

# Rock Runner

The Magazine of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association



Volume 30 | December 2025





# Editorial

Jonathan Watt (2005-2009)

As 2025 marks the 100 Year Anniversary of School House – I thought this would be a fitting topic for my editorial. School House holds many memories for me. Both now as a teacher but more so from when I was here as a student. During my time as a student, I had both Music and History classes there. My main memories of School House, however, are of the various and short-lived itinerant music lessons I had there. My mother is very musical and had convinced herself that I was going to be a musical prodigy. As you can see – this did not eventuate. This was not the first of her high hopes to be dashed either. She is a lawyer now, and her profile on the law firm website even says that the only reason she decided to study law as a mature student was because her eldest son who was meant to study it refused to do what he was told. In retrospect, I probably should have listened.



Music lessons went from the trumpet to the piano to the drums. But sadly, nothing really seemed to work out. And so, any hopes of a musical prodigy in the family were quickly focused elsewhere – i.e. my three younger siblings were in for it. My friends and I did, however, start a band together and called ourselves Ninja Patrol. Snow Patrol was popular at the time so I think that's where it must have come from. We actually recorded our first song in School House – it was about a man named Stuart J. Stewart who lived on Stewart Island. I liked the song so much that after university I went to Stewart Island and turned the song into a fully-fledged feature film script. If anyone's interested in funding it, please do get in touch. I can tell you who wasn't interested – The New Zealand Film Commission. But that's another story. Needless to say, *Stewart Island Blues* by Ninja Patrol didn't make it onto 'Now That's What I Call Music 2009'. In fact, we didn't even make it to RockQuest. I still remember the moment our music teacher came into the practice room we were playing in, and we asked him if he thought we were ready for RockQuest. He just smiled, shook his head sadly, and walked back out of the room. No words were needed.

And so... I came to the end of my schooling unable to play the piano, the drums, or even the trumpet. And I still didn't know a single thing about contract law. However, what I did have were the memories, and my memories of Senior College at Rathkeale, including the times in School House, are genuinely some of my best.

In fact, one of my favourite memories were the hours I spent in School House with friends and teachers practicing for the school musical – *Les Miserables* – before we performed it in the auditorium. This was one of my best experiences at Rathkeale as a student, and something that I am always reminded of whenever I am in School House. It took becoming a teacher for me to realise how lucky I was to have School House as a student, so I hope that today's students are all a bit wiser than I was, and take the time to make the most of this incredible building as we celebrate its 100 Year Anniversary.

Do you have a story for the next issue of the *Rock Runner*?  
We'd love to hear from you.  
Please get in touch at: [jww@rathkeale.school.nz](mailto:jww@rathkeale.school.nz)

# President's Report

Edward Cox (1983-1987)



This report attempts a summary to members of what your organisation has aimed for and achieved over the last 10 years. For some readers, the content may be familiar, but it is important that we report to our members how we have applied the organisation's resources. It is also worth reflecting on whether we have met past aims and what we should be aiming for in the future.

Over the last decade, we have worked hard to grow what we offer to members and how we benefit the school. We have started to play a meaningful role in the life of the Rathkeale College and provide real benefits to our members, benefits that come only from being an Old Boy. We see ourselves as having a dual role: maintaining connections between Old Boys and maintaining the connection between Old Boys and Rathkeale.

One of our proudest achievements has been the establishment of the Decade Reunion as our premier annual event. It's more than just a Friday night drinks event – it's a celebration of shared experience. Every year we bring together groups of Old Boys, and the results are always the same:

laughter, storytelling, and a renewed sense of belonging. Few come away from the Saturday morning chapel service for Absent Friends without a deeper sense of the value of their connection to the school and their year group.

Another milestone was the purchase of the House Bush block, a tangible contribution to the school's future. It wasn't just about acquiring land – it was about preserving the physical environment of Rathkeale as a rural campus, rather than having houses built all the way down Willow Park Drive to the gate. Like a cloak around School House, the bush and those paddocks serve to keep Rathkeale separate from the outside world. They keep it distinct, as arguably the most beautiful educational campus in New Zealand.

We have also introduced the Old Boys Honours Tie awards, which recognise Old Boys who have excelled in their field and serve as inspiration to current and future students. These awards aren't about prestige – they're about showing young Rathkeale men what's possible for them to achieve, starting from the same physical place. They highlight the diversity of

paths our members have taken, and reinforce the idea that success comes in many forms. Whether it's leadership in business, service to the country, or excellence in the arts, sports or outdoor pursuits, these awards remind students that they "stand on the shoulders of those that have gone before."

Our Old Boys database is a key asset, and yet we only have accurate contact information for less than half of our members. Would we see a significant increase in engagement from members if we were able to contact this missing half? These are strategic decisions

## ROBA Executive & Regional Committee Representatives 2025

Bruce Levick	Patron
Edward Cox	President <b>Wellington</b>
Tristan Armitage	Secretary <b>Wairarapa</b>
Scott Andrew	Treasurer <b>Wairarapa</b>
Grant Harper	Executive <b>Wairarapa</b>
Stuart McKenzie	Executive <b>Wairarapa</b>
Tim Falloon	Executive <b>Wairarapa</b>
Andrew Sims	Executive <b>Wairarapa</b>
Richard White	Executive <b>Wairarapa</b>
David Aitken	Executive <b>Auckland</b>
Peter McCutcheon	Executive <b>Auckland</b>
Philip Harcourt	<b>United Kingdom</b>



# Rathkeale Board of Trustees

Report from BOT Chair - Mark Owen

that ROBA needs to make in the application of our time and resources. However, the use of our database and the platform that hosts it is improving so that online registration and payment for our events reduces the administrative burden on our committee. Likewise, paying for administrative support provided by the college has significantly improved our efficiency and reduced the workload on our volunteer committee.

Perhaps the most important shift, however, has been in how we see ourselves. We have endeavoured to establish ROBA as an important source of support to the college – not just financially, but through example and value to students beyond school. We’ve embraced the idea that a good school stands on three legs: its staff and board, its parent community, and its alumni. We are that third leg, and we can fairly say that we have increasingly taken up that role. Students see us at Founders’ Day, Leaver’s Dinners, speaking at key school events and providing scholarships. In future, should we leverage those benefits further through mentoring and special interest groups? These are questions for the next committee.

An early realisation for us was that many of our members, perhaps with a natural New Zealander’s reticence, are not quick to identify outwardly as Old Boys. We have tried to foster a sense of ‘Pride in Belonging,’ first of all by adopting that as our strapline. It’s about encouraging Old Boys to feel proud of belonging to ROBA, and to see that pride as a reason to be involved in our work and make connections with other members. A further realisation was that, as Rathkeale passed its first 50th anniversary, the Old Boys had not taken up the full role as a provider of potential benefits for its members and support for the college. On the committee, there has been a sense that now is the time for the Old Boys to stand up and take on its role more fully.

The sense that there is potential to do much more has been reflected in a deliberate plan to try different types of events so that we can pass on the knowledge and experience of what succeeds to those that continue the work after us. Why do the Decade Reunions get such great numbers while a local Wairarapa event might not? How do we make a regional dinner more popular? Will Old Boys come to a particular sporting event at the college or is it a Heritage Dinner that they will commit time and money to? Those that come after us will have the benefit of these trials and hopefully the answers to these questions.

We hope that our engagement with the school leavers each year fosters in them a sense of belonging right from the start of their journey outside the gates. In the future

we should also participate in university and trade events that allow younger members to reflect and celebrate the connection with their school.

Scholarships are another aspect of our work that has significant potential for growth. We currently offer only two scholarships and do not yet have an asset base that will make them sustainable and meaningful. However, we have taken material steps over the last twelve months to significantly increase our capital base and provide the mechanisms by which Old Boys can support ROBA financially. That in turn will allow us to offer a sustainable scholarship program so that future students can enjoy the same education and experience we did. As our membership ‘matures,’ it is probably time for us to set up an effective testamentary gifting programme.

With all the potential for what ROBA could do for its members and the college, it is the sense of connection that I have come to understand most keenly. So often I have met someone and the simple question – “Weren’t you at Rathkeale?” – has opened the door. It’s a powerful way to start a conversation, and it’s a reminder that we all carry a piece of the college with us. Whether it’s the sound of the bell, the walk to the dining hall, or the summer smell of the Ruamahanga River, those memories give us a lasting and valuable connection.

As we come to the end of 2025, I thank everyone who’s played a part in this journey. Our committee members, past and present, have given their time and energy to keep the Association moving forward. Our collaborators in the college have welcomed our involvement and recognised that we are doing something they value. And to our members that have engaged with ROBA and with the college, thank you. That is what it is all about.



As the years roll by, the core rhythm of life at Rathkeale College remains familiar. Our annual cycle is punctuated with various twists and turns, but one constant endures: the tight-knit community that supports our students to achieve their very best.

From a School Board perspective, 2025 has been a year of significant change. We extend our sincere gratitude and best wishes to our departing board members, Nigel Broom and Rusty Donworth, and thank them for their dedication and many hours spent in their governance roles.

More recently, we were pleased to welcome three new members to the Board: Chris Steel, Suzanne Oliver, and Kaylea Bradshaw, as our newly elected parent representatives. By showing a desire to fulfil a governance role, they have signalled their strong commitment to providing the support necessary to continue the Rathkeale legacy.

Continuing on the Board are Matt Wailing, Victoria Read, Jannie Gouws and myself. We are also grateful for the representation of our school staff and students: Susan Jonas represents our teachers, and student representative David Chapman hands the baton over to Tyler Moxham, who will provide that all-important student voice around the Board table.

We also acknowledge the departure of Mr. Martin O’Grady, our Principal for over seven years.

Martin signalled his intention to head south, over ‘the great divide’ (Remutaka Hill), to be closer to his family in Wellington and take up a new role with the Ministry of Education. We will deeply miss his dedication and commitment – including the many long, often unseen hours – to ensure Rathkeale College is upheld as an outstanding educational institution. We are particularly pleased that Mr. O’Grady has been appointed to a key role within the Ministry of Education, in which he will be mentoring new principals across the Lower North Island. His appointment is a true testament to the knowledge and wisdom that have benefited Rathkeale College during his tenure. We sincerely thank Martin and his wife, Sara, for their dedication to the educational profession and comprehensive commitment to our school.

This year’s Founders’ Day Assembly was extra special, combining the celebration of School House’s 100 Year Anniversary with the official unveiling of the Paul Dibble sculpture, The Choice, generously donated to the school by Mr. Geoff Norman. We must also acknowledge the wider school community – including students, staff, parents, Old Boys and the Friends of Rathkeale, who all contributed to the School House improvements. It was a fantastic occasion, which also allowed us to celebrate teachers who had achieved both fifteen and twenty year milestones at the school. The ceremony was rounded out by a candid and heartfelt speech from Mr. Norman. Despite the poor



weather, and a hastily arranged indoor ceremony, Mr. Norman later reflected that the day, including the boys’ resounding haka, the Founders’ Day ceremony, and the dinner, was “probably a highlight right up there amongst the best of my life.”

The Board has recently developed a draft strategic plan for Rathkeale College for the next ten years. Once we receive wider teacher, student and community feedback, this plan will set the compass for the future of our college, providing a platform to continue the legacy, while adapting to the future needs of students and educational staff.

On behalf of the Board, we would like to thank the members of the Rathkeale Old Boys’ Association for your strong support and continued interest in college activities. As we look ahead to starting a new era with our new Principal, together we will continue to uphold the four pillars that make our school so unique.



# Principal's Report

Report from the Principal of Rathkeale College - Martin O'Grady



It is a pleasure to once again contribute to the Rock Runner – now for the eighth and final time as Principal of Rathkeale College. At the end of this year, I will be stepping down as Principal of Rathkeale College. My wife, Sara, and I will certainly miss living and working in such a unique place and special place. Old Boys will appreciate the sentiment when I say that Rathkeale is more than just a school; it is a community woven together by people, place, and purpose. We will deeply miss the staff, students, school board, and parents and caregivers who have made our years here so enjoyable and rewarding.

The past year has been one of memorable milestones and proud traditions. The Decades Reunion once again proved to be an immensely enjoyable occasion, drawing not only Old Boys but also ex-students of Senior College. The camaraderie and connections that endure among the Senior College cohort remain impressive, and their continued bond is an important thread in the wider Rathkeale story.

An undoubted highlight of 2025 was the centenary celebration of School House. This occasion brought together generations of students, families, and Old Boys, and reaffirmed the heritage and significance of this cornerstone of our college. Old Boy connections were prevalent throughout the celebrations. In particular, the unveiling of The Choice, a sculpture by the late Paul

Dibble, modelled on his son Daniel who attended Rathkeale, was a special moment. ROBA certainly led the way with the fundraising efforts, where Old Boys were at the forefront – most notably the extraordinary generosity of Geoff Norman whose significant donation allowed the purchase of this valuable sculpture. We are also indebted to the Friends of Rathkeale who were another Platinum Sponsor, along with the Rathkeale College Foundation. Another high point in the lead up to this event was a number of moving assembly addresses by a range of Old Boys leading up to Founders' Day. Their personal insights into life in School House, particularly from some of the earliest students to live and learn there, left a deep impression on our current boys.

On Founders' Day itself, we were privileged to host members of the Maunsell and Norman families. Their presence and reflections added great depth to what was a memorable and meaningful heritage event for the college. It was a celebration that highlighted not only where we have come from but also the importance of intergenerational connections in shaping Rathkeale's future.

I want to acknowledge the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association, whose support and insight I have greatly valued throughout my time as principal. The committee members devote a great deal of their own time for the greater good of Old Boys and current students alike, and I am deeply grateful for their efforts. Special thanks must go to the ROBA Presidents during my tenure – Grant Harper and Edward Cox – who have each led the Association with dedication, wisdom, and passion.

As I reflect on the past eight years, I remain impressed by the way ROBA continually reviews and refines its activities to meet the evolving needs of Old Boys. Their willingness to coordinate a wide range of events and to adapt these in pursuit of the most rewarding outcomes for members is a strength that will continue to serve them, and Rathkeale College, well into the future.

Thank you all for your support and encouragement during my time as Principal. It has been a privilege to share in the life of this very special place.

Ma te atua e manaaki – May God bless you all.





# Joshua Son

(1994-1995)

Joshua Son lived in New Zealand from 1992 to 1995 and attended Rathkeale College from 1994 to 1995. Born and raised in the city of Busan, South Korea, he was only 15 when he first arrived in New Zealand.

Although he came with his two cousins, they were placed in different areas, so he had to start life at Rathkeale on his own – and without much English. Balancing ESOL classes with regular academic subjects wasn’t easy at first, but slowly he adjusted. Living in Rugby House, he became friends with a Thai roommate who taught him how to play the electric guitar. That was one of the first ways he started settling into Kiwi life.

Rugby House was strict and well-disciplined, especially on Saturday nights when the Housemaster would make the rounds to check if everyone was asleep. But once the coast was clear, he and his mischievous friends would sneak out with blankets and head down to the river to grill the sausages and chicken they’d bought that afternoon. It’s a memory that still makes him smile.

Joshua planned to stay on for sixth form and eventually attend university in New Zealand, but homesickness hit him hard. Instead, he returned to Korea and studied Computer Engineering at university in Busan. After graduating, he started work as a software developer, and four years later, took the leap to start his own software company in Seoul.

That first business venture in 2007 slowly grew into something much bigger and today, Joshua is the CEO of a group of software companies operating in South Korea, Singapore, and Hong Kong. He also spent four years expanding into China, but later pulled out due to the pandemic and shifting political conditions between Korea and China.

In 2010, he met his wife Yoojung, who had just returned from studying in the UK. They got married and had two sons. Their eldest now attends Rathkeale, just like Joshua did thirty-one years ago, and even lives in the same house – Rugby.



Joshua says the English he learned at Rathkeale was key to helping him go global in business. For young people from Asia, where English isn’t the first language, breaking into the international scene can be tough. But the foundation he gained in those early years has made all the difference.

These days, Joshua spends most of his time in Singapore, while Yoojung and their younger son are still living in Korea. He travels to Korea about once a month to check on business operations, but the plan is to bring the whole family together again soon. In 2026, when their younger son is old enough, Joshua hopes to support him to begin his own journey in New Zealand – just like his big brother. Then, Yoojung will join them in Singapore and the family can be together again.

Here’s hoping the Son family will be reunited soon, wherever in the world that may be, and continue making more special memories together.

# Harrison Dudley

(2019-2023)

Since leaving Rathkeale in 2023, Harrison Dudley has taken on some big adventures. Moving overseas, diving into university life, and continuing to chase his football dreams, Harrison is now based in Pennsylvania, USA.

Harrison is currently studying at Mercyhurst University and playing Division 1 college level soccer. He is double majoring in Finance and Data Science & Artificial Intelligence, a mix that he hopes will help direct him towards interesting job opportunities in the future. It’s a challenging workload, but one that keeps him focused and constantly learning. Outside the classroom, football, or ‘soccer’ as it is called in the USA, has continued to play a huge role in his life and taken him on an incredible journey right across the United States.

In his first year at Mercyhurst, Harrison’s soccer program travelled from coast to coast, playing matches all the way from the West Coast in San Diego, California, to the East Coast in New York City. The season ended on a high with the team winning the NEC Conference title, a major achievement and a proud



moment for Harrison. Adjusting to the American style of the game hasn’t been easy. Football in the US is extremely fast-paced, physical, and very direct compared to what he was used to back home in New Zealand.

One of the most rewarding parts of life in the US so far has been the chance to meet people from all over the world. Harrison’s Mercyhurst team is full of international players, and the friendships and connections Harrison has made have given him a real sense of community and family, even being so far from home.

Outside of football and study, Harrison has made the most of his breaks and downtime to travel and explore. He’s spent time touring different parts of the US, experienced Spring Break in Puerto Rico and during the Easter Break he went on a two-week road trip through Europe with an Icelandic teammate. He has also visited the Netherlands, France, Italy, Switzerland, Austria, Germany, and Luxembourg.

In August 2025 Harrison has started his second year at Mercyhurst, returning after an unforgettable summer spent in Louisiana. There he spent three months living with a



host family and playing for a semi-professional team called the Red River Raiders in the USL2 league. Staying with a host family and being immersed in Southern culture was a completely different experience again but by the end of the summer he felt that he had found a second family.

Reflecting over the past couple of years, Harrison often comes back to the strong foundation he built during his time at Rathkeale College. The structure, support, and community at Rathkeale gave him the confidence to take on life overseas. He looks back on those years fondly – especially the memories made with the 1st XI Football team, travelling to and from tournaments and building lasting connections with teammates and staff.

Looking ahead, Harrison is excited to keep growing both on and off the field. In his second year, he has also been appointed as an RA in the university halls, a responsibility he is excited and privileged to take on. Football still plays a major role in his life, and he’s open to where it might take him next, but at the same time, his studies are opening doors to exciting possibilities in the future.



# Mark Harte

(2005-2009)



Mark Harte has cultivated a vibrant career in the hospitality industry, marked by international experience and a passion for creating exceptional dining experiences. Now a restaurateur in Dunedin, Mark's journey has been anything but conventional, with a foundation built on diverse experiences both within and beyond the traditional career path.

For Mark, his time at Rathkeale College was characterised by a love of extracurricular activities. Mark actively embraced both sporting and cultural pursuits, lending his talents to the choir, major school productions, and Shakespeare performances. Among his most rewarding achievements at Rathkeale were his leadership roles. Captaining the Chess team highlighted his strategic thinking and ability to guide others and his appointment as Chapel Prefect provided him with a meaningful opportunity to serve as a source of advice and support for junior students navigating their early years at the college. Mark also proudly

identifies as a survivor of the Rathkeale College boarding house, an experience that undoubtedly contributed to his resilience and camaraderie, forging lasting bonds with fellow students and instilling a strong sense of independence.

Following his time at Rathkeale, Mark embarked on his tertiary education in Wellington at Victoria University. While he explored a range of subjects, it was the study of Philosophy that proved to be the most intellectually stimulating and rewarding. In particular, he found the branches of epistemology and metaphysics particularly captivating.

This intellectual curiosity became the driving force behind his extensive travels around the world. To fund these explorations, Mark worked in Sydney, Perth, Auckland, and Wellington, gaining invaluable experience in the hospitality sector. These jobs not only provided financial support but also offered firsthand insights into different operational styles and service standards within the industry. His

travels included three memorable trips to South Korea to visit Dan Yu, another Rathkeale Old Boy. Mark also embarked on adventures with friends from Italy, Germany, and France, whom he had met during his travels, and together they explored Indonesia, Vietnam, Cambodia, and Thailand.

Throughout his travels, Mark developed a keen eye for the nuances of food, beverage, and service. This firsthand observation allowed him to see the practical manifestation of his philosophical studies, particularly the contrasting Eastern and Western philosophies as they played out in restaurant service styles and atmospheres.

Mark's early experiences in hospitality were comprehensive, providing him with a foundational understanding of every facet of a venue's operation. He gained hands-on experience working behind the bar, serving on the floor, as a runner, and even honing basic skills as a chef before transitioning into management roles. This diverse

background provided him with a holistic view of the industry and a deep appreciation for the contributions of every team member.

His time working in hospitality also exposed Mark to a range of ethical challenges and questionable standards, particularly concerning the treatment and rights of international visa holders. He witnessed firsthand the exploitation of co-workers and friends who were often underpaid and subjected to broken promises regarding sponsorships and work visas. These experiences deeply impacted Mark and solidified his determination to create a different kind of work environment in his own venture – one that is genuinely inclusive of all people and provides

a safe, fair, and respectful workspace for his team. This commitment to ethical practices is a cornerstone of his restaurant's philosophy.

Upon his return to New Zealand, Mark, alongside his Chilean-born wife, established their South American-inspired restaurant in Dunedin – The Wayfarer. Recognising the city's untapped potential for this cuisine, they embarked on a journey to create a unique dining experience rooted in quality, authenticity, and integrity. Since its inception, Mark's restaurant has not only become a local favourite but has also garnered broader recognition. The restaurant has hosted Korean influencers invited by TVNZ to promote Otago tourism and played

host to American travel bloggers from Eyeandpenblog.com. The Wayfarer has also featured in Air New Zealand's Kia Ora magazine.

From their humble beginnings, Mark and his wife have successfully carved out a distinctive presence in the Dunedin dining scene. Their current focus remains on elevating their establishment to stand amongst the finest restaurants in the country, and continuing their commitment to exceptional hospitality and treating both their team and patrons with the utmost respect.

*The Wayfarer is located at 7 Bath St., Dunedin. For more information, visit their website here: <https://thewayfarer.co.nz/>*



Mark (centre) with the team at The Wayfarer



# Dan Dibble

(2000-2001)



Dan Dibble is an emerging bronze sculptor based in Feilding, New Zealand, building on years of hands-on experience working alongside his father, renowned sculptor Paul Dibble. Dan's work reflects a deep understanding of traditional casting techniques, paired with his own developing voice and creative vision. As he begins his solo career, Dan brings a fresh perspective to bronze while honouring the craftsmanship and legacy that shaped his foundation.

Dan grew up watching his father, Paul, start a bronze foundry in the garage of his family home. With sheer will, grit and determination, Paul acquired tools, equipment and staff, as he strived for bigger and better things. By the time Dan started at Rathkeale College Paul's foundry had already outgrown the backyard garage.

Dan boarded at Rathkeale College in 2000 and 2001. It was very freeing to be somewhat independent, and to be able to discover who he was, what he valued and what he wanted to strive for in life in such a beautiful setting.

His situation now is very similar to that of his fathers' when he was Dan's age. Dan has built a foundry and workshop to call his own and is in a position that he describes as both daunting and freeing. Daunting to have to build something from scratch. Freeing because he can go in whatever direction he wants.

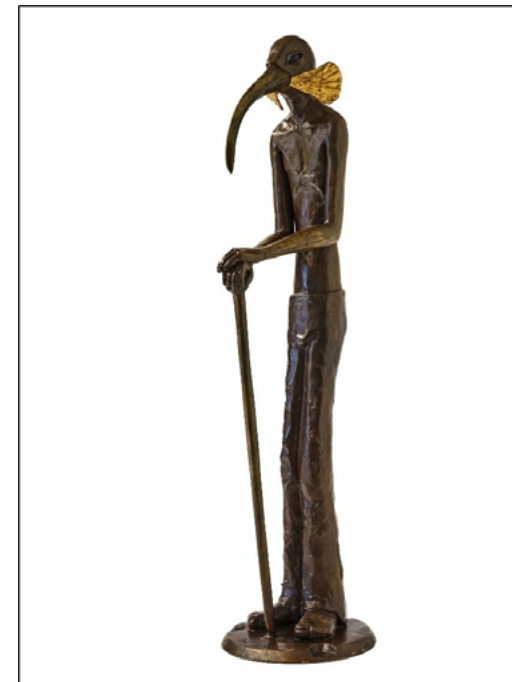
Dan was very privileged, as when Paul was alive the foundry doors were always open to him, along with all the experience and knowledge that his father could share. Dan got to look behind the curtain and see the kind of mentality that led to success. He watched as Paul's career evolved from humble beginnings out of the backyard garage to the empire that it became at the time of his death.

In times of change, one thinks of the choices they made and how it is reflected in the life they live. Dan is very thankful for his time at Rathkeale College, and in a world where we can often be overshadowed by those around us, he is thankful to have been a part of a community where you are respected for who you are. It is the choices we make that define us, and although we cannot always control what goes on around us, we can choose how we will react and respond to such things. We choose what we value, and we choose what to fight for.

The Apple Picker series by Paul Dibble are a set of sculptures that were, in large part, modelled on his son Dan when he was studying at university. The apples reflect the choices we make in life; what we choose to pursue and what we choose to value.

Dan was very happy to see one of these sculptures – The Choice – find its home at Rathkeale College this year, where it now stands proudly in front of School House. Now, Dan stands at the edge of his own orchard, ready to make his choice – and cast his own vision.

Dan is currently working on his next series of works as well as repairing and restoring the occasional work of his father's. He currently has a selection of works available to view at Zimmerman Gallery in Palmerston North.





# Thomas Winlove

(2000-2004)



Thomas Winlove was a full boarder at Rathkeale from 2000-2004. During classes he says he was definitely a student where “could try harder” was a common comment from teachers. When it came to the workshop or sports, however, no extra motivation was required. Tom played a couple of seasons of 1st XI Cricket and a few games for the 1st XI Football team, but most of his efforts went to hockey. Tom made the 1st XI Hockey team in third form and played over a hundred games for the team during his time at Rathkeale. He was captain of the team in his seventh form year.

After school, Tom went to Lincoln University and completed a Bachelor of Recreation Management. Straight after university he found himself in a summer job working for Hawkes Bay Fish & Game, which lead on to a full-time role with them later that year as a Fish & Game Field Officer.

After five years at Fish & Game, Tom was ready for a change and itching for an adventure. Flying to Alaska in the USA, Tom spent time at Denali National Park before

ferry hopping through the Inside Passage’s various islands and small coastal fishing towns and reaching Washington State. There he was hosted by a Wildlife Officers and taken out on daily rounds and exploring local sights. After a few days with each officer and their families he was taken to his next host further east. This carried on until he reached his final stay near Glacier National Park, Montana. Over this period of nearly two months Tom was involved with vehicle patrols, wilderness horseback patrols, firearms training drills, jetboat trips, fishing trips, wolf and bear hunter harvest call outs, mountain lion trapping, grizzly bear trapping and relocation, sports games and general hiking and sightseeing. A fantastic experience all round.

Leaving Montana, Tom spent a couple of weeks on the East Coast, catching up with Rathkeale Old Boy Ian Wilton at Virginia Tech, before heading to New York and flying across to Europe. A two week stop in Iceland was followed by two months in Germany before heading to the UK. His plan here was to work and travel for two years, but a call home to build a house in Taupo made more financial sense.

The building work was broken up with a trip to Nepal to complete the Everest Base Camp hike with Ian Wilton. This trip highlighted how small the world can be, when at an elevation of 5,644 metres in the Himalayas, they took a photo for another hiking group, which just happened to include another Rathkeale Old Boy, William Prior (only a couple of years younger than Tom and Ian).

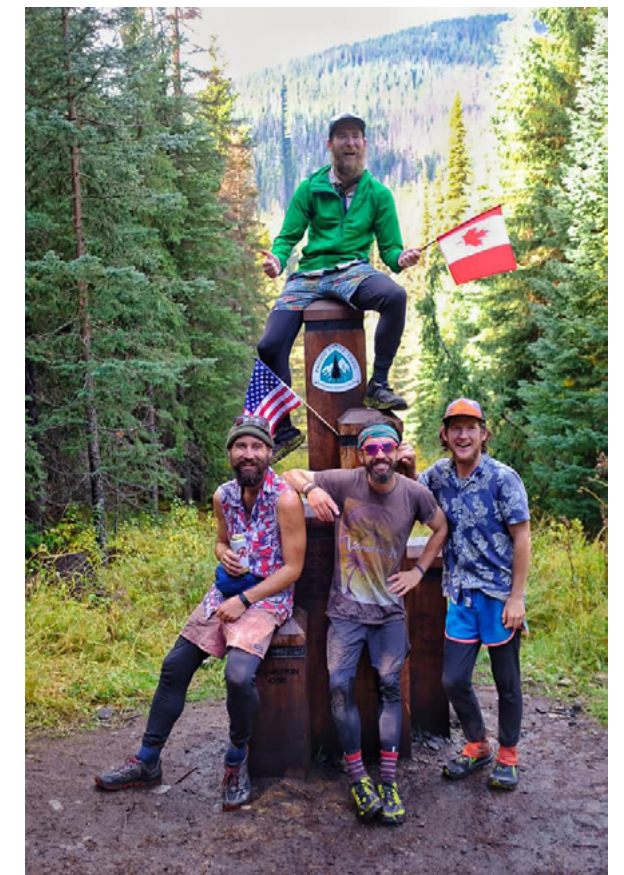
After another stint on the tools, Tom finally made it back to Europe in 2015, buying a van and making a 15,000 kilometre trip round the continent. Back in New Zealand travel was still always on the mind, and savings were constantly made whilst waiting for something more intrepid to manifest itself for the next trip. In Christmas of 2018 this came in the form of a text from a friend about a tent. After a few more texts back and forth a seed was planted. A short time later, on May 5th, 2019, Tom and his friend Brent Thurlow were standing seemingly in the middle of nowhere on the USA-Mexico border. The plan? Walk a single continuous trail 4,270 kilometres north – all the way to Canada!

The trail is known as the Pacific Crest Trail and takes hikers north through California, Oregon and Washington states. For the most part, the trail is deep in the wilderness, away from roads and towns. For four and a half months, Tom and Brent lived out of their backpacks, walking or hitching into towns off trail to resupply for food when possible. Most of the time they slept under the stars, only using their tents in inclement weather, or over the last month or so as autumn hit and with it, overnight dew. They reached Canada on September 25th with a thousand stories, new friendships that will last a lifetime, stinking gear and clothes, and definitely a new appreciation for the simpler things in life. Oh, and passion for more adventures!

The next adventure began on December 8th, 2023, as Tom stood at the base of the Cape Reinga lighthouse looking out over the Tasman Sea to his left and Pacific Ocean to his right. He then turned south and started his 3,000 kilometre walk to Bluff along the Te Araroa Trail. Although the walk was shorter than the Pacific Crest Trail, Tom says it was at times much harder on the body, resulting in a few days off at various points of the trail to give his knees time to recover. Managing to push

through it, he and the group he had formed along the way reached Bluff on March 28th, 111 days after he left Cape Reinga.

Fast forward to the present day and Tom’s methods are still the same; back on building sites in the Hawke’s Bay he is saving up for what adventure may come next. Tom says that there are numerous ideas for the next trip with the most adventurous ones holding the greatest appeal. Without revealing too much, he mentions that there are two adventures currently at the top of his list, both more ambitious than any he’s undertaken before. He believes his body might still have at least one more adventure in it, but he’ll see what happens next. Watch this space.





# Phil Roach

New Staff Member

Phil Roach started at Rathkeale this year as a teacher of Health and PE. Phil lives on-site with his family and has also recently taken on the role of Rugby Housemaster. Originally from Morrinsville, Phil grew up on a dairy farm in Taranaki and moved to Masterton when he was offered a job at Wairarapa College. After teaching Health and PE at Wairarapa College for eight years, Phil decided it was time for a change and moved to Rathkeale. In particular, he was attracted by the opportunity to work at a smaller school and also to live on-site and get involved in boarding.

Phil has always been passionate about sport and has a degree in Sports and Exercise as well as his teaching diploma. He has played rugby, hockey and basketball and now coaches Rathkeale's Senior A basketball team. This year the team have got off to a great start under his leadership – winning their first Lindisfarne exchange in recent memory. This was an awesome experience for both Phil and the boys and hopefully only the beginnings of good things to come.

Phil enjoys living on-site with his partner, Erika, and two young children, Mateo and Tatum. The family love the school grounds and being able to take their dog on

walks around campus after school. They have also enjoyed exploring the eco-trail. After starting the year as a duty staff member in Rugby Phil moved seamlessly into the role of Rugby Housemaster at the start of Term 4 this year. He finds that boarding allows him to be able to get to know the boys better, which in turn helps with his teaching during the day. He has been impressed with the school's small class sizes and focus on academic achievement as well as the school and house spirit that is shown during house competitions and whole school events. Being part of a smaller school, and in boarding in particular, Phil has found that this had made it easier for him to connect with the boys and learn more about their hobbies and interests.

Phil believes that Health and PE is a very important subject in preparing young people for adulthood. Not only is it important for them to keep active and physically fit, but the focus on mental health and healthy relationships has never been more relevant for students today – particularly with the challenges faced by social media.

We are very lucky to have Phil join the team at Rathkeale and hope that he and his family are able to make this place their home. We are also looking forward to more success stories in basketball in the years ahead.

# Paul Morgan - Honours Tie

(1967-1971)

Paul Morgan, who has previously been featured in the Rock Runner, was this year awarded an Old Boys' Honours Tie to recognise his outstanding achievements in business and leadership. Paul has built and led large Māori-owned commercial organisations to help create a sustainable economic future for his people. He has had significant involvement in the scientific development and exporting of New Zealand's primary produce to overseas markets. He has been heavily involved in the treaty settlement process and in the rights of iwi outside treaty settlements. He is a renowned strategist and entrepreneur and has been at the centre of economic development and political advocacy for Māori for over thirty years.

Some of Paul's more notable achievements include being: the chief executive of the Federation of Māori Authorities from 1996 to 2007; the chair of Wakatū Incorporation from 2001-2023; awarded the Queen's Service Medal for contribution to Māori in 2009; recognised by the Listener Magazine as the most influential Māori leader outside of government in 2009; appointed a Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to Māori and business in 2023; on the board of the New Zealand China Council; a trustee of the Asia New Zealand Foundation; as well as the managing director of his own Fomana Capital Limited which invests in high-growth nutrition technologies and products.

Amongst all his endeavours, Paul is probably best known for his work at Wakatū Incorporation. Under his leadership Wakatū developed the Te Tauihu Intergenerational Strategy advocating for the long-term economic development of the top of the South Island to lift people's cultural, social, environmental and economic wellbeing. On Paul's watch, Wakatū created a commercial powerhouse that supports the development and wellbeing of its shareholders.

Since then, Wakatū has grown to become one of the major economic and cultural institutions in the top of the South Island. Its businesses include vineyards, orchards, residential properties, large retail developments, office buildings and marine farms. It now has assets worth over \$350 million. Paul worked for Wakatū Incorporation for forty years and was the board chair from 2001 to 2023. Much of that growth occurred due to his leadership.

In essence, Paul has gone back and done the mahi to help his people. He has invested in people and built talent in the organisations he led. He has not been afraid of those that exercise power or that seem to have the upper hand. He has travelled widely to develop an open and engaged perspective on how New Zealand fits into the world. He has helped people and built them up. And he has maintained long-term friendships and relationships with people throughout both his personal and business life. These are only some of the reasons why Paul is a more than deserving candidate of an Old Boys' Honours Tie. He made a deliberate choice to come to Rathkeale and from there he excelled as a leader. He is an example that current and future students, Māori and non-Māori, can look up to. Hopefully they will know that, starting from the same classrooms and fields, they too can have a career serving their communities and country as well as he has.

*Edward Cox*





# Ruamahanga Restoration

## Progress Update



Established by three Old Boys from the class of 1978, the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust has had a busy year funding the removal of Old Man's Beard and ivy from more than two hundred trees across the Rathkeale College grounds – including a particularly challenging tangle of ivy climbing the old kahikatea in the bush behind School House.

“Apart from strangling native trees, the problem with Old Man's Beard and ivy,” explains local Trustee Michael Birch, “is that they’ve become major seed sources, spreading their invasive reach to farms across the district. The Trust is committed not only to protecting and restoring the special forest remnant at Rathkeale, but also to ensuring the problem isn’t passed on to neighbouring properties.”

Now in its sixth year, the Trust has raised over \$550,000 – the bulk of which has supported Schools Behind Our River. This initiative funds native plants, school field trips, outdoor learning kits, predator traps, and a part-

time Environmental Education Lead who liaises with schools throughout the Ruamahanga catchment.

Beyond school programmes, the Trust also supports restoration planting on privately owned QEII National Trust covenants, with a focus on helping landowners care for forest remnants close to or adjoining the Ruamahanga River.

The Trust's latest project targets six key private properties between Mt. Bruce and Rathkeale, bringing together ecological weed control, restoration planting, and predator management to establish a network of resilient conservation zones along the river.

“Rathkeale is our home base,” says Trustee Campbell McLean. “It’s the inspiration for the Trust – hopefully becoming a staging post for indigenous birdlife coming downriver from the Taranaki Ranges, and a potential centrepiece for environmental education. We hope it will become a showcase of what’s possible when students make that special connection with

their outdoor environment. After all, how many school campuses can claim native forest, a natural wetland, and a river like the Ruamahanga on their boundary?”

McLean recalls how, as students in the 1970s, they hauled rocks from the river to construct concrete paths and finish the Greek Theatre. “We swam in the river, hauled rocks from it, and roamed into the surrounding bush – which back then was out of bounds. Looking back, it felt like the school’s natural environment was calling us to give something back – to inspire future generations to build on those solid foundations.”

Fellow Trustees Michael Birch and Christopher Morrison share that passion. The trio regularly attend planting sessions at the school – including one in 2022 when several Old Boys helped plant *Carex secta* and harakeke around the sewage settling ponds. Those plants have now thrived, and the Trust is also funding the removal of alder saplings that continue to appear around the pond edges.

As far as the Ruamahanga Restoration Trustees are concerned, it’s never too late to put down roots.



To find out more or support the Ruamahanga Restoration Trust, visit their website here:

<https://www.rrtrust.org.nz/>



# Archie Lambert

(2020-2024)

Archie Lambert was the 2024 recipient of the James Meikle Scholarship – awarded by the Old Boys' Association. This scholarship assisted him to travel to Caldicott Preparatory School in the United Kingdom for a year to work as a Tutor. Archie is very grateful to both the Meikle family and the Old Boys for this assistance.

Archie's time at Rathkeale was full of highlights; on the sports field gaining his cap for the 1st XI Football after two years in goal, being a part of the *Mamma Mia* major school production and showcasing his vocal talents for Hillary at House Music. He approached his senior year with the mindset to give everything a go, and it was this decision that planted the seed for what was to come next.

Archie's older sisters all did a gap year after school, so it was no surprise that Archie held similar aspirations to learn more about the world he had only read about in books. Archie's first ever time on a plane was the long-haul flight to England which would be his home for the next twelve months.



At Caldicott Preparatory School in Windsor, a true-blue English prep school half an hour from London, he was welcomed as a Sports Gap Tutor. His day could involve anything from setting up a sports lesson or practice to coaching, refereeing sports games, making cups of tea, or covering a teacher's lesson. No job is too big or too small in a 'gappies' day. Caldicott had four other Gap Tutors; one from Wales and three from Australia. The 'gap shack' as they came to know it was their home at Caldicott.

Being based in England lends itself to travel in school holidays. During his time at Caldicott Archie travelled extensively around the UK and Europe, mostly solo travelling and meeting friends on the way. The iconic 'Paddy Wagon' tour around Ireland was a great introduction to travelling, meeting other gappies and making new friends. As a Rathkeale Old Boy you have a lifelong connection to Trinity Schools, and so imagine being in a hostel in the small town of Levanto on the Italian coast when a conversation which started by recognising a Kiwi accent ended with the realisation that Archie was talking to a St. Matthew's Old Girl who went



to school with his sisters! Small world indeed.

Archie's time in the UK has really allowed him to grow into himself and he has loved every second of it. Plans for his next steps haven't changed; he'll be home for Christmas and enjoy a good Kiwi summer before heading off to university to study Chemistry and History.

As he comes to the end of his time in the UK, now being part of the local community, enjoying a pint at the local establishment on a Wednesday after a game of sport, having travelled to places he never thought he would see; Archie knows that the decision to take a leap of faith and get out of his comfort zone was the best decision he ever made. The James Meikle Scholarship is a legacy, "to travel, laugh, love and meet people from many countries." We should all take a leaf out of James' book because it's a wonderful world out there to explore.

# School House Centenary

The Rathkeale School House has for 100 years served in many ways; from 1925 to 1963, it was the home to the Maunsell family. From 1964, it has been a residence for successive headmasters and staff members, a boarding house for boys, administration offices, a base for the Senior College, music rooms and other classrooms.

The college maintains a number of traditions, one of which this year was celebrated in conjunction with the School House centenary. Founders' Day remembers the day the school was officially founded and the plaque at the front door of the homestead was unveiled by Governor General Sir Bernard Fergusson on 20 August 1963.

We witnessed history in the making this afternoon when Mr. Geoff Norman, the third son of the founding Headmaster, Mr. John Norman and Mrs. Faye Norman, a much-loved music teacher, choir mistress and school mother, unveiled the plaque for Paul Dibble's bronze sculpture – The Choice. The sculpture is dedicated to the memory of Faye and John Norman and the former Common Room inside School House has been named the Faye and John Norman Room. Founding Deputy Principal, Mr. Bruce Hamilton, wrote about Mr. John Norman in his history of the college: "He came to believe that every school must make its own traditions, it must not be a carbon copy of existing independent schools."

Strong bonds have been formed through traditions, instilling good values in our sons that have followed. We have a strong Old Boys' Association and their sons and grandsons who attend Rathkeale also become Old Boys. The school has enrolled many second-generation boys over the years and currently has a number of third-generation boys.

The Choice sculpture, so aptly named, is both metaphorically and figuratively important for Rathkeale students both past and present. Fran Dibble, Paul Dibble's widow, has this to say about the sculpture:

"These words offer my gratitude to Rathkeale for deciding to become home to one of Paul's sculptures, for choosing a work that so aptly fits the Rathkeale site and for mounting it with such care and thought. The Choice is of course a sculpture about choices. The boy is modelled on our youngest son, Daniel, who literally acted as sculptor's model and posed, in photos and in the real, in a very



cold workshop one winter. The boy looks like Daniel and the student he was when he attended Rathkeale. He reaches for an apple from a reductionist tree, the branches simplified to square angular beams, made in Corten steel which contrasts brilliantly with the patinated bronze. All of these elements are, of course, metaphors. The apple stands for more than just a tasty stolen snack. It is life choices, directions and values; making decisions about what is important and what determines life's outcomes. How apt this is for a school where young people leave to make their way in the world! Piwakawaka (fantails) are clustered in the tree. These are the witnesses, a New Zealand gathering, a jury in some way perhaps? For the numerous people who have overseen the task of getting this work here, my praise and thanks. There is always much more to do than anyone imagines with sculpture – it must be the hardest of the arts for its size, bulk and problems. But for all the practical difficulties, there is nothing like the presence of a sculpture which becomes a landmark." – Fran Dibble

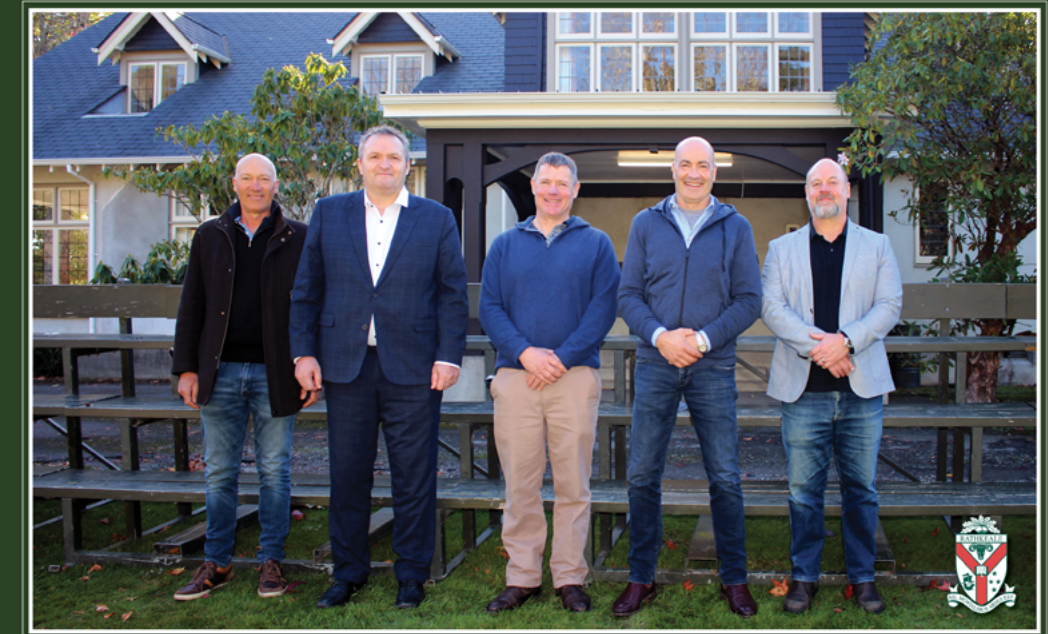
On the 100 Year Anniversary of School House, traditions of the past were acknowledged, along with long-serving staff and significant benefactors. Plans for the future were made. Old friends were welcomed back, and new stories were added to the pages of Rathkeale's history, and in the centre of it all – School House.

Grant Harper



# Decade Reunions

*Together again at Rathkeale in 2025*



RATHKEALE COLLEGE  
*Decade Reunions - Class of 1985*



RATHKEALE COLLEGE  
*Decade Reunions - Class of 1975*



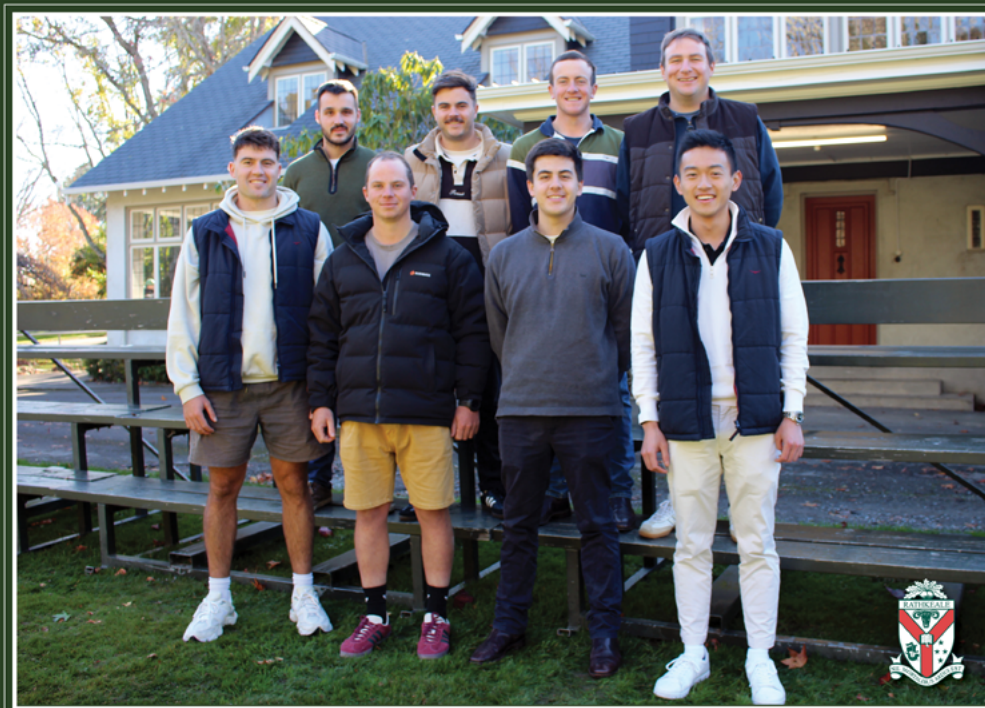
RATHKEALE COLLEGE  
*Decade Reunions - Class of 1995*



# Colin O'Connell - *in Memoriam*



RATHKEALE COLLEGE  
Decade Reunions - Class of 2005



RATHKEALE COLLEGE  
Decade Reunions - Class of 2015

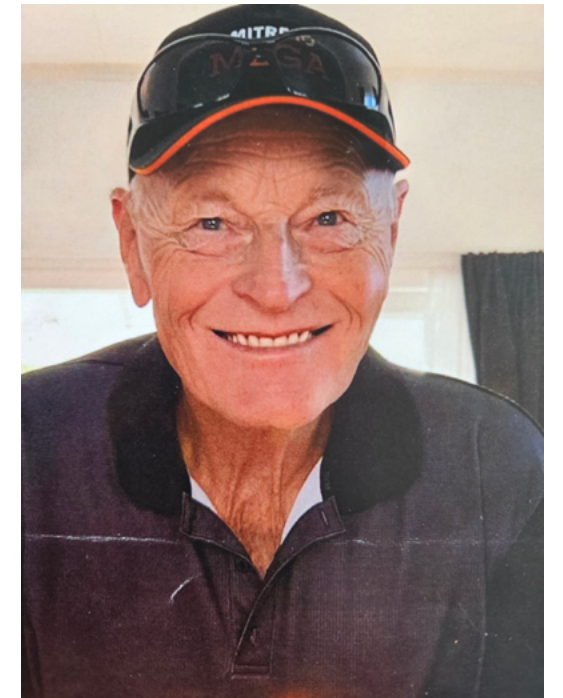
Colin O'Connell was a groundsman at Rathkeale College for four decades. He passed away at home in Masterton, surrounded by his loving family, on the 16th November 2024, aged 74 years.

Having grown up on a farm near Ohakune and worked on an Australian building site and in a Masterton cable factory, Colin knew the sort of work he liked – something active and outdoors. When Rathkeale advertised for a groundsman in July 1979 he was quick to apply and keen to be interviewed by the recently appointed Headmaster, John Taylor. During the very casual, friendly interview round the Taylors' outdoor table, Colin let slip that he was, at heart, a farm boy and the job was almost instantly his. Little did anyone guess that it would remain his for the next four decades.

Back then, Rathkeale was only fourteen years old and very different from the well-manicured campus of today. There were buildings being built, land being acquired and a great deal of development still to be completed. Money was in short supply and labour was thinly spread. Colin was going to be a very busy man, both at work, and at home with a young family.

And what did the college ask of their new groundsman? The answer is just about everything: rubbish collection, lawn laying, mowing, gutters, courts, pitches, wickets, athletics tracks, sumps, concreting, drains, tree felling, more lawn mowing, flood control and flood clearance, golf course maintenance, furniture removal and examination set up, firewood cutting, leaf raking, pool maintenance, settling ponds and well testing, road and track maintenance, spraying, hedge cutting, storm clearance and even more leaf raking. All this across a 120 acre campus and within a 40 hour week. Did Colin ever complain? Not that I ever heard. Unsurprisingly, in 1986, Colin was appointed Head Groundsman.

When school holidays came along, and especially when his children were small, Colin and his wife Judy took advantage of the quiet on campus and made use of the grounds and pool. Judy felt that Colin almost believed he



owned the place. Whilst he was paid to do a job, he never counted the cost and often went above and beyond for the school. Certainly, his love of the place was increasingly apparent as the years passed by. In 2009, his extraordinary contribution to Rathkeale was recognised with the presentation of the E.J. Norman Medal for Outstanding Service to Rathkeale – a rare honour and a proud moment for this quiet self-effacing man.

Once he succumbed to retirement, it was especially good to see him regularly back at school operating a taxi service for his grandsons, Bailey and Caleb, and probably checking that all was in order and especially that the School House rose garden hedge was still looking sharp.

*Grant Harper*



# Robert Cotter - *in Memoriam*

**R**athkeale's first ever Head of Cranleigh and Head of School passed away in Palmerston North on the 29th October 2025 after a long period of ill-health interspersed with a gritty determination to not submit to it without a fight.

Robert James Cotter was present on the very first day of the college in February 1964 and attended Rathkeale from 1964 to 1966. He was one of the 62 foundation pupils known since as The '64 Originals. He was one of four Originals who came from the Pahiatua area, having grown up on the family's sheep farm at Ngaturi along with his one brother. He'd earlier started his secondary schooling at Scots College in Wellington but when his parents learned of the impending opening of Rathkeale they decided that Masterton was much closer and would spare them the three hour trips back and forth over the hill.

Rob slotted in easily that memorable first year, and his natural talent for leadership saw him becoming one of the early Monitors (not yet known as Prefects nor given any such authority) as a table-head in the Dining Hall. His skill at hockey meant he was part of the 1st XI not only in 1964 but also again in 1965 and 1966. He also sang in the school choir and was involved in numerous other facets of school life. In the 1964 Revue, where in the storyline the college was turned into a guesthouse, he played the part of the Deputy Principal, and in the 1965 'It's a Boy' Revue, he appeared in the breakfast commercial scene, and as Sheriff Wyatt Burp in the later 'Sorehide' scenes. He received the Dramatic Society Acting Prize in 1965.

By this time Rob was becoming known for his laid-back but engaging style of wit and dry humour which was unique to him, and for adopting his own particular way of doing things. He also had a sense of adventure and enjoyed a dare and the occasional escapade. It was typical that he would be one of two boys to be the first ever to undertake a midnight swim in the pool (highly illegal back then, and if caught a harsh and rather painful punishment awaited). Rob also had responsibility for the fledgling tuck shop when it opened in 1965, working out of a small room next to the laboratory in the first classroom block. In 1965, he gained

his School Certificate in English, History, Commercial Practice, General Science and Mathematics, and the following year he added Biology and Geography. In 1965 he was appointed one of the Head Boys of the brand new Cranleigh House (duties were rotated that year between three promising boys) and in 1966 the role of first ever Head of School was conferred on him. In the prizegiving at the end of that year, he was fittingly awarded the Clinton-Baker Cup for Leadership.

After leaving Rathkeale, Rob returned to the family farm where he worked part-time while also studying at nearby Massey University. But the lure of overseas travel beckoned, and from 1970 he embarked on a diverse 9 year working holiday through Britain, Ireland, Europe, Namibia and Southern Africa, Hawaii and Australia.

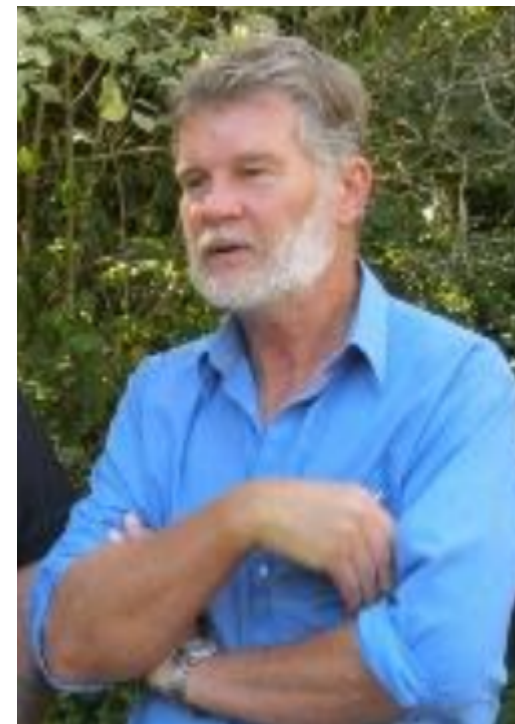
After returning to New Zealand, Rob's interest in and flair for hospitality asserted itself in various ways over the next twenty-five years. He worked in and/or managed several upmarket locations in Rotorua,



Taupo and Levin, also running his own bespoke takeaway outlet during this time. After settling in Levin, he became a Tutor-Trainer of Bar, Restaurant & Beverage Service for Health & Safety at the well-known Horowhenua Learning Centre, and was also a sole-charge owner-driver for NZ Couriers for a number of years before finishing his working career with a dedicated eight year stint as a Mobility-Van Taxi-Driver for the Horowhenua/Manawatu area.

By this time, in his mid-60s, retirement had started to appeal, but feet-up inactivity wasn't for Rob. He remained living at his rural Horowhenua base and took up bowls, from which he derived much pleasure and social interaction, often playing at the local club several times a week and becoming skilled in the sport. Other social interests over the years were golf, backgammon, camping, shooting, tramping, sampling a good red wine, and a particular passion for quizzes.

Sadly, serious ill-health dogged Rob for much of the last twenty years of his life – but he fought it all the way.



A major brush with cancer in the early 2000s meant the surgical removal of parts of various fundamental internal components which were no longer fit for purpose – but Rob bounced back and managed to continue to lead an outwardly normal life, despite now being permanently minus some significant metabolic and other machinery. More recently, the onset of acute leukaemia meant hospitalisation and repetitive major intensive care on quite a regular basis, but his never-give-up attitude kept him alive and rebounding back from the brink, time after time. He just kept going as best he could, even attending and taking a full part in our most recent Originals reunion in early 2024.

Rob quietly and with dignity endured far more than his fair share of medical issues over the years, and the way he coped with it can be an inspiration to us all. His strength of character and utter refusal to give in exemplified some of the values Rathkeale instilled in him all those years ago – fortitude, resilience, selflessness, humility, and an empathy with others, to name a few – and, to the end and despite everything else, he never lost his ability to still enjoy a joke and have a chuckle.

Rob was very much a stalwart of our Originals group, but sadly is now the fourteenth Original to leave us, and his character and presence and humour will be missed.

Rob is survived by his partner and supporter of many years, Christine, son Cam and daughter Courtney, who have contributed four grandchildren so far. Rob was devoted to his family and also over the years became an active and highly respected member of the Levin Bowling Club. His funeral farewell accordingly drew a large crowd and was a true celebration of his spirited life and personality, with a number of amusing anecdotes being told amid much laughter – exactly as Rob would have wished. As a fitting final tribute, several of his Originals comrades were able to travel to be present at the occasion.

*Chris Gane*



# 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.

## Jay McJorow (1966-1970)

Jay McJorow attended Rathkeale from 1966 to 1970. He passed away peacefully surrounded by his family and their dog Luna on the 31st December 2024 after 71 laps around the sun. Jay lived an idyllic life growing up in Lowry Bay. His teenage years were spent as a boarder at Rathkeale College. Apart from being caned occasionally he had mostly fond memories of the school and forged many lifelong friendships. In his early 60s Jay was diagnosed with a blood cancer that would see him have a shortened life span. This prompted him to sell his contracting business and buy himself a KTM motorbike, missioning with his other bikie mates all over New Zealand and the USA. Jay then upgraded to his dream yacht – *Oui Ca Va*, a 43' Benetau. The last chapter of his life was spent living on board *Ou Ca Va* taking family and friends on exciting adventures around Australia and were some of the happiest days of his life.

Gail McJorow



## Graham Newport (1976-1978)

Graham Newport attended Rathkeale from 1976 to 1978. Graham was working as a software engineer in London and is survived by his wife Karen, his son Sam, and his daughter Abigail. He succumbed to cancer on the morning of Wednesday the 9th of April 2025 aged 66.

## Geoffrey Meurk (1970-1973)

Geoffrey Meurk attended Rathkeale from 1970 to 1973. He passed away unexpectedly on Thursday 2nd January 2025, aged 67 years. He was a beloved Grandad, Dad, brother, partner, and friend to many.

# Sons of Old Boys

2025



**BACK ROW:** O Nicol, I McNeill, C Fleming, J McGruddy, L Handyside, O Marshall, H Farman, Y Son, F Marshall.

**MIDDLE ROW:** D Winlove, T Southey, T Hepburn, Z Hogg, C Bassett, T Nicol, E Martin, L Bassett, G Farman, J Edridge.

**FRONT ROW:** L Martin, C Edge, C Cameron, H Kynoch, J Rutherford, M Andrew, S Doyle, L O'Gorman, G Jaspers, W Plimmer, A Donworth.



Interested in learning more about the history of Rathkeale College?

Check out this website: <https://sites.google.com/view/rathkealehistory/home>

## RATHKEALE COLLEGE HISTORY



### Welcome to Rathkeale History

This website is a digital hub for exploring the rich history of Rathkeale College.

It showcases key events, people, and developments that have shaped the school's story over time.

Whether you're a current student, an Old Boy, a staff member, or simply curious about the college's past, this site offers a growing collection of research, timelines, and photos that bring Rathkeale's legacy to life.

Thank you to Rathkeale Science teacher Charlotte Hamill-Harris  
for putting this website together.



# ATTENTION ALL OLD BOYS

who were part of the cohorts who left school in  
1966, 1976, 1986, 1996, 2006 and 2016.

2026 is your year to attend the  
King's Birthday Weekend Decade Reunions,  
Friday 29th May - Saturday 30th May.

Contact your Year Group facilitators or  
the Old Boys' Association for more details:  
**[oldboys@rathkealeoldboys.org.nz](mailto:oldboys@rathkealeoldboys.org.nz)**



Do you have a story for the next issue of  
the *Rock Runner*? We'd love to hear from you.  
Please get in touch.

