Town Hall recently and won the Festival Cup for the best choir. The national finals of this competition will be held in Dunedin in August.

Nearly one hundred students competed in the Wellington Junior Hospitality Challenge, 2009 held at Lower Hutt. Five Rongotai students competed with considerable success. **Mitchell Clark** won a silver medal for his pasta dish; **Jack Tarpley** won silver for his mocktails and a gold medal for his pasta dish. Jack's gold medal was the only gold presented at the competition.

## THE PRINCIPAL'S PRIORITIES

At the second assembly of term two, Kevin Carter, the new Principal, outlined to the boys that his priority at the college is to improve their learning outcomes, and for them to achieve to their potential in life. To do this, he believes the school community, parents included, needs to raise their expectations of the boys and there needs to be an environment where the students

- Behave sensibly
- Are polite and courteous to staff and fellow students
- Respect other people and their property, including the school's property
- Are at school and on time for school at the start of the day and for all classes
- Come to school prepared and with the correct equipment and with a positive attitude.
- Complete class work and homework on time
- Wear their uniforms correctly and proudly at school, and on the way to school

- Make the full use of their talents and skills
- Participate in teams, clubs or other positive activities that the school offers outside of the classroom
- Push themselves to achieve their potential in life.

## CONTRIBUTIONS

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.