

# WBHS OBA Newsletter September 2019

## Presidents Message

2019 has seen the Old Boys Association becoming more technologically savvy. Thanks to the generous financial and specialised support received from the Endowment Trust we will have an Old Boys database up and running very soon. This will allow the members to update details, pay subscriptions, make donations and message fellow Old Boys. Notifications and newsletters will be instantly available to those signed up.

We now have a new part time administrator thanks once more to the generosity of the Endowment Trust. I would like to take this opportunity to welcome Lauren True to the team. Lauren will now be in charge of communications, managing and updating the database, putting together newsletters and pretty much keeping the OBA running smoothly. I would like to thank her in advance for her patience.

I would like to congratulate the 'Class of 59' who this month have organised a reunion dinner here in Whangarei. It's a tribute to them they have stayed in touch for all this time – a marvellous achievement!

Another item of note was the donation of the Golf Academy to the school. This is an amazing facility and an asset to the school. Recent results are a testament to this.

Still in golf mode the Annual Golf Tournament at the Northland Golf Club will be held on the 22<sup>nd</sup> November at 10am – Shotgun start.

PLEASE SUPPORT THIS EVENT! See below for more details. Or CONTACT KEVIN SALMON ON - 021 774828

I would like to take this opportunity to wish you all a happy and safe summer break.

Garry Whimp  
President – WBHS OBA

**News From The Principal**

Kia ora members of the Old Boys' Association

I write this as preparations are well underway for our Senior Prizegiving, which by all accounts is one of the best nights of the year. I'm sure some of you can recall your final weeks at school and the mixed emotions that many of our current boys have about the next phase of their lives. There still remains a strong pull for many of our boys to further their education at University and many of them have secured significant scholarships from Universities the length of the country. Equally, there are a huge number of boys who have secured apprenticeships and jobs locally and nationally, which is also a very fine achievement and sets them on a continued pathway of learning. We always appreciate Old Boys coming back to school to keep us up to date on where they have gone and what they have been doing. Needless to say the stories are many and varied.

On the subject of keeping us up to date, I am delighted to have Laureen True join the WBHS team. Laureen will be assisting the OBA with their promotional material and continuing to build on the database, so you can expect to have regular communication from her.

From a school perspective, our building plans are progressing well and we are in the developed design phase now. Procurement for our construction team will take place towards the end of the year and we are on track to begin construction mid-2020. We will have some 3D modelling of the new site available soon and we will post graphics of the new buildings as they become available. It has been great having many old boys involved in the planning so far with geotech exploration, engineering advice and other professional services that are helping us progress to the next phase.

As a first stage, we are resurfacing the tennis courts with an all-weather surface, and installing lighting so that come winter next year, we have a facility that enables our sports teams to train and our PE classes to function well. Unfortunately the courts are 20m too narrow to accommodate a full sized hockey turf, but it will be ideal for practice.

One of our frustrations is that we are not entitled to build a new gymnasium (under the Ministry allocation), nor can any of the funds be used to upgrade Carruth House, however we have an agreement with the Ministry to build an auditorium/hall that will seat 1300, so that we can finally have whole school assemblies and even Senior Prizegiving in our own hall. This will be a fabulous facility - not only for the school but the local community.

We will have to think carefully about how we raise funds to upgrade the facilities at Carruth House and by way of a start, we hope to have a working bee towards the end of the year after

Junior Prizegiving on the 10th December to give the place a spruce up. If you are interested in helping out with this by providing materials or labour, please contact me.

Our new building plans have presented an opportunity to look at the school brand and in the coming weeks, you will be asked for your feedback (as an old boy) on two options - to ensure a consistent branding for the school moving forward. We will also consult the staff and current students on their thoughts.

On staffing news, Matt Lawson has been appointed Acting Deputy Principal while Keir Morrison is on sabbatical in term 1, 2020. Matt is a proud Old Boy of the school and it's great to see his progress from student to D.P. evolve. We have a small number of staff leaving at the end of the year and have made some fantastic appointments for 2020 and beyond.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the OBA Executive and the Endowment Trust for their ongoing support and hard work, not only for the Association, but the boys at school. We are very fortunate to have such capable men leading the organisation and on a personal note I am most appreciative of their support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to wish all of you a safe and happy holiday season and all the best for 2020.

Ngā mihi nui

Karen Gilbert-Smith

**Principal**

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## SPORT

Here are some of the sporting highlights from yet another busy term.

**Gymnastics** - Nationals were held October 2-5th in Auckland. Ryan Townsend who has been selected to represent New Zealand at the upcoming Valeri Liukin and Houston Invitational competitions. These are to be held in Texas in January 2020. He's only the second male gymnast from Northland ever picked for an international tour.

**Cycling** - National School Road Championships 28-30th Sept in Manawatu. Trevor Coetzee was placed 6th.

**Clay Target Shooting** - NZSS NZ Clay Target Championships 28-30th Sept Hamilton. William Hamlin was picked for the North Island team to compete against the South Island team - winning with 218 points against 200.

**Basketball** - NZSS Schick AA National Championships 30th Sept – 5th October Palmerston North. WBHS placed 15th.

**Surfing** - NZ National Scholastic Surfing Championships 7th – 11th October Raglan. Semi-finalist Tai Erceg – Gray, finalist Izaak Hayes and Northland achieved 5th place. Max Bruncker and Billy Gilbert also competed but weren't able to complete their divisions due to lack of waves.

**Snowboarding** - NISS Snowboarding Championship 23rd – 25th Sept Mt Ruapehu, Ohakune Silver was awarded to Rory Saunders for Slope, Style and Jump with Tricks

**Squash** – Riley-Jack Vette-Blomquist took out the under-17 boys' division, winning in four games at the finals of the New Zealand Junior National Individual competition held in Auckland on 10 October.

**Hockey** - WBHS student and Northland U15 Hockey team captain, Javahn Jones, and his team are national champions. They won five of their six games to take out the trophy for the first time in its 26-year history.

**Cricket** - WBHS cricketers - Michael Krige, Vinnie Von Mulert, Brandon Peck, Luke Trigg, Sam Webb were chosen for the Northland Secondary Schools touring squad. The development cricket team, flew to Melbourne in what was the second tour of its kind, the combined secondary schools team played seven 50-over matches and one 40-over match across the 12 days with games.

#### **WBHS AWARDS DINNER 2019**

Special guest and bona fide NZ rugby legend Andy Dalton was guest speaker at the event.

##### Major Awards

2019 Performing Artist of the Year - Nathan J Calver

2019 Team of the Year Hillary Challenge Team - Johnny Wilson, Lucas Thompson & Lochiel Espiner

2019 Sportsman of the Year - Luke R Trigg

2019 Outstanding Sporting Achievement - Riley-Jack Vette-Blomquist

##### Player/Participant of the Year

Adventure Racer of the Year 2019 - Lucas C Thompson

AFL Player of the Year 2019 - Xavier C A Mexted

Athlete of the Year 2019 - Jordyn C Hetaraka

Basketballer of the Year - Devon M Mills

Cricket Player of the Year 2019 - Luke R Trigg

Cross-Country Runner of the Year 2019 - Mac B D Rivers

Cyclist of the Year 2019 - Trevor T Coetzee

Footballer of the Year 2019 - Deon A Hales

Golfer of the Year 2019 - Craig M Hockings

Hockey Player of the Year 2019 - Luke R Trigg

Orienteerer of the Year 2019 - Johnny M Wilson

Rugby Player of the Year 2019 - Javarne A K Porter

Rugby 7'S Player of the Year 2019 - Max C Bruncker

Rugby League Player of the Year 2019 - Charme T C Henry Turner



Sailor of the Year 2019 - Ben D J Alabaster  
Shooter of the Year Clay Target 2019 - Jacob A Kennedy  
Squash Player of the Year 2019 - Riley-Jack Vette-Blomquist  
Surfer of the Year 2019 - Tai A Erceg-Gray  
Swimmer of the Year 2019 - Luca S Matenga  
Touch Player of the Year 2019 - Kian R Kake  
Volleyball Player of the Year 2019 - Brock K Longworth  
Debater of the Year 2019 Nathaniel - J Singleton  
Drama Performer of the Year 2019 - Jackson W Shields  
Kapa Haka Performer of the Year 2019 - Te Werawera Enoka-Poharama  
Public Speaker of the Year 2019 - Flynn D Symonds  
Musician of the Year 2019 - Angus W H M Trail  
Most Significant Contribution to Drama - Kurtis D Collings  
Most Significant Contribution to Music - Caleb S Lamb

Level 3 Colours Medallions:

AFL – Aussie Rules - Xavier C A Mexted  
Touch Rugby - Xavier C A Mexted  
Hockey - Hayden W Ganley  
Hockey - Luke R Trigg  
Music - Matthew He  
Squash - Riley-Jack Vette Blomquist  
Wood-chopping - Tytan P Semenoff  
Dance - Nathan J Calver  
Rugby - Javarne A K Porter  
Rugby - Rocky J Olsen  
Spearfishing - Tyler M Maugham

**Projects & Fundraising****WW1 Soldier Memorial**

We are still making progress in researching the WW1 Old boys but need one last push to get this project completed. If you have an hour or few spare to research a few heroes, please contact Josh Clark [j.clark@wbhs.school.nz](mailto:j.clark@wbhs.school.nz)

**WBHS OBA Database**

Work has picked up on the database with Laureen True now responsible for maintaining these records and further functionality being implemented by Murray Holdaway. If you would to take responsibility for a year (or decade) please contact Laureen:  
[communications@wbhsoba.co.nz](mailto:communications@wbhsoba.co.nz)

So far we have the following "Year Managers":

1970 – Murray Holdaway

1995 – Jarrod Goodall

1971 – David Templeton

**Reunions**

If you have a special year to celebrate, please let us know so that we can facilitate the details of any reunions to the network of Old Boys. We can also help arrange tours of the School if that is of interest.

**Year of 1999 Reunion**

It is 20 years since the year of 1999 graduated and they are arranging a reunion on the 23<sup>rd</sup> of November. This is an open invitation to anyone that was involved with the school during the years 1995 to 1999 so follow their Facebook page or contact Andrew Overton to keep in the loop: <https://www.facebook.com/WBHS99>

Andrew Overton: [drewskioverton@gmail.com](mailto:drewskioverton@gmail.com)

**Carruth House Reunion - Northland Anniversary Weekend 2020**

Carruthian David Templeton 1971-73 is keen to support a Carruth get together and is looking for other interested Carruthians to come together to arrange a reunion over the 2020 Northland Anniversary Weekend. If you are interested or keen to help out make contact with David on 027 248 2164 or email [communications@wbhsoba.co.nz](mailto:communications@wbhsoba.co.nz)

### Upcoming Events

#### WHANGAREI BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION AMBROSE GOLF DAY

**Friday 22 November 2019**

**Northland Golf Club**

10.00am for 10.30am Shotgun Start

\$25.00 per player

Sponsor a Hole for \$50

Please Support our Naming Rights Sponsor:



#### **Playing Rules**

- Teams shall consist of three players – all male, all female or mixed
- Individual entries welcome, we will find you a team
- Two teams allocated to each tee (yes you can play with your friends)
- Men - White tees and Ladies – Yellow tees
- Mens max handicap is 24, Women 36
- Players are expected to play off their last known handicap if not a current affiliated player
- Each player must use at least 4 drives each
- Handicaps will be added together and divided by 5
- Ambrose format with a one club length place through the fairway or one putter head on the green, all no closer to the hole
- Drinks carts will be available during the day. A BBQ will be setup around the 1<sup>st</sup> tee area

#### **General Information**

- Please meet at 10.00am for a 10.30am shotgun start
- No eftpos will be available on the day so bring cash
- Sponsor a hole for \$50 each (GST inc) you provide the signage we will put it up and take it down. Invoices and receipts available on request.

**Register** Please complete registration form and email to [kevin.salmon@alzheimers.org.nz](mailto:kevin.salmon@alzheimers.org.nz) or fax (09) 4382974

The registration form is located here

<https://wbhsoba.co.nz/wp-content/uploads/2019-Old-Boys-Golf-Day.pdf>

### Last Word

#### Contact Details for Old Boys Administrator

Laureen True is now based at the school – working 3 mornings a week Monday to Wednesday and can be contacted via email at [communications@wbhsoba.co.nz](mailto:communications@wbhsoba.co.nz) or by phone on 09-430 4170 ext. 709. She will be happy to receive any Old Boys news, update details or help in anyway. Also follow us on Facebook at **WBHS OBA**

#### A Story From the Old Days - We loved PE

The rules as practised were: all kids had to swim. Doctor's certificates were largely ignored. This was not a school for wimps.

If you left your togs at home, Tough.

You were not allowed to swim in anything other than togs, as the unauthorised clothing might release threads and pills which would block the filters and the pumps.

If you swam without clothes on, you were caned at the end of the class for leaving your togs at home.

It was quite embarrassing if your swimming classes were about interval. Because then the maids at Carruth Boarding House went out on to the balcony, to smoke their cigarettes during their smoko - and they looked down on the swimming pool as they drank their tea. How they laughed at the line-up of male bare bums waiting to be caned.

At one time the swimming pool at Girls High was out of operation. So the 2 schools did a deal and the girls came over to Boys High for their swimming, complete with their instructor / teacher. A long rope was hung down the middle of the pool. Boys' one side, girls swam the other side. Never the twain to meet.

But as I recall there were no concessions made by WBHS teachers.

Still - if you forgot your togs, you swam in the nude.

Still - you got caned at the end of the session as a reminder to bring your togs next week.

*Submitted by Don Goodall*

*Source: True Tales of Mountains and Memories – It contains a series of stories written by those who lived in the general district. [i.e. Maunu, Maungatapere, Poroti, Whatitiri, Kara, Kokopu and Kaigoose]*