

# Rock Runner

The magazine of the Rathkeale College community • Volume 13 • April 2008



# From the Editor's Desk

## Welcome to Volume 13 of the Rock Runner.

What a busy year 2007 was for Rathkeale Old Boys'. There were 3 reunions, those being, the Class of 1975 and what a fabulous weekend they had, the 1982 reunion which was a splendid weekend in June, and of course the annual general Rathkeale Old Boys' reunion held every year in October. More about all of these, and photos further into the magazine.

As far as projects go, the ROBA are very proud of the new (or should I say, "new old") pavilion that has been an ongoing project for the last fourteen months and it was with great pleasure that it was officially opened by Bruce Hamilton on February 10th 2008. The journey of the Hobbies Hut in Burma Road to the cricket oval and its transformation was a fantastic achievement.

The annual Fathers/Sons evening took place again and this time Old Boy, Hugh Neal, spoke of his trip to Nepal much to the delight of a packed house of fathers and sons.

The Leaver's Lunch was held towards the end of Term 4 and at this event, as always, all Leaver's proudly accepted their Rathkeale Old Boy tie.

Sports Exchanges between Rathkeale and Scots, and later in the year, Collegiate were finely fought

competitions and the ROBA were delighted to host after match functions at each. It is always a pleasure meeting and mixing with our sporting rivals.

Lastly, if I could please remind you, as I do every year, to keep in touch with me regarding any change of postal or email addresses. As old boys' you are life members of this organization and as such you are entitled to invitations to various events and of course to your annual Rock Runner magazine. A new component to the Rock Runner mail-out will mean that for all OB's that do not have an address on the database, your magazine will automatically go to the last listed address of your parents. This may suit some of our younger Old Boys. I would also love to hear of any interesting news you may have, personally, professionally or otherwise. I thoroughly enjoy each and every one of your cards, letters and emails.

*An important note now for all St Matthew's Old Girls'. This will be the last free edition you will receive of the Rock Runner. However, if you would like to purchase a copy in the future, please just drop me a line and I will happily arrange this for you.*

Happy reading.

**Alix Cooper**  
Editor  
acc@rathkeale.school.nz

## Before...



## ...and after.



## IMPORTANT DATES 2008

### April 18 – 20th The 'Roamie' 1984 – 1988 Reunion.

Friday 18th April	Warm up (Registration) at 'Lo' Bar (re-opened Stellar Bar)
Saturday 19th April	Tours of School sites during day Ball in Masterton Town Hall in evening.
Sunday 20th April	Own arrangements, e.g., meet for breakfast, travel home.

Please contact Blair Ewington for further information; bje@rathkeale.school.nz

**May 7th Rathkeale Open Day, from 9am**

**October General Rathkeale Old Boy Reunion at the Martinborough Wine Centre. Details TBA.**

# From the New Principal's Desk

It is with pleasure that I take a further opportunity to introduce myself to the Rathkeale College Old Boys and the wider Wairarapa community through this edition of Rock Runner; a publication that is about acknowledging and celebrating achievements of present and past students and bringing about a greater awareness of Rathkeale College life.

I come to Rathkeale having paced myself through five schools, enjoying my experiences as a teacher and a manager. Each has allowed me to develop professionally and I believe the breadth of knowledge and skills gained will bring benefit to Rathkeale. Any move I have undertaken has been to a significantly different school. Coming to Rathkeale in many ways will be the greatest change I have encountered, not only because of my role or the size of the school, but because of the intricacies of the integrated school it is and the association with St Matthew's through the Senior College.

I think Alison, Jayne and I have settled in well and we are looking forward to a long and happy tenure at Rathkeale. Jayne is in Year 12 at St Matthew's and in two years time will no doubt join the tertiary sector that her two older sisters and brother currently enjoy. During the last month it has been a pleasure to meet and work with individuals and groups that together form the Rathkeale College community. The Board of Trustees is entirely focused on the future needs of this school and I am pleased that many of my views have already found favour with them and the Trinity Schools' Board.

The arrival and integration of a new principal into a school will always arouse the interest of the community. There will be an expectation that changes will come about and that some of these will be immediate and others the result of planning and

careful consideration. My first month at Rathkeale has allowed me to discover many of the realities that actually exist in the school after having only impressions to guide me. This has certainly allowed me to affirm that Rathkeale College is a school of outstanding potential. There is no doubt that many of the traditions of the past can be maintained and others re-established. However, at the same time we must look to the future and be effective in catering for the need for our students to leave school well prepared for life beyond secondary school. There is absolutely no doubt that the critical factors that will allow Rathkeale to be successful already exist. We do have a well qualified and experienced staff, happy and eager students who in the main are focused on achieving to their potential and a stunning learning environment.

Equally important is the support that exists in the community and the belief that families and particularly Old Boys have in the school. It is fair that those who currently support the school and those who are in the balance can expect

more from a school that has so much potential. I hope that you become aware of the outcomes that will emerge as we rebrand Rathkeale College. The Board has already planned to meet to specifically focus on what the school needs to stand for, the learning pathways it is to provide and what is truly unique within our special character. To envision the future and the means by which we will get there is both challenging and exciting, and we will be successful if we have your support.

I look forward to meeting many of you in the months ahead, whether it be at an Old Boys' function, a reunion or project that the Old Boys' manage or one of the visits I will be making to our community specifically to provide an opportunity to learn more about what Rathkeale College has to offer and why families should consider our school as a serious option for their son's education. If at any time you are in the vicinity of Rathkeale and would like to take a reminiscent trip of your school please pop in and introduce yourself.

**William Kersten**

*William and Alison Kersten with their son Simon, and daughters Claire, Hannah, and Jayne.*



# Today and Yesteryear

## BY JOHN BUCKERIDGE

*The days of our youth are the days of our glory.* Lord Byron, 1788-1824.

Last week, whilst briefly back in New Zealand, I received a Paul Harris Fellowship from Rotary International. It was given for “services to education”, in particular the Rotary International Science Summer Forum, which runs annually, in Auckland, over the third and fourth weeks of January. School pupils in their penultimate year of study, from all around New Zealand and Australia, are selected for this forum on the basis of their passion for science and their demonstrated interest in those other things that together maketh a good, rounded person: music, drama and sport. This year there were about 150 participants, one of whom was from St Matthew’s Collegiate Masterton. Last year was special too, as Sam French represented the Wairarapa and was, to my knowledge, the first participant from Rathkeale. I have been involved with the Summer School for some 16 years now, and am very impressed by the quality of the student participants, and the diversity and value of the programme that they are provided with. It saddens me that more students from Rathkeale have not taken advantage of this wonderful opportunity to learn about science from some of New Zealand’s top practitioners.

I have, for the most part of my life, always been involved with education, or, as I would rather think of it, the pursuit of knowledge. I began studies at Rathkeale in 1964, as a foundation pupil. It was a time of great challenge and excitement: the school was new, an experiment derived from the Public School system of England and planted in the distant Dominion of New Zealand. I now know little of what has happened to most of my contemporaries, although some school memories are still clear: one involves classmate Hugh Akers (still farming near Palmerston North), and

how we both came close to death whilst on a school hike crossing the Tararua Ranges. We had planned to reach Baldy Hut one evening, but the snow was deeper and more impassable than anticipated. The power of two was demonstrated, for when one of us wanted to stop, the other saw the urgency of continuing. This arrangement served us well, and later, in the early hours, we arrived safely but very exhausted at Baldy Hut—one of us, not sure who, had some cherry brandy, which although “warming” was probably not what was either appropriate for schoolboys or what we really needed. But we survived, and of course never disclosed, until now, the presence of liquor.

Another interesting memory of school days was the discovery of what is still considered to be a potential meteorite impact site. Over the back of School House there are (or were, during the 1960s), a series of circular depressions. The diameter of these is about 3-4 metres. Scrambling about them one day, Michael Commin and I found some fragments of partially melted metal. Although there probably had been blacksmithing in the area during the distant past, these fragments of iron were sufficiently different for me to have them analysed at university, and studied by a meteorite expert in Melbourne, who is more than confident that they are fragments of a micro-octahedrite (a class of iron meteorite). If this is so, they are probably about 4.5 billion years old, and some of the oldest things in New Zealand. Subsequent surveys, lead by Bruce Hamilton, have failed to recover any more of the material. However, it exists in some mineral collections with the name “Rathkeale Meteorite”... recovered in 1965.



*JB in the Antarctic, with a giant pycnogonid (sea spider) preserved in ice. Summer 1985-6.*

My involvement with Rathkeale has continued over the years because of a lifelong interest in Castlepoint. In the 1990s and early 2000s, I was able to link up with Cliff Bouton and his environmental students to explore the wonderful geology of the Castlepoint reef rocks. The rocks in the reef and below the lighthouse are comprised of a wide range of fascinating fossils, some of which I have had the opportunity to name as new species.

The pursuit of knowledge has provided opportunities for me to study and teach in most parts of the world, including the Antarctic. If I have any advice to give today’s students, it would be *carpe diem!* Be prepared to take opportunities when they arise, even if this means partial reinvention of oneself. I began my professional life as a geologist, and then migrated into engineering, becoming a professional engineer in the 1990s. A lifelong interest in natural sciences, along with these two professions, led to research opportunities in environmental change, and this, combined with a growing interest in ethics, in turn led to invitations to investigate and discuss issues such as resource use and biodiversity. One never knows how interest is kindled, or even when it is kindled. It is the nurturing of young minds that will inflame the passion for discovery later in life. I am confident that Rathkeale helped ignite these flames.



JB as President of the international Union of Biological Sciences at a meeting in Beijing, China during December, 2007.

I sit writing this, wearing my old School tie. Nobody knows what it represents any more—some assume it is the University's coat of arms. I have been advised that it is no longer a tie that is worn at Rathkeale. But does this really matter?—probably not, but I wish the tie was a wee bit longer, and a wee bit wider...

John is a Professor of Natural Resources Engineering at RMIT University, Melbourne, and an Honorary professor at Wismar University of Technology, Business and Design, Germany. He is currently President of the International Society of Zoological Sciences (Beijing) and President of the International Union of Biological Sciences (Paris). In addition he is a Councillor of the Royal Society of Victoria and sits on a Victoria Government bioethics advisory committee. He has three adult daughters, and lives in Melbourne, with his wife June.

# BLAIR COLE

## World Renowned Motor Sport Star



Blair Cole graduated from Rathkeale College in 1987 and went on to achieve a Graduate Diploma in Business and a Bachelor of Engineering (with 1st class honours). From there Blair has gone on to be a renowned success in international motor sport, both as a driver, team manager, coach and series coordinator.

Blair Cole talks with Alix Cooper, Editor of the Rock Runner.

**Alix:** Blair what is your job these days?

**Blair:** My day job is working with Fonterra. My evenings and weekends are filled with my roles as Motor Sports Operation Manager for the Porsche Club, UAE and Team Manager of Al Nabooda Racing.

**Alix:** So your love affair with motor racing started how?

**Blair:** I guess my interest in motor sports came from my father who was into anything mechanical and sport in general. Attending Wairarapa Car Club events as a spectator in my early teens gave me the initial first hand look at the sport. I have especially fond memories of the Masterton Street Sprint that used to be held around the streets of Masterton. Once I entered the workforce after my undergraduate study I was able to get together some funds. In 1995 I sold my Harley, bought my first race car and jumped in the deep end.

**Alix:** Speaking of fond memories, what do you remember about your years at Rathkeale?

**Blair:** Lots of hard work once my eyes were opened to the importance of education and I was exposed for the first time to a competitive academic environment (3rd form) I have to admit I remember my frustration at the lack of automotive mechanics and metal work taught in the Trinity system!

I also recall the relief of achieving my goal of a university junior scholarship during my time at Rathkeale. It taught me a lot about the importance and also the realities of goal-setting.

**Alix:** So tell me about your most memorable moments on and off the circuit.



**Blair:** Leading the establishment of the Al Nabooda Racing Team, coaching the driver and support team towards back to back 1st places in the 2006 and 2007 Gulf Radical Cup Championship. Al Nabooda is the world's largest Porsche agent and also are agents for VW and Audi in the UAE.

Driving to second place for the German Team Ebbing Motorsport in the Dubai 24HR GT race in 2007.

The loss of my father in his early 50's was a tragic life experience, but it also delivered me a very important insight into life and the importance of living it.

My first ever race win as a driver: A first place and new class lap record at Pukekohe in the Mazda RX7 Pro 7 series. Way back in 1998 I think.

Standing on the podium at the Bahrain F1 track back in November last year where I raced a Radical at the V8 Supercar round. I think I was the only Kiwi to raise the NZ flag that weekend!

**Alix:** Your aims for the future?

**Blair:** To win this years' UAE national championship with our teams GT2 Porsche.

Achieve a class win in a signature 24HR race in the next 2 years.

Keep having fun. Working hard, playing hard yet trying to stay healthy, enjoy friends and family and keep life in balance.

**Alix:** Any family you'd like to mention?

**Blair:** My mother and father gave a lot of themselves to give me a good start in life. For that I will be eternally grateful.

# ANDREW SEXTON

## Award Winning Architect



Andrew Sexton Architecture was recently the winner of a New Zealand Institute of Architects Resene Local Award for the design of a beach house at Riversdale on the Wairarapa coast.

This latest award is another for this emerging architectural practice. Other recent awards include first prize in the Kinloch Club Golf Resort Design Award early last year and first prize in the Housing New Zealand Corporation State Housing Competition in 2005.

Andrew Sexton grew up in Masterton and attended Rathkeale, his final year in being 1991. He then went on to graduate with a Bachelor of Architecture Degree (Hons) at Victoria University of Wellington in 1997. Andrew followed this with six years working in architectural practices in Wellington and London before establishing Andrew Sexton Architecture in 2004 upon returning to New Zealand.

The studio, based in Wellington, has grown steadily and currently employs 6 staff. With projects under development in Greytown, Riversdale and at Castlepoint, Andrew continues to enjoy a strong connection with the Wairarapa.

Andrew married Julie-Anne in 1997 and has two small children, Sam (3) and Ana (1).

While at Rathkeale, Andrew excelled at technical drawing and graphics & design under the watchful eye of Fred Lee. One of his 'I'd rather not remember' moments was playing the role of Tarzan in the Winchester House play in his final year.



Andrew's family has been well-connected with the school with both his older brother Stewart (who many will remember getting about school in his wheelchair), and younger brother Richard attending Rathkeale and his father, John, spending time as chairman of the Trinity Schools Trust Board.

To see more of Andrew's work visit:  
[www.andrewsexton.co.nz](http://www.andrewsexton.co.nz)

*Top: Andrew's award winning design.*

*Left: Andrew, Sam & Anna.*

# STUART WHEELER

## A New Zealand Special Services Medal Recipient

In 1979, when Stuart was 29, Air New Zealand TE901 smashed into the side of Mt Erebus.

All 257 on board perished and when images of the black smudge on the face of the mountain were broadcast, it seemed impossible that anything of the people on board would be left. But there was and it was up to Mr Wheeler and 12 other embalmers to facially reconstruct victims to give their relatives the closure that a recognized loved one had been found and bought home.

Last year, at a ceremony in Wellington police headquarters, Mr Wheeler and members of the 133-strong disaster team were awarded the New Zealand Special Services Medal.

Mr Wheeler, who is Director of the Guardian Funeral Home in Porirua, says

at the time it was difficult confronting the prospect of having to see so many people at one time who had died.

"Normally in our professional lives we would only deal with this sort of damage two or three times a year."

The team was based in a mortuary in Auckland, working up to 14 hours a day for 3 weeks. "We just started each day and battled on through. It was physically draining and exhausting, but we knew the work had to be achieved." He says what kept them going were the waiting relatives.

In the end 214 people were identified and released for burial—the unidentified remains were buried in Waikumete cemetery, near Auckland in a mass grave.

Mr Wheeler says he had to leave his profession for a year afterward to "get his

life back into order again."

"When I look at this medal I ask what it really means. I think of the people that suffered that loss, and I also think of the people who were unable to find their families.

"But we are proud of what we achieved for the relatives. And the medal, in some ways, has given us a sense of closure."

Stuart Wheeler was born in Foxton and is the second son of the late Nan and Reverend Malcolm Wheeler (Anglican Priest, Wellington Diocese). Educated at Rathkeale College, Stuart commenced his working career in January 1969 at the Wilson Funeral Home in Wellington. Since then he has spent 5 years living in South Africa during which time he was extensively involved as a funeral director in the 1976 Soweto riots, returning to NZ in December 1977.



*Stuart, the Hon. Annette King, Minister of Police and Peter Strong at the Grand Hall, Parliament Buildings holding the NZ Special Services Medal (Erebus) - 22 March 2007.*

## Letter to the Editor

It was with much excitement that I received my first issue of "Rock Runner". Wow ... just the title stirred up those almost lost memories of struggling down Burma Road with another load of foundation material for John Norman's newest building project! Not to mention another 1/2 hour crossed off that almost never ending book of punishment detail.

I live, and have lived in the USA for the past 20 or so years and to receive a copy of your mag, once again was such a thrill. I attended Rathkeale from 1976 until 1981.

One of the worst days in my life was that first day at Rathkeale, when a social worker forced me into a car from my home in Wellington and drove me to Masterton. John Norman had told my housemaster (Bernard Greenlees) that this wayward kid from Wellington would be arriving sometime today and he would probably only last a couple of days. Fay Norman met me that day. The first thing she did was take my skateboard away and then she cut about 2 feet of hair off my head.

Anyway to cut a long story short ... One of the best days of my life was graduating from Rathkeale College and being able to tell Bernard (Who was now my guardian/parent and good friend) that "I had made it". What a proud moment for both of us; in fact one of my proudest moments. Unfortunately EJJN wasn't there that day but I know he was proud of me because Bernard had read to me a letter he had received from Fay stating such. As I sit here (with tears streaming down my face) I can only think of what life might be like if I hadn't attended that beautiful little acreage out on the Opaki straits which we fondly know as Rathkeale College. I can not imagine it would have been very productive; in fact it probably would have been very destructive.

I came to Rathkeale a wayward teen and left a man. I owe that to two very special people; John Norman (The Grand Old Man) and Bernard Greenlees (my favorite little chimp). God rest the souls of these two extraordinary human beings.

My hope is that Fay did not precede John in death and you would be kind enough to forward this communicate to her. I'm sure she knows how special her husband was ... however behind every good man is a good woman and in Fay Norman that was/is especially so.

I eagerly await the next issue of Rock Runner and leave you saddened by the news that one of Rathkeales finest has past.

Kindest regards  
David W. Ardrey

## The James Meikle Shrewsbury Scholarship

Mathew Brown has returned to New Zealand after his year as a tutor at Shrewsbury School. Matt is very grateful to the Trust for the opportunity to spend a year at one of England's premier schools.

There is no doubt that the scholarship has achieved its objective. Matt has gained independence and matured with the responsibility of his duties at the school alongside staff members and other tutors and scholars from around the world. He assisted in the classroom and boarding house on a regular basis as well as coaching rugby and rowing and accompanying the schools winning team to Henley. As well as travelling with school teams to other schools in the UK Matt travelled in Europe over the summer holidays with other Gap students.

"I made so many wonderful friends at school and in my travels and I can honestly say I was sadder to leave the UK than I was to leave home to begin with ... I have made life long friends.

"I feel confident with the University choices I have made, and am better prepared for the future."

During the year the Trust offered support to Ed Taylor from Shrewsbury who is a Tutor at Rathkeale and the Trustees have selected Sports Prefect Dean van Deventer for 2009. The Trustees are grateful for your continued interest in the James Meikle Shrewsbury Scholarship.



*Mathew enjoying his time in England.*

# Class of '75 returns to scene of crime

One evening in 1975, a busload of underage Rathkeale seventh formers enters the public bar of the Cambridge Hotel, Wellington and orders a round of jugs.

This is possible not because we are out of uniform, but because we are in it. Never was a school's choice of colours more appreciated. For when the barman enquires as to the business of the fifteen or so fresh-faced patrons in green blazers and Karitane yellow shirts, he is reassured to learn that he is in the presence of the Australian Colts rugby team.

In due course the 'team' stumbles out of the pub and into the nearby Paramount theatre, suitably primed to enjoy Ken Russell's bizarre film of The Who's rock opera *Tommy*. It all makes for a very convivial evening, albeit a very different one than the staff had sanctioned when they issued our cultural leave passes.

Fast forward to early 2007.

Organisational supremo Herrick W, aided and abetted by Norriss R, hatch a plan. What about reliving these events of 32 years before, using the impending trauma of our 50 birthdays as the excuse?

The original concept is to have the reunion on the birthday of Taylor J, the only one of our cohort to have reversed, or at least halted, the aging process. In the end, a date is chosen that regrettably



*David Lee (owner of Chocolate Dayz - year behind us), Lloyd Williams, Dave Moss Peter Simm.*

clashes with lambing and rules out many of our more accomplished drinkers.

At brunchtime on Saturday 15 September, a follically-challenged but otherwise familiar-looking bunch of semi-centurions assemble with their wives at the famous Chocolate Fish Café in Seatoun.

One, Taylor S (no relation), has flown all the way from Sydney for the occasion—and he wasn't even in our year. Herrick W emerges from his trademark Citroen 2CV (see photo of same smuggled into school gym at midnight during 2000 reunion) resplendent in green blazer and Karitane yellow shirt. Taylor J goes one better later in the day, bravely striding into the Cambridge Hotel in his old gold school shorts and sandals. Ansell J, who has expanded exponentially in the interim, is mysteriously still able to do up the top button of his yellow shirt. The mystery is solved when he confesses that the decidedly seventies-style garment has been a recent gift from his mother.

From the superb Chocolate Fish, we repair to the eccentric Time Cinema-cum-museum-cum-pinball arcade in Lyall Bay for a special reunion screening of *Tommy*. All except the easily-pleased Williams L agree that it was not the film it once was, if indeed it ever had been.

As they serve us tea afterwards, the elderly projectionists seem a little shaken, having earlier been reassured that *Tommy* was a playful romp akin to the Laurel and Hardy films they regularly screen for Probus club members. (Admittedly, neither Laurel nor Hardy were in the habit of being accompanied by a homicidal drummer with a predilection for pedophilia.)

Next stop the Cambridge, where we confess our sins to a forgiving manager; then repeat them. Dinner is a short but not necessarily straight walk to the Tugboat on the Bay, which Ansell J has assumed will be able to knock up a decent meal to complement its quirky nautical ambience.

He is wrong. It is generally agreed by Herrick that all future reunion catering decisions will be made by Herrick. Notwithstanding the presence of a charming all-St Matthew's Old Girl waiting staff, the food seems oddly reminiscent of Rathkeale.

A typically witty speech by the oldest boy present, B.G. Hamilton, 75, is balanced nicely by a moving account by Taylor S, in which he eloquently expresses the deep contempt he once felt for his former deputy head. Croft M reprises his starring role at our last reunion with a soothing and mellifluous saxophone solo.

The following day, the survivors make their way across the harbour to former Repton Head David Lee's Chocolate Dayz Café, where mercifully the fare is a vast improvement on the night before's.

The party then splits into the fit, who tramp manfully across the hill to Butterfly Creek, and the tennis players, whose number includes the chief manicurist of the Rona Bay (grass) Tennis Club, one B.G. Hamilton. That the Badger possesses a powerful forehand will be no surprise to his former victims (I mean pupils), but the strength of his all-round game is a revelation to those who once knew him as a mere cricketer.

As we disperse, it is generally agreed by Herrick that we will have our next reunion on Art Deco Weekend in Napier in 2010.

**Why don't you join us?**



*I to r... Warren Herrick, Lloyd Williams, John Taylor, John Ansell, Peter Simm, Peter Christie, Hugh Drake, Steve Taylor (year behind us), Richard Norriss, Richard Daniell, Dave Moss, Michael Gibbs. In front Bruce Hamilton, Mike Croft et sax, MGH. Note: John T still fits his 1975 issue 5th-year Gold shorts.*

# 1982 First XV Reunion



## 1982—What a Year, What a Reunion!

June 2007 saw a group of very enthusiastic 1982 1st XV rugby players get together for one heck of a good time. Many had not seen each other over the 25 years, and some had remained strong friends throughout.



The weekend, organized by Tim Chiswell, Alix Cooper and ably assisted by Malcolm Holmes and others, commenced on Friday night with a get-together over a 'few' drinks and MANY stories in the Copthorne Solway Park bar.



Saturday was the first of the more formalized events, with lunch in the Rathkeale Dining Room—a fine spread was put on, with more smiles over the food than that they remembered from 25 years ago. After lunch the team, and many of the partners, children and parents went to watch the current 1st XV play a superb match against PNBHS—and to top it off the team performed an impassioned haka to the 1982ers at the conclusion.

*Saturday at the rugby and after match function*

After a walk down memory lane touring the school, and as more of the team arrived, drinks were provided courtesy of the ROBA. Bruce and Fredrica Hamilton also attended, and possibly the most amazing observation was Bruce's uncanny ability to recognize these lads at a glance so many years on.



The evening was a splendid night at The Countryman restaurant, where all team members regaled stories of the past—not to be outdone was Peter Smith's son (currently a year 11 Rathkeale student) who also spoke, telling all how he was already looking forward to a reunion of the like with his sporting buddies 25 years down the track.



*Saturday night dinner at the Countryman*

The weekend was wrapped up with a Chapel service at St Martin's on the Close. Many weary heads managed to make their way to the service at 10am. A lasting memory will no doubt be Rev Sande Ramage telling the congregation that 1982 was not only a great year for the Rathkeale 1st XV, but also because it was the year that changed rugby as we currently know it—ah yes, it was the year that a certain Mrs Carter gave birth to baby Dan!



*Sunday chapel*

The team, their partners, children and parents had a mighty fine time, and work is already going into the next reunion, which will no doubt be another wonderful weekend.

## Academic Success for the Rathkeale/St Matthew's Senior College continues...

The Senior College did exceptionally well yet again in 2007 with 9 scholarships being awarded; 5 were to St Matthew's girls and 4 to Rathkeale boys.



Lucie Greenwood (above) had outstanding results gaining 24/24 in the Visual Arts Scholarship examination. Currently Lucie is enrolled in Otago University studying for a double degree in Law and Geology. Lucie expects to become a geologist but is reserving her position to go to an overseas Art School, perhaps in New York, once her studies are behind her. She is also doing some private art commission work where she can fit this in, and has joined the tramping club at Otago.

A painting from Lucie's scholarship folio is pictured below.



## A Night with David McPhail

Over 100 guests packed the Martinborough Wine Centre at the annual Rathkeale Old Boys' function late last year.

The meal was superb, the reminiscing and laughter aplenty, and Grant Harper excelled himself as a superb Master of Ceremonies for the evening.

David McPhail certainly did not disappoint with a trip back in time to his McPhail and Gadsby days, and his renowned Muldoon impersonations topped it all off much to the guests delight.

Due to the overwhelming success of the evening and venue, this year's function will also be held at the Martinborough Wine Centre. Details TBA.



*David McPhail*



*David McPhail with Neville Duckmanton*



*Grant as Master of Ceremonies*



*Andy Pottinger, Craig Cooper, Brent & Heather Thompson, David McPhail, Neville and Antoinette Duckmanton, Alix Cooper.*



*Jamie Clinton-Baker's table*

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# ODYSSEY 2007



The Odyssey Challenge was a full-on assault on the Eastern Wairarapa wilds. Eighteen students split into 3 teams (Pink, Yellow and Blue) started at 2pm on Saturday December 8th at Rathkeale with a tubing trip down the Ruamahunga River to the Te Ore Ore bridge. Leaving their wetsuits on, the teams ran into Masterton and completed a shopping challenge at New World to buy all their food for the week. Then a quick change into cycling gear and on to the bikes to head to the first campsite at Kiriwhakapapa. The first day lasted till 11pm for two of the three teams who had a slow, dark ride over the Mikimiki trail.

Day Two dawned with the news of a tramp ahead to Cow Creek Hut via Blue Range. The teams were in great spirits on arrival at Cow Creek after 6 hours thinking their work for the day was done. The spirits did not remain high once the news that they would be heading back out the way they came in sank in! A long day of in excess of eleven hours tramping meant a lot of very tired and grumpy students at the end of the day. Staff thought it prudent not to tell them that they thought it would only take them eight hours and that two other activities had been planned for the day!!



Day Three started as a catch-up. A bike to Mr Peter Mudge's property near Mt Bruce was followed by a GPS navigation activity Peter set up to get the teams to Mauriceville West. Here the teams regained their bikes and set out to the Clarke Domain at Mauriceville. The teams then biked through Alfredton to Makuri via Pori Road, a very nice, steep gravel road and probably the longest bike ride many of the students had ever attempted being over 60km.

By now the teams were beginning to bond and learning how to draft on their bikes and were picking up a lot of speed. After setting up camp and cooking dinner



an early night was expected. Time for another surprise when they were taken to a cave near Makuri and abseiled into a wet dark hole. The last team arrived back at camp after 11:30pm—cold, wet and slightly miserable....

Day Four started with a very scenic ride from Makuri to Pongaroa. All the students arrived at Pongaroa buzzing from the great downhill and the ice creams that had awaited them. After a picnic lunch on the lawn of the pub, it was back onto the bikes to carry on Highway 52 to Waione. Turning towards Akitio for another 15km and then ditching the bikes for a 4km walk to a kayak put-in on the Akitio River. A kayak down the river was followed by a trek to the camping ground at Akitio beach. For the final team this involved a rather extreme river crossing as the tide was coming in fast. A kitchen to cook in and a 2 minute shower each were really well received and quiz night tested the mental skills of all teams.

Day Five began on the bikes again to Owahanga River followed by another kayak to Owahanga Station. Here the teams were kindly given permission to cross the station via a scenic trek to Mataikona. Team Yellow chose a more circuitous route which took a little longer and a little extra navigation with a lot more gorse but still arrived at camp smiling. The afternoon was spent cruising with a little down time at the river mouth followed by fishing, kite making and alphabet challenges.

Day Six was an exciting day—a 12 hour adventure race. Each team was given a stack of maps with checkpoints and transitions listed and a start and finish point labelled. Teams had to make their way to each checkpoint, complete activities on the way and it was a race against the others to reach the finish point in less than 12 hours.

First was a trek from Mataikona to Andy and Tinks Pottinger's farm, Anerley, out of Tinui. Here was a treasure hunt activity followed by a bike ride to Tinui School. At the tennis courts at Tinui was a series of ball skill activities including lawn bowls. Back onto the bikes to Whareama where a clay bird shoot was held. A trek to the Whareama River followed where teams had to make rafts from kayaks and raft to the mouth of the Whareama River. A final 8km run to camp at Orui Station near Riversdale to cross the finish line.

The first team took 11hrs 57mins and the final team came in after 12hrs 31mins. A long arduous day but one that the students really rose to and felt a huge sense of achievement at the finish. However, the day wasn't quite over as it was Solo night. The students were put out with a tarp, sleeping bag, an unlabelled can of food and as many clothes as they could wear. Again all the students rose to the challenge and built amazing shelters and most said they spent a semi-comfortable night.

Final Day dawned early and each team was allocated a minivan and a driver along with a jigsaw of maps. Three tasks faced each team—a bridge swing, abseil and a "shirt on sheep" challenge. They were then driven to Henley Lake for a kayaking competition followed by a tug-o-war. The final activity entailed a team race back to school holding a large pole.

Eighteen very tired yet exhilarated students ran over the finish line to a crowd of proud parents to have a well earned BBQ and prize giving.

The staff involved again donated a week of their holidays as well as a lot of time during the year sourcing camp sites, organising, walking and riding the route and planning for all eventualities in minute detail! The staff team was led by Ms Liz Evans and Mr Marco de Groot ably assisted by Ms Angela Hallgarth. Three tutors, Ed Taylor, Aled Jones and Chris Maxwell joined the crew for the trip and were great fun and fully involved with the teams. Other staff that assisted included Mr Peter Mudge, Mr Jamie Clinton-Baker, Mrs Joyce Kirkham, Mr Cliff Bouton and Ms Maria McKenzie. Many thanks also must go to Wairarapa Outdoor Pursuits for their technical help, staff and gear.

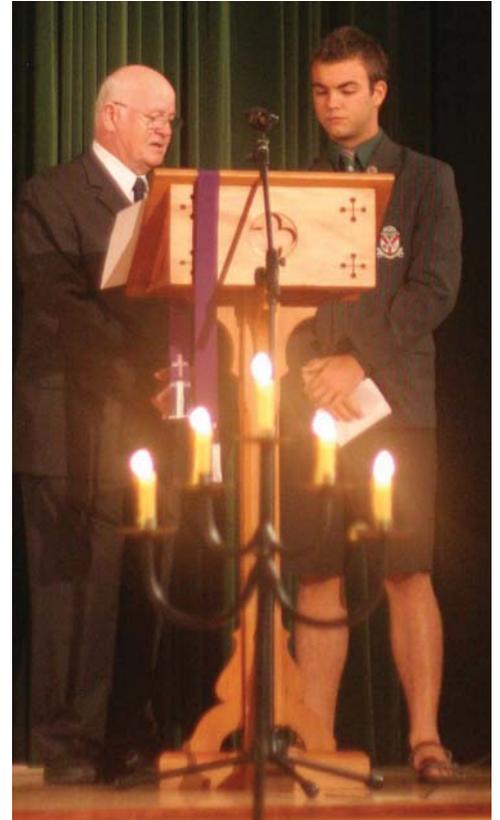
#### Ms Liz Evans



# PHOTOGRAPHS



*The commissioning of Principal William Kersten with Bishop Tom Brown.*



*Chaplain Ray Coats & Chapel Prefect, Thomas Brook, at the commissioning service.*



*Cr. Edwin Perry, adjudicator of the House Haka competition.*



*Jeff Meredith at Athletics Day.*



*Warming up before the big game.*



*The school production, Masquerade.*



*Outdoor Pursuits.*



*Rev Sande Ramage's farewell.*



*The Senior School Dance.*



*School prefects at their induction service, with Bishop Tom Brown.*

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