



# Napier Boys' High School Association COLUMNS

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## Editorial

Seventy five days of this year from March 26th until including June 8th 2020 were taken up by the Lockdown at Level 4 and then a slow transition to Level 3 to 2 and now 1 of the Covid-19 response by the government. Now that our "Bubbles" have been burst and we in New Zealand are now in Level 1 under the "New Normal", the work of rebuilding a broken world, after Covid-19, will hopefully give us a chance to choose a less hurried life.

Innovation often arises in periods of adversity. In recent months, we have seen such welcome invention germinating in the horrendous crisis of the coronavirus. Consider, for example, the many new platforms for online teaching, or the use of cheap Bluetooth smart thermometers able to transmit a person's fever and geolocation to a distant database, or members of the Toronto Symphony Orchestra performing together and apart from 29 different locations using their smartphones.

In bad times, innovation can occur in habits of mind as well as in new technologies. The frightening Covid-19 pandemic may be creating such a change now—by forcing many of us to slow down, to spend more time in personal reflection, away from the noise and heave of the world. With more quiet time, more privacy, more stillness, we have an opportunity to think about who we are, as individuals and as a society. Habits of mind and lifestyle do not change easily. Without noticing, we slowly slip into the old routines of our lives, like becoming so accustomed to living on a noisy street that we cannot remember our previous neighbourhood and a time of silence.

Some powerful force must strike to awaken us from our slumber. Now we have been struck. We have a chance to notice: We have been living too fast. We have sold our inner selves to the devil of speed, efficiency, money and internet connectivity, "progress." Stop the world and let me off.

Since the Industrial Revolution, the pace of life has been driven by the speed of commerce and business. And the speed of business, in turn, has been driven by the speed of communication. The resulting increase in productivity in the workplace, coupled with the time-equals-money equation, has led to our acute awareness of the commercial and goal-oriented uses of time.

As a result, we have created a frenzied lifestyle in which not a minute is to be wasted. The precious 24 hours of each day are carved up, dissected, and reduced to 10-minute units of efficiency. We become agitated and angry in the waiting room of a doctor's surgery if we've been standing by for 10 minutes or more. We cannot sit quietly in a chair for 10 minutes. The pandemic has also increased the awareness to protecting the community and our doctors, nurses and support staff. From

the pandemic experience overseas it was soon very obvious that doctor waiting rooms were a huge risk for the spread of infection, and therefore they have changed for the better, it's going to be appointments only, no magazines to read and handle and no infectious toys for children to play with. We think we must be connected to the grid at all times. We take our smartphones and laptops with us on holiday. We go through our email at restaurants, or our online bank accounts while walking in the park. We have become slaves to our "urgent" appointments and to-do lists and addiction to nonstop stimulation by the external world. And all of this has happened invisibly. Little by little, the noise and speed of the world have increased, so that we can hardly remember an era of slowness and quiet, when we could let our minds wander and think about what they wanted to think about, when we had time to consider where we were going and what we believed in. But now we have been struck. With a complete Lockdown of New Zealand under Level 4 and twelve weeks until we reached the final goal of Level 1. With schools and universities closed for a seven week period, workplaces shut down, (some permanently) with restaurants and movie theatres and department stores closed, and many of us have had to spend the 24 hours of each day sequestered in the small caves of our homes, suddenly we find ourselves alone with our thoughts. (Excluded here are such people as the heroic essential workers in health care, in essential industries and in supermarkets, the truckies and parents with young children).

At home, time and space have opened up in our minds. Even for those who continued their professional life working online, working from home, schooling from home, schedules have become more flexible. Demands have retreated. Daily routines have been interrupted. We suddenly have had unstructured, free-floating, beckoning time. This terrible disaster has freed us from the prison of our time-driven lives. At least for a few months, we have had the chance to slow down. In the past, we've had little opportunity to do so, swept along by the rushing tide of prosperity and speed in the modern world.

The old order of having to go into work each day and be seen by your employer to be doing your tasks in the allotted 40 hours, seems to have finally gone in New Zealand. By working at home, your employers will be kept happy, if you are completing your tasks allocated unseen and on time regardless of when and in which timeframe you worked. It's simple when you have a steady flow of work coming your way and you have a defined project to complete. One of the biggest difficulties for businesses heading towards a more "Remote" workforce is the ability to build and maintain a culture that motivates and enhances performance. It's one thing for companies to leave an experienced workforce at home to get on with things, but what of the next generation? New or young employees need to

*Continued on p.2*

*Continued from p.1*

be surrounded by the office environment at least initially and while in training to get them orientated and productive with assistance from the pool of experience and advice of current staff. It's as if "Mother Nature" has now said "Enough is enough, stop the world, take a breather and let's reset to a slower speed, and put us all on an even keel."

Even the rules we have lived by now don't apply. So many policies that our elected officials have long told us were impossible and impractical were eminently possible and practical all along. People who previously got into debt with the banks and finance companies and asked for debt cancellation or more time to pay, or an interest freeze or with a landlord, a rent holiday when they lost their job were told their demands were unrealistic. Now, we know that the "rules" we have lived under were unnecessary, and simply made society more brittle and unequal.

All along, evictions were avoidable; the homeless could've been housed and sheltered in disused buildings, in motels, in campervans at caravan parks, water and electricity didn't need to be turned off for people behind on their bills; paying your mortgage late didn't need to lead to foreclosure, and debtors could've been granted relief. Banks and finance companies are now able to put a freeze on mortgage interest and deferred payment on loans to a later date, without a mortgagee sale happening. Some landlords have reduced rent or given a rent holiday during Lockdown, while the tenants were unable to work, without eviction. It's clear that in a crisis, the rules don't apply—which makes you wonder why they are rules in the first place.

This is an unprecedented opportunity to not just hit the pause button and temporarily ease the pain, but to permanently change the rules so that untold millions of people aren't so vulnerable to begin with.

What might be regained with a less hurried life? First, as many people have noted, there is simply the needed replenishment of mind that comes from doing nothing in particular, from taking long mental walks without destination, from finding a few moments of quiet away from the noise of the world.

The mind needs to rest. The mind needs periods of calm. With some degree of freedom from our time-driven lives also comes increased creativity. With the forced slowing of life granted by the coronavirus, we are witnessing an explosion of creative ideas and innovations in many parts of the world. In Italy, quarantined citizens were seen singing from balconies. Writers have created new blogs. Sports orientated people have attempted and completed amazing feats of achievement.

But there is something more to be regained, something more subtle, more delicate, almost impossible even to name. That is the restoration of our inner selves. By inner self, I mean that part of us that imagines, that dreams, that explores, that is constantly questioning who I am and what is important to me. What am I? I need slowness and quiet to ponder that question.

Like many of us, I will have had the chance do that pondering for several months. But such self-reflection, such tending to the inner self, is not a onetime event. It should be an ongoing part of a life lived deliberately. And that deliberate living requires an enduring change of lifestyle and habits. At some point, the coronavirus will pass, or at least recede into the haze of other viruses and ailments. There will be (and already has been) staggering suffering and loss of life, enormous economic devastation with loss of jobs and livelihoods. That tragedy cannot be overstated. For years, we will be trying to rebuild the broken world. But perhaps the slower lifestyle in these months can help put the pieces back together and perhaps a more contemplative, deliberate way of living can become permanent.

*Chris Geddis - Editor*

**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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## **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*

# Committee

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# From The Headmaster

2020 – the year of COVID-19 - is now back on track. Currently, at the halfway point of the year we have a healthy roll of over 1130 students – domestic and international - which includes 175 boarders. Our staff remain strong and stable - currently eight old boys work at the school which is a real asset to the culture we pride ourselves on.

The school's examination results were another step forward with our best results in over five years at all three levels of national qualification. This put the school well-ahead of averages for all comparative groups of students (boys-only schools, all boys in New Zealand, all students in New Zealand). We were extremely pleased with this milestone. The scholarship pass rates were disappointing in comparison, however, they were being judged against a stellar 2018 result, so hopefully a blip rather than pattern.

Our prefect team this year is led by Nick Mannering, son of Old Boy Nigel Mannering. His deputy is Hugo Lynch, son of another Old Boy, Bevan Lynch who is also a staff member. These young men and their team of leaders, alongside the whole year 13 cohort of 160, could have looked at the experiences of the past three months as the death of their year 13 experience with so many changes and cancellations. Term 2 is, after all, the big term of the year with so much sport, the production and Super 8 Cultural (to name a few) to look forward to. They have, however, responded so well, focussing on the essential work, finding opportunities to motivate the school with whatever limited events have been on – good crowds attended the Lindisfarne hockey match (where the school retained the Bartholemew Cup – the Moascar Cup of Secondary School hockey) and 1st XV game (narrowly won by us).

COVID-19 and the ensuing lockdown took education into uncharted waters, particularly at Boys' High. We have not been early adopters of BYOD (Bring your own device) teaching where all students have a laptop in class. We are firm believers that in a rampant digital age, young men need less time on devices, rather than more. We have been mindful of the school evidence which shows computers are largely used as tools to substitute pen and paper (and expensive paper weights), rather than technology which opens up new learning with hitherto unimaginable tasks. That said, lockdown precipitated an urgent need to deliver classes online with the fastest roll out of staff professional development I have seen in my teaching career. Not perfect by any measure, but largely effective and, I believe, a real testament to our teachers who rolled up their sleeves and got on with the challenge.

Given the challenging times the community experienced, the general uptake in online learning – access issues to one side – was very good. What was apparent, however, was that "attendance" in a virtual class did not translate to actual engagement – teacher-speak for actually doing some work. But then, most teachers will tell you that on any given day there are a few lads in the room for whom the lights are on but no-one's

at home. Why should we expect the virtual experience to be that radically different?

A trawl through Twitter would tell you the same.... The upshot of this online experience has been an opportunity to lock in the learning for teachers and trial the use of devices systematically at the school. This may be at year 9, or year 11 or even year 13 initially. It will be our way, with a continued focus on writing – an area



*Matt Bertram, Headmaster*

boys' constantly need reinforcement and development – and hands on learning experiences wherever possible. Where the device can support this, then so much the better.

Our aim post COVID-19 has been to ensure as predictable a school environment as possible. We want the boys to look forward to events, sport, culture, field trips and the like. With that thinking in mind, we have fitted in as many of the deferred events into the Term 3 calendar – the Ball is sold out, Super 8 Rugby will run a full round robin and finals, all Super 8 sports tournaments will go ahead, a regional Big Sing festival has been organised, while a shortened production run of two nights will go ahead at the Municipal at the end of the October holidays. The Interact Club are back running fundraisers, Duke of Edinburgh expeditions are happening and the Young Farmers (Guy von Dadelszen and Tristan Peeti-Webber) finished second in the country via videoed practical and theoretical competition while the school cross country has been run (and so many schools cancelled theirs); the cross country team comfortably won the East Coast North Island event to boot.

The long-awaited Armour Block replacement (the saga more likely) is looking more and more like a building we will be proud to have and work in. Barring any unforeseen delays (and who saw the most recent one coming?) we will definitely be teaching science in brand-spanking new laboratories at the start of 2021.

Lastly, planning continues for the 150th celebrations in 2022 – a reunion we hope many of you will be able to attend. Save Queen's Birthday weekend 2022 in your calendars. The Polson Banner match will be a highlight of the weekend alongside the major reunion dinner on the Saturday evening.

Justum Perficito Nihil Timeto



# From The Archives

It is almost a case of "What Archives?" Since the December "Columns", the "gathering" has mainly been dust. The long Christmas vacation was soon followed by the Covid-19 Lockdown, both periods meant that the archives were out of reach, (remember, they reside on three shelves in the strong room at school.) My WW1 writing ground to a halt and correspondents' letters went unanswered for some-time.

However, as promised, Mike and Ros Robertson from Christchurch called in with Mike's father's (John McLeod Robertson, 1916-18) treasure trove which included, his 1st XV cap, two prize books and the splendid Monro Cup for cricket fielding. If you read my last offering, you may recall that young John came to us from Christchurch Boys' High and returned there for his last year - after serving two years as Head of Hostel and playing for both the 1st XV and 1st X1. The Monro Cup, still presented each year is therefore a replacement, the original taking 102 years to find its way home! I was able to show the Robertsons around the school and hostel and locate the appropriate House photographs and John's name on the Honours Board in the Dining Room. I must say, that all three of us were mightily impressed by the hostel and gardens - if only the boarders and parents from the 'Spartan Years' could see it now!

We have added to our archives bookshelf two more volumes. Ian Mills (1943-46) passed on to us the late Arch Barclay's (1942-46) "Island Hideaway" (Life on Best Island in the Waimea Estuary, Nelson.) Ian had done the line drawings of birds for the collection of poems and memoirs.

Elizabeth Kay from Wellington has given us a copy of "Eddie Norman and the 25th Battalion", about her father's (Bishop, Sir Edward Kinsella Norman 1930-35) wartime experiences. I had been able to contribute material included in Chapter 2 'Do Right and Fear Nothing'. I must say that it was not my contribution which caused considerable uproar around the Association table, when I read the passage wherein young Eddie claims he was caned by Headmaster Foster in the ruins of the 1931 Earthquake-struck school. He had returned from his trip home to retrieve his new raincoat from the damaged cloakroom and had decided to do a little 'exploring', when he encountered the Headmaster! Would the Good Bishop lie? On his next face-to-face meeting he was asked to be Head Prefect in 1935.

Owen Brown's (Master 1953-90) daughter Kerry has passed onto us some items from his vast collection of memorabilia;

## Napier RSA chief receives top award

At the recent RNZRSA National Council meeting, Napier RSA president John Purcell (NBHS 1956) was called forward. He was called forward to become part of a remarkable and highly esteemed list of people who had excelled within the realms of both military service and post military service across the wide landscape of the Returned and Services' Association. Purcell, who has been within the RSA ranks for 53 years, was presented with the highest award going - the RNZRSA Badge in Gold.

His name is now in the company of past recipients such as Willie Apiata VC, Prince Harry and Nancy Wake. "I was surprised," he said. "When you know who was awarded

photographs, athletics programmes, (1950s), staff handbooks (1980s). Sadly, Owen has fallen victim to cruel dementia.

Finally, Dawn Unsworth brought in her late husband's (Harold "Bunny" Unsworth 1939-42) school badge. Thank you to all of these donors for the light they have brought to dim times.

On the day of the Lockdown, I received an interesting phone call from Sydney. Barry Ross, (who tells me he is well-known on both sides of the Tasman as a sports journalist and author and personal friend to many a sporting icon.) His latest project is a book for Kings School, Sydney. One subject, 'rugby great' John Hudson, is credited with scoring the first try at Kings' new sports ground, but also claims to have scored the last try on the old field - against the NBHS Touring Team of 1966. Could we confirm? It was many weeks before I could peruse the appropriate Scindian and there was a full report of the tour and the return match against Kings' - they had played here earlier in the season. Unfortunately while our scorers (we won 11-9) were named, Kings' were not - their own magazine doesn't report the game at all. We are told that many friendships were renewed. Does anyone out there remember John Hudson?

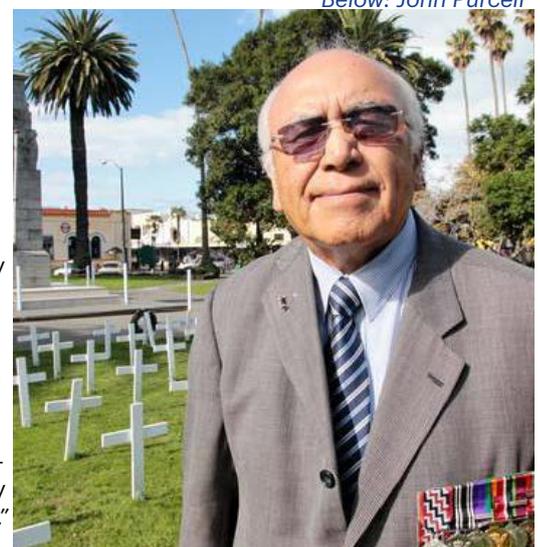
After eight weeks in isolation (as a 'compromised person') I decided to research other occasions when the school was forced to close - this is the fifth. Depending on whether it gets finished, and passes muster, the article may appear in "Columns".

A Postscript: While in town, after release from quarantine, with time to spare, I called into one of the second-hand bookshops, and there discovered a little volume of "Whittier's Poems" - embossed with the school's crest and prize label inside. It was awarded to "C. Geddis" ..., no, not our editor, but his Great-Uncle Clifton (1909-13.) Presented 111 years ago for 'Freehand Drawing', it now takes its place proudly in our archives collection. By the by, it cost me \$2.50, its expensive being a voluntary archivist.

Phillip Rankin - Archivist.



Below: John Purcell



the previous ones." He said the greatest thrill was that it had been determined by the national body, his "peers". "They put it to the floor and that meant so much to me - I am extremely humbled by it." He was also humbled that he now possessed the honour the RSA had awarded to the late Nancy Wake, for her remarkable service alongside the French Resistance movement during World War II. Purcell said for too many years New Zealand born-Wake's

*Continued from p.4*

exploits had gone unrecognised, despite countries such as Australia, France, and the US and Britain honouring her service. "That is the one I felt so much for because she had been initially denied an award. So the RSA stepped in and we presented the Badge in Gold to her."

Purcell did his military service with the Royal New Zealand Navy, where while serving aboard HMNZS Pukaki he witnessed the British nuclear-bomb testing off Christmas Island in 1957 and 1958. After leaving the Navy he joined the Department of Corrections, becoming Superintendent of the old Napier Prison and the first Superintendent of Mangaroa.

And 53 years ago he also joined the RSA, initially in Wellington in 1966 before joining, and working in with, RSAs in Ohura, Turangi, Whanganui, Palmerston North and Taradale. He joined the Napier RSA in 1991 and alongside the late Jim Blundell became heavily involved in sorting out war pensions for both veterans, and the widows of those who had died. They toiled and succeeded, and he said Blundell was the core driver of the work.

"It was just great to see widows start to receive a pension, some 10 years after their husband had passed away."

And after 26 years of involvement in district welfare work, alongside his presidential duties, he is not about to step back. Nor from the president's role which he has carried out for 13 years — making him one of the longest-serving presidents in the Napier RSA's 100-year history.

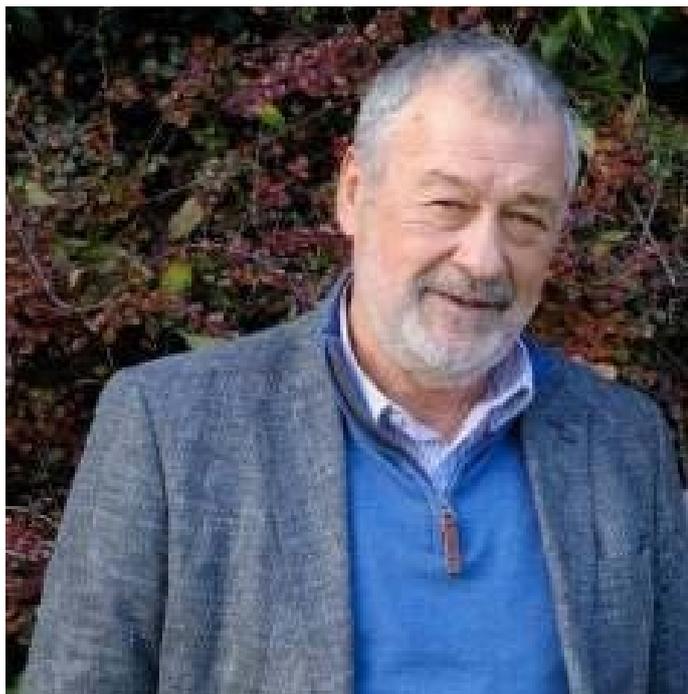
Purcell said the people he had worked with within the RSA through the years were devoted to their duties and inspiring to others.

"As long as they still want me I'll turn up," he said with a smile. He said the highest honour also belonged to one other — wife Patricia.

"I could not have done what I've done without her wonderful support and the way she has stood by me."

*HB Today*

## Dr George Ngaei CNZM Queens Birthday Honour



*Dr George Ngaei CNZM*

**Surgeon Doctor George Ngaei ONZM, (NBHS 1957-61) has been awarded a CNZM (Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit.)**

It's the second time Southland general surgeon George Ngaei has been recognised in the Queen's Birthday Honours. Ngaei had previously received the Officer of The New Zealand Order of Merit in 2015, but said he didn't have time to appreciate the recognition. He was away on holiday and when he came back into the country, he noticed he had missed calls from the Prime Minister. This time he had a suspicion he was up for an award when he was asked to update his CV. Now he has been made a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for his services to health and the Pacific community.

The award was something that should be taken seriously and was grateful to be recognised twice, Ngaei said. George Ngaei says the most rewarding part of his job is being in the privileged position of having an impact on people's lives.

He has been able to achieve that in both his motherland, the Cook Islands, and in New Zealand, where he grew up.

His father was also a doctor and from a young age Dr Ngaei had always wanted to follow in his footsteps.

He has been involved in improving Maori and Pacific health as a practicing general surgeon in Invercargill, as well as providing his expertise to work and consult on a wide range of medical issues for those living in the Cook Islands.

His regular trips to Rarotonga to support the medical profession and provide his expertise came out of his own pocket. Ngaei deemed the trips, which he started as student, as a professional responsibility.

"In most professions you have your responsibility to your profession but also to the community."

It was important to advocate publicly when the Cook Island government were not paying enough attention to the health needs of the population, Ngaei said.

Although he mostly visited Rarotonga now for a holiday, it was hard to go anywhere without some seeking medical advice.

He has been chairman of the South Island Pacific Providers Collective since 2014, and is a committee member of the Auckland-based Cook Islands Health Network Association.

In 2002, he established a Pacific Island Specialist Nursing Service in collaboration with the Pacific Island Advisory and Cultural Trust, which he has been the chairman since 2007.

He was a representative for the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons on the Southland Medical Foundation from the 1990s until 2018.

Ngaei was previously elected to the New Zealand Committee of the college of surgeons and is a member of the board of the Auckland-based Cook Islands Development Agency New Zealand.

George said "Honestly, I never thought I would be anything else in my career. Medicine is a vocation and I feel honoured."

Many Old Boys who attended the 2019 NBHS Year Reunion, will remember as a team member of the 1961 First XV Reunion, Dr George Ngaei's timely and insightful speech at the Dinner which was the highlight of the evening. It was revealing to learn of the challenges the 12-year old George Ngaei 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 paid tribute to the School and Scinde House for laying down the foundations of his success. Napier Boys' High School congratulates George on his new honour.

*Southland Times. / Chris Geddis*

# KILIMANJARO OCTOBER 2019

At 11.00 pm on 9th October 2019 we set out from base camp at Barafu. It was cold here at 4700 metres high on the slopes of Mt Kilimanjaro. We were well dressed in five layers of clothing and each wore a head torch to attempt the final summit push in complete darkness. Our water bottles were wrapped deep inside our packs because water freezes at this altitude. Our guides estimated it would take us 7-8 hours to reach the top which we hoped to achieve by daybreak.

This climb was the climax to a trip my son, Gareth Mitchell (NBHS 1993-97) and I, Dennis Mitchell (NBHS 1969-73) embarked on together, leaving New Zealand two weeks earlier. We were part of a group of 16 supporting the NZ charity Orphans Aid International. The group met up initially in Entebbe in Uganda where Orphans Aid run a family strengthening project.

By summit day we had already spent six days on the mountain. Standing at 5895 metres close to the equator in Tanzania, Kilimanjaro is the highest mountain in Africa and the highest free standing mountain in the world. Over the previous six days we had climbed through five distinct ecological zones from bushland and rainforest on the lower flanks up into the alpine desert and Arctic zone.

The trip, especially the days prior spent in Uganda had already had a profound effect on me. The appalling poverty and living conditions, the primitive and poorly maintained infrastructure was clearly evident in Entebbe and Kampala where the population had grown exponentially in recent decades. Like much of Africa, despite being rich in resources, corrupt and inept regimes ensure that any riches remain in the hands of a few.

This human crisis is in complete contrast to the geographical magnificence of Africa. Entebbe sits on the shores of Lake Victoria, a massive lake 337 kms long and 240 kms wide. The largest fresh water lake in Africa and second largest in the world. We visited Jinja too where the White Nile begins its 6650 km journey from Lake Victoria to Egypt and ultimately the Mediterranean Sea.



*Dennis and Gareth Mitchell*

Summiting Kilimanjaro does not require technical climbing skills. No ropes, harness, crampons or ice axes are needed. The challenge is having a good level of fitness and especially the altitude. The battle to the top becomes as much a mental challenge as a physical one. The determination to keep putting one foot in front of the other, climbing through steep rock and shale in the dark, hour after excruciating hour.

There are seven trekking routes on Kilimanjaro. Many people fail to reach the top because they are under prepared and they choose the shorter, quicker routes. Poor fitness and insufficient acclimatisation result in significant numbers succumbing to altitude sickness. Our group was very diverse with an even gender split and ages from teens to sixties. We had chosen one of the longer routes commencing at the Lemosho Gate, to give ourselves the best chance of success.

After what to many felt like the "longest night", 13 of our party of 16 crested the summit of Kilimanjaro just as dawn was breaking. They described feelings of euphoria and exhilaration mixed with absolute exhaustion. The sky was clear and the views were breath taking. Gareth declared "It was the hardest thing I have done in my life!"



This trip was an amazing experience on many different levels. Gareth had turned 40 just one month before our departure and to share this adventure with him was very special. In the space of three weeks we saw the very best and the very worst of Africa. We came together as a group of 16 who had never met before and came away with new lifelong friendships. Supporting the work of Orphans Aid International was both rewarding and inspiring. Orphans Aid deliver child based aid projects in Uganda, Romania (Casa Kiwi), Russia and in the Indian Himalayas. Yet another example of ordinary Kiwis doing extraordinary work around the world.

*Dennis Mitchell*

# Len Andersen QC

Leonard Andrew (Len) Andersen (NBHS 1965-1969) now a QC

Most little boys want be astronauts, or maybe All Blacks.

Len Andersen was a bit different.

"I've wanted to be a lawyer since I was 9 or 10," he said. "It's all I've ever wanted to do."

A few decades on, the Dunedin barrister, who has been practising for 44 years, continues to live his boyhood dream. He was recently appointed as Queen's Counsel by the Attorney-general David Parker — one of only eight around the country and the only one in the South Island this year.

Len Andersen, becomes only the fourth Napier Boys' High School Old Boy to be appointed Queen's Counsel, following: Robert Whaley Edgley (NBHS 1928-1932), Rodney Gerald Gallen (later Sir) (NBHS 1950 F7) and Peter Frederick Arthur Woodhouse (NBHS 1961).

While at Napier Boys High School, Len took an active interest in Public Speaking and Debating, winning the Brooks Cup for Senior Prepared Speech in 1967 and was part of the undefeated 1968 Debating team of Neil Struthers, Robert Ansell, Bruce Fraser and Len Andersen that was coached by Master, Mr Dave Green, (who Len still meets up with in Dunedin.)

Mr Andersen started his career in Whakatane and came to Dunedin in 1991 where he has built a reputation as a versatile practitioner, highly skilled in multiple areas of law. He said the news of his appointment had prompted a flood of calls and emails from colleagues and former students he had taught over the years at the University of Otago. It was almost unsettling to get such a swell of congratulatory contact.

"You spend your life arguing with other lawyers and judges deciding for or against you. When something like this happens, it's really very pleasant," he said.

While the honour of becoming a QC was obviously a personal triumph, Mr Andersen said the glory should be shared with all those working in the profession in the city.

"It's recognition of the whole legal community in Dunedin," he said.

"The reality in law, like in anything else, is you can only be seen to be really capable if you've got good opposition."

Taking silk was not, Mr Andersen said, an invitation to wind back his workload.

He hoped it would attract "more significant and difficult work" and took his responsibility to mentor less experienced members of the profession seriously.

"Law has become less personal. People used to be down at court regularly to see the top performers of the day and learn from them. Now more and more work in law, like everything else, is done in front of your computer," Mr Andersen said. Despite four successful decades in law and the recent accolade, he swiftly knocked back any talk of retirement.

"I think one of the reasons people retire is that they're sick of being told what to do by other people. One of the beauties of being a barrister is you don't work for anybody else and essentially you've got absolute control over how long and how hard you work," he said.

"If I stopped doing this, I think I'd become very bored."

Len Andersen QC officially joined the inner bar on 13 February 2020 in a special sitting of the High Court at Dunedin which was described as "a celebration" by Chief Justice Helen Winkelmann. There was not a seat spare in the vast courtroom.

Dunedin's eminent Queen's Counsel were joined by those

from further afield, as well as judges of the High Court and the District Court.

The focus could not be taken from Mr Andersen — despite the fact he was forced to remain silent for the majority of the ceremony, seated in front of his daughter, and fellow lawyer, Cate. Justice Winkelmann quipped that he had no right of reply, as he was used to in the criminal jurisdiction, and suggested he "stand and relax".

Mr Andersen was now part of a very select group, the chief justice said. Just 274 QCs had been appointed in New Zealand in the past 113 years.

While the rank had a reputation of bestowing "a licence to print money" she said it was about much more than that. Silks had to be committed to the development of the law, show a fierce independence and a desire to take on complex work without financial reward. "The role is reserved for the strong, the upright, the learned and the brave," Justice Winkelmann said.

Mr Anderson, she told those gathered,

embodied those qualities.

However, she had a cheeky jab reserved to keep the new QC on his toes.

"Your advocacy style could not be described as polished," she said, to much amusement.

"All the better for that."

Judges, she said, were able to look past the verbose and sophisticated advocate.

"You're rather adept in finding the true merit in any case you are arguing," said Justice Winkelmann.

Mr Andersen, who has practised in Dunedin since 1991, joins six other Dunedin Queen's Counsel.



*Otago Daily Times/Chris Geddis.*



*Len Andersen QC and son James after ceremony*



*Daughter Cate and Len Andersen QC*

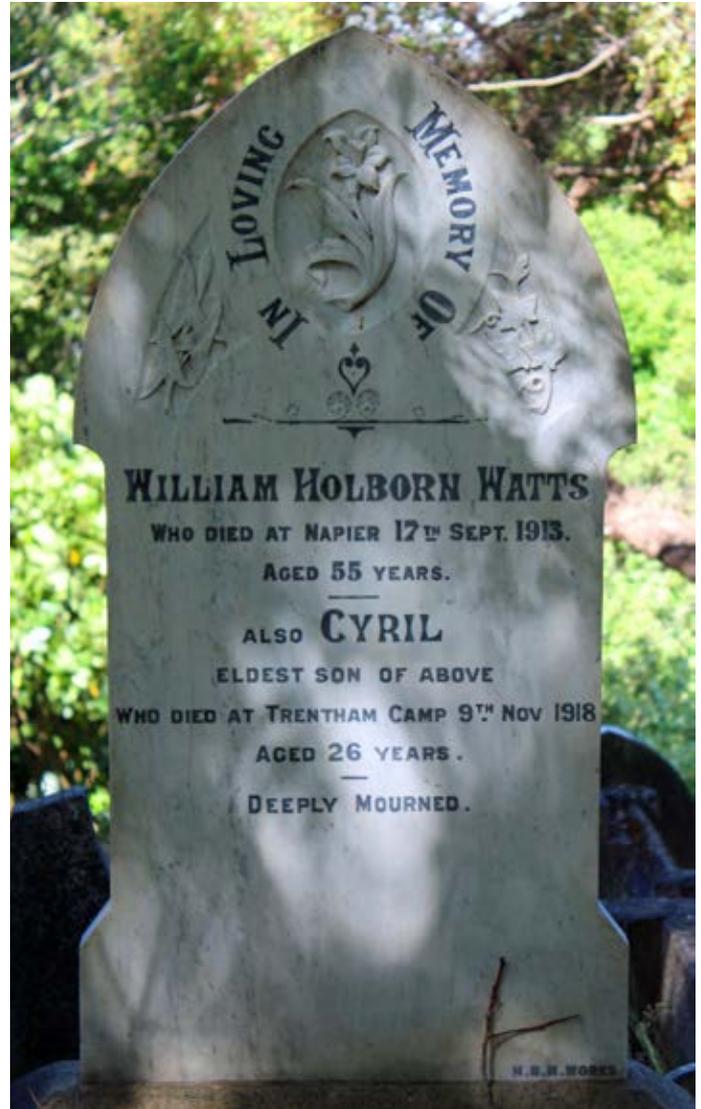
# Lock-Downs historically plague the school.

The March/April 2020 Covid -19 closure of the school set me wondering how often health issues had forced our boys out of the classrooms?

Of course we all knew that the February 3, 1931 'Quake' closed all local schools, with NBHS formally reopening on 9 March 1931, but by the end of Term 1 attendance was still below 40 – twenty being boarders. Classes were held in a borrowed Te Awa School room, then two portable classrooms from Girls' High, and tents and the 'tin shed' until the brick classrooms were judged "safe to re-enter." The boarders famously moved in with the Headmaster after filling the converted dining room. But Nationwide, and health related? There have been three other occasions:

Early in November 1918 rumours swept the town, prematurely, of an armistice on the Western Front. Boarders, banging tins, trooped down Shakespeare Road into the town, which was in an uproar. They were joined by a similar 'band' of Day Boys, outfitted with "gaudy paper hats, (provided by Blythes) and linked up with Girls' High pupils carrying banners, parading the street, "to the applause of all." Disappointment was keen when it was discovered that, as yet, there was no cessation of fighting. Again, the rumour did the rounds, and the boarders celebrated with great enthusiasm, with fireworks (it must have been around the 5th of November,) supplemented by a shotgun, to the alarm of neighbours. There were "hearty cheers for no particular object and making other weird noises." When the Armistice became a reality, on the 11th November, the Armours made sure celebrations were more decorous, providing a "well-catered supper" in the prep-room with toasts, appropriate songs and the National Anthem. For some, no doubt, it was a double celebration – the last day of school, as the government had ordered the closure of all schools in the Dominion as the Influenza Pandemic ("Spanish Flu") swept the country. The 'Scinde House News' column in the April 1919 Scindian carries the first report, with little indication as to the devastation which would hit the country: "FLOREAT SCINDIA." "During the influenza epidemic, the House was exceptionally lucky in not having any serious cases of the disease. Before it had spread to the extent that it did, several Boarders felt slight touches of the ordinary influenza, and as many as fifteen were in bed on one day, but thanks to the quick and efficient treatment administered by Mrs Armour, even their slight indisposition was soon remedied. When the schools were compelled to close those Boarders, who lived within easy distance, departed home, the remainder staying on until it was decided to close the schools indefinitely, when they all left. Those who remained attached themselves to the Red Cross and Food Distribution Depots in Napier, and did some good work there. Mr Gillman was the only member of the House to catch the influenza proper. He was attacked rather seriously, but we are glad to relate that he soon recovered his normal health and strength." As usual, the boarders looked for some humour in the situation! "One of the humorous incidents of the influenza scourge was seen one morning after breakfast. Each boy came out of breakfast carrying a cup, and looking by no means cheerful. There was to be a gargle parade. When they had all lined up, the long-expected and dreaded dose arrived, each getting a liberal allowance. Then ensued spluttering and chokings for several minutes, under the watchful eye of the prefects. Anyone unaccustomed to the sight, might have thought everybody had gone a bit "dotty," but, we hastened to explain to him the real nature of the performance."

Before the closure, the school had already lost two of its alumni to the disease, thought to have had its origins in the trenches of the Western Front. In France in 25th October 1918, Gunner William Hope Smith of the New Zealand Field Artillery succumbed to "Broncho-pneumonia, aggravated by active service, aged 32. He was the son of Hon. William Cowper Smith MLC, (Member of the Legislative Council,) of Waipukurau and had been a boarder in 1902-03. He served in Gallipoli as a trooper with the Wellington Mounted Rifles, twice evacuated to Malta with pneumonia and enteric fever, before transferring to



Cyril Watts Grave

the Artillery. He was the first of seven Old Boys in uniform who fell victim to the disease. Closer to home, on the 9th November 1918, Regimental Quartermaster Sergeant Cyril Watts (NBHS 1905-07) died at the Trentham Military Camp, age 26. He was in Home Service, as an old broken arm had kept him from service overseas. He was given a full military funeral in the Old Napier Cemetery on Napier Terrace, with the school cadet corps providing the Firing Party. Then as November advanced, two more Old Boys joined the growing toll of victims; On the 21st November, Lieutenant Sir Charles Grant Burdett, 8th Baronet of Burthwaite, (a title he carried while at school 1892-93) of the New Zealand Dental Corps, died at Awapuni Camp, (he had previously served at Trentham Camp with the rank of Captain) aged 40. He is buried at Eltham where his pre-war practice was. Five days later, Driver John Leonard Cranby (1907) of the Field Artillery died in France. He had sailed with the Auckland Mounted Rifles, served with them in Egypt before transferring to the Artillery – he had been injured in an accident in 1917. By this date, the impact of the pandemic was hitting the local community, as reported in the Napier Daily Telegraph

Continued from p.8



*Sir Charles Burdett's Grave*

25th November 1918: "It is estimated that there have been 65 deaths in and around Napier due to the influenza out of over 1000 cases. The position is now satisfactory, few cases being reported today."

On the 29th December 1918, there was a death directly associated with the school – that of the 26 year old English Master who had decided to spend his "Lock-Down" in the Boarding House until his collapse and admission to the Burlington Road Napier Emergency Hospital. His obituary appeared in the April 1919 Scindian: "Obituary. Charles Stanley Marshall, M.A. It is with deep regret that we record the death, from influenza complications, on the 29th of November 1918, of Mr. C.S. Marshall, who joined the School at the beginning of the second term of 1915, and for over three years occupied an honourable position on the staff. He had been a brilliant pupil and student of Christchurch Boys' High School, and of Canterbury College, being a Junior and Senior University Scholar, winner of the Hutton Prize, and holding the degree of Master of Arts with double honours. He was also a Fellow of the Economic Society of England. Not gifted with very robust health, Mr. Marshall was of a retiring disposition but, nevertheless, took a good share in the various School activities, including the Cadet Corps. He was an earnest and conscientious worker both in the School and in the House. As a slight token of remembrance, the Staff of the School erected a headstone over his grave at Park Island. To the father, sisters, and brother of our late master, we tender our heartfelt sympathy in the loss they have sustained."

There are several other mentions of his loss to the school in other sections of that magazine, including: "Although most of the boys were away on account of the epidemic, two car loads followed the hearse to Parke (sic) Island Cemetery as a last memory of the deceased."

Chris Geddis and I have visited his grave and found the

headstone in poor condition, perhaps broken in the Earthquake, and wonder if the Association should undertake its repair? It has some verse on the inscription: "Not lost to Memory or Love - but Gone to a Father's Home Above."

Back in the military, the next to die, on the 7th January 1919 was Rifleman Thomas Gordon Henderson, who died in Auckland, aged 29, after service in Egypt. His inclusion on our Roll of Honour was late, and problematic. He came as a boarder from Dannevirke in 1903 – the Register records "vanished the same day." It took the Wisdom of Solomon, exercised by Headmaster Bertram, to decide that as he was "on the books", we should honour him.

The last two of our servicemen to perish in the Pandemic are buried in Edinburgh, albeit in separate cemeteries. On the 26th January 1919 Engineer Sub-lieutenant Errol Tom Tylee (1903-06) of the Royal Navy Reserve died aged 28, while awaiting demobilisation and repatriation to New Zealand. The Scindian reported that he promised to tell "some wonderful tales" – but we never got to hear them. His service record hints at what we missed; he began the war on tankers bringing oil from Mexico to the United Kingdom, transferred to HMS Avenger, which was torpedoed in the North Sea, his war was not concluded by the Armistice as he served on HMS Nairana in the White Sea, "Seeing the Bolsheviks out of Archangel." His mother donated money for a prize, "to the neatest boy in Scinde House." (It is now a cup awarded for "Efficiency".)

The last to die in the Pandemic was Gunner Harold Desmond Gold-Smith (1899-1904) of the Field Artillery, aged 30, also in Edinburgh. A Clerk with NZ Insurance in Auckland, he had embarked for Europe with the last reinforcements, on 2 October 1918, but the war was over by the time he arrived. He was stationed in London, at Sling and Aldershot Camps and then finally Edinburgh Castle.

I find it interesting that not one of the Servicemen served in the Infantry, when the Pandemic was considered to have begun in the trenches. It also astounds me that the Scindian does not record a single death amongst the 239 pupils of the school (including 55 in the prep school and 60 boarders,) when about 6,700 died nationwide, cutting swathes through some schools. The Scindian only mentions one sufferer Ronald Edward Baker (1919-20) from Waipukurau, "who returned to boarding while being very ill and was sent home again."

The Old Boys did not escape so lightly – the Scindian records four further deaths: Norman Heath

*Continued on p.10*



*Phillip Rankin beside Charles Stanley Marshall's grave*

*Continued from p.9*

(1894-97) was the son of our late second Headmaster (Neil Heath 1884-87) who had attended school while living with his widowed mother. He was aged about 34 and had been living in Sydney for some-time, where he was secretary to the University Club. A contemporary of his, Arthur A. McCarthy (1895-96) from 'the Spit' Ahuriri, also has an obituary in the April 1919 Scindian. He had served on the Council, Harbour Board, and the Technical College Board of Governors and was Deputy Mayor of Napier when struck down at the age of 36. His obituary declares: "he was noted for the fearless expression of his opinions." In fact he was a thorn in the flesh of the then Mayor, John Vigor Brown. He had also been a prominent footballer and one of the founders of the Napier Sailing Club.

The Scindian records two other deaths, without providing obituaries: Another contemporary of the above, James Riggir (1895-96) of Dannevirke (originally Maraekakaho) also aged about 36 and Frederick Hubert Robjohns (1904-08) aged about 23, while at school he was an inhabitant of "The Hill". No doubt there were other Old Boys who fell victim to the Pandemic but were not recorded in the Scindian. The school remained closed until 12th February 1919, although Matriculation students attended for tutoring (Mr Armour provided French lessons on Saturday mornings) up until December 20th 1918, "after that Matriculation candidates were thrown on their own resources." These external exams were delayed until January 1919 – whereas there were no end-of-year school exams and consequently no prize-giving in 1918. On February 14th 1919, however, it was decided to hold a ceremony to make sports and prefects' awards, and junior and senior duxes. Officiating was our hero Captain Percy Valentine Storkey V.C. who was visiting his home town, family and old school, from Australia. The effects of the 'Flu' lingered on. The first term of 1920 commenced on the 19th February, "Somewhat later than we were supposed to begin. We must put it down, however to the 'Flu'."

As usual it was the boarders who had the last say, from their column in the April 1920 Scindian. "It was a crushing blow, a blow from which many of us have not yet fully recovered, just imagine the opening of School postponed for a fortnight. The reader can imagine the frenzied disgust and dismay which pervaded our ranks. We have it on excellent authority, although it has not been officially confirmed, that many in their anxiety actually took out their books and commenced swatting at home. The beloved 'Flu' thinned our ranks for quite a while. One or two were genuinely ill, but why more than a dozen boys were continually feeling indisposed is still a mystery. See what it is to be able to charm the nurse."

The next directive from government to close all schools came during the Christmas holidays of 1924-25 when the country experienced its most severe outbreak of poliomyelitis (polio or infantile paralysis). More than 1000 cases were reported and at least 170 deaths. Once again our student body does not appear to have been the target- perhaps not being 'infants'? The school' "Centennial Historical Survey" (CHS), makes no mention of this closure despite its duration – opening being delayed from the planned 3rd February 1925 until 21st April 1925. This was probably because of the preoccupation with the building of the new school on the present site, (finally occupied in 1926.) The Scindian does mark the occasion in November 1925 – there being only one issue in 1925, reverting to two in 1926. "FIRST TERM, 1925. The first term was to have opened on Tuesday, 3rd February, but owing to the prevailing epidemic of infantile paralysis it was postponed indefinitely. However, the enrolment of new pupils went on at the usual time. The staff assembled on Monday 23rd February and continued on duty until the actual opening of School on Tuesday, 21st April. Typed work assignments were sent out to the pupils very early, and these, in spite of the many difficulties, proved very satisfactory. Work was sent out and returned for correction twice each week.

Eighty per cent. of the pupils did really good work, 10 per cent. did very fair work, and only 10 per cent. did inferior work or none at all."

It would be interesting to compare the figures for work done in 1925 (by post) and 2020 (online).

In the April 1926 Scindian, the Headmaster's report for 1925 Prize-giving was printed:

"THE EPIDEMIC It was a great disappointment to us all that the School could not be opened at the appointed time in February, owing to the prevalence of the epidemic of infantile paralysis, as it was realised that the consequence was bound to be a great congestion of work for the balance of the year. This is what actually happened. A useful endeavour was made to give tuition during the first quarter of the year by the correspondence system; and in consequence the whole of the normal year's programme was carried out. Yet we lacked the necessary time for revisional work, and quite possibly the pace maintained proved rather too rapid for many pupils. If the conditions prevailing this year be regarded in the light of an experiment, I think it will be found that the opinion of all teachers is unanimously in favour of the normal year of about 40 weeks divided into three terms, rather than a year of 33 weeks divided into two terms, with an additional six or seven weeks of correspondence work."

On November 29th 1947, polio was again rampant but it was only North Island schools ordered closed, again the beginning of the new school year was considerably delayed. Teaching by mail was not, this time judged a success – as recorded in the CHS:

"Lessons by Correspondence All schools were closed by the Department because of the Poliomyelitis epidemic at the end of 1947, remained closed in February and did not open till late in March 1948. Suggestions were made by the Department for carrying on of school work by correspondence during the period when the schools were closed. An attempt was made by staff to supply examination candidates in particular with work by mail but the courses never really functioned properly by the time the boys returned to school."

Prize-giving was delayed until April 6th 1948 and because of the truncated year, no prizes were awarded for reading, writing and art. The 1947 Scindian's despatch was also delayed, although it had gone to the printers before the closure. It was "published and distributed at a time of great difficulty... the absence of usual helpers delayed posting of copies."

The dreaded crippling polio made another appearance in 1953, but schools were not closed and the CHS somewhat peevishly reports the inconvenience:

"Poliomyelitis Warnings: Poliomyelitis was still regarded as a health hazard in 1953. The school was requested by the Division of Public Hygiene to continue taking precautions against the spread of the disease. Teachers were asked to insist on students thoroughly handwashing "after visiting the privy" and before eating food. Just another task associated with teaching!" In 1956 there was breakthrough with the introduction of the "Salk Vaccine" and the government in 1958 made it compulsory in all schools. Some of us, of a certain age, remember lining up for Health Department workers to terrify us with the "needle", later replaced by the "raspberry flavoured" (who are you kidding?) syrup in tiny paper cups.

The need to close schools for health reasons was over.... Until 2020.

*Phillip Rankin, Archivist.*

# Obituaries

Obituary

## Sir Desmond (Des) Britten

27 December 1939 - 13

February 2020, restaurateur, TV chef,  
author, priest and Napier Boys' High  
School Old Boy.

*Des Britten*



Des Britten was born in Otane in Hawke's Bay on 27 December 1939. The son of a sheep farmer, he was educated at Napier Boys' High School, 1952-1954 as a Boarder at Scinde House, but left without any qualifications and then worked for a few years on the family farm.

Britten began his broadcasting career as a disc jockey in Napier and then Hamilton. After two years in Australia, he joined the NZBC as an announcer on Wellington radio station 2ZB. His dances for children at the Wellington Town Hall, known as the "Coca Cola Hi-Fi Club", proved popular.

The day Des Britten became Sir Des, his son Dominic told him he was very proud of him.

Sir Des teared up, looked at his son and said: "I still feel like that little boy from Waipawa." And that's what he was, said Dominic Britten. "He never asked for success, he never sought it out, it always came to him and he always didn't feel like he deserved it."

Sir Des was well known for his 1970s television cooking show "Bon Appetit" and was one of the country's first NZ born celebrity chefs.

Sir Des Britten, a former TV chef and restaurateur turned Wellington City Missioner, has died aged 82. He had been battling cancer.

In an interview May 25 2009 Des was asked by Joseph Romanos: You owned The Coachman restaurant from 1964, when you were 26. What got you interested in cooking?

Des Britten's reply was: It was a hobby. I boarded at Napier Boys', and we'd get the agricultural journals there. My interest was the cooking segment, which was meant for the farmers' wives! That was the start of it. I liked French cooking initially, though I had no thoughts of opening a restaurant.

Father Des Britten, who retired in 2011 after 17 years at the helm of Wellington City Mission, won the Wellingtonian of the Year award the same year. He was knighted in 2012.

"Des's legacy in the [hospitality] industry in Wellington is probably largely unwritten," top chef Martin Bosley said on Thursday morning.

"A lot of people owe what is going on in Wellington to Des Britten."

Wellington Mayor Andy Foster described Sir Des as a "giant in the Wellington community".

"Our thoughts are with his family and friends at this very sad time.

"Sir Des was well known as a local restaurateur, priest and TV chef but his legacy in Wellington will be best remembered through his many years of service as City Missioner.

"The compassion he showed for others and commitment to helping them were an inspiration to others. "Rest in peace Sir Desmond."

Sir Des took over the mission in 1994, increased the staff from seven to about 30, and shouldered the task of feeding hundreds of people a week.

In the 1970s he hosted two television shows, Thyme for Cookery and Bon Appetit, and wrote several cookbooks. He was also the owner of top Wellington restaurant The Coachman.

Before that, he was a disc jockey who entertained up to 3000 kids who would turn up to his Coca-Cola Hi-Fi Club dances in

the Town Hall.

Son Dominic Britten said his father's life was extraordinary - divided into three completely separate but successful careers.

"His time as an entertainer ... his time as a chef, and his time as a missionary are all pretty much tied into the one simple thing: he wanted to make sure people are happy."

His father came from a farming family in Hawke's Bay, but the young Sir Des "hated farming".

Sir Des' own father was initially disappointed when he showed no interest in continuing the family work - plus he was worried when his son turned immediately to the cooking section on the back page of the weekly farming paper whenever it arrived.

"He [Sir Des' father] was pleasantly surprised when he was a success on radio, and of course he was very proud of him when he was on TV, so it was alright after that."

Dominic Britten said he essentially grew up in The Coachman on Courtenay Place, and worked there as a kid as well.

As a child, watching his father on television was "fun" and Dominic even appeared on a couple of episodes himself.

"I sat there and they made me pretend to eat all the chocolate ... it all seemed pretty normal to me, and it's not till you get older that you realise how special the guy was."

Restaurateur and Chef Tony Astle, who established Antoine's Restaurant in Auckland, said Sir Des was literally his godfather. When Astle was christened as an adult in the Anglican Church, Sir Des - his former employer at The Coachman - performed the service.

"He was very spiritual, there was no doubt about that, and he did care about people."

Back when Astle started at The Coachman, it was the beginning of modern cuisine in New Zealand - and the start of a New Zealand culinary identity.

"In the 50s and 60s New Zealand food was just absolutely shocking...it [The Coachman] was all based on French food, just modernised to fit New Zealand, and it worked very well."

Speaking to The Dominion Post in 2011, Sir Des revealed his association with the mission began around the same time The Coachman opened, although his work was not well known then. Simon Woolf, a Wellington City councillor and friend, described him as a "great man".

The Wellington City Mission was mourning the loss of its former City Missioner of 17 years 1994 to 2011.

Murray Edridge, the current Wellington City Missioner, described Sir Des (also known as Father Des) as an "iconic Wellington trailblazer".

"He set the standard - he did it with vitality and energy and flamboyance - and he's remembered for the contribution he made and the compassion he had for people."

His love for Wellington started when he used to run the Coachman restaurant and bring in warm meals on the weekend to feed those in need, Edridge said.

"He was immensely passionate about helping those in need, and has laid down a legacy that he can be proud of. May he rest in peace knowing that his legacy will be remembered and continued." He ran the Wellington Coachman Restaurant for 28 years, was a columnist for The Dominion Post for 14 years, a television chef and radio host, and was author of several cookbooks.

Sir Des was ordained as an Anglican minister in 1983 and was the vicar of St Barnabas in Roseneath.

In 1997 Father Des Britten, led the 125 year Jubilee church service at Napier Boys' High School. In 2011 Sir Des received a Knighthood for services to the community.



*Stuff*

*Sir Des Britten*

Obituary

# Colin Percival Eagle:

8 May 1942-Feb 28 2020 age 77.  
NBHS: Student (1955-1958) Master (1965-1972)

On 7 March 2020, at his home in Tauranga a large group of family and friends gathered to say farewell to a much-loved and respected husband, father, father-in-law, grandfather and friend, colleague and teacher, Colin Eagle – “Budge”. Colin’s second of four sons, Andrew, delivered the following eulogy.

“Death when it comes is always a shock – with those that have been ill for a long time it is often tempered with relief. But when it eventually happens, it is still a real shock. There is an old Scottish proverb that we found written in one of Dad’s diaries:

**“And come he slow or come he fast  
It is but death who comes at last.”**

We are gathered here to not only say farewell to Colin but also to share the grief of his family and his friends, and to help each other through this time of sorrow.

Colin/Dad was a family man, loving and much-loved. To Julie (Colin’s wife) Glenn, Darren and Brenton, my brothers, words of sympathy can be said, but the real comfort is the silent testimony of so many of his friends that have turned out today, the messages of support and sympathy you have received, and will continue to receive, and the knowledge that many more people are thinking of you today.

Dad, Colin Percival Eagle, was born in 1942, in the small town of Eketahuna, to his parents, Len and Elsie. The family soon moved and settled in Georges Drive in Napier. Dad was the (spoilt) youngest of three, with two older sisters Nancye (later, Hodges) and Hazel (later, Longney).

In 1947 dad began his very long association with the education system. He started at Nelson Park Primary School, followed by Napier Intermediate, then on to Napier Boys High School. However, the connection didn’t finish there; with a Bachelor degree in Science from Victoria University of Wellington, and a Diploma of Teaching, he began his forty-year career in teaching, starting at NBHS. In the sixties every teacher at NBHS had a nick-name and the Eagle was always known as “Budgie”, or “Budge” for short.

Colin taught in a number of other high schools including Taradale, Taupo, McLean’s and Whangamata, as well as doing stints overseas as he and Julie moved around. Many of you here today had the privilege of teaching alongside him, or indeed being taught by him. He was often the Head of a Department but never wanted to go further as he enjoyed the time in the classroom and the opportunity to teach. Dad was a hard working teacher, compassionate towards his students, and deserved the enjoyment he got from seeing his students be successful.

Dad was also a very keen sportsman, and achieved success in his chosen sports of cricket and rugby at a young age, representing Napier Boys High School and Victoria University in their 1st XV’s. He represented NBHS and HB in cricket and went onto captain a number of club teams in the HB and Taupo regions.



Colin Eagle

He moved onto areas of coaching and administration, coaching a number of rugby teams (NBHS and Taradale), and even netball for a period of time. As his playing days came to an end, he took to refereeing and umpiring, receiving his refereeing certificate in 1971 and also his umpiring certificate much later, in 1990.

For a while, squash was his thing, and he was President of the Howick Squash Club. His ability to entertain and hold the floor in the club rooms over a cold beer was unparalleled. As most of you know, Colin had his theatrical side, whether on stage or just down at the club. However, he was involved in a large number of amateur productions both at school and with Operatic Societies. He had a strong singing voice and performed in lead roles in Pirates of Penzance, Wizard of Oz, The King and I and Brigadoon.

He also had this amazing ability, whilst everyone else was moping around on a Sunday morning, to be up early singing and whistling away whilst preparing breakfast for everyone. Dad and Julie had a wonderful life together. It was a marriage that began at Tauhara College, some forty years ago. It was a marriage of love, understanding and tolerance. Dad had a special relationship with his children. He was a tremendous father, and as we grew older he became a friend, companion, adviser; always there, always understanding. He was very proud of his sons, and loved to take them fishing in his small ‘tinnie’, which he named “Curly” in honour of his own father, who was totally bald! Such was Colin’s humour. Final Words from Colin, found in another of his diaries:

**“Death is but a path that must be trod,  
...if man would ever pass onto god” - Thomas Parnell**

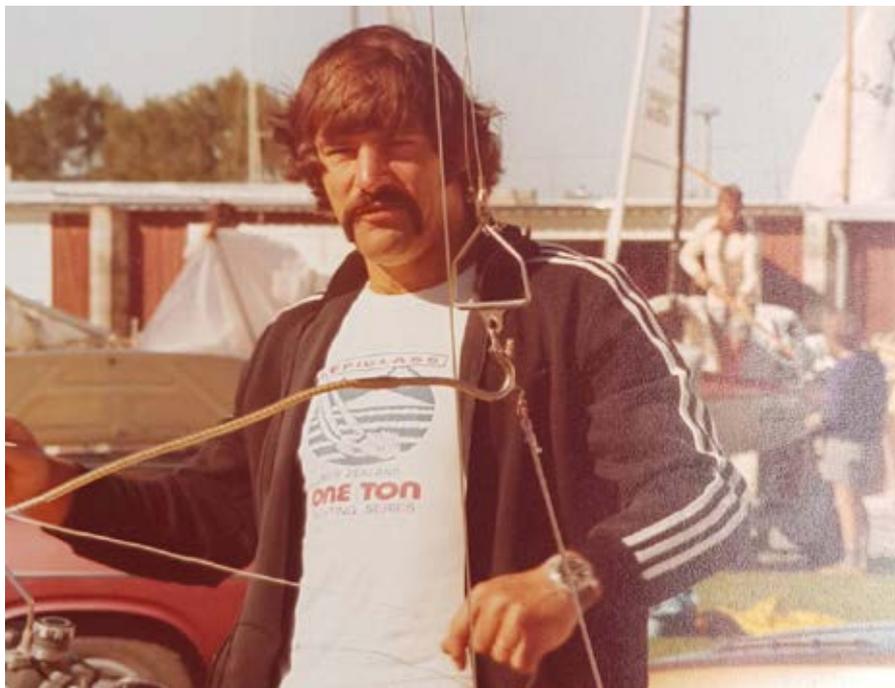
Dad was an honorable, loyal man, gifted with a sense of humour. He was hardworking, and took immense pride in providing for his family. He was an Achiever who had no enemies and hundreds of friends. A man who, over his years of teaching, had a positive influence over thousands of students.

He was very much a man who lived life to the fullest. And so, as the door closes on the life of Colin, next to it another door is opening. Through it comes a tumbling hoard of memories and this door will never close, because “Memories never die.”

Andrew Eagle (Son)

Obituary

# Magpies prop Graham Wiig went on to become world-ranked sailor



*Graham Wiig*

The death has occurred in Tauranga of Napier Boys' High School Old Boy, Graham Trevor Wiig (1962-1966.)

Had former Hawke's Bay Magpies rugby prop Graham Wiig been a bit more aggressive he could have been an All Black.

"Graham had all the physical attributes. He was one of those old-style props ... big and strong and a good team man," Wiig's former Magpies teammate and former All Black Blair Furlong recalled.

Former New Zealand sailing representative Wiig died last weekend in Tauranga after a battle with oesophagus cancer. He was cremated on Tuesday 10th March 2020, his 72nd birthday. Wiig played 83 first class games for the Magpies from 1968 to 1977. He played in the Bay's 15-14 win against the 1972 Wallabies and 26-5 loss to the 1971 British and Irish Lions.

Another of his former Magpies teammate Fullback, Paul Carney, (NBHS 1961-1964) agreed with Furlong.

"Graham stood up to the best in the country. If he had a bit more mongrel he would have been an All Black."

Carney also played alongside Wiig for the old Napier High School Old Boys club. He pointed out there were numerous occasions when the forward pack consisted of eight players, including Wiig, who has played for the Magpies and their side won the Maddison Trophy on several occasions.

"Graham was a great team man with a good nature ... one of those blokes who would be among the first to working bees," Carney recalled.

During the Magpies' 24-8 Ranfurly Shield win against Taranaki in 1969 Wiig acquitted himself admirably against All Black Brian Muller.

A week later he had to front up against another All Black in Alister Hopkinson, at the apex of his career, in the 18-11 loss which ended the Magpies 1960s shield era.

"Alister Hopkinson was a hard nut. Not necessarily a good technical prop and in most cases tended to get his way with the fists, not my style, but we had a good match and ended up pretty much square on the day," Wiig recalled in 2011.

A three-time New Zealand trialist, Wiig, was named as one of the country's five most promising players early in his first class career. He also coached the Napier High School Old Boys team with Furlong one season.

"Mac [Ian MacRae] and I both wanted to coach at the same time. He coached at our Marist club so I decided to go and help Graham. I don't know if we won too many games but we won the one which counted ... against Marist," Furlong quipped.

The Napier Sailing Club's commodore from 1989-91, Wiig, like his brothers Bryan (NBHS 1963-1965) and Gary (NBHS 1965-1968), was a New Zealand sailing representative. He

was a member of third, fourth and fifth placed crews at world championship level in the Flying Fifteen class in the boat Fflash-Eh which he built at his Taradale home.

Wiig was also a national title winner in the same class in 1984 with Dave Zorn. Long-time club mate and fellow New Zealand representative Andrew Morrison, who now lives in the Bay of Plenty, remembers Wiig being introduced to sailing by his father Lyall, who also served as a commodore at the Napier club. The pair built a P class yacht together and other father-and-son combos from the club joined in the process.

"Later on Graham would get into the boat building business and he always built beautiful boats. He established a new class of Flying Fifteens," Morrison recalled.

"He was a very enthusiastic commodore and a magnificent sportsman. A lot of people don't realise he was a brilliant gymnast as a schoolboy and a skilled golfer before rugby became his priority," Morrison added.

The club's immediate past commodore Paul Redman, remembers Wiig's involvement in a new marina project, the expansion of a youth sailing programme and the building of new facilities for youth sailors.

"Graham was an all-round good bloke and an excellent boat builder," Redman said.

Wiig's brother Bryan said he and his brothers were thrilled to continue the family's sailing tradition.

"I remember dad taking us out in an 18 footer which was crewed by six to 10 people. Graham used to pump the water till he got old enough to sail."

"He was a natural sportsman. During his days at Napier Intermediate School he was a swimming champion. Graham broke several javelin records at Napier Boys' High School and both he and I were in the Napier Boys' High School gymnastics team. He was also in the Napier Sailing Club's basketball team and we all remember the work he put in at Whites Gym up Milton Road to keep fit for sailing and rugby," Bryan added. Wiig's youngest son Bevan lauded his father's ability to help those in need.

"Despite being busy with his work and sporting pursuits he always found time to help those who were dealing with personal strife. He had the time and effort for them and was a good listener."

Wiig is survived by his two sons, Hayden and Bevan, and two grandchildren, Madeleine and Hendrix.

Obituary

# Keith Hill MITCHELL

QSO. Lieutenant Colonel (retired) 24  
May 1936 to 20 January 2020 aged 83.



Major Keith Mitchell in  
1965

NBHS 1950-1954, Head Prefect 1954, RSM of NBHS School Cadets 1953/54. The 1954 NBHS Scindian said: "The R.S.M., W.O.1 Mitchell, has been fortunate, having been selected for Duntroon and winning, at the 1954 Senior N.C.O. course, the gold medal for the best cadet in the R.S.M. Coy. For the last two years he has been the Area 7 nominee for the William Friar Memorial Prize and faces the District finals soon." That year (1954) he was in fact, the Winner of William Friar Memorial Medal Top Cadet in Central Region.

His career commenced in 1955 with four years spent training at the Royal Military College Duntroon, Canberra - Australia. Keith was commissioned as a Lieutenant into the Royal New Zealand Engineers in December 1958. The early 1960s was spent primarily at Linton Army Camp learning his trade as a junior army engineer officer. During this time, also included short secondments to the Ministry of Works in Wellington.

A career highlight followed when he deployed to Thailand in 1964, for eight months as the commander of a 25-man engineer plant Troop, which was tasked with building bridges and undertaking road construction. This engineer deployment was part of the NZ Government's military commitment to the Vietnam conflict. This would have been a challenging but

rewarding appointment for Keith, requiring initiative, strong leadership and resourcefulness. On return to NZ in late 1965, Keith commanded a construction squadron at Linton Army Camp for two years, before his attendance on a one-year army mid-ranked officer course at the Australian Army Staff College in Queenscliffe, Victoria in 1969.



Keith Mitchell

On his return to New Zealand he had a short posting to Army HQ in Wellington and then followed a two-year married accompanied posting to ANZUK HQ in Singapore from 1971 to 1973 as a logistics staff officer. Further postings occurred in Wellington which included Keith being given a final year's study award to complete a Bachelor of Commerce at Victoria University. The last two years of Keith's military service would have been a career highlight. He was promoted to Lieutenant Colonel and appointed to the position of the Army's Chief Engineer. After two years in this role, Keith took his release from the NZ Army in December 1978 after 24 years.

Keith remained a very active member of the Wellington RSA on the welfare committee for a number of years. He was chair of the Wellington RSA Welfare committee at lunchtime meetings for over a decade. He was consistently a fighter for veterans and any other groups facing difficulty. He was described by many who knew him as a gentlemen, of quiet and unassuming personality but effective.

In the New Year Honours List in January 1997 Keith Mitchell was awarded the QSO (Queen's Service Order) for Public Services. Keith loved to engage with others and he cherished his friendship with his former army colleagues for the close to 40 years since he left the NZ Army. He attended many reunions, some associated with the NZ Duntroon Society. Some of those former army colleagues attended his funeral.

*Adapted from Eulogies by Brigadier (Retd) Evan Torrance and Colonel (Retd) Theo Kuper.*

Obituary

# Ian Douglas Smith 1945- 2020 (NBHS 1957-1961)



Smithy as he was known was a bit of a Karekare Surf Lifesaving Club Legend. Hugely popular and enormous fun to be with.

He loved the club from when he joined in 1964 after coming to Auckland from Napier where he learnt to swim, he said "In the fierce shore break".

Smithy was short but extraordinary fit. He worked for AWA the Group that put in the TV towers and his massive company car was the club transport most weekends. He would park it on the sand outside the old clubhouse and go off to patrol. One Saturday a cloudburst up the hill set a wave of water down to the valley about two metres high picking up Smithy's vehicle and floating it to the water edge. We spent the rest of the weekend drying and cleaning it out. He said it rusted within month.

He rowed in our first surf boat Miss UEB taking a few wins at the Auckland Champs and was an excellent Patrol Captain. He was popular at both United and Piha where Karekare would go over

the hill for Saturday night parties. Smithy was always the Judge at the Club's drinking races at Club Day. A great communicator he started up our newsletter and called it "The Cauldron" after our notorious rescue site.

In the 1970s he took off for a year hitchhiking across Europe and Africa with his girlfriend. His tales of travel together in remote Africa were dangerous and widely crazy but that was Smithy. On his return he joined forces with an old mate from his Napier days for an attempt to cross Cook Strait in a Kayak on an early version of a K1 Super Kayak. On December 28th the 27 year old Ian Smith and Barry Anderson, 26 succeeded in a record breaking 3 hours 5 minutes.

Ian was given a job to open the UK Branch of Fisher and Paykel Healthcare. It was a tough assignment but he successfully got it established which is now a huge winner for the group and New Zealand. On his return he built a house in Titirangi for himself and his widowed Mother. Although many times "engaged" Ian didn't marry, but over the years enjoyed the company of many lady companions.

He was regular at the club days, Kubi Witten-Hannah remembers Ian taking him around the Island the day he got his surf medal. Ray Ballie remembers his generosity of spirit and great jokes. Fraser Harvey recalls Ian successfully coaching the Karekare Canoe Crew team to a National Title in 1991. Ian was a pioneer of sports psychology, he used visualization "He told the team to run the whole race before hand in your mind. Perceive and solve the problems before they arise." He also did this type of work with the early Whitbread around the World crews that were sponsored by Fisher and Paykel.

A terrible Poet Ian composed a poem for any club occasion. For

*Continued from p.14*

the opening of the clubhouse, "Ode to The Long Drop and for the Clubs 80th Birthday, "Getting to be 80". Smithy was life member of the club and many of you will remember him from the 80th being the life and soul with his top hat and tails. He also spent many hours with the 80th committee helping to research older club members who we had lost contact with, we are eternally grateful for his help finding so many old friends for our event. SLSNZ President said Smithy was a truly great guy, "A good Bastard" loved by all. Smithy will be sorely missed by the club and his many mates. I knew and enjoyed his company for nearly 60 years and never grew tired of his company. Ian Smith passed away on Saturday 18 April 2020 after recovering from a hip operation recently.

Ian Smith 1945-2020, Patrol Captain, Originator of Cauldron Newsletter, Coach of 1991 National Title Holders of Surf Canoe, Life Member of Karekare Surf Club.

*Sir Bob Harvey, President Karekare Surf Club*

*Right: Ian Douglas Smith 2019*



Obituary:

## John Charles Marshall Cresswell

1932- 9 March 2020  
Age 87. NBHS: (1947 F4-1948)

John Cresswell was born in Opotiki in 1932. The son of a bookseller and author. He was educated at Opotiki College and Napier Boys' High School (1947 F4-1948)

In 1949 he joined the New Zealand Herald and became a racing reporter, specialising in pedigrees and breeding of race horses. He married Valerie Wilkins of Sussex in 1956 and had two children, Linda and Guy. In the mid 1950's he switched to bookselling and joined Whitcombe and Tombs in Auckland and later took up the position of Manager of Reed Publishers. Valerie passed away in 1964. At this time the market for books changed from readership to salesmanship and Reeds was taken over by accountants.

In 1967, John married Nanette Hebditch and they had a daughter, Victoria. Shortly after this, John had a complete shift in careers, becoming a tour guide for over thirty years. During this time, he had constant contact with Te Arawa of Rotorua and wrote his "Maori Meeting Houses of the North Island" and "The Hot Lakes Guide."

In 1988 the family moved to Gold Coast, Australia. Nanette and John later retired to Tamborine Mountain Queensland. John was a life member of the New Zealand Horse Society, a foundation member and sometimes president of the Numismatic Society of Auckland, sometime editor of the New Zealand Numismatic Journal for the Royal Numismatic Society of Wellington. He was also a member of the Queensland Numismatic Society and the Southport Coin Club. He has written 35 books on a wide variety of subjects: Family History,



*John Cresswell*

museums, numismatics, philately, ethnology, biography and travel. He also contributed numerous articles for the Whakatane Historical Journal, New Zealand Herald, Auckland Weekly News, Hoof Beats, Mintmark, Journal of the Royal Numismatic Society of New Zealand, Newsletter of the Queensland Numismatic Society, Auckland-Waikato Historical Journal and others. He is survived by his wife Nanette three children, five grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

*Nanette Cresswell*

# Last Roll Call

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

ANDERSON, Alan Laurence – 1942-1945  
BAILEY-CROPPER, Joshua Syd – 2013-2017  
BARBARICH, Tony Kenneth – 1944-1945  
BARCLAY, Gary James – 1953-1955  
BATT, Robert William – (Bob) (WW2) – 1937-1938  
BILES, Rodney Rawnsley – 1949-1950  
BLUCK Arthur - 1943-1944  
BOSTON, Robert – 1944-1946  
BOWLEY, Kenneth John (Ken) – 1944-1945  
BRADSHAW, Frederick Rawhiti (Fred) – 1944-1946  
BRITTEN, Desmond John (Des) (Fr Sir) KNZM – 1958-1960  
BURLING, Trevor Clifford – 1956-1957  
BURNS Paul Stanley - 1993-1995  
CARRAD, Bruce – 1945-1947  
CHITTENDEN, Leo Thomas – 2003-2007  
CHITTENDEN, Neville – 1941-1944  
CHRYSTAL, Patrick Gerald (Pat) – 1952-1954  
CLARK, Martin Paul - 1971-1973  
COATES, Basil Antony – 1948-1949  
COPELAND, Maurice Chadwick – 1945-1947  
CORNES, Kevin Russell - 1960-1962  
COSGROVE, Brian Leslie Francis – 1947-1948  
CRESSWELL, John Charles Marshall – 1947 F4-1948  
DOBBS, Arnold Hartland – 1953-1955  
DUFF, Lance - 1949-1950  
EAGLE, Colin Percival – (Pupil) 1955-1959) - (Staff 1965-1972)  
EDDY, James Francis (Jim) – 1956-1959  
EDDY, Kevin Warren – 1965-1966  
ENNOR, Craig Kenneth - 1955-1958  
FEIERABEND, Graeme John – 1957-1958  
FRANKLIN, Dion Andre (Dick) – 1956  
GOODIN, Tracey Lancelot - 1966-1969  
GORDON, John Bruce - 1950-1951  
GUNN, Bruce Donald – 1948-1951  
HANKINS, Peter Murray - 1950-1954  
HARDAKER, Harry Vincent (Vince) – 1946-1947  
HARPER, Ronald Cedric Simpson – 1963-1966  
HELLYER, Lawrence George – 1947-1948  
HILL, Barrington Joseph Fraser – 1949  
IRELAND, Peter John – 1957-1958  
JELLYMAN Andrew Lewis (Andy) - 1986-1990  
LAVERY, Daniel Robert – 1950  
LAWS, Derek Gordon (Rev.) – 1939-1941  
LAY, Brian Keith – 1949-1950

LOGAN, David George – 1941  
McBEATH, Douglas John – 1960-1965  
McCLELLAN, Reginald Charles (Reg) – 1961-1962  
McGLASHEN, Donal James (Don) – 1943-1945  
MANNING, Lindsay Roy – 1962-1965  
MARPLE, Raymon Ewen Gordon (Ray) - (Pupil 1958-1960) – (Brass Band Tutor 2000-2003)  
MARSHALL, Dudley Edward John – 1951  
MEREDITH, Bernard Rashley (Bernie) – 1944-1946  
MILLIKEN, Brent John – 1979-1983  
MITCHELL, Keith Hill QSO- Lieutenant Colonel (Retd) – 1950-1954  
MUDGWAY, Owen Stanley – 1945-1947  
NASH Jeremy Randle - 1953-1957  
OSBORNE Nigel Michael David - 1951-1952  
POON, Edwin – 1978-1982  
PRINCE, James Singleton (Jim) - 1945-1946  
RICHARDSON, Stewart John – 1965-1967  
RITCHIE John Barrymore (Barry) - 1943-1944  
SADD, Brian Terry – 1946 F4-1947  
SAMUELS, Jonathan Edward - 1993-1997  
SANDERS, Fred Bayley – 1947-1951  
SCIASCIA, Piri John (Staff-1970)  
SMITH, George Grahame (Grahame) – 1946-1949  
SMITH, Ian Douglas – 1957-1961  
STEPHENS Tony Royce - 1960  
SVENSEN, Neville Smith – 1938  
THOMSON, Frederick Stewart (Fred) Aged 107 years – 1927-1929  
TOD, Alistair Mathieson - 1956-1957  
TUCK, Christopher John Brent (Chris) – 1966-1969  
WALKER, Mary Carmen (Carmel) (Staff) - 1975-1990  
WALKER, Raymond – 1971-1972  
WATSON, John Edward (Ted) – 1944-1946  
WATTS, Frederick Stephen Roy (Freddie) - 1947  
WEBSTER, Noel Raymond – 1962-1963  
WELLS, John Peter (Bomba) - 1952-1953  
WHYTE, Colin Walter – 1949-1951  
WIIG, Graham Trevor – 1962-1966  
WILLIAMS, Raymond Henry – 1975-1976  
WILLIAMS, Robert Bruce - 1955  
WYLIE, Roger George – 1944

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

*Chris Geddis*