# Rock Runner

The magazine of the Rathkeale College community • Volume 14 • June 2009





### **Editorial**

It has been a glorious Easter in the Wairarapa and the College is looking wonderful. Autumn colours, clear skies, crisp mornings, mellow evenings and the river flowing between golden banks are somewhat reminiscent of a Keats Ode.

It is little wonder that so many members of the College community regard the campus with affection.

Memories of time spent at the river flow freely when Old Boys return to their old School. Rock running, swimming, kayaking, stone fights, hut building, fishing and much more are all part of the fabric of life here and are fondly remembered.

They remind us that Rathkeale is a great place for boys to be boys.

I suggest it is also a great place for boys to be educated!

This volume of the Rock Runner has been a pleasure to compile. Throughout the College community, good things are happening. Hopefully a glimpse of this will be gleaned from these pages.

The College is forging forward with renewed confidence at all levels: at Board level, within the Old Boys' Executive, amongst the Friends and importantly with the staff and student body.

Good traditions are being maintained but do not prevent visionary planning. When the new boys climb to the top of Rangitumau in a few weeks they will not only be re-kindling an

old school institution but they will be utilising recently acquired Peer Support principles. The new Rock and Water Programme will further enhance these over the months ahead.

When they bed down in the newly refurbished Rugby House it will be in conditions far removed from those offered by School House to their predecessors.

However, at heart, Rathkeale remains constant. Those who have returned for reunions this year have been happy to find that all is well and that the river flows over the rocks just as it always has.

#### M G Harper



College staff with more than ten years service

# **Important Dates 2009**

(Home)

13 May	Rathkeale Open Day	25 September	House Music
2 June	Christ's College Fixture (Home)	10 November	Scots Junior Exchange (Away)
3 June	Trinity Service 1.30pm, Rathkeale	II November	Senior College Prizegiving (TBC)
26 June - I July	Les Miserables production, Rathkeale	4 December	Carol Service (Rathkeale)
28 July	Ist XV v St George's (Home)	5 December	Rathkeale Prizegiving
30 July	Lindisfarne Exchange (Away)	7 December	Trinity Leavers' Ball
19 August	Wanganui Collegiate School Fixture		

# Views from the Top

### From the Board of Trustees



BOT Chairman hands over the latest set of keys to Principal, W Kersten

Greetings to all Rathkeale Old boys from the Board of Trustees.

The last 12 months have seen the Board of Trustees move ahead on a number of key projects in the redevelopment programme of Rathkeale College.

Early last year, all the central buildings of the school were painted, with an agreed colour scheme which is now Rathkeale's image for the future. The ongoing maintenance of these buildings is now on a 7-year programme with funding and maintenance now locked into the long term plan.

The acoustics in the Auditorium which have been a problem since the original build have been researched, and after considerable investment, have been improved significantly. This superb facility can now be used to its full potential for all things dramatic and musical as well as for other presentations by the school. We trust that the Trust House Theatre may

once again be used by outside groups for the benefit of the community as originally intended.

Over the summer vacation, just under half a million dollars was spent on upgrading and refurbishing fifteen of the central classrooms. These are now teaching spaces which we can be proud to have as the centre of the academic heart of Rathkeale College.

Also over the Christmas break, Rugby House was upgraded, and re-opened in February as the home for all Year 9 boarders, of which there are 38! This, along with 40 Year 9 day boys, is a 45% increase in the Year 9 intake over recent years. Well done to our Principal, Willy Kersten, for this great achievement!

We have engaged Accent Architects to produce a long term development plan for Rathkeale College. This will involve fully mapping all the current facilities on the Campus. They will then work with the Board and Senior Management to plan what future refurbishment and capital development will occur at Rathkeale and when it will be undertaken. The first priority already identified is the upgrading of the two main boarding houses, Repton and Cranleigh. We are committed to this upgrade being started in the fourth term of 2009! Watch this space!

We will continue to keep the whole school community informed as these plans and projects are finalised.

I would like to thank the Old Boys for their continued support of Rathkeale College and we are encouraged to see the increasing number of Old Boys' sons enrolling at Rathkeale.

On behalf of the Board of Trustees

Andy Pottinger BOT Chairman



# Views from the Top ...

## **Greetings Old Boys**

For the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association (ROBA) it has been a challenging twelve months as we have worked through some fundamental changes of philosophy on how we operate. Many of you will recall ROBA has been primarily involved in the upgrading of, or working on, specific building projects as a means of assisting the College as it has developed.

In the early days this was a primary part of what we could do to assist the School and last year the Old Boys' Cricket Pavilion was opened. This took considerable work and excessive funding. When completed, with the assistance of the College and the Friends, it highlighted the fact that ROBA needed to take a different development path as it moves forward. However, when there's a special development project where ROBA can exert an influence or assist with fundraising, we will look to play a part.

In essence this new path entails taking a more defined approach to being an organisation that brings Old Boys together and keeps them informed of changes and progress within the College/ Old Boy community. ROBA as an organisation has members throughout the world but the reality is that apart from the Rock Runner we have had no mechanism by which we can keep in touch with each other. This has had limited success as people shift and contact details are lost.

A few years back ROBA commissioned Chris Cane to help us build a working database and this has proved to be a huge job. The next stage of this process is to establish a ROBA website which allows you to have active involvement, finding out what's going on and keeping your details up to date.

The website is seen as the natural development point but, like many things, needs funding. We would like to think that we will be able to have the site functional within the next twelve months.

A critical component, as we move forward, is to keep Old Boys informed of upcoming school and ROBA activities i.e.sporting or cultural events such as "Les Miserables" this year at the College. We would like to think such activities help build the social network that will be our strength as we move forward. It does, however, require Old Boy involvement to make these a success. It is now very important that we have everyone's email address for more effective and timely communication.

It is also our aim to establish a ROBA Charitable Trust which will be offering scholarships specifically to sons of Old Boys. This is seen by the Committee as a further step in the change of path for ROBA. Our objective is to establish an organisation which has meaning to students past and present alike. In part this will be funded through ROBA but we will be seeking funding from Old Boys to ensure we can build the Trust to critical mass as soon as possible. Donations, gifts and bequests would be gratefully accepted to help us develop this key means of supporting the next generation of Rathkeale pupils and Old

ROBA has a strong and meaningful history. We welcome input, and some support, from any Old Boys as we grow the organisation. We have a strong and steady committee but frankly some young blood is needed to help take us forward. Don't hesitate to contact any of the committee if you wish to be involved further.

ROBA is very grateful for the support provided by the Principal, Willy Kersten, and the BOT Chairman, Andy Pottinger, who have both participated in our meetings and who are a key part of the development as we move forward.

Finally, please remember to keep in contact with us and advise of any change of physical or email addresses. I know from many of you that you enjoy the Rock Runner and hearing about the school so you need to keep in touch with us. Our email address is roba@rathkeale.schoo.nz

Brent Thompson ROBA President

John Booth Vice President

Paul Hocking Secretary / Treasurer

Jonathan Hooker Blair Ewington

Grant Harper



# Views from the Top ...

## From the Principal

Since introducing myself to the Old Boys in the last edition of the Rathkeale Rock Runner, I have found myself totally immersed in the life of the school. As one would expect, there has been a great deal of change and I am pleased by the manner this has been accepted by students, parents and the wider community. If the enrolment numbers are an indication of the support for the school then we can have some confidence that we are realigning with magnetic north.

There are a number of factors that provide the measure of success in a school. At last year's Rathkeale College Prizegiving I spoke about what I see to be four critical factors: Student Achievement, Effective Teaching, Expectations and Sense of Unity.

In 2008, we saw encouraging trends in the percentage of students gaining NCEA qualifications, University Entrance and NZQA Scholarships and we exceed the "norms" by most measures of comparison against boys in other schools at all decile levels. Our students are also fully involved in sport and cultural activities and individuals and teams have performed well at regional and national level. Academically, and in wider school life, students are ably supported by a well qualified and committed staff.

It would be fair to say that a very positive feeling exists in the school. The personal standards, values and self discipline of a "critical mass" of young men not only generates a strong school spirit and a sense of pride, but this exposure is a strong, and arguably the strongest, marketing tool for the school.

The board is continuing to work on developing strategic goals for the school in line with its vision. We expect Rathkeale College will be a school of first choice for those seeking an education where individual needs are fully met and one's potential maximised. In order to met these needs we will continue to integrate day and boarding students and to enhance

the Rathkeale St Matthew's Senior College within the spiritual dimension of the school.

The grounds and special features of the Rathkeale College campus make this environment a wonderful place to live and learn in. In the last twelve months considerable work has been done to upgrade the buildings. The Trust House Theatre acoustics have been improved considerably and fifteen classrooms have been completely refurbished to provide much more attractive and functional teaching spaces. Part of Rugby House has been upgraded and architectural plans have been drawn up for a substantial refurbishment of Cranleigh (Junior) and Repton (Senior) Houses. We expect a start to a two or three year programme to commence later in 2009.

Similarly, plans have been drawn up for a kitchen and dining hall upgrade with the hope that this may occur, in some part at least, before 2010. These intentions are consistent with a property development plan to both modernise the school and to cater for its future curriculum needs. The current economic times will provide some challenges in achieving these goals. However, we remain positive and aware that they can be attained with a full school roll and strong support from our school community. The school will celebrate its 50th Jubilee in 2014 and it is my hope that a significant project will culminate with that occasion.

I have enjoyed meeting many Old Boys of the school and listening to the life and times which they have enjoyed. As we look towards the future, we do consider some features of former school life that have a significant place in today's school and we look forward to the return of some of these. All Year 9 boarders now reside together in Rugby House and the names of the other two houses, formerly Junior and Senior, have returned to their "birth" names. It is great to see the signage now identifying Cranleigh and Repton outside these two houses.



This necessitated the need to rename the school competition houses; a process that was difficult, but able to be resolved by establishing a firm rationale for deciding on names. It was decided that houses should be named after iconic New Zealand men. Consequently, Cranleigh was replaced by Blake, Repton by Hillary and Rugby by Halberg. These names, which we can all associate with Good Rathkeale Men, have been met with overwhelming approval from the boys.

Finally, I wish to thank our Old Boys for their support. This has taken many forms: promoting your former school to family and friends, actively supporting us along with other parents in our parent community or by being on or supporting the Old Boys' committee. We look forward to Brent Thompson's leadership and I encourage any Old Boy to support the ROBA in their endeavours to maintain that valuable association between the school and the Old Boys. In particular, I thank Grant Harper for accepting the editorial role he has undertaken in producing this fine publication. His extensive knowledge of Rathkeale's people and history places him in a strong position to keep us informed of the past and the present.

William Kersten

# Inside the Gates

# College News: A New Vision for an Ageing Campus

When most people are asked to physically describe Rathkeale College, the response is generally an enthusiastic comment on the College's park like grounds. Thereafter, the enthusiasm tapers off once the building stock is considered.

An ad-hoc approach to building programs over the College's history has failed to produce a campus that is either cohesive or an aesthetic match to the grandeur of the Rathkeale site in which the buildings are sited.

Following the arrival of new Principal, William Kersten, the management and boards of both Rathkeale College and Trinity Schools' Board believed that the time had come to take a more strategic approach to Rathkeale's future development.

Following a selection process, Accent Architects were engaged to bring 'fresh eyes' to the table and to create a blueprint for a Rathkeale College that reflects 21st Century education design principles.

Accent Architects are a mid-sized regional practice with a long history in education design, most notably being Accent director Gina Jones's two decade long involvement at Wellington's Queen Margaret College. Accent Architects have an office in Greytown and are well known in the Wairarapa through involvement in many educational, residential, and commercial projects throughout the region.

Following international trends in education design is something Accent invests heavily in with attendance at international events such as Conference of Education Planners International (CEFPI). "Design is a tool to create a learning environment that stimulates and facilitates higher learning outcomes,"

commented Accent director Malcolm Fleming. "Rathkeale's history and site set a wonderful platform to create a truly outstanding educational campus that graduates fully alive young men and women"

Over the 2008/2009 summer Accent Architects personnel have been regular visitors to Rathkeale as each of College's buildings has been measured and plotted onto the site. As Accent had with Hadlow seven years earlier, and have done with Queen Margaret College, the practice wanted to take the time to understand the site, and think holistically about the campus in its entirety rather than focus on individual projects in isolation.

Accent Architects believes that the original School House building needs to become a greater presence than what it is currently. "The old School House building is currently peripheral," says Gina Jones. "The building represents the site's history and speaks of tradition. It therefore needs to be less overt, and bought to the forefront. Vehicular and pedestrian carriageways also need to be revised so that site is free flowing and that the campus opens up in a processional and logical manner".

Between 2009 and Rathkeale's 50th Jubilee in 2014, there is a string of exciting redevelopment and new build projects, with a number already in concept design stage. So what can we expect? According to Gina Jones, Rathkeale can expect to become "a cohesive educational campus that reads well with the site. There will be new buildings that blend inspiring design with functionality while older buildings will be reinvigorated so that the sum total achieves a true 21st century educational facility".



Queen Margaret College Tower Block exterior



Accent Director Gina Jones



Hadlow School Classrooms

St. Mark's School Proposal



# The James Meikle Shrewsbury Scholarship





Déan van Deventer from Rathkeale College is the successful candidate for the 2009 James Meikle Shrewsbury Scholarship and arrived at Shrewsbury School, England, early in January.

Déan's impressive all-round academic achievements at school, including music and choir, his leadership roles as Prefect, Head of Sport and Captain of the 1st XI will, we are certain, ensure his success at Shrewsbury. In Déan's own words... "It is such a wonderful opportunity and I'm honoured to be a part of the tradition. My aim is to be a good ambassador for Rathkeale and for the James Meikle Trust."

Déan has played representative cricket since the age of 13 and has played for Under 15 and Under 17 Central Districts Teams as well as the Wairarapa Senior Men's Team. He will be involved with coaching at Shrewsbury and is hoping to play for a local team if his school commitments permit. With his talent in music he is sure to be of value to his House in their music competition.

Shrewsbury School has agreed to accept another Scholarship Student for 2010 and at present the Trust is engaged in selection of a student from Christ's College.

Matt Brown, the first Rathkeale James Meikle Scholar in 2007, has completed his first year at Victoria University studying commercial law. He is very appreciative of the experience gained in his year as a Gap Tutor at Shrewsbury.

The Trustees are grateful for the continued interest and support of the James Meikle Shrewsbury Scholarship. The funds continue to be invested through ABN Amro Craigs under the guidance of Belinda Stanley.







Some recent photos of Déan's early days at Shrewsbury – and of the School under snow shortly after his arrival.

# What's in a House Name?

School, Cranleigh, Repton, Rugby, Innisfree and Winchester.

Senior and Junior.

Churchill, Shackleton, Hillary and Scott.

Over the years names have been bestowed on residential buildings and competition clubs/houses. At times, and always with good intent, names have been changed or re-applied.

As a consequence a name such as Cranleigh or Repton means different things to different generations. This results in confusion and even indignation!

In 2008 it was decided to rationalise the House names and after significant consultation, which included Old Boys, it was resolved that Senior House and Junior House would revert to their "birth names" of Cranleigh and Repton.

To fill the void created by this change, new competition House names were necessary. The surnames of three talented New Zealand men who have used their talents to the advantage of humanity now form the basis of the House Competition:

Blake (blue) Halberg (red) Hillary (yellow)



# **International Connections**

# "My School - A Pathway to the World"

#### **International Students**

Rathkeale College is currently home to 16 students who are not NZ citizens and whose parents are currently living overseas. These boys come from Thailand, Korea, Japan, Malaysia and Hong Kong. All but one of the students is a full time boarder and every effort is made to ensure that the boys are assimilated into life here as quickly as possible by keeping similar aged students of the same nationality in different boarding houses wherever possible.

Although many of these boys come to us with very little English they are

immediately put into normal classes. They do however receive some superb support from our wonderful ESOL department led by Mrs Liz Cheetham. Rather than attend normal English classes they get specialised English and the results are always very impressive.

There are also a number of girls attending the Senior College at Rathkeale. Highlights of the year are social activities when the boys and the girls get together like the BBQ photo below. The Staff v International football game is also a much anticipated event.

International students spend time with homestay families during holidays and exeats and we are always looking for people who would like to be hosts and show these students some of what it is like to live like a Kiwi.

Students come to us for a variety of reasons: some to experience a different culture while others have a view to the future and believe that an English education will create opportunities for further education at English language universities abroad or in their own countries. Having a second language and understanding another culture is very important as our world continues to shrink. It is this opportunity for our boys to meet and enjoy learning about other countries which is so valuable to the local boys.



#### Glenn McIntosh

Director of International Studies.

#### Yachiyo Shoin Exchange 1989-2009

After Yachiyo Shoin's first visit to Rathkeale in 1989, Japanese Teacher MrT. Hitokoto expressed his hope that the ties between our two schools would continue and deepen. Now, twenty years on, there is an unsevered link between Rathkeale and her sister school in Chiba Prefecture, Tokyo, Japan. Annual visits and exchanges are now part of the annual calendar.

A combination of tears and laughter on departure epitomised the spirit and success of the three week visit by 35 students and two teachers from Yachiyo Shoin High School, Tokyo, to Rathkeale College in July 2008.

Being winter time, Wairarapa produced both the worst and the best of weather for our visitors. After leaving a scorching 30 °C Japan they arrived to a bitterly cold sub 10 °C New Zealand, but were greeted warmly and each presented with a welcome gift of a hot water bottle. Subsequently, the group experienced a

particularly stunning Wairarapa day at Castlepoint Beach, all climbing to the top of Castle Rock, mesmerised by the azure water, blue sky and sweeping, clear panorama. The students took conversation based English lessons each week day morning, and at other times, experienced a wide range of Kiwi activities including hearing about the significance of Maori history to our area, making flax putiputi, sheep shearing, horse riding, swinging along the Rathkeale flying fox, attempting to recreate Rita Angus' famous painting Cass, and a visit to Te Papa to view the original, to name but a few.

For the first two weeks the students resided in Rugby House and for the third week enjoyed the hospitality of local homestay families. When Term 3 resumed the Yachiyo Shoin students experienced a taste of New Zealand school life by attending afternoon classes with Rathkeale 'buddies'.

Seeing the Japanese students marvelling at a clear starry sky, night after night and their excitement at seeing a rainbow, made us all, refreshingly, appreciate the beauty of our environment.

For Mr Kaneko, one of the accompanying Yachiyo Shoin staff members, the 2008 visit to Rathkeale was his fourth. The exchange between our schools now spans two decades and the intercultural exchange and the warmth of the friendships developed over this time most evident. In 2009 we are delighted to welcome two students on exchange from Yachiyo Shoin, Megumi at St Matthew's and Taizo who has joined Year II at Rathkeale.

### Liz Cheetham

Teacher of International Students

# Towards the Stars

### 2008 Academic Results

Throughout 2008 consistent messages were given to the boys about achieving to one's potential. We have the NCEA qualification, and while a number of educationalists and parents have certain misgivings about the complexity of the system and the temptations towards academic mediocrity, we can be pleased with the 2008 Rathkeale/ Senior College results. The provisional statistics reveal a more than favourable comparison to the performance of boys in all categories of schools and with the overall national results (all students in all schools). In summary:

NCEA LI: 11% increase to 92.5% of Year 11 students compared with 62.5% nationally.

NCEA L2: 7% increase to 94.4% of Year 12 students compared to 65.4% nationally.

NCEA L3: 16% increase to 64.3% of Year 13 students compared to 53.1% nationally.

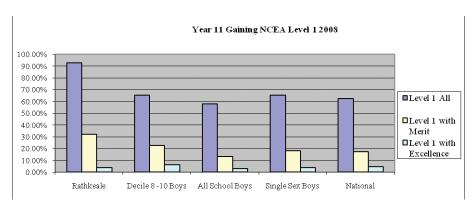
**UE:** 9% increase to 66.7% of all students compared to 49.6% nationally.

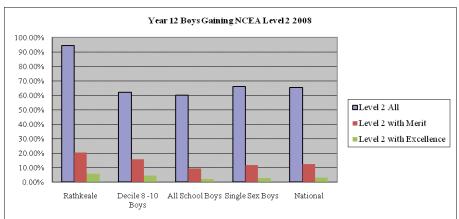
**Scholarship:** 5 Scholarships were achieved including one outstanding one.

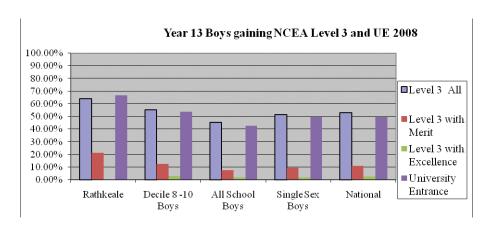
Both L1 Literacy & Numeracy increased by 6% (Numeracy 100% and Literacy 96%).

Significant increases occurred in the % of students gaining merit grades and endorsements.

The following graphs compare the performance of Rathkeale Year 11, 12 and 13 boys gaining NCEA Level 1, 2 and 3 in 2008 with other groupings of boys and the National Results which includes girls.







#### Scholarship 2008

Statistics: Harry Bateman, Mitchell Scaife Visual Arts: Taejong (Sam) Lee (Outstanding Scholarship) Geography: Ian Lacey Physical Education: Hamish Hammond



# Snapshots: Rathkeale



















# Snapshots: Senior College

















# Ex Cultu Robur

### The Maunsell Collection

Over the years visitors to Rathkeale have often focussed on the grandeur of School House and pondered how it would have been when it was home to Mr and Mrs H B Maunsell and their family of four children.

A glimpse of that life is offered by the Phoebe Maunsell Collection currently held at Te Papa. A bequest made by the late Mrs Maunsell in 1983 gave a number of paintings and other items which were once in the homestead to the people of the Wairarapa.

They were to be kept in Wellington until a suitable home could be found for them in the Wairarapa. In their midst are a number of paintings by D K Richmond (1926) and S Lamorna Birch (1937) which offer tangible links between the College and Rathkeale's more gentile past. They include pastoral scenes of Rangitumau, the Ruamahanga River and the Homestead and gardens.



D. K Richmond, *Rathkeale*, 1926 Watercolour, 244mm x 344mm



S.J. Lamorna Birch, Landscape, house and garden, Rathkeale, 1937 Watercolour,  $242 \text{mm} \times 342 \text{mm}$ 

## **Another Principal on the Wall**

When Dennis and Mary Griffin commissioned Simon Payton to paint founding Headmaster, E J Norman, they began what has become an important feature of the College. Each of the College's last six Headmasters/Principals look sternly down from the auditorium walls and remind us all of the passage of time.

Current Rathkeale Head of Art, Evan Jones recently presented the College with his fine portrait of former Principal Neville Duckmanton and shares his thoughts:-



Traditions in our young school are, to a certain degree, still being established. I eagerly accepted the opportunity to contribute to the tradition of the Art Master painting the retiring Principal. Simon Payton, Art Master at Rathkeale from 1979-1990, and who retired from teaching to pursue a career as a fulltime artist, began this tradition with the portraits of Mr Norman, Mr Taylor and Mr Nethercote.

When studying for my Master's degree one of my supervisors said that an artist should never tell anyone how hard or difficult it had been to produce their work – but to simply say it had been easy. Well, I can assure all that this wasn't the case with Neville! It was a challenge – this portrait is in fact the second attempt. However, there's something to be said about struggle and frustration when achieving a goal which makes reaching it ultimately more satisfying.

My children were so used to living with the canvas of Neville on my easel that when I finally finished it and removed it from our home they affectionately exclaimed that "Neville has gone!".

Neville is a very well read man. He casually mentioned to me one day that he had just finished a book on post-modern painting. I hoped he wasn't going to quiz me and I quickly changed the subject! So the books behind Neville represent this part of him. They also act as a rhythmic compositional device connecting spaces using complementary colours. The other elements: the skull representing knowledge and mortality; the lamp symbolising hope and the globe linking to Geography, Neville's teaching subject, all contribute to the whole. As compositional devices these three objects act as satellites to the head adding a sense of movement.

# At the Forefront

# An Outstanding Scholarship awarded to Taejong Lee



When Taejong (Sam) Lee left Rathkeale at the end of 2008 his sights were set on pursuing a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree at the Elam School of Art, Auckland University. People had already appreciated his growing aptitude in Fine Arts whilst at Rathkeale and the Senior College where he was awarded the Art Prize in Year 13.

The result of NCEA Level 3 were to take Sam into a whole new realm of achievement.

Sam's Level 3 NCEA painting folio received an Outstanding Scholarship in 2008, and has been chosen by NZQA for their travelling 'Top Art' exhibition. This is the third consecutive year that NZQA has chosen a Level 3 painting folio from our Senior College. The criteria for selection is that the folio has to have been awarded an Excellence grade. Only ten folios are chosen from the painting field from the three thousand candidates entered in the externally assessed achievement standard in 2008. Two separate 'Top Art' exhibitions travel the length of the country from Whangarei to Invercargill.

Such recognition is wonderful news for Sam, the Art Department and the College in general.

Evan Jones HOD Art



## **Fearnleaf Cairo**

Old Boy Alex Hedley records World War II history two generations on.



The launch of Fernleaf Cairo at Hedley's Bookshop, Masterton, in early April was a proud day for all concerned. It signified one hundred years of the Hedley Family's involvement with book selling in the town and came close on the heels of the book shop's fiftieth anniversary.

Alex (1997-2001), son of David (1966-1970) and Jenny, attended Rathkeale before completing an Honours degree in History and Media Studies at Victoria University, Wellington. More recently, whilst residing in London, Alex pursued film making ventures in the Middle East and North Africa whilst at the same time continuing his involvement with the history of World War II.

Whilst, like many New Zealand families, Alex possesses a connection with Maadi Camp through his Grandfather's World War II sojourn there, Fernleaf Cairo owes much to Alex's visit to Egypt in 2007 and to the influence of a Robin Kay watercolour of Maadi Camp which hung in the NZ Ambassador's office. A quest for information began and the book is its product.

In a successful attempt to record the history of "one of the largest urban centres built and lived in by New Zealanders anywhere in the world", Alex has also provided the families of thousands of New Zealand servicemen and women with an opportunity to understand something of the camp which became the home away from home for service personnel between 1939 and 1946.

This is no dry military history. Instead, Maadi Camp comes alive through personal memories and anecdotes, photographs and paintings.

At the well attended book launch, Fernleaf Cairo was heralded as a book which would help the "OE Generation" and the "Gallipoli Generation" understand the "Maadi Generation". In that, it is bound to succeed. It will also truly establish Alex as a published author of note.

M G Harper

# The Great Outdoors

## I will Lift Mine Eyes to the Hills

### **Adventure Racing 2008-2009**

A new sport has arrived at Rathkeale and is proving to be a popular and challenging one for boys who want something a bit different from the "traditional sports" of cricket or tennis. Offered for the first time in 2008 as a summer sport, it has attracted a core group of boys and girls in the Senior College who are competing in a variety of events from February to April.

Adventure racing is a sport that requires a high level of personal fitness and skill in a variety of disciplines such as mountain running, rogaine and orienteering, mountain biking and kayaking. Often over the course of a race, special activities are held for time bonuses and they are as diverse as claybird shooting, archery, lawn bowls, golf and 4WD driving. The courses are traditionally kept secret until either half an hour before the start or the night before. This creates a need for good map reading skills and the ability to plan and think quickly about race and route strategies.

An adventure race is usually held over 6, 12 or 24 hours with the times being the average time that a team of 2 or 4 will finish the course. A course can be 25-60km in length and covers a variety of terrain, often in isolated areas. Some teams are quicker, some much slower. The fact that you must compete as a team creates a social environment and emphasises the need for good communication and team training. Teams that look after each other and race smart, often beat more physically able teams who self destruct!

The races that have been attended by Rathkeale teams in the past two years include the Snow Wilkins 6 hour race in Hastings, the Wairarapa Mountain Duathlon, Oxfam Trail Walker 2009, Triple Peaks Challenge, Wellington City Safari, local Orienteering events

and the NZSS Championship 12 hour race called GO-4-12. Junior teams (Y9 & 10) have competed in Get2Go events held in Wellington and in 2007, competed in the National Finals held on Great Barrier Island.

Training for these endurance events is a time consuming exercise. Tuesday and Thursday after school training events have included mountain runs, orienteering, bike rides and short multisport events including the Wairarapa Multisport Biathlon held each Thursday night. Most students back up this training with their own running and biking schedule and have used the school kayaks and planned their own trips in weekends. Introduction to Adventure Racing at school will hopefully lead to a passion for multi-sports and a continuation of their involvement after they leave.

In 2009, the elite boys team of James Price, Daniel Cobeldick, Mark Harte and Hamish Paris (AR4L) competed in the Triple Peaks Challenge, Oxfam Trail Walker – aiming to raise \$2500 for the charity Oxfam, and the Snow Wilkins 6 hour race. These boys have competed in 2008 as Y12s and are now really stepping up into pushing themselves hard to win or at least place in every competition they enter. Hans Mills (Y11) has really impressed with his improvement in skills and speed over the season and fully deserves his position in the elite boys team contesting the NZSSC 12 hour race on April 18th starting at 5am at Lake Tutira, near Napier. James, Daniel and Hamish have been really keen and enthusiastic team mates, leading by example and being fantastic role models.

The Senior girls have come into Adventure racing from their experiences in Odyssey and have also





competed with distinction, notably Ella Buckley, Andrea Hirschberg, Georgia McConchie-Murray and Annelise Neal coming 1st in the Open Women's team in the Snow Wilkins 6 hour race, held in March.

This year's teams to compete in the Secondary School Championships are:

Boys: Hamish Paris (captain), James Price, Daniel Cobeldick and Hans Mills.

Girls: Ella Buckley (captain), Robyn Ryan, Andrea Hirschberg and Amanda Pottinger.

Liz Evans



### Sudaméricana 2008

#### **South American Jetboating**

Old Boy Hugh Neal (1970-72) was not content with his 2006 jet boating expedition to Nepal and late last year took to the white waters of South America. As Hugh reports:-

In November 19 Kiwis and Australians arrived in Puerto Aisen, Patagonia, Southern Chile, to pick up four jet boats and boat rivers in Southern Chile and Argentina. Most of the group including myself had two years previously been the first people to boat in Bhutan and had followed Hillary's boating trip of 1968 up the Sun Kosi River in Nepal.

The first major job was making tow bars for our hired 4WD vehicles. We headed south from Coihaique to Cochrane on the Baker River. This first day saw our first experience of the dirt roads and by the end of this experience we had broken three trailer springs, lost all the mudguards off our trailers and two petrol tanks.

A personal highlight was when we were waiting on one side of the Baker River when someone noticed an avalanche descending from the towering Andes on the other side of the river. The avalanche came crashing down within metres of the riverbank and was quite a sight!

Most days we saw very few people which was a major contrast to Nepal. The countryside in Chile was very heavily bushed rather like the West Coast of the South Island. In stark contrast, Argentina was a very arid desert.

One day we boated the Rio Rosselet which had a long section of white water and huge waves with big holes at the bottom of them. On this rapid we completely filled one boat with water and were very lucky not to sink it. High drama!

We moved on to Argentina and were suddenly in the desert with smaller rivers and lots of wildlife. On the last day we boated with wild brumby in the river which we felt was very special.

From the high peaks of Chile and Patagonia to the dry plains of Argentina we had completed a great adventure, punctuated by the almost never ending punishment on equipment and navigation of some of the most remote white water on Earth.

On the way back the group took a trip to Rio de Janeiro and spent a few days at the Copacobana Beach for a bit of R&R.

The group plans for next year are to boat across Mongolia and Siberia where we will leave the boats and come back the following year to boat Russian states and eventually Europe.









# Three Kings ... or should that be Four





Old Boys, Peter Whitcombe (1970-74) Bill Higgins (1973-74), Robert Barclay (1970-74) and Robert's son Simon spent four days fishing The Three Kings Islands and returned with tales of great fish that never got away and of Old Boy bonding.

Bill Higgins offers an insight:

This is a boat trip. It's all about the fish.

We boarded the "Enchanter" at Mangonui Harbour on Easter Friday and met the Skipper, Lance Goodhew, and his deckie, Phil. We stowed our gear and the Skipper set us about catching small yellow-eyed mullet. They would be used the next day for live baiting kingfish at the Kings. At about 11 pm I felt that we had enough bait, so I went off to bed.

I was surprised to find out the next morning that Robert and Peter had stayed up until the wee small hours catching up with each other, all the while catching bait.



#### Day One

We left Mangonui about 7 am with a dead flat sea and perfect weather conditions. Our destination was the Three Kings Islands that are some fifty miles north of North Cape. Somewhere off Mount Camel we had a strike but were unable to establish just what it was that hit the lure. A short time later we caught a small mahi-mahi. The rest of the trip was uneventful and we arrived at Northwest Bay, Three Kings Isles, in the early evening.

The night was a bit rocky, but as anybody who has spent time up there will know, there's not much shelter. It's the only anchorage you've got.



#### Day Two

After breakfast we began to target a small bait fish called blue koheru. Our Skipper referred to them as 'blue candy'. He promised us that, 'If we caught the candy, we would catch marlin.' With that inspiration we stuck at it even though it wasn't the easiest of tasks. Having satisfied our Skipper's

requirement, we headed off to fish the King Bank.

Once there, we used the mullet bait to target kingfish. By lunch time we had had our fill. We caught and released 15 or so fish. Peter caught a kingfish that Lance described as a "horse". We estimated its weight at 40 kgs. Simon had never caught fish this size before, and was ecstatic!

After lunch, we set the lures and headed for a spot where we would drift with live baits to target marlin. We hadn't been trolling for long when I spotted a marlin under a lure. And then it struck! Simon was nominated as first up and he got stuck into the fish playing it without harness! After a tiring fight and a great aerial display, we tagged the fish and celebrated Simon's first marlin catch.

We reached the Skippers' target spot and set "blue candy" on a trace under a balloon 50 metres from the boat. From 3 rods we also had running live baits. We continued to have an eventful time in perfect fishing conditions. I was "busted off" by a wahoo, caught a yellowfin tuna and pulled a hook on a marlin. Then a marlin took Peter's bait from under the balloon. We tagged and released Peter's marlin. Satisfied with our day we headed back to Northwest Bay.



We started the morning by catching blue koheru after which we headed out to target deep sea bass. The wind had come up overnight and was blowing 15 or so knots. As the day wore on, the wind steadily increased to about 25 knots. By lunchtime we had half a dozen bass (3 of which were over 40kg), a kingfish and a giant tarakihi. We kept all of these fish and they were put on ice along with the yellowfin tuna from the previous day.

After lunch, we were back into the marlin. Around mid-afternoon I hooked a very surprised and tough little stripey. It dragged me to the bow of the boat and back again. After about 15-20 minutes we tagged and released a fish of about 140 kg.



Our Skipper wanted to get back to North Cape that night. This left us with just a couple more hours for fishing and things had gone a bit quiet. There were four of us and there had been three marlin caught. Wishing for the impossible, I approached the Skipper and promised that if he would put Robert onto a marlin, I would "kiss his arse." That renewed the Skipper's enthusiasm. He moved us to another spot on the bank that is known as "The Magnet."

The last live bait went into the water and within thirty seconds it was nailed by a marlin. We had the fourth marlin and Robert's fish on the line. A moderate sea was now running and the fish proved to be stubborn, planing down the waves away from us. Robert finally got the fish to the boat. We got the tag in and then the hook pulled. Having accomplished the impossible, we headed back to Tom Bowling Bay, North Cape, and I had to do the kissing!

No sooner had we settled down into the bash back to North Cape when two lures took off. We boated a couple of mahi-mahi a little while later. We started off again with the gear set and

once more a lure was taken. This time it was a yellow fin tuna. Peter brought it to the boat. This was added to the rest of our catch which was sitting on ice until it could be smoked. We got underway for the fourth time and again a lure was grabbed. This time it was by a very large bull mahi-mahi. I can only describe it as the biggest fish of this species that I have ever seen in New Zealand waters, Simon got it to the boat and as we were debating whether or not to keep this fish, the hook pulled. By this time it was getting dark, so we kept the gear on board and resumed our slog back. We reached North Cape at about 1 a.m.

### Day Four

Next morning was a short trip back to Mangonui. A marlin struck one of our lures when we were somewhere off Mount Camel but this time it didn't stick. We tied up at the wharf midafternoon.

I want to thank our Skipper, Lance, who put us onto the fish and ,to his credit, was always two hundred percent sure that he would do just that. We ate like Kings and we were treated to the best four days of fishing



that I have ever experienced. It was unbelievable. It just kept getting better, and better and BETTER!

Thanks also to Peter Whitcombe for organising this Old Boys' get together and to Robert Barclay and his son Simon for traveling from Manila and Brisbane to be there.

Tight lines,

Bill Higgins

# Old Boys

#### **Another Generation**

Old Boys are increasingly evident in the life of the College. Derek Neal (1970-75) and Peter Christie (1971-75) are both members of the Trinity Schools' Trust Board whilst Andy Pottinger (1968-72) chairs the Rathkeale Board of Trustees. Richard Kemp (1983-85) and Bruce Wagg (1968-72) are also Rathkeale Trustees.

At the staff level, Grant Harper (1967-71) is Deputy Principal whilst Shay O'Gorman (1988-92) is Year 11 Dean and Blair Ewington (1984-1988) is Head of Department Graphics.

Increasing numbers of Old Boys sons enhance the school roll and remind us that we are rapidly approaching the 50th anniversary.



2009 Sons of Old Boys and Old Boy Staff Members



# Reunions

# The 1964 originals meet again in 2008 ...



School House Lawn "Originals" group: Front Row (L to R): C Gane, F Ball, R Ball, F Norman, B Hamilton, M Mabin, G Carlé, D Daniell, G Freeman. Second Row (L to R): S Snell, W Gerring, P McLennan, G Wheatley, C Orchiston, T Hosken, H Garland, R Masters, D Barton, J Spiers, R McIntyre. Back Row (L to R): | Mills, C Meredith, B Adams, H Akers, D Russell.



The Friday night Early Starters Front (L to R): D Barton, | Mills, | Spiers, T Hosken, G Freeman, S Tidswell. Rear (L to R): C Gane, B Adams, D Russell, C Meredith.



#### French Village group

(L to R): C Orchiston, R Pitchforth, S Snell, G Freeman, C Meredith, B Adams, R Masters, D Russell, H Akers, D Daniell, P McLennan, | Mills, F Ball, Susie Shaw (owner), R Ball, G Carlé, I Spiers, T Hosken, C Gane, S Tidswell, W Gerring, G Tankersley.

The Rathkeale foundation pupils, known as "The '64 Originals", held their latest Reunion on the weekend of 17-18-19 October 2008. This followed very successful earlier gatherings in 1996 and 2001.

The 2008 Reunion officially commenced on the Saturday morning, although ten of us turned up on the Friday evening to our weekend base at Rugby House, and enjoyed a convivial meal of fish'n'chips and much reminiscing, before retiring.

An early start on Saturday (risingbell clanging at 7am brought back harrowing 1964 memories for some!) and with a sunny day dawning we made our way over to breakfast, after which we arrived back at Rugby to find our numbers had swelled to 21 with the arrival of others ready for our daylong 'mystery' minibus trip.

This departed just after 9am, and after a stop for coffee and morningtea at the Farmers' Market at Solway, we headed southeast out to the impressive Stonehenge Aotearoa at Ponatahi, where we spent an interesting couple of hours being educated in history, astronomy, astrology, et al.

Then it was back across country about as far to the west of Carterton as it's possible to go by road, to "The French Village'' for lunch. This is a delightful and unique spot nestled 10km into the Tararua foothills, and we enjoyed a leisurely repast of French cuisine, wine,

and background music, all in bush-clad surroundings.

We were to have stopped on the way back to Rathkeale for some golf hits on the driving-range, but time was getting short so we elected to leave this until next time.

After some free time at school and then a change of clothes, we were all aboard the minibuses again at 6pm and heading for Martinborough to join the Old Boys' Association Dinner at The Village Cafe. There were 22 of us representing the Originals, and we enjoyed some spirited singing, a good meal, and some absorbing after-Dinner speeches.

The 7am rising-bell was again not particularly welcome on Sunday morning, but any sore heads were soon forgotten in favour of breakfast, a sunny day, and a 9am walkabout of the College led by Grant Harper, which took fifteen of us on a circuitous journey around many old haunts.

Our Chapel service at St Martin's On The Close was held at I I am and was well-attended (34 of us) with several more Originals and former staff coming specially for this and the lunch to follow. Other staff and Old Bbys joined us for Chapel too, filling the building to capacity. All Originals were touched by the moving nature of the service, especially with having scriptures read by Mrs Faye Norman and Blyth Adams (a first Prefect), and with some kneelers in use which were made by original parents.

After our AGM and group photos, we moved into the Archives Room at School House for the feature event this being the Originals' Sunday Roast, attended by thirty six. After Roll-Call (BGH) and then Grace (in Latin, from Graeme Wheatley) we sat down to a sumptuous meal, after which the several who'd missed the 2001 occasion were no doubt grateful to rediscover the thrill of being required to make an impromptu speech about themselves in front of the 'class'. These were entertaining, as were the

'life and times' which followed, from

the four former 1964-1966 staff members present. We also undertook a humorous 12-question "Do You Remember 1964?" factual quiz, the results of which were interesting! After coffee, and a rousing rendition of "Auld Lang Syne", we all said our farewells until we meet again in 2014 on the occasion of the College's 50th Jubilee.

Those who attended the weekend (all of it, or in part) were [\* with partner]:

(Originals): B Adams, H Akers, D Barton\*, G Carlé, D Daniell\*, G Freeman, C Gane, H Garland\*, B Gerring\*,T Hosken, B Masters, R McIntyre, P McLennan, C Meredith, I Mills, C Orchiston, D Russell\*, S Snell, J Spiers, G Tankersley, S Tidswell, G Wheatley\*, S Wheeler. Plus: R Pitchforth, Mrs F Norman & R Norman, Mr & Mrs B & F Hamilton, Mr & Mrs R & F Ball, Mr M Mabin & daughter Rachel.

Grateful thanks from C.Gane and the organising committee to all those who attended, including partners and those who provided transport for others, and to the various current College staff for their efforts, assistance and hospitality, and for the use of all facilities. It was great to see everyone; we all had a wonderful time and took away many treasured memories of our weekend.

More photos of the weekend can be

viewed online at www.the64originals. coolnz.net for general viewing, or www. spiritedrathkeale.org.nz for specific Chapel-related photos.

We urge all like-minded year-groups to do as we've done, and organise themselves a Reunion. It is a lot of fun to do, doesn't have to be overly expensive, and the experience is awesome. Support (in the way of class-lists, people's whereabouts etc) is available from the Old Boys' Association — it just takes a few enthusiastic people to get things going and make it happen. So, go for it — don't put it off until 'later'. Do it now, while people are still relatively fit and able!

# Twenty Years On: Roamie Reunion 18 & 19 April 2008

Having started College in 1984, a large group of students exited via the Rathkeale College gates as fast as they possibly could in early December 1988. They went out into the real world to carve futures for themselves and most were not to return for twenty years.

In October 2007 someone, somewhere, decided it would be a great idea to have a reunion. As with every year group, some had stayed at school for the full duration, some had left early and some had joined us part way through. In early September 2007 an organising committee of Catriona Williams, Kiri McDonald, Rachel Butterick, Mark McKenzie, Malcolm Wyeth and Blair Ewington was formed and it was decided to make the occasion as big as possible. All from our age group were invited and thanks to a collection of old school lists, the register in Bruce Hamilton's History of Rathkeale, word of mouth and the internet we managed to locate III boys and 70 girls from our year group.

The Friday night 'Warm-Up' at Aberdeen Steakhouse and Bar on Chapel Street in Masterton proved to be a great success. Trying to put names to faces after twenty plus years proved interesting and sticking name labels on everyone as they walked in gave people the chance to relax and catch up with old mates. Many stories were

swapped by the 110 attendees and a good night was had by all.

The classic Wairarapa southerly blew through just in time for the tours of both school sites. Large groups braved the elements and were suitably impressed at the facilities available to current students. The weather cleared briefly during the wander around the Rathkeale grounds and a visit to old haunts down at the river was thoroughly enjoyed by all. A beer or two on the rocks was perhaps a new experience for some!

The main event of the weekend was the Roamie Reunion Ball in the Masterton Town Hall where we had gathered twenty years earlier for our Leavers' Ball. Following drinks, a fantastic meal catered by Broughton and Moore, and speeches by both of the school Principals from our years, the evening developed into a memorable occasion. "Twisted", a band formed by one of our school mates, Brodie Noon, performed until the early hours of Sunday morning.

Everyone left with many re-kindled memories, some new acquaintances made and with vows to organise another reunion in five or ten years time.

Blair Ewington



Brodie Noon (left) and band "Twisted".



Mike Green & partner, Rebecca & Nigel Gaudin.



John Taylor, Moana Eruera, James Twist.



Matt Leckie, Mark Simpson, Simon Breakwell. Front: Sean Edmonds.

# **Obituaries**

# **Fondly Remembered**

#### Andrew Valentine Mason

When Andrew Mason died in January 2009, Rathkeale College lost one of its most prominent academics and this country one of its more accomplished literary figures.

Andrew was the child of a literate home in which books and reading were second nature to everyone. It was perhaps surprising therefore that he arrived at a rather raw and recently established Rathkeale College as a boarder in 1966.

Andrew was to remain at College for the next three years during which time he was awarded Music, Debating and Drama Colours. He was a School Prefect and capped his College career by being named Arts Dux in 1968. Bruce Hamilton was later to say of Andrew that "He taught me far more than I taught him!".

Later studies were rewarded with a Master's Degree with First Class Honours in English Language and Literature

Andrew was in the vanguard of Old Boys who have returned to teach at their old school when he joined the staff in 1973. For two years he taught English, French and Divinity. The later subject described by his sister, Julia Stuart, as "an interesting subject for a self described high Church atheist".

After this spell of teaching, Andrew's achievements were many and varied. They ranged from driving Wellington City buses to Hansard sub editing. In 1977 he was Sub Editor of *The Listener* magazine and then for ten years the magazine's bright and influential literary editor.

Editing for the Auckland University Press, and teaching English at the Polish University of Szczecin proceeded him becoming an editing consultant. In total he was to go on and edit over one hundred books, many of them amongst this country's most notable.

He was a judge and convenor of national book awards, a contributor to newspapers and magazines and the author of "Henry Cooper of Auckland Grammar School."

At the end of such a literary life it seems appropriate that his former English teacher, Bruce Hamilton have the last say: "Andrew had a great integrity and was his own man, just the sort of fellow a school like Rathkeale needed ... It may be a cliché but always worth repeating where it is apt:

"He was a man, take him for all in all, I shall not look upon his like again."

#### Warren G Herrick

Warren attended Rathkeale from 1971-1975 during which time he developed an abiding love of the College. In many ways it was a spiritual home for him and he became one of our most loyal Old Boys. Two year group reunions owed much to his organisational prowess.

A passion for the outdoors was to greatly enrich Warren's life. Tramping, mountain climbing, cycling and three spells working in the Antarctic were slotted in around his career as a Chemist. His book "A Year On Ice" readily offers up an insight to the man. An inscription in the College's copy states that "five years in the Rathkeale Tramping Club was the beginning of it all".

Warren died at Palliser Bay in May of this year. His funeral, held at Rathkeale and attended by a large number of Old Boys, paid tribute to a man who held firm to the motto "embrace the journey".



Warren Herrick on the ice.



#### Don Foster

After migrating from Ormskirk near Liverpool, Don Foster had worked in Murchison, on Waiheke Island and at St. Peter's, Cambridge, before being employed at Rathkeale.

A new boarding house in a new school called for a new Housemaster. Only thirteenth on the College's staff roll, Don arrived at Rathkeale with his wife Joan and daughter Caroline in 1967. Apart from his teaching duties, a significant task was to establish the incomplete Repton as the College's second major boarding house.

Gradually hot water cylinders, paint, towel racks and furniture completed the interior whilst paths, curbs, lawns and gardens emerged from the wilderness. A Housemaster in those days needed to be a man of diverse skills!

During his seven year tenure, Repton flourished and developed its unique character which flourishes to this day.

During his retirement Don has been living in Taranaki where he died recently.

#### Tse (Ern) Lim

The Honours Board for School Dux prominently displays Ern Lim's name as Dux for 2006.

This bears testimony to Ern's extraordinary academic prowess which took him to Otago University and to Engineering studies.

Back in the Wairarapa for summer holiday employment, Ern was tragically killed in a road accident in Kahutara in January 2009.

It was an accident which robbed his family of a much loved member and the College of one of its more promising young Old Boys.

### Mrs Jill Strang (Barton)

An Old Girl of St Matthew's and parent of three Trinity past pupils, Jill was Matron in Repton House for the four years prior to 1988.

She was at all times active, hard working, loyal, hospitable and vivacious.

It was with regret that the College acknowledged her passing in Wellington earlier this year.



Joan Foster, Peter Quinn, Don Foster (House Master), Marie Carroll, Bernie Greenlees, and Mrs Miller outside Repton House 1968.

#### Shirley Smith

When Shirley Smith left Rathkeale in 1980 it took Bruce Hamilton one and a half pages to sing her praises in the School magazine!

Between 1966 and 1980 Shirley had made a monumental contribution to the College. Moving from part time Dining Hall employee to Assistant Matron, then to School Secretary before becoming Headmaster's Secretary and School Registrar. Shirley was described as much more than the nerve centre and information centre of the School.

Her loyal service, exceptional discretion and warmth of personality endeared her to all, and especially to the Old Boys whose Association she served as Secretary for some years.

Representatives from all spheres of school life were present at Shirley's funeral last term where she was finally farewelled by School piper Kris Nielsen.

#### Colin Silver

Attentive Rathkeale students, and particularly rugby playing students, will recognise the name of Colin Silver as the name on the Junior Goal Kicking trophy.

When Bruce Hamilton spent a year at Rugby School, England, in 1987-88, he did so on exchange with Colin Silver who packed more into his year at Rathkeale than might reasonably have been expected. Colin shared his academic, cultural and sporting skills generously and we were sad to farewell him.

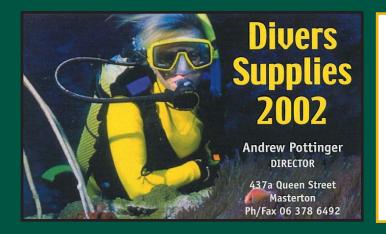
He died at his home in Rugby, England, late last year.













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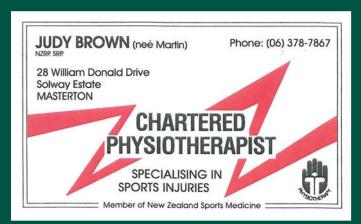
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Nil mortalibus ardui est

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