



Marlborough College Old Boys' Association Inc

## The Parapet



April 2018

### Welcome

Welcome to the Parapet, the Official newsletter of the [Marlborough College Old Boys' Association](#) (MCOBA), distributed free to our members' inboxes on a regular 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 College Old Boys'](#) pupils and teachers. If this copy has not been delivered by email, please email your details to or phone Ross Anderson at [oldboys@mbc.school.nz](mailto:oldboys@mbc.school.nz) 021 709579.

### New Website

We continue to work on the MCOBA website to provide former students and staff with a connection to your old school wherever you may be living in the world today.

### MCOBA Executive 2016-2018

Patron: Wayne Hegarty

Life Members: Fergus Murray, Don McIntyre, Bob Wilson, Mike Newman, Phil Robinson

Chairman: Ross Anderson

Treasurer: Domenic Romano

Secretary: Fiona Mark

Committee: Malcom Adams, Dennis Robinson, Phil Robinson, John Bailey

Meetings are bi-monthly plus we have a social get together on the alternative month. Members are welcome to attend all committee meetings. Please contact any committee member for details of the meeting venue and time. Click on <https://mcoba.org.nz/events> to check for the next meeting/get together.

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## Obituaries

We would like to acknowledge former pupils who have passed away recently.

Our sincere condolences to Maureen and family, Rollo (John) Patchett passed away in July 2017. Rollo enjoyed the contact through the Old Boys' Association and was a very loyal Marlburian.

Our sincere condolences to the family of Ted Collins.

Please advise the Editor if you know of recent Old Boys' passing, especially if you can provide information on the person's life and achievements.

## Back in the Day – quiz

Many pupils travelled by train and bus to Marlborough College in **1954**. At the time, because of the train and bus pupils, actual teaching time was only 23 and a half hours per week, compared to 25 and sometimes 26 hours in the cities.

**Question 1.** Back in **1953** there were 989 pupils on the roll at Marlborough College. How many pupils travelled by train or bus to school?

Jack Knight worked on the Picton to Kaikoura line from 1948 to 1980 as an engine driver and was a former pupil of Marlborough College. In Jack's day, he said it was the ambition of most boys to become an engine driver as it was considered a really good job. Today, boys want to fly jets. Jack was born in Tuamarina and when he left school he got a job in an orchard working for a shilling an hour and he had to cycle down Rapaura Road and back home about 20 miles a day. Jack decided to apply for a job on the railway and was sent to Wellington. He had to start as a cleaner at ten pence an hour before a vacancy became available as a fireman's apprentice. You could not become an engine driver without being a fireman first! Coal shoveling for eight years, plus a four hour exam to obtain a boiler ticket was required. At the end of those eight years you sat an exam to obtain the driver's ticket that required 16 hours practical and written! To climb the **Elevation** the fire had to be stoked up to six or seven times about eight shovels each time!

**Question 2.** The **Elevation** is the third steepest climb on the railways, which two railway climbs are steeper?

## Answers on page 12

## Wayne's word...

Term 1 has come and gone with many notable highlights.

In our schools' strategic focus areas so many of our students (and staff) have taken advantage of the opportunities provided to them to "be the best that they can be."

For students Jake Pacey and Hamish Timpson and staff member Mary MacDonald the year started in January. As Ota scholarship recipients they travelled to our sister-school Jissen Gakuen in Tokyo for a 10-day educational and cultural experience.

The re-launched year 9 induction camps at Nydia Bay have been regarded by as a huge success.

Academically, we celebrated the very positive improvement in Year 13 level 3 results. While the performance of top academic students in year 13 has improved in recent years the overall pass rates at level 3 have lagged the improvements achieved at level 1 and 2. In the 10-year period from 2017 to 2016, the average year 13 level 3 pass rate was 62% with a high of 71% and a low of 51%. Last years' year 13 level 3 pass rate of 84% was very encouraging for all stakeholders in the school and reflect the cumulative initiatives that have been undertaken in recent years.

In leadership our head boy James Hammond and deputies Eddie Ave and Campbell Gill, have lead a team who are providing valuable opportunities to our students. Eighteen potential prefects attended a practical and interactive leadership training programme in Wellington. They were also hosted at Parliament by MP Stuart Smith. I wish to commend those students who are helping run the Year 9 pastoral programme on Thursday period 1 and others who are undertaking different areas of school service.

In sport and the arts, the diversity of opportunity provided to students has been exceptional and I thank all those staff and community members who have supported our students during term 1. During summer sports week with funding support from the Old Boys' Association, I travelled to Nelson to support our triathlon, aquathon and sailing teams. I also travelled to Wellington for softball, Palmerston North for volleyball and Twizel for rowing. I enjoyed meeting students and their coaches and families and learning first-hand the commitment required and challenges that many of them face.

Co-located schools update.

You will be aware by now of the review of the co-location process. We await news on this process from the Ministry of Education at the start of term 2. I can assure you as a school we are better off from our involvement to date. Thirty three staff last year visited other schools around New Zealand observing different school curriculum (both the what and how to teach). This has had a positive impact on what is happening for students today. So too is the extensive professional development being provided by the MOE. I have been encouraged by the enthusiasm of staff to embrace many of the professional development opportunities and initiatives being undertaken in response to the visits to other schools and to teaching in the new flexible learning environments in the school.

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## Old Boys Achievements

Recent MBC Old Boys named in Junior NZ teams, **Sam Moli and Isaiah Miller** (right) have made the NZ U20 rugby squad. Isaiah as an U17 rower also trialed for the NZ Junior rowing team in 2015. **Hunter Nicholls** has made the Junior Mens Volleyball squad and **Angus McFarlane** (below in bow seat), has been selected for the Under 23 NZ Rowing Squad after rowing for the NZ Juniors.



### March Tournament week results:

## Athletics



At the South Island Secondary Schools Athletic Championship in Timaru **Alex Dawson** won the South Island 100 metres with a PB of 10.96 seconds. Alex has been invited to attend during the upcoming holidays a training camp in Doha in the biggest facility of its type in the world – see <http://www.aspire.qa/>. Alex is waiting to hear if he has been selected to compete in the World Under 20 Championships being held in Finland in July. He is also awaiting on selection to compete in at an Oceania event in Samoa in early October.

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## Touch

Our school's touch team finished 8<sup>th</sup> at the South Island tournament in very controversial circumstances. The team struggled on Sunday after missing the top 4 which would have qualified them for Nationals. The team had beaten eventual winners Otago Boy's 9-8, but tournament officials went against the referees score and made the result a draw. Touch NZ apologised after the Tournament and gave our boys a wildcard entry to Nationals. Keelan Morrell, Liam Duncan, Clyde Pewa and Harry McKenzie made vital contributions to the team.

## Yachting

In the National Qualifying team sailing competition in Nelson, MBC came second to Christchurch Boys' High and were the first ranked top Nelson Marlborough team. This puts them in the top section of Team Sailing Nationals at Algies Bay north of Auckland in the upcoming holidays. The photo shows captain – Jake Morris with the trophy for competition between Marlborough and Nelson teams.



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## Volleyball

Our Volleyball team finished 11<sup>th</sup> in Division 3 which was several places above their seeding. This is a large event with 64 boys and girls teams competing in 4 divisions. Coach Mr Marshall gave special commendations to Joshua Wilson, Jean-Luc Hauswirth and Lotu Solomona.

## Softball



The Softball team finished 5<sup>th</sup> in Division 1 of the national secondary tournament, a positive result given the number of juniors in the squad. This was the last tournament for 4 talented long serving members – **Campbell Gill, Ethan Jones, William Macdonald and Christian Marshall-Farrow.**

## Triathlon

The Triathlon/Aquathon teams competed in a national competition. The triathlon was a 550-metre swim, 16 km bike ride and 4 km run. In the under 16 section, Jacob Crossley finished 33<sup>rd</sup>. In the Under 19 section Joseph Westend finished 24<sup>th</sup>, James Greer 26<sup>th</sup> and Connor Guillemot, after a fall on the bike, finished 27<sup>th</sup>. Connor overcame his disappointment in the triathlon to finish 8<sup>th</sup> in the Aquathon which consisted of a 2 km run followed by a 600-metre swim, finishing with another 2 km run.

## Mountain Biking

Jack Sheridan and Cameron Clemett represented the school in Mountain Biking in Rotorua. Jack finished 4<sup>th</sup> (57 participants) in the under 16 individual event. Cameron came 7<sup>th</sup> (35 participants) in the under 15 individual event and was 13<sup>th</sup> in the downhill competition.



## Rowing Maadi Cup 2018, Lake Ruataniwha Twizel

2018 was a year of close but not close enough finals. The under 18 novice coxed quad were 0.1 second off the bronze medal.

The under 17 coxed quad skulls were very frustrated by their 5<sup>th</sup> after going into the final having won their semi in the fastest time and leading at 1500 metres, it was "one of those days".

Five crews will be awarded top 10 medals from the Maadi Cup which had 2090 competitors from 120 schools.



MBC U17 coxed Quad; Finn Southey-stroke, Hunter Davies-3 seat, Kobe Miller-2 seat, Chris Godsall-bow, Oscar Schluter-cox.



The U18 Coxed 4 racing on the beautiful Lake Ruataniwha

## Rowing Finals cont.

Under 18 novice coxed quad sculls – 4<sup>th</sup> Hunter Dawson, Aiden Neal, Jordan Moanaroa, Sam Feltham, Fred Vavasour (cox).

Under 17 Coxed Quadruple Sculls – 5<sup>th</sup>

Finn Southey, Hunter Davies, Kobe Miller, Kristopher Godsall, Oscar Schluter (cox).

Boys Under 15 Coxed Octuple 8<sup>th</sup>

Bob Marr, Rhys Salvador, George Trolove, Sam Feltham, Jack Guard, Guy Clarke, Hunter Dawson, Levi McCauley Bown, Fred Vavasour (cox).

Under 18 Coxless pair 7<sup>th</sup> Jordan Hicks, Andre Salvador 7<sup>th</sup>

Under 18 Novice double sculls 7<sup>th</sup> Aiden Neal, Rhys Salvador

Under 18 Coxed 4 – won B final, Jordan Hicks, Ethan Alderlieste, Lachlan Stevens, Andre Salvador, Oscar Schluter (cox).

Congratulations to Ethan Alderlieste, Lachlan Stevens, Kobe Miller and Kris Godsall who were selected to trial for the South Island secondary school crews. Ethan and Kobe have made the South Island team, well done.

## Swimming

At the National Division 2 Swimming Competition in Rotorua George Glover qualified for 6 finals winning 3 gold, 1 silver and 2 bronzes.

George qualified in 4 events for the national age groups and short course champs.

Thomas Loza qualified for 3 finals finishing with two 5<sup>th</sup>s and a 6<sup>th</sup> and personal best times (PB's) in all events.

Ollie Mandeno (junior assembly) also had PB's.



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## Distinguished Old Boys

This is a continuation of our series about distinguished old boys of MBC. This is an article from Professor Mark Stirling (front row right, below) who attended the MBC from 1974 to 1979.



### **Mark Stirling, B.Sc., M.Sc. (Hons), and Ph.D.**

My interest in the outdoors began with trips with my parents to the West Coast and Kapiti Coast as a youngster. During my teenage years growing up in Blenheim, I enjoyed tramping in the local mountains. On one such tramp, I could see the Wairau Fault from the top of the Richmond Range. This was one of the memories that made me realize that, through a career in geology, I could learn about such things while being paid to tramp.

Although I have many bad memories at MBC of being bullied I have very good memories of teachers such as Lloyd Kerr and Dave (Gunge) Paul, as well as my “office type” friends. This was the name given to us by the bullies. I attended Otago University from 1980 to 1983, where I obtained a B.Sc. double major degree in Geology and Geography. I selected Otago to study earth science as this was the best university for training in my field, and it enabled me to get far as away from the Blenheim bullies as possible. My first job after graduation from 1984 to 1985 was as a geomorphologist for Lands and Survey in Central Otago where I fell in love with the Central Otago landscape and geology. I returned to the University of Otago from 1986 to 1988 and obtained a M.Sc. with Honours, studying Central Otago active tectonics (faulting and folding that has happened in the past, and will do so in the future).

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I had a great experience doing consulting work on geological hazards from 1988 to 1992, especially the Cromwell Gorge landslide investigations for the Clyde Dam. However, it was during this phase of my career that I realized that I really wanted to get into a research career before I became too old. Hence, from 1993 to 1998, I attended the University of Nevada Reno in the USA where I obtained my Ph.D. studying seismology and seismic hazards. This advanced study greatly expanded my career skills from geology into numerical, computer and programming seismology. It was also a great life experience for us (I was married to Jane by that time) in the amazing landscape and culture of Nevada. One major festival known as Burningman had a big impact on us, so much so that I founded the first international chapter of the festival in 2004, known as Kiwiburn. Kiwiburn is now in its 15<sup>th</sup> year and attracts people in the thousands.

From 1998 to 2015, I was leader of the national earthquake hazard mapping project at GNS Science, New Zealand's leading provider of geoscience research. I produced three versions of the maps (1998, 2002, and 2012 versions), which became the hazard basis for the New Zealand Loadings Standard (effectively "the building code") along with numerous engineering, planning and insurance applications.

In 2016, I was appointed the inaugural Chair of Earthquake Science at the University of Otago, where I am progressively building a collaboration of Otago earthquake scientists across the University and beyond. Two highlights of this work so far have been to: (1) study the local Akatore Fault and find that after 100,000 years of quiescence it has had three big earthquakes in geologically recent time and; (2) co-lead the mapping of the Hundalee Fault section of the M7.8 2016 Kaikoura earthquake fault ruptures. We have recently trenched the Hundalee Fault to find out when prehistoric earthquakes have occurred, and understand the long-term hazard of the fault. The recent spate of major earthquakes in the South Island appears to have ended a period of relative quiescence of large earthquakes, and activity is back to being what it was like in the 1930s to 60s. These fluctuations in earthquake activity are typical of tectonic plate boundaries like New Zealand.

I would encourage MBC students to strive to achieve their dreams, no matter how difficult they may seem. You will hopefully not experience as much negativity as I experienced along the way, but if you do then please speak out about it. I didn't, and as a result I regretfully let those bullies away with it. Also, never stop believing in yourself no matter what. I've achieved all my dreams, and you will too if you set your mind to it.

## MBC Sport coming up over Terms 2 and 3

### Football

Away games: 31st May in Nelson, 25th June in Waimea, 11-14 June at Nayland College.

21-22 May at Shirley Boy' High School and St Bedes in Christchurch in term 3.

### Rugby

The Rugby season will be underway as of Saturday 14 May for the Under 16 Colts, Under 15 Blue and Gold and the three U14 teams. After the trial game between St Pats and MBC on Saturday 7 May, coaches now have an insight into player potential for the upcoming season.



Thank you to [Tasman Mako](#) players and coaches for giving up their time and sharing their skills with the potential Mako of the future.

Junior Rugby Coaching Day in the last week of term 1 at MBC.

MBC 1st XV boys checked out the famous "Gully" ground at New Plymouth Boys' College this week. The Falcons have had a great few days in Taranaki at a five day pre-season training camp, which concluded with a match against New Plymouth Boy's 1st XV. The boys played trial games against the New Plymouth Boys' 2nd XV, there were many positives and plenty to work on.... so overall a very successful training camp.

### Hockey

The MBC College Grade Muster Day was also in the last week of term 1 at the turf.

**"Kotahi te hoe, ka ū te waka ki uta – paddling in unison, the waka will reach the land."**

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If you have a story to be told of MBC Old Boys' life beyond the College, please drop me an email. Correspondence should be addressed to The Editor at: <mailto:oldboys@mbc.school.nz>

QUIZ ANSWER: 1. 250 pupils

2. The Raurimu Spiral and the Otira Tunnel.

**Wayne Dyer** Quote: **'Attitude is everything, so pick a good one.'**



Prefects on Marlborough College roof, graduation day 1951

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