

# Rock Runner

The magazine of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association

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The findings of the questionnaire sent out to Old Boys earlier in the year proved to be both interesting and informative. Whilst no organisation can expect to be all things to all people, it was excellent to gain much positive feedback and to know that the efforts of the Executive are well received by many.

The experiences of students at any school vary greatly and Rathkeale is no exception. All Old Boys will have things in common, but there are many other aspects of school life that are not universally shared. Some loved their College years and others did not. For some, sport or boarding were highlights but for others they are best described as nightmares.

Not surprisingly, the Rock Runner will sometimes struggle to be all things to all people. As the questionnaire revealed, some want more about the school in 2019 while others are only interested in news of their cohort.



Over the years, Rock Runner has sought to offer something for everyone. In doing so, I am grateful to those who feed through suggestions and the articles which fill our pages, and which hopefully help to maintain our connectedness to the school and to each other. Further suggestions and contributions will always be welcome.

Certainly, as Old Boys we are a diverse bunch. Recent attendees at the Decade Reunions represented a wide range of interests, lifestyles and occupations in many countries and yet all blended as one, once back inside the gates. This edition of the Rock Runner contains some of their stories and hopefully will inspire others to contribute in similar ways in the future.

Grant Harper  
Editor

ROCK RUNNER 2019

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With hindsight, 2019 has been a successful and productive year, one that hopefully has further enhanced the effectiveness of the Old Boys' Association.

At the heart of ROBA, the Executive has worked hard and with purpose to achieve the various goals set by the Strategic Plan. Key office holders have remained unchanged with Edward Cox (1983-1987) as Vice President/Secretary, Scott Andrew (1989-1993) as Treasurer and Blair Ewington (1984-1988) looking after Most/Facebook. Fortunately, Stuart McKenzie (1979-1982) and Richard Donworth (1982-1986) have remained on the local committee where they are joined by Tristan Armitage (1992-1994) and three young bloods, Jock Cameron (2007-2011), Jacob Smith (2006-2010) and David Pereira (2007-2011). From afar, we have enjoyed regular feed into our Skype meetings from David Aitken (1979-1983) in Auckland and Julius Capilitan (1997-2000) in Wellington. Also helping at regional level are Terry Brailsford (1969-1973), Dwayne Smith (1994-1998) and Michael Caulton (1973-1977) in Auckland, James Treadwell (1983-1987), Hamish Gibbs (1979-1983) and Dan Druzianic (1979-1983) in Hawke's Bay, Simon Manthel (1978-1979) in Manawatu, George Pottinger (1969-1971) and Sam Johnson (2001-2005) in Canterbury. Their willing participation is gratefully received. We also acknowledge the on-going support of the Principal.

The year began with the annual cricket match between the Old Boys and the School. Again, we are grateful to Shay O'Gorman (1988-1992) for his organisation of

the day which resulted in a win to the College – their second victory against ROBA over the past decade.

Queen's Birthday weekend heralded another round of Decade Reunions and again reinforced the fact that this is a welcome opportunity for the rekindling of old acquaintances. The 1979 Facilitators, Stephen Foster and Peter Hausmann, take the prize for attracting Old Boys from all around the world to what was a very special weekend. The efforts of the other facilitators are also acknowledged: Lawrence Cheetham (1969), Sam Hepburn and Rupert Handyside (1999) and Bevan Saywell (2009). We now look forward to the 2020 event with some anticipation and thank those facilitators who stepped into the role some months ago.

In the regions, successful gatherings have been well-supported. Auckland Old Boys were joined by their St Matthew's counterparts early in the year when an excellent evening at the Parnell Tennis Club was attended by John and Sarah Taylor, Bruce and Gwen Levick, Martin and Sara O'Grady, Grant Harper and well over one hundred past students. We hope the presence of SMOGA will be ongoing at other gatherings in the future.

Hawke's Bay Old Boys gathered on the side-line of the Rathkeale/Lindisfarne winter fixture in Hastings at the end of July and later retired to Jarks for a very convivial few hours.

Another significant gathering took place during the winter when the rugby team that toured Britain and Europe in 1989 regrouped after thirty years and spent an enjoyable weekend together on the 1st XV side-line, in old haunts and over

dinner at the Masterton Club.

As the year drew to a close, further functions were held in the Wairarapa in association with a Wairarapa Bush match and in Wellington in late November. Others are planned for early December in Christchurch and late December in Melbourne. The Executive is aware that such events need to be strongly encouraged and a concerted effort to activate Old Boys in the South Island will occur in 2020.

In keeping with tradition, this year's Founders' Day was held in late August (Rathkeale's Foundation plaque was unveiled on School House by Sir Bernard Fergusson on August 20th 1963). Old Boy Clive Akers, ONZM (1967-1971), was this year's guest speaker and was well-received by an attentive audience as he spoke about his school days, involvement with the New Zealand Rugby Museum and his ongoing life as a significant author and historian. At the same assembly, Dr Angela Kelly was made an Honorary Member of the Old Boys' Association following ten years of service to the College. In the middle of the year and with the assistance of James Treadwell (1983-1987), the Association administered a questionnaire which sought to canvas Old Boys' thoughts and ideas about ROBA and its operation. We were grateful for the extent to which people responded and look forward to implementing some new initiatives in the future.

The 2019 Leavers' Dinner in late October was addressed by Old Boy Stuart Sexton who focused on the disabled and resulted in another very good intake of new Association members.



The launch of a new ROBA website in October was another major step forward and we will welcome Old Boys' ability to update their contact details online in the future. I anticipate that this will become a vital kernel within the life of the Association going forward.

The value of the MOST data base continues to increase markedly and owes much to the input of Blair Ewington as he chases down missing contact details. The number of active email addresses has now neared 2000.

Perhaps because of the relative youthfulness of most Old Boys, our investment in Notice, Match has been of minimal worth this year. However, the passings of Pat Lee (staff), Craig McBride (staff), Finn Yeats (ROBA), Gary Harwood (ROBA), Zac Patterson (ROBA), Andrew Voss (ROBA), Robert Jennens (ROBA), Ted Dashfield and Frederica Hamilton during the year are acknowledged.

Financially, the Association is strong despite its reliance on Leavers' subs as the sole source of income. That strength has enabled the Executive to institute an annual Old Boys' Scholarship to the College. It will only be available to sons of Old Boys.

The Ruamahanga Restoration Trust is closely aligned to both the College and the Old Boys' Association. We acknowledge their enthusiasm and commitment to the future of the special environment that is Rathkeale and the Wairarapa.

Suffice to say, ROBA, guided by its strategic plan and enhanced by the enthusiasm of many members, remains a valid and increasingly vital organisation.

*Grant Harper*  
President



ROBA Executive Members Richard Donworth and Stuart McKenzie



Ross Hunt and Lawrence Cheetham



2019 Decade Reunion Friday evening.

# Rathkeale Board of Trustees

Chairman of the Rathkeale College Board of Trustees George Murdoch reports on the Board's work in 2019.

Greetings from the Rathkeale Board of Trustees. It is fair to say 2019 has been a year of challenges at Rathkeale College.

In January, the Government released its Review of Tomorrow's Schools. Proposals in the review have far reaching consequences for the education sector and, in particular, State Integrated Schools such as Rathkeale. To me, the review creates another bureaucracy to take over a number of the functions of existing Boards of Trustees. Of real concern is the potential for these changes to override the Board's and school's ability to deliver on its Special Character. The Rathkeale Board, along with hundreds of others, made a submission on the review following the consultation period; the final shape of the proposed reforms is still to be determined.

On a positive note, there remains strong interest in Rathkeale College as a provider of an holistic educational experience for young men. This interest has led us to apply to the Ministry of Education for an amendment to our Integration Agreement to allow an increase in our boarding roll to better accommodate this demand. At the time of writing, we were still awaiting their response.

Rathkeale Principal Martin O'Grady is now in his second year at the helm and with the support of the Board is implementing changes within the school and how we market ourselves to prospective students and their families. Change for many of us is challenging, as we have to leave behind the familiar things we know and embrace the challenges of the unknown. The Board is confident that these changes will enhance the way we deliver the curriculum in the future.

On the people front, this year we said farewell to a longstanding servant of the Rathkeale establishment. Lenora White, better known to many who boarded at

Rathkeale as 'Gert', retired as Matron of Rugby House. Although she was a reluctant participant, Gert was given a fitting farewell at Rathkeale in the middle of the year.



Last year I mentioned that the Trinity Schools Trust Board had developed a comprehensive program to address the capital development requirements across all the Trinity Schools. Unfortunately, this plan was thrown into disarray when final engineering reports on the Trust House Auditorium showed it was well below the required building code standard for its intended use and had to close immediately. Subsequent engineering work has shown there is significant structural work required to bring it up to standard. This substantial and unforeseen cost has necessitated a major reprioritisation of the capital spend across all sites over the next five years. Despite this, the reroofing of School House has been completed and the renovation of Repton House is still planned to proceed in the next 12 months. In addition to this, plans are being developed for the long overdue upgrade of day student facilities on the campus. The required reprioritisation has, however, resulted in a rethink of the scale and design of the new gymnasium and how it will fit within the financial constraints we now face.

The closure of the auditorium, whilst necessary, created huge disruption to the running of the College and I commend the staff and the students for the way they have adapted to not having access to this key facility.

A recent highlight for the College was the Ordination and Installation of Waitohiariki Quayle as the Second Bishop of Te Upoko o te Ika. This event created history as Bishop Quayle became the first Maori woman and first New Zealand-born woman of any denomination to become a Bishop in New Zealand. The event proved to be a great opportunity to strengthen our ties with the Anglican Church and to showcase Rathkeale College on a spectacular Spring day to a large audience from all over New Zealand.

As we go forward into 2020, I am reminded of the increasing challenges we face in preparing our young people to navigate the challenges and pressures they face growing up in today's society. To do this we have to continue to evolve what we deliver and how we deliver it. It is a challenge I strongly believe Rathkeale College is up for.

*George Murdoch*  
Chairman, Rathkeale Board of Trustees





# Principal's Report

Principal MARTIN O'GRADY shares his thoughts on the past year at Rathkeale College.

It is a pleasure to write my second report for the Rock Runner which signals that I have spent almost two years at Rathkeale as Principal. Certainly, this year many things are starting to look and feel more familiar and I have enjoyed meeting more of the ROBA community at various events around New Zealand.

The Decade Reunions this year were a very enjoyable experience. Many Old Boys made the comment to me that it was their first time back at their old school. It is nice to know that events like the Decade Reunions provide an opportunity for Old Boys to return to their old College. In every case, they were thrilled at the way the school was progressing and many were astounded at how much the trees had grown! For some, this had special significance as they had actually planted them in the late 1960s and early 1970s.

Someone once said that the one constant in schools today is change. This has been particularly noticeable this year at both a New Zealand national education level but also within our school as we seek to gain improvements for the teaching and learning of our students.

It has been heartening to experience an increase in demand for places at Rathkeale College and this will see us start next year with a significant increase in our roll and most of this increase has been in boarding enrolments which is particularly pleasing.

I am constantly amazed by the talents and achievements of our current students and trust that our Old Boys are aware and proud of their achievements. Outstanding results across academia, sport and the performing arts continue to bring us an enormous amount of pride. Added to this are recent successes by our Old Boys which are well reported in Gravel, the ROBA Facebook page and this publication. This all adds to the fabric of the school and gives us a great sense of value and pride in the College.

As our College becomes older so will the importance of the ROBA. I would like to pay tribute to the members for their ongoing support of the College, in particular the ROBA Executive led by President Grant Harper and Secretary Edward Cox. Often, at the end of a long and busy day, these gentlemen put aside many hours in the evening to meet from all around New Zealand and plan and organise events for the benefit of all Old Boys. I trust that they know that their efforts are appreciated by all of us.

I particularly enjoyed the visit this year from Mr Clive Akers on Founders' Day. He spoke to our current students about his time at Rathkeale and then his experiences and achievements over the rest of his life. Many of the boys were struck by his humility, and his gifting to the school of two of his most recent books was certainly special. I look forward to meeting many more Old Boys like Clive Akers who can show our current students what Rathkeale Old



Boys can achieve.

I am excited by the drive and enthusiasm of the ROBA committee. They are genuinely committed to advancing the College and bring a special and unique perspective to the College—a perspective that all successful schools in New Zealand have. My wife Sara and I feel very fortunate to be associated with Rathkeale College and look forward to 2020 with real excitement.

*Martin O'Grady*  
Principal

# The Executive

We profile some of the men who serve you on the ROBA Executive.

## Jacob Smith (2006-2010)

Jacob, a proud Wairarapa man through and through, has grown up on a longstanding family farm just south of Martinborough. Son of 1982 Head Boy, Pete Smith, Jacob was always set to come through Rathkeale College. After a colourful education at Martinborough School, Jacob found himself boarding at Rathkeale for the extent of his college days.

Jake enjoyed immersing himself in many of the differing facets of school life at Rathkeale. He was a keen sportsman and enjoyed his time with both the 1st XI cricket and 1st XV rugby. He relished his time in the boarding house with like-minded peers and was proud to become Head of Repton House under Deon Van Deventer. However, his proudest achievement was the opportunity to lead the School as Deputy Head Boy in 2010.

On leaving Rathkeale, Jake headed for a Gap year at Paarl Boys' High School in Paarl, Western Cape, South Africa. He found the culture and people absolutely amazing, as was the level of school rugby and cricket he was a part of coaching.

He arrived home after a year away with his heart set on attending Lincoln University to study Agricultural Science and to begin his journey towards following in his father's footsteps as a farmer. Unfortunately, prior to his departure south, the Christchurch earthquakes occurred and Jake re-evaluated and quickly found himself studying Agricultural Science at Massey University, Palmerston North, where he eventually graduated. It is a move he certainly doesn't regret.

Looking to add a few more strings to his bow before turning his hand to farming back in Martinborough, Jake has been happily employed as a Forage and Cropping Advisor by H&T Agronomics for the last five years since graduating from Massey in 2014. He has worked around various regions of the North Island, engaging and interacting with clients, building his knowledge and enjoying many differing farm systems.

Jake arrived home in the middle of 2017 to become the local rep for H&T. The main drivers behind this



move were the many friends, family and activities the beautiful Wairarapa has to offer. Whilst he has been, in his own words, too useless to drag the footy boots back on, he has thoroughly enjoyed coaching the Rathkeale U15 White side to a semi-final position and got a lot out of contributing to the next crop of "Good Rathkeale Men". He also turns his hand at social cricket where his team, "The Mighty Coasties", featuring many other Old Boys have been back-to-back champions for the past two years. Hunting, fishing and socialising take up the majority of his other spare time.

Jake joined the ROBA Executive, along with two of his peers from their flat, Jock Cameron and David Pereira. He enjoys working with a good mix of Old Boys from many different professions on the committee and cites been able to encourage the younger generation of Old Boys to partake in some events as one of his main drivers.



## David Pereira (2007-2011)

David — pictured below, standing on the far right— is one of the new faces on the ROBA Executive, having strayed into last year's AGM.

His relatively recent school days had him living in Cranleigh and being Deputy Head of Blake. He cherished the opportunity to lead the school haka and relished his time with the 1st XV and 2nd XI cricket. He also served as Chapel Prefect.

In 2012, he moved south to Dunedin and spent three and a half years studying Applied Science and Sport and Exercise at the Otago Institute of Sport. This culminated in a Bachelor of Applied Science and Level Four Sport and Exercise.

By 2015, he was back in Masterton and flatting with fellow Old Boys, Jock Cameron and Phil Tuoro. For a period, he worked for Trade and Commerce assisting young people who had abandoned the conventional school system. Four years in retail with the Power Shop preceded his current employment with the Ministry of Social Development.

David is enjoying his time on the Executive and was central to the Old Boys' gathering that coincided with the Wairarapa Bush/Horowhenua Kapiti rugby match and has even found time to occasionally assist with coaching rugby at College.



Old Boys gather at the Wairarapa Bush vs Horowhenua Kapiti Rugby match, 2019

## Tristan Armitage (2007-2011)

Tristan Armitage has been a Financial Adviser for the last 10 years and is a director/shareholder of Umbrella Group (Formerly AMP) in Masterton.

Prior to working in the Financial Advice industry, Tristan spent many years in the hospitality industry as a manager and owner. He also worked for three years as a Business Development Manager at Coca Cola.

Locally, Tristan is a committee member on both The Masterton Club, which is one of the oldest clubs in New Zealand, and The Masterton Racing Club. His favourite pastimes are experiencing hospitality (from the other side of the bar), binge-watching the odd TV series and racing and breeding thoroughbred racehorses.

Tristan and his partner Rebecca live in Gladstone with their greyhound and chickens.



## Jock Cameron (2007-2011)

Jock Cameron grew up on the family farm in the Wairarapa. Before Rathkeale, he attended Hadlow Primary School for four years and was destined for Rathkeale, as his late father, Hamish Cameron, was an Old Boy.

Jock started as a day boy but then switched to boarding at Cranleigh House in his second year after the family farm sold and he moved further up the Whangaehu Valley. With a big change in lifestyle, the boarding house was the perfect fit at the time and meant he could be more involved with the school by getting stuck into numerous sporting codes and his studies. He had the honour of becoming Deputy Head of his boarding house in his final year and playing for both the 1st XV rugby and the 1st XI cricket.

With family roots deep in agriculture, this would be Jock's area he would explore further, as he finished College and went on to Massey University. He managed to gain the Beef and Lamb Scholarship and the Sydney Campbell Scholarship for all three years while he completed a Bachelor of Agri Commerce, majoring in Farm Management. University was a real highlight for Jock and he is glad he continued playing rugby there and furthering his studies in Palmerston North while making lifelong friends.

In Jock's final year he was offered a job with John Griffith & Co Ltd back here in the Wairarapa as a livestock agent. This was a good fit as it was where he did the practical work for his university papers. He has been working with the company for almost five years now and is well entrenched in the Wairarapa community. Jock is the school's stock agent for our few farming hectares and really enjoys helping the students draft the stock on the property and teaching them about grading prime stock.

Jock continues to play rugby and plays for Gladstone rugby club senior As. Along with playing, he has taken on coaching and this year coached the Rathkeale green junior rugby team along with fellow Old Boy Scott Day.

Along with work connections and coaching



At work in the Rathkeale yards.



Jock and his sister Emma.

connections to the school Jock has become part of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Executive and is enjoying being further involved with connecting Old Boys back to their roots as he has, which he has found very fulfilling.



## Your Feedback: ROBA Online Survey Results

One of ROBA's goals for 2019 was to conduct an online survey of members. We wanted to know what members wanted ROBA to achieve as an organisation. Therefore, in August this year we conducted our first ever survey—that we know about—and we were delighted with the results.

ShapeFirst, a little background. ROBA's vision includes being an energetic and sustainable organisation that most former Rathkeale pupils want to belong to and, amongst other things, to be a network to benefit Old Boys.

To achieve our goals we have adopted a strategic plan—currently 2019 to 2022. The plan has an “audacious goal” of having 75% of Old Boys engaging with the Association once every three years by 2025. That would be approximately 1000 Old Boys per year and would represent a significant increase from now, depending on your definition of interaction. To achieve that we needed to check what our members want and what will make them engage with us.

With that in mind, we got to work. James Treadwell, a committee member and dab hand at online surveys, designed the question structure and sent it to all our known accurate email addresses—at that stage approximately 1750. We were unsure of the likely uptake, but the first measure of success was the participation rate: there were 494 respondents meaning that almost a third of members that we have contact with completed the survey. When emails can be so quickly ignored, it was heartening that so many took the time to complete the survey.

The key themes from the survey responses include that you:

- think that the most important

function of ROBA is to keep members in contact with the College, closely followed by social events with each other and networking. Supporting the school financially was ranked significantly lower than those first three functions;

- want to hear about other Old Boys. You want to hear what other members are up to, what they have done since they left school and the special interests they have followed. School events came third. We were interested to note that there was still a significant, although much lower, interest in reading summary of Old Boys' committee meetings;
- enjoy reading our regular newsletter Gravel—over 87% answered that they read it. Along with this Rock Runner publication, Gravel is our second way of communicating with Old Boys;
- want to communicate with other Old Boys, yet over 20% of respondents said they had no contact with other members. While at first this was surprising, it may reflect that being an online survey, many of our members who are not in contact with their school friends were still willing to receive information from ROBA;
- do not always hear of ROBA's social events, with 28% saying they had not;
- have quickly become aware of the annual Decade Reunions as ROBA's flagship event, with 75% answering positively that they knew of the event;
- support the granting of need-based scholarships above the current \$2000 annual Old Boys' Entrance Scholarship which is being awarded for the first time

in 2019;

- are prepared to spend good money to attend a ROBA dinner with a speaker—the average price you are prepared to pay is \$63;
- overwhelmingly want communications from ROBA to arrive by email. That may have been self-selecting, given this was an online survey delivered by email, but it reinforces that the greatest number of members will have the greatest number of interactions with ROBA online.

The written answers by respondents provided a wide range of views about what members liked, and did not like, about our current annual program of events. There are also interesting, and some telling, comments about members' experiences and memories of school life. The most consistent theme was members wanting to hear about the people they were at school with.

The ROBA Executive reviewed the survey results with great interest. We will repeat the survey each year to see whether what we are doing meets with the approval of members. As we plan events and communications, we will check that they reflect what members have said they want in the survey.

With the commissioning of the new website and electronic publishing, there are new possibilities in the future. It may be that the Rock Runner you receive in years to come will have content tailored to your cohort of members and feature stories about the people you are most likely to know from school days.

Thanks again to everyone who completed the survey. We look forward to hearing from you again next year.

*Ed Cox*

## Decade Reunions

Reunion events and gatherings continue to take place at Rathkeale and beyond.



Old Boys from 1969, 79, 99 and 2009 returned to College for Decade Reunions at Queen's Birthday Weekend.





# 1989 Rugby Tour Reunion

It all began in 1987 with the germ of an idea promulgated by the coach of the 1st XV that perhaps consideration could be given to an overseas tour.

Already fixtures had been confirmed with teams in the South Island for that season but this was a vastly different proposition. Michael Fisher, the coach, wanted to tour the UK and also arrange a fixture in Europe. This was a quite revolutionary idea as at that time teams did not travel as often as they do in 2019.

One firm resolve was agreed to and that was that the boys would actively participate in fundraising and parents would be asked to contribute a minimum amount if there was a shortfall. The first stage was to organise matches and this was no simple task in the days before email. Michael Fisher drew heavily on the network of schools which had established links with Rathkeale through staff exchanges and tutorships. Once the basic outline of the tour had been confirmed the gaps were filled in from referred establishments.

One Rathkeale parent was Mick Williment who volunteered to use his expertise in sport travel to assist the enterprise by using his contacts to organise airline travel, heavily discounted for the large group, and in addition coach travel in the UK and over the Channel to France and Switzerland. Mick's input enabled a budget to be put together so with a goal of \$50,000 the fund raising began. The word was put around that the boys were willing and indeed keen to undertake any task that would result in a profit for the tour. Some of the activities were highly successful and \$20,000 alone was raised by picking asparagus on a daily basis early each morning for two months.



Left to Right: Murray Owles, Matthew Wilton and Joe Nutting

Although the early starts were challenging both for the boys and for the staff who had to make sure that the "pickers" were on time and reasonably awake before they were let loose in what they irreverently called "the killing fields". Other ventures included the painting of a church which would have been profitable if one of the boys had not fallen through a skylight which had to be replaced and resulted in a very small deposit to tour funds.

In spite of some minor setbacks, the camaraderie that the various activities engendered was priceless and later the team talked about the positive benefits of this time and how the group became cohesive working toward a common goal. Finally, in mid-December 1989, the time came for 25 young men to leave for this great adventure. All the preparation had been completed the fitness regime undertaken and whatever lay ahead was anticipated

with excitement. The success of the tour is another story but suffice to say that what followed in June 2019 is testimony to that.

Some of the former team had maintained close friendships and a casual conversation prompted one of the group to take up the suggestion and organise a thirty year reunion. This time all it required was some research to register the email addresses of all the group and three emails in total. The response was phenomenal and enthusiastic. One of the recipients said he usually disregards such emails but this was different and nothing would have kept him away.

The organisation of the weekend was deliberately kept casual and a Friday evening "meet and greet" followed by a visit to the school and a small ceremony handing out the Jerseys to the Fifteen of 2019 and finally a dinner on the Saturday evening were the only organised events. As



The Tour Team Thirty Years On

a result of the casual nature of the programme it was not definitively determined how many would turn up.

On the Friday night a nervous wait was rewarded as 22 of the original team of 25 burst through the entrance of the Masterton Club where the function was being held. Thirty years on, those young men who had toured together were now in middle age with families, living all over New Zealand and indeed the world, but nothing had changed. "Man hugs" were the order of the evening and nick names were revised. The intervening years fell away as the reminiscing went on into the small hours. On the Saturday evening, a video of the tour and some of the games was put up on a big screen for the sheer delight of all and the weekend ended with the group planning to meet again in 2 years. The hiatus of 30 years was too long.



Left to Right: Stuart Denton and Brian Speedy

## The Team

Campbell Twist (C), Fergus Rutherford (VC), Brendon Judd, Brian Speedy, Euan Percy, Andrew Burnett, Daniel Dobson, Jeremy Gray, David Crowley, Joe Nutting, Matthew Wilton, Richard Pickering, Murray Owles, Robert Sarfati, Guy Uttley, David Hume, Bill Francis, Marcus Kynoch, Stuart Denton, Wade Peryer, Nick Bolton, Guy Didsbury, Struan Buchanan



# Decade Reunions

Peter Hausmann (1975-1979) shares his thoughts on the importance of old friendships and school reunions.

The class of 1979 held its reunion in June attended by over 50 Old Boys. While I have some close friends from my days as a border at Rathkeale, it's fair to say that I like many of our year group have not been a great fan of reunions, basically attending almost nothing since I left school.

I therefore didn't ever think I'd be a key organiser of such an event. However, noting there are a number of Old Boys who are no longer with us, when the Rockrunner highlighted it was our decades reunion this year, I contacted Hamish Sims who has been a friend from our first day at school to discuss how we could see if there was interest in a reunion. He thought it was a great idea and kindly stated

"You sit on your backside (an unkind reference to retirement) and so does Foster so the two of you should organise it".

The 1979 year group has been consistently poor at attending any ROBA events. In fact for many of us it was the first time we had seen each other in 40 years. Stephen Foster, Adrian Denniston and I initially had an uphill battle convincing Old Boys to attend. After the first round of phone calls less than a dozen agreed to attend the reunion, but through the use of belligerent and repeated phone calls and a cunning plan publishing lists of those not attending, the procrastinators were eventually entrapped. We found it helped that when someone stated they'd consider attending, we published the list with their names down as having agreed to attend!



Inevitably momentum caused the numbers to swell such that the idea of not attending meant you'd be missing out. We had some Old Boys making sterling efforts including Rob Staples, Mike Rees, and Ross McKay travelling from Australia, Ross McCulloch making the trip from Perth (sometimes considered a part of Aus) , Albert King completed a 17,000 kms round trip from Singapore, and Clive Holmes an 18,000 kms round trip from New York.

We met on the Friday night at the Solway bar before heading out to drinks at the school. It would be fair to say that after not seeing each other for 40 years, many of us had changed, with some of the chaps being "broader", and there was a proliferation of a frugal and somewhat streamlined "grey rinse" hair style, opposed to the long locks of the 70s.

It was also notable that there seemed to be a number of Old Boys who had

obviously gone through, or were still trying to consider themselves at the right age to be having a midlife crisis, based on the number who had motorbikes, specialist cars and even helicopters stashed away.

Friday night ended for some of us around 3am after we were spurred on by some very good whiskey which Albert King brought with him from Singapore. Saturday included a tour of the school and lunch, and a dinner for our year group at the "Horse Shoe".

Once we were over the initial shock of meeting each other, what was notable was the speed with which old friendships were again established. Many of us commented on how easy it was to reconnect and relate to people who essentially we had not seen for years. I'm not surprised however, as many of us spent the formative teenage years of our lives living together.

I ended my career having been a shareholder and Exec Director/ CEO of a Health Service provider in New Zealand. As a result I am very conscious of the level of mental health issues affecting men and women of our age, with 1 in 8 New Zealand men experiencing serious depression during their lifetime, and 75% of suicides in New Zealand being men. During the process of contacting Old Boys it became obvious within our own year group there are some who didn't attend due to such health issues.

Of course attending a school reunion isn't going to address these issues but reunions are a powerful way to reconnect with old friends. For me the reunion was a demonstration of the importance of communication.



- Back Row:** Paul Ashford, Albert King, Peter Hausmann, Tom Clark, Ross Hunt, John Fitzgerald, Greg Wilson, Nick Chilvers, Adrian Denniston, Dave Collier
- Third Row:** Clive Holmes, Chris Spencer, Murray Smith, Hamish Aitken, John Tombleson, Rob Staples, John Draper, Tim Coombs, Nick Bush
- Second Row:** Chris Lander, Graham Lowes, Ross McKay, Chris Mathieson, Simon Manthel, Brian Bendall, Steve Foster, Neil Saban, Dave Harrey, Tony Flipp
- Front Row:** Stuart Gibson, Craig Foote, Mike Rees, Pete Warren, Don Smith, Hamish Sims, Bayden Wilson, Ross MacCulloch, Simon Capes, Tim Morgan, Jeremy Logan
- Absent:** Dave Nelson, Craig Foster

Our generation is not generally good at the use of social media, which means at times old friendships haven't been maintained. And yet I can state that what I thought was going to be a difficult task, ringing and contacting Old Boys, was in fact a very enjoyable one.

For many who attended the Class of 79 event, the opportunity to re-establish old friendships was fantastic and left many wondering

why we had not done so earlier. As a result of the reunion, there are a range of catch ups / phone calls / emails and events occurring between our year group, none of which would now be taking place if we all had not made the effort to attend the reunion. There was also a call for another reunion to occur but not waiting another 10 years.

My hope would be that at the next reunion we can reach out to old

friends who didn't make it this time, such that old friendships continue to be re-established.

If you are an Old Boy or Old Girl and like me and most of the class of 79, you haven't made the effort to attend a reunion, I'd recommend that for a small amount of effort the return is very worthwhile.



# School House Renovation

2019 has been a big year for the iconic Rathkeale Homestead and, as the year draws to a close, visitors are quick to notice the changes that have taken place.

Work started last summer with the demolition of the distinctive water tower, its associated ramshackle outbuildings and the old double garage. There were a number of reasons for their removal, including earthquake assessment. The former wash house, which Old Boys may remember as a hobbies hut for School House boys or as the OP shed, has been reroofed and upgraded and is now home base for the school cleaners. The adjacent area has provided additional parking with a new double garage at the back of the residence. The whole area is now screened by new wooden fencing and planting.

Later in the year the old Welsh slate that had arrived from Tinui Station Homestead in 1925, was removed from the entire building and some kept for posterity. It has been replaced with a similar looking synthetic product that looks very smart.

Indoors, the staff residence has had a major makeover with much gutting, new double-glazed windows, extensive ducted heating system, new bathrooms and a whole new kitchen. Elsewhere in the building a new kitchen has been installed adjacent to the foyer for entertaining purposes.

With the building reaching its centennial year in 2025, it is good to think that it has received a significant and long overdue face lift.



Off with the old and on with the new.



The end of the old water tower.



A new perspective on a familiar old building.

# A Runaway Success Story

Stephen Marsh Racing is a name synonymous with the New Zealand Racing Industry and is presided over by Rathkeale Old Boy Stephen Marsh (1994-1997).

Growing up in Woodville as the son of Master Trainer and Melbourne Cup winning Jockey Bruce Marsh, it is not surprising that Stephen's inherited love of horses was already obvious during his school years

Stephen admits that he was very pleased to escape from Rathkeale at the end of his College years but is also quick to describe his school days as some of the best years of his life to date.

His training career began in 2002 in partnership with his father and over a three year period the partnership enjoyed a series of high profile Group 1 victories with Russian Pearl in the Bayer Classic, Hail in the Zabeel Classic and Play On in the Magic Millions Two Year Old Classic.

In 2005 he branched out on his own and in 2008 went on to establish Marsh Racing in Cambridge, a town that claims the best training facilities in New Zealand, and arguably Australasia. Stephen is currently an A Class trainer employing a staff of 34, and boasting world class training facilities, including horse treadmills, walking machine and horse swimming pool.

Over the past few years, Marsh Racing has enjoyed increasing international renown. In 2013, Ruud Awakening won the million dollar Karaka Millions, the richest race in the country for two year olds and one that took Stephen and his team to the next level. At that stage they had forty horses in work and that has now grown to a remarkable 210 on his books, with 110 in training at any one time.

Another big turning point was Sofia Rosa winning the AJC Oaks in Sydney in April 2016. The following 2017-18 season featured 64 wins and the 2018-19 season an impressive 97 wins. Things continue to go from strength to strength and this season has already clocked up 25 wins, which currently places him second on the National Trainers' Premiership. He also won this year's million dollar New Zealand Derby, our most prestigious race.

Stephen's pride in Marsh Racing is tangible and his enthusiasm infectious. His is a good name to watch out for, on and off the track.



Stephen Marsh at work in Cambridge.



# Music to our ears

The world has changed since Ruth Eckford first taught music at Rathkeale in 1981 but fundamentals remain the same.

**R**uth Eckford (nee Osborne) arrived at a relatively youthful Rathkeale College in 1981 to teach music and to conduct the Chapel Choir and Orchestra.

In 2019 she is still the accompanist for the combined Rathkeale and St Matthew's choir, Viva Camerata, and conductor of the Rathkeale Concert Band and the St Matthew's Orchestra.

So not much has changed, or has it?

As Ruth observes a great deal has changed. Music classes have moved from the Lecture Theatre to Winchester and then upstairs to School House, where the Form 3 boarders used to sleep.

The music practice rooms have also moved from the Rugby Changing

Rooms – cold, concrete block cells - to Winchester and then upstairs to School House. There are many more pianos around and much more musical equipment available. Keyboards, amps, computers and sound mixers are no longer special items.

Ruth has gone from hand writing extra music parts to either using a computer to arrange parts or to having eprints sent to her. The long



Conducting the College Orchestra in the 1980s.

wait for new music to arrive by 'snail mail' is no longer.

A small army of itinerant music tutors offer a wide range of tuition although sadly the skirl of the pipes is rarely heard these days.

However, she believes that the real essence of teaching and developing musicians has not changed at all. She still wants her musicians to go out into the world and to be brave enough to join a choir or play for a musical or join the local brass band or concert band, where everyone is welcome to participate and ability or age is no barrier.

Her time at Rathkeale has left her with a rich tapestry of memories of shows, choirs, orchestras and budding musicians who have much to be grateful to Mrs Eckford for.

Rathkeale musical icons: Ruth Eckford and Kiewiet Van Deventer still have plenty to smile about.



# Old Boys Cricket XI vs School

We report back on the now traditional annual fixture between the Old Boys and the school 1st XI.

**T**he now traditional annual fixture between the Old Boys and the School was played in January. As always, the school batted first and posted an excellent total of 201 for 6 off their 40 overs. The school was always in command, with their first 3 batters getting runs. School captain John McKenzie—son of Old Boy Stu McKenzie—set the tone, playing shots all around the wicket in an attractive 49. Jake Jonas at the other end was steady holding up an end, making a patient 53. Gus Borren followed John and he too played his shots, scoring 50 in reasonably quick time. At some stage the Old Boys were staring down the barrel of 240/250. Good bowling from Tim Lucas (3-23) and the other dabbly dod bowlers, and the Old Boys managed to pull back the soaring rate.

The Old Boys never really got themselves up with the rate and consistently lost wickets at key times. While many made starts, no one really managed to score a substantial score to threaten their total. Anthony Sprowson played some nice shots and Michael Tosswill and Duncan Didsbury also looked good while at the wicket. Alistair Boyne (Tora), who opened the innings, was our mainstay and kept us in the hunt. However, the Old Boys were dismissed in the final over for 182 falling 19 runs short of the school's total.

Overall, it was another enjoyable day's cricket. The Old Boys enjoyed the spirit the game was played in and this is a testament to the approach and attitude of the school team, captain John McKenzie and coach Neil Perry.



Alistair Boyne in good form.



Left to Right: Fergus Rutherford, Malcolm Wyeth, Shay O'Gorman and Richard Tosswill.



# Guardians of the Forest

The forest giants of kahikatea and totara that dot the landscape in and around Rathkeale are living treasures - gifts of nature - saved from the European axe and held in great esteem by local Maori who once inhabited the podocarp forests along the Ruamahanga River. To this day, there are not many among us that haven't stood in awe of Rathkeale's unique environment.

All the more reason for us to respect these masters of the forest and do as much as we can to protect and regenerate the surrounding areas so that endangered native wildlife can once again thrive along bird corridors that have the potential to stretch the length of the Ruamahanga, from Pukaha to Palliser.

The newly-established Ruamahanga Restoration Trust exists for this reason and there's no better place to start than within the grounds of Rathkeale College.

The idea for the trust was first

talked about at the 40th reunion of the class of '78. Soon after that, with the support of local law firm Gibson Sheat, the trust was officially incorporated and is now registered as a local charity.

The trustees see an opportunity to engage with Rathkeale and the wider community, working with local students, iwi groups and land owners within the Wairarapa to embrace environmental conservation efforts.

In June 2019, the trust engaged the services of John Bissell to prepare a scoping report that outlines a range of options for engaging students in

baseline monitoring to help count and determine existing numbers of birds, lizards, rodents, native fish species and long-tailed bats within the area. In addition, the report lists how students can get involved in predator trapping to help make the area predator free. The goal is to have the monitoring work completed before the end of 2019 followed by an extensive trapping program to be in place by 2020.

For students, this undertaking provides opportunities to get involved in a range of curriculum-based activities that encompass environmental science, data analysis and the use of technologies and media communications. As an extra-curricular activity, there's no shortage of volunteers who are keen on trapping predators and planting trees

In parallel to the monitoring and predator work, the trust has engaged the services of Trevor Thompson to help advise on how to best restore and regenerate the old Canoe Reach stream and forest wetland areas between the existing Eco Trail and river. The medium to long-term plan includes planting natives around the old sewage ponds that act as a food source and natural habitat for birdlife.

Not far away, on the edge of the Ruamahanga, are gravel banks that have been identified by DOC and local bird watchers as nesting-grounds for the critically endangered black-billed Buller's Gull. Predator trapping, along with careful monitoring of the gulls and

Left: Consultant John Bissell, Campbell McLean and Michael Birch on the Eco Trail.



Above: Year 12 student Noah Boyce planting harakeke for posterity in the College bush.



Above: Environment Prefect Jurgen Schwanecke planting alongside the new fitness station on the Eco Trail.

protection of their nests, will be key to ensuring the gulls' return and survival as an indigenous species.

The trust is also raising funds to help conserve the existing Eco Trail by removing weeds, deepening the spring-fed streams as a habitat for mudfish and eels, and attracting birds to these original wetland and forest areas.

The biodiverse habitats around Rathkeale are invaluable as part of the school's Land Lab program—providing opportunities for student-led research in conservation, land management and clean water protection. In tandem with these efforts, the trust hopes to assist and encourage students to create new methods and technologies with applications for sustainable farming and helping to reverse global warming.

The road ahead relies on the participation of students, staff, volunteers and donors. Only then can the work be extended into the wider community, to invite other schools and interested community groups to use the Eco Trail wetlands and bush areas for environmental science research and study programs for the benefit of the wider community.

As Trustees, we can't do all the work, but we can create a framework to work from and we can help source and provide finances and resources. We ultimately rely on students, teaching staff, land owners and like-minded community groups to help follow through with our goals. But we also rely on the support of Old Boys and Friends.

We therefore call on everyone within the Trinity Schools network to engage in our cause in any way possible, including landowners along the Ruamahanga who can help create pockets of predator-free bush and wetlands that act as bird corridors and freshwater fish sanctuaries between the Tararua and the South Wairarapa coast.

Just as seedlings grow into sturdy trees embraced by a healthy forest, we too have a chance to stand together and protect our environment for future generations.

*The Ruamahanga Restoration Trust is a registered charity that engages in environmental conservation activities for the advancement of education and other purposes beneficial to the Wairarapa community.*





# From Golf Course to Land Lab

Head of Agriculture, Coadette Low, shares some developments in the school's agricultural science programme and where things are going with agribusiness at Rathkeale.

I left New Zealand in 2007 as a Massey graduate to work in South Australia. After eight years of working in industry and teaching, I joined Rathkeale in 2016. My first impressions were of Browntop in the paddocks, random tree placements, and the ram in with the ewes showing a lot of interest. But the grass was green, and that was a bonus.

That first year saw us lamb very early—early enough that some of the ewes were starting to ‘bag-up’ at the start of May, which was very noticeable as we were shearing them on Open Day. Needless to say, the scanner that was booked in for June had a significantly reduced number of ewes to scan. It also meant that the lambing season seemed to go on forever. From 2017 onwards, we were very fortunate to have expertise and guidance from H&T Agronomics, and support from Tulloch Contractors Ltd. and Wairarapa Weed Sprayers, all of which allowed the pasture renewal program to get underway. Our resident ewes were trucked out to Jamie Clinton-Baker’s, and an Italian Ryegrass was put in at the start of Autumn. Once established, it provided a great feed for finishing. As part of the crop rotation, Hunter Brassica was placed in the late spring in 3 out of the 5 paddocks, which saw some great gains by lambs, not to mention positives on soil fertility. With a forever-helpful stock agent in our corner, it has meant the flow of livestock on and off the property has been somewhat effortless over the last 3 years. A permanent pasture was sown in three of the paddocks in Autumn 2019. With the other two heading into crop rotation, it will be nice to get some ewes tugged in 2020. Revenue from livestock has



Above: College Land Lab investigation



Left to Right: Archie Woodhouse, Joe Quinn, Liam Quirke and Federick Eschenbach

allowed the donation of lambs to the Friends' Association for the annual Fete, and the monetary funding of the Donald Family Scholarship annually.

For an area of 5.5ha, we are able to offer great experiential learning opportunities here at Rathkeale, and

the program has gone from strength to strength. The boys are involved in all livestock husbandry, feed management, and movement. They have been excited to be an extra pair of hands for any H&T trial work and are always eager to see the results. The boys are thoroughly engaged



Top: Agri Business students' Silver Fern Farms visit.

Middle: At the Miraka plant, Taupo

Bottom: Rathkeale at Teen Ag Competition, Dannevirke.

with what is happening, which makes my job so enjoyable and the discussions to be had so rewarding. However, without the generous support of parents, community members and businesses, none of this would happen. They have supported our vision and have really helped the Agricultural Science program here at Rathkeale to flourish.

The TeenAg Club is strengthening in numbers each year, and we now have one quarter of the school roll as members. Many club members have seen success, with events such as the NZ Junior Young Farmer, Future Beef Expo, Future Sheep Competition, Agriports, Leadership camps and modules, and training days helping to fuel the passion that these young men have.

With the introduction of the Agribusiness course in 2018 focused on after the farm gate, students have the opportunity to learn the whole supply chain. The course has four intertwined strands of Innovation, Science and Technology, Management and Finance, and Marketing. All Agriculture and Agribusiness classes are lucky to visit so many case study farms and businesses, and to have so many wonderful guest speakers, many of whom have an association with Rathkeale, to help broaden their understanding of the industry. The big 3-day Year 13 ‘jam-packed full of industry visits’ Mystery Creek trip appears to be a highlight for many.

We are excited to see what 2020 and beyond has in store for the Rathkeale Land Lab, with it becoming an even more predominant place for research, innovation, and teaching. Being able to share my passion for agricultural science with students is the main reason I love my job. They are the future. And if the attitude, effort and engagement of those I teach, or have taught, since being at Rathkeale are anything to go by, the Primary Industries in New Zealand are going to be well looked after.

*Coadette Low*  
Head of Agriculture



# In vino veritas ...

Alastair Maling (1981-1983) is group winemaker and head of viticulture for Foley Wines, a group that includes Te Kairanga, Martinborough Vineyard, Grove Mill, Vavasour and Mt Difficulty.

Arriving at Rathkeale in the 5th form wasn't the easiest for a teenager trying to fit into an already well-established environment. Although I didn't appreciate it at the time, and on reflection wouldn't have it any other way, the large turnout of our year group at the Rathkeale/St Matthew's reunion in 2014 reminded me how strong those school bonds are.

A gap year followed by a B Com at Lincoln University led to my first job with Wrightson in the Rural Lending division. For the next five years I moved between Wellington, Blenheim and Hawke's Bay and whilst I loved the agricultural industry, I still hadn't found my true passion or the job of my dreams.

It wasn't until I was selected to go on a leader management course on the 'Spirit of Adventure' that a life changing career U-turn occurred. This triggered my first thoughts about winemaking and the wine industry.

I immediately enrolled in an extramural course in winemaking. A year's leave of absence from Wrightson—I never returned—to learn about the wine industry included working a vintage in Hungary before returning to Lincoln University in 1994 to study Oenology and Viticulture as a Post Grad student. Being a mature student was certainly a different experience to my earlier time at university, with significantly less time spent at the pub!

Why the wine industry? Firstly, it was an agricultural product, but unlike farming, where the product loses its individual identity

once it leaves the farm gate, wine offered vertical integration from the vineyard to the retail outlet, restaurant or table at home. This provided a point of differentiation and the satisfaction and accountability of seeing your product through to consumption makes you strive to maintain that quality level.

Another benefit of a career in the wine industry, and one I hadn't initially appreciated, is that it can take you all over the world. As such, I spent 8 years as a flying winemaker based in London but traveling and working in France, Spain, Italy, Chile, Argentina, South Africa and California. Spending time in these countries, largely off the beaten tourist track, also meant meeting the locals and discovering the local culture. These were wonderful experiences that provided plenty of challenges such as having to conduct an initial scoping meeting with a prospective new winery in Spain in French, as I didn't speak Spanish and they had no English. We also encountered a couple of frightening experiences, including nearly being carjacked in South Africa.

Whilst living in London, I studied for the Master of Wine (MW) qualification. After many hours of study and wine tasting—not to mention the amount of money spent on wine—I became the 6th Master of Wine in New Zealand and one of 240 in the world.

In 2002, after eight years in London, my wife Nic and I decided that it was time to return to New Zealand. We had left home with a couple of backpacks and were now returning with two kids and a container load of household goods! I joined Villa



Maria as their Group Winemaker, overseeing the winemaking and viticulture programme for the entire portfolio. It was an exciting time and both Villa Maria and the New Zealand wine industry were experiencing significant growth. As a company we went from 500,000 cases to 1.5m cases as wine from New Zealand became globally renowned.

In 2015 I joined Foley Wines as their Group Chief Winemaker and Head of Viticulture, overseeing all aspects of winemaking from vine to bottle. Foley Wines is listed on the NZX and over time has added five iconic brands to its portfolio.

It is a career that has taken me all over the world, meeting wonderful people and providing continued learning and constant challenge. And just like school, I wouldn't have it any other way!

*Alastair Maling*

*B. Com, Post Graduate Enology & Viticulture (Distinction), Master of Wine (MW)*

# Luke's Life Lessons

Luke Nottage (1981-1983), Professor of Comparative and Transnational Business Law, University of Sydney, and Managing Director of Japanese Law Links Pty Ltd, shares what he learnt and did not learn from Rathkeale.



I was surprised but grateful when Grant Harper asked me to share some thoughts with other Rathkeale alumni. I graduated in 1983, had a gap year, then studied at VUW (BCA/LLB 1985-89, part-time PhD and lectureship 1994-7) and Kyoto University (LLM, 1991-3), before teaching business and consumer law at Kyushu University (1997-2000) and Sydney Law School (since 2001).

One thing I did learn from Rathkeale, though, is the importance of having a few really close friends. That brilliant musician and enfant terrible, Daniel Poynton, is one of them but I've also got to know and trust key people through each university, work environment and church community I've been involved in over the last three decades. Developing deep friendships is particularly important in a world increasingly dominated by social media and fickle or transactional relationships.

A second thing learned from

Rathkeale was to think for myself. I particularly appreciated Liam O'Gorman allowing me to skip his Economics classes towards the end of 7th Form, mainly so I could begin working through a first-year university textbook. That not only helped me for exams and then VUW study, it also got me used to self-directed learning. That skill or passion is something I now try to encourage in my university students, who often come from schools that tend to spoon-fed pupils.

Yet I also tell university students, especially rather highly-strung and individualistic law students, that they need to learn to collaborate, sharing the knowledge and skills each has built up. This is the reality of contemporary legal practice as well as academia—almost all my 16 books, and articles or chapters are co-authored or co-edited. They derive from projects crossing many national borders, fields of law, and disciplines.

A third thing picked up from Rathkeale was a sense of transcendence or the sacred. A book by NYU moral psychology professor Jonathan Haidt, "The Righteous Mind", argues that this sense is one of several basic dimensions that influence human judgements over what is right or wrong. It promotes altruism, which he thinks is beneficial from the perspective of group-level evolutionary biology. If you are intrigued by Haidt's research, try his psychological test to see what drives your own moral judgements. My review of his recent book on "The Coddling of the American Mind" co-authored with former pastor Karl Faase, outlines which drivers may extend to Australia (and so NZ) for

three "Untruths" that Haidt detects among the American iGen (those born since 1996) that go against the lessons for life from mainstream psychology as well as ancient wisdom literatures:

"what doesn't kill you makes you weaker" (so keep us safe at all costs!);

"life is a battle between good people and bad people" (rather than a battle within us);

"always trust your feelings" (rather than engaging also our capacity to reason).

In my case at Rathkeale, though, I was probably the first and only student ever to be caned for blasphemy! There can be downsides to thinking for oneself, or "speaking freely"! Over the years, I've kept exploring and thinking about God, living in countries that are mainly Muslim, Buddhist and Christian.

My spiritual journey may have some parallels with that taken by William Wilberforce (1759-1833), who ended up getting England to abolish the slave trade. First I got to know and see in action some devoted and caring followers of Jesus, including my wife Hisae. Then I started investigating intellectually the grounds for their faith, as well as my own doubts, which turned out to be not particularly novel, such as how can there be suffering or miracles, and quite simplistic. Then I started to see God at work, in all sorts of contexts, and want to get involved in making things new and better through originally bizarre ideas like caring for the disadvantaged,



universal education and equal rights, or leadership through humility.

On the other hand, there have been several things I did not learn well from Rathkeale. One challenge may be shared with some other alumni: relationships with women! So I am immensely grateful for the patience and grace shown to me by Hisae over 25 years of marriage, and really want to support her new career in community services. I've also had to lift my game by bringing up three daughters (18-22) in a new country, and now have to switch gears for my son (12).

A second lesson I didn't fully appreciate is the importance of regular sporting activity. At Rathkeale I did enjoy 1st XI soccer and even cross-country running, less so being beaten often at tennis. But I regret being haphazard in keeping up sport through university and especially after I began working. I struggle now with some back issues that could have been avoided if I'd been more diligent. But our generation can learn here from the younger, which gets better education and opportunities for keeping fit and healthy.

A last thing I didn't take away from Rathkeale was the opportunity the school provides for networking. Maybe this was because initially I wanted to forget about high school, and then made my career outside NZ. But I should work on this too. Let me know if coming through Sydney.

*Luke Nottage*



Dan Crook in action.

To follow Dan's sporting journey, visit his Instagram page, @DCNZ13.



# Fester rides again

Dan Crook (1998-2002) did not realise his new school haircut would lead to a long-standing nickname at Rathkeale.

Dan laughs about it now, and he was told that one day he would. In the lead up to his first week at Rathkeale College, he decided to get a new haircut. He opted for the number three all over which was the minimum requirement back then for the length of one's hair. Dan's parents thought this was a good idea. Less maintenance.

It wasn't long, maybe four days into the five-year stint at Rathkeale, that the name Daniel, or Dan, quickly became redundant and "Fester" arrived. He hated the name so much so that he was straight on the phone to his parents pleading to go home and never return. Never good at negotiating with his parents, at Rathkeale he remained and for the next five years he was referred to by his peers as "Fester".

To make his stay that little bit more bearable, Dan made sure all his sporting needs were fulfilled – a table tennis bat, golf clubs, squash racket, tennis racket, rugby boots, head gear and mouth guard. In his mind he was good at everything, until he was shocked to find all the other boys were fitter, faster and stronger than he was. There was one sport though where he seemed to have the upper hand, partly due to the fact no one else really played golf. Dan remembers telling a few of his peers that he could drive a golf ball from out the back of Junior House to the riverbed. No one believed him.

After College, and a trip to Japan in 7th form—when life really started—Dan moved to Auckland. He studied a Bachelor of Business at Massey University and played rugby locally for Silverdale. He captained the U19s

and went on to play for the U21s. He also played golf, making the top pennants team at his local club.

In 2012, Dan moved to the Gold Coast, Australia in search of a better lifestyle. He had ambitions to turn pro with golf, but instead he purchased a motorbike. Dan's circle of friends quickly suggested he take his new bike to the racetrack. Fast forward to lap seven of his first ever visit to the track, he came off his bike travelling at 200km/h. The most damage done was to his ego and the bike—couple of broken bones, but nothing too serious. Despite the crash, he was hooked.

After a move to Sydney in 2014, and still recovering from his previous injuries, he decided to give racing a go. He dropped some weight, built his own bike and signed up for the Australian FX Superbikes as a self-funded team, with a few product sponsors. Dan finished 4th in his category which was an absolute win in his eyes. Even better was that he still managed to play some golf on the side.

In 2017, Dan and his wife Jemma and daughter Ruby-Grace packed up their life in Australia and shipped everything home. Upon their return, he was tagged in a post on Facebook about an upcoming long drive golf event. Itching to enter, but with his gear on a ship somewhere crossing the Tasman, he had to find some clubs and quickly. Researching on YouTube, he saw that it was a totally different concept to normal golf. The equipment was different too and he managed to get himself a left-handed long drive club in order to compete.

Unfortunately, he didn't go on to

win the event held in what felt like cyclone conditions, but he did have the longest drive after the first round of finals and that was enough for the selector to name him in a wider training squad for the New Zealand team. He impressed over the following months and not only did he make the team, but he was asked to captain the Long Blacks on a trip to Australia.

A week after being named captain, he was devastated by a snowboarding accident which tore his right triceps off the bone. His dream to wear the silver fern was slipping away. After a 72hr turnaround, surgery complete, he was on the road to recovery. As a qualified personal trainer, he knew what was needed to be ready for the Trans-Tasman Test now only 3 months away, and ready he was. The Long Blacks lost to Australia by one point, and to this day he feels somewhat guilty that his injury affected the result.

A year later, he was asked to captain the Long Blacks to their second clash with the Aussies, and this time the New Zealand Long Blacks lifted the Trans-Tasman trophy in a tight fought match, winning by 1½ points.

When Dan reflects on his days at Rathkeale he can't help but think about those times that have influenced where he is today: jumping the fence to the unknown, sheep covered nine-hole golf course where he instilled his love for the game; the time he told his friends he could hit a golf ball the length of three rugby fields and they didn't believe him. Then, in the distance, he hears "Fester", and all he can do is laugh.



# From School House to high finance

Warwick Ball (1980-1984) has travelled a long way - literally and metaphorically - from his days in School House as a third form boarder at Rathkeale.

**W**arwick joined School House in 1980 as a third form boarder, following his brother, Gerald, who was one year older. A good portion of his early years at Rathkeale was spent concentrating on his swimming, winning three gold medals at the National Age Grade Championship that year and numerous medals in the following years.

Having joined Cranleigh House, Warwick continued with a sporting theme being a member of the school First XV from 1982-84, being awarded school colours in 1983 and 1984 and finishing as vice-captain of a strong team led by Matthew O'Rourke in 1984. A regret was losing to Whanganui Collegiate and Wairarapa College in his last year, although wins over Christ's College, Nelson, Lindisfarne and St Andrew's helped compensate. Warwick represented Wairarapa-Bush secondary schools in rugby in both 1983 and 1984.

Warwick was Head Boy in 1984, while John Taylor was Principal and Grant Harper was Cranleigh Housemaster, before leaving for Victoria University to study a Bachelor of Arts degree in Economics and a Bachelor of Commerce degree, for which he was awarded a prize by the university. He followed the path of many Rathkeale Old Boys based in Wellington in the 1980s by joining Wellington Football Club, alongside Hamish Wright, Pete Cooper and Luke Beazley in 1985, and representing the province at U19 Level that year. A highlight of his time at University was spending 2 months travelling throughout South East Asia with fellow Old Boys John

Travers and Pete Cooper in 1988.

Having completed his degrees at Victoria, Warwick travelled to London in 1990 where he flatted in Wimbledon with fellow Old Boy Michael Ewart. He began working at Price Waterhouse (now PWC) in that year and studied for his accountancy exams, becoming a Chartered Accountant in 1993. It was at Price Waterhouse that Warwick met his wife, Maria Kyriacou, with the couple getting married in 1995 in London with fellow Old Boy, and Deputy Head Boy in 1984, Robert Stewart as best man.

Warwick had always wanted to pursue a career in Investment Banking and in 1994 joined Morgan Grenfell, a leading Corporate Finance house in London. His role included helping companies raise equity on the London Stock Exchange or acquire (or be acquired by) other listed companies. In 1999 Warwick joined Lehman Brothers in London with a team of c. 20 other colleagues from Morgan Grenfell to help Lehman Brothers establish their UK mergers and acquisitions practice.

At this time Warwick and Maria were having a young family with two sons, Joseph and Gabriel, and in 2003 he took approximately 18 months off work to help look after their children. Having decided to return to work in 2005, Warwick varied his career by moving into an "in-house" Corporate Development role at Barclays, a large U.K. banking group.

In this role Warwick had a "ring-side seat" to the Global Financial Crisis. His team helped Barclays in its attempt to acquire the Dutch bank ABN Amro, which was ultimately bought by, and helped lead to the demise of, fellow U.K. bank Royal Bank of Scotland. During the crisis Warwick was involved in the £9 billion of equity raisings by Barclays to help Barclays avoid U.K. government investment as well as Barclays' acquisition of Lehman Brothers in the U.S. He has led, or been involved in, a significant number of other transactions for Barclays, where he remains as one of the senior leaders of the Strategy and Corporate Development team.

Warwick lives in Highgate, London with his wife Maria, who has developed a very successful career in the television media industry and is currently President International for ITV Studios, part of a large UK television broadcaster and producer. Their son Joseph has just started studying Economics at Bristol University, while Gabriel has entered his last year of school following which he wishes to study Engineering.



# Obituaries

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of the following Old Boys, staff and Friends of the School this year.

## Rev. Edward (Ted) Dashfield 1969-1980

Ted Dashfield was headmaster of St Matthew's Collegiate School for Girls from 1969 to 1980. His was a somewhat left-of-field appointment. An Old Boy of Wanganui Collegiate, he served in the New Zealand battalion which occupied Japan after World War 11.



He attended theological college in Christchurch, was ordained priest in 1952 and was Vicar of Carterton when he accepted the principal's job at St Matthew's, becoming New Zealand's first male principal of an independent girls' school. He had no classroom experience but his teacher wife, Helen, herself a St Matthew's Old Girl, accompanied him as academic head and taught English at St Matthew's and subsequently, Rathkeale.

Ted rated his 12 years at SMS as the most stimulating, challenging and satisfying of his life.

On his watch, the existing school hall was moved to the end of the swimming pool and converted into a gymnasium; a new hall was built; and he began the push for a chapel that came to fruition after his departure.

Ted is survived by his three children, Rathkeale Old Boys Philip and James, and Rathkeale matron, Prue.

## Finn Yeats 2011-2015

At Rathkeale, Finn is remembered for his kindness and support of others. We remember the way he conducted himself in the house where he was always polite, respectful and supportive of the dignity of others. Maturity and his quiet but strong leadership led to him being chosen as Deputy Head Boy for Repton House in 2015.



He had a contagious smile and was always up for a challenge. He nurtured good relationships and was not afraid to dish out banter to all and sundry, including his House Master, Deon van Deventer. He was always tidy and his report noted Excellences for Personal Grooming and Tidiness. He was regarded as a real asset and pillar in Repton House.

A very talented sportsman, he played his first 1st XV game when he was in Year 10! Athletics was an early passion for him and Rathkeale will struggle to find a more talented athlete in the future. His achievements include:

2012: U14 100m 11.89s; U14 200m 24.93s; U14 High Jump 1.65m

2013: U15 100m 11.58s; U15 High Jump 1.81m

In 2018, he was selected to play for the Wairarapa Bush Rugby team and made an immediate impact.

In 2015, his final year, Deon Van Deventer left the leavers with this quote:

"None of us gets out of life alive, so be gallant, be great, be gracious and be grateful for the opportunities you have."

To quote Deon: Finn, you have been gallant, you have been gracious and you've been a great example to all of us. All the people here talk about you as a person and the way you touched us. Rest in peace FINNY. We will always miss you and remember you.



# Obituaries

## Craig McBride

*Staff 1986-2009*

Born in Tauranga in 1952, Craig began his secondary school teaching career in 1975 at Lincoln High before two years of teaching at St Alban's College in Pretoria, South Africa. He was appointed Head of Mathematics at Rathkeale College in 1986, a position he held for 24 years.

A passionate teacher, Craig inspired creative thinking and instilled in his students a desire for learning. His great love of Mathematics and education remained at the core of his life following his retirement from Rathkeale College in 2009. Since 2010, he held the position of Development Manager for MathsOnline (Maths Buddy NZ). His passion for learning and willingness to embrace change fuelled his optimism for the future of online education.

A fanatical cricketer from a very young age, he played BOP age group representative cricket and in 1970 toured Australia as a member of NZ secondary schools team. For each of his 24 years of service to Rathkeale, Craig coached a cricket team, with two stints of coaching the 1st XI (1991-1997 and 2004-2005). Countless hours were spent developing Rathkeale facilities and preparing wickets. Within the Wairarapa, Craig played for the Lansdowne club and captained the team for three successful seasons (1987-1989). He also coached a multitude of age group rep sides and was selector coach of the Wairarapa Senior Men's team 1998-2000.

His influence is well described by current Black Cap, Ross Taylor, who said of him: *When I think of Craig, several words come to mind: enthusiasm, kindness, belief.*

*You will be missed greatly Craig, by all the players who had the privilege of playing under you. Thank you so much.*

An equally passionate Rugby coach, he had many enjoyable seasons coaching Rathkeale 2nd XV, 1st XV (1995-97) and Wairarapa secondary Schools teams. He loved tramping and the outdoors and took any opportunity to explore new landscapes, also supporting Geography field trips and Year 12 leadership camps. He was a representative table tennis player, played squash every week and managed squash at Rathkeale for many years. He loved running and completed many marathons, the most notable

being the Paris Marathon in 2010 and the New York Marathon in 2011.

Craig had a love of music and the arts, especially over the last 15 years as he supported his daughter Anna in her passions for music, dance and theatre. He was a founding member of both the Wairarapa Sport's Education Trust and the Queen Elizabeth Park Grandstand Renovation Committee. Sadly, it was Craig's latest adventure as a recreational pilot which ended his life so suddenly.

Craig's passion and energy for living a rich, purposeful life is acknowledged here. Tragically, he left us far too soon. He is survived by his loving wife Diane, daughters Erin and Anna, grandson Archie and son in law Andy.

*Cliff Bouton*

## Frederica Hamilton

It was with real sadness that we learnt of the passing of Frederica Hamilton on the 31st October 2019. Frederica was the second wife of Bruce Hamilton, Founding First Assistant (Deputy Principal) of Rathkeale from 1964.

In his retirement, Bruce retained an abiding interest in the affairs of the College and was a regular visitor. On these visits, which included reunions and Old Boys' Cricket Club matches, he was invariably accompanied by Frederica who endeared herself to all those with whom she came into contact. Certainly, she fitted into the Rathkeale community effortlessly and we acknowledge the special support she has given to one of the College's most notable personalities.

We extend the Association's sympathy to Bruce and to the wider Hamilton/Barnard Family.



## Andrew Voss

*1971-1975*

Andrew was one of four brothers to attend Rathkeale and was a member of Repton House. He was the recipient of both Service Colours (Library) and the Gold Medal of the Duke of Edinburgh Award.



For many years, he farmed at Longburn, south of Palmerston North. Alongside a significant career in farming, he committed decades to the local Fire Service, eventually becoming the senior station officer of the operational support unit, previously known as the Fire Police. He was renowned for never missing a year's service and always showed up for training.

He is, perhaps, best remembered for his passion for steam traction engines, buying his own engine from Canterbury in the 1990s. One of only a few people who were licenced to operate such engines, he was also chairman and secretary of the Feilding Steam Traction Society. He was involved with steam rallies and was often seen in blackened overalls and with face and hands to match. Chairman of the Manawatu branch of the NZ Historic Places Trust from 1986-1996, he also served on its committee until 2005.

Humble and self-effacing, Andrew passed away on 21st October 2019 at the age of 62 and is survived by his wife Jean, mother Jennifer and his brothers and sister. He will be sadly missed by all who knew him.

## Patricia Lee

*Staff 1978-1994*

Patricia Lee, known as Pat, passed away on 12 April 2019 at Moana House in Whangamata after a short illness.

Born in England 1935, she married Fred in 1954. They emigrated to NZ in 1968 where Fred took up a teaching position at Rathkeale College. Pat joined him in 1978 as librarian at the newly formed library. During her time at Rathkeale, Pat was a dedicated member of the staff and her love of books was passed on to many of the pupils.

In 1994, Pat retired and 6 years later they moved to Whangamata. Before long, she became actively involved in many community events, such as walking groups and line dancing. She worked part time at the Whangamata Club and Whangamata Bowling Club and in 2005 she went for her Bar Manager's license.



She joined the Whangamata Spinners and Weaving, and soon after opened her own shop, which was still in operation up to her death.

Pat will be sadly missed by all who knew her. She is survived by her two daughters, four grandsons and nine great grandchildren.

## Gary Alan Harwood aka Boulder

*1964-1967*

Gary Harwood was Prefect and Head of Cranleigh House and a well-loved character. Starting at Rathkeale in 1964, he quickly earned the nickname "Boulder", moving many boulders to build a school road.

He started his career in accountancy while studying part-time at Victoria University. He worked for the University caterer, assisting with private functions. Opportunities in hospitality soon followed and he worked as an Assistant Manager for Skychef NZ, with the Travel Lodge Hotel in Wellington and then at Cannon's Creek Tavern before establishing his own successful hospitality businesses.

The 80s saw him moving to horticulture in the Bay of Plenty, investing in kiwifruit and then shifting into commercial real estate in Auckland. Exploiting a gap in the market for functional real estate software, he started up Fore Group software which is still in use today.

Gary was a much-loved man and mentor to many. He is missed by his family, friends, business partners, and acquaintances.





# Rathkeale College SONS OF OLD BOYS 2019



**BACK ROW:** K. Hinchell, J. Sims, M. Donnelly, S. Spradley, S. Mahon, J. Hinchell, M. Coo.  
**MIDDLE ROW:** J. Carrigan, C. Hinchell, C. Doyle, T. Loh, B. White, N. Perry, T. O'Leary, T. Hinchell, B. Mahon.  
**FRONT ROW:** B. Keady, M. Hinchell, F. Mahon, T. Mahon, T. Mahon, M. Kay, B. Mahon, A. Mahon.  
**ABSENT:** C. Loh, C. Loh, T. Hinchell.

Photo: Hinchell & Hinchell



Photo circa 1971 by staff member Andy Bryant shows Hamish Campbell (1969-73) on the flanks of Mitre in the Tararua Range.