

Rock Runner

The magazine of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association

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Earlier this year I was asked by a South Island mate if I would like to join an annual blokes’ jet boating trip. Mention of navigating the Wairarapa’s Ruamahanga River and Hawke’s Bay’s Ngaruroro had instant appeal. Both rivers have provided me with many childhood memories and, in a Māori sense, a certain identity. I keenly agreed to join the group of seventeen South Island men and their eight jet boats in early November.

Although a few of the group were known to me, most were not, and yet from our first night together in Martinborough, I was embraced by their inclusiveness.

Virtually all of them had attended Preparatory Schools and Boarding Schools together. Their strong bonds of friendship, understanding and support for each other were tangible. Their banter was colourful, witty and ongoing. Their pleasure in being away with good mates was constantly obvious.

As the four days unfolded there was the odd mishap and the occasional mechanical challenge. However, nothing dampened the camaraderie, and I was left pondering whether their easy rapport had been established fifty or sixty years earlier in their Canterbury boarding schools whose special character is very similar to that of Rathkeale. Although I acknowledge that blokes’ trips the world over may demonstrate the same sort of pleasurable experiences, I concluded that these men cherished the friendships and experiences generated by their time together as schoolboys and saw them as worthy of preservation and perpetuation.

The jet boating was therefore a great way of making the annual get together possible.

Those of us who have come up through the Trinity system do not need to go too far to find that we share many of the same values, the same sense of loyalty, the same sort of friendships and the same sense of pride in belonging both to Rathkeale and to each other.

When we gather as Old Boys, and with SMS Old Girls, of our vintage, we invariably find ourselves back where we left off with people and places ten, twenty, thirty, forty or fifty years ago. Memories are relived, stories are retold, and friendships revitalised. Herein lies the value of Decade Reunions, regional gatherings, sports events and spontaneous get-togethers up and down the country. It also reinforces the value of the Rock Runner magazine, and the stories and images it contains, as it reaches out to the Old Boys’ community worldwide.

In the meantime, the southern men are already planning their next year’s boating trip together, whilst reminiscing about trips in both recent times and the distant past.

M G Harper
ROBA President

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ROBA Executive & Regional Committee Representatives 2022

John Taylor	Patron
Grant Harper	President
Edward Cox	Vice President/ Secretary Wellington
Scott Andrew	Treasurer Wairarapa
Blair Ewington	Executive/ Facebook/Database Wairarapa
Richard Donworth	Executive Wairarapa
Stuart McKenzie	Executive Wairarapa
Tim Falloon	Executive Wairarapa
Mark Sprowson	Executive Wairarapa
Andrew Sims	Executive Wairarapa
Paddy Tatham	Executive Wairarapa
Richard White	Executive Wairarapa
Julius Capilitan	Executive Wellington
	David Aitken Executive Auckland
	Jamie Treadwell
Hawke's Bay	
George Pottinger	Canterbury
Philip Harcourt	United Kingdom

Once again, it is a pleasure to report on a positive and successful year for the Rathkeale Old Boys’ Association. After two years spent adjusting to the ramifications of the Covid pandemic, we have enjoyed being able to return to a more normal life over the past year. This is reflected in the activities of the Association and, ultimately, far more satisfactory outcomes.

Much of the success of the year comes from the stability and commitment of the Executive.

Key office holders have remained unchanged and have continued to bring experience and expertise to the benefit of all.

Edward Cox has continued to engage his significant energy, focus and vision and the Association owes him a great vote of gratitude.

Other key officers have also done sterling work on behalf of members. These include Scott Andrew (Treasurer) and Blair Ewington (Data Base/Facebook). We remain grateful to them for the work they continue to do.

Much of the Association’s work occurs in our monthly meetings. Whilst these usually take place in the College’s Archives Room in School House, a number of members join the meetings electronically. It is not uncommon for a dozen members to be present and for dialogue to be informed, considered and productive. All members of the Executive give their time freely and the Association is the richer for their input.

For some years, the College Principal has attended ROBA meetings.

This year is no exception, and we acknowledge Martin O’Grady’s ongoing valued presence and input. We also acknowledge the support received from the College at large.

A highlight of the past year was the Decade Reunions held at Queen’s Birthday weekend for leavers from 1972, 1992,2002 and 2012. We now are working closely with the St Matthew’s Old Girls’ Association to ensure that this annual event grows in stature and features ever-growing attendance from past students of both schools. As always, ongoing success is very closely linked to the support and the tenacity of year group facilitators whose efforts we acknowledge.

Another highlight, and one carried forward from last year because of Covid, was the presentation of the Association’s first Honours Tie to Donald French. A very special and memorable school assembly was held on Founders’ Day and followed by a social function in School House. A photograph of Donald, incorporating his remarkable achievements as a mountaineer, now hangs in the College’s Auditorium. Further Honours Ties will be presented to notable Old Boys in future years.

The traditional cricket match between the College and the Old Boys’ Cricket Club was played in January with a win going to the Old Boys’ team. This annual event is enjoyed by all participants.

Other aspects of our core business this year included the award of an Old Boys’ Scholarship to John Martin, son of Tim (1978-82) and the co-hosting of the social function following the Lindisfarne College

winter sports fixture.

Generating a sense of pride in belonging, several other social events occurred throughout the year. A very successful combined ROBA/ SMOGA event was held in Auckland in November. This was attended by Patron, John Taylor, and Past Principals, Gwen and Bruce Levick. Another is planned for Hawke’s Bay in December. As always, we are grateful to those willing to organise such events.

Another annual gathering held towards the end of the Academic Year is the Leavers’ Dinner and ROBA registration. This year our guest Speaker, Jacques Reinhardt, Manager of Castlepoint Station, joined around twenty Old Boys and over sixty leavers. It is pleasing that year by year, most boys leaving the College elect to become life members of the Association, and we look forward to their involvement in the future.

As mentioned in a past report, life membership remains our only source of income, The Executive is unanimous in its desire to provide the Association with other sources of revenue. To that end, work is proceeding on the organisation of a four-wheel drive event for 2024, thanks to the input of Stuart McKenzie. It is envisaged that this will become a biannual fixture in the Association’s calendar and one that will become financially advantageous in the future.

Another significant advance is the addition of a directory facility to the database. Consequently, it will be increasingly possible for Old Boys to locate other Old Boys in defined occupations, (e.g., lawyers, winemakers etc). This will enable

valuable networking to occur and Blair Ewington's efforts in furthering this facility are acknowledged.

The ROBA data base is a crucial tool with over 2000 active members. Many others are linked to the Association, and each other, via Facebook. The regular Gravel newsletters and the annual Rock Runner Magazine are important aspects of our communication network.

The Association's Annual General Meeting may be seen as another social event. However, it is much more than that. Over the years many have seen it as a way of joining the

Executive and it is always pleasing when this results in a diversity of backgrounds and a range of ages.

As the year comes to a close, I thank everyone who has contributed to the work of the Old Boys' Association over the past twelve months and particularly those who are stepping down from the Executive. At this time, ROBA is alive, innovative and moving forward in a positive and reassuring manner.

MG Harper
President



New ROBA President, Ed Cox



Old mates catching up: jetboating on the Ngaruroro River

Old Boys work party at the settling ponds in conjunction with the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust



Rathkeale Board of Trustees

BOT Chair George Murdoch reports on his final year, having served on the Board since 2011.

When I wrote this report in 2021, I thought it would be my last for Rock Runner. As it turned out, Board Elections were delayed until August and it wasn't until early September that the new Board officially took office. This year has seen eight new faces join the Board, bringing with them a wide range of skills and experience.

Grant's advice when he asked me to do the 2022 report, was that I should perhaps reflect on the last 11 years and the events that have stood out over that time. As a starting point, I went back to the Principal's report to the first BOT meeting I attended in August 2011. At that time the School Roll comprised 122 Day Boys and 124 Boarders for a total of 246 against a roll cap of 310. We were earthquake strengthening Repton House but had put refurbishment plans on hold. At the last meeting I attended in August 2022, I recall the roll being somewhere around 330 against a temporary roll cap of 335 and we were over half way through a substantial refurbishment of Repton. Clearly good things take time, but they certainly didn't just happen by chance. The increase in roll numbers has been the result of the very hard work of consecutive Principals; this in turn provided the validation of ongoing investment across the campus.

The Board would have liked to have done more over the years—a lot of work went into the feasibility of building a new gymnasium. However, by the time the final cost of such a project was incorporated into the long-term property plans of our proprietor, the Trinity Schools Trust Board, it was very clear that without a major benefactor a new gym was never going to become a reality.

TSTB resources were fully committed to the clear priority of earthquake strengthening a significant number of buildings across the family of schools. We certainly acknowledge the support they have given Rathkeale to finally proceed with the Repton upgrade after having committed a large amount of money to earthquake strengthen the Auditorium. They also joined with the ROBA and Friends of Rathkeale to fund the purchase of the School House Bush, and for any of you who have visited the College lately you will have certainly noticed the improvement to the aesthetics of this piece of land as it is integrated into the wider campus.

I think we all agree that the unique Rathkeale campus provides an outstanding learning environment, but for me one of the other unique features of Rathkeale is the relationship between the teachers and the students and among the students themselves. I believe the desire and commitment of the staff to see each student reach their potential is the key to the academic, performing arts and sporting success the College enjoys.

The last two and a half years have been very challenging for all schools. I believe Rathkeale met those challenges, but it is great to now be back to some form of normality, with supporters allowed back on side-lines, no social distancing and no compulsory mask wearing. Further evidence of this was the recent House Music event, which went ahead in front of a packed audience in the Auditorium, a far cry from what we have experienced in the last two years. I am sure everybody is looking forward to this becoming the 'norm' again.

From a governance perspective, this year the Board worked diligently to finalise the 2022-27 Strategic Plan.



The draft Plan went out for consultation earlier in the year and we thank a number of Old Boys who provided feedback. The Board believes it now has a concise document to guide the College into the future.

Despite the uncertain economic times over the last 2 years, interest in attending Rathkeale has remained strong. I believe this is an endorsement of the direction of the College as it strives to provide a fully rounded education to every young citizen who passes through the gates.

As I sign off for the final time, I am reminded of what a very special place Rathkeale is. It is made special by its people, the physical environment and the values which it strives to uphold. I believe the College is in great heart and wish to acknowledge and thank all those who have contributed over the years to make it what it is today.

George Murdoch
Chair, Rathkeale Board of Trustees

Principal's Report

Principal MARTIN O'GRADY notes a number of changes and highlights the outstanding contribution of several members of staff

Kia ora koutou It is a pleasure to present my fifth Rock Runner report as Principal of Rathkeale College.

It was a chaotic and disrupted start to the year when we had to limit gatherings on site, but we certainly enjoyed the removal of these restrictions as the year progressed with the ultimate reward that we were able to hold normal end of year gatherings, assemblies, prizegivings and the annual Leavers' Ball.

We began the year with very pleasing NCEA results from the previous year despite all the disruptions. Some outstanding results were achieved by our students and, of course, we especially celebrated the outstanding achievements of those who gained NCEA level endorsements and NZQA Scholarship passes in their respective subjects.

The resumption of Decades Reunions was pleasing, and those present clearly enjoyed the opportunity to be socialising again. Everyone had Rathkeale College or St Matthew's Collegiate as a common connection and it is great to see these relationships rekindled.

This year saw the annual Board of Trustees (BOT) elections and it is important to note the retirement of Mr George Murdoch after 11 years. His contribution to many aspects of College life, latterly as board chair, was significant. It is pleasing to note that one of the new BOT members is ROBA committee member Mr Richard Donworth. It is great to have an Old Boy as part of the board going forward.

Towards the end of the year Mr Grant Harper stepped down as Chair of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association (ROBA) after 7 successful years. Old Boy and current parent Mr Edward Cox has taken over this role and we look forward to ROBA continuing its outstanding work for our College.

I always try to attend ROBA meetings, such is their importance in maintaining a key aspect of our College's character, and it is heartening to observe the forward-thinking attitudes that exist amongst the members of the ROBA executive. They constantly strive to support Old Boys in many ways but also provide a source of motivation for me in ensuring that Rathkeale College continues into the future as a successful secondary school.

2023 will be a special year as the College's first two third generation pupils will start in Year 9. By this I mean that both their fathers and grandfathers have attended Rathkeale. This is an important milestone for any college to acknowledge. I believe this is an excellent excuse to initiate an Annual Grandparents'/ Special Persons' Day where we can invite these key people, in all our students' lives, to be hosted during a school day by their grandsons. I have been involved in establishing a similar day



in two other schools and they proved to be very successful. I hope eventually this will be another key event that more and more of our Old Boys may be required to attend.

At the end of 2022 two long serving staff members announced their retirements:

- Mr Graeme Anderson retires from Rathkeale after 19 years, most of this time as Head of English and over 50 years teaching in both South Africa and New Zealand.
- Head of Geography Mr Cliff Bouton retires after 34 years of loyal service to Rathkeale College. Cliff has held a range of significant roles in both the boarding and day school over these 34 years.

Special leaving functions will be held to honour the significant contributions both these men have made to the College.

We have enjoyed the many successes of our students this year and one of great significance was the gaining of entry to the Big Sing Grand Finale by our premier choir, Viva Camerata. Shortly after the Grand Finale in Christchurch, long-serving director Mrs Kiewiet van Deventer announced she was stepping down from this role after 20 successful years. This is 20 years of outstanding service and achievement for which we are truly grateful.

After a lot of background work and planning by ROBA it was a pleasure for the College to host the first Honours Tie award ceremony for Mr Donald French. This occurred at the annual Founders' Day Assembly, and it was great that our current staff and students were able to witness this very special occasion. I look forward to many more over the next few years.

The ROBA committee organised and hosted another very successful Leavers' Dinner at the start of term four and this was appreciated by all our students who were just

weeks away from joining the Old Boys' ranks. The guest speaker Mr Jacques Reinhardt gave an interesting and very motivating talk on his life journey to date.

Where possible I enjoy attending ROBA regional events. As the Principal it is important for me to listen to the stories of Old Boys and gain an insight into the major and minor things that they experienced at Rathkeale that make it such a special place to live (for some) and learn in (for many!).

ROBA has some exciting plans which I believe will only enhance their reach and influence and I look forward to working with the executive committee to support these activities and events

Ma te atua e manaaki

May God bless you all

Martin O'Grady
Principal

Regional Functions

Thanks to the efforts of our regional representatives in Auckland and Hawke's Bay, two very good social events were held in tandem with SMOGA during the course of the year. The first of these was again held in the Parnell Tennis Club and attracted a very good attendance of Old Girls and Boys. Sophie Malony (nee Taylor) a SMS old Girl and Sky CEO, spoke of the impact of her time in the Trinity System when her father John Taylor was Headmaster at Rathkeale, whilst Old Boy James Harper (1998-2002) a partner at PricewaterhouseCoopers in Auckland, shared similar themes of growing up on the beautiful Rathkeale campus. Both offered rarely heard insights into the lives of children of staff members and were well received by an appreciative audience.

The gathering in Hawke's Bay was again courtesy of Old Boy Tim Turvey (1967-71) at Clearview Winery and gathered a good number of lads from the Bay including Northern Hawke's Bay and Wairoa. Fine food and wine complemented an amusing address from our new ROBA President, Edward Cox.

See page 24 for more images.



Strong turnout for the ROBA/SMOGA event at the Parnell Tennis Club

Executive Updates

New Faces on the Old Boys' Association Executive

Mark Sprowson (2009-2013)

Mark graduated from Rathkeale in 2013 before heading down to Canterbury University to study Civil Engineering in 2014. He moved back to the Wairarapa in 2018 upon completing his degree and currently works for a local Civil Engineering firm, CF Projects, here in Masterton and joining the ROBA committee in 2022. He plays soccer through the winter months and gets out hunting, fishing and tramping whenever he can. One of five, Mark and his three brothers were at Rathkeale together for his final year in 2013 and his youngest sibling is currently Year 12 at St Matthew's.



Paddy Tatham (2009-2013)

Paddy graduated from Rathkeale in 2013 and then attended the University of Canterbury where he earned a BA majoring in psychology. After travelling overseas and a short career in marketing and sales, the Covid pandemic forced a career change. He enrolled at the WelTec cookery school in 2021 and begun working in a busy Petone café to learn the skills required to launch a business with his family in the 'Homewood Storeroom'; a country café on their family farm south of Riversdale beach, which aims to bridge the divide between farm and table. A proud member of Viva Camerata during his time at Rathkeale, Paddy continues to pursue his passion for music through solo acoustic performance, making the most of the open mic scene in Wellington.



Andrew Sims (1980-1984)

Farming just north of Masterton, Andy would drive past the entrance to Rathkeale en route to town on a regular basis. His children had attended St. Matthew's and Rathkeale, and living so close by, he thought it was sensible to be helping the school out in some way. ROBA was the logical way to do that and joining the Executive was the outcome.

He is also the fire chief for his local Volunteer Fire Brigade which keeps him busy when he is not chasing stock around the Mauriceville farm!



Michael Fisher - A Long Shadow

Michael Fisher (staff 1974-1993) recalls his time at Rathkeale as teacher, housemaster, sports coach and Deputy Headmaster

When looking at the various editions of The Rock Runner, Rathkeale seems like yesterday, yet much has happened since my departure in 1993.

Arriving at Innisfree in January 1974 was the start of 20 wonderful years during which I was married to Susan, had three children—Thomas, Kate and Henry—and was immersed in all facets of school and boarding life. Rugby House as Housemaster and then into senior management and living in School House saw us living on campus for all those years. Intermingled was a marvellous exchange year at Cranleigh School in Surrey from September 1991 to August 1992.

A new chapter in the Fisher family's life saw us move to Waihi Preparatory School in South Canterbury. There were so many similarities to Rathkeale, with Waihi an all-boarding school of about 90 years with its pupils coming largely from farming stock.

After five years as Headmaster, and with our children being educated in Christchurch, we decided to move north, and back to our place of birth. Being

involved in boarding for 25 years came to an end and, after a year of lowering my golf handicap, Christ's College approached me in 2000 to oversee the school's cricket programme, coach the 1st XI and coach rugby. I coached the XI until the end of 2006, although I continued to oversee the College's cricket until 2012 when I resigned from that position.

Drawing on my experience from organizing the Rathkeale 1st XV tour of the UK in 1989, I organized an exciting four-week tour for two Christ's College cricket teams in 2009 to England, France and Singapore. Opposition included Harrow, Eton, Winchester, St Edward's, Eastbourne and Wellington College among the thirteen games. This 2009 tour was repeated in 2012 and has continued in a three-year cycle since other than the Covid interruption of 2021.

In 2006, I was appointed as Assistant Operations Manager at Canterbury Cricket which opened a further chapter to our life. It was a job that offered plenty of variety in dealing with clubs and secondary schools and, essentially, I was overseeing everything that involved the playing of Saturday cricket.

In 2012, Canterbury Cricket felt it wasn't doing enough for club cricket, as the professional game in New Zealand was gathering pace and became the major focus for the Canterbury organisation. To account for this, the Christchurch Metropolitan Cricket Association was established with its focus on growing the amateur game and providing for the health of the clubs and secondary schools. I moved across to this organization as its Operations Manager. Over the last ten years it has blossomed into a leading metropolitan sports organization. In 2021 I was seconded to Canterbury Cricket to match manage all matches on Hagley Oval. These ranged from first class cricket, Super Smash to International matches. This short-term contract has been renewed for the 2022-23 season.



Mike Fisher at the Brandenburg Gate



Susan Fisher in Barcelona

So much has happened with the two areas that I enjoyed so much at Rathkeale: school life and sport but eventually the sport took over.

In August of this year, I retired. I've returned on the odd occasion to Rathkeale and have loved what I have seen. Susan and I enjoyed a tremendous 25-year reunion of the victorious 1st XV organized by Malcolm Holmes. It was a splendid occasion with the vast majority returning to enjoy each other's company. And then the 50th Jubilee! It was brilliant to catch up with Faye Norman and the three Headmasters that I worked with and, of course, Bruce Hamilton who was so much of an influence on my life as well as on hundreds of Old Boys. It was so good to reunite with Liam O'Gorman. We started at the school at the same time in 1974 and thoroughly enjoyed each other's company throughout the next twenty years. And so many familiar faces: more weathered with the Nobile stubble replacing the pimples of puberty, greying hair with the thinning hairline but all with that youthful twinkle so full of reminiscences. As I flick through the various more recent editions of The Rock Runner, it is great to study the reunion group photos: firstly, to look at

the names and then marry them to the faces. Some are obvious, many require deeper study.

What of the Fisher family who grew up in the beauty and security of the Rathkeale and Waihi grounds? They remember fondly of two huge adventure playgrounds! Thomas, born in 1981, has been in Dublin since 2006 and has now moved to Singapore. He works in finance and is married with a daughter. Kate is a nurse who resides in Lyttelton with her husband and daughter.

Our youngest is Henry lives in Sydney with his wife and daughter and works in advertising for a company based in New York. Susan retired from school teaching in 2018, although relief teaching still lures her back to the classroom with some regularity. Obviously, travelling has been a constant for us over the last 15 years and, hopefully, with retirement, this will continue.



The Fisher 'kids' - Henry, Thomas & Kate

Graeme Anderson Retirement

For the love of literature: Head of Faculty, Languages, Kiewiet van Deventer, speaks in tribute to Graeme Anderson, former Head of Faculty and English teacher par excellence on the occasion of his retirement from teaching after more than 50 years

Peter Strople said that "Legacy is not leaving something for people. It's leaving something in people." Graeme Anderson has done that with both students and colleagues.

Graeme is a man of stories, Graz to the students – and this is indeed a mark of deep affection - English teacher par excellence, lover of travel, family man, loyal friend.

This speech is both the easiest task – because of the subject matter – but almost the most difficult task – because of the subject matter: how do I do justice to him?

Graeme joined Rathkeale in 2004 as HOD. He was quick to recruit Joyce Kirkham as his 2IC and their close friendship persists to this day. Wife Joan jokingly referred to Joyce as his "work wife"!

As a teacher, he kept students enthralled with his phenomenal knowledge of not only English, but also Art. Students often fought and begged to be in his class. He was unapologetic about his so-called old style of teaching—he talked and they listened ... and oh, boy did they listen!

Graeme generally aimed his teaching at

the upper end of students, challenging them all the time to lift their game. I also saw him teach a lower Year 11 class, tailoring his classes to them and ensuring that he got the best out of them.

He loves words. We all know "I'll give you an example" but he also loves 'punctilious', 'excessively' and 'however'. All of us have had more than a few discussions with him about the use of "however you look at it" and "however" used as a conjunction.

The definition of a Renaissance man or the Universal man is a "man that can do all things if he will." Therefore, the gifted men of the Renaissance sought to develop skills in all areas of knowledge, in physical development and social accomplishments, and in the arts. Graeme is a true Renaissance man—a dying breed, sadly.

In his life he has been a diving coach and judge, has coached the first XI Hockey, was manager for the first XI Hockey for more years than I can remember, directed numerous shows here at Rathkeale, was the producer of Les Miserables – probably the best show I have ever been part of, was always the basso profundo of our staff choirs, MC for numerous concerts and intercollegiate music competitions.



But the students will also remember him for the relationships he had with them. Joyce shared this story with me. Some of you might remember Jack Callister. Dinner dance was nearing, and Jack was chatting away as they all went to the car park. He said he was short of shoes and looked down at Graeme's, and of course he asked if Graeme would be willing to lend them his. Graeme didn't. He's pretty exacting about his clothes. All shirts, for example, have to have a breast pocket

but Jack obviously felt sufficiently at home with him to even think about asking him.

One of the things I love about teaching is the collegial discussions that occur around student work. Graeme has had endless patience with me and others in the department—often—regularly—every day—emailing him to ask advice about feedback and how we see a student's work. He has never, ever complained and Graeme, I intend to still email you this year.

He's perhaps the most able, out of all the staff, to plonk himself in the middle of different social groups: the men's corner, the younger crowd, the older gorgeous ladies, the transient music teachers. Never expect him to go anywhere or do anything without passing the time of day with whomever he comes across. People feel at ease with him and never struggle for something to say.

We all know him as a consummate teller of stories: we all know those ones that start with, "When I was subject adviser" or "Back in South Africa..."

Blessed are the peacemakers the Bible says—and that indeed is Graeme. He could navigate stormy waters in the department and always ensured that the ship stayed on course and would reach the destination safely. He has always been a safe harbour, for everyone, students and staff alike. He's your archetypal gentleman who's naturally gracious and never seeks to offend or wound, however (there's the 'however' usage!) cross he is. He's avuncular: the origin of uncle—safe, a rock, steadfast.

He is a loyal friend, and friendships are maintained despite distance. For example, he's still in contact with numerous South African friends and colleagues who have been long gone overseas: James Clarke, a previous chaplain here; Paul and Myra Orr and various staff who came on a short two year contract at Waicol; Adam Moffatt kept in contact till recent years also to name but a few.

Graeme is a family man. The last few years since Joan's stroke have not been easy. He always carried her on his hands and held the crown over

her head. She in turn always admired his legs and totally loved him, despite the fact he'd never let her light the fire before it was freezing cold and wouldn't let her have a log fire in the new house, nor would he let her add to the Bella Fiore dinner set they had.

He adores his three daughters—Lara, Robyn and Kate—and has also been their rock even though they often had to share him with us. Lara told Joyce if the girls were ever sick, they'd crawl around the bed to get to Dad. Woe betide them if anyone interrupted Joan's sleep! He also dearly loves all his grandchildren.

Graeme, you taught us all about life, and the English language and art were your tools. Kind, compassionate and always ready with sage advice or funny stories, we all turned to you. You were, and are, our pillar and Graz, we will all miss you tremendously.

There is a South African poet Jan F.E. Cilliers who wrote a poem about a South African general. The words though are applicable here. Forgive me if I say it in Afrikaans first:



*Stil, broers,
daar gaan 'n man verby,
Daar's nog maar één soos hy;
bekyk hom goed.*

Still, brothers
There goes a man
There is but one like him
Mark him well.
Kiewiet van Deventer



No small journey

New staff member Kazu Saito ponders the journey that has taken him from Japan to New Zealand and ultimately to Rathkeale

"When I first visited the Rathkeale campus, I could not believe how big and beautiful it was, and that students get to learn here. If I knew a school like this existed, I would have loved to attend as a student!"

Kazu Saito is a new staff member at Rathkeale where he teaches Health and Physical Education. Having attended an all-boys school himself and having a strong Christian faith, the special character of Rathkeale caught Kazu's imagination when he was looking for his first job as a teacher.

Ten years ago, when he first moved to Auckland from Japan and began attending high school, he did not speak much English. In fact, he still remembers struggling to write a 300-word essay for homework during the first week of school. In addition, one of his least favourite subjects was PE—that was after a lesson of running around barefoot on a field full of prickles! Although language was a barrier, he was well-supported by his teachers throughout his high school years. One particular PE teacher was very enthusiastic, supportive and had a good sense of humour. He also taught valuable lessons. The supportive environment and teachers motivated Kazu with his learning and he began to enjoy the change from Japan to New Zealand. Over time, PE became more enjoyable, and became his favourite subject by Year 13.

At the end of high school, he was unsure of the exact career path he was going to take, but he had a vague idea that he wanted to work with people. His Year 9 PE teacher suggested he consider teaching; a job where people positively influence the lives of young people. Reflecting on what he had experienced, Kazu was inspired to give back what he had received:

encouragement, empathy and enthusiasm. This led him to complete his Bachelor of Sport and Recreation and Graduate Diploma in Secondary Teaching from Auckland University of Technology, before being appointed to his current role at Rathkeale College where he has joined a department with plenty of experience and support.

He enjoys the various things Rathkeale has to offer. Boarding school is an appealing environment for Kazu and one that has always fascinated him. He cherishes the priceless interaction with the Cranleigh House boarders and enjoys living on the beautiful campus, including the direct access to the Ruamahanga river and the Eco trail as well as the swimming pool and the gym. He also enjoys being able to teach the students on Rathkeale's beautiful, prickle-free grounds that allow students to run around barefoot! Kazu finds teaching the Year 9 to 11 boys rewarding, as well as teaching the Rathkeale/St Matthew's Senior College students, which has been a unique and interesting experience for him. Additionally, the exciting and challenging PE trips such as the Year 11 Mountain Biking trip, Year 12 Ski trip and Year 13 Tough Guy Tough Gal challenge have been great opportunities to learn about the students in differing contexts.

Another thing Kazu has been enjoying is the Tuesday morning Chapel which even had him delivering a sermon during Term 3.

Moreover, Kazu has jumped right into the extracurricular environment



at Rathkeale. Coaching the Red Football team in the winter has offered another avenue for him to get to know students better. He has also contributed his personal training expertise by helping students with the Gym programme during the summer terms, teaching them how to engage in weight training. In fact, Kazu is very passionate about powerlifting, with most of his leisure time spent in the gym lifting heavy weights. His recent achievements include a silver medal at the 2021 Auckland Powerlifting Championships. He aims to continue building his strength and extend his personal bests which includes a 212.5kg squat.

Upon reflection on his first year living outside of Auckland, it is safe to say that he is not missing the city!

city!too much, especially after spending the three-month lockdown there. Now in the Wairarapa, he is enjoying the quieter, peaceful lifestyle surrounded by nature.

He has enjoyed his visit to places such as Mount Holdsworth, Castlepoint and Riversdale and is looking

to explore the region more. He is intending to learn about the place and its people and to better engage with students at Rathkeale and its community. He feels blessed to be where he is and doing what he gets to do, and is looking forward to what is to come.

Impact on literature rewarded

David Hedley's (1966-70) passion for books has been deservedly recognised with a Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2022 Aotearoa Book Industry Awards

After almost 50 years at the helm of the family business, there's no greater satisfaction for David and Jenny Hedley than "seeing lives changed for the better" by the power of a good book.

Earlier this year, David and wife Jenny, owners of Masterton's Hedley's Books, were honoured for their decades of service to the book trade – receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2022 Aotearoa Book Industry Awards.

The awards, organised by Booksellers Aotearoa NZ and the Publishers Association of New Zealand, celebrate excellence within New Zealand's literary industry, recognising the highest performing authors, publishers and retailers. The Lifetime Achievement Award honours those who have made an "exceptional and long-term contribution to books and publishing in Aotearoa".

To say the Hedley whānau has made a long-term commitment to books would be an understatement. Hedley's Books was founded by David's grandfather, William Hedley, in 1907 back when Masterton "still had dirt streets" and readers poured over the local paper by gas light. David took over the bookstore from his father, Alex Hedley, in 1974, with wife Jenny joining him in the business in 1981.

In the half-century since the couple took the reins, there have been some challenging times for the book industry: economic downturns, the rise of international online retailers, and

the many entertainment options competing for people's time. Throughout, Hedley's has remained a staple of the community, beloved among Wairarapa bibliophiles for its warm atmosphere, independent range of books, author events and the ever-popular Yarns in Barns festival.

From the back of William Hedley's bike to the flourishing book business it is today, each generation of Hedley's has put its own stamp on the business, and David is no exception. He was the first person in his family to receive a University Degree, while simultaneously learning the bookselling trade at the hoof of his father, Alex Hedley. Whilst his love of books dates from an early age, it was fostered by his time at Rathkeale College, in particular, the mentorship of English teacher BG (Bruce Hamilton) and his time working in the school library.

Not long after entering the family business full time, David jumped at an opportunity to attend the book trade's most prestigious event—the American Book Fair. It was here that he met a young publisher by the name of Brian Roylance of Genesis Publications. Armed with a new piece of technology that could produce perfect facsimiles of original documents and an idea to reproduce Captain James Cook's journals, Roylance had happened on



Jenny and David Hedley with son Alex (1997-2001) receiving the Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2022 Aotearoa Book Industry Awards

the perfect antipodean accomplice. Sharing an entrepreneurial spirit, a loved of exquisitely produced books and, they found later, music, this chance encounter at one of the world's biggest book fairs marked the beginning of an unexpected journey into limited edition publishing for a young man from Masterton.

The exquisite quality of their early co-published editions did not go unnoticed. It wasn't long before the pair were approached by someone with a story or two to tell: press secretary for The Beatles, Derek Taylor. In the mid 1980s they co-published his story, Fifty Years Adrift (in an open necked shirt). Understanding that even the best story still needs to be sold, David convinced Beatle George Harrison to undertake a book tour alongside Taylor, enticing the pair to

Auckland and Sydney for ‘a night with a Beatle in the Opera House’ — a line that appealed immensely to Harrison’s sense of humour. Harrison came as far as Auckland on that trip, and while it was a bridge too far for George to make it to Masterton, many Mastertonians attended this momentous night.



David Hedley introducing English guitarist, Jeff Beck of the Yardbirds (pictured waving in the background) at a Mel's Diner event in LA

The publication of Blinds and Shutters project followed, and was a veritable who's who of the 1960s and 70s cultural scene – including The Beatles, The Rolling Stones, Andy Warhol, Alan Ginsberg and many more – as photographed by the late Michael Cooper. Only someone with Hedley's level of energy and enthusiasm could have possibly made this project succeed — cleaning and developing thousands of Cooper's never-before-seen negatives, identifying each photo's subject, and tracking them down for their signatures and contributions to the book, all in a time before the internet! David Hedley toured with the Rolling Stones selling the book with the help of the book's editor bass guitarist Bill Wyman. While it was not without its challenges, the project was a huge success and cemented the special friendship with Genesis Publications that continues to this day, now with the second generation of Royslances at the helm. Hedley's Books continues as the exclusive distributor of their editions in Australasia and David's experience is often called on for newer releases—in recent years consulting and touring artists such as Mick Fleetwood, Lou Reed, Yoko Ono, Ringo Starr and Jeff

Beck. From sorting through Fleetwood Mac photos and memorabilia with Mick Fleetwood at his home in Maui, to interviewing Lou Reed on stage in London, you wonder how Hedley has kept his feet on earth.

“That's the beauty perhaps of books. Coming in every shape in size, covering every age and interest, books are as unique as their readers. The variety is addictive. One minute you're speaking to national television about an upcoming book on David Bowie, the next you're helping a grandparent find a book that will encourage their 7-year-old to get into reading.”

Even in this digital age, the bookshop still acts as a town square for ideas. This is never more apparent than at Yarns in Barns, the 10-day festival of reading co-founded by

Hedley's Books in 2003. Started as a collaboration between a bookseller, a local publisher and the region's libraries, Yarns in Barns is a not-for-profit event designed to foster a love of reading and the printed book in the community. Ticket prices are low with many events free or run as fundraisers alongside local charities and schools. From comedy to farming, cooking to poetry, it represents the huge diversity of thought in the region.



David Hedley at the front of Hedley's Books on Queen Street Masterton

It is this diversity of local readers that has allowed Hedley's Books to flourish in the Wairarapa for over 114 years and provided the foundation for a life of incredible experiences and achievements.

Speaking to the recent Lifetime Achievement Award, David said,

“Literature plays a huge role in our lives. Reading transports us to different worlds. A good book can enhance a person's life, or even change it for the better—and the people who bring the books to the public are an important part of that process. Jenny and I have dedicated our lives to family and to selling books. So, it's lovely to have that endorsement from our peers, who have acknowledged the commitment we've made to the people of Wairarapa. Plus, it's an endorsement of our town and our region—we're a well-read bunch in Wairarapa.”

Other family members to attend Rathkeale College are David's son Alex Hedley and daughters Anna-Louise and Sophie who both attended Senior College. Alex is now Publishing Director of Harper Collins Publishers NZ and Anna is working in the Hedley's book business running the online business www.booksonline.co.nz from her Queenstown base. Sophie is also a keen reader and is a practicing Doctor of Clinical Psychology.

Life of service

Paul Morgan QSM (1967-71) has recently been inducted into the New Zealand Hall of Business Fame and shares his story as one of Māoridom's most influential leaders

Pepeha

*Tēnā koutou katoa
Ko Tainui te waka
Ko Tūao Wharepapa mea Pukeone ngā maunga
Ko Te tai Aorere te moana
Ko Motueka te awa
Ko Ngāti Rārua te iwi
Ko Turangaapeke te hapū
Ko Te Āwhina te marae
Ko Turangaapeke te tupuna
Nō Whakatū āhau
Ko Pāora te Poa Karoro Mōkena tōku ingoa
Kei Wakatu Koporeihana ahau e mahi ana
Tēnā koutou katoa,
I roto i te rangimārie me te manaakitanga ki ngā tāngata katoa.*

My name is Te Poa Karoro (Paul) Morgan – Ngāti Rārua, Te Ātiawa. Ngā Puhi. I was raised in Wellington. My father's whakapapa is from Te Tau Ihu o Te Waka a Maui and my mother is from Te Tai Tokerau. Our home was always full of visiting whānau from Northland or the top of the South Island and new arrivals to Wellington, all in search of work. My father and Uncle Kiwa would often employ the new arrivals of young men into their building business. My mother and Auntie Vera would seek out work for the girls.

That is where I learned the value of whanaungatanga (relationships), manaakitanga (care and wellbeing), whakapapa (lineage) and the importance of investing in people. I was fortunate enough to attend various hui as a young man with my parents. Here I was able to record my tribal history and stories from our old people. My whānau inspired me to dedicate my life to serving our people.



Paul and Rore Morgan at Paul's induction into the NZ Business Hall of Fame

I attended Rathkeale College from 1967 through to 1971, then went on to Victoria University where I received my DPA in Business Administration and also later became a Graduate at the School of Business at Stanford University.

I have been closely involved with a range of Māori rights and interests issues involving natural resources, including fishing, aquaculture and forestry as well as being a strong advocate for Māori landowners and Māori business.

I was the Chief Executive of FOMA (Federation of Māori Authorities) for twenty years, New Zealand's largest Māori business network with assets of \$10 billion.

I have been on the board of Wakatū Incorporation since 1986 and Chair since 2001; along with the Board, I manage an asset base of \$300 million. Seventy per cent of Wakatū Incorporation assets are held in land and water space, a diverse portfolio of vineyards, orchards, residential

properties, large retail developments, office buildings and marine farms. Based in Nelson, Wakatū owners descend from four iwi : Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Koata and Ngāti Tama. The legacy of Wakatū is to preserve the land and resources for future generations - He taonga tuku iho.

Wakatū Incorporation, connecting eight tribal entities, allows for investment in marae infrastructure and local whānau (families). We are starting to see the benefits — after early teething stages — of having effective governance and management in place.

Te Tauihu Intergenerational Strategy is greatly significant. This transformative vision for our rohe (region), arises from our communities' combined voices articulating the long-term economic development strategy for the Top of the South (incorporating the Marlborough and Nelson-Tasman Districts). It leads the Marlborough District Council Economic Development Unit to focus on wellbeing outcomes.

My experience as a director and in governance roles spans both the public and private sectors across agribusiness, property, science, innovation, entrepreneurial start-ups and business generally. My current roles include an appointment to Kāhui Wai Māori – the Māori Freshwater Forum, and director of Ko Ngā Kai Whai Painga, the High Value Nutrition Science Challenge.

In 2021 I was officially inducted into the New Zealand Business Hall of Fame at a gala evening on 25 March. The New Zealand Business Hall of Fame recognises and celebrates individuals who have made a significant contribution to the economic and social development of Aotearoa.

I am passionate about my whānau and whānau whānui, and investing in and building a new future for the generations to come. I am strongly committed to developing the next generation of leaders and supporting the learning and development of rangatahi.

I believe in making a positive difference in the Māori community and to Aotearoa as a whole.



Paul Morgan receiving his Queen's Service Order Medal

Milestones

Current: Chair of the Wakatū Incorporation (Te Ātiawa, Ngāti Rārua, Ngāti Koata and Ngāti Tama)

March 2021: Inducted into the New Zealand Business Hall of Fame for his work as a Māori leader, lobbyist, and entrepreneur at the centre of economic development and political advocacy for Māori for more than 30 years.

2019: Te Tohu mō te Kaiārahi Whakahaere (Māori governance leader), Auckland University

1996 to 2007: Chief Executive, Federation of Māori Authorities

2009: Queen's Service Order for services to Māori business and Māori

2009: Most influential Māori leader (non-government), The Listener

Eventually returning to New Zealand after a 6-month trip through the length and breadth of South America, Charlie landed in Wellington for good and eventually his pathway led to the Department of Corrections, helping to outsource the operations at New Zealand's busiest and arguably most dangerous prison—the Mt Eden Prison and Auckland Central Remand Prison (ME/ACRP). British firm Serco were chosen to run the facility and after a successful handover, Charlie turned to closing the old Mt Eden facility down and mothballing it to protect the

many heritage features. He went on to complete several varied roles at the Department in his 9-year stint there, including the project management of two large scale procurements of Public Private Partnerships to design, build, finance and maintain (and operate in the case of Wiri) New Zealand's newest and largest prisons. Karma came full circle at one point, when he was leading the Ministerial team when the implosion of Serco at ME/ACRP occurred. Events there in turn led to senior leadership at the Department of Corrections and work as Senior Adviser to a number of Deputy Chief Executives and the Chief Executive leading a range of projects to open or close prisons.

Corrections does an amazing job says Charlie, they work with an incredibly challenging cohort of people, mostly men, who have ended up in a place in life that is pretty sad. Some people say that ending up in prison is not their fault and while Charlie believes that's not quite true, he does believe that most of them certainly never had the same choices as most of us. There's a lot to be done as a society to take away the allure of gangs and drugs and the lifestyle that seems to swallow up a lot of young men in certain parts of

the country. Charlie says he has great respect for all the work Corrections do in trying to fix some very broken situations, but for all that good work, the focus needs to shift to the entry point of the funnel.

Life for Charlie took a completely different turn shortly after the Covid pandemic hit. Working from his new home in the Wairarapa, he was talking with an old university buddy who had recently returned from London with a smart idea for producing a kids' toy. He was looking for someone



The Superspace magnetic modular tile kids' play space

with project management experience who could invest time, money and energy into bringing the idea to life. Charlie quit his role at Corrections the following day!

The concept is simple, as most good ideas are. Recycled plastic is spun into felt panels, which are framed with sustainably sourced bamboo rods, and held together by plastic clips and super strong neodymium magnets. These are like Magna-tiles but much larger and way more fun.

Beginning with crowd funding platform Kickstarter, after a month they had taken over USD\$1.0m in orders between UK and the USA. Sales success had to be converted into overcoming production challenges. These were many and varied and each obstacle threatened

to derail the enterprise for a time, but Charlie says that the three colleagues (there was one left in the UK still) simply plugged away with typical Kiwi tenacity and a "let's-fix-it-together" attitude.

Most of those learning curves are behind them now says Charlie, with only the positive problem of keeping up with demand remaining. Helping fuel this demand are the international awards the company—Superspace—has received for the product design.

Now eager to give something back, Charlie has recently set up a scholarship in the Massey University College of Creative Arts for students studying sculpture. Supporting the arts was a passion shared with is late father, whose death in provided a good opportunity to set up something in memory of him.

A fitting accompaniment to this scholarship is the sponsorship of the Four Plinths project in Wellington. This is a revolving artwork led by the Wellington Sculpture Trust which swaps out every two years in a prime outdoor setting in the front courtyard of Te Papa.

"We picked up the sponsorship also in memory of Dad," says Charlie, "as it completes a bit of a circular journey for up-and-coming sculptural artists. We provide an avenue through the education system, with a scholarship for artists at one level, and then another helping hand for artists who have learned their craft a bit, to be able to showcase their talents on a wider public setting."

Charlie sponsors the high-profile Four Plinths installation outside Te Papa



A life of many & varied journeys

Charles Post (1989 -1992) may now reside in the tranquil Wairarapa countryside but life for him has not always been so quiet and peaceful



Charlie has come a long way since his somewhat chequered career at school. After obtaining a long-winded BA at Victoria University of Wellington, he worked for a time at Contact Energy in the newly deregulated electricity market before leaving for London on his OE in early September 2001. This era of relative freedom for travellers changed a few days later with the September 11 attacks on the World Trade Centre in

New York. What followed were seven years in London, taking advantage of its location as a base for exploring Europe and beyond. From working for a fashion magazine Dazed and Confused as Group Office Manager, to a three-month stint as Business Manager for a methadone clinic in Willesden Junction, he was shown a side of life unlike anything he'd been exposed to in New Zealand. Those experiences have stood him in good stead for the career that followed.

Charlie with son Henry. Henry is holding a trophy for Most Improved Player, and Charlie one for Most Enthusiastic Supporter



Charlie says it would great if a previous recipient of the scholarship were to go on and be awarded the 4 Plinths project one day, but it probably has a few more cycles to go before that synergy realises itself.

These days Charlie is trying to fit 14-hour days of Superspace activity from an old homestead in Gladstone. Despite swearing never to return to Masterton, he believes that priorities of life have changed over time. Wife Katy (nee Burnett, SMS) was keen to live closer to mum Caryl Jones, who is the Matron of Hampton House. And life has truly proved a return to their roots, with St Matt's Old Girls in the immediate neighbourhood, and all with children at local Gladstone School, where Charlie is now a Board member.

Connections with old mates from Rathkeale has been a never-ending source of delight. They recently had their 30-year reunion at school for the class of '92, and thoroughly enjoyed seeing so many of the year group come back.

Another really nice surprise was to connect with other Old Boys from 1972 who shared many of the same experiences they did at boarding school. Some friends reported that old enemies from school had become friends after that weekend says Charlie, a tremendous testament to the passage of time healing all wounds!

Decade Reunions

Past students from 1972, 1992, 2002 and 2012 returned to Rathkeale over Queen's Birthday Weekend

This year's Decade Reunion weekend brought back a large group of Old Boys who left Rathkeale in 1992. In their midst were two, Matthias Jordon (1989-1992) and James Irwin (1989-99), whose stories we tell.

Matthias Jordan—known to most as Matt McDonald while at school—was renowned for his art and music ability while at Rathkeale. His piano playing talents were obvious immediately. As a third former, he was soon recruited into the senior school's go-to party band Horace and the Giraffes, was the pianist for Cranleigh in House Music competitions and a key part of nearly every Rathkeale music related undertaking during that era (Jazz Bands, Rock Bands, Orchestra, Musicals etc.)

Matthias also had a knack for giving nicknames to other members of the year group. James Irwin ended up with a nickname that persists to this day. James was the dux for the year group, captain of the soccer team, member of the first 8 tennis team and involved in a number of the school's musical endeavors (James played a mean trumpet!) It was pretty clear early on though, that James had the makings of a very good doctor and Doogie (from the TV Show Doogie Howser about a teenage doctor) was the moniker Matthias quickly bestowed upon him!

No doubt those who remember Matt and Doogie from their school days will not be surprised with their post Rathkeale success.

Both profiles are written by Dion Woodbury.



James & Matthias catching up at the most recent Decade Reunion

The Musicman

Matthias Jordan (1988-1992, Cranleigh boarder)

After leaving Rathkeale, Matthias headed to Auckland where he completed his Bachelor of Fine Arts at Auckland University's Elam Art School in 1997, winning the Scholarship for painting and being picked up by two top dealers in Auckland and Wellington. Upon graduating, he shared a large warehouse in downtown Auckland with a group of up-and-coming artists and managed a modest income for two years from selling paintings. While at university, he had supported himself by playing in piano bars and touring the country with a variety of local acts including Rikki Morris.

In 1999, he joined Auckland Indie rock band Pluto and spent a decade writing and touring. The band went double platinum, selling 30,000 records and were nominated for Silver Scrolls, eventually winning song of the year at the New Zealand Music Awards for their song Long White Cross. The band toured extensively internationally, playing the prestigious SXSW festival in Austin, Texas twice. Matthias also provided the artwork for the cover of their Red Light Syndrome album which was nominated for best cover art 2001 at the NZ Music Awards.

After three albums, a hiatus followed and Matthias went on to play as a session and touring keyboardist for a broad array of NZ legends. He played on Later With Jools Holland with Neil Finn and also toured nationally with Anika Moa and Gin Wigmore. He also formed a new band—Night Choir—with two other former members of Pluto and released two albums (with Matthias painting the cover art).

In the last decade, Matthias has continued to play with a large range of ensemble casts, backing everyone from Dave Dobbyn to Tami Neilson, Troy Kingi and many others. It is probably easier to name who he hasn't played with! He has also written and released his own solo works <https://matthiasjordan.bandcamp.com/>, as well as composing for film and television.

Since 2020 he has been a key part of the hugely successful Liberty Stage Come Together Concert series (NZ's finest musicians playing classic rock albums live in their entirety).

A career highlights package would not be complete without mentioning the rousing rendition of Bennie and the Jets performed with school days collaborator Shay O'Gorman during the recent reunion festivities!



Matthias and Shay playing Bennie and the Jets at the year group reunion shindig



Matthias performing during the Yellow Brick Road Come Together Classic Album concert



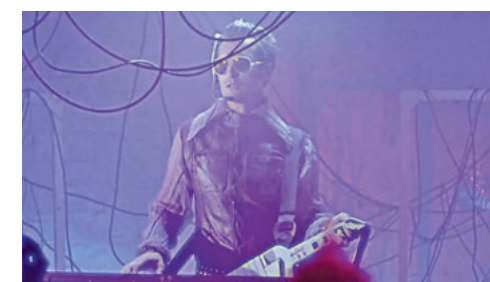
Red Light Syndrome cover art



Playing with Neil Finn in 2012



Pluto in 2007 (Matthias far right)



Sharp Colour music video (2014)

The Doogie moniker stuck!

James Irwin (1988-1992 Winchester/Rugby dayboy)

James Irwin lives in Palmerston North with his wife Catherine (nee Vickers) of Marton, and their children Ben, Annabel and Georgina. He works as a gastroenterologist at the public hospital.

Upon leaving Rathkeale in 1992 James harbored the ambition, and genuine self-delusion—fostered by Paddy O’Gorman in many of his Rathkeale First XI players—of playing football for Liverpool Football Club. This peaked when representing NZ universities in 1995, and then fizzled out pretty quickly after that.

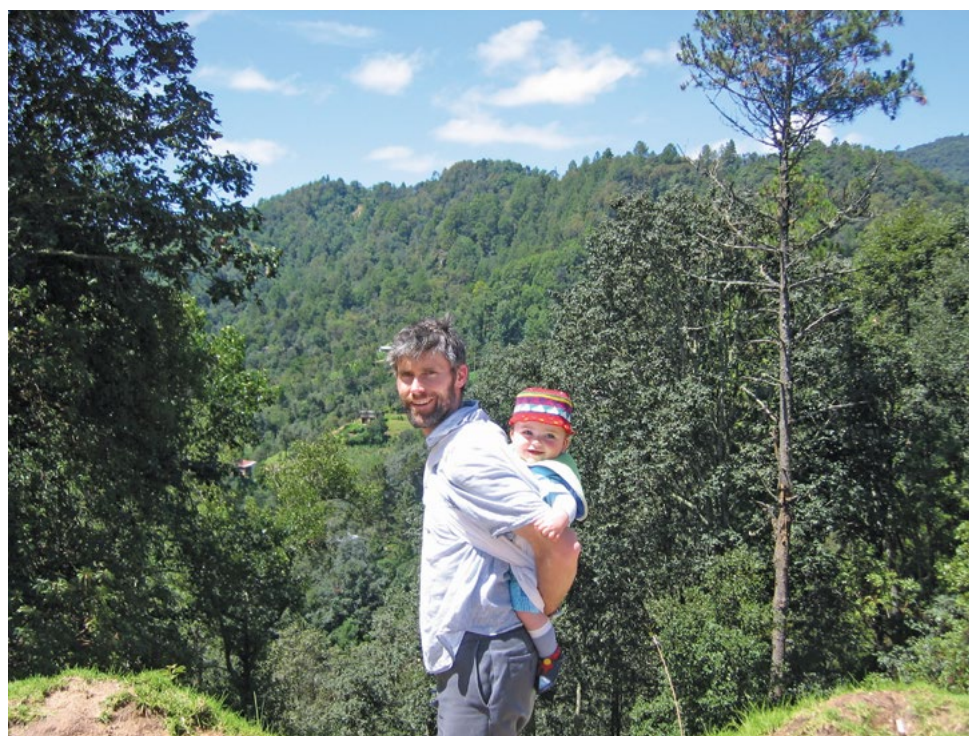
Luckily, he had a back-up plan and studied medicine, embarking on a career as a doctor after qualifying in 2000 and living up to the Doogie moniker! Medicine provides many opportunities for a diverse range of experience, and in 2002 James and Catherine (also a doctor) were able to work in Katherine, Northern Territory, Australia. They were providing health care to a rural and aboriginal population over what is a vast area in a challenging environment.

James finally made it to Liverpool in 2005 but to take a Tropical Medicine and Hygiene course rather than playing football. This provided new contacts and led to work at the 'Centro del Salud' in San Lorenzo, rural Guatemala in 2008. Ben was 4 months old when they went to San Lorenzo. Caring for him in Guatemalan Style was challenging to begin with but led to connections and friendship. Ben and the family were certainly well known around town!

Returning to NZ in 2008, James undertook advanced training in Gastroenterology in Hamilton and Auckland, then a quick fellowship and MPhil in Brisbane, Australia. Medicine is a career that demands movement to obtain varied experience. Settling in Palmerston North in 2014 to a job that was going to last more than a

couple of years was exciting, and they have enjoyed putting down roots and contributing to the community there. In addition to his role as clinical lead of the Gastroenterology Department, James sits on the Executive of the NZ Society of Gastroenterology, Chairs the NZ Endoscopy Data Standardisation group, and sits on the NZ Society of Gastroenterology Equity group. He is passionate about the impact these groups have on the gastroenterology service provided in New Zealand.

Locally, James is part of 'Palmerston North Streets Ahead', a group committed to improving the build environment for active transport in Palmerston North. He wants to ensure Palmy kids can get safely about town without having to rely on Mum and Dad for a lift! He is also involved in coaching regional and club football in the Manawātū. At 48, his own football career is almost certainly over, and he realises one must live life vicariously through one's children. Liverpool Football Club remains on the horizon....



James and Ben in San Lorenzo, Guatemala



James & Catherine coping with the Northern Territory's flies



James on duty in the Katherine Hospital Emergency Department

From Opaki Dairy to Café de la Paix

Thomas Baragwanath (1999-2003)

After studying law and working both in marketing and for PricewaterhouseCoopers, a course in creative writing at Kent University led to Old Boy Thomas Baragwanath (1999-2003) becoming an international writer of note.

Tom is convincingly making a name for himself as an international writer. Currently based in Paris, France, he works for a tech startup selling niche learning software that remains challenging to describe (it's his fault, he's in marketing!). When he's not

eating pastry or drinking Sancerre, he tries his best to write fiction.

After completing a BA/LLB at Victoria University and working for some years in the public sector focusing on climate change and the Crown-Māori partnership, Tom and his wife moved to France in 2018, at which point he immediately and deeply regretted having not paid closer attention to Mr Radley's conjugation drills at Rathkeale. Quelle dommage!

Tom was awarded the 2021 Michael Giffkins Prize for his unpublished novel



Tom signing his book for a fan

manuscript Paper Cage, which was then released by Text Publishing in August 2022. So far it has received generally positive reviews, several of which were written by people other than his mother in forums other than Facebook. It's set in Masterton and features many references to the Queen Street roast shop and the Opaki Dairy. There's even a car chase in Mataikona.

In the acknowledgements page of the book, Tom thanked Mr Clarke and Mr van Deventer for their keen support and instruction regarding his teenage writing efforts. He then realised two days after the book went to print that he'd meant to thank Mr Luman, his English teacher, and not Mr van Deventer, his Physical Education teacher. While there was certainly some stamina and physical coordination involved in writing the novel, Tom would like to take this opportunity to correct this error and thank the correct South African teacher for his dedication and generosity.

Decade Reunions

Together Again at Rathkeale in 2022



BACK ROW: Todd Foster, Roger Thorne, Stewart Atkinson, Gordon Watkins.
FRONT ROW: Shane Cave, Richard Rowe, Peter Nicol, Harvey Pope.

DECADES-ON REUNIONS 2022



BACK ROW: James Harper, Ian McKnight, Brent Loader, Daniel Crook, Sam Christiansen.
FRONT ROW: Paul Pedersen, Nick Goff, Robert Breukers, William McGruddy, Sam Aitkenhead, Wilba Davies.

DECADES-ON REUNIONS 2022



BACK ROW: Charlie Post, Jamie Hooper, Simon Dennes, David Murray, Hamish Preston, Andrew Withington.
MIDDLE ROW: Mathias Jordan, James Irwin, Rowan Simpson, Dion Woodbury, Ed Handyside, Matt Moleta, Allistair Percy.
FRONT ROW: Scott Freeman, Pete Ellingham, Greg Morgan, Shay O'Gorman, Richard Wyeth, Simon Johnston, Brendon Wilkinson, Mike Sutton.
ABSENT: Nathan Lang, Nick Kynoch, Eddie Thomson, Jason Greco.

DECADES-ON REUNIONS 2022



BACK ROW: Jonathan Pledger, Samuel Verevis, Oliver Stewart, Antonio Cacciamani.
FRONT ROW: Fraser Dymond, Mac McCordle, Jack Redley, Samuel McCleary.

DECADES-ON REUNIONS 2022



RATHKEALE COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

DECADES-ON REUNIONS 2022

Auckland ROBA/SMOGA Event



Mark McCutcheon, Alistair Maling, Adrian Grant, Rob Stewart



Nicholas Hodson, John Taylor (Patron), Grant Harper



Bruce Levick, Simon Gibbs, John Saunders



William Lawrence, Jeremy Lawrence, Michael Caulton

"I will lift my eyes to the hills from whence cometh my help"

Edward Cox's introduction of Donald French (1972-76) at the special school assembly held for the presentation of an Old Boys' Honours Tie

Almost 40 years ago, Sir Edmund Hillary, our nation's most famous mountaineer, stood on almost this very spot and told the Rathkeale student body how he fell into a crevasse and his life had been saved by Tenzing Norgay jamming his ice axe into the snow. Sir Ed was left dangling precariously on the end of the rope that joined them. As one of those students, I can still remember Sir Ed beaming up at us and answering was he pleased that Norgay saved his life: his answer "I would have been brassed off if he hadn't". Today we celebrate another great New Zealander with a similarly understated attitude.

Fellow Old Boys, our new Honorary Members admitted today, Mr O'Grady, staff and, most importantly, our future Old Boys sitting in front of me now, it gives me great pleasure to introduce the first recipient of the Old Boys' Honours Tie, Donald Cameron French. It is most fitting that he is a celebrated mountaineer whose incredible climbing career can serve as an inspiration to us all.

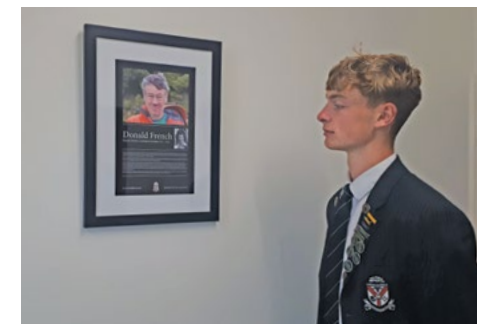
I will say more about Don's achievements in a moment, but the lawyer in me can't help notice that the first and perhaps blindingly obvious criterion for this award is that you have

to be an Old Boy. Sir Ed wasn't; Don is. Don boarded here from 1972 until 1976. Raised on a farm at Tinui, it was at Rathkeale that he had his first tramping and climbing experiences. I'll let him tell you about that, but there is a strong rumour that the reason he isn't in the 1976 Cranleigh House photo is that he was away that day climbing Mount Taranaki.

The second criterion is that you must have achieved exceptionally in your field of endeavour and we judge that in Don's mountaineering, he has done just that.

Don's climbing and mountaineering career has continued ever since he was here. For over 45 years Don's life in the mountains has seen him make multiple trips to the Himalayas, seasons climbing in the European Alps, the United States and extensively through New Zealand. Don is one of the few people who have climbed all 24 of New Zealand's 3000m+ peaks. More New Zealanders may have climbed Mt Everest than achieved that rare feat.

Don's early career was distinguished by extensive rock climbing - the high multi-day technical climbing (and camping) on vertical rock faces that are simply beyond the comprehension of most people. Throughout his career



Head Boy Harrison Dudley inspects Don's Auditorium portrait poster

Don has made a number of first, or very early, ascents on rock and mountain routes for which there must be great satisfaction in knowing that no one, or virtually no one, had ever done that before.

An active member of the Wairarapa search and rescue team, Don has previously been on the Mountain Safety Council's mountain craft technical committee and has been a Treasurer of the New Zealand Alpine Club.

But the specific reason we are awarding Don our Honours Tie today is because he is the first person ever to complete the New Zealand Alpine Club's 100 Peaks Challenge—a gauntlet laid down in 1991 to climb 100 of our variously highest, most diverse, and remote peaks. To give you the scale of that achievement, here are two statistics: it took him 31 years of constant effort to complete it and the last peak, Unicorn, took him six attempts before he could reach the summit.

To sustain a challenge of this scale over three decades took enormous perseverance, dedication, the highest level of technical climbing and mountaineering skills and, most of all, mental fitness. It is for these attributes that the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association has chosen Don to be the inaugural recipient of our Old Boys' Honour Tie. May his incredible career as a mountaineer serve as an inspiration to all from this place who figuratively stand on his shoulders.



Don (right) at the summit of Unicorn, his record-setting 100th peak climb

Obituaries

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of a number of Old Boys and former members of staff. Regrettably we sometimes know little about their lives beyond the College gates and are always grateful when families inform the Association or provide the Rock Runner with information which can be shared with readers.

Michael Bruce-Smith, student (1966-68) and staff (1974-78)



Copland Pass, Aoraki Mount Cook National Park, February 2003

Michael passed away at Masterton Hospital 10th July 2022, aged 72. He is survived by daughter Sarah, son Nikolas, and grandchildren Arthur, Timothy and Emily.

He commenced at Rathkeale College during his mid-teens, the decision to board being inevitable when his father and John Norman ascertained their mutual Christ's College background.

At College, his primary legacy was recognised in the Rathkeale Outdoor Pursuits programme encompassing a more diverse and better managed progression –including an enhancement of the valued Duke of Edinburgh scheme—to a broader variety of activity and destinations for the ever more numerous outdoor participants, including those at St Matthew's. John Welch was a great early mentor for Michael and the tramping fraternity, his local knowledge being particularly valuable.

These co-ordinating and training skills naturally led to later enjoyable managerial work roles within the NZ Mountain Safety Council and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme, his fellow staff, associates and clientele acknowledging in more recent times the quality of input, support and commitment invested and displayed by Michael.

Florence Ball (Staff 1983-86)

Florence was married to Robin, Cranleigh House's first Housemaster, and taught French at Rathkeale between 1983 and 1986. She died peacefully on August 30th 2022 and is survived by Robin and sons Olivier (tutor 1982-83) and Jean-Christophe who resides in Paris.

Regrettably, the upheaval of later work rationalisations led to a termination in such employment and an end to the considerable job satisfaction and client relationships this had provided. Subsequent work with Fulton Hogan and other contractors followed, of shorter durations.

His roads eventually took him back to the Wairarapa, new tasks including developing a lifestyle property with Mt Holdsworth as a backdrop, and being a frequent visitor to Don Luciano. He diligently researched and published our forebears' stories, and had just completed a key history of the Ironbridge Mine on the Denniston Plateau, Westport, at the time of his death.

The outdoors continued to provide Michael with so much pleasure and reward—the joys of the many tramps and climbs, the end of day chats in huts... and ever seeking the next challenge.

In the Masterton Cemetery his plaque reminds us that he is 'away on his last tramp'.

Gerald Bruce-Smith



Michael & Jackie Clark with Prince Philip, Wellington College, February 2004

Christopher Charles Thomas (1966-69)

Chris was an early student at Rathkeale and a member of the Dayboy House Winchester. Most of his life was spent in the Wairarapa. He passed away on November 15, 2022.

Christopher Hope (1985-88)

Chris was a member of Winchester House and Hillary Club. He died on July 11, 2020.

Michael David Friend (1966-70)

Michael enjoyed a highly successful college career. He was a member of the dayboys' Winchester House and over his five years at school was a recipient of colours in both cricket and rugby. He was Head Boy and the recipient of the Clinton-Baker Cup for leadership in 1970.

An article in the 2015 Rock Runner fully details his life beyond the College gates but in essence reveals his four decades of service to New Zealand industry.

His career began as a pioneer in hospitality training and later with his appointment as chair of the Hospitality Standards Institute. He was for ten years a member of the Lion Foundation Charitable Trust.

He helped to establish the trail blazing Cobb and Co chain which

in its heyday was the thirty fifth largest restaurant chain in the world.

Several years were spent in Australia before returning to New Zealand where he eventually became general manager of the Hancox chain of sixty hotels and later the Lion's one hundred and fifty leased hotels. Later again he was CEO of the One Red Dog chain and Loaded Hog Brewery Pubs before working for licencing trusts in Auckland and consulting to the hospitality industry. It was highly appropriate that he was recognised as the first person to be admitted to the new Hospitality Hall of Fame in recognition of his remarkable contribution over forty three years.

Michael passed away in Hamilton on November 27, 2022, after a short battle with cancer and is survived by his wife Cheryl, daughter Jessica and grandson Alexander.

Nathan John Cole (1988)

Nathan spent most of his life in the Wairarapa and was heavily involved in horse training. He passed away on 27 October 2022 and is survived by his sons Patrick and William, a current student at Rathkeale.



Jay Alan Scafe (1999-2000)

Jay attended Rathkeale College for two years and was a weekly boarder during this time. He enjoyed the school community and the opportunities that were provided to him. His career as a builder was influenced by the skills he gathered learning Technology under the guidance of Mr Berry.

After leaving Rathkeale he gained unique skills and confidence and went on to have his own building company. He passed on these skills and shared his time and knowledge with young apprentices and tradesmen.

He had a strong passion for the outdoors, hunting and diving especially, and many stores have been told of great times and adventures. Jay was respected and loved by everyone he came into contact with and had many great mates. He lived life to the full. His funeral was a testament to the young man who had gathered a community around him and reflected the Rathkeale vision of Being Your Own Man with self-discipline, self-reliance and a strong moral compass.

Jay passed away on 3 April, 2022 at the young age of 37 after a very brave two year fight with cancer. He was loved and supported by his wife Michaela and was the proud Dada to their two sons Ollie (7) and Charlie (4). He is dearly missed also by his parents Bev and Murray, and sister Leah.

Stewart Edward Fuller (1975-78)

Stuart was a member of both Cranleigh and Rugby Houses during his years at College. Stuart died suddenly at his home in South Waikato on August 26, 2022 aged 61 and is survived by his wife Sandra.

Timothy Lloyd Jones (1974-78)

Tim was a member of Repton House and a School Prefect. He was also a member of the 1st XV and the recipient of Rugby colours. He was residing in the Bay of Plenty at the time of his death on Saturday 18 June and is survived by his sons Mika and Tilo.



ATTENTION ALL OLD BOYS

who were part of the cohorts who left school in
1973, 1981, 1982, 1983, 1993, 2003 and 2013.

This year is your call to attend the
King's Birthday Weekend Decades-On Reunions,
Friday 2nd- Saturday 3rd June.

Contact your Year Group facilitators or
the Old Boys' Association for more details:
oldboys@rathkealeoldboys.org.nz

