



# Napier Boys' High School Association COLUMNS

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## Editorial

It was great to see the Napier Boys' High School first fifteen challenge Hastings Boys' High School on 1 August 2020 for the Moascar Cup and not only win the game 15-10 but then hold the trophy and withstand the challenge of Tauranga Boys' College 22-10 on 8 August 2020 then to have a final challenge from Rotorua Boys' High School where they were beaten 25-22 by the challengers before it was again set on its journey to Rotorua after Napier's short 2020 Moascar Cup rugby reign.

The Polson Banner has been a trophy match between just two schools only, Napier Boys' and Palmerston North Boys' High School first fifteens since 1904.

Whereas the Moascar Cup, is the oldest and most prestigious nationwide trophy in 1st XV rugby dates back to the end of World War One 1918. At the end of the Great War, while the fighting was over, some troops remained partly because there were not enough ships available to get them home.

Ten divisions of troops, six British, three Australian and a New Zealand division were waiting in Ismailia, Egypt to be sent home. Authorities within these divisions decided competitive sport would be a good way to fill in the time. Egypt formed the Ismailia Rugby Union and organised a rugby competition and a cup.

A committee of officers was formed and they visited Cairo in search of a suitable trophy for a rugby tournament. When they returned they had a magnificent but somewhat cumbersome trophy made of Sterling Silver and stamped with "Made in London, 1904". The trophy was named the Moascar Cup. (Moascar was thought to be the name of a village in Egypt but it is, in fact Arabic for "camp".) It was decided that the trophy in honour of the occasion should be mounted on the centre part of a sawn off German propeller shot down in Palestine. The Cup, also contested by a South African division, was won by the New Zealand Mounted Rifle Brigade who won eight and drew one of its nine games.

On return to New Zealand, there was considerable debate about what was the best use for the trophy. It was agreed that it should be returned to the New Zealand Rugby Union and used for an appropriate competition. The cup was brought home and presented to the New Zealand Rugby Football Union on condition that it be a challenge trophy for secondary schools.

The individual charged with convincing the New Zealand Rugby Union of the trophy's merit was Lieutenant-Colonel E J Hulbert DSO, commanding officer of the Mounted Rifle Brigade. The trophy was accepted and the New Zealand Rugby Union decided the best use for the trophy was to use it to promote Secondary Schools rugby which had suffered badly because of the War. A knockout competition in both the North and South Islands was inaugurated with the final to be played at Athletic Park in Wellington. However the best intentions of administrators were undone by apathetic attitudes by some

schools and three years of expensive and time-consuming matches. Soon the knockout competition was abolished and replaced by a challenge system.

The current rules state that holders must nominate matches in which other schools can compete for it. A total of 7 matches must be announced once the cup is in contention. There used to be a tendency where holders would withhold putting the cup up for grabs against stronger opposition while making it available against perceived lesser sides. Doing so reduced the risk of losing the cup. There have been calls for the cup to be put up more regularly such is the demand and prestige of it. Many have voiced that the cup be put up at all home games and all knock out fixtures.

Another call to change has been regarding a tied score at full time. Like the National Top 4, no extra time is applied. The Moascar Cup defender continues to hold the cup if the scores are tied at full time.

The Moascar Cup is often referred to as the Ranfurly Shield of secondary schools rugby and has a history going back to 1920 but was not a genuine national competition between 1927 and 1971.

Napier Boys' High coach Bob McCaw (HOD Science 1969-77, Deputy Headmaster 1978-88) revived the competition by successfully challenging in 1972, after it had been held by various schools in the Northland and Counties regions for 20 years. Napier played a big role in renewing interest in the cup, after many years of disinterest among NZ's boy's schools and their first fifteens.

As Bob McCaw recalls: "I was coach of the Napier Boys' High 1st XV at the time and had recently arrived from teaching at New Plymouth Boys' High School, where they still talked of the Moascar Cup glory days of the 20's, when they were involved in epic battles with Te Aute and Palmerston North Boys' High School. So epic were they that Principals of these schools resolved not to be involved in any further challenges and the consequent demands on defending it. For many of us, with our passion for College rugby, the Moascar Cup was something now doing the rounds of Northland and a few Auckland schools. That changed in 1971. Napier Boys' High School were about to celebrate their centenary the following year. We decided to stage a quadrangular tournament as a focal point of this very important event. With my links to NPBHS, they were invited as well as PNBHS and another traditional foe, Gisborne BHS.

But the tournament needed a trophy. Not a new one, but one, steeped in history. With my interest in the Moascar Cup, I suggested to team manager Don Seaton (Teacher 1965-1974) why don't we challenge for it. A quick call to the doyen of College Rugby, Arthur Reeves, who told us Pukekohe High School were the current holders. Why not issue a challenge to them. We played on the fact that New Plymouth BHS would be involved and that their highly esteemed past principal, the late Dan Bryant (mentor to Sir Edmund Hillary) had started his teaching career at New Plymouth.

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Clive Neate was Principal of Pukekohe at the time, and much to our amazement and delight, they accepted the challenge. We put together a quick tour in early 1972 and won 22-6. They were extremely gracious in defeat. They did not have to accept the challenge, but in doing so, played their part in the resurrection of interest in the Moascar Cup.

Before the tournament started, I had a meeting with the respective coaches, Iain Colquhoun (PNBHS), Brian Cairns (GBHS), and Max Carroll (NPBHS). We resolved that among ourselves the holder should be bound to defend the cup only on its traditional home fixtures. This was recommended to the newly formed NZ Secondary Schools Rugby Council. Napier BHS lost the cup to Palmerston North BHS in the first round, who were then beaten by New Plymouth in the final."

The cup was now on its way, interest was renewed, and since then the trophy has been strongly contested by many secondary schools." Napier Boys' High held it again 1984/85 and again in 2003.

*Chris Geddis Editor*



*Moascar Cup*

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## From The Headmaster

2020 Headmaster's Address (Senior Prize Giving)

Tihei mauriora

E ngā mana, e ngā reo, e rau rangatira mā

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā kotou katoa

Welcome to our special guests tonight: Old Boy and City Councillor, Mr. Greg Mawson, Board chair Ms Megan Landon, members of the Board, NBHS Association Chair and Old Boy, Mr Kevin Callinicos, Mr. Joe Walding-Karaitiana from EIT and Mr. and Mrs. Mannering, parents of our Head Prefect. I also acknowledge the Hon. Stuart Nash's apology for this evening given the date change. Welcome to all parents, whanau, friends, old boys, staff and, not least, young men of Napier Boys', it is my pleasure to give the Headmaster's annual address.

We began the year celebrating further growth in our academic achievement with qualifications at NCEA Levels Two, Three and UE all improving on the previous year and Level One virtually the same. Our own Gus Andrews told us during his prefect reading this year that he needed to work hard to succeed; he found it hard when he was called a 'try hard' for daring to do this. Ryan Good spoke to us about not fitting in as a junior and struggling to find what he was good at. Examples like this remind me that academic achievement is not predicated on talent. We were reminded of the old saying in assembly only a week or so ago that "hard work beats talent when talent doesn't work hard". My point: for improvement to occur here, we need dedicated staff but also young men who are confident enough in themselves to push themselves, to be "try hards" and to not settle for second best, falling into that trap where "If I don't try, then I haven't really failed." That mental resilience, confidence, courage comes from a strong pastoral care focus to support our young men. Next year, we will increase the pastoral care resources from deans to counsellors. Young men with good wellbeing = young men who will succeed better.

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If the year of COVID-19 has taught us anything it is this: how you do things often matters more than the actual outcome. Christian Guy, a former advisor to the UK Prime Minister,

reminded audiences in the UK recently: "How one plays, and what one plays for, that alone reveals the man" This is all about character and attitude. A US journalist David Brooks wrote a book in which his theme was that too many of us worry about what's in our CV but not enough focus on what will be said at our funeral. Your gifts, talents, your kindness, courage and compassion matter more than your NCEA Level One results, more than your rugby team or brilliant musical composition, more than the status your future career provides. Yes, these are important achievements, but it is how you achieved them and used them that matters. What has been your impact on your mates, your family, your planet, as you have amassed these accolades?

So tip number one as we think about the future: work for something bigger than yourself - give yourself to a cause, be passionate about issues.

Second: be the most hopeful person in the room - I'm not talking about wishful thinking or naivety. I'm talking more about your posture as a person - the person with the most hope in the room is the person with the most influence...

Third: do the small things really well - Don't be slack with the little things. Thanking those that help you. Remembering people's names, etc.

Fourth: embrace responsibility, don't duck it - this is a really difficult one - sometimes it's hard to say yes when you're asked to step up...you have doubts, you focus on the reasons why others are better placed or qualified. But I can't emphasise enough the importance of stepping up, saying yes, pushing yourself when these things come your way. - And I tell you now, even if you fail or it doesn't go to plan.

At the start of this term, the school production hosted by Napier Girls' - "West Side Story" - was able to finally showcase the vocal talents of our young men, particularly Jackson Stone. A Cultural Showcase several weeks ago proved that the Arts are in fine form with sterling performances from our actors, theatre sports, Kapa Haka, musicians and Pasifika groups. All in all

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though, too little opportunity to display all the talent we have. Still, somewhere in the chaos of term three, Chess won every title available to clinch the regional title and our Debaters won their Polson match-up with the biggest COVID-19 Level 2 crowd of the exchange (five).

The sporting highlights centred around athletics, basketball, hockey and rugby this year. Basketball played their second successive Super 8 final and lost a cliffhanger in overtime but have produced two National U20 representatives in Clifton Bush Jnr and Tommy Ferguson. Our runners, fresh off their national sprint relay title in December last year, have performed superbly at each opportunity this year whether on or off the track. Reid Livingston won NZ selection even if the worlds in Bulgaria didn't eventuate. Much is expected later this term at the NZSS championships in Auckland. Hockey regained the Bartholomew Cup (their Ranfurly Shield), lost it to PNBHS, beat Hamilton for the first time in memory and won the Hawke's Bay title. Rugby mirrored this in some respects, winning the Moascar Cup in the local derby with Hastings, losing it in a pulsating Rotorua game and then demolishing PNBHS for the Polson Banner. It is always a good year when that trophy resides in Napier.

To the leavers, my usual message about your year being over in the blink of an eye; seize the time or lose it, seems trite given the challenges of 2020. You have lost many of the opportunities and rewards that come with seniority in your final year at school. However, as the class of 2020, you will have a unique position among school leavers to define a generation.

Oprah Winfrey put it this way:

"Can you, the class of 2020, show us not how to put the pieces back together again but how to create a new and more evolved normal, a world more just, kind, beautiful?...We need you to do this because the pandemic has illuminated the vast systemic inequities that have defined life for too many for too long...You have the power to stand for and fight for and vote for healthier conditions that will create a healthier society.

This moment is your invitation to use your education to begin to heal our afflictions, to apply the best of what you've learned in your head and felt in your heart."

I want to congratulate your leaders, particularly Nick and Hugo, on their role in championing the student voice this year. You have taken on the mantle of wellbeing and been prepared to share some of your most vulnerable moments with the school. You have shown that by relying on mates, confiding in friends, being prepared to go against the flow, can yield not only success but confidence and self-esteem.

At this time we acknowledge those staff who will finish with us at the end of year or who have left during the year:

Mr. Alani Samia, with nearly 20 years' service as a PE teacher and volleyball coach, retires from the school. Many of you

will know of Alani's battle with cancer this year; the character and determination he has shown in the face of adversity is humbling and Alani leaves with the love and appreciation of his colleagues and students and we wish he, Cath and his family the very best in the time ahead.

Mr. Paul Jackson also retired from the school after 20 years' teaching, predominately in maths. Part-time for the past few years, Paul was an enthusiastic rugby man who had coached the 1st XV.

Two staff reach their 25 year service milestone, Deputy Headmaster, Mr. Bruce Smith, whose dedication to the school is an example for us all, and Mr. Matt Hardy, Head of Faculty who continues to be a passionate advocate for quality science education for young men.

At this time, I would like to thank 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.

I acknowledge and thank the leadership team: Mr Smith (who ensures also that tonight runs beautifully), Mr. Whyte, Mr. Russell, Mrs. Taylor for their continued hard work and good humour. We are capably supported by Mrs. White without whom the ship would founder. Mr Johnson and the Scinde House team maintain excellence in all that boarding entails.

Behind the scenes our support staff work hard to ensure that we teachers can do the very best with the resources we have. Mr. Pyott and the property team do sterling work to present our campus in the best possible light. The past few days have presented more than the usual challenges in this respect.

I thank our board members, led by Ms. Megan Landon, for their support and advice, as well as the seemingly unlimited time 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 of the school's three charitable trust boards.

Finally, to the young men who return next year. Seek examples to follow from those whom you admire; grasp at least one opportunity provided for you at school and work hard to achieve this. Hard work is a reward in itself.

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

Tēnā koutou, tēnā koutou, tēnā kotou katoa



Matt Bertram,  
Headmaster

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

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Association / Old Boys

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

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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

# From The Archives

It has been another quiet period in Archives. Some correspondence has been attended to... for example, Danny Knight (1983-86) wanted proof, - a copy of the 1986 prize list - that he had won the 'Old Boy's Challenge Cup for Senior Athletic Champion.' (I suspect a little gentle boasting to the family) and was surprised to find that he had also been awarded 'Bickerstaff Cup for Senior Sprint Events'!

Acquisitions have been few, but the quality! Trevor Atkins (1952-55) passed on to the Committee, the find by Terrance John Cullen (1953-56) of two tickets to the 1922, 50th Jubilee events: Sports, Dinner at the Clarendon Hotel, Church Parade, Picnic, Concert and Dance- over three days. One entitled, admission to "The Bearer" and the other "Bearer and Lady". They are in mint condition after 98 years and could provide a template for the 150th in 2022!

And then after weeks of preparation we have taken delivery of the bequest by Ian Douglas Smith (1957-61) a pair of swivel 'Sea Chairs' - almost certainly off HMS Veronica. Oral tradition, passed on by Ian, is that they were removed along with other fittings, to allow the Veronica to slip off the mud bank in the Inner Harbour at Ahuriri, where she had been stranded by the 1931 Hawke's Bay Earthquake. They were then used ashore in a tent by officers despatching teams of sailors into the ruined town of Napier.

A young Ian, working for his uncle's cleaning firm, rescued four of them, dumped by the HB County Council in the late 1950's. We have much to thank three of Ian's school mates for, Basil Rouse (1957-58), Desmond Rouse (1956-57) and Noel Hawkins (1957-60) who just prior to Ian's death in 2020 travelled to his home in Golden Bay and returned the four chairs to Napier and have followed Ian's wishes on their disposal after researching and restoration work. Aficionados of 'Antique Roadshow' and 'Salvage Hunters' will be pleased to note they retain their 'patina' especially on their cast iron bases, they were obviously not going to slide around the wardroom in heavy seas! Basil has had the cushions recovered (the originals were in shreds). The other two chairs are on display in the old Customs House Museum, Ahuriri. The Headmaster has our two on view in his office foyer and we will frame photos and the story of their providence.



Elizabeth Kay, daughter of Bishop, Sir Edward Kinsella Norman (1930-35), who had previously sent the school a copy of her book, 'Eddie Norman and the 25th Battalion' has now visited the school and presented us with his 1st XV cap.

Joy, Lady Axford has also been a generous donor of Sir Ian Axford's (1946-50) awards and honours to add to those on display in the 'Axford Meeting Room' - including another frame of medals and badges relating to his work in Astronomy and Physics, diplomas and some prize books from NBHS and University. Should I admit that reading the title of the tome on "An Introduction to the Theory of Functions of a Complex Variable" (Canterbury University College 1956 for Mathematics) put me to sleep?

Lastly, Gillian Bain of Wellington has posted to us the three Scindians from the last years her father, Alasdair David Bain (1939-42) was in Scinde House.

Thank you to all these people for sharing an interest in our school's heritage and history.

*Phillip Rankin - Archivist.*

## 150th Reunion Napier Boys' High School

Planning is now underway for the School's 150th anniversary celebrations.

The celebrations will be held on Queen's Birthday Weekend in June 2022, commencing on Friday, 3 June and culminating on Sunday 5 June. This will leave Queen's Birthday Monday, 6 June available for Old Boys to continue their celebrations with mates, do their own thing and/or travel back home.

Currently, it is envisaged that there will be an Open Day at the School on the Friday, with registration during the day. A function will be held on the Friday evening.

Saturday's events will focus around the traditional Polson Banner game against Palmerston North Boys' High School. It is hoped that we will be able to arrange many other sports and cultural activities with Palmerston North for the weekend.

On the Saturday evening, the Reunion Dinner will be held, and on the Sunday, the Reunion will wind up with a farewell function.

So, please save these dates now. We also encourage you to touch base with your old school mates to ensure you have a great group of friends to help celebrate the School's very significant milestone.

# Napier Boys' High School Association's Long Serving Secretary Judith Craigie Retires.

I was born in Hamilton during World War II while my father was in the RNZAF at Rukahia Air Base. Otherwise I spent all my life, until now, in Hawke's Bay but moved to Feilding earlier this year to be nearer to family.

After a year at the Kennedy Park Transit Camp after the war we moved to Marewa and I went to Marewa School, then Napier Intermediate and then Napier Girls' High School from 1957-1959 and left at the end of Form 5 after passing School Certificate. I attended a number of reunions over the years and when I retired from NBHS in 2009, became a member of NGHS Old Girls' Association, serving on the committee for a number of years including a term as President.

In 1960 I worked at the National Bank of New Zealand in Napier, leaving in 1969 after getting married to Ian Mansfield in 1965 and becoming a stay at home mum to two small boys from 1969 until 1974.

During the 1950s and 1960s I was a piper in the Napier Ladies Pipe Band and also the Port Ahuriri Pipe band which became the City of Napier Pipe Band. I was secretary for the Napier Pipe Band and was on the organising committee for a Centre Pipe Band Contest in the 1970s.

In 1975 I worked at the new Tamatea Intermediate School as Library Assistant and the following year I joined Tamatea Primary School as Library Assistant and "Office Lady" and was there until 1989.

During that time I was secretary of a number of organisations including Onekawa Primary School Committee, Westshore Sea Scouts, Napier Boys' High School Parents League, St Stephens Church, and was a member of Tamatea Toastmasters.

During 1975-1990 I was involved in ESPA – the organization affiliated to the NZEI and representing Support Staff in Primary and Secondary schools at local and national level, becoming National President 1989-1990.

As a result of an initiative of Parents' League, a second hand uniform room was established which I manned for several years before joining the staff. I continued to run the room which grew into quite a large operation including hire blazers and "number ones" until I retired. Many old boys, especially boarders, will recall being fitted out for special occasions or finding themselves unable to fit into their uniform (or destroying it playing bullrush) and seeking urgent help!

I joined the Napier Boys' High School staff in Term 2 1989 as Assistant Co-coordinator of Community Education (evening



*Judith Craigie*

classes), and also worked in the library and office for several hours each day. At the end of the year I married Neil and became Mrs. Craigie. In October 1991 my office was burnt down in the Polson Block fire and I moved around the school to various temporary offices until the rebuild of the office block. I resigned as Community Education Co-coordinator in August 2007 after eighteen years but remained part time in other positions until March 2009 when I finally retired.

I have had a close relationship with NBHS for most of my life with all of the male members of my family having been students – my father Keith Low 1927-1929; uncles James (Jim) Kerr 1936-1938; Richard (Dick) Kerr 1944-1949 (Head Prefect 1949); my sons Andrew Mansfield 1983-1986 and Murray Mansfield 1985-1989; their father Ian Mansfield 1950-1952. Murray and his father Ian were both very active members of the NBHS Pipe Band and Ian was the pipe band tutor for a number of years.

Andrew now lives in Wellington, is an instrument technician and is very involved as a volunteer firefighter, and Murray lives in Palmerston North and is now working in real estate after many years as an engineer in the RNZAF. He remains a reservist and is an official piper for the Defence Force.

In the 1990s I joined CLASS, the organization representing Community Education staff in secondary schools, becoming a member of their National Executive and a Support Person at local level.

In 1992 the inaugural Meeting of the Napier Boys' High School Association was organised by Peter Gavin and I was appointed Secretary and remained so for 28 years, until early this year. The first two issues of Columns were produced outside the school in 1993 and I produced all subsequent issues up until 2018 – the last 11 years with Chris Geddis as Editor.

1997 was the 125th jubilee of the school and, as part of the organising committee I was included in, obtaining contact details of old boys. There was no official record of old boys of the school and from that time until the present day I have built a database of all old boys, staff and board members totaling over twenty-seven thousand entries. In 1999 we held our first year group reunion and thereafter every two years I was organiser of eleven, along with the invaluable assistance of Bruce Smith, my last one 2017.

I was a homestay mum for Al and George, two Thai NBHS overseas students in the 1990s and Neil and I have had a number of visits to them and their families in Thailand and remain in close contact. I also worked with three headmasters, Bruce Davie, Mark Hensman and Ross Brown, and then with Matt Bertram on the Association.

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Neil and I moved from Napier to Waipatiki Beach in 1995 after both of us having had family bachs there since the 1950s and we commuted to work in Napier for many years. We were both involved in the Waipatiki community, Neil as a ranger for the Hastings District Council and both of us on the local committee.

After several years of trying to relinquish my position as secretary after retiring from NBHS in 2009 I finally escaped, aged 76, in June 2020 when we moved to Feilding to be closer to family. I am still working on the database, keeping it up to date and identifying all WW1 and WW2 old boys with Phillip Rankin and keeping a note of any old boys who have passed away. I am almost halfway there and hopefully will keep working on this until it is finished.

I have enjoyed my almost thirty years' time on the NBHS Association committee and have met a lot of old boys and worked with some amazing people over that time. In particular I must thank archivist Phillip Rankin who has a prodigious knowledge of the school and its history and chairman Kevin Callinicos for his help and support. I will miss the personal contact with the school, and especially Jayne White, but in this day and age we are only an email away and hopefully will be able to stay in contact for many years to come.

*Judith Craigie*

## NBHS rugby side regains banner

Regular fullback Afa Moleli displayed his class at first five-eighth as Napier Boys' High School's 1st XV rugby side won the Polson Banner in Napier on August 27 2020.

"Afa sparked it up. He has played some rugby at 10 in his younger days and he was able to challenge the line and make good decisions," NBHS assistant coach Dave Russell said as he reflected on the Sky Blues 50-21 victory over Palmerston North Boys' High School in the televised Super 8 5th round fixture at McLean Park.

It was a record winning score for the hosts in the 116th edition of the annual battle for one of the oldest secondary school rugby trophies in New Zealand. It was first played for in 1907 but results were back dated to 1904 to account for all fixtures between the two schools.

"The whole team played well and the boys were chuffed. They enjoyed the hard and fast track at McLean Park where there was a bit more space than they are used to," Russell explained. "The forwards took it to them in the first half and in the second half the backs ignited," Russell said.

Like Moleli, winger Ethyn Martin, scored two outstanding tries. Fellow winger Bethel Malasia, in-form prop Mitch Curran, flanker Lochi Mead and fullback Jayden Stok scored the other tries. Moleli kicked four conversions and fellow inside back Carlos Kemp the other.

Stok is more familiar at centre or on the wing but he impressed with his distribution in the fullback role. Along with Curran, Year 11 lock Gus Brown, was inspirational in the Napier pack. Brown's father, former Magpies midfield back Hugh Brown, was watching his son live for the first time this season after completing isolation commitments following a return from overseas.

Centre Lafo Takiari-Ah Ching was outstanding for the Palmy team which trailed 19-7 at halftime. Winger Tavita Henare-Schuster and tighthead prop Feleti Sae-Ta'ufu'ou also had memorable shifts for the visitors who took the banner off the Sky Blues last year.

*Shane Hurdell*



*Captain Will Robinson with Polson Banner*



*NBHS 1st XV 2020 with Polson Banner*



*Moascar Cup NBHS after Win over Hastings*

## Moascar Cup Win to NBHS

It was the captain's day as Napier Boys' High School regained the national secondary school rugby challenge trophy the Moascar Cup and also the Ebbett Challenge Trophy with a 15-10 win in the annual Hawke's Bay derby against Hastings Boys High School in Hastings on 1 August 2020.

Napier skipper and hooker Will Robinson, who is back in 2020 after a knee reconstruction last season, scored the match-winning try, with more than 20 minutes still to go in the half. It was a proud moment noted by NBHS and former Hawke's Bay Magpies coach Brendon Ratcliffe and former long-term Napier first fifteen coach Del Whyte, a teacher at Hawke's Bay's biggest school for more than 37 years.

Not many of their players get to play for the Moascar Cup, regarded as the Ranfurly Shield of schools rugby.

Whyte, who coached Napier Boys' to a national Top 4 win in 2002 and a Moascar Cup triumph the following season, says: "We hardly ever see the Cup anymore."

Essentially, it's tied-up mainly in the traditional annual matches of the holder, such as Auckland where it was threatening to find a permanent home, or in the national Top Four playoffs.

Napier held it two years ago, when they beat Christchurch Boys in the semifinal, only to lose it two days later when beaten 31-28 by Auckland school St Peter's College, while Hastings got their mitts on it in the last game of last season, with a 27-14 win over King's College, the third Auckland school to have held the cup in a year.

It's the centenary year of the cup which was once almost permanently in the region, for from 1927 to 1950 only Te Aute College and Palmerston North Boys High School ever held the trophy. In the last decade it had spent lengthy periods in Auckland and the South Island.

The Napier-Hastings match each year is a biggie on the Hawke's Bay sports calendar, with as many as 5000 having at times graced the side lines, in a sea of colour and rivalry, once or twice including a blue goat, and a chainsaw.

On Saturday though, the crowd was less than 2000 and largely free of the pageantry and crowd engagement of many of the past tussles.

The conditions at Hastings Boys High School on Saturday were ideal - fine weather, a breeze/wind from the north eastern end of the school block and the digital-display scoreboard, firm ground and bare trees on the railway side of the field.

Napier were up 10-3 at halftime after a first half with the wind. First-five Carlos Kemp had kicked an early penalty, and with about 8 minutes to go in the first half put the visiting team up 10-0 with the conversion of the first try, scored in a well-executed move in which Kemp passed infield to centre and third-year first fifteen player Jayden Stok, who gathered the bounce and ran in under the posts.

Hastings replied with a rare first-half insurgence into opposition territory to claim a late penalty goal, kicked by their first-five, Hoera Stephenson, and then levelled the scores 10-all about seven minutes after halftime with a try to hooker Jacob Dorward.

The impetus for the decider came from Hastings' misfielding of the kick-off.

Napier regathered and for five minutes sustained possession before a well-placed kick from second five-eighths Tipene Maxwell, a forward drive led by Ennor, and the final charge by the captain.

"We held it in the back, and let it go," said Will Robinson, a 17-year-old five-days-a-week boarder, a prefect, and a school Senior A canoe polo team member who also has among his kit a Hawke's Bay schools novice shearing title.

Like most in the game, he had family along, including Mum and Dad Andrea and John up from the beef and sheep farm near Dannevirke.

John is a former pupil of Napier Boys', as was his father.

For Hastings, it was an understandable disappointment, the Covid-19 having robbed them of their chance to play a second World Invitation schools tournament in Japan, and a chance to defend the Top Four title this year amid the cancellation of that championship for 2020.

Hastings manager Jason Bird said "We certainly had our chances, but Napier deserve the win".

For Napier's Ratcliffe and his coaching/management Dave Russell and Hugh Henderson., a win's a win.

"It doesn't get much uglier, we had to grind away," says Ratcliffe, reflecting on the game itself. "These are epic contests. That's a group of young men of substance. It doesn't get much more beautiful than that."

Turning to the result, he says: "It doesn't get prettier", or more beautiful."

Result: Moascar Cup, at Hastings: Napier Boys High School (challengers) 15 (Jayden Stok, Will Robinson tries; Carlos Kemp pen, con) beat Hastings Boys High School (holders) 10 (Jacob Dorward try; Hoera Stephenson pen, con). Halftime: Napier 10, Hastings 3.

*HB TODAY*

# NBHS 1st XV rugby lads retain, then lose Moascar Cup

Napier Boys' High School 1st XV rugby fullback Afa Moleli had every right to be sporting one of the biggest grins after his side retained the Moascar Cup in Napier on 8 August 2020. Year 12 student Moleli had an outstanding game during the Sky Blues 22-10 victory over Tauranga Boys College in their Super 8 third round clash. He scored a cracker of an individual try with a clever kick and chase move to give the hosts a 12-5 lead 25 minutes into the second half. He also impressed with his defensive reads and communication throughout the match.

"It means a lot to retain the Moascar Cup. In 2018 the school only had it for 48 hours ... now we've had it for more than a week," Moleli explained while pointing to the cup which is the Ranfurly Shield of New Zealand secondary schools rugby. He is confident his team can maintain their unbeaten Super 8 run when they travel to take on defending champions Hamilton Boys' High School next week.

"As long as we stick to our No 1 priority which is composure we will be right," Moleli added.

Playing with the wind behind them the hosts established a 17-5 halftime lead today. Winger Ethyn Martin scored the first try in the 12th minute after superb work from in-form second five-

eighth Tipene Maxwell.

First five-eighth Carlos Kemp converted from wide out. Tauranga replied with a run-away try to hooker Jay-Reeve Mose three minutes later. Kemp converted Moleli's try and a 30th minute penalty to complete the scoring in the first spell.

Tauranga closed the gap with a try to busy lock Curtis Palmer early in the second half. Inspirational NBHS prop Mitchell Curran celebrated his 50th match for the hosts with the final try 25 minutes into the half.

Once again the hosts, who had no passengers, were rewarded for their ability to hang tough and maintain their composure.

Kemp's goal kicking and directional play was spot on in the tricky wind while the host pack functioned well.

Mose, Palmer and No 8 Ethan Gardiner were prominent in the Tauranga pack. Second five-eighth Matthew Stewart was the pick of the Tauranga backs.

The visitors were guilty of spilling too much ball which was a tribute to the tenacious defence from the hosts.

Scorers:

Napier Boys' High School 22 (Ethyn Martin, Afa Moleli, Mitchell Curran tries; Carlos Kemp 2 cons, pen), Tauranga Boys' College 10 (Jay-Reeve Mose, Curtis Palmer tries). HT: 17-5.

*Shane Hurndell HBAPP*

Footnote:

A big second half fightback was not quite enough for the Napier Boys' High School first XV as they ended a short Moascar Cup rugby reign when beaten 25-22 by challengers Rotorua BHS in Napier, on 22 August 2020. It was just Napier's second defence since beating Hastings Boys' High School in a challenge a month ago. Rotorua has been consistently one of New Zealand's top rugby schools over the last 25 years, with national schools championship final wins in 1998, 2002, 2003 and 2015. But its last successful Moascar Cup challenge was against Napier in that 2003 final in Christchurch. The cup headed back to Hawke's Bay again on the Hastings BHS bus the following July.

## With the NZ Parliamentary Election over for 2020, it is interesting to note the number of Napier Boys' High School Old Boys that were/are Members of Parliament

- **Edward Luttrell (Ted) Cullen**, MM, (1895-1963) Labour MP for Hawke's Bay (1938-45) Cabinet Minister Agriculture) NBHS (1909-1911)
- **Cyril Geoffrey Edmund Harker** (1899-1970), National MP for Waipawa (1940-46) and Hawke's Bay (1946-1963) NBHS (1903-1905)
- **Sydney Ionoval Jones** (1894-1982), National MP for Hastings (1949-1954) NBHS (1909-1910)
- **James Gladstone (Jim) Edwards** (1927-2010) Labour MP Napier (1954-1966) NBHS (1940-1944) Board (1957-1966)
- **Christopher James (Chris) Tremain** (born 1966), MP for Napier and Cabinet Minister (2005-2014) NBHS (1980-1984)
- **Stuart Alexander Nash** (born 1967) List MP Labour (2008-2011) Labour MP for Napier (2014 - Present) and Cabinet Minister (2017 - Present) NBHS (1981-1985)
- **Clayton Robert Henry Mitchell** (born 1972) List MP NZ First from (2014-2020) NBHS (1989 Form 6)



*Edward Luttrell (Ted) Cullen MM*

# Napier Civic Awards recipients announced

4 Citizens of Napier have been awarded Napier Citizens' Civic Awards

The late Michelle (Minnie) Ratima has received a posthumous award for her tireless devotion to her community in this year's Napier Citizens' Civic Awards. The Maraenui community worker, who died in August 2020 after a lengthy battle with a terminal illness, was recognised alongside Margaret Atkins, a singing teacher; June Graham, an environmental advocate and Gary Macdonald, a rugby administrator. The award ceremony, which was held on Wednesday November 4 2020 at the Napier War Memorial Centre, took place before an audience of family, friends and colleagues, and was hosted by Napier Mayor Kirsten Wise. Introduced in 1977 the Awards were established to annually recognise those who have made outstanding contributions to the Napier community.

All the recipients have volunteered in a variety of ways over many years, for many different organisations and causes.

Gary Jonathan Macdonald (NBHS 1962-67) has provided a lifelong service to rugby in Napier for his club, sub-union and Hawke's Bay. Gary was a loyal stalwart of firstly the Napier Old Boys and then latterly of the Napier Old Boys Marist Rugby Clubs. Being a former President and Life Member of the club. Currently HB Rugby Union Club Development Officer/ Manager of Club Rugby.

*HB Today*



*Gary Macdonald  
Civic Award*



*New Armour Block East Side*



*NBHS Assn Committee in Hi Vis about to inspect new Armour Block*

# 1919 – What might have been!

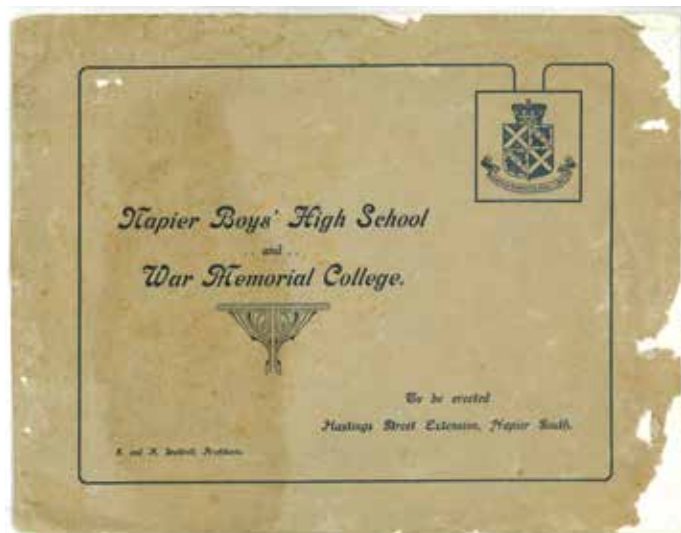
The wooden classrooms of the original school on the hill had long been thought inadequate for the growing roll and the rising reputation of the school. Many discussions had been held on a new site for a new school, one that would include adequate sports fields so that teams would no longer have to trek down to the Recreation Grounds for practices and games. Nelson Park was proposed and rejected because of its proximity to the expanding town.

Old Boys serving in the trenches of Europe and across the sands of the Middle East read their Scindians and wrote asking for progress reports on the "the New School".

Finally, a site was secured, 25 acres just outside the borough (which ran to Ellison Street) on what was known as Hastings Street Extension (McGrath Street and Te Awa Avenue). It was bordered on the western side by the Tutaekuri River (now the Green Belt and Chambers Street) and on the east by the road, railway line and then the sea. The buildings would be on this boundary, accessible by rail, reached by a proposed tramway extension – 120 yards away was the Pacific surf!

In 1919 with the Great War ended, the influenza pandemic on the wane and parliament passing the High School Empowering Bill hopes for action at last were high.

The Scindian of April 1919 carried encouraging news – and a radical proposal. The Board of Governors had commissioned the Christchurch architects, Luttrell Bros, to prepare plans. The resulting sketches and site layout were published in a booklet for interested parties. The cost of the three imposing brick structures was a staggering £40,000, to be provided, it was hoped, by a government grant, a Council contribution and public subscription (with an additional government subsidy). The school block would consist of nine classrooms, an upper and lower junior school, three laboratories, a masters' Common Room, accommodation for prefects, caretaker and Headmaster's office, storerooms and extras like "a balance and optical room" and darkroom. Central to the plan was an Assembly Hall. Beyond this block was a quadrangle to open to the north and bound on the other sides by an agricultural implement shed, woodwork shop, a shelter shed and gymnasium. Rising in the southern corner of the main block was a two storied tower containing a geography room, museum and art room. To the north was a clock tower.



The central building was the Boarding House; the top floor containing seven "spacious and lofty dormitories each containing ten beds", each with a master's or prefect's bedroom, a plunge bathroom and shower bathroom. A front balcony would serve as a fire escape. Below were a reception room, studies, house library, matron's room, sewing and music rooms. The left wing housed the sick room, convalescent room and nurse's quarters. The right wing was the Headmaster's residence. A covered way would connect this building with the third, the dining block with upstairs accommodation for the domestic staff.

With the new facilities was to be a change of name! It was proposed to be known as the "Napier War Memorial College". The Assembly Hall would contain "tablets giving the names of all the men who left Hawke's Bay for the Front and that coloured glass windows and other memorials should be put up in honour of those who have fallen in the War". It was not just the Old Boys who would be commemorated, and the Board of Governors hoped this would be a "selling point" to the City Council and wider community. In this they were supported by local newspapers. The Hawke's Bay Herald in a lead article stated, "There could be no more fitting memorial to the part this district has played in the war than a fine schoolhouse round which the traditions of a great school might gather".

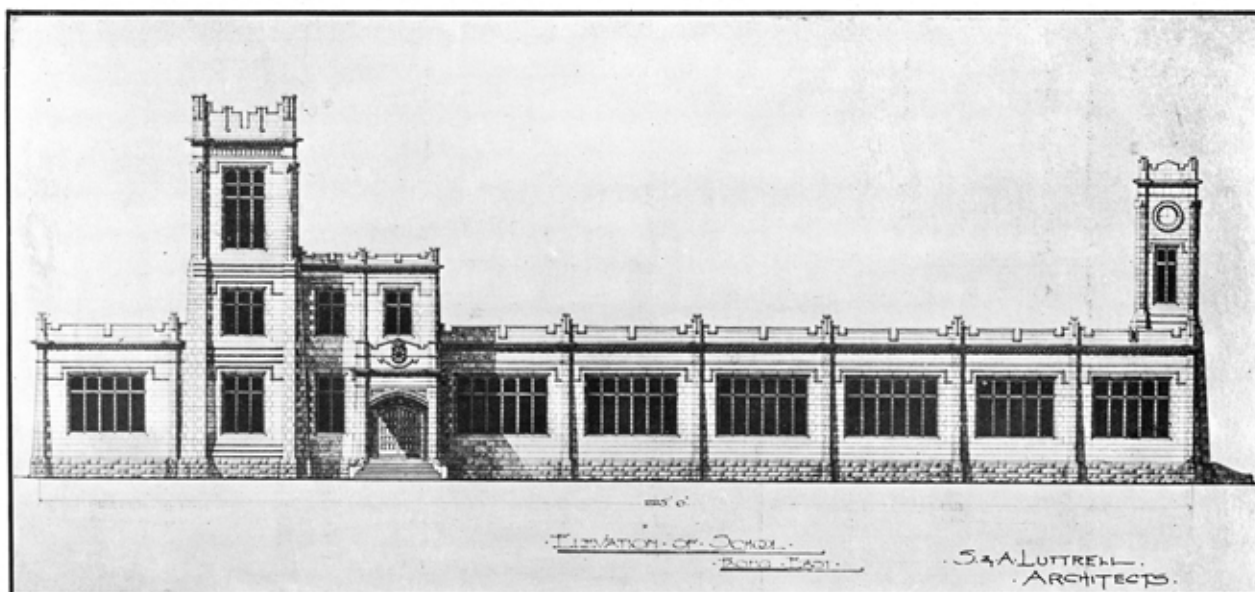
In November 1919 Scindian, Governor of the School and Old Boy James Isaac Cato (1873 – 81) launched the public appeal with the hope that the school could celebrate its Jubilee in 1921 "in the new buildings erected on a spacious new site". To him the linking of his school to a memorial was logical:

The College is to be built as a Memorial to the men who served

*Continued on page 11*



No. 6. BOARDING HOUSE.



No. 3. ELEVATION OF SCHOOL, EAST FRONT.

*Continued from page 10*

and died in the Great War, and what better Memorial could be erected to their memory? In the training of boys' minds and bodies, will not the souls of the dead rejoice for evermore? Is it not on playgrounds that our battles have been won and lost? Is it not due to the British School methods of training boys' minds and bodies that England at this day holds the proud position of being the noblest nation in the world?

He hoped to raise £20,000 (estimating the cost to be £80,000) and the editors of the Scindian thought the Old Boys' could contribute £5,000, the cost of the Assembly hall. And there it lapsed; the new school would not open until 1926, lacking many of the proposed facilities, most of its ornamentation and without the name change.

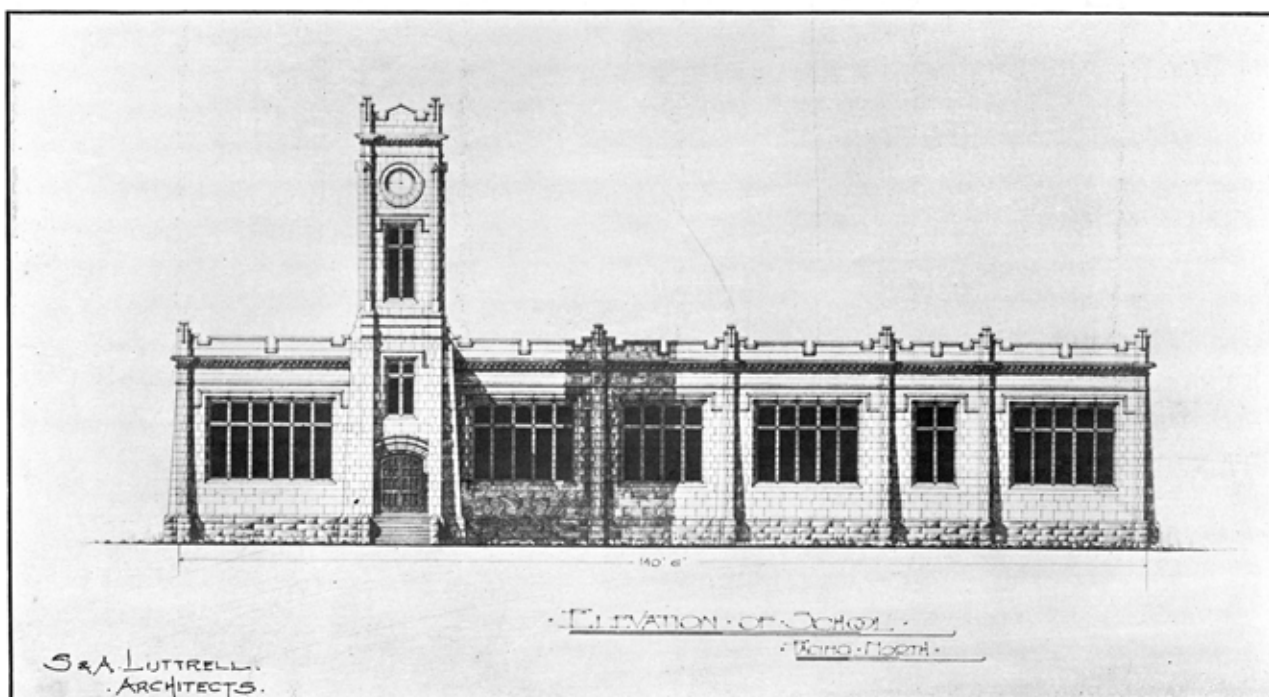
It is interesting to wonder how such a structure, if built to the 1919 plan, would have fared in the '31 Quake. The two towers

would surely have fallen, fatalities would have been likely. The Boarding House, nearest to the original was so damaged it had to be demolished, and of course, the Assembly Hall, without its memorials, was completely destroyed.

And now, one hundred years later, Council and community are locked in debate over the restoration of the War Memorial Hall and updating of the town's Roll of Honour.

An aside. At the 125th Jubilee our Headmaster was button-holed by an Old Boy from England. He complained that he was embarrassed to tell his British friends that he had attended a "High School" claiming instead "Napier Collegiate" – and why didn't the school adopt that name? Would he have been proud to be educated at the Napier War Memorial College?

*Phillip Rankin, Archivist*



No. 4. ELEVATION OF SCHOOL, NORTH FRONT.

# Obituaries

## Obituary:

**Rev Robert (Bob) Aylton Foster M.A.**  
6 July 1924 to 16 August 2020. (NBHS 1937-1942)

Rev Bob Foster (Central Hawke's Bay College Principal 1970 – 1982) has died aged 95 at Princess Alexandra Retirement Village, Ahuriri, in Napier. Bob Foster was born in Auckland, the son of William and Elma Foster. In 1928 William was appointed principal of Napier Boys' High School and the family moved to Napier when Bob was 4. He attended Te Awa School, Napier Intermediate and Napier Boys' High School - and from there into the army. He always wanted to be a teacher, and after training college and some war service in New Zealand. He was remarkably successful – one of his cricket XI became an All Black, and a Latin pupil became a professor of chemistry. Later he went on to Training College and study at Victoria University. He moved about various schools adding extramural study to finish his BA. These included Marlborough College, he was briefly a relieving teacher of English and Latin at Feilding Agricultural College in 1947, Taumarunui, then after an early stint as a boarding housemaster at Wanganui Collegiate, he joined the staff of the Waipawa District High School in 1953 teaching English and French, and coaching rugby and cricket. He then spent a year at Colenso High School in Napier, then on to Central Hawke's Bay College in 1960 as head of English and French until 1962. At the college he met and married Jennifer Wohlers, who was also on the staff in January 1961.

Bob and Jenny went to Auckland in 1962 where he was appointed HOD English and Languages at Avondale College, and where he completed his MA part-time, before going to Gore High School as deputy principal in 1966. His love of history saw him write a centennial history of the high school.

In February 1970 they returned to Waipukurau for Bob to become the second principal of Central Hawke's Bay College, where he served for 13 years during a time when old values were being questioned and youth was encouraged to take a more active and vocal interest in the future.

Bob promoted cricket and several students became recognised players. Bob was a remarkably competent classical pianist and frequently gave those students who had some understanding of music much pleasure. Bob gave at least one recital in Napier Art Gallery and Museum.

Many pupils and fellow staff have high praise for Bob as a teacher of languages. He encouraged a love of learning amongst his pupils and was intent that the 3Rs were maintained during times of curriculum growth and change.

Growing up in a boarding school meant that much time was spent on sport and Bob grew up loving cricket and rugby. He passed on his passion as he coached these sports at his various schools and many have high praise for his coaching.

He enjoyed leading a happy and busy school. Bob thought that the chief joys of being a principal were the chances to be useful to people, and to create a school climate conducive to bringing out the best in everybody. His championing and love of music was honoured by the college when the new music suite was named after him in 1984. While Central Hawke's Bay College has a music Suite named in his honour. His father William (Bill) Foster was Headmaster at Napier Boy's High School 1928-1951 and he has a Block at NBHS named after him and also a street, Foster Terrace in Onekawa South in his name. At 58, and with a successful 40-year career in education behind him, Bob changed tack. After 40 years' service in education, Bob Foster resigned from Central Hawke's Bay College in 1982 as principal and he and Jenny moved to Napier. But far from retiring, instead he responded to promptings he could not ignore and in 1983 enrolled at Knox Theological College to train as a minister of the Presbyterian Church. Bob was ordained a minister for Port

Ahuriri-Putorino at the Knox Church, Ahuriri on 29.3.1984 served in this semi-rural parish for the next seven years, he was Minister Emeritus 31.12.1991. He was a much admired and respected member of the church as well as the wider community who he served faithfully.

During before and after his missionary, Bob was always looking at



*Rev Bob Foster*

ways he could improve his church and community and admitted in a written quote that he was in love, like many of his parishioners with his suburb of Port Ahuriri. Bob Foster "The Port had a character. History hung around the place"

Bob moved to the Port, and was taken by the unique character and people of the Port. Later, with the Presbyterian Ministry, he requested and received a posting to the Port Ahuriri Knox Church, where he spent many years amongst the Port community. He found it hard to put into words, but always felt there was something different about the area, which was confirmed in the years when he ministered among the people.

Not only was Bob a visionary he appreciated the past history of his parish and what could be learnt from it, after his ministry ended in 1991 he started researching this history and wrote a book to celebrate Centenary of Knox Church, Ahuriri, Napier, June 1896 -June 1996 : "100 not out ": Ahuriri-Putorino Presbyterian Parish, 1896-1996.

He was widely known as a scholar and a gentleman, and is remembered as being kind, dedicated, interested in people and the deliverer of thoughtful and encouraging sermons. Bob took an active part in the work of the HB presbytery and gave support to other parishes. He became president of the Napier Memorial Technical Band.

At the same time Bob's interests found a home as a member of the Iona College Council. He served on the council for 23 years and as chairman 1991-95. His educational experience and management skills were highly valued as the college negotiated the process of state Integration in the late 1980s. He was an enthusiastic and much-loved supporter of the Iona community.

On Bob's 95th birthday in July 2019, The Head Boy, Matthew Jensen and Head Girl, Anna Douglas from Central Hawke's Bay College, visited Bob at his rest home and gave him a small gift from CHB College.

Bob is survived by wife, Jenny, children, Mary, Bill and Vivienne, and granddaughters Jane, Helen and Grace.

*Chris Geddis/Knox Church Ahuriri/CHB College/HB Today*



*Bob Foster on 95th Birthday July 2019 with Head Boy and Girl of CHB College*

## Obituary: Craig Kenneth Ennor NBHS (1955-1958)

CRAIG ENNOR R.I.P. (3rd July 2020)

It is always sad saying goodbye to our bowling friends. These bowling buddies have been both friend and foe on the bowling green, we have socialised together in the club rooms and rubbed shoulders in the local supermarket. Sadly when they pass they leave a very big void.

Although Craig had not bowled for a few seasons his commitment to Bowls Taradale and interest in everything related to our

members never diminished. Craig was a former Club Captain and committee man and the stunning trophy he and Wilma presented to our club is tribute to his dedication to and love for Bowls Taradale.

During his active years Craig took part in most rollups and, dare I say it, if you delivered a wrong bias he had his own way of letting anyone within a 4km radius know what you had done. He possessed a clear speaking voice, he loved telling stories and enjoyed the company of others. Those who met regularly at the Mother Club for a regular afternoon social occasion will sorely miss him, as will all of us.

One of his passions was trout fishing. We had just had a big downpour of rain and Craig was in the mood to make fun of the conditions. Craig turned up in his waders and fishing gear to bowl. Rest in peace, Craig. As Craig wrote in a club newsletter member profile in November 2010:

Born (not created) 1941 in Napier. Lived my whole formative years at Westshore. An amazing place for a young lad to grow up. Spent untold hours on the beach following my lifelong passion for the sea and the pursuit of its inhabitants. Supposedly educated at Westshore School, Napier Intermediate



*Craig Ennor*

and Napier Boys High. Left school at the end of 1958, theoretically to go and work on a farm for the school holidays, but "forgot" to go back for my 6th form year. Spent the next few years as a single shepherd on relatively big properties before getting married to the "Duchess" in 1964 where I worked as a shepherd on the Lagoon Farm at Westshore, before taking on a farm manager's position at the back of Takapau/Norsewood. Spent nearly 10 great years there before the owner's sons returned home necessitating me to move. Farming was heading in to a major downturn which, in a nutshell, forced us, now with two children, to move back to Napier where I started a new career in the wool scouring trade. This occupation lasted for 10 years involving a shift to Wellington. We moved to Hamilton in 1985 to embark on a new venture in the tourism arena, however this saw me made redundant in 1987 and after several months of being told I was "too old" to be employable, at the grand old age of 46, I might add, I finally went into the insurance field. This career move worked very well for me until in 1995 when family circumstances necessitated a move back to Napier. It had always been our intention to return "home" to Napier anyway, but was just forced on us about 5 years earlier than planned. I officially retired in 2001 and still regard Hawkes Bay as a wonderful region and am extremely grateful for the friends and fellowship I still enjoy.

*Bowls Taradale*

Craig was a special guy with a keen sense of humour and a unique sense of fun. We were in the same form at Napier Boys' High School and I'll never forget one very hot lunch hour, which was in mid-summer and 'stinking hot'. Craig appearing in his khaki "sandpaper suit" army gear complete with a rifle and fixed bayonet, he paraded and marched up and down the quad. He presented arms, and declared he was "there to protect us from the enemy in case we got invaded", much to the entertainment of the boys. I have my suspicions about who gave him access to the armoury, but my lips are sealed.



*Craig Ennor*

*Murray Smith (NBHS F4 1955-1958) of Tauranga*

## Last Roll Call

The following Old Boys and former Board member passed away recently:

BARDELL, Richard Frederick – 1954-1956

BIRRELL, William Ross (Bill) – 1949-1952

BRIAN, Peter Norman – 1969-1973

COWLEY, Graham Mitchell (Board Member) – 1982-1984

CRAWFORD, Barry Stanley – 1966-1968

CRAIG, David James – 1966-1970

CREAGH, Benjamin Bousfield – 1944-1946

DICKSON, Graeme Roger – 1996 F6-1997

DOWRICK, Stephan Anthony – 1964-1965

DREW, Ian William – 1947-1949

FOSTER, Robert Ayton (Bob) (Rev) – 1937-1942

GORDON, Alan Grant (Joe) - 1951

HALAS, John William – 1975-1977

HAMILTON, Robert William – 1943-1944

HOLT, Gary Clinton - 1952

ISABETH, Michael Kevin – 1977

KELLS, Robert William - 1966

KITT, Malcolm John – 1968-1969

McKENZIE, Andrew John Murray – 1942-1944

McLAY, Alistair William – 1946-1948

McLEAN, Donald James – 1953

MORRISON, Austin Derek (Morrie) - 1942

O'KEEFE, Kevin Joseph – 1957-1958

PAINTER, David Bryan John – 1955-1956

RIGBY, Mervyn Francis – 1955-1956

ROBOTTOM, William Arthur (Bill) – 1956-1959

STODDART, George Hunter – 1946-1947

TASKER, Timothy John – 1947-1950

WARWICK, Kerry Richard – 1958-1959

WILSON, Denis – 1950-1951

"Columns" expresses sincere condolences to the families of these Old Boys & Board Member

*Chris Geddis*

### Obituary: Senior Sergeant (Retired) David Bryan John Painter, BEM (Gall) QSM. 7 July 1941 - 3 November 2020

One of the Heroes of the 1964 Khandallah (Wellington) Tunnel tragedy has died.

An Old Boy of Napier Boys' High School, Senior Sergeant (Retired) David Bryan John Painter BEM (Gall) and QSM, (NBHS 1955-56) has passed away at Hutt Hospital on November 3 2020, aged 79.

On the evening 14 June 1964, Wellington's emergency services were alerted to three young boys trapped inside a Khandallah utilities tunnel. They were doing what young boys do, adventuring, when they entered the stretch of the tunnel that runs between Maldivie St and Madras St in Khandallah. The tunnel was filled with pockets of gas, some of which were later identified as methane. Quickly overcome, the boys' adventure had become life threatening. Time was of the essence. The rescue was made both difficult and treacherous by the tunnel's small entrance and crawl space and a large water pipe with couplings that ran along its middle. Progress was so difficult that it took firemen in respirators approximately half an hour to negotiate the first 457 metres of the tunnel. What no-one then knew was that a nearby coal gas pipe was leaking carbon monoxide into the water tunnel. The gas was odourless, colourless, and deadly. Between 5 and 6pm that night, Warren Voss was asked by his mother to find his brother. He went to the tunnel entrance and heard cries. "He went into the tunnel but could not see anything," The Dominion reported. Others tried and police were soon at the scene. A police officer went in and found one boy, about 200 metres in. "Constable Painter staggered and collapsed as he was helped to fresh air." Other helpers collapsed inside the tunnel. Constables Dave Painter and Terence Mortensen, (NBHS 1958-61) had not hesitated to enter the tunnel in the hope of rescuing the children. Due to the efforts of the two constables, one child, Peter Ryan aged 13, was saved from certain death. Both Painter and Mortensen collapsed as a result of being exposed to the gas and were admitted to hospital after inhaling the toxic fumes from the tunnel.

Two boys, Lance Richard Voss aged 13 and Wayne Niven, 14, and an ambulance officer, Sydney Barlow, 52, were killed in this tragic accident. Barlow had served for 21 years and was the first New Zealand ambulance officer to die on active duty. For their heroism, both Painter and Mortensen were awarded the British Empire Medal BEM (Gall) in the civil division for gallantry



*David Painter*

in the 1965 Queen's Birthday Honours. "In recognition of his great courage and tenacious devotion to duty during rescue operations at a tunnel at Khandallah on the evening of Sunday the 14th day of June 1964." Syd Barlow, would posthumously join a handful of people to receive a Queen's commendation for brave conduct in the 1965 Queen's Birthday Honours. Of the fire, ambulance, police, and members of the public, Barlow and the two children were, remarkably, the only ones to die. David Painter was awarded a QSM in the 1998 New Year Honours List, "For Public Service in the NZ Police."

*Chris Geddis*

**NAPIER BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL**

**150<sup>th</sup>**

**QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY 2022**