



## Welcome

Welcome to the Parapet, the official newsletter of the **Marlborough College Old Boys' Association** (MCOBA), distributed free to our members' inboxes on a monthly basis.

Our aim is to keep all our Old Boys in touch with each other, and keep you updated with news, events and developments at the college.

To assist with distribution, your committee is seeking the email addresses of all former **Marlborough Boys' College** pupils and teachers. If this copy has not been delivered by email, please contact Ross Anderson by email:

[oldboys@mbc.school.nz](mailto:oldboys@mbc.school.nz), or phone: 021 709579.

Our apologies to those who had trouble sending emails due to the incorrect email printed in last month's Parapet.

## Chairman's Annual Report 2013-2014 - Ross Anderson

Welcome to my first annual report as your president.

Regretfully during my first year I have been unable to achieve all that I had initially hoped, however there are many positive things in the pipeline.

We have seen the introduction of the MCOBA card which provides Old Boys' with discounts when buying from businesses owned by or managed by fellow Old Boys.

During the year we have worked on establishing a database of Old Boys to facilitate regular contact.

Next month will see the start of our regular "Parapet" which will be emailed to all Old Boys on our database, whether or not they are paid up members. We will also be

printing a small run, for those locals who have previously had their "Parapet" hand delivered.

To ensure Old Boys' involvement with our school, we need their email addresses as we need to create a desire to re-establish their relationship with our school community.

Your Old Boys' Association continues to maintain a great working relationship with the college, who this year has appointed an Old Boys prefect to liaise between the college and your Old Boys' Association.

This past year has seen the long overdue introduction of modern accounting software which unfortunately has taken longer to implement than was hoped.

Going forward, your association will be able to provide better financial reporting for the members' benefit and incorporated society compliance.

During the year, your association has provided assistance to students visiting Gallipoli, prefect personal development on "Spirit of New Zealand", academic prizes and staff travel to support college teams.

Our first annual reunion was held for the boys of 1963. What an excellent weekend.

My thanks go to Old Boys' members Dennis Robinson, Malcolm Adams and their wives for the incredible effort that they put into this reunion.

It is hoped that the Old Boys' Association will convene a reunion every year going forward. Our reunion was a great opportunity to show off the spirit and facilities of your college.

Last year your Old Boys' Association facilitated emergency fundraising to provide travel funds for our college first fifteen, who had qualified for the prestigious Press Cup South Island playoff. The successful program culminated in raising over \$25,000 in less than two weeks.

Your Old Boys' Association also hosted the first welcome back home function for former pupils returning to Blenheim for Christmas. This will now become a regular event, as it gives past pupils who may have been working or studying away, the opportunity to catch up with old school mates while they are in town.

Prior to the end of the school year Old Boys' Association hosted a very successful leavers function in collaboration with the PTA. This was well attended and enjoyed by all.

The college front field has seen your Old Boys' Association working the side line of all rugby games selling raffles, which provide much needed funding to our association.

Thank you to the raffle team, ably managed by Ferg Murray, who has been supported by Don, John and Domenic.

Our relationship with the Marlborough College Charitable Foundation continues to grow, as we work in collaboration to provide facilities that the Government consider non-core to the college.

We need your support by coming along to our bi-monthly lunch get together at Fairweather's on Scott Street, and by providing names and contact details of your school mates that we can contact and involve.

If you have any details of a family member or friend who has been an old boy and would be prepared to share details of what they have done 'after school', we would love to hear from you.

We would like to profile our Old Boys' who have left school and gone on to do interesting things in their career and their community or lived in interesting places.

Thank you to all of the committee, who have so willingly contributed to the cause.

A special thanks to John Bailey our Secretary, who continues to support the president with untiring commitment.

I look forward to continuing what we have started and to see our college prosper, as the 'school of choice'.

Ross Anderson - Chairman

## **Back in the day - quiz**

Crime and Punishment – from the MBC Punishment Book 1969. Guess the number of cane strokes – answers at end of magazine.

- 1: Offence - Loutish behaviour / Master - J Mathews
- 2: Offence - No books / Master - P Minehan
- 3: Offence - Late and Eating / Master - J Matthews
- 4: Offence - Ringing bell and telling lies / Master - J Perry

## **Otaki Scholar – What do you know?**

While attending college we were often addressed by a kilted Scotsman known as the 'Otaki Scholar' Did he come from Otaki? Not likely! These kilted individuals would appear at college every year, but none of my friends knew why.

The 'Otaki Scholar' comes from Robert Gordon's College in Aberdeen, Scotland. The scholarship originated in 1937, when the parents of a Robert Gordon's College

former student donated it to remember their son who was the Captain of a New Zealand Shipping Co steamer 'Otaki' during the first World War .  
'Otaki' was engaged and sunk by the German raider 'Moewe' (Seagull) in 1917. Thirty nine-year-old Captain Archibald Bissett-Smith and five of his crew perished. It was not until the survivors who were taken prisoner by the Germans returned to Britain after the war and told of the epic battle, that Bissett-Smith's heroism was made known.

In a rare move, the King awarded Bissett-Smith a posthumous Victoria Cross. Since 1937 with the exception of the war years, the student who represents the highest qualities of character, leadership and athletic ability has been selected by Robert Gordon's College as the 'Otaki Scholar' to foster Scottish Kiwi relationships.

## Back in the day - quiz

Can you remember/guess who the names refer too? Answers at end of magazine.

1. Monkey
2. Moon
3. Drac
4. Gunge



**Prefects of the final co-educational year - 1962**  
Back row: M C Kennedy, Barbara Jellyman, P Dyer, Heather J Macdonald, D C Peek, Esther M Powell, D Rowell, Suzanne E Madsen  
Middle row: G Ireland, Patricia A Young, J A Orr, Susan E Harding, R W McEwan, Barbara J Cheesman, A R Lawrence, Jan E Pryor, R W Hutchison  
Front: Elisabeth C Rogers, P E Smale, Pamela R Skinner (Head Girl), the Headmaster, D S Lloyd (Head Boy), Janet M McLauchlan, D R A Leonard, Janet E Oldfield

## **Sports update**

### **ST. BEDES EXCHANGE**

We have had several teams compete in our Winter Sports St. Bedes Exchange, in the first week of August. The St. Bedes boys arrived on Monday 5th August and were billeted with our Marlborough Boys' College families. The next day the exchange kicked off early in the morning with golf teeing off at 8.30am at the Fairhall golf course. The following sports were:

Junior Basketball and Senior Basketball held at the Stadium 2000.

Junior Football and 1st XI Football at College Park.

2nd X1 Hockey and 1st XI Hockey at the Turf.

U14 Rugby at College Park and U15 Rugby was on the front field.

Squash at the Marlborough Boys' College Courts.

What a fantastic day, the weather was stunning and played its part. The boys were very competitive and loved the challenge of playing high quality sport in their code. After the sport was finished, we had afternoon tea and speeches, which were of high quality, then they headed back to Christchurch.

### **WINTER TOURNAMENT WEEK**

Winter Tournament Week is happening this week.

Hockey is being hosted in Blenheim, held at the turf from Monday 1st – Friday 5th September.

The U-15 Rugby Tournament is being hosted in Blenheim at Lansdowne Park, starting on Monday 1st September with games every day, and the finals and play offs being held on Thursday 4th September.

Mark these dates on your calendar, so you can get down and support our boys.

We also have our 1st XI Football team and the Senior Basketball team heading to Nelson for their tournament as well, so it is all go.

### **1ST XV RUGBY**

Our 1st XV Rugby team continues to compete in the Press Cup with teams from Timaru, Christchurch and Nelson, under the expert coaching of Gray Cornelius and Gareth Pugh.

They were sitting 3rd on the table, which saw them playing Nelson, in Nelson for the Semi Finals.

Sadly Marlborough lost in a hard fought game with a score of 23:25. The boys have been playing some fantastic rugby despite the loss of some key players from last season.

### **SQUASH**

Our squash team is coached by Nic Dann. We had two teams compete in Nelson for the SISS Tournament. The MBC A team finished 17th overall, winning the Ross Norman Plate.

The MBC B team finished 24th overall in their grade. Also Quinn Udy made the New Zealand team. The New Zealand team also recently travelled to Brisbane to play teams from NSW and Queensland.

### **CYCLING**

Our cycling team is at Nationals in Palmerston North. This team is being coached by Mark Grammer. So good luck to these boys I'm sure they will do Marlborough Boys College proud.

## **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are due.

It is only \$25 per year. Please help us to help your old school.

You can now pay on-line direct to our bank account :

Bank Account: Marlborough College Old Boys' Association Inc

Account #: 01-0598-0019661-00

Particulars field: your name

Reference: Members

Or you can post your cheque to MCOBA PO Box 436, Blenheim



*A sight to be seen - 1950 Parents' Day*

## Old Boys' Profile

**John Bailey**

Where are you living and working now? **Blenheim**

What is your current career and Job Title? **Retired**

When were you at Marlborough Boys' College? **1958 - 1963**

Did you have any appointments at MBC? **1961 – Captained the 2nd XV; 1963 – Prefect, and Sergeant-Major in Cadet Corp.**

Did you engage in college activities or play for any MBC team? **1960-1963 involved in drama productions; 1960 - 1963 played 2nd & 1st XV rugby; 1962 – 1963 Athletics representative.**

What is your most vivid memory of MBC days? **The uncomfortable heat, dust, and grass-seed filled socks from our week at the Rifle Range in late November – early December!**

Who was your favourite teacher and why? **Ralph Cocklin – a fair and disciplined teacher, who gave me a very good understanding of Maths & Biology.**

Have you a tertiary qualification? If so what? **NZCE (Electrical).**

Have you received any community awards or Government honours? **No**

Where have you worked since leaving school? **1964 - 2010 Marlborough Electric Power Board (which became Marlborough Electric and then Marlborough Lines)**

## History and classics trip

Our excursion to Europe, visiting the historical and classical sites was a memorable experience to say the least. Rich with culture and emotion it is certainly an experience I won't be forgetting in a hurry. For me personally, one of the most significant events on the Europe trip, was visiting Gallipoli. It really struck me as unbelievable how such an idyllic and peaceful landscape, was once a battleground where many of our country-men lost their lives. I believe it was an emotional experience for all of us, overwhelming in fact. I was very glad to pay my respects there, specifically at Captain Goulding's grave. Delphi, where the ruins of the ancient temple to Apollo stands, was also another amazing highlight of the trip, which was accompanied by a dramatic and breath-taking landscape.

To participate in the ceremony at Le Quesnoy, was also a major highlight for me. The experience helped me realise how much Anzac Day meant to the people of the Le Quesnoy, and their gratitude was expressed greatly through their hospitality.

To select a mere few highlights from this trip was a difficult task, however lunch at the grounds in Versailles was definitely at the top of my list. The trip as a whole was full on, to describe it as exhausting would not be an exaggeration; and the gardens at Versailles were beautiful, cycling around and having lunch there, allowed us to recharge our batteries.

The Europe trip was a thoroughly enjoyable experience, and I was so lucky to share the experience with some of my friends. It has granted me with a whole new perspective on the importance of Anzac Day in New Zealand's history and on the diversity of culture in our world today.

*Written by Mark Makin, Year 11*

## The boss is coming to London



Wherever possible, the school and the MCOBA take every opportunity to engage with former students. The school Principal Wayne Hegarty will be in London early October. Wayne would like to take the opportunity to meet with any former MBC students, whether they are currently Old Boys' Assn members or not.

If you are in London, come along, share some stories of college days and catch up with what's happening at your old school.

**Date:** Wednesday 3rd October

**Time:** 6.60pm to 8pm

**Venue:** The Masons Arms, Mayfair (38 Maddox St)

**Phone:** 44 20 7491 780

Look for the guy wearing a MBC school tie.

Wayne can also be contacted on +64 21578517

## **Back in the day – quiz answers**

### **Crime and Punishment**

1: 2 strikes, 2: 4 strikes 3: 3 strikes 4: 2 strikes

### **Nicknames from the past**

1: David Trevena 2: Lyons 3: Ray Miller 4: Dave Paul

If you have a story to be told of MBC Old Boy's life beyond the college, please drop me an email. Correspondence should be addressed to The Editor at:

<mailto:oldboys@mbc.schools.govt.nz>

*Disclaimer: The views expressed and appearing in 'The Parapet' are those entirely of the contributors and in no way reflects the policy of Marlborough Boys' College or Marlborough College Old Boys' Association.*