



Napier Boys' High School Association COLUMNS

VOLUME THIRTY ISSUE ONE

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Editorial

Reunions are a fantastic way to celebrate with your fellow former students or team members, reconnecting you with old friends and together, celebrating life's successes.

While social media has connected the world effortlessly, there's nothing quite like a celebration with friends in person and an opportunity to reconnect and reminisce with familiar faces from your school days.

Reunions are highly encouraged in today's digital world and holding a reunion can enable you to reunite former students who may have lost touch with one another, or simply reunite those who have managed to stay in touch over the years and reconnect them with their old school.

I must be getting old, when I can tell you that I attended the Napier Boy's High School 100 year Reunion in 1972, the 125 year Reunion in 1997 plus attended and organised at least two 4 and 5 Year Group Reunions, the 40th Anniversary Reunion of the 1969 First Fifteen and Australian Tour Team in 2009 and also the 50th Anniversary Reunion of that same team in 2019, plus helped the 1961 "Dream Team" First Fifteen, organise 58th Anniversary Reunion of that Team in 2019, and now attending the 150th Napier Boys' High School Reunion 2022.

For the record 1151 Napier Boys' High School, Old Boys and 38 Past or Present Staff registered for the Centenary Reunion in 1972.

The 150th Reunion Celebration of Napier Boys' High, has been a difficult one for the School Reunion Organising Committee. The event was nearly not able to take place under the "Red Light" setting, until that changed with an announcement from the Government on 13 April 2022, when Covid-19 Response Minister Chris Hipkins confirmed the entire country would drop from red to the orange traffic light setting from 11.59pm on 13 April 2022. Covid-19 has had a severe impact on attendance, with Old Boys hesitant to travel and to attend large events even under the Orange "Traffic Light" setting. The organising committee has done a fantastic job to get this reunion over the line and should be applauded for keeping the faith, that, the 150th celebration would happen in 2022.

But not all old boys of the school have had a willingness to take part in a celebration that brought back bad memories to them of their time at Napier Boys' High School. It used to be said that your school days were "The best days of your life". Unfortunately for some this did not ring true.

A former classmate of mine emailed me about the reunion and said: "Sorry Mate, but those days at NBHS were the WORST DAYS of my schooling. I went there after a couple of great

happy years at Napier Intermediate, and was from the 1st day sadly disappointed. Although I tried hard to laugh it off, this rather sensitive Fun-Loving lad, was beaten/caned everyday by teachers because I wouldn't conform to their tyranny and quite unnecessary aggression. Leaving there the day I became eligible was a great relief, my happiest high school moment. I definitely do NOT wish to revisit or honour in any way that School of mindless punishment. Thank you for contacting me though, and Best Wishes".

I went and visited my former 3rd and 4th form classmate the following week and apologised for not realising he was having and had such a bad time and has kept only bad memories of his time at High School in his memory bank. We spent a good two hours talking about our time and the friends we did make at High School and the different humorous incidents that came to memory and I feel that I left him in a better frame of mind, than I found him, although I feel he is scarred by his treatment at the caning hands of his teachers.

For the Record: The practice of corporal punishment in New Zealand's schools, was abolished by the Minister of Education in 1987, though it was not legislated against until 1990. On 23 July 1990, section 139a of the 1989 Education Act became law and corporal punishment was no longer allowed to be used by anyone employed by, supervising or in control of a school. (It was used commonly on both girls and boys). However, teachers in New Zealand schools had the right to use what the law called reasonable force to discipline students, mainly with a strap, cane or ruler, on the bottom or the hand. Teachers also used other disciplinary methods like detention, litter duty and referral to more senior staff. Some schools banned corporal punishment long before it was legally abolished. With the cane now laid to rest, the 150 year Reunion may be a time to reminisce the days when caning was discipline and a new source of yarns, legends and folklore around the practice may emerge to rekindle the good old days since the cane's use passed into history. Fortunately, I enjoyed my time at Napier Boy's High School doing the Commercial Course under the, guiding lights of Fred (Peanut) Lambert, Ted Swanney and John Turton, preparing myself for future employment in the Newspaper Industry and as an accountant. I enjoyed playing my rugby from junior grades right up and including being in the 1969 First Fifteen Rugby Team, coached by the popular Derek (Shorty) Brebner, otherwise I would not have retained such a keen interest in Napier Boys' High School over the last 53 odd years since leaving. This culminated in being invited and accepting the position of Editor of Napier Boys' High School Old Boys Newsletter "Columns" in 2009, some 13 years ago.

Chris Geddis (1964-1969) Editor "Columns" (2009-

Committee

Kevin Callinicos (Chairman)

Chris Geddis (Editor), Phillip Rankin (Archivist) Alan Day (Secretary)

Don Alexander, Trevor Atkins, Philip Berry, Ross Brown, Maurice Gunnell, Peter Kellond.

Robert Kyle, Pete McGlashan, Stephen Perfect, Geoff Pyott, Bruce Smith, Jarred Williams.

From the Headmaster

Kia ora,

During Queen's Birthday weekend we had the privilege of hosting and celebrating our school's 150th Jubilee. It is a significant milestone for a school in a country that still has a young history. Since 1872 Napier Boys' has been motivating both staff and students to aspire to the highest possible standards in achievement. Napier Boys' High School has a very proud history and a clear and unequivocal vision: to prepare young men to take their place in the world. To do right and fear nothing, Me tika, Te Mahi, Kia Mataara, Justum perficito nihil timeto.

Looking at the men that have left this institution to lead very successful lives, Napier Boys' High School can safely say we have certainly worked hard to craft fine young men. Although, having had the opportunity to meet many of our old boys, they would be better described as distinguished and refined, rather than young. We took time to acknowledge the many renowned and more well-known Old Boys from this school. Equally, we also recognise, that overwhelmingly the boys who leave this school, leave as good men. Confident, well-grounded men of integrity with a strong sense of identity, values, and character. The educational, political, and social landscape has changed vastly over 150 years. Boys' schools are not the same. For Napier Boys' High School, well-being, relationships, equity and whakawhanaungatanga are equally important as academic achievement. It is worth adding that great schools are not judged on academic criteria alone. Great schools also provide a sense of community, manakitanga, and support, so that ultimately students not only succeed in their chosen careers, but also make friends and develop as a whole person along the way. Great schools serve the community, involve manu whenua, listen, learn and evolve.

I would like to acknowledge the major sponsors for the 150th. HB Construction, Willis Legal, Fujifilm, Trio, Ka Tahī wines, Kukri and G & M Distributors. Without their support we would not have been able to put on such a quality event. Equally, the Jubilee would not have been a success without the hardworking, capable committee of Jayne White, Louisa Gannaway and Kevin Callinicos. Thank you to their partners Graham, Matt, Claire and my partner Margaret for their patience

and understanding. To our staff, many of whom spent hours volunteering their time and who also sacrificed their long holiday weekend to work behind the scenes – thank you. Additionally, to our current students who worked to serve, and gave of their time willingly, they impressed our old boys with their manners, friendliness, and goodwill. We were also blessed to have two previous Headmasters attend the Jubilee, Mr Bruce Davie (February 1977 – September 1993) and Mr Ross Brown (October 1997 – December 2015). They certainly enjoyed seeing how the school has progressed and meeting up with past students and staff.

There are several exciting developments on the drawing board for the school. We are close to completing Stage 3, the final stage, of the new Armour Block. A project started by former Headmaster Mr Ross Brown. We have just finished a refurbishment of the Library and are currently redeveloping the new canteen and uniform shop in the Polson Block. We are about to begin a \$6 million water tightening project to remediate leaky buildings. A common issue with school architecture in the 90s. With this, we will repaint the school with a palate of blue and sky blue. Finally, we are pushing the Ministry for funds to continue to develop our school site so that our boys and the community can have access to the very best learning and sport facilities for our students.

Our achievements to date are well recognised by our community and the government, and we are in great shape to tackle the next 150 years. We are very proud of our place, of our students and of who we are as a school and as a community. Our success is your success.

Ngā Mihi,

Jarred Williams, Headmaster



From the Archives

Books and 'Images' (some of us still call them photographs) are the order of this last six months.

We have purchased the long-awaited biographies of Charles Elliot Fox (1892-95), captain of the 1st XV 1895, Head Boy 1894-95 and Dux 1894, as well as the founding editor of 'The Scindian', later of the Melanesian Mission and Robert Edgar Rudman (1882-88), Athletics Champion 1888, Dux 1886 and Dux Ludorum 1888, later an important figure in education. Both men held the position of 'Fourth Master' often a senior student or pre-trainee, Ed Rudman from 1888-94 and Charles Fox in 1901.

These are the works of Robert L. Hunt who in the course of his research for the Fox book, had years of contact with the school and I received fulsome acknowledgement (even if my name was misspelt) for providing Scindian material, letters and photographs. Boarders since 1981 will have passed through Fox Block.

Rex Kerr (1954-55), later Principal of Otaki College and stalwart of secondary school rugby, has sent us two copies of his fourth book (the others are on the Otaki region) 'A ship, A Man & A Boy' - a history of the Otaki Scholarship which arose from the heroic 1st World War battle between the NZ Shipping Company armed merchantman 'SS Otaki' and the German commerce raider 'Moewe'. The captain of the 'Otaki', Archibald Bissett Smith V.C, an Old Boy of Robert Gordon's College Aberdeen, Scotland went down with his ship. The Head Boy of his college, since 1937, has toured selected New Zealand Secondary Schools. Once again I was able to contribute photographs and copies of Scindian reports of the Scholars' visits to our school. As an aside Rex and I share a Great great grandfather.

One extract from his book, a diary entry from the 16th Otaki Scholar of 1952 re his stay at Scinde House bears reprinting here: "Friday 25th July. What a night. The dorms are open air and by bad luck there was a considerable frost during the night. I was absolutely freezing. My body was OK but below that, from the hips down, had no feeling. I had to wrap my pullover around my feet to get any sleep at all".

2 A Scotsman complaining about our weather! The experience in Scinde House, and later violent sea sickness crossing Cook Strait couldn't have been too traumatic because Robin MacLachlan later returned and settled in New Zealand.

Continued on page 3

Continued from page 2

The Headmaster's P.A. tells me we will be hosting three Otaki Scholars this year as a Covid catch-up. Rex also sent us his Ashcroft Cup book prize to add to other donations made on his last visit in 2018 with Hurricanes District rugby.

Within five days, I had three visitors who were blasts from the past. The first was David Apperley, Music Master at NBHS (1978-89) (before going on to Lindisfarne). He came carrying a pile of Scindians from his years here and five framed photographs taken on our Brass and Pipe Bands trips to Wellington in 1982 and 1988, playing before parliamentarians and at Government House. Tucked away in one of the Scindians was a newspaper clipping from 1985 of the NBHS Brass Monkeys Quintet. Dave had already told me that story – the Brass Quintet was playing in a freezing Wellington Town Hall when leader Mark Oldershaw stepped forward and announced "We are the Brass Monkeys". Dave also contributed to my Napier Technical College Archive with two band ribbons, a blazer crested pocket and a photograph of the 1985 Napier Technical Memorial Band. Nineteen of its thirty members were NBHS students or Old Boys.

Next to arrive was Rachal Rogge, Denis (Ming) Revell's grand Daughter. As most of you know, Denis was a long-serving Master (1944-74). 'Mr Hockey' he also coached 1st X1 Cricket, was Squadron Leader of the ATC, author of the school's 'Centennial Historical Survey' and as Head of History, recruited a callow young student teacher on section at the end of 1971. "Have you applied for that job here lad?" "But there isn't a History one advertised" (It was "English and state other subjects") "You let us decide that!" And the rest is...well...history. Rachal also brought an armful of Scindians and framed photographs of the 1959 1st X1 Cricket, 1st X1 Hockey, 1959-61 and a class photograph of 6B Alpha 1960. Rachal and I spent two hours swapping 'Ming' stories. It was great to recall my mentor's character and career.

Last to arrive was Murray Holland (1949-54) bearing an ancient box containing a dozen glass plate negatives that had belonged to his uncle Walter Stephen Holland (1912-13). Holding them up to the light we could see that eight included boys clearly wearing our old patterned socks, caps, blazers or boaters. One group was obviously a cricket team. We shall now have to find a way to print 'images' from them. The first photographs to arrive were mounted ones of the 1954 Athletics Team and Pipe Band. No name of the donor was left, but a simple piece of detective work revealed Robert Martin Wellwood (1952-54) in each so I presume they came from a member of his family.

Our oldest photographs came from Janet Chapman, two mounted ones of the whole school arranged on the grassy bank in front of the original classroom on the Hill, and two unmounted ones of the Boarders. Cecil James Chapman was a junior boarder (1920-21). He was the first of that Wairoa dynasty. His son and Janet's late husband Rex Chapman was here (1951-53) and their sons followed. I owe Bruce Chapman (1975-79) an apology, although the mistake was not mine! In the last 'Columns' Wayne Monteith was inadvertently given the title "Head of Hostel 1979", it was of course rightfully Bruce's. (Go on, blame the Editor for having trouble reading your handwriting. Ed).

Our next artefacts came from far off Dunedin. Shirley Smillie, sister of Alan Laws (1944-48) has sent us a photograph and biographical notes (a career in dentistry and university teaching). Also included was a reference written by Headmaster Foster and a plaque bearing the school's crest. Its providence is a mystery to us, it is an earlier design and we don't remember it as amongst the souvenirs of the 100th or 125th celebrations. Perhaps the 75th in 1947? Perhaps someone can identify it for us, from the photograph shown on this page?

Phillip Rankin - Archivist.



THE Brass Monkeys quintet: From left: Grant Pitcher (baritone), Mark Oldershaw, Michael Flanagan and Wayne Messervy (cornets), and Kingsley Melhuish (tenor horn).

The school website is
www.nbhs.school.nz

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Association / Old Boys
Ties - \$27 & School Crest Cufflinks - \$25
Are available from the School

A Super job for ex-Hawke's Bay Magpie rugby ref

Dan Waenga, a former Hawke's Bay Magpies rugby player who had to give-up playing rugby because of concussion issues has picked up his first full Super Rugby match, as a referee. Dan has been a Hawke's Bay referee since 2017.

Dan Waenga, a 36-year-old former Napier Boys High School pupil (1999-2003) who became a New Zealand Under 21 representative 2005 and appeared as a Super Rugby substitute in the Waikato Chiefs backline in 2013, along with playing NPC rugby for both Hawke's Bay 30 games 2006-2008 and 2012 and 19 games for Bay of Plenty, and also played club rugby for Biarritz in France 2011-2013 was given the appointment for the 12 April 2022 catch-up match between the Hurricanes and Moana Pacifica in Wellington.

It was the second big appointment for Hawke's Bay rugby referees in a few days, with Nick Hogan, who is also general manager of Basketball Hawke's Bay having officiated at the IRB Sevens in Singapore 9 and 10 April 2022, including the Bronze Medal playoff between Australia and Ireland.

The appearances come at a time when Hawke's Bay rugby, and other grassroots rugby throughout the country, is yet again facing a season of shortages of referees.

Both Waenga and Hogan refereed in last year's New Zealand Rugby finals series, as did two other Hawke's Bay referees.

HB Today/Chris Geddis



Dan Waenga

Gareth Deihl wins Hawke's Bay's building apprentice competition

A young building apprentice has trumped more experienced competitors to scoop the Hawke's Bay New Zealand Certified Builders Apprentice Challenge 2022.

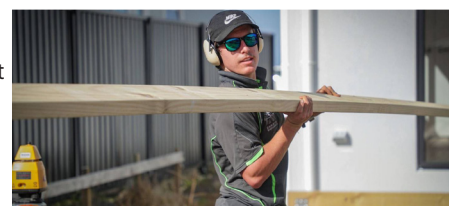
Second-year apprentice Gareth Deihl, 19, (NBHS 2016-2019) was the last of the three competitors to put tools down, but his thoroughness paid off. The challenge on April 9 2022 was to make a park bench that followed specific design plans and met minimum safety standards in eight hours or less.

The products were assessed by a panel of expert judges who looked at criteria including the quality of workmanship, measuring, cutting and assembly.

Gareth won a \$500 ITM voucher to redeem on trade tools and earned a place in the national final representing Hawke's Bay. He will compete against 19 other regional winners for the Ken Read Memorial Trophy and \$25,000 worth of prizes in Hamilton in November. He said he first found out about the competition through BCITO, the company that manages his apprenticeship with Christie Builders and Joiners. Gareth was the only competitor that was not in the final year of the

four year builder's apprenticeship and he was the last to put tools down before time was up.

"I was purely going there just for the experience and just



to see what the other guys in Hawke's Bay were capable of, and came out on the other side as the regional winner. "It was a bit of a shock to the system when they said I had won." He said he had been swinging a hammer around from a young age.

"When I got into high school I started doing woodworking and that kind of stuff. It brought out my love of making things out of timber." He has been an apprentice for about two years and has worked for Christie Builders and Joiners for about two and a half years.

Company owner Mike Christie said the company has had a couple of apprentices do well in the competition before and he had his eye on Gareth to do it since he started working with them. "He has only really just completed his second year. He was up against two guys who were in their last year, their fourth year, so he did bloody well to take it out.

"He's got a good trainer teaching him the right way and he has the enthusiasm and the drive to do well as well."

He said the national competition will be a lot more involved, with stiff competition.

"It'll be a good experience for him anyway. He'll have another couple of years left to give it another shot if he doesn't win."

The builders and their families got the first pick on whether to buy the park benches built at the competition for themselves, so Gareth's parents are keeping his bench.

HB Today



Hawke's Bay weightlifter breaking new ground

It took 40 years of training for Lance Baylis (NBHS 1969-1971) to achieve what no other had done before in the Australasian powerlifting and weightlifting circuits.

The 66-year-old, born in Napier and currently working in Western Australia, has just started competing nationally at powerlifting and weightlifting competitions.

He won his first national podium finish and gold medal during his first year of competing nationally, at the 2020 Australian Masters powerlifting competition.

"It was very special to win my first gold medal as there was many years of training that went into it," Baylis said.

His success has continued to grow across disciplines after the first title, setting an Australian deadlift record and winning a Commonwealth gold medal and Oceania gold medal and an Australian Masters weightlifting gold medal in September this year.

"An Australasian national title in both powerlifting and weightlifting has not been done before by one person young, or old. Apart from the obvious need for strength the two disciplines do not feed naturally into one another," he said. He said powerlifting is a test of basic strength which he estimates is 90 per cent strength and 10 per cent technique, with lifts like squats, bench press and deadlift. In contrast, he said weightlifting or Olympic lifting involves the snatch and the clean and jerk motions, and estimates it is 60 per cent strength and 40 per cent technique. "Obviously weightlifting requires considerable strength but it also requires a lot of technique and it's the technique that takes a lot of learning. A powerlifter has a lot of strength but generally lacks the agility to do a full squat under the bar on its way up. In training I fell over many times."

His competitions have all been online during the pandemic, using specially calibrated weights and livestreamed from recognised gyms with a referee present through multiple cameras to a national venue and panel of referees.

"I have yet to meet my main competitors as competitions these days are done online [due to Covid] so they could be anywhere, Australia wide, NZ, etc."

He said he trains at his own gym in his workshop and coaches himself. "I have been training for 40 years on and off, so I am my own coach." He said his beginnings were in the early 80s when he and two training



Lance Baylis

partners opened Napier's first commercial gym, His and Hers, on Taradale Rd where the Mobil station is now.

He said he is motivated to keep training as a way to combat age and stay healthy. "I have noticed as people get older, they generally turn away from weight training and do other forms of exercise which is fine ... but why not keep doing weights regardless of age?" When he is not training, Baylis said he

enjoys house boating with his partner.

He aims to keep competing for as long as he can, and he is looking forward to the next event. "In April next year Perth WA is hosting the Australian masters' games, NZ is invited.

Every sport you can think of will be accommodated for."

HB Today



Otane firefighter named as Hawke's Bay's Kiwibank Local Hero

Otane fire Chief John Oliver (NBHS 1966-1968) is Hawke's Bay's Kiwibank Local Hero of the Year

After 49 years as a volunteer firefighter, John Oliver says he's "seen a lot of things."

But one thing he wasn't expecting to see was a small black box, containing a medal with his name on it, in the hands of Central Hawke's Bay Mayor Alex Walker.

"The mayor rang me on 17 November 2021 and said 'I'd like to come and see you,'" says Oliver.

"I told her I was busy, so she came out to the property I was working on and handed me this box ... and informed me I was a Kiwibank Local Hero medallist.

"I was stuck for words. I wasn't expecting it. I've done all these things, but that's not what I did them for."

Oliver is one of 100 Kiwibank Local Hero Medallists nationwide. He is now in the running for the 2022 Kiwibank New Zealand Local Hero of the Year Award Te Pou Toko o te Kau.

Semi-finalists will be named next month and category winners will be announced at a gala dinner in Auckland on March 31, 2022.

Hawkes Bay Today

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Retirement of Del Whyte, Master 1983-2021

Headmaster Bruce Davie welcomed Del Whyte, a Karamu High School Old Boy to the staff in 1983, from Onehunga High School. (Was it true that his form class gave him as a going-away present, a cane with sights fitted?) In his staff notes, Bruce recorded that Del taught Horticulture and Science and also coached cricket and soccer and assisted with the Maori Culture Club.

Two years later, in Scinde House's 100th year in my Scindian Report: "Mr Whyte makes a short step from the Horticulture Department and 'Tunnel House'. His arrival is a three-fold gain. To his duties he has added his horticultural talents and now dormitory window sills, where less than two years ago icy draughts whistled, now coleus and calceolaria bloom. I cannot help a wry smile to hear watering, pruning and potting as dormitory conversation pieces. Not soft but house proud! Mrs Whyte has joined our prep supervisors. And a third force? "The Brats" race tricycle against chopper and ten-speed, drop in to watch hostel movies from a fraternal knee and generally rival "Digger" in causing havoc to quad ball games. ("Digger" was John Olsen's rambunctious black Labrador). Teenagers like children around." Having a family on site was still a novelty with the era of exclusively single housemasters at an end. Huck and Helen Berry's son Michael Berry, "The Terror of the Boardwalk" was our first 'little brother' and the two Collins girls had briefly followed. But that was changing, Adele and Daniel soon had little brothers.

My 1986 notes: "House-mastering saw Mr Griffith depart and the Stevens family arrive. The Brat population increased with their infant son and the birth of sons into the Whyte and Avery households. Babysitting could become the ultimate fatigue!" However, the next year saw the Averys and Stevens move on and the Whytes were the only Brats in Residence again. When the fourth child arrived, another son, he was the seventh son in succession to be born into serving housemaster families. Del and Lorraine missed the perfect opportunity to commemorate this. I suggested Septimus Scindanus as names, but they chose Jason ('J K') instead (when the male - line was finally broken with birth of the Bain daughter, they in turn rejected my suggestion of 'Octavia Scindi').

The Whyte family moved to occupy the now vacant Avery home - not sorry to leave the cold residence briefly occupied by 'Skippy' O'Connor. When it had arrived, in two sections, on the

back of a truck, jaws dropped amongst the Northern Hawke's Bay boarders. "The Mongrel Mob's House!" The "Whyte House" became the venue of many a memorable occasion, not always appreciated by some of the whanau. Sorry Lorraine.

Del soon established a not undeserved reputation as a stern, no-nonsense disciplinarian - an invitation to a recalcitrant boarder to meet him in the 'Tunnel House' was an occasion for terror! He was also innovative. When I came back from a Hostel Conference in Auckland with the story of a housemaster who had a pile of iron bed ends which 'dozy boys' had to carry from one location to another, Del soon had his adaptation. This was a pile of slit logs in what was then the unused 'Ram Paddock' between hostel houses. The victim would carry them across the road to the 'Green Belt' to await the next victim, who would move them back. The 'free firewood' soon disappeared!

As a natural leader, very competitive and loathe to lose, it was a foregone conclusion that when the house competitions were rebooted in 1990, Del would be house leader. Another fierce little competitor, Stu Gourdie was his deputy and between them they lead (cajoled, threatened, and frightened?) Scinde House to greater heights, cementing the tradition of 'Top House'. It was not a partnership that always worked. On one infamous occasion, when the school hall was host to an Antiques Fair, the hostel staff provided 24 hour Security. The Whyte/Gourdie watch passed convivially without incident - until daylight revealed that a few metres away, Foster Block had been broken into and school computers stolen. For some time after the shame-faced pair were known as 'Charlie Farley and Piggy Malone', after the 'Two Ronnies' incompetent private detective characters.

On the sporting field the partnership had more success - both were founding members (but who was captain?) of the Scindian Cricket Team, leading to many a triumph in the Commercial League. Del also played for the Scindian Soccer Team - invariably in goal, where little running was required. On one notable occasion, Del was seen leaning on one upright while fellow housemaster Mahendra Prasad (taking a rest from the vigorous play in the backs), occupied the other - both contemplatively watching the progress of the game and smoking.

In 1997, with Mahendra, Del was appointed Deputy Senior Housemaster, assuming some of the responsibilities from a tiring Senior Housemaster. Del stood in for me at a Hostels' Conference in my home province of Nelson and of course returned brimming with ideas (and an appreciation for our beautiful Tasman Bay coastline). In 1998, after 15 years of sterling service the 'Whyte House' was vacated, their new home in Taradale was soon occupied by four generations of whanau - the Brats now had children of their own.

That Del Whyte was an inspiration to a generation of young men, was brought home to me when an Old Boy visited. We were watching a junior cricket game, Daniel, one of the Brats in his time was playing. "He's a talented sportsman and bright too", I said. My visitor was quiet for some time. Then, "If I'd had Del Boy as a father, I'd have been a bloody Rhodes Scholar".

Phillip Rankin, Archivist, former Head of Hostel, former Master, colleague of Del Whyte.



Del Whyte

Warner Dearn's Rugby Career

"Blossoms" in Japan

Japanese rugby is quietly confident they may just have the next Brodie Retallick on their hands. Tanya Dearn's son Warner stands at 202cm tall and weighs 122kg but he's got the skillset of another Kiwi giant. It's a bold comparison to make but 19-year-old lock Warner Dearn (NBHS 2015-2016) not only has close links to Retallick, but he was born into a family that lived and breathed elite level sport in New Zealand. Remember Silver Fern Tanya Dearn? The former defender was part of the so-called "Wall of Death" during the 90s and after retiring she started a family where she had a little boy who ended up being not so little. At 19-years-old, Warner stands at 2.02 metres tall and weighs 122kg, earning him a reputation in Japan as a beast on the rugby field before his recent debut for the Brave Blossoms.

"You get the feeling that, you know, what your parents felt like when it first happened to you and you sort of sit there it's like 'oh there's a bit of dust in the air', y'know?" Tanya said. Warner's dad Grant Dearn (NBHS 1978-1983) was the Hawke's Bay Magpies trainer for over a decade, developing the likes of Brodie Retallick, but five years ago he found coaching work in Japan. Tanya stopped coaching the Central Pulse so the family could move to the Land of the Rising Sun and as a result, Warner became a Tokyo high school star.

He and classmates welcomed the All Blacks to the 2019 World Cup with "uncle Brodie" even making a visit to his school. Fast forward two years and in Japan, Warner is still influenced by Kiwis as he's being coached by greats such as Todd Blackadder at club level and Jamie Joseph and Tony Brown for Test rugby. "The main goal is to become the best player at my position," Warner said. "I really want to become that top guy in World Rugby as a lock." Only time will tell if he gets a chance to face his "uncle" for that right. Still a teenager and just one year out of high school, Dearn made his debut for Japan in November. He concedes he was surprised by the sudden call-up. "I was shocked to receive the phone call. It kind of came out of the blue. I thought I might be invited to a Brave Blossoms training camp or something like that, but to be selected for the actual Japan squad was amazing." The 19-year-old had only played a handful of games for Toshiba Brave Lupus in 2021 after leaving Kashiwa High School near Tokyo at the end of 2020.

The son of former Silver Ferns player Tanya Dearn and former Hawke's Bay now NEC Green Rockets Tokatsu strength and conditioning coach Grant Dearn, Warner weighed up his options before signing with Toshiba and considered returning to New Zealand. "After I finished high school at Kashiwa, I sort of put the feelers out there and had a few options. I didn't want to go to University in Japan and go through that system. I had the option to come back to New Zealand and try and pick up a contract there, but with Covid and everything it didn't seem like the right option at the time.



Warner Dearn

"Then a chance came up with Toshiba Brave Lupus at the start of this year and I talked to my Dad and others and we decided it was the best option." He said his parents were thrilled at the prospect of their son playing for Japan, even with their obvious allegiances to Aotearoa. "Mum and Dad were both very proud and despite Mum playing netball for New Zealand and us being Kiwis, they both were very excited and proud and told me to go for it." At six foot eight and 122 kilograms, it's

easy to forget Dearn is still a teenager. Despite his imposing frame, he was still a bundle of nerves after being selected. "At first I was really anxious. I wasn't sure if I deserved to be there or if I would be up to it. But, after a while those nerves turned into excitement at the fact I could be playing test rugby." Dearn carried doubts about whether he had earned the right to play test rugby. "It all sunk in when I ran out onto the field and heard the Japanese anthem in the game against Portugal. Then it struck me that I'm an international rugby player. "However, it wasn't until I got on, and I only got five minutes off the bench against Portugal, that I felt like I was where I was supposed to be. I felt like I truly belonged and that it was my destiny to be playing rugby for Japan and to be a test player." Though it wasn't a clear cut decision to play for Japan. Dearn, like many young New Zealanders, had harboured ambitions of one day representing the All Blacks.



Warner Dearn (Middle)

"At camp with the Brave Blossoms, when it came close to making my debut, that's when I started to think about how once I was capped, that might mean the end of a childhood dream to play for the All Blacks. Most kiwi kids dream of being an All Black and I was no different. However, I feel like I'm supposed to be here (playing for Japan) and I'm happy with my decision." Dearn hopes he gets to square off against the All Blacks at some point. "It will be a special occasion, a big occasion. Playing the All Blacks, if that ever happens, I would definitely have mixed emotions. But, it would be another dream come true to play against New Zealand."

Dearn also believes Japan have earned the right to be included in the Rugby Championship, the southern hemisphere's showpiece test tournament, after impressive recent results against tier one nations and their quarter-final showing at the 2019 World Cup in the land of the rising sun. "Having Japan in the Rugby Championship would be good for the growth of the game in Japan and globally. The Brave Blossoms deserve to be in a top international competition."

While she encouraged her son to put his hat in with the Brave Blossoms, former Silver Fern Tanya Dearn was quick to point out the recent changes to World Rugby's eligibility rules, which allow a player to switch international teams after a three year stand down period. "She rang me and told me the news and said, 'You can still play for the All Blacks one day'. She sent me a link to the rule changes and everything ha-ha. She couldn't help herself. She's really proud of me for playing for Japan, but deep down you can tell she would love for me to represent New Zealand at some stage and play for the All Blacks."

RNZ and NBHS Research Unit

Rocket Lab Man

Philip (Huck) Berry, NBHS Pupil (1953-1958) Teacher (1970-2008) received the following email:

"Hi Philip/Huck (/Mr Berry) I hope you are doing well. I was a student of yours for several years, ending 2005. You may or may not remember as I am sure you have taught literally 1000s of students! I wanted to take the time to thank you for being such a great physics teacher and influence through those years. Your teaching style meant I enjoyed physics (unlike almost every other class) which helped give me a long term drive to learn and solve 'the hard problems'. A little bit about myself. I graduated in 2010 with a 1st Class Masters in Mechatronics. In 2010 started working at Rocket Lab as employee #3..... Peter Barlow."

Huck Berry passed the letter to the Editor saying this may be a great story for "Columns", Chris Geddis contacted Peter Barlow, and here it is:

In 2010 not many would take the following Trademe Job listing seriously: Rocket Scientist Wanted. Rocket Lab wasn't a household name but had been in the news the year before after launching Atea 1, NZ's first rocket to reach 'space'. Peter Beck, however, wasn't looking for a scientist, he was looking for a Test and Development Engineer. Having recently completed my Masters in Mechatronics Engineering at Massey it was the perfect job for a young enthusiastic engineer. So there I was a few months later as Rocket Lab (RL) employee #3.

RL started in the basement of the Industrial Research Laboratory - IRL, the old government research lab in the middle of Parnell, Auckland, now called Callaghan Innovation. This environment was the definition of 'Kiwi ingenuity', very difficult problems to solve, with very limited resources, leading to crazy solutions and 80 hour weeks.

Over the first few years the projects ranged from developing solid fuel propellants, parachute recovery systems for both Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVS/Drones) and the Martin Jetpack, a hand launched rocket propelled surveillance system, and several other small rocket motors. A lot of the small rocket motor testing was done in the Parnell basement which often resulted in car alarms going off and half the street coming out to see what all the noise was about. The bigger rocket motors

and rocket flight testing was done in Kaipara Harbour a couple of hours north of Auckland. I have many 'fond' memories driving a fully loaded hatchback/van for several hours a day, 3+days a week, for about a year, up to the farm and back, tramping through muddy fields looking for rockets.

In 2013 Peter Beck went to Silicon Valley to raise funds to build an 'orbital class' rocket. When he left he said he wouldn't return until he had funding... 3 months later he returned with enough funding to start building Electron, a 'small' liquid fuelled, battery pump fed orbital rocket!

'Small' is the term the big Aerospace companies would use for a rocket like Electron. No rocket that small had ever made orbit, but for us it was absolutely massive!

We moved from rockets that were 100mm diameter, 300 kg of thrust with a velocity of ~1500km/h to a rocket that was 1.2m diameter, 23000 kg of thrust and a velocity of 25000km/h. Rutherford, (named after Ernest Rutherford) is the name given to the engine developed for Electron. The Electron name comes from the use of electric motors to pump the fuel and oxidiser into the combustion chamber. This was unique to Electron as an electric pump cycle had never reached orbit. The energy required from the pump system is extreme. There are 2 electric motors per engine, they are each the size of a coke can, weigh about 1.5kg, but produce over 60hp each. With the Rutherford Engine development team so small at the time we had to cover a lot of areas of the engine. I spent a majority of my time developing the electric turbo pumps, thrust chamber, injectors and the high voltage motor controllers.

The first flight of Electron was in May 2017, less than 4 years after starting the program with a team of only around 80 people, mainly from NZ and Australia. Unfortunately Flight-1 had to be terminated during upper stage flight due to the range safety/subcontractors ground tracking station failing. 6months later Flight 2 was a great success making NZ one of only a handful of countries to reach orbit. Orbital Rockets are hard to engineer at the best of times with experienced people and unlimited money. But having achieved it with a small group of people who had zero experience, and a tiny budget, it's an amazing thing to have been a part of.



In 2017 Rocket Lab opened a USA facility in Huntington Beach, California, to start mass producing Rutherford engines. I was fortunate enough to gain a Visa/Greencard and move over to help set up the production facility. While NZ had grown to ~350 people, the US was starting again with a small team of engineers and technicians. We managed to set up and ramp-up production to deliver 100 engines within the first year!

The company and projects were growing rapidly, and in 2019 we started a Space Systems division. My role was as a Senior Satellite Design Engineer which consisted of designing and developing spacecraft components such as Magnetorquers (steers the spacecraft using the earth's magnetic field), Solar Panels, and general Spacecraft layouts for Rocket Lab's Photon Spacecraft.

Rocket Lab's largest spacecraft program so far has been the CAPSTONE mission which is on track to launch this June. This is a mission for NASA's Artemis program which is to return man to the moon. The Rocket Lab Photon Spacecraft will deliver a satellite called CAPSTONE to a unique orbit around the moon to be used as gateway communications. Electron will be the smallest rocket ever used to send anything to the moon. Saying this project was difficult would be an understatement. My main contribution has been the development and manufacture of the solar arrays to power the Photon Spacecraft. It will take several days/weeks to get to the moon as it will perform multiple flybys past the earth to help 'slingshot' it to the moon. This program

has opened up missions to Mars, Venus, and multiple low earth orbit contracts.

My most recent role change has been to the Neutron program as a Senior Propulsion Development Engineer - Archimedes. The Neutron rocket is a brand new rocket which will be capable of lifting ~15000kg to orbit. Electron is capable of lifting ~300kg to orbit, so this is a significant step up again. Archimedes is the engine name for Neutron. This engine is 50x as powerful as the Rutherford engine, with at least 7 engines on Neutron. The development of Archimedes is in the US, whereas the vehicle is built in NZ. This is due to the strict regulations/restrictions America has with developing propulsion systems that could be used in large missiles (ICBMs). Developing Archimedes in America means we can hire people who have years of experience, and we can use a number of NASA test facilities. The benefit in me holding a Greencard is that I am privy to information that is sensitive only to Americans under these regulations (ITAR) allowing me to work on this program.

Looking back, it has been a crazy and exhausting 12 years. Starting as 3 people in a tiny Parnell basement, to now 1500+ people globally, 3 launch sites, 250+ rocket engines in space, 27 orbital launches, 140+ customer satellites deployed, multiple Rocket Lab satellites currently in orbit, one soon to go to the moon, and a brand new massive rocket under development. It's not the career path I saw myself taking, maybe because it's not one that's advertised at 'Careers Day'. It's a career I continue to enjoy and I hope it continues to evolve as rapidly as it has so far.

Peter Barlow (2001-2005)



Peter Barlow

Obituaries

Bruce Murray Fraser 8 Dec 1950-9 Feb 2022

The death has occurred in Tauranga of Bruce Murray Fraser (NBHS 1964-1968). Captain of the Napier Boys' High School First Hockey X1 1967 and 1968. Played for Napier Senior Men's and Eastern Zone Colts. Deputy Head Prefect, a member of the Debating Team, Drama club (Trial Scene from Shaw's St Joan) and the 1968 Winner of the Ashcroft Cup for All-Round Excellence. The well-known Tauranga identity Bruce Fraser is being remembered as a passionate family man and conservationist who cared deeply about people, the planet and his community. Fraser, who cared deeply about bi-cultural understanding and used Te Reo whenever he could, was a "connector" who was able to bring people together.

With a BA, Dip Tchng, he was from 1978 to 1996, head of the English department at Trident High School in Whakatane, where his second wife Lesley also taught English, and they were a couple for more than 30 years. A former Principal Peter Tootell wrote: "Bruce always had an effervescent and infectious personality. He taught English for many years at Trident High School in Whakatane and became Head of Department. He was an exceptional teacher in part because he was a great storyteller. His huge contribution to the school in many spheres was of note. He certainly was a legend in the school when he left to join Environment BOP."

From October 1996 to August 2009, Fraser was the group manager of people and partnerships at the then-Environment Bay of Plenty, now Bay of Plenty Regional Council. He and Lesley moved from Whakatane to Tauranga in 2008 and not long afterwards Bruce became involved with the Ōtanewainuku Kiwi Trust, which he became chairman of in May 2018.

With a Post Graduate Diploma of Business and Administration, Accreditation in Public Relations (APR) and he was admitted as a Fellow into the Public Relations Institute of NZ (PRINZ) in 2007. He was the President of Public Relations Institute of New Zealand's PRINZ from 2014 to 2016. For almost a decade he also ran the PR consultancy firm Fraser Consultants Ltd and worked on projects for businesses, organisations and local government departments. Fraser was also a swimmer, a diver, cyclist, cryptic crossworder, reader, whisky fan, keen cook and gardener, and was a hockey player and coach in his earlier days.

His concerted efforts in advocating for stronger environmental protections for native wildlife, land and seas were "legendary". Bruce Fraser's son Reuben Fraser, 44, a consents manager at Bay of Plenty Regional Council, said his Dad was an "amazing father and role model", and losing his best mate had "rocked his world". "Dad was my inspiration and the safety net for me and my little sister Rebecca. When anything went wrong he was always there for us and backed us 100 per cent.

Reuben said his father was a man of action who got stuck in, especially if he believed something was wrong and needed righting. "A perfect example of this was the Rena disaster, when the ship struck Astrolabe Reef in 2011. When oil began washing on our beaches. There was some resistance by authorities to the public helping with the clean-up. "Dad believed that was totally wrong so he began setting up and co-ordinating the volunteer clean-up programme in charge of thousands of registered volunteers to clean up the oil spill on the Bay of Plenty Beaches." Bruce was Volunteer Co-ordinator when the MV Rena Struck Astrolabe Reef at 2.20am on 5 October 2011. In charge of 8,000 registered volunteers to clean up the oil spill on the Bay of Plenty Beaches.

From community frustration and anger about not being able to help with beach clean-ups through to thousands of volunteers cleaning oil from western Bay of Plenty beaches was a fast turnaround. The MV Rena's grounding sparked New Zealand's largest oil spill response. Five days after the grounding, a nor-easterly storm led to the leaking of 350 tonnes of oil from the vessel and the blackening of several western Bay of Plenty beaches. As oil washed ashore over the following days, In an early advisory Maritime New Zealand warned people not to go onto the beaches and certainly not to touch the oil.

Volunteer co-ordinator Bruce Fraser at the time said the whopping effort from the community was possibly one of the biggest in the world. "We understand that this may be the first time in the world that a volunteer effort of this scale has been used as part of an official oil-spill response," Mr Fraser said. Fraser also managed the Rena Environmental Recovery Plan from May 2013. He played important roles in the Ballance Farm Environment Awards, Sustainable Business Network and was a founding trustee on both the BOP and NZ Farm Environment Trusts, for a decade.



Bruce Fraser

Reuben said the future of the planet and racial understanding in Aotearoa were particularly important to his father. "Dad thought a lot in his later years about the world he would leave behind for his mokopuna. He was passionate about us all doing what we can to help make the world a better, kinder, healthier place. "That sums Dad up. Love for family, friends, the ocean, the environment, and the love for the community... He has left us all an amazing legacy to guide our way." Bruce was diagnosed with a brain tumour on October 8 2021 and died at home on February 9 2022 surrounded by his family. The shocking diagnosis came on Fraser's 71st birthday, not long after he began experiencing bad headaches and visited his GP for a check-up. Fraser was farewelled on February 12 2022 with a service at the water's edge near the Tauranga Rowing Club in Memorial Park and was buried at Pye's Pa cemetery. He was buried in an untreated pine coffin decorated with family messages and a tree, with his mokopuna's handprints forming the tree's roots.

Bay of Plenty Times/ Reuben Fraser/NBHS Research Unit

Anthony Graham (Tony) (AG) Small

April 19, 1936–November 29, 2021

Multiple provincial sports representative, and former Magpies rugby prolific goal-kicker and coach Tony (A.G.) Small died on 29 November 2021, aged 85. (NBHS 1950-1953)

The son of sheep-farming parents, the late William and Winifred Small, of Dannevirke,, he started school at North Primary in Dannevirke, and then boarded at Napier Boys' High School in 1950-1953, where he ignited his passion for sport. He even learned to shear sheep there and was Head of Hostel and in the first XV at rugby.

Small fondly recalled in an interview in 2010 playing a game of first XI cricket for NBHS against Gisborne Boys' High School in his senior years (1952-53) and taking six wickets for seven runs. "We skittled Gisborne for 26 runs and the school had allowed all the students time out from studies for watching the game so I wasn't very popular that day," he said with a laugh. He made his first-class rugby and cricket debuts in 1957, for Hawke's Bay and Central Districts respectively, and later also represented the Bay at national championship levels in bowls and golf.

Small only played two seasons for the CD men's team as a left-arm fast bowler, finding it difficult to get his hands on the ball with two New Zealand representative bowlers, Bob Blair and Don Baird, in the line-up. Consequently he didn't claim any wickets although, he said in 2010 that his teammates did drop some catches off his bowling. "When the ball looked like a cake of soap, they chucked it to me," he said, adding he gave up cricket to focus on rugby because he had to work as a stock agent in the summer. He represented Wellington at provincial level for a longer time and took some "good wickets too". From Dannevirke, he also played cricket for now-bygone representative side Southern Hawke's Bay and bowls for Manawatu. While well-known for many achievements on the sports field, pitches, rinks and links, his 64 rugby matches over 10 seasons for the Magpies stands out.

He was a rare goal-kicking forward, playing mostly at flanker, often with the great Kel Tremain flanking on the other side of the Magpies' scrum, and scoring 435 points – a record in the 81 years of Hawke's Bay representative rugby at the time he retired in 1965, his last match being South Africa's 30-12 victory over the Bay at McLean Park.



The previous record for Hawke's Bay was the 336 scored by wing Bert Grenside, mainly in tries, from 1918-1931, and Small is still fourth on the list with 435, headed only by the late Jarrod Cunningham (1990-1998, 77 games, 1007pts), 1960s Ranfurly Shield era fullback Ian Bishop (1963-1972, 96 games, 631pts) and 2013 shield-winning hero and first five-eighths Ihaia West (2012-2017, 62 games, 628pts).

A special feature was his role in three close Hawke's Bay Ranfurly Shield challenges as the union bounced back from the low of being beaten 52-12 by the British Isles in 1959 towards winning the famed trophy in 1966 off Waikato.

He kicked the Bay's only points in the 1961 and 1963 challenges against Auckland at Eden Park, lost 5-3 and drawn 3-all respectively, and a penalty and conversion of one of three Hawke's Bay tries when beaten 21-17 by Taranaki in New Plymouth in 1965. "I think I was the first forward to score more than 100 points in a season [1963-64]," said Small in 2010. He went on to coach the Magpies in their first season of the National Provincial Championship (NPC) and for three seasons in the first division 1976, '77 and '78. He moved from Dannevirke to Havelock North more than 20 years ago won three Hawke's Bay Centre bowling titles, including a Champion of Champion Triples, and eight Havelock North club titles, including once being the singles champion. He also played Golden Oldies rugby, and had a fascination with racing, being in partnerships with such people as Tremain, and had winners at both gallops and harness racing, one at Alexandra Park, Auckland.

HB Today/NBHS Research Unit

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

Last Roll Call

The following Old Boys and teachers passed away recently:

ALLAN, William James (Bill) - 1952-1955
ARNOLD, Edward William (Eddie) - 1955-1956
ARNOLD, John James - 1951-1953
BAMBRY, Ian Walker - 1943
BELL, Norman Edward - 1944
BOWIE, Ronald Clifford Workman (Ron) - 1948-1949
BRADLEY, Roger Gladwin - 1954-1956
BROWN, Kenneth Charles (Ken) - 1956-1957
BROWNING, Robert Arthur (Bob) - 1942-1943
BULLED, Phillip Charles - 1959
BURTON, Geoffrey Ian (Geoff) - 1975-1978
CEDER, (nee BRIGHAM-WATSON) James Edward - 2003-2007
CRAYTON, Andrew Ross (Andy) - (Staff) - 1977-1985
DONGHI, Hunter Kyle - 2015-2018
FEARN, Richard John (John) - 1963-1965
FOSTER, Dennis Rex (Rex) - 1945-1947
FRASER, Bruce Murray - 1964-1968
GEE, Peter Michael (Mike) - 1985-1990 (Staff)
GEE, Ronald Ernest (Ron) - 1955 -1957
GOELDNER, Peter William - 1958-1961
HEATH, Brian Donald - 1969-1973
HILL, John George - 1971-1975
HOLLAND, Peter Randle - 1957-1953
KAHAKI, Anthony Henry (Tony) - 1950-1951
KAVANAGH, Bernard (Bernie) - 1950
LAWRENCE, Ross Gregory - 1959-1962
LE QUESNE, Peter Weston Heath - 1949-1951
LINS, Philip - 1985-1989
MARTIN, Dennis Rex (Rex) - 1955-1956
MASEMANN, Tony Allan - 1963-1967
McNUTT, Samuel Paul - 1969-1973
MOORHOUSE, Basil John - 1951-1954
MORLEY, Leonard Gordon (Len) - 1950-1953
NEWTON, John Walter - 1951-1953
NICHOLSON, David Bruce (Dave) - 1970-1973
NIKOLAISON, Lawrence Morten (Mort) - 1975- 1979
ORMOND, Jose Osborne (Juicey) (Osborne at School) - 1940
PARKHILL, Bruce McDonald - 1956-1958
PARSONS, Edward (Eddie) - 1949-1950
PAXIE, Alexander Nicholas (Alex) 1948-1949
PELLEW, Trevor - 1949
PROUT, Maurice Bruce (Morrie) - 1951-1952
RATIMA, Albert Edward (Alby) - 1987-1990
SANDS, Brian (Sandsy) - 1961-1963
SCOTT, Dennis Ronald (Den) - 1961-1963
SMALL, Anthony Graham (Tony) - 1950-1953
TAYLOR, Sydney Arthur (Syd) - 1939-1943
TUCK, Allan Grant - 1958-1962
VIGGERS, Philip John (Phil) - 1964-1968
WALKER, Brian John William - 1956-1960
WARD, Daniel Rawiri - 1992-1994
WILDBORE, Alan - 1957-1958
WILSON, Phillip Jack (Phil) - 1965-1968

*"Columns" expresses sincere
condolences to the families of these
Old Boys and Staff Members
Chris Geddis*

*If you know of an Old Boy or
Teacher, who has recently passed
away please email: [oldboys@nbhs.
school.nz](mailto:oldboys@nbhs.school.nz) giving full name of the
Old Boy or Teacher (as per death
notice), who has passed away and
approximate dates at school.*