



Napier Boys' High School Association

COLUMNS

VOLUME THIRTY FOUR ISSUE TWO

DECEMBER 2025

Editorial

This December issue of "Columns" will be the last in the current format. Pending the School's future plans for the Association from Headmaster Simon Coe, the current Committee has retired as at 31 December 2025.

The original Old Boys' Association was founded in 1899 and ran through to 1992, (93 years) with many notable Old Boys serving as President and Secretary.

In 1992 the inaugural meeting of the Napier Boys' High School Association was organised by Peter Gavin. A loose connection of Old Boys, Scinde House Old Boys, the former Parent's League, past and present teachers and Board Members were brought together under the new umbrella.

Hal Nash was appointed Chairman retiring after (5 years) in 1997 and Kevin Callinicos appointed Chairman in 1998 until 2025 (27 years) while Judith Craigie was appointed Secretary/Treasurer and remained for (28 years), until retiring in June 2020.

The first two issues of Columns were produced outside the school from August 1993, Columns were posted out each term (three times a year) to start with, four pages in black and white with blue borders and Judith produced all subsequent issues up until 2018. In September 2012 Columns was first emailed to members of the Association, along with postage to members without computers/email addresses. In 2016 the Association subscription was dropped allowing all Old Boys access to Columns. So Columns has now been publishing 1993-2025 (32 Years).

In 1997 the 125th jubilee of the school and, as part of the organising committee Judith was included in, obtaining contact details of old boys. There was no official record of old boys of the school and from that time Judith built a database of all old boys, staff and board members totalling over twenty-seven thousand entries gained from the School Register and Scindians. In 1999 we held our first year group reunion and thereafter every two years Judith was organiser of eleven, along with the invaluable assistance of Bruce Smith, her last one being in 2017. The last Year group reunion being a joint year 8/9 and 0/1 year combined groups in 2019 due to the pending 150th jubilee in 2022.

Over the years many prominent Old Boys, Teachers and Trustee Board members have been on our committee. Ex history teacher Phillip Rankin was a teacher rep, and has been the School Archivist from 1990 to 2025 (35 years) which began when a groundsman came to him with a large collection of Scindians, a 1884 Scinde House founding prospectus and a 1884 Athletic Sports programme, he found dumped in a bin outside the

School Library. Both Phillip and Judith have documented for the School, individual military careers of our Old Boys from the Boer War through WW1 and WW2 to Vietnam.

First Editor of Columns was Bruce Davie 1993-1997 (4 years), followed by Owen Brown 1997-2009 (12 years) and then Chris Geddis 2009-2025 (16 years). When I was appointed Editor, Columns was published 3 times a year 4 page, in black and white with blue borders. Since Columns started to be emailed it has gone out in colour with various pagination from 12 to 20 pages max, twice a year 1200 emailed and 180 posted by mail each issue.

Throughout my tenure as Editor, I have helped celebrate the achievements of our Old Boys in business or sport. Sometimes it is too late that we hear of the passing of an Old Boy or Teacher, so we celebrate their life in a well sourced Obituary, fitting to their life well lived. Our Last Roll Call column records those Old Boys, Teachers and Committee members who have passed away, with their full name and years of involvement recorded alphabetically for the final time. We celebrate Old Boys and teachers as they receive the reigning Monarch's Birthday Honours and New Year's Honours. In 2015 my brother Dennis Geddis (NBHS 1966-1971) and I went to the Gallipoli Centenary commemorations, primarily to meet for the first time and put poppies on our grand uncle Harry Phelps Hopkins memorial and also to put poppies on our Old Boys graves and memorials and took photos of each placement for Columns and wrote in Columns of our experiences at Gallipoli. As an Old Boy I am proud to have attended the Napier Boys' 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 a 58th Anniversary reunion of that team in 2019, and also attended the 150th Napier Boys' High School Reunion 2022. (I must be getting old?)

Column's also promotes the School happenings with a Headmaster's Report and we are indebted to Archivist and ex teacher, Phillip Rankin, who regales us with stories of past Old Boys and or their military careers, teachers and recent acquisitions of School Memorabilia and research projects he has carried out for families of Old Boys. 2026 is a big year for the School, marking 100 years on the current site after the shift from the Hill in 1926.

Chris Geddis, Editor (2009-2025), Old Boy (1964-1969).

Committee

Retiring 31 December 2025

Kevin Callinicos (Chairman)

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

Don Alexander, Philip Berry, Ross Brown, Maurice Gunnell, Peter Kellond, Stephen Perfect, Geoff Pyott.

From the Headmaster



One of the greatest strengths of our school lies not only in the education we provide, but in the enduring impact of those who have gone before us. Our Old Boys network is a living testament to this legacy. A vibrant community whose achievements span continents and industries, shaping lives and influencing society in remarkable ways.

From leaders in business and innovation to pioneers in science, education, and the arts, our alumni

Simon Coe, Headmaster

have excelled in fields as diverse as medicine, law, technology, and sport. Many have represented their country on the world stage, others have built enterprises that create opportunities for thousands, and countless more have quietly made a difference in their communities through service and leadership. These stories inspire our current students, reminding them

that the values learned here, integrity, perseverance, and honesty, are the foundation for extraordinary lives.

As we look ahead, it is vital that we connect with as many Old Boys as possible. Every story matters, and every connection strengthens the fabric of our community. If you know of fellow alumni who may not yet be part of the network, please encourage them to join us. Together, we can ensure that the legacy continues to grow.

Next year brings a special milestone: the 100-year celebrations of the Hostel Dining Room and the Headmaster's House in 2026.

These historic spaces have witnessed generations of friendships, traditions, and memories. Keep an eye out for upcoming details; we would love to see as many of you as possible join us in marking this significant occasion. On behalf of the staff and students, thank you for keeping the spirit alive, and for continuing to champion the values that define us.

*Warm regards,
Simon Coe, Headmaster*

Chairman's Report



It is with mixed emotions that I write this report, it being the last on behalf of the current Committee of the Napier Boys' High School Association. The current Committee have decided that the time is right to retire and hand over the baton to a rejuvenated group, and so our tenure will come to end on 31 December 2025. It is our understanding that the School is to continue the cause of the Association under some guise and we await with expectation hearing about its plans for the future. As

Kevin Callinicos

Chris Geddis has extensively set out in his Editorial the history of the Association, I will not repeat much of that detail.

It has been an honour to serve on the Committee since its inception in 1992 (33 years as a committee member, with 27 of those being as Chairman). During that time I have enjoyed the company of many great people connected by their commitment to Napier Boys' High School. Initially those included representatives from the Board of Trustee, Parents' League, Scinde Old Boys, Old Boys, the staff and the Headmaster, but in later years mainly the Old Boys. All have given their time, thoughts and expertise willingly so as to advance the reputation and interests of the School. And so it is with sadness I, and the outgoing Committee say good bye.

Over the years, the Association has organised or been involved in the organisation of Business Breakfasts, Bowls Tournaments, Golf Tournaments, the 125th Reunion, the biennial Year Group Reunions and the 150th Reunion.

Then, of course, there has been the publication of Columns. Thanks must go to our editors, Bruce Davie, the late Owen Brown and Chris Geddis. Chris has been editor for 16 years and he has without fail published a high quality, well-read regular editions of Columns. Thank you, Chris, for your dedication and editorial expertise which has required significant professional judgement and commitment.

Chris has also mentioned the School's archivist, Phillip Rankin. I cannot over-emphasize how important Phillip's contributions to the School have been. He has worked tirelessly for the School, collecting and retaining news clippings of all matters relating to the School, writing for Columns, completing full dossiers on all World War 1 Old Boys who died in that conflict, and notes for those who died in World War 2, communicating with all correspondents who sought information relating to the history of the School and its Old Boys, collecting memorabilia for the School's archives etcetera etcetera! As I mentioned at our last meeting, but for an accident of birth, Phillip would have been a true Napier Boys' High School man!!

Phillip was assisted for many years by Judith Craigie who was the Association's Treasurer/Secretary for 28 years. Indeed, over those years it would not be an exaggeration to say that Judith was the heart and soul of the Association. The work she did on behalf of the Association over those years was immense and too extensive to recite in this message. Over the years she also worked very closely with Bruce Smith especially in regard to the Year Group reunions. These resulted in an extensive up to date database of Old Boys which was to have served the School into the future. I would also like to acknowledge the remaining outgoing Committee, Alan Day (the Association's minute Secretary following Judith's retirement), Huck Berry (a true NBHS man), Steve Perfect, and Don Alexander. Over the Association's years, seven Headmasters have led the School (Bruce Davie, Mark Hensman, Ross Brown, Matt Bertram, Jarred Williams, Dave Russell, acting Headmaster, and Simon Coe). I would like to thank each of them for their respective support they have given to the Association.

So I now formally record my heartfelt thanks to all who have contributed over the Association's 33 years. No doubt I will have missed somebody who deserves to be mentioned (33 years is a long time to record all) and so I apologise for any omission.

I remain proud to call myself a Napier Boys' High School Old Boy and have been grateful for the opportunity to serve the School in this capacity. And so it is with excitement that we await the rejuvenation of the Association under the leadership of Mr Coe. We wish the School all the best for this new life!

*Kevin Callinicos
Chairman, Napier Boys' High School Association*

From the Archives

We begin this half year's gathering with hockey – rugby will have to come later. Our committeeman, Don Alexander (1949-52) has always seen that hockey achievements of our Old Boys – including his grandson Brennan (2005-08) are not overlooked. He has now entrusted us with his late brother's, David John Murray Alexander (1945-49) 1948 1st X1 photo, with David snuggled behind the goalie pads. Don is always the source of good School days' stories. My favourite is also about hockey, which had a troubled history in the early days. One year, at the start of the season the usual practice fields at Marewa Park Napier were not available and permission was reluctantly given for the team to use one of the rugby fields at School. Don and a couple of team mates left their bikes leaning against a convenient palm tree. An indignant Headmaster Foster, returning home down the drive stormed, "people come from all around the world to see our Phoenix Palms and they don't want to see your bikes." Don and his co-desecrators were caned the next day.

Kevin Rigby (1957-58) has handed over an extensive collection of sporting memorabilia, much of it to do with his hockey career. This begins with his 1957 1st X1 photo, then the 1964 Napier Tech combined team (surely Co-ed sport was unusual in the 1960s?) 1966 HB Hockey Association Senior Reps, 1968 North Island Reps and through to 1972 and a NZ vs Australia test series and a booklet from the Munich Olympics of that year. Kevin also represented NZ at the 1976 Montreal Olympics. There is also a newspaper clipping of a Queensland Tour of which he was captain. Along the way Kevin managed to play in the 1956 Napier Ross Shield team, represent the School in athletics (intermediate javelin, 220 and 440 yards) and play for the 1958 1st cricket X1. He must come close to being our foremost sporting hero! Still on athletics, Alec Olsen (1962-65) has given us his 1964 Athletics programme which includes a wealth of information not seen in this digital age.

Now its rugby's turn. From Ian Kennedy (1971-75) we have received two documents. The first is 'The First Hundred Years' notes for the centenary compiled by the Social Studies Department (Owen Brown) and the Library (Allan Howlett). But what I found most interesting is the programme for the 1975 HBSS Rugby Union's 'College Day' (pre Super 8) in which sixteen teams competed. Twelve from across HB from Dannevirke to Wairoa (no St Johns or Te Aute?) and four invites. Nelson College played Central Hawke's Bay, Auckland Grammar Vs NBHS. Taupo College Vs Lindisfarne and Freyberg HS Vs Colenso HS. No results are given, it would be fascinating to know, as some of the local schools have gone into deep rugby decline since the 1970s. The programme is also a snapshot of social history: sponsors include ten hotels (of which only four are still existant) Dalgety Wine and Spirits and 'Today's Great Beer – DB!' Fernhill Hotel offers rugby fans "A mini tanker service". In these days none of this advertising of alcohol would be acceptable! Other sponsors include many remembered but mostly departed local businesses; Haynes Butchery, Duckworths, Tourist Kelt Motors, Dick Budd Sports (one of six sporting goods stores featured). At the National Café (Paxie's) "Vegetables are served with all meals" and at the Leopard Inn, you could "Pick-Your-Own-Steaks". All this sent me into a reverie: as a student teacher, I joined staff in Friday's after School social gathering at the 'Terminus' where Don Seaton held court at the bar (was there really sawdust on the floor?) When I returned as a teacher the new venue was the Onekawa – a huge beer-barn popular with younger staff members because of the large numbers of female primary school teachers. Then it was off to the Victoria (old Vic) then the Leopard (all gone now) before the institution of 'Thank God it's Friday' petered out in the Criterion. Oh the nostalgia you have brought on Ian! Also in the realms of nostalgia are several pages from a photograph album compiled by James Bibby (1951-54) of hostel life – donated by his daughter Claire after his recent death.

From the 'gathering' to the research (more rewarding than my fruitless search for the Colenso brothers and Chute twins). Moana Potaka contacted me for information on her great grandfather, Henare Te Tatai Riri Potaka (known as Riri Henry Potaka in the School Register). My research first threw up an anomaly. Moana had his birth as 1902 while the Register recorded 1903 – so he was either fifteen or sixteen when he transferred

from Rotorua District High School. He had a most unusual six years with us (1918-23) so would have been 20 or 21 when he left School. His parents had moved to Pakowhai so he was a 'train boy', looking very mature for a 'new boy' on the train, probably avoiding the worst of the initiations dealt out enroute. The Scindians of those years catalogue a vast array of achievements: Colour Sergeant in the cadets, swimming champion, athletics record holder, 1st X1 and 1st XV, captain in 1923, the same year he was a prefect and matriculated. I was able to provide Moana with at least seven photographs, the family had only one, of a much older Riri in 1943, with the Maori battalion in Italy. The only disappointment was having to say no to her suggestion his name was on a memorial plaque in the Hall. You could say I tripped over my mistake. I fell over a litter of boxes in the strong-room while trying to negotiate my way to the archives. I threw out a hand and broke the glass in a frame standing against the wall. It turned out to be the Dux Ludorum Honours Board – and H.R. Potaka was joint winner of this highest sporting award in 1923. Why this Board was in the strong-room instead of on a wall somewhere in the School is beyond me. After School, Riri went off to Dunedin to study dentistry, but was called home to the Bay of Plenty to take over the family farm. His chapter will be included in a family history being prepared for a reunion.

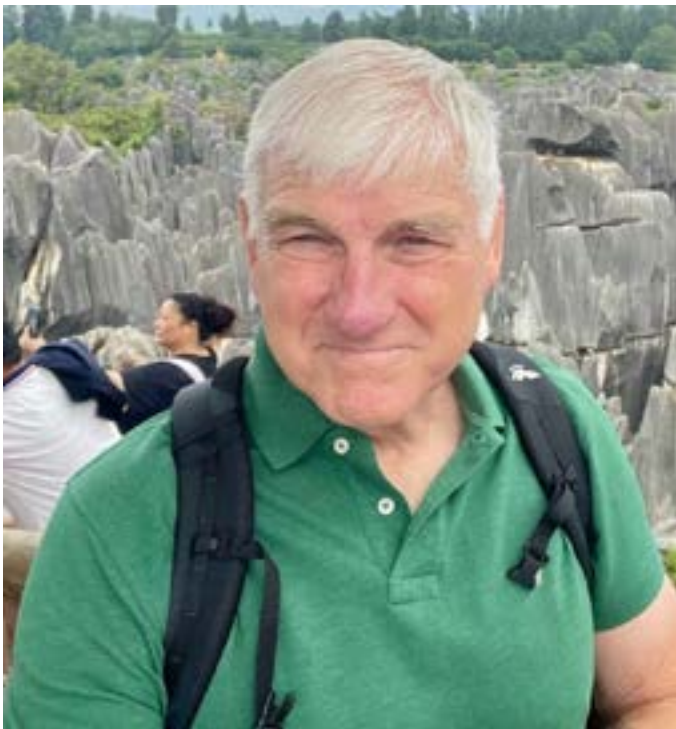
Another interesting chase for information came after a phone call from Alon Shaw (Master 1958-59) now of Geraldine. He was in dispute with the NZ Rugby Union over a claim of "the first school boy rugby tour of England." Alon was sure that Headmaster, Hugh Henderson took a group in 1957, predating that claim. Could we confirm this? I looked in the 'Centenary Historical Survey' and sure enough the tour took place. Alon was correct – or was he? I hadn't read closely enough – as Chris doing his follow-up research discovered. Yes Hugh did take a group of boys, including one of our own, David John McCulloch Miller of Clive (1953-58). But it was a tour organised by the 'Overseas League' (Empire Loyalists) and not a rugby one. I committed the ultimate sacrilege – Denis Revell was not wrong! Read more closely - he makes no mention of rugby in the CHS article – and the twelve boys on tour couldn't have fielded a team, even if Hugh, their chaperone, had come out of retirement. Alon had the 1957 Scindian, with no mention of the tour, but once I got to the 1958 Scindian after another fall from grace (the physical one, the doubting Denis), I found a long and scholarly account written, not by Hugh, but by David. So Alon has his answer, Tour yes, but Rugby no, but he doesn't appear too disappointed and is in contact with Chris with an article for this issue of Columns. These two research projects had happy conclusions unlike some I've undertaken: "We think Grandad was Dux of your School", sorry he left School after the fourth form. "Dad scored the winning try in the Polson Banner game", sorry we lost that year, your father played for the 3rd XV – and they lost too! Time gilds family memories.

Phillip Rankin, Archivist.



*Napier Boys' High School Train Boys, 1918.
Front Row Far Right: H. Potaka*

From NBHS to A Career of World Opportunities



Brian Roberts

When Brian Roberts left Napier Boys' High School in 1968, he had little idea where his life or career would take him. He thought architecture might be his future, so he enrolled at the University of Auckland. But, like many young people, his path changed early. He left after his first year and eventually earned degrees from the Universities of Otago, Auckland, Oxford Brookes, and Central Queensland, finishing with a doctorate from the Queensland University of Technology. What followed was a career spanning more than 50 years, involving work in 35 countries across several fields, including urban and regional planning, management, economic development, and roles in academia, consultancy, and international development organisations.

Now an Emeritus Professor at the University of Canberra, Brian reflects on a journey shaped by curiosity, hard work, and the unpredictable turns of life. His global work focused on managing cities and the people living in them, particularly those who are disadvantaged. "More than 1.1 billion people live in slums or unauthorised settlements," he notes. "Over 150 million are homeless. Rapid urbanisation is outpacing cities' ability to provide basic services." Many large, rapidly growing cities worldwide are struggling to deliver even the basics and are nearing bankruptcy. These are the issues to which he has dedicated his career.

His career began modestly as a junior planner at Napier City Council in 1973. Within a decade, he was working on major international projects, including the planning of Abuja (Nigeria's new capital), urban strategies, and Metropolitan development plans for cities like Mecca (Saudi Arabia), Accra (Ghana), Dodoma (Tanzania), Canberra, and providing advice on other national capitals.

In the 1990s, Brian worked for the Premier's Department of the Queensland Government, developing infrastructure strategies for Brisbane's ports, cross-border economic planning, and establishing the state's first large-scale paper recycling mill. In 1994, his career shifted again—this time into academia—with positions at the Queensland University of Technology as the Director of the University Centre for the Australian Housing and Urban Research Institute, and later at the University of Canberra, where he led the Centre for Developing Cities. He also served as a Visiting Fellow at CSIRO.

These academic roles allowed him to contribute to policy on urban housing, local economic development, and post-disaster recovery — including work in Aceh after the 2004 tsunami and in Sri Lanka after the 2009 civil war. In 2012, he established a consultancy that advised governments and universities across Asia, Africa, and Latin America on sustainable urban development.

Throughout his career, he has advised national governments, governors, mayors, and local authorities on planning, infrastructure, sustainability, urban finance, and climate resilience. Although officially retired, he continues to mentor young professionals and contribute to international research and writing.

His career highlights include contributions to the UN's State of the World Cities and State of Asian Cities reports, urbanisation strategies for APEC, and input into the UN's Sustainable Development Goal 11 on "Sustainable Cities and Communities". He co-authored Australia's national report for the UN Habitat II convention in 1996, which over 24,000 people attended.

Education and mentorship have always been close to Brian's heart. Over the years, he has taught numerous courses on researching and writing a PhD to over 180 postgraduate students, mainly from Indonesia, who were awarded Australian doctoral scholarships. He has supervised and marked many postgraduate theses. He has also interviewed over 800 master's students who received Australian Award scholarships. "Seeing students succeed and knowing you played a part — however small — in their journey is one of the greatest rewards of being a teacher," he says. Despite the global scope of his work, Brian stays true to his Hawke's Bay roots. Growing up on a small market garden in Bay View, he recalls catching the bus daily to Napier Boys'. He wasn't a top student and found English difficult. He was initially encouraged to pursue a trade, but several dedicated teachers at NBHS realised his potential and inspired him to aim higher. "I'm incredibly grateful to these teachers early in my life who believed in me and helped me see possibilities I'd never imagined," he says.

Brian, like his late father, Alan Roberts (NBHS 1932-1933), left him with a phrase that became a guiding philosophy: "All things in life are down to chance, choice, and consequences." He believes this defines his own life and career path— one shaped by unexpected opportunities, international exposure, and a deep commitment to helping cities tackle difficult and complex challenges.

His advice to today's students is both simple and wise: "We never know where life or our careers will lead us when we leave school, so stay curious, work hard, be ready to adapt — and don't be afraid to reinvent yourself." From Bay View to the international stage, Brian's life reminds us that the most fulfilling journeys often take us beyond what we initially imagined.

Brian Roberts (NBHS 1964-1968)

Central Hawke's Bay's Smedley Station appoints NBHS Old Boy Greg Crombie as manager

Smedley Station has appointed Greg Crombie as the new manager to run the Hawke's Bay agricultural training farm. Crombie was not a Smedley Cadet. Crombie will move to Central Hawke's Bay from Marlborough, where he has been general manager of Leefield Station since 2018.

The former Napier Boys' High student (1986-1990) said the appointment was a privilege. "I've farmed all my life and if I wasn't going to be a farmer, I wanted to be a teacher. Being at Smedley allows me to combine the two things I'm very passionate about."

He was drawn to the scale and significance of the station, alongside its values and work to develop young people into farmers of tomorrow. The station in Tikokino operates as a commercial farm and a self-funded training facility, which began in 1931 after farmer Josiah Howard gifted his Central Hawke's Bay farm to the Crown in 1919.

The 5660-hectare property is home to about 30,000 stock units and employs a dedicated team committed to cadet development.

He was excited to put his nearly 30 years of farm management and leadership experience into action.

"Smedley has always been about preparing young people for lifelong careers on the land.

"My focus is on keeping that tradition strong while making sure our cadets are ready for the challenges of modern farming, whether that's in the form of a changing climate, changing technology or changes in society."

The father of five will be joined on the farm by his partner and teenage son from December 1.

Howard Estate Advisory Board chair Conrad Wilkshire said Crombie was a "standout candidate" with his experience and track record in farming and passion for education.

"Greg understands at a very practical level what's involved in running a successful farm business and he brings proven business management skills. Most of all, he has a huge passion for teaching and helping people understand how it all works in practice," Conrad said.

"Greg's well-positioned to help Smedley achieve its vision of developing cadets and leading future innovation to stay relevant with future times."

Public Trust chief executive Glenys Talivai said the appointment of Crombie introduced leadership that would continue to uphold the values that made Smedley one of New Zealand's most respected agricultural training farms. "Greg joins a team dedicated to preparing cadets for the realities of modern farming - combining tradition with innovation. We give Greg and his family a very warm welcome."

Smedley recently announced its 2026 cohort; of the 13 cadets accepted, seven are women, a first for the station.

Note: Another Old Boy, John Edward Gunnell (NBHS 1940-1942) was a Smedley cadet in 1943, he attended Massey College (as it was then known) to obtain a diploma. He shepherded with Stewart Harvey at Waitahora and Castlepoint and also Brookland Station. He came off his own dairy farm at Napier to take a newly-made position as Assistant Manager at Smedley in 1956. He took over as the Manager of Smedley in 1962 until 1970.

HB Today/Public Trust/Chris Geddis



Greg Crombie

Memorabilia

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

Phillip Rankin - Archivist

Ties & Cufflinks

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

The school website is

www.nbhs.school.nz

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Napier Boys' High School and the Timaru Boys' High School Old Boys Networks



A.E. (Alon) Shaw

I applied for my first position as a teacher in 1957 and fortunately gained a post at Napier Boys' High School. I had just completed my Masters exams in geography and had a good reference from M. A. Bull, Rector of Timaru Boys' High School. When I took up my post as teacher and house master I probably found out one of the main reasons for my appointment. The Headmaster, Hugh Henderson was an Old Boy of Timaru Boys' High School, as were A.D. (Allan) Hunter, Dugald McKenzie, and Leith Power. Perhaps the Old Boy network existed. The farm manager was Neil McKenzie, a brother of Dugald. Later we were joined in Scinde House by Russell Blewden an Old Boy of NBHS. Four of the above became high school principals.

Allan Hunter, foundation principal at Upper Hutt College and then Burnside High in Christchurch, Dugald, headmaster at Marlborough Boys', Leith, Whanganui High, and Alon at Mahurangi College in Warkworth all from TBHS and Napier BHS. Luck? Or the influence of two schools.

Mrs Harvey from Scotland was the Matron. Alan Howlett and Ross McGregor were both housemasters. Ross was a former student of St Andrews College with a history degree. He and I had a close friendship at Canterbury University and then as housemasters. Ross developed liver cancer and died early in 1960. The teaching profession lost a gifted teacher at a far too early age. As both arts students we were asked to teach junior science, a subject we knew little about apart from taking the subject when we were at high school. The fact that we were asked to teach it for a second time showed either great confidence or reflected the grave shortage of science teachers.

Dawn Turnbull, secretary to the Headmaster was kind enough to type my Master's degree thesis for me which just reached the examiner with a couple of days to spare.

A few names still remain with me. Ra Kohere was head of Scinde House, a talented sportsman who had a great presence. Ra later became an inspector of schools in the Auckland district and inspected me at Mahurangi College! Tim Bickerstaff, well known radio jock, John Bluck, Dean of Christchurch cathedral, and several other Scinde House names come to the fore as I recall my two very enjoyable and educational years at NBHS. It was an important beginning of my teaching career before I headed back to South Canterbury for my wedding and country service at Waimate HS.

My wife and I left Waimate when I received a letter from Allan. It stated, "I am advertising a position at Upper Hutt College, head of department in geography, history and social studies, ability to bowl slow leg breaks an advantage. Are you interested in applying?" And so continued our friendship. From UHC we both left near the end of the year. Allan back to his favoured Christchurch. I began the principal's job at Mahurangi College where I stayed for twenty four years. I was only 34 when appointed, too young so some said, including inspectors at my interview for the position. I really enjoyed the challenge, was granted a couple of Woolf Fisher travelling fellowships and was offered the opportunity with a former colleague from UHC to train new principals prior to the introduction of Tomorrows Schools.

Forty eight years in Warkworth before returning to South Canterbury. My wife and I continued to visit Allan Hunter and Dugald McKenzie both on our retirement. Really enjoyed their company.

My association with Dugald and Allan stretched over a long period. As I am now 92 I can relate to the longevity of my two close friends.

Kindest regards from a retired principal that saw Robin Brooke be selected for an overseas trip with a NZ schoolboy rugby selected team. As a matter of record I note that Mahurangi College had the brothers three represent NZ. Murray and John Parker, ZinZan and Robin Brooke, James and Hamish Marshall. Not a bad record for a small once rural school.

I always thought that Marty Brooke also deserved a place in the All Blacks. I was a close friend of the three families in my role at Mahurangi College. In my NBHS days and at Mahurangi I always wore glasses but on retirement a successful operation meant I could see the golf ball further and the tennis ball earlier!

A.E (Alon) Shaw, Master NBHS (1958-1959)

Raymond O'Rourke Powerlifts his way to National Record.

A Napier man has bench pressed more than double his body weight and is now one of the top powerlifters in Oceania in his division. That's despite only starting the sport while studying at university. Raymond O'Rourke, 22, became the New Zealand under-75kg national powerlifting champion in May 2025.

He then represented New Zealand for a second time – his first was in South Africa in 2024 – at an international powerlifting competition at the Asia-Africa Pacific Championships in Himeji, Japan. O'Rourke returned home from Japan with a silver medal in the under-75kg category, after he lifted a combined total of 652.5kg across the squat, bench and deadlift.

He also set a New Zealand and Oceania under-75 bench press record at the comp of 162.5kg.

For those of you keeping an eye on cost of living headlines that's the equivalent weight of \$3250 worth of butter (at \$10 per 500g), or \$3040 worth of Mainland Tasty Cheddar (at \$18.69 per kilo).

He said competing in powerlifting is different to mainstream sports, with competitors having to squat, bench press, then deadlift large weights, with each competitor having three attempts at each station.

"Your attempts are usually structured to build a solid total, which is how you compare to your competition, with your final lifts pushing your limits," he said.

O'Rourke says the bench press is his favourite lift at the moment, but it does change.

"Between the technique, pausing and calls it's easily the most technical lift," he said.

"Controlling a weight more than twice your body weight and being able to press it off your chest to me is really a feat of upper body strength. And seeing other athletes do that never ceases to amaze me."

O'Rourke grew up in Napier and attended Napier Boys' High School (2016-2020).

While there he was a keen rugby player, but soon found himself on the athletics track, specialising in the 400m.



Raymond O'Rourke (left) on the podium at the 2025 Asia Africa Pacific Powerlifting Championships Himeji, Japan.



Raymond O'Rourke (right) and Coach James Schroder (left) Celebrate in Himeji, Japan

"I was attracted to the way of measuring your progress directly with a time," O'Rourke said.

"Over three years of running track, I learnt a lot about myself, what work effort looked like."

After high school, O'Rourke moved to Christchurch for university and was unable to continue his athletics training.

However, halfway through his engineering degree, a flatmate told him he would make a great powerlifter and he should enter a competition. O'Rourke was keen and entered.

He set out training without a coach and after his first competition, he knew he had found his next sport.

But studying and powerlifting training simultaneously had its challenges.

"Lecturers would likely not recommend spending 15 hours a week in the gym while studying a bachelor's of mechanical engineering with honours, but it did teach me a lot about time management," he said.

O'Rourke's next goal is to compete at the Junior Powerlifting Championships next year, but until then he is training to become a marine engineer with the Navy.

He says powerlifting is a great sport anyone can get into and he encourages those interested to look online at the plentiful resources there.

He says his best advice for those wanting to excel is simple, though: get a coach.

"My coach James Schroder has coached many international lifters to world titles and medals and the experience they provide – including game-day attempt selection – is invaluable," he said.

"Having a good coach ensures your efforts are taking you as far as possible."

HB Today/Chris Geddis

Cameron Helliwell - Prefect to Pilot



Cameron Helliwell

Cameron (Cam) Helliwell (NBHS 2005–2009) is now soaring in more ways than one. As Hamilton Base Manager and Training Captain for Life Flight's air ambulance service, he's found a role that blends his love of aviation, leadership, and medical service.

Cameron's career took flight not long after his final NCEA exam. Though he originally planned to study medicine, a conversation with a friend about becoming a pilot sparked a change in direction. "I couldn't shake the feeling that flying sounded much more like me," he says.

Just weeks later, he was training at CTC Aviation in Hamilton. After earning his Commercial Pilot Licence, he headed to Western Australia to instruct, before returning home to take up a senior instructor role in Hamilton. That experience paved the way for his dream job: flying medical missions with the Westpac Air Ambulance team.

"Medical flying was always the goal - combining my interest in the human body with my skills as a pilot felt like a perfect fit."

Now flying the Beechcraft King Air B200C, Cameron leads Life Flight's Hamilton base while continuing to mentor the next generation of pilots. In 2025, his dedication and leadership earned him a new opportunity: stepping into the role of Flight Operations Manager, where he now oversees flying operations across both the Hamilton and Wellington bases.

At Napier Boys' High School, Cameron stood out for his drive and versatility. He earned national medals in sprint kayaking (K1, K2, and K4), competed in orienteering, snowboarding, and surf lifesaving, and was appointed a prefect in Year 13. He gravitated toward STEM subjects—especially science - and credits Mr Coe's human biology class with inspiring his early interest in medicine.

"I look back on my time at NBHS fondly," he says. "The friendships I made there are still strong - my best mate from school was even the best man at my wedding. His family has since been helped by Life Flight, which brings things full circle."

Cameron (Cam) Helliwell (NBHS 2005-2009)

All Blacks XV v Barbarians: 18 test All Black Brad Weber responds to haka on return from injury

The only Kiwi named in the Barbarians squad to take on the All Blacks XV in Brentford, it was always going to be a memorable comeback for Brad Weber (NBHS 2007-2011).

Just under nine months ago, the 18-test All Blacks halfback had his sophomore campaign in France shortened due to injury. Playing for his French club Stade Francais in the Top 14, Weber's ankle was dislocated after he dived to make a tackle and was subsequently stuck at the bottom of a ruck.

On 1 November 2025, he was back in action and, as the All Blacks XV performed their pre-match haka, the 34-year-old, who also made nine appearances for the Māori All Blacks, responded in kind. As the rest of the Barbarians stood in a line, Weber stepped forward and laid down a challenge of his own to the New Zealand side. (Photo not shown due to Copyright issues).

Weber was named on the bench for the match in a Barbarians side largely made up of South Africans, squaring off against a host of familiar faces. The Barbarians got off to a flying start, taking the lead just two minutes into the contest through tighthead prop Asenathi Ntlabakanye. No 8 Evan Roos added to the lead around the 20-minute mark, before a try to hooker Bongi Mbonambi saw them take a 19-0 lead after the 27th minute.

Those were the last points the Barbarians scored. After a try through right winger Caleb Tangitau just before halftime got the All Blacks XV on the scoreboard, they found their form after the break. Tries to halfbacks Xavier Roe and Kyle Preston, second five-eighths David Havili and a second to Tangitau in the second half saw them claim a 33-19 win.

The clash was the first of the All Blacks XV's tour, which will see them play England A next weekend in Bath, before a match against Uruguay at Stade Raoul Barrière in Béziers, France, the week after.

All Blacks XV 33 (Caleb Tangitau 2, Xavier Roe, Kyle Preston, David Havili tries; Josh Jacomb 4 cons)
Barbarians 19 (Asenathi Ntlabakanye, Evan Roos, Bongi Mbonambi tries; Robert du Preez 2 cons)
HT: Barbarians 19-7

HB Today/Chris Geddis

Celebrating a Century of the Scinde House Dining Hall Napier Boys' High School 2026



Hostel Dining Hall

As the Napier Boys' High School and Scinde House community looks ahead to a milestone year, we pause to honour a space that has shaped generations of young men: the Scinde House Dining Hall, turning 100 years old in 2026.

The dining hall's centenary is far more than an architectural anniversary. Its opening in 1926 marked a defining moment in the school's history — the relocation of the school from its original home on Napier Hill to the former floodplain of the Tūtaekurī River. In those early years, the dining hall became the heart of Scinde House life: a place where boarders gathered daily, where friendships were forged, and where the traditions that define Scinde House were passed from one generation to the next.

Remarkably, the dining hall has retained its original character. Aside from modest renovations over the decades, the space remains much as it was a century ago. Its walls continue to tell the story of Scinde House — lined with photographs, memorabilia, and names that record both the ordinary days and extraordinary moments of boarding life. For many Old Boys, stepping inside is like stepping back in time.



Hostel Quad

As we mark this 100-year milestone, we also look forward. The year 2034 will see the 150th anniversary of Scinde House itself — a significant opportunity to reconnect with the thousands of former boarders who have called it home. Planning for these celebrations is beginning now, and the dining hall's centenary provides the perfect moment to start gathering our community.

To honour both our past and our future, a special proposal is being explored for 2026: a commemorative rugby fixture between Scinde House boarders and their counterparts from Lindisfarne College. Boarders would take the field wearing a replica of the Scinde House XV jersey from 1976 — a fitting nod to another era of boarding pride and sporting tradition.

In addition, former Scinde House boarders will be invited to register their interest in attending a centenary brunch onsite prior to the match. This will be a chance to gather in the dining hall once more, share stories, and celebrate the legacy of a place that has shaped so many lives. Dates and details will be shared in the coming months.

As we prepare to celebrate 100 years of the Scinde House Dining Hall, we invite all Old Boys — near and far — to reconnect, reminisce, and join us in honouring a century of meals, memories, and mateship. The next chapter begins with you.

Ashton Johnson: Head of Boarding

Please register your interest via the link below and online on the Napier Boys' High School website www.nbhs.school.nz [Scinde House dining hall centenary celebration](#).

Fill out form or Contact: Head of Boarding, 35 Chambers St, Te Awa, Napier N.Z. 4110. Ph.: 06 8335900 ext. 250



Scinde Jersey

Obituaries

HAROLD CHARLES (HARRY) MARETT

7 September 1933- Died 10 July 2025, Age 91. (NBHS 1947-1949)



Harold Charles (Harry) Marett, the former Hawke's Bay Rugby player died on 10 July 2025 age 91. Schooled at Te Awa Primary School, Napier Intermediate and Tutira School before Napier Boys' High School.

At Napier Boys' High School, Harry was Junior and Intermediate Athletics Champion and in the Second XV 1948 then the First XV 1949 in his final year. The Scindian of 1949 First XV Notes reported: "Marett H.C., second five-eights, 1949: Probably the most improved member of the team. Very quick off the mark. Handling improved a good deal, but could improve passing. Can tackle well, but inclined to tackle high on occasions."

Upon leaving he joined the Napier HSOB club and in 1951, playing for their junior grade team, gaining selection for all three matches played by the HB Junior team that year v Wairarapa (2) and Wellington. At the tail end of the club season he was promoted to the Napier HSOB senior team at second five-eighth for a handful of matches.

The Napier Daily Telegraph said of his senior debut v Taradale: It was the play of one of the Juniors, Harold Marett, that played a big part in the team's walkover win against Taradale ... Harold Marett played Rugby that was delightful to watch. He had tons of thrust, used the side-step when he had to, received and passed the ball at high speed, and opened up the field to give Wheeler room to score. Harry scored two tries in that 32-5 victory. In 1952, not yet 19, Harry became a regular for the Napier HSOB senior team from the start of the season at centre. The Daily Telegraph previewed the new season: Napier HSOB have promoted several juniors to replace last year's players ... Harold Marett, who played brilliant junior matches last year as a Hawke's Bay representative, comes into the senior backline. For the Magpies second match of the year – v Bush at McLean Park on June 25 – Harry made his debut at centre at the age of 18 years 291 days old. Magpie 841.

Daily Telegraph: ... Marett's ability to sight an opening and cut through at the right time was responsible for the most brilliant try of the day, this coming when he intercepted a pass in the opposition quarter and cut his way through to score.

Despite the impressive debut, it was to be his only game for Hawke's Bay that year as the selector Doug Dalton preferred another 1952 debutant Alex Taylor for the remainder of the season.

But the following year Harry did ascend to first choice centre for the Magpies, appearing in eight of their ten games.

North Island chairman of selectors Tom Morrison was a spectator at McLean Park on Queen's Birthday Monday 1954 for the annual Hawke's Bay v Wairarapa match. The Magpies played some brilliant rugby to win 38-16, scoring nine tries with Harry crossing for two of them.

When the North Island team was named for the inter-island match at Christchurch, it contained 13 All Blacks. The two non-All Blacks were Harry Marett at centre and North Auckland winger Barry Beazley. North Island won 13-9. The NZ Press Association report of the match recorded: On his display on Saturday there can be little doubt that H.C. Marett is a centre three-quarter of real class. The two tries that Jarden scored were both engineered by him and he had leading roles in other likely movements.

The following Saturday, at Athletic Park, Harry was at centre for a Rest of New Zealand XV against a 1953-54 All Blacks XV, the touring team who had completed their five-month tour of the UK, France, Canada and USA in March.

The Rest team lost by four points 26-22 but Marett again came in for praise. NZPA: One player whose appearance the crowd had anticipated with particular interest was Marett, the young Hawke's Bay centre.

Though the breaks were not going particularly well for the Rest backs, Marett fully substantiated the fine impression he created at Christchurch last week. One effort which led to Kelly scoring a try was a real gem.

The NZ Maori team returned from an eight-match tour of Fiji in August and the All Blacks selectors chose a New Zealand XV to meet them at Eden Park. The squad of 19 contained 11 All Blacks and Marett at centre. The New Zealand XV won 24-20 with Marett scoring two tries. For the second try, the NZPA noted: Marett scored again ... no sooner was the ball in his hands when he accelerated with prodigious speed.

These three matches were the main fixtures of the year on the 1954 rugby calendar in New Zealand as there was no touring team for the All Blacks to play against, and Marett had performed with distinction in all three.

The following year Australia arrived in the country for a 13-match tour in August and September that included three tests. For the inter-island match at Wellington, after his deeds of the previous year, Marett was once again picked at centre for North Island. Unfortunately, in a club match for Napier HSOB he sustained a shoulder injury, which caused him to withdraw, and be replaced by Terry Lineen of Auckland. It put Harry out of action for three weeks.

Seven days before the first test at Wellington, Hawke's Bay met the Australians. The All Blacks squad of 19 had already been named for the first test, but the All Black selectors still had an interest in Marett. Selector Tom Morrison was at McLean Park to watch the match and Hawke's Bay defeated the tourists 14-11. That night Marett was added to the All Blacks squad for the first test.

Explaining Marett's belated addition to the All Black squad, Tom Morrison said: The reason for his inclusion ... was because he had been injured ... and the selection committee had not wished to deny him the opportunity of pressing his claims.

On the Wednesday the All Blacks squad, billed as a New Zealand XV, played a match against Horowhenua. Marett was at centre as the New Zealand XV won 28-11.

NZPA: (Second five-eighth Pat Walsh and Marett) ... enjoyed a satisfactory second half. Marett made two or three good runs and gave A.E.G. Elsom and Smith every opportunity.

That night the 15 to play the first test was named with Alan Elsom at centre and Marett one of the four reserves.

The International Rugby Board regulations had always been that no replacements could be made during an international match. Named reserves would participate in training prior to the match but their duty was done once the team took the field on match day.

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They could then only watch from the stand as a spectator with no chance of going on as replacements for injury in an international match were not permitted until 1968, and for tactical substitution in 1996.

But there was some drama on the morning of the test. All Black wing Ross Smith had injured a knee in the match against Horowhenua and Marett was told Smith was not going to play. For about 30 minutes Marett thought he was then going to make his All Blacks debut. While he was contemplating this Smith had gone away and rung his uncle Alan Robilliard (one of the 1924-25 Invincibles) on what he should do – stand down or play? Robilliard's advice to his nephew was to play as he might not get another chance.

Smith announced he would play, and did, albeit with a heavily bandaged knee. The All Blacks won 16-8, but when the team for the second test at Dunedin was named, four of the playing 15 (including Smith) had been dropped as had three of the four reserves (including Marett).

After this the closest he would subsequently get to an All Black jersey was in 1956 when he was named in the reserves for both teams of the North Island trial at Palmerston North, without taking the field.

But there was a second appearance for the North Island in 1957. Not an original selection in the 19, there were numerous defections and Harry found himself a late inclusion to start on the wing for All Black Frank McMullen who withdrew, the North winning 19-3 at Eden Park.

NZPA: H.C. Marett and W.S.S. Freebairn on the wings ... played so well, especially Marett that the nervous South Islanders could only wonder how good the first choices were, or might have been.

Nevertheless, he continued playing for Hawke's Bay, appearing in the 1956 Ranfurly Shield challenge against Canterbury, and the matches with the 1956 Springboks he played at centre for Hawke's Bay in the 20-8 loss, and the 1958 Australians. That 1958 match against Australia was his 50th for the Magpies.

A shoulder operation in May 1959 meant he missed the whole of the Magpies campaign that year, including the match against the British Lions.

Returning for the 1960 season Marett played in 11 of the 13 games, but spent most of the time on the wing. Against Wellington at Wellington, in the last match of the season, he played what turned out to be the last of his 68 games for the Magpies, and probably no one knew that at the time. He was just 17 days past his 27th birthday.

The following year Marett found it difficult to commit to representative training because of work and became, essentially, unavailable for the Magpies. His final involvement at first-class level was on Queen's Birthday for the Hawke's Bay B team against Bush. Not originally selected for the game, he played on the wing as a late inclusion.

Colin Le Quesne, Magpies coach 1957-69: Harry had explosive speed. He played most of his rugby at centre, but I have always held the belief that he was better suited to wing. He showed that when he outclassed the speedster Morton when we beat Australia in 1958. Harry really played for Hawke's Bay 10 years too soon. Imagine how good he would have been outside Ian MacRae and Bill Davis?

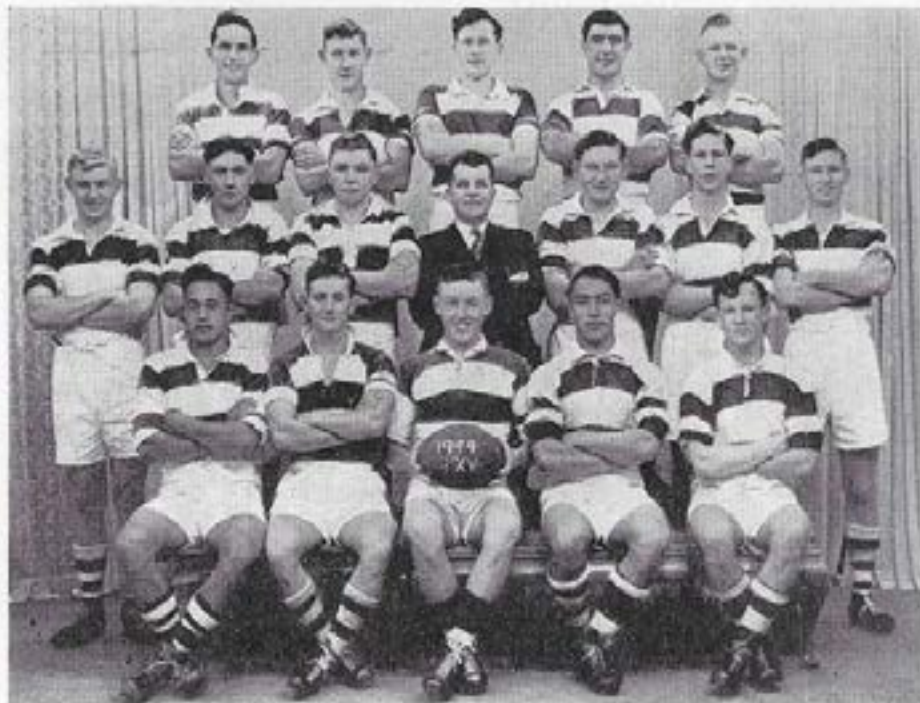
Harry continued to play for Napier HSOB in 1962 and 1963, and finished having scored 78 tries for the senior side in Hawke's Bay competition matches. He coached the former Napier High School Old Boys Senior team in the 1960's.

Harry played in 68 matches and scored 28 tries for Hawke's Bay (1952-61). He was inducted into Magpies Hall of Fame 2013.

In 2017 Hawke's Bay/Gisborne Masters Athletics Inc awarded Harry Life Membership. Marett had been involved in track and field for over 40 years, having been a founding committee member and athlete of Hawke's Bay/Gisborne Masters Athletics Inc. Highlights of his involvement include organising the merchandising and event funding for the 9th Oceania Veteran Games in Hastings in 1998, and winning North Island Championship 100 metre gold medals in 1986 and 1991 in his age group.

Hawke's Bay Rugby Union Archivist, Adrian Hill/NBHS Research Unit/Chris Geddis

THE FIRST FIFTEEN. 1949



Back Row: T. R. Wells, R. C. Kerr, S. S. R. Douglas, H. R. Hiha, P. S. Bygate.
Middle Row: I. H. Gower, T. R. Southon, R. B. Milburn, Mr. Milburn, D. Priest, A. E. Cox, K. A. Laws.
Front Row: H. T. Waitoa, W. M. Johnson, D. S. Kivell (Capt.), S. N. Purcell, H. C. Marett.
Absent: E. B. Ellison, W. D. Leadbetter.

ALAN DOUGLAS MCRAE

7 March 1925-30 July 2025 Age 100 (NBHS 1938-1941)



Alan McRae with Ernie

Alan McRae was born on 7th March 1925, and lived the early part of his life in the family house at 10 Lawrence Road Napier. Alan spent his early days at Napier Central School but then the 1931 earthquake came along and demolished that school, so he went to either Nelson Park or Hastings Street School. A few years at Napier Boys High followed (NBHS 1938-1941.) When questioned about his high school years he noted that he was probably the last living member of the “Cane Gang”. Evidently a few of the boys saw the new batch of canes being delivered to the school by the local courier – probably a young man on a push bike with a basket hanging off the front handlebars. The “gang” managed to find them, just inside one of the windows of the office. They then took the bunch of new canes out to the area near where Scinde House now is, cut them into small bits and burnt the lot!

Alan left school at 15 or 16 and lately in our conversations he had lots of pleasure in regaling us with the story that he intentionally failed School Cert, or its equivalent in those days, so that he could get a job rather than waste time at school. When the School Cert results came out, he delighted himself in telling his mother that he had failed. She immediately told him to get a job, so he hopped on his bike and went to Niven Engineering, down in Ahuriri, where he hoped to get an apprenticeship. They had no vacancies, so the boss there made a call to the Vulcan Foundry, so Alan rode off there for an interview. Got the job and then had to get the overalls to suit. His mother made a call to someone they knew who had a tradie shop in Carlyle Street, just opposite where the old Police Station used to be at the bottom of Faraday Street. The owner opened up after hours just to allow Alan to get his gear for the new job.

Alan took up his apprenticeship as a fitter and turner with the Vulcan Foundry in February 1942, completing this in 1947 and continued to work at the Foundry until 1958. The Foundry was located on the corner of Hastings and Raffles Streets and took up most of the block where the Courthouse now stands. It had an engineering department, a blacksmith shop, boiler and welding shop, patternmaker, and a cast iron, bronze and aluminium moulding shop. Alan said that his first wages were 14/2d per week, that’s about \$1.42 per week in decimal currency.

Alan, known as “Mac” had his own little oasis at the Foundry. This consisted of his own lathe and medical centre. He had his own wooden dining chair and home-made instruments to remove any foreign bodies that his co-workers may have had stuck in their eyes. His lathe was used to grind the rubber rollers from the printing presses at the Daily Telegraph. These were about 8 feet long and it took about 1.5 hours to grind the length of the roller. Mac would start the lathe, then settle down in his chair and read a book. In his position at the Foundry Mac would visit the Daily Telegraph, Thompson & Hills, Louis Wood Wool Scourers, the Awatoto Shingle Company, Harris Hats, and Tuck’s Timber mill up on the Napier Taupo road.

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Following his spell at the Vulcan Foundry Alan moved to Thompson & Hills, the canning factory in Wellesley Road where the Balmoral Shopping Centre now stands. A spell at McLeod's bakery followed in the early 60's and then in 1968 Alan moved to the city's Municipal Electricity Dept. from where he eventually retired. At the MED he was in charge of the Engineering department, commonly known as the Department of Perks! If anyone needed some welding done – go see Mac, he'll fix it for you. Likewise, for anything mechanical, Mac would see that it got done. I'm sure over the years he called in many of these favours – that was the way the world worked in those days.

Alan also spent a lot of time working on weekends at Jim Wakely's pig farm out in Meeanee. This work entailed general maintenance around the piggery, but he was also heavily involved in the construction of Jim's stock car, one of the first locally, and maybe nationally, and named "The Pig". Interestingly, Alan only had these 4 jobs in his life – Vulcan Foundry, Thompson & Hills, McLeod's bakery, and the MED. When son Steve visited him in July, they had a chat about some of his working life, and he said "if you have a job that you love you'll never work a day in your life" – how true that seems to be.

Alan and future wife Linea met at a dance – one of those regular Wednesday and Saturday night functions that constituted a social life for youngsters in the 1940's. They married in October 1948, having 3 children, Catherine, Stephen, and Ian. Catherine attended Napier Girls' High, and the 2 boys attended Napier Boys' High in the 1960's and 70's. The original family home after Alan and Linea married was a rental house in Park Road (now called Hospital Tce) which runs along the front of the old Napier hospital. The family shifted from there in 1954 to a house in Kelsall Street where there was lots of outdoor space, a chook house, an outside laundry with a copper, an outside loo where you actually had to pull the chain, an orchard of sorts and plenty of room for the family to run around, trees to climb, and banks to slide down. Around this time there were occasions when the family didn't see Alan for days on end. He would start work at Thompson and Hills at 6am before they were awake and end his working day at 8 or 9pm after the kids had gone to bed. The effort he put in to save enough money to pay for their first house was just amazing.

In the mid 1950's Alan started preparing for their first family house at 16 Spencer Road Napier. Alan was given the lower half of his parent's block. Asking the next-door neighbour how he could get the transfer paperwork done he was advised "leave it to me". A few weeks later he was given the paperwork to register the subdivision and transfer, all done by the neighbour who just happened to work in the Council or Land department of the government. The cost – a bottle of whisky and a dozen beer. Alan then proceeded to do the concreting of walls etc. to get the place ready for occupation. He would "box" the new wall etc. to be made, mix and pour the concrete by hand with his home-made concrete mixer, wait a week or 2 to let it set, then remove the boxing and start again. This continued for many years as the house was built and all of the walls and pathways around it eventually turned from clay into concrete. Alan mentioned that he did all of this without permits, but the aforesaid neighbour told him years later that he was keeping an eye on things and if anything wasn't done according to the rules he would have told him to fix it. Nothing ever required fixing.

In 1959 the family moved into their new house at 16 Spencer Road. This was a major move as there were no paths around the house, only boggy clay covered with some of the leftover planks from the building process. Even after the rest of the family had moved out, the work never stopped. From putting in wrought iron balustrades, repainting the house and plastering the walls Alan put one hell of an effort into his house. In February 1980 Alan and Linea decided that living on the hill wasn't for them anymore, so they packed up and moved to Wycliffe Street where Alan still lived until a few years ago and he decided that the place was too much for him and he chose to move to Summerset where he spent the last couple of years.

Following his retirement from the MED in 1985 Alan proceeded to get involved in his woodturning activities these continued until the last few years when he gave up because of his declining mobility. Woodturning gave Alan an outlet for his creative skills, some company when he used to work in the Hands on Parade shop, and a few dollars in the pocket as well. He was heavily involved in the local Woodturning Club, having been one of the founders, one of the early Presidents, and eventually awarded a Life Membership in 2009. Quite fittingly, Alan was given a surprise in that he was taken out to the Club just in the last few months of his life where he reacquainted with the members.

In the last couple of years Alan had a few brief spells in hospital. At one time the doctors attending to him were astounded that, at 95, he only saw his GP once a year to get his driver's licence medical renewed and that he wasn't on any medication nor did him need to be. Up until this time Alan had never been hospitalised at any point in his life. Alan passed away in his sleep on 30th July 2025 aged 100 years, 4 months.

Steve McRae (Son) (NBHS 1965-1970)

JOHN WILLIAM (BILL) SCOTT

22 September 1938- 5 May 2025 Age 86



Bill Scott (Right) with daughter Pam with Strawberries picked for the local market.

Havelock North's Bill Scott: A true pioneer in strawberry cultivation.

If you live in Havelock North, there is every chance you have visited Scott's Strawberry Farm in Te Aute Rd, just on the outskirts of the village. Its founder, John William Scott, affectionately known as Bill, died 5th May, 2025.

Scott, a man with an infectious laugh and smile and a love of family and strawberries, will be remembered for his innovation in the berry-growing world. For 42 years, he cultivated strawberries from the land and was the first grower in Hawke's Bay to grow strawberries in polythene after gathering information from the University of California, a university well known for its strong horticultural division.

Scott attended Napier Boys' High (1952-1954) as a boarder, leaving at 15 to become a fencer. He earned enough money to buy land on Joll Rd in Havelock North and grew vegetables to sell. The aim of that was to save enough money to purchase a dairy farm. Married to Colleen, his farming direction took a turn when his father-in-law, who was growing a few strawberries in his own vegetable garden, gave Bill a few spare strawberry plants. Bill planted them in some ground in Joll Rd, and along with his other vegetables, they were a hit.

His mother urged him to continue growing strawberries, so he expanded into land previously owned by his grandparents near Anderson Park in Havelock North. He then leased land off his brother in Te Aute Rd and eventually purchased his own block of land where Scott's Strawberry Farm is today, run by his son Billy. It was 1962 when Scott planted his first commercial crop of strawberries on the land, in bare ground with straw to deter weeds and keep the ground warm.

After learning more about planting in polythene, he designed his own polythene layer for his strawberry beds and around 1979, he commenced planting in double rows, which took his capacity of plants from 50-60,000 plants per hectare to 120,000 plants per hectare. It is how the beds are still planted today.

Bill also designed bespoke clothes that helped to extend the strawberry season from late September to April. He took up exporting berries in the 1970s, sending them to Los Angeles and the UK, all done by letters and telex in those days. During his lifetime, he grew most of his own plants, over the years trialling several types for the ultimate taste.

Being such a diligent worker, you would think he would be too busy for a hobby, but Scott, who had driven on metal roads most of his life, took up rally driving, only retiring from it when he had children. Billy encouraged him to take it up again in 1988, eight years after his retirement, but Scott decided it was time he took up cycling.

He planted his last 50 plants of strawberries on May 1, 2025 and then died on May 5. On June 13, 2025 his wife Colleen's birthday, a single red strawberry appeared in those plants, just ripe enough for her to eat

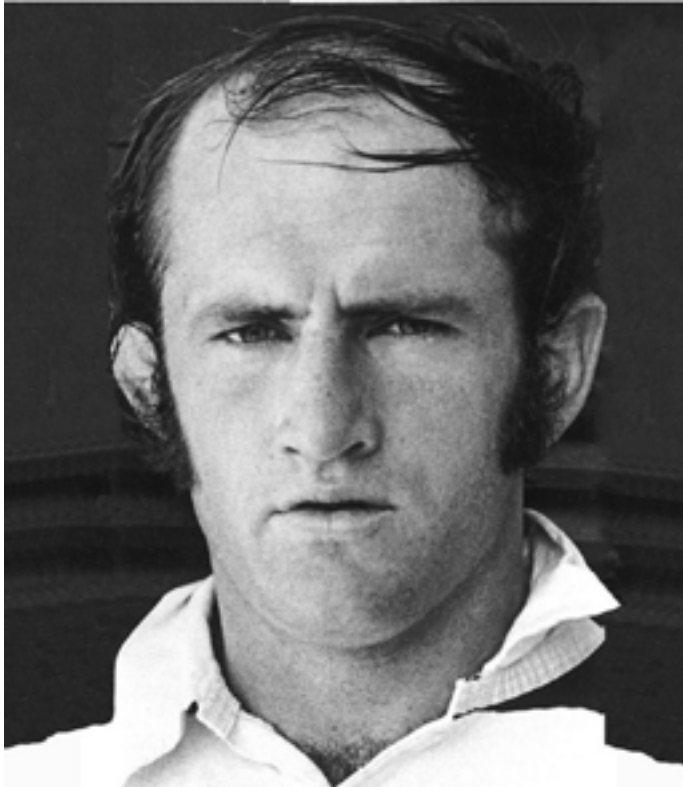
The Country/Chris Geddiss



Bill Scott

ROBERT LOCKSDALE (ROBBIE) STUART

9 January 1948-26 June 2025 Age 77



Robbie Stuart

Napier Boys' High School Old Boy (1961-1963), Former Hawke's Bay rugby player and captain and 1977 All Black and Waipukurau HSOB player, Robbie Stuart passed away suddenly at home on 26 June 2025.

Robert "Robbie" Locksdale Stuart was born on the 9th of January 1948 and as well as being one of Hawke's Bay's All Blacks he is a "legend" of Hawke's Bay Rugby who was very proudly a Hawke's Bay Magpies player whenever he wore the "black and white hoops".

As a rugby player, Robbie played mainly as a Lock, but he was versatile enough to be able to play Prop [this came in handy in 1977 as will be discussed later]. Though considered short for a top Lock by modern standards at around 1.91m [6 foot 4 inches], Robbie was a very capable lineout forward jumping primarily at two [without the modern-day assistance] and he was a very hardworking honest physical "grafter" in the tight.

Born in Napier, Robbie played in the Napier Ross Shield Team in 1959 and 1960 from which he was selected in the Hawke's Bay Ross Shield Team in both years also. He was educated at Napier Boys' High School (1961-1963) and he initially played his Club Rugby for Napier Technical Sports Club [then known as Napier Technical Old Boys, now Tech Old Boys] so never played any Rugby for NBHS at all. Robbie made his senior club debut in 1967 for Tech OB, before playing from 1971 for the Waipukurau High School Old Boys Rugby Football Club [now known as the Central Hawke's Bay Rugby Sports Club] when he transferred to live in Waipukurau working as a stock agent.

Robbie played for the Hawke's Bay Juniors team in 1966, but then he first represented Hawke's Bay (Magpie No. 1018) at New Zealand Provincial level from 1967 making his debut against the Poverty Bay Rugby Football Union in a match played at Gisborne as well as coming on a replacement in the Ranfurly Shield match against Otago Rugby that same year. After his first season in first class rugby in 1967 [remarkably when just only 19], he was third lock and the youngest forward in the squad. A reserve in all the Shield matches, he made four appearances that year but an appearance as a replacement against Otago was to be his only Ranfurly Shield appearance. He was named by the Rugby Almanac as being one of the five

promising players of that year. In 1968 he was in the Shield squad again and made five appearances, all non-Shield games. He lost his place in the 1969 Ranfurly Shield squad to Richard Robinson but playing for the HB B team that year which included two first-class appearances v Bush. However, the beginning of Robbie's representative rugby career coincided with the great Hawke's Bay teams of the late 1960's [remembering that the Ranfurly Shield was in the province from 1966 to 1969] as well as going into the early 1970's that were primarily captained by the great All Black Loose Forward Kel Tremain. Ahead of him in the side were Karaan Crawford and Rod Abel who had a mortgage on the locking positions as did Hilton Meech and Neil Thimbleby as the team's regular props. Therefore, for Robbie it was a relatively long and without a doubt an occasionally frustrating apprenticeship before becoming a regular "starter" in the Hawke's Bay team. Midway through 1969 Robbie left New Zealand to work and play rugby in South Africa basing himself in the city of Durban. He worked as machinery salesman and then as an auctioneer as well as playing rugby to such a high level that he played three games for Natal at provincial level. He was intent on playing for Natal in the All Blacks' tour match, but upon missing selection he came back to New Zealand during that same 1970 season. With the retirement of Rod Abel in 1970 Robbie was first choice locking partner for Karaan Crawford. He played the first four matches that year but in August he left NZ to travel to South Africa. He arrived back in the country in August 1971 having played in Durban for the Glenwood Old Boys club. On his arrival back, and after just one club match for Tech OB, he was immediately back into the Magpies team to appear in three of the last four matches of the year.

Between 1967 and 1971 Robbie played only 18 times for Hawke's Bay. It was not until 1972 that he began to be a regular selection in the team and that season he was named as the team's Captain and apart from 1975 when Zukov Marinkovich was made captain, he captained the Magpies for the rest of his HB career. He went on to captain Hawke's Bay 84 times, which is still the Magpies captaincy record. Notably though when Robbie did finally establish a more regular starting position in the Hawke's Bay team, he readily showed that he had absorbed all the early lessons and experiences that he been exposed to in those formative years [especially having had as a mentor Kel Tremain].

In 1973 he shifted residence to play for Waipukurau HSOB and suffered a broken ankle in a preseason match, missing the entire season as a result of that injury, but he was then given the captaincy again in 1974 and then became the team's permanent Captain from 1976 onwards having many seasons as a successful Captain of Hawke's Bay with his leadership qualities later further recognised on his one All Black tour in 1977. Despite his extensive record playing for Hawke's Bay in the seasons between 1972 and 1980, Robbie had received only relatively scant national recognition. He had played in a Junior All Black trial in 1969. He moved into national calculations for the first time in 1976. Hawke's Bay defeated North Auckland (now Northland) 25-16 at McLean Park in a match that was watched by one of the three North Island selectors, Barry Bracewell. With the All Blacks touring South Africa at the same time, when the North Island team to play South Island in the annual match at Hamilton was named, Stuart was selected as captain ... and at prop, instead of his usual lock position. Although, he had played six games at prop for Hawke's Bay in 1974. He played for the North Island in each of the 1976 and 1977 seasons. While having been the captain in the 1976 North Island match [while playing Prop], he was not chosen for that year's second All Black tour of Argentina [fellow Hawke's Bay player the late Pat Ryan was selected] which prompted some surprise amongst some circles when he was finally given his All Black "colours" a year later in 1977.

After 98 first class games and aged 29, Weekly newspaper Rugby News conducted a poll of 13 rugby writers on the possible makeup of the 25-man squad, and six of the writers had Stuart as one of their three locks. The All Blacks' selectors did pick Stuart and he would go on to play in

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six of the matches, being on the subs bench for both tests against France.

Robbie was selected as a member of the New Zealand All Blacks team on their 1977, 9- match tour of Italy and France end of year tour and he is All Black Number 780.

In total, Robbie played six matches for the All Blacks that all occurred on that tour of Italy and France in 1977 in a New Zealand touring team that was captained by Graham Mourie.

Robbie made his debut for the All Blacks on the 22nd of October 1977, when he started at Lock alongside Andy Haden in the match played at Padua in Italy against the Italian President's XV in a match won by the All Blacks by 17 points to 9.

Other than his debut match in Italy, the other five of these six matches Robbie played for the All Blacks were played in France that included him playing in his only international Test match.

Robbie played in the match against a French Selection at Brive on the 26th of October when he came on as a replacement in the solid All Blacks victory won by 45 points to 3. He then started in the match played on the 1st of November at Perpignan against a French Selection with him being the Captain in the All Blacks narrow 12 points to 9 victory. The points scorers for the All Blacks were winger Stuart Wilson who scored the solitary try and Brian McKechnie [playing at 1st 5/8th] who kicked the conversion of that try, but more crucially kicked two drop goals with the second coming in the Second Half to take the victory.

Robbie's next appearance was when he started the match played at Bayonne against another French Selection that was excellently won by the All Blacks by 38 points to 22 [the French team were leading at Halftime by 16 points to 14].

Then came his Test debut when Robbie was selected as a Forward Reserve to play against France [Rugby France] at Toulouse in the First Test, with him being selected to cover both Prop and Lock from "The Bench". His official Test Cap came when he was called onto the playing field, coming on after 60 minutes, as a replacement for Prop Gary Knight in the match which was a brutal Test Match. Knight was forced to leave the field after having been "allegedly" eye-gouged by French Prop Gerard Cholley that made him in effect "blind". Robbie came onto the field and he played as a Prop for the remainder of the match which was narrowly lost by 18 points to 13. Stuart went to loosehead prop with Brad Johnstone switching to tighthead to pack against Cholley.

His next appearance was when Robbie again captained the All Black team in their match played against a French selection at Angouleme [which was to be his last match in the famous Black Jersey] and in this match he scored a try in the 30 points to 3 victory by the All Blacks. Therefore he finished his career in the All Blacks as an undefeated All Blacks captain! Stuart, having captained the All Blacks in their matches against French Selections at Perpignan and Angouleme, would later would remark these two captaincies would be his proudest moments on the field in his rugby career. Though mostly a lock in his long career Stuart could play usefully as a prop and this versatility was a factor in his gaining on that tour his one test cap. Stuart played a total of 6 games for the All Blacks on the 1977 tour to Europe.

He played his 100th match for Hawke's Bay v Thames Valley in 1979, becoming just the fourth Magpies centurion, and finished his playing career in 1980. By the 1980 season, his last in first class rugby, Stuart had amassed 116 matches for the province 84 as captain, which remains a magpie's record, and even then he had missed all of the 1973 season. He also scored nine tries. Robbie retired from all Rugby in 1980 and he had had a huge influence on that Hawkes Bay team especially in the latter half of his career.

After his retirement as a player Robbie soon turned to coaching doing so initially with the Waipukurau High School Old Boys Rugby Club and then he was appointed Magpies coach in August 1984 after the sacking of Graham Lewis and had one further year in the position in 1985. He was inducted into the Central Hawke's Bay Sports Hall of Fame 2018.

Once a Magpie/ Adrian Hill HB Rugby Union Archivist/Chris Geddis

Last Roll Call

The following Old Boys and teachers passed away recently:

APTED, David Charles – 1952-1955
 BAXTER, David John (Baccy) – 1977-1979
 BOWES, Graeme James – 1953-1954
 BLOOR, Peter John – 1971-1974
 BROWN, Keith Robert – 1940
 BRYANT, David Victor – 1957-1959
 CHEER, Kevin Raymond James - 1972 - 1975
 CLARK, William Frederick (Bill) – 1947-1950
 CLIFTON, Jack Henry, (Cleary) – 2011-2013
 CODD, Robert Hedley – 1958
 COOPER, Hugh William Neil – 1958-1960
 CRAWFORD-FLETT, Graeme Joseph – 1963-1964
 CULLEN, Albert William (Bill) -1956-1957
 CULLUM, Jeremy Peter William (Jerry) – 1968-1971
 DAVIS, Toby Jonathan – 1988-1992
 DEAR, Christopher William (Chris) – 1965-1969
 DE LA HAYE, Dean Selwyn – 1950-1951
 GALE, Richard Leslie – 1957-1958
 GERKEN, Noel Gordon – 1956-1957
 HAKIWAI, Fred Wilson - 1968-1969
 HARLEY, Leonard Rayson – 1955-1956
 HARVEY, John Elliot – 1948 – 1952
 HODGKINSON, David John – 1957-1959
 HUTCHINSON, Bryan James Donald – 1954-1956
 INNES, John Harding (Hardy) – 1946-1948
 JENSEN, Basil Morris (Bas) – 1949-1950
 LIDDELL, Barrie Stuart – 1958-1961
 NEVILLE, Paul - 1966-1969
 MACDONALD, Ian – 1959-1961
 McDONALD, Ross Thomas (Rossco) – 1969-1972
 McKENZIE, Donald James - 1968
 MCINTOSH, David Ronald – 1965-1966
 McMILLAN, John Magnus (Johnny Mac) - 1962-1965
 McRAE, Alan Douglas – 1938-1941
 MARETT, Harold Charles (Harry) – 1947-1949
 MARTIN, Donald William – 1935 (Age 104)
 MORRISON, Glenn James – 1970-1974
 PARKES, Charles Sylvester -1957-1958
 PATTERSON, Hugh (Hug) – 1971-1972
 QUINN, Mervyn John (Merv) – 1952-1953
 ROSS, Kenneth Malcolm (Ken) – 1954-1958
 ROUSE, Desmond Rolland (Des) – 1956-1957
 SANDERSON, Arthur George (George) – 1958-1959
 SCHEELE, Kenneth Arthur (Ken) – 1940-1942
 SCRIMGEOUR, Charles Lewis - 1960 - 1961
 SIMMONDS, Travis Edward (Trav) - 1985-1988
 STEWART, Paul James - 1970 - 1973
 STUART, Robert Locksdale (Robbie) – 1961-1963
 TRASK, Eric Donald (Don) - 1948-1949
 TURNBULL, David (Dave) – 1955-1956
 VIGGERS, Brian John – 1943-1945
 WILLIAMS, Herbert John (Bert) – 1949-1950
 WOOD, Andrew David – 1968-1971

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

Chris Geddis