



# Napier Boys' High School Association COLUMNS

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## Editorial

When Mr R.H. (Bert) Milburn retired from teaching at Napier Boys' High School at the end of the second term in 1962, it was noted that 41 years of continuous service on the staff of one school, must surely be a record in New Zealand. Bert Milburn had been on the staff since 1921. Of this long period, 31 years were spent as coach of the First XV Rugby team. He had built up a national reputation as a coach of student players. When Bert Milburn was first appointed the school roll was 273 of whom 65 were in the Junior School and 70 were boarders. On his retirement the school roll was 810. Mr Milburn had been Head of Geography and the Social Studies Departments for many years. Four decades of young men had passed through his classes and sports teams. It was no wonder that so many men of all ages claimed "Bert" Milburn as a friend. No matter where old boys met to share school memories Mr Milburn was revered as an excellent teacher and who demanded and obtained work and discipline of a high standard.

A new record for longevity as a master at Napier Boys' High school was established on 27 September 2019, when Peter McGlashan retired after 42 years and three terms of service to the school as Head of Department of Physical Education and a team of seven-strong PE crew at the school. After completing his own high schooling, at William Colenso College, he headed south and undertook a three-year PE diploma course and then looked at his options. It was back to the Bay and he applied for a role as a teacher trainee at Napier Boys' in 1976, and a year later 1977 he was under way.

He has seen a changing health and physical education landscape through the years, as well as some high-flying sporting achievers coming through the school gates and on to the fields and courts. McGlashan himself was a top footballer, and the sporting doors also opened for two of their children with both son Peter and daughter Sara representing New Zealand at cricket.

In the early days PE was pretty much just getting students to play games, which meant they'd pick one and that was that. That basic approach evolved through increased academic ingredients, and breaking down the "one sport" road so that young people became exposed to a range of activities. "It is great to see them enjoying something physical and giving them



*Peter McGlashan*

a passion for it," he said. He does not like to see young people being pushed in just one sporting direction, and said he wanted to see them develop a wide range of skills, and to decide what direction they want to take. Some, of course, were a bit grumpy about that but the response has been buoying, he said. "They are doing things out there now." McGlashan said he would miss the contact with the kids, and having been a football devotee himself will miss the camaraderie within those teams ... where some players would call him "Pete" rather than "Sir". He didn't mind that.

The School Roll in 1977 when Peter started was 720 and in September 2019 when Peter retired, it was 1134. Headmaster Matt Bertram said McGlashan may have set a new sporting record of sorts, as the longest serving head of a PE Department at a high school in this country. "He has had a great commitment to sport and he never sought recognition for everything he did and achieved — just a gentleman and gentle man." And while McGlashan may not be on the grounds much anymore, his name will — the sporting pavilion is about to carry his name.

*Chris Geddis - Editor*

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**KONICA MINOLTA**

# From The Headmaster

It is my pleasure to give the Headmaster's annual address. Three years out from the school's 150th celebrations, I can report that this proud place of learning continues to help young men achieve to their potential and provide opportunities for personal excellence.

We began the year celebrating the achievement of 51 Scholarships in NZQA examinations. This was certainly the best result ever for the school and it highlighted not only the value the students saw in the kudos and monetary recognition such awards bring, but also the additional work and tuition that our staff undertook. This was the icing on the cake as endorsements were again a feature of the school's academic performance.

It is important to remember that academic success is not the same for every young man sitting here tonight. For some of our highest achievers, their ability coupled with hard work naturally leads to the likelihood of many of the awards which are handed out tonight. For others, the second place may be just as meritorious because of the additional time and effort to get there. Tonight, we not only recognize those who came first, but those who also fought hard to achieve without always getting the best grade. We talk about a growth mindset these days in education and it is a vital part of the learning conversation. It is so much harder to change learning habits as an adult as I'm sure many of us can agree.

It is also natural, that as parents we compare children. The reality is that our children develop at their own pace:

"Popcorn is prepared in the same pot, in the same heat, in the same oil, and yet, the kernels do not pop at the same time. Don't compare your son to other children. Their turn to pop is coming."

Early in term three, the school production "All Shook Up" was a highlight of the cultural calendar and provided a platform for our young men to shine both on and off the stage. For a relatively young cast, the standard was exceptionally high and I am confident that there is a succession plan for the headliners! Some of those same young men brought back the woodwork in winning the Plate Debate with Napier Girls' for the first time in several years and followed on from the juniors winning Super 8 debating.

Sporting highlights centred around basketball, badminton and hockey this year. The first two sides won their respective Super 8 tournaments, badminton for the first time, while Hockey won their national qualifying tournament putting next year's side back in the topflight where we want to belong. Basketball had a great run all season, winning the Hawke's Bay title again and going all the way to a quarterfinal at the nationals. Their final placing of 6th in New Zealand, again, augurs well for next year. Many sports, both supported here at school or taken through local clubs, produced national representatives or champions: football, tennis, cricket, kickboxing, fly fishing, motocross, surf lifesaving, athletics, cross country, road cycling, basketball, clay targets, hockey to name the not exhaustive list of the many who came across stage during the year.

A standout performance this year, and one which links to a popular and vital curriculum area, was the efforts of Matthew Halford and Finn Beamish and their teacher, Mr. Rex Newman, in winning the national Young Farmer of the year award after their second place in 2018.

2 To the leavers: at the start of each year, we give you the message that this final time at school will go in the blink of an eye and that if you sit back and wait for things to happen,

then, invariably, you will miss out. You know I occasionally reference the bank account we all have that credits \$86,400 to us each day. If we don't use it, the balance is reduced to zero each midnight – seconds in the day. Use them or lose them forever.

Author Harriet Jackson Brown, Jr said "Don't say you don't have enough time. You have exactly the same number of hours per day that were given to Helen Keller, Pasteur, Michelangelo, Mother Teresa, Leonardo da Vinci, Thomas Jefferson, and Albert Einstein"

My plea as you go beyond school is that you don't wait for opportunities to come to you (the school notices won't be there!) but go out and hunt them down. You are crossing over into a world which requires you to be proactive.

I want to also congratulate your leaders, particularly Leo and Sol, on their role in championing the student voice this year. Leadership and citizenship are qualities many of you sitting here have developed over your time at school. It is gratifying when I write your references to see the many ways, often not formal like a prefectship, where you have taken the opportunity to be involved, contribute and serve others. These young men have grabbed those opportunities.

Several teachers will finish with us at the end of year:

Mr. Bishop Edwards has been a great maths teacher for nine years, a passionate basketball manager and a champion of our Pasifika community. We wish him the very best for his promotion to Head of Department at Sacred Heart next year. It is appropriate he should present the Sports and Cultural prizes shortly.

Mrs. Trish Linley, Head of Food and Nutrition, has been on leave this year and has decided that she will retire from teaching so, sadly, we will not see her back in 2020. Trish has been with us for ten years and will be missed by students and colleagues alike.

Mr. Shaun Glasier, an old boy, has ably assisted the school in maths for the past two terms and moves on to other opportunities next year, while Ms. Karen Chapman who has taught maths and science part-time this year takes on a position at Napier Girls' H.S during 2020.

Mrs. Karoline Roberts, who has been the Cultural Coordinator and music tutor, leaves to move with her family to Timaru. I thank her for her contribution to the arts.

One other staff member will be taking leave from the school next year: Mrs. Amanda Demanser is looking forward to the arrival of her second child in early 2020. We look forward to her return in due course and wish her well.



I also wish to recall Mr. Peter McGlashan's nearly 43 years' service here. His farewell in front of the school near the end of last term was an exceptional occasion.

I thank these staff for their many contributions to the school and wider community.

At this time, I would like to thank all the staff for another year's dedicated work to give these young men the best possible chances for their future. Nothing that we do here is possible without the men and women sitting behind me and their passion for teaching your sons. Please acknowledge them in the customary manner.

Today, we also celebrated a significant award to one of our teachers who received a Woolf Fisher scholarship for excellence in teaching. There are roughly 60 of these awards nationally each year and since the 1970's only 7 educators from our school have received these – the most recent being Mr. Smith, Mr. Boulton and Mr. Brown. I am delighted to ask Mr. Nick Williams to come forward and receive this significant award in front of the very people to whom he has made such a difference.

I wish to acknowledge the dedicated hard work of the school's leadership team along with our secretary Mrs. White for their support, passion for the school and absolute determination to

see you succeed. Bruce, Dave, Del, Kirstin, Ashton, Jayne. Thank you.

Behind the scenes the finance, administration, hostel and property teams continue to support our mission to educate great young men. We believe we meet the community's expectations to bring the best out in your sons.

My thanks, as always, to our board trustees, led by Ms. Megan Landon, for their support and hard work to provide for the school, as well as the time and energy given by Mr. Kevin Callinicos (Chairman - Napier Boys' High School Association, Charitable Trust and Percy Storkey VC Trust), Mr. Stuart Pearce (Chairman of the Greenwood Trust) and the members of all three charitable trust boards which serve the school community.

Finally, to the young men sitting here, particularly those who are returning: What is your next personal best going to be? Who do you need to help you achieve that? Now is the time to reflect over the next four weeks.

I wish you and your families an enjoyable and safe Christmas and New Year. God Bless.

*Matt Bertram Headmaster*

## From The Archives

Apologies to Chris Geddis, for the long wait for this to be written; a short spell in hospital, a long trip 'home' (Motueka), NCEA exam supervision, (marvelling at the politeness and friendliness of our present senior students) and other writings. My 2019 Scindian article was going to be "Serving Them All My Days", a survey of the long service records of NBHS staff, occasioned by the record achieved by Peter McGlashan – but I got side-tracked. While looking for something else, I came across an interesting article in April 1919 Scindian – on the Governors' final decision to move to a new school on a new site. What really caught my eye was the proposal for a new name "Napier War Memorial College".

This led me back to a booklet of architect's plans and sketches – Three buildings, a Dining Block, Boarding House (incorporating the Headmaster's residence) and a school Block, complete with two towers, one with a clock. The Old Boys were going to be hit with fundraising of £5,000 for the Assembly Hall, which would display tablets bearing the names of all Hawke's Bay servicemen and the Roll of Honour for the District. Of course, the 1926 building bore little resemblance to the 1919 version, perhaps just as well, given the destruction the '31 Quake would have caused with the towers toppling into the quad and grounds. \*(Perhaps, Chris might like to include this 'centenary offering' in the next Columns?) \*And there would be no change of name. The 'Gathering' has brought in a number of items belonging to the late Rod McRae, (OB 1944, Housemaster 1951 and stalwart of the Association), which were delivered by his nephew, Dean Chrystal (1978-82, Head of Hostel). The hoard included a prize book, textbooks and a set of 125th Anniversary wine glasses, with the Scinde crest. Another Scinde House Head Prefect has also been active on our behalf – again – how does he find the time? Matthew Hawkins (1985-89) - 'Our man in Abu Dhabi', (NZ Ambassador to the United Arab Emirates) had previously located, bought and donated one of Lionel Hall's WW1 medals. Now he has trawled the internet and bought for us, the 1916 prize book awarded to Frank Kerr, and the 1923 Diving Medal won by N. Trouson. Matthew was able to host our 1st XV en route to South Africa and has also sent us photographs of the boys in Abu Dhabi and his own ceremonial presentation of credentials to the Emir.

Ian Scott (1947-50), downsizing in Taradale, has handed on to us nine Scindians (1944-54) and Jubilee publications. Rex Kerr (F6, 1954-55, ex Principal of Otaki College) was up here with the Hurricanes District Under 19's and presented us with his blazer, prefect's badge, 1st XV cap and four prize books (including those for the Ashcroft Cup 1955). Rex has published a book on Otaki Scholarship scheme, of which, of course, we are part of. He has promised us a copy.

Another Old Boy, Paul Hickford (1957-60) has just published a very substantial work entitled 'They Marched to War' – a tribute to the staff of the Bank of New Zealand, who served in WW1 – including some Old Boys. We are very grateful to add books by/about Old Boys to our Archives Library – but may I request that they are autographed for us?

Finally, I found locally another prize book, awarded in 1904 to Wallace Tod (1904-05), a very handsome volume of Byron's poetry, from the second year that the leather covers were embossed with our crest. Once again, I have spent many a happy hour trawling through early Scindians, for correspondents doing family research. In just the last week, I have:

- Arbitrated in an inter-generational dispute as to whether grandfather, Gordon Fountain (1915-16) played 1st X1 cricket? (He captained the 2nd X1).
- Checked whether Robert Haraki (1928-31) has his name on a (redundant) boxing cup. (He was eliminated in the second round of the Middle Weight contest in 1928, and made the final in 1930 – but no cup).
- Confirmed the outstanding career of John McLeod Robertson (1916-18). His family had always believed he was an Old Boy of Christchurch Boys' High School, until they came across his 1st XV cap and Munro Cup for Cricket, Fielding. He arrived here after a year at ChChBHS, his father was bank officer in Pongaroa, and then returned there for his last year when his father moved to Leeston. In between, he not only played for the 1st XV and 1st X1 but he was Head of Hostel for two years, penning pages of the goings-on in the House for the Scindian. I understand he was to have a career as a journalist. The family will return his treasures to us – it will be interesting to see if the Munro Cup is the original, which should have been returned in 1919, or a miniature.
- And gathered what meagre information we possess on the career of our second Headmaster, Neil Heath (1884-87), for his

great-granddaughter. She has requested a copy of the photograph on display in the Henderson Foyer, of the worthy gentleman gazing wistfully at a large dog at his feet.

And what lies ahead? Ashton Johnson, the new Hostel Manager, has asked me to assist in the design of a badge for the Greenwood Scholarship winners, and a distinctive hostel prefects' badge, after years of using the schools' one, minus the coronet. There is WW11 to conclude with Judith... and then, there is my book...

*Phillip Rankin-Archivist*

**The school website is**

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

### 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*

### Ties & Cufflinks

Association / Old Boys

Ties - \$27 & School Crest Cufflinks - \$25

Are available from the School

# Old Boy And Napier Man Takes Command Of Navy Helicopter Squadron

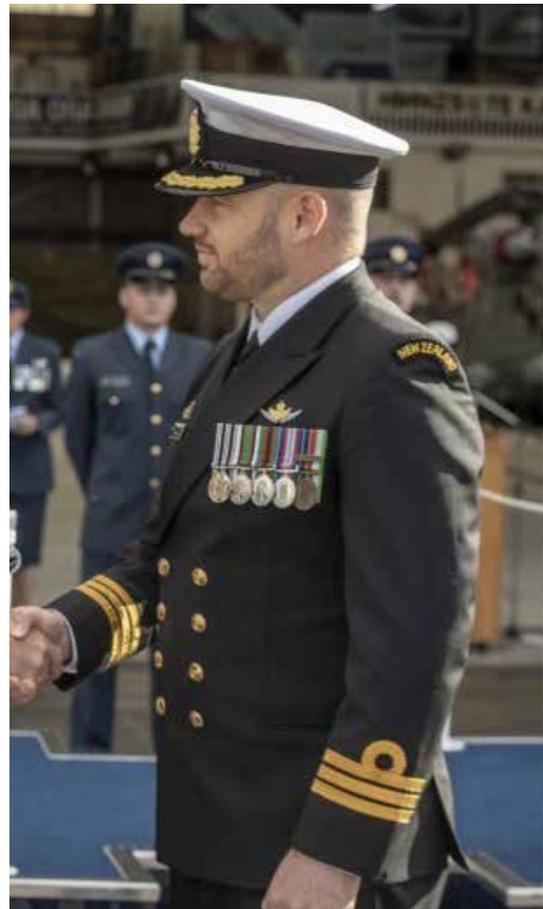
Old Boy and Napier man takes command of Navy helicopter squadron a busy Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN) career as a Seasprite helicopter observer, mission planner and trainer has taken Napier man, Commander Sam Greenhalgh (NBHS 1993-1997) around the world. In May 2019 he capped that by becoming the new Commanding Officer of the RNZN's airborne wing, No.6 Squadron, where Seasprite crews are trained and deployed to its helicopter-capable ships from Royal New Zealand Air Force (RNZAF) Base Auckland.

"It's an honour and a privilege to take command of 6 Squadron, which is made up of passionate and proud people who operate in a dangerous environment," Commander Greenhalgh said. Commander Greenhalgh, 39, said he joined the RNZN for adventure and travel and has certainly achieved his aims, having operated RNZN Seasprites from the Persian Gulf and the Aleutian Islands to South East Asia, Hawaii and the Southern Ocean.

"Being part of a ship's company and travelling around the world with an aircraft and a ship - that has definitely been a highlight," he said. During Year 13 at Napier Boys' High School in 1997 he attended an open ship day of HMNZS Te Kaha in Wellington and that cemented the idea of a navy career and deploying on a frigate. He joined the RNZN the next year as a Seaman Officer, completed Junior Officer training and became interested in the helicopter observer role. "In those days you had to be a ship driver first, before you could train as aircrew," he said.

He served as Bridge Watchkeeper on various RNZN vessels for five years and in 2003 graduated to Navigator on the HMNZS Resolution, a former RNZN hydrography vessel. He became a Seasprite Observer with 6 Squadron in 2004. "The Seasprite has a three-person crew of pilot, observer and loadmaster and the observer is effectively the mission commander - leading the tactical role of the aircraft and operating the sensors and weapons," he said.

"It can be a very busy role. A Seasprite has a lot of the same sensors as the P3 Orion to detect shipping and interact with vessels, but with only three crew to do the job and only two people with access to the sensors." Commander Greenhalgh said he had two principal aims as Commander of No 6 Squadron: boosting its size and ensuring that its identity remains strong.

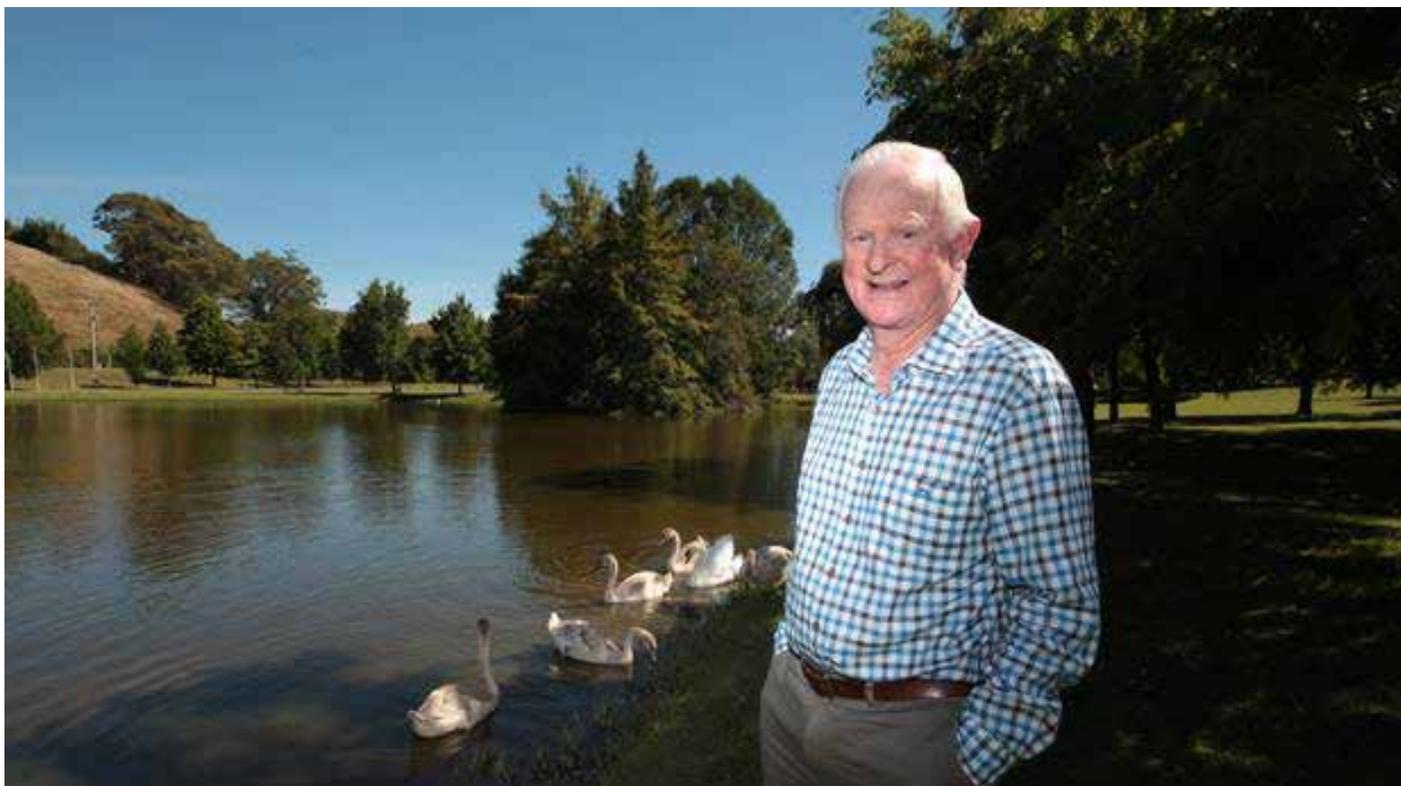


*Commander Sam Greenhalgh*

"The squadron has grown a lot in size over the past 14 years and we need to keep that going, both with new trainees and retaining our people at senior levels," he said. "And during the past few years we've really built a strong identity at 6 Squadron and we want to keep that strong, so that people want to be part of the squadron. We have a good group of aircraft maintainers and aircrew here, who are proud to be part of the squadron and we want to keep that."

*NZ Defence Force*

# Queen's Birthday Honours 2019: Roger Alexander QSM - for conservation and community



## **(NBHS 1951-1952) - (Lindisfarne College 1953-1955)**

A lifetime of devotion to conservation and to the community of Puketapu he grew up in resulted in Roger Alexander getting a very special letter.

"It had government markings on it so I knew it wasn't a speeding fine," he said with a laugh.

It was notification he had been awarded a Queen's Service Medal in this month's Queen's Birthday Honours.

"I was blown away — couldn't quite believe it," he said, for what he had done for conservation and the region through his lifetime was simply a labour of love.

"The only thing I was any good at had to do with the environment, so I thought I'd stick with that."

He has lived in Puketapu all his 82 years, and it was his vision to create something special for everyone that led him to embark on a huge project in 1978 to solve drainage and flooding issues around what was then a festering swamp, and create Lake Puketapu.

It was a 30-year mission. Today it draws unique wildlife and admiring visitors alike.

For the past two years, Alexander has provided his lake area and land for the Taradale Rotary Club to hold its market day, which generates about \$25,000 annually for the club.

He and his family donated 50 acres of their land on the fringe of Taradale to the town, which, in cooperation with the Taradale Rotary Club, has been turned into the Dolbel Reserve recreation area.

He has also donated parcels of land to Puketapu School to accommodate school growth, planted trees on the grounds, granted use of the lake and his property for school functions as well as sports training and events.

There was never any question about doing what he did.

"When I was a kid I had ducks and chooks and liked to plant trees — and I'd catch eels in the swamp and take them back to the pond I made at home."

He said that love of the environment remained and he continued to keep busy every day.

This time of year means a lot of leaf removal.

"Have to keep up with them."

An experienced rural man, Alexander has been a committee member of the Hawke's Bay Agricultural and Pastoral Show Society since 1982 and an expert judge of cattle.

He is devoted to his old school (Lindisfarne College), serving on its committee. He helped build the school's community hall and swimming pool and has held a number of roles as an Old Boy of Lindisfarne College, where he was a boarder.

Will he celebrate his honour?

"Oh yes," he replied, adding he would take friends and family out for a meal - at The Puketapu Hotel.

*HB Today*

# Dr Ian T Carpenter Dentist NZDA Public Service Award (NBHS 1969-73)

Dr Ian T Carpenter Dentist NZDA Public Service Award (NBHS 1969-73)



At the national conference of the New Zealand Dental Association (NZDA) in Wellington this year Ian Carpenter was awarded the Public Service Award. The citation read:

"Serving as an inspiration to the dental profession, through exemplary humanitarian ideals and attributes". Ian has a long history of service overseas in disadvantaged areas, initially Bangladesh, where he spent a year teaching basic dentistry to medical students, then Malawi and later in Azerbaijan. He has also provided great support to disadvantaged people in the Palmerston North area. Bright colours, bean bags and snowboards on the walls are not the usual decor in a dental surgery, but that's the look that Carpentersdental has adopted for its innovative adolescents' clinic.

Situated upstairs in the Carpentersdental building at Terrace End, it will cater exclusively for teenagers and children. The clinic represents the fulfilment of a dream for dentist Ian Carpenter, whose aim is to provide seamless dental care for the whole family. Mr Carpenter, who has been in practice since 1979, has been practising in Palmerston North for the past 23 years.

Dental care is free for adolescents up to the age of 18. And by creating an "adolescent-friendly" environment, Carpentersdental hopes to enrol more young people who will look after their teeth into adulthood. Equipment at the top end of dentistry has been installed, to provide minimally invasive, preventive-based treatment. A new x-ray system allows x-rays to be instantly transferred to a computer screen, enabling instant diagnosis and early detection of developing cavities. The visual imagery also allows patients to contribute to the treatment plan. Laser detection is another tool in the early detection of cavities. If decay is detected, air abrasion can be used to painlessly clean fissures.

Completing the line-up of equipment at the practice is HealOzone technology, which cleans and sterilises the tooth. If fillings are required, only white ones are placed. "Technology has improved significantly over the years, and we believe white fillings make a stronger tooth than amalgam," Mr Carpenter says. "We can chemically and physically bond [these fillings] to the tooth, and thus rebuild a stronger tooth."

This same level of technology has been carried over into the mobile dental unit that Carpentersdental operates.

At Manawatu College in Foxton. There, they will spend a month treating the 200 students who have enrolled with the Carpentersdental mobile unit. The unit visits the college twice a year, as it is in an un-fluoridated area and students have a higher risk of dental decay.

6 Mr Carpenter says he enjoys teaching and passing on the skills

he has learned during 30 years in dentistry, and frequently travels overseas to teach. Since he established his practice in Palmerston North, his staff has increased from three to 12. It now includes three dentists, two dental therapists, visiting oral surgeons and support staff.

Chris Geddis

# Queen's Birthday Honours 2019: Tiwana Riwai Aranui QSM

Tiwana (Chop) Aranui QSM. (NBHS 1971-1976)

When things need simple logic, some might need to go no further than Napier kaumatua and new Queen's Service Medal recipient Tiwana Aranui, or "Chop" as he's widely known.

At the hub of educational and health betterment of Maori in Hawke's Bay — and consequently the whole Hawke's Bay community — he says: "Pihi ake te whakaa-ro pai. Plant good thoughts, reap what you sow." Even though he's been at it a long time — almost back to the days parents Hector and Dolly brought the family, proudly Ngati Pahauwera, from Raupunga to Napier and settled in the just-birthing suburb of Maraenui more than 50 years ago — he says there is still some planting to do.



Ex-Army, to the rank of Lance Corporal, attained serving in Singapore and Malaya, he's carried sacks of coal to deliver around the hills of Napier, shorn sheep, and toiled in orchards, the bush, the works, and dockside with the fishing boats. He is Pukemokimoki Marae chairman, has been a member of the Kohanga Reo national trust, on Napier City Council's Maori consultative committee and support role pou ahurea with the Hawke's Bay District Health Board, and has held roles at the Maraenui Rugby Club, formed in 1981, and now known as the Maraenui Rugby and Sports Association.

Player of more than 300 games for the club, his last "competition" appearance was aged 51. He was a president and is now a life member and says: "We learned our tikanga through the rugby club. We brought our kids up around that club environment. They developed their skills, their social skills, through sport."

He appreciated he still needed some education and learnt his influence in te reo Māori for a degree at EIT, which he put to good use at the faculty's kohanga, and similarly at Tangoio Marae.

Now a regular on the paepae of local marae, he says: "If anything, I'm a product of the kohanga kaupapa."

HB Today

# Lest I Forget.....

When I retired after thirty-seven years as a housemaster/teacher, a number of people said to me: "You must have plenty of stories, will you write a book?" Yes I did, but no I won't – my flirting with authorship (The Old Boys and WW1) is exhausting. But there are a few stories from my last year that I wouldn't like forgotten. Confident though I am that the principals won't be reading this, I will never-the-less change the names. The class that features most often I'll call 4F1, they were really 10 something. Which reminds me – back in the dawn of time, my first year's teaching, I had two third form classes, 3Q and 3V. The school had decided that 3A, 3B etc would damage the young psyches of those who didn't make the top stream. It didn't take the boys long to work out the correct order of things; 3Q were 3B, which was fine until they moved on a year. The call would go across the Quad, "What class are you?" "Four Q! Four Q! Four Q!" In their third year we were back to A's and B's.

Anyway 4F1, I was told were "mid-stream," but as it was only half the size of other classes and contained no boarders, I have my doubts. They claim some of the credit for my slightly early retirement and it's true, on a number of occasions I had to walk out of Foster Block with my pacemaker awry. But we did share some wonderful moments. With the Olympics on the horizon, I showed excerpts from 'Olympia', the famous movie of the 1936 Berlin Olympics. There were enough Nazi leaders...(but why did they all turn and stare at me whenever the Fuhrer was shown?) uniforms, shiny cars, long-legged girls in the jumping pits and uniformed equestrians falling off at the water jumps to keep them amused. And of course there was Jesse Owens and Jack Lovelock. About a week later a hand went up: "Sir, when did the world get like this?" The hand was waved vaguely at the windows. I looked out – rain was sweeping against the library. "What do you mean, "Like this"? Wet?" "No, like this?" Another gesture to the outside. Impatient with my non-comprehension, a class-mate decided to help out. "He means 'coloured' Sir, when did the world become coloured?" Of course! The movie in 1936 was in black and white and shades of grey!

Another of our projects was to draw a poster of a New Zealand icon. Dudley brought his up to my desk to show me. He was one of those boys you looked at twice, on first glance you would have sworn both his eyes were on the same side of his nose, like a Picasso portrait. Dudley had chosen a kiwi, and splendid it was too – except it had four legs. "Dudley, is a kiwi a bird or an animal?" I got that, you can't fool me look. "A bird." "Does a bird have two legs or four, Dudley?" Again, that look. "Two." "Ok, so does a kiwi have two legs or four?" "Four!" This went on for some time so I decided on the direct approach: "Dudley a kiwi has two legs – but the four you have drawn are great – why don't you take your poster and draw a second kiwi behind this one to use the spare legs?" I could tell he wasn't convinced, and when all the posters were collected – there was the four-legged kiwi. It had pride of place on the classroom wall, much to the confusion of my other classes.

It was my ritual to meet my junior classes in the corridor, line them up, settle them down, socks up, shirts in, and then formal greetings: "Good morning scholars." "Good morning Sir." One day 4F1 arrived, I could tell from the curled lips that they had had a bad morning. The ritual began, and then "Sir, why are you allowed to 'dis' us – we are not allowed to 'dis' you?" Shaken, I said, "I don't disrespect you, how do I disrespect you?" Lips curled further, "You call us scholars."

I had another junior class that year, 3 something, they enjoyed the ritual so I used to elaborate on it. "Good morning, Sir." "Now say good morning to Mr Foster." They would turn to the framed portrait of the former headmaster on the opposite wall and

chorus "Good morning Mr Foster." For some reason this used to disconcert my neighbouring teachers.

About once a week, 3Sg would arrive, jiggling with anticipation, and couldn't wait to tell me that one of their classmates had been in trouble. It was usually Henrik van der Plonk – and he knew what must come next. With a sigh and rolling of eyes Henrik would break ranks, stand below the stern, begowned photograph, look at the floor, confess his misdeeds. Apologise and ask Mr Foster's forgiveness, with promises to try to be better. That disconcerted my neighbours even more. 4F1 could never participate in this ritual, most of them were always in trouble – but they had their moments.

That year's hostel intake included a delightfully tiny and happy fellow we will call, Tama. He liked to play games, on my duty day, it was hide-and-seek and chasings around Fox Block at bed time. On my rounds he would be a few steps ahead, around a corner, through a doorway, anywhere but bed. Sometimes he would be wearing a voluminous pair of red pyjamas which could have accommodated half the dormitory – my duty buddy called them "luminous" – which also fitted.

To end the game, all I had to do was sit on the stairs, clutch my chest and breathe heavily. Tama would tiptoe to bed and be the first with his light out. He had another game he enjoyed, at school, he would walk behind me in the Foster Block corridor, reach up and tap me on the right shoulder. I'd turn right with a look of mystification on my face while he skipped off to the left, chuckling to his own class in F3. My senior students thought it was cute, but 4F1 would watch the pantomime through narrowed eyes, their jostling and bickering temporarily forgotten. One day they could bear it no longer: "Sir, its Tama X who is tapping you on the shoulder – do you want us to give him the beat for you?" That was 4F1 all over, although they were prepared to drive me to the edge of a coronary, in their own way, they were very protective.

One day the headmaster had made some reference to me in assembly, perhaps I'd mounted an archives display or had an article published in the newspaper. When 4F1 arrived at class, they were much quieter than normal, and stood back eyeing me, "Sir, how long have you been in the school?" "Thirty-seven years, boys," Pause, "How long have you been teaching history?" "Thirty-seven-years." They exploded – "Mr Brown has dissed you in front of the whole school – he called you a "practising historian!" This respect only went so far – they liked to break through my hedge and help themselves to my tangelos – and tell me later how delicious they were. While in my backyard they would also check out my recycling, fascinated by the number of RTD bottles there were – liquor they only associated with teenage binge drinkers. Questioning me closely, they never did buy my story that I'd picked them up off the beach, or from Te Awa Avenue's gutters on my walks. That was true!

Then, after I retired, a car pulled up beside me while I was walking along Marine Parade. One of the larrikins from 4F1 offered me a lift back to school. He had either left himself, or not noticed that I had. I think I would have been safe, but a look at his mates in the car with him and stranger/danger warnings kicked in.

The offer was appreciated.

*Phillip Rankin, Teacher 1972-2009*

# 2019 Reunion



1969 First XV: John Pearcey, Tom Macky, Chris Geddis, Bevan Cottrell, Simon Wenley, Maurice Gunnell, Gordon Richards, Brett England, Wayne Hawkins, Colin Frost, Mark Oldershaw, (kneeling.)

## 1969 First Fifteen and Australian Touring team 50th Anniversary Reunion

17 Members of the 1969 1st XV and Australian Touring Team held a reunion at the same time as the year 8/9 O/1 school reunion and the 1961 1st XV. During the August-September 1969 vacation, a party of 26 rugby players spent nineteen days in Australia, where six matches were played in four states New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania and South Australia in the five cities of Sydney, Newcastle, Melbourne, Hobart and Adelaide. The touring team consisted of the 1969 First Fifteen with six lower grade players being blooded for future 1st Fifteens. The team was coached by popular master, Derek Brebner and skilfully captained by Murray Ashcroft with Peter Jane his able vice-captain. Sadly missing from those that had attended 40th Anniversary Reunion in 2009 were the coach Derek Brebner and team members, Garcon Bell and Peter Smith who had passed away in the last 10 years. The 17 members that were able to be there, spread themselves over a number of functions during the weekend, including: Friday night dinner at the Masonic Hotel's Emporium, drinks at East Pier, Saturday lunch and rugby game at NBHS and Reunion Dinner at NBHS. Some still wanting to party got together for Sunday Brunch at the Station Restaurant. The 1969 Team, has had various mini reunions and functions both in Napier and Auckland over the years, the catalyst for these functions culminating with the 40th Anniversary was always Coach Derek Brebner, who loved keeping up with the lads and meeting their partners on a regular basis. Some of the team members who had not been back for the "Forty Years On" 40 year reunion, renewed friendships and camaraderie with teammates and their wives for the first time in 50 years. Those who made it over the weekend were: John Bruce, Bevan Cottrell, Nigel Ebbett, Brett England, Bryan Farquharson, Colin Frost, Chris Geddis, Alan Gilbert, Maurice Gunnell, Wayne Hawkins, Peter Jane, Tom Macky, Mark Oldershaw, John Pearcey, Gordon Richards, Mark Romans, and Simon Wenley. Apologies were received from others who could not be there.

8

Chris Geddis (1964-1969)



Dr George Ngai (Speaker)

# The 11th biennial Reunion



*1972 First XV: Standing: Ken Bruce, Bob McCaw, (Coach), Petrie Kerr, Huck Smith, Kahu Chadwick, Matt Grace, Kneeling: Perry Gilbert, Dennis Mitchell, Mark Romans.*

Organised by the Association was held on Friday 27 and Saturday 28 July 2019. In addition to Old Boys whose third form (year 9) year started with an 8, 9, 0 or 1, Old Boys' over 75 years of age, the 1961 First XV and the 1969 First XV also attended.

The reunion followed previous formats with an informal evening at East Pier on Friday evening, followed by events on Saturday. Overall, 96 Old Boys registered, with 117 Old Boys and partners attending the Saturday evening dinner.

The guest speaker at the dinner was George Ngaei. George's speech was the highlight of the evening. It was revealing to learn of the challenges the 12-year-old George from the Cook Islands endured when sent from Rarotonga to board at Scinde House, not seeing his parents for three years. Regardless of these early challenges, George has risen to a very successful career as a surgeon. George was recognised for his services to health and the Pacific community by being named an Officer of the New Zealand Order of Merit in the Queen's Birthday honours in 2015.

George paid tribute to the School and Scinde House for laying down the foundations of his success.

This year's events saw Jayne White taking over the organising role from Judith Craigie. The success of the reunion is attributable in large to Jayne's efforts, again assisted by Bruce Smith, Geoff Pyott and Matt Bertram. Many thanks to all of them. Also, a huge amount of credit goes to Chris Geddis for organising the reunion of the 1961 and 1969 First XV's. Chris will report on those reunions in a separate article.

The Association is now turning its thoughts to the organisation of the 150th celebrations in 2022. Given the proximity to those large celebrations, we will not be holding the biennial reunions that otherwise would be scheduled for 2021 and 2023. Therefore, the next year group reunion is scheduled for 2025 and will be for third forms ending with a 2, 3, 4 and 5.

In the meantime, start thinking about attending the 150th celebrations in 2022.

*Kevin Callinicos-Chairperson*



*Ken Scheele (Oldest) and Simon Porter (Youngest) at Reunion Dinner.*



# Our 1961 NBHS first fifteen re-united 58 years on

Our 1961 first fifteen reunion on 26-27 July 2019 was a great success. After 58 years 11 of our original squad of 18 turned up. With five sadly deceased there were only two missing. Gerald Chappell, very ill with Parkinson's in London and Kirby Taylor, unable to be contacted but thought to be living in Aussie somewhere.

Like many of the others attending I wondered what to expect meeting up with old team-mates, many for the first time 58 years on?

The ice was broken beautifully at our initial catch-up with Denis Smith at his Clive clubrooms on the Friday afternoon. Along with Mike Mohi, John Gahagan, Ian Bishop and joined by Chris Geddis, we were generously entertained by a very similar Denis to the original. Friendly and quietly reserved with a delightfully dry sense of humour. Age had been kind to him, despite much less hair like most of us. Mike was his humorous and witty self of old and John, although suffering health difficulties, bouncy and cheerful as always. I fondly remembered John as our tearaway pint sized 'pocket battle-ship' flanker. Ian Bishop was his usual quiet, considered and well weathered self.

At the Friday evening East Pier gathering a similar trend emerged, with one team mate over-heard saying 'quick give me a name tag, no one's going to recognise me!'

In fact the boy of yesteryear soon emerged in all despite obvious signs of ageing. Mike Mohi's delightful 94 year old mother, Joan, recognised most of us commenting 'gee you boys are looking old!' Mrs Mohi knew us well having been one of our regular supporters at match days all those years ago.

Probably the most unchanged was still boyish beanstalk Reg Vautier, Kim Morgan became more and more familiar behind those specs, Tom Castles easily recognisable after removing his shades, Doug Callaghan still a smiling sparkly eyed giant, and the stocky Jock McLachlan easily recognised. There were laughs galore amid comments such as 'I'm not getting older, I'm getting better' and 'the older I get the better I was'. And some not repeatable! These guys, and many of our team members, all remarked in different ways how lucky we were to have attended a school we were all very proud of. An impact on me were the similarities in these guys to way back in '61. Maybe a special bond was built in that senior school environment and with budding rugby careers. The camaraderie felt by me was greater than I had experienced with other rugby reunions in recent years.

On the Saturday morning some of us experienced a moving visit to the grave of late team-mate Joe Murray. Mike Mohi conducted a traditional Maori ceremony graveside in fluent Te Reo and those of us attending were invited to speak to Joe. Needless to say some humorous experiences and memories were recounted!

The rugby on the Saturday with NBHS against New Plymouth BH was entertaining though our team got thrashed. Many commented how much the game had changed since our day. Probably the biggest difference being the greater role of forwards, fanning out across the field and running and passing like backs. Two standout changes being lifting in the lineouts and a lack of good old fashioned rucking.

But today's game, agreed by most, a better free-flowing spectacle.

I had the pleasure of joining a group of Central Hawkes Bay old boys of our vintage later that Saturday afternoon. Included were former 1963 head prefect, Ewan ('Mac') MacGregor, who was instrumental in our original 'Dream Team' article by Chris Geddis in our schools 'Columns' publication last year. Also my very good friend Ian Crooks who I sometimes spent enjoyable leave weekends with at Waipukurau. We almost wore out an LP by the Howard Morrison Quartet!

The Saturday night dinner was well organised and enjoyable. Though many were miffed we were being denied seeing the ABs v Springbok test live. Not to be outdone I sneakily tuned my cell phone in and sitting next to George Ngaei we saw most of the first half, until George was invited up to the stage to make a speech. Our first fifteen reunion was part of a wider school reunion with well over 100 old boys and school staff at the dinner. George gave an eloquent and entertaining speech highlighting his difficult first three years as a boarder at Scinde House and not being able to return to his native Rarotonga. He recounted how the Hawke's Bay selectors had asked headmaster Mr Henderson, affectionately known as 'Honk', if Mike Mohi could play at first five eight for the Hawkes Bay representative team against the touring French in 1961. In his wisdom, and as chairman of the rugby union, Honk had firmly said no. The reason given – too young and inexperienced. Honk had also said no, to an offer by the union for our first fifteen to play the curtain raiser. Many of us often wonder what this opportunity could have done for Mike's rugby career as he was incredibly talented.

At the dinner we sat together as a team, some with wives, and we were delighted to be joined by two of our late team-mate's widows – Jan Curtis and Jan Gilray. They along with each member of our team attending the reunion, were given a souvenir publication outlining our team performances and including up-to-date pen portraits of team members and those deceased. For me the five years as a Scinde House boarder at NBHS were one of life's highlights and friendships and respect have endured. Many of us recounted the high standard of teaching and the many outstanding teachers including interesting, likeable and sometimes feared characters! The sporting opportunities were great and I had the privilege of playing rugby behind an excellent forward pack with fleet footed backs outside me. All I had to do was admire the flood of good ball given me by the forwards and fling it out to watch those wonderful backs weave their magic!

Following our get together some have suggested we should repeat the exercise either in 2021 for our 60th Anniversary or alternatively in 2022 to coincide with the next major Reunion the 150th Anniversary of Napier Boys' High School. Generous offers of assistance in organising a follow-up for our group have come from Denis Smith and John Gahagan.



*At the late Joe Murray's graveside from left – Mrs Joan Mohi, Joe's wife Margaret, Reg Vautier, Kim Morgan, Mike Mohi, Tom Castles, Ken Geenty*



*At the rugby from left – Reg Vautier, John Gahagan, Kim Morgan, Mike Mohi, Ken Geenty*



*Doug Callaghan, Ken Geenty and George Ngaei*

# Old Boy In Forces Team For World Title



It's not just the All Blacks who are playing for a world title in Japan in September 2019.

NBHS Old Boy (2008-2012) Hamish Pyne, is in Japan with the New Zealand Defence Force (NZDF) team to play in the International Defence Rugby Competition (IDRC), the military equivalent of the Rugby World Cup.

The NZDF team, known as the Defence Blacks, comprising servicemen from the navy, New Zealand Army and Royal New Zealand Air Force and one civilian, will play in the competition against military teams from Australia, United Kingdom, Fiji, Tonga, Papua New Guinea, Canada, Georgia, Japan and France. Former Hawke's Bay age group representative Hamish Pyne is in the New Zealand Defence Force team. Royal New Zealand Navy physical training instructor Pyne played rugby for Hawke's Bay at Ross Shield, under-16 and under18 levels. His Hawke's Bay

under-16 team won their Hurricanes tournament in Gisborne in 2010.

Pyne, 25, joined the navy in 2013, initially as a logistics supply specialist, after recruiters had visited Napier Boys' High School. He did the Navy Adventure Challenge soon after and wanted to join immediately.

"Getting paid straight out of school was good too," he said. Having always been into fitness and having played rugby since he was five, he has thrived since becoming a physical training instructor.

"Working in supply, I was behind a computer all day, doing paperwork," he said. "But as a physical training instructor it has been one challenge after the next. I'm loving it, because there's constant variation in my role."

A halfback, Pyne will be playing in his second International Defence Rugby Competition.

"I was 10kg lighter in 2015 and the games against the British Army and Fiji were more physical than I was used to," he said.

"We're a more experienced team now, and for me having that extra weight makes it easier around ruck time."

After the competition, Pyne will head to Canada as the physical training instructor for the crew of HMNZS Te Kaha, who will bring the frigate back to New Zealand after its systems upgrade is completed.

The Defence Blacks flew to Japan on Tuesday, and will play Australia Defence Force in the first round tomorrow.

This will be the third International Defence Rugby Competition, with the British Army winning in 2011 and the Fijian Army winning in 2015.

*HB Today*

## Lord of the Ring?

They say marriage is a journey but for one Napier man, it was his wedding ring that went for the biggest trip.

Don Alexander's ring travelled 1100km in a box of fruit that he was sorting for the Ahuriri Rotary Club's citrus drive. He might never had got it back, had a keen-eyed business owner not spotted a glint in a gravel driveway in Dunedin a few days later.



He was annoyed and disappointed when he realised it had disappeared. "Because actually, I have lost it before," he laughed. In fact, the ring has now disappeared from his finger a total of four times, once while throwing rotten potatoes into a field during his tenure as principal of Pakowhai School, once while gardening for his daughter in Wellington, and another in a chair at home.

Don Alexander (NBHS1949-1952 NBHS Assn Committee 1998-), from Taradale, helps co-ordinate the annual citrus drive, where fruit is collected and shipped to the South Island. While collecting and packing fruit one afternoon, Don suddenly realised his wedding ring was missing. "We were transferring fruit a lot from the boot of our truck, or a trailer into these fruit bins." He said his finger must have shrunk a bit over the almost 62 years he has been married to his wife Shirley, because the ring was a bit loose.

This time, after retracing his steps and not finding it, he contacted the Dunedin East Rotary Club, where four boxes of citrus fruit he had packed were headed.

"We got a call back saying they had packaged all the fruit ready to go out, and hadn't found my ring."

Hopes still high, Don said he thought it could have ended up in another lot of fruit being shipped to another area of the South Island.

About three days later, he got a message saying Timeless, which

had sorted the fruit in Dunedin, had found a ring in its driveway. "They sent a photo back to me and, of course, it wouldn't have been any other silly person to have lost a ring down at a truck yard, down in Dunedin.

Timeless owner, Barry Johnston said he noticed the ring on the driveway because it was a different colour to the surrounding gravel.

He imagined the ring had got caught in a gap in the fruit box, which was why the team did not find it while unpacking the fruit. He said when the team was clearing the boxes, it must have fallen out on the driveway. "Later that day, there it was, among the gravel. He was just very lucky."

As for Don, he said he was grateful to the team at Timeless and the Dunedin Rotary Club, for finding the ring and sending it back. He said Shirley was grateful to see the return of the ring, joking he would not "run off and find someone else now." Don remembered being told, if you lose something and are meant to have it, it will find its way back. "That's certainly happened this time, at any rate."

*HB Today*

## Proud Skipper Has Hands Full

Studies and rugby commitments require some juggling but Maori captaincy is an offer too good to refuse. Former Napier Boys' High School first XV lock Tiaki Fabish (NBHS 2014-2018) captained the New Zealand Maori under-18 rugby team to victory against their Fijian counterparts on 22 September 2019. Hawke's Bay lock-loosie Tiaki Fabish is finding it tough juggling his rugby commitments with his studies but he's relishing the challenge.

"Not many people get that opportunity . . . it's an awesome honour to be named captain of a national team," Fabish said as he reflected on his New Zealand Maori under-18 boys rugby team's 46-13 victory against their Fijian counterparts in Rotorua. The former Napier Boys' High School first XV lock, who is studying psychology, criminology and Maori at Victoria University in Wellington had one day to recover after playing for Hawke's Bay at the national under-19 tournament in Taupo before linking up with the Maori squad. He was one of six Hawke's Bay players in the team.

Fabish started at blindside flanker and also played lock. The Napier Boys' High School pair of Jayden Walker and Jake Ward started at loose head prop and tighthead prop respectively, the Hastings Boys' High School pair of Jordan Thompson-Dunn and Mercedes Hodge started at first five-eighth and fullback respectively and Taradale Rugby and Sports loosie Hunter Nuku provided quality impact when he took the field at No 8. Hodge and Thompson-Dunn both scored tries in the victory. The Maori side led 12-8 at halftime.

"We weren't sure what to expect from them. They were so unorthodox. But at halftime we worked out they were weak out on the edges so we could exploit that. We also had to improve our line speed to shut down their strengths and, when we made those adjustments, everything worked well in the second half," Fabish explained.

### The school website is

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

### Ties & Cufflinks

Association / Old Boys

Ties - \$27 & School Crest Cufflinks - \$25

Are available from the School

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KONICA MINOLTA



Ward collected a head knock 10 minutes into the match and was ruled out of the remainder of the side's campaign with concussion.

The Maori team will be involved in a game of three periods which will also involve the New Zealand Schools and New Zealand Schools Barbarians in Palmerston North on 24 September 2019.

"We know we will have to step up another level when we take on those teams. Their standards will be higher," Fabish, who will again have the captaincy duties, said.

A former Hawke's Bay under-16 development, under-13 and Ross Shield rep, Fabish, 18, was one of the unsung heroes in the NBHS first XV which finished second at last year's National Top Four tournament in Palmerston North.

This year he was a member of the Old Boys University colts' team which won their Wellington club competition.

Next year he hopes to be in the mix for the Old Boys University premier club side.

He will also be eligible again for the Hawke's Bay under-19 team which will aim to improve upon this September's 10th placing at next year's national tournament in Taupo.

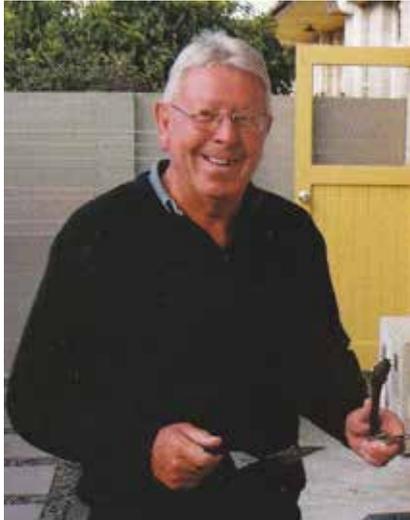
*HB Today*

# Obituaries

## Kevin John Douglas, 22 January 1941-25 October 2019. (NBHS 1954-1957)

NBHS Senior Swimming Champion 1957, First XV 1956/57. Lifesaver at the Pacific Surf Club in Napier, represented Hawke's Bay at Surf Lifesaving, a successful back-stroke swimmer and went on to represent HB at the National Swimming Championships and later competed in the first Masters Swimming Championships.

Kevin and I grew up in the same neighbourhood in Napier, he in Carnell Street and I, just around the corner in McDonald Street. Nelson Park School was where we met nearly 75 years ago. I was a year older, therefore Kevin's senior, so initially we didn't spend much time together. However, we were both attendees at St Pauls Sunday School and our Dad's took turns driving us there and while we were learning from the good book, our dad's would be studying their bibles, (Turf Digest and Best Bets.) It was at Napier Intermediate that we became close friends, due to our inclusion in the 1952 Napier Ross Shield Team. I was in form 2 and Kevin form 1. He was an exceptional player except when his shorts kept slipping down, because Mama (Kevin's Mum) hadn't put the drawstring in properly, (his story anyway). In his second year in the team, he was captain. The next team we were in together was the NBHS 2nd XV, me in 5th form, Kevin 4th, and for the next two years both in the 1st XV. He was a devastating tackler and the nemesis of opposing five-eighths, surprising them with the speed of his arrival and the force by which they were put on their backs.



Athletics was another pursuit we enjoyed, he was a particularly good 440 runner, and I was more suited to field events. It was during this time our group became established; Doug Franklin from next door, Dave Mitchell from Chaucer Road, Arthur Davis from Jull Street, and our playgrounds were the local streets, Nelson Park, Botanical Gardens and of course the beaches of Westshore and Marine Parade. Swimming was where he truly excelled both in the pool and in the surf. His great rival was Tony Natrass, also a great friend. Kevin swam for the Te Awa Club and Tony for Pacific. At the HBPB Champs in Gisborne, I can still see the final leg of the 100yards freestyle, with two battling it out and Kevin edging ahead to set a new record of 64.00 secs. Pool or surf, Kevin was in his element and he swam for most of his life. At one time, he accompanied Ricky Lowe on his swim from Cape Kidnappers to Marine Parade Napier, swimming with him for a major part of the journey.

Music was a passion, a good guitarist and with Robin Clark, Doug Franklin and myself, we set up a band called the "Polka Dots." Never made the big time, just a couple of stints at Church socials. Kevin's sister Lesley, taught him a few piano chords and sparked a love affair with the piano. He had a natural flair and produced sounds that enchanted and attracted listeners like bees around a honey pot. Mr Popularity, for better or for worse.

It was about this time that we discovered smoking, very much a no-no at NBHS. We were both in the 1st XV, I was a Prefect. Kevin's version of events differed from mine, but the outcome we both agreed on, Kevin suspended for a week, me, prefect's badge gone!!

The following year, 1958, we were both selected for the HB Junior side and the first game was against Wairarapa at McLean Park. We were dominated in the lineout by a large Wairarapa lock and it was only after half time that we formed a strategy to combat this guy. It worked, we won and the guy was, Brian Lochore. The next week we travelled to Wellington as curtain-raiser for the All Blacks versus Australia Test at Athletic Park. We stayed at the People's Palace, a Salvation Army private hotel. Kevin and another player borrowed towels for post-game showers, but had not replaced them soon enough. The Palace people called the cops. Cops arrived, spoke to Kevin then "Where is the other guy?" "Up at the Zoo" said Meatball O'Brien, a character from Hastings. "Jump in" said the cops so Meatball did a tour of Wellington on a sunny Sunday morning quite happy in the back seat.

The next year our paths diverged, me to Christchurch, then Dunedin, back to Christchurch and then Foxton. Kevin with Government Life Insurance, Napier to Wellington, then Tauranga, Dunedin and finally back to Napier, where he became an agent, not an administrator. He was hugely successful due to his personality and charm. Todd and Penny had arrived, a nice house on Napier Terrace, life was good. I arrived back in town and we hooked up again, very quickly and I started playing rugby again for Napier High School Old Boys seniors. I met up with Helen and we saw a bit of Kevin and Elaine socially. I wonder if there are still traces of red toenail polish on the ceiling of the lounge as a result of Helen being upside down in a rock'n'roll throw? Wanda's arrival in Bethany Home will never be forgotten. Helen and I were at her parent's house in Nelson Crescent when Kevin arrived with the good news. A celebratory drink was called for. A bottle of Johnny G's McDonalds' golden sherry was soon despatched, but instead of going home, Kevin spied another bottle in the cupboard. Consequently he was worse for wear when he drove up to Napier Terrace. Next morning, he found his car parked sideways in the garage surprisingly unmarked. Mama was not impressed and I got the blame for getting him drunk. "He needs his licence for his job you know!"

In 1971, I needed a big favour, one that only the closest of friends could provide. So I asked Kevin. He said yes, so we flew to Christchurch, stayed with an old colleague in Lyttleton, went sailing round to Little Akaroa and back and completed the mission that night successfully. I have him to thank for the next 48 years of happiness. When Helen and I were to be married, Kevin of course would be the Best Man. I had a very sharp Maroon tuxedo bought for the ball season, so for Kevin I hired an identical outfit. Helen's Mum made two large red bow ties for us and all was good. On the day, I played for NHSOB V's Marist, had a shower and then up to Napier Terrace to change for the wedding. Kev was a bit larger back then and his jacket was too small. Panic!! So he had to wear my jacket and I the smaller one. Result, best man looked a million dollars, groom, jacket unbuttoned, check the photos.

*Funeral Eulogy by Philip (Huck) Berry (NBHS Pupil 1953-1958, Teacher 1970-2008)*

# Norman (Norm) Bitters, dies aged 97 (NBHS 1936-1938)

One of Hawke's Bay's last remaining WWII survivors, Norman Bitters, has died at 97 years of age. Born in Wellington, his father moved to Napier after 1931. Because of the Hawke's Bay Earthquake, Norm attended 5 schools, at the age of 9, he was milking 5 cows before school. He finished up at Napier Boys' High School (1936-1938).

He joined the Territorials, and from there the Navy in 1942, specialising in submarine radar and was posted to the Solomon Islands. Norm served as part of the New Zealand Navy and managed to spend his last Anzac Day in 2019 attending three different services. Having first been deployed by the Navy into the Pacific during WWII, Norm was on a naval ship just off the coast of the Solomon Islands. "That's where my D-Day story is - as part of the Navy in the Solomon Islands was exactly where I was when D-Day hit in 1944." Said Norm. Norm Bitters continued to serve in the Navy for a few more years after WWII but left when his father got ill. After WW11 he returned to Napier, meeting his wife Mavis. He completed a panel beating apprenticeship starting his own business and then took over the Baillie Farmers Panel Shop in Napier.

He built and moved into his home in Taradale to start a family in 1953. He and his family lived there for more than 40 years, staying close to his RSA. Norm was active in founding the Greendale Scouts and over the last 20 years he has taken pride in his role of representing RSA seamen who have passed away. After his wife of 60 years, Mavis, started to suffer from dementia, they moved to a retirement home where she died. Norm was involved with the Anglican Church and also had a 65 year service to Freemasonry with the Masonic Lodge. Hawke's Bay Today had the privilege to follow Norman for his last Anzac Day and asked why he continued to commit to so



many services and do so much at his age?  
"I do it for those who aren't here. That's why I come every year and do my part every Anzac Day because I am only one of the many who have already gone and I do it for them."

Norman Bitters died peacefully on Friday, September 6 2019 at the Taradale Masonic Rest Home. He is survived by his daughter Stephanie and both of his sons who serve in armed services in other parts of the world, Rodney in Australia and John in America (Both having served in the New Zealand SAS.) He also has a grandson who is currently based in Baghdad. A celebration of Norman's life was held at the Taradale RSA on Wednesday, September 11 2019.

*Gary Severinsen / HB Today*

# Brian Christopher Derwin (NBHS 1945-1947)

We are sad to report the death of Brian Derwin, 6 August 2019 in his 89th year.

Senior Steeplechase/Cross Country running Champion at NBHS 1946 and 1947.

In 1949 he won the NZ Junior Cross Country Championships at Havelock North, competing for Hawkes Bay/Poverty Bay.

Due to the persuasion of some senior Scottish men present he was convinced to move to Wellington - and join Scottish Harrier Club. He was Scottish Senior Champion a record seven times from 1951 and Athletics Wellington Centre Champion three times from 1950 plus he won many other interclub titles, representing Wellington in the NZ Cross Country Champs eight times with high placings.

He was Scottish Harrier's club captain 1957-61. He was a very successful coach - especially to Roger Wyatt who was the NZ junior mile title holder and cross country champion in 1959 and Grant Wheeler who was Wellington senior cross country champion in 1964 and represented New Zealand at World Cross

Country in 1965 and 1967.

In 1965 Brian masterminded Scottish Harrier Club successful win in the Wellington-Masterton Relay in record time - breaking the record held by the star studded Owairaka team!

He also served for ten years from 1970 on the NZAAA (now Athletics New Zealand) Management Committee.



*Scottish Harrier Club Wellington Newsletter*

# Last Roll Call

**The following Old Boys and Teachers passed away recently:**

ACKERMAN, Barry William - 1959-1961  
ALMOND, Bruce Raymond - 1957-1958  
ANGEN, Murray Roy - 1974-1976  
BATCHELAR, Patrick Joseph - 1967-1969  
BATTEN, Brian Drummond - 1947-1949  
BITTERS, Norman Lawrence (WW2) - 1936-1938  
BUTT, Eric Bruce William (WW2) - 1936-1938  
CHAPLOW, Ronald Thomas - 1950-1951  
CHAPMAN, Rex Trevor - 1951-1953  
CLARKE, Gerald David - 1950-1951  
COOK, Roland Werner (Roly) - 1944-1945  
COOPER, Frank Taylor - 1951-1953  
COWAN, Robert James Neville - 1960-1962  
COWLEY, William Edward - 1949  
CRAIG, Peter Thomas - 1964-1966  
DAVENPORT, Graham Colin - 1959-1961  
DERWIN, Brian Christopher - 1945-1947  
DES LANDES, Gary James - 1949-1950  
DONALDSON, Thomas Owen - 1949-1950  
DOUGLAS, Kevin John - 1954-1957  
DOWRICK, David John - 1950 F4  
DUCKETT, IAN ROSS - 1966-1969  
DURHAM, Ross Torrington - 1960  
EASTICK, Gordon Fenton (WW2) - F4 1941-1942  
ELLISON, Weller McNeil - 1948-1949  
ENGLAND, Ronald William (WW2) - 1938-1941  
ERIKSEN, Peter William - 1957  
FOREMAN, Kevin John - 1956-1958  
FOSTER, Peter Kinnear - 1941-1945  
FRASER, Colin Newman - 1949  
FULTON, John Robert - 1969-1971  
GEMPTON, Alan John - 1947-1949  
GILDER, Peter Alan - 1947-1948  
GRANT, Shaun Michael - 2013-2016  
GREENWOOD, Stephen Wayne - 1968-1970  
HAMILTON, Ian Albert - 1946-1947  
HARDING, Grant Thomas - 1962-1963  
HARRIS, John Wakelin - 1963-1967  
HARVEY, George Leonard - 1941-1942  
HOWARD, Winston Ernest - 1948-1949  
HOY, David James - 1965-1968  
HUGHES, Dion Wayne - 1983  
JOHNSON, Gary - 1959-1961  
JONES, Bryan Bernard (Teacher) - 1969-1971  
JONES, Eric Francis - 1975-1977

KAYE, David Francis 1950-1951  
KITT, David Russell - 1945-1948  
LISTER, Leonard Milford (Len) (WW2) - 1936-1939  
LUCAS, Dorothy Rose (Board Chairperson) - 1961-1984  
LYNCH, Simon Benedict - 1975-1978  
MARTIN, Gary Temple - F5 1958  
MATTHEWS, John Patrick - F6 1956  
MAXWELL, Dean Edward - 1982-1985  
McLEOD, Bruce William - 1966-1970  
McLEOD, Robert Leslie (Bob) - 1957-1958  
MILLIKEN, Lawrence P - 1956-1957  
NILSSON, Tony John - F4 1953-1956  
NUTTALL, William Ernest (Bill) - 1949-1950  
PAAP, Richard Gordon - 1953  
PHILLIPS, John Richard - 1947-1948  
PIKE, Carrick Leslie William - 1985-1988  
PLESTED, James Henry - 1949-1950  
POON, Edwin - 1978-1982  
PREBENSEN, Alan David (Dave) - 1946-1948  
PURDIE, John Gavin - 1960-1962  
REARDON, Leslie Thomas William (Les) (WW2) - 1936-1937  
SHOTTON, Stanley Gilbert - 1945-1946  
SIMCOX, Randall Terence 1960-1963  
SMITH, James Robert (Jim) (Board 1982-1984) NBHS (1950-1951)  
SNADDON, Ronald Andrew - 1949-1950  
STACHNIK, Adam Mark - 1969-1971  
STEPHENSON Donald Robert Jerrard - 1949  
SWANEVELD Dallas Richard - 2019 Y13  
TALMAGE, Stephen Andrew - 1969-1971  
THOMPSON, George Brian - 1951-1954  
THORNTON, Garth Cecil - 1942-1944  
TOLHURST, Desmond Frederick - 1938-1939  
WALKER, Francis (Frank) (Caretaker) - 1975-1990  
WATKINS, Martin Griffiths - 1952  
WHITFIELD, Douglas John - 1952-1954  
WILLIAMS, Kenneth Cooper (Ken) - 1951-1952  
WILSON, Allen James - 1961-1964  
WILSON, James Conway - 1951-1952  
WYLIE, Nicholas Charles - 1947-1948  
YOUNG, Antony Assheton Goodricke (Tony (Flap)) USA - 1940-1944  
YOUNG, Robert (Robbie) - 1963-1965

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

*Chris Geddis*

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