

MEMORIES

ALUMNI

HISTORY

DAVID THORNTON
HEADMASTER 1961 - 1978

RECONNECTING

LEGACY

FOUNDATION



Issue 5 - March 2017

The Thornton Years News



ST PETER'S
CAMBRIDGE
NEW ZEALAND



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Welcome back to the Thornton Years News. This is now the fifth issue of the News and I am delighted to say we are getting good buy in and feedback from a growing number of old boys.

I am now getting a regular stream of information and new contact details from some of the readers and I take every opportunity to seek out updated contact details. Keep it coming and feel free to share this with any of your friends you have contact details for and suggest if they haven't received their own copy then for them to send their details to me.

I think we are now at the stage of life that we can look back and smile at some of the memories we have had in our younger years (some good – some not so good). But it is important to realise that these experiences are what have shaped our lives and hopefully we have taken the experiences and used them to better enhance our lives and futures and those dear to us. We should embrace the future and what we have and can achieve.

To keep these newsletters interesting and fresh I need you, the reader, to help by contributing. So if you are able to provide a story, a profile, memories of your time at St Peter's, details of your life post St Peter's or information on friends, please keep it coming to me. A few minutes jotting down some thoughts and I will make it into an interesting story.

As editor I wish, again, to express special thanks to Kath Carmody, the graphic designer at the school who takes what I prepare and puts it into the form that you receive and understand. And also to Kay Greed (the school archivist) and her team that produce for me many of the old photos and background from the school archives.

Neil McLaughlin



Arthur Broadhurst visit of 1967 with David Thornton & boys
(Editor: If you can provide the boys' names I can add them to school archives)

Brian Wilkins (1968–1974)



From 1971 Rugby

From 1974 Rugby

1974 Class Photo

The Crow's Nest 1968

Like many new boys, my first night at St Peter's School was spent in the Crow's Nest dormitory. There was a mix of second year and new boys. We were full of energy and in high spirits. The tutor said we could read or talk quietly until lights out then he left, but the second years decided the best way to get to know each other was to have a pillow fight!

We hopped out of bed, selected our weapons of choice and the battle began. Some boys had their own soft pillows from home - no match for the hard St Peter's pillow. They packed a good wallop! We were having a great time going hammer and tong when one pillow case burst, sending feathers all over the dorm. Some boys frantically chased the feathers around and threw them out of the window, only to be blown back in again, while others attempted to stuff them back into the ripped pillowcase. Inevitably the tutor caught us in the act. Luckily he was a kind uni Student and we were given a broom to tidy up. The tutor was more concerned that the housemaster would walk in and march us down to his study for our first caning. With our energy spent we started to drift off to sleep and I thought I might give it one more day!

The Good Old Days

If a friend or foe was going to receive a caning, you could see how he fared by waiting near the ablution block, where the recipient would arrive to dab cold water on his stinging buttocks. One seasoned offender, who knew he was probably in for six of the best, had the foresight to fill a basin with water before the ordeal. Once punishment had been administered and he completed his version of the goose step - river dance along the corridor to the ablution block, he downed his trousers, jumped up and sat in the basin. The relief was instantly audible, much to the hilarity from the boys who witnessed his novel medicating.

A purge of the changing room and dormitories would take place from time to time. Any clothing or items "on the floor" etc were gathered up and placed in a pile in the changing room. Names were read out and the boys invited to retrieve their clothing and receive the cane in front of the school. It was a sober warning for new boys.

During one campaign over half the boarders were caught in a winter purge. The housemaster could not cane everyone at once, as his arm did not have the strength to disperse the justice required for our heinous crimes. The wait was

excruciating! Twenty-four hours later I received my first caning - four of the best for a smelly old football sock! I remember feeling hard done by at the time. With half the school also sporting welts, I didn't even get any bad boy street cred!

Unorthodox Grace 1970

The dining room food was pretty bad. At the end of Easter Term in 1969 it was rumoured that every boarder had lost weight! The boys used to make up ditties and verse about the food. With everyone standing to attention it was time to say grace. Without even realising it, one boy, who I know well, said, "For what we are about to receive, the pigs have just refused!" There was a slightly longer pause than usual then the school said "AMEN" and everyone sat down! Except for the Duty Master Mr Caithness, who remained standing. There was a lot of murmuring and whispering. Eventually he too sat down. Did he consider there was a modicum of truth in the wording? Nothing was said about the faux pas but no doubt it was mentioned at the next staff meeting.

Incidentally I remember the incident, mentioned by Mark Eyre in his 75th Jubilee dinner speech regarding Table 1, as I was sitting amongst the rabble that day.

Editor's comment - *The following are the words of Marc Eyre that Brian was referring to: "We (table 1) had a chaotic meal on Friday night. I took the table as it was Mr Hanna's half day and he takes our table. Ewen was at one end of the table and Barclay at the other. They built barricades of cups and then catapulted (sic) the salt and pepper to each other with their forks. I told them both to stand up... Barclay refused to and Ewen stood up and tipped the pepper upside down and it went all over the table. THEN... Farquhar got a spoonful of custard and shot it up the table and it went all over Fryett! So since then I have toughened up!"*

Myth or Legend?

The job of pushing the laundry baskets down to the laundry not only allowed the boys to play dodgems along the walk ways, but enabled them to converse with the kitchen staff through the windows at the other end. Occasionally, after not so subtle hints, a nice young lass would relent and pass out some cake or biscuits (something never seen in the dining room). Unfortunately that act of kindness was akin to feeding the wild life. Before too long these angelic boys had weaseled their way into the kitchen. While chatting to their new found friends, they observed a large storage room with a big box labelled Griffins Chocolate Wheaten Biscuits X 24. The temptation was too great! The best young criminal minds gathered together and planning commenced immediately. It was rumoured, through the grapevine, that a night opp had been successful! If so, they certainly didn't share their booty with this goody goody two shoes! Perhaps someone can enlighten us?

A Good Friday Farm Trip

After arriving at the Stone's farm, the school was shown the boundaries and we scattered onto the paddocks. Late in the afternoon the staff noticed the stream flowing past had reduced to a trickle. They followed the stream up. The boys had spent many hours industriously making a series of dams by digging out sods of earth with sticks and their bare hands. We were having a glorious time wallowing in the mud pools

Memories

created behind the dams. The teachers ordered the dams to be busted. That was as much fun as building them. A deluge of muddy water rushed down towards the homestead. Tired but content, we were hosed down before heading home on the bus. Motto: Why destroy your own farm!

Long Bus Trips

These were often made fun through singing. Teachers or boys might counter one side of the bus against the other. Past musicals would be sung or the next musical would be practised. As we headed home up SP's driveway the banter would die down. The driver's ears would finally get a welcome rest as the boys contemplated what burnt offerings may be for dinner. Will it be macaroni without the cheese or cottage pie with that yummy charcoal base?

The tranquil grounds were always well maintained. I remember waking up in the Coronation Dormitory one summer's morning. The smell of freshly cut grass was wafting through the open windows. The birds were starting their chorus as the sun came up. From the window a peacock could be seen displaying its plumage while foraging between the chestnut tree and the chapel. Not a bad way for the senses to be awakened.

Good to hear Mrs Thornton, Miss Swears and Mr Hanna are enjoying a long well-earned retirement. Mr Hanna reminds me of the character Mr Chips with his time given to pupils and school. Although strict he had a sense of humour and enjoyed good-humoured banter. Often a unique answer from a pupil, to justify a dubious decision or action, would leave him chuckling away.

I remember with fondness M.R Bennett, C.M. Johnson, R.J. Lewis, D.C. Dwen, L.L. Clougher, D.J. Maclean, C.S. Rhodes, R.A. Nicol, R.J. Johnston, M.J. Mullooly, R.H. Martin and M.J. Fisk - to name a few.

Brian Richard Wilkins

Editor's Comment: Thank you Brian for some of your thoughts. These are types of stories about "the day" that show some of the real life tales from the time. However I see you still have that ability to gloss over some of your achievements. I delved into the records and the following stories will help others appreciate your abilities and contributions to St Peter's. I also see your mother was on staff for a couple of years around 1971 - 1972 as bursarial and secretarial assistant then as bursar.



From the Principal

Current School Update

(Extracted from *InTouch* School News)

It has been a fantastic start to 2017. We have been pleased to welcome over 270 new students and 26 new staff. On day one for this year the school roll is 1096 and we are confident that the highest ever roll for St Peter's of 1106 will be passed at some stage during the first half of the year, if not sooner. It's great to see the community supporting us so well as this trend represents significant growth during the last 12 months.

This week has been about welcome. We have had a number of wonderful occasions that culminated with the full school haka pōwhiri for all of our new arrivals. This was the first time a full school pōwhiri has been held for new students and staff and I congratulate all students and staff involved in such a memorable and historic occasion.

Provisional NCEA results for 2016 show that our academic achievement is outstanding and we continue to produce fantastic IB results. I want to congratulate all students and staff who have worked hard to achieve these results.

On Waitangi Day the school will mark this special occasion with a service and an assembly in the Robb Sports Centre. Our special guest speaker is prominent New Zealand historian Professor Paul Moon.

This year promises to be an exciting one. For all of us, whether new, or seasoned St Peter's veterans, it's been a fantastic start to the year at St Peter's. The school is so full of energy and life. The roll keeps growing as more and more want to get a slice of the great opportunities on offer. The new staff have brought fresh ideas and new perspectives that have energised the rest of us further.

Some Recent Sporting Highlights

- Beckie Leigh breaks a world record: Our rower Beckie Leigh has set a new world record for her age group for the 2km erg! Beckie has broken the old world record of 7 mins 12 secs for her 14 year old and under age group by pulling an impressive 7.06.

Beckie is pictured with her proud parents, Joanne and Jonathan and brothers Cameron and William. Beckie is part of our regular rowing programme under Director of Rowing, Janey Wackrow. Last year Beckie won two golds and silver at the New Zealand Secondary School Rowing



Championships. In October Jason Nel, a new student in Year 11, also broke a world record in the 5km erg for 15 year olds. We're really proud to have two world record breaking erg rowers with us!



- Waikato Secondary Schools Sportswoman of the Year Charlissee Leger-Walker has been awarded Waikato Secondary Schools Sportswoman of the Year. Charlissee received the title at the Brian Perry Waikato Regional Sports Awards. Congratulations Charlissee!



- Barefoot water-skiing: April Foster (pictured above) has been selected for the New Zealand Barefoot Water-ski team. April is competing in the Asia and Oceanic Water Ski Competitions. These were being held north of Auckland at Lake Kereta from 30 January to 5 February.
- Swimming: Luke Mitchell and Tyler Tapper both competed in the New Zealand Secondary Schools' open water swimming championships held in Taupo in January. Luke competed in the 16yrs and over boys and placed third in the 5km swim. Tyler was in the younger group of the 13 and 14 year olds and placed in two events, second in the 2.5km swim and third in the 5km swim. Great work boys.
- Track: Jacob Coltman has been selected to represent Waikato Bay of Plenty in the New Zealand Track nationals.
- Touch: Finlay Barnett has been selected to represent Waikato in touch rugby. Finlay will be playing in the U18 Boys Touch Team at the New Zealand National Youth Touch Competition.
- Waterskiing: Blake Hamilton has been selected for the New Zealand Under 17 Water-ski team to travel to Australia in March to compete against Australia.
- Equestrian: Michaellee Head recently competed at the North Island Show Hunter Championships held in Rotorua and achieved some outstanding results. She was first in the Open Pony 90cm, first in the NRM Equitation, first in the Aniwell High Points and first in the North Island Category C Pony Championship, for the second year in a row. She also competed in the Working Hunter Pony section and won two classes and was also Reserve Champion in the Open Pony Hunter Championship.
- Boarders compete to be top house: Top House was keenly contested this year with great house spirit on display. Always a highlight on the boarding calendar, Top House is a great way to get to know our new students. Lippincott House won the entry and chant, while Broadhurst House were overall winners of Top House 2017.

Some Examination Results

Again our current students are performing extremely well. So well done!

This is a summary of results to date. Students have opportunities to have papers checked and do extra standards to complete the requirements for each of the qualifications as appropriate. Further submissions are accepted until the end of February.

2016 Results Summary

Results still subject to change – final results will be confirmed after February 28.

NCEA

Level 1: 94.9% pass rate, 28.3% Endorsed with Excellence, 44.9% Endorsed with Merit, 73.2% Gained an endorsement

Level 2: 95.1% pass rate (N.B. this does not include I.B. students), 21.3% Endorsed with Excellence, 45.2% Endorsed with Merit, 66.5% Gained an endorsement.

Level 3: 94.1% pass rate (N.B. this does not include I.B. students), 14.1% Endorsed with Excellence, 38.5% Endorsed with Merit, 52.6% Gained an endorsement.

University Entrance

From NCEA (Level 3 only) 80.1% pass rate

From NCEA Level 3 and International Baccalaureate 82.7% pass rate

International Baccalaureate

86.7% pass rate (World pass rate 70%), Range of marks: 23 – 43 out of 45

Top mark Rebecca Goodman 43, Mean mark : 33 (World mean 29).

Rebecca Goodman, Emily Hughes, Kevin Liu and Simran Saini will be attending the Awards ceremony at Government House for students with a score of 40 and higher.

Cambridge International Examinations

100% Pass rate

Year 11 (4th class) Mean Mark: 64.4% Top mark Klaomas Tangjitmaneesakda 90%

Year 10a1 Mean mark: 78.8% Top mark Varun Roy 98%



Varun will be presented with a High Achiever's Award at the NZ CIE Awards ceremony for achieving the highest mark in NZ for Cambridge International Mathematics. Varun achieved the highest mark in New Zealand in the IGCSE Cambridge International Mathematics examination which he sat in November.

What makes this especially impressive is that this examination is usually taken by students in Year 11, yet Varun was only Year 10 last year when he wrote the examination. Cambridge Assessment, a department of the University of Cambridge in the UK, has developed and promoted qualifications around the world for over 150 years. During this time it has seen the need for internationally recognised qualifications continue to grow. Over eight million candidates in more than 150 countries now take Cambridge Assessment's examinations and tests each year.

Last year students sat Cambridge examinations in over 10,000 schools in countries including the United Kingdom, United States, China, India and Singapore, as well as countries throughout Europe, South America and the Middle East. Overall, St Peter's students achieved superbly in the Cambridge International Examinations, gaining a 100% pass



L-R Principal Dale Burden, Tessa Fraser, Kevin Liu, and Mother Helen Huang



FOUNDER'S DAY - 22 February 2017

On Wednesday we held our Founder's Day assembly. The student executive did a great job organising a house quiz and a thought-provoking presentation for the assembly. Alumni President Philip Coles gave an interesting address and Montana catering provided a huge birthday cake.

The day reminded students that they are a part of something much bigger than themselves, their cohort and the rest of the 1100 plus students who are at school this year.

Alumni associations such as ours allow students not only to look back and reflect on the past but also to think about being a part of the future alumni. Fashions come and go; strong traditions and values remain.

St Peter's has always been about body, mind and spirit. It's interesting finding out how the way this looks has changed over the years. Schools can't exist in a bubble. They have to reflect the society into which our students will be entering and making a vital contribution. We don't serve them well if we are preparing them for tomorrow by using methodology or things that are no longer relevant to them or just maintaining things the way they are because it suits us as adults.

Founder's Day also reminded us about the vision of our founder Arthur Broadhurst, his courage to take a risk building a school on the other side of the world and his huge generosity in gifting it to a trust so that it could be enjoyed by the generations to come.

**From the St Peter's News InTouch
24 February 2017**

Arthur Francis Broadhurst

The continuation of his life story: extracted and edited from *The Owl Spreads its Wings*

After World War 1

After the war Arthur returned to the family firm as a director and worked in it until he handed in his resignation in 1924. A combination of his remembered enjoyment at West Downs, boredom with the cotton business and his success as a teacher in the Royal Flying Corps convinced him that he must change his career and, eventually, found his own school.

'**COTTON KING TURNS TEACHER**' was the headline in a Manchester newspaper when Broadhurst's decision was known. He resigned at the firm's annual general meeting and (in his own words) "I was entirely untrained as a teacher, I was accepted on the staff of my old school, West Downs". There have been plenty of teachers who began teaching without specific training, and Broadhurst's abilities in mathematics and music, his fascination with things mechanical and electrical plus his experience as a flying instructor and his obvious enthusiasm would have appealed to any prep school headmaster.

Zealand.

Many of his contacts were people of substance – archbishops, bishops, cabinet ministers, industrialists, headmasters, generals, etc. He travelled by sea, by air and by rail. He always travelled first class. Often there was someone to meet him at his next destination and he would be driven to the best available hotel (booked in advance) or to his host's or to the local Gentlemen's Club – of which he would become a temporary member. Sometimes he was accompanied by a servant. He was surprised that no families in New Zealand had servants and commented that everyone worked in Australia, so that cocktail parties were usually held after work.

Fun and Games

Broadhurst once said of himself that at school (except for rowing) he was no good at games. No doubt this was true, but he threw himself enthusiastically into all deck games on board ship and entered every possible competition; he also played squash and tennis on sea and land; and, above all, he



AFB's guide (Wells), guide Rangi and AFB at Rotorua



At Vincent Island, Lake Rotoiti

He taught at West Downs from 1924 until 1931 and while there admired the school's principles and organisation. By the time he left he had a very clear idea of what he wanted his school to be. During this time, also, he first began to see New Zealand as a possible place for it. A letter appeared in *The Times* written by Dr Rendall, formerly headmaster of Winchester. He had, on one of his Empire trips for public schoolboys, visited New Zealand, and his letter gave a glowing report on the country.

The Search Begins

Thus, in September 1932, armed with a sheaf of first-class steamer and rail tickets, having built up in recent years an enormous number of contacts abroad, sustained by substantial funds and relying on the services of Thomas Cook & Son, and accompanied by a profusion of suitcases, Arthur Broadhurst, full of confidence despite the world-wide depression, set out to explore the world and to find a site for his school.

The Grand Tour, Broadhurst Version

The Broadhurst world tour lasted from 24 September 1932 until 5 September 1934 – just under two years – and it was exhaustively covered in six 'log books' totalling 810 pages of typed foolscap sheets. He visited Canada, the United States, India (including Kashmir), Ceylon, Burma, Hong Kong, Singapore, Siam, Cambodia, Vietnam, the Philippines, Indonesia (then the Dutch East Indies), Australia and New

played golf – often two rounds in a day and, thanks to the handicap system, very competitively. He was a keen walker and climber – he got up to 12,000 feet in the Himalayas and scrambled enthusiastically over West Coast (New Zealand) glaciers.

He made a real effort socially. Early in the tour he took dancing lessons, and used the lessons to good effect. He enjoyed female company. At Rotorua, while his friend Vincent danced with Guide Rangi, he danced with "a lovely maiden called Tina". At a dance at the Assembly Hall at Hastings he had never enjoyed a dance so much – partly because of his "improved technique", but mainly because he had "never seen so many lovely girls at a dance".

The 'old gentleman' was then aged 43; but he was a keen participant in shipboard fancy dress parties, entering one as a very large baby in a pram built by the ship's carpenter – he and his nurse got a special prize. He could be, and quite often was, the life of the party. He was, as we have seen, a very accomplished and knowledgeable organist and pianist and also played the 'cello. He once accompanied every item in the ship's concert, and wherever there was a piano he needed no persuading to play – wherever he was. Often he was joined by a singer or other musicians. Every Sunday he attended the local church or cathedral, sometimes for both communion and a later service. He tried out the organ whenever possible and again there was no difficulty



Planning the trip



Luggage in Kuala Lumpur



AFB in Darjeeling

in persuading him to perform – several times, having heard him play, the local organist or vicar asked him to give a recital later. He was a keen critic of the singing – he thought Christchurch Cathedral's excellent but Auckland's the worst of any cathedral he had been in.

As a boy, Arthur Broadhurst had soon shown a great interest in how things worked. On the Grand Tour he describes in full and accurate detail such activities as the working of a gold dredge, tea planting, a chocolate factory, carpet making, a paper mill, ships' engines and how the Panama Canal worked. He never lost his interest in things mechanical. He even mended his host's cuckoo clock at one house, and later when headmaster could be relied upon to mend boys' watches.

Broadhurst was a creature of habit, and he usually managed to have a haircut once a fortnight, wherever he was. His bath, sometimes a 'rich' bath, was absolutely essential. Much of his time while travelling was devoted to sorting and labelling his photographs and to packing, unpacking and repacking his luggage. At one stage he had ten suitcases and when he purchased six carpets in India he increased the number of cases – sometimes he got Thomas Cook & Sons to arrange their transport home.

Schools

Broadhurst did not forget what was supposedly the main purpose of his tour, which was to look at schools. He inspected two schools in Canada, teaching some geography at Strathcona Preparatory School; and visited St Thomas College in Ceylon, 'an English public school for natives' with 900 boys. In Kashmir he visited Eric Tyndale-Biscoe's Mission School at Srinagar (his son Hugh later became headmaster of St George's School, Wanganui); and Miss Mallinson's school and a school in Islamabad where Broadhurst addressed the staff on English education. In Japan the schoolboys he visited were studying English and wanted to hear how it was pronounced – "So I read to them out of their English book and even sang out of their song book."

In Australia he attended a school's music contest and the King's School Paramatta break-up; played cricket at Tudor House, Moss Vale, and took three wickets for seven runs; and spent some time at Fairbridge, Perth, a training school for youthful immigrants from England – he sang songs with the children, played the organ at church, gave an address and took the boys on a picnic.

In New Zealand Broadhurst visited King's College ("the best school chapel I have ever seen") where he knew several people already; King's Prep where he spent some time; Huntley School near Marton, whose beautiful grounds he greatly admired and where he was entertained very kindly; Wanganui Collegiate School where he praised the buildings, was very hospitably entertained by everyone and thought the chapel singing lusty but the organist and organ poor; and St George's Prep School where again the buildings impressed him. In the South Island he went to Christ's College where the headmaster R J Richards entertained him and took him to evensong; and Waihi School Winchester, where he stayed for several days, played hockey and the piano, taught geography, ate meals with the boys and liked the headmaster, Stone-Wigg, who had great rapport with the boys.

Back in the North Island he went to Hawke's Bay and Hereworth School – "contrary to expectation" he liked Sturge, the headmaster, "exceedingly and thought the boys an awfully nice lot"; and he inspected Woodford House which he called "the leading girls' school in New Zealand".

Broadhurst did indeed choose an area near Cambridge and he was determined to make the most of the beautiful countryside and to build a school in keeping with it. Everyone agreed that he was a superb organiser, and generous yet meticulous in financial matters. He enjoyed great occasions, and could now look forward with confidence to the planning for his new school.



Hereworth School

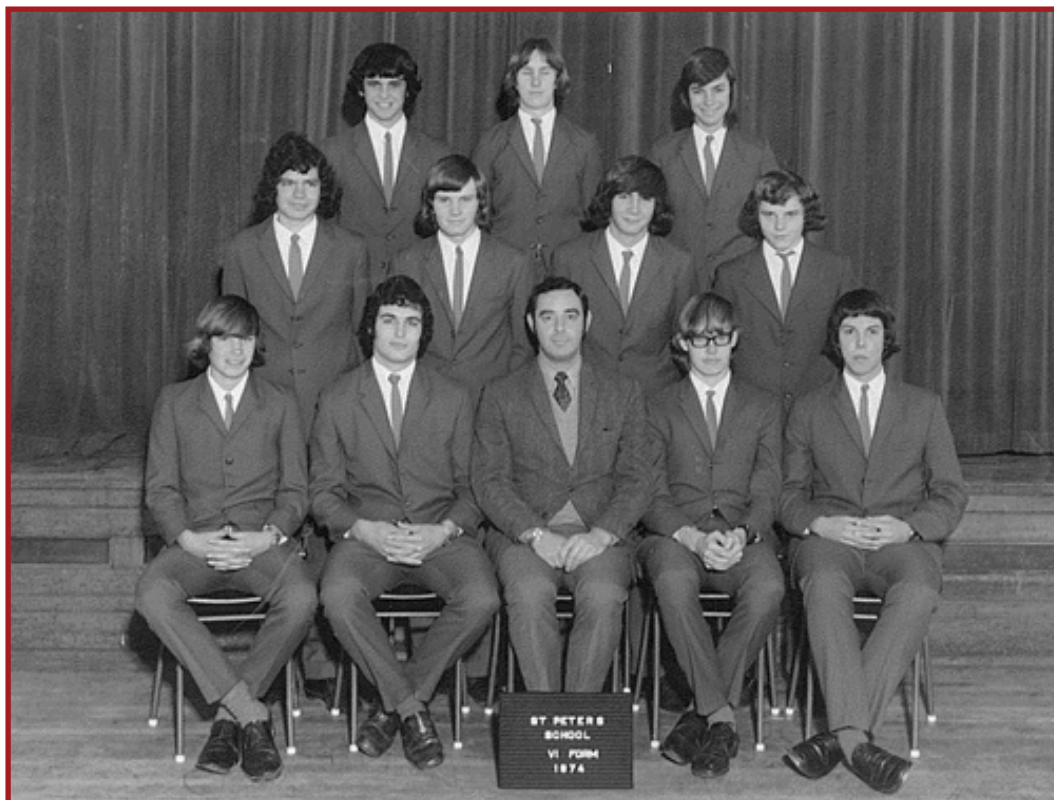


Waihi with "the car"



Christ's College and Avon

1974 Form 6 Class Photo



*Top row- Bayden O'Connor, Michael Blackwell, Bernard Duignan.
Middle row- Robert Price, Paul (Glen) Coney, Brian Wilkins, Lindsay Clougher.
Front row- Clive Watts, Pierre. Le Noel, Murray Carr (Teacher), Ashley Toms, Ross Morgan.*

Brian Richard Wilkins

(A profile from the 1974 Chronicle)

Rugby football, it is said, is a team game. In a school this is perhaps its greatest strength and its greatest value to its participants.

It is now seven years since this sport was introduced at St. Peter's on a compulsory basis at all levels in the school. From the early days in 1968 when our teams returned from Cambridge Saturday by Saturday having suffered overwhelming defeats, the game has grown in stature until now our teams are forces to be reckoned with throughout the Waikato.

Seven years is a fitting time to pause and pay tribute to one boy who, above all others, has contributed so much to football in this school. Brian Wilkins came to St. Peter's in 1968 and was put in to USIC – a class which no longer exists. In that first year he played for 7A, a team which won all its club games. This feat, in a generally disastrous year, was not to be repeated until 4A's unbeaten record in 1974 with Brian as its captain.

In the years following 1968, Brian played for the First XV in 1969 and obtained his Colours. In 1970 he was Captain of the XV. The following year he played for a 3rd Form XV and was awarded his Colours for the

third time. In every year since then he has obtained his Colours and been captain of his team. In 1972, 5A; in 1973, the 3rd XV; in 1974, 4A.

Beginning as a forward, Brian moved to the backs in 1972 and has played there ever since.

Coaches and players alike will remember his indefatigable energy on the field (reminiscent of Ian Kirkpatrick when he was at school in being able to be in all places on the field when he was needed); his dedication to and love of the game itself; his ability to inspire his players and never admit defeat; but above all his modesty and self-effacing nature.

St. Peter's School owes much of its present success to all that he has done during the last seven years. It is a debt which is here most sincerely and gratefully acknowledged.

Rugby - Under 10 Stone 1974



The Under Ten Stone team was the school's most senior and most successful team. This was a well-balanced side. The forwards worked as a cohesive unit; their rucking was superb providing good possession for the backs and allowing them to play a penetrating game resulting in many scoring opportunities. All the forwards had the basic skills of falling, rucking, handling, tackling and covering. Johnston on the side, always full of energy was a source of inspiration to the pack. McMillan was the most improved forward of the team effectively out hooking his opposition and stealing valuable possession from the line-outs. The forwards were pleased to see their hard-earned possession of the ball used so successfully among the backs. It was a delight to see the ball spun out to the wings so quickly and so frequently. No wonder so many tries were scored.

Much of the success of this team was due to the leadership of Wilkins who led by untiring example rather than by precept. An outstanding player to have in any team.

At half-back O'Connor played very well, giving a sound performance on all occasions. He made many fine breaks and kicked intelligently for his forwards. Thomson, at first five, was a natural player who could make gaps, kick accurately and give a good pass. Coney, at centre was a powerful runner who appeared to glide through the gaps rather than burst the line. He possesses a very assured nature on the field and proved a clever and deceptive runner with the ball.

Watts, at wing, was an exciting player once the ball was in his hands, but his play lacked the vigour to turn opportunities into tries. Duignan, also at wing, improved considerably as the season progressed and began to score freely once he realised pace and pass can always beat a tackler. Connor proved to be outstanding and safe at

fullback. He has a good pair of hands and a long raking punt. He was an unselfish player who set up many chances for the outside backs. His tackling was always sure and swift.

For the season the team amassed 500 points for and 39 against them. Details are as follows:

Played 15 Won 15

| | | |
|-----------------------|----|---|
| Vs Cambridge | 58 | 8 |
| Vs C.C.N.Z. | 60 | 4 |
| Vs Melville | 36 | 0 |
| Vs Cambridge B | 46 | 6 |
| Vs Fraser H.S. | 4 | 0 |
| Vs Fraser H.S. | 20 | 0 |
| Vs St. Paul's B | 65 | 0 |
| Vs St. Paul's A | 18 | 0 |
| Vs H.B.H.S. A. | 34 | 3 |
| Vs H.B.H.S. B | 30 | 3 |
| Vs Fairfield H.S. | 68 | 3 |
| Vs Cambridge A | 17 | 6 |
| Vs St. John's College | 18 | 0 |
| Vs H.B.H.S. | 16 | 9 |
| Vs King's College | 12 | 6 |

All members of the team received colours.

Editor's comment: What an amazing achievement. When you look at the scores only once did they fail to score double figures and none of their opposition ever made double figures. Some of those margins must have been depressing for the opposition but I am sure that many of this team had, in previous years, been on the receiving end of some of those scores. Well done to the whole team who, as said above, all won school colours - a real team effort.

Archibald (Archie) Sherwin Rush

Teacher & Housemaster (Oliphant) 1971–1975

Born 6 December 1923 – Died 13 August, 1975 aged 51

Editor: *At this year's New Parents Dinner at St Peter's I spoke with James (Beau) Thompson (a 1978–1983 pupil) who I believe had just delivered his son to his boarding house and noticed a plaque to Archie Rush. He was asking if I knew about him. I told him I would find out and publish it in a newsletter. So here it is. For those who were there during his time (1971–1975) he probably needs no introduction, for those others they might find this of interest.*

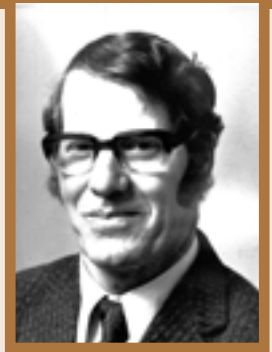
Archie can be traced back to his time in Christchurch where he worked in an engineering plant and was a scout master in St Philip's Troop in Christchurch. From there he made the decision that his future should be in teaching. He attended Teachers' College in Christchurch for two years and qualified with his Teachers Certificate.

His first teaching assignment was as a house tutor and teacher at Cathedral Grammar School in Christchurch. Amongst the schools he taught at included St Andrews College (Chch) and Port Levy School in Banks Peninsula (where he was a sole charge teacher). Archie was also a great singer and was a member of the Christchurch Cathedral Choir. But Archie was also a great story teller and even an expert yodeller. A friend from those days, Graeme Crothall, and his friends would drop in on Archie on many a weekend to argue, kid, listen to his philosophising, his dreams and challenge his strongly held views. Graeme Crothall first met him at the age of twelve when he was his scout master.

Archie Rush (1971–75) arrived in 1971 having just returned from a visit to his native Ireland. A friend wrote of him that he was "clown, philosopher, fighter, talker, listener, and a dedicated teacher, counsellor and friend who above all loved house mastering and singing". Mark Hanna described him as "an Irishman with the blarney." And as Lynn Brock remembers "Archie was a real Irish man he liked a drink or two and we had some great evenings with him." He was always interested in practical hobbies and became Housemaster of Junior School in 1972 (see Mark Hanna's comments below). Then from 1973 till his death in 1975 was the first Housemaster of Oliphant House. He died of a massive heart attack or stroke while on duty at the school on 13th August 1975 at the age of 51.

As David Thornton said in his Headmaster's report at the end of 1975: "1975 will be remembered, I regret to say, for a great sadness. We suffered a terrible blow through the untimely death of Mr Archie Rush in August. A teacher in the Junior School, Housemaster in the Senior School, he was in touch with the boys of all ages and undoubtedly had a tremendous influence on all of them. When I think of the many times that he would come and spend an hour with me to discuss an individual boy, I am humbled by the great concern he showed for each and every person in his care. He preached love and made supreme efforts to put it into practice. The fact that he succeeded in so many cases is borne out by the fact that hundreds will, I am convinced, never forget him. He served St Peter's well, and all of us are better people for having known him."

As Mark Hanna recalls: "Archie arrived as a teacher in the second term of 1971 and was a teacher in the Junior School [Forms 1 to 3]. When Band roadhurst House was opened



in 1972 DJT appointed Archie to be the House Tutor of that House. Archie always boasted that he was the first House tutor. However, one Les Moffat, I think, was asked to be the Housemaster of the Junior School. Les told David that he didn't think that he could cope with that responsibility and he could not accept the position. So it was that Archie was the first House tutor of Broadhurst House and lasted there the least amount of time - one night before he was moved back as the Housemaster of the Junior School."

A lasting memorial to Archie Rush

Mark Hanna further recalls: "Archie was always keen on practical hobbies for the boys and after his death it was decided to build a stand-alone building to meet this need. Bob Galloway put down the boxing and a large concrete truck came and poured the floor watched by Mike Brock, DTJ and me. We had thought that we would have to screed the concrete by hand but luckily the concreters had an electric powered 'smoother' for the floor. I think that Bob Galloway did the rest of the building."

On Thursday 11th October 1979 the "A.S. Rush Memorial



The Plaque on the A.S. Rush Memorial Hobbies Room

"Hobbies Room" was officially opened. The plaque on the room remains today as a permanent reminder not only to Archie but also to the effort and dedication that went into completing this room. It took over a year to complete, was built with voluntary labour, under the leadership of The St Peter's Association particularly by Mr B Tizard (a builder) and Mr B. Galloway (a teacher). Many of the senior boys worked on the construction, and the whole school stood to benefit from it.

The whole school attended the opening. The Board of Governors was represented by Mr H Allan and Mr John Coles. The St Peter's Association was represented by Ian Thomas. The special guest was Archie's sister, Mrs Austin, who lived in Auckland, who unveiled the plaque and declared the building officially open.

The room never really worked as a hobbies room and as the school expanded became first a classroom and now a junior boys boarding house. Mark Hanna again commented: "I am glad that there is a plaque there to commemorate Archie's humour, story-telling and hospitality."

Guyon Russell Wells OBE

(Staff 1961–1967)

Born 4 December 1931 — Died 15 January 2017

As editor of the Thornton Years News I have just discovered that Guyon passed away on 15 January this year. I received that news with great sadness as Guyon had been a valuable member of St Peter's as the school developed. He joined the staff, just after the departure of the founding headmaster, in 1961. He was employed by Arthur Broadhurst to fill the position of director of music. A roll he excelled at from 1961–1967.



I met Guyon most recently when he attended the Broadhurst Era Reunion with his wife Sonia in April 2015. I did a feature article on Guyon in Issue 2 December 2015 of the Thornton Years News (anyone who has not read it and would like a copy just email, phone or write to me and I can send you a copy). It was from material provided by Guyon for this purpose and tracked his early life from his childhood in Ashburton till he left St Peter's in 1967. He had promised me to conclude his life's story but unfortunately his health prevented that. So I take this opportunity to summarise some of his later achievements that demonstrates his musical genius. This information was supplied by Sonia, his wife of 52 years.

On leaving his role of director of music at St Peter's in 1967 he was appointed to a position at the Hamilton Teachers College. It was at this time he started the Wednesday lunchtime recitals in the college hall, now a popular mid-week fixture at the Gallagher Academy of Performing Arts. That year he was persuaded to take over the Hamilton Civic

Choir as director, a position he held for 27 years, again lifting the singers to nationwide renown.

The choir went from strength to strength. Associate Professor of Music at Waikato University, Martin Lodge, who was one of Guyon's students, notes simply that Guyon lifted the standard "from average to outstanding".

One of Guyon's sons, Peter, also a musician, says his father sought out the new and unusual in programming and this was a source of pride to Guyon for many years and says: "One thinks of the various works commissioned from New Zealand composers; of first New Zealand performances of the Duruflé Requiem; of the Saint Saëns Mass for four voices and two organs in 1988 in the Cathedral in Napier; of his own performances of the St Matthew, and St John Passions; of performances with the NZSO; and that magnificent series of concerts across the North Island of the Bach B Minor Mass with Sir David Willcocks." By the end of Guyon's tenure with the choir, Peter said, "It would be eccentric to deny it was the best choir in the country". During this time he was also director of music at St Peter's Cathedral, Hamilton."

In 1986 Guyon was appointed to the University of Waikato to establish a music programme where he taught one of the first degree papers offered – an introduction to western music history. Again, recalled Sonia, his new position was not an easy one. "He faced a lot of opposition from other universities. People who should have been supportive saw the establishment of music at Waikato as a threat to their own departments."

Guyon was awarded an OBE and in 1990 was awarded the NZ Commemoration Medal. Guyon was also made an Honorary Fellow of the University of Waikato in 1994. A long and illustrious career by a musical genius.

Editor: If anyone wishes to send a message to Guyon's wife Sonia feel free to send it to me and I will pass it on. Email neilmcl@xtra.co.nz or P O Box 331520, Takapuna 0740 NZ



Lynn Brock (Staff 1971–2017)



Janet Worfold & Lynn 1971



Lynn with Mike (Mike's retirement)

Lynn Brock came to St Peter's as Miss Lynn Davies in the roll of assistant matron. Who could have known at the time that she would become a stalwart and long serving member of staff in many rolls and build her life around St Peter's.

The following year, 1972, signalled perhaps one of the most important years in her life. She became assistant bursar but more importantly in May 1972 married Mike Brock. I have tried to trace her various positions and apologise now for what will be many omissions. In 1973 she was the school bursar, in 1974 and 1975 she is listed as an administration assistant.

The following year, in May 1976, she and Mike had the first of their three children, Karen. She was in the same class as my eldest son and they spent seven years at St Peter's in the same classes. Karen was followed in April 1979 by a second daughter Fiona and in August 1984 by their son Craig.

In 1977 and till January 1979 Lynn worked in the school clothing shop. She returned to full duties (now with two

children) as Oliphant Matron from January 1984 to March 1984.

Lynn served as the school receptionist from March 1991 till December 2007 and went back to being a Matron (where her original role was in 1971) this time in Lippincott House from 2008 till she finishes and enjoys a well-earned retirement in April 2017.

Lynn even found the time, and it was a joy to work with her, to help make the three-day Broadhurst Era Reunion in April 2015 such a success. She has already indicated that in retirement she would like to assist and be part of the planned three-day Thornton Years Reunion to be held in April 2018 – so, I am pleased to say, we haven't seen the last of her.

It would be fair to say that the Brock's were a true St Peter's family with all three children attending St Peter's. Lynn and husband Mike (until his untimely death in December 2008) worked as a team. They were a couple who were made for each other and clearly worked so well as a team in the many roles they were both to serve St Peter's in. They also had the time to raise and support their three children who have developed into well-rounded adults and are a credit to Mike and Lynn. St Peter's will forever be grateful for the massive input that this family had on helping to develop and shape St Peter's.

Editor's comment: Lynn will still be available on her school email address lynnb@stpeter's.school.nz till April. If anyone wants to pass on messages to Lynn and family I would be happy to do so.



Some Notes from Mark Hanna

Yes he is still watching and guiding us

Editor's comment: From page 15 (second last) in Issue 4 I featured a photo headed up "School Photo 1972" Mark says

"1972 (!) School photo. This can't be right as I am not in it! However, Guyon Wells is in the photo, and he left at the end of 1967. I arrived in 1968."

Thanks Mark an editor never likes to be incorrect but if that is the case he needs to know. In this case you are right. It is from the 1962 Chronicle and is the 1962 school photo.

In regard to an article on John Caithness (who receives the Newsletter) Mark has added;

Hi Neil:

John Caithness with his wife and very young son came to St Peter's in the third term of 1967. Daughter, Jane, was born in NZ and the family returned to Scotland in 1972 just after the official opening of Broadhurst House. John filmed the occasion but where the film is now I have no idea.

Peter Stewart (Editor –who also is on my mailing list) would be a good one to ask about John's time here. Peter and John were Housemasters in the Junior School for Broadhurst and Oliphant houses respectively.

Peter Stewart has made a film of some aspects of a Urewera expedition and has had it transferred to a CD. Very brief shots of Mike Brock, DJT: and interminable ones of a Toyota Land Cruiser ploughing through streams!

School Movie:

This is a silent film made in 1936: I have seen it twice –once at School and once in the Auckland War Memorial Museum. I think National Archives has a 'restored' copy: and I presume the school retains copyright. (Editor's Comment: Yes Mark the school archives has a copy of this (about 54 minutes) and it is available to view on the Alumni Web page under Memories – along with a short one (about 4 minutes) on the 25th Jubilee Reunion. I will try and track down the other two you mention above either in archives or from some of the people direct. There is a selection of other videos I believe like from the 75th Jubilee in 2011 and the 2015 Broadhurst Era Reunion)

Editor's comment: Hi Mark – always great to hear from you and I often get asked to be remembered to you by many of the old boys from your years that I come in contact with.

Reconnecting Friends

Michael Kenneth Durie (1972–1975)



From School



And three photos of more recent times plucked from the internet

Great to hear from you and thanks for reconnecting me to the St Peter's alumni. Yes, I've relocated back to NZ (in 2015) and settled in Christchurch.

I attended St Peter's from 1972 - 1975 as a member of Oliphant House (House Prefect for a couple of those years, boarder for the first three years and day-boy for my final year and was 1st XV rugby captain in 1975. I left after the 6th form to go to Waikato Uni) and had a great time there and made many life-long friends and good memories of Mr Thornton. He used to encourage me in a lot of ways because coming from a Maori background he was keen for me to succeed and opened a lot of opportunities (scholarship applications etc) for me in ways I didn't really appreciate at the time.

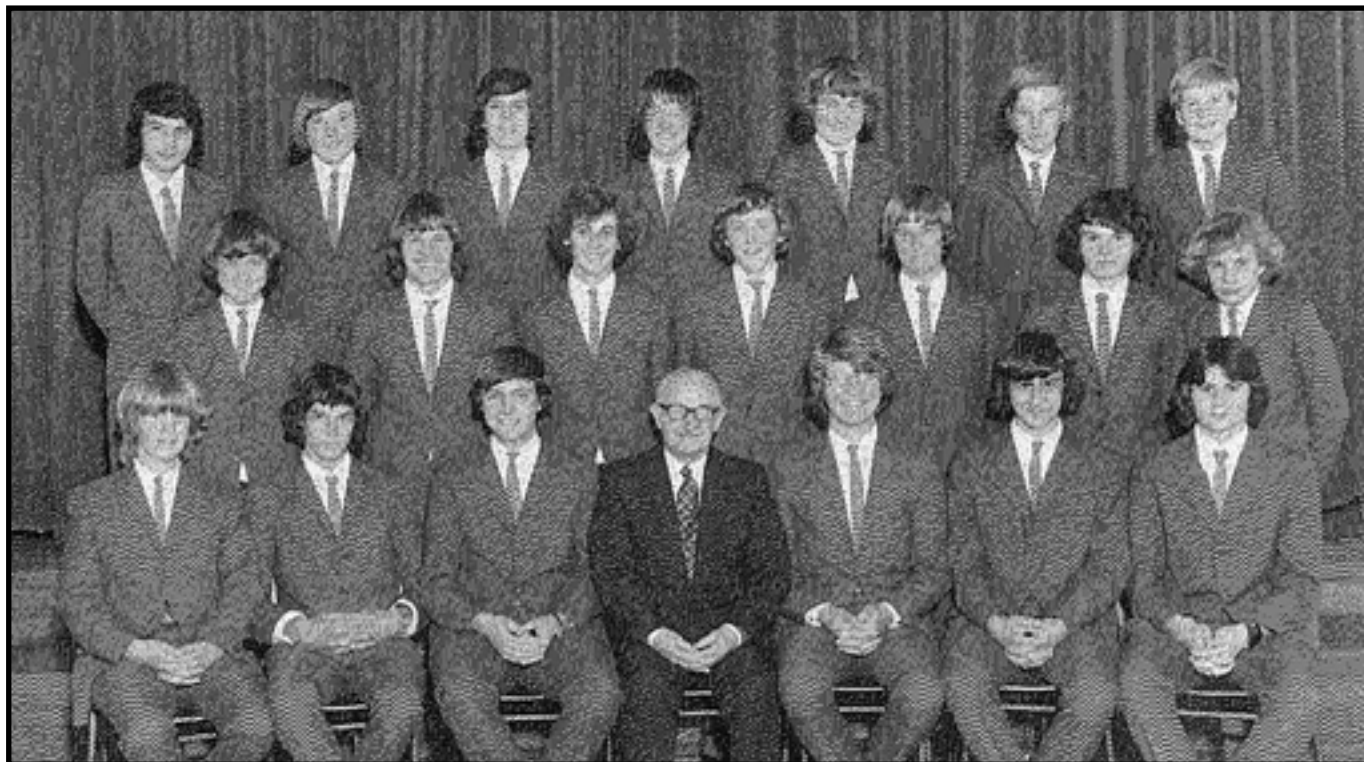
I've also some photos from that era if you'd like me to forward for your files or re-publication? Quite sobering to see some of my former class and house mates who've passed on and I can probably supply you details of some other long-lost students from DJ's era if you like?

I can also write a personal profile for one of your upcoming editions - (I've written a fair bit of editorial content over the years) - and also met a few former students whilst living in Sydney which was quite nice.

I look forward to reading your newsletters with interest and attending some of your alumni get-togethers whenever possible....

Michael Durie Email: duriemk@gmail.com

Editor's comment: *Thanks Michael for the email and some background. Thank you for providing the names on the 1974 Form 5A photo. I look forward to receiving more memories and pictures from you. Also as you can see we have planned a major reunion for the Thornton Years to be held in April 2018 at the school. I hope that will be a chance for you to renew friendships and see the development at the school.*



1974 Form 5A

Back Row (L-R):
Middle Row (L-R):
Front Row (L-R):

Michael Durie, Terrence Jope, Michael Lake, Glen Morgan, Hamish Kennedy, Richard Black, Stephen Ruston, Stephen Hall, Mark Bethleson, Andrew Eyre, Anthony Baynes, Ross Fitzgerald, Ian McClymont, Peter Hayes Robert.Morton, Michael Smit, John Sear, Mr Baigent (English Teacher - Ex Headmaster Of Hamilton Boys High) Christopher Gregory, Herman De Groot, Alan Welch.

Missing Alumni

Below we have listed some more of the old boys we are still looking for (some may be deceased – but we would like to confirm if that is the case). If you can provide any further information or clues, even full Christian names, that would help. Please either email neilmcl@xtra.co.nz, or post to PO Box 331520, Takapuna 0740 NZ. Or phone +64 (0) 21619171.

| | | | | | |
|----------------------------|-------------|-------------------------------|-----------|--------------------------------|-----------|
| Saville Paul Brendon | 1974 - 1976 | Teves K H | 1976 1976 | Ward R H | 1970 1970 |
| Scheib Philip Andrew | 1976 - 1980 | Teves Christopher Noah | 1976 1976 | Ward Robin | 1967 1968 |
| Scott Tony Young | 1975 - 1975 | Teves Kurt Alfred Aluli | 1974 1976 | Wardill Peter | 1978 1978 |
| Scrimshaw Patrick Dallas | 1974 - 1978 | Thatcher Campbell Patrick | 1977 1980 | Warner Derek John | 1973 1974 |
| Seccombe Alfred James | 1978 - 1982 | Thomas A C | 1976 1976 | Waterhouse | 1969 1973 |
| Seifert Richard Laurie | 1968 - 1973 | Thomas Andrew Craig | 1976 1981 | Watkins Andrew Raymond | 1976 1983 |
| Semmens Roger Dean | 1977 - 1977 | Thomas Russell Buchanan | 1972 1972 | Watt Stephen Richard | 1974 1974 |
| Sewell Peter Graham | 1976 - 1979 | Thomson Christopher | 1972 1975 | Watts Clive John | 1972 1975 |
| Sharpe Stuart Gordon | 1972 - 1978 | Thomson David Alexander | 1971 1974 | Welch Richard Graham | 1974 1977 |
| Shaw James | 1961 - 1962 | Tizard Nigel Blakely | 1974 1979 | Wells John Bruce | 1976 1976 |
| Shaw Ross | 1959 - 1963 | Tollemache Ronald | 1958 1962 | White Jonathan Kenneth | 1972 1975 |
| Shaw Simon Thornton | 1974 - 1974 | Tolley Brett | 1978 1981 | Wickham John Andrew | 1975 1977 |
| Sheat H D | 1970 - 1971 | Tomory Nicholas | 1965 1967 | Wild Mark Donald | 1973 1974 |
| Shields G D | 1971 - 1972 | Toms Ashley Gordon | 1972 1975 | Wilkins Robert Ian | 1972 1974 |
| Short Anthony James | 1978 - 1981 | Topham H S | 1962 1965 | Wilkinson Michael David | 1973 1976 |
| Short Robert John Frederic | 1974 1977 | Torok P D | 1959 1961 | Williams Barrie Clifton | 1956 1961 |
| Shrimpton Brian Philip | 1977 1977 | Townend Christopher Churchill | 1976 1983 | Williams David Albert | 1974 1974 |
| Silk C A | 1970 1971 | Townsend David John Arthur | 1971 1973 | Williams Grant Ashley | 1977 1979 |
| Simpson Rod William | 1977 1979 | Treadwell Charles Martin | 1975 1976 | Williams M R | 1968 1969 |
| Slade S I | 1973 1973 | Trebilcock Glen Stafford | 1978 1982 | Williams N G D | 1968 1968 |
| Smillie David Hammond | 1974 1974 | Tredrea Ricky James | 1977 1977 | Wills Hamish | 1959 1963 |
| Smit Michael John | 1972 1974 | Tricklebank Eric Douglas | 1978 1980 | Wilson Andrew David | 1978 1981 |
| Smith A J | 1958 1961 | Trott Andrew Simon Liddell | 1975 1976 | Wilson David Andrew | 1972 1974 |
| Smith D R | 1970 1971 | Trousdale R J | 1963 1964 | Wilson Ian A | 1965 1968 |
| Smith John Russell | 1972 1972 | Truby Edward | 1967 1969 | Wilson M J | 1968 1969 |
| Smith Wayne Kenneth | 1971 1976 | Turner D R | 1971 1971 | Wilson S A | 1968 1968 |
| Snell Everton | 1965 1969 | Turner D J | 1975 1975 | Wilson Thomas Robert | 1973 1976 |
| Steel Grant | 1966 1967 | Turner Anthony Roger | 1971 1971 | Winter Phillip Richard | 1970 1973 |
| Stegen Mark | 1976 1983 | Vallis Matthew Gray | 1976 1976 | Wintler A J C T | 1960 1961 |
| Stein John | 1967 1969 | Verdellen-Knowles Stephen | 1977 1979 | Witters Roderick | 1964 1966 |
| Stephens C G | 1965 1966 | Verhoeven M J | 1973 1975 | Woodd Peter | 1973 1973 |
| Stichbury Simon Douglas | 1972 1974 | Vincent John Howard | 1977 1980 | Woolfield Andrew Gibson | 1968 1969 |
| Stringer Kent | 1966 1967 | Vines Peter | 1972 1973 | Woolfield John Robert | 1965 1965 |
| Stuber Michael Delmar | 1973 1973 | Vosper G D | 1971 1972 | Wootten Russell Owen | 1975 1976 |
| Suridge Nyland Victor | 1972 1976 | Walker G A | 1970 1971 | Wright-St.Claire Anthony Lewis | 1971 |
| Syben Andre David John | 1978 1982 | Wallace Andrew Cameron | 1976 1981 | Yates M B | 1971 1975 |
| Syder J L | 1962 1965 | Wallace James Douglas | 1977 1983 | Yelavich Paul John | 1976 1979 |
| Tait Michael Vernon | 1976 1977 | Walter P J K | 1968 1969 | Young A L | 1973 1973 |
| Talbott David Anthony | 1971 1977 | Walter Simon William Reinhard | 1976 | Young Robert | 1966 1967 |
| Taylor David Leonard | 1978 1980 | 1977 | | Young S L J | 1970 1971 |
| Taylor David Clark | 1977 1977 | Ward Hugh Frederick Jonathan | 1975 | | |
| Telfer Ian Graham | 1976 1981 | 1978 | | | |



'Jolly Hockey sticks' - a photo which shows David Thornton's rapport with the boys.

Deceased Alumni Updated

In July 2015, when we issued the first of our Thornton Years Newsletters, our records showed that we had 23 deceased Alumni for the Thornton Years (1961–1978) and we listed these. I think it is now appropriate to update this list so I enclose an updated list of the 35 that we have now identified as deceased. I am well aware that our records are far from complete for this period, so if anyone is aware of any other deceased students from this period please advise the editor (Neil McLaughlin) with as much detail as possible so we can adjust our records.

| Surname | 1st Name | 2nd Name | Entry | Left | Deceased |
|------------|--------------|--------------|-------|------|------------|
| Anderson | Herbert | Scott | 1969 | 1972 | 1/01/1980 |
| Banfy | Tibor | Francis | 1972 | 1976 | 2/03/1990 |
| Barley | John | Edgar | 1971 | 1975 | 1/02/1981 |
| Bissett | Keith | Ian | 1977 | 1979 | 1/10/2003 |
| Boulton | Paul | Simon | 1970 | 1975 | 5/01/2016 |
| Burt | Antony | David | 1963 | 1965 | 9/07/1970 |
| Cawte | Christopher | Peter | 1976 | 1978 | Unknown |
| Coote | Graham | John | 1972 | 1975 | 1/01/2002 |
| Downey | Ross | Sebastian | 1977 | 1981 | 13/11/1987 |
| Gardner | Peter | Richard | 1959 | 1961 | Unknown |
| Greig | Alister | John | 1956 | 1961 | Unknown |
| Hagen | Grant | Wilson | 1975 | 1977 | 13/10/1981 |
| Harry | Stephen | Mark | 1970 | 1973 | 3/03/2005 |
| Hattaway | Gareth | William | 1968 | 1970 | 20/08/2011 |
| Hilford | Kevin | | 1967 | 1969 | Unknown |
| Joerin | Paul | Jeremy | 1972 | 1974 | 30/10/1991 |
| Keats | Eric | Rex | 1958 | 1962 | 4/06/2014 |
| Lipscombe | Gregory | William | 1970 | 1972 | 30/11/1979 |
| Locke | Logan | Thomas Mills | 1970 | 1973 | 13/04/2014 |
| Lohle | Christopher | St John | 1959 | 1962 | Unknown |
| Mair | Malcolm | | 1959 | 1964 | 13/08/2015 |
| McWhannell | Duncan | Andrew | 1973 | 1975 | 18/09/2001 |
| Meder | Gerhard | Jens | 1973 | 1976 | 1/11/2006 |
| Mellalieu | Timothy | Michael | 1969 | 1971 | 27/07/2015 |
| Otway | Simon | | 1966 | 1968 | 1/10/1979 |
| Paton | M D | | 1973 | 1975 | Unknown |
| Reekie | Kevin | | 1966 | 1967 | Unknown |
| Ruddenklau | B D | | 1973 | 1975 | 1/01/2005 |
| Thomas | Mark | William | 1973 | 1980 | 14/12/2005 |
| Tippins | Phillip | J | 1968 | 1968 | 1/01/2004 |
| Towgood | R R | | 1967 | 1967 | Unknown |
| Tuku'Aho | Prince Sione | Uluvalu | 1960 | 1964 | 5/05/2006 |
| Vincent | Peter | Raymond | 1961 | 1966 | 2/07/2005 |
| Ward | Clayton | | 1969 | 1970 | Unknown |
| Williams | Jeremy | Peter | 1957 | 1962 | 1/06/1985 |

Some Interesting (and concerning) Numbers

I present here a rough summary of some numbers of old boys. These numbers are, as always, approximate as they are a moving target as a rerun reports off available dates.

In July 2015 in the first issue I had identified a possible 1114 who had attended during the Thornton years (this later was revised down to around 1080). Of these, 23 were identified as deceased, we had possible contacts for 425 (this proved to be exaggerated because many contact details, at least 15%, we had listed proved to be incorrect), and 666 with no contact details. So at that point 5.4% of those we had a status for (either contact or deceased) were deceased.

When I reran the reports on 13th February 2017 to work on this newsletter the numbers were 1074 possible who attended, 31 deceased and contacts for 442. So at this point we had 6.6% of those that we had a status for as deceased.

I have been working the records again and as at 9 March 2017 the numbers were 1079 with 35 deceased, 460 with contact details and 582 with no contact details. So at this point we had 7.07% of those we had a status for as deceased.

I continue to work through the list of unfound to identify and provide an address or status. It can be done as in the last couple of weeks I have been working on it and met my first target (reducing the unidentified below 600). My next initial target is to increase those found to over 500 and reduce the unidentified below 500. The numbers move around as I am locating old boys not in the school database and also identifying double ups or ones with wrong years listed. It is like doing a jig-saw puzzle with every little clue adding to my chances of finding the missing ones.

A very sobering thought is the percentage of deceased to contactable ones seems to increase as I identify people. It now sits at 7.07% (up from 5.4% when I started in 2015) so if it remained at that percentage we have potentially around 76 deceased amongst us (against our known 35). But as that % is increasing we might be looking at closer to 100 deceased. Not a good thought but it is one that might encourage you all to consider coming to next years reunion for the Thornton Years Old Boys" as it is unlikely a similar one will be held within the next 10 years.

Thornton Years

1961-1978

Reunion

Friday 20 — Sunday 22 April 2018



*David Thornton departs
– drawing by H F Rive.
(from 1978 Chronicle)*

NOW IS THE TIME FOR HIS PUPILS TO RETURN FOR A REUNION

As requested by many we are organising a reunion to celebrate the **Thornton Years**, a chance for the Alumni to come together and relive some of their experiences that shaped their lives.

We have tried to fit a programme that will be of real interest and will be a focus on the things that were important to you in your time at St Peter's. We will have displays, talks and walks that explore what St Peter's was like and what made it so important to those who were there. Full details will be sent out when we have finalised some details –BUT pencil it in, it will happen then. A chance for some overseas old boys to plan a trip home!

And of course it will be a chance to renew friendships with those who are there (and you may not have met since leaving the school) and to talk about those who are not there for whatever the reason "age waits for no one" - so why not grab the opportunity while it is there and come and help us make the event a success. Forget any perceived problems that you think may prevent you coming, overcome any uncertainty and help us all together celebrate your time at St Peter's and remember the huge influence that David Thornton made to your lives. His effort over his eighteen years as headmaster at St Peter's is what has helped build the school to what it is today

The whole event will be a relaxed affair that will allow you to soak up the memories and the friendships one more time. So why not again walk the corridors and dormitories, eat in the dining room and spend time in the chapel. As well as explore what St Peter's has become today with sporting academies, the NZ Cycling Velodrome on the grounds, golf and equestrian facilities.

As I said in my introduction to this newsletter, **"I think we are now at the stage of life that we can look back and smile at some of the memories we have had in**

our younger years (some good – some not so good). But it is important to realise that these experiences are what have shaped our lives and hopefully we have taken the experiences and used them to better enhance our lives and futures and those dear to us. We should embrace the future and what we have and can achieve."

This reunion will be a chance to do that. This will be the first major reunion for the **Thornton Years**. When we did one for the Broadhurst Era in 2015 we had over 100 old boys and over 40 partners. The total attendance was around 170 (ages ranged from early sixties to mid-nineties), with 74 of those housed in the school dorms. The only regrets we heard later were of those who were unable to attend. We would like to think we can have over 200 in attendance including past staff that we can locate. (We have reserved 134 beds at the school most in single rooms.) We also encourage anyone who wants to bring their partner and show them what they have probably heard so much about over the last 40 years or so.

Thornton Years

1961-1978

Reunion

Friday 20 — Sunday 22 April 2018

Further information

If you want to discuss anything on the reunion or get particulars please contact the

Editor, Neil McLaughlin

Ph: 021 619 171

e-mail: neilmcl@xtra.co.nz

or PO Box 33-1520,

Takapuna 0740,

New Zealand.