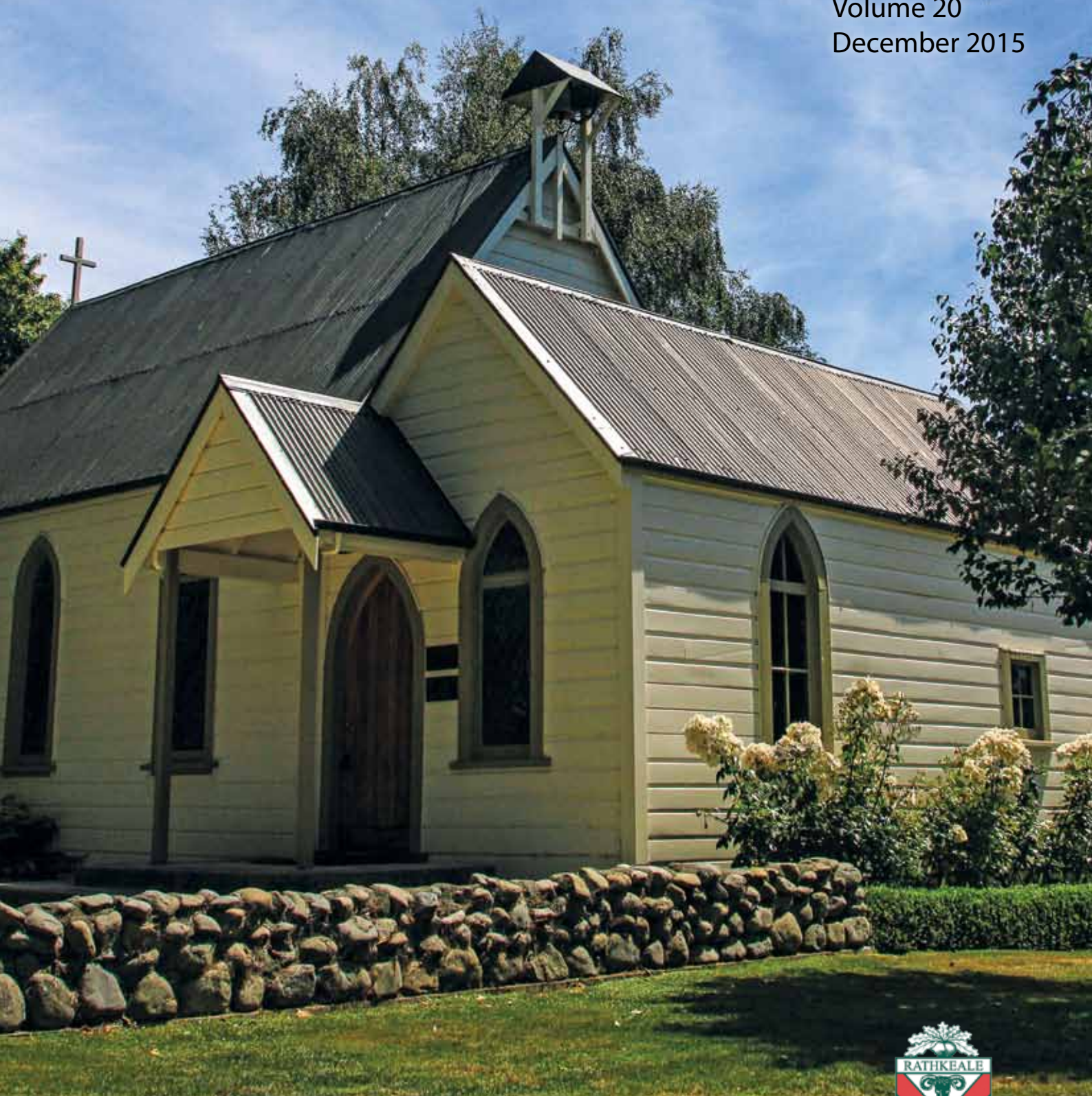


Rock Runner

The magazine of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association

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Editorial

GRANT HARPER (1967-71)

Recently I visited Huanui College in Northland, a school established as an independent College five years ago in a rural paddock featuring old stone walls and giant totara and puriri trees. I was impressed by what I saw and I instantly found myself focussing on the similarities and contrasts between it and Rathkeale. Both enjoyed similar localities, similar beginnings and even shared a common interest in rocks – yes Huanui students carry rocks! As I viewed all that has been achieved at a youthful Huanui, I became aware of just how much has been achieved and created at Rathkeale over the past five decades. By comparison with Huanui, Rathkeale is established, well known and increasingly confident. Our boys enjoy a range of high quality educational, cultural and sporting facilities all in a stunning environment. Inherent in this is the debt we owe to all who have gone before: governors, trustees, staff, students and friends.

Certainly as Old Boys, it's good to look back to "our day" and to reminisce about what we did, what we achieved and what we got away with! By definition, the tapestry of school life is colourful and varied. Rathkeale life over the years has been no exception. However, as Old Boys, it can also be interesting, and hopefully reassuring, to reconnect with the College of the present and with its vision for the future.



Herein lies a dual role for the Association: to foster links with, and memories of, the past but also to encourage Old Boys to identify with, and celebrate, the vitality and success of the College going forward.

This edition of the Rock Runner will seek to do just that. Memories and images of early tramping trips into the Tararua Ranges and to the summit of Rangitumau link seamlessly with the experiences of boys at Rathkeale in 2015. The Odyssey reassures Old Boys that it is still possible to be physically challenged and utterly exhausted. The continuation of such traditions and activities ensures that a strong sense of Rathkeale identity will continue well into the future.

Stories of successful Old Boys who have made their mark in diverse ways reaffirm the value of education within our gates.

However, these pages also reveal that the College is a dynamic place where high achievement is to the fore in many fields and where, under visionary governance and leadership, positive pathways lead off into the future. They will also suggest that Rathkeale College is a place of which to feel very proud.

Grant Harper
Editor

Rathkeale Old Boys' Association

ANDY SUTHERLAND (1969-71) - Outgoing President

It has been a quiet year for the Old Boys after a hectic Jubilee Year in 2014.

The Old Boys' database exists as the association's most valuable asset and one that deserves constant attention and updating. We are grateful to all who have worked on it and to all those who conscientiously keep their details up-to-date. To ensure that you and your fellow Old Boys are on the database and that you receive invitations to College activities and Association events, please complete the enclosed form and return it to the Rathkeale College Old Boys' Assn c/- the College (or roba@rathkeale.school.nz).

This year we have hosted supporters' functions after sports fixtures with Christ's College, Lindisfarne and Wanganui Collegiate. These functions are greatly appreciated by visitors from other schools and by those supporting the College teams. There are always a few Old Boys in evidence but we do encourage many more to come along. It would be excellent to see you! ROBA have also donated funds towards shelving in the new Archives Room. This facility is being made very good use of and Librarian Linda Wells continues to make excellent inroads to the categorising and filing of thousands of items relevant to the College's history.

We had an Old Boys function at the St John's Bar in Wellington which was organised by Edward Cox on 22 September. We also held another function at the Royal Yacht Club in Auckland on 14 October which was organised by Terry Brailsford. Thank you to Ed and Terry for the work that went into organising these events. Looking ahead, we would like to co-host these functions with the St Matthew's Old Girls and now that the database issues have been sorted out, we hope to have more attend these events in the future. It was great to have Willy Kersten, Andy Pottinger and Grant Harper in attendance at these functions.

Former Rathkeale Head Prefect, Robert Blackett has recently been appointed CEO of the Trinity Schools Trust Board and is doing a great job along with Old Boy Andy Pottinger who is Chair of the Rathkeale School Board.

Upon reading our local newspapers, it is pleasing to see Rathkeale performing well in many spheres on the sports field, culturally and academically. It is also pleasing to hear positive comments about the school in general.

I have enjoyed my role as President of your organisation and thank those who have assisted with its organisation.

Andy Sutherland
President



Rathkeale BoT

ANDY POTTINGER (1968-72) - Chairman

Greetings to you all from the Rathkeale College Board of Trustees.

You only have to drive through the front gates of Rathkeale College to feel and see the positive vibes which abound on campus! In short, Rathkeale is a great place to be part of and in which to reside, either as a day boy or boarder, a staff member or a friend, a parent or board member, or just simply as a visitor driving in for the first time. One instantly gets the feeling of excitement, of splendour, and is overwhelmed by the sheer ambience of the setting. We are certainly all very proud of our school!

As predicted last year, our roll has come under extreme pressure for dayboy places at Rathkeale for 2016. Initially it appeared that we were going to have to turn away 14 boys who had applied to attend Rathkeale in Year 9 as dayboys for 2016. However, with a number being encouraged to attend as boarders, we finally only had to turn away 8. This was hard to do as these boys, and their parents, had made the choice of a Rathkeale education over other schools in the Wairarapa.

We had discussions with the Ministry of Education in regard to adjusting our ratio of dayboys to boarders from 50% (155 dayboys maximum) to a higher rate but were advised that there would be minimal chance of this being approved as there are in excess of ten empty classrooms in the three Wairarapa state schools. While one can understand this from the Ministry's point of view, the question which I believe should be asked is why are parents choosing the education offered at Rathkeale which they (the parents) are prepared to pay for over and above that which is offered at the Wairarapa state schools? Surely, it should be about choice for your boy's education!

The Board continues to work as a collaborative and focused group of trustees to provide the direction, support, and facilities for our very capable Principal, Willy Kersten, his leadership team and staff. It is our intent to provide the very best opportunities for the students to reach their potential in all aspects of their



Rathkeale College gardens resplendent in summer

life and education at Rathkeale College.

We continue to get increasing numbers of Old Boys choosing Rathkeale for their son's education. This is, I believe, an endorsement of what Rathkeale stands for in Boys' Education...keep this support up!

I look forward to catching up with those of you who are able to attend one of the Regional Old Boys functions which continue throughout the year and to being able to share with you, more of the good news that is Rathkeale.

Kind regards

Andy Pottinger
BOT Chairman



Principal's Report

WILLY KERSTEN

Greetings from Rathkeale College, a community that is very much alive and well. As the 2015 school year comes to a close there is much we can look back on and celebrate. While the positive reputation the College enjoys can, in part, be attributed to the achievements of individuals, teams and groups, it is the relationships between the boys that create the strong and affirming vibe we all enjoy. Rathkeale feels great and having been here for eight years, occasionally I have to remind myself that it really is a privilege to be leading this school.

It is very pleasing to report that the roll continues to grow and that in 2016 the demand for day boy places exceeds the number available. With an imminent roll of over 300 New Zealand students and a healthy number of International Students we can be pleased, but not satisfied. To reach our capacity we still need to attract more boarding students and in today's economic and social environments this is not easy. While our parents readily promote the positive ethos and echo our view that we are a caring school, more needs to be done to ensure that this defining message is heard more loudly by potential boarding families.

Recent ROBA gatherings in Auckland and Wellington, and those held at Rathkeale during the year, have been most enjoyable and worthwhile occasions. It is always pleasant to make contact with Old Boys I have not previously met and to reacquaint with the regular attendees. Hardly any occasion passes by without someone present catching up with former classmates for the first time since they left school. The interest the Old Boys have in Rathkeale's successes, challenges and intentions for the future is very heartening. We are proud of all our boys who appear to have an increasing understanding of what it means to be a Good Rathkeale Man.

It is my desire that the College and the ROBA committee do more to work together to further promote and communicate both the association's and the school's activities. The Trinity Schools' Communications and Marketing Manager, Natalie Finnigan, had an important role to play in this regard and I hope her thoughts and expertise will have proved to be useful in advancing this cause.



By the time this edition goes to print, there will be a change of ROBA committee personnel. Andy Sutherland signalled his intention to resign some time ago and it is wonderful that Grant Harper has accepted nomination for this position. Andy is to be thanked for his work in steadying the ship and keeping it afloat. By his own admission, he now looks forward to having someone with more time and expertise take up the challenge to ensure further progress can be made. Hopefully a recent school initiative to develop a student mentoring programme will give some impetus to creating a more tangible relationship between the school and the Old Boys, of different generations.

A number of critical staff changes have come about at the end of this year. We hope the new appointment to the Agriculture teaching position will enable the College to gain some traction in establishing links with the rural business and education sectors. We are keen to set up an Agri-business programme within the College. Our Chaplain of three years, Rev Ben Arcus is leaving and has been replaced by Mr Dale Walterhouse, formerly of Wairarapa College.

It will by now be known to some of you that Grant Harper has resigned from the Deputy Principal's position. His intention to remain at Rathkeale and continue teaching while assuming responsibility for



other roles has been welcomed by the board. We are hopeful that some of these will see more effective outreach of school activities and news to our local and wider communities and to the Old Boys' fraternity. We can only be thankful for what Grant has done for the College in his 34 years.

As we continue to look to the future, Nil Mortalibus Ardui Est assures us Rathkeale College will continue to grow and prosper.

Willy Kersten
Principal

36 Years On

1979-2015 - John Taylor looks back – and forward - at Rathkeale College.

When Grant Harper asked me to “write anything” for this edition of Rock Runner, hundreds of largely very happy thoughts and nostalgic memories flooded into my mind.

But where to begin? How to filter that kaleidoscope of characters and events in one of the most natural school environments in the world into something readable? Would I use this opportunity to pontificate on some of the more questionable directions NZ secondary education has taken over the last 36 years, since my first year at Rathkeale? Would I use it finally to expose the two young men who popped two very dirty hoggets into my HM's office (then adjacent to the Dining Hall) one Saturday night in 1984?

In the event, I decided to begin with my earliest impressions then move to my most recent experiences at that memorable Reunion Weekend in March 2014 before focussing on why Rathkeale's distinctive style of all round character education has set itself up so well for the next 50 years.

After being visited at Christ's College in 1978 by Board Members Bill Clinton Baker and Rex Lawrence (no doubt to see how we held our tea cups), that upfront style was established at our interview with the Board when redoubtable Chairman, John Maunsell asked:

“Which of the following do you think is most important in running a successful school – academics, sport, cultural pursuits or discipline”?

Having done our homework on John Norman's leadership, the answer was easy.

“Discipline,” I said.

They all leaned forward to a man, and said in unison “We agree with you”!!

When we were came up to visit John and Faye Norman for a recce before we eventually arrived in January 1979, we inquired as to how School House was heated.

John took great delight in taking us round the back to see how the ancient boiler worked, which generations of first years had to learn as well. He was burning



a 5 metre wooden telephone post at the time, simply gave it a kick towards the flames, sparks flew and he said “QED!”

For all his occasional gruffness, John was very perceptive - so much so that when I came to clean out the grey filing cabinet in the HM's study, his one concession to modern management practice, I found a piece of recycled Gestetner paper headed “John and Sarah Taylor – Pros and Cons”

Unfortunately for family posterity, after a quick glance, I immediately shredded it, but he was right on target!!!

The other crucial check I needed to make was with Bruce Hamilton, whose place I took at Christ's when he joined John Norman in 1964, to see whether or not he had wanted to succeed John as HM. He said he was very happy with his Deputy role and continued to be the incredibly loyal and capable “eminence grise” behind the throne

As I was permitted to record in BGH's excellent history of Rathkeale, his contribution to the development of Ratheale's distinctive tradition has been inestimable, best summed up from King Lear....

Kent: You have in your countenance that which I would fain call Master

Lear: What's that?

Kent: Authority

Then we were plunged into that busy but incredibly rewarding 24/7 routine so important to keeping boys busy and continuing to build enduring traditions in a still very young school, bounded by a wonderful natural environment. One which afforded the annual trek to the mighty Rangitumau, overnight tramps in the Tararuas, cross country over the Ruamahunga, never-ending Sunday jobs after wresting the Fergie tractor from Repton House, and unique prize-givings in the Greek Theatre. We took pride each day in every hard-won new building, and a wide range of student accomplishments which a full school roll so greatly enabled over our 9 years there.

Then fast forward to the Reunion Weekend in March 2014 and seeing Faye Norman surrounded by her initial choir singing Gaudeamus Igitur Iuvenes Dum Sumus– “let us therefore with youth rejoice” – which literally set the tone for a most memorable weekend.

I was most impressed by the four pillars of Rathkeale wisdom which are now firmly embedded outside the first block of classrooms:

- Be prepared to step forward
- Be at ease with your inner self
- Have an awareness of those around you
- Know that you stand on the shoulders of those who have gone before

The last of those pillars struck me most as I reflected on just how strongly that had featured in development of Rathkeale over those first 50 years. One could in fact argue that that last pillar creates the first three.

The most important relationship in any school is that between teacher and student, both inside

and outside the classroom. Headmasters might be partly responsible for getting the quality, liveliness, balance and tone of that relationship right, but teaching is the frontline activity which makes the greatest difference, whether that is built in the classroom, in the House, on the sportsfield, music and drama stage, debating chamber, or in Rathkeale's case, around the grounds and in the hinterland.

And Rathkeale certainly had its share of character-forming characters, many of whom were fondly remembered throughout the Reunion Weekend.

You will have your own list, but mine would include Keith West-Watson, Peter Quinn, Jim Welch, Bernie Greenlees, Liam O'Gorman - all of whom have now passed away, leaving rich legacies.

What defined them? Most of them had mercifully not been teacher trained. All were very practical, all had distinctive abilities to pass on to impressionable youngsters, all had a sense of humour despite the odd cross moment we all have, and all in their own ways were utterly committed to Rathkeale.

But the abiding quest for academic excellence has also been well served over the years. I thought of the excellence of a Hamilton English lesson, the precision of Levick or a McBride Maths class, the energy of a Payne Physics exposition, the passion of a Gorman Economics class, the anarchic exuberance of a Payton Art studio, the competitive focus of a Fisher coaching session, the karma of a Harper tree-planting excursion, the elegance of a Clarke stage production – to somewhat invidiously name just a few.

Then I thought of how Rathkeale embodied so vividly what I would describe as “The Great Teaching Game”, a book of unwritten rules



which unfortunately are never incorporated into any teacher training programme, but which are an essential X factor in any successful teaching or school setting.

This is that palpable sense of humour and culture which is created by all the characters one meets, especially among the staff, but also among the student population, especially but not exclusively in a boarding setting.

Admittedly the occasional misjudgement provided stern challenges at times for all concerned, but even they became the stuff of stories which are recounted and often enlarged endlessly at reunions especially, but in one's mind forever.

A delicate but real feature of "The Great Teaching Game" was an ability to turn a blind eye when necessary – the stuff of story-telling which involves that latitude which encourages perpetrators to think that they have got away with the odd indiscretion when it is merely being filed for future reference as necessary.

I will not begin to list the student characters we had at Rathkeale during my 15 years, even including my two hogget raiders – they too made the Rathkeale character-building experience a very real one as they rubbed off, learnt from, mimicked many of those distinctive staff characters who taught there.

However, I was delighted to meet the number of Old Boys who had sent their sons and daughters to Rathkeale/St Matthew's and to hear that the Head Prefect in our final year, Rob Blackett, had been recently appointed Trinity Schools' Business Manager, and more recently Trinity CEO.

The most important question to be asked every day at a school is what is it like to be a pupil here? I felt very comfortable with what I saw and experienced on that score over the Reunion weekend.

Looking forward, I thought of how Rathkeale, especially under the strong and committed leadership of Willy Kersten, has preserved the essential characteristics of a quality NZ Education.

Strong inclusive leadership, clear and aspirational academic expectations at all levels, consistent discipline, the maintenance of a sensible balance between teacher centred and student centred learning, a committed staff inside and outside the classroom, the provision of a wide range of activities so that many individual student talents as possible could be served.

Frustratingly, education seemingly gets more complex by the year, with a confusing plethora of assessments NCEA/Cambridge/IB, and pedagogies MLE (Modern Learning Environments), IES (Investing in Educational Success), "Teaching as Inquiry" to name some currently in vogue. The job of a good school is to keep that process as simple as possible in ensuring that as many students as possible reach their potential both inside and outside the classroom. Clearly the commitment to make NCEA work right up to scholarship level remains paramount.

The sense of discipline, pride in uniform and the appearance of the school is as powerful as ever.

The range of and commitment to sporting, cultural and outdoor pursuits is as strong as ever, and will grow even stronger as the roll rises.

The Senior College clearly continues to be a real strength for both Rathkeale and St Matthew's, bringing the huge benefits of senior coeducation, of gaining important two way insights into how the other half of humanity thinks, behaves and dreams, both inside and outside the classroom.

The integrated status has ensured the preservation of a school which has made a distinctive contribution to NZ education as a School of National Character, at a fee level which will surely be an increasingly attractive boon as Independent School fees continue to rocket skywards.

In summary, Rathkeale seems to me to be very well set for the future, with strong and consistent leadership, with its feet firmly on ground in a wonderful natural setting, and with its distinctive tradition of well balanced education now well and truly embedded.

Maarten Wevers

It is sometimes said that from small acorns grow great oak trees. Certainly from Rathkeale's earliest years have emerged some highly distinguished New Zealanders. Sir Maarten Wevers (1965-69) is undoubtedly one of them.



Maarten Wevers started at Rathkeale in its second year, 1965. At that time, the entire school had a role of only 120. There was the Dining Hall, one new classroom block, a not-quite-completed Cranleigh, and lots of rocks to remove and paths yet to build.

Maarten was a day boy who eventually became Head of Winchester and Science Dux. As he said though, "there were only four of us in the Upper Sixth class (Year 13) that year, and only two science students!!"

He was active in debating, drama and music, and played most sports at some stage. Maarten went on to Victoria University where he graduated with First Class Honours in Economics and a BSc in pure and applied mathematics. That was not a point from which you would predict his later career.

Within a couple of years, he found himself learning Japanese full-time for two years in Yokohama, having joined the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and

Trade in 1977. After three years working in the Embassy in Tokyo, he returned briefly to New Zealand in January 1985 as interpreter for Prime Minister David Lange, who was hosting his Japanese counterpart Yasuhiro Nakasone. No room for mistakes there! That led to him becoming the Prime Minister's Private Secretary for Foreign Affairs for nearly three years, during the tumultuous first term of the Third Labour government. The ANZUS dispute, the Rainbow Warrior bombing, and the Fiji coups were just some of the matters to keep him busy.

Following a few months at Victoria University, Maarten and his family set off for the New Zealand Mission to the EU in Brussels for four years, before a short stint as High Commissioner to Papua New Guinea. He returned to Japan as Ambassador in March 1994, which he says was one of a number of highlights in a very varied career.

Returning to Wellington, he led the officials processes leading up to the APEC Leaders' Meeting in Auckland in September 1999, which was the most significant international political summit ever hosted by New Zealand. "To sit as the single official in a room with 21 regional leaders, representing nearly half of the world's population, as they discussed things you had been working on, was just amazing!"

He then changed tack and went to New Zealand Post for four years, to develop commercial skills, and branch out into something new – he was an international consultant, a Director of some software start-up companies, and had a lead in managing New Zealand Post's business with the Government sector. He was also in a very small team that contributed to the development of Kiwibank.

In June 2004, he returned to the core public service when he was appointed Chief Executive of the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet. In this role he was the principal policy adviser to



Helen Clark, for four and half years, and then John Key, for three and a half. He occupied an office on the 8th floor of the Beehive, and was on call 24/7. As a public servant, he was required to demonstrate total impartiality in all aspects of his work, and lead his own department and the wider public sector in support of the policies of the “government of the day”.

“It was an enormous privilege to serve at the very heart of New Zealand’s pretty remarkable little democracy” Maarten observed. “You have to be ready to give timely and high quality advice to the PM and his or her Ministers on any issue that might arise at any time of the day or night. Of course, you have very good people working for you, and you can draw on other agencies and other sources as you choose. But in the end, you have to take responsibility for the service provided to the leader of the nation. The knowledge that your advice to the Prime Minister might be the basis of his or her decision makes you think twice about almost everything”.

In his role as CEO of Department of Prime Minister and Cabinet, Maarten also chaired the national crisis management system. He played a key leadership role in the responses to the Canterbury earthquakes, the Pike River mining disaster, the sinking of the Rena, and the Waiheke Island foot and mouth scare.

He was also privileged to travel overseas with PM Clark and PM Key to numerous international summits. “I had the opportunity to sit in on meetings with many world leaders, and other historical figures – and occasionally contribute to the discussions. Quite often I had to pinch myself that it was all happening. Before I went with PM Key to the Oval Office in the White House in 2011, my son Sam texted me to say “enjoy the moment”. Good advice.”

Although he retired from DPMC in June 2012, after eight very busy years in one of the biggest jobs in the public service, Maarten has hardly hung up his boots. He doesn’t like the word retirement. He is currently serving in a range of governance

and advisory roles, including as Chair of the Earthquake Commission, Trustee of the National Army Museum and the Fred Hollows Foundation, Registrar of Pecuniary Interests of Members of Parliament, and as a member of the Investment Advisory Panel for the Ministry of Primary Industries Primary Growth Partnership.

“I really enjoy having a range of diverse areas where I can continue to contribute, and where I have the chance to meet new people and do new things” Maarten says.

Maarten was made a Knight Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit upon retirement, having previously been awarded a CNZM for his role in APEC in 2000. With his wife, Lady Louise Rolleston, Maarten has three children, and three grandchildren.



Derek Daniell (1964-68)

Derek Daniell

Derek Daniell (1964-68), foundation student and Rathkeale’s first Co-Dux reflects upon a life well spent and upon the influence that freedom and the great outdoors had in shaping a life full of diversity, interest and achievement.

New Zealand is a frontier society. We have a culture which encourages young people to travel, to experiment, and to have a good time before settling down to a career, family and responsibilities. This cultural attitude is not the norm in countries like the USA, where young people are expected to “get working,” with only two weeks holiday per year. So make the most of it! I certainly did. As a foundation pupil at Rathkeale, 1964-68, I was fortunate to be there when students led their own tramping parties into the Tararuas. Sure, we got lost sometimes, but those adventures were great training for self-reliance. It’s a pity that our society has become so risk averse that these sort of adventures are no longer available without adults in the party. Those early opportunities at Rathkeale prepared me for university in Wellington, where I completed a triple major in tramping, climbing and skiing. Expeditions throughout the Southern Alps, including climbs of some of the big mountains, were strettth experiences and truly educational. They had a much bigger effect on me than learning about economics. But student life offers that wonderful combination of spare time, lots of contemporaries and the understanding that the “world’s your oyster” to experiment and enjoy. The upside of being in the mountains is the incredible

beauty of the surroundings, the camaraderie, and the chance to work in mountain playgrounds in other parts of the world. For me, a season at the St Anton ski resort in Austria was a highlight. Since then I have skied in Alaska, Canada, Utah, California and Chile recently; a direct follow-on from formative years.

New Zealand in the late 1960s was at the height of its prosperity relative to the rest of the world. We were spoiled for ease of finding short term or long term jobs. The world is a much more competitive environment today, so young people have to be a little more serious about career and prospects. However, the New Zealand business environment still looks favourably on those who have travelled far and wide, and had a wide range of work experience. Travel is education. It exposes the conditioning of our cultural upbringing, another stretch. For me, nine months in California developing a leather business, selling in flea markets, then in seventy retail outlets, was radically different to life in rural New Zealand. Two years with a guru in India, seeking the meaning of life, was another incredible time.... no shaved head and begging bowl for me. In fact there were many attractive young women there, from all over the world.

I have to admit that I was fortunate to have a fall-back

position as the only son of a Wairarapa farmer and therefore had a career choice to return to, at the age of thirty. And it has been a great choice. My father was a top stockman and also innovative. I have expanded the sheep genetics programme which he started. The ram selling business is now nationwide, including two joint ventures. There is also an international dimension, with joint ventures selling rams in Australia, the United Kingdom and South America. The expansion of the business has converted a simple hill country farm into the hub of a servicing business, with seven hundred clients around the world. This has been a stimulating journey and a good excuse to travel and absorb what is happening around the globe. The period from 1990 to 2006 saw a six-fold escalation in farmland values, which allowed scope to invest off farm. This lucky break allowed involvements in a Northern Territory cattle station, development of White Rock Station on the south coast of the Wairarapa, a Manuka honey business, light weight steel framing and and Cross Slot drilling technology, amongst other things. Some have succeeded, some have failed, but the journey has been (mostly) a lot of fun.

Our three children have all had time at Rathkeale. Daughter Jess had one year at Senior College before Year 13 at Kristen College



in Auckland. Josh was Deputy Head Prefect in 2004, and had a marvellous five years. His mother, Chris, couldn't understand why he wanted to board in his last two years, but he had a whale of a time. Marcus enjoyed two years at Rathkeale before going to Auckland and a tennis academy at St Kentigerns ... he is still playing on the pro circuit.

Boys at Rathkeale are so lucky to have room to move. So many people around the world live in crowded surroundings. Many schools have only cramped concrete playgrounds. They need to make the most of their freedom in that beautiful playground which calls itself a school.



Michael Friend

Michael Friend (1966 – 70) spent his last year at Rathkeale as Head Boy before embarking on a stellar career in the hospitality industry. It has placed him at the forefront of the industry and earnt him rare distinction.



A Firm Family Foundation

The Watts Family is well known within the Rathkeale community and beyond. Craig continues to make his mark in the construction industry in New Zealand and abroad.

E.D. (Eddie) Watts served as a Governor (1967–69, 72-75) and as Rathkeale Committee Chairman (1968–69). All three sons, Lindsay (1966–70), Craig (1969) and Roger (1974–78), attended the College, with Lindsay later serving the Old Boys' Association as a committee member and as Chairman for a protracted period. His son Duncan (2001 – 2005) enjoyed a distinguished College career.

Whilst only at Rathkeale for a relatively short period, Craig considers himself fortunate to have been a student here and is a loyal Old Boy.

At the end of his secondary education he completed the NZ Certificate in Quantity Surveying at Wellington Polytechnic before taking up employment with Civil and Civic Construction in Wellington. A later move to Auckland involved further employment with Wilkins and Davies Construction.

Marriage in 1980 was followed by two and a half years working in construction in Mt View/ Saratoga, California and an extensive tour of Europe before returning to Auckland and two years employment with Angus Construction.

1984 proved to be a watershed year for 28 year old Craig. The establishment of Watts and Hughes Construction was heralded by the erection of a four storey building in Auckland. This was soon to be followed by an increasing range of civil, commercial, industrial, retail, residential, recreational, Government infrastructure, medical/healthcare, subdivision and marina projects across Australasia.

Today, thirty years on, Watts Group Investment Ltd is the parent company of Watt and Hughes Construction Ltd and Cobbalt Interiors Ltd which collectively offer a wealth of experiences in all aspects of

design, building construction and fit out; a multi-disciplined group capable of performing in any area of the industry. Watts Group also has a development arm, Sanctuary Properties Ltd, based in Queensland, Australia and maintains offices in Auckland, Hamilton, Tauranga, Wellington and Christchurch.

Not surprisingly Managing Director Craig is very proud of the company's growth and many achievements and, not least, of the fact that they were able to host over two hundred staff and partners to a Thirty Year Anniversary Celebration at the Wairakei Resort this year. He is also quietly pleased to report that following on from his own NZ Certificate of Quantity Surveying, the Company now includes a force of forty-nine Quantity Surveyors and exists as a real force to be reckoned with within the New Zealand building industry.

An award for outstanding service was received late last year by Michael Friend who was the first person admitted to the new Hospitality New Zealand Hall of Fame in recognition of his four decades of service to industry.

Michael's story is based on forty three years of experience. It's a story that started as a pioneer in the hospitality training environment and then the introduction of affordable family restaurants. It is also a story of giving back. Michael served for a decade on the Hospitality Standards Institute, a stand-alone industry training organisation and was its Chairman for six years. This was a decade when the organisation revolutionised industry training. It swept away hospitality training methods and concepts that were 'so last century' and replaced them with modern trends in the delivery of food, beverage and accommodation services.

In 1972, following twelve months at Victoria University, Michael was a pioneer in the first group of hotel management trainees recruited by New Zealand Breweries, now Lion Breweries. Over the twenty eight years that followed, he worked across a wide variety of managed, leased and franchised business units within that company both in New Zealand and in the eastern

states of Australia. In addition, Michael was a board member of the Lion Foundation charitable gaming trust for ten years.

After a short stint within the HO administration team, Michael spent his early years learning the business in two of Wellington's finest hotels of the day, the Hotel St George and The Waterloo. Sadly, he was a little late to welcome the Beatles to the St George but well remembers the many 'State' functions held at that property prior to the opening of the Beehive.

The Waterloo was an interesting contrast with its early opening bars catering for blue collar workers and the accommodation on the six floors above well patronised by government officials, parliamentarians and Producer Board officials. It was also a favourite hotel for the Australian racing fraternity who visited Wellington for the annual Trentham yearling sales.

His first trail-blazer role was in helping to build the Cobb & Co chain that introduced New Zealanders to affordable casual family restaurant dining. Michael opened the third and the largest Cobb & Co in Hamilton and by the time he moved to Australia (with Lion) had helped develop a chain with twenty eight restaurants. A little known fact

today was back in the late 1970s, Cobb & Co had revenues of \$40 million, making it the thirty fifth largest restaurant chain in the world.

In 1981 Lion sent him to Australia to establish Cobb & Co there, too, as a joint venture with Castlemaine Perkins. Sadly, the concept failed to fire as hotel family dining was still some years from being accepted as a dining out option in Australia.

Two years later he came back across 'The Ditch' into a variety of hotel regional manager positions which led to his appointment first as general manager for the nationwide Hancock chain of sixty hotels and later as general manager of Lion's one hundred and fifty leased hotels.

The hotel business came to a shuddering stop with the 1989 Sale of Liquor Act. Faced with a deregulated market Lion now wanted out of the hotel and retail liquor businesses and Michael went from nurturing them to leading the sell down process.

During his final days with Lion, Michael assisted Lion to seize market share in Victoria, Australia, as it set about acquiring pubs to grow market share of the beer brands acquired from the defunct Bond Brewing empire.



He returned to his roots, after a fashion, when he was appointed CEO of the once massively popular Loaded Hog brewery pubs and the One Red Dog chain. Two decades after Cobb & Co these venues took the affordable casual dining concept to a new level of sophistication whilst the ‘Hog’ beer was one of the earlier entrants into the now extremely popular craft beer market in New Zealand.

In more recent times, Michael has led the operations team of the Portage and Waitakere Licensing Trusts in West Auckland. Earlier this year he left the Trusts and is now busy consulting to the hospitality industry.



In 1990 I returned to New Zealand having made the decision to make a career change. I was accepted into the Victoria School of Architecture 5 year degree programme. In my third year it was a privilege to study at the University of California, Berkeley. I was conferred with a double degree with honours in Architecture in 1995. During my studies I met a fellow architecture student from Canada and now partner, David Robinson in 1991. We founded our architecture practice when we graduated, and remain in practice today with some 300 completed projects. A few accolades include winning an

NZIA award in 2007. After twenty-five years in Wellington we have relocated to Carterton. Here we have designed and built a passive house and begun to enjoy a better climate and the Wairarapa lifestyle. I am now involved with community events and volunteer work, enjoy tennis and cycling and have recently rekindled cello playing since Faye Norman’s music lessons of 1976! And yes, while I do not compete on the athletic track now, I continue to enjoy my regular jogs around the local dairy farms and the ongoing political and cultural debates focussed around our dining table.

Gregg Crimp

Gregg Crimp (1976 – 80) has travelled far and achieved much since his early life in the Rangitikei hinterland. Today he is beginning a new life in Carterton and shares his story with us.

My parents were farmers in the Rangitikei. Growing up in a small community in the 1960s and early 1970s was an interesting time in NZ. Muldoon’s Think Big, Patricia Bartlett’s Social Conservatism and John Minto’s Halt All Racial Tours, all triggered great debate around our dinner of mutton and three veg! In 1976 my parents chose to send me to Rathkeale as a boarder. In the wake of my older brother Shayne, Head of House for Cranleigh, Captain of the first eleven cricket and first fifteen rugby, masters and fellow students had high expectations of me based on my brother’s athletic prowess. I was only referred to as Shayne Crimp’s brother, another ‘Crimp’ for the future first fifteen and never as Gregg Crimp. There was some disappointment when I chose to play hockey, sing in the choir and play cello in the school orchestra! My saving grace and one that kept the bullies at bay was that I could run and fast!

I loved athletics. Dad was an All Black wing and Commonwealth Games hurdling trialist, Mum a provincial netball coach and single handicap left hand golfer. We were a very competitive family, highly involved in the local sporting community. The highlight of the school calendar for me was school athletics day, held in early March. I did well in sprinting and jumping and secured many Rathkeale records. I represented school at the Wairarapa Intercollegiate, the North Island and New Zealand Secondary Schools’ Athletic championships. My athletic highlight was at the New Zealand Championships, Newtown Stadium, Wellington in 1978 where I won gold in the triple jump and silver in long jump events for junior boys. I remember the day with the grassy bank full of spectators and I had never competed in front of so many. Only a month prior, my father died suddenly and it was only Mum there to cheer me on.

She was so proud and I remember that she cried when I won. I believe I am the first Rathkealean to have won a national title for a field event.

In 1980 I was surprised but very honoured to be appointed Head of School. That was Rathkeale’s second year under John Taylor who as Headmaster ushered in new ideas and a new era for the school. My future decisions for selection of a university loomed very quickly that year.

In 1981 I was accepted to study Physiotherapy at Otago and in 1983 graduated with honours. In my third year I completed an internship at Kew Hospital, Invercargill. Post-graduation, and after two years working in the head injury units at Auckland Public and Royal Prince Alfred, Sydney, I was ready to strap on the backpack and venture abroad. My OE took me to London, where I based myself and worked in the private sector near Harley Street, for the next five years. Working as a locum allowed me the freedom to travel between contracts and I managed to travel to some 50 countries. Enduring highlights were to drive a Land Rover across the Sahara, hitch hike from Istanbul to Cairo and climb Mount Kilimanjaro.

Jonathan Austin

Years spent boarding at Rathkeale provided Jonathan Austin (1984 – 86) with a range of experiences which have proved useful in facing the challenges of a career in the New Zealand Diplomatic Corps.

A couple of years after I joined the Foreign Ministry I found myself adrift in a rolling Pacific swell in a leaky local boat. The ancient outboard was broken, there were no oars, no lifejackets, no locator beacon. Only when we crested a wave could I see the towering volcano where I had been visiting a local primary school.

It was at this point that I reflected on the diplomatic service recruitment brochure: this was not the promised thrilling international negotiation or a challenging consular case. It was certainly not a cocktail party!

In fact over my twenty years as a New Zealand diplomat I’ve rarely experienced those diplomatic stereotypes, and my only cocktail glass gathers dust at the back of the cupboard.

Perhaps this is because mine has not been a typical career. After surviving the Tongan boat ride (I kissed land after we coaxed the outboard back to life) my wife and I headed to East Timor in the aftermath of the Indonesian

withdrawal. In a city almost totally destroyed by war, my home and office was a former stable (better digs than some colleagues who lived in shipping containers). As New Zealand’s first representative in that poor but beautiful country, my job to was to work with the massive UN peacekeeping mission, our largest military deployment since World War Two and the local Timorese to assist with their path to independence. It was an exhausting seven day a week a job.

Our Foreign Ministry rotates staff on a regular basis. This makes it easier to staff challenging locations, prevents people becoming too “captured” by where they are located and ensures diplomats stay in touch with the amazing country they represent.

Since my early postings in Tonga and Timor I’ve served as Deputy High Commissioner in South Africa, been seconded as the Deputy to a regional

peacekeeping mission to Solomon Islands and been back to Tonga as High Commissioner. In Wellington I’ve worked in the Beehive and am now Director of Intelligence and Assessment in the Department of the Prime Minister and Cabinet.

These have been fascinating roles, and it is a privilege to have represented our fantastic country, but constant change means partners sacrifice careers and children need to be adaptable and good at making friends: by age 10 our eldest daughter was attending her fifth different school and my wife was starting on her eighth job in twelve years.

My years boarding at Rathkeale provided the foundation for this career. Living, and learning to survive, among your peers provides lifelong lessons in how to deal with people. Managing human nature is ultimately what diplomacy is all about. At Rathkeale I made some of my greatest friends; friends I have been able to depend on.

I'd be twisting the truth if I said it was all great fun – but valuable lessons come from coping with adversity and strong resilience is needed for a life full of challenges and change.

I claim no school sporting prowess (some of my finest evasion techniques were required to avoid PE) but Rathkeale strengthened the academic foundation which eventually led to a PhD and my subsequent career. Simon Gorman's energetic economics still informs my analysis while Tim Clarke's and Bruce Hamilton's red pens helped wrestle my writing into a form people can understand. BGH also shares

responsibility for my ongoing interest in modern history.

I took Rathkeale's incredible campus for granted when I was at school but it gave me a love of the country, and the Wairarapa, which this city dweller hopes he will one day be able to fulfil.

For now it's back to the fascinating world of intelligence and international affairs. Perhaps some more Rathkeale Old Boys will join Mark Ramsden and me in New Zealand's diplomatic service?

Vincent Olsen-Reeder

Vincent Olsen-Reeder (2003 – 2007) was an inspirational student during his college years and established an impressive reputation as a musician. Now, after a year of involvement with the Maori Language/Te Reo Maori, he has emerged as an impressive leader in the field.



**E tū, whitia te hopo!
Mairangatia te angitū!**

*Nothing is impossible to mortal
man and woman*

Vincent's most treasured lesson from his time at Rathkeale revolves around the passion his mates and mentors showed for trying new things. In his fifth form year, the musicians of Cranleigh House lamented over the instrumental section of the competition, long stuck

in the Neil Diamond Era. Behind the scenes, they banded with members of both Rugby and Repton Houses to arrange and perform a hard rock song. For 2005, all house competition was off; passion for music prevailed!

Music was probably the only subject Vincent (Vini) took a real shine to at College. Under the care of Meryl Watson and Kiewiet van Deventer in particular, Vini's abilities were fostered and supported in Singers/ Viva Camerata. '06 and '07 saw his band, Felix Theorem, take out Smokefree Rockquest Regionals both years. At the time, Rockquest was a competition Rathkeale hadn't participated in for some years. Since then, Rathkeale/St Matthew's have continued to enter bands. Vincent is grateful to Tom 'Dinga' Glendinning and Alex 'Chambo' Chamberlain for those Felix Theorem years. The band lasted up until 2010, and represents the pinnacle of Vini's College career.

Having grown up without any Māori language or cultural knowledge, claiming Māori heritage at College was difficult for Vini but at times, expected. A bout of participation in the kapa haka was an inroad – music meets language. Unfortunately, this only spun him into the 'what does it all mean' identity crisis, probably typical of any teenager. To compensate, Vincent taught himself Māori at night in Senior House and down on the Ruamahanga banks. Over the Remutaka, at Victoria University in Wellington, Vini would pursue the language as a minor. Eventually, the music degree he'd actually gone to university for got lost somewhere and a language major evolved. In 2010, he was employed by Te Kawa a Māui, School of Māori Studies, to tutor, then as a research assistant and in 2014, as a lecturer.

Today, Vincent spends most of his time teaching Māori language and policy papers, while also completing a doctoral thesis on Māori language bilingualism. Other Māori language activities involve national language research projects, Te Kura Roa: Whaihua (a language value study), Te Ahu o te Reo (a language health study), and other language initiatives such as Hei Reo Whānau (language in the home directive) and Te Hōhaieti o te reo Māori (a university language club instigated in the 1970s). These efforts saw him thrust into co-editing a bilingual book in 2014, Te Hua o te reo Māori, alongside acclaimed academics Professor Rawinia Higgins and Associate Professor Poia Rewi.

In a relatively short space of time, Vincent has certainly proved himself up to the challenge of the school motto.

The Odyssey Challenge

LIZ EVANS - HOD Science

No matter what changes at Rathkeale, the annual Odyssey remains as one notable, time-honoured constant. Initiated by Simon Gorman and since 2003 organised by Liz Evans, it represents challenge par excellence as Liz suggests.

What is the Odyssey? A seven day journey to challenge, extend and enrich 18 Y12 students. To push their physical and mental boundaries beyond any aspect of a normal school experience. To teach them resilience, strength of character and the ability to laugh at the absurd situations they may find themselves in. To enjoy the company of their peers and to explore parts of the Wairarapa region they may never otherwise have looked at.

In 2003, I took on my own personal challenge to remodel a traditional part of the Senior College experience. I saw the opportunity to run a new kind of adventure for young men and women that built on the school's character, yet pushed them more as individuals into stretching their own boundaries. For twelve years, I have been involved in organising the Odyssey, and it is certainly a highlight in my teaching year.

The trip is usually from Rathkeale to Rathkeale, whereby the students move under their own steam through a route, in three teams of six. Each trip is different- no two years are the same, as part of the joy of being involved in this trip is seeing and moving through different parts of the region.



We try hard to keep the route and activities on the way a secret from the teams. This is to add to the mental stress. Often we have fit students who don't struggle as much with the physical pressures, but do struggle with not knowing when they will eat, or where the end point is. Each day involves being handed a new envelope with a map and/or instructions to send them to a new checkpoint and probably another activity.

We try to program at least two disciplines in a day, for example a 50km bike ride to a location followed by a rafting trip of 2-3 hours and then maybe a cooking challenge or relays to finish the day. The next day might be up at 5am to trek 26km over the Aorangi Range, then bike 15km on thick gravel and have to put up their tents blindfolded before cooking dinner then doing a Quiz.

Students discover that it is hard work doing all your own cooking, cleaning and putting up and down tents especially when you are tired, cold or sunburnt or just plain hungry and there is not a family fridge in sight. Food becomes fuel, showers and flush toilets a luxury and thoughts of social media and cell-phones are quickly left behind. We have rafted, caved, kayaked rivers, paint-balled, swung from bridges and leapt off poles. Abseiling, geocaching, lots of tramping and walking and trekking over hills and farms. We have cycled hundreds of kilometres, pushed bikes up hills and through rivers. We have sailed, played crazy games of hedge volleyball and thrown shotputs down gravel roads. Sometimes we get lost, sometimes that final hill isn't really the final hill after all and the promised chocolate biscuits have already been eaten. And then you have just got to suck it up.

For me, the greatest part of Odyssey is seeing the personal growth in every student who



has finished the course. Some few students have had to pull out through sickness or injury but usually tough love gets them through. There is no pandering to tantrums, sometimes there are tears, but by the time the stretchers or rafts, or bloody great wooden poles are run up Willow Park Drive from Henley Lake, the sweat and aches are all left behind and the pain morphs into relief at being back home.

The staff I have worked with have been amazing; every one of them understanding the underlining philosophy of what this trip is all about: pushing the limits. Particular thanks must go to Marco de Groot and Tash Kyle both of whom leapt at the chance of leading this trip at different times over the past ten years and who have given so much of themselves in making it such a success.

To all of you reading this who have been with us on an Odyssey, I know you will have your own memories of your trip whether they be highs or lows. My hope is that you still hold to some of the lessons you learnt about yourself on your trip, and that maybe, being part of the team Odyssey, has allowed you to see that no matter how hard or frustrating things can be, it will work out alright in the end!

Tutors

Matt Gaffney is a well-known member of the Staff Common Room and one who has developed a keen interest in researching Rathkeale tutors and their whereabouts. Over the past year many long forgotten names have re-emerged from the mists of time alongside some fascinating revelations.

It all started with one of those staff-room conversations that are becoming all too familiar.

“What was that tutor’s name? You know, he was brilliant....helped out with the hockey...you know with that team....what were they called? He was here when “whatshisname” was head boy....you know the tall lad.....good mates with John ermmmm....”

“Oh yep.....he was here at the same time as that guy from Ireland.....or was it Scotland..... Mc.....Mac....I can see his face now.....it’ll come to me.....”

Yes, whilst the context of such conversations could be quite diverse, the general structure was becoming alarmingly consistent. Virtual points were scored for actually remembering something. Only then to be virtually removed once the “memory” was later proven to be wildly inaccurate.

But to return to the point, this particular conversation stirred something. “Memories” were rekindled and shared over a matter of some half an hour. Over those thirty minutes of hazy recollections of faces or names, (rarely would both coincide), a conclusion was reached and a couple of questions were posed – we have had so many superb tutors – I wonder where he is now? - and - how on earth would Rathkeale cope without them?!

Dwelling on that conversation over the next few days, an idea was borne. That was the beginning of a search that not only revealed names and the schools from which these gentlemen were sourced, but also identified just how big a part they had played in the history of Rathkeale College. Fifty years have just been celebrated. We have rightly recognised those distinguished figures who have led and shaped the school, inspiring staff and students alike. We have heard stories of pioneering spirit and, more than occasionally, the effects of spirit of another kind! These stories and these people are our history and this should be preserved. (Not suggesting that pickling ex Principals is necessary).

Delving into the archives was a fascinating process. The Yearbooks communicated a real sense “of that time”, and the more I read, the more I became convinced of the invaluable role that our tutors had played in the life of our school, and most importantly in the life of our boys.

As predominantly young men themselves, they occupy a hazardous ‘no-man’s land’; not really staff, and often little older than those for whom they must assume responsibility. From this precarious position, they must negotiate the pitfalls and resist the temptations that will inevitably be presented to these young bucks far from home. Their success with respect to this challenge can generally be established through consultation with ‘those who never forget’ – our matrons. Other fonts of knowledge such as Housemasters and Principals may also be forthcoming in this respect, however, memories may have faded due to the ageing process. I am assured that amnesia is in no way selective and motivated by the instinct to protect school reputation and standing in the community!

From extensive research it would appear that the role of the Tutor may have changed over the years, but there also appear to be some “constants”! Curiously Rathkeale College has been in existence for a mere three years less than the photocopier.

In the beginning, the addition to our fledgling community of prime young men from schools such as Repton, Rugby, Cranleigh, Gordonstoun and Marlborough was to add a sense of prestige through association. Hopefully it indicated similar values and aspirations, and essentially “lifted the bar”.

Since 1966 the 177 Tutors to date have been drawn from many ‘old school’ and ‘new-age’ institutions. The passage of time has seen the inexorable march of regulation (not least in Education and Health and Safety). So, whilst construction skills and innate teaching ability may have been

usurped by office skills and driving ability, as pre-requisites for Tutorship in 2015, that same adventurous and adaptable spirit remains as a foundation for success in the role.

There can be no doubting the importance of the presence of Tutors in boarding. With regards their influence, they seem to fall into the role of ‘older brothers’, which is an interesting and vital contrast to the ‘wise old uncles’ and aged disciplinarians of the staff room. The positive and productive relationships formed between the Tutors and the boys are an invaluable element in the development of both parties, and contribute hugely to both the working and social environments. If evidence were required then social media would indicate enduring friendship and contact that continues long after departing from this unique place.

It has been a delight to receive such a response from our old Tutors. It has been hugely positive and really quite humbling. Invariably Rathkeale is regarded with great affection and the time spent with us is uniformly recognised as invaluable experience in their personal development. “The best time of my life”, “That’s when I realised what I didn’t want to do as a career!” – There were certainly countless examples of life-changing moments.

Whilst this project was initially directed at valuing the Tutor contribution, it has in many ways revealed that this has been in every sense a truly symbiotic relationship.

At this point it would be timely to address one of those original questions – I wonder where he is now?

Sadly three of our Tutors are no longer with us, including our inaugural trail-blazer from 1966.

Joslin (Joss) Richard Collins
(b 1947 – d 2004)



Prominent English bloodstock agent Joss Collins (1966) was instrumental in building Stavros Niarchos’ powerful Thoroughbred holdings, and bought such stars as Nureyev, Woodman, Caerleon, and Southern Halo. A giant in his field, he signed the ticket in 1985 for Seattle Dancer, at \$13.1 million the most expensive yearling purchase in history. There is barely a major player on either side of the Atlantic who Collins did not represent at some stage. Joss Collins was known throughout the industry for his professionalism and integrity. Neither did he act exclusively for those with bottomless wallets. He was just as happy to purchase an inexpensive horse for a prospective owner. Indeed, if such a horse went on to win races, he took as much, if not more, pleasure in its success.

Whilst many personal details are yet to be provided, at last count our tutor alumni (box next page) fulfil some worthy roles, with some just to show that not all were put off education for life.

Clearly our boys have ‘done good!’ So many have gone on to make a real impact in their chosen field. Whilst entrepreneurship is very evident, the most popular area of expertise would appear to be in



Tutor Alumni

CEO (3)
Vice President (3)
MD/Chairman (11)
Group Company Secretary
Director (7)
Award winning Author/Journalist (3)
Consultant Ophthalmologist
Conductor/Composer
Radio Presenter
Sound Designer/Dubbing mixer
Anglican Rector
Chief Inspector of Prisons for Scotland
Baronet
Deputy Lieutenant of Devonshire
Headmaster (4)
Teacher (5)
Education Manager

Asset and Investment management. Funds and property portfolios valued in the hundreds of billions of dollars are currently being managed and developed by this group of “old boys.”

David John McKenzie Hutchinson
Owner/Director,
PartnersForParkinsons Ltd



In terms of making a difference in the world, no one could deny that David Hutchinson (1974-75) has made his mark. Throughout his career, David has specialised in the field of Parkinson’s disease, working with the Parkinson’s Community: specialists, charities, industry and patients. In 1992, in close collaboration with the Parkinson’s UK, David played a major role in the establishment and onward development of the Parkinson’s Disease Nurse

Specialists. His company, PartnersForParkinson’s Ltd, offers specialist consultancy services to Pharmaceutical, Bio-Tech and other healthcare organisations who are active in the field of Parkinson’s disease care and development.

Another of our illustrious group is very much in demand. When I made contact and asked “what he had been up to since leaving us”, he suggested it would probably be best to send me his CV. The following was compiled from that document with the help of Mr. Google.

Private equity millionaire **David Gregson** (1978-79) joined the Lawn Tennis Association, appointed as an independent Chairman in 2013. He oversees the board and sets the path for the whole organisation.



He has a wealth of experience as a leader in the fields of business, the voluntary sector, sport and government. David is the Chairman of Precise Media Group, and of CRI, a leading UK health and social care charity. He is a Director of the London Legacy Development Corporation, which is transforming the Olympic Park following the 2012 Games, and a Director of Abel & Cole and of Letts Filofax Group, a Trustee of WWF-UK and of The Climate Group. He is a member of the Advisory Board for the Sutton Trust, promoting social mobility through education. Previously, David was a co-founder and Chairman of Phoenix Equity Partners, a leading UK mid-market private equity business, and remains a senior advisor to the firm. David has advised recently on two government reviews - Legal Aid Procurement and, separately, the Prison Service in England and Wales.

I wondered, given this extraordinary résumé, when he was last asked for his CV. However, what I found on page 2 was even more extraordinary. In no small way, its inclusion affirms nearly fifty years of Rathkeale Tutorships. On page 2, under ‘Education and Early Experience’ was a reference to David’s period spent at Rathkeale, which, in his words, was something of which he was very proud.

Results of research will provide the basis for a publication which will hopefully communicate what our Tutors have meant to Rathkeale, and what Rathkeale has meant to them. Ideally it will entertain whilst stirring memories and stimulating no shortage of nostalgia!

If you feel that you have something to contribute - memories, contact details, photographs etc. please feel free to contact me at the College (mpg@rathkeale.school.nz).

Leif Hansen

New to the Rathkeale College staff this year is Art & Photography teacher Leif Hansen, who joins us after six years as a teacher of Art, an academic dean and highly regarded rugby coach at Palmerston North High School. Leif has moved to the Wairarapa with his wife and two young children seeking a rural lifestyle and to be closer to family in Wellington.



Making a break during the Central Vikings inaugural match vs ACT Brumbies Colts

Leif Hansen is 38 years old and brings with him a wealth of experience, not just in the classroom, but also in school leadership and on the sports field, where he excelled both as a player and a coach.

Leif attended Feilding Agricultural High School from 1990-1994 where he was a house captain, captain of the 1st XV rugby team and recipient of the Merit Cup for the best all round student.

Following high school, Mr Hansen enrolled at Massey University to begin training as a teacher of Physical Education & Health, and Science, while also continuing to represent Manawatu in age group rugby teams. It was during this time that he made the unusual switch from Science to Art and where he began to really excel. “I always enjoyed science and I still do; it’s just so important. But my enjoyment and success in art was as much about the mode of learning as the subject matter. I went from being in a lecture theatre of 300 students in science, to small art classes with plenty of one on one time, as well as time to just focus entirely on my own projects. It just suited me better learning this way.”

Mr Hansen went on to become the President of the Massey University College of Education Students Association, was selected for the historic Central Vikings Colts Rugby team and toured Europe with the NZ Youth rugby team.

In 1999, after graduating with the first (and probably only) double major in Physical Education & Health and Art, Leif began his teaching career at Hutt Valley High School. In 2000, after two years away from rugby due to injury, he made a successful return being awarded the Old Boys University Premier Player of the Year award and being selected for the Wellington Development team.

In 2001, he kept a promise and joined a friend travelling together throughout South America before settling in London to work. The travel was a life-changing experience. However Leif found that the opportunities for good rugby and career development were limited and returned home after only ten months to take a teaching position at Palmerston North Boys’ High School. During this period he played a handful of games for Manawatu in 2002 and 2003 and even played a season for Horowhenua-Kapiti in the Heartland competition.

Subsequent years have seen him return to London where he continued to teach for two years and with his wife, continued to travel extensively before returning to NZ and starting a family. Leif coached the Palmerston North Boys’ High School 2nd XV, 1st XV for 3 years and U15 Colts side for 2 years and thus adds some very welcome rugby coaching experience to Rathkeale Rugby.

We welcome Leif, his wife Rachel and their two children Solomon (7) and Nina (3), and look forward to the contribution he will make to Rathkeale College life over the coming years. We already have an indication that this will range widely from the classroom to the sports field and from Housemaster in Rugby House (commencing 2016) to coordination of Outdoor Pursuits.



School Sport

STEVE COLEMAN - Sports Coordinator

At Rathkeale we are familiar with celebrating success in our traditional sporting codes and continue to enjoy the spectacle of our boys performing with talent on the Common, Close, Green, turf, courts, Oval and in the pool. However, increasingly they are shining in less traditional sports.



Jonty Morison wins the 100m final

This year has seen two emerging sports stars shine in two very different codes.

Vincent Capes, son of Paul (1968-70), is a boarder from Eketahuna. His promising rugby career was curtailed by knee problems and as a form of rehabilitation he took up some strength based training. This slight and small statured young man has since gone from strength to strength (no pun intended) and has recently qualified for the 2015 Commonwealth Power Lifting Champs in Vancouver, Canada, after a dominating year in gyms around the country.

Power Lifting is similar in competition to Weight Lifting but takes its roots from three exercises – bench press, deadlift and squat. The athlete with the highest combined score over the three disciplines is the winner.

Vinnie competes in the under 74kg weight class and is current New Zealand junior champion. He holds the NZ squat record for his class at 180kg and combined with his recent Personal Best of 105kg Bench Press and 210kg Deadlift he is just 2.5kg short of the highest total ever achieved on home soil.



Vincent Capes

Currently ranked 4th in his category for the upcoming Commonwealth Power lifting Championships, Vincent is targeting a medal in Vancouver and is working towards

qualifying for the World Power Lifting Champs in Texas in late 2016. We wish him all the best for his time in Vancouver in December.

Another boarder who is literally following the road less travelled from a school sport perspective is Dylan Drysdale. Dylan is currently away in Portugal competing at the World Rotax Karting Championships. It is Dylan's second year competing at the World Championships having last year been ranked eleventh in the world in his under 20 age group.

Dylan already has an impressive Karting CV from the Oceania region. He is New Zealand Champion, no mean feat but made even more impressive by being able to sit out the last two rounds of the championship after wins in Rotorua, Hawkes Bay and Auckland. He has been busy competing in the New South Wales championships in Australia where he has secured strong placings and currently sits 2nd on the ladder with two rounds to go.

Competing against rivals up to five years older than himself doesn't faze Dylan in the slightest and we hope he enjoys more success in Portugal this year. We look forward to seeing the next Mitch Evans going on to bigger successes in 2016!

Another sportsman of note is athlete Jonty Morison, son of Mark (1970-73). A number of records came tumbling down this year with Jonty smashing long standing sprint records (100m T Chiswell 1982, 200m R Hocking 1973/B Wilson 1979, 400m T Flipp 1979) and now holding the 100m, 200m and 400m records. It has been a spectacular season for him across the board, having made the New Zealand squad to compete at the Oceania games. This was a fine achievement in itself but his performances on the track were excellent with medals as part of the 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams.

Another boy who has broken records this year is Liam Burling. Captain of the 1st XI Cricket for the past two

seasons, Liam's selection into the Central Districts under 17 side again last summer shows that the cricket hierarchy have recognized his talents too. With his second century of the summer in the annual fixture with Lindisfarne, Liam now holds the school record for the most centuries for the 1st XI. No doubt though, that the highlight for the summer was Liam's marathon innings against Marlborough Boys' in the Quad tournament that kicks off the Term One season. Surpassing the old record of 167, held by Andy Oldfield, halfway through the middle session of day one, Liam went on to make exactly 200 before the team declaration came. A real testament to his technical excellence and also to his concentration and discipline; we hope that despite

a recent spate of injuries Liam remains on the field, fit and healthy and able to dominate a few more bowling attacks before he heads to Waikato University in February.

Finally, John McKeefry is to be congratulated for securing the Senior Championships in Athletics, Swimming and Cross Country. Records suggest that this is a first for the College.

For a small College, Rathkeale continues to punch well above its weight in sport. Success is evident at local, regional and national level and we do encourage Old Boys to return to the sideline and to see that the old spirit is alive and well.



New Zealand Karting Champion, Dylan Drysdale

Sports Dates Term 1 2016

Feb 28/29/1 March: 1st XI, Colts XI Tennis vs Lindisfarne (A)

12/13/14 March: 1st XI vs St Peter's Cambridge (A)



Rangitumau Ascent

Grant Harper locates the record of the very first boys' adventure to the hill which has been forever part of the Rathkeale landscape.

Rangitumau has for millennia stood tall and proud at the head of the Wairarapa Valley. Named by the traveller Haunui who first sighted it from the top of the Rimutaka Range, it has long enjoyed spiritual significance to the people of Ngati Hamua and the surrounding area.

More recently it has become significant within the Rathkeale story. A painting of the mountain hangs in the College foyer, its name thunders out from the school haka and it continues to challenge new boys to the College on the annual ascent.

In 1964 boys at the school produced a modest magazine "Spotlight on Rathkeale", under the editorship of J Spiers, J Little and J Toon, and created with the help from a typewriter borrowed from Mr Norman, the Headmaster.

Featured in its banded pages is an account of the College's first "tramp" up Rangitumau along with several faded photographs which are very obviously the product of the fledgling Photography Club.

"Our first school tramp took place on the 22nd of March. It was decided to tramp to Mt Rangitumau, a hill in the distance rising some 1,000ft in height. Our starting point was the Ruamahanga River, which flows past the school ½ a mile away. Each team set off at six minute intervals, firstly crossing the

river and scrambling up a steep cliff. The first part of the tramp was a brisk walk to James' Road. All the teams were to meet here, but we discovered that the team led by Selwyn Snell had got lost. We waited for them but they didn't turn up. We were taken by car to a woolshed about a mile away by Mr James, Mr Spiers and Mr Norman. On arriving at the woolshed (which was at the bottom of the hill) we started to climb the hill. It took each team about ¾ of an hour to reach the top. When the last team and Mr Hamilton and Mr Norman reached the top we had our photos taken, and admired the scenery. We could see the East Coast, the Wairarapa Plains and Mt Ruapehu. We walked back down the hill and had afternoon tea at the woolshed. It was here that the "Lost Legion" arrived and was greeted with shouts and boos. Snell, the leader, said they had gone to Black Rock. At one time they looked and saw boys near the top (of Rangitumau). They then ran as fast as they could and met us on the way down. The reason they got lost was that a farmer's son saw a flock of sheep going in some direction, so he thought that they (the boys) had gone that way. In doing this they ended up about three miles off course."

Fifty years on, boys follow the well-established route across the Ruamahunga and Kopuaranga Rivers, over the Heipipi Pa site, through the Spites' farm, along James' Road and up the Mountain Road to the Summit. Staff are still able to walk the distance but the ability to drive to the summit is a temptation. Similarly groves of trees and large rocky outcrops have been known to provide welcome cover for less enthusiastic boys! Some things never change!

Tramping at Rathkeale

"I will lift mine eyes to the hills....."

Rathkeale's 1967 Prospectus contains a photograph of Rathkeale trampers en route to Blue Range Hut. For many Old Boys it is an image which will no doubt bring back fond memories of weekends spent at Totara Flats, Powell, Jumbo, Atiwhakatu, Angle Knob, Mitre Flats, Cow Creek and Roaring Stag. It may also remind some of the trips that never got past the road end at Holdsworth Lodge, Wall's Whare or Kiriwhakapapa.

For decades, the weekend tramp was part of the Rathkeale culture and an experience that promoted a love of the outdoors, a sense of adventure, resilience, leadership and camaraderie.

Regrettably changing attitudes, OSH regulations, weekend obligations and weekly boarding all contributed to a marked decline in the activities of the College Tramping Club. However, thanks to several enthusiastic staff members, change is afoot as reported below by Joe Nawalaniec.

After a long period in abeyance, the Rathkeale College Tramping Club was reconstituted in 2012 on 'The Three Ps': a peak, a pest and a pact. The peak: the summit of Mt Bannister, in the middle of the shrew-like, oatmeal-like Tararuas. The pest: a hapless possum, flushed out by club mascots Sushi and Floyd, and summarily dispatched by Keith, James and other lads. And the pact: amid the beauty of the summit and the gore of the possum, the boys vowed to re-establish and resurrect a

long-defunct and largely forgotten institution, the Rathkeale College Tramping Club (RTC).

Since this time, we have taken out a small mortgage on the Tararuas. Not because they offer the least resistance, but, rather, because they offer the least distance.

The trips so far have been dank, muddy affairs, with the occasional false hope of a ray of sunshine, or a tweet of a warbler. There has been a sundry smorgasbord of mishaps: requisite blisters (which are the raw badges of initiation), knocks to the head, a broken bone, assorted lacerations and pints of blood. Our mantra, whether descending an icy gorge, or being spattered with sleet, or basking in a solitary sunbeam, has been: 'A rotten day in the Tararuas is still better than a great day in the classroom' (followed by the rousing chorus of our patron, Mr Barr: 'No it's not!').

We've wandered through some far-flung corners of the range. Highlights have included floating descents of the Hector River and the Mid-Waiohine River gorge; a

pea-souper Bannister Crossing; visiting the historic wreck of the World War II Airspeed Oxford bomber on the flank of North King; a descent of the waterfalls of remote Aeroplane Creek; arriving at Mid King bivouac to a large pot of hot water (left by Mrs Nawalaniec and Mrs Pitney) so we could make needed cups of hot soup to thaw out; and Dr Murray Presland's magnificent synchronised drowning impressions while descending the Waingawa Gorge. Priceless.

The final quote must be left to a pupil, Banon Hopman, traversing the Three Kings in a screaming gale: 'Sir, when does it get so windy that we turn back?' (I couldn't actually hear him – this was relayed to me, via Chinese whispers, so it remains just a rumour). Character is forged from adversity. And so, some say, is madness.

With a large body of relentless students, and many more adventurous thresholds to cross, the future of the RTC is assured.



Obituaries

Graeme Murray

Rathkeale Acting Principal 1996

Graeme Murray, along with his wife, Tricia, spent fifteen weeks at Rathkeale as Acting Principal in 1996, filling in between Principals Bruce Levick and Kris Brewin.

A wise leader, Graeme brought a wealth of experience to the role having run colleges both in New Zealand and Northern India. As recorded in the school magazine, he opened windows and let in a breath of fresh air. He opened doors which had not been opened for many years. He came to Rathkeale with a great love of the environment and of his God. Rathkeale was a better place for him having passed this way and we were saddened by his death in April of this year. Our sympathy is extended to Tricia and to his family.

Helen Dashfield, QSM

Rathkeale Teacher 1981-1988

The death of Helen Dashfield in October brought to a close a remarkable life spent largely within the folds of the Trinity community. Helen's association with St Matthew's as a student, teacher, Headmistress, partner to the first Headmaster, parent and Board member is the stuff of legends. She was also closely involved with Rathkeale as a highly acclaimed English teacher from 1981-1988 and as a parent of two Rathkeale boys, Phillip and Jamie.

Many in our community have excellent memories of Helen's wonderful teaching along with her stimulating and sometimes challenging repartee.

The Trinity system will be poorer for her passing.

Oscar Goodwin

Rathkeale 2005-2007

It was a remarkably large group who gathered in the foyer of Masterton's Regent Theatre in May of this year to farewell Oscar Goodwin.

Whilst only at Rathkeale for three years from 2005 to 2007, Oscar made a huge impression on those with whom he came into contact. Although small in stature he was huge in personality and strength of character.

After the completion of his secondary education Oscar became a regular presence at the front desk of his father's Regent Theatre where he relished the repartee he maintained with theatre patrons. His death followed a long period of serious illness.

Suffice to say, he is much missed by all who knew him.

Pat Hardy

*76-77 Repton
78-81 School House*

Pat Hardy joined the Rathkeale community as a Matron in 1976, serving firstly in Repton for

several years before moving across to School House for a further four years.

Whilst at Rathkeale she was highly regarded for her discernment, charm, good humour and wit. She enjoyed this environment and a lasting legacy for many years was the herb garden she established alongside the Burma Road. It was excellent to welcome Pat back to Rathkeale earlier this year in Term 1 and only weeks before her untimely death in Hawke's Bay.

Ruth Whitfield

Ruth Whitfield, along with her husband Jim, was a familiar and much loved member of the College community for a number of years. Time spent working in the College Accounts Department was significant but it was the time she and Jim spent in residence in Rugby House and Cranleigh House which brought her closer to the boys and to the heart of Rathkeale.

Following semi-retirement, the Whitfields have lived in Palmerston North and from there they have kept in good contact with the College and with friends in the Wairarapa. Ruth passed away early in 2015 after a period of illness and we extend our sympathy to Jim and the other members of her family.

Hamish Cameron

Rathkeale 1973-75

Hamish Cameron was remembered by hundreds of mourners on a crisp and sunny July day in Masterton, as equestrian sports across New Zealand bade farewell to a true character.

Hamish ("Hum" or "Humpty" to his family and friends) was born on July 16, 1959 and from an early age displayed the interest in horses which was to prove a life-long passion.

Encouraged by his mother Nigella and (to a lesser degree) by father Bill, Hamish soon found a partner in crime in Gisborne's David Goldsbury. The boys were trouble from the outset - never ones to take life too seriously, Hum and David saw fun when others were serious. At the service, David recalled that one rival's "Persil white" pony was turned piebald with mud at Hastings A & P Show, much to the horror of its connections. That sense of humour was to continue throughout both the boys' lives.

Hamish became a passionate and genuinely talented horseman, representing Wairarapa/Wellington at Pony Club Championships numerous times on Estrella before winning the Ai Cup on his all-time favourite Lucky Chance. As he continued his rise to compete for New Zealand Horse Society (NZHS) national titles, notably at Taupo, doors opened and Hamish found himself at the forefront of the Kiwi invasion of British eventing. He took his top horse Country Fair to the UK with the goal of being selected for the upcoming world Championships but sadly Fair went amiss in the lead-up

and was put down.

Simultaneously, Hamish had the opportunity to live with and work alongside the Princess Royal and Mark Phillips at Gatcombe Park. Hamish's cheeky nature may have landed him in trouble with the Royal household on more than a few occasions but typically, he proceeded to win everyone over with his charm and kind nature, traits he would carry throughout his life.

Once a Wairarapa man, always a Wairarapa man, Hamish returned to take over the family farm before meeting the love of his life Carol. Together, they went on to have three beautiful children, Georgie, Emma and Jock, all of whom attended Trinity Schools. Their Caves Rd home became the stomping ground for family, hundreds of friends and of course animals.

During his 56 years, Hamish Cameron dedicated countless hours to the North Wairarapa Pony Club, Eventing Wairarapa and Equestrian Sports New Zealand. Hugely talented at both course building and designing on a local, national and international level, he coached many teams and was at every ODE, following not only his own kids, but also ensuring that everyone else made it back safely too.

In 2013 Hamish was chosen to design the 3* star track at Arran Station and reinvigorated the course with fresh ideas. Fellow course designer Wendy Lansdown spoke of him returning from receiving his recommendation for upgrade to 3 and 4* at the recent 2015 Werribee three day with a huge smile on his face and pages of new ideas.

He was also honoured to have been considered to design the 3" course at the 2016 Taupo National Champs.

The man, the laugh, the smile, the generous spirit who gave so much to his family, his friends, his workmates at Little Avondale Stud and to his sport: Hamish Cameron, you will be dearly missed.

Jonathan (Jonty) Kinvig

Rathkeale 1988-1992

Jonty tragically drowned in Matamata in May 2015. The Association extends its sympathy to the Kinvig family.

ROCKRUNNER

Editor: Grant Harper
Editorial Assistant: Shelley Hancox
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Year 9 boys conquer Rangitumau, February 2016

