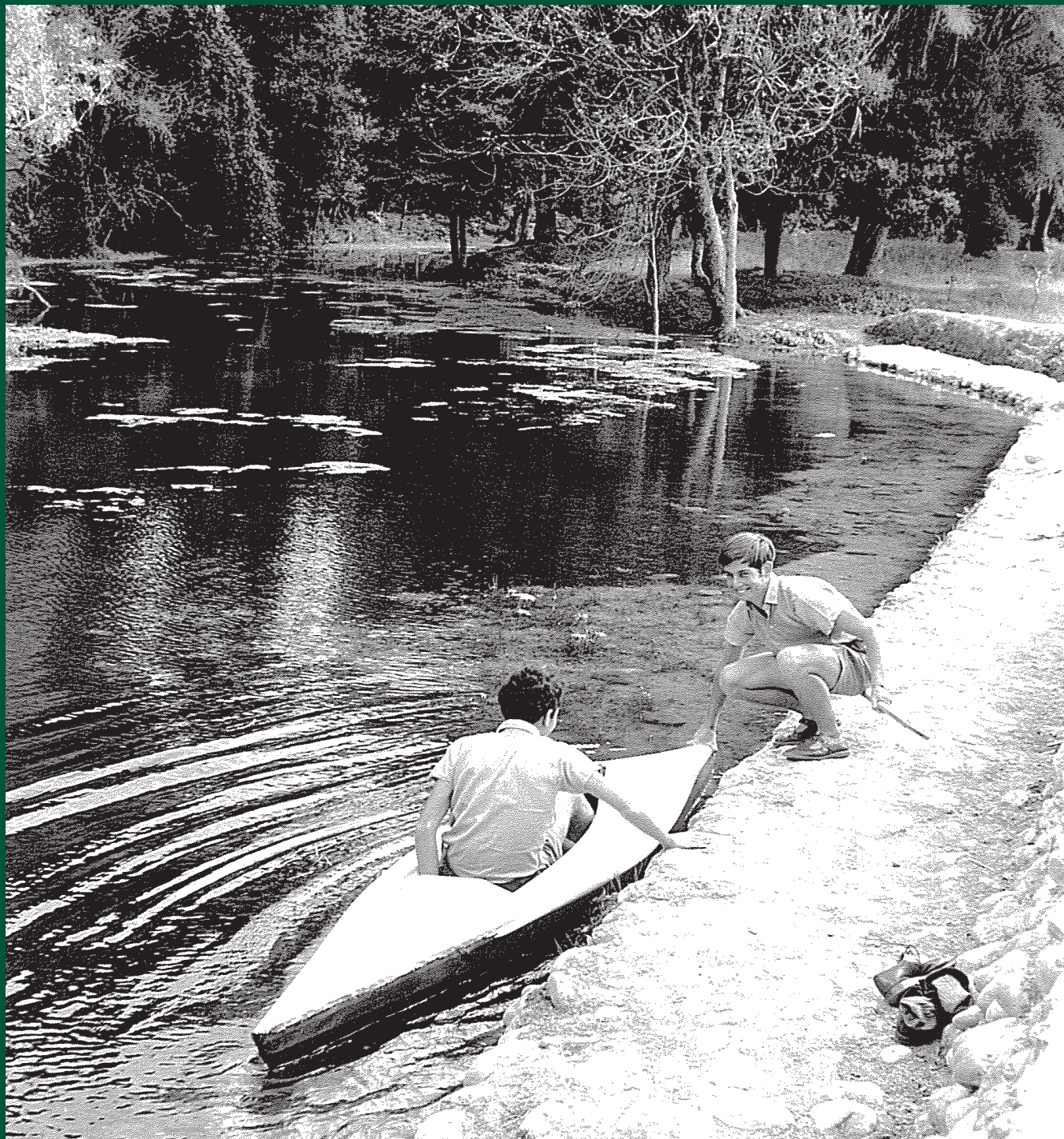


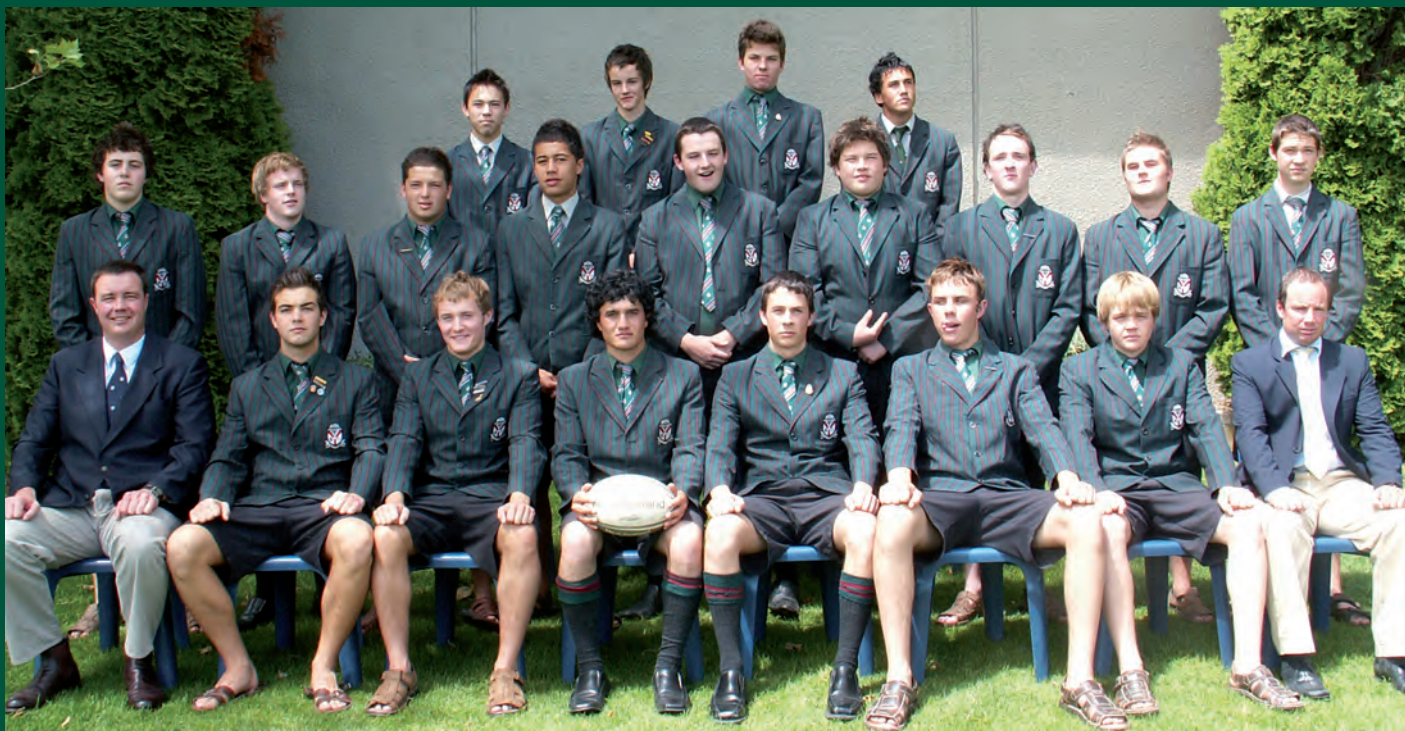
Rock Runner

The magazine of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association • Volume 17 • October 2012



Celebrating 50 years of Education in 2014

Editor's Reflection



2009 2nd XV: Back; J Bremner, H Vollebregt, I Dransfield, P Tuoro. Middle; R Barham, N Collier, J Beban, W Bartlett, N McCabe, J Forrester, T Hayes, K Hoare, S Davies. Front; B Ewington (coach), T Brook, P Jeffery, J Tuoro, C Wilmshurst, M Nilsson, J McLachlin, S O'Gorman (coach).

Since leaving school at the end of 7th Form in 1988 and working at the oldest prep school in England still on its original site, The Elms, Colwall, Herefordshire, I have often reflected on how lucky I was to attend the very similar but much younger Rathkeale. The Elms is steeped in English tradition having been opened in 1614 by King James I during a time when he ruled alone, having dissolved Parliament just three years earlier. My last Housemaster in Winchester House, Mr Mike Eckford, attended The Elms as a young boy. During the last ten years I have been lucky enough to secure two tutorships at The Elms for Rathkeale students who have just left school. The original 3' thick door tapped by the sceptre of King James still exists on site at the school and it is fascinating, if not somewhat daunting to think that when we are celebrating our 50th Jubilee in 2014 the celebrations at The Elms will mark their 400th year.

Earlier this year I attended a course for Duke of Edinburgh's Hillary Award coordinators held at Wellington College. Once again I couldn't help but be impressed at the preservation of history

that exists in Firth Hall. School and House Prefect honours boards dating back to 1904 are displayed on the walls of what was the old dining hall. The school dates back to 1864 and proudly displays plaques commemorating members of their alumni who fought in both World Wars.

Back on home turf I have a concern that with the onset of the electronic age much of our young yet often fascinating history may be lost, or at best, scattered amongst the files of those who produce the occasional publication for the school. My aim is to produce a much larger edition of the Rock Runner for the 2014 Jubilee and publish it in time for THE BIG WEEKEND. In order to do this I will need the assistance of our Old Boys Community. An ideal format would be to include stories from the eras of each Headmaster and commencing now I would welcome any input from those who would like to contribute to the next two editions of the Rock Runner.

The O'Gorman and Ewington coached 2nd XV of 2009 was a joy to coach. I recently met up with Thomas Brook

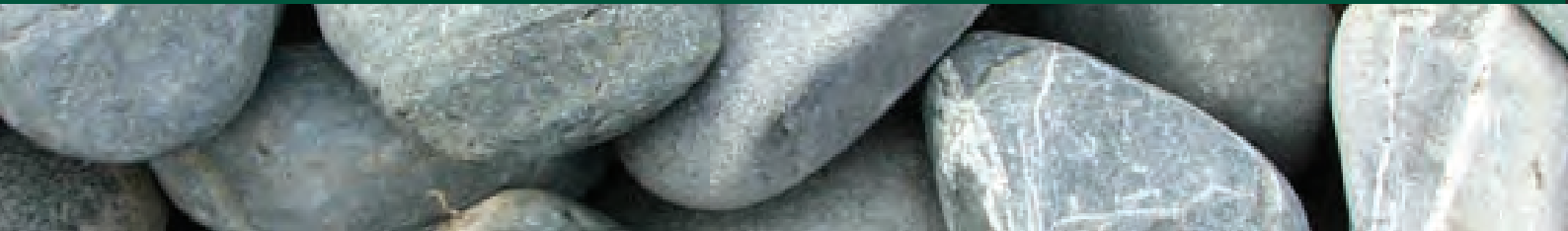
in a pub in Napier and his pride in the school and in his team remains strong. As an association it is important that the more recent old boys feel included and enthusiastic enough to offer their stories for publication. The moment you leave this school you become an old boy and are welcome to involve yourself with all ROBA activities.

Meanwhile I trust you enjoy reading about those who have gone before. Some whom I've approached for articles have been reluctant to provide them as they feel their story may be insignificant or of little interest to others. However, the reality is quite the opposite with all stories being appreciated by a wide range of old boys and other readers alike. Thanks to those who have taken the time to contribute this year.

Please start sending your articles NOW for the 2013 and/or 2014 Rock Runner to bje@rathkeale.school.nz

Blair Ewington
Editor

Cover: Canoe Reach 1970s. One of the catalysts for the importance placed on outdoor education for boys at Rathkeale today.



Approaching Our Jubilee

FROM THE ROBA SECRETARY'S DESK

The last year has been another of financial consolidation as we rebuild from the precarious situation that arose from the over commitment to a building project in 2007/2008. This consolidation has been necessary to allow us to continue to produce the Rock Runner magazine which, despite the support of our many advertisers whose aid is greatly appreciated, is a net cost to the Association. In this regard we thank the school for covering the mailing costs.

A further reason for the consolidation is to allow the Association to seed the charitable trust being set up to provide, amongst other things, sponsorships for the family of old boys and other deserving students to attend Rathkeale. This is a very worthy objective which not only supports our community but also supports the school. We will shortly be presenting this charitable trust to you and seeking your support in its funding aims.

The more secure position has enabled the Association to take small steps in supporting the school at a more practical level. This year we were approached by the school to sponsor the provision of new, more effective, corner flags for the main rugby field. The photo shows one of the 16 new flags that were provided to the school in time for use in the second half of the 1st XV rugby season. In addition to being used at the school they were also used at the Gladstone ground when Rathkeale took on Makoura College and Wairarapa College in well attended night games.

The Association will be facing challenges in coming years as our funding base changes. To date the leavers' life time membership fee has been met by the disbursement deposit, paid by parents to the school when their sons start, being automatically passed across to the Association. The nature of this deposit has now changed at the behest of the Ministry of Education and it is now paid back to parents unless we get their approval to retain it for the purposes of meeting the life time fee. Having to ask for the fee rather than receiving it automatically requires communication with the parents of each boy and leaves us open to not receiving the fee. Having some leavers who are members and others who may not be will create an administrative nightmare so alternatives are being investigated.

As everyone is now aware 2014 will see the 50th Jubilee. Whilst the Association may not be in a strong enough position to make a meaningful financial commitment to recognise the importance of the occasion we hope that the Old Boys' will support the school in its endeavours to mark the occasion appropriately. One initiative that the Rock Runner editor (Blair Ewington who is both an old boy as well as a teacher at the school – thanks for the work Blair) has suggested is that we make the 2014 Rock Runner a larger more outstanding edition that will serve as a commemoration of our first 50 years.

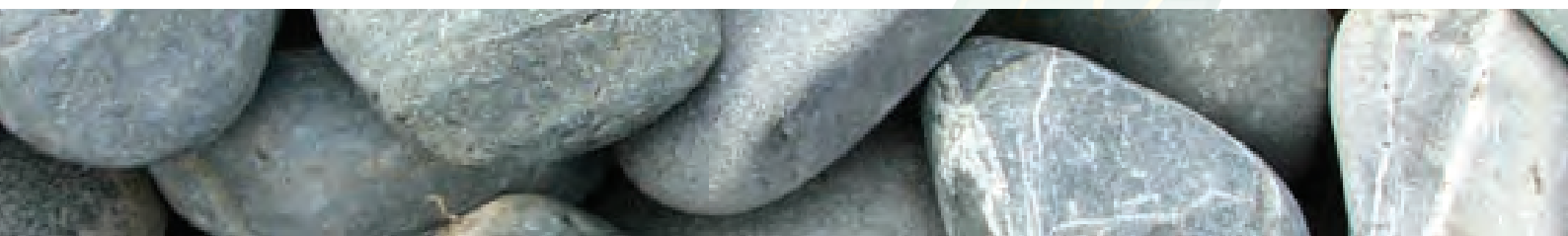


I would like to take this opportunity to thank everyone for their work and support this year whether they be Old Boys, the school and its staff (thanks Willy) and the Board of Trustees (thanks Andy).

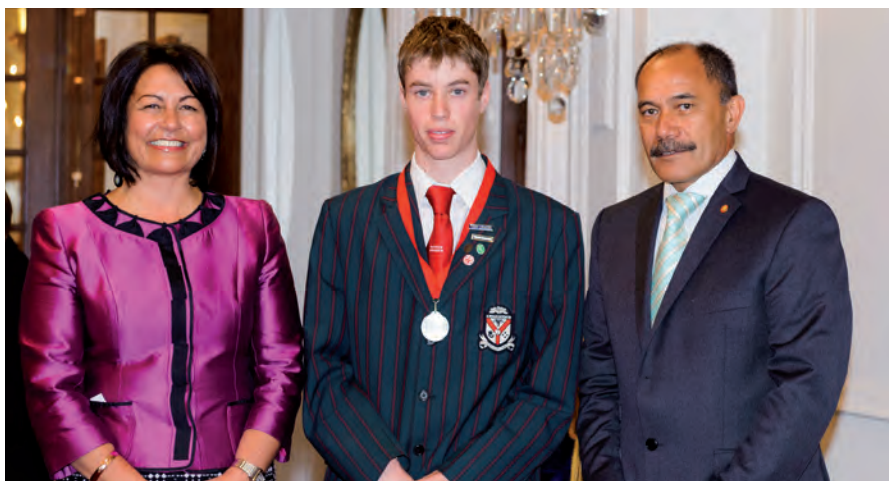
Paul R S Hocking
ROBA Secretary / Treasurer



YEARS
20



From the Principal's Desk



The Minister of Education the Hon Hekia Perata, Hamish Hirschberg, and the Governor general the Rt Hon Sir Jerry Mateparae at Government House.

In my first Rock Runner report in 2008, I could only reflect on my first impressions having been in the school for only a matter of weeks. Now, almost five years later, I am pleased to say that there is a sense of pride in what has been achieved and the hope I expressed for Ali and I to enjoy a "long and happy tenure" at Rathkeale is shaping up well. The next Rock Runner will, no doubt, focus on the college's history as we prepare to celebrate its 50th Jubilee in March 2014.

We have had to accept that earthquake building compliance has placed restrictions on how we have been able to advance our ten year property plan. Now that the strengthening work in Repton House has been completed, we wait to hear the verdict on School House; provisional analyses are very encouraging and it does appear that steel reinforcing was a feature of homestead construction in 1925. Luckily, the Greek Theatre will not come under the same scrutiny and John Norman's reputation will remain intact!

In the meantime, the upgrade of many surfaces around classroom and boarding house areas brings considerable visual appeal. Our intention is to have the name of every young man who has ever attended Rathkeale College recorded on wall plaques in the central campus area. I hope this will provide an opportunity for Old Boys to support the continued

development of our magnificent campus. At the subterranean level and in the ceilings, the arrival of fast-fibre broadband and a complete overhaul of our IT network infrastructure will enable us to determine a future communications pathway of choice. The demand for a well-considered strategic plan is an immediate focus for the board and staff.

Student achievements in the 2011 academic year were outstanding in many respects and comparisons with national "averages" very pleasing indeed. The 23 NZQA scholarships gained by 14 students across 11 subjects is testimony to the commitment and dedication of both students and staff. The highest accolade, possibly in the history of Rathkeale and the Senior College, must go to Hamish Hirschberg, son of Old Boy Robert Hirschberg (1974 – 1978) and his wife, Dawn. Hamish gained five Outstanding Scholarships, a feat matched by only four other students in New Zealand last year, thus earning him a New Zealand Premier Scholarship award.

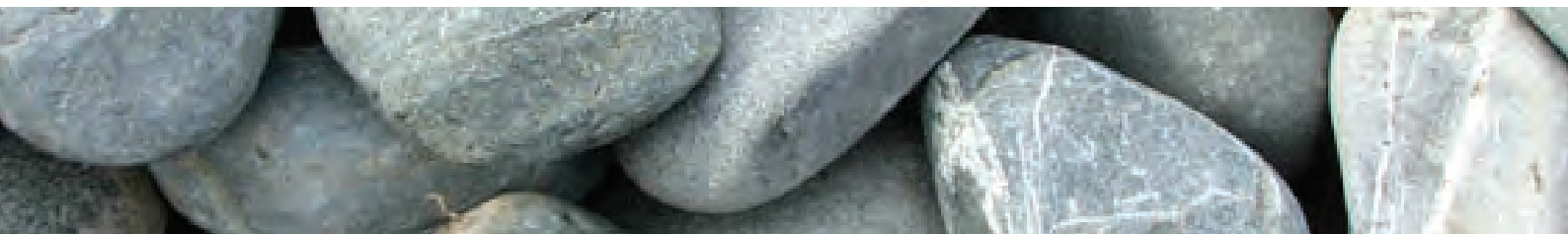
We have been moderately successful in lowering the average age of the teaching profession! Five new teachers commenced at the beginning of the year; two being relatively young men who have taken up residence in the Rugby House Cottage. Sadly James Clark, our Chaplain of two years, will be leaving us at the end of the year, but we are fortunate

to have been able to appoint Ben Arcus as his replacement. Several of the old guard, including Greg Baillie, Cliff Bouton, Grant Harper and David Knox remain with us, continuing to provide wise counsel amidst the plethora of activity that seems quite overwhelming at times.

On the one hand, while so much activity intrudes into teaching time; on the other, it is hard to suggest that access to such a wide range of involvements should be restricted. We are a very busy place. Our teams, groups and individuals in sport and performing arts groups continue to achieve remarkably well when one considers the size of the schools against which we compete. In relation to our traditional rivals we can hold our heads high and say that every boy who starts at Rathkeale in Year 9 has a very real opportunity to gain a place in a 1st sports team or performing group. Co-curricular activity through education outside the classroom is now a much greater feature of our curriculum and all these experiences add to educating a Good Rathkeale Man; a man who knows himself, has an awareness of others, is prepared to step forward and knows he stands on the shoulders of those who have gone before him.

The Board of Trustees has continued its resolve to advance Rathkeale College, and the selfless leadership shown by Andy Pottinger and the efforts of his team have been critical in the developments over the last five years. I believe we have achieved much. We need to remind ourselves that the privilege of living, working and learning in such a unique environment comes with the expectation that we all contribute to the present and future of Rathkeale College.
Nil Mortalibus Ardui Est

**Willy Kersten
Principal**



Together As One

BOT REPORT

It gives me great pleasure to report to you on behalf of the Board of Trustees of Rathkeale College.

The last twelve to eighteen months have been a tumultuous time in all of our lives, starting with the February 2011 earthquake in Christchurch, the Japanese tsunami, the ongoing world financial crisis, the Rugby World Cup (which we won!!), and late last year the general election. I will leave it up to you to decide who won that event.

All in all a busy period and you may ask what these events have to do with Rathkeale College. In some areas not a lot directly, but indirectly in other areas it has meant we have had to reassess our priorities, specifically in our redevelopment programme here at Rathkeale.

With the spotlight being very firmly on earthquakes and the devastation that they can have on buildings and infrastructure, the priority of our Proprietor Board, the TSTB, fully supported by the Rathkeale BOT, has been the safety of our students, particularly in the areas where they live and sleep i.e. the Boarding Houses.

Fortunately, with the Cranleigh refurbishments finished at the beginning of last year, this building is 100% compliant with the latest earthquake standards. At the time, the extra \$250,000 spent to reach this standard seemed excessive but this decision has since proven to be the right one and a wise spend. Repton boarding house has now been fully upgraded to comply with current earthquake standards. Unfortunately no refurbishment is taking place at this time due to demands on Proprietor finances for other urgent earthquake strengthening on buildings within the other Trinity Schools. However, your Board remains committed to the refurbishment of Repton along with more teaching spaces as soon as finances permit.

Your Board still has a very strong focus on growing the roll as we are very clear that an increase in boys at Rathkeale, aiming to get to our roll cap of 320, will enable us to move forward on our redevelopment programme sooner rather than later. It is pleasing to report that in excess of 65 boys and their families chose Rathkeale to start their education at year 9 in 2012, with a greater number currently confirmed for 2013. This I believe is an endorsement of the leadership, drive, dedication, determination, and enthusiasm (I could keep going with superlatives!!), shown by our Principal Mr Willy Kersten.

In the past year we have been looking to invest further in the area of a Rathkeale Development Office. In this area we will be looking to bring together and spearhead all aspects of marketing, fund and friend raising and all support groups such as past students, past families and friends, all for the future betterment of Rathkeale College. This position has now been taken over by Trinity and Mr Stephen Carr was appointed as Trinity Development Officer. I believe this appointment is a huge step forward for all three schools in this critical area of advancement, development and marketing.

My thanks go to my fellow trustees for their work and support throughout the last 12 months. It is very rewarding and encouraging to work with you all, and although we do have some robust debate at times, I can assure all present that your Board has a very collective focus for the betterment of Rathkeale College and its future success.

I will finish with a quote from the well known sportsman Andre Agassi. For those of you who may not have heard of him he was a World class Tennis star who won eight Grand slams and an Olympic Gold medal. However, his background is interesting as he hated the game of Tennis. He was pushed into it by his family as opposed to choosing the sport himself. He reached No 1

in the world but due to a number of issues in his life his world fell apart and he plummeted down the world ranking to be just another tennis player.

After reassessing his life and with the support of his second wife Steffi Graf he decided he wanted to reclaim the No 1 ranking in the world. He achieved this amazing feat as he was doing something he wanted to, not what others wanted him to.

He has since set up the Andre Agassi Foundation for Education and raised more than \$85 million for the Andre Agassi College Preparatory Academy for underprivileged children in his home town of Las Vegas. At this school every morning the students read the Andre Agassi Code of Respect:

The essence of good discipline is Respect
Respect for authority and respect for others.

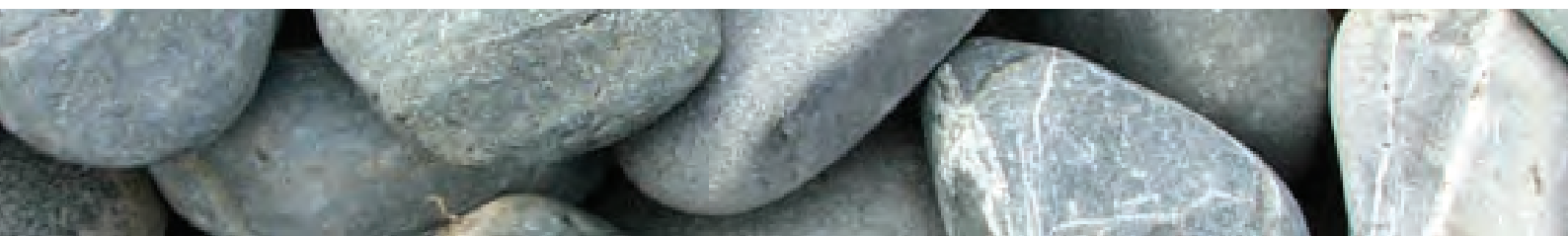
Respect for self and respect for rules,
This is an attitude that begins at home,
Is reinforced at school,
And is applied throughout life.

He tells his students that if they memorise this simple code and keep it close to their hearts they will go far. I believe this could be used to underpin what we are about at Rathkeale in developing The Good Rathkeale Man.

I look forward to catching up with as many of you who can make our 50th Jubilee celebrations in 2014.

Until then kind regards

Andy Pottinger
BOT Chairman



International Croquet Fame

AIMING FOR THE TRANS-TASMAN TOURNAMENT

David Wickham left Rathkeale in 2000 and went on to study Business and Computing Information at Massey University based in Wellington.

To support his studies he kept up his part time job at New World – Masterton and found that his skills were in demand by his employers before he had even graduated. He soon rose through the ranks and transferred to Pak and Save as Grocery Manager when that store opened in 2006.

He has thoroughly enjoyed the job and particularly likes doing the deals with the reps for the purchase of products at good prices so he can keep prices low for customers. The reps often reward David for his business with complimentary tickets to sporting events such as the Wellington Sevens, the Black Caps, and Formula 1 in Adelaide. Coca Cola once treated David and his team to an all-expenses paid holiday in Sydney for winning their national challenge for the highest sales per capita. David only spent \$50 on the trip and that was a present for his Mum. All the food, accommodation, flight and drinking expenses were paid, and no, he didn't just drink Coke.

Pak N Save continues to introduce new computer systems and David is always very much involved in making sure they run smoothly and that staff (and customers) can use the software properly.

In addition to his career, David has been very active on the sporting front. At Rathkeale he played Croquet and won school colours for his achievements in the sport. He also enjoyed playing Football. After University he returned to his sports. In Croquet he was selected to play for the New Zealand B team in 2004. He was due to travel to Australia to play against them. Unfortunately, 2 months prior to going, he tore his shoulder at work and had to pull out from the tournament.



David focuses on another winning shot.

He needed an operation on his shoulder in order to correct things. Swinging a mallet felt awkward afterwards and David decided to drop his Croquet and concentrate on other sports.

He has been playing Soccer for Douglas Villa and been coaching a group of children in 8th to 10th grade for Douglas Villa. He has also been playing Netball.

After about a 5 year break from Croquet, and after receiving a few more bruises from Soccer, David decided to return to playing Croquet. The handicap system in Croquet works the same as Golf ranging from 24 (rookie player) to -4 (top level international). When David "retired" from Croquet his handicap was -1.5, on his return it was set to zero. He immediately started winning tournaments. The open doubles in 2003 and the semi-final of the plate section of the Nationals, and his handicap kept falling. This season he won the Palmerston North open in both singles and doubles. He won the Masterton Club open, and was placed 6th in the NZ Open held in Whanganui. He entered the National tournament that was played over a week in Christchurch in 2011. He was up against the top players in the country and knocked quite a few of the top players off until he was finally beaten by Jenny Clarke in the quarter-finals, the top ranked female player in the World, and came 6th in the tournament. Mainly as a result of this tournament he was selected to Captain the New Zealand B team and selected to play in the New Zealand squad of 10 in the World Championships being played in Australia this year. Unfortunately David fell awkwardly playing Soccer a week before he was due to fly and damaged his shoulder, again! He found that his shoulder was pulling his shots off in the first couple of days of the tournament and he was losing some games. Fortunately there was a physiotherapist watching who gave him a magic rub down and so he started winning all his games again. The tournament was arranged like the Rugby 7s, with a Cup, Bowl, and Shield. David ended up as the losing finalist for the Shield and there is a big "What If" as he was beating players convincingly who had beaten him earlier in the rounds.

Buoyed by his successes this season David is aiming to play in the Trans-Tasman Tournament next season and is working towards playing in the Mac Robertson Shield Team Event in 2014 which is the Croquet equivalent of the World Cup and is a team event rather than an individual. So we may have a world sports champion on our hands. Currently David is ranked 76th in the world.

Neil Williamson
Proud Dad and HOD Economics & Accounting
Rathkeale

International Triathlon Success

LIFE AFTER SCHOOL SWIMMING

Hamish Hammond (2003 -2008) a prominent swimmer during his days at Rathkeale College started competing in triathlon three years ago when he started at Massey University. Since then he has gone a long way toward becoming one of New Zealand's best up and coming triathletes.

In September 2011, Hamish represented New Zealand in Beijing, China, at the Triathlon World Championships. At this event he won two world age group titles and with it two gold medals. These wins came on the back of intensive training leading up to the event, under the guidance of his Australian based coach Greg O'Connor (another ex-Wairarapa man). Despite the distance Hamish remained focused on his training regime putting in up to 30 hours per week in the pool, on the bike or running.

In Beijing Hamish first tasted success in the 20-24 age group aquathlon (run, swim, run) World Champs. This was used as a "warm-up" for his main event the Triathlon. With four days between events he had just enough time to recover and get ready to race again. Winning gold in the Aquathlon took a bit of an edge off the pressure of competing at a world event for the first time. Being in the right head space is essential for such a demanding event.

The main event was the 20-24 age group olympic distance triathlon which consists of a 1500m swim, 40 km bike, and 10km run. Being such a strong swimmer Hamish was poised to start strong, which he did in exiting the water in second place of the field of thirty. By the end of lap one on the bike Hamish had moved into first place which he would not relinquish. He crossed the line a time of 2hrs 03.27, 3 minutes ahead of the 2nd place getter another New Zealander Shaun Kavanagh of Wellington.

The New Zealand Team at the World Championships boasted 100 competitors. Hamish was one of only two New Zealand triathletes to win double gold medals. It wasn't until Hamish arrived back in NZ two days later that he realised the magnitude of what he achieved.

Post this event it was straight back to Massey Palmerston North to catch up on his studies in preparation for his final exams. Hamish graduated on the 15th May with a Bachelor of Agri-Commerce. He is a recipient of a Deans Award for business and featured on the Pro-Vice Chancellors Merit List for Excellence in study in the College of Sciences. He was offered a scholarship to further his study at Massey but has declined in order to train full-time for triathlon.

More recently Hamish competed in the NZ Triathlon Contact Series. He won the second race at Whangamata, placed 4th in Christchurch, crashed in Takapuna and placed 3rd in the final round in Wellington. He is now heading to the Gold Coast to



Hamish focused and in the zone during a cycle stage.

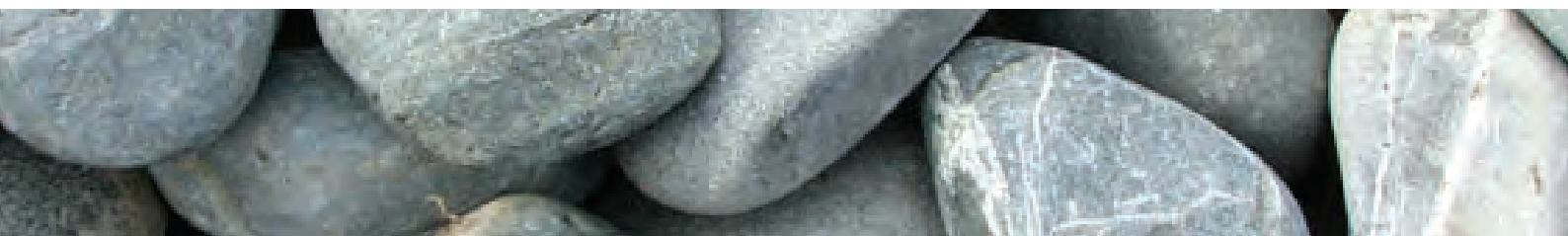
spend the winter months training with his coach, and in early June will head to Japan to race at two elite level world events.

Hamish's progress to date has been outstanding considering he has been a full time student. He now needs to show his ability in the Elite level against the likes of Bevan Docherty and Kris Gemmel. In October he will compete in Auckland at the 2012 World Championships and aim to defend his age group world title. However, his aspiration is to race in the under 23 elite team next year. The support of the old boys in any of his races would be greatly appreciated. Watch out for him on the world stage in the near future.

Check out Hamish racing on <http://tvnz.co.nz/contact-tri-tv/s2011-ep7-video-4782013>

Follow Hamish on his blog <http://hamishhammond.blogspot.co.nz/>
Or contact him directly on h_ham2462@hotmail.com

Maree Hammond



The Games And Beyond

A TABLE TENNIS JOURNEY

At the end of the 2006 school year Myles Collins left Rathkeale to live in Auckland and advance his table tennis skills as the majority of the top coaches and other players train at the Auckland association. After a year of training in Auckland amongst the best players in New Zealand and winning the 2007 National U18 teams title, he sought to train overseas.

From 2008 he attended a sports integrated educational college called Filton Bristol Academy of Sport where he studied a National Sports course whilst training at the same centre. The facilities at the college were of a fantastic standard, not just for table tennis but for various other sports.

Myles enjoyed his time at the academy immensely, training 15 hours a week on top of tournaments with some of the best table tennis players in Great Britain. That year he won the National Team Schools title with Filton College and defended the same title in 2009 where he won the deciding match. A vast amount of travelling became the normality as he regularly competed all around Britain in the Grand Prix Tournament Circuit. A major highlight was representing England, with his main training partner and flatmate, at an International World Junior Circuit in Madeira. This was a great experience as many of the world's best under 18 players were in attendance. "Exposure to this level only makes you want to train harder when you get back to the training hall so that you can improve upon each tournament as playing on an international stage is a fantastic experience."



Myles completes a backhand shot to win the 2011 Australian Open.

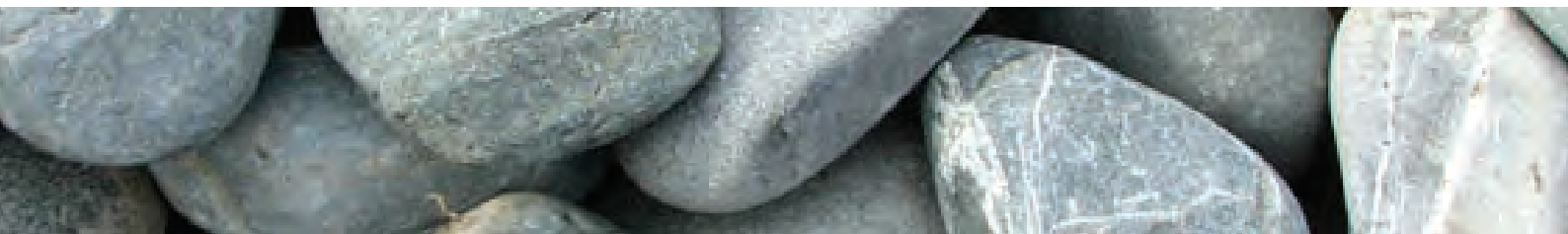
His time spent overseas not only helped him develop as a player but more importantly as a person, instilling in him valuable life skills. After a solid performance at the 2009 Nationals he got a bronze medal in the under 18 singles, beating the number two seed along the way only to lose in the semi-finals to a top Chinese player. This helped him gain selection for the New Zealand Men's Team to compete at the 2010 Australian Open. There New Zealand came 5th in a very competitive tournament in which Myles won 75% of his matches, the best performance by any New Zealand senior debutant.

In 2010 he started a BA in Philosophy and Marketing at Waikato University and was awarded a Sir Edmund Hillary Scholarship that paid for all of his course fees and supported his training at the Waikato Association. At the 2010 Nationals Myles had some very close wins against two of the best senior players in New Zealand to reach the Open Men's quarterfinal, narrowly losing to the favourite for the tournament.

By 2011 he was selected to represent New Zealand at the Australian Open again and only one month after that he travelled to China for a second time in his playing career to represent New Zealand at the World University Games. These games are the second largest multisport event in the World, after the Olympics. They lasted two weeks and were held in one of China's largest and fastest growing cities, Shenzhen. At the games a vast array of countries competed. There were 10,000 plus athletes and officials and all athletes lived in a village that was brand new and built just for the competitors. The scale of the event was phenomenal with the athlete's village consisting of nearly 100 large buildings: 30 plus skyscrapers where the athlete's rooms were, food shops, shops selling souvenirs, and two main food halls catering for several thousand people at a time. The stadiums outside the village that held the competitions were awe-inspiring. The biggest being the Opening Ceremony stadium holding 100,000. For table tennis an impressive 15,000 spectators were seated with 12 tables in the middle. As Myles walked into the playing hall for his first team match against Chinese Taipei he looked up to see about 10,000 looking back down at him. Later he would learn that highlights of one of his matches were shown on Chinese TV. Playing in front of by far the largest crowd of his career was an experience unlikely to be repeated or forgotten.

After returning from China Myles was offered a place to play semi-pro at a club in Montpellier, France. This contract lasted for several months before he moved back to England and for the time being has settled in London.

Myles Collins



An Old Boy Returns

THE RE-OPENING OF RUGBY HOUSE



Shay coaching the 2012 2nd XV.

Rugby boarding house has recently reopened at Rathkeale College as a boarding house for year 9 students. Shay O'Gorman a former student of Rathkeale College has this year been appointed as the new housemaster.

Shay's connection to Rathkeale goes back to his early childhood when his father Liam (Paddy) was housemaster of Cranleigh. The O'Gorman family lived on campus for a few years during this time so it is somewhat uncanny that Shay now finds himself reliving some of that life as an adult having secured the position as housemaster of Rugby House in 2012. Shay and his family are living in the housemaster's house at Rugby and enjoying all that campus life has to offer. His wife Angela is teaching part time at Rathkeale while son Luca attended Makoura ECC, before starting primary school in August.

Shay completed a sports management degree at Massey University followed by his teaching diploma in 1997. He then departed for Ireland where he planned to spend a year working and catching up with the Irish side of his family. On arrival he quickly secured a job in a Dublin school coaching rugby. After a year this became a teaching position and Shay took on a full time job teaching PE and History. This was where he met his Irish wife, Angela. Just prior to the economic slow-down in Ireland they sold their house in Dublin and moved to NZ hoping to secure teaching jobs. As it happened, Rathkeale had an opening for both a PE teacher and a Maths teacher starting in 2007 so they decided to set roots in the Wairarapa, home for

Shay. In 2009 they were joined by their two year old son Luca, originally from Thailand. This provided an exciting new beginning for them all as a family.

In his six years at Rathkeale Shay has enjoyed his involvement in many aspects of the curriculum that Rathkeale has to offer. As dean of Year 11 students he was instrumental in the setting up of the Kahikatea programme which is a life skills programme developing the idea of what it means to be a good Rathkeale man. This was piloted in 2010 and culminated in a Kahikatea camp run by Shay at the end of the year with all boys camping on site for a night and enjoying roasting a pig and listening to some words of wisdom offered by guest speaker Sir Brian Lochore. Shay has also worked with Grant Harper on reviewing the mentoring system for senior students in the school and helped initiate the Tu Tangata programme within the school which sees senior and junior students coming together to work on community projects. In 2010 he also took over the leadership of Blake Competition House which still sports the blue colour of Cranleigh Competition House for more recent old boys and Churchill Club for those from the 1980s and beyond.

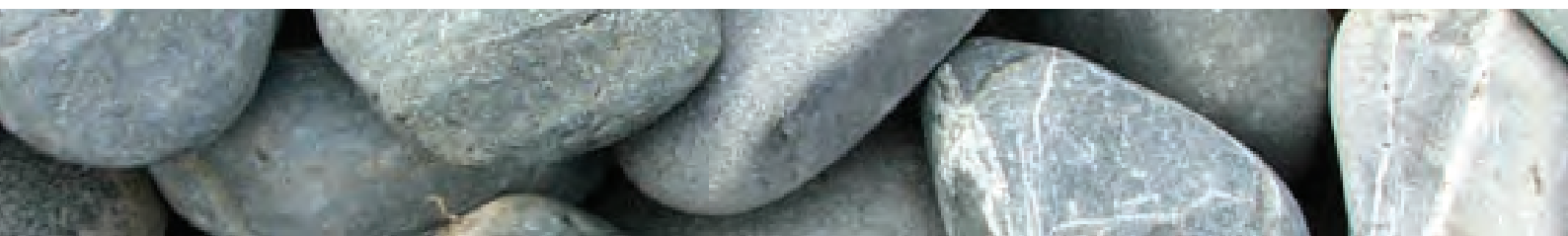
In addition to the pastoral life of the school Shay has contributed to the extracurricular sports programme. Having done his stint of coaching 1st XI Cricket including an Australian tour, Shay now focuses on the 2nd XI team. During the winter, having been very successful with Colts Rugby in recent years he is now imparting his knowledge of the game by coaching the 2nd XV Rugby team and refereeing senior men's rugby in the Wairarapa competition.

All in all Shay and family are very happy to be locus parentis for the Year 9 boys at Rathkeale and being involved in the boarding life of the school allows Shay to pass on his enthusiasm to the younger generation for all that being a good Rathkeale man means to him.

Angela Kelly



Shay, Angela and Luca enjoying life on the school grounds.



Celebrating 50 years: 1964-2014



Greek Theatre construction, early 1970s.



Aerial view 1964.

There's only one place to be on 21-23 March 2014 – your old school, Rathkeale College. Dubbed 'The Big Weekend', the 50th Jubilee will be a celebration of education, experiences and friendship amongst old friends, colleagues and supporters.

The Big Weekend will be just that - big. While Rathkeale celebrates its first 50 years, on the same weekend St Matthew's marks its first century.

Two great schools, two stories – separate while inextricably linked, with a combined 150 years of history and since 1982, through the Senior College, a unique educational environment for Year 12 and 13 students. While the celebrations centre on each of the schools, they are really about the people – and how the schools shaped our lives.

Just over a year ago, the call went out for people interested to help put the Jubilee together. I put my hand up because it was thanks to the Rathkeale 25th Jubilee Ball in 1989 that I'm here today. It was my first outing with my future husband, Tom Sims (Rathkeale 1977-1981). With our son now at Rathkeale and three daughters set to attend Senior College in future, being involved with the 50th celebrations and connecting the past, present and future had natural appeal.

Everyone has their own story to tell. One thing I've noticed is that once people get started, there's no stopping them. This

was illustrated while filming a promotional video for the Jubilee on a frosty and frenetic June morning at Rathkeale. After (not too much) arm-twisting, old boys and staff began to recount a few memories.

Common themes quickly emerged – some involving the construction of certain structures from concrete and rocks. Fascinating, is that all they did back then? As we traipsed around the school grounds, old boys proudly pointed out their handiwork - everything from the concrete curbing and bridges, to the now mysterious (at least for current students) concrete scoreboard on the oval, and the famous Greek Theatre.

The stories inevitably turned to people. Derek Daniell (1964-1968) and Andy Pottinger (1968-1972) recalled sometimes fearful, but often affectionate memories of founding Headmaster, John Norman, and (of course) building the Greek Theatre. Pete Smith (1978-1982) reminisced about his rugby days and Steve Foster (1975-1979) and Roger Parkinson (1974-1976) chatted, surprisingly fondly, about caning methods of certain teachers.

Ed Wallace (1999-2003) delighted his former matron Lenora White (still at Rathkeale) with a surprise visit and standing in a dorm, noted that he looked forward to some partying in 2014.

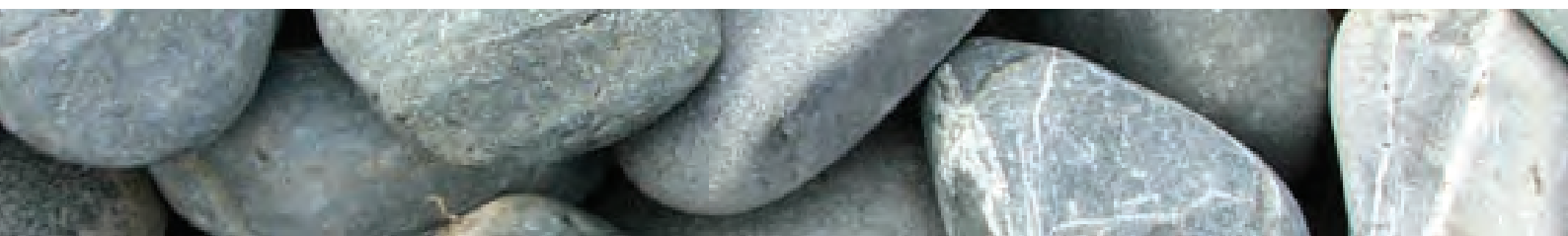
Faye Norman, music teacher and wife of the late John Norman, and former Deputy Principal (1964-1991) Bruce Hamilton

chimed in from their respective homes in Christchurch and Wellington. Phoning them both to arrange the filming, I sensed their strong connections to Rathkeale and their excitement about the Jubilee. The twinkle in their eyes on the video footage confirmed this. Malcolm Holmes (1978-1982) made a cameo appearance from Brisbane – apparently his tickets are booked for 2014.

Enough material for a one-hour documentary was ruthlessly edited down to a mere four and a half minutes - just a taste of things to come. Check out the video clip on The Big Weekend website; 1200 views in its first two months shows great initial interest from which to build over the next 17 months. Thanks to Mike Heydon of Jet Productions who contributed long hours of filming and editing.



Mr B G Hamilton shares memories in the promotional video, 2012.





Rathkeale bus 1964.

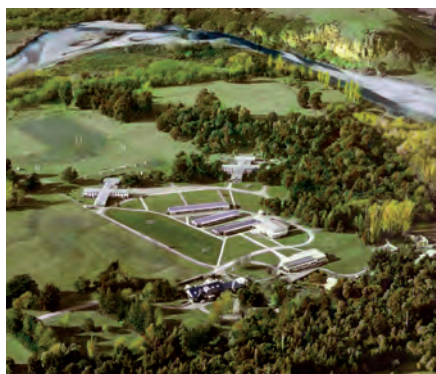


Rock Running for promotional video 2012.

When our committee first talked about what sort of celebration the 50th Jubilee should be, it became clear that the aim was to get as many people as possible together to relax, reconnect with each other and their school, have some fun and enjoy old-fashioned Wairarapa hospitality. Foundation pupil Chris Gane (1964-1968) and Rathkeale parent Jan Connor are undertaking a mountain of work to track and trace lost old boys – and they need your help. Please send any information through ROBA or the Jubilee website, including your own email address if you are not already receiving email updates from the Old Boys.

Chartered accountant Rob Blackett (1983-1987) is ably managing the financial side of the Jubilee. George Callaghan (1983-1987) is working on the ball with St Matthew's. Guy Lewis (1982-1985) is our link with the wonderful Friends' Association of Rathkeale who will be running the Friday evening gathering.

Ed Wallace (1999-2003), our link to the 'younger' old boys, is working on a clay bird shoot at Rathkeale for the Saturday and looking into old boys' 20/20 cricket on the Oval.



Aerial view 1971.

Deputy Principal Grant Harper (1967-1971, and staff member since), is calling on his wealth of knowledge to put the 50th Jubilee book together. Grant and librarian Linda Wells have already sorted and catalogued hundreds of photographs, many of which will feature in the book.

Steve Foster, and ROBA Committee members Brent Thompson (1966-1970) and Andy Sutherland (1969-1971) and Principal Willy Kersten complete the current organising committee.

There will be plenty of time for informality and flexibility during the weekend, and to attend scheduled events. We're spending the next few months finalising the draft programme, so formal registrations can begin in March 2013.

Rathkeale's Big Weekend will kick off with registrations on the Friday morning, school tours followed by a massive evening get-together with a few drinks, great food and fantastic company.

Saturday will begin with assembly, the book launch and a look back at some of the talent that has graced the college over the years – entertainment being the operative word. More to come on that.

Next up there's a chance to do some clay bird shooting and lunch. We're hoping to put together an exhibition of art by past and present Trinity pupils at Aratoi - Wairarapa Museum of Art and History, opening early Saturday evening.

Then it's time to scrub up, dust off the dinner suit and head to St Matthew's for the Trinity Ball under the big marquee on Saturday night. Sunday morning will see Chapel at Rathkeale and a chance to play a bit of sport, a picnic lunch and farewells.

Let us know what else you would like to see. Recent suggestions have included a partners' programme and visits to local businesses owned by Rathkeale old boys – we're working on both of those.

If you'd like to get involved with planning or supporting the Jubilee we'd love to hear from you. Otherwise – spread the word, send us old boys' email addresses, like us on Facebook, keep an eye on the website or send us your stories.

In the words of Cliff Bouton, Rathkeale teacher of 25 years – 'the boys have barely changed but the school has'. Be there on 21-23 March 2014 and see for yourself. Diary it and register your interest now. We look forward to hearing from you soon and seeing you in 2014.

Lisa Sims
Chair
Rathkeale 50th Jubilee

Register interest at:
jubilee@rathkeale.school.nz
Lost old boys – email:
roba@rathkeale.school.nz
Like us on Facebook:
'The Big Weekend 2014'
Visit the website:
www.thebigweekend.school.nz



Offering Roger Some Advice

LIFE AS A TENNIS PRO



Offering Roger some advice about winning grand Slams.



Delivering a forehand during the Heineken Open.

Marcus Daniell has led an interesting life since his departure into the world of tennis at the age of seventeen.

He had an inauspicious start, travelling first to Slovakia where he was to train for a month before starting to play tournaments. Upon arriving, he needed some cash to buy food, but soon discovered that his credit card did not work in the Slovakian ATM machines. For the three days it took for the bank to update his card, Marcus subsisted on a diet of bread for breakfast, bread for lunch and bread for dinner. Not the start to the glamorous European tennis life he had imagined.

Since that rocky start in Slovakia, Marcus has played all over the world, from Romania to Thailand to Mexico. However, the life of an aspiring tennis player is not an easy ride. Money is always an issue, as the expenses of playing a full year of professional tennis are around \$50,000. To save money, he has slept on the floor in Korea, shared a bed with two other struggling tennis players in America and hitch hiked in Turkey to name just a few thrifty techniques.

With such an abundance of travel, you're bound to meet some characters. Marcus has stories of attempting to meditate with an Indian tennis-playing swami, playing guitar with the son of former world #4 Miloslav Mecir, climbing mountains with an ex-military fitness trainer and shooting at cans from the back porch with his American billet one week in California.

The tour has been a rollercoaster of ups and downs for Marcus. He has had extraordinary successes, winning the Heineken Open doubles title with Horia Tecau and the NZ Men's Singles Championships at the age of twenty, along with a host of other national age-group titles. He has won numerous international ITF futures doubles titles, and been a singles finalist twice. However, these achievements have been balanced by the frustration of serious injury. Soon after winning the Heineken Open, Marcus herniated a disk in his lower back, which kept him off the court for around seven months. Last year he also had a bad run, tearing ligaments in both his shoulder and ankles. Health is a key factor in Marcus's ongoing success and he spends around ninety minutes every day on preventative exercises and stretches.

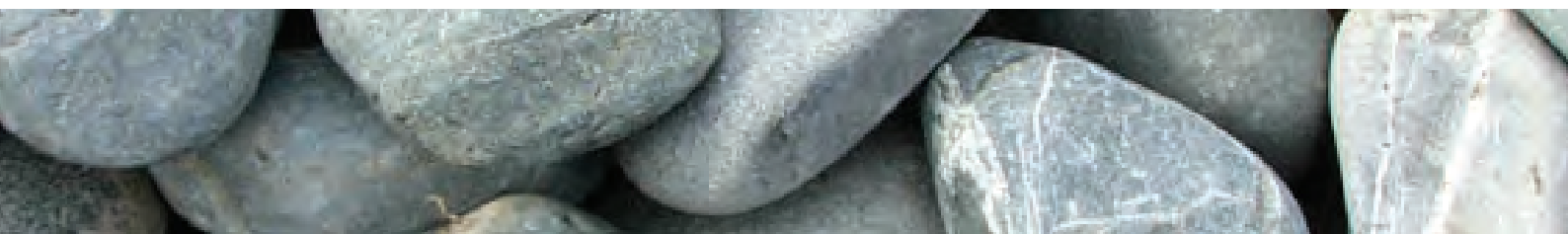
Along with playing tennis, Marcus is progressing through a Bachelor of Arts degree, majoring in psychology. This requires impeccable time-management when playing tournaments and can be taxing when putting a full effort into tennis, but it helps to keep his mind sharp. Living in Slovakia in the earlier years, where very few people speak English, encouraged him to read voraciously – a habit he has continued and used to relax before matches.

Marcus also puts his mind to use in a more hands-on way, having founded a clothing company called Nudge with his best friend

since childhood, William Prior. Nudge has just produced its second range comprising of casual clothes for both men and women. The fabric used for the t-shirts and singlets is unique and original, looking and feeling like soft cotton, but showing the performance (sweat-wicking, light, dry, cool) of a polyester sport fabric. Nudge is just starting to sell to stockists around New Zealand, and may be seen in some of the more popular casual-wear shops around Masterton soon. Password Please, a popular clothing store in Greytown owned by St. Mathew's / Rathkeale Senior College old girl Rosie Bassant, has been stocking Nudge since the very beginning, and is a perfect place to go if you want to see what the aspiring athletes have created.

Tennis is not a long-term lifestyle. It wreaks havoc on the body, so that most players do not last past thirty. However, it is a great way to see the world, to stretch oneself, and become an international citizen who is comfortable anywhere.

Marcus Daniell

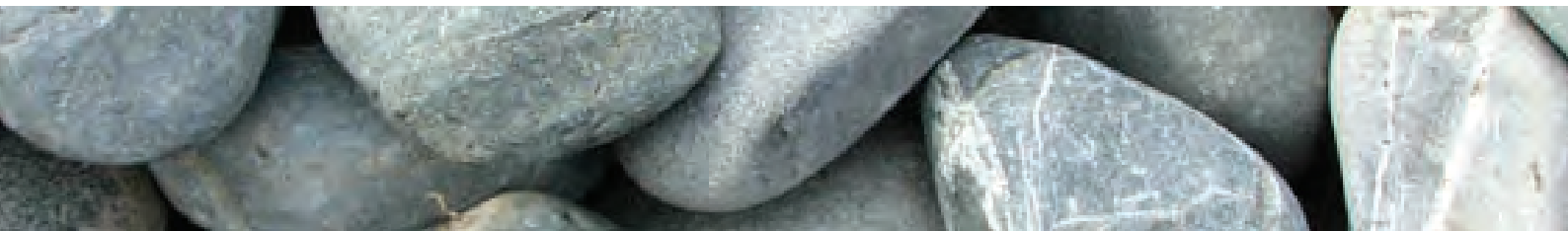


Highlights 2012

A GLIMPSE AT OUR VERY BUSY SCHOOL



For great images of Rathkeale see:
imagesofrathkealecollege.shutterfly.com
or www.rathkeale.school.nz



Avoiding Soccer Practice Since 1981

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL REUNION



Back Row, left to right; Paddy O’Gorman, Andrew McGee, Richard Morris, Geof Shirtcliffe, Simon Brebner, David Cunningham, Jonathan Bray, Martin Dobson, Gordon Reid, David Reid.

Front Row, left to right: Paul Lowes, Andrew Brown, Matt Gentry, Andrew Miller, Mike King, Mark Champion, Phil Hardie Boys, Andrew Harwood.

Sitting: Rob Stewart.

Absent: John Doyle, Ian McGee, David Ericksen.

The 1981 (inaugural Wairarapa Open grade Champions) plus the 1982 (featuring the 1st Queensland Tour) teams got together in Wellington in the last weekend of March this year for a 30 years on reunion.

The get-together lasted 2 days with the first night involving an informal social gathering. Most people were recognisable despite the years.

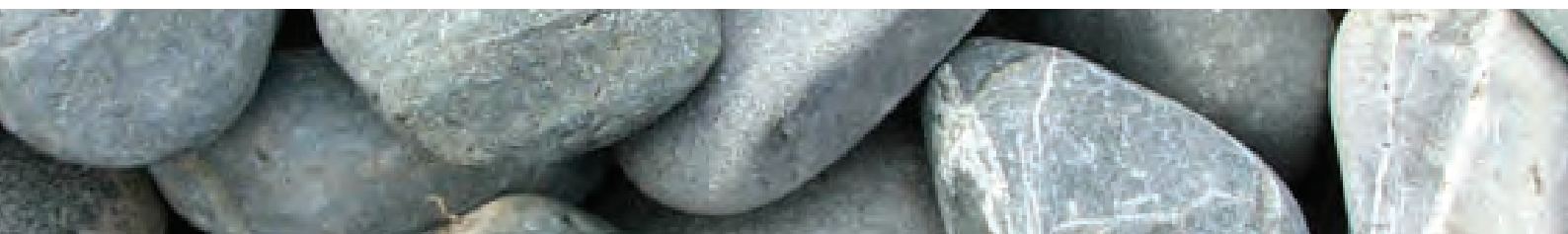
The following day involved golf and a “casual” afternoon game of footy, reliving the years of past glory. Only 1 broken ankle (Geof Shirtcliffe) and a couple of minor tears to hammies and knees eventuated. The game was ably refereed by Martin Dobson and carefully scrutinised by Paddy O’Gorman and a couple of other wounded retirees.

According to Paddy the two teams were as bad as he remembered them to be 30 years ago!

Great seeing everyone get together and re-form some old combinations, despite a few extra pounds. Matt Gentry was awarded the “least improved player” after 30 years as he was still very good, and also was one of the very few to find and fit into his 1981 1st XI shirt. Simon Brebner proved tough to get past in goal, no-one tried to get past “Chopper” Snell 30 years ago, and even less so now. Andy Harwood rolled back the years to finish a match running well into “golden goal” time - a welcome end to 45 minutes of laughs and some competitive footy.

The formal part of the evening involved the usual speeches, stories, lies and more stories, as you’d expect. Special mentions go to Gordon Reid who was one of the first to say “I’m keen” when the invites went out. He is based in the United Kingdom and hadn’t been back to New Zealand for 27 years. Another fine effort was made by David Mansfield who flew in from Asia (but is based in Sydney) plus the other Aussie contingent of Richard Morris and Martin Dobson. Further special mention goes to Paddy O’Gorman, his presence bringing together this gathering. He was in tremendous form and leading from the front until late, but no surprises there.

Photo and article courtesy of Phil Hardy Boys.



Old Boys Still Heading For The Hills

WAIKAREMOANA TRAMPING TRIP



Back Row, left to right (standing under verandah): Ruby Kyle, Phoebe Callaghan, Tom McKay, Becs McKay, Grace White, Rachel Callaghan.

Front Row, left to right: Tash Kyle (current HOD Maths at Rathkeale), Russell Kyle, Simon McKay, Tim White, Belinda White, Harry McKay, George Callaghan, Maggie White, Jono McKay, Sam Callaghan, Hamish Kyle.

The tramping and outdoor pursuits at Rathkeale in the 1980's has continued with these four old boys - as well as three of the original packs we still use to this day. The Lake Waikaremoana Track (A Great Walk of NZ) was McKay's idea. All our wives and kids (aged 8-13) get along well, and have all done a few tramps, so going all together was just more of an adventure for them.

We made our way to Waikaremoana the night before and stayed in cabins on the lake shore. It's a pretty, undiscovered place, plenty of quiet, not too busy. A water taxi ride off to the start of the walk, to a track that goes up and down while never getting too far from the

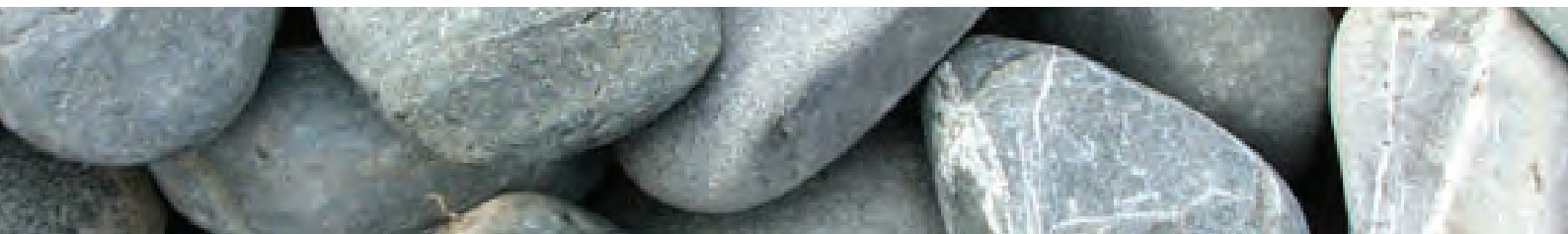
lake shore. We walked the track in reverse order hence avoiding having a big climb on the first day. The group stayed at Waiharuru, Waiopaoa, and then Panekiri huts. The last night was spent up on some pretty high bluffs and as we were clouded in we only saw the view for a minute or less. The view looked impressive in the brochures.

There are plenty of huts and shelters for a longer walk, but it was an easy three nighter. Plenty of time to play cards and dispense a high amount of pharmaceutical aid to 40 something bodies. Nearly all of us are lacking a bit of cartilage here and there. There was sophistication and innovation in

the kitchen - even a coffee plunger was brought along. The missing thing was someone catching a trout. They were easy to see, but I suspect the only way I was going to catch one was foul hooking.

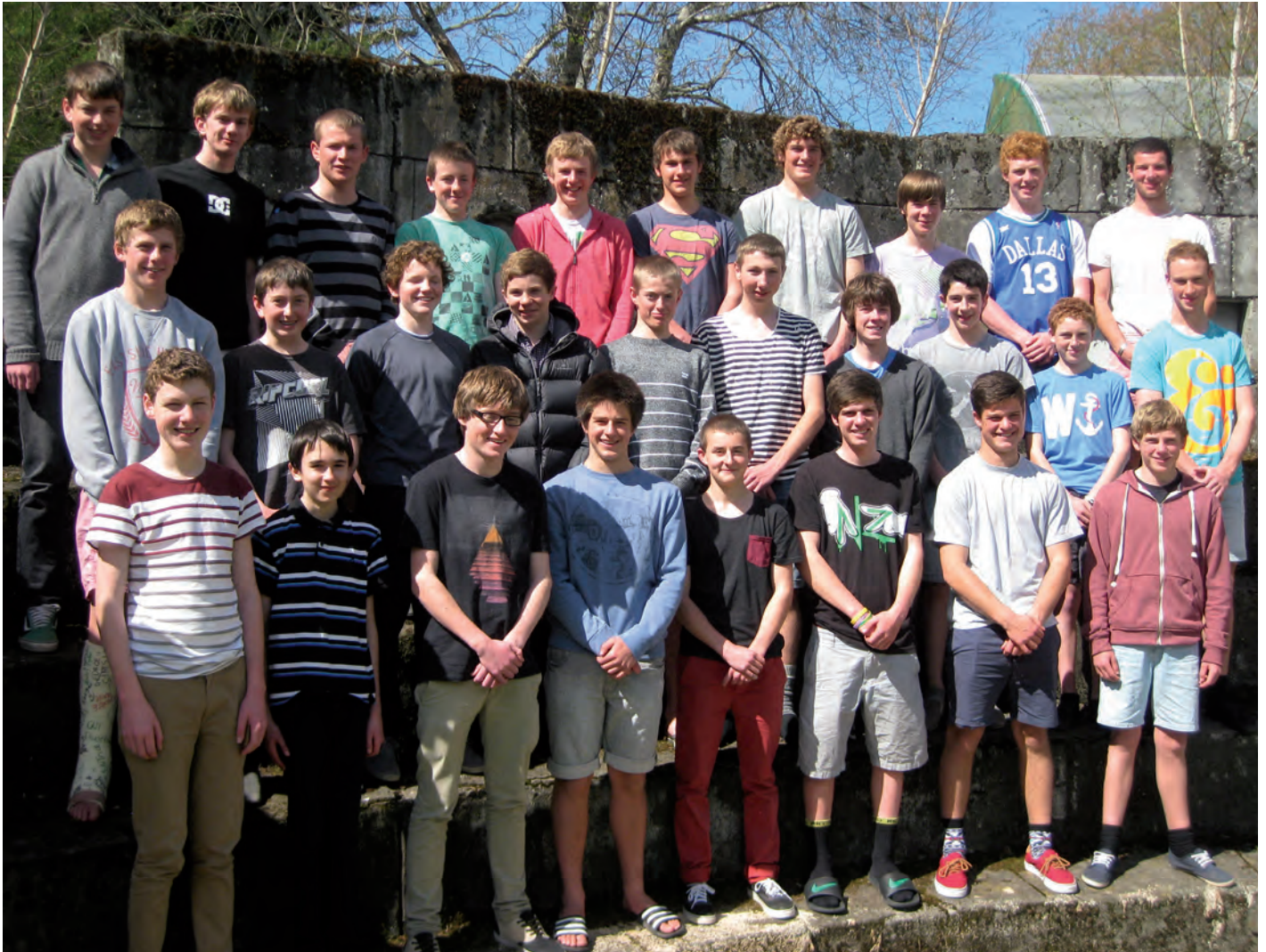
Lake Waikaremoana was a beautiful spot which will have to be visited again, thoroughly recommended. We all have other trips planned and will also be continuing to tramp together.

**George Callaghan
1983 - 1987**



Milestones

2012 STUDENTS WHO ARE SONS OF OLD BOYS



Sons of old boys in the Greek Theatre on mufti day to raise funds for Camp Quality.

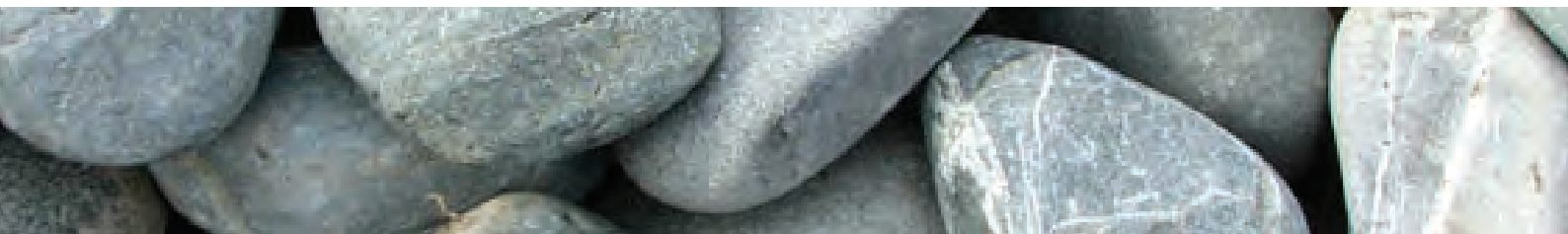
Back Row, left to right: Guy Warren, Jamie Stuart, Josh McKay, Sam Kyle, George Sims, Daniel Warren, Rupert Elworthy, Vincent Capes, Matt Sims, Harry Clinton-Baker.

Middle Row, left to right: Tom Renton, William Warren, Guy Lewis, Henry Wilson, Luke McKay, Henry Parkinson, Matt Hooker, Tom McKay, Hugo Hewitt, Ed Hewitt.

Front Row, left to right: Mac Nelson, Robert Spite, Jonty Morison, Dougal Ross, Ben Whitehead, Jack Sowry, Elliot Mason, Ben Renton.

FONDLY REMEMBERED

Michael Henry Hay; 1972 - 1975, Winchester House, Passed away on 8th September 2012.





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The 2012 Rathkeale Old Boys' Association Committee

Brent Thompson	President	catman@emcl.co.nz	06 377 0757 / 021 672 397
John Booth	Vice President	mellowrise@xtra.co.nz	
Paul Hocking	Secretary/Treasurer	siam@xtra.co.nz	06 306 8849 / 021 362 545
Jonathan Hooker	Committee	synergyconsultants@xtra.co.nz	

The Old Boys' Association has an email address for general correspondence ROBA@rathkeale.school.net

We Need to Contact You

You have received this copy of the Rock Runner because you are a Rathkeale Old Boy, a parent of an Old Boy or you are a member of the school community. We need your help! Whilst Chris Gane has been working tirelessly on our database we would still like to find as many more Old Boys as possible in order that they may have adequate time to plan their trip to The Big Weekend and so that they too can enjoy the Rock Runner magazine. Email is the most effective means we have to keep in touch with Old Boys; to tell them about Old Boys' events, to invite them to reunions, to keep them up to date with school activities and to let their old school friends contact them. Also, look up Rathkeale OldBoys on Facebook and join us. Feel free to send us your contact details or message that way if it's easier for you.

If you are an Old Boy, please email us at roba@rathkeale.school.nz with your email address, your brothers address, your son's email address, the email address of any of your old school mates. Spread the word that we need to contact the Old Boys. Send us every email address you have for Old Boys - we'll sort out the double ups!

Thank you.



**THE BIG WEEKEND
2014**

Register Your Interest Today
E: jubilee@rathkeale.school.nz
www.thebigweekend.school.nz

Join us on Facebook 

Rathkeale draft events programme

Friday 21 March 2014

Registration & school tours from
11.00am

Rathkeale Rendezvous 5.30 - 10.00pm

Saturday 22 March 2014

Registration, morning tea & school
tours from 9.30am

Opening assembly and book launch
10.30 - 11.30am

Lunch 12:00 noon

Clay bird shooting 10.30am - 3.30pm

Trinity Ball at St Matthew's - 7.00pm

Sunday 23 March 2014

Chapel service 9.30am

Old boy cricket 10.30am

Picnic lunch 11.30am



Nil mortalibus ardui est

“nothing is impossible for mortal man.”

