

Rock Runner

The magazine of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association

Volume 22

December 2017



Editorial

GRANT HARPER (1967-71) - Editor

What is there about our school days that has resulted in the proliferation of old pupil/alumni associations around the world? Were our school days so utterly enjoyable, the teachers so illuminating, the meals so special, and the beds so comfortable that we are loathe to remove them from our memory?

Perhaps we loved the cross-country season or are proud of our resilience in the face of a cane welding tyrant or the dorm bully.

Perhaps, as we age, we find solace in reminding ourselves that we were once young, fit and frisky!

Then again, maybe it was that *esprit de corps* within the student body that saw us bind tightly against the staff and their rules, the opposition on the sports field or the members of rival houses.

Whatever the reason, something does propel many of us to hold on to the memories and friendships from that brief passage of time between our childhood and our adult lives that constitutes our college years. Utterly immersed in the life of Rathkeale, as I have been for a fairly long period of time, I have had ample opportunity to observe the cult of the College Old Boy. He returns to relive old memories and to embellish the worst of them. He often carried the biggest rocks, built the Greek Theatre single handedly,

reduced the gentlest teacher to tears or was the stalwart of the 1st XV for more years than he can remember.

He remembers when his friend stole the College's Fergie tractor and drove it down to the river before getting it stuck midstream at Black Rock or else he remembers the tramp to Angle Knob when the hut nearly burnt down because of a white spirit spill.

He remembers river huts and attractive young female teachers, school dances and sports field victories. He embellishes the agony of Odyssey and the horror of lumpy, burnt and unsalted porridge.

And in the midst of that he demonstrates overwhelming nostalgia, and even affection, for his school days. Why? I suspect that answer lies in the relative carefree innocence of the halcyon

days of our youth. School days offered, and continue to offer, great friendships, few burdens, many opportunities and precious time to dream dreams. School offered us chances to pursue our passions on the stage, on the sports field and in the classroom without the pressure of the workplace or family. Mortgages, insurances and taxes were safely out of sight far over the horizon.

Life was usually simple; someone cooked for us, cleaned up after us and told us what to do next – bliss!

As Rathkeale Old Boys meet up at gatherings around the world, they invariably embrace old friends and memories. They also discover that they share a remarkable bond with some five thousand others who call themselves Rathkeale Old Boys!

Grant Harper
Editor

ROCK RUNNER 2017

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Typing: Mary Fisher

Publication Preparation: Shelley Hancox
Design: Pete Monk
Printing: Greenlees

Photography: Thanks to all the members of our school community who kindly supplied photographs for this edition of Rock Runner.

Cover Image: Sarah Walterhouse



Rathkeale Old Boys' Association

GRANT HARPER (1967-71) - President



position earlier in the year and we sincerely thank him for his efforts on our behalf. He has been replaced by Scott Andrew and we are grateful for his willingness to take on extra work.

Blair Ewington is also to be heartily thanked for his work in nurturing the Old Boys' Facebook page and for mastering many of the intricacies of our new Data Base System. This is an ongoing task which will increasingly enhance the vitality of the Association.

During the course of the year new faces have come forward to assist in the regions:

David Aitken - Auckland
Jamie Treadwell - Hawke's Bay
Andrew Thomas - Manawatu
Stuart McKenzie - Wairarapa
Julius Capilitan - Wellington
Robert Stewart - Wellington
Andrew Gibbs - Wellington
We welcome their support and that of others who continue in their roles in New Zealand and abroad.

As the Association goes about its business, we are also mindful of the excellent support that is forthcoming from Principal Willy Kersten and the College in general. It is also acknowledged that Old Boys Rob Blackett (CEO Trinity Schools), Blair Ewington, Shay O'Gorman, Jamie Clinton-Baker, Kenneth Sprowson, Tom Scott and Scott Day (College staff members), Andy Pottinger (Sports HQ Appeal) and Miles

Jackson (Friends' Treasurer) ensure a strong Old Boy influence on the life of the school.

Each August, on Founders' Day, the Association confers honorary Old Boy status on those who have served the College for ten years. Those who hold Honorary status have certainly contributed mightily to the wellbeing of the College and as an Association we applaud their efforts and service.

Graeme Anderson	14 Years
Greg Baillie	34 Years
Mark Berry	22 Years
Cliff Bouton	30 Years
Liz Cheetham	12 Years
Shirley Clarke	18 Years
Jamie Clinton-Baker	10 Years
Liz Eaton	25 Years
Liz Evans	15 Years
Blair Ewington	15 Years
Mary Fisher	11 Years
Johanne Fourie	21 Years
Matt Gaffney	15 Years
Anita Gough	28 Years
Grant Harper	37 Years
Brian James	13 Years
Evan Jones	13 Years
Willy Kersten	10 Years
Lesley Mawson	16 Years
Di McBride	29 Years
Jenny McGovern	21 Years
Glen McIntosh	12 Years
Peter Mudge	19 Years
Colin O'Connell	39 Years
Shay O'Gorman	11 Years
Sean O'Neill	17 Years
Joanne Simpson	15 Years
Deon van Deventer	18 Years
Kiewiet van Deventer	13 Years
Maureen Vaughan	28 Years
Linda Wells	17 Years
Lenora White	22 Years
Neil Williamson	11 Years

This year’s “Ten Years On” reunions represented a big step up for the Association and hopefully represented the start of a truly significant tradition. The year group facilitators — Douglas Barton (1967), Ian Harvey (1977), Tim White (1987), Cayne Wright (1997) and James Pearson (2007) — are to be thanked for the work they put into the reunion, as are those Old Boys and staff who supported this significant first.

We are now lining up for the 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008 Reunions at Queen’s Birthday next year—2018. We certainly hope for a good turnout and thank those Facilitators who have accepted the challenge of motivating their year group:

- Peter Gilliland (1968)
- Len French (1978)
- Blair Ewington (1988)
- Dwayne Smith (1998)
- Dean van Deventer & Mitchell Scaife (2008)

Other gatherings continue to occur on different fronts and in different places. A group from the 1990s gathered in Queenstown at Queen’s Birthday for a fun-filled weekend. Others fronted up to events hosted

by the College and, as I write, plans are afoot for gatherings in Auckland, Hawke’s Bay and Wellington prior to Christmas, thanks to regional reps.

Another trial event was held mid-September when the Association, supported by around 25 Old Boys, hosted a Leavers’ Dinner for those departing the College this year. Old Boy and Carterton Mayor John Booth (1966-70) was the guest speaker, and we are very pleased that virtually one hundred percent of Leavers have now joined up.

Communication within the Old Boys’ community is both important and essential. The Executive is well aware that there are many Old Boys who are no longer able to be contacted or communicated with. The regular dispatches of Gravel Newsletters via email and Facebook have been welcomed by many, and the annual Rock Runner continues as the flagship publication of the Association. Our investment in the new database software is certainly reaping rewards and makes for easier communication within regions and year groups. However, any Old Boy who is not hearing from us should be strongly encouraged to

reconnect via the contact points available on the Old Boys’ or College websites or listed in this publication. It will not cost anything, as virtually all Old Boys are life members of the Association.

ROBA exists primarily to support its members and to foster links between the College and its former students. There will be times when, as an association, we contribute to the College’s well-being as exemplified by the provision of prizes, the College gates, the Squash Court, the Cricket Pavilion and the Old Boys’ Common Room. Now, with the proposal to create a new and much needed Sports HQ (Gymnasium complex) at the school, we will again find ourselves considering ways to support and/or contribute to the project.

As 2017 draws to a close, I firmly believe that we can feel confident that the Association is growing in strength, vitality and effectiveness. Everyone who has played a part in this is thanked for their contribution and for the difference they have made.

M.G Harper
President

Rathkeale Board of Trustees

Chairman of the Rathkeale College Board of Trustees George Murdoch reports on the Board's work in 2017.

Greetings to you all from the Rathkeale College Board of Trustees

This is my first report for the *Rock Runner* and it comes at a time when our school is in great heart, our dayboy role is full and our boarding numbers are also nearing their limit. Add to this 27 International Students and you have a vibrant school community, able to enjoy everything that Rathkeale has to offer.

We have just closed our triennial school community survey and we are extremely pleased with the number of parents, staff and students who have taken the time to complete the survey. The insights we gain from the survey are used in the review of our strategic plan. It is our hope that the feedback reinforces our aspirations for a holistic approach to education at Rathkeale where academic success, sporting excellence and the performing arts are in balance.

Whilst we are very pleased with the current environment at the College, we are also entering a time of change and challenge. Our Principal Willy Kersten, who has overseen the renaissance of the College during the last 10 years, has recently announced his intention to resign effective from the end of the first term in 2018. Very few people have Willy’s capacity for work, and finding an able replacement to maintain the momentum he has created will be the most critical role the Board will undertake this year. We all know that the leadership provided by the Principal permeates the fabric of the school and ultimately dictates its success or failure. At this point, it is important

to acknowledge the huge contribution Willy has made to Rathkeale since his appointment in November 2007. His tenure has been a huge success. We must also acknowledge the support he has received from his wife Ali. We wish them both well in their future endeavours.

Our ‘challenge’ is the proposed Sport HQ. We have, through the generosity of an Old Boy and the hard work of a tight group of promoters, been able to make significant progress with the design and planning of a substantial Sporting Facility we would dearly love to build at Rathkeale. By the time this edition of Rock Runner is published, we should have a good idea of the time-frames and feasibility of the project. Sport HQ will not only ‘complete’ the sporting facilities on our campus but will also provide great facilities for the wider community. The Friends of Rathkeale and the TSTB have already made a substantial commitment in support of this project and we thank them sincerely for this.

I look back at the closing comments from my predecessor Andy Pottinger in the 2016 edition of Rock Runner and can only agree with his sentiments. Rathkeale is a special place. It is made special by the people who inhabit it, the physical environment in which it sits and the values it looks to uphold. I would like to thank and acknowledge all those who help make Rathkeale what it is today.

Regards

George Murdoch
Chairman Rathkeale Board of Trustees



ROBA Regional Committee Representatives

Grant Harper	President
Edward Cox	Vice President/Secretary - Wellington
Scott Andrew	Treasurer - Wairarapa
Blair Ewington	Executive/Facebook/Database - Wairarapa
Richard Donworth	Executive - Wairarapa
Stuart McKenzie	Executive - Wairarapa
Terry Brailsford	Auckland
David Aitken	Auckland
Jamie Treadwell	Hawke's Bay
Duncan Thomas	Manawatu
Robert Stewart	Wellington
Andrew Gibbs	Wellington
Craig Galloway	Canterbury
Philip Harcourt	United Kingdom



Principal's Report

As an extremely successful decade as Rathkeale Principal draws to a close, WILLY KERSTEN shares his view on the year and looks to the future.

The commencement of the 2017 year was buoyed by the academic achievements of 2016. A strong Year 13 Senior College cohort led the way, with the boys featuring strongly in the NZQA Scholarship results. Of the 31 Scholarships gained by 20 students in 15 subjects, 12 boys gained 22 Scholarships including all three of the Outstanding awards. Robert Spite, son of Lincoln Spite (1970-1973), gained a National Scholarship award and was recognised as the Senior College Top Scholar for 2016. While academic performances will always vary, the fluctuations are consistently contained within the high percentile range and notably so in 2016.

The sporting life of the College similarly experiences variations from year to year. However, the days of our top teams competing in second or third tier competitions are a past occurrence. The 1st Football and Hockey teams are ranked in the top 10 and 20 respectively in the country and in the top five in the wider Wellington region. The 1st XV competed well in the CNI competition. We look forward to the cricket season, where our only concern is the scarcity of opposition for the five teams we will have in the Wairarapa competition. In all codes, there is a groundswell of emerging skill that provides a good deal of optimism for the future. We are indebted to those who give so much time and expertise, and look forward to supporting them through an enhanced sports management strategy next year.

I commend the Board's commitment to the provision of a holistic educational experience for the boys. With the support of staff, many boys have been able to pursue their interests in both sport and the performing arts, while others prefer to focus mainly on drama or music. Viva Camerata, the Senior College choir, contains more boys than ever and the Boys' Choir, a voluntary group, numbers about 100. As usual, there has not been a shortage of boys to audition for the major school production or the Shakespeare cast, and some of the same boys and others are also involved in instrumental music in one way or another. We are also on the cusp of developing a small Kapa Haka group. I suggest that an emerging acceptance of cultural awareness will contribute further to the development of the character of Good Rathkeale Men.

It was with some emotion that I recently announced my decision to resign as Principal of Rathkeale College.



and stimulating. The leadership shown by the BOT chairman for most of my tenure, Andy Pottinger (1968-1972), and more recently by George Murdoch, has been a driving force for me and, I believe, the school. I think it is reasonable to suggest that Rathkeale has contributed well to the Trinity Schools system and that it has much to offer in a competitive educational environment.

A recent gathering of 2017 leavers and a good number of Old Boys over dinner provided a sound reassurance to many that those leaving the College are engaging, respectful, open-minded young men well able to take their place in the world beyond school and contribute positively to it.

Hopefully, this will involve being responsive to the continued good work of the Rathkeale Old Boys' Association. I commend the efforts of Grant Harper and Ed Cox particularly and their small but active committee and regional representatives as they continue to reach out and make connections.

Early next year, there will be some arousal in the community about the arrival and integration of a new principal. From my own experiences, I can only assume s/he will enjoy a very positive tenure. In the meantime, I wish every Old Boy the best for the remainder of 2017 and beyond.

William Kersten
Principal

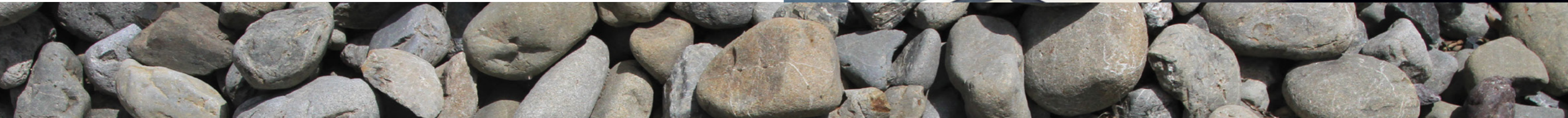


Working group discusses strategy for the proposed new gymnasium.
From left to right: W. Kersten, A. Pottinger, I. Ansell (Apollo Projects), C. Klaassen (KCL Fundraising)



To say that my ten-year tenure has ticked many boxes would be an understatement. While there is much to be done, and there always will be, it might be fair to suggest that Rathkeale is in a good place for a new person to take over at the start of Term II next year. The steadily increasing roll is evidence of strong community support for the school and it will be very pleasing to commence next year with a full roll.

Where the school is now, has been made possible through the efforts of people at all levels. In my first Rockrunner report, I indicated that I was looking forward to a long and happy tenure at Rathkeale, and so it has been. To have worked with so many individuals and groups that together form the Rathkeale College community has been both fulfilling



Bread, rocks and muscle cars

The Rock Runner catches up with local businessman and Old Boy John Cockburn (1983-1985).



Just prior to his son, Mitchell, starting at Rathkeale a few years back, John Cockburn recalls bumping into Grant Harper again and being immediately greeted with “Hands out of pockets Cockburn! Don’t you still owe me two detentions?”

“I ran a rock or two in my time. I look upon it as my contribution to building strong foundations for future students to benefit from at Rathkeale,” John muses.

John’s family operate a commercial plant bakery in Masterton and have done so for many years. He and his siblings all held various part-time roles while at school, with some starting at 4.00am and finishing at 7.30 just in time for a shower, breakfast and off to catch the bus from St Matt’s. Sundays spent in the bakery were

all on ‘double time’ in that era and the day started at 3.00am, so the norm was to go out on Saturday night and to head straight to work in time for the early morning start-up. Mondays were noted in a 1984 school report book as being ‘a less than popular day for this student.’

Finishing his secondary schooling at Wairarapa College (effectively paying back all the Mondays he missed at Rathkeale), John then moved to Wellington to study business through an NZIM diploma course, all the while working part-time at bakeries in Tawa and Seaview to further his

experience in the family trade. A sales management diploma was completed through SMEI at night school combining practical baking and theoretical management papers. This was a short but reasonably effective grounding before returning home to take on a position at Breadcraft as a Product Developer.

“The early 90s saw some significant changes within our business. Goodman Group were merging with Watties, and the Commerce Commission demanded they sell two bakeries and two flourmills in order to gain approval to go ahead. We negotiated the purchase of both the bakeries from them, amalgamated the Palmerston North operation back into Masterton and operated the other from its Waikato base for a number of years before selling it back to Goodman Fielder.”

Breadcraft were quick to realise that they needed to diversify their Masterton operation and lead the market with new bakery goods to satisfy the changing demands of their consumer base. They again invested heavily in new plant from the USA and developed their own range of flatbreads including Tortilla Wraps, and Pita bread that were distributed nationally through their distribution channel with Quality Bakers. At the time, these products were relatively unknown to the average Kiwi household. The cost of educating the market was very high and sales took quite some time to build and confirm that the investment they had made would, in fact, prove profitable.

“It was like pushing jelly uphill with a rake. There was very limited knowledge in New Zealand on these products and it took over twelve months to get a saleable product to the market but we got there eventually.”

A decade later came the opportunity for John to purchase the remaining shares in the company from other family members. In 2003, he and business partner, mentor and good mate Peter Rewi put together a buy-out proposal and offered it to Bob Cockburn for 100% of the Masterton operation. John recalls the approach to his father.

“We put a really good business plan in front of Westpac. I’d worked for weeks on it and had everything laid out across the banker’s desk in Palmerston North, getting approval for the loan we needed. The following week I asked Dad to give us some time to discuss “a new opportunity.” I dropped this folder on his desk and watched him flick through it and stare for what seemed like an hour at the last page until he looked up and said something like:

“Ah ha. I see. That’s a reasonable deposit, boy. What about the rest of it? We were knocked flat on our arses with that! We were holding a bit in the back pocket as a sweetener to close the deal but it was obvious the gap was going to be tough to bridge.”

Bob came back with a counter proposal that he and his advisor had worked up, that somehow saw it all come together better for everyone.

“They were bloody good at that and the rest, as they say, is history. But the best part of that entire negotiation is that the father/son relationship was put aside while we did the deal and as soon as it was completed he stuck around and helped out. Well, until the site went

completely ‘smoke free’ and then he shot through!”

Since then, the company has gone from strength to strength and now employs 100-120 team members operating twenty hours per day, six days per week, on five main production lines. Supplying fresh, frozen and par-baked bakery goods to local, national and international customers in the retail, foodservice and Quick Serve Restaurant (QSR) markets, they are now in their 75th year of operation.

The business was started in 1942 by the late Harold Cockburn and his wife, Martha, in a small shop beside the Regent Theatre in Queen Street. It had living quarters for their seven kids upstairs, and each had various jobs before or after school to help ensure the business succeeded.

“The company has always been run like a big family and I really get a kick out of seeing children—and more recently grandchildren—of current staff members join us. I think that says a lot about the people in our team.”

As part of its 75 year celebrations, Breadcraft has increased its community projects this year to include funding for the Park Island redevelopment project, and is very proud to be involved with so many influential people all giving their time to what is shaping up to be a great drawcard for the town to enjoy for years to come. You can be sure this ongoing community support will remain a major goal for the company in the future as it has always been from day one.

Outside of the business operation, John and his wife Julie-Anne—the company accountant—are bringing up their two children, Mitchell 17 (Year 12 at Rathkeale) and Siena 13, to be keen sportspeople. They encourage them to participate in a wide range of activities to support a well-balanced upbringing focussed more toward sportsmanship than end results.

John and Julie-Anne also enjoy water-skiing, mountain biking and gym workouts when they are not on the sideline watching the children. On occasion, you can find John at motorsport events, with competing in several seasons of the National Muscle Car series driving a 750 horsepower 1970 Camaro a highlight.

“The experience is incredible and difficult to fully explain to those that have not had the opportunity to either drive or ride in a purpose-built race car. Some of my best memories from my limited experience racing around New Zealand are being able to offer charity ‘hot laps’ to groups of people less fortunate than ourselves and seeing the sheer thrill and excitement as they got strapped in. I recall one particular gentleman saying “I want you to scare the sh%t out of me” which was fairly easy to accomplish since I do that to myself most race meetings anyway!”



The Geotour

Cliff Bouton (Staff 1987-present) is very much part of the fabric of the College. He has been Repton Housemaster, Head of Geography, Senior House Dean, Sports Coach and Manager, and the organiser of the biannual Geotours to Australia and South Africa. Here, he shares the history of the Geotour and the highlights of recent trips.



Geotour 2017 was the tenth educational tour planned and led by Cliff Bouton. The first was to Australia in 1998, with a group of fifty four parents and students. Six tours to Australia followed at two-year intervals, thus offering all students the opportunity of participation during their Senior College years. The educational focus of these tours has been physical and cultural Geography and, while non-geographers have been able to participate, all have benefitted from the experiences and learning on tour.

Great distances were traveled through remote and fascinating landscapes. Common to all tours in Australia were the iconic features of Uluru (Ayers Rock), King's Canyon and Alice Springs. Desert landscapes and aboriginal cultures featured prominently in educational experiences, while wonderful sunsets, nights around camp fires, good camp food, music, silence, tents and thin mattresses are enduring memories. The social interaction between all on tour made the amazing places and isolation so much more special. Everyone was expected to help with

jobs—unloading the bus, preparing meals, cooking, serving, cleaning up, pitching tents, collecting firewood and so on. Unifying, these jobs added character and quality to the outback safari experience. Trips were all a little different: 1. Darwin, Kakadu to Melbourne; 2. Adelaide to Uluru to Barrier Reef; 3. Uluru to Far North and Barrier Reef; 4. Darwin, Kakadu, Uluru, Adelaide; 5. Uluru, crossing Tanamai Desert to Kakadu and Darwin; 6 Barrier Reef to Darwin, Kakadu, Adelaide.

Through the process of exploring change, many exciting options for educational travel were considered. A trip was planned to Nepal, then they had a coup. South America was considered (for the third time), and bookings almost confirmed when, following advice, the tour was abandoned in preference for South Africa. The cultural and physical diversity of South Africa has made it an outstanding experience for all and there have been four tours there: 2011, 2013, 2015 and 2017.

A key focus of the Geotours to South Africa has been a significant service and fundraising effort to support the Missionvale Care Centre. All tour fundraising has been for Missionvale, a place that has stirred the emotions and touched the hearts of all who have visited. The poverty, deprivation and suffering of the Missionvale population is in stark contrast to the joy that is expressed as they face the challenges of daily life. The uninhibited gratitude and appreciation which they express to those who offer a helping hand are humbling and have great impact. The work of Sr Ethel Normoyle is inspirational and, while she has achieved national and international recognition for her work, the human touch and empathy which exude from her are hugely uplifting.

Through a range of initiatives including a quiz night, raffles, helping at weddings, car boot sales and catering for the Senior College Dinner Dance, the 2017 tour party of 47 raised in excess of R120,000 (\$12,000 NZD) for Missionvale. Most of the

donations are channeled into family food parcels and educational supplies, as this is where the need is greatest. Some 60% of the 100 000-resident population have HIV/AIDS and while there is now some access to anti-retroviral drugs, these are ineffective if the patient is malnourished. During the recent visit, the group rotated between planting a vegetable garden, working in the food and nutrition unit or helping with the school holiday program. A group of 12 also had the opportunity of visiting the sick in their homes. In addition to this, the group set about feeding some protein to all those who came to the Centre the day we visited. Sponsorship for 2500 hot dogs was arranged, and the food was prepared and served by Geotour students.

The anxious anticipation of the lines of children and then adults, was soon replaced by delight and full tummies! A very special day indeed.

Amazing places and tremendous activities are incorporated into a very busy itinerary. Contrasts abound between rich and poor, developed and undeveloped, ugly and beautiful, polluted and pristine, empty and populated, serene and turbulent, and all make South Africa so different.

The splendor of Robberg, the Cango Caves, Swartberg, Klein Karoo, and Table Mountain were highlights of the natural landscape during the first week of tour. A safari at Kariega, Monkeyland, Birds of Eden, the V & A waterfront in Cape Town and African dancing at Moyo rated amongst the highlights of the cultural landscape.

During the second week of tour, a focus was on the geography of the great escarpment with its extraordinary views of numerous waterfalls: the Blyde River Canyon, 'God's Window' and the 'Three Rondawels'. Then there were the special places and experiences interacting with wildlife—elephants, hippopotamus, vultures, raptors and others. There were three days in Kruger National Park spotting the Big 5 on game drives and game walks.

The places we go and the things we do determine our range of experiences, and how we learn and respond to these gives life meaning. Without doubt, lasting memories and tremendous value are found in the social interaction and shared experiences that opportunities like the Geotour offer.



From Dumfries to Rathkeale

Callan Elliott (Year 13) is just one of a number of rising stars within the College community and has his sights firmly set on the international football stage.



drop all other sports and focus just on football.

During his time in Nelson, Callan attended both Waimea and Nelson Colleges where he played for both schools' 1st XI football teams. At the age of 15, he was part of the Nelson u20 team that became national champions, winning the national youth league. He was also a member of the Nelson College football team that won the secondary schools' national tournament but decided to leave Nelson prior to the tournament.

To further improve his football, he moved to Rathkeale College towards the end of 2015 under the influence of Paul Ifill to be part of his

newly formed football academy, known as PIFA. He is now a key part of the Rathkeale 1st XI and has helped them—along with others—shift from Wellington's Division 3 (tier 4) to the premier school league (tier 1) in just 2 years. He also helped Rathkeale win their first ever tournament in 2016, where he was named Tournament MVP.

This year, he was part of the first-ever Rathkeale futsal team that finished 8th in the country and was also part of the 1st XI team who have just made school

history by finishing 9th in New Zealand.

Recently, he was awarded Wairarapa United's Youth Player of the Year for the second year running and he has also just signed with Tasman United in the Stirling Sports premiership, which is the very peak of men's football being played in New Zealand. Now Deputy Head of Cranleigh House, Callan has fitted into his new environment very well, being able to stay on top of his game both on the field and in the classroom.

"Not only has moving away greatly improved my football but my academics have also improved, and I've made many close friends that I'll never lose contact with along the way."

At the moment, he is in the process of securing a scholarship to study and play football at an American university after he finishes school. Afterwards, he hopes to sign a professional contract with a degree tucked away in his back pocket. Preferably, it will be something within the sporting area so that he is able to stay within the football community, even if he isn't playing.

"Being able to play very high quality football while earning a degree is just something that has always caught my attention. It's smart to have something to fall back on if things don't work out."

One technology to rule them all...

Leading IT entrepreneur Dwayne Smith (1994-1998) was already entering the fast lane whilst still at school.

Dwayne started earning money from computer sales and training when he was just 13 years old. He wanted a good education and it was the only way he could afford to enter the Trinity system. In 1998, with the young business steadily growing and a successful school career in its final year, it was time to focus solely on the business. He left school and drove non-stop to Auckland with only \$500 to his name.

Before long, he'd built a nationwide company called Horizon Pacific. It provided IT support and internet services to business customers, including most of New Zealand's real estate companies. To make the most of the ultra-fast broadband roll-out, Dwayne created One, a new internet service provider for business - the first to connect a business customer to the new fibre network.

Recognising that talented IT people with their own businesses were often bogged down by back office administration, in 2011 he created the umbrella organisation New Zealand Technology Group. It provides businesses within the group with proven administrative systems and economies of scale for growth.

"I like finding talented IT people who are passionate about what they're doing but can't seem

to get their business to that critical mass required for significant growth. We plug them into our admin systems which really work and free them up to focus on what they love doing. It's very rewarding to see their before and afters, and watch them grow," he explains.

Dwayne puts a lot of his success down to staying in close contact with customers and not losing sight of what's happening on the street and at the coal face.

"I'm onsite with customers every day. That way you see opportunities as they're emerging, so you can get the right people in place with the right product at the right price before anyone else," he explains.

The other skill he brings to business is getting to the root cause of problems and adjusting systems and procedures to put things right.

"If something's not going right, I believe in working out exactly where the issue lies, then adjusting the way things are done," says Dwayne. "It's vital to communicate the reasons behind the changes with the people involved in order to win their support."

"I love what I do, I love



being busy and I'm genuinely excited about the talent and growth we're unlocking through New Zealand Technology Group."

Since 2013, New Zealand Technology Group has been attracting an increasing number of brands into its fold, not only in Auckland but throughout the country. Inroads into the regions have already seen a significant positive influence on local business with the opening of satellite offices in Hawke's Bay and Gisborne.

There is no doubt that Dwayne Smith has come a long way since those early college days at Rathkeale but his passions have remained consistent.



Lights, camera, action!

Jonathan Watt & Kieran Charnock (2005-2009), two intrepid young film-makers, fill us in on their activities since finishing at Rathkeale.



Jonathan Watt and Kieran Charnock found themselves the focus of media attention recently but it possibly wasn't quite what they were expecting. The two film-makers had been preparing the publicity launch for their self-funded feature film *Black Shark* but instead found the police knocking on their door. The sounds of screaming and an armed attack had been misinterpreted by a neighbour.

The film, written by the two who have been best mates since Year 9 at Rathkeale, is a black comedy featuring the activities of a counter terrorist unit that accidentally gets mixed up in the wrong company. On a shoestring budget of just \$7000, Kieran and Jonathan have done everything themselves, from writing to filming and post-production work. The only thing they haven't done is act in the film.

They first met at Rathkeale and hit it off straight away. Discovering that making films was a shared passion—they once persuaded their French teacher to allow them to make a film instead of doing an assessment—their parents' homes and backyards became the usual setting for their experiments. Friends and family cheerfully joined in as the cast and crew, and so it has continued.

As part of a group of talented young thespians, the boys petitioned the school to extend Drama as a subject to Year 11. Their wish granted, they continued acting in the Senior College with memorable exploits on the stage, whether it was acting Shakespeare or in the musical *Les Misérables*. Both sang in *Viva Camerata*, and both were academic achievers. Since finishing school in 2009, they have both travelled the sometimes fraught but always interesting path of those who pursue a career in the performing arts.

Kieran headed straight overseas for a while but soon returned to New Zealand, and has acted in a number of roles for film and television since then. A supporting role in feature film *The Rehearsal* netted him a nomination for Best Supporting Actor in the NZ Film Awards in 2016.

"I wasn't too disappointed to lose out to Sam Neill," he says cheerfully.

Although he has always been a talented actor, it's a tough life and requires determination and patience; Kieran works part-time as a chef to support his endeavours.

Jonathan completed a BA in Art History and English at Victoria University, with study occasionally interrupted by work as an "Orc Wrangler" during the filming of *The Hobbit*. Currently, he works part-time as a runner at Weta Digital and is completing a Masters in Scriptwriting.

Both young men especially enjoy writing and directing for the creativity it unleashes. And their work is most definitely creative. They have submitted dozens of scripts to NZ On Air and have received funding for some of their projects, a laudable achievement in such a risk-averse environment. It takes guts to put forward whacky ideas to an industry that likes guaranteed ratings.

But, bootstraps is what these lads are all about. They have now set up an online classifieds space catering to actors and technicians in the film industry. It's the next step as they carve their own pathway in New Zealand's creative space.

Whether you are looking for work or looking for actors and crew, check out Jonathan and Kieran's website for film-making talent.

www.screenspace.co.nz

Joe Meyer

A lifetime of involvement with horses has placed one Rathkeale Old Boy at the vanguard of international equestrian eventing. Joe Meyer (1984-1987) shares some horsey tales.



Joe Meyer's lifeblood is horses and he started his competitive career as early as the age of 6! Born and bred in the Wairarapa, his parents owned and managed the successful Mamaku Stud east of Masterton. They owned the stallion Tara Mink whose most famous offspring was one of the greatest event horses of all time – 'Charisma' the small star who took Mark Todd to fame and fortune in the 1980s.

Born into an equestrian family, you could say that it was in his genes that after his College years at Rathkeale where he was in Rugby House, he would achieve considerable success at national level and then go on to captain the NZ Junior Squad. In order to progress his career, he took his top horse 'Southern Star' to England in 1996 and, following a lot of hard work and dedication, Joe gained exposure to top level competition.

As with any event rider, the highs and lows come with the territory but with the support of Mamaku Stud's successful breeding programme, Joe now boasts a yard full of successful stars plus up and coming youngsters. His top horse 'Snip' has taken him to Senior Team representation in the 2006 World Equestrian Games, as well as a

10th place at Badminton in 2006 and 7th place in 2007. In 2007, he finished 8th in the British Eventing Premier League.

In 2008, Joe achieved one of his ultimate dreams—representing New Zealand at the Beijing Olympic Games where he finished 5th in the team competition and in the top 25 individually. He ranked 13th in the 2008 overall BE points table, with highlights including:

- 20th at Badminton on 'Ease on Fire'
- 14th in the World Cup Qualifier at Chatsworth International with 'Ariki'
- 3rd in the CIC with 'Snip'
- 7th in the CCI at Barocca with 'Ariki'
- winning the Thoroughbred Championship at Barbury Castle International with 'Clifton Lush'

Since then, he has gone on to place at Badminton several more times in 2009 and 2010, and had excellent finishes at Burghley, Luhmühlen, Pau and Rolex Kentucky plus a 2nd place finish in 2010 in the British Open Championships.

Joe is now embarking on a new competitive career in the United States and is based in Ocala, Florida, with his wife Ruthie, a highly talented horsewoman in her own right. At university, she rode for the Intercollegiate team at Hollins University at the highest level. Following a few years in corporate America after graduation, Ruthie decided to follow her passion back into horses by building her own business producing and selling horses in the United States. Since then, she has focused on her horse agency business and has sourced hundreds of successful horses competing at all levels across the United States from England, Ireland, France, Germany, New Zealand and Australia as well as from her local area in Ocala, Florida.

Together, Joe and Ruthie make quite a team in sourcing the best horses in the world as well as producing and selling horses for clients across America and thus "Meyer Eventing & Sports Horses" was created.



Cycling in China

Long serving staff member Greg Baillie (1984-present) took some time out during Term 3 this year for a cycling trip in China. It proved to be an experience in stark contrast to maths lessons in Room 3.

In his long-service leave request to the Board, Greg said: “At my age you must take advantage of these opportunities when they arise, as in a few years I may not be able to handle it.” With leave duly granted, he set off on an organized tour of China with ten cyclists plus two leaders, an interpreter and two drivers.

Starting in Chengdu (a small city of only 15 million), the tour covered a loop of about 800 km in Sichuan province and the Tibetan plateau, with 560 km ridden on bikes. The heat and humidity were challenges early on and then it was the altitude, as they cycled over several passes above 4000 metres. Luckily, the oxygen on the bus wasn’t required!

The Chinese are good drivers. They have to be. The traffic in Chengdu was amazing, with cars, mopeds, cyclists and pedestrians all working together. Trucks weren’t allowed in the central city during the day. Out on the open road they needed to watch out for all sorts of potential hazards—mats with corn drying on them (yes, on the road!), cows, pigs, people and other cars. The yellow no passing markings don’t have any effect. Cars would overtake on a corner and their only protection would be several blasts of the horn. It seemed to work; the oncoming vehicles would be expecting it.

The language was a bit of a barrier. After Ni Hao—hello, Xie xie—thank you, it was all a mystery and a challenge too great, which made it difficult to connect easily with the locals.

The route went into forest-clad mountains and over fast running rivers with hydro dams. Every bit of available flat land off the side of the road was used to plant crops. A self-subsistence lifestyle existed for many of the people.

Everyone seemed to have a job, whether it was wearing a flouro vest and sweeping the road with a hand-held straw broom or setting up a small stall selling produce. At one stage, the group was stopped at a checkpoint where there were at least a dozen policemen. The bus was impounded for a day and a half for not having a permit to carry foreigners. Apparently, there was no such rule but the police felt the need to be seen doing something. They enjoyed having their photos taken with the cyclists though.

The food was remarkably good but if you didn’t like rice, there was a problem. Lots of vegetables and spices, not much meat. There were Yak burgers and chips at one out of the way stop.



It was nice to have a change.

As in all third world countries, the plumbing system was a bit of a challenge at times. Suffice to say the thigh muscles got used a bit!

They visited an isolated Tibetan Monastery and after ringing a mobile number, a monk opened up and showed them around. Modern technology is everywhere!

At 7 pm in every city and town in China, in a large open space—usually the square—dozens or even hundreds or thousands of people would gather in concentric circles and dance to music. They knew the movements to different tunes. This could continue for a couple of hours. No gyms or fitness classes required.

For Greg, the tour was an adventure. It was certainly challenging at times, but memorable and interesting all the same. Now, it is back to the classroom and more maths classes...

Rugby inspires writing

A passion for rugby has led Clive Akers (1967-71) to an impressive career as one of New Zealand's foremost rugby historians.



Clive Akers was never an enthusiastic scholar, just scraping a pass in School Certificate, followed by two years in sixth form. That didn’t bother him as he intended to return to the family farm in Manawatu. Sport was his interest—athletics, swimming, rugby and tramping in the Tararuas. After a year back on the family farm, he spent two years shepherding in northern Hawke’s Bay and a year in the King Country. He continued to play rugby for Palmerston North High School Old Boys, Waikare, and Ohura clubs.

It is not clear when or why he became interested in rugby history but Clive recalls it may have had something to do with frequent sightings of the great All Black fullback George Nepia at regular church services at St Matthew’s in Masterton. Having retired from playing himself, Clive joined the committee of the New Zealand Rugby Museum in 1975 and has served as chairman for 23 years. The museum was founded in Palmerston North in 1969 and when Clive joined there was no public gallery, just a few displays about town. In 1977, premises were provided by the City Council and a public gallery was opened, where Clive served as curator for several years.

The collection has grown from a few boxes of items in a small

storeroom to the large gallery today at Te Manawa, the collection having grown to over 40,000 items. The Rugby Museum has become a leading visitor attraction in the city and it was a busy period during the 2011 Rugby World Cup and again during the 2017 Lions tour.

Over the past 37 years, Clive has produced numerous publications on the game. A centennial history of the Manawatu Rugby Union in 1986 was followed by a similar history in 1993 for the Horowhenua union. Then, in 1994, he was asked to be an editor of the *NZ Rugby Almanack*, a position he has held ever since.

Very little had been written about the life of Charles Monro who had introduced rugby to New Zealanders in 1870. For years Clive had been hoping a writer or journalist would write a biography but no one would. So, ignoring all of Bruce Hamilton’s comments in his school reports, Clive took up the challenge and wrote a biography himself. *Monro – The Life and Times of the Man Who Gave New Zealand Rugby* was published in 2008. He found it a very enjoyable project—far more interesting than Shakespeare, the Roman Empire and so on that he had been subjected to in the classroom!

More recently, the NZ Rugby Museum mounted a touring exhibition to commemorate World War One and that exhibition—*Balls, Bullets and Boots*—has been travelling around the country

to various galleries and museums. Clive was asked to write about the rugby players who feature in the exhibition. 150,000 words later *Balls, Bullets and Boots*, published in 2016, is a commemoration of the 1200 provincial players who served in the war.

Clive also published his *New Zealand Rugby Register* in 2016, an alphabetical list of over 40,000 men and women who have played first-class rugby since 1870. The 824-page book has taken 40 years to compile and is regarded as one of the biggest publications on our national game.

While his school exam marks and masters’ reports were a dismal read, Clive—a life member of the NZ Rugby Museum and 2015 recipient of a Kiwibank New Zealander of the Year award—is living proof that you don’t have to be a top class scholar to make a contribution to New Zealand literature and history in later years. His many publications are a record which future generations will undoubtedly appreciate.



From Masterton to Bratislava

Philip Harcourt (1967-1971) has led a varied career since leaving Rathkeale in 1971. It has taken him to far-flung and fascinating parts of the world, and yet the College gates still provide a warm welcome home every few years.

F. Anstey opined in his book *Vice Versa* that boarding school was the best time of his life. And with hindsight, so believe many of us, though hindsight is always a wonderful thing. The recollection of days at Rathkeale for me is of not having to worry where the money or food came from, or choosing what to wear or how to style my hair! It was all decided for me. I know that there were times when I hated it, wanted to go home or become a dayboy.

So when, in 1971, the time came for me to leave, it brought mixed emotions. My time at Rathkeale ended rather with a whimper than a bang, largely because my father became seriously ill during my last term, and I spent much of it back in Wellington. Sadly, he died three weeks after my school days ended.

The appalling science marks that I obtained in the Bursary exam, combined with the loss of my father, put paid to what I hoped was a glittering career as a veterinary surgeon and I resolved to study law at Victoria University. Unfortunately, I was not to be Perry Mason either and 1973 found me back in the family line of work when I joined the Valuation Department (now Quotable Value) on a cadetship, to become a fourth generation valuer in my family. The one thing that I gained from my time at Victoria was a wife, since whilst there I had reconnected with Clare Mahoney, who had been a member of the Masterton Combined 7th Form – one of two girls from St Bride's (now Chanel).

Completing my qualifications saw me transferred to Masterton in 1976, by this time married with a growing family. I bought a house at Homebush, where I was woken to the sound of the pipes! My neighbours were none other than one P.T. Quinn and his wife. I reconnected with many others from my Rathkeale days.

Five years back in Masterton saw me part of a community that I had really only observed from the back of a Maxwell's bus and I became part of that life. I joined the Rotary Club, where my fellow Rotarians included Bruce Hamilton, Bruce Hannon and Steve Wilton, and I started a two year stint as president of ROBA. My tenure in this role was a time of change, as it saw the Association officially acknowledged by being granted a seat on the Rathkeale Committee of the Trinity Schools' Trust Board. Also during this time, we commenced and concluded a major fund-raising effort to build a squash court at the College—the second Old Boys' project after the previous gates project.

Leaving the Valuation Department in Masterton, I set up on my own account as a Public Valuer and remained in offices in Bannister Street that, themselves, had a strong Rathkeale connection, having been developed by Bob Dunderdale, an early Governor of the College. Whilst in Masterton, I saw a large number of my contemporaries, both resident and passing through,



and then in 1981 I was approached to merge my valuation practice with JP Morgan and relocate to Palmerston North, where I remained until 1986. However, I continued to undertake work for Don Spiers at Mangakino, and for the Masterton Trust Lands Trust, as well as valuation work for Trinity Schools.

In 1986, having never done the “big OE” that many of our contemporaries had, we resolved that it was never too late. Clare and I sold our house, packed our bags and headed to England for a year or so, along with our three sons. We went first to Bath in the South-West

as this was where, by now, my mother lived, having remarried. I secured a job in London but, somehow, we never managed to escape Bath. For 6 years it was a 6am train to London and a 6pm train home. It was a surprisingly sociable experience and one during which I met many commuters who became friends, as we celebrated birthdays with a champagne breakfast in the dining car. As one fellow traveller was heard to remark: “Hate the job; love the journey.”

I worked for 6 years in London for a small property development company, developing property in locations that one only knew from the Monopoly board – Fleet Street, Kings Cross, Liverpool Street, Russell Square, Rochester Row and Vauxhall Bridge Road – and joining in a management buyout in 1989. Unfortunately, this was shortly before the property market crashed. This was also just before Clare and I had our fourth child and first daughter.

In 1991, I relocated my base to Bath and moved into development consultancy, advising a number of banks on how to extract themselves from some of the many loans they had made during the 1980s on development schemes that had gone wrong. By 1997, I was advising a range of clients on diverse development schemes across the UK and was approached to sell out my business to a national property advisory firm, Lambert Smith Hampton. I remained at their Bristol office until I was head-hunted to join a small property advisory company, Gooch Webster, which in a short time, was merged to become part of Colliers International.

Colliers opened new doors on my career and I became Head of Development Consultancy for UK and EMEA. It is from this time that I probably have the most interesting recollections, as I travelled extensively in response to client needs. In the UK, I advised on several large leisure schemes including the Cardiff International Sports Village and it was this scheme that gave me my most embarrassing professional moment. Travelling to Saarbrücken with two colleagues to interview the CEO of a potential leisure spa in Cardiff, we were conducted by him around his German facility, looking around the pool area until, passing through a door, he announced that this was a “textile free zone”. We looked at one another but the realisation suddenly dawned that this area of the complex required everyone to remove their clothes, and we were obliged to carry out this section of the visit in our birthday attire! Certainly both unexpected and different!

Other interesting locations that I have been able to visit and in which have advised on development projects, have included Riga (Latvia), Tallinn (Estonia), St Petersburg, Moscow and Tver in Russia, Almaty (Kazakhstan), Malta, Bratislava (Slovakia), Prague (Czech Republic), Hong Kong, Greece and, probably most memorably, Kuala Lumpur. In Kuala Lumpur, I led a team to advise on turning the Petronas Twin Towers into a viable visitor attraction, reviewing the overall masterplan for KLCC, the park in which it sits. This took me to parts of the towers that are not open to the public, including the second level of the famous link bridge joining the two towers,

and which is for fire escape use only (thankfully not needed to date.)

In 2011, I decided to leave Colliers, taking a dozen clients with me, although I continue to work with them on a number of projects, but I now work on my own account, with an office at home. A much shorter commute.

So I am still in England, more than 30 years after I thought that a year or so would do it. Now our children are grown up and married, and Clare and I have 7 grandchildren. We come back to NZ every 4 or 5 years and I try and head up the drive to Rathkeale to see how the old place still fares. I am still in close contact with a number of my contemporaries – Adam West-Watson, Vic Potter, Philip Norman plus others and now regularly see Robyn Prior – widow of Simon whose death shocked us all.

We live outside Bath in an acre of very NZ-like garden and continue to welcome old Rathkeale friends from time to time. We are always delighted to meet people with Rathkeale connections. Last year, I organised a get together in London for Old Boys and former tutors and it was extremely well-attended. For those of you of my vintage, some notable former staff that I have connected with include Peter Arbuthnot, Chris Lamaison and David Petley-Jones. We are planning to have more of these gatherings in future and would welcome all with connections who happen to be in the UK when they take place.



A road less travelled ...

Troy Etherington (2012-2016) was the inaugural recipient of Te Rangitumau Trophy, awarded to the boy who best exemplifies the qualities of the Good Rathkeale Man. At the end of an impressive College career, he chose to spend the first half of 2017 serving in a remote Fijian community.



He began his journey to Fiji on January 23, 2017, cramming information on the Fijian culture into one week of orientation at Nadi, with twenty-six other volunteers from around the world.

With no desire to go straight to university upon leaving Rathkeale at the end of last year, Troy decided he wanted to see the wider world before continuing with further study. He chose Fiji as his destination primarily due to its geographical location to New Zealand and a recommendation from Grant Harper. He had read about the placement on the Latitude Global Volunteering website and felt it would definitely take him out of

his comfort zone and offer the greatest challenge.

As some of you who went to College with Troy would know, he likes to travel down the road least travelled. This opportunity offered a real challenge to do something very different. He would find over the next six months, his resourcefulness stretched to the limit, patience tested and tolerance expanded!

Six months of no running water, intermittent electricity and limited food definitely offered a challenge. The people, however, more than made up for the conditions. They were warm and welcoming with big hearts.

Troy lived with a family on a farm which grew cassava,

eggplant and paw paw, two minutes from a rural village. He was based at Waicomba District School helping slow readers learn to read English. The children in Fiji are required to learn native Fijian, English and conversational Hindi. This is on top of them speaking their own dialect, native to the province they live in.

Troy kept a journal and recorded dozens of words and phrases as he was determined he was going to be able to speak the language and be able to have a decent “yarn” with them! His mother was very impressed when she went to Fiji at the end of his placement and observing him speaking fluent Fijian and joining in the conversation in the chief’s bure.

Fijians are very religious and the family Troy was placed with were Seventh Day Adventists. Over the Easter weekend, he and another volunteer from North Carolina went to an Adventist camp. He really enjoyed the activities, and it helped his Fijian enormously – 300 Fijians with two Europeans!

Even though Adventists do not drink, he went to many kava sessions. He remembers one in particular where there were around forty men sitting under a lean-to drinking kava not speaking for five hours - an extreme contrast to how western men socialise!



He felt, at times, that he was on display and always had to be mindful of cultural differences. Never able to let his guard down, and with no ability to have a day off, he was very appreciative to be placed with another volunteer from Canada for the six months. They were able to bounce frustrations off each other.

While at the school, Steve, the Canadian volunteer, and Troy, with the generosity of Rathkeale College, friends and family, raised funds for new desks and chairs for the Year

One classroom. Previously, they had run-down furniture and the children couldn’t even put their feet flat on the ground. The children were so happy with the new items and couldn’t wait to try them out.

From the experience, Troy learnt to go with the flow, even if it meant Fijian time “going with the flow”, being tolerant and patient, waiting many times for several hours for events to get underway.

He also found that technology is not as important to him as it used

to be. Fijians live in the here and now and care only about what is important: family, community and their religion. He is now very aware of what he terms “first world problems.” He respects the simple way they lived in Fiji and learnt to be more confident and engaging.

Troy found the experience very humbling and would definitely recommend volunteering to other students. Going into a different culture opens your mind and gives a broader perspective on life.



Such Artful Men!

This year's Friends of Rathkeale Artful Man was a fantastic event and a highly successful fundraiser for the proposed new Sports HQ (gymnasium complex) at the College. Here are just a few examples of the incredible talent in our school community.

Following in the footsteps of a similar event held four years ago as a fundraiser for the restoration of the Greek Theatre, this year's event was a real triumph. Men from all quarters of the College community were challenged to create something—painting, furniture, photography,

sculpture, glassware—all to be auctioned at a Gala event. A remarkable twenty-eight Old Boys stepped forward to join members of staff, current parents and students in creating an impressive array of interesting works. As a consequence of such creativity—the eloquence of Old Boy Richard Donworth and the

cajoling of Old Boy auctioneer Ray Spencer—a fantastic \$45,000 was raised.

The efforts of the Friends led by Justine Seymour Wilson, Rebecca McKay and Rachel Callaghan—all partners of Old Boys—along with the artisans and supporters are to be applauded.



Artworks clockwise from top left:

Painting by John Beijen

Ruamahanga Longhorns by Andy Sims

Chair by Greg Betts

Up-Motor-Cycled Kiwi by George Callaghan

Chairs by Tom Sims.

Back cover:

Castlepoint Sunrise by Marshall Pitney

School Achievements 2017

Rathkeale College continues to go from strength to strength. Here is a selection of some of the year's achievements.

NZQA Scholarship was achieved by thirteen boys this year. Of these, Jack Hopman and Robert Spite (Dux, 2016), gained five scholarships each and received National Scholarship Awards for their efforts. **Rathkeale** was named in the top five of Decile 9 NZ Colleges.

Viva Camerata won the top award for performance of a New Zealand composition at the Wellington Big Sing Regional Competition. They were also placed among the 30 top secondary school choirs in the country.

Shakespeareans in the Senior College won an award for a student-directed five minute scene at the Regional Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Festival.

Judah Dabora (Year 12) was one of ten finalists in the provincial Katherine Mansfield Short Story Writing competition. **Anthony Voice** achieved Speech NZ Grade 6 with two Honours and a Merit pass.

Wairarapa Times Age Sports Awards

Young Sportsman of the Year (finalists)—Gerard Hickey & Nathan Whiteman

Team of the Year Finalist—1st XI Football team

Official of the Year—Johann Fourie (staff)

Coach of the Year—David Knox (ex-staff)

Wellington Region Athletics Awards

Junior Section Finalists—Gerard Hickey & Nathan Whiteman

Sam Callaghan was fifth in the National Enduro Series and 1st in class (2nd on a countback) in the Central Cross-Country Series, and the Rathkeale Dirt Bike Riding team was placed 3rd in the Central North Island Cross-Country series.

Ollie Donaldson gained two gold, one silver and three bronze at the New Zealand Division II Swimming Championships.

Inter-Collegiate Athletics saw Rathkeale perform well, with 26 boys gaining twenty-one 1st, fourteen

2nd and seven 3rd placings in individual events, and two 1st and a 2nd in the 4 X 100 m relays.

Ben Clatworthy and Jayden Webb-Milner performed well at the North Island Athletics Championships, gaining 3rd in the hammer throw and 1st in the triple jump respectively.

National Triathlon competitors Mitch Cockburn (swim), Tom McCallum (cycle) and Hugh O'Donoghue (run) gained 5th place in the senior event.

In the annual **Wairarapa College exchange**, hockey and rugby drew and football won, resulting in an overall win to Rathkeale.

Junior White rugby team won the Wairarapa Rugby competition and we had 23 representatives in the U14m U16 and U18 categories.

Winter Tournament results

Hockey—4th in the India Shield Tournament

Football—9th in New Zealand & Thomas Wagner won the Golden Boot award (top goal scorer for the tournament)

Rugby—4th in the Lindisfarne Tournament

Callan Elliott named Wairarapa United Youth Player of the Year, and gained a place in the Tasman United Football team playing in the National League.

1st XI Football placed 5th in the Wellington Secondary Schools' Premier Boys' Competition, secured a place in the Wellington Premier 1 Competition and a place in the National Secondary Schools top tier at tournament.

Hockey gained a place in the semi-finals of the Wellington Premier Schoolboy League by winning their fixture against Scots College 5-0, placing 4th in the competition.

There were eight **Wairarapa U15 Hockey** representatives.



Ten Years on Reunions

1968, 1978, 1988, 1998, 2008 Leavers—Queen's Birthday Weekend, June 1-3, 2018

All Old Boys who were members of the cohorts who left in 1968, 1978, 1988, 1998 and 2008 are warmly invited to attend the Reunion Weekend to be held at Rathkeale and the Wairarapa on Queen's Birthday Weekend.

Programme

Friday June 1

Evening gathering of all attending the weekend

Saturday June 2

Photographs, School tours, lunch, Year Group Dinners

Sunday June 3

Chapel and Morning Tea

Gather a group together and save the date now. Year Group Facilitators will organise dinner venues and other activities as appropriate.



School House now (2017) and then (1930)



Some of the attendees at the 2017 Ten Years On Reunion gather for a College walkabout.

Former tutor Humphrey Cobbold (1982-83) (third on the right) and his brothers catch up with James Harper (1998-2001) at the Lions Wellington Test.



Obituaries

It is with sadness that we acknowledge the passing of the following Old Boys this year.

John Spiers 1968-1971

Brought up in the Takapau district of Central Hawkes Bay, John attended Hereworth School before arriving at Rathkeale in 1968 where he boarded in Repton House. A formidable presence in the goal, he was awarded hockey colours in 1970. A Diploma in Agriculture was completed at Lincoln University, before he eventually returned to develop 'Mararoa', the family farm, into a leading deer farm. This led to an impressive involvement with the deer industry at national level.

Exceptionally well regarded in the wider community, John died in February 2017 and is survived by his widow Marie and his three children Daniel (1994-1998), Bridget and Katrina.

Paul Renton 1976-1980

Paul had an impressive College career and amongst other achievements he was a School Prefect, the recipient of Sports Colours for Rugby, Service Colours for Tramping, Gold Duke of Edinburgh and Grand Prior for St John First Aid. A talented rugby player, he represented three provinces and played for both New Zealand Colts and New Zealand Juniors.

Paul grew up on the family farm, Glenmore, in Hawke's Bay before completing a Diploma of Agriculture from Massey University. Later, he shepherded on Mount Somers Station before returning to Glenmore. Following the retirement of his parents in 1996, Paul took over the reins of the property which has been in the family for five generations since 1859. Earlier this year, he and wife Marie won the Silver Ferns Hawke's Bay Farmer of the Year. Paul died suddenly in August, and is survived by his widow Marie, daughters Elsa and Zana and son Hugh.

Tim Long 2009-2011

Tim attended Rathkeale for three years and was a member of Repton House. After completing the remainder of his secondary education in Hawke's Bay, he was attracted south by the Christchurch re-build and at the time of his death was completing a plumbing apprenticeship in Dunedin.

He died suddenly and tragically in Dunedin on 3rd September 2017. He is fondly remembered by his family and many friends.



Gregory Wright 1967-2017

Paul Gregory Wright, Gregory to most of us, Greg to some. 27/10/1953 - 29/08/2017

After leaving Rathkeale, Gregory trained as an electrician. He kept his hand in this trade all his life, although later only to do small work around the home. Many of you would have known, that Gregory was disabled by an accident in 1976, with his injury exacerbated by medical misadventure. As a consequence, he spent the best part of 11 years either in a hospital or in rehabilitation units.

In 1986, he first met Cheryl, a recent widow. Over the following five years fate, cupid, or perhaps Gregory himself, kept putting them in the same meeting on the same course or even at the same social events. He asked her out many times over these five years. Finally, in 1991, she gave in, agreed to lunch and in 1992 they were married.

Gregory used crutches as his main support for getting around. However, for nearly six months he increased his physio and training in order to walk down the aisle of the Palmerston Cathedral with his bride on their wedding day. With this same determination, from 1993 - 2005 Gregory joined Cheryl in her business and became New Zealand's first wheelchair-bound first aid instructor.

Gregory was extremely determined and would not accept that, medically and physically, he should not have been able to stand up, let alone walk. No one told Gregory he could not do something. He not only stood up but also walked—usually unaided—around the home, albeit often falling to the ground. He did, though, in the last 20 years concede to using a wheelchair when away from home.

He did all the shopping and most of the cooking, and ran the household, while Cheryl often worked out of town. This was made easier for him by ACC providing him with a hand-controlled van and, most recently, a stand up wheelchair.

Up until five years ago, Gregory worked tirelessly in the community, at one stage being part of no fewer than 32 community groups or committees. He also had a great love for his cats as well as the wild birds and hedgehogs that he treated as pets. Sadly, he passed away extremely unexpectedly but peacefully in his sleep, with his head on his wife's shoulder in the early hours of 29th August.

Gregory will be sadly missed by his son Paul, his stepson Craig, daughter-in-law Lindsay and grandchildren. He has left a great void in the heart and soul of his best friend and wife of 25 years, Cheryl.

Rest in peace Gregory. There is no pain in the afterlife.



Contributions to Rock Runner

The Editor thanks all those who contributed articles to the Rock Runner. We are always glad to receive relevant material for future magazines. This could include articles, names of likely contributors and obituaries. These should be sent to:

oldboys@rathkealeoldboys.org.nz



Castlepoint Sunrise by Marshall Pitney