

## WBHS Old Boys' Association Update May 2015

Before I get into the main crux of the email I have a couple of apologies. Firstly my apology for taking so long to get this out to you. Those without email addresses received their newsletter 3 weeks ago but I could not get the link out to you until such time as we had satisfactorily designed the two appendices to this update. Description of those documents will follow.

And secondly I feel I should apologise for the way I introduced the appointment of the new principal to you all (ie with the 'Warning' in my email 26 March). Actually I don't feel I should but I hear that one or two of you were a little perturbed by the way I introduced that email thinking that it was in bad taste. Well folks I don't do bad taste, I just speak my mind. I believe I know my audience and based on some of the comments I received back I got it dead right. Just as the trimming of the trees was a calamitous event, as I outlined in my email describing that, so is the appointment of a female principal to Whangarei Boys' High School for the first time ever. That most of you took my introduction in the humour in which it was meant shows me that it had the desired effect. As with the email regarding the pohutukawa trees, I was not trying to undermine anybody or show the School or the Association in a bad light, and quite frankly if you ever think that please have the fortitude to contact me directly. I don't think you will find anybody more passionate about both the Association and the School than me.

So onto what is happening.

### Newsletter

Here is the link to the latest newsletter. By clicking on it you should be taken directly to it. If not please visit our website ([www.wbhsoba.co.nz](http://www.wbhsoba.co.nz)) and click on the News & Events page and then Newsletters and you will be taken to a list of the newsletters from the past few years.

<http://wbhsoba.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/Newsletter-Final-small.pdf>

By the same token if you want a posted hardcopy we still have a few on hand and would be happy to put one in the post to you.

### We Need Your Help!

Following on from our campaign last year to get more financial members on board, and actually the main reason for the newsletter, you will find two forms appended to this update. The first, 'Show Your Support' (Appendix A), is simply an appeal to get more Old Boys backing what the Association has been doing and wants to carry on doing. The form introduces our Mission Statement and also outlines how you can help us financially. Many of you already do and for that you have our sincere thanks, but we would like you to help us out further by sharing these forms with your friends and try and get them involved as well.

The term pyramid may be illegal in some sense, but if each Old Boy sends the information onto their friends and they do the same, then we are well down the track to achieving some sort of saturation. The day will come when we can only attend to those of our network who are financial members, but we also know that if we can get a large proportion of the database on board, we will be even more of a major player in the future of students at Whangarei Boys' High School.

The second form, 'WBHS OBA Information' (Appendix B), is simply the method by which Old Boys can become involved and outlines payment methods etc.

I am hopeful you will be able to get in behind this movement so we can see the WBHS OBA carry on well into the future.

## What Does Your Money Do?

This is described in the newsletter but to put it out front. The Executive Committee considered how subscriptions and general donations are handled and decided to make a firm decision for future payments. Basically the Association has 3 areas of interest and it has been decided that each payment will be allocated in some part to those areas. As such for every subscription or non-specific donation received, the payment will be split as follows:

50% will go directly to the Association to help with operational requirements

30% will go towards a School fund to be used to help out students in the future

20% will go to the WBHS OBA Endowment Trust to help create a legacy for the future of the School and also the Association

So you can see by making a subscription payment you are not just helping out the Association but also students currently at the school and students who are yet to come to the school. This has the right mix to again show what we are all about.

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

As mentioned briefly in the newsletter, 2015 marks the 90<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone at the current site of WBHS. The laying of the stone was an event which identified WBHS as a School and while it was not until 1946 that WBHS finally got to call itself a school in its own right, the laying of the stone was the catalyst for this to happen. As such the Executive Committee believe that this is an event that we should celebrate and at the same time show the solidarity that exists amongst the former students of WBHS. Celebrations are planned for the weekend of Friday 25<sup>th</sup> Sept and Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>.

I hope you all agree and indicate your desire to be part of the celebration by completing the section on information the form attached and returning it to the Old Boys Office. Activities thus far planned are:

- Annual Old Boys' Golf Tournament on Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September
- Day Boys v Boarders Dinner Friday 25<sup>th</sup> September. This evening will include challenge events such as quizzes, debates and whatever else we can come up with to make the night one to remember. Of course the challenge will start on the golf course during the day.
- Dinner to celebrate the Anniversary Saturday 26<sup>th</sup>. Details not yet available as we need to know who might be interested in attending so please register your interest as soon as possible. Deadline for this Friday May 29<sup>th</sup>.
- Presentation to outgoing Headmaster Al Kirk at the dinner on 26<sup>th</sup>. We were going to hold this in March but time was against us.

The last big event was the Jubilee 2006 and we have had a couple of successful dinners since then but this is a significant event in the history of WBHS so please come along.

## 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Memento

Old Boy Ian McDonald (WBHS 1963-66) in Arizona has designed a keyring as a memento for the occasion of the 90<sup>th</sup> Anniversary. This is made of pewter and when we brought out something similar a few years ago it proved to be a hit. This is a limited production so first in first served. Use it as a keyring or put a chain on it and wear it around your neck. The photo here is not actual size but the keyring measures 3cm wide and 4cm from top of loop to bottom. Cost is \$20.00 plus \$2.50 p&p (a bit more for overseas). If you would like one get back to me by return email as they won't last long.



## ANZAC Service

A very poignant service was held at the School on Friday 24<sup>th</sup> April. It is a sad state of affairs to note the smaller numbers of Old Boys in attendance. Unfortunately we all get older and the Association has had to record the passing of a number of our favourite sons over the past 12-15 months who would normally be at the service. Time for the younger generation to stand up and take their place.

This year's service was notable for the full VIP party that included the Mayor of Whangarei, Sheryl Mai, and NZ First Leader Winston Peters, not to mention several notables from the ranks of the RSA. Special attention was given at the wreath laying ceremony to the new WWI Memorial that had been erected courtesy of the WBHS OBA Endowment Trust.

The WBHS Old Boys' Association carried on the practice started by Immediate Past President David Templeton of laying a wreath at the Whangarei Dawn Service. A huge crowd this year and a wonderful tribute to our serviceman at the new memorial in Laurie Hall Park. Make sure you visit it when you are in town.

## Advertising Opportunity

There is an opportunity for businesses to advertise on our website, or perhaps sponsor a particular email we might send out. *This email is supported by Murray Inder at Inprint Graphics* and he also has sponsored the newsletter page on the website. If you need any printing give Murray a call, he is 'Mr Print Whangarei' and I know he will have a solution to all of your printing needs.

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If you would like to sponsor a page on our website, or be involved in the same way with future emails please get in touch with the Old Boys Office.

## Congratulations

- A huge congratulations to Old Boy Avan Lee (WBHS 1987-91) who has been appointed CEO of the Hurricanes Rugby franchise in Wellington. He was Head Prefect in 1991 and will be Returning from Ireland where he has been general manager of World Rugby Sevens. He has previously held positions with Northland Rugby Union and also the NZRU. Another example of good Boys High stuff.

- The Association would like to congratulate Old Boy and former Carruth Boarder from 2013 James Fisher-Harris for making the Junior Kiwi U20 squad to Play Australia last Saturday Night before the Samoa- Tonga match. James currently plays for the Penrith Panthers U20 side. Unfortunately the Juniors came up just short going down to the Aussies by 22-20 but James was fairly prominent throughout.
- And congratulations to the following students who have been selected to be part of the 2015 Northland Sports Talent Hub. This selection is to provide support services to talented young Northland based athletes to better prepare and support them to enter the high performance sport system in New Zealand and overseas.  
Julian Fowler-Golf                      Finn Trimble-Squash                      Callum Prime-Swimming.  
*Well done guys!!*

## **Funding Requests/School Sponsorship Opportunities**

Because of what the Association has achieved over the years we will always have requests for funding from student bodies and this time around is no different. I guess it just reaffirms the Association's status in the School, and not just as a cash cow as some may have viewed us the past but as an organisation that has the ability to help where other avenues may have failed. Looking ahead it is hoped that our School fund that we hope to create from subscriptions and general donations will help us to fund some of these requests. For now though, we have to hope that there is an Old boy or two out there who will see some connection and be able to support a project or request.

Below are requests, mainly from sporting teams, for sponsorship in 2015. Sorry it is predominantly sports teams at this stage as I know some of you do not connect with sports but I hope to include more cultural activities as time goes on.

### ***Bookcases***

A couple of bookcases required.

- One of our Old Boys has been slowly filling a classics library collection over the past few years and we now find ourselves in a situation where a bookcase is needed to store these books. The Association did buy one some years ago but this is now proving to be unsuitable. The books are only 17cms tall so the shelves need to be not more than 20cms high and 15-20cms deep. The collection is currently made up of 160 books and there are over 300 books in the total library available so that gives an indication of the size of bookcase required.
- Carruth House is in need of a suitably sized bookcase for their main recreation room. I guess all suggestions of offers are welcome but we are thinking of filling a space about 2metres wide. The bookcase(s) will be for a variety of books and magazines.

### ***Golf Team at World School's Championships***

Whangarei Boys' High School are the defending champions for this tournament from 2013. It was cancelled last year but is on again for 2016, and is again being held in Thailand as it was in 2013. If you would like to be involved with helping get our boys to this event please get in touch with me. This can be either in a financial sense or by offering assistance with fundraising. Costs are around \$5500 per player for a team of 8 and that is a huge amount for single students to raise. However once we commit to going I know a number of the boys will knuckle down and do their best to raise their fair share. If we can assist in any way I am sure it would be most appreciated by parents. I look forward to hearing from you.

### ***Rugby League***

A couple of years ago the School's 1<sup>st</sup> XIII received a grant from the Association to help with their uniform and repaid that by displaying the Old Boys name prominently on their uniform. This was clearly visible during games. Just in case you are not aware, the 1<sup>st</sup> XIII swept all before it in this year's Adam Blair school contest in Northland, running up some huge scores and winning the final against Kaitaia HS.

Whangarei Boys' High School will be playing in the 1<sup>st</sup> Division at the Secondary School Nationals later this year and are looked upon as one of the up and coming schools for rugby league. Even now students are known to move from other schools in Northland so that they can play league for WBHS. Playing for a well performed and winning team helps catch the attention of talent spotting league scouts watching school

games. WBHS have already provided a number of NRL league players, the most notable of course being Adam Blair.

If you are in a position to help these guys out this year, whether through a personal donation or through your business, please get back to me. Either way the league boys will give value for money in advertising.

### ***Sailing Team***

This more a feeler for some input as opposed to direct financial help, although of course that won't be turned down. The WBHS Sailing Team has for the past few years leased some boats off the Whangarei Cruising Club for use in regattas they have competed at. I believe there are at least 4 boats in total. They are now faced with the prospect of the WCC selling the boats to someone else and so negating the possibility of the School using them. I do not know any other details regarding the sale or even why it is happening, and in fact DP Mike Elliot cannot enlighten any further as he also knows nothing apart from the possibility these boats are being sold to another school. So the question is, does anybody have any ideas as to what the sailing team might be able to do. I think boats cost about \$20,000 so buying them is out of the question but I am hoping some of you might be hooked into the sailing fraternity somewhere and will have a brilliant idea or two to help the team keep competing.

### ***Whangarei Boys' High School Rugby 7's***

The School's Rugby 7s are seeking sponsorship to continue to grow the game in the School and Northland. The efforts of the players and coaches over recent years have developed a strong culture and are gaining recognition among 7's circles. The Senior team is ranked 13<sup>th</sup> in New Zealand while the junior team is currently ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> in the North Island & 6<sup>th</sup> in New Zealand, so WBHS is not a bystander in this sport.

They are seeking financial support to provide more opportunities for their players. This includes such things as training equipment, playing equipment, travelling to tournaments, accommodation at tournaments and entry fees. The teacher-in-charge of 7s, Old Boy Harry Darkins (WBHS 2003-06) has put together a comprehensive sponsorship proposal that includes different tiers of sponsorship depending on financial involvement. Please contact me if you would like a copy of the proposal.

### ***Hockey***

We are looking for a sponsor for the School's 1<sup>st</sup> XI and 2<sup>nd</sup> XI hockey teams to the tune of \$300.00 to cover the cost of drink bottles and bottle carriers for each team. Old Boy and Executive Committee Member Daniel Morales (WBHS 2001-05) is the Asst Coach of the 1<sup>st</sup> XI so if we can find someone to help out it would be most appreciated. For a little extra I am sure we can get company logos or such like printed on the bottles. Hopefully there is an old hockey player out there who knows how much these drink bottles mean in the modern game these days.

The hockey management are also looking ahead and will need new playing strips for the 1<sup>st</sup> XI, if not for this season then certainly for next. This is obviously a major sponsorship deal and the team can offer logo and business identification on the shirts as well as team naming rights. If you might be interested please let me know. A huge commitment this one but there are obvious advertising benefits, especially as the 1<sup>st</sup> XI has been a big performer over the past year or so, even beating the Old Boys in last year's past v present game.

And finally on hockey, Daniel is keen to try and reinstitute a hockey overseas tour and has asked if I can spread the word about a possible WBHS Hockey Tour of Australia. Once again he is looking for sponsorship for such a trip and also perhaps some input from those of you who have made these trips when you were at school. Please get in touch with me first of all and I will put you in touch with Daniel.

### **Last Word**

Sadly I just heard the other day that one of the last remaining members of the Class of 39 passed away in February this year after a long illness. His name is Donald Ross who was here at Whangarei Boys' High School from 1934-39 and was a boarder at Carruth. Donald was one of those men who contributed to the wonderful book 'The Thirty-niners' which are the memoirs of that illustrious group of men. His item relates an episode of his stay in Carruth about one particular housemaster and how the boys overcame him. His conclusion is worth sharing with you all as it just goes to show what can be achieved if people band together as one.

*For the writer, the actions of the boarders provided a most significant and lasting educational experience for which he has been most grateful. Among the lessons learned was the power of people when working together in response to unjust practices and the need not to be overwhelmed by bureaucratic systems. When 'The Rights' of citizens are infringed, or when there is an absence of accountability by those with responsibilities, it is quite appropriate to organize peaceful activity to halt wrongdoing.*

Well said Donald!! Our belated condolences go out to Donald's son and Old Boy Alan Ross (WBHS 1973-77) and his family, and I thank him for allowing me to repeat the above words in this email.

If you would like a copy of this book please get in touch with the Old Boys Office.

That folks is about all for now. The Association is looking to carry on the great work we have achieved to date but cannot do so without your support. I know there are many wonderful causes out there and subscribing to an Association such as ours might be a long way down the list. But with our renewed focus we have the chance to continue to do some real good at this great old School so that its students will have the best possible chance to make a difference in this world. Please get on board.

Kind regards to all

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Greg Weaver', with a large, stylized initial 'G'.

Greg Weaver (WBHS 1971-75)  
**Secretary**  
**WBHS Old Boys' Association**

## Appendix A



WHANGAREI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL  
Old Boys' Association Inc



# WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT NOW!

### - Mission Statement -

To provide opportunities for Old Boys to meet and use their best endeavours, combined skills and life experiences for the benefit of Whangarei Boys' High School students.

### - The Challenge -

Help us succeed in our mission by committing to either...

An annual Subscription to be paid as a one-off sum of \$50.00, or as a weekly payment of \$1.00

And/or

A regular donation as a weekly, monthly or annual payment for an amount determined by you.

**PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN THE ATTACHED FORM.**

*Thank you in advance for your support, please share this with your friends!*

Below are photos showing just a few of the things the WBHS OBA has been able to contribute to the school over the years. You can help us to continue to do more.



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## Appendix B

### WBHS OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION INFORMATION FORM

NAME: \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS: \_\_\_\_\_

#### I wish to commit to:

- An Annual Subscription to be paid
- As a one-off sum of \$50.00
  - As a weekly payment of \$1

#### OR

- A regular donation as indicated below:
- A weekly payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - A fortnightly payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - A monthly payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_
  - An annual payment of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ Start Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Please indicate how you wish to make the payment(s)

- Direct Credit from my bank account (WBHS OBA account is 12-3115-0183138-50).
- Weekly/fortnightly deduction from my salary (Payroll giving, which incorporates tax rebate).
- Personal cheque (All cheques should be payable to WBHS Old Boys' Association)
- Credit Card (Please provide card type, number, expiry date, name on card)

Card Type \_\_\_\_\_ Card Number: \_\_\_\_\_

Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_ Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_

#### Any Other Comments

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

#### 90th Anniversary Celebration

To celebrate the 90th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone at our great School the WBHS Old Boys' Association are holding a dinner on September 26th. Please indicate below whether you would like to attend and also at what other events that have been planned so far.

- Annual Golf Tournament on Friday 25th September
- Day Boys v Boarders Challenge Dinner Friday 25th September
- Stay the night at Carruth Friday 25th September (part of challenge)
- Anniversary Dinner, including presentation to former Headmaster Al Kirk, Saturday 26th September