

# Rock Runner

The magazine of the Rathkeale College community • Volume 12 • April 2007



The reconsecration service  
of St Martin's on the Close



## From the Editor

2006/2007 has been a rewarding time for the Rathkeale Old Boys Association (ROBA) in their endeavours, projects and activities. As you read your 2007 Rock Runner, you will enjoy seeing and hearing about these activities and various other items of interest from the school.

The most recent project has entailed moving what was known as "The Old Dark Room" located in Burma Road, to the existing cricket pavilion. This will mean bigger facilities for both the local and visiting teams by way of changing rooms etc. Once the relocation has taken place, the next task will be to work on ablution areas, decking and landscaping. At the 2007 reunion it will certainly be included on the afternoon school tour for everyone to see.

Also on the ROBA agenda is preparation for the school's 50th anniversary in 2014. The intention is to look at building a new rugby pavilion in place of the existing one. You'll be kept informed of progress in each Rock Runner edition. If anyone has any ideas on fundraising or other projects the ROBA could consider all feedback will be gratefully received.

A list of upcoming events is outlined further into your magazine. The 2006 reunion held at Solstone Restaurant was a truly wonderful night and you will not want to miss the next one—more details will follow but make sure you book Saturday 13th October in your diaries now.

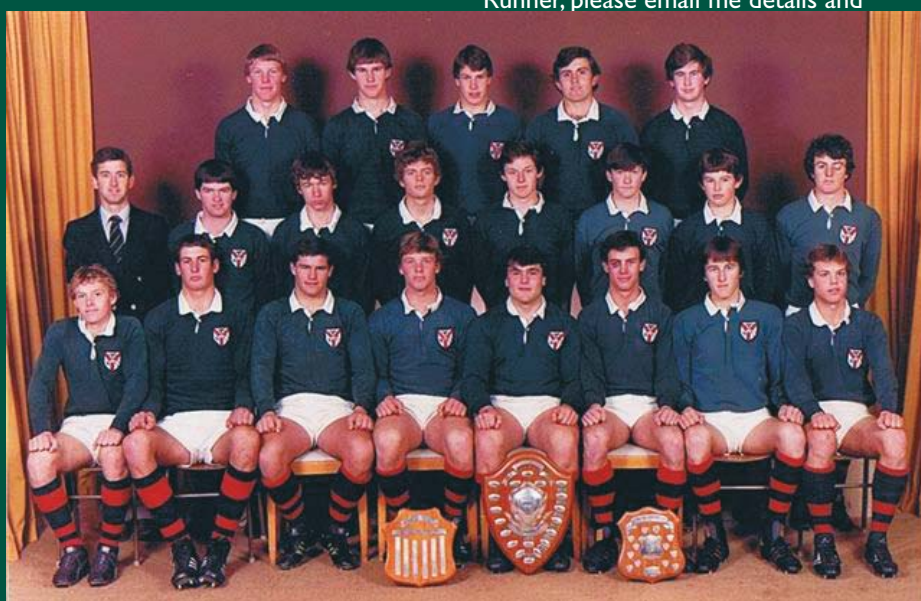
If you have any items that you think may be of interest for the 2008 Rock Runner, please email me details and

I will be more than happy to include your news in the next edition. Hearing about what you are doing and what part of the world you may be living in will be great to share with your fellow old boys. Also, if you could please drop me a line confirming your email address that would be much appreciated. The database has had a huge overhaul thanks to (OB) Chris Gane but it needs your help to keep it accurate and up-to-date. Remind your old school chums also. You can contact me at [acc@rathkeale.school.nz](mailto:acc@rathkeale.school.nz)

I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy reading!

**Alix Cooper**  
Editor



*The 1982 Rathkeale 1st XV. Their reunion is planned for July 27th-29th, 2007.*



*The site for the Old Dark Room, beside the existing cricket pavilion.*

# Principal's Report



This College was established forty-two years ago by men and women who knew where they were going! Bob Dunderdale and John Norman established Rathkeale as an independent boarding school for boys, a school which would cater for Wairarapa boys faced with traveling outside the province for their schooling. John Norman certainly knew what he wanted.

"He came to believe that every school must make its own traditions; it must not be a carbon copy of existing independent schools. With the country site there was a chance to maintain an essentially traditional structure and discipline, but also to create a different school, one which would tap initiative and self-reliance, using the outdoors for such activities as tramping, climbing, the Duke of Edinburgh scheme, and camping. The cities were becoming more difficult places to raise children in, and city families would benefit from a country education provided the academic standards were high. Some of the Board kept mentioning Gordonstoun as a model, but E J Norman was not prepared to go as far as that."

John Norman's view and his and others pioneering spirit has underlined Rathkeale's development over all of these years.

This year the Board of Trustees and myself have recognised the need to look at where we are as a school and to build a clearer view of where we are going to be in 2010 and beyond. We wished to build on the magnificent past, given to us by John Norman and others, and to build a vision that is resonant and relevant to all in the Rathkeale Community.

We have worked very hard to create a shared vision: we have surveyed the community and we have worked with the staff to ensure all are attuned to the way ahead. Vision building is an on-going process but I feel that the board, the staff and myself are now beginning to develop a clear view of what the future will look like if every thing runs as planned and our vision is fulfilled.

The 'pioneering spirit' metaphor of John Norman has been a good place to start. This idea of a pioneering spirit occurs at the 'edges' of our societies. This idea of 'being on the edge' had been developed by Kevin Roberts, a very well known New Zealand businessman and CEO of Saatchi and Saatchi, the best known world-wide advertising agency. Kevin notes 'that the best ideas come from the edge. Biological change usually happens at the edges of a species range. Here the population is the most sparse and the

orthodoxies of the centre weakest. If you want to change the world, the edge is the best place to be," he says.

Kevin sees New Zealand as being on the edge and gives examples such as Peter Jackson, the All Blacks and Sam Morgan of Trade Me fame, as New Zealanders who have gained a competitive advantage by being on the edge—unconstrained by what the rest of the world is doing.

Rathkeale College is 'on the edge', being a small rural provincial school and out of town. This being 'on the edge' gives us some obvious advantages. We have a small and close community. We have people with ideas and innovations and an environment where they can flourish.

An excellent example of this is Brendon Bracewell and his cricket academy. Brendon saw that moving his cricket academy from Tauranga to Rathkeale had advantages and he has capitalized on our location for the good of cricket at Rathkeale and in the Wairarapa.

We need to be confident of our place 'on the edge' and work hard to benefit from it.

What then is the 'edge' we have and what will it look like by 2010?

First, we must recognise that the foundation of our College is its Special Character, enshrined in our Integration Agreement with the government. The Special Character provides a framework, indeed a foundation, for the education of our boys.

It establishes the Anglican tradition as the foundation of worship. The Anglican tradition is commonly seen as a three legged stool. Our worship is based on the Scriptures, the Bible and The New Zealand prayer Book. It is also based on tradition—we stand on the shoulders of others. But it is also based on Reason—we take note of academic scholarship and apply thinking process to our view of Christianity—we don't just stick with tradition—we evolve.

Secondly, the Integration agreement stresses the upholding of a strong moral code based on Christian standards and values—justice, love, inclusiveness, care of creation, biculturalism and mercy.



Thirdly, it stresses the unity of day and boarding achieved through a programme of religious, cultural and recreational pursuits in which all pupils are expected to fully participate. This is the rationale behind Chapel, Founders Day services, compulsory sport, the House competition, outdoor education, full school singing and the variety of other cultural opportunities.

I believe that the three part foundation provided by the Integration agreement gives us 'an edge', an essential point of difference from most other NZ schools.

The 'edge' we will have in 2010 will be more than this.

We will be a school where all boys strive for academic excellence, no matter their abilities and backgrounds. They will be well-prepared as life-long learners. More than this though, Rathkeale will offer a holistic education where the academic core will be complemented by an encouragement for boys to not only participate, but also to excel, across a range of sporting, cultural, outdoor, team and leadership opportunities.

I believe that we are well on the way to achieving the first part of this clear vision by 2010. The 2006 NCEA Level 2 exam results and the increased pass rates for literacy and numeracy noted in the recent ERO report are evidence of big progress.

The achievements of our 1st XI Cricket team in making the Gillette Cup finals for the second year in a row, William Prior, the fifth ranked men's 200m freestyler in New Zealand, Myles Collins New Zealand U15 table tennis to China, Doug Bracewell New Zealand U16 Rugby training squad, James Pearson New Zealand Secondary Schools Flute Champion and the excellence of our other sporting, outdoor pursuits, drama and music teams—all point to a small college 'on the edge' and overachieving. The challenge is now to take this further.

There is also a very clear vision of what we want our student graduates of 2010 to be like—we want them to be 'good Rathkeale men'. They will be socially adjusted, present well and have compassion for others. They will step up and lead when necessary, be self motivated, open minded and self disciplined. They will respect themselves and others, feel good about themselves and the school and its members.

I was very proud of the boys during the recent reconsecration service of St Martins on the Close. Their behavior,



*The senior boys enjoying a music session. Pictured with the flute is James Pearson, winner of the National Secondary Schools Flute Competition.*

their presentation and their pride in being 'good Rathkeale men' was obvious and commented on by many visitors. 'Good Rathkeale men' can certainly step up when required but we need to work hard to be confident of our consistency in this by 2010.

To achieve our vision of a holistic education for our boys based on success for all and striving for excellence we must work hard to improve learning and the learning environment.

We will provide a disciplined learning environment offering clear boundaries and consequences and we will move to take a restorative justice approach when boys test or break the boundaries they are given.

It will be a school which celebrates boys and being male, which ensures it is safe for boys to take risks, but also provides through the Senior College an opportunity to develop as young gentlemen and be comfortable in the company of women.

It will develop a secure community. A place where boarders can feel at home, and competition houses and mentor groups where boys of all backgrounds can mix successfully. Sporting teams and cultural groups where boys develop a team ethos.

I believe this year we have progressed in all of these areas. There is as always room to improve the discipline of the boys but the house competition has been very vital and the focus on boys and being male has been celebrated and promoted through the Fathers and Sons evening and a variety of other activities. It is very

pleasing to note the improved tone in both boarding houses as confirmed by the Education Review Office.

Above all though to achieve this vision we must have high quality staff, and management which is well organised and well led. Teachers will be significant role models for the students, will be enthusiastic and innovative learners themselves and will play a full part in developing high performing teams in their academic, sporting, cultural and other areas. School management and governance will be honest, transparent, accountable and dynamic. Leadership will demonstrate the ideal of 'servant leadership'. This will also be a college which is well supported by its community and will value its links with parents, the Friends of the School and Old Boys.

I believe we are well on the way to achieving this vision for the staff, management and governance. All teachers have this year taken a full part in within-school professional development focused on teaching and learning processes. It is great to sit in the staff room and hear teachers talk about what they are doing and improving in their classrooms. Likewise management and governance groups have taken a thorough look at their processes this year and are well-equipped to deliver for 2010.

This College is on 'the edge'—geographically and educationally—it is well on the way to achieving this vision by 2010.

**Mr Neville M Duckmanton**  
Principal  
December 2006

# 25 YEARS OF SERVICE HONoured



*Steve Wilton, Grant Harper, Vicki Harper, Cliff Bouton, Neville Duckmanton.*

**More than 120 people gathered at Rathkeale College recently to pay tribute to Deputy Principal, Grant Harper, for his 25 years service and dedication to the college.**

Many of the colleagues, friends and college community members who attended the celebration shared at least some of Grant's journey over the years. In fact, more than one alluded to the fact that as he had spent his secondary schooling years at Rathkeale, the celebration should have been recognizing thirty-one years' service.

Even as a student, Grant displayed a dedication to Rathkeale that still continues today. He was awarded the coveted Cooper Cup—given annually to the student that had worked most selflessly for the college—an attribute still recognized readily within Grant Harper.

Having completed his secondary education in 1971, Grant completed his degree at Canterbury University. He went on to tutor at Christ's College whilst completing his teaching training,

with distinction, at Christ's College. He then held teaching positions at Ashburton College, and Bromsville College, England. It was an offer from Rathkeale's founding Principal, John Norman that brought Grant back to Rathkeale. The position offered was teacher of environmental studies—an apt position considering Grant's "green passion", and that he is currently Chairman of the Friends of Queen Elizabeth Park. Over the years, he has been House Master, Senior Master, Form Dean, Assistant Principal, and is today Deputy Principal. Grant has also been acting Principal for a time.

Steve Wilton, Chairman of the Trinity Schools Trust Board, spoke at the celebration of the long association he has shared with Grant which started as school chums, but went on to pay tribute to Grant's significant contribution in ensuring the traditions and special character of the college have and continue to be upheld.

Year 13 Dean, Cliff Bouton gave a witty account of his near on twenty year

friendship and collegiality with Grant. More importantly, he made special mention of a huge contribution to the pastoral care of all the boys and a firm, but balanced approach to the students that has always seen Grant Harper as a real asset to the college. Even students commented, describing "Mr Harper", a great example of the true Rathkeale man.

In response, Grant spoke of the highlights and fond memories over the last quarter century; the wonderful and unfailing support of his wife Victoria, being asked to read the lesson at founding headmaster, John Norman's funeral in Christchurch and the subsequent memorial service at the college—all memories held with honour. His contribution towards the development and completion of the Trust House Theatre also stood out as a highlight. Without a doubt, however, his greatest joy has always been the students—he talked of falling under the spell of Rathkeale College, as so many do, and how it has been a wonderful twenty-five years. The appeal remains as great today as it did on day one.



# Rathkeale Old Boys' Profiles

## Cameron Imber: Using his talents to help those suffering from the trauma of war.

In 1988 Cameron Imber graduated from the 7th Form at Rathkeale, where he excelled in academic studies as well as being outstanding in sports especially golf, tennis and soccer.

In the next two years, he spent time as a volunteer in an Israeli kibbutz, as a camp counsellor in the United States, and coached golf and tennis in England.

Cameron attended Canterbury University from 1990-1993, graduating with B.A. (Hons, 1st Class) in Political Science.

Later, he joined the staff of the Halo (hazardous areas life-support organisation) Trust: a British charity dedicated to the removal of war debris, the vast majority of this being anti-personnel mines. Their mission can simply be described as "getting mines out of the ground now". Halo is non-political and is not involved in campaigns or conferences.



**CAMERON IMBER (left) with a colleague in a Mozambiquian minefield.**

Cameron, who has worked in the field in Bosnia, Mozambique and Afghanistan, is now in charge of operations in Afghanistan and spends approximately four months a year in that war-torn country.

For the other months of the year, during the Scottish winter, he caddies at the St Andrew's Golf Club, the home of golf. Cameron, who has a handicap of two, has been associated with St Andrew's since the mid 1990s, winning the Autumn Scratch Medal in 1996. In 1999, Greg Turner, New Zealand professional golfer, wrote in his newspaper column how impressed he was to play at St Andrew's and meet Cameron: a man who combines his love of golf with practical help in freeing war ravaged countries from the terrible scourge of undetected landmines.

## Local boy making it big on the international stage.



**SCOTT LYTTLE heads the leading bunch during an early stage of the Tour of Southland. (late 2006).**

Scott Lyttle was a Rathkeale student from 1996, and is now one of New Zealand's top 10 cyclists. Currently he is based in France and has been riding in the 1st division team for Montauban 82. He will return to Europe after the Trust House Cycle Classic and will begin riding for Castelsarrasin, also in the South of France.

His impressive credentials at this level came from first getting serious about mountain biking when he was 11 and road cycling when he was 16. His incredible drive and passion has seen his rise to fame as a rapid one, having cycled in many countries including France, Spain, UK, New Caladonia, and Australia to name but a few. He has represented New Zealand at least six times and amongst an impressive medal haul, has a double Oceania gold for both road and mountain cycling.

Speaking to Scott's parents, Sue and Steve, it is clear the whole family have a love of sport with Scott's brother Paul having played premier division rugby and cricket in England. Paul was chosen to play in the York under 19 representative rugby team after spending a year in the UK having also graduated from Rathkeale College. He is now back in New Zealand, playing cricket for Greytown and has his own agricultural business.



**PAUL LYTTLE:  
A Masterton sporting identity.**

Sue, a qualified PE teacher, coached soccer at Rathkeale for two years and Steve has been on the Hadlow Board, thus the boys have had huge support in their schooling and sporting endeavours. Both boys loved their years at college and are certainly a credit to their family and Rathkeale.

## A Rathkeale Old Boy that followed his passion.

Hedley's Book Shop in Masterton—arguably the biggest provincial book retailer with about 20,000 titles on offer—has won an industry award as the best regional bookshop in New Zealand.

David Hedley, owner of Hedley's Bookshop said publishers selected the Masterton business for the Thorpe-Bowker 2006 award for outstanding achievement in New Zealand book industry, from those trading outside of the main centres.

Mr Hedley said the award may have been attracted by an expansion of the premises last year and extension of their range, coupled with the on-going appearances of celebrity authors at live signings—cricketer John Wright was in store recently—and promotional initiatives such as the Yarns in Barns event.

"It was totally unexpected. I wasn't planning on attending the ceremony in Auckland as it fell on a date very close to the Montana Book Awards but the organisers called to tell me I really should go...nudge, nudge, wink, wink," he said.

"To be recognised by your peers is really a measure of your success and as such the award was most gratefully received."



**DAVID HEDLEY** of Hedley's Bookshop in Masterton, judged the best regional bookshop in New Zealand.

"My memories of five years at Rathkeale (three and a half as a boarder) are many and varied. Some fun and some traumatic!

Sport and cultural pursuits were often compulsory and there is no doubt this introduced me to areas of interest which I would not have tried otherwise, in particular John (EJ) and Fay Norman's emphasis on music was crucial in stirring my musical interest—however they would not have approved of my later musical direction leading to publishing a book on The Rolling Stones which included a few months touring with them in 1989/90. That would have led to Burma Road hard labour for sure!

I remember been given the topic of "Jack of All Trades Master of None" in an impromptu speaking contest once.

EJ used to choose subjects which he believed suited the speaker. Perhaps he was right—Rathkeale certainly introduced me to a wide range of ideas and pursuits and often I never got past being introduced—but isn't that what education should be all about—a start in lots of areas.

Overall Rathkeale gave me a great general education and after completing a law degree I ended up back in Masterton bookselling and publishing and enjoying my passion for books and literature. Not a bad life at all."

## Mark Ramsden: An Impressive Record, Worldwide.



**Mark, his wife Margot and children Maia and Griffyn. Mark and Margot are expecting their 3rd child later this year.**

Mark, grandson of the late Don Brehaut, was a Rathkeale Old Boy from 1981-1985 and has earned an impressive record and credentials since leaving college.

Upon Mark completing his schooling, he spent a year working in the Wairarapa and Australia, before enrolling at Otago University in 1987. He graduated with a BA (Hons, first class) in Anthropology in 1991 and went on to join the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade. He served in the Ministry's Development Cooperation, Pacific and Human Rights divisions, and has been posted to Canberra (on secondment to the Australian government aid agency), Vanuatu (as deputy High Commissioner), Papua New Guinea (where he established a New Zealand office on Bougainville following the ceasefire, going on to be Deputy High Commissioner in Port Moresby) and New York at the New Zealand Mission to the United Nations.

To top that he recently graduated from Harvard University with an MPA, (Masters in Public Administration) and with outstanding grades.

Mark has now returned to New Zealand with his American wife Margot and two children. He is currently Deputy Director in the Ministry's Human Resource Division, based in Wellington, managing the recruitment, placement and development of MFAT's staff.



# Memoirs from a tutor

## 16 scholarships awarded!

Fifteen of these were won by the very strong group of St Matthew's girls and one by a Rathkeale boy. This compares with three Scholarships to the boys and two to the girls in 2005 and one each to the boys and girls in 2004. This result puts the Senior College up with and above some of the very top lower North Island schools based on a 2005 comparison. Jane Knox and Ella Biggs each gained Scholarship Awards for gaining three or more Scholarships. Taasha Henson (Physical Education) and Bella Duncan (Geography) gained Outstanding Scholarship for being in the very top few candidates. There were six scholarships gained in Geography. Nationally 177 were awarded meaning Mr Cliff Bouton's classes obtained 3.4% of the national total!



ELLA BIGGS, St Matthew's Old Girl, was accepted into Melbourne University in 2007 and is studying Arts and Law. Melbourne University is ranked No. 1 in Australia and No. 19 in the World. Well done Ella and all the best with your studies.



I was a tutor at Rathkeale from September 1973 to September 1974. I stayed in School House. I taught to the lower forms, helped a little with the sport and also with the music. I was a bass player and pianist, but remember having to teach the violin to one poor soul. I ended my year by playing in the New Zealand National Youth Orchestra—proud to be representing the Wairarapa!

I have many happy memories of Rathkeale. Some ROB's might remember the production of "Once aboard the lugger" (a most unfortunate title) which was performed in the Greek Amphitheatre to a mixed (but very polite) reception. We scared the ducks off the water for weeks by boating across in the Headmaster's dinghy! The other production I was involved with was JS Bach's "The Peasant Cantata". Apart from singing lustily the aria 'Good Fellows be Merry' (singing lustily was definitely a Rathkeale tradition at this time) this version was remembered by the insertion of the immortal lines "if you would stop at

that, you old gorilla. You just get more and more familiar!"

I returned to the UK to do a degree in music at London University, followed by two years at the Royal Academy studying double bass and conducting. After freelancing for a while, I taught at Whitgift School, Croydon before being appointed Director of Music at James Allen's Girls' School in Dulwich (sister school to Dulwich College) for 16 years. I have now returned to freelance work and am pursuing a career as a conductor and composer.

It was with the greatest pleasure that I returned to Rathkeale recently (last time was in 1997) to show my wife and baby daughter the school where I spent such a happy year. Grant Harper was kind enough to show us the splendid new auditorium which will be a tremendous asset to the school, I'm sure, over the coming years. All in all it was a wonderful trip down memory lane, reminiscing of the old and so impressed with what's new.

**Rupert Bond**



# Obituaries

## Bill Clinton-Baker

The recent death of Bill Clinton-Baker in 2006 was a huge loss to the Rathkeale community. Since the time Bill sent his son, Michael to Rathkeale in 1966, he had been actively involved in the school. He remained a school parent until 1976 and since 2000 has had grandchildren attending Rathkeale. During the intervening years Bill never stopped being interested in the schools development and remained a loyal supporter.

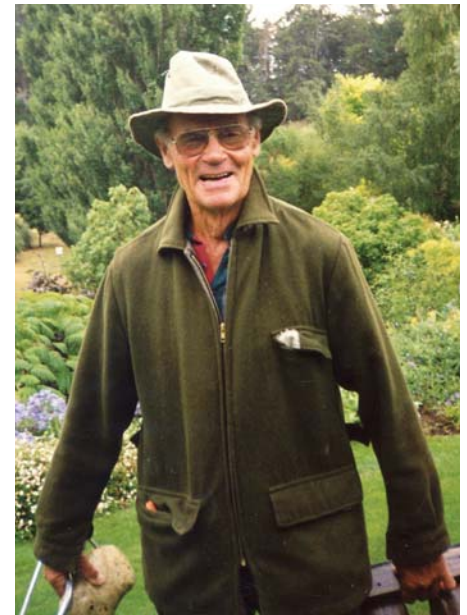
To each project, committee or Board he was involved in, Bill brought enormous enthusiasm, commitment and wisdom and his energy was limitless. Bill started with the Rathkeale Friends and then was a trustee of the St Matthew's Trust Board from 1967-82 (this became the Trinity Schools' Trust Board in September 01, 1983) and during that time was the Rathkeale Site Chairman (1969-79). The Site Committee was a precursor to the Board of Trustees and Bill was a fervent advocate and tenacious fundraiser for Rathkeale during those years and successfully steered the school through a very successful growth period.

Bruce Hamilton wrote of Bill in his book, Rathkeale: 1964-1988, "Rathkeale was particularly fortunate in its committee chairman over the early years. W.L. Clinton-Baker's integrity, soundness, stature and tenacity were of inestimable

value. He was one of those invaluable committee men who never let anything past unless he understood it, and therefore ensured that even the silent committee men also understood what was going on. Always interested, keen to get know staff, a very frequent attendee at school occasions, loyal, discreet, Rathkeale and the Board owes a great deal to him."

Bill became involved in establishing a school chapel when in 2003 he volunteered to join the fledgling St Martin's Committee which had been established to raise funds to purchase, shift and restore St Martin's Anglican Church, at that time lying unused and deconsecrated in Mangaweka. As the Founder's representative on the St Martin's Committee, Bill was an enormous asset and a loyal supporter. He saw St Martin's as the natural successor to the small Founder's Chapel he had established twenty-six years before and he brought the same enthusiasm and drive to the St Martin's project.

He had a clear vision for what must be achieved before the re-consecration last November and after his death, the committee worked hard to ensure that his instructions were carried out to the letter. It had been planned and Bill had been delighted with the thought, that he would read the same lesson at the



reconsecration of St Martin's as he had in 1979 when the Bishop consecrated the Founder's Chapel. Sadly, his untimely death meant that this could not be and it was a very poignant moment for the St Martin's Committee when his son Jamie and grandson Simon shared the reading of the lesson on Bill's behalf.

Bill is hugely missed by those who knew and loved him. His impeccable manners, generous and kind-hearted spirit, determination, loyalty and integrity will stay with us always.

## Eddie Watts

### A tribute from Rev Ted Dashfield

Rathkeale College as most know started in February 1964. Eddie Watts joined the Board in 1967 and then became Chairman of the Board a year later:

All those on the Board were virtually head hunted. Critical to Rathkeale's survival they were hand picked, not elected in the traditional sense. Dunderdale, Geoff Blundell, Don Spiers, the Smith cousins, Gough and Russell, Joe Payton, Bill Clinton-Baker, Sandy Wallace, Neil Stuart, Evan Jaine, Rex Lawrence, Jock Hutchison, Tom Bunny were but a few that joined the Board.

These Board members were the resolve, the sweat, the indefatigable optimism that built a school, a College which endures and lives. Eddie at the time of his death was, except for one other, the senior surviving Trustee of Rathkeale College. They made light work of the school motto, "Nothing is too difficult for mortal man".

It's good to reflect as well, that with Eddie Watts as a founding father, his sons Lindsay, Craig, Roger, grandson Andrew, all old boys, there have been three generations of the Watt's family at Rathkeale in forty years!

Eddie loved being out there, seeing the growth, Cranleigh, Repton, Rugby, watching the rugby, the cricket, walking the fields, the oval, The Burma Road, the bush, native trees, the Ruamahanga River and sitting in the auditorium. For a boy, or a man, Rathkeale is a good place to be. One likes to think that Eddie's spirit with those other courageous early Founders will always be moving at Rathkeale.

VENUE: SOLSTONE RESTAURANT  
SPECIAL GUEST: JOE BENNETT

# Rathkeale Old Boys' Reunion Dinner 2006



MC Grant Harper and Neville Duckmanton.



Owen, Robyn, and Simon Prior.



Jane Watts and guest speaker, Joe Bennett.



Heather and Brent Thompson,  
Angela Meredith.



Neville Duckmanton, Andy Pottinger,  
and Derek Daniell.

October 14th 2006 was an evening to remember for the 80 or so Old Boys' that turned out for what will become an annual reunion.

Prior to the dinner many of the Old Boys' enjoyed a wander around the school, visiting St Martin's Chapel and appreciating the vast improvements that have happened since they were here last.

The hum at the start of the evening indicated the number of guests reacquainting themselves with old school chums not seen for a number of years. Even others who had stayed in touch over time still enjoyed reminiscing about days of old.

A superb meal was complimented by an address by guest speaker Joe Bennett. Joe, known for his wit and humour as a journalist on TV and as a Dominion columnist kept the audience in constant laughter, in particular with many stories of his own time as a school teacher in Christchurch.

Grant Harper kept the evening flowing in his role as a splendid MC, with Rathkeale Old Boys' Association President Lindsay Watts, Rathkeale Principal Neville Duckmanton, and past Rathkeale Deputy Principal, Bruce Hamilton all adding their part to a wonderful evening.

The next reunion is planned for October 2007 and everyone (who has given their email address to the school) will be advised of the date and venue accordingly.

Going by last years turn out and the exceptional time had by all, you won't want to miss the next one!!!



Ann Clinton-Baker, Mrs Roger Parkinson,  
Jamie Clinton-Baker.

*On Arrival*

*Vineyard breads, Olives & Oils*

*Welcome from Lindsay Watts,*

*President of Rathkeale*

*Old Boys' Association*

*Table Platters*

*Pink Beef Fillet with red onion jus*

*& Horseradish*

*Pan fried Dory Fillet with Hollandaise*

*Rosemary new potatoes*

*& Seasonal Salad*

*Introduction of Joe Bennett, Speaker*

*by Grant Harper MC*

*Joe is a freelance writer & respected*

*author, twice voted columnist of the year*

*at the Qantas Media Awards.*

*Table platters of Cheese, fruit*

*& Chocolate Brownie*

*Tea & Coffee*



Mike Wyeth, Robert Liverton,  
and Gavin Tankersley.



# Chapel News

The earth moved and shivers cascaded down the spine when 300 Rathkeale boys thundered out the school haka as we moved from the thanksgiving Eucharist in the auditorium, to the rite of re-consecration in St Martin's on the Close.

Getting consent to move the 100 year old building from the Mangaweka was a protracted process energised by Robyn Prior, the current Chairperson of the Board of Trustees. She continued to oversee the restoration and contribute hundreds of hours of her own time, in the company of other enthusiasts, to bring this building to its current glowing state.

Having a designated sacred space as part of the Rathkeale cycle of Anglican worship is a bonus. Here we hold the stories of the Mangaweka community, while merging our own developing tradition with those who have gone before us.

Already we have commemorated Anzac Day with the family of Trooper Mervyn Sweet, a young man from the Mangaweka, who died at Gallipoli and who is remembered in the church along with other soldiers who were killed while serving in World War II.

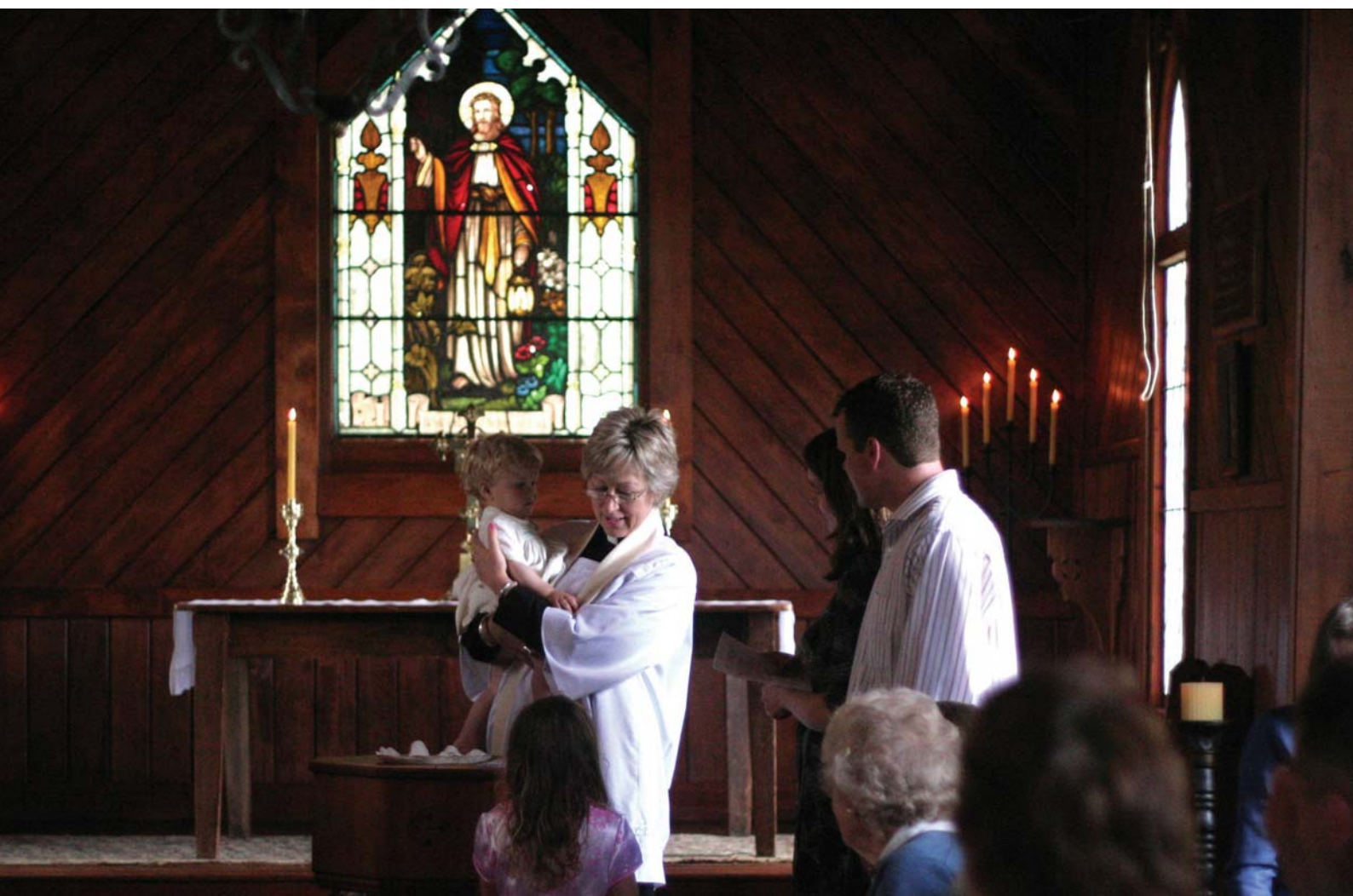
St Martin's on the Close is not just here for the boys at school but is open to the wider Rathkeale and Wairarapa community. William Vincent, heading to Rathkeale as a pupil in about 2018, was our first baptism towards the end of 2006 as his family and friends celebrated with a service written especially for him. We can also create special services for your family baptisms, weddings and other life milestones that you want to mark but are not sure how to start.

By the end of 2006 we were all exhausted with the marathon that St Martin's had become. Somehow



though, we had just enough energy left to celebrate midnight mass (early at 9.30pm to cope with tiredness!) and in the soft glow of candles, welcome the baby Jesus to our community once again. We were packed out with locals and others who had flown in from around New Zealand and overseas to celebrate Christmas with family. Once everyone had gone home, full of bubbly, mince pies and the Christmas story, we knew we were well and truly open for business. Come and join us with your celebrations.

*Baby William Vincent, the first baby to be baptized in St Martin's, on Sunday 15th October 2006.*





# 2006 Wairarapa Secondary School Sports Awards



*Sportsman of the Year, and Overall Sports Personality of the Year, William Prior with special guest Kate McIlroy and Jude Clark from Harcourts.*

Rathkeale College and St Matthew's were the resounding successes at the 2006 Wairarapa Secondary School Sports Awards. William Prior took out both Sportsman of the Year and overall Sports Personality of the year—an outstanding accomplishment, made all the more impressive by the fact it is the second time he has won both titles—that has only ever been achieved once before.

Rathkeale is also able to boast that for the eight years the awards have been running, Trinity Schools have won the

personality section five times.

Other winners were the highly successful Rathkeale 1st XI, who have made it to the Gillette Cup in the last two years. For a school of its size, and compared with the size of the schools they competed against, this was a highly deserved title.

Ashley McDougall from St Matthew's took out Sportswoman of the Year for her efforts in swimming and Emma and Sarah Berry took out the Emerging Sport category. These sisters from



*Rathkeale College 1st XI and coaches Dick Kendall and Brendon Bracewell. Included in the photo is Andy Dodd who was recently chosen by selectors, Dayle Hadlee, Dipak Patel, Kaushik Patel and Lance Cairns to play in the 2008 Under-19 World Cup in Malaysia.*

St Matthew's (and daughters of Rathkeale teacher Mark Berry) have had astounding successes in the past twelve months having globe trotted far and wide with their sailing.

Also nominated from Rathkeale and St Matthew's were Andy Dodd (cricket), Myles Collins (table tennis) Ngahuia Kapene (swimming), Harriet Somerville (netball), Matthew Dymnd (swimming), Brock Price (claybirdshooting/athletics), Shelly Martin (various), Tasha Henson (various), Simon Clinton-Baker (various), and Amanda Pottinger (equestrian).



*Simon Clinton-Baker on behalf of the Rathkeale 1st XI, with Les Cockeram from Transitz.*



*Emerging Finalists and Winners, Sarah and Emma Berry with Chris Cogdale from MoreFM.*



*Ashley McDougall - Sportswoman of the Year (swimming) with Trust House representative Brian Bourke*



# Music Department News



2006 saw the move of the Music Department into new facilities in school house. The music department is now purpose built and is an excellent facility for students.

Christmas saw Rathkeale hosting the national "School of Rock" Camp. Over 120 musicians together for one week being mentored by some of NZ's top musicians. It was an

excellent experience for the students, and everyone commented on the excellent facilities that the school had to offer. The School of Rock will be back in the latter part of 2007.

This year is shaping up to be a big year for music. There will be over ten itinerant music teachers coming in offering their services to our students.

On offer is:

Choirs  
Jazz band  
Rock Band  
Barbershop quartet  
Individual vocal tuition  
Drum Tuition  
DJ tuition  
Guitar Tuition  
Violin tuition  
Flute tuition  
Piano tuition  
Trumpet/ trombone tuition  
Saxophone tuition  
Bagpipe tuition  
Side drumming tuition (Bagpipe)  
Bass guitar tuition  
Clarinet tuition

There is also a second part time music teacher starting as numbers of students opting to take music have increased.

Mr Ray Coats is an excellent teacher and a vocal specialist. School singing will be in good hands.





# 2006 Country Christmas Fest

The 2006 Rathkeale Country Christmas Fest for the second year running brought thousands of enthusiastic shoppers through the gates. The gods were good to the Festival organisers as the sun shone all day over the school campus which boasted over fifty stalls.

Festival goers were spoilt for choice with only high class wares on offering, which included anything from unique hand made jewellery, lavender products, custom-made stationery, designer clothing and much more.

The Friends of Rathkeale organise this wonderful day and hours of time and effort are put into making this such a successful annual event. With proceeds going towards new hockey and tennis lights the school is most appreciative of all their hard work.





# 2006 Odyssey Challenge

The Odyssey Challenge is a team adventure race held after prize giving at the end of each year and runs between 7-10 days, depending on the route chosen. The philosophy behind Odyssey is that it is a physical and mental journey for the students placing them in strenuous situations, pushing them to their limits and hopefully enabling them to exceed their personal expectations of themselves. It has elements of the Southern Traverse and other multi-day Multisports races as well as ideas from popular TV shows such as Survivor and The Amazing Race. Each day involves several disciplines and each part of the day, and indeed the entire route, is kept a closely guarded secret until it is attempted. Odyssey is open to all Y12 students but they must apply to go—the application process involves writing an essay, running 5km with a day pack, attending an interview, researching and answering quiz questions and their yearly Effort Grades are also an important factor.

In 2006, the challenge began with cycle orienteering from Rathkeale College to Masterton, meeting at Woolworths supermarket. Each team of six had 1 hour to organise and buy all their food for the seven days with the added proviso of a \$ limit.

After the food was purchased it was back on the bike for a cycle to Ponatahi to set up camp. The evening was spent chasing staff making animal noises around in the dark on a slippery hillside with no torches and bed time was well after 11 pm.

Day 2 involved a kayak down the Ruamahunga River exiting at the Diversion near Martinborough, back on the bikes to Cross Creek and then running over the Incline track to Kaitoke. From Upper Hutt the students were biking to the Wainuiomata hill and from there were taken to camp at Catchpool near the coast.

Day 3—a very long and strenuous 10 hour tramp over the ranges to Lake Onoke where the students spent a solo night in a bivvy of their own design with a can of food for dinner.

Day 4 began with a raft across Lake Wairarapa to Lake Ferry, then a cycle ride to the Pinnacles for three 60 minute challenges. From here it was to the Palliser lighthouse and a walk around the coast to White Rock station. This night was spent in the rain with each group dropped off in a different isolated spot.

Day 5 dawned wet and there were some very tired and uncomfortable students greeting staff in the early morning. Breakfast was a memorable meal under a bridge. A bike ride to Tuturumuri school woke most up and this was followed by a fantastic mountain bike ride from wind farms to Patuna Farm. Thankfully the sun came out and the afternoon was spent drying out gear and soaking up some much needed warmth and relaxing. The evening meal was a curry cooked silently—a very funny exercise!

Day 6 meant high ropes challenges at Patuna Farm and a game or two of golf cross before a crazy Dutch game of pentanque down a quiet gravel road. A most unpopular hilly bike ride to Gladstone followed.

Day 7 was the final day. Wairarapa Outdoor pursuits set up a bridge rescue situation involving rafts, abseiling and rope skills at the Gladstone bridge. This was followed by another bike ride to Henley Lake where a search and rescue and raft making activity occurred. The final challenge was to run up the river to finish the journey at Rathkeale College to be met by their admiring parents, dinner and prizegiving in the Archives room.

Thanks to all staff who helped during their holidays because without them Odyssey would not happen. Particular mention must go to Marco de Groot who set the route for 2006...not a popular man some days...

Ms. Liz Evans





# The Annual Cricket Festival



The annual Cricket Festival, hosted by Rathkeale College attracts children from all over the country who spend a week living and breathing cricket, coached by Australian legends such as Dougie Walters, Ashley Mallet and Peter Philpot. Peter has just had his book published; *Two Times Thirty Five*. The following is an extract from this world-renowned cricketer:

*"By 2004, Brendon Bracewell had moved his academy from Tauranga to Masterton. Here he acquired a disused boarding house at a fine independent school, Rathkeale College, and began to improve on its already excellent facilities to create the best cricket*

*camp set-up I have ever seen. I first saw it in June-July of 2004 and was invited back for Brendon's first big camp in December 2004.*

*Doug Walters and I worked with Brendon for the week, following a carefully prepared programme in which Doug dealt with batting technique and I with bowling. After a variety of morning work-outs, each afternoon was given over to four matches on excellent turf wickets, while the cricket education carried on to more activity. For the hundred or so youngsters who attended it proved to be an exciting and highly successful time. It was a great week that Doug and I thoroughly enjoyed and we immediately accepted the repeat invitation for December 2005".*



## An Outstanding Player

On the 6th of April, Andy Dodd will be leaving Rathkeale College to attend Dulwich College in London, for one school term. Although Andy is keen to be part of the overseas experience as a whole, the driving factor for what was initially intended to be an exchange (Nick Porter from Dulwich has been very ill and can no longer attend Rathkeale), is his motivation to improve his cricket. When Dulwich was contacted by email by Brendon Bracewell their response to accepting Andy for an exchange was virtually immediate and he will be in good hands with their 1st XI coach Bill Athey, an ex-test cricketer who opened the batting for England. Andy's Grandfather, John Dodd, grew up in England and attended Dulwich College also, thus making this opportunity even more meaningful for Andy and his family.

Andy's most recent achievements in cricket: Captain of CD under 17's and led them to 2nd place in the NZ under 17 tournament held in Napier in January 2007. At this tournament Andy achieved top overall batting score, including a century and an average of 64. At the conclusion of the tournament he was named in the National Under 17 cricket team. Presently he is captain of the 1st XI here at Rathkeale.

## Relay for Life



The students of St Matthew's, having just completed the **Relay for Life** which was an event over 1000 people entered, in teams, to raise money for the local Cancer Society. They earned a special prize for having completed 254 laps over 18 hours, making them 2nd overall, only one behind the "Southern Men". A tremendous effort by the students.



# A Rathkeale/St Matthew's Wedding in Every Way!



*Rebecca and Richard Toswill*

Rebecca Wyeth married Richard Toswill in 2006 with the wedding reception taking place in a stunning marquee on the picturesque Rathkeale grounds. But the connection to the school for the newly weds was far more than the location of the reception.

On Richard's side, his maternal grandfather, David Commin, was the first Chairman of the Rathkeale Friends in 1964.

Neil Stuart, Rebecca's maternal grandfather served on The Friends and was on the Rathkeale/St Matthew's Board of Governors from 1976-1985. Rebecca's paternal grandmother, Betty Wyeth (nee Payton) was a pupil at St Matthews from 1927-1934. The Payton family also, have shared a long involvement with Trinity schools. Noel Wyeth, Rebecca's grandfather worked alongside Joe Payton helping him with the development of the original Rathkeale sports fields.

Nigel Toswill, Richard's grandfather, was chairman of the "Appeal Committee", raising funds for the building of Rugby House, library and classroom blocks.

Rebecca, her mother Andrea and mother-in-law Jenny (nee Commin), are all St Matthew's Old Girls and Richard is a Rathkeale Old Boy.

Tom Wyeth, Rebecca's father, is a past chairman of the Rathkeale Board and is currently a member of the Trinity School's Trust Board. Richard's father, Bob has also been a Chairman of the Rathkeale Board.

Another interesting note: Rebecca wowed the judges at the 2006 Bride of the Year and won the title—as did her mother 30 years previously—quite a family!



*The Toswill/Wyeth family*



*The stunning marquee on the Rathkeale College grounds*

## Dates for your Diary 2007

### **Saturday 28th April**

Rathkeale Open Day.

### **Tuesday 5th June**

Christ's College vs Rathkeale 1st XV.

All parents, family and Old Boys are welcome to enjoy refreshments after the rugby in the Archives Room, approx 4pm.

### **Friday 20th July–22nd July**

1982 1st XV Rugby Reunion.

### **Thursday 9th August**

Scots College vs Rathkeale College 1st XV-home game.

The Rathkeale Old Boys' Association warmly invite friends and family of the teams, staff and all old boys to drinks and nibbles in the Archives Room after the student's afternoon tea. (approx 4pm).

### **Saturday 13th October**

Rathkeale Old Boys Reunion Dinner. All Old Boys welcome. Venue and details TBA. Mark this date in your calendar. Numbers strictly limited to 150.

*For further details on any of these events please contact Alix Cooper; [acc@rathkeale.school.nz](mailto:acc@rathkeale.school.nz) or 06 3788 377 ex 7725.*

# Signing off from your President

The new Rockrunner represents exciting times for the Rathkeale Old Boys Association. Over the last two years a strong revival has happened with the Association. Foremost is the revised layout of the Rockrunner, which I am sure you will appreciate. The committee thought it was time to raise the bar and this is the result. As you will be aware, these productions come at a cost, and would not be possible without our sponsors. I thank you for your support.



In October last year we held a well attended dinner featuring Joe Bennett as our guest speaker. Close to a hundred Old Boys and partners attended and it was a wonderful evening. The committee intends to organise a similar event this year. Your feedback would be appreciated.

The committee has employed Chris Gane to update our mailing list and he has certainly improved our records. To maintain the ability to communicate to you, it is crucial that Alix Cooper, publicity officer at the school, is advised of any address changes. It is particularly important to advise your email details. The association can be contacted through the Rathkeale website and enquiries directed to Alix Cooper who has been a tower of strength in her support of the Association.

As the magazine goes to press the Association's current project is underway. The Old Dark Room in Burma Road is being moved to the cricket oval and will be renovated as changing room facilities, something the school has been in dire need of.

The 1982 1st XV is staging a reunion in July and the committee is keen to encourage and support these events and Alix is keen to assist with the organisation of these reunions.

Rathkeale has a new board and the chairman, Andy Pottinger is an Old Boy (1968-1972). All the best to Andy and the board and we look forward to working with you.

My thanks to the committee for their hard work and support. We are keen for more committee members and if you are interested please contact us.

I wish you all a bountiful year and look forward to hearing from you.


Lindsay Watts  
President Rathkeale Old Boys' Association



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