



From the President

Yes gentlemen the Jubilee is just around the corner. In the build up we have had a couple of small "mini reunions" which have been very enjoyable. The meeting on the 17th Feb had around 50 ex pupils from the Boys' and Girls' High Schools along with some ex teachers. The next is scheduled for the 24th March again at 5.30pm at the Whangarei Golf Club. These are informal get-togethers designed to whet your appetite for the upcoming Jubilee as well as find out how the arrangements are going. If you would like to attend the next one please register with Greg Weaver.

Having been on the Jubilee Committee for the past year we are now coming into the business end of things. The biggest problem we have is trying to work out how many people will be attending and this is where you can help. We have heard so many examples of students and teachers who have said, "Yes we are coming but just haven't filled in the form and sent it in". Registrations close at the end of March so please make sure you have your name in before then as many of the decisions we make regarding the weekend will be based on the number of registrations at that time. So if you intend coming to the Jubilee I suggest you get your registration in as soon as possible if you haven't already done so.

The Golf Day on the Friday has good numbers entered and I am looking forward to a fun day. The same applies to the Sports Day on Saturday but maybe with more of a competitive edge. On the day we will be playing rugby, soccer, hockey, netball, shooting and basketball mainly at Kensington Park and of course all against current students. These games will be for the Matt Gunson Memorial Trophy that is up for grabs each year and is a trophy that sits firmly in the grasp of Old Boys so I hope that this trend will continue. I envisage the blood bin will be the most effective way to save energy and potential life threatening injuries, although in the shooting this might not work as well.

If you would like to participate in any of these events please contact Greg Weaver in the first instance and he will put you in touch with the relevant person.

Just in the short time I have been involved with the Old Boys' Association I have really enjoyed catching up with some old classmates to see how life has been looking after them and what career they ended up in, not to mention being able to tell my favorite teacher that I really enjoy playing trivial pursuit especially History. I know that if you also become part of the Jubilee this year you will find that those bonds you formed many years ago are still strong.

Jubilee Notes

Many of you took the opportunity to register in time for the early bird close off in December and so be eligible for the early bird prize draw – this was won by Denis West-Hill.

Can I take this opportunity to thank all those who purchased/sold/peddled tickets in the raffle we ran in November and December. The good news was that only one of the winners was not a former pupil.

On another note related to the Jubilee, I am aware that there are some 'years' or 'eras' organising their own get togethers before or during the Jubilee itself. If you are one of those perhaps you could let Greg Weaver know who you are so we can put others in touch. Similarly if there are others among you who would like to get a

particular 'year' together please let us know and we'll see what we can do about putting people in touch with each other.

Jubilee Costs

There has been some conjecture as far as prices for the Jubilee are concerned with some saying that the event is too expensive. These opinions are probably being made by comparing this year's Jubilee with the Centenary in 1981 which unfortunately is not a valid comparison. This is mainly because Whangarei does not have a venue available, as we did in 1981 (A&P Show Buildings), for us to be able to host all attendees and requires the use of more than one venue thereby meaning that costs are different. Another reason is that to do what we did in 1981 simply is not viable in this day and age and out of necessity we had to hire a professional company to run this year's event which I have explained below. If we break the costs down obviously they have a two tiered structure – the functions and the registration fee.

Let me first of all explain that prices for both the mix n mingle and the dinner have been set at cost meaning that the price of the ticket is designed to meet the cost for the event. And let's face facts, to pay \$100 for a dinner, all refreshments and entertainment is a good deal. When you also add in things like the cost of the venue etc then it becomes even better value for money.

The registration fee is another issue altogether. The first thing we must remember is that if it had not been for the involvement of both Schools staff, and in particular WBHS Headmaster Al Kirk, then we would not even be thinking about a Jubilee this year. Neither the Old Girls' nor Old Boys' Associations were in any state to even consider being able to organise such an event. We did contact some of the people involved with the centennial and they all said they just couldn't/wouldn't do it again as it was too much to organise by a volunteer committee and needed to be done more professionally. And this is where the registration cost fits in. As the staff could not devote the significant time required to organise the event, an event management company had to be employed. Consequently the majority of the registration fee will be used to pay for their services but it is also to cover other administrative expenses that are associated with such an event (eg photographer, displays etc). Even without Conference Innovators there would still be a registration fee of around \$50.00.

So I trust that you can appreciate that we have tried to keep costs as minimal as possible and we are comfortable that these prices compare favourably with costs of similar Jubilees or celebrations that we are aware are occurring around the country. This is not a profit making exercise and the aim is for the Jubilee to at least break even as both schools have so far borne all the costs. So I hope that, after taking the above into consideration those of you who were not going to attend may now re-consider. To the remainder all I would say is please get your registrations in as soon as possible.

Kevin Salmon
President
WBHSOBA



Hall of Famer

The Old Boys' Association would like to congratulate and acknowledge Dave Sirl (WBHS 1957-61) who last year was inducted into the NZ Sports Hall of Fame for his part in the World Champion Cross Country of 1975. That six man team was a bit of a who's who of New Zealand athletics – John Walker, Rod Dixon, Dick Quax, Jack Foster, Bryan Rose and Dave Sirl. Dave is immensely honoured and proud of his achievement and so are we. Congratulations Dave.

It has been a long time coming and the organisation that has gone into making the 125th Jubilee Celebrations over Queen's Birthday Weekend a success have been humming behind the scenes for quite a while as well – since early 2004 in fact. The programme for the Jubilee has been well established and the numbers are starting to swell, although there is a concern that many will leave it to the last minute and could well miss out. Please note that the enrolments for the Jubilee officially close on **March 31st** and at that time decisions will be made as to size of venue etc that will be required - so it is imperative that all Old Boys, Old Girls, past pupils of WHS, ex Staff and Board members, certainly get their enrolments in as soon as possible.

Conference Innovators have been the Company employed by both schools to organise and run the Jubilee – this unfortunately was born out of necessity, more than anything else, as finding the Old Boys and Old Girls to step forward to organise such an occasion in this day and age was simply an unrealistic option. As a result, this professional Company has done a sterling job thus far in organising and promoting the Reunion. Without a doubt it promises to be as good, if not better, as the famous Centenary 25 years ago.

The events will begin with an Open Day on **Friday 2 June** at which both schools will be open for tours throughout the day and each school will host its own concert over lunchtime. At WBHS the concert will involve vocal groups, Kapahaka, Chamber of Music, Jazz Band etc and at WGHS the concert will involve dance and drama productions. Registration desks will be manned and the event proper commences in the early evening with a Mix'n'Mingle where hopefully many of you will catch up with old friends, mates and staff members that you haven't seen for many years. The official welcome and Powhiri will take place on Saturday morning followed immediately by photos. Mid to late afternoon will see sports events taking place (Past versus Present) and in the evening will be the Gala Dinner. It is these key events, (the Gala Dinner and the Mix'n'Mingle) that require the most detailed organisation - as a result of catering etc and that is why we ask you to focus on getting your enrolments in quickly. As well, a golf day is planned for the Friday and registrations are building for that and also, of course, the

Jubilee Book (collated and edited by former WBHS Principal, Mr Murray Lints) will also be on sale. Both schools will have their own memorabilia merchandise on sale and at WBHS for example you will be able to purchase bumper stickers, fridge magnets, umbrellas, pens, caps etc as well as the official Jubilee memorabilia golf balls, sports towels and wine glasses. The whole Jubilee ends on the Sunday morning with a church service at Christ Church (Regent) taken by former WGHS Principal Mr George Bryant. So, as can be seen, the activities are full and all it needs now is for people to sign up!

On a totally different front, the school has once again started well. The hostel is full to overflowing, the school roll is higher than it has been ever (although the enrolment scheme forced upon us by the Ministry has had the effect of slowing the Year 9 intake down) and, of course the total increase is no where as great as it has been over the last four years. Our sustained roll growth over the last three years has seen us get permission to have a new Arts Suite built (hopefully built in time for the Jubilee), a huge extension to the current Gymnasium, and also a long overdue Wharenui. This roll growth is no accident. It has been brought about by the fact that WBHS continues to strive and push for excellence in all that we do – excellence we are confident will be recognised by the Education Review Office when they visit us a week and a half before the Jubilee takes place! Perfect timing!

I hope this newsletter finds you all in good heart, and I look forward to meeting you personally at the Jubilee if not before. **Again, if you haven't enrolled please do so as soon as possible – certainly before 31 March.**

Warm regards
A F Kirk
HEADMASTER



C'mon - There's No Place Like Home!

"If I could have a dollar for every time I had said "nice place to visit – but not sure I could ever live there again", I'd be a millionaire – yet here I am (2006) back in Whangarei and I can't imagine living anywhere else!", Alan.

John left Whangarei in the late '70's heading for London and the big O.E. He planned to meet up with some former Whangarei Boys and Girls school friends, find a job in the UK, see the world and return home within a couple of years. John's still there but now has had two children and is thinking about moving home.

Tania moved from Whangarei to Christchurch and then Auckland in the mid-eighties. Along with partner Mike they own and operate a small business and are looking for a better lifestyle – or should I say work-style. They are thinking about relocating their business home to Whangarei.

Alan, John and Tania are just three of a growing number of former Boys and Girls High students who either have moved or are looking to move back home to Whangarei.

Whangarei is a vibrant, fast-growing district and these days

home to approximately 70,000 people. Our local economy has a broadening base around farming, forestry, wood processing, plus a huge range of manufacturing and commercial businesses, retail, education, social services, health, tourism and associated professional business services and organisations – not to mention arts, sports and over 100 stunning beaches – need I say more. C'mon, think about it - there's no place like home!

If you would like more information on relocating to Whangarei please contact **Jude** at **Enterprise Northland** on **+64 09 438 5110** or email **info@enterprisenorthland.co.nz**.

Jude Thompson is the Economic Development Officer for the Whangarei District and part of the regional agency Enterprise Northland. www.enterprisenorthland.co.nz



Fantastic Acrobatics



Great photo taken on the lower grounds at the School in 1957 and given to the School by Cliff Brunker. The two people in the photo are Jim Madden and Martin Perkinson. After leaving school these two industrious young men formed a professional acrobatic duo to help pay their way through University. They were called "The Jumping Jacks" based in Auckland but included performances at Waihi, Tauranga, Rotorua, Taupo, Gisborne, Napier, and Christchurch to name a few. They are both now living in Auckland and will be at

the reunion this year so maybe we can look forward to some acrobatics to add to the event.

Old Book Returned

The following letter accompanied an old book kindly returned by a former pupil who had borrowed it over 60 years ago. Unfortunately the letter was not signed so we would be very pleased to hear from the writer so we can thank him personally.

It is sad that this book has been out of circulation for so long which has denied so many the opportunity of reading it. It can be blamed on the events of WWII. It surfaced when my sisters were clearing my mothers home after she passed on. It then disappeared at my home and was some time before it re-surfaced again. Even so, it should have been returned long before this. That it should have happened greatly upsets me. I was astounded when my sisters presented it to me as no way would I have intended it not to be at the School library. I have through the years endeavoured to follow the School Motto and conduct myself as an upstanding and honourable person. It would seem that when I left School hurriedly, when the Japanese forces were near and service age persons were being called up, I was one of those farmer's sons who were called upon to assist on the home farm, and in the haste (not panic) the book travelled with me. I eventually joined the air force and post war did not return to my parent's home or perhaps the book would have been returned sooner.

I hope the money enclosed will be sufficient to cover the cost of the necessary repairs.

No doubt it would be wiser for me not to post till next year but I just can't bare the thought of it running into another year.

The book is Mac's Memoirs – The Flying Life of Squadron Leader McGregor by G H Cunningham. Published in 1937

Thank You

Thank you to all those who have taken the time to put pen to paper and dropped us a line. Not only is it heart-warming to read some of the stories related from your days at School but also to hear how appreciative you are of the work that is being carried out for the Old Boys' Association. For that you have our sincere thanks. Unfortunately there was not enough space in this edition to include your letters but we will retain them for future newsletters. Obviously we will have to raise more money for the next one so it can be bigger. **And on that note we would like to acknowledge the South Auckland Charitable Trust and also The Trusts Charitable Foundation for their kind donation without which this newsletter would not have been possible.**

WBHS Old Boys' Association and AIL of New Zealand

The WBHS Old Boys' Association is pleased to announce a new partnership with AIL of New Zealand who have generously offered to become a major sponsor for this Old Boys' Newsletter. And, as part of our 125th Anniversary celebrations, WBHS Old Boys Association is pleased to offer every Old Boy

- **A \$1000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Life Cover Policy**
- **Child Safe Identification Kit (as seen on TV) - Potentially life saving kit for Parents or Grandparents to gather vital data including fingerprints should the child ever become lost or missing**
- **Memorial Guide - Valuable pre-planning resource for individuals and families**

All this at absolutely **No Cost** and **No Obligation**.

In addition to this, we are now able offer an extra **\$5000 Accidental Death Benefit for just \$1 for the first year. This optional extra is guaranteed renewable every year thereafter for just \$2.50 per year.**

This benefit is provided through the co-operation of AIL of New Zealand, a member service company with a long history of providing insurance products throughout North America and who has been serving families in New Zealand since 1995.

AIL of New Zealand Public Relations spokesman Kelvin Mugeridge said that Financial Protection for the whole family is one of the most important critical concerns of the modern family. "We at AIL of New Zealand recognise accidents can happen to any one at any time and place, that's why we are so excited about the opportunity to provide additional cover to the Whangarei Boys' High School Old Boys' Association."

AIL of New Zealand is the country's only A+ Superior rated insurance company according to the latest Ministry of Commerce statistics. Serving over 300,000 working families throughout New Zealand, AIL provides affordable supplemental insurance schemes to union, credit union and association members, along with Child safe identification kits to help parents quickly and easily gather vital and potentially lifesaving information of their children should they ever become lost or missing.

In addition to the benefits that are outlined on the enclosed card, AIL of New Zealand will give \$1 to the Old Boys' Association for every card that is returned. So for this to have the desired effect of being a fund-raiser for the Old Boys' Association you are urged to consider this offer and return the completed card as soon as you can.

Once you have completed your benefits request, an AIL of New Zealand representative will contact you to deliver your benefits, ask you to name your beneficiary and review the Child Safe ID Kits and Memorial Guide. Be sure to ask the representative about additional insurance benefits that are offered by AIL which includes life, accident, cancer and funeral expenses

Remember, you are under no obligation so you be the judge.

Contact Details:

AIL of New Zealand Ltd

PO Box 15-446

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Can You Help?

Our archivist Don Gwilliam has asked if there are any Old Boys out there who might have Carruth House photos for the years 1942, 1952, 1954 and 1971 that he could borrow for a short time so that he can add them to the archive record. For some reason these ones are missing from the main record. If you are able to help please contact Greg Weaver at the School in the first instance.

Old Boys' Sports Day

On Thursday 18 August, the annual Old Boys' Day took place, and even though the weather was not as nice as it could have been, the whole afternoon turned out to be a resounding success. This was particularly so for the School's First XV who had a rare victory over the Old Boys team. Individual results were as follows:

Rugby	29 – 27 win to WBHS
Hockey	7 – 3 win to Old Boys
Soccer	2 – 0 win to Old Boys
Shooting	win by 16 points to Old Boys
Basketball	79 – 72 win to Old Boys

As such the Matt Gunson Memorial Trophy will remain in the hands of the Old Boys' Association at least until the Jubilee this year when it will again be up for grabs during the weekend.



"He only played one minute!"



Old Boys' Functions

Sept 10th Okara Park



About 30 Old Boys turned up at Okara Park on 10th September 2005 to support Northland in their NPC match versus Canterbury. It was lucky that there were a few of us as the weather was absolutely atrocious, although we were under cover, and the rugby wasn't much better so we basically had to entertain ourselves as much as we could. From all accounts it was apparent that we succeeded and an enjoyable time was had by all, especially Lionel Ormandy. There was some concern for his safety when having to negotiate the hill on his way out but he managed it with aplomb. It is hoped that similar functions can be arranged later this year when the Air NZ competition gets underway, although we may wait for a game that we should win.



24th Sept Eden Park



Denis Snelgar hosted a function for Auckland based Old Boys on Saturday 24th September at the GPK tavern. There were about a dozen or so who came along to hear Al Kirk talk about the School and the Jubilee over a couple of drinks and lunch. As luck (?) would have it Auckland was playing Northland that day at Eden Park so a number then adjourned to the park for the match. As it turned out Graeme Hill (Humphreys) had arranged for some tickets to the Hall of Legends at Eden Park for 10 people and this suited the group as not all were going to the match. And a good time was had by all once again, although again the rugby was not of the highest standard (well maybe those Auckland guys played all right) but Northland did score a memorable try. Many thanks to Denis for organising this event and also to Graeme for arranging some tickets.



Database Bee

Early in 2005 it was highlighted that the Old Boys database did not include any former pupils post 1985 and the only way to get these loaded was through a manual process of identification and input. A number of Old Boys put their hands to help and we undertook this through 'a database bee' every Saturday morning for about five weeks. While there were those who



Bill Mallett and Fred Pevats



Bill Crawford and Rob Dickie

turned up regularly to undertake the input side, there were also those who helped at other times by looking up addresses in phone books and through the white pages on the internet. The Jubilee Campaign, the School, the Jubilee Organising Committee and the Old Boys' Association would like to formally thank the following people:

Neil & Alison MacKay	Dave Templeton	Ray & Shirley Mellsoy
Bill Crawford	Fred Pevats	Bill Mallett
Al Kirk	Tasha Kirk	Rob Dickie
Paul Ahlers	Matthew Ahlers	Greg Weaver & Liz Simpson
Mike Lee	John McComb	

Athletic Sports

The School athletic sports were held on Thursday 9th March on the lower fields in what can only be called variable weather. For the record Carruth were the overall winners ahead of Bledisloe and then Marsden, Grey and finally Hobson. However the day was notable for one other aspect.



The Senior 1500 metres champion is awarded the Colin Adams Cup which was donated to the School by Colin back in 1956. Colin was the 1500m champion in 1955 and as it turns out he was a spectator at the sports day, as was another former champion in Mark Wilson who won the event in 1984. Here are Mark (left) and Colin (right) with the new champion Logan Miller. Logan is a Year 13 student and he finished up 3rd overall in the Senior Championship

How Is Your Memory?

How many of the former teachers in this photo do you recognise? Just to refresh they are as follows: Left to right Cliff Brunker, Doug Goodison, Wally Wallace, Dave Scratton, Ces Saul (deceased), Mrs Goodison, Tony Clemow, Ted Edwards, Ian Smith, George Rattray (deceased), Carl Reed (deceased). Now the next thing is trying to remember the nick-names....



Jubilee Registrations

We cannot stress enough of the need to get your registrations in sooner rather than later. We appreciate that many people have it on their 'to do list' but unless we do get a firm idea of numbers by early April we are unable to put in place definite arrangements. This is relevant to both the functions and the golf where there are limited numbers available so it is a matter of first in first served. This has become a serious concern to the organising committee and you will note in this newsletter that other people have mentioned the registration situation. So please can we urge you to get your registrations in before close off on March 31st.

Old Girls' and Old Boys' Function

On Friday 17th February we held a function at the Whangarei Golf Club for both Old Girls and Old Boys. This was an informal affair designed to give everyone a chance to find out how the Jubilee organisation was going and to perhaps ask any questions they may have had. Of course it also gave people a chance to catch up with some people they may not have seen for some time. There were



about 50 people in attendance so it was a good practice run.

The Headmaster of WBHS, Al Kirk, was there in his capacity as Chairman of the Jubilee Organising Committee and he proceeded to give us a run-down of where everything was at as far as the Jubilee was concerned. The big message coming out of this was that registrations were slowly coming in but people should register as soon as they can so that we know what number we are dealing with from a planning perspective. The plan is to hold another of these functions on March 24th again at the Whangarei Golf Club starting at 5.30pm so please put it in your diary and if you would like to attend please register your name so that we can arrange catering. A light snack is provided but liquid refreshments are strictly 'buy your own'. So please come along.



Don't forget the function on 24th March at the Whangarei Golf Club commencing at 5.30pm. Please let Greg Weaver know if you wish to attend.

Those were the Days



Brian Foster WBHS 1944-50

'Last year I asked some Old Boys for memories of their military training days at Whangarei Boys' High School. I have been inundated with responses, enough in fact to fill about 11 A4 pages, so unfortunately I am unable to repeat them all here. At the moment I am trying to get them all included in the Jubilee book as the cadets were a major part of the School's history. So in the meantime in this newsletter I am only able to include some brief anecdotes from certain items I received. I hope you will enjoy reading them as much as I did when I first receive them.' - GW

The pupils were divided into companies -
A company was the "headquarters company".
B company was an ordinary company as was D company.
C company was always the air cadets and
E and F, if there were enough pupils, were the intermediate pupils.
Each company was divided into platoons of about 30 boys and there were I think 4 or 5 platoons to a company.

Once you got to the senior school you carried rifles on parade. These were normally Lee Enfield .303 calibre but there were some Winchesters for smaller pupils.

- **Tony Lane WBHS 1955-59**

There were many exciting events relating to the army such as the demonstration of the firing of a 15 pounder from beside the grand stand at Rugby Park using live rounds and aiming at an old car across on the Western Hills. It had been soaked in petrol, but despite direct hits as we discovered later, it failed to ignite. There was also the firing of the anti aircraft gun also using live rounds. Camps, a fire in the Western Hills bush set off by a Browning machine gun plus lots of individual shooting, particularly of the 303s all added to the excitement, but the cream was flying in a Tiger Moth, circling my home and having a short time at the controls.

- **Allan M Simons WBHS 1942-48**

As it turned out, I was the only town boy in the team 1956-57, all the rest were boys from Carruth House. For the first Saturday practice day we met at the armoury under the old wing east side of the quadrangle and were taken to the gun rack to choose a 303 rifle. My eye was drawn to a beautiful light grained rifle and thought "what a beauty". It was love at first sight. But alas, this beauty was to be my big disappointment. As the morning practice proceeded I

was astounded at the accuracy of the rifle and had a field day over my country cousins' performances, but what I hadn't perceived was a growing resentment of my shooting performance.

From the next Saturday's practice day, that particular rifle had mysteriously disappeared from the rack and from then on, using other rifles from the rack I had to adjust and do my best with what was offered.

- **Ron Enright, WBHS 1955-57**

The bonus of going to the rifle range was an experience too. I think my target could have been recycled for a couple of years - didn't get any where near it! Again, in that part of the week, there was the excitement and the lesson in control, discipline, coordination.

- **Emile Frische WBHS 1959-63**

In our first year in the Senior School another master had explained in answer to a similar question "Barracks Week is to teach cretinous idiot children like you to shut up and stand still - two vitally important lessons in life that are foreign territory to you lot!"

- **Tony Ross WBHS 1949-55**

Memories for me include; Marching and rifle drills, live shooting; At Company parade, ordering The Company to "left wheel " and the whole lot went right, which was what we had practiced; Dormitory life at Papakura and Waiouru; The cold of Waiouru, even in summer; Bren gun shooting and crawling through the tussock on our stomachs at Waiouru; Being "volunteered" to fight a fire at night time in a Waiouru swamp and having to find our way back to base in the dark after the fire was out; Back to school with lots to tell and life long memories.

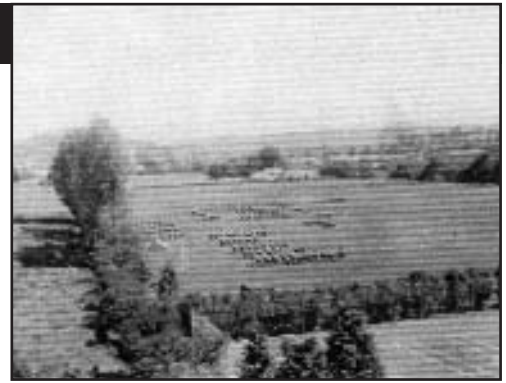
- **Graeme Denton WBHS 1952-58**

Sadly, there is no Military training anymore at schools. It helped make us more "upright" citizens I am sure.

- **Thomas (Sonny) Gough WBHS 1956-58**

I was at school when they had school cadets - actually I was RSM and remember well when the lower grounds were covered with tents when we had annual camps.

- **John Leese WBHS 1938-44**



WBHS Military Cadet Training

The basement of the School's main building was designated the Armoury and in addition to housing our rifles also accommodated two Vickers machine guns, two anti tank rifles, three two inch mortars, one three inch mortars, six Bren guns, a two inch field gun, two field radios and miscellaneous support equipment. About 20 .22 rifles were used for target practise at our rifle range at the base of the Western Hills. Almost all of the equipment was fully operational. Intermediate pupils were all allocated single shot carbines of the Boer War era.

- **Peter J. Vucich WBHS 1944-48**

We used to go into the Western Hills on exercises. Our unit simply shot down the nearest bank and hid for a couple of hours to avoid going back in time for school. We could hear the officers shouting our names but we remained quiet until we had used up the school time. Squadron Leader 'Snoobie' Saul was not happy and the next day was spent on endless parade and rifle drill.

- **Brett Connolly WBHS 1964-69**

The best part about the military training for me was firing the Bazooka gun at a tea chest in the middle of the lower field and getting to shoot with the old 303 rifles at the army range at Whareora. Also we were trained how to strip down and reassemble the rifles and Sten guns, that was fun.

The downside was being made to march with those damned old heavy 303 First World War rifles for hour on end.

- **Noel Herman WBHS 1961-62**

Most of the rifles were old Lee Enfield 303's from the 1st or second world wars, which weighed a ton. But there were also a few Winchester single shot lever action carbines. If you got lucky you were issued one of these, not only were they lighter but they were a real cowboy shootin' iron. Most of them had the date of manufacture stamped on the breech, all dated round the mid 1800's! In the 50's cowboy movies were the thing and Hopalong Cassidy and Roy Rogers were the stars - haven't things changed

- **Ross Biggs WBHS 1954-59**

My specialty was the Bren gun, which I learned to take apart and reassemble blind folded. I won the Bren gun shoot (53 out of 55 possible), but this was no big deal because it was difficult to miss with this extremely accurate weapon and its aperture sight. I did not do so well with the .303, even though I was in the WBHS shooting team and I made a bit of a mess of the Tommy gun when I first fired it. We were told to hold it down firmly, as it tended to ride up when fired, so I did as I was told and my first burst went into the ground about 15 feet away causing dust and dirt to fly everywhere!

All God's best to you and my dear old school.

- **Don Francis WBHS 1940-43**

Anyway, the best kept secret occurred when I had my turn at K.P. The meals were provided by army cooks and one memorable meal



Officers 1939 - Front Row (From Left) J.T. Shaw, W.J. Glanville, A.R. Ryder, L.G. Miller, E. Cumming. **Second Row** D.W. Lawson, ?, A.P. McDell, G.M. Robertson, J.S. Mannerling, H.R. Heward. **Back Row** Permanent Force Instructors.

was to be cold roast mutton, which was duly sliced, covered with a cloth, and left for dinner. However, the blow flies, of which there were whole squadrons, thought they had first call on the meal and when one of the

cooks lifted the cloth, the flies had done their work. The cook's expletives brought us KP's to see what was going on.

Not to be outdone by the flies, the cooks carefully scraped the meat clean, while brandishing razor-sharp carving knives, and threatening us with their use on a very vulnerable part of our anatomy if we dared spill the beans. None of us on KP duty had meat for tea that night, and our mates couldn't understand why we had suddenly become vegetarians!

- **Bert Boswell WBHS 1938-41**

Apart from boys fainting in the heat when on parade at attention, and boys getting a good wack on the temple with a rifle barrel when the "about turn" was called, the best thing I can recall about Military training was the target practice up at the Whareora firing range.

- **Peter Bould WBHS 1961-64**

I arrived in the middle of it, February 1962, not yet 14 years old, fresh from the cold Dutch winter into the hot New Zealand summer. Apart from being able to say : "Yes sir ", "No sir ", "I'm sorry, I can't understand you, sir", I spoke no English whatsoever then and was thrown into the middle of what seemed to me an absolute madhouse. When asked by my parents that night how my first schoolday had been I could only answer : "School ? I marched around all day with an old Lee Enfield on my shoulder "

- **Peter Visser WBHS 1962-65**

The last afternoon was always impressive where the whole school formed up as a Battalion and marched around the lower school ground, complete with Lee Enfield 303 rifles from the 1914-18 war at the slope in their Military Companies.

- **Bryce Beeston WBHS 1961-63**

I was involved and thoroughly enjoyed the experience. Not only did it teach us discipline but also the camps we attended gave us some life skills that we all use. My other memory of a benefit was leading WBHS at marching in the Anzac Service and looking very slick and smart compared to Kamo High who did not have military training.

- **Des Adams WBHS 1961-65**

Waiting in formation for the visit of Queen (princess) Elizabeth and Prince Philip - sitting on the grass , then forming up properly when she appeared.

- **Graham Waring WBHS 1948-52**

For myself I was in the air corp. or cadets or whatever, and the late "Snoopy", (with affection) Saul? Was the great walla walla. U R probably aware that there was a rifle range behind the poplar trees with a large block wall firing in the direction of the bicycle track, although this stopped possibly 1964/5. (I left in '64)

There used to be military demonstrations on the football grounds with light troop carriers and anti tank etc.

- **Brian Corban WBHS 1961-64**

It was either 1955 or 1956 and the Army instructor was explaining how to use a mortar and emphasising the various safety measures to take. Aiming the mortar at an Army truck he said:" If this was loaded, the shell would go right through that truck." He fired, and that is exactly what happened. Fortunately the shell hit the side of the hill on the eastern side of the grounds.

- **Kevin Drake WBHS 1955-57**



Graduating with Honours



A Photo of three successful students from WBHS who have graduated with honours from Canterbury University. **Luke Gillingham**, WBHS Dux 2000, who achieved a Bach of Engineering with 1st Class Honours in Chemical and Process Engineering. **David Mallett**, Bach of Engineering

with 2nd Class Honours, 1st Division in Civil and **Anton Russek**, Bach of Engineering with 2nd Class Honours, 2nd Division in Civil. All three went through WBHS together and left in 2000.

There have been a number of Old Boys who have graduated from various universities and unfortunately too many to mention here. However we are pleased to be able to acknowledge those, in recent years, who achieved honours with their degrees. It is

assumed that the list is as complete as we can get it based on information supplied by Universities so our apologies for any omissions.

NAME	DEGREE
John Berks	BA (Hons), 1st Class Honours, History
Darrin Brown	BMgt Studies, 1st Class Honours
Matthew Bryant	Master of Science, 1st Class Honours
Nicholas Bryant	Master of Science, 1st Class Honours
Thomas Abraham	BE (Hons)(Mech3)
Jesse Colquhoun	BCom (Hons)
Liam Mallett	BMusic (Hons)
Paul Ruddell	BEduc (Teaching) Hons
James Adams	BMgt Studies, 1st Class Honours
Jackson Hill	BTech, 1st Class Honours

Obituaries

It is with regret that the Old Boys' Association has had to record the passing of some its Old Boys in the past year. We would like to extend our condolences to those families who have lost loved ones during the year. This includes the following Old Boys who passed away during the year and who have played a part in our Association and the community as a whole.

Harman Smith WBHS 1928-33

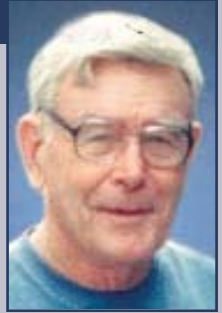
Harman passed away suddenly on 27 January 2006 aged 91. Harman was a keen Old Boy and was looking forward so much to the Jubilee. He was a Prefect in 1932 and Head Prefect 1933 and was a member of the Cricket 1st XI in 1932 and 1933 and the Rugby 1st XV 1933.

His father and mother also had an association with the School with his father, H E G Smith, teaching at the School for 40 years from 1907-47 after being a pupil in 1895. It was at the School that Harman's father met his mother, A M Woolley, who was a teacher at the School for a few years in the early 1900s until she married HEG.



Peter Mahood WBHS 1947-53

Peter passed away on 28 September 2005 aged 69. Peter would have been known to many people in Whangarei through his work initially as a barrister and solicitor and then more recently as Whangarei coroner. During his time at School Peter was always in the mix somewhere in his early years and culminated in 1953 where he achieved a number of distinctions, most notably Head Boy and also Dux of the School. In that year he was also senior athletics champion, senior steeplechase champion, senior boxing champion and was a member of the 1st XV as he was also in 1952. He was awarded colours in athletics, steeplechase and rugby (52 & 53). Peter was definitely one the School's great achievers who was a most respected man in Whangarei.



Peter Hegley WBHS 1935-40

Peter passed away on 23rd June 2005 aged 81. Peter was a very keen Old Boy and was an integral member of the '39ers' who had taken it upon themselves to restore the photographs of the prefects, cricket 1st XIs and rugby 1st XV's and to have them displayed prominently in the assembly hall. He also attended the ANZAC service every year and did a great deal of work in the recording and filing of the School archives. During his time at School Peter was very prominent in boxing, shooting and swimming and was Senior Swimming Champion in 1940. Much is owed to Peter for the association that now exists between the School and its Old Boys and for that he will always be remembered.

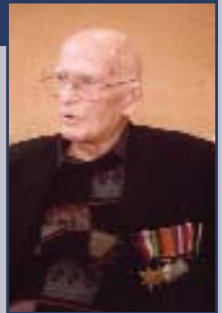


Cecil Saul WBHS 1926-27, Teacher 1953 - 77

Cecil passed away on 12th September 2005 aged 93. He was probably known to a large number of you due to his association as both a student and a teacher. As you will no doubt recall Cecil's main forte was woodwork and he took an avid interest in the hockey teams at the School. He kept up this interest throughout his life and whenever contacted by the School always enquired as to how the hockey team was going.

Cecil was a Squadron Leader during the war and was also OC Military Training here at the School. To prove the popularity of this man, particularly as a teacher, when Old Boys with emails were informed of Ces' passing we received a number of responses from around the world testifying to the high regard in which he was held.

Certainly one of the School's great characters.



Kempton Jervous-Chenery WBHS 1943-48

Kem passed away suddenly on 8 October 2005 aged 75. He was a very keen Old Boy who had done a lot to help in the early days of re-establishing the Old Boys' Association, particularly in the Christchurch area. Without the help of people like Kem we would not be in the position we are today with such a comprehensive database.

In his time at School Kem was the Intermediate Steeplechase champion in 1946, the Senior Hop, Step & Jump (Triple Jump) Champion in 1947 & 48 and was a member of the 1st XV in 1948. In a strange twist Kem set a new senior long jump record in 1947 but could only manage 2nd in the championship event. However he was accorded School Colours for athletics in 1947.

Another prominent Old Boy who will be missed.

Nelson Ross WBHS 1937-39

Nelson passed away in February 2006 aged 83 years. His notable achievement during his time at School featured winning the Intermediate Athletics championship in 1939, on the way setting new records in both the 880 yards and 1 mile. He left school later that year.

After serving time with the army during WWII, Nelson returned to be a prominent influence in the running of the Whangarei RSA where he was a member for 57 years ultimately as a Gold Life Member. Nelson was awarded the QSM in 2005.