



## Napier Boys' High School Association

# COLUMNS

VOLUME TWENTY SIX ISSUE ONE

JUNE 2018

### Editorial

*A German lorry driver sat in a Liverpool bar mouthing off about how lazy the British are...*

*He says 'I drive my truck from Hamburg to Liverpool via Holland/Belgium over to the UK and up to Liverpool, drops my load off and back to Hamburg in under 2 days'. Drunk old man can't help but hear him and mutters 'Really lad, I used to pick my load up in Liverpool, drop it off in Hamburg and make it back to Liverpool the same day!' German man, gives a sarcastic laugh and replies 'Oh yeah old man, what rig were you driving?' Old fella replies 'a Lancaster Bomber!!'*

There were just three days to execution for 168 condemned allied airmen facing a Nazi firing squad but Squadron Leader Phillip John Lamason, DFC & Bar, hadn't told his men and he was determined they'd survive. "When the 168 allied airmen arrived at Buchenwald Concentration Camp, they didn't know what they were dealing with yet," Mike Dorsey said. "And in Phil Lamason, the Germans didn't know what they were dealing with yet, either." Dorsey is a United States film and documentary maker, (*The Lost Airmen of Buchenwald*) and grandson of 1944 Buchenwald survivor, "Easy" Freeman.

Dannevirke's Phil Lamason is now acknowledged as one of New Zealand's greatest World War II heroes, but his contribution has been largely unknown - until now. His heroism and a remarkable eye-locking encounter with a senior German officer and a twenty-strong firing squad, while surrounded by snarling guard dogs in the Buchenwald Camp in 1944, which saw the officer back down, is captured with spine-tingling realism in *I Would Not Step Back* . . . The true story of a reluctant Kiwi War hero.

It was a defining moment in an already momentous bomber command career - his life was on the line, but he would not step back.

Because Mr Lamason refused to back down, all 168 of his men, 82 Americans, 48 British, 26 Canadians, 9 Australians, 2 New Zealanders and 1 Jamaican, survived the hell hole that was Buchenwald, where often the only way out was as smoke through the chimney, (Phil said before his death in 2012 aged 95.)

On 8<sup>th</sup> February 2018, his wartime story of leadership and courage, which endures as an inspirational and empowering model for people of all ages, *I Would Not Step Back* . . ., written by Hilary Pedersen, was launched in Dannevirke. Napier Boys' High School Archivist and the "Columns" Editor, were amongst the hundreds of guests at that book launch. The joke at the start of this editorial kicked off proceedings.

But this is more than a war story, it explains what made Mr Lamason the man he was. It's a story of a humble hero and loving family man too. The Phil Lamason Heritage Centre Trust, committed to preserving and sharing Mr Lamason's unique story, commissioned Pedersen to write the definitive story. Pedersen admitted when first approached about writing the story she had no idea who Phil Lamason was or anything of his exploits. "This is a story which touches layers of humanity," Pedersen said.

- Phil Lamason the humble hero, flew Stirling, Lancaster and Wellington bombers in World War II.



School Archivist Phillip Rankin at the book launch

- He was shot down over France on June 8, 1944. He was hidden by the French Resistance for seven weeks before being captured by the Gestapo.
- Phil and fellow airmen were sold out by traitor Jacques Desaubrie for 10,000 francs, the equivalent of \$120.
- They were herded into cattle cars for the horrendous five-day journey to Nazi concentration camp Buchenwald, on the Ettersberg (Etter Mountain) near Weimar, Germany.
- He went on to save the lives of 168 airmen who were incarcerated with him in Buchenwald.
- His values were hard work and he never took the easy way out. Whether he was staring down the barrel of a gun, or staring down the bank manager who didn't want to lend him money, there was no backing down.
- Mr Lamason attended Napier Boys' High School 1932-33, and Massey University, and was a young cadet at the Smedley training farm in Ongaonga, was a NBHS Farm manager, farmed at Rua Roa Dannevirke and in later years was on the Smedley board for 20 years.

Books can be purchased and are available in hardcover or an e-book from [www.phillamason.com](http://www.phillamason.com).

Chris Geddis

The school website is [www.nbhs.school.nz](http://www.nbhs.school.nz)

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# News from the School

## From the Headmaster's Office.....

2018 is well underway now with the school starting the year with a healthy roll of over 1200 students – domestic and international – which included 185 boarders. We also formally welcomed five new staff to the school at the start of the year:



Mrs. Jo Double, Head of Learning Support, who joined us from the RTLB service; Mr. Luke Buxton, into the English department following years of teaching in Christchurch; Old Boy Mr. Bevan Lynch, PE and Agriculture, after previously teaching at Hastings Boys'; Mr. Tony Salsano brought his chef experience to the Food Technology and hospitality classes while Mrs. Katherine Bertram

assists the Art Department as a part-time teacher for 2018.

The school's examination results were the best in at least the last six years, particularly at the top end where University Entrance was 74%. Senior students won 22 national scholarships with Liam Silverwood leading the way with four, while, Jacob Eyles, Michael Young and Nicholas Wright, from year 12, gained two each.

Our prefect team is well led by Head Boy Max Simcox, from Scinde House who is ably supported by his Deputy, Oskar Lynch. The prefect team continue to do a great job as ambassadors for the school and Connor Molloy's speech at the Dawn ANZAC service this year was a good example.

The school continues to make strong showings in cultural events. Recent highlights this year include the junior Futsal team reaching the national final. Our thespians have been part of an excellent combined production at the Municipal of "Beauty and the Beast", while our cultural groups were placed 2<sup>nd</sup> or 3<sup>rd</sup> in eleven of the twenty events at the recent Super 8 Cultural festival in Rotorua. Three rock bands made the regional finals of Rockquest, with one band, Elephant Room going on to the national finals. Not to be outdone, the combined NBHS/NGHS choir won the award for best New Zealand song at the Big Sing while Kapa Haka are rehearsing fulltime for the National championships in July – our first visit to the big show in ten years.

On the sporting front, the year started well with the 1<sup>st</sup> XI cricket finishing 3<sup>rd</sup> in the Super 8 tournament, beating PNBHS on the final day. During Summer Tournament week in late March our junior Futsal team made the national final, losing narrowly in the last minute, while junior Canoe Polo also finished 2<sup>nd</sup> in the country. More recently, the Sailing team came back from their National regatta finishing 5<sup>th</sup> in the country, their best showing in recent times. We have been excited to send the 1<sup>st</sup> XV rugby to South Africa for the inaugural Carinat World Youth Tournament – this was made possible thanks to some exceptional fundraising by Old Boys and friends of the school. Across the board, winter sport is in full swing and all premier teams are showing strong form ahead of the serious phase of competition.

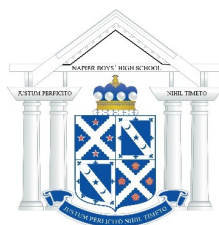
We are extremely proud of the quality of the new Dorm 4/5 at Scinde House which completely transforms that area of the boarding house. We hope to open this officially at the start of term four and are currently seeking approval from a well-known Hawke's Bay family to name the new wing after them in recognition of their long association with the school. In terms of the long-anticipated Armour Block replacement, while progress is slow, there is a glimmer of hope that we might see a final approval this year.

**Matt Bertram**

## Memorabilia

The School has a growing collection of Memorabilia in our Archives which includes war medals and artefacts, photographs and printed material, prize books, uniforms and many other items pertaining to the School and its Old Boys. We are also interested in obtaining Memorabilia from the "Napier Technical College" to ensure that this school is not forgotten. If you have anything you think we may be interested in, please contact us.

**Phillip Rankin - Archivist**



# Polson Banner 1st XV 2018

## Old Boys' and Supporters' Luncheon

**Wednesday 1 August, 10:30am**

(seated for speaker at 11:00am sharp)

Henderson Hall, Napier Boys' High School

**for tickets and tables contact:**

Jayne Myers [headmasterspa@nbhs.school.nz](mailto:headmasterspa@nbhs.school.nz) or  
Ph: (06) 8335913

**Tickets: \$40  
or table of 10 for \$350**

**Payable to NBHS school bank**

**account: 12-3144-0100100-00**

**Ref: Surname/01.4113**



# KICKOFF 12.30pm



And still the Wars go on! This year, for the first time we read at the school's ANZAC Service the amended Rolls of Honour. Not that we are in any way finished. Judith is comparing the school's database pre-1940 students with the Auckland Museum Cenotaph database of those who served and literally hundreds of new names emerge, of Old Boys who don't feature on the list compiled in 1947. And she is only up to the 'G's! We do believe, however, that we have identified all those who paid the ultimate sacrifice.

We have leapfrogged Malaya, Korea and Malaysia to research our Old Boys in the Vietnam conflict - thanks to the 'Flinkenberg List'. I was aware of four Old Boys who went to Vietnam, including our fatality, Donald Frith, so imagine my surprise to find that the number was forty-nine! Donald Frith's body, at present lying in Terindak, Malaysia, is one of those stated for repatriation to New Zealand.

#### Acquisitions:

- The Charles Smith Archive, assembled by Bob McCaw, especially the design and construction of the Pavilion and grandstand. Charles has since passed away, at his funeral there was a reunion of a great many of his colleagues.
- The family of the late Stan Butcher have been into the school and presented his QSM plus records of his life's work in education and conservation.
- We have made five additions to our library of repatriated prize books:
- Joy, Lady Axford, has given us three of Sir Ian's prize books, including that for Dux in 1950.
- I purchased, from a second-hand bookstore in Palmerston North, two beautiful volumes, leather bound, marbled pages and gold embossed, awarded to Archibald McGrath (1914-18). His Junior Reading Prize of 1914 is one of only two we have signed by Headmaster Heaton in his short reign.

- However, the 'prize' must go to "The Life of Arthur, Duke of Wellington" left to us by the late Russell Spiller and delivered by his family. It was awarded to Russell's father, Percy in 1892 making it the second oldest book in our collection.
- From the family of the late John Howell have come six studio photos from 1959-60; prefects, Scinde and school cricket and rugby.
- Our old friend, Mason Nelson of Taupo, unable to attend this year's ANZAC Service because of inclement weather has sent yet another artefact to add to the considerable collection of his father's and uncles' war memorabilia - a map of the trench system on the Passchendaele Front. I have been reading in 'Sagittarius Rising' how this information was gathered, at great risk, by the Royal Flying Corps for the frontline commanders. It appears to have artillery positions added to it and was presumably in the possession of Mason's uncle Lt William Thomas Nelson who was killed on the Somme in 1918.

There has been a positive inundation of requests, emails, letter and visitors, for information by families of Old Boys. In a number of cases the research has been fruitless, to the puzzlement of those enquiring - reluctant to accept that in the early years of the school many boys did not have a secondary education, on gaining their Proficiency Certificate many ended their primary education at 13-14 and went straight into employment. One correspondent from Yorkshire was shocked to find, as I was, written beside her father's entry in the Register "Not allowed to return by order of Magistrate". On a more positive note we were pleased to provide Prof B Foss Leach with information on his colleague in archaeology, Leslie Montague Groube (1951-55), for an obituary he was writing.

I am in correspondence with the daughter of Mervyn Thomas Baird Hall (1908-10) who is

going to the Le Quesnoy commemorations, where Tommy was wounded. Surviving, he established the Lionel and Vincent Hall Memorial Prize for History in remembrance of his two brothers killed. Margaret is hoping to visit Lionel's grave in Belgium and will look out and photograph the graves of any Old Boys lying in cemeteries on her itinerary.

Just before Easter there was a flurry of trans-Tasman emails, enough to clog the engines of a 737, on the subject of Percy Valentine Storkey VC. The Hon Justice Michael Slattery, Rear-Admiral RANR, Judge Advocate General - Australian Defence Force, was about to deliver a speech to the NSW Bar Association on their hero-lawyer and realised that all he knew of Storkey's pre-military and legal life was that he was "Dux of Napier Boys' Grammar School". Were we aware that he was an Old Boy and could we provide any information on his New Zealand life? Were we ever! And could we ever! And did we! Jane Myers (the Headmaster's PA) even sent him a brochure for the 'Storkey Trust' and one of the Storkey medallions. We have received a copy of his address, with kind acknowledgements of our contributions. Room for just one quote: "It will not surprise you that the New Zealand tabloid press have commonly claimed him as a Kiwi VC". Michael was surprised to find that we are the owners of Storkey's VC - he assumed it was in the Canberra Museum collection.

A major event in the history of the school was the launch, in Dannevirke, of the biography of Phil Lamason (1932-33) "I Would Not Step Back...". Chris will give details of this on Page 1. As is always the case, too late I discovered that when he was NBHS farm manager in 1938 he was also a housemaster - and the Scindian's "Scinde House News" includes two or three pithy quotes I would have loved to see in print.

To end with a request: If any of you had parents or grandparents who attended the Napier Technical College, and possess any of their magazines ("Napierans") or named photographs, I would love to see them.

**Phillip Rankin - Archivist**



## A city slicker wins top farm cadet award at Smedley Station

A former Napier Boys' High School student, Will Van Bohemen (2011-2013) who completed his secondary schooling in Wellington has carried off the top prize at the Smedley Station and Cadet Training Farm prize giving.

Will van Bohemen, who wasn't from a farm, spent two years at NBHS before going to Wellington College, said Rob Evans, who manages the farm which caters for more than twenty first and second year cadets each year, on a sprawling property in the hills near Tikokino in Central Hawke's Bay.

Mr van Bohemen, who won the much-sought Affco scholarship to the UK, has a brother farming on the Rangitaiki Plains and is "very committed" to farming, said Mr Evans, after the prize giving in front of more than 100 family and friends of cadets in the station's woolshed on 15 December 2017.

"Farming is definitely his passion," Mr Evans said.

## "Columns" is Proudly Sponsored by



**KONICA MINOLTA**

# The Dream Team of 1961

Old Boy, Ewan McGregor (1957-63) contacted me, to ask if I had ever done a story on the 1961 first fifteen game against an Invitation team "The Scindians" made up from East Coast first fifteens, something that has never been staged since. As I had never heard of it I started to ask around and with the help of Ewan and two of those team members Mike Mohi and Ken Geenty (both 1957-61) and various newspaper articles of the time the story came together.



THE NAPIER BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL 1st XV is—Back row (from left): D. Briasco (coach), G. Taylor, A. Campbell, T. Castles, D. Callaghan, R. Vautier, M. Gilray, G. Chappell, G. Ngaie, K. Morgan; front row: D. Smith, J. McLachlan, J. Murray, B. Tuck (captain), M. Mohi, K. Geenty, J. Gahagan, D. Curtis.

The Napier Boys' High First XV of 1961 had six members of the team who were regular members of the Hawke's Bay junior representative Rugby team. The school team had played four inter-school matches that season and won them all. This was the first time since 1947 that the First XV had won all of its School Games. It had also won 11 of 12 junior competition matches winning the Napier Junior Championship and both matches against teams from visiting ships the HMNZS Otago and the HMNZS Otaia. In 19 games the team registered 18 wins and suffered only 1 loss. In doing so, the team amassed a total of 430 points for and only 120 against.

The game was played on McLean Park Napier in Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 1961 57 years ago this year. Ken Geenty recalls, "The 1961 NBHS first fifteen had a crack backline, probably as good as any in the Hawke's Bay in those days and captained by Bernie Tuck. The backs were well served by a mobile and skilled pack of forwards. The architect in the backs was

Vice-captain Mike Mohi, who inspired the players by designing and practising tricky moves and leading by example." (Ken even sent me a set of tactical diagrams that he still has, written by Mike Mohi for his good mate Joe (Bull) Murray the 2<sup>nd</sup> five-eighth.) As one of the players said, "Mike was way ahead of his time with a professional and committed approach to the game." "As an example, I remember my first inter-school game against Hastings BH, when Mike went around

every player before running on stressing the importance of the game, wishing them luck and shaking their hand." The backline was stacked with Hawke's Bay under 23 reps including fullback Ian Bishop, wing Doug Curtis, centre Dennis Smith, first five-eighth Mike Mohi and halfback Ken Geenty and hooker Bernie Tuck. Bishop, Curtis, Smith and Mohi went on to play for Hawke's Bay seniors and Geenty for Manawatu and NZ Universities. One former player suggested Doug Curtis was probably one of the unluckiest players of that era not to wear an All Black jersey. He was fast, elusive and smart.

The teams for the Scindians game were: "Scindians" (selected from school first XV's on the East Coast of the North) H. Henare (East Coast), P King (Gisborne High School), John Allen (Central Hawke's Bay College), Jeff Hill (vice-captain) (Wairarapa College), Victor Mackey (Gisborne High School), J Seymour (Tokoroa High School), David Bibby (Central Hawke's Bay College), Neville Marr (captain) (of Hastings, formerly of Napier Boys' High School), Gordon Annand (Central Hawke's Bay College), K Scott (Gisborne High

School), Peter Quirke (St John's College), Paul Allen (St John's College), C Stein (Gisborne High School), Peter Grieve (Dannevirke High School), R King (Kuranui College) who played in white jerseys. The coaches were: Mr G. Simpson and Mr R Ford. The opponents, Napier Boys' High School first XV, were: Ian Bishop, Doug Curtis, Dennis Smith, Kim Morgan, Joe Murray, Mike Mohi (vice-captain), Ken Geenty, George Ngaie, Gavin Taylor, Doug Callaghan, Tom Castles, Gerald Chappell, Malcolm Gilray, Bernie Tuck (captain) and Andrew Campbell. The coach was Mr D Briasco.

The match report in the Daily Telegraph 25 September 1961 said: "The game was a high scoring affair. Napier BHS threw the ball around at every opportunity in their match with the Scindians, at McLean Park on Saturday, often starting passing rushes from their own goal line. The school team won 48-25. The team executed some fine movements which had the Scindians groping despairingly. At half-time Napier BHS. led 23-13. But although the Scindians were overwhelmed they still managed to pull off some exciting movements although most of these were individualistic."

**Chris Geddis**

## INCIDENT IN HIGH-SCORING FIXTURE



D. CURTIS, NAPIER BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL first fifteen winger, side-steps as he attempts to evade an opponent in the team's match with the Scindians at McLean Park (Napier), on Saturday. The Scindians, a team composed of members of first fifteens on the East Coast of the North Island, was overwhelmed by 49 points to 25. It was the team's 18th win in 19 games this season.

## New Year's Honours 2018

### Reverend Matiu Nohokau Eru. QSM

Respected Flaxmere kaumatua and te reo Maori advocate Reverend Matiu Nohokau Eru has added a New Year Honour to his already impressive list of local civic awards. Matiu Eru was Head of Maori at Napier Boys' High School 1990-1997. Reverend Eru was given the Queen's Service Medal for his services to Maori and education, in the 2018 New Year Honours list.

Reverend Matiu Eru is a senior kaumatua of Ngati Kahungunu and an Anglican minister, who has provided cultural guidance, leadership and services to the Hawke's Bay community. "Uncle" Matiu Eru's community work includes providing cultural guidance and support to Hawke's Bay and the wider Eastern District Police, and representing the Maori community on police forums. He also designed and taught a te reo Maori course for police staff for three years. He has represented the Māori community on Police forums and has provided guidance on tikanga.

Eastern District Commander Tania Kura praised Reverend Eru for his much-valued work. "Kaumatua Matiu Eru has provided cultural guidance and support to Hawke's Bay and the wider Eastern District Police for the past eight years. In 2008 Matiu designed and delivered a Maori language course to Police staff and has been hugely influential in helping us continue building sound relationships with our Maori communities. Matiu has always been supportive of Police and has worked with us in a number of serious operational incidents, standing alongside district and

area leadership staff. We are proud and blessed to have Matiu working alongside us and congratulate him on his work with us."

The 2014 Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year Local Hero award winner is also kaumatua of Eastern Institute of Technology's Hawke's Bay campus. He had previously been a lecturer from 1997 to 2012 at the EIT School of Māori Studies. Reverend Eru has been a senior kaumatua and rangatira at both the Tangoio and Petane Marae since 1991. At present, he also holds the unpaid role of kaumatua of the School of Maori Studies and a tutor and senior adviser at Te Whare Tai-kura o Kahungunu in Napier.

In addition, he is employed as the senior tikanga specialist for Hawke's Bay District Health Board and is responsible for all Maori ceremonial requests received by the DHB.

His previous awards also include receiving a City of Napier Civic Award in 2016.

**HB Today/Chris Geddis**





## 2018 Sports Calendar

### Palmerston North - 1<sup>st</sup> August (Home)

- Polson Banner
- Senior A Basketball
- Junior A Basketball
- Debating
- U15 Rugby
- U14 Rugby
- 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey
- Colts Hockey
- 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football
- 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Football
- Colts Football
- 1<sup>st</sup> XV Rugby
- 2<sup>nd</sup> XV Rugby
- Dev Rugby
- Golf

### Gisborne Junior - 15<sup>th</sup> August (Home)

- Colts Hockey
- U14 Rugby
- Colts Football
- Junior A Basketball
- U15 Rugby

### Winter Tournament week Junior Colts Football

- Fergusson Park, Tauranga  
(3-7 September)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Football Tournament

- New Plymouth Boys High School  
(3-7 September)

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Football Tournament

- Christchurch Football Centre  
(2-7 September)

### 2<sup>nd</sup> XI Hockey Galletly Cup

- Gallagher Hockey Centre, Hamilton  
(3-7 September)

### 1<sup>st</sup> XI Hockey Rankin Cup

- Blake Park, Mt Maunganui  
(3-7 September)

(Basketball & U15 Rugby Tournaments TBC)

## ANGUS BROWN'S HEALTHY ALTERNATIVE

Just over a decade after heading to Canterbury University to embark on an engineering degree, former Napier Boys' High School pupil Angus Brown (2001-2005) seems to have found his niche, making a health drink to make people think better. But it's much more than just another health drink for the 29-year-old, whose interest in developing brain cognition improvement and stress reduction drink Arepa was sparked by the anguish of watching the latter-year deterioration of his grandparents' health, one with dementia and the other after a stroke.

Son of career schoolteachers, former Napier Boys' High School principal Ross Brown and wife Anne, he finished university with a finance and commerce degree and worked for Frucor in 2011 and 2012. He has now left his day job as business development manager at open-access start-up, government-funded Auckland operation Food-bowl to become fulltime CEO of AlphaGen, the company he set up for the purpose, now entering the big-money market to go fully commercial and global. With positive early results from clinical trials at Auckland University's Centre for Brain Research, it has a patent application pending, but is already on the shelves, including at Chantal Foods in Napier and Wright and Co Cafe, Havelock North. With Government-funding support it's been at expos in Japan and London, while Harrods are interested in rights in the UK. America is also in the sights.

The key ingredients are pine-bark extract Enzogenol, a health ingredient produced by Enzo Nutraceuticals and said to support healthy brain activity and reduce stress, and New Zealand blackcurrants, the anthocyanins from which are said to produce several health benefits, including helping people think sharper under stress. "Plant and Food New Zealand research showed the blackcurrants could reduce mental fatigue" he said. Mix that with two compounds found in Japanese green tea, and juice from Bostock organic Hawke's Bay apples, along with two years putting it into a palatable liquid brew, masking bitter tastes without adding sugar.

Driving its formulation was world-renowned Professor Andrew Scholley, a director of the Centre for Human Psychopharmacology at Swinburne in Melbourne and who is a leading researcher of neurocognitive effects of natural products, supplements and food components.

It was a tough assignment set by Mr Brown, to develop a drink formula using 100 per cent natural ingredients - from New Zealand where possible - and what Mr Brown now calls a "caffeine-free alternative to Red Bull".

But Arepa (Maori for alpha, the brainwave thought to be activated) is not an energy drink, Mr Brown saying it's something that could be used by stressed professionals 20 minutes out from a "major task" to relieve nervousness and stress.

**HB Today**



## Will Tremain, in Baby Blacks for Champs

Hawke's Bay rugby flanker Will Tremain (NBHS 2012-2016) (Head Prefect 2016) reckoned he was in the lucky category after the New Zealand team for the Under-20 World Championship was named recently.

"I was called in late for the Oceania Championship because I wasn't right for the two training camps, as I was still recovering from a shoulder injury" he said. Tremain, along with fellow loosie Devan Flanders, will represent the Bay in the Baby Blacks team, which begins their World Championship defence with a pool game against Japan in France on May 31.

Tremain was being modest. He could easily have said his Oceania Cup selection was the result of keeping in the best possible shape while he was on the injured list. His form while helping the Baby Blacks retain their Oceania Championship reflected that and earned him his berth in the Craig Philpott-coached World Championship side. The team also includes Waikato-based outside back Bailyn Sullivan (NBHS 2012-2014), who is a product of the Hawke's Bay age group system and former Napier Boys' High School 1st XV teammate of Tremain's.

Tremain, 19, had three club games for his University club side in Wellington to prove he was ready for the Oceania Championship where the Baby Blacks won all three of their matches against Tonga, Fiji and Australia. Tremain is playing for University while studying Commerce at Victoria University where he is majoring in Commercial Law and Economics.

"Hopefully I play well enough in France to earn a spot in the Magpies Mitre 10 Cup squad," Tremain said. At the Oceania Championship on the Gold Coast, Tremain had 20 minutes as a substitute against Tonga, the full game against Fiji and 12 minutes off the pine against Australia.

"It was a pretty special moment to pull on the black jersey for the first time over there. By the end of the tournament, ten family members were over there and that added to it," the grandson of All Black and Magpies great, the late Kel Tremain and son of former National MP Chris Tremain. Will Tremain, like Kel Tremain, is also a flanker.

"Obviously now I'm in the World Championship side, the aim is to push for a starting spot. That will be a tough challenge with Tom going so well but you never say never," Tremain said referring to captain Tom Christie of Canterbury who along with Auckland winger Caleb Clarke are returning from last year's world title-winning Baby Blacks team. "Coming in a little bit late, it took me a while to get clarity around game plans in Aussie. But Craig [Philpott] has told me to keep playing good rugby and push for starting spots."

After Japan, the Baby Blacks will meet Wales and Australia in pool play. Tremain believed the Aussies will come back as a different side to the one the New Zealanders beat 43-28 on the Gold Coast. "They certainly weren't down on physicality." A product of Eskdale and Hereworth schools before attending NBHS, Tremain, had two years in the Hastings East Ross Shield team. He has also represented Hawke's Bay at under-16 and under-19 levels. **HB Today**



# OBITUARIES

## Derrill Lawrence Wilton Gregory (NBHS 1956-1957)

The death has occurred of Derrill Gregory, aged 76 years. (NBHS 1956-57) Derrill was born 27 December 1941 to parents Iris and Jack Gregory, a family whose well-known name goes back several generations in Clive HB. He went to Clive School where he made many life-long friends.

Derrill's secondary schooling was at Napier Boys' High school. He left Napier Boys' aged 15 years and went straight into an apprenticeship as a mechanic at Gough Gough & Hamer in Hastings. From there he went to Walmsley Brothers and continued working as a Diesel Mechanic. During his teenage years he developed a great interest in all forms of machinery – tractors, cars, boats, – anything with an engine. He would later go on to restore many old vehicles, including vintage tractors, which he would restore to pristine condition and on-sell.

Derrill also got great pleasure from hooning around with his mates in his big pink and white 1954 Ford Customline. His travels often took him to the Nurses Home in Hastings where his future wife Pauline was living and training. He also learned ballroom dancing so he could escort Pauline to the Nurses and Port Balls. A romance developed and they married in 1967 and later had three children. In about 1968, they built the family home next door to Derrill's parent's house in Tuckers Lane, Clive. He then commenced self-employment trading as Gregory's Garage on the site opposite the Clive Hall (which is now the Vege Shop) and later went on to carry out contract horticultural and council roadside spraying. On the death of his father in 1988, Derrill took over the family farm in School Road, Clive, where, he later in his 70s built his dream home. On this property he turned his hand to horticulture, growing



pumpkins, peas, sweetcorn, etc, which were contracted to McCain's and Watties and also harvesting Lucerne.

Derrill was also very community minded, serving on the Clive School Committee and as Treasurer of the Clive Lions Club and Clive Hall Committee. During many discussions at the Clive Hotel, Garry Baines and Brian Sands were

continually telling Derrill of historic events, buildings and families in Clive and surrounding areas. Derrill said to Gary "Look Bainsey, seeing you know so much about the history of Clive, why don't you write a book about it?" That was the catalyst for the book "Clive" with the funding starting from the \$6730 donated from the defunct Lion's Club. The book was an excellent publication with 1,000 copies sold. In November 2013 the proceeds of \$20,000 were donated to Clive Friends of the School, Clive Rugby Club and Junior Rugby, HB Rowing Club, upgrading the War Memorial lights and Cape Coast Community Patrol. This project would not have got off the ground if the initial funding recommended by Derrill Gregory had not been received and his idea of a book about his beloved hometown of Clive.

Derrill was a man who loved driving, anything mechanical and has given a tremendous amount of time and effort over the many years to his local community.

**Adapted from Eulogy by Myles Girvan (NBHS 1960-1963)**

## Dr Douglas Hector Norrie (NBHS 1944-1947)

The death has occurred of Dr Douglas Hector Norrie, Professor Emeritus of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering, of Calgary, Alberta, Canada aged 88 years.

Douglas grew up in tiny isolated Maori settlements along the Wanganui River, where his father Hector was a teacher. He attended Napier Boys' High School and was Dux in 1947. As a young man, he studied Engineering at Canterbury University Christchurch, where he met his wife Beatrice. The young couple moved to England where he took up a position with the world's then-leader in aeronautic engineering, Rolls Royce.



After their first child, Janice, was born, they immigrated to Australia, where Douglas earned his PhD in Marine Engineering and joined the University of Adelaide as a lecturer in Mechanical Engineering. His three sons, Paul, John and Andrew, were born in Australia.

In 1966, the family made a life move from Australia to Calgary, Canada, where Douglas, 37, was appointed the Founding Head of the Mechanical Engineering Department at The University of Calgary. During his long and distinguished career at the university, he served as the first President of The University of Calgary Faculty Association (TUCFA); Inaugural Dean of the innovative Division of Information Services; founding Head of the Division of Manufacturing Engineering; Adjunct Professor of Computer Science; Chair of the Task Force on the Future of the Library; and the Nortel Chair in Intelligent Manufacturing. He was awarded the Killam Research Fellowship and the Institute of Computer Assisted Learning Fellowship. He was also heavily involved in two major international research consortia in intelligent manufacturing systems. In his later career, his interests focused on artificial intelligence and the effects of technology on society. He was honoured for "Outstanding Achievement in Education" and received both a "Research Excellence Award" (Department of Mechanical and Manufacturing Engineering) and a "Distinguished Lifetime Leadership Award" (Faculty of Engineering). Douglas was an enormous inspiration to his students and colleagues, and he will forever be a legend in the Faculty of Engineering.

Always passionate about anything related to flight, Douglas never really "retired", and he took up flying after leaving the university at the age of 72. He earned his commercial pilot's licence, built two ultra-light airplanes (one in the garage, to his wife's chagrin) and spent any free moments joyfully flying over the fields of Alberta and in the Philippines.

Douglas' first priority, however, was always his family, whom he cherished. When the children were young, he took them hiking, skiing, camping and scuba diving. Later when the children married, moved away from Calgary and had children of their own, he brought everyone together each year for weeks-long family vacations in Fairmont and Cabo San Lucas. A deep thinker, Douglas was a very kind, compassionate and spiritual man who inspired affection. He was happiest in the mountains or soaring in the sky. A few years ago, Douglas wrote: "I am so thankful to have had the opportunity to have lived and to have experienced so much - that alone is the greatest privilege of all."

Douglas' two brothers, Ian Norrie (1946-50) and Ray Norrie (1948-49) also attended Napier Boys' High School.



## **Charles Forbes Smith (Master 1961-1990 - Deputy Headmaster 1988-1990)**

Those of us who worked with Charles saw him as almost indestructible. Charles was one of those people, who when confronted with a problem, sought solutions rather than dwelling on the problem. Charles was an excellent organiser. His interests extended beyond his Department. As a successful coach of the first XI Soccer (now Football) team and the school tennis team and as an energetic officer in the Cadet Corps during Barracks Week, he was known and respected by all sections of the school.

History: I am indebted to Beth Smith for the following details. Charles was born in Aberdeen, Scotland, in 1930 and came to New Zealand aged seventeen years with his mother. Because one needed a job to come to he took out a plumbing apprenticeship, later being joined by his two brothers, and so "Smith Brothers Plumbers" was born - a firm which rapidly gained a well-earned reputation in Hawke's Bay.

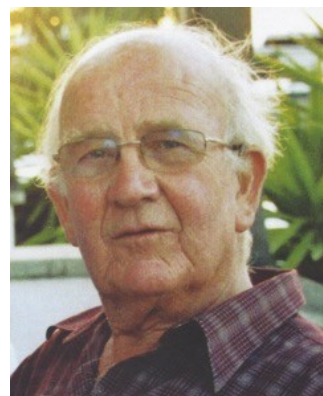
NBHS: I first met Charles on being appointed to NBHS where I

found the technical department under Charles as one of the leading departments in the school. In fact, Charles' reputation preceded my arrival as he was well known beyond Hawke's Bay as a leader in technical education having been repeatedly approached to join the inspectorate. But Charles was a "hands on person" and no bureaucrat.

Charles had an outstanding rapport with both staff and boys - always direct and clear in his directions along with integrity and attention to detail - as well as a dry sense of humour. I well remember his advice for retirement "the worst thing about retirement is you get no holidays". Charles followed this direction by building three homes for his family in his retirement.

Charles was, for his final two years, Deputy Headmaster, where he again showed his qualities. He will be sadly missed by his colleagues, friends and, of course, Beth and the family.

**Bruce Davie (Headmaster 1977-1993)**



## **Gregory Ronald (Greg) Fuller (NBHS 1963-1967)**

I first met Greg over sixty years ago when we both attended Greenmeadows School, Napier. We became good friends with our shared love of sport and our competitive natures.

Greg excelled at swimming and rugby and represented Hawke's Bay in both sports while at primary school. He then attended Napier



Boys' High School where he was senior swimming champion in 1966 and 1967 and where he was plucked from the lower rugby grades by Derek Brebner to play for the first fifteen. He played for them for three years 1965/66/67. Greg was also a prefect.

Greg was a passionate, competitive, skilled and uncompromising rugby player. He was like a fox terrier, always in the thick of the action.

Greg then attended Ardmore teachers college in Auckland for three years playing rugby for Papakura Club, Ardmore Club and representing Counties. It was while at Ardmore that Greg met his wife-to-be, Kate.

Over the next few years he taught in Nelson, Hawke's Bay and Auckland representing Nelson Bays, Hawke's Bay and Counties in rugby. It was while in Auckland that Greg and Kate developed a passion for skiing, driving most weekends of the season to Ruapehu to ski with their two children, Kim and Brent, who both went on to represent New Zealand in skiing.

To further Kim and Brent's skiing careers, they moved to the Queens-town locality where Greg won the position of Head of the Department of Phys Ed at Cromwell College and spent twenty years in the role. He introduced many outdoor education programmes and was a very popular teacher. My wife and I stayed with Greg and Kate a number of times and their large garage never housed a car - it was always full of sports gear! They were in sports paradise.

Greg and Kate moved back to the Bay ten years ago, retiring from full time teaching. Greg then returned to relief teach at Napier Boys' High in the PE Department and was a very popular member of the staff.

Greg will be missed by so many people. He had a quiet but open and happy personality and was popular wherever he went.

**Eulogy Graham Barrie (NBHS 1963-1967)**



## **Eric David Cox (NBHS 1971-1975)**

The death has occurred at Napier in November 2017 of Eric David Cox aged sixty years.

Eric was named after his father Peter's older brother Eric Clarence Cox DFC (who was killed over Crete on 28 October 1942). Educated at Napier Central School, Napier Intermediate and Napier Boys' High School, where Eric was a prefect in 1975. On leaving NBHS, Eric went on to Massey University to study business. After graduation Eric moved to Auckland and was employed as a marketing rep for Consolidated Plastics.

Eric went to England for his overseas experience (OE). From an early age, Eric was interested in travel, no doubt helped by his father Peter Cox and uncle Bon Cox running the family business Cox World Travel, established by Eric's grandfather Clarence David Cox as C D Cox Ltd as a real estate and travel business in Napier in 1920.

In 1984 Eric returned from London to join the family business travel division. The company continued to flourish and grow as each generation became involved and in 1992 the two businesses, still trading as C D Cox Ltd, separated and the real estate division, Cox Partners moved to Emerson Street managed by Eric's younger brother Malcolm Cox, and Cox World Travel remained in Dalton Street Napier managed by Eric. His eldest daughter, Jaime, continuing the family tradition and joined the business in 2011.

Eric Cox was made a Justice of the Peace (JP) in 1996. Eric was a most respected member of the Travel Industry and the Hawke's Bay Community.

**Cox Family/Chris Geddis**



## James (Jim) (Jimmy) Stuart Mitchell NBHS (1959-1962)

Born 1<sup>st</sup> February 1945 in Dannevirke where his Mum and Dad, Beth and Stu were running the family farm, Pukerata, west of Dannevirke in under the Ruahine Ranges. The family moved to Maunganui on the range above Te Pohue in 1946, taking up the lease there together with his Dad's two brothers, Ole and Doug.

Eland on the Napier-Taupo Road came onto the market in 1948 and the three brothers, Stuart, Ole and Doug managed to purchase against considerable odds. Hence Jim arrived at Eland in 1948, aged two and never left. He began primary school briefly at Te Awa School in Napier and then to Te Pohue School when a bus to the school became accessible.

After primary school it was off to Napier Boys' High School as a boarder for four years; or "borstal" as he none too kindly referred to it. Here he would jump the fence to his Gran's place in Creagh Street whenever he got the chance. At the completion of high school it was home to the farm.

Jim and Shirley married in January 1974 and farmed their two blocks of Eland together with brothers Atty and Russ until 1982. At this time Russ and Atty bought the Glengyle property east of Dannevirke; the Eland Esk block was sold to Kevin and Dennis Mitchell, and Shirley and Jim retained the 1200 acre home block of Eland. For the next thirty years they farmed faithfully through good years and bad, droughts and Cyclone Bola, as many of you did.

One of the biggest passions Jimmy had, besides his wife and family, was for trees and planting. Shirley recounts a day early on when Jim was standing on top of the airstrip with brother Atty overlooking the farm. Atty commented about, "Jimmy's lovely green desert". This may have been coincidental or maybe it did have a profound effect on Jim because

he embarked on an impressive tree planting regime every year thereafter. The result of course is a beautiful park-like farm. Jimmy and Shirley Mitchell won Hawke's Bay Farm Forester of the Year title in 1998. At the time it was said by the Editor of the HB Farm Forestry Assn newsletter; "Jimmy Mitchell would be the first to admit that prior to his interest in farm forestry his attitude to land use was fairly mercenary. He lived by the popular credo 'If it moves, shoot it – If it stands up, cut it down.' Such was the focus of farming families in those days of breaking land in from heavy scrub, well populated with goats, pigs and rabbits."



The family share an amusing anecdote related to Jim's love of trees and planting. Whenever the family were heading north, they would stop off the road between Taupo and Wairakei. All the family would have to get out of the car, each was given a bucket and they had to go and collect acorns under the big oak trees there. No-one would mention it on the drive up, hoping he would forget to stop, but he never did.

**Adapted from Eulogy by Dennis Mitchell (NBHS 1969-72)**

## Last Roll Call

The following Old Boys, Staff and Assn members passed away recently:

**Athea, Miles Robert** 1984-1988

**Ball, Gregory Charles (Greg)** 1961-1963

**Barclay, Archibald Burns (Arch)** 1942-1946

**Blackburn, Derrill** 1956-1957

**Briasco, Ross Kingsford** 1943-1946

**Cane, John Frederick** 1947-1949

**Cavell, John David** 1946

**Chapman, John Ross (Jack)** 1940-1944

**Collison, Edward David (David)** 1956-1957

**Cox, Eric David** 1971-1975

**Currie, Ian Henry Reginald** 1951-1953

**Dann, Geoffrey Charles** 1936-1939

**Davidson, Arnold Raymond (Bud)** 1942-1943

**Duckworth, Maurice** 1953-1955

**Ellis, James Ashton (Jim)** 1944-1945

**Evans Leonard Rex (Rex)** 1955-1956

**Ferguson, Roger Wellwood** 1953-1955

**Fuller, Gregory Ronald (Greg)** 1963-1967

**Geenty, Peter John** 1954-1957

**Goodall, Leslie John (Les)** 1944-1948

**Gourley, Diane Louise** (Office) 2008-2009

**Gregory, Derrill Lawrence Wilton** 1956-1957

**Groube, Leslie Montague** 1951-1955

**Groube Reginald Edward (Reg)** 1950-1952

**Hagen, Walter Francis (Wally)** 1948

**Hainsworth, Harry Noel** 1937-1938

**Hamlin, Herbert Henry Osborne** 1945-1946

**Harris, Avon James** 1963-1965

**Hildred, Ian Reginald** 1957-1958

**Hole, Kenneth Morton (Ken) Dr** 1932-1936

**Horner, John Edwin** 1942-1946

**House, Alan Hart** 1984-1986

**Hutchinson, Derek John** (Staff) 1974-1979

**Irwin, Peter John** 1958-1961

**Jensen, Philip Leon** 1947

**Kelliher, Shane Michael** 1983 F5

**Kilty, Michael Thomas James (Mike)** (Staff) 1968-1969

**Lee, Richard (Dick)** 1940-1943

**Lowe, Bryan Barnes** 1961-1964

**Lum, Martin Elvis (Marty)** 1973-1977

**Lyons, Noel Ernest** 1949-1951

**McDougall, Brian John** 1950-1951

**McLaren, Donald Clifton** 1958

**McLennan, Mark** 1967-1970

**McPhail, Hamish Alexander** 1946

**Mitchell, James Stuart (Jimmy)** 1959-1962

**Nicholas, Leslie Ernest** 1945-1946

**Norrie, Douglas Hector Dr** (Canada) 1944-1947

**Pope, Ronald Henry Trevor (Ron)** 1941-1942

**Riggs, Alan Kenneth** 1961-1963

**Robson, John William** 1956-1958

**Rodda, Peter Alexander** 1972-1974

**Rogers, William John (Bill)** 1949-1952

**Roy, Alec Burgess** 1953-1955

**Scott, Raymond George (Ray)** 1947-1949

**Shine, Raymond Mark** 1947

**Smith, Charles Forbes** (Staff) 1961-1990

**Smith, Leroy Ian (Lee)** 2000-2001

**Smith, Kenneth Somerset (Ken)** 1963-1967

**Smyth, David Ramsay** 1956-1959

**Southey, Brian Albert** 1952

**Stevens, Joan Lilla** (Office Secretary) 1967-1977

**Sturm, Malcolm Alick (Mick)** 1953-1956

**Tutu, Haami** 1953-1954

**Voisey, Michael Alexander** 1958-1961

**Walker, Warren Herbert** 1958-1959

**Watts, Edward John (Eddy)** 1949-1951

**Williams, Thomas Patrick John (Tom)** 1944-1945

**Wilson, Ian William** 1958-1959

**Young, Anthony John (Tony)** 1959-1961

**Young, Robert Earl (Stag)** 1951

"Columns" expresses sincere condolences to the families of these Old Boys and Staff.

**Chris Geddis**

**"Columns" is pleased to inform Old Boys that ALL Old Boys for whom we have email addresses will now have this Newsletter sent out to them and there will no longer be a subscription fee. Those without email addresses will need to contact us via the information included with the posted copy**

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