



WHANGAREI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
Old Boys' Association Inc



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GREETINGS OLD BOYS

*From the New President –
Phil Eady (WBHS 1968-70)*

It is with a combined sense of trepidation and anticipation that I have the honour of writing this article as the new President of the Whangarei Boys' High School Old Boys' Association. Trepidation with regard to the harsh reality that the Association is facing stern and testing times, but conversely, knowing that there is many an opportunity to turn this around and see it revitalised.

I would love to say I have a dream but that is not the case. However, what I can boast of is a conviction that the passion and hard work of a few members (both past and present) have laid down some solid foundations upon which we can rebuild an effective organisation for the future. I have just used the word effective which simply implies getting on with a specific task in an energetic way, and believe expectantly that it will be completed in a successful and timely fashion. With this in mind I am convinced that we need a mission statement that embodies this view and committee members that support this outlook. They are the fundamental starting points in addressing our current malaise and gaining a momentum for the future.

Over the next few weeks I will be focussing on seeing that these two core components are set in place so that progress can get under way. People without purpose produce little, quickly become disenchanted and shortly thereafter go somewhere else. No one I know enjoys boredom and goes looking for it. One of our primary goals as an Association is to have fellowship with each other and to my mind there are few better ways of doing that than to work alongside others who have the same motivation and focus. I put it to you all that the young men of this school fit this bill admirably, and it is they who we should be striving to support.

To sum up, committee members will all be in charge of specified tasks for which they will have a completion date. Collegiality and an open forum are essential for this to happen and I look forward to ideas becoming realities. I am looking to put together a committee that is keen to get some work done and if you wish to be part of this journey I would love to hear from you asap.

Golf Coaching Clinics every Wednesday 4.30pm at Ormond Weaver Golf Academy
- Contact Old Boys' Office for details.



FROM DAVID TEMPLETON (WBHS 1971-73)

It is my honour to once again address Old Boys in a newsletter, albeit as the outgoing President. While I am standing down as President of the Association from December 2014, I will remain as a Committee Member as the Association strives to take their influence to greater levels.

While 2014 must go down as one of the most challenging for our organisation, it has been enjoyable reconnecting with a number of you as we look to reinvigorate the Association. We all have a joint vision and need to make it relevant for those who see value from their involvement and the future potential in a vibrant association. I wish Phil Eady all the best in his role as the new President.

Over the last few years we have built up a strong Committee committed to expand the activities to provide more options for Old Boys to make a connection with their old classmates, sports team colleagues and the School. Often we reflect on our days at school developing life-long friends through the classroom, on the sports fields or through the arts. We are there to create opportunities to stay connected and or reconnect. So a huge thanks to all the Committee Members who have served the Association with energy and commitment, and to the sterling work that our Development Officer Greg Weaver has done over the last 12 months. A lot of what he does is not clearly visible and has included investigations into all possible income streams to provide some stability to our association.

During 2014 the Association recognised the need to attract many more financial members than those that exist at the moment. We had a positive response to an email appeal during the year and are hopeful that this can be enhanced through an appeal via this newsletter. I am confident that the goodwill shown in your replies to date will ensure an exciting and positive future for the Whangarei Boys' High School Old Boys' Association.

Of the things that have remained with me over the last 40 odd years, the enduring friendships made at Boys' High stand out. So I challenge all Old Boys to treasure them and support your Association into 2015. Without you the Association will cease to exist which would be an absolute shame for all the work we have completed over the past few years, and for the work we are yet to complete.

I wish you all the best in your future endeavours.

FROM GREG WEAVER

An apology to all Old Boys who we have not been in touch with for a couple of years. The reason for this is simple. We do not have an email address for you and it got too costly for us to be constantly in contact with a large number of Old Boys through the post. During 2014 we reached a critical point in our operation and we believed that we had to make sure all Old Boys were aware of what was happening, and not just the ones who we had been communicating with by email. Hence the production of this newsletter.

While the newsletter is predominantly about the future of the WBHS Old Boys' Association there would be no point in not including other items of interest for your reading pleasure. Enjoy.

WHO ARE WE, WHAT HAVE WE DONE

WBHS OBA 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.

We are an Incorporated Society registered as a Charitable Trust with the Charities Commission. Our Incorporated Society Number is 1524156 and our Charities Commission Registration Number is 27596.

The message is plain. We want to get Old Boys together ('meet') and we want to help students at WBHS. Note the emphasis here is on the students as opposed to the School. The current approach is recognising that the School is funded by the Government but students might need some sort of help to make their time at WBHS beneficial and productive. Maybe some of you might reflect on your time at the School and think that if that approach existed in the past maybe you might have enjoyed your time better.

WHAT HAVE WE DONE?

With the help of Old Boys we have over the years managed to:

Support: Kapa Haka, Technology Dept, Tourism Dept, Music Dept, Art Dept, PE DEpt, Drama Dept, Library, Classics Dept, Carruth House, Property Management

Support Sports teams: Rugby 7s, Rugby League, Golf, Sailing, Shooting, OPC Hillary Challenge, Basketball, Chess Club

We have helped individual students: Attend Shakespeare Company festivals, Visit New Caledonia, Attend the R Tucker Thompson Tall Ship programme, Get to Russia to compete in judo, Get to London for Shakespeare

We have bought books, shirts, chess sets, a piano, ukuleles, engine hoist, compressors, lights, PE gear. We have helped Carruth re-roof two dorms, refurbish a kitchen, refurbish a recreation room, convert from coal to gas, make alterations to exterior of buildings, erect a new honours board.

We have helped the School cull trees, purchased new grounds maintenance gear, refurbished the Boardroom.

We have also managed to publish two books 'Fideliter Shaping Us' and 'The Thirty-niners', donated a set of aerial photographs to the School, and introduce the Fideliter Fellowship and also the Staff Wall of Fame.

So the Association has been busy. **We make a huge impact at this School and with your help will continue to do so.**



WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING

During 2014 the WBHS OBA reached a critical decision point as it was realised that funds were almost totally exhausted. This caused a flurry of activity and for the benefit of Old Boys who have not supplied us with an email address this is a brief of what transpired in the middle of last year.

Firstly, upon hearing that the Association was close to ceasing to operate, well known Old Boy and Whangarei businessman Erc Angelo (WBHS 1959-62) sent an email out to Old Boys to not only express his astonishment at the situation but to also challenge Old Boys to commit to some sort of financial contribution. He provided some options to do so and many Old Boys did take up the challenge, although we still need more to do so.

Erc's email also generated a fair amount of other feedback concerning how the Association was running and it became apparent that the actual operating structure was not necessarily that well known. This prompted a further email from the Association President David Templeton which not only endorsed Erc's approach but also intimated that we needed to do more to inform Old Boys as to how the Association operated. This was done in a paper titled 'The Way Forward', a copy of which is available from the WBHS OBA Secretary Greg Weaver (g.weaver@wbhs.school.nz).

The final word in this saga was left to Greg Weaver himself which, while thanking Old Boys for becoming involved, also emphasised the point that *'the Association has a huge impact at the School where it counts and we could not do that as an organisation that does not have visibility'*.

To provide overwhelming support to that view, Old Boys' Patron and WBHS Headmaster Al Kirk told us how much the visibility of the Association meant to him (written as a response direct to Greg Weaver):

I cannot tell you how proud I am having a school that has such a positively focussed OBA. When one considers where we have come from these past 10 or so years, and the work that has been done – it is an absolute tribute to the small committed members of the Committee, 2 wonderful and enthusiastic Presidents – and the one consistent lynchpin – you as Secretary/Development Officer.

Without a doubt your passion, your enthusiasm, your good will, and your organisation have lifted the Association from a fledgling well-meaning committee to one that has credibility, vision, and drive. Having you on site is, to me, absolutely critical for the Association going forward. It is a must.

We both know how much work you do that is ad hoc – from dealing with Old Boys who randomly drop in, to talking with boys who want to know some history about the school; from assisting with fundraising projects to helping out with Past v Present day; from writing reports for special occasions to writing eulogies; from writing emails to Old Boys to filing archives; from taking/framing archive photos for the stairs to updating the staff photo board – the list goes on and on and on. I haven't even started about all you do with Ormond Weaver Golf Academy and the incredible credibility you have with key benefactors (so much so, they rely on your advice and guidance ahead of others).

While it is true some of these tasks could be done by you/others off site, so much of the strength in the position is because of the fact you are here – you experience the highs and lows of a practicing school, you hear/witness the Assemblies and the incredible pride we

have in our boys. You can pass that on first hand because you witness it daily – not second hand based on someone else's reports. Without a doubt, the position for Development Officer is absolutely critical to the success of this organisation.

I made a pledge when I started as Headmaster that we would form a viable working OBA and we have done that. We are going through (short term) hard financial times at present. Thanks to people like you – those with a positive attitude and outlook - we will continue to function.

Keep positive, keep looking forward. We have assets to die for – we simply have a cash flow problem, that's all. Let's not panic, let's not give up, let's not give away what some have worked so very hard to establish. This is our first real test as an organisation – we owe it to the thousands upon thousands of Old Boys who have passed through these gates not to falter – but to find a practical, workable solution.

Onwards and Upwards,

Warmest Regards

Al Kirk

Headmaster Whangarei Boys' High School/Patron WBHS Old Boys' Association

SO WHERE TO FROM HERE?



Dennis O'Meara (WBHS 1964-67) says:

I think it is extremely important that an active Old Boys' Association is maintained to keep all Old Boys informed of current activities within the school and to support current pupils, when appropriate, to ensure the historical high standards of the school are maintained on a national level.

To achieve an active, energetic and viable Old Boys' Association, it is vital that the funding mechanism is affordable for members and sustainable on a long term basis. The Association cannot remain viable if it is not supported by many past pupils who have had the privilege of receiving the benefits from the Association in the past. It cannot exist as a viable, energetic and supporting organisation by allowing a few enthusiastic people to carry an inequitable and unsustainable workload, through inequitable financial contributions.

*A sensible Annual Subscription for all Old Boys **wishing to be kept informed of the activities or involved in the Association** is a very logical and sustainable solution.*

And we agree.

The main thrust of this newsletter is to get Old Boys to join and commit to the activities of the Association so we can support the future of the students of Whangarei Boys' High School.

How can you do that? Go to the information inside the back cover and return the reply form provided, or complete and scan it and send it back to oldboys@wbhs.school.nz.

We need your support now.

Do we have your email address?

WWII SURRENDER



Images: Officer photos are Kossuth Newman on left and Ted Edwards on right Above is Kossuth accepting the ceremonial sword.

Lloyd Trigg VC DFC, and all these men are remembered at the School's annual ANZAC Service. Also there have been a number paid a special tribute through induction into the School's Hall of fame, the Fideliter Fellowship.

At the end of the war against Japan in 1945, two Old Boys of Whangarei Boys' High School played a significant part in the final surrender of the Japanese, albeit in two separate instances. The Old Boys were Edward 'Ted' Edwards (WBHS 1931-34) and Kossuth Newman (WBHS 1926-28)

Although an Old Boy of the School, it is more than likely that Ted may be familiar to many as a popular and respected commercial practice and accounting teacher of the 1960s and 1970s. Kossuth's name may not be so familiar although he is an Old Boy of some distinction having been inducted into the Fideliter Fellowship in 2011. And as well as both men being former students of Whangarei Boys' High School they also had similar military service records.

Both were World War Two airmen serving with distinction. Ted achieved the rank of Flight Lieutenant flying medium bombers and Kossuth Squadron Leader as leader of a mosquito long range reconnaissance crew. For his part Kossuth was awarded the DFC and Bar.

When the war ended the Japanese Empire in Asia comprised five regions, and thus there were five surrenders to be made. Two of those regions were the Dutch East Indies, and Saigon, encompassing a large part of Indo-China. In both places the senior Japanese commanders sought out a representative of the Allied Forces they felt they could trust and respect as the person to whom they could surrender their forces and hand over the country they had controlled. What happened was that Ted in Java and Kossuth in Saigon were two of the officers selected. Two Old Boys of Whangarei Boys' High School. The senior Japanese officer formally surrendered the territory he held on behalf of the The Empire of Japan to the New Zealanders, and sealed the sincerity of what he was doing by also handing over his personal ceremonial sword.

How remarkable then that of the five surrenders carried out, two were to Old Boys of Whangarei Boys' High School, a high school in a then remote town in far off northern New Zealand. These events took place within days of each other and the chances are that neither man knew the other was involved in a matching historic act.

In his 2014 published limited edition memoir Ted reflected 'I owned the country of Java for a wee while. Shouldn't have given it back'. But Ted was a man of great humility and in his reply to the Japanese Officer he set demands that included that all allied prisoners be released and their rations increased immediately. He was also moved to return the officers sword to him to reduce his loss of face in front of his men.

In similar circumstances but over 1,000 miles away was Kossuth Newman. He accepted the Japanese surrender and also the sword. When Kossuth was inducted into the Fideliter Fellowship, his family brought the sword with them to the ceremony, something that gave Ted, who was there at the ceremony, immense pleasure and an opportunity to relive his experience.

Kossuth Newman DFC & Bar was killed many years ago in a collision with a car driven by a drunken driver. Sad that a magnificent New Zealander should be taken from this earth in such a manner.

Ted Edwards passed away in early 2014 at the ripe old age of 96.

So there you have it. For two boys from the same insignificant provincial school to have played such a huge part in international matters as big as WWII is one of those believe it or not moments. Two men of Whangarei Boys' High School who played significant, if short-lived, parts in the history of the world.



Ted Edwards 2011 and Ted examines Kossuth's ceremonial sword

HELP US FUNDRAISE. An alternative, or a supplement, to making a payment is to:

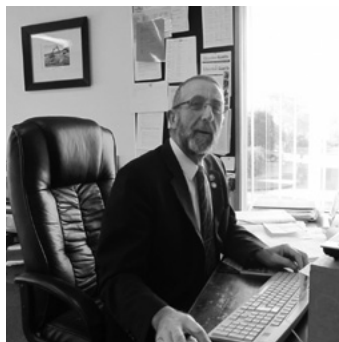
Help us fundraise by doing short surveys sent by email. Go to the address below and enter your details. Periodically you will be asked to complete surveys online and for each one you complete \$1 is donated to our account. Just make sure you indicate Whangarei Boys' High School when you register.

<http://www.buzzthepeople.co.nz/helpfundraise.aspx?s=48C4360D>

Purchase a Mobil fuel card using our own dedicated application form. These cards can be used at Mobil stations and also at New World and PaknSave supermarkets that have petrol pumps. Each time you use the card you will get 9 cents per litre of the cost the petrol/diesel, and the Association will receive 1 cent per litre for the amount of petrol you purchase. Application forms are available from the Old Boys office and will be available on our website.

Tell us about your successes!

FROM THE HEADMASTER, *A F Kirk*



By the time you are read this the news of the ending of my tenure as Headmaster at Whangarei Boys' High School will be well spread. While this job does have its fair share of challenges it would have to be one of the most positive and enjoyable occupations around. To see our boys succeed locally, regionally, and on the national and international stage never ceases to inspire me and fill me with considerable pride. We punch well above our weight in all areas and, as Old Boys, you can be well proud of what our current crop of young men are achieving.

I think I am leaving the School in good stead. The roll in 2014 of 1176 was the highest ever and this looks like it will be increased further in 2015 to well over 1200. Also I was pleased to hear that the School achieved 12 Scholarships spread among 7 students with one student achieving 4 Outstanding marks. Simply these are great results for the School.

It's hard to believe, but I have completed 15 years as Headmaster of this wonderful place and well appreciate the importance more than ever of the Old Boys as a functional and contributing organisation. As Patron of the Association I well understand that there are current financial difficulties but I strongly urge and encourage you all to keep positive, and keep looking forward.

As I have mentioned many times it has been a privilege to be in charge of such a great institution. Thank you all for your support over the years and I hope that that support will continue long into the future.

INTERVIEW WITH HEADMASTER AND WBHS OBA PATRON MR AL KIRK

According to Al the timing was right for him to step down from his role as Headmaster of Whangarei Boys' High School with the School now in good shape both financially and roll-wise. Without a doubt he leaves Whangarei Boys' High School in better shape than what it was when he took over, especially as far as the uniform is concerned. No doubt there will be some conjecture as to his tenure as Headmaster, but we took the opportunity to sit down with Al and ask him a few questions about what he thinks he has achieved. The full interview will be available on our website but for now here is a very edited version:





What was your first impression of WBHS when you got here?

The presentation of the colours of the school - every building was a different colour. And the boys were in uniforms of yellow t-shirts, polo shirts, jeans, cargo pants, corduroys. I thought 'whoa this is interesting'. I was impressed with the campus though.

What was one of the first changes you made?

The very first thing was the uniform and the fact that I would be known as Headmaster and not Principal.

What do you think was your greatest achievement?

Number one was the student leadership programme, which I think is second to none, by empowering the Prefects to become more involved in school affairs. Secondly the resurgence of the hostel and finally the rejuvenation of pride in the school.

What do you think you could have done better?

The Old Boys' Association for one. I had a goal in mind but went about it the wrong way. Secondly the school finances. And property management is something we can always do better. Mind you with the appointment of Keith Harrold a couple of years ago we are headed in the right direction. Finally academic success was something that I would have liked to have done better at. We had good years and bad years, it is always a focus..

Any favourite students who stand out?

There are heaps of them. That's why the job is such a cool job. I went to the movies the other night, as did the boys from the A Company Leadership Academy. At the end of the movie they went past me and said 'Hey Mr Kirk' and shook my hand. That is awesome.

Any student incidents which made you chuckle?

Oh yeah but more often than not it happened at the expense of a teacher. The boy would say something to a teacher and it's hilarious. You have to put on a poker face and 'tell them the error of their ways'.

Any Board members who you thought were outstanding?

I wouldn't like to name any as they all served to the best of their abilities.

What is your fondest memory?

The introduction of Latin. The rugby on TV was great. Also the mass choirs we introduced and had success with. And to win the golf. And to win the Shakespeare. Three years in a row with it. Northland and Shakespeare: Whangarei Boys' High School. Mate! It's just awesome. And to be able to go around, and I've got the lovely job, of being able to go around and show off about that sort of stuff.





What do you think will be your legacy, what you will be remembered for?

I'd like to think that the legacy will be that the pride in the school is rejuvenated.

Any final thoughts?

I often stand up and say, "This is the best job." And it is, it really, genuinely is. I feel for people who don't believe that. And whoever takes over here, you can't act it. You can't. If you're putting on an act, people see through that. You can't stand up and say, "Oh it's the best job." It doesn't do it for me if you aren't proving it, and if you aren't then don't do it. It's an awesome job.

From WBHS Old Boys' Association to Mr Kirk:

To coin a phrase, at times we don't realise what we've got until it's gone. Without doubt you have been one of the most influential and focused Headmasters this school has ever had. Someone who did not back down from his own personal beliefs and principles. We appreciate that you might feel you had so much more to do but timing is everything.

Thank you on behalf of all Old Boys for allowing us to record this interview today, and especially thank you most sincerely for all the good work you have done at Whangarei Boys' High School. Many won't appreciate what you achieved until it is much further down the road and they have had a chance to reflect. Your passion and energy for the School will be sorely missed. We wish you all the best for your future.



Al with Pero Cameron



Al with Maurie Dean

BUSES

Up until the late 1980s the Department of Education operated a number of school buses which were driven by teachers before and after school. The buses arrived and departed in Kent Road. The students assembled in the quad and were dismissed in bus groups for boarding. Now the School buses are driven by a contracted company and they arrive at, and leave from, a purpose built depot on a corner area of Manse Street and School Lane.



1.



2.



3.



4.



5.

1. This photo shows what must have been the last parade in the quad as normally the buses are on the street.
2. Boarding was normally supervised by a teacher but when not around mayhem reigned as this photo demonstrates. One can surmise that not much has changed to this day. Ladies first? Yeah Right!
3. Never to miss a photo opportunity before the buses left the School for the last time, students clamber on the buses with the staff drivers more sedate in the front.
4. Can you recall the names of these staff members who drove the buses?
Just in case they l to r: Rod Watson, Mike Curran, Chris O'Connell, Reg Shaw
5. Current bus bay which opened in 2006. This is the hub for all Whangarei school buses. While 3 or 4 houses disappeared as part of this project at least they did not touch the old corner 1920s residence (left) which now houses the School Property Manager.

**Get your School or Old Boys tie
only \$50 incl postage NZ**

GOLF ACADEMY

It is the plan of the Association that this new facility will become not only self-sustainable in 2015 but also able to contribute to the Association's finances and, consequentially, to the School. If you have not had the chance to have a look at this wonderful addition to the School's environment please take the time to do so. If you are a golfer or interested in golf this facility will be a welcome resource to help you to improve your game. For those who have seen what is on offer, and just to refresh others, the Ormond Weaver Golf Academy has the following facilities to help:



Internal Golf Studio with:

- Flightscope X2 ball flight monitor
- Swing Catalyst Software solution for video analysis of swing motion
- Balance plate to measure weight transfer in your swing
- Fixed cameras for live stream video
- Trugolf Golf simulator that holds 80 golf courses from around the world

A 140sq m putting green made from artificial turf



A tee block area for practising chipping and pitching to targets set at 25, 30, 35, 40 and 45 metres





A number of sand traps that can be used to practice bunker play

A netted area for practising full blooded shots

We also have 2 Professional coaches to provide you with all the expertise and knowledge required to help you improve your game or just to get you started. They are Ray Houghton, who has been a coach in the Whangarei area for over 40 years, and Matthew Davis, a young Englishman who has taken over the coaching of the School golf team as well as maintaining his own clientbase. Both of these coaches can provide you with all the tuition and advice that you might need. You can book a session with either of these gentlemen by contacting the Old Boys and we will put you in touch with them.

The Academy has also introduced a number of initiatives during 2014 to complement the perceived activity of the school golf team and golf programme. They include:

- **Corporate Golf Challenge.** This initiative involves businesses entering teams of 3 into a competition of playing golf around the world. Each team play 9 holes at 6 different courses over a 6-7 week period in a team stableford competition. It has proven to be a popular competition and has resulted in some intense rivalries during it. Any company or firm, or group of friends can enter and they do not have to be Old Boys. At right is Craig Gunson from Gunson Mclean.
- **Club Members.** We have offered memberships to the facility to the general public. For \$150 per 4 month period golfers can have full time access to the outside area for pitching and putting practice, and regular one hour sessions inside the studio which can be used for solo practice or for coaching sessions. Again this is open to anybody.
- **One-off sessions** are also available to golfers where they can come in and play golf at a course around the world or just practice using the technology available.



These facilities are available to all members of the public.

For information on any of the facilities or activities mentioned above please contact the Old Boys office on 09 4700196 or by emailing oldboys@wbhs.school.nz.

Annual subscriptions of \$50 are now due. Have you paid yours?

CARRUTH HOUSE



There have been a few changes at Carruth House in 2014. Earlier on in the year Tom Harvey (pictured left with new Director, Ian Rowe) stepped down as Director of Boarding to pursue further academic studies, to be replaced by Ian Rowe. Tom did some great things at Carruth and will be sadly missed but it is hoped that Ian will pick up from where he left off.

In June the marketing trip around Northland had a great response which accumulated in a high turnout of parents at the Open Evening. The hostel will be full in 2015 and the future is looking bright!

Some of the activities in Carruth these days include:

30 Carruth boys competed in the "Beach to Basin" run in March

Student leadership and boys stepping up is important in Carruth and the Prefect system is still well established. A leadership skills day at

Matakana Military Arts Academy was a hugely successful day and will be repeated next year. Costs as always prevented from this being an overnight camp so that the Prefects can get even more out of it. Something to aim for next year.

Carruth performed the haka before the ITM Cup match between Northland and Taranaki at Toll Stadium. The thirty boys who performed were brilliant and getting a bit of exposure on SKY TV was a bonus.

In November Whangarei celebrated 50 years of city status and again Carruth stepped up and entered a float. They had an 'old school' teaching scene, boys throwing a rugby ball around and two boys playing their guitars and singing. From the noise received from the passing crowd, it went down very well.

Whenever there is a function on at school, its Carruth who step in and pour the cups of tea and organise the parking. As a thank you from the school to the boarders for the extra time they give during the year, the boarders had a day at Waiwera Thermal Resort.

After much practice, the Carruth choir were 1st in the Northland Big Sing. 80 boys singing "Little White Bull", "76 Trombones" and doing the haka were amazing. They were then asked to do an encore at the school concert and Open Day.

Community service is something that Carruth like to get involved with and this year a van load of boys were given the morning off school to pick up litter on a beach with Seacleaners.com.



An excellent opportunity for a few boys to take pride in the community and do something that made a real difference.

The Formal Dinner is always the highlight for the year. With 24 invited guests and 75 boys, the dining hall was packed. An exceptional meal, resounding speeches, gallant toasts, meaningful hakas and awards all wrapped up to farewell the Year 13s (or Form 7s to the oldies).

The senior lounge which the Association helped refurbish through the generosity of an Old Boy is a wonderful asset. Playing pool, watching TV or just relaxing, the lounge is a peaceful place that the boys are grateful to have.

There are two rugby fixtures on the Carruth calendar which many have been part of. The North v South game this year was won by South but the most anticipated game of the year is the Boarders v Day Boys game. There are no 'prisoners taken' in this match and this year saw Carruth emerge the victors 36-33. It must be the brotherhood amongst the boarders that makes winning this game as a boarder even more special.



David Templeton, Tom Harvey and Frank Bull at Prizegiving 2014



As many past Carruthians can attest, all boarders in Carruth receive a good education, with fine teaching staff in school and getting back-up with prep in the evenings. A good academic foundation can be made. Boys receive extra help and intervention from masters on duty and this year a number have gained excellences and merits along with some picking up scholarships to financially help with university tuition fees and expenses.

All former inmates of Carruth House are welcome to visit any time they happen to be passing, whether it be just for a quick look around or even to stay for a meal, all Carruthians are welcome. If you want to make it a bit more formal, give Ian Rowe a ring, or drop him an email, before you come. His email address is i.rowe@wbhs.school.nz



MEMORIAL DRIVE POHUTUKAWA TREES

The October school holiday period saw a major work undertaken at the school. The pohutukawa trees that line Memorial Drive had a haircut, and quite a significant

one. They were reduced from the majestic 20-30 metre height they had achieved over the past 80 years down to 3-4 metres. Identified as a significant health and safety hazard by the Ministry of Education, it was decided that the trees needed to be pruned to mitigate the risk of a student being injured by falling branches in high winds. After consultation with arborists, the WDC and a pohutukawa ecology expert, the trees were trimmed to a height to enable healthy regrowth over time. The trees that commemorate our Old Boys have not been removed, and will continue to be a tribute to these men.

In future years they will once again provide a canopy of shade and shelter for students, and continue to be a significant and enduring part of the landscape of the school.

History recalls that in 1934 thirty pohutukawa trees were planted along the drive that provided access to the lower fields in remembrance of Old Boys who fell during World War I; one for each soldier who died. This drive became known as Memorial Drive. Each tree was marked with a memorial plaque that recorded the name of the Old Boy to whom the tree was dedicated.

Over the years the memorial plaques under each tree were replaced by a single plaque at the top of the drive. For now though we remember the trees for what they were, and look forward to what they will become. We also remember the names of the Old Boys who were killed during World War I. They are as follows:

*F.C. Baker
F.L. Beasley
R.P. Bedlington
B.B. Bindon
A.N. Brown
H.J. Cameron
T. Cameron
R. Carter*

*C.O.A. Cowan
W.L. Clapson
B.C. Drake
J.C. Galbraith
C.H. Goodson
C.E. Gribble
H.F. Griffin
C.H. Hill
A.D. Jack*

*D.L. Jack
O.P. Johnston
M.A. McDonald
F.J. McKenzie
R.W. McKenzie
A. McLeod
J.D. McLeod
C.J. Marshall
C.M. Nightingale*

*A.H. Pearce
G. Potter
H.L. Rouse
N. Steadman
T.H. Storey
A.M. White
H.A. Wilkinson
F.R. Wooster*

In looking forward, the 150th anniversary of the school will be celebrated in 2031. Over the next 17 years, a short space of time in the history of the school, we expect that a management plan to maintain and actively promote the healthy regrowth of the trees will be implemented by the School. Perhaps knowing that the trees were pruned in such a way as to give them the best chance of survival we can remember the magnificence that once was Memorial Drive, and look forward to the future of these trees, a memorial to our fallen Old Boys who will not be forgotten.





ENDOWMENT TRUST

Above: New WWI Memorial with Trustees (l to r) Erc Angelo, David Dent, Phil Eady, Lloyd Morris, David Templeton.

The WBHS Old Boys' Association Endowment Trust was established so that Old Boys can contribute towards a fund that will create a legacy for the both the School and also the Association. It is managed for the Association by 6 Trustees and currently they are Chairman Erc Angelo (WBHS 1959-62), Tim Shaw (WBHS 1959-62), David Silich (WBHS 1959-62), David Dent (WBHS 1968-70), Lloyd Morris (WBHS 1959-62) and the Immediate Past President of the OBA, David Templeton (WBHS 1971-73).

David Templeton's appointment as a Trustee is taking over from the previous Trustee in that role, Kevin Salmon (WBHS 1975-77). Kevin's tenure as Immediate Past President was completed when David stood down from the role in December.

Similarly the appointment of Erc Angelo as Chairman has only just occurred and Erc takes over from Martin Perkinson (WBHS 1955-59) who completed his 3 years in the position April 2014.

The WBHS Old Boys' Association would like to thank both Martin and Kevin for all their work in helping to get the Trust established. We are sure that any success the Trust experiences into the future will be a reflection on your work.

During 2014 the Trustees decided to make a distribution towards the beautification of the School. This attracted several suggestions and in the end it was determined that they would provide funds, in conjunction with a contribution from an Old Boy, to refurbish the World War One memorial at a cost of \$7500. The Trust also contributed towards the installation of toilet facilities at the Ormond Weaver Golf Academy, recognising that this facility is fast becoming a significant cog in the WBHS OBA wheel as the users are slowly becoming more and more diversified and not just restricted to boys from the WBHS.

In late 2014 the Trust also reacted positively to a request from the Association for some financial assistance to keep the Association operating until such time as this newsletter could be sent out. We are of course hopeful that a large number of Old Boys will recognise the value of an active association and provide some financial input through subscriptions or donations. For our part, we will be contributing 20% of every subscription or non-specific donation to the Endowment Trust to not just pay back the advance the Trust awarded us but to also help the Trust funds grow.

Old Boy and Trustee David Silich has given a donation to the Endowment Trust of \$5'000 in memory of one of the School's finest and most beloved teachers, Doug Goodison.

If you would like more information about the Trust please drop a line to the Old Boys office.

IN MEMORIAM

Over the past 18 months or so the WBHS Old Boys' Association has had to record the passing of a number of Old Boys. Their names are mentioned here with the utmost respect and sympathy to their families and we apologise for those we have missed. If any Old Boys are aware of others who may have passed away and we have not noted them please contact Greg Weaver.

Eric Sterling (WBHS 1932-33)

Doug Goodison (WBHS 1935-40)

Kevin George (WBHS 1936-39)

Jack Maxwell (WBHS 1949-52)

Grant Whatmough (WBHS 1957-60)

Ted Edwards (WBHS 1931-34)

Frank Naumann (former teacher)

Murray Thompson (WBHS 1944-50)

Dave Scratton (former teacher 1958-66)

Lionel Ormandy (WBHS 1937-40)

Ian Irvine (WBHS 1943-44)

Len Johnson (WBHS 1939-45)

Rob Dickie (WBHS 1944-48)

Paki Cherrington (WBHS 1956-60)

Brian Urbahn (WBHS 1953-56)

David Galbraith

We pay tribute to four of these men who passed away during 2014.



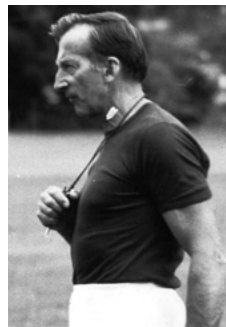
EDWARD EDWARDS (WBHS 1931-34, 1968-81)

Edward 'Ted' Edwards started at Whangarei Boys' High School on 9 February 1931 in Form 3A. He left during 1934 to take up a clerical position. After serving with distinction during World War II and after the war, he joined the staff of WBHS in 1968 as a teacher in maths and science. In 1971 he was made Head of Department for Commercial Practice, a position he held until his retirement in 1982. There isn't much more about him in the school records from his teaching days. It seems that he was able to avoid extra-curricular activities, perhaps that was part of the deal he struck with Harry Clarke when he was first appointed. Ted became an

absolute icon at WBHS and was always an attendee at the School's ANZAC Service where his stories would keep the senior students enthralled. He wrote two books with the most recent being extracted directly from his journals during WWII. A must read if you can get your hands on a copy.

DAVE SCRATTON

Dave passed away on 7 August 2014 and will always be remembered as one half of the two legendary figures from the School who together taught PE in a partnership that lasted 23 years and saw more than 10,500 students come under their tuition. Dave joined the staff of Whangarei Boys' High School as Head of PE in 1958 and retired in 1981, without ever missing a day. In addition to his teaching he was a Senior House Master at Carruth for many years. He was a major player in the 1981 Relay Run to Wellington, often peeling off some miles while the students were



resting. There are probably a large number of boys who will have had a hoarse sounding 'C'mon boy' ringing in their ears at some stage during their time at Whangarei Boys' High School. Dave was known as a fairly hard man, but by the same token a very fair man. He had great affection for his students and while he wasn't so good in the name recollection department, he always seemed to remember a face or a special performance, especially on the athletics field. His dedication to his students both in and out of school means he will always hold a special place in the minds of many students and also in the history of Whangarei Boys' High School.

DOUG GOODISON

(WBHS 1935-40, 1950-66)

To try and summarise the contribution Doug Goodison made to WBHS in a short paragraph is difficult such is the magnitude of what he meant to the School. He first walked through the hallowed gates of Whangarei Boys' High School on 5 February 1935 and left just over 30 years later having reached the heights as Deputy Principal of the School. He was Head Boy in 1940, Senior swimming champion and 1st XV Captain. When he finally left in 1965 he had become a much admired and revered teacher and coach of a 1st XV that had become a force to be reckoned with in Secondary School Rugby.



Doug always considered his time teaching at Whangarei Boys' High School as the most contented of his working life. The School was certainly a better place for him having been here and he will forever be remembered as an icon of the School.



LIONEL ORMANDY

Whangarei has lost one of the real gems when Lionel Ormandy passed away on 1 August 2014 at the grand age of 90. Whangarei Boys' High School did produce, and still does, men of the highest quality, so it was sad then when we bid farewell to one of life's 'absolute true gentleman'.

Lionel was integral part of that elite group of men who the WBHS OBA came to refer to as the 'Class of 39'. These men epitomised what the WBHS OBA is all about with all the work they did at the School in restoring the photos in the Assembly Hall, upgrading the School Archives and with helping to get the WBHS Old Boys' Association up and going again back in

02-03. They were simply resolute in what they wanted to achieve.

Lionel was at WBHS from 1935-40. He did not feature in too many of the academic awards of the day or on the sports field, but at a little over 5' he was someone you never missed. He had a great affection for WBHS and his teachers namely Bill Given, Jack Glanville, Eric Blow and A C Zohrab, not to mention the Headmaster A R Ryder. Lionel was a regular attendee at the School ANZAC Service until age caught up with him and afternoon events were beyond him.

EARLY 20TH CENTURY ATHLETE

DAN MASON

(WBHS 1904-05)

Daniel Leslie Mason, pictured right with some of his many trophies, was born on 6 February 1890 and attended Whangarei High School from 1904 to 1905. The astounding thing about this little known man is that, given the right circumstances and better administration by New Zealand athletics, he would have ranked alongside Lovelock, Snell and Walker

as one of the world's greatest middle distance runners. In addition to that he may very well have won New Zealand's first Athletics Olympic Gold Medal long before Jack Lovelock in 1936, or perhaps even New Zealand's very first gold medal in any sport.

When World War 1 ended, Dan stayed on in Europe to compete in athletics. His record over the 1918-1919 year was equal to anything achieved by any kiwi since. In Britain Dan was almost unbeatable, gaining 20 wins and a second in 21 starts in 1918. He set English and Scottish half-mile and mile records and raced over distances from 440 yards to the steeplechase. In all it is estimated that Dan raced about 40 times in Europe and only lost twice. He lost once to Albert Hill who would win the Olympic title in 1920 over 880 yards and defeated the same Hill on at least two occasions. His best mile of 4min 18.0sec was the fastest run by a New Zealander to that time.

In 1919 when New Zealand was granted full Olympic status, the agreement to remove disqualifications from returning soldiers who had been professional before the war was not correctly applied and NZ Athletics asked for a five-shilling reinstatement fee, totally against the intent of the International body. Dan refused to pay the fee saying it was a matter of principle and not money. As a result he was not reinstated and, although he looked a dead certainty for the first New Zealand Olympic team in 1920 after his most impressive European campaign, his nomination was never considered. The chance to become New Zealand's first Olympic gold medalist in track and field, 16 years before Jack Lovelock, was lost.

After being refused entry at an Auckland athletics meet, Dan Mason never attended another athletic event during his long life. He served in the army in New Zealand during World War II and in his late 60's stood in a by election for a vacant local body seat on Auckland's North Shore, winning the seat he retained until his retirement at the next election.

Daniel Leslie Mason died in 1976 aged 86, barely known in his own country but truly one of New Zealand sport's most spectacular athletics stars. Certainly one of Northlands Greatest athletes and a great example of the morals taught at Whangarei Boys' High School.



90TH REUNION



In May 1925 the first foundation stone was laid for what is now Whangarei Boys' High School. In those days it was still known as Whangarei High School and it was not until 1946 that it finally became Whangarei Boys' High School. Now, 90 years on, the School is going strong and this year has the highest roll ever in its history. The Association believes that this is a milestone that needs to be celebrated and propose a function to do just that. It is suggested that this could be held Sept/Oct this year with a dinner on the Saturday night. Other supporting events can be organised around that but

we first need to know if there is any interest in such an occasion.

If you would like to be part of the celebration please register your interest with the Old Boys Office (094700196) or email oldboys@wbhs.school.nz. Also any ideas are most welcome.

TOWER IN CREEK

Just to prove that there are some wonderful artistic skills at Whangarei Boys' High School this photo was taken of a tower that a couple of boys had erected from rocks etc they found in the creek down by the old weir. This photo was fortuitous as other boys decided that it was something they needed to knock over and it was gone by morning interval. A pity.



SWIMMING 2015



Victorious Old Boys Relay Team: Jason Bachelor (2008-12), Todd Luders (2002-06), James Taoho (2006), Darin Robinson (1978-81), Douglas Black (1992-96), Derek Brunker (1976-80)

The 'old' Old Boys team regained the Cliff & Colleen Brunker Trophy with a resounding win in this year's swimming relay. We only had 6 due to two late withdrawals so Todd and James each swam twice. The winning margin was 3 body lengths. The 'young' Old Boys were second and current students 3rd.

OLD BOY REMEMBRANCES

With the pending departure of Al Kirk it is perhaps pertinent to record a couple of instances involving another beloved Head master of Boys' High, Harry Clarke, affectionately nick-named 'Pin'.

From David Lang (WBHS 1965-69)

One lasting memory will be when I was sent to Mr Clarke to get caned for something I don't recall now. Pin said, in a loud voice, 'You're in the 1st fifteen aren't you boy?'

'Yes sir'

'Well bend over this desk then' and he then proceeded to give a chair in his office six of the best. 'Now I don't want to see you back here!'

Of course I came out looking sheepish and rubbing my butt!!

Very lucky at WBHS, we had some very good sports teams and a lot of very good masters.

From John Hardcastle (WBHS 1960-64)

I well remember seeing some boys who were caned in a very spectacular way at WBHS by Pin who was the Principal. Two 5R boarders from a little place somewhere way up north were caught in the Chocs quarters one night, we were told (but no further details were provided as to what they might have done there). Next morning, all we boarders were called into the prep hall at Carruth House to see these two chaps being given "six of the best" and then expelled from WBHS. That particular caning was a momentous and everlastingly memorable occasion. I'm pretty sure it was Pin who caned them. He was a real work of art, wondrous to behold, when he wielded a cane as he did that day. I can still see him in action in my mind's eye. He wound himself up like a spring before each stroke, then uncoiled energetically pulling the cane almost a full circle to land squarely on the boy's bottom.

That was school discipline, short, sharp, appropriate and always highly effective, unlike what passes for politically correct discipline today when "smacking" isn't allowed. Of course, no one recorded the incident with a phone camera because that was long before such devices were invented.

From Noel Buchanan (WBHS 1958-63)

I'm aware that I may hold a rather unique place in the history of the place for my time. I had the dubious privilege of being deputy head boy for two consecutive years - probably because I was expected to leave School at the end of the 1st year in the role. However, for those of us intending to attend university, a 7th form year was recommended. So after attending Outward Bound in the February of that year, I returned to school. Having had to sit a second time to pass both School Certificate and University Entrance, my appearance for a 7th form year may indeed have been unexpected. Two years in the 5th form, two years in the sixth form and then a 7th form year made me an Old Boy before I had left school. I hope that there were other fellows as addicted to the place as I seem to have been. When was all this? I don't know. Mr. Clarke became the principal at the end of my 1st term as a third former if I recall correctly. Many of those of us who started that year

had also been at WBHS for our 1st form year too so all this means I was educated on the site of the Boys' High for a total of eight years!

Note: We did a quick check Noel and you were here for 6 years. Deputy Head in 1963 but just Prefect in 1962 as David Silich was Deputy Head. Your classes were III L, IV B, V B, V R, VIB1, VIA.

And here is a little story that, while not about Harry Clarke as such, is a story that will draw some remembrances from other Carruthians who no doubt got up to all sorts of shenanigans when their last night at Carruth was upon them.

Young **Richard Papworth (WBHS 1960-63)** tells us that on his last night at Carruth he and 4 or 5 others snuck out at night, The Great Escape, alcohol in tow (where did they get this from? You may well ask) and shot up the Western Hills. There they set up camp and proceeded to drink themselves into a stupor such that eventually they all 'crashed' for the night. When they awoke there were bodies all over the place. Somehow they managed to get themselves together and head back to Carruth. What happened after they got back there has not been revealed but one can only assume that it wasn't pretty. He has not told us who joined him on that night so if you know it would be great to hear from you.

LIFE MEMBERSHIP

There has been some confusion over the years as to what constitutes Life Membership, and it is an opportune time for this to be clarified. There are 3 classes of Membership:

Life Members who are elected as such on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and by majority vote at a General Meeting of the Association.

Members who have paid either a single lifetime subscription or an annual subscription of such amount to be determined by the Executive Committee.

Honorary Members who are any person other than an Old Boy who is elected an Honorary Member on the recommendation of the Executive Committee and by majority vote of a General Meeting of the Association.

As such we can advise that the following have thus far been awarded Life Membership by the Association:

George Wilson
Clifford Brunker
Erc Angelo

Reg Mullins
David Dent
Kevin Salmon

Bert Boswell
David Silich
David Templeton

There are a further 112 who have at some stage, as far as we can determine, paid a Lifetime subscription which means they do not have to pay any further subscription, as opposed to those who have chosen to pay an annual amount.

There has so far been one recipient of an Honorary Membership and that was Bill Mallett.

If anyone has any queries about this information please contact the Old Boys office.

MEET THE CARETAKERS



Something that has seen a huge transition over the past couple of years or so is the state of the grounds at Whangarei Boys' High School. It is fair to say that the lower grounds, and generally all field areas, have never looked in such a pristine condition as they do these days. This is due in no small way to the work of Property Manager/Caretaker Keith Harrold and his crew – Alec Cooper and Wayne Rapata. That they are able to do such a great job on such a large area (23 acres) with so few resources at their discretion is total testament to their ability and dedication. Of course there are more strings to their bow than just lawn-mowing with things such as pool maintenance and general grounds care (eg litter and leaves) included in their regular daily set of tasks.

Keith Harrold has been with the School for 4 years now having come to it after 17 years with Northland DHB as Property Manager. Prior to that he had a sea-going and engineering background. He has a wealth of experience in project and property management so is well placed to make a huge impact at WBHS in this field of expertise.

Alec Cooper has been with WBHS for about 6 years and in fact is the 'other half' of Whangarei Girls' High Principal Anne Cooper. He comes from a long back ground in school maintenance having been involved in that arena for nigh on 20 years and has worked at Tauranga Girls' and Boys High Schools and also Whangarei Heads Primary before coming to WBHS.

Wayne Rapata has only been at WBHS for 1 year. Previously he worked in the same maintenance role for Regent Training Centre, where he was employed for 16 years. Wayne is very much 'old school' and grafts all day from go to whoa.

In total that means that WBHS has over 53 years of property maintenance experience at their disposal. There wouldn't be too many schools around that can boast such an asset. Old Boys can rest assured that the School is in good hands in this regard.

But here's food for thought. Compare the gear that the lads use today with a ride-on mower and tractor (albeit an old tractor) pulled slasher, to how the school used to mow the field in yesteryear. Below is a photo of school's lawn mower from 1933. It comprised a horse drawn sickle bar mower pulled by the School's horse, who back in those days was called 'Blossom'. Could today's version have coped? The answer to that question is 'no doubt at all'.





IT DEPARTMENT

Whangarei Boys' High School IT Manager, Steve Merritt, has been with the school for 9 years. With 17 years' experience as corporate IT Engineer both in New Zealand and overseas he brings a wealth of knowledge to the advantage of Boys' High. Steve returned to New Zealand for family reasons and accepted an offer from Boys' High in 2004 as a challenge to propel the school forward into the next generation of digital technology and teaching possibilities. It has been a difficult task at times balancing great possibilities with minimum budget but with some creative thinking and established relationships with suppliers, the MoE and colleagues, he has managed to leverage those avenues for the benefit of creating a modern learning environment for WBHS students.

From where the School was in 2004 with 20 working computers for the students to where it is today with over 300 available devices has been a huge leap and the school system is now up there with the best. The outside world is digital and this generation of young men are tech savvy. It was the responsibility of the school to meet 'head-on' the changes and developments available to propel their learning forward, and to give teachers the platform to enhance their teaching scope using technology. The School has achieved this to date but with the ever changing computer environment, curriculum and generations of students passing through, they must ensure that they now keep up the pace and continue to deliver possibilities and opportunities to the students.

There are some great projects in the pipeline planned for the next few years, some of them are dreams but most are reality and the school, with Steve Merritt driving the ship, will continue to explore them all as the school grows. With people of the calibre of Steve on board we can safely say that WBHS is in good hands technology wise, as are the students who are always to the forefront of what Steve does. As he says 'We must remember that everything we do is for our Boys.'

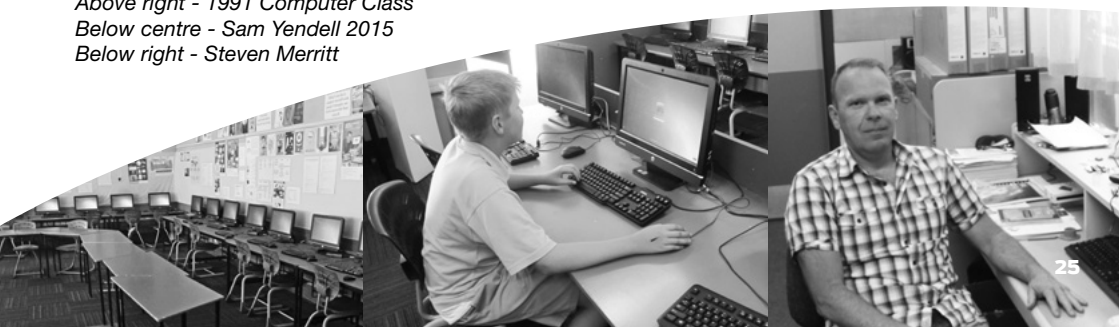
But let's take a step back and compare today's technological classroom with one of the first computer classes at WBHS in 1985 and also one 6 years later in 1991. Things have certainly changed. Not a pencil or pen or piece of chalk in sight these days.

Pictures: Above left - Richard Alexander in 1985

Above right - 1991 Computer Class

Below centre - Sam Yendell 2015

Below right - Steven Merritt



STAFF MEMORIES

We have in the past included a section in the newsletter of 'Where are they now? For Old Boys so this issue we have asked a few former teaches to give us a few words of what they are up to and what some of their memories of WBHS might be. One of those teachers was Doug Goodison who sadly passed away before we got this issue into print but have included his item as it would have been what he would have liked.

DON GWILLIAM (WBHS 1973-02)

Me? Comment on WBHS? I only taught night school there 1960s till it ended, meantime joining the full time staff in 1973. Retirement came in 2002 but somehow I still drift in at times. In love with the place one might (wrongly) say. In truth my first impressions of WBHS colour my recollections. An old and depressing place, it's fabric and attitudes rooted deep in the past. Shaking it all from my soul took a slow thirty years. Why then did I throw in my lot with the Kent Rd/ School Lane prison in the first place? Nearing fifty years on that's a tale too tangled to tell. Let's say idealism. Isn't that what starts all teachers?



Training College, even then, failed to prepare beginners for the realities of the job. Of my intake I will be one of the few survivors of those first few years. But, thanks to night school teaching I went into the job eyes open. I knew there would be no sweetness and joy; no bed of roses; no possibility of being the social worker the job actually required. I simply set out to teach, and that alone.

Teaching mostly an eight period day; some of them doubles; doing four different subjects all of them with the lads of the lowest forms in a tightly streamed school. Well maybe that's all I could be risked with? Several years passed before even a middling class came my way. Yet, 'shock, horror', somehow a few of my rag tag lot actually passed my subjects in School certificate, the trade maths group topped Northland. Not bad when their teacher had got only 9% himself at school. Never mind the favoured 'discovery' learning. Lock step chalk and talk really did work. Still does.

A sensible Inspector (remember them?) discovered my work load and was aghast. The correct non-contacts were ordered. Sadly no help with keeping classroom law and order came to hand. Simply, "Belt them, hard", was the advice. It worked too. Sorry fellows. Like several others I was out of my depth. The WBHS ethic of inducting new teachers must have been to make or break. I saw it break several. Nearly me. Home life was lost to setting work and marking. Add driving a School bus; weekly duties as a Carruth Day Master; teaching night school; acting as assistant night school supervisor, and understandably coronary problems simply had to come. A near complete breakdown was thwarted by Jim Robertson, the enlightened new Guidance Councillor. (His name comes up every prize-giving. Listen for it. I do).

Eventually things got better. The School at last made headway. No longer was I treading water most of the time. Sorry you fellows who suffered me and taught me better ways. Oh that we could have our time over again eh? Yes I know your question, "Why did I stick it

out?” Hanged if I can put it in a few words. Try better attitudes all round? Try great staff to work with? Try improving Heads and management? Try, perhaps, I was stupid? Or is it that some of you blokes were great?

DOUG GOODISON

Sandy McNicol was responsible for scoring the most memorable penalty of my coaching time. We were playing Mt Albert on their home ground, the score was close and our team won a penalty to be taken about 3 yards inside our own half. Silence fell as Sandy eyed the distance and lined up the ball for an attempt at goal. The Mt Albert boys on the sideline began to laugh incredulously as Sandy ran up to take the kick. As the ball rose so did the laughter and cat calls. Then the ball began to fall and so did the noise, which died to silence as it dropped over the bar. There was a subdued but respectful scatter of applause from the host sideline.



John Leese with Doug Goodison, 2012

Having trouble with a tormenting class, a relieving teacher took one of the miscreants out to the corridor to cane him. The boy, familiar with his own territory, took off, pursued by the teacher. Old Boys over a certain age will remember how the corridor walls dripped with water which ran over the polished linoleum floor. It was possible to build up speed and to skate on the wet floor for yards, around the curve, and out of sight. This of course was what the boy did, followed by his pursuer who knew not what he was in for. The teacher crashed into the wall and landed on his backside while the errant pupil disappeared through an outside door.

From Jean Goodison

An end of term staff meeting continued well beyond what would be a safe time to leave a school full of boys in the grounds on the last day of school. A group of seniors smooching past a line of cars in the staff car-park succumbed to temptation. They picked up Doug Goodison's two door Morris Eight, carried it down the gentle slope and deposited it carefully in the milk room. I can't remember who the lads were but Bruce Morrison comes to mind. He later became an immensely successful businessman.

JOHN RAWSON (WBHS 1962-83)

I turned 89 in August. Silly old bugger still working, sending out flowers (arums) for export. Reputedly the only one in NZ sending out Green Goddess variety. Trying, and so far failing, to breed a strong red variety. Tenuously retaining a spot in the Whangarei indoor bowls B grade reps. We drew with Rodney main team recently. Eilean was one of the top three scorers for both teams; I was in the group one point behind her.

Still banging my head against a brick wall trying to get people to understand the evil racket that is our financial system



Memories from the School? Probably a bit different from most main-stream teachers:

The “bottom” class I had in my first year. I doubt if I had anything to do with it, but three of those went on to manage their own successful businesses in Whangarei.

That very serious pupil and fluid fencer (swordsman) Emile Frische who became Priest of the parish that included the Twin Towers in New York at the time of “9/11”.

Joe Morgan pulling himself up on the frame of the door to my room as an alternative to knocking my head off for suggesting that, if he didn’t get round to doing his Biology homework, he shouldn’t be in the first XV.

Harry Clarke, of all the people I worked for or with, the most loyal to his staff. If you had a serious personal problem, his time frame stopped until he had sorted it out for you, and probably he worked until 2 am the next morning to make up for the time spent on you. A man whose greatness was never recognised because he never learned successful PR.

A School that many pupils denigrated until they went to University and found they really could compete with those people from schools like Auckland Grammar.

MIKE CURRAN

(WBHS 1981-12)

I started at W.B.H.S. in 1981 after 12 years at Kelston Boys. I went into the role of HOD Languages and Maurie Dean was the Headmaster. I taught a plethora of subjects but Calculus, Statistics, French, Latin and Classical Studies all to Scholarship level..

The tradition and history of the school were appealing features as well as the picturesque fields and surrounds.

Of the things the school does and continues to do very well the Anzac Day Services have all been memorable occasions and Senior Prizegiving, although the length has become an issue.

Social atmosphere in the 80’s and early 90’s was fantastic. Many lifetime friendships were forged and endure: Keith Ross, Sherry Hargreaves, Rod Watson and Alan Walker to list just a few.

Most noteworthy event: The annual Old Boys, Staff, 7th Form running relay. Run over a weekend in a different sector of Northland each year. It was made up of 5km stints per runner. Tony Clemow, Senior Master at the time was the instigator and organizer.

Pupils of note: Too many to really enumerate. Although I can still remember a very small, well-mannered 3rd Former who at the end of my first lesson to his class, came up and thanked me for a most interesting and informative lesson. Andrew Donald was his name and he went on to become the first Latin scholarship winner for many a decade and also Dux of the school. Other very bright boys-Hamish Dalley, Lindsay Hill and Robert Berks all come to mind.

Retirement: I spend a lot of time on my road bike as well as in the garden, tramping and reading.



MIKE GIFFORD

(WBHS 1965-81)

Married late in life - aged 62 - a bit like Dave Scratton. Travelled extensively together for a number of years, enjoying musical festivals, historic sites etc. Lived in Oamaru for 10 years, writing family history ("Mission Moons and Masterpieces"), have half a dozen study skills and motivation texts published by Userfriendly Resources in Christchurch, also a travel game for iPad and Mac computers - "The New 7 Wonders of the World." Check out websites - www.michaelgifford.co.nz and www.new7wondersgame.com. Acting as a consultant for Black Cat recruiting - helping to appoint Principals and DPs to schools.



Main memories of Whangarei Boys' High School:

- Arriving for my first meeting with Harry Clarke and finding him in shirt sleeves in his office, covered in grease, trying to fix the school lawn mower
- Organising Carols by Candlelight on the slope behind the tech block
- Some wonderful variety shows
- Conducting combined schools in the quad on Anzac celebrations
- Coaching the First Hockey X1 for about 10 years - a great group of boys over the years, many of whom have kept in regular contact with me
- Carruth House prep in the old hall - what a business!
- and too many others to note down.

I am currently living in Campbells Bay on Auckland's North Shore - helping Rosalie my wife as she copes with Parkinson's Disease and constant migraines.

WBHS CLASS OF '59 SPONSORSHIP

Towards the end of last year the WBHS Class of '59 decided to start a sponsorship to pay for a current pupil of WBHS to go on the 10 day Youth Development Voyages on the sailing ship Spirit of Adventure.

The WBHS Class of '59 would like to thank Liane Cook for her assistance and congratulate Shawn Christensen on being the first beneficiary of the sponsorship.

With this success behind it the WBHS Class of '59 is hoping to be able to send another boy on a voyage during the first half of this year.



LAST WORDS

HOW CAN YOU SUPPORT THE WBHS OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION?

There are several ways. Two of these involve making a financial commitment

Either

Commit to an annual subscription either as a lump sum payment of \$50 or as a regular weekly payment of \$1

Or

Determine a regular weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annual payment that is affordable to you. Remember there are tax rebates available for donations as the WBHS OBA is a charitable organisation

We are not asking for a large commitment, just what you can afford, but we need your help now. The challenge is there to 'Step up' and to also let some of your old school mates know.

Commit to one or more of the options above. Together we can continue the great work that the OBA does for the benefit of the school's students now and into the future.

WHAT IS THIS MONEY FOR?

Predominantly the money received from subscriptions and general donations is used to help the Association operate. However this year we need to take a stand on what we are trying to achieve and have determined that we need to create a legacy not just for the current student population but also look ahead to the future. As such your subscription will be allocated as follows:

- 20% will go towards the WBHS Old Boys' Association Endowment Trust
- 30% will go to a student fund to be used for current students
- 50% will go towards the operating costs of the Association including all the activity undertaken to interact with Old

Boys such as emails updates, website etc, and paying the salary costs of the Association's Development Officer.

Donations made for specific purpose (eg to sponsor the golf team for example) will be allocated in their entirety to the target.

The OBA Committee considered both the status of the Association's financials and also some of the comments that were received last year. While we firmly believe that both the Association and WBHS are still in the minds of many Old Boys, without the visibility we currently enjoy, our effectiveness would not be as successful.

With that in mind it is relevant now to consider what we want to achieve and how much the Association needs to sustain just a basic level of operation. Those considerations include:

Dev Off salary	\$42,500.00
Operating expenses	\$2,500.00
Total basic	\$45,000.00

But the Association is so much more and budget considerations must include Fideliter Fellowship, Staff Wall of Fame, Sports Day not to mention other aspects like ANZAC Day, Trivial Pursuit night and the annual golf day. On top of that we need to create a fund to enable us to support students in their extra-curricular endeavours. As such an annual budget figure of \$60,000 is not inconceivable.

That figure suggests that for the Association to carry on operating would require each Old Boy on our database to pay just \$7.50 a year. Of course we realise that this is not achievable but we need to make a start and we can do that with the help of all Old Boys in spreading the word, and becoming involved. First target was 50, now let's go for 100 and so on.

To date we have 55 Old Boys who are paying either a regular donation or a subscription and a further 15 who made one-off donations in 2014. We need to build on that. **We can do it!!**

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 form on the back page.

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

The following Old Boys have already answered the call by either paying an annual subscription, making a one-off donation or pledging a regular sum whether it be weekly, fortnightly, monthly or annually.

David Haines
David Templeton
Stuart McGregor
Tane Potae
Steve Baker
John Moody
Trevor Beasley
Paul Foster-Bell
Greg Weaver
Craig Duff
Rob Keen
Richard Papworth
Peter Grenfell
Murray Batger
Mervyn Jull
Colin Adams
David Lang

Dennis O'Meara
Duncan Leigh
Stephen Oldridge
Lionel Ormandy
Denis West-Hill
David Hutley
Malcolm Bignell
Craig Wedge
Michael Wright
Ian Webb
Bill Campbell
Erc Angelo
Craig Matheson
Phil Eady
Michael Crawford
Denis West-hill
John Barber

Roger Child
Harold Clotworthy
Ross Miller
David Dent
Graham Child
Dennis O'Meara
Brendon Jull
Mervyn Jull
Grant Crowley
Lary Brockliss
Paul Cotton
David Reyburn
Tim Robinson
Ray Mellsop
David Silich
Daron Turner
Peter Allsopp

Brian Moyle
Gary Beath
Murray Holdaway
Donald Rattray
Noel Buchanan
Aaron Kearney
Don Gwilliam
Josh Clark
Peter Vucich
Russell Smith
Jim Bowater
David Budge
Jim Rotherham
Mark Scown
Matthew Steadman
Darin Robinson
Daniel Morales



WHANGAREI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL
Old Boys' Association Inc



PO Box 5034, Whangarei, New Zealand
Telephone 09 470 0196 Facsimilie 09 4304172 Email oldboys@wbhs.school.nz Website www.wbhsoba.co.nz

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:
- | | |
|--|-------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A weekly payment of \$ _____ | Start date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A fortnightly payment of \$ _____ | Start date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A monthly payment of \$ _____ | Start date: _____ |
| <input type="checkbox"/> 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).
Reference is your surname and initial.
- ☐ Weekly/fortnightly deduction from my salary
(Payroll giving, which incorporates tax rebate).
- ☐ Personal cheque (All cheques should be payable to
WBHS Old Boys' Association Endowment Fund)
- ☐ Credit card (Please provide card type, number, expiry date, name on card)

Signature _____ Date _____

FEEDBACK _____

