

# THE BULLETIN

WHANGANUI COLLEGIATE SCHOOL • ISSUE

82



Big School Society Reunion

MAY 2023



# The Bulletin #82

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## Call for Email Addresses

There are many Old Boys and Girls for whom we do not have a current email address.

Please encourage your Old Boy and Girl family and friends to let us know their current email address - much of our various activities and news from the School is communicated by email so it would be great to gather as many of our Alumni email addresses as possible:

send to [gillian.lennox@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:gillian.lennox@collegiate.school.nz)  
or go to the **Collegiate Connect** website:  
[www.collegiateconnect.co.nz/account-signup/](http://www.collegiateconnect.co.nz/account-signup/)

## SCHOOL NEWS

### From the Headmaster



It is always a pleasure to write to our community. We have had an excellent Term 1 filled with opportunity and success and we look forward to a rich and rewarding Term 2.

We at Whanganui Collegiate School are leading that charge across New Zealand and across the globe with our networks to be of great influence. That is something to be proud of – and the future years look bright. Now is the time for our School to be not only the leader in the educational landscape, but to be the very best. As a global member of Round Square, I attended the Round Square Headmasters' symposium in January. Some 160 Heads from around the world gathered in London. WCS has joined a world class organisation with Round Square, which sees Whanganui Collegiate School, along with Christ's College and King's College to be the third school in New Zealand to join a network of 200+ schools around the world in the pursuit of developing outstanding global citizens who will have a positive impact on this world. At this conference it was evident, that we are not only participating, but we are also leading character education. Yes, our academics are strong, the best academic results in 5-6 years, and many points ahead of Decile 8-10 schools across the country for both genders, yet - **The education of the whole child is the whole point.**

I have often said to our students that Empson's mottos are as relevant today as they were 100 years ago.

1. Don't squeal.
2. Sweat and be saved.
3. Strength of character is all important
4. Do the thing that you ought to do at the time when it ought to be done whether you like it or not.
5. Selfishness is the root of all evil
6. Do the hardest thing first.
7. Duty is the one thing worth living for

It is the respect for and values of the School, its purpose to develop global citizens who will make a difference. From the students I have recently interviewed to you that read this article, I say 'there is more in you than you know'. You come as children of promise, and you leave as young adults of character – it's a life journey and you need to act on that promise.



- P Perseverance
- R Responsibility for your actions
- O Optimism
- M Motivated by identity – no greater identity than WCS
- I Integrity
- S Service
- E Engagement

To that end, as an educational leader - we have engaged in a strategy that will develop our School, its buildings and our programmes for future generations.

At WCS we are committed to striving for excellence, to move from good to great through the following key principles:

1. **Develop Clear Goals and Direction – heading in the same direction.** Getting a clear sense of the future articulated is one of the most important aspects for schools. At WCS we are very clear in what we are wanting to achieve – to be the first-choice co-educational boarding and day school in New Zealand. Being clear about strategic direction will determine our effectiveness in all other areas.
2. **Creating a Sense of Shared Ownership, Connection, and Belonging – we are in this together.** Bringing all aspects of identity to WCS is vital – this is where we all contribute. I am passionate about this area of identity for us.. When everyone contributes, real synergy is possible. The voice of students, staff, parents, alumni and our wider community creates real difference.
3. **Build Enthusiasm for Innovating – challenging the boundaries.** We know that the educational landscape is changing. Yet we need to challenge government policy makers as whilst school systems might change, we need to ensure that at WCS we provide opportunities for our children to flourish – to provide them with a platform to be future leaders. Innovation through programmes like Round Square create these opportunities.
4. **Investing in Collaborative Relationships - Building strong connections between people.** Our pillar of Life-long friendships resonates here, yet it is more than that. It is identifying that relationships are based on open communication, mutual respect, trust and genuine collaboration. When this is present, we are committed to the cause. At WCS, we are continually building these connections between people so that it enhances our purpose and direction.

5. **Making the Most of Team Thinking - Leveraging off the knowledge and experience.** The old saying 'None of us is as smart as all of us.' At WCS we are focussing on team thinking. When team thinking sessions are facilitated well, great ideas come forth, great decisions get made, problems get solved, effective planning takes place and most importantly, people leave feeling stimulated and energised knowing that real thinking synergy has taken place.

6. **Promoting Real Conversations - Discussion around ways to move things forward.** Importantly we are building a culture that welcomes opposing views, and for us to find ways and draw new pathways through differences. Skilfully encouraging and managing the 'real' conversations is important because it enables better quality ideas to emerge and better-quality decisions to be made. It provides us to be solution focussed. At WCS we welcome such conversation – as by doing so promotes all other principles well to ensure that as a school and a leading educational organisation – we lead the future.

7. **Creating a Climate of Responsibility - of our actions and keeping each other accountable.** Taking responsibility for our actions is vital – it is a culture that can be embedded throughout the School, and an excellent learning platform for our students. From the classroom to the sport fields, drama studios, music performances, debating, and our Houses - as I have said before – 'the standard you walk past is the standard you accept.' If we have high standards and have the necessary character to execute them – excellence can and will be achieved.

There is a great deal to acknowledge and to be thankful for our success. Whanganui Collegiate School is in a very good position, not just locally and nationally, yet internationally as well. A global school, placing challenge and aspiration to our students, staff, parents and wider community. As Jim Collins, the well-known author of Good to Great states, 'Greatness is not a function of circumstance. Greatness, it turns out, is largely a matter of conscious choice.' At Whanganui Collegiate School, with these embedded principles, we choose to be on a pathway to greatness.

*Mr Wayne Brown*  
HEADMASTER



# College and School Boards Report

On behalf of both Boards, a warm welcome to our Whanganui Collegiate School community. Again, we write with the School in great heart. The Headmaster, and our committed staff, continue to lead the School well and as trustees, we are delighted with our students' achievements across all areas: academic, sporting, and co-curricular, and most importantly the development of them as young people of character. As we know a WCS education is about the whole person – it is the cornerstone for excellence and a firm foundation for their future.

Importantly, as respective Chairs, we continue to work closely with our Two Board – One School approach, strategically, and operationally. We have set our 2023 strategic priorities as a school: - *Our full Strategic Plan and Charter is available on our website.*

- Articulate our purpose and direction as a Special Character and Global Round Square School, and to be the first-choice co-educational boarding and day school in New Zealand.
- Academic achievement for all students with a focus on sustaining the academic effort, engagement, and achievement of boys, sustaining the achievement of girls and focussing on Māori and Pacific Island students who can develop and fulfil their educational aspirations.
- Create and articulate a pathway of personal achievement at WCS, now aligned with the pastoral care offering through our House System and with Heads of Year to enhance each child's wellbeing.
- Whanganui Collegiate School evaluates and develops a high performing learning environment that fosters a positive, innovative, and collaborative workplace that attracts, develops and supports staff, with a focus on staff wellbeing.
- Evaluation of sports and co-curricular opportunities that are relevant and current to the context of our students and history as a leading co-educational boarding and day school.
- Enhanced Philanthropic development – in creating a culture of giving through our Capital Generation Strategy.
- Establishing measurable objectives and targets to ensure continued improvement in Work Health and Safety.

Specifically, an area of focus will be our Capital Generation Strategy to:

- secure and retain funders for priority capital projects.
- achieve a co-ordinated approach to fundraising, and
- embed a sustained culture of giving.

The strategy outlines how to activate funding opportunities across four key funding streams; Central Government/Lottery Grants, donors, sponsors and trusts. This Strategy has been developed via a collaborative process with members of the Capital Generation Strategy Steering Group. It is specific, targeted, and robust. We are excited about the next steps this strategy and implementation will take. Our strategy is to develop our buildings and programmes for future generations. Our new buildings are a wonderful example of honouring the past in order to provide for the future. Modern facilities improve not only the School's physical environment but also its learning culture. **Now is the time** to ensure the School thrives at the same high levels for generations to come and if you are not already, we invite you to become a donor and valued benefactor of our great School.

Our Boards are only as good as those who contribute to them, in service of the School and its community. Trustees volunteer countless hours of time, along with their expertise in many areas. After many significant years of service, acknowledgement must be made in the Bulletin of the departure of two of our longest standing College Board Trustees who have left an indelible mark on our School that will endure long after their tenure.

**Charles Bolt** is departing after serving since 2015. He has been instrumental to the School's ongoing development, particularly within the property and legal spaces. The Campus Plan is just one example of his betterment of WCS – for through it, buildings, property and campus development have a guiding plan and rule to protect the essence of what many people think of when they remember Collegiate.

**Philippa Williams** is departing after serving since 2017. The legacy she leaves behind is enormous and includes the development of Collegiate Connect and the many initiatives funded through the work of the Foundation

for which she continues as President. Both Charles and Philippa are prime examples of service which has gone above and beyond. Our thanks to them both – we are all the better for your time and service to the School.

Thanks, must also be given to **Darren Rowland**, outgoing Chair of the St George's Committee and their representative to the College Board. Darren was an excellent addition to both Boards upon which he served and his contribution to all areas of the School will certainly be missed.

We are delighted to introduce the new Trustees of the Boards:

**Chris Shenton (M 1980-84)** – is General Manager, Environment at Te Rūnanga o Ngā Wairiki Ngāti Apa and has been appointed by selection to the School Board.

**Genevieve Haszard (Gw 1992-93)** – is a Barrister at Kate Sheppard Chambers and is on both the College Board of Trustees and newly appointed Proprietor's Representative on the School Board.

**Angus Marks (E 1988-89)** – is a Director at Jarden and has been on the School Board as an Elected Parent since 2020. He has recently joined the College Board of Trustees.

**Brodie Stevens (S 1971-75)** – is a Transport and Shipping consultant. He has re-joined the College Board of Trustees. Many will already be familiar with Brodie due to his past service as Chair of the College Board.

**Kirsty Milham** – Kirsty is HR Manager at Whanganui District Council and has joined the College Board as the St George's Representative.

**Helen Jones** – is a Director of HB Accountants and has recently joined the College Board.

*For a full list of Board members and contact details, please refer to the School website.*



**Mr Guy Pierce**  
COLLEGE BOARD  
CHAIR



**Mr Jason Bowie**  
SCHOOL BOARD  
PRESIDING MEMBER

# From the Heads of School

## Amy McHardy



I am very privileged to have the opportunity to lead and serve the School as Head Girl for 2023.

Born in Wellington, in 2022 I started at Whanganui Collegiate School as a Year 12 student in Bishops House - a considerable change from my last school. I immediately fell in love with life at WCS - I immersed myself in the daily boarding environment with sports and house runs in the

early morning, the academic school day, allowing me to form lifelong friendships.

The School has provided me with so many opportunities which I have grasped with both hands. I have pushed myself beyond my comfort zone to limits I did not know I could reach. This has both challenged me and developed my character. I have taken up rowing in my final year and proudly represented the black and blue at the Maadi Cup Regatta. I play hockey for the Girls' 1st XI and compete in cross-country.

WCS has enabled me to form close relationships with my peers and lead by example with positivity and enthusiasm. I have loved Collegiate weekends including Inter-House swimming and athletics, House Music, cross country, and Tikanga representing Grey House. These weekends are so special in providing character development and valuable lessons regarding challenges, dedication, and teamwork. Bishops House has provided me with a home away from home. The ongoing support that I have received from staff and students makes me admire the WCS community and provides me with a willingness to give back to others.

WCS has exceeded my expectations in every possible way. I am honoured to serve such a prestigious school with such rich history with my time, effort and leadership. I aspire to be a friendly face and positive and approachable leader. As 2023 Head Girl, I hope to achieve a cohesive, positive environment where every student feels comfortable trying new things and always giving their best effort to develop their character. Supported by the Blueshirts, I am proud to be leading the School and look forward to making the most of opportunities in my final year.

## Jaden Allen



Leaving my hometown of New Plymouth to start at Whanganui Collegiate School midway through 2021 (Year 11) was a big decision – and one with no regrets. I was immediately immersed in the rich history of Hadfield House and the traditions of the School. Since then, I have taken advantage of every opportunity on offer and the School has quickly become home.

Whanganui Collegiate School has helped me succeed in many areas of life; whether it be in sports – I have recently competed at the Maadi Cup (NZSS) Regatta – or hockey, as I get ready for my second season; debating where I have competed in numerous Inter-School and House events which helped me to develop from someone who struggled to deliver a speech in front of his Year 10 English class to now addressing the School with an impromptu speech. Most importantly, my academic work has significantly improved.

I have always sought to serve the School community in every way and have been inspired by the way we all came together with the "Call to Arms" for Cyclone Gabrielle being just one example. This is partly why I am so honoured to be Head of School, after all, communities are only as strong those who contribute to it. I consider myself very privileged to be able to lead and serve the School in such a manner.

What is most important to me this year as Head of School is character education and standards – "to do what you ought to do at the time it ought to be done" - we do very well at WCS and I would like to emphasize the importance of this to our juniors. Character education is important as it helps individuals develop positive traits and values that promote personal growth, ethical behaviour, and good citizenship. These will create an environment where all feel welcome, comfortable to be themselves and try new things.

As Head of School I look forward to taking on the year with vigour, to uphold the standards and traditions of our great School.





# WCS Chapel

## **FORGIVENESS AND NEW BIRTH**



The themes of forgiveness and new birth are central to the Christian life. When we celebrated our Easter service, I preached about the importance of forgiveness as integral to the process of new birth.

I read our students the writing of Archbishop Desmond Tutu who said, *"We can forgive because we can recognise our shared humanity. We can recognize that we are all fragile, vulnerable, flawed human beings capable of thoughtlessness and cruelty. When we can find empathy and compassion, then we will move in the direction of forgiveness because no one is born evil, and we are all more than the worst thing we have done in our lives."*

Desmond Tutu won a Nobel Peace Prize for his contribution to forgiveness and reconciliation in the South African context at the end of Apartheid. As I explained to our students, forgiveness is the way to experience new birth.

Emerging out of Covid times has been good for the Chapel as we have once again been able to gather regularly. In many ways it has felt like new birth as our students make full use of their opportunity to enjoy singing together. It is a real pleasure and a privilege to stand in front of them and to hear the strength and quality of the worship with the organ playing and students singing.

This term we welcomed to Sunday Chapel Old Boys and Girls attending the two reunions, with Old Boys reading for us. At the OBGAs service we had a humorous moment when the Harvey cat came in and marched down the aisle attracting attention. I observed that no one was listening to my sermon and that I had been completely upstaged by 'Missy' the cat!

I enjoy these humorous encounters as I feel it is important that our students love being in Chapel. I think it is important to create an atmosphere in which joy and new birth are possible through our regular Anglican rhythms. Where they can reflect on their mistakes or impetuous decisions and feel free to start again. In this way, I feel that a deeper more reflective spirituality will be born.

*Reverend Sue Paton*

**SCHOOL CHAPLAIN**

# Staff Update

## **NEW STAFF**

### **ACADEMIC**

Mr Mason Elliott – Teacher of Art  
Mrs Aimee Elliott – Teacher of Diverse Learning  
Ms Jamie Irwin – Teacher of Science  
Ms Taegan O'Hara – Teacher of Economics  
Mrs Kate Sione – Head of Visual Art  
Mrs Sue van Dort – Teacher of ESOL

### **SPORT**

Mr Tafai Ioasa – Director of Rugby  
Mr Shane Gaffney – Director of Sport

### **ADMINISTRATION**

Mrs Jannine Kinnaird – Receptionist

### **HOUSE**

Ms Frances Edwards – Harvey House Matron  
Miss Cassie Hughes – Selwyn House Matron  
Mrs Jessica Manu – Bishops House Matron  
Mr Joseph Lewis – Grey House Residential Tutor

### **HEALTH CENTRE**

Mrs Kylie Giltrap – Health Centre & Empson House Matron  
Mrs Rosanna Stoop-Maigret – Registered Psychologist

## **FAREWELL**

**Alec McNab QSM (1973-2023)** is one of our pre-eminent



members of the School Common Room for a record 50 years...surely a lifetime at School, he has finally put away his spikes and left the running of our Athletics programme in the hands of one of his protege **Gil Barnitt (Hy 1971-75).**

Alec dedicated his entire life to Athletics and Cross Country at WCS since leaving Loughborough University and emigrating to New Zealand with his wife Susan in 1973. Alec was the Head of Physical Education, House Tutor in Hadfield and Gilligan and Housemaster of Marris. His teaching and coaching skills have encouraged thousands of athletes to step out of their comfort zone to achieve results they might never have believed possible. In recent years, Alec's mobility became quite seriously compromised but several hip operations and a combination of walking sticks have ensured he never missed an Athletics meeting through rain or shine. A mobility scooter presented by the College Board in December 2014, and a subsequent model have been hugely beneficial for Alec's ability to cover both the School campus and the city.

A Life Member of Athletics NZ, Alec was awarded the QSM for Services to Athletics in 2009. For 23 years he has contributed a weekly Athletics column in the Whanganui Chronicle, never missing a week whether in NZ or overseas. The Bulletin thanks Alec for his massive contribution to the sport of Athletics and Cross-Country at Whanganui Collegiate School, sentiments that we're sure will be echoed by many Old Boys and Girls who experienced not only his stentorian bellow, but also his delightfully quick Scottish humour. Alec continues to coach as he simply cannot stop but he retires knowing he has left a legacy to Athletics at Whanganui Collegiate School that will never be matched.

[Reflections of Half a Century at WCS](#)

**Richard Drabcynski (2006-2023)** has



retired after 17 years at School and is looking forward to a holiday in Europe. 'Drab' was a Teacher of Physics and member of Grey House. He spent many an hour at

Cooks Gardens coaching athletics, coached the Girls Football XI, Ski team, Chess team and many other activities. He is always happy to help. Drab with his loud voice and his specific humour will be missed around School.

**Husband and wife, Chris Buckley (2015-2022) and Sophie Taylor-Buckley (2015-2022)** have departed WCS for Australia. Chris was the Head of Commerce and Economics teacher and Housemaster of Harvey House. Sophie was a Teacher of Art. They have moved their young family to Geelong Grammar School, Australia's largest co-educational boarding school.

## Academic Results

### % OF ROLL ACHIEVING NQF QUALIFICATIONS AT THE END OF 2022

	WCS	Decile 8-10	All
Level 1	96.2	69.7	63.1
Level 2	99.0	81.6	71.5
Level 3	97.7	77.3	65.4
UE	80.7	65.0	48.0

### Scholars Tie Awards

#### NCEA Level 1 (Excellence) Academic Tie

Bambam Boolong  
Toby Caro  
Toby Corcoran  
Sam Cranstone  
Harriet Douglas  
Benjamin Fraser  
Thomas Fraser  
Oliver Jones  
Haicheng Lai  
Sam Livingston  
John Maguire  
Poppy Moore  
Tyler Weyburne

#### NCEA Level 2 (Excellence) Academic Tie and Braids

Benji Anderson  
Pascale Bowie  
Zachary Burke  
Toby Craig  
Teniva Guinea  
Antonia Harding  
Miri Ishino  
Mizuki Kobayashi  
Francesca Lyons  
Bella Marks  
Amy McHardy  
Ana Pearce  
David Su  
Amelie van Florenstein  
Srun (Mike)Viriyauskul  
Jack Walker  
Poon Wattatham  
Charlotte White  
Jess Yates

#### NCEA Level 3 (Excellence)

John Bryant  
Samantha Hayes  
Charlotte Hobson  
Yuke Ike  
Sora Ishii  
Elliot Jones  
Ruoyou (Richie) Mao  
Emily McKinlay  
Eko Noguchi  
Elena O'Leary  
Pathamon Permphon  
Zhi-Shan (Edward) Poon  
Parit (Paul) Saengpakdee  
Jonah Seeds  
Thomas Wilkinson-Smith  
Cai Yi (Rachel) Yang  
Hideki Yutoku

### NZQA Scholarships Results

John Bryant	History
Edward Zhi-Shan Poon	Economics
Samantha Hayes	Economics
David Ritchie	Economics



# Sports Results - Summer

## ATHLETICS

### NZSS TRACK, FIELD AND ROAD RACE CHAMPS

#### Gold

Louise Brabyn – Senior Girls 2000m Steeplechase

#### Silver

Juliet McKinlay – Junior Girls Triple Jump

Lucas Martin – Senior Boys 3000m Walk

Pascale Bowie, Harriet Douglas, Maia Lupton –

Senior Girls Road race 3 to score

#### Bronze

Louise Brabyn, Pascale Bowie, Jonty Tripe, James Hercus – Senior Mixed 4 x 400m Relay

Max Herdman, Nate Burke, Thomas Fitzgerald, Oliver Toohey – Junior Boys 4x400m Relay

### NZ SELECTION

Louise Brabyn and Lucas Martin

NZSS Team – Internal Tour to the Classic Meetings

January/February 2023

Louise Brabyn

NZSS U18 Team to the Australian Junior Athletics Champs. She won bronze in the 2000m Steeplechase.

### NZ TRACK AND FIELD CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### Gold

Daniel Sinclair – U20 1500m

Juliet McKinlay – U16 Triple Jump,

#### Silver

Juliet McKinlay – U16 Long Jump

Hannah Byam – U16 2000m Steeplechase

#### Bronze

Juliet McKinlay – U16 80m Hurdles, 4x100m Relay (MWA)

Hannah Byam – 4x100m Relay (MWA)

### NISS CHAMPIONSHIPS

#### 1st

Daniel Sinclair – Senior Boys 3000m

Daniel Sinclair – Senior Boys 2000m Steeplechase

Louise Brabyn – Senior Girls 2000m Steeplechase

#### 2nd

Toby Caro – Senior Boys 2000m Steeplechase

Juliet McKinlay – Intermediate Girls 80m Hurdles

Hannah Byam – Under 16 Girls 2000m Steeplechase

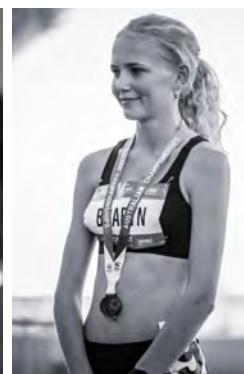
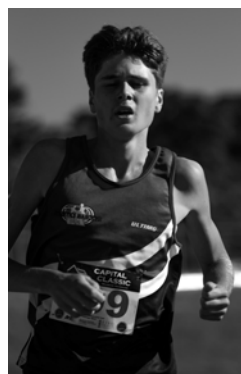
#### 3rd

Rosa Meyer – Senior Girls 3000m

Juliet McKinlay – Under 16 Girls 300m Hurdles

David Sinclair – Junior Boys 1500m

David Sinclair, James Hercus (WSSAA) – Senior Boys 4x400m Relay



Daniel Sinclair & Louise Brabyn

## CRICKET

### Boys 1st XI

Lindisfarne College – match abandoned

WCS 244/10 (Micky Peacock 48, George Ormsby 42, Tim O'Leary 38)

Rathkeale – cancelled

St Peter's Cambridge (One Day) – Loss

WCS 98/10 (Tim O'Leary 23)

St Peters 101/0

Old Boys XI – Loss

WCS 104/10 (Benji Anderson 24, Willie White 5/29)

Old Boys 110/8 (Oscar Mabin 6/24, Darcy Hooper Smith 28)

PNBHS (Gillette Cup) - Loss

WCS 76/10 (Micky Peacock 24)

PNBHS 78/4 (Oscar Mabin 3/34)

Wellington College - Loss

WCS 154/10 (Oscar Mabin 62) and 39/10

Wellington 168/9 (Oscar Mabin 4/42) declared and 31/1

NPBHS - Draw

WCS 98/10 (Oscar Mabin 42) and 121/5 (Oscar Mabin 55)

NPBHS 208/9 declared (Harry McVerry 5/25) and 98/7 (Josh Allpress 3/17)

Christ's College - Draw

Christ's 276/10 (George Ormsby 5/22) & 147/3 declared (Micky Peacock 2/9)

WCS 183/8 declared (Oscar Mabin 100\*, Connor Rees 33) & 125/9 (Connor Rees 26, M Peacock 21)

The Willows Cricket Club - Loss

The Willows 242/5

WCS 98/10 (Connor Rees 21)

HIBS - Draw

HIBS 219/10 (Angus Pearce 4/79, Harry McVerry 3/27) & 69/3 declared.

WCS 85/10 (Tim O'Leary 22), followed on 207/10 (Tim O'Leary 79, Micky Peacock 34)

T20 Hunt Tournament - Cancelled



## Girls 1st XI

NPGHS - loss

WCS 25/10

NPGHS 173/3

St Matthew's Collegiate School – loss

St Matthew's 147/2 (20)

WCS 42/9 (20)

Scots College

Scots 192/2

WCS 46/10

Nga Tawa - cancelled

## TENNIS

NPGHS – won 9-6

Frances Douglas MC – lost 5-7

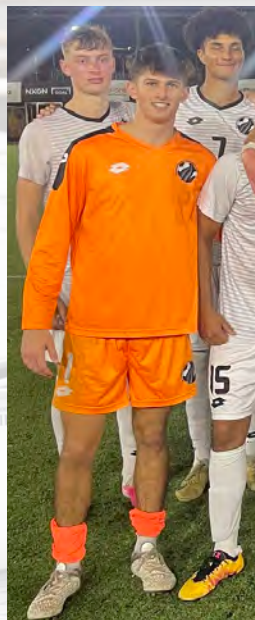
Scots College – lost 1-9

Feilding High School - won 27-18

Nga Tawa – not played

St Matthew's – lost 1-11

Rathkeale – not played



Oliver Hutchins - Football

Oliver was selected in the NZ Secondary Schools Football U19 Team which toured Malaysia and Singapore

## ROWING

### NISS ROWING CHAMPS

#### Gold

Girls U18 Novice Double Sculls

Franca Morrah, Amy McHardy

#### Silver

Girls U17 Coxed Quad Sculls

Milly Murphy, Poppy Hobbs, Amy McHardy, Franca Morrah + Hunter Rowland

Girls U18 Coxed Quad Sculls

Milly Murphy, Poppy Hobbs, Amy McHardy, Franca Morrah + Hunter Rowland

Girls U18 Coxed Eight

Milly Murphy, Franca Morrah, Poppy Hobbs, Mary O'Leary, Jemma Rasmusen, Amy McHardy, Charna Craig, Poppy Moore + Hunter Rowland

#### Bronze

Boys U18 Coxed Quad Sculls

Jaden Allen, Ben Poulton, Keagan Hanekom, Zac Burke, + Jack Walker

Boys U16 Double Sculls

Keagan Hanekom, Ben Poulton

### NZSS ROWING (MAADI CUP) CHAMPS

A Finals – 6 crews and B Finals – 3 crews

#### Silver

Girls Under 17 Coxed Quad

Millicent Murphy, Poppy Hobbs, Amy McHardy, Franca Morrah + Hunter Rowland

Girls Under 18 Novice Double

Franca Morrah, Amy McHardy

Girls Under 18 Coxed Quad

Millicent Murphy, Poppy Hobbs, Amy McHardy, Franca Morrah + Hunter Rowland

Poppy Hobbs, Franca Morrah and Milly Murphy were selected to trial for the North Island Under 18 team.



## RUGBY 7s

### CONDOR 7s

#### Pool Games

St Bede's College - won 22-5

De La Salle College - lost 0-38

Nelson College - won 19-10

#### 9-16th Playoffs

St Patrick's College Silverstream - lost 21-29

Christchurch BHS - lost 26-28

Whangarei BHS - won 36-25 (final placing 15th)





# Music

## SENIOR ROCK BAND – WIRELESS – prepares for Smokefree Rockquest

Our Senior Rock band, Wireless, is currently preparing to enter Smokefree Rockquest in June. Benji Anderson (guitar), Sam Cranstone (bass), John Maguire (rhythm guitar), Logan Brown (drums) and Max Herdman (vocals) recently spent two days at Matrix Digital Recording Studios in Wellington recording their first EP.



## Old Boy remembers the first SMOKEFREE ROCKQUEST

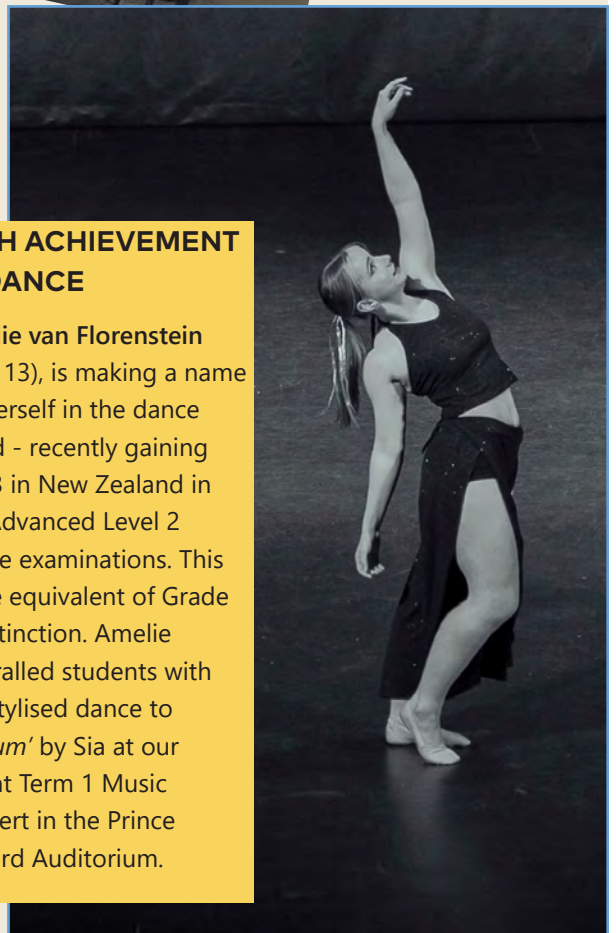
Old Boy Dave Gilberd (Hy 1990-94) was the bass player when WCS won the first-ever Smokefree Rock Quest back in 1994 with their band 'Kate and the Lemon Tree'. Dave reminisced about their win when he returned for the OBGa reunion weekend in March. He was House Music Captain for Harvey. He now makes Goldbeard guitars.



*Dave with current students Haicheng Lai and Akira Mongkornhong who provided piano background music at the reunion.*

## HIGH ACHIEVEMENT IN DANCE

Amelie van Florenstein (Year 13), is making a name for herself in the dance world - recently gaining Top 3 in New Zealand in the Advanced Level 2 Dance examinations. This is the equivalent of Grade 8 Distinction. Amelie enthralled students with her stylised dance to 'Helium' by Sia at our recent Term 1 Music Concert in the Prince Edward Auditorium.



# Honours Tie Ceremony

**Shehan Karunatilaka (P 1990-92)** returned to WCS in March for the 1991-2000 Leavers Reunion and also for the ceremony to receive his Honours Tie award.



*Shehan Karunatilaka pictured with his fellow Porritt House year group*

Shehan won the 2022 Booker Prize, the most prestigious literary award for fiction written in English, for his second novel *The Seven Moons of Maali Almeida*.



The novel is set in the era during Sri Lanka's troubled history, where the Civil War raged on and off from 1983 to 2009. In fact, it was not so much one war as a series of them. The novel is set in the first phase, in the 1980s, in the format of a black comic fantasy and a murder mystery in which it is the corpse who must solve the crime. Photographer Maali Almeida wakes up dead in the afterlife, which teems with unruly spirits like scenes from *Spirited Away* or *Beetlejuice*, the comic voice making it easier to deal with some of the grotesque horrors of the war.

Fellow student **Duncan Eastwood (P 1988-91)** nominated Shehan for the award; Shehan's speech in reply mentioned that during his first year at School (Year 11) he found it a lonely place where he didn't fit in, mainly due to fellow students not having an understanding of his Sri Lankan background and his lack of skill in sports. His speech was dedicated to *"the kids that just don't fit in, the less popular kids"*, and he said the thing they do every day would be the thing they succeed in, and it was their life mission to find what brings them joy. His speech was inspiring for all those who attended the ceremony.

Shehan had come to Whanganui in 1990 with his family to escape the civil war in Sri Lanka. Living in NZ for the next eight years, he studied at Massey University after his time at WCS, then lived in London and Singapore where he worked as a feature writer and advertising copywriter while making time to write fiction in the mornings. Quitting full-time agency work when he returned to Colombo in 2014, he continued to freelance.

Shehan said he wrote because he didn't want a job where he had to wear a tie, and it's still thrilling to be paid to write, the thing he loves most. The Honours Tie is just the second tie he owns! He mentioned that with the books being published in 26 countries, there will be royalties coming his way so it will be feasible to spend the next year or two focusing on writing.





# Debating Success

## Collegiate Gold claim CNI Debating 'three-peat':

Four WCS teams contested the Central North Island Debating Championships at Whanganui High School. This is the biggest event in the Debating calendar with 22 teams from Palmerston North to New Plymouth as teams compete to be regional winners and selection in the CNI squad to go to Nationals in May.

Through five incredibly challenging rounds, **Collegiate Gold**, made up of **Bella Marks**, **Olivia Simpson** and **Petra Tilley**, managed to make the final and face off against our regular top competition, Palmerston North Boys' High.



In a difficult final motion, 'This House supports slum tourism', **Bella**, **Olivia** and **Petra** were able to convincingly argue the negating side and win in a unanimous decision. This is the third year in a row WCS have won CNI – a rare, 'three-peat'.

Topics included ChatGPT and AI, compulsory military service, appropriation of Indigenous culture in media, use of referendums to pass major Government policy, and placing levies on companies responsible for environmental damage.

Other Awards:

- **Nathan Yue** was jointly named Best Junior Speaker, alongside Tyler Thompson from Palmerston North Boys' High.
- **Olivia Simpson** was jointly awarded the Duffy Cup for Best Speaker overall, alongside Tane Neilson from Palmerston North Boys' High.
- **Olivia Simpson** was selected for the CNI team, with **Bella Marks** and **Nathan Yue** (an incredible achievement for a Year 10 student) reserves.

Old Boy and dual CNI winner, **Elliot Jones (Hy 2018-22)** played a key role in coaching Collegiate Gold.

# Drama

## School Production



**10-12 August**

**Prince Edward Auditorium.**

*Footloose is the story of Ren McCormack, a teenage boy from Chicago. He and his mother move to the small town of Bomont after his father abandons them. Upon arriving, Ren finds himself at odds with most of the town, including the Reverend. The Reverend has convinced the town to outlaw dancing, which Ren finds unbelievable. With the help of Ariel (the Reverend's daughter) and Willard (a country hick who becomes his best friend), Ren convinces the Reverend to let the teenagers dance, and in the process helps the town to heal from a tragedy that affected them all.*

**Featuring a number of songs from the original hit movie and original songs written for the stage musical, Footloose will be an energetic and entertaining show.**



# WCS Foundation

This is my last Bulletin article after eight years on the WCS Foundation - seven as President - and six on the College Board (recently resigned). I will be passing on the mantle at the Foundation AGM in November. It has been such a pleasure to serve our great School; I have loved every minute of it. I particularly enjoyed getting Collegiate Connect off the ground, and it has been very satisfying to see more and more of our community re-establishing contact every year. I have loved attending these functions all around the country, meeting our passionate alumni and hearing the stories and banter.

To steal a great line from a fellow College Board member at our Board farewell - WCS is like the Hotel California – you can check out, but you can never leave. I see that as so true for many, even those who re-engaged with the School after many years.

One of our main challenges has been to bring our database up to date. I do urge those of you already connected to encourage your family and peers to send their updated email addresses and city of residence to [wcsfoundation@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:wcsfoundation@collegiate.school.nz) – thus ensuring they are invited to Collegiate Connect events held in their region.

In our community we have some very generous benefactors and I personally thank them for their support, especially during my tenure, whether by monthly donation, lump sum or a bequest. All private and integrated schools in NZ require financial support beyond school fees and are reliant on the generosity of their community to keep their buildings and facilities relevant to modern day learning and living. This is especially true for WCS with our magnificent Category One Historic Place Campus.

Since the Chapel foundation stone was laid in 1911, inscribed with the words “built by Old Boys scattered throughout the world, thankful for the past and hopeful for the future of the School they love”, WCS donors have ensured future generations can enjoy a first-class WCS education. The Foundation’s purpose is to continue growing the capital fund and assist our School, so its future is secure for generations to come.

## Collegiate Connect Events

Wed 24 May	Auckland
Tues 30 May	New Plymouth
Tues 6 Jun	Wairarapa
Tues 27 Jun	Wellington (Quad)
Wed 16 Aug	Dunedin Young Alumni
Thurs 17 Aug	Christchurch Young Alumni
Oct TBC	Gisborne Dinner

**Collegiate  
Connect**  
*for the sake of the black & blue*

If not already a donor, I ask that you consider donating to the Foundation, whether for **Dining Hall furniture** [here](#), the **Foundation Capital Fund** [here](#), or the **Rowing Capital Fund** [here](#). For more **information about our donor tiers** [here](#).

Should you wish to discuss making a donation or bequest, please email me at [wcsfoundation@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:wcsfoundation@collegiate.school.nz)

With 2023 marking 40 years since the first Foundation AGM, we have much to celebrate. Foundation members along with past and current Foundation Board members will be invited to dinner on Friday 3 November, followed by the 40th AGM on Saturday morning.

I loved my time as a parent at WCS and I am grateful for the outstanding education the School gave my daughter, and the life-long friendships she and I formed. The School is in great heart and I particularly thank Headmaster, Mr Wayne Brown, and his wife Alycia for their passion and dedication, and Gillian Lennox, our Community Relations Manager - the quiet achiever in the background who works tirelessly to re-connect our community and make all our events so successful.

After six years Mark Chrystall has retired as a Foundation Trustee and I would like to thank him for his considerable contribution and support. We welcome Brodie Stevens to the Foundation Board. He brings with him passion and a deep knowledge of the workings of the School, having been the College Board Chair leading up to Integration. Thank you to my fellow Trustees whose support and friendship on the Foundation have been invaluable and much appreciated.

*Philippa Williams*

**PRESIDENT**





**WHANGANUI  
COLLEGIATE  
SCHOOL**



**WCS Foundation**

**Bursary Programme**

A limited number of boarding bursaries are available to new WCS students requiring some financial assistance

2024 Applications close 31 May 2023

Application form:  
<https://www.collegiateconnect.co.nz/page/bursaries/3/>





# Collegiate Connect Events

## Cambridge



## Tauranga





## New York



## London



## Thailand



The WCS Foundation is in the process of joining Chapel and York as an affiliate Foundation Member in the United States. This will allow our US domiciled alumni to donate to the WCS Foundation and access the full donation tax credit. We anticipate doing the same in the UK, Singapore and Hong Kong as the need arises. For more information, or if you live in these jurisdictions and wish to make a donation, please email [wcsfoundation@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:wcsfoundation@collegiate.school.nz)





# Museum & Archives

Your Museum has had a very busy start to the year with the 1991-2000 Leavers Reunion and the Big School Society Reunion

In conjunction with the Big School Society Reunion we were involved in organising a special Reunion on the Friday for the Maadi Vllls to celebrate the 60th anniversary of the School's dominance of the Maadi Cup starting with the win in 1963 through to 1974 - victorious for 10 out of those 12 years.



The programme started at 2.30pm Friday with the Old Rowers, many wearing their old caps, attending the capping of the 2023 crews in Big School followed by a farewell Haka prior to departing for Karapiro.

We then gathered at the former Whanganui Rowing Club and School Rowing sheds on Taupo Quay (now home to the Whanganui Riverboat Museum) for the unveiling of a Historic Places 'Blue Plaque' to mark the significance of the building.

The plaque was 50% sponsored by the WCSOBGA in recognition of the association School Rowing had with the Whanganui Rowing Club and their building.

Details of the Buildings history [HERE](https://www.blueplaques.nz/whanganui-rowing-club)  
<https://www.blueplaques.nz/whanganui-rowing-club>



Acting Mayor and Chair of the local Heritage Trust Helen Craig commenced proceedings welcoming Old Boys Rowers and gave background to the 'Blue Plaque' project. Richard Bourne, Chairman of the WCS Museum, made a brief speech giving background to the building and the long and strong connection with School rowing. (Copy of the speech can be found [HERE](#))

The Plaque was then unveiled by Old Boy John Thurlow a Maadi Cup winner as oarsman in the Crew of 63 and as Coach in 71. John had been the driving force behind the project.



In the evening a dinner was held at The Avenue Hotel with Janet Irvine and son Sam as guests of honour.

There were a number of crews where all living members attended, including the Old Boys VIII of 1967 that won the Eights at the New Zealand Rowing Champs.



Access the crew photos taken at the dinner on Flickr by clicking [HERE](#).





# Big School Society

Event held in March for those who left School 50 or more years ago.





# Profile

Dr Bob Anderson (M 1955-59) in his



words, had a largely undistinguished time at Collegiate being rather mediocre at sport, managing just one hard-earned discus standard for his House over five years, although he did play in the Hockey 1st XI. In those days, boys were encouraged to try out hockey only if useless at rugby and his team wasn't especially good! Bob remembers being thrashed 15-0 by PNBHS, with numerous goals being scored by Bryan Yuile, who later played test match cricket for New Zealand. In his last year, he was, awarded the Pennefather Prize for Mathematics and the F Leslie Peck prize for Music. Perhaps unsurprisingly, his favourite masters were H G (Baldy) Carver and G R (Monkey) Everiss who taught Bob those subjects and are remembered with respect and affection.

In 1959, he was selected to play the flute in the very first NZ National Youth Orchestra and he noted with particular interest that a pupil, **Hideki Yutoku (G 2019-22)** had been chosen for the 2022 Orchestra. Bob completed a science degree at Auckland University and then worked at Lion Breweries in Khyber Pass Road then went to the UK in 1967 on board the Achille Lauro, a ship that subsequently gained notoriety for being hijacked in

the Mediterranean by the PLO and later catching fire and sinking in the Indian Ocean. He joined the research department of Allied Breweries in Burton-on-Trent, the home of British brewing, and was then encouraged by the company to do post-graduate MSc and PhD at Birmingham University as an external student.

He settled down in Burton with his wife, Liz, and family living there and in nearby villages ever since. He was a church organist for 40 years and has perhaps enjoyed greater success playing sport in the UK than at School, having played hockey, cricket, tennis and golf at local clubs. A highlight was being a member of the Burton Hockey Club team that won the Midlands Club Championship in 1972. He once played hockey against (and beat) Loughborough College with Peter Snell on their right wing.

He had apparently been sent to the Colleges by Rothmans to study the benefits of smoking! Bob was also lucky enough to be employed at Allied during the heyday of the UK brewing industry and welcomed the opportunity to travel widely, visiting and working in breweries in Canada, Germany, Holland, Australia and, perhaps most intriguingly, in Iran in the years before the Shah was deposed and alcoholic drinks were banned. As part of his responsibilities as Director of Quality at the time of his retirement in 1999, he was responsible for looking after 54 microbreweries in Firkin branded pubs across the UK. Looking back, he noted that the UK were well ahead of the game and he's since observed with interest the growing popularity and success of small breweries in many parts of the world, including New Zealand.

Since retiring, Bob has had more time for holidays, including to Antarctica, and for watching and playing sport, particularly golf. At the age of 81, he

still enjoys his regular nine holes with friends, playing off (but not to!) a handicap of 16.

He has been a Prince's Trust mentor, meeting the then Prince Charles on one occasion. Rotary now takes up a lot of his time having been President of the Burton Rotary Club. During a trip to NZ in 2012, he very much enjoyed lunch at the Whanganui North Rotary Club where his father had been the second President in 1960. It was great that day to meet up again with **Cranleigh Chainey (M 1956-60)** a fellow student in Marris.

Researching family history has also been a special interest - Bob has written a book for posterity and the information of family members. A copy of an early version has also been deposited in the Whanganui Library. To help confirm his findings, Bob did a DNA test and it is indeed amazing what can emerge from an analysis of 'one's spit'. In particular, this test enabled him to make contact with many matchings and previously unknown relatives round the world who were often able to contribute their own fascinating details about their joint ancestry.

Those Old Boys who were taught English by T F (Tom) Latham and remember one of his foibles will have noted with satisfaction that Bob avoided the use of the word "around" in the previous sentence. This proves that "I did learn something other than maths and music at WCS!" Bob sends his greetings from the UK to any fellow WCS pupils who may remember him from their schooldays together all those years ago.

# Profile

**William (Arch) Barclay (S 1959-64 Deputy Head Prefect and Head of House)** and his wife Nancie have



worked more than three decades on developing Tahora Station, a remote 800 hectare high country sheep and beef farm 70km inland from Gisborne.

The recent cyclone Gabrielle was just one of many violent storms the Barclays have withstood since they drew a ballot farm at Tahora. There were 14 paddocks, plenty of rain and often snow. With three children, no garden, no firewood, a cold house, only two trips to town a month and a very limited budget, this was the place that they came to call their "paradise". They bought a house cow called Trudi and a calf (to share milk) with the family benefit. Hens, a two-wheeler motor bike and a horse called Alice came next.

Over 35 years at Tahora, varieties of plantings for shade, shelter, erosion control and landscape enhancing, were a priority and a QE2 Block of Native Bush was protected. They were recognised with a Land and Life Balance Farm Environment Award which was gratifying.

In 2016, Arch and Nancie moved to TeWai, a hillside property overlooking a valley in Ngatapa, about 20 minutes out of Gisborne. With eight hectares to manage, it's not retirement but

downsizing. They don't miss the 24/7, 365 days of sheep and beef farming and the restrictions of the farming calendar nor do they have to get up early and work long hours like they did at Tahora! They can focus on what they enjoy doing while still maintaining their connections with rural life and their family.

Tahora is now owned by their son Nicholas and his wife Rebecca, with their children - the next generations growing up on the station. Arch still heads up to the farm to help a couple of days a week and both he and Nancie assist during the busy times, such as docking. They also do stints of "farm-sitting" at Tahora.

Maintaining a healthy lifestyle is important to Arch and Nancie and they have managed to keep all the things they love about rural living. Their generation has valuable experience and knowledge to pass on to others and they firmly believe they still have much to contribute. Arch goes to Farm Field Days and gets asked for advice especially as he is still a member of Federated Farmers and

the New Zealand Farm Forestry Association, he's active in writing submissions and advocating for farmers, and is a Justice of the Peace.

The Bulletin has indeed been indebted to Arch and Nancie for the consistent stream of news about our East Coast Old Boys and Girls, and his loyalty and love of his alma mater is unparalleled. Arch's newsy letters of our alumni and his own endeavours on farm are perhaps epitomised in the following excerpt he wrote in 2022:

"Docking is our biggest job of the year and we are dependent on outside labour. Last Saturday the weather was dubious, blowing a gale on the top country (3,000ft ASL) but we had a professional shepherd and his young son on horsebacks, two utes, a side-by-side and a quad bike to make the journey! Plus of course chains in case it rained! It takes almost as long to do the journey as the job. 750 lambs docked. A relief to get home safely and a great team effort.

Over Labour weekend it was special to have all six grandchildren involved. Nancie has earmarked 4,000 lambs and I removed the tails. Our arms and hands are due for a rest! (The tails were all consumed by our local Maori hunting friends who were camping out the back!) It gives us huge satisfaction to continue to help at Tahora, and that the family shares our interests – planting and maintaining trees for food and for the future.

Thirty five years has felt like such a short time to be custodians of Tahora. And now, we are trying to do the same at TeWai, but in a shorter timeframe!"



# Profile

Paul Harris (H 1959-63, Head of House) at the request of the Bulletin has obliged with an account of his life and times in the 60 years since leaving WCS. He is the author of a series of Australian environmental picture books and besides his *Odd Boy Out* (a poignant memoir examining his family), he has written four novels, the first being *Aardvark* and the most recent published in March, *Love, Oil and the Fortunes of War*.



## WCS: The Years After:

A short time after bidding farewell to Collegiate in December 1963, I received a brief note from Trinity Hall, Cambridge University, that I had been accepted as an undergraduate to study law. I had sat a test in the Headmaster's Study on practically the last day of school, supervised by a disbelieving Tom Wells who clearly was of the opinion I should stick to training as a bartender.

Coming from a largely rural environment in NZ, Cambridge University was a massive systemic shock. I found myself surrounded by the elite of the English school system for which I was completely unprepared. They were definitely much better educated than I was but luckily Law was a subject which everyone was starting from scratch. This somewhat evened up the playing

field, although I never came to grips with the use of fathomless Latin axioms; 'actus rea, mens rea' etc? It was also helpful having spent 11 years in boarding school so a few more years in an institution was no special hardship. Still no girls about though. Fortunately, I had some prowess at rowing and rugby which helped to ease the introduction to university life although it was rather a shock when I found myself, a couple of weeks into Cambridge, in the first University Rugby trials match at 5/8ths marking Mike Gibson, the Captain of the British and Irish Lions.

I stroked the Rugby boat in the May Bumps regatta - a typically eccentric English concept whereby you row on a narrow and winding River Cam, each boat one and a half lengths behind the other and the objective is to clip the boat in front of you before the boat behind crashes into you. Not a great place to be a cox! The races are over four days and if you bump or are bumped you move up or down a place the next day. To earn your 'oars' you must go up four places in four days which we managed to achieve. Not the Maadi Cup though! The Bumps are followed by the Bumps May Ball which involves the whole University in an all-night party accompanied by some of the best bands in England. Whilst this is going on some poor boatman is down at the rowing club reconstructing the damage to the eights.

Following University, M.A. was awarded after an anxious wait, I spent a few years in London mostly working for the accounting firm Coopers & Lybrand, but accounting was definitely not for me. Still London in the 60s was great fun and full of young Aussies and Kiwis escaping from home and letting their hair and everything else down in Earls Court. At the weekends I played rugby for the Harlequins, the team mostly full of England

internationals. The captain was fullback Bob Hillier, also captain of England. I was never so happy I had learned my rugby skills from Jim Wallace.

Just before leaving Cambridge, I had met Gail, a truly gorgeous girl from Manchester who was in Cambridge partying from her nearby teachers' college. I was way out of my paygrade in cavalry twills and a check tartan shirt. Very smitten I managed to find a mutual contact and we started a relationship based on rattling up and down the motorway to the north, me in my old MG running on three cylinders and her in a very spic little blue mini. She finished her teaching training and came to London where she found herself teaching in a very tough environment, a school in the West Indian migrant area of Brixton. In June 1969 we married in Manchester and set out for a new adventure; migrating to Australia on an immigrant ship from Naples to Sydney accompanied by a whole boat full of Sicilian mafia, who pinched her bottom whenever they got the chance. Gail was immediately employed in a school full of non-English speaking children out west in Marrickville and I joined a fledgling Merchant Bank which later morphed into BT Australia. This must have been the last time in the history of Australia an infant schoolteacher and a merchant banker were paid the same; \$6,000 pa. We thought we were rich beyond Croesus but then again you could buy a Sydney cottage for \$25,000.

My journey through Merchant Banking was nothing if not adventurous. Virtually my first contact in Sydney was with Frank Nugan, a Sydney solicitor. Working for BT we floated a couple of mining companies, Mt Arthur Molybdenum and Meekatharra Minerals. I had no idea what I was doing. Then Frank invited me to come and work with his new merchant



banking venture, Nugan Hand. His partner was an ex Green Beret called Michael Hand. It sounded very enticing but whilst I was contemplating the offer, Frank was found shot through the head, .303 by his side, in the front seat of his Mercedes in Griffiths, drug capital of NSW. The police said suicide but twelve months later they dug him up just to check. Verdict unclear. Hand vanished and has since never been located. So did over \$50M. Rumour has it that Hand was being protected by the C.I.A.

I can say with confidence that over the next few decades I met or worked with virtually every crook in Australia, quite an accomplishment since there were an awful lot of them. Laurie Connell (gaol), Alan Bond (gaol), Keith Gale and Dick Glenister (both gaol), Jamie Craven (gaol) and those were only the ones that got caught. Somehow, I stayed out of gaol and the morgue.

Eventually things became a bit more respectable, and I became a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Company Directors, an Associate of the Securities Industry of Australia and a Member of the Australian Stock Exchange becoming a partner in a Stock Broking firm. I then set up a private equity firm where we broke all the conventions by investing almost all our funds in one company - Channel 10. I spent nearly ten years on the board of Channel 10 - this was exciting times. The three main television networks, 10, 9 and 7, had all gone bust at the beginning of the 90s and together with our canny majority Canadian partner, Canwest we spent the years turning Channel 10 into one of the most profitable media companies in Australia. This was mostly off the back of humdinger programmes whose major defining characteristic was they were very cheap to make. As our Canadian Chairman said, "Don't forget the

programmes are the bits between the Ads we don't get paid for."

On the other side of the ledger, I was appointed a Director of the NSW Centenary Institute of Cancer Research, and Chairman of the Bundanon Trust, the beautiful property on the Shoalhaven River gifted by the artist Arthur Boyd to the Australian people. I was also appointed to the board of the new Stadium Australia in the lead up to the Sydney Olympics.

Aligning with my interest in the environment I also joined the Board of WWF Australia and remain a Governor fighting to retain some unique Australian species. Australia has one of the highest rates of mammal extinction in the world.

Somehow during all this Gail and I had four children and now 12 grandchildren. Our eldest son married a New Zealander so now three grandchildren live in Queenstown,

tricky on Bledisloe Cup Day. To entertain the grandchildren, I wrote a series of children's books about Australia's native animals and to entertain the adults a play, SCAM all about the hoodlums I had known, and four historical novels one of which was only released a few months ago.

I'm wisely seldom asked for advice but when I am I always answer 'never take advice from white Anglo-Saxon males over 70'; oh, and by the way, just to break my own rule, if you want to drive around in a flash car don't take up writing for a living.

Finally, if the question is "did Collegiate teach me how to cope with all this corporate jiggery pokery" the answer is probably not, but what it did teach me was there is a very substantial difference in what might be legally right and what we learn is actually right and never to lose sight of the latter.



# ALUMNI NEWS



## from the WCSOBGA President

It's been a fast-paced start to my tenure as President of the WCS Old Boys and Girls Association, but I look back on the first six months with pride. In the last edition I shared our vision and objectives. We have made significant progress in all of these objectives, and we hope you feel that too. This year, as an Executive, we are looking to continue and build on these objectives. We feel we have discovered a formula that works – it's engaging, informative and most importantly, what you asked for.

### 1991-2000 Leavers Reunion

The 1991-2000 Leavers had a great Reunion last month. Those that attended had nothing but fantastic things to say about their time back at School.

We are always striving to improve on everything we do and putting on a Reunion that is fitting for the years it applies to, is really important to us.

### 2001-2010 Leavers Reunion

Planning for the 2001-2010 Leavers Reunion is underway for the weekend of 15-17 March 2024. Please encourage your friends and family to update their contact details so we can send them the Reunion details.

### Bulletin Editor

Tony Hunt (Hy, 1959-63) played a pivotal role in the continuation of The Bulletin for 12 years. Taking over the role of Editor from Peter Irvine, he has delivered superb content every edition. It is with regret that Tony is stepping away from his role, but we are so grateful for his immense contribution.

Tony, on behalf of the OBGA, thank you for the incredible contribution you have made over the many years you have been involved with WCS, but especially these past 12 years as Editor of The Bulletin. Your passion and drive have kept this important publication alive.

We now are in the process of finding a replacement Editor, if this interests you or you know someone we should approach, please email me.

### VISION AND OBJECTIVES

- **Re-establishing connection**  
*to reach those OBGs who have lost touch with the School since they left.*
- **Building awareness and informing**  
*keep OBGs regularly updated on WCS happenings and developments.*
- **Networking**  
*create opportunities for OBGs to reconnect and reminisce.*
- **Being consistent**  
*communicate with OBGs in a way that is consistent with all other communications from WCS and WCS affiliated arms (e.g. Collegiate Connect).*

### Our challenge

One of our challenges is having the correct contact details for our Old Boys and Girls. We really do encourage you to keep us updated. You can do this on the Collegiate Connect website, or email: [gillian.lennox@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:gillian.lennox@collegiate.school.nz).

James Allan and Jeremy Austin are working tirelessly to update The Register. If you receive a request to update your information, please take the time to respond. Or reach out to them directly: [editor@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:editor@collegiate.school.nz).

### Moving Forward

We've established a new form of regular communication – Connecting to the Drive, improved our social media by taking a strategic approach, increased the visibility of our Old Boys and Girls through sharing their stories, and continued to put on events and reunions for our Old Boys and Girls.

As an Executive, we will continue to evolve our strategy ensuring that we are progressing in the right direction. Our vision and purpose drive us. We know what we want and need to achieve, and we're determined to make it happen.

*Pristinae Virtutis Memores*

*John Carr*

**WCSOBGA President**

[john.carr@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:john.carr@collegiate.school.nz)





# 1991-2000 Leavers Reunion

Whanganui couldn't have turned on a better weekend for the 1991-2000 Leavers Reunion – the sun was shining, the city gleamed and the School looked as spectacular as ever.

We were thrilled to welcome the 1991-2000 leavers back to School, and what a time they had. From the Friday evening drinks to the Dinner on Saturday night, through to the Chapel Service on Sunday morning – all the events across the weekend made for an experience our Old Boys and Girls who came thoroughly enjoyed.

We have received a lot of positive feedback since the Reunion from those who attended:

*"Great to see the School and catch up with old mates again."*

*"Very positive vibe, and meeting people from other year groups was cool too."*

*"I was dreading it a bit to be honest. But catching up with my old friends like we'd just come back from school holidays was awesome."*

We endeavour to make our reunions a great weekend for all.

Thank you to all of those who came and made it the special occasion.





# Old Boys & Girls News

## Bulletin Editor Retiring

Tony Hunt (Hy, 1959-63) took over the role of Editor from Peter Irvine in 2011 and two years later took over compiling the Old Boys and Girls News section (a role he continued even after he moved to Tauranga) and has delivered superb content every edition.

Tony was awarded his Honours Tie in 2019 for his contribution to Whanganui Collegiate School. He was a parent, Executive Member and President of the WCSOBGA, Trustee of the Whanganui College Board of Trustees, WCS Establishment Board, WCS Foundation Trust Board, WCS Museum, and Chapel & Organ Restoration Committee. He was a cricket coach from 2008-17 and Committee Member of the WCS Cricket Supporters Club.

Tony's passion and enthusiasm for the School and his contacts in the WCS community, both old and young, have made sourcing information for the Bulletin easier for him. He enjoys the contact he has with Old Boys and Girls and hearing their stories.

Tony is retiring from the Editor role and leaves a big hole to fill. We are so grateful for the outstanding contribution he has made over the 12 years and will miss him, however we do look forward to seeing him back at School regularly.



Mr Tony Hunt - WCSOBG News Editor

*Message from Tony.....and so it is that I have decided that after 12 years and 21 Bulletins it is time to pass the baton back to the OBGA to provide continuity of a valuable news vehicle for the School community. During those 12 years, I have considered it a privilege to have worked with Erin Reeve and latterly Gillian Lennox in bringing this publication to you. Gillian has been outstanding to work with but all three of us would acknowledge Barb Saunders who, without her desktop publishing skills and her determination to move people and mountains, The Bulletin would perhaps be the poorer. I leave you with the words of Benjamin Franklin: "either write something worth reading, or do something worth writing".*

## 100<sup>th</sup> Birthday

John Keesing (M 1937-40)



We congratulate John, our oldest Old Boy, who celebrated his 100th birthday on 9 April 2023.

Rob Moore (M 1992-96)



graduated LLB/BA from Victoria University and practises law in Whanganui in the firm Moore Law founded by his father Richard. Rob claims he had no real desire to be a lawyer until he reached his late twenties, having had an earlier career in Wellington in social services which helped him make the decision to move towards family law and later commercial law. He now practises across a broad spectrum of the law including commercial, estate, property, wills and trusts and relationship property. Rob's passion for Whanganui and the prospect of joining his father's firm prompted his return home, seeking a better work-life balance in order to spend more time with his visually impaired four-year-old son. He has been on the Executive of the WCSOBGA since 2015.

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#### Mike Webber (M 1951-54)



joined Rose Charities New Zealand as a Trustee in 2005 and made 15 trips to Cambodia, however after 20 years of successfully supporting and creating eye health services in Cambodia and beyond, Rose Charities New Zealand has officially wound up as a legal entity. Mike, a retired optometrist, said he felt privileged to have been a part of Rose Charities NZ. "After initial research in Cambodia, carried out by John Veale, Dr David Sabiston and myself, we decided that we could help prevent blindness in a country where eyecare services were severely limited at the time due to very low numbers of eyecare professionals". Well done Mike for accomplishing such great humanitarian work.

#### Scott Newman (P 1983-87)



has now been permanently appointed Athletics New Zealand's High Performance Director. Although we covered his career in that issue, it is notable that he still holds the WCS records for Senior Boys High Jump and the 110m Hurdles. Whilst talking Athletics, another notable Old Boy, **Geordie Beamish (Hy 2012-14)** finished sixth in the Millrose Games in New York in the 3000m in February, recording a time of 7:36.22s to take 3.28s from the Indoor New Zealand record he set at the same meeting last year. His mark was also quicker than Nick Willis' national outdoor record of

7:36.91s set in 2014 to ensure he banked the absolute New Zealand 3000m record. It was another breakthrough run by the 26-year-old US-based athlete, who hails from Havelock North but was schooled in Whanganui where his athletics career developed at WCS under the shrewd eye of coach Alec McNab.

#### Ben Smith (Hy 2004-08)



is to be congratulated on his recent batting performance for the Central District Stags in a Ford Trophy cricket fixture at Seddon Park, Hamilton. He smashed an impressive 145 from just 119 balls to show that he is still a force to be reckoned with in domestic cricket. His 145 was the eighth-highest knock in Central Stags Ford Trophy history and was just shy of his own best List A score of 149 not out. Nice work Benny. Ben and **Tom Bruce (S 2005-09)** shared time in WCS XIs and now play together for the Central Districts Stags in NZ first-class cricket. Apart from scoring a century for a Scottish Development side against Durham Academy, Tom also became the first batsman to score double centuries in the 115-year history of NZ's Plunket Shield when last season he scored 208 not out against Northern Districts and backed that up in the very next fixture against Auckland with 204, also not out. Since his debut for Central Districts in 2014, he has represented the Black Caps in T20 games, captained the NZ A team against India, has won the NZC Super Smash Player of the year, NZC Domestic Player of the Year and Central Stags Player of the Year. Not a bad record Tom!

#### Joe Faram (H 1978-81)



obtained his helicopter pilot's licence in 1985 after attending Nelson Aviation College in 1984. In September 1987 he founded Faram Helicopters which later evolved into Rotorforce NZ Ltd, clocking up in excess of 14,000 personal flight hours. Joe is also a keen sportsman and was placed 4th in the NZ Stockcar Championships in 1999 and 2nd in the following year. He has a career highlight of being a Motorsport 2012 NZ Champion.

All his training and flying hours have paid off for Joe as the devastating Cyclone Gabrielle of February 2023 has seen him delivering medical and essential supplies to those isolated in the dreadful floods in the Hawke's Bay. He hovered over roofs and plucked people to safety describing the floodwaters as "like a tidal wave". He rescued an elderly lady from a tree and her husband from a roof, flying the hypothermic woman straight to hospital. Another rescue involved a man with his leg in plaster, also taken from a roof, in addition to young children. But the rescue close to Collegiate hearts came when Joe lifted **Kate Austin (B 2003-07)** and her fiancé Sam and their seven week-old son, George off a shed roof in Waipawa and to safety - massive relief for Kate, her family and also father **Richard Austin (S 1971-75)** and mother **Rosie Austin (Staff 2012-19)**. Joe said that it was a grim sight looking down at the battered region and seeing the true damage and extent of the devastation.



He told The Bulletin that he took 11 people off roofs in Waipawa and dozens more in Pakowhai. Joe stated that flying conditions were “difficult with wind, rain and drizzle making for difficult visibility especially when landing on roofs from the helicopter. Flood recovery would be difficult, and I believe a lot of people would have lost 100% of their belongings and their homes”. The number of rescues Joe carried out was nothing short of heroic and although that is all part of their training, no pilot would ever have trained for such catastrophic weather conditions. Many thanks on behalf of the WCS community, Joe. *Vestigia Nulla Retrorsum*

**Rebecca Scown (Gw 1999-2000),**



CEO of Youth Experience in Sport (YES), a charity which helps kids from London's lower decile areas discover

opportunities and belonging through sport. Rebecca says the role as CEO was a huge jump for her, but a number of the skills she learned as an athlete has been able to help her in the business world. She loves being a Kiwi in London as they have such a great reputation, and she really likes to fly the Kiwi flag. Plus, it was great when Kiwis visited last year when the New Zealand team competed at the World Rowing Championships in Prague and later travelled to Wales to compete in the Coastal World Rowing Champs. As for future plans, Rebecca says her role at YES is still very much her focus right now and she feels there is still a lot of scope to continue to increase the charity's impact. She also appreciated how her job allows her to reflect back on her rowing career. “The most rewarding part of my role is being able to get out and visit the clubs we support. The kids are so engaged. It

makes me appreciate even more how much rowing gave me and just how privileged I was to have those opportunities. Sport took me to places I never would have dreamed were possible, and so to be able to give that back, on another level, is really rewarding.” Rebecca says her advice to other Kiwi explorers is to make sure they make the most of the offshore networks. She recommends talking to as many people as possible and connecting with the New Zealand network through groups like Kea. The New Zealand network “is a really powerful thing”.

**Hermann Retzlaff (E, 1987-90)** is a natural leader – demonstrated while at School and continued throughout the rest of his life. Hermann is proud of his Samoan heritage, dedicating a lot of his time to serving his community. His highlights at WCS included being in the 1st XV for three years, being Head of House, winning House Rugby and House Music, but also having the opportunity to connect with the local Samoan community in Whanganui, the start of something special. Prior to University Hermann had a gap year working at Collegiate Ramsgate in Kent, England, doing the usual ‘gappy’ things – coaching sport, helping with PE classes, and making the most of having Europe on the doorstep. Then it was off to Auckland University to complete a double degree in Arts and Law, with one year off amongst that time to live and work in Samoa. From 1992-95 while at University, Hermann got involved with Samoan Youth Groups through his church; by 1996 he was one of the leaders. This continued until after he was married when he and his wife managed the local church Samoan-speaking youth group for over ten years. In 2016, Hermann returned to Samoa as the Attorney General (lead legal advisor) to the Government of Samoa. He was managing up to 50 lawyers made up

of five divisions which covered all legal advice to the Public Service. His father was Attorney General from 1986-88, and with his four-year term from 2016-2020 they became the first father and son to undertake this role.”

On return to New Zealand in 2020, Hermann worked as a Crown Prosecutor before being appointed Public Defender for the Waitakere region. He now manages a team of 20 lawyers with 600 clients to look after. “We are a team that represent lower income members of the community who face criminal charges with a prospect of imprisonment, but are not able to afford a lawyer.” This just goes to show where Hermann's heart lies - with the people.

When he looks back at his time at Collegiate, he certainly has fond memories such as winning the Quadrangular at home in 1990 as underdogs against Wellington College. As for his most influential teacher, the late Peter Irvine was the man – in class, but more so as his 1st XV Coach in 1988-89. “I learnt resilience and discipline to get on with it, but also to give it your best.” Hermann believes it's important to stay in touch with your school mates and network. “I only came back to one Old Boys weekend in 1994 then lost touch, much to my regret. Keeping in touch with your old school mates is so important and attending Old Boys and Girls events when possible” - in itself is another example of how important people and the community are to Hermann. Service is clearly part of who he is. He was giving of his time when at Whanganui Collegiate, and he continues to do so today - a true treasure for many communities he has influenced over the years.



### Hamish McDonald (G 1959-62)



and his family hosted other local QEII covenantors and local community members at their farm in Carterton last year to celebrate a 9-hectare forest that the McDonald family call 'The Gorge' officially becoming the 5000th area in New Zealand to be protected with an Open Space Covenant in partnership with the QEII Trust. The family described it as a huge honour to protect the area adding that they enjoy the native bush and that it's a privilege to have it and to improve it. Hamish put the first block of bush into a QEII covenant in the 1980s and the newest covenant adds to the growing network of protected privately owned land in Aotearoa. The total area of land protected by a QEII Open Space Covenant is now close to 200,000 hectares – about the same area as the North Island's three National Parks combined.

### Zac O'Brien (H 2004-06)



recently returned to Whanganui after he was offered a job opportunity at Craigs Investment Partners as an Investment Advisor, managing investment portfolios for Trusts, Companies, and individuals. Zac went to the University of Canterbury to study Commerce after which he moved to Wanaka to become a ski patroller. Travelling, working and learning important life lessons overseas, he returned to Auckland and was appointed to a role with the local Craigs IP Branch. Co-incidentally the CIP's Investment Advisor who interviewed Zac for his role was

Director and Old Boy **William Stevens (S 1969-73)**. After marrying **Sarah Lyons (Gw/B 2005-06)** Zac transferred with his young family back to Whanganui and settled into becoming a keen supporter of local community organisations; one of those being Whanganui Women's Refuge, where he is a Board member. Zac has also joined the WCSOBGA Executive enabling him to use his energy, networking and relationship skills and digital engagement to help the Association keep progressing. Seamless, informative, and genuine engagement is his goal with the OBGA community. The Bulletin wishes him well with that objective in mind.

### Dan Morrah (H 1985-89)



having gained a BA in Media and Communications at Massey University, Dan travelled for three years around the UK and Europe, finally settling back down in Wellington where he is currently employed by Inland Revenue. In between times, Dan appeared on TVNZ's game show, Telebingo, and at the 2010 Wellington 7s and having won a ballot to appear as an oompa loompa, he masqueraded as a beer-server for the Pre-HIV 1970s LA Lakers! Having featured Dan in Bulletin 70, we find he still has many interests dominated by sport and can always be found on the sideline of any rugby field involving the Old Boys University Club, and later propping up the bar of the Cambridge Hotel in Wellington! He also moonlights annually as a leprechaun on St Patrick's Day and for a seemingly unlimited bar tab, he can be found amongst the Irish patrons

who celebrate their day in the Green Man Pub in central Wellington where a bit of Irish meets a bit of Kiwi! A couple of years ago, Dan was making the long late night walk home from the Green Man to his Thorndon apartment. With still some distance to walk, Dan was aware of the presence of a police car pulling up beside him and the passenger door opening. "What's this all about?" said the constable looking at a rather dishevelled Dan dressed from head to toe in a green leprechaun costume, "I'm making my way home" said the leprechaun "but it's becoming a bit of a struggle officer" replied Dan. "jump in and we'll drive you home in the interests of your welfare Mr Leprechaun", hoping they didn't have far to go. "Excellent" responded Dan 'Leprechaun' Morrah and into the police car he fell. Meanwhile, the constable was reporting in her 'job' to Wellington Central but the desk sergeant didn't believe her account of the story that they were delivering an inebriated leprechaun to his home. On arrival at the apartment, and at the constable's request, Dan posed with the constable to ensure they could provide photographic proof to Central that in fact this 'job' was for real, and not an Irish joke to be sure! That photo may still be on the walls of the Central Police social room in Wellington. St Patrick's Day last month found Dan once more dressed in green for a day of Irish fun at the Green Man Pub where not only was he interviewed on RNZ but also by Polly Gillespie on Today FM. Apparently, two guys came in and asked for two pints of Guinness before the Green Man had even opened. Not being served they asked Dan if they could wait and he said no problem and asked them if they would like a pint while they're waiting! Although Dan assisted in contributing to a very



successful day and evening over the bar, sadly and before he could 'drain' his bar tab, he was bundled into a cab and given a free ride back to his apartment, but this time without the need for NZ Police intervention! You're a legend in your own lifetime, Dan.

**Elliot Jones (Hy 2018-22),**



diagnosed as dyslexic when he was 12, has used his experiences to create the documentary *Unlocking Potential*, the premiere of which was held in the Prince Edward Auditorium in July last year. Elliot brought in people from a wide range of fields to talk about their own journey with dyslexia for his documentary, including Crusaders rugby coach (and newly-appointed 2024 All Blacks coach Scott Robertson, Weta Workshop founder Sir Richard Taylor, Olympic shot putter Tom Walsh and UNICEF CE Michelle Sharp. So far Elliot has raised over \$60,000 for the Dyslexia Foundation through sponsorships and donations and speaks in schools about the disorder. His latest project is working with a couple of other dyslexia advocates on a petition currently being considered by a Government Select Committee. On the back of a 2016 Government enquiry into dyslexia some things changed but Elliot and his team are urging them to institute another round of changes and continue to improve.

At present Elliot is working part-time and is a coach for the Central North Island Debating development squad, having helped coach the Collegiate Gold debating team to victory at the Central North Island champs for the third year in a row. Thanks to his

documentary he was nominated for "Young New Zealander of the Year". However, despite making the final three he was pipped at the post. Among the original 2000 nominations for the award, he then made the final ten, subsequently reduced to three. Elliot believes that the Young New Zealander of the Year gave additional opportunities to further advance dyslexia in the public eye, getting more people involved with the message. Keep up your fine work, Elliot.

**Jeremy (S 1986-90), Daniel (S 1988-92), Willie (S 1991-95) and Ben Absolom (S 1993-97)**



are amongst many WCSOBGA families who have suffered at the hands of Cyclone Gabrielle. Rissington Station, the sixth-generation home of the Absolom family and the Rissington Cattle Company, became isolated following the loss of the bridge over the Mangaone River; subsequently a Bailey bridge was constructed and opened at the end of March. Willie, a builder, lives on the property - Daniel suggests he has plenty of work ahead of him in the foreseeable future, restoring either damaged or written-off buildings at Rissington!

Three of the sons of the late **John Absolom (S 1958-62)**, Jeremy, Daniel and Ben are working Directors and have continued to build on the cattle market their father revolutionised in the '70s and '80s. John saw the huge potential in composite breeds of cattle and the necessary research required, and although it was seen as a massive gamble at the time for the stud cattle business, the 1980s are now seen as the moment when the industry

changed. John's sons are now turning to technology to help beef farmers lift profitability by using the information gleaned to capture information about individual animal intake which in turn will allow them to lower costs, not only of production but also of emissions - thus not only are the Absoloms continuing to grow the Company as a business but they are also caring for the environment in which they operate, by continuing to innovate and change and by working in harmony with the land for its sustainability. The brothers recognise the impact of their decisions for future generations, and there is a desire for their fourth generation WCS children to continue the Absolom legacy by one day hopefully heading up the Rissington Cattle Company.

**Toni Marks (Dr A B Marks, M 1957-61)**



retired psychiatrist, couldn't see what the fuss was about when, in his final year of a medical degree, he learned his poor vision was much more serious than he'd realised. Within 10 years his rare degenerative eye disease Retinitis Pigmentosa had progressed to the point that he was completely blind. By then he was a qualified psychiatrist with a busy hospital job, a wife and a young family. Toni's retinitis pigmentosa was first picked up when he was only 5 years old, but it wasn't until 1967, in his last year of medical school, that Toni's eye specialist informed him he would go blind in the near future. In 1976, Toni's remaining sight disappeared within a week when he caught pneumonia. He had to learn Braille and to touch type and he had people who used to read journal articles to him so he could keep up



with his studies and stay abreast of developments in psychiatry. As technology has improved with such developments as text-to-voice applications, life has become somewhat easier for blind people - however Toni says blindness has never been a hindrance to him in his work. He says patients were often more at ease with him because they could see he had his own issues. During those years fishing provided an escape from the intensity of a job that revolved around private practice as well as busy mental health units, emergencies, and shift work in the public hospital system. When he was called on to give evidence in criminal cases, work could occasionally intrude on his trout haunts. One snowy winter fishing expedition on the Tongariro River was cut short when he had to dash to Taupo Airport to fly home for a court case. Toni is the father of **Angus Marks (E 1988-89)** and grandfather to **Bella (Gw 2019-23)** and **Fergus (S 2021-)**.

**Harry Godfrey (S 2016-20)** has signed with the Hurricanes rugby franchise until 2025 and had his first start in Super Rugby Pacific in Palmerston North playing 70 minutes at fullback and the last 10 minutes at 1st 5/8. Head Coach Jason Holland described Harry as a "quality player for Whanganui Collegiate who's come through the Development pathway and taken an extra step forward in terms of maturity and his understanding of what it takes to become a professional footy player." Harry was still young enough to qualify for and co-captain the Hurricanes in the Super Rugby U20 Tournament in Taupo last month and was the MVP of the Tournament. Harry has been selected in the NZ Under 20 Squad for the World Cup.

### Congratulations to **Trent Alabaster (Hy 2020-22)**



who won the Novice Shearing Final (two sheep) in 6.17.22 and 28.861pts at the New Zealand Shearing Championships in Te Kuiti early this month. He joins a long list of Taihape shearing family Alabasters on the New Zealand Shears Honours Board.

### **Jason Granville (H 1999-2000)**



has had an extremely busy life since leaving WCS with the words "move it Granville" especially ringing in his ears. The School's Athletics guru Alec McNab got Jason moving faster around the golf course, and he hasn't slowed down since. Jason studied at the Radio Training School, Wellington, returned to Whanganui and spent a number of years on local radio. He was elected to the Whanganui District Council for a few years and at the same time an opportunity came up to purchase Take It Easy Tours - a business which takes escorted coach tours throughout New Zealand and overseas, as well as providing general transport for local schools and businesses. "Collegiate have been so supportive of our little business over the years, which we really appreciate. As an Old Boy, it's really special travelling with the various sports

teams and having the opportunity to cheer them on". The life lesson taken from Collegiate was to give him a good work ethic, and that anything is possible. As President of the WCSOBGA, Whanganui Branch, Jason was an ex-officio member of OBGA Executive until 2020. The Whanganui community are lucky to have such a dedicated Old Boy serving them, greatly helped by his wife and business partner, Nadine. You've taken that lesson and run with it, Jason.

**Dan Jex-Blake (H 1977-81)** and his wife **Tam (WCBOT & WCS Foundation)** recognised the need for another pathway for young people into careers in the sheep and beef sector was critical, they decided to do something about it with the end result being the Growing Future Farmers (GFF) programme. After starting with just two students in 2017 and 2018 as part of a pre-pilot, the programme grew to include three in 2019 and 10 in 2020. Now there are many more student trainees on farms throughout New Zealand, giving these young people a career pathway in this sector. Despite the fact that the Jex-Blake property has taken some massive hits in the storms over the last 12 months and especially Cyclone Gabrielle, they are proud that their approximately 2000ha (effective) Mangapoike sheep and beef farm (about 55km southwest of Gisborne at the top of the Waingake Valley) is a GFF training farm. Dan sees a bright future for GFF and says that as the programme grows it will offer an invaluable network of trained staff to other farmers. Tam has just won the NZ Community Leadership Award at the 2023 Rabobank Farm2Fork Conference in Sydney.



### Gordon Pembridge (Gn/G 1981-85)



was the overall runner-up out of 900 entries for the Wildlife Artist of the Year in 2022, in association with BBC Wildlife. Born in Kenya, he is a Director of Gordon Pembridge Design Ltd in Auckland. As a young boy lucky enough to experience the wilds of Africa, along with many an adventure in the bush, Gordon developed a passion for natural history. To this day wildlife and wildlife art burns in his blood and the desire to inspire others to see the beauty in wildlife runs deep. He also loves the warmth of wood – in working with it he is reminded of the precious value and history through the growth rings of each piece. Once he has turned the piece the design is then drawn onto the vessel by hand which is then carved and sealed. Only the finest artists' materials are used to paint the motif, be it an African wildlife scene or a graphic fern. A very talented man and well worthy of his award last year.

### Josh McCormack (Hy 2014-17)



left WCS to embark on his medical studies as well as doing a lot of work in promoting the health of rainbow communities from his base in Auckland. Josh is concerned about the health of young people growing up in rural New Zealand and has launched a campaign that aims to reach the rural heartland. He received a youth

programme Gary Ware award which includes \$4000 to help fund and develop the project.

### Professor Emeritus David Williams (Hy 1959-63)



now has the opportunity to continue pursuing his career-long passion for Treaty of Waitangi issues with his appointment by the Governor-General to the Waitangi Tribunal, and immediately following that is his appointment to a Tribunal panel conducting the constitutional, self-government and electoral system inquiry – issues of paramount significance for the future of New Zealand. There can be no wiser a person to advance this role than David. He tells the Bulletin that these appointments are just about a perfect fit for the interests and passions of this particular Professor Emeritus! David will now have a close-up view of how much of the vision is realisable in practice. The OBGA and the Bulletin congratulate David (a Rhodes Scholar and a WCS Honours Tie recipient) on his appointment.

### Sir Hugh Rennie KNZM CBE KC (M 1958-62)



whose knighthood we featured in Bulletin 81, appears again on our pages with the release of his latest book *Chatham Islands Resurgent*, a history of how the Chatham Islanders overcame

150 years of misrule – firstly detailing the improbable constitutional history of the Islands to 1990 and secondly how this was achieved. Hugh wrote this for those wanting to know more about the most curious parts of the history of government in New Zealand, or perhaps for all who enjoy a story of improbable success. Hugh wrote "could this success story be a lesson for other parts of the country misunderstood and neglected by Wellington". Covering the 200 years since European contact and the 150 years within that of "British rule", Hugh's involvement in the islands spans more than 50 years, including 11 years as first chair of the Chatham Islands Enterprise Trust (1990-2001). *Chatham Islands Resurgent* is a valuable and excellent historical account from Hugh's pen.

### Cameron Brewer (E 1986-90)



graduated with a BA at Massey University and in 1996 founded a community newspaper *Inside Otago*. A self-employed

communications consultant since 2015 he also served as an Auckland Councillor for Orakei for two terms from 2010-16 and on the Rodney Local Board 2016-19. On that Board, he was chair of the Transport, Infrastructure and Environment Committee. Before being elected to Auckland Council, Cameron was the Chief Executive of the Newmarket Business Association for over five years, where he advocated strongly for local businesses, and led projects to revitalise Newmarket's town centre and improve security for retailers. During his six years as an Auckland Councillor, Cameron was chair of the Council's Business Advisory Forum and Chair of the Planning and Urban Design Panel. He also served as



deputy chair of the Ngāti Whātua Ōrākei Reserves Board. He also held Press Secretarial roles to Rt Hon Dame Jenny Shipley, Hon Rodney Hide and the Hon John Banks. His return to politics has Cameron contesting for the National Party the Labour-held seat of Upper Harbour in the upcoming October election.

#### **Michael Henley (S 1987-91)**



achieved a Bachelor of Physical Sciences and is now a wine specialist with a Post Grad Diploma of Viticulture and Oenology who recently became the world's 495th Master of Wine. Michael has held Marketing and Managerial roles at Craggy Range, Trinity Hill and more recently Aotearoa NZ Fine Wines. He has a determination to bring world-class wines and seasonal cuisine to the people of Hawke's Bay. His newly opened wine bar, bistro, tasting room, and wine shop Cellar 495 is in Hastings where he selects the wine menu for its ability to please and inspire. Michael said his chiropractor visited Cellar 945 one day and said "you need a chef here" and gave him a name. That chef, Carlita Campbell, has "nailed it" when it comes to producing beautiful food from local producers and the owner and the chef are working very hard to make this the very best little place in Hastings. During his many years in the wine industry, he also captained the WCSOB cricket teams from the 1990s which played the WCS 1st XI on an annual basis at School and he has also turned out for the Clifton County Cricket Club against touring WCS 1st XI teams at Te Awanga, a mecca for the cricket-mad folk of Hawke's Bay!

#### **Alysha McClintock (Gw 1993-94),**



Deputy Chair of the law firm Meredith Connell's management board, has been confirmed as the incoming Crown Solicitor for Auckland. With over two decades of prosecution experience for the Crown, Crown entities, and government agencies, Alysha has tackled all manner of serious crime, including murder, sexual and other serious violent offences and major drug crime, before the High Court and District Court.

#### **Andy Jefferd (S 1967-71)**



who was featured in Bulletin 81 in a story on his prominent rugby career, is this time in the news with members of the Tokomaru Bay Heritage Trust saving an East Coast Taonga, the historically significant Tokomaru Bay Wharf. This historic now-dilapidated wharf was built in the 19th century and was the site of one of New Zealand's big freezing works. Andy asserts that the \$8m+ bill to fix it would be an investment which would be repaid multiple times via tourism spend. With the huge potential for tourism on the East Coast, Andy has spent six years battling for funds for the wharf restoration, listed as a Heritage New Zealand Category 2 landmark. He has now called on the Gisborne District Council to step up financially to help ensure the wharf is

renovated and made publicly accessible again. Watch this space and Andy's determination!

#### **John Coles QSM (H 1947-50)** is one of



the School's proudest Old Boys and maybe even the loudest in his affirmation of WCS to anyone with whom he has had contact. He has penned

memories which reflect his four years at School, initially for future generations of his family but also in his desire to record his pride and respect for his School. John spent six years as a pupil at St Peter's School from 1941-46 and then finished his education at WCS under the Headmastership of **F W Gilligan (1936-54)**. John remembers FWG and RH Owen (later to become Bishop of Wellington and Archbishop of NZ) because both men had taught John's father at Uppingham School, founded in 1584 in Rutland, UK. It was Owen's support for Gilligan's application to the Whanganui Board that resulted in FWG's appointment as Headmaster and, in John's opinion, they were together able to chart a confident future for Collegiate.

And so to 1947 - with **JSC (H3)** name tapes sewn on to his clothes, and petrol rationing still evident from wartime, John boarded the Express at Frankton Junction at 9pm along with 20 other boys from Auckland and points south, arriving in Marton at 4am! A transfer was then required to a more modest train to Wanganui which stopped at College Street adjacent to Collegiate. Trunks were removed from the guard's van and so began the first of many journeys to and from School.



Having six prior years of boarding, settling into life on The Drive, making friends, playing sport and getting used to school food did not prove too difficult. Lt Colonel Gould was the Steward and, despite his Army training, any culinary skills were certainly not evident! However, their diet was supplemented by the delights of chocolate sundaes during their once-a-week town leave and in addition food from their tuckboxes was consumed (if it hadn't already been besieged by insects!)

Just as there is today, sport was given full attention with much Inter-House and Inter-School rivalry, with rowing paramount in John's life - this sport still brings him joy when WCS rows at events on his "home course" at Karapiro. Ballroom dancing lessons were held in Big School under Tutor Browne, this being an activity much enjoyed by the boys both at School and with school holiday dances.

As John's early years raced by, he realised how much the boys were helped by the calibre of the Staff, many of whom were still coming out of their war experiences. Some of the boys' antics didn't help that withdrawal, but it did dawn on them that the sacrifices made by these men during the war were not in vain, as they gave their all to the School. John had many thoughts and experiences during those four years in Hadfield, suffice to say that he saw them as great years growing up at Collegiate assisted by his wide circle of lifelong friends, the numbers of whom he acknowledges are now diminishing rather rapidly. His attendance at every Big School Society weekend is testament to his love and affection for WCS, providing him with evidence of solidarity and goodness. Unfortunately, a prolonged stay in Waikato Hospital has precluded John from making the trip to Whanganui

for BSS 2023, but he was there in spirit whilst recuperating in Te Awamutu.

NB: The Bulletin Editor acknowledges the contribution to the Cambridge community made by John over many years. His involvement and support for the farming community and Field Days at Mystery Creek goes back nearly 50 years since its inception in 1969. He was extensively involved in the establishment of Hospice Waikato having served as a Trustee for 17 years and, in addition to his involvement with the Heart Foundation, John and his wife Sally open their Karapiro farm every spring to members of the Cancer Society to donate and pick all their daffodils at Chiddingfold to sell for the fundraising day for the Cancer Society. For these and other community services, John was awarded the QSM in 2010.

## OBITUARIES

**Adrian Williams (Hy 1944-47)** died in Gisborne last October aged 92. He attended St George's School (1940-43).

After school Adrian returned to Ruangarehu Station inland from Tokomaru Bay. He eventually took over the running the farm from his father **D W W Williams (H 1908-11)** and farmed it for 46 years. Adrian was a Waiapu County Councillor from 1971-1989 and was Secretary of the Ruatoria/Tokomaru Bay Branch of Federated Farmers. Having successfully settled his two sons **Mark (Hy 1974-77)** and **Guy (Hy 1977-81 Head of House)** on to farms, he retired to Gisborne. Adrian's grand-daughter **Harriet (Gw 2012-16, Capt of Girls Cricket 2015-16)** and grandson **Joe (Hy 2013-17)** became the fourth generation of the family to attend Whanganui Collegiate.

**Graham Faulkner (H 1960-64)** died in Gisborne last October not only leaving behind his wife Heather, two sons and four grandchildren but also a lasting legacy of service to the Gisborne community. Graham's approach to life was do what you can to help and enjoy the company of friends while you do it! He joined Rotary in 1995, after a six-week Group Study Exchange to Denmark in 1982 when he was the farming representative. His role in Rotary enabled him to chair Gisborne Development Incorporated for several years.

He farmed the Waihina Station, the 750-acre Muriwai farm his grandfather had bought from district pioneer **Eru Woodbine Johnson (Head Prefect 1897-1903)** and whom the Bulletin featured in Issue 79. Graham served as senior vice-president of the Gisborne branch of Federated Farmers and then became President of the Gisborne Veterinary Club.

He was elected as a representative from the Cook Ward to the Cook Hospital Board and also chaired the Tairāwhiti Area Health Board after which as local commissioner of health, he oversaw the transition to Crown Health Enterprise which ended a 14 year service to the health sector.

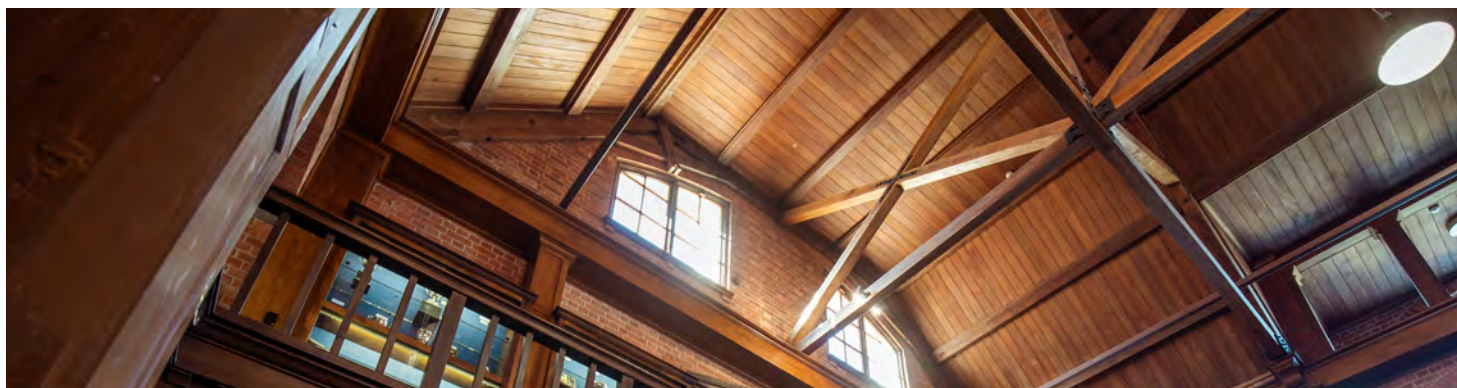
He had a strong interest in politics and although he was treasurer of the National Party's East Coast electorate for 17 years, he missed out on the National seat for Gisborne in the Parliament of 1987. Graham was treasurer for three Gisborne lodges and played the organ for all the Gisborne lodges. His interest and service to the community was recognised in 2018 by the Gisborne District Council with a Citizens Civic Award.

Graham was a true gentleman, a man of substance, honourable and honest.



# Obituary List

OBG#	Surname	First Names	House	Years WCS	Died
4740	Elliot	James Bayly (Bayly)	M	1947-1950	26 August 2021
4281	Brett	Michael Ian	G	1942-1945	16 March 2022
5168	Bonnor	Richard David	Hy	1952-1955	10 April 2022
5136	Saunders	James Imlay (Jim)	M	1951-1955	8 July 2022
6079	Fenwick	Euan Percy	G	1962-1965	27 July 2022
4320	Larkman	Charles Maurice	M	1942-1946	19 August 2022
4379	Barker	Phillip John (Pip)	H	1943-1946	21 August 2022
5454	Dyson	Jonathan Richard	M	1955-1956	21 August 2022
5096	Collins	Barry Ian	G	1951-1953	6 October 2022
4539	Williams	Adrian Herbert	Hy	1944-1947	26 October 2022
5656	Latham	William David (Bill)	H	1957-1961	6 November 2022
4353	Warren	Roger Greville	S	1942-1946	16 October 2022
4650	Donald	John Quentin	S	1946-1949	7 November 2022
5303	Lawrence	David Effingham	G	1953-1957	19 November 2022
6176	Craig	Graham Thomas	M	1963-1967	20 November 2022
7538	Babbage	Nigel Charles Harrison	E	1975-1979	20 November 2022
5760	Turner	Peter	S	1958-1961	22 November 2022
4584	Hoe	Yuan Liang (Liang)	M	1945-1949	22 November 2022
4710	Wynne-Lewis	David Canning	S	1946-1949	7 December 2022
5244	Whale	Brian Lynn	Hy	1952-1954	8 December 2022
5195	Hammond	Herbert David (David)	M	1952-1955	9 December 2022
5706	Bruce	Douglas Kempthorne	H	1958-1962	10 December 2022
5036	Kirk	Noel	M	1950-1952	13 December 2022
6480	Cockerell	Douglas Allan	M	1966-1970	13 December 2022
5050	Nitz	Edgar Barry (Barry)	H	1950-1952	14 December 2022
5284	Finch	Charles Edmund (John)	H	1953-1956	18 December 2022
4504	Lilburn	Robert James (Jim)	G	1944-1947	21 December 2022
4172	Laity	Anthony Fox (Tony)	Hy	1940-1942	25 December 2022
6021	Powdrell	Walter Richard	S	1961-1964	28 December 2022
5142	Symes	Edmund Hayward	G	1951-1953	23 January 2023
5234	Spencer	Robert Kingsley	H	1952-1955	25 January 2023
4683	Mill	Alain Barry (Sandy)	G	1946-1948	26 January 2023
4868	Pearce	David Roderick (Rod)	S	1948-1952	2 February 2023
5533	Ball	Peter Selwyn	M	1956-1960	10 February 2023
5207	Lethbridge	David George	H	1952-1955	14 February 2023
4857	McNutt	James William (Bill)	G	1948-1951	23 February 2023
4429	Parker	Anthony Gordon Hastie (Tony)	S	1943-1946	4 March 2023
4780	Mathieson	Ronald Ross (Ross)	S/M	1947-1951	16 March 2023
5555	Glendining	John Hember	S	1956-1959	29 March 2023
6183	Fairbrother	David Alexander	Gn	1963-1967	20 April 2023
4571	Dewhirst	Roger Graham	S	1945-1948	21 April 2023
4823	Cameron	Brian Crawford	H	1948-1951	22 April 2023
3895	Sare	George Edward Keith (Keith)	S	1937-1940	26 April 2023



# Events Calendar

## TERM 2

### MAY

- Wed 3 Rugby Headmaster XV v Te Aute - home
- Sat 6 Rugby Fixtures v Hato Pāora - home
- Wed 10 Inter-School Fixtures v Scots College - WCS
- Sat 13 Rugby CNI v St John's Hamilton – home
- Tues 16 Cross Country Whanganui SS Championships
- Wed 17 Inter-School Fixtures v NPGHS – home
- Rugby CNI v St Peter's Cambridge - away
- Sat 27 Rugby CNI v St John's Hastings – WCS
- Sat 27 WCS Tour Day
- Sat 27-28 WCS Sleepover Weekend
- Wed 31 Inter-School Fixtures v FDMC – away

### JUNE

- Fri 2 WCS Inter-House Cross Country
- Mon 5 King's Birthday
- Tue 6 Inter-School Fixtures v St Matthew's – away
- Inter-School Fixtures v Rathkeale – away
- Tue 13 Inter-School Fixtures v Lindisfarne – home
- Sat 17 Rugby CNI v Wesley College – home
- Sat 17-18 NZSS Cross Country Championships – Nelson
- Fri 23-25 Collegiate Weekend - House Music
- Tue 27-29 97th Quadrangular Rugby Tournament – Wellington
- Tue 27 WCS v Nelson College
- Tue 27 Collegiate Connect Wellington
- Thu 29 WCS v Christ's College or Wellington College

### JULY

- Fri 14 Matariki Public Holiday

## TERM 3

- Thu 20-23 Swimming NZSS Championships – Wellington
- Sat 22 Rugby CNI v St Paul's - away
- Sat 22-23 Boys Hockey 1st XI CNI Tournament @ WCS
- Sat 29 Rugby CNI v Feilding HS – away

### AUGUST

- Sat 5 Rugby CNI Semi-Finals
- Tue 8-12 Swimming NZ Short Course Swimming – Hawke's Bay
- Sat 12 Rugby CNI Finals - Taupo
- Wed 16 Inter-School Fixtures v Whanganui High School - away
- Sat 26 WCS Tour Day
- Mon 28-29 Tournament Week

## TERM 4

- Sat 28 Oct Senior Prize Giving
- Fri 3 Nov WCS Foundation 40th Gala Dinner
- Sat 4 Nov WCS Foundation 40th AGM
- Thu 14 Dec Junior Prize Giving
- Sat 24 Dec WCSOBGA Carol Service – WCS Chapel

### 2024

- 15-17 Mar 2001-2010 Reunion
- 50 years of WCS Football

### 2025

- Big School Society

### 2026

- 100th Quadrangular Tournament - WCS

### 2029

- 175th Jubilee



# Donors

1854 Society  
(over \$100,000)

Anonymous  
Warren Austad  
Michael Benjamin  
Euan R Bidwill  
Izard Family  
Donald C R Paterson  
Pam Williams, QSO  
Philippa Williams

Black and Blue Club  
(\$10,000-\$99,000)

Paul Bayly  
Robert E Bleimeister  
Charles & Liz Bolt  
G Bristol & Sons  
Colgan Family  
Keith Collier Family  
Sandy Dobbin  
J B S Dudding Trust  
Stratton & Jenni Giblin  
Martin & Julie Gray  
Adam & Rachael Gresham  
David Hammond  
David Haynes  
N W Horne  
Denis & Jane Kirkcaldie  
D M McIntosh  
J R Mowbray  
The Nowell-Usticke Family  
Guy Pierce  
D J & E J Polson  
Darren & Jacinta Rowland  
Duncan & Sam Priest  
Peter Shirtcliffe  
Bill Sinclair  
Brodie & Fiona Stevens  
W T Stevens  
J D Stewart  
D S M Trott ONZM  
W R Trotter  
G R Wells  
H B Williams Educational Trust  
John Winlove  
Anonymous x 3

## Dining Hall - Leave a Legacy

Donate a chair made from solid wood and have your name or family name on a plaque on the back of the chair.

Pool your resources as a family, sports team, cultural or class group and purchase a table

**Place your order here or go to**

<https://www.collegiate.school.nz/philanthropy/dining-hall-furniture/274/>

*WCS Foundation Registered Charity*



### 97<sup>th</sup> QUADRANGULAR RUGBY TOURNAMENT

27-29 June 2023  
hosted by  
Wellington College

WELLINGTON COLLEGE

WHANGANUI COLLEGIATE SCHOOL

CHRIST'S COLLEGE

NELSON COLLEGE

Anyone outside of the Wellington region who is interested in attending the **Wellington Collegiate Connect** function on **Tuesday 27 June**, please email [gillian.lennox@collegiate.school.nz](mailto:gillian.lennox@collegiate.school.nz) to receive the invitation.



