



The Phariot

THE OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER OF THE RONGOTAI COLLEGE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION

March 2009.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIR

After seventeen years at the helm, Graeme Jarratt has decided to retire from his position as Principal of Rongotai College. Graeme has been a high-calibre Principal and I am sure all Old Boys join with me in thanking him for the valued contribution he has made to Rongotai during this time. As the position of Principal is vital to the continued prosperity of the college it was very important that a very careful selection of Graeme's replacement was made. I had intended to suggest to Allen Shanks and the Board of Trustees that perhaps a suitable Old Boy might be prepared to offer his services to help in making the final decision on the appointment from the eighteen applicants for the position. However, I was very pleased to hear that the Board had also felt that it would be very helpful to have an outsider assisting with the selection. An approach had been made to Bruce Murray, of Cricket fame and a retired Principal, who had acted as principal at Rongotai College a couple of years ago during the period of Graeme Jarratt's sabbatical leave, to assist the Board in deciding on the successful applicant. I

congratulate the Board of Trustees on this decision which has resulted in the appointment of Kevin Carter, who is at present First Assistant at Tauranga Boys' College. One of the qualifications that Bruce Murray felt was important for Graeme's replacement was that he must have had considerable experience of

teaching at boys colleges. Kevin has spent most of his teaching life at boys colleges, including Auckland Grammar. His present school, Tauranga Boys', is a well-respected large boys college with twice the roll of Rongotai. I feel sure Kevin will be a great success at Rongotai.

The Old Boys' Association has continued to support the college financially. The Memorial Table and Lectern have been completely restored at a cost of \$2,800 and a donation of \$1000 was given to the Anna Renner Scholarship Fund upgrade project which Bill McCabe has organised.

David Boyer (1949-52)

Chairman

OBITUARIES

Sadly we record the deaths of the following Old Boys, to whose family and friends we extend our sympathy.

Thomas James Alfred (Jim) Ballinger (1937-42) of Paraparaumu died suddenly 3rd October 2008. Jim was a most generous benefactor both to the college and Victoria University of Wellington. His significant contributions to Rongotai created scholarships, provided computers for the new library and greatly assisted the funding of the college's Arts Centre. His latest donation to the Victoria University

Foundation set up the TJA Ballinger Scholarships for undergraduate students in science and mathematics to develop their careers in these disciplines.

Maurice Allen Berry (1939-44) died in Hawkes Bay Hospital on 5th October 2008. Maurice was a prefect in 1944 and later worked for the *Evening Post* newspaper. He was a journalist of some renown.

David Dinniss (1955-58) died in Hastings 16th July 2008. David qualified as a dentist but later was ordained into the Anglican Church after practising in England where he met his future wife.

Dave Farrington (1960-64) died 17th December 2008, aged 60 years. He was highly regarded in soccer circles as a committed football player, coach and administrator. Dave joined the Miramar Rangers Club in 1957, playing in the 9th grade B team, but rose quickly through the ranks to a ten-year first team career of 178 appearances, a club record. He will be best remembered as a coach. In the 1970's he coached Miramar's foundation women's team to five successive championships and coached both Wellington and New Zealand women's teams including winning the Asian Confederation Cup in 1978. In the 1980's he had great coaching success with Miramar, coaching the likes of Wynton Rufer, Oceania player of the century, and England striker, John Fashanu. He also coached All Whites Grant Turner and Barry Pickering and signed off his coaching career by winning the Chatham Cup in 2004. Dave was widely regarded as Wellington's most successful club football coach.
Acknowledgement: Dominion Post 19th December 2008.

Alan (Al) Hobman (1938-40) died suddenly at home on 21st September 2008. For much of his working life Alan was a city sign writer, but during a twenty year period, mainly in the 1960's and 70's, he was a professional wrestler. In the 1960's he was a main bill wrestler on Thursday nights in the Wellington Town Hall fighting the Great Zorro, one-time world champion Pat O'Connor, Tony "The Greek" Kontallis, John da Silva, Steve Rickard, Bruno Becker and a host of others. By 1966 he was the New Zealand Champion after only four years as a serious wrestler. He owed his durability in the ring to his very high level of fitness which he built up and maintained through weight-lifting. When playing rugby for an Oriental Rongotai team he was a light-weight lock and took considerable punishment from the heavier locks in opposition teams. On advice from team mates he took up weight-lifting and found it had a positive effect on his game. In 1951 he won the New Zealand Body Building title in Christchurch. Wrestling won over rugby. He toured New Zealand from Kaitaia to Invercargill and he also fought in Australia, Japan, Canada, Alaska, mainland USA, Singapore, Malaysia and Pacific territories. *Acknowledgement: Obituary by Peter Kitchin, Dominion Post, 25th September 2008.*

John Frederick (Jack) Morgan (1933-36) died at the Shona McFarlane Retirement Village on July 23rd 2008.

George William Stuart (1938-42) died Wellington on 25th July 2008.

Ross William Telford (1942-46) died suddenly at Havelock on 30th December 2008.

Barry C Turley (1948-51) died on 4th September 2008.

NEWS ABOUT OLD BOYS

Andrew Becroft (1971-75). Principal Youth Court Judge Andrew Becroft has expressed grave concern at the large number of truants identified by the Ministry of Education. He was reported in the *Dominion Post* of 20 December as saying, "The unexploded time bombs, who are mainly male, represent the hardcore of youth offenders. It is unacceptable that so many have fallen out of the schooling system. They're our toughest kids with a constellation of problems. As Youth Court Judges, we're terribly concerned by the lack of engagement in education of these top-end offenders." Andrew, in his role as Principal Youth Court Judge, has reservations about the proposed boot camp for young offenders, which he stated in the *Dominion Post* of 27 February 2009 as being arguably the least successful sentence in the Western World. He went on to state that New Zealand's corrective training camps which ran up till 2002 found 92% of young offenders re-offended within a year. "It was a spectacular, tragic, flawed failure." It is his opinion that physical programmes run by quality instructors, combined with intense family therapy, drug and alcohol counselling, education and other support could be beneficial.

Rees Buck (1982-85) was the winner of the Wellington Round the Bays Run in February this year. Well done Rees.

Brendan Burns (1969-72) is one of two Old Boys who are now members of Parliament following their success in the General Election of 8 November 2008. Brendan represents Christchurch Central. Congratulations to Brendan.

Peter Coates (1950-54) is one of six New Zealand Artists selected to make a cultural visit to China.

Mark de Lacy (1954-55) entertained at the Wellington Rugby Awards Dinner in 2008. He started his routine with a song about Lions midfielder Ma'a Nonu with the chorus, "The All Blacks play finer, in eye liner." He followed that with a ditty about a crying Chris Masoe and his late night handbag escapades. The article commented that thankfully Nonu was in Hong Kong with the All Blacks and Masoe had boarded a plane to take up his new contract in France. *Acknowledgement: Dominion Post, 7 Nov. 2008.*

John Hayes (1959-66) is now also a Member of Parliament and he represents the Wairarapa. Congratulations to John.

Bryan Hudson (1949-55) trained as a primary school teacher, but after a short period decided to make a career as a radio broadcaster, joining the staff of Station 2YA. His next career move was to the UK where he joined the staff of the BBC for ten years. He and his wife and family returned to New Zealand and he resumed his career as a radio announcer with the New Zealand Broadcasting Service. His current position is head of the International Division. Both Bryan and his wife have maintained considerable involvement in drama and their services have been recognised by the award of the Queen's Service Medal.

Chris Killen (1995-98) a Glasgow Celtic striker has required surgery on a knee to remove floating bone fragments, ruling him out of the All Whites' qualifying games against New Caledonia and possibly a spot at the 2010 World Cup in South Africa. It was reported in early February that Celtic have loaned Chris to English

Championship Club Norwich City until the end of the season. He was also a target for Scottish rivals Hearts but has scored only once for Celtic in an injury-hit time there.

John Lister (1952-57) is CEO of the *Spirit of Adventure Trust* which was recently named the world's best sailing training organisation. The annual prize was given to the sailing organisation that had demonstrated excellence in innovation and best practice in youth development at sea. The trust is part of a global association that takes young people to sea as part of their personal development. Established in 1972, the trust co-ordinates sea voyages on the tall ship, *Spirit of New Zealand*, successor to the *Spirit of Adventure*, for more than a thousand 15 to 19 year olds every year. The *Spirit of New Zealand*, which sails 340 days a year, has helped more than 75,000 people during the past 35 years. The chairman of the trust said that the award was a reflection of the professionalism, loyalty and dedication from the trust's staff, volunteers and supporters. Congratulations to John and the trust.

Acknowledgement: The Dominion Post Nov 17, 2008.

Garth McKenzie (1957-62), Salvation Army Commissioner, was honoured in the New Years Honours List with the award of Member of the New Zealand Order of Merit for services to the Salvation Army. Congratulations to Garth.

Sam Morgan (1989-92) founder of the online auction site *Trade Me* has received a bonus of \$14 million from the success of the site, which is now owned by Fairfax Media. The original shareholders were paid an additional \$45 million after the company made an operating profit of \$70 million in 2008. Sam stepped down as chief executive of *Trade Me* in 2008 and has become more involved as an investor in

businesses in the early stages of their development such as *iVistra Technologies* (business intelligence software), *Sonar 6* (human resources software maker), *Xero* (an online accounting software firm), and a firm making low cost intravenous drips. Sam is part owner of the company that bought Hillend high country station overlooking Wanaka Township and the Cardrona Valley. The sale approval allows for a 41-lot farm-park subdivision with a lodge, lake, vineyard, winery and working farm.

Acknowledgements: Dominion Post 22 August 2008 and 23 October 2008.

Ma'a Nonu (1999-2000). 2008 was a stellar year for Ma'a. Since his debut as an All Black in 2003 against England, he has started in six tests prior to 2008, five as centre and one as second five-eight. In 2008 he started all the test games as second five-eight and has proved that this is his best position in the All Black backline and that he is an integral member of that backline. In the test against England in 2008 he was named Man of the Match. He has also recommitted himself to New Zealand for the next four years and his signature is regarded as a major boost for New Zealand.

Jeetan Patel (1994-98) has received more game time recently for the Black Caps. In the recent Chappell-Hadlee One Day series he has bowled well, taking several wickets and restricting the run rate of the Australian batsmen. When not involved in the national team, Jeetan played for the Wellington Firebirds. A photograph of Jeetan appeared in the *Dominion Post* of 21st January 2009 showing him looking at his wickets shattered by a ball from fast bowler Shane Bond. Wellington lost that match against Canterbury.

Taylor Pentecost (2004-08) a member of the college 1st Cricket XI in 2008, made a big

impression at the end of last year, taking four wickets which brought his wicket total to 100 and scoring 100 runs. He was selected to play in the Governor-General's XI against the Wanderers at the Basin Reserve. This year he is playing club cricket for the Wellington Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club. Taylor has his sights set on one day playing for the New Zealand Black Caps. *Acknowledgement: City Life South and East of January 20-26 2009.*

Tom Raxworthy (1983-84), army IT expert, is currently with the New Zealand Defence Force serving in Afghanistan in Bamiyan Province. In the past fifteen years or so he has spent six Christmases away from his wife and family.

Ofisa Tonu'u (1983-85), an All Black in the 1990s, claims that this background served him well when his fifth child decided to be born at home. After contacting the emergency services he assisted with the birth and played a major role in saving his new daughter's life when the umbilical cord was tightly wound around the baby's neck, threatening to kill her. He managed to free the cord by keeping a cool head and staying composed. He attributes these skills to the approach he found necessary when playing rugby, especially at the higher levels. *Acknowledgement: New Zealand Woman's Weekly, 3 December 2008.*

Ben Uili (1996-2000) is the leader of Legacy Dance Crew, a hip hop dance crew based in Wellington, where they recently performed as part of Tempo Festival of Dance. The group began as a way of providing aspiring hip hop dancers with the knowledge, foundation and support to further their careers both in New Zealand and overseas. Recently, the Crew won second place at the National Hip Hop Championships in Wellington. They also competed in the World Hip Hop Championships

held in Las Vegas in 2008 and were finalists in the 2006 Hip Hop Championships in Los Angeles. *Acknowledgement: Sunday Star Times, October 26^t, 2008.*

Tony Woods (1980- 84) featured in the August 2008 edition of *The Chariot* for his work on installing Afghanistan's first wind farm. In 2009 his company, *Empower*, aims to power eighteen small health clinics in the Panjshir region using solar energy, and to link four villages into a larger solar powered electricity network. This is another step toward reducing reliance on diesel powered sources of electricity. With the Taliban widening its grip on regions in Afghanistan the security situation has deteriorated and there is a danger that the Taliban could target *Empower's* projects as electricity represents a means of contacting the outside world via the internet and television. It could be seen as a means of gaining access to the outside world. *Acknowledgement; Article by Paul Easton, Dominion Post 3rd January 2009.*

OLD BOY ACTIVITIES

AUCKLAND GOLF TOURNAMENT. John Lister provided the following report. "We struggled a little to get the numbers this year, but those who did turn up had a great day of golf and fellowship. Winner on the day was Don Fletcher with 40 points (burglar). John Lister was second with an honest 35, John Paton on 33 points and Don Johnson, 32 points. It was good to see the Old Boys, who are now looking much older."

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

Following is the Chairman's report to the Annual General Meeting of the Old Boys' Association for the year ended 30th June, 2008.

This year has seen the Old Boys' Association again make significant contributions to the college. The highlight of the year was the opening of the Wade and Reid Thompson Arts Centre by Annette King, our district MP. This was the culmination of a project that was started to commemorate the 75th Jubilee and that was halted through a shortage of funds. This shortage was later rectified through the very generous support of a number of Old Boys.

The Annual Assembly Luncheon was well attended. Old Boy Doug Law, a prominent career diplomat, a past president of N.Z. Tennis, and the college Dux in 1952, addressed the Assembly.

Thanks to the work of John Martin, Sel Moore and Ian Newton the College Archives have found a home in the Old Boys' sponsored room in the now completed Wade & Reid Thompson Arts Centre. Together they have begun the vast job of recording and cataloguing the college archives. The Old Boys Association was responsible for the considerable expenditure in setting up this activity and we were fortunate in the number of Old Boys who added a donation to this cause when paying their subs.

In April, in conjunction with the college, we organised a function to launch, "The Merits of a Straight Back Lift: Rigby T.J. - Player and Gentleman," a book written by Old Boy Bob O'Brien honouring Trevor Rigby. Cricket was very well represented on the day with Don Neely, President of Cricket N.Z., Bruce Murray, President of Cricket Wellington, and Bruce Edgar, Cricket International, all being present.

This resulted in a complete sell-out of the first edition and a second edition is underway.

Bill McCabe has worked with some considerable success to upgrade the funding of the Annual Prizes and Scholarships offered by the college. This is a project that will continue in 2009.

Merchandise. The many hours of skilled dedication by Bruce Cockburn have resulted in much at the college history being available on Compact Disc. These are now available for purchase along with our other merchandise.

Finance. Although we ran at a large deficit this year owing to setting up the Archives, our finances are in a satisfactory position. I would like to thank Ian Kirker who has again agreed to act as Hon. Auditor to the Association.

Concluding Remarks. We record our thanks to all who have contributed so much to the Old Boys activities again this year. The Principal, Graeme Jarratt, and staff member Matt Eagle, who regularly attend our meetings, have given strong support to the Association. I should also make special mention of the work of Bruce Cockburn who undertakes the day to day clerical tasks that enable the Association to function efficiently and of Sel Moore who is responsible for producing *The Chariot* which is the Life Blood of our Association. The members of our committee have all worked together during the year in a happy constructive manner which has made for an enjoyable and rewarding year.

David Boyer (1949-52) – Chairman

ELECTION OF OFFICERS 2008-2009.

Patron : Ian Wells (1950-54). **Vice-Presidents:** Duncan Garvie (1968-73); Andrew Collins (1978-82); Keith Smith (1935-36); Alistair Robb (1954-57); John Lister (1952-57); Roy Cowley (1951-56).

Chairman: David Boyer. **Secretary:** Shirley McLaughlin. **Treasurer:** David Boyer.

Committee: David Boyer, Bruce Cockburn, Colin Carr, Matt Eagle, Ben Irvine, Graeme Jarratt, Shirley McLaughlin, Selwyn Moore.

STAGE FURNITURE: After the college closed for the summer vacation, two significant items of furniture on the stage in the Renner Hall were refurbished. These were, *The Lectern*, donated by the Rotary Club of Wellington East on the occasion of the college's 50th Jubilee, and *the Memorial Table* placed centre stage. The lectern has a new college emblem and the top surface of the table has been re-surfaced to remove scratches and other signs of heavy use. The Old Boys' Association paid for the refurbishment.

ARCHIVES: The Archives Committee continued to meet regularly every Tuesday morning until early December and resumed its work in February. The sorting of stored printed material to determine its value as archival material is continuing. Newspaper cuttings about Old Boys and ex staff have been sorted and placed in clear files under categories such as Drama, Music, Staff, as well as a wide range of sports. These files are now stored in the Archives Room and will be added to. The next major task will be to catalogue and store class photographs and photographs of individuals or groups of Old Boys. We are grateful to Jeff Knapp for his gift of his class photographs from 1940 to 1946 and three small group photographs during that period. We are also very grateful to him for providing the names of the students in each

photograph. Another recent acquisition is the cap belonging to Ted Steel (1930-34), whose name is on the Roll of Honour Board in the Assembly Hall. The donor is a niece of Ted's. Darryl Work (1966-71) has donated copies of *Te Rama* and the medals awarded him in recognition of his record –breaking victories in the Mc Evedy Shield viz 1966 100 yards U13, 12 seconds; 1967 100yards U 14, 11.2 seconds; 1967 220yards U 14, 25.3 seconds. Darryl is currently on the staff of Bay of Islands College, PO Box 58 Kawakawa 0291, Bay of Islands.

The committee would welcome gifts of photographs of Old Boys, staff, college life such as individuals in action, ATC, Cadets, etc.; early copies of Old Boys' Association Newsletters; medals, badges, awards, War Medals; School Reports, certificates, etc. If Old Boys wish to retain possession of their documents and photographs we can make copies and return originals within a short time. Please address messages or photographs to: RCOBA Archives, Rongotai College, P.O. Box 14-063, Wellington 6041.

LOOKING BACK

THE GRAEME JARRATT YEARS 1991-2009. A LOOK AT SOME HIGHLIGHTS.

This article looks back over that period and identifies some of the highlights relating to the curriculum and to the learning environment. Old Boys of older generations will notice that Graeme and his staff have faced significant changes and challenges and that in many respects the Rongotai of 2009 is a somewhat different Rongotai to the one they experienced. This is particularly so in matters of curriculum range and content, examinations and

assessment systems, teaching methodology and the learning environment.

The source of information is *The Principal's Report in Te Rama Magazines from 1991 to 2008*.

1991. New courses planned for 1992 were Health, Business Studies, Sixth Form Tourism, Bursary Physical Education and Bursary Graphics and Design. Japanese was offered to fourth formers as well as sixth formers.

1992. In the 1991 external examinations five Scholarship subject passes were achieved and Bursary pass rates were better. Eight students won either academic awards or competitions. Three gained American Field Scholarships, a team of three gained first place in the Victoria University Classics Quiz, a student gained first place in a large Alliance Francaise Competition and another gained second place in a Short Story Competition. Additional new courses were Environmental Science, NZ Certificate English, and third form modules of Health, Art, Computer Awareness, Woodwork and Metalwork. Many more senior students returned than in previous years. Students were given the opportunity of choosing courses at any level in the school. The Peer Support Programme was adopted with seventh form leaders assisting third form students to adapt to their new school and to help with their social development.

1993. In the 1992 external examinations nine Scholarship Subject passes were achieved. Bursary pass rates were considerably improved on previous years and School Certificate results were much improved with average marks in English, Mathematics and Science all being above 50%. During the year students performed well in academic awards and competitions. An

American Field Scholarship and a Society for New Zealand-German Student Exchange Scholarship were won. Two students were placed first equal in a New Zealand Institute of Chemistry Competition, and another was selected for the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Debating Team. A prize was won in the Royal Commonwealth Society Essay Competition and there was success in the National Bank Junior Mathematics Competition, in the Westpac Australian Mathematics Competition and in the Wellington Regional Science Fair. One student won a special prize from the New Zealand Institute of Engineers, two won special prizes from the New Zealand Institute of Chemistry and three won a special prize for Botany. Polytechnic qualifications were offered in Business Studies. A new course in Japanese was introduced at the 5th Form and a new Module in Language Studies in the 3rd Form. Parents and care givers receive interim reports on individual student's progress after the first six weeks of school.

1994. In the 1993 external examinations 9 students achieved Scholarship subject passes and in School Certificate several students achieved marks in the 90's. Students again performed well in a variety of academic competitions. One finished in the top 2% of candidates in both the National bank Junior Mathematics Competition and the Westpac Australian Mathematics Competition; two gained Certificates of Distinction in the Australian Schools' English Competition; one won an essay competition in a magazine and another was selected as *The Evening Post* Young Reporter. New curricula were implemented in all subject areas.

1995. An Education Review Office team visited and issued a very complimentary report. The

college was accredited to offer courses for the new National certificate. For a period while Bursary and School Certificate remained in place students were able to study for two qualifications with the courses run concurrently. "Student Employment Challenge" was introduced to provide opportunities for students to experience work conditions by becoming part of the work force in modules of one week.

1996. In 1995 external examinations there were some excellent results in both Bursary and School Certificate. Four students performed well in academic competitions. One gained third place in the New Zealand Smokefree Young Designer Awards; one gained a Certificate of Distinction and two gained a Certificate of Credit in the Australian Schools' Computer Studies Competition which involved 40,000 students. Subjects offered for the new National Certificate were Biology, Computing, Business Management, Core Generics, Service Sector Studies, Writing, Automotive Engineering, Reading, Horticulture, Communications, Adventure Based Learning, and Inter-Personal Communications. Life Skills courses were extended to provide "on job" training and National Certificate courses were offered to students in the Life Skills area. This provides new possibilities for students wanting to follow vocational paths. New computers were bought providing a ratio of better than one computer to every ten students.

1997. Students receiving the Top Mark for Rongotai in each subject in the external examinations were awarded a special certificate. Some excellent results were celebrated. In academic competitions two students reached the quarter finals and two reached the finals of New Zealand Smoke free

Young Designer Awards; two gained a Certificate of Credit in the Australian Schools' Computer Studies Competition; the senior Debating Team achieved notable success. A commercial research organisation was commissioned to gather the needs of the school community and the outcomes it expects from secondary school education, and a comprehensive strategic plan was drawn up for the college. Measures to deal with Youth at Risk were implemented following discussions with Police Youth Aid Police, the Commissioner for Youth Justice and a large number of community agencies. The school was involved in national trials for the National Certificate of Educational Achievement. The Vocational Experience Training programme for senior students increased its scope.

1998. There was a very good set of exam results in the 1997 external examinations. Two students scored 87% and 85% respectively in Bursary Classical Studies. During the year the college continued its success in several academic competitions. A student won a Japanese Speech contest and fourth place in the Young Designer of the Year Awards. Another student achieved a High Distinction Certificate in the AMP Asset Management Competition by being in the top 1.6%. Unit Standard qualifications were offered in vocationally oriented courses and a Sports Training module was offered in co-operation with Manawatu Polytechnic. Kapa Haka classes of two hours duration were offered on Friday afternoons. The Board of Trustees presented a Strategic Plan for the college based on the research and discussions begun in 1997.

1999. There were some excellent examination results in the 1998 external examination. For the fourth consecutive year a student was

placed in the Young Designer's Awards; another student gained a Distinction Award in the Australian Schools' Computer Studies Competition. Two new programmes were initiated; a literacy programme aimed at addressing literacy issues for boys and the introduction of Resource Teachers of Learning and Behaviour under the new Special Education 2000 reforms. An Education Review Office team visited in March and issued an outstanding report.

2000. In external examinations in 1999 there were some excellent School Certificate results and the average pass rate was higher than the average for the college's decile ranking. The college was wired for Information and Communication Technology Development. Internet and e-mail software was installed. The college was selected as one of 15 schools from 215 entries to win funding from the Ministry of Education to develop the school's "Literacy for Boys' Success" programme and was designated as the lead school to look at improving achievement and literacy levels across three schools. These initiatives are pilot studies for nationwide development. The college was also a lead school in a Pacific Liaison Initiative funded by the Ministry of Education to improve liaison between five schools and their Pacific Island communities.

2001. During the year eight students gained certificates in the Australian Schools' Science Competition and two students gained certificates in the AMP Economics Competition. The "Literacy for Success" programme operated in Years 9, 10 and 11 with significant activities involved. The college was a pilot school for the "Gateway" programme offering on-job training for senior school students. A number of apprenticeships were offered. A new Computer

Suite and a new Drama Suite were established. The college was completely wired and connected to the internet. The staff room was completely refurbished, a new ablution block for the Wharenui put in place and 12 classrooms refurbished including a fully equipped Chemistry Laboratory.

2002. There was a great set of Bursary results in the 2001 external examinations and well above the average for the college's decile. During the year six students achieved very successfully in the AMP Economics Competition and one student was selected to visit Japan. More fee paying international students enrolled. The "Literacy for Success" programme was continued and consolidated. The "Gateways" programme pilot scheme continued and more apprenticeships were offered. The School Improvement initiative of 2000 continued and expanded in the three schools involved. The college's Pacific Island Liaison initiative was developed further. Level 1 of the new National Certificate of Educational Achievement operated through the year and students indicated a preference to proceed with NCEA Level 2 rather than to study for the Sixth Form Certificate.

2003. In the 2002 external examinations, 2 students achieved Bursary passes. This was the first year of the New National Certificate of Educational Achievement (NCEA) and excellent results were recorded surpassing local schools of higher decile rank. During the year six students achieved success in an Australasian Science Competition, two in a National Science Competition, five in an Australasian French Beginners Competition and six in a Beginner's Examination in Japanese. Level 2 of the NCEA was offered in all subjects. At Year 13 level new courses in Electronics, Carpentry, Outdoor

Education and Hospitality were provided. A new Arts curriculum was introduced with a rotation of Music, Art, Dance and Drama at Year 9 level. A Health Hui was held for all Year 9 students. The Education Review Office team visited and reported favourably. A new system to monitor attendance was introduced. The college's strategic plan was rewritten. Almost all class rooms have been completely refurbished with new Science and Chemistry Laboratories and corridors have been up graded. Stage 1 of the new Performing Arts centre was completed.

2004. NCEA results for 2003 were pleasing with a 12% increase in students receiving Excellence grades at NCEA Level 1. Four students achieved at a high level in the Australasian Schools' Science Competition, five students in the Australasian Schools' Economics Competition, and a student took first place at the Wellington Science Fair. New subjects offered were Web Design and Drama at Year 13. The Strategic Plan was reviewed and has received praise from the Ministry of Education.

2005. A student's science project led to his attendance at an International Science Fair in Beijing. A student won an Australia–New Zealand Science competition, another the senior division of an Economics competition and five students won a Design and Construction competition. The principal was granted sabbatical leave of ten weeks under a new scheme for Principals. The focus of his leave was "Future Directions for Boys' Schools in New Zealand." A strategic plan for the next five years for the college resulted.

2006. In external examinations in 2005 two students won NCEA Scholarships. In academic competitions three students achieved High Distinction in the Price, Waterhouse Coopers' Australasian Economics Competition. A student

was selected to attend the Hague Model United Nations. A new course, Hospitality, was offered using the new cooking room. Samoan was extended to Level 2 of NCEA and to Year 10 students. Study Skills sessions were provided where all students in years 11, 12 and 13 are instructed in study skills to enhance their academic performance. A major emphasis for staff was the "Assess to Learn" programme which involves assessing students' levels of learning and carefully planning the next steps for them.

2007. In external examinations in 2006 four students won NCEA Scholarships. The number of students gaining NCEA qualifications at Levels 1, 2 and 3 combined showed a 15% increase. A student gained High Distinction in an Australian examination in Japanese Competence. The training of staff for the "Assess to Learn" programme continued. A "Building Lives" programme was set in place with assistance from Victoria University's College of Education and the Careers Services. A programme, "Home/School Partnership", was established with assistance also from The College of Education. The Performing Arts Centre which began as a 75th Jubilee project in 2003 was completed and officially opened in October. Work on refurbishing the library began at the end of the school year.

2008. In the 2007 external examinations a student achieved three Scholarship passes. Pleasing NCEA results were achieved. Two students achieved Excellence grades in eighteen Achievement Standards in Level 2, and two students achieved Excellence grades in twenty Achievement Standards in Level 1. Three students in Year 9 gained Distinction awards in an Australian Science Competition. Refurbishment of the library was completed

and it was re-opened in May. Computers for the library were donated by Old Boy Jim Ballinger. A major addition to the school buildings was the completion of the whareniui complete with whaikaro (carvings). Staff development through weekly sessions continued the emphasis on differentiated teaching based on understanding the level of skill of every student and advancing their learning appropriately (the "Assess to Learn" programme).

COLLEGE NEWS

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT TO THE OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 17th September 2008. (Abridged)

The last year has been another very successful one for the college. Our roll at 1 March was 672. This was a pleasing figure for our college with good numbers in Years 9, 10 and 11, which will carry through into the senior school. Enrolments for 2009 are looking pleasing .

Strategic Plan. The academic section of our Strategic Plan set a target of 5% increases in many areas. The most pleasing areas were: increase percentage pass rate of all students completing NCEA Level 1 by the end of Year 12 (result (12.4% increase – 95.6% passed); Increase percentage of Maori students

completing NCEA Level 1 in Year 1 (result = 57.5% increase – 62.5% completed – above the national average). Areas of concern were: all students passing Level 1 by the end of Year 11 – slight decrease (this was a difficult group of students); Pacific Island pass rates – did not reach the target. It was pleasing to note that the target regarding school attendance achieved a good increase. Academic targets have again been set this year with particular emphasis on those who did not perform as hoped. Study Skills Sessions are run for students in Years 11, 12 and 13 to achieve these targets.

Staff Professional Development. Our Senior Classroom Teacher, Mr Jeff King, has built on the professional development in Assess To Learn (AtOL) of last year in adapting this to suit the particular learning needs of the range of students at Rongotai College. In this he has had assistance from Mrs Jessica Craig from the Victoria University of Wellington College of Education. This has been a most effective professional development initiative with students indicating, through student surveys, that they are learning better from this new approach to teaching. School starts late every Thursday morning to allow for this professional development. Our Mathematics staff have been involved over the past two years in a Numeracy Project which looks at the individual learning levels of every student in the college. Once these levels have been established, students are then provided with a programme which takes them to the "next step" in their learning. This has been an intensive workload for the members of the Mathematics department. The spin-off has been much improved teaching and learning.

Cultural Achievements. The major cultural achievement of the year was the completion of our wharenui hakaio (carvings). Eden Matiaha worked hard with his partner, Corrie Brooking, and members of our whanau group (particularly board member Mr Luke Crawford) to complete these carvings before Eden left at the conclusion of term 2. A moving ceremony, starting at dawn, opened the carvings and continued until the conclusion with a catered lunch for a large number of people. It was a most important day in the history of our college. Our Kapa Haka group performed with great credit during the year, particularly in welcoming teams for the Rugby 7's tournament in Wellington. Our Polynesian club practised throughout the year to perform at the Tu Tagata Festival, again in a most accomplished manner, along with our Kapa Haka group. Our Stage Challenge group once again finished second. However, the performance was an exceptionally good one. Our production this year was *Cabaret Classics* and featured excerpts from Shakespeare and West Side Story and various musical items. It was an evening of polished performances produced by Ms Ami Tasker.

Sport. 2008 has been another excellent year for sport in our college with major achievements being: **Tim Chambers** winning the Water Polo category of the College Sport Wellington awards; **Dylan Patel** achieving 100 wickets for the 1st XI (against Aotea College); our senior **Water Polo** team finishing second in the North Island and New Zealand Championships; our **Dragon Boat** team finishing second (only 0.007 of a second from the winners) in the Wellington grand final; **Vathana Young** (Deputy Head Prefect) being selected in the New Zealand Secondary Schoolboys' Football squad; **Ben Johnson**

winning the Under 19 Premier Kate at the Wellington Secondary Schools' Karate Championship; **Joshua Dorton-Brand** winning the Under 14 Open Kate at the same competition; our 2nd XV winning their competition grade in the College Sport Wellington **Rugby** competition; **Julian Savea** again being named in the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Rugby team to tour Samoa and play Australia In New Zealand In October; **Taylor Pentecost** winning the Wellington Secondary Schools' badminton final; **Tamati Leha** and **Kishan Shah** winning the Wellington Secondary Schools' doubles senior boys' badminton title; **Tim Chambers, Jake Burkhart, Alex Gamble, Mikey Cody, David Couper** and **Matthew Couper** were selected in New Zealand Water Polo squads; **James Tume** was selected in the New Zealand Maori Surfing team; **Jerome Raemaki** was selected in the New Zealand Under 15 Softball team; our 2nd XI **Football** team won their competition; **Jake Burkhart, Tim Chambers, Anthony Cuccurullo** and **David Couper** were New Zealand **Water Polo** representatives; **Presley Tufuga** was a New Zealand **Volleyball** representative; **Mathew Fiso** and **Andrew Foster** were New Zealand **Canoe Polo** representatives.

Grounds and Buildings. The major item this year has been the complete refurbishment of our school library. Old boy Jim Ballinger donated \$20,000 for the computers in the refurbished complex.

My Resignation. I have resigned from my position at Rongotai College, effective from 23 April 2009. The Board is presently engaged in advertising for a replacement. I would like to thank the Old Boys' Association for the many memorable and enjoyable experiences I have enjoyed with them over my 17 ½ years as

Principal. I would like to thank the many support groups within our school, particularly the Parents' Association, the Samoan Parents' Association and all those involved in coaching and managing our cultural and sporting groups and particularly, the Old Boys' Association for their on-going support for our college, nowhere better evidence than the Performing Arts Centre (which is proving extremely useful) and the refurbishment of our library.

Additional Sports News: In October nominees for the 2008 College Sport Wellington Awards were announced. Rongotai students nominated were: Badminton, **Taylor Pentecost**; Bowls, **Joshua Irving**; Cricket, **Taylor Pentecost**; Football, **Vathana Young**; Hockey, **Jayraj Budhia**; Rugby, **Julian Savea**; Swimming, **Teina Stacey**; Underwater Hockey, **Luke Bryant**; Waterpolo, **Jake Burkhart**; Athletes with a Disability **Kwame Accra Williams**. When the Awards were announced in November, **Julian Savea** won the Rugby Award and he was the sole Rongotai winner. In 2008 he was a member of the First XV, member of the Hurricanes' under 18 teams, the only secondary school student to be a member of the Wellington Rugby Academy, co-captain of the NZ Schools' team that played Samoa and Australia, and a member of the World Champion NZ Sevens '08 and '09 training squad. **Taylor Pentecost** won the Wellington Senior Boys' Badminton title in August 2008. **Ishan Shah** and **Tamati Leha** won the Wellington Senior Boys' doubles title, defeating two other Rongotai boys, Matesh Chauhan and Rhys Hopkins.

Scholarship Grant. **Joshua Irving** is one of five Wellington students awarded \$4,000.00 each from the inaugural Robert Bostock Scholarship.

Ex-Staff. **Jeff King**, athletics coach at the college for seven years, is now teaching in Abu Dhabi. During his time as coach he devoted a lot of time instilling belief in students that they do have what it takes to win national titles. He considers the boys have done really well.

Duncan Smith, a former Art Teacher at Rongotai moved to Kapiti some eight years ago. In 2001 he exhibited on the first official Arts Trail and did so for three more years before taking a break. In 2008 he joined the trail again opening his own gallery in Paraparaumu. Duncan exhibited life-like oil paintings that had impressed viewers on previous trails, as well as ceramic work.

ATHLETICS:

The college now has an Athletics web site: www.rongotaiathletics.weebly.com It is regularly updated. The **McEvedy Shield** results for 2009 are on the web site and can be accessed by clicking on NEWS on the HOME Page and then click on McEvedy Results 2009. The site includes sections on NEWS; ATHLETICS DAYS; RECORDS; LEGENDS; EVENTS; BLOG; GALLERY; CONTACT. **Dave McKenzie**, the Athletics Convenor at the college, would welcome material for inclusion on the web-site, e.g. historical data, additions to the LEGENDS section, photographs for the GALLERY section.

The 2009 winner of the McEvedy Shield was Wellington College. St Pats Town was second, St

Pat's Silverstream third and Rongotai was in fourth place.

Rongotai boys scoring points in two or more events were: **Burkhard Mohamed:** 1st U14 800m, 1st U14 1500m (broke Rongotai record), 2nd U14 400m (equalled Rongotai record); **T. Whaanga:** 1st U16 High Jump; 3rd U16 Discus; **Roma Leota:** 3rd U16 200m, 3rd U16 100m, 2nd U16 400m; **Dylan Te Maari:** 4th U16 100m, 4th U16 400m, 3rd U16 High Jump; **A Savea:** 2nd U16 Long Jump, 2nd U16 Triple Jump; **Hassan Roble:** 2nd Senior 3000m; 4th U16 1500; **Tony Smith:** 3rd Open 100m; 3rd Open 200m. In addition, **Mohammed Banka** was 1st U14 Long Jump.

CONTRIBUTIONS:

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