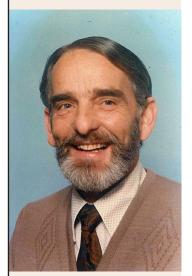


The Thornton Years News



ST PETER'S
CAMBRIDGE
NEW ZEALAND



David Thornton

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Welcome to a new year, with 2018 now upon us. I am sure as we get older the years seem to come around faster. But you have the chance to make this a special year and revisit some of your old memories, catch up with friends and renew some acquaintances that you can keep in contact with

So if you haven't already, stop now and take the time to make a commitment to come to "The Thornton Years Reunion". We want to ensure that all are able to come if possible. If you find that financially you need some help then contact me and we will what we can do.

The interest and registrations are coming in and if it continues then we should have a good muster. Just make sure you are one of them. It will be too late to say later "I wish I had come" as there will probably not be a similar event aimed at the Thornton Years for some time.

It has been an interesting time for me over the last few months as I have re-located a number of "old boys". Most have been receptive to the newsletters and communication. I have a few pieces of news and stories from them also. But as usual, my request is for you to take the time and put pen to paper (or finger to keyboard) and give me some of your memories or a story of your life.

The school has now employed two staff members to help me develop the communications with the Alumni and with organising events. Sharon Roux joined as "Director of Advancement" in November and Sara Young as "Alumni Relations Coordinator" in December. So hopefully there are more communications to come.

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.

Editor: Neil McLaughlin

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Chapel Choir 1961 (from Stephen Lester)
(L–R): Don Saunders, Stephen Lester, Timothy Willis, Thornton Bayliss, SiosaiaTuita, Glenn Willis, James Mair, Stuart Read, J A Denniston, J C Lawrence (S.C.), Gavin Wills (Crucifer), Alister Greig, M J D Anderson, Hamish Wills, Roger Matthews, Shaw Mi, Shaw Ma, Nicholas Broderick, Michael Esling, David Peryer, Peter Gratton, Julian Hughes, Prince Siosaia Tuku'Aho, Ivan Posa.

(Alan) Ross A'Hern (1966-1967)

THOUGHTS AND MEMORIES FROM MYSELF AND MY BROTHER NICK (1966–1967) ON OUR VISIT TO ST PETER'S IN 2015, AND OUR TIME THERE.

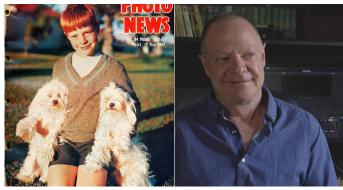


Ross – working on his "Merging Technologies

EARLY THOUGHTS

Nick and I revisited St Peter's in early 2015 and relived old experiences, many of which had dropped from the 'ready recall' parts of our memories and needed the visit to retrigger. The experience was unexpectedly emotional as well as enjoyable, and was valuable in that post-processing of what it turned up, explained, and informed many things for both of us, I think.

Nick and I were enrolled in St Peter's at a time when our parents were separating, in part to give them time to sort out their situations. I mention this as a way of giving some context to our particular experience. Firstly, we would not otherwise have gone to a boarding or even a private school at all, and so we were not like many of the other boys who spent all their school years in similar institutions. For us, our time at St Peter's was a temporary and quite different experience to the rest of our school years. Luckily for us, the experience turned out to be a happy and very instructive one.



Nick A'Hern, August 1967

Nick now

Secondly, like the other school boys at that time, Nick and I were young and impressionable. Nick was 8 and I was 11 when we arrived at the school, and St Peter's gave us a sense of security, family – albeit as I mentioned to you of a surrogate kind – and structure which for us was a much needed replacement for our previous sense of home, which in a formal sense at least was disintegrating, or perhaps being 'restructured' (corporate training 101.). It is curious to realise now that while Nick and I went home on holidays to an ever shifting situation, and returned to the relative stability of school each term, this was probably the reverse of what our fellows experienced. St Peter's was in effect a sanctuary that stabilised our world for a while.

I remember driving down with dad for a preliminary meeting with the then headmaster David Thornton in his office, and being

shown around the school. The formality of the place – fitting out with uniforms, and the regimented routines of assembling for premeal inspections and regular chapel services etc were quite a change to our relatively unregulated existence prior, but given my opening comments, this new and heightened sense of structure was probably something that we were happy to embrace. If there was a sense of homesickness, it was probably more for our loss of home, than a pining for something tangible we could return to. I do remember that homesickness hit the occasional new boy very hard.

St Peter's was established on a traditional and hierarchical English boarding school model, so that even when we arrived, it was beginning to seem somewhat anachronistic. There is something attractive about tradition and a sense of history, but even in our time, any such tendency was firmly and clearly complemented by a sense of tolerance, fair play, mutual respect and progressive thinking, even if as kids we didn't fully understand it, and it seems clear to me now that this was a central part of what we were there to learn.

For whatever reason, my home and surroundings have always been important to me, and so probably the fondest memory I have of St Peter's is that for a little less than two years, it was my home. It gave me a place and a 'family' to which I was allowed to belong, and a sense of being part of something that had a positive direction, and so was worthwhile. It gave me something to identify with. The constant motion of my early childhood taught me independence, how to be content in my own company and productive on my own, but I realised long ago that despite this strong independent streak, I am actually most happy when I feel part of a group of similarly creative and enterprising individuals, collectively aiming to achieve something greater than any one of us could on our own.

SOME MEMORIES

I do have some particular memories from my time there. While it could possibly be argued that the obligation to swim a length of the pool naked each morning in the summer terms, or to run a gauntlet of cold showers in winter as part of the waking up routine was a tad draconian.

Though the food was generally OK, notwithstanding the regular appearance of such culinary delights as Tapioca Pudding (dubbed 'frogs' eggs'), there were occasional moments when our collective fortitude was tested. Porridge was a regular offering at breakfast, by necessity prepared early in large aluminium-sided serving trays and left to cool to appropriate tepid grey slurry before being

circulated, one to each table for serving by the table head. One morning, a column of ants had decided to embark on a dawn march across our particular tray. While taking it back to the kitchen for correction, I was met by a rather long-suffering looking kitchen hand, who after begrudgingly listening to my complaint, solved the problem in an instant by grasping a ladle and vigorously stirring the ants into the mixture until they had completely disappeared. While not quite the solution I was seeking, as a Cancer, I had to admire her lateral and pragmatic response, even if those of us prepared to persist, enjoyed our breakfast with a rather unorthodox ammonia seasoning.

THE MODEL PLANE EXPERIMENT

The hobby workshop was under Junior Classroom block. There was a fad for making petrol engine powered model planes at one stage: balsa wood framed jobs with tissue paper cladding doped to tighten them and painted etc. There was constant building and tweaking activity, and many an afternoon or evening spent firing up the engines held in a vice to enjoy the ether fumes, racket and excitement of imagined flight. Despite such constant industry, very few craft ever made it out of the workshop for the purpose they were intended.

There was one boy however, whose name I can't remember, who one day announced that he intended to do just that, and so we all followed him with great sense of occasion down the hill to the sports field, and stood about offering various words of assistance and encouragement as he prepared his plane for flight, started the engine and as we all stood back, let it go. The plane launched perfectly and we all took a breath of admiration as it lifted into the air, gained a respectable height and set off down the field.

The 'ground pilot's burst of exhilaration quickly gave way to a feeling of sinking apprehension followed by dismay, as the plane beautifully but relentlessly cleared the hedge row at the end of the field, soared on over the adjacent farmland, and ever so slowly disappeared from view. I'm not sure whether the plane was ever seen again, but valuable lessons in planning and project management were no doubt learnt, and the owner's material loss was balanced in part by a red mark bestowed by the Headmaster as special acknowledgment for such a rare and courageous act of achievement, and a new level of respect from his fellow students.

AFTER DEPARTING ST PETER'S

After leaving St Peter's at the end of 1967, Nick and I spent a 'transit term' in Tauranga public schools before joining our mum who had relocated to Sydney. Here we were able to put down roots for the first time, because up until this point we had never really been in any one place for more than a couple of years since leaving England as '10 pound poms' in 1959.

Nick and I moved back to co-ed schools (yay!) and when mum and her partner decided to relocate to Brisbane for a while at the end of 1972 (just as I finished high school, came of voting age and so could participate in the election of the first Whitlam government - which happily also saved many of my age from possible conscription to the Vietnam War Ia tragic and doomed affair for all concernedl and gave us the option of free tertiary education), we decided that the corrupt and radically conservative Bjelke-Petersen regime in Queensland was a bridge too far, and opted to leave our bags unpacked and strike out on our own in Sydney.

CAREER PATH

- · Sound on Safari Pty Ltd. Director, Jul 2010-Present,
- · ABC Classic FM, Sound Engineer, Jun 2010-Nov 2012.
- Sydney Opera House, Head of Sound/AV, Aug 2007–Jun 2010.
- · Sony Music Australia, Studio Manager, 1983–2005.



Nick on return to School 2015

 Education: University of Sydney. Field Of Study: Arts, From: 1973– 1975. Studied for a BA on a teacher's scholarship, but started working in sound during my final year and haven't stopped since

It may be worth mentioning that while I was at university – quite frankly just pursuing an extension of school and the scholarship option presented to me, in the absence of any specific direction – Nick took up playing drums, and when he started working in bands, I returned to a childhood interest in sound (dad had a tape recorder I loved playing with as a kid) and started mixing the PA for them. The bug hit me big time, and as with any true love, everything else went out the window. I have been passionate about sound and especially recording ever since, and it still has the power to make me feel like an excited kid!

I really consider myself to have been amazingly lucky and it remains a wonder to me, and an occasional source of guilt when comparing my life to others', that I have been able to make a living by doing something that is so much fun! Looking back, it is perhaps no surprise that Nick and I ended up doing what we do, as dad was a professional photographer most of his working life, but also spent time managing theatres – first the New Theatre in Oxford before leaving England in the late 50's, and then managing the Prince Edward cinema in Woburn sometime after arriving in New Zealand. This gave me at least (Nick was still a bit young) free access to matinees every Saturday and the discarded movie posters to plaster the bedroom walls with.

I have been married for 26 years and we have a 25 year old daughter, Basia, who presently lives in New York, and who spent much of her school years from age 7 working professionally as an actress on stage, television and film. Nick married an actress, Joanne Samuel who amongst her many roles played Mel Gibson's wife in the original Mad Max, and their children are also involved with playing music and the arts, so I guess there may be something unavoidable in the blood.

Editor's comment: Both Ross and Nick attended St Peter's in 1966 & 1967. Ross at the top end of the school Nick at the bottom. Ross was a prefect in his 1967 year. Won the Latin & General Prize, Played in the Rugby 1st XV and played the rolls of "Starkey" in Peter Pan & "Police Sergeant Field" in Emil the Detective.



FOOD, ACTIVITIES
REFRESHMENTS &
ACCOMMODATION
AVAILABLE



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Thornton Years

Now is the time for his pupils to return.

REUNION

St Peter's welcomes all students and staff from 1961-1978 to a special weekend reunion, celebrating 40 years since the Thornton Era.

Come together to reminisce, renew friendships and experience St Peter's, Cambridge in 2018.

I thought that the above picture and caption really captures the whole idea of the reunion so will continue to use it.

As you would all be aware by now, the reunion for the "Thornton Years 1961 to 1978" is a definite starter. We have put all the bookings in place and are working on bringing you an unforgettable event. The registrations are coming in.

This will be the last newsletter before the reunion takes place so I will use this article as an opportunity to again remind everyone of the event and its format.

As advised this will be an informal event where we can make everyone feel comfortable. Even if you are not a "reunion" type we would hope that you consider making an appearance at some stage. There will be no black tie dinner – all dress is smart casual. We welcome and encourage partners to attend all or any part of the event (after all they have probably heard you talking about it over the many years since you were here). We also welcome any past teachers or staff to join in the events (already some registered including Grace Thornton who I think remembers most of you as I include her in the newsletters and stories).

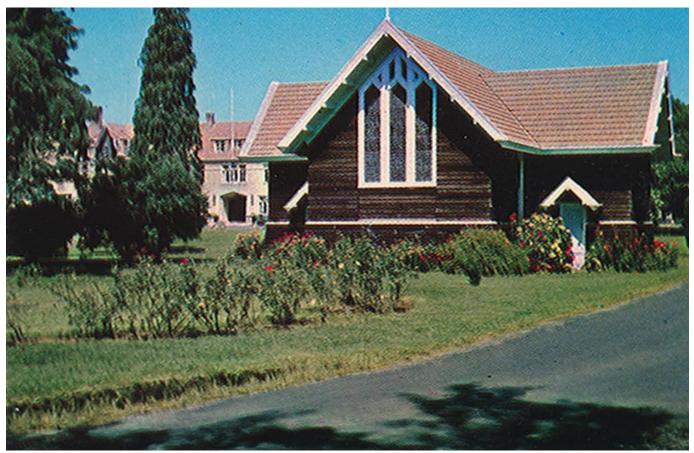
We have accommodation available on site in the "modern" boarding houses – a close walk to all the events. This will be in single rooms and with shared facilities. If you do take up this accommodation you will be able to walk or use our shuttle buses around the school for the various tours and events. Also if you are flying or using public transport we can arrange collection and drop off at airport, bus station etc. if needed – just email details as soon as these are known.

The reunion headquarters will be the new modern Junior School (prep school) building behind the original and still loved and used chapel. We will use the large common room (The Vallentine Room – named after an original 1936 old boy) as our main gathering room. There will be displays and pictures from the past and a raft of interesting material. When attending you (and your partner) are welcome to sit out any event here that you feel you do not want to attend. This will be a room to meet and chat with friends from your past in a relaxed setting. It is also where we will have the gatherings on the Friday and Saturday evenings before dinner.

The dinners will be informal in the original dining room with its matching extension (this will bring back the memories). Hopefully the food is a step up from what you received and by all accounts much enjoyed by present students. No formal addresses – just a few words and welcomes from a mixture of people. The Saturday night dinner is a must. It will be an opportunity to share your memories and stories (and hear from others) as we intend to operate an open mike system (with a bell to avoid rambling).

You will have a chance to look around all areas of the school. We will have organised tours around the original buildings, then around the new modern additions and classroom facilities. We will have a tour of the sporting facilities (the two new swimming pools – one outdoor one indoor – a far cry from your memories), the gymnasium and sports centre, the school academy facilities including cycling, equestrian, golf etc. We are working on the format of a tour and talk on the farm (we now call it "Owl Farm").

Reunion



The Chapel from school Christmas card, 1966/67

But most of all this is a chance to relax, take in the school to see how it has changed, meet up with old friends and to remember. None of us are getting any younger and maybe it is now time to take this opportunity while it is on offer. This is a chance for the old boys and girls to come together and relive some of their experiences that shaped their lives.

We are determined that no one will be left with an excuse not to attend. (Excepting health & prior commitments). If you are unable to attend the whole event then you are welcome to come to whatever part you are able (feel free to discuss this with me if you wish). If you are unable financially to attend, again please contact me and we can work a deal – as the most important thing to us is to make this event accessible to all. If you have mobility or dietary issues, talk to us and we can accommodate you. If you are unable or unsure to make a commitment we will hold places open right up till the start of the event for last minute decisions (but would help for earlier advice).

If you want to discuss anything on the reunion or get particulars please contact the Editor, Neil McLaughlin Ph 021 619 171 email neilmcl@xtra.co.nz or PO Box 33-1520, Takapuna, 0740 New Zealand.



New outdoor pool, 2015 Broadhurst Reunion – note togs now required

Reunion off-site Accommodation

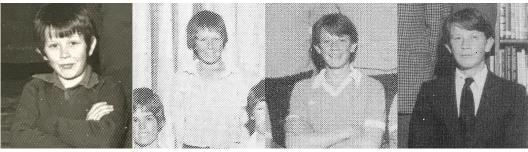
An old boy John Rennie, (1974 to 1979) who lives in the Cambridge area and is coming to the reunion, has asked me to advise that he & his wife run a B&B and would have accommodation available in case you would rather stay off site. This may suit someone who wants to bring their partner to Cambridge but the partner does not want to attend. Or the partner would rather not be accommodated in the dorms.

Below is the website address, feel free to contact John with any questions.

http://www.gullyretreatkarapiro.co.nz/ John Rennie 027 2876211 or 07 827 5646

Charles Kendall Lawson

(prev. Charles Gibbons) 1975-1983



Hi Neil

1976 - Rugby

1979 - Soccer

1983 - 1st X1 Soccer

1983 - 7th Form

I enjoyed *Thornton News - Issue 6.* Please note that I was with Craig Shortt on some of the visits to the costume room above the gym and I went up there quite a bit. I loved the Roman costumes more than anything. I remember exactly how we got up there and how we had to walk from the crawlspace across the ceiling beams to avoid falling through to the gym. There were a few more secrets to the gym building, including the cavities underneath the building and the trapdoors on the stage. Another secret place a small boy could hide was behind the organ in the chapel and the last time I visited the school I could see that you can still get there the way we once did.

One activity I enjoyed the most at St Peter's was playing on the monorail. We would 'borrow' butter from the dining hall and lubricate the rail track to try and make it go faster.

Please note that in the photograph of 2A on the back cover of the last issue (Issue 6) I must correct you. In the front row it is not Terrance Gibbons. In fact I still have that little boy's school blazer from those days. His name was Charles Kendall Gibbons but later took his adopted fathers name to become Charles Kendall Lawson (no.91, Oliphant House). Confusion reigned here and one of the other Lawson boys was blamed for carving 'Lawson' into a chapel pew.

I remember Mr Thornton as a kind and patient man but it is my tumultuous relationship with Brian Fitzgerald throughout my years at St Peter's that make me smile. Putting potatoes in the exhaust pipe of his Datsun Sunny, seeing him collide his small Honda Motorbike into John Crenfeldt in the fog on the rugby fields (he was trying to chase us after discovering us smoking behind the pool sheds) and teaching us the odd dirty trick in the rugby scrum so as to turn it our way.

I wonder if you have any record of the first ever St Peter's Ski Team. The bursar at the time organised it and I was team captain. Willie Seiffert and Guy Pilkington were also on the team. I just saw Guy up the mountain last weekend where he was competing in the RSC Club champs. It was also good to see some current St Peter's boys there as well.

My apologies but some of my schoolboy antics do not make me much of a poster boy for St Peter's. All I can say is that I turned out OK. I went on to do a BA (hons) and BBS and later became a chartered Accountant in Public Practice. I also travelled overseas rock climbing and mountain biking in Europe, Thailand, the USA and Canada. I moved with my wife to London, studied some German language at Kings College and became Head of Finance for the London Office of NasdaqOMX. Three years after the financial crash we had tired of London and came home with our two boys to live on our 10 acre block at Karekare on the West Coast of Auckland. I now run my own small accounting practice, I actively

patrol with the KareKare Surf Club and have once again taken up skiing with my family during winter.

Thanks for the memories.

Charles - email charles.k.lawson@gmail.com

Editor's comment: Hi Charles – I have found the information on the Ski Team – although 1982 is after the Thornton Years I thought it might be of interest to others as was a first for St Peter's. I have your report on the team and the photo. Maybe you could confirm the names and positions so I can ensure they remain recorded. You say the coach was the Bursar – was that J.H Lange? (also if you have contact details for William Sieffert, Guy Pilkington or Robert Dearsley, please let me know as I see no contact details at school.)

SKI-ING, CAPTAIN: C.L. LAWSON

History was made at St Peter's when it entered its first ski team in the North Island Secondary Schools' Ski-ing Competition, held on the Turoa Ski fields, 20-21 September, 1982.

Teams comprise five runners, one of whom must be under 15 years of age. A selection weekend was held in August and team members trained at various resorts during the vacations. A training camp was set down for 18-19 September but atrocious weather precluded the team from availing itself of coaching.

Bad weather prevailed throughout the competition but good steady performances were recorded by four in the giant slalom. Our fastest time was recorded by team captain Charles Lawson, closely followed by William Sieffert, Guy Pilkington and Robert Dearsley - only 3.01 seconds separating the four runners.



Remembering

Maurice Raymond Bennett (1966–1973)

BORN 25 APRIL 1957 - DIED 7 JUNE 2017



Born in Paeroa in the late 1950s, Maurice Bennett spent his youth moving around rural townships with his family.

Maurice attended St Peter's for 8 years, starting in Lower School in 1966 and finishing in Form 5A in 1973. He completed his secondary schooling at Whakatane College. Maurice also had two brothers who attended St Peter's, Adrian (1970–1972) – now deceased and Colin (1968–1974) – see Editor's footnote.

After college, Maurice completed a Certificate in Civil Engineering at Auckland Technical Institute (as it was then known) followed closely by two years' study towards a Bachelor of Architecture at Auckland University.

As a young man, Maurice was absorbed in all forms of art. He travelled widely throughout the USA and Europe, visiting museums and art galleries where his appreciation in both traditional and more offbeat art styles grew.

However, the starving would-be artist arrived back in New Zealand broke and desperate for a job. Previous after-school work as a 'spud-boy', weighing potatoes, gave him what seemed like a great opportunity at the time, with a job at a local supermarket.

Surprisingly, the retail work appealed to him and in a very short time he became Grocery Manager for the Papakura New World. It wasn't long before he and Carolyn his wife, a former checkout operator, decided to purchase their own traditional Kiwi icon – the Four Square Store. Working seven days a week and excessive hours they made the business a success. It soon paid off. Maurice and Carolyn were able to purchase the much larger Island Bay, Wellington New World supermarket.

SO WHAT OF THE ARTIST?

Interested in art from an early age, it was not until the 1980s that Maurice put his passion to work. He had some minor success with a style best described as 'sculptural canvas', taking an exhibition of his work to Tokyo. Further success occurred with an exhibition entitled 'Burning Desire' in which he displayed works of art created from the charred remains of found objects.

Maurice had been constantly developing his own artistic style and had experimented with painting, sculpture, insulation work and then 'toast'. Displays of toast portraits of



the Mona Lisa, New Zealand's Prime Minster, John Key, and rugby great Jonah Lomu created a stir in local and international arenas.

Maurice's endeavours found him using this quirky and untraditional medium to develop pieces that better relate to New Zealand and the Pacific-rim artistic styles. His exhibitions of toast art works that had been inspired by tapa cloth, Maori carvings and pacific patterns have received appreciative reviews from art critics worldwide, with comparisons of the toast colours complimenting such traditional art forms.



Maurice continued to push the barriers in his use of toast as an artistic medium – adding collage to his work, cut shapes from the slices of toast, and creating of three-dimensional images.

In late 2009, Maurice sold the Island Bay New World and became a full-time artist. He could then concentrate on his Toast Art without the sometimes-restricting pressures of a nine-to-five job. He has two daughters and enjoyed being involved in supporting local community initiatives.

His toast work has been featured on numerous TV shows, notably "Ripley's Believe It or Not" in the USA and "Amazing Stories" in Japan, while in New Zealand there have been appearances on "The Holmes Show" and "Campbell Live".

Sadly Maurice, a long time cancer sufferer, passed away on the 7th June 2017 at his Island Bay home, with his wife Carolyn by his side. We pass on our sincere condolences to his family and loved ones.

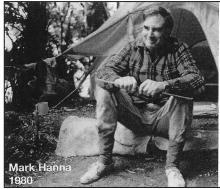
Editor's footnote: Colin (his brother) qualified as a doctor with an MB ChB 1983 Otago. He was at St Peter's from 1968 for 7 years, two years as Head Chorister, chess team, debating team, won the Hancock Memorial Prize for geography and the Pierard Choir Prize are a few of his achievements.



Colin at work

He has practiced for 30 years in Manurewa and now lives in Remuera. If his schedule allows he hopes to attend the Thornton Years Reunion in April 2018.)

Urewera National Park SOME MEMORIES THANKS TO SUNIL KANDRI AND OTHER SOURCES



Mark Hanna

I had never been to the Ureweras before St Peter's. I don't think the Ureweras was even gazetted until about the 1960s.

MARK'S MEMORIES

My aunt had a huge sheep station on the Kaipara Harbour. Every year, since 1936, we went camping there until about 1950. A lot of New Zealand in the 1930's and 1940's was covered in bush and there were gravelled roads.

I came to St Peter's in 1968. I knew David Thornton; he was on the staff roll with me at King's and I was his House Tutor at Christ's for four years, and then he came up to St Peter's, second term 1961. I remember just before Christmas 1967 being in the company of young Richard Worley from Hadlow School. He told us about his school camp somewhere out of Masterton. David Thornton said, "Well, why can't we do something like that here at St Peter's?"

After some initial exploration David heard about the Lions' Hut in the Ureweras. It was a terrible road. I went down with John Caithness and three Form 2 boys and I was quite impressed. Before Christmas 1968 we took SDA, about 15 boys, to our first camp. David Thornton didn't like the idea of boys missing school, so SDB went during the January holidays in 1969.

No electricity, no telephone, we had to chop wood. We took all the boys for tramps to Te Panaa and Te Pourewa huts and stayed at least one night in each. We had a lot of boys from Rotorua & Auckland, but even the farming boys had not been into the huge stand of native bush that is the Ureweras. Some of the boys were almost in tears at the thought of going away: Thornton would persuade all the parents that it was in their best interests. When the boys got back, they wanted to go again. I remember one incident at the Otapukawa hut just after George Wilder had escaped from gaol. One of the kids said, "I think he's outside!" They wouldn't dare go out until first light. The modem emphasis on safety precautions didn't cross our minds. Two boys, I remember, tried to fake appendicitis, one was actually lifted out by helicopter and Peter Parr (head 1979 to 1987) was furious.



(L–R): Robbie Wells, Andrew Pool, Dean Lawson, ??, Sean Sarlsarola (Top), Simon Aubrey, Paul Conlon, Tony Carr, ??, Alastair Meek, Mark Eyre,

Track work emerged because the ranger Peter Fairbrother would visit us, or another ranger called Tim would come and help and the Forest Service came down and gave a lecture on rifle safety (but we didn't fire them). Thomton suggested that WE should do something in return. The Urewera Park Board said that they would appreciate help with the Six Foot Track. Rua had this track built and they used to bring goods from Bell's store in a Model T truck to Tawhana, then use pack horses to Maungapohatu. Each deliverer, I believe, was given a bottle of whisky. 0700 hours

WALLABIES:

Peter Stewart (Bursar)

So, this started the Form 4 camp concept: 4A for one week and 4B for the next week, we got them out while the others were sitting exams.

The purpose of these camps was to work on the tracks in an unspoilt part of New Zealand. The notion of service was important - give something back. It gave the boys at least a vague idea of what their parents and grandparents had to put up with. The boys were well fed; stew almost every night, but a lot of it.

Te Panaa Hut LtR: Robbie Wells, Alastair Meek, Andrew Wallace, ???, Andrew Pool, Mike Brock, ???

We just took a first aid kit, we didn't really think of the safety aspects. I would take 4 or 5 Form 6 boys with me in later years (this was in the days of accrediting), later on a few parents. Quite often there was a ranger with us. We checked in on short wave radio at 7.45am and 5.00pm.

UPPER SCHOOL 1A TO UREWERA AUGUST 1976 DAILY ROUTINE

Duty boys get up, light stove, begin breakfast Rest of boys get up. Tidy beds, sweep out bunkroom Breakfast hours 0800 hours 0900 hours 1300 hours Day's activities begin 1530 hours Luncn Afternoon tea, if at base Showers, and change in to clean clothes 1715 hours 1800 hours 2030 hours 2045 hours

Prayers Bed, lights out, and ALL quiet DAILY DUTY ROSTER Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

SDHA, WPC, RJH
DLL, DAJM, SSPS
ADC, GDH, SK
AWM, ARP, ACW
SLH, KFAB, PMH
CGM, PWN, PAS
MVT, SDHA, WPC
RJH, DLL, DAJM
SSPS, ADC, GDH

0730

Friday Saturday Sunday Monday

KOWHAI 2:

HAIRBARE

GROUPS BPF & RJFS. HALL, Balfour, Hull, McMullan, Nicoll, Scheib, Tait

CME & JPA. AUBREY, Conlon, Hoole, Lawson, Mitchell, Salsarola MEB & JMH. CARR, Hawkins, Kadri, Meek, Pool,

Monday, Tuesday & Wednesday nights. Kowhai 2 to Otapukawa (Monday) Te Pourewa (Tuesday) and Te Panaa (Wednesday) Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday nights. Hairbare Bunch to Otapukawa (Tuesday) Te Pourewa (Wednesday) and Te Panaa (Thursday)

Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. Walabies to Otapukawa (Thursday) Te Pourewa (Friday) and Te Panaa (Saturday)

The roster from the 1976 Camp



Mike Brock (left), Mark Eyre

Nicholas Fawcett Woolfield

(1966 - 1967)

Nick was born in Opotiki, the second oldest of four boys. John, Nick, Andrew and Timothy. The first three of these attended St Peter's at times between 1965 & 1969.

While at St Peter's in 1966 Nick was in Upper School 1A. He won the prestigious "Founder's Medal for English Speaking" with his subject "The Development of Aircraft". He also was 3rd in the Class General prize. He jointly (with Tony Huston, now living in New Plymouth) played the rolls of "John" and "Cecco" in the school play "Peter Pan".

In 1967 Nick was Head Prefect of "Blue House". He was in Senior Division A. He was 1st in the Class General Prize and won The Alan Cox Science Prize and the J. R. Oliphant Prize for Mathematics. He also passed his Grade 1 Piano Exam and played "Man in the Bowler Hat (Grundy)" in "Emil & The Detective".

After leaving St Peter's at the end of 1967 Nick went on to St Paul's Collegiate in Hamilton from 1968 to 1972. From there he went to University of Otago to study medicine from 1973 to 1978 He did his clinical years in Christchurch, graduating with a Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery in 1978 and a Postgraduate Diploma in Child Health in 1982.

Editor: Nick has now written some details on his life story so here it is.



Dear Neil,

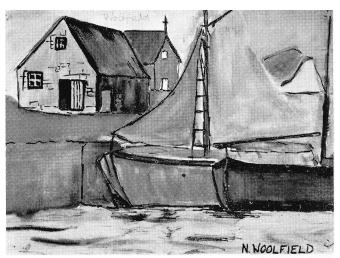
Thanks for the articles - bringing back memories. They came through without problems. I recognize many of the people from my two years there. All the best for the reunion in 2018. I will just be back here by then. We hope to get a longer period off in 2019 to visit relatives in NZ but that is a little way off at this stage. I remember David as a man who inspired. I did not have him for

teaching much but remember that he was encouraging and was able to inspire from what he saw.

We have been in Central Asia now for nearly 5 years. My wife Fay and I met at Medical School and had an idea of doing this sort of work and nearly went to SE Asia in the late 80's but then that did not work out so we stayed and worked in Hawke's Bay 1989 to 1992. We then went to Melbourne then to Caboolture in South East Queensland where I was director of Paediatrics for most of the time there till I left in 2012 for Kyrgyzstan. We by then had educated most of our four children (the youngest Anne was still at UNI and has just graduated MBBS with first Class hours at University of Queensland).

Kyrgyzstan is the most easterly of the 'Stan' countries and borders China, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan. It is a poor country that was under the Soviets for a long time but has been an independent republic for more than 20 years. It is poor and rural and about 70% of the country is mountains, with four peaks that are over 7000m high.

We are working under an NGO, as you need to in order to get a work permit and visa. Although most of the time here has been spent learning Russian, the language of health and business, it seems that my role within health here will evolve to be a mixture of



N. Woolfield

By Nick from 1967 Chronicle

"Little Harbour"

training, (neonatal and other paediatric training) clinical work and consultant work to other professionals.

However I can say that the work here has evolved well beyond expectations and mostly consists of four areas of work in the area of disability. I do clinical consultation work, train local people in how to assess and manage children with disability, am doing some research which is collecting and analysing local data on disabled children, and am involved in writing national policy documents. Much of this work has evolved with the development of key relationships with some key people and working with UNICEF has been and remains a valuable relationship.

It is hard to explain how different it is here. Average wages in the town we live in are around \$125US per month. Health care has a cost but generally the skill level is low so many people get poor advice and poor treatments, but this is the best they can do. It is more than 26 years since the Soviets left and it is said that 90% of the economy left with them so over the last 26 years things have gradually improved but there remains many issues. I think with the strategies we have put in place we can realistically hope to see the numbers of disabled children reduce by around 30 % over coming years.

It is so different; took me part of two days just to pay around \$20 tax and get all the paper work sorted. I fix most things around the





house - good that I learnt these on the farm back home - and I replaced the hot water cylinder in the kitchen plumbing and electricals by myself recently. In one week I seemed to be just fixing stuff left right and centre.

We are in snow now and had a great day skiing yesterday at the local field about 10 km away. Costs about \$25 for all day ski pass and it is very pretty set up in the Tien Shan Mountains. We look north from there across the eastern end of Lake Issyk Kyl (168 by 68km - makes Lake Taupo look small) and to the mountains in Kazakhstan.

We speak Russian which is not so easy but I have a translator for all my work as we have to go between Kyrgyz, Russian and English. We enjoy great produce here with apricots and cherries early in summer, then some more stone fruit and then apples and pears later. There are lots of nut trees as well mostly walnuts. The history of this area is fascinating and we are learning more all the time. Much is very sad but it has shaped life and the people.

This last week I was awarded a certificate of honour from the Minister of Labour and Social Development for my work here. My translator says this is very significant as few are given out, and earlier this year the local governor gave me a certificate of honour as well and the Minister of Health awarded me a medal of honour. While it is good to receive these, it indicates their engagement in the process of change and improvement of services, and that they appreciate my part in this. Work is good but challenging and probably the biggest challenge is contextualizing good western medicine into a system that is resource limited to get as much bang for the few bucks that are there.



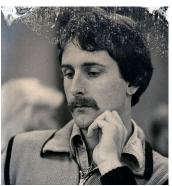
Nick at work in Kyrgyzstan

I have now visited most parts of the country - it is not huge but around 70 % is covered by mountains and I think around 90% of the country is above 2500 m or more. We live at 1800 m. We have sun almost every day and winter snows provide much of the water for summer crops. It is a democratic country and of the Central Asian nations the most open, and it is very beautiful. It is a dry climate and you get used to it but Dec and Jan have few days above 0. Our coldest day here had a maximum of -15.

The main issue with being here is distance - it is 13000 km to Australia or longer depending which way you go. Next time we will go through Istanbul to Brisbane. But Skype and electronic media communication makes is easy to keep in touch with our family. All of our four children are now living in Queensland. This is our fifth winter here and we have had family visit at this time for each of the last four years.

Stephen Lester

(1961-1962)







I think it was the second term of 1961 – the May school holidays, in those days, that I started at St Peter's, at the urging of my uncle, Dr C P McMeekan, then the director of Ruakura Agricultural Research Station, and a member of the St Peter's Board of Trustees. He persuaded my parents to give me up to a classical education at an elite boarding school. I had a suitcase full of the grey uniform items, all lovingly marked by my mother, and the turquoise cap emblazoned with the familiar school crest, of which I was very proud. I had just turned 10.

I was assigned a pater – scarcely older than me – and shown most of the ropes on the first couple of days. One of the strictest rules I had to remember was to hang my clothes on the assigned peg for 86, my ID number, before entering the morning shower. This I failed abjectly many days, and I was soon to learn that a sharp rebuke from the cane in Mr Thornton's office was the result of such carelessness. That soon cured me of that particular habit, but it did not scar me for life!

My days at St Peter's were halcyon ones – I adored chapel, and the routines of matins and evensong, soon becoming an apprentice

chorister – my surplice was not earned until my second year at St Peter's. Mr Wells was an unorthodox teacher, but nonetheless fully inspiring. I was soon writing cantatas and canons, and found that I had perfect pitch at one of the sessions la-la-la ing with the other choir members. I learned to write in italics with a fountain pen, and acquired beautiful handwriting. My letters home, lovingly retained by my mother, showcase this script, along with perfectly grammatical prose, if somewhat formal.

In the second year, I graduated from Orange Dormitory to Crows Nest dormitory, a real status boost. I loved the room, perched in the rafters, and I adored the red and cream checked blankets. I don't remember many of the staff – Miss Swears, Nurse Needham, Matron, Mr Thornton, Mr Wells and Mr Bevan are all I retain now some 55 years later. But I do remember some of the great outings we had – climbing a nearby mountain (probably just a hill), swimming at the Narrows, carols at Hamilton Cathedral, walking into Cambridge to go to the library, planting a tree in the driveway on Arbor Day, films in the gymnasium (I think we watched "The Guns of Navarone" countless times) amongst other activities. I also remember playing conkers with the plentiful chestnuts off the









Morning prayers in Chapel

school trees. My favourite memory, however, is being able to play the chapel organ – I was obsessed with the bass pedals, and spent many hours under the tutelage of Mr Wells at the organ.

I have attached the photo of the 1962 choir - I am the fifth chorister on the right hand side as you look at the picture - trying to get my face in the shot! Also, the photo of me playing on my beloved organ.

I dug out my old photograph album, with the prints (I think) Mr Bevan helped me develop, in 1962. I seem to remember that there was a darkroom, maybe in his house, but it was a magical experience watching the photos I had taken transform into crisp prints in front of my eyes. Sadly, I never got the chance to do that again!

The school fostered in me a love of music, the 'proper' way to write and talk, and good manners. I went on to become a primary school teacher, majoring in music, and later the editor of the national bridge magazine in Australia, based out of Sydney. I now direct and teach bridge in Melbourne and live in Geelong, an hour's drive south west of Melbourne. I have had health issues for the past three years, being on dialysis for two years until a kidney transplant in June this year, with my prognosis now very positive.

I am seriously thinking of coming to the reunion in April - will there be some 65+ pupils in attendance? I am 66. I remember Thanangadan very well, also Tuita, Shaw Major, Shaw Minor and Shaw (either Maximus or Minimus, I can't recall), as well as Tipler, Spitzer and no doubt other names will come to me. I was #86, later made a famous number by Agents 86 and 99 in Get Smart!

Stephen Lester email sleksix@gmail.com



Editor's comment: Stephen arrived at the start of the second term in 1961 and was in Middle School 1, and Upper School 1 in 1962. In his first year he was awarded the "R R Gibson Junior Essay Prize". Won "General Prizes" in English, History, Arithmetic, Arts and Crafts as well as the Industry in Class Prize. In 1962 he won "General Prizes" in English, Latin, French, Music and also Special Music. He received "Mentions" in English, French, Social Studies, Music, Choir, Piano and Gym. He also won (jointly with Stuart Read) the Points Medal in the Chapel Choir.

After St Peter's Stephen went to Avondale College and Auckland University. He started his career as a teacher and taught in Auckland and now lives in Victoria, Australia.

Alumni

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 am continuing to identify deceased as I make more contact with old boys. In Issue 5 (March 2016) this had increased to 35. Now as I prepare to go to print that has risen to 42. I enclose an updated list of the 42 that we have now identified as deceased. (A sobering

thought and maybe a further reason to make the effort to attend the Reunion in April?) 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

Name	Entry-Left	Deceased	Name	Entry-Left	Deceased
Anderson Herbert Scott	1969-1972	01-01-80	Lipscombe Gregory William	1970-1972	30-11-79
Banfy Tibor Francis	1972-1976	02-03-90	Locke Logan Thomas Mills	1970-1973	13-04-14
Barley John Edgar	1971-1975	01-02-81	Lohle Christopher St John	1959-1962	
Bennett Adrian Robert	1970-1972		Mair Malcolm	1959-1964	13-08-15
Bennett Maurice Raymond	1967-1973	07-06-17	McWhannell Duncan Andrew	1973-1975	18-09-01
Bissett Keith lan	1977-1979	01-10-03	Mecredy Richard John	1961-1962	12-10-11
Bosher Kevin Hardd	1973-1975	28-10-09	Meder Gerhard Jens	1973-1976	01-11-06
Boulton Paul Simon	1970-1975	05-01-16	Mellalieu Timothy Michael	1969-1971	27-07-15
Burt Antony David	1963-1965	09-07-70	Otway Simon	1966-1968	01-10-79
Cawte Christopher Peter	1976-1978		Paton	1973-1975	
Coop Noel William Palin	1973-1976	04-10-16	Reekie Kevin	1966-1967	
Coote Graham John	1972-1975	01-01-02	Ruddenklau	1973-1975	01-01-05
Downey Ross Sebastian	1977-1981	13-11-87	Thomas Mark William Liews	1973-1980	14-12-05
Gardner Peter Richard	1959-1961		Tippins Phillip J	1968-1968	01-01-04
Greig Alister John	1956-1961		Towgood	1967-1967	
Hagen Grant Wilson	1975-1977	13-10-81	Trousdale Richard John	1963-1964	27-04-15
Harry Stephen Mark	1970-1973	03-03-05	Tuku'Aho Prince Sione Uluvalu	1960-1964	05-05-06
Hattaway Gareth William Hattaway	1968-1970	20-08-11	Vincent Peter Raymond	1961–1966	02-07-05
Hilford Kevin	1967-1969		Ward Clayton	1969-1970	
Joerin Paul Jeremy	1972-1974	30-10-91	Williams Jeremy Peter	1957-1962	01-06-85
Keats Eric Rex	1958-1962	04-06-14	Witters Roderick Thomas	1964-1966	29-05-95

Wayne Thompson (1974)

Hi Neil,

I'll tell you a funny story involving Mr Thornton the year I was at St Peter's as a student.

Not sure if it is still there, but back then there was a small room inside and just to the left at the main entrance of the main building. There was a Seismograph mounted in the wall beside the door leading into that room and facing out so people could see it in action as they walked past.

So the trick was to give the wall a kick to make the needle record a tremor.

Well one Sunday when heading back to Oliphant House after lunch, myself and one of the other lads decided to give it a go. Anyway, we lined up and gave it a good 6.5 magnitude kick when all of a sudden the door shoots open and there is standing a very displeased looking Mr Thornton.

Little did we know he just happened to be on the other side standing on a chair putting a picture up on the wall above the seismograph. I think he got such a fright he nearly fell off the chair. He must have had a chuckle after when he saw the look on our faces when that door opened.

Anyway we spent the rest of our precious Sunday picking up acorns or chestnuts or whatever those were that fell off the trees out the front in the millions.

Cheers

Wayne Thompson | Dry Mill Scheduler/Coordinator Tronox Management Pty Ltd | Chandala, Western Australia Email wayne.thompson@tronox.com

Editor's comment: Thanks Wayne – always great to get stories like this. It helps to show the fun side of being at St Peter's. As they say "boys will be boys" and stories like this help to keep it all in perspective.

Missing Alumni
With the reunion planned for April 2018 it is imperative that we locate old boys to give them an opportunity to attend. I have taken the liberty of listing below some of the missing and if anyone has any clues please pass on to me so I can track them down. Please either email neilmcl@xtra.co.nz , or post to PO Box 331520, Takapuna 0740 NZ. Or ph +64 (0) 21 619 171

Fair James	1964-1967	Harding P.J.	1962-1964	Johnson Cedric Charles	1065 1060
Fair Stephen Terence	1964-1967	Harding Glenn Adrian		Johnson D M	1965–1969 1966–1966
·		Hardwick Garry Lawrence	1972-1977	Johnson Dean Malcolm	
Fanning D J	1968-1968	· ·	1976-1976	Johnson P S	1975-1975
Farquhar James William	1964-1969 1975-1975	Hardy R.J. Harford Christopher M. J.	1968–1970 1963–1966	Johnson S K	1969-1970
Figgins Ra		'			1969-1970
Findlay I.D	1961-1964	Harman Anthony John	1963-1966	Johnston Brian Sidney	1975-1975
Findlay Duncan Graham	1966-1968	Harris S.G.	1973-1975	Johnston R J	1968-1975
Fitches Ross Harold	1976-1976	Harrison B. C.	1964-1964	Johnston Robert	1968-1975
Fitzgerald Ross	1971-1975	Harrison Stephen Paul	1972-1974	Jones Clayton Arnold David	1976-1976
Forbes Scott Robbie Kirk	1976-1982	Hart Kerry	1965-1966	Jones Daryl David	1976-1976
Ford Christopher William	1975-1976	Harvey Neil	1966-1967	Jones Stephen Andrew	1976-1976
Foreman Timothy M	1968-1968	Hattaway H.B.	1967-1969	Jope Terence Fletcher	1969-1974
Francis David Martin	1972-1972	Hawkes Christopher Vladimir	1974-1974	Julian M.A	1975-1975
Fraser B.S.	1962-1963	Hawkins Gareth David	1974-1977	Julius Jonathan Norman	1972-1979
Fraser Bernard James	1975-1975	Hayes Peter John	1977-1977	Kalo Bruce Kevin	1977-1979
Fraser lan	1962-1965	Hays D.R.	1967-1975	Kasper Glenn Kevin	1978-1982
Fraser John Christoper	1964-1967	Hellyer Roger Adrian	1973-1976	Keaney Allan Michael	1975-1977
Fullerton-Smith Piers Ronald Surtees	1976-1976	Henshaw J.B.	1968-1972	Keate Jonathan Renyard Edward	1978–1978
Fynn Russell Clinton Daniel	1074 1070	Hewson Peter	1964-1964	Kelly Susan Kim	1077 1077
Galey Karl David	1974-1979 1978-1981	Hill George Arthur	1965-1968	Kennedy Mark	1977-1977
Gallie Andrew Mark	1974-1974	Hitch Matthew Graeme	1976-1978	Kidd Darren Michael	1969-1973 1976-1977
Gardner Michael John		Hodge D.A.	1962-1964	King Allen Patrick	
Gaylor Kenneth Scott	1971–1973 1972–1979	Hodge Anthony St J	1962-1964	King Brian Alan	1971-1977
Geddes Shane John		Hodge Martin William David	1971-1977	King C B	1976-1977
Gibb Simon John McLean	1976-1976 1972-1973	Hodge Michael Keith	1974-1976	King Neal Barrie	1977-1979 1968-1969
Gibbons Glenn Michael	1972-1973	Hodgson Peter D	1963-1965	Kinzett Anthony William	
Gibbons Mark Brendon	1978-1979	Hogarth M.R.	1966-1966	Kirkpatrick Sean	1973-1974
Gibbons Roderick John Eady	1969-1971	Hogarth Stanley Mark	1975-1975	Knightbridge Duncan	1965-1967
Gibbons Terence Shane	1975-1981	Hogg Craig Samuel	1976-1977	Knowles M.M.	1971–1971 1962–1962
gibbs Timothy Peter	1975-1981	Hogg Roger James	1977-1979	Knowles John	1962-1962
Gilberd Peter David	1964-1965	Holliday David	1965-1966	Konings John	1970-1972
Gillies Ian Carl	1970-1978	Holthouse James Richmond	1975-1976	Kramer-Walter Grant	1963-1965
Gilpin-Brown R.J.	1965-1966	Honeywood Gregory Arthur Hood Cameron	1978–1978 1966–1967	Laird C.M.	1975-1975
Gimblett Paul Allen	1977-1977	Hooper Jon Robert	1978-1983	Lamb Alexander James	1974-1976
Goodman David Stanley	1977-1977	Hooper Jon Robert Hopkins Andrew John	1978-1983	Lamb R A	1962-1963
Goss P.R.	1975 1951	Hubbard Andrew Brian Hector	1976-1976	Larsen Stephen Leslie Mark	1973-1973
Goudie Christopher Robert	1978-1978		19/0-19/0	Lawrence Bryan Noel	1973-1973
Gough Noel K	1965-1966	Hughes C J		Lawrence Peter Donald	1964-1968
Gourley David Keith	1971-1971	Hurst lan Joseph Hutchins John	1965-1969	Lawson Christopher John	1974-1979
Gower Hamish Wright	1978-1980	Hutton Brian Colin	1975-1975	Le Prou Ray k.	1961–1966
Graham C J	1965-1966		1966-1968	Lee Robert John	1978-1981
Graham John Edward Michael	1976-1977	Ingleby David Griffith Clement Ingles Michael John Hinton	1965-1967	Leighton Dean Vernon	1963-1967
Graham M D	1962-1965	Ingles Michael John Hinton Innes-Smith Roderick Neil	1968-1972	Leonard R.G.	1968-1969
Grant P J	1959-1961	Jackson Christopher Charles	1974-1977	Leslie R.J.	1973-1973
Grattan Peter	1960-1962	Jackson D W	1972-1972	Leslie Timothy	1966-1967
		Jackson D W Jackson R B	1971-1974	Leung Gabriel Dominic	1973-1973
Gray Denis Howard	1964-1969	Jackson R B Jagot Philip Roger	1971-1975	Lines Craig	1973-1973
Greenslade Marcus Melvin	1972-1974		1974-1974	List Anthony Richard Brian	1976-1977
Greenway I.P.C.	1969-1971	James David	1973-1974	Loughnan Robert	1967–1969
Griffiths Ewen Thomas	1968-1974	Jameson M.W.	1969-1969	Lynds G.S.	1907-1909
Groom P.B.	1970-1971	Jameson P.C.	1969-1970	Lyrias a.s.	19/1-19/1
Groosman Andre Jon	1971–1971	Jardine David L.	1967-1969		
Hacker Alan John	1978-1978	Jennings Lance	1971-1975		
Hair John	1974-1975	Jervis Peter Douglas Johansen Peter Dennis	1966-1968		
Hall Stephen	1971-1975		1976-1976		
Hamblett Andrew Joseph	1967–1967	Johns Toby Stephen	1973-1973		

Artworks from the Chronicles

I HAVE REPRODUCED HERE FOR YOU SOME ARTWORK THAT APPEARED IN CHRONICLES DURING THE THORNTON YEARS (THOSE WITH "BGAP" WERE WINNERS OF THE "BARNS-GRAHAM ART PRIZE"



1966 - Andrew Haworth



1961 - Roger Matthews, (BGAP)



tream — Ross A'Herr



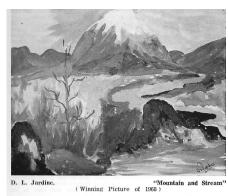
1970 - Maurice Bennett, (BGAP, also see article)



1974 - Richard Welch, (BGAP)



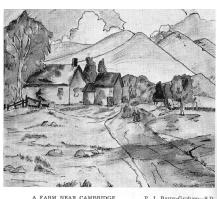
1969 - David Jardine, (BGAP)



1968 - David Jardine, (BGAP)



1965 - Kevin Murfitt, (BGAP)



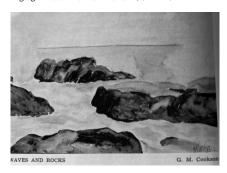
1963 - Peter Barns-Graham, (BGAP)



1962 - Roger Matthews, (BGAP)



"Bay of Islands" (oils) —M. A. R. Kennedy, 13 years.
1971 - Mark Kennedy, (BGAP)



1964 Graeme Cookson, (BGAP)