

## NEW BUILDING

The new Administration and Information Technology (Library) building at HVHS is now occupied and complete - all but for some minor items. It's amazing to realise that it was three and a half years ago since we were commissioned by The Board of Trustees to develop a design concept for this significant project.

Firstly, we needed to find out about the requirements and constraints for such a building. We therefore had a number of meetings with the Principal (Graeme Marshall), Associate Principal (Sylvia Burch), and other key staff to obtain a brief. We also examined Ministry of Education accommodation guidelines, and also spent some weeks completing a detailed survey of the school site.



The challenges for developing the design concept were to:- not further encroach on areas of useful open space; retain as many car parks as possible; restrict the new building to two storeys due to poor foundation conditions; provide protection from wind and rain for people moving around the site; retain the front drive as the main public access; build an entirely new library rather than extend the existing unsuitable library; provide for this building without impinging on the driveway or front lawn.

Having obtained the Board's approval for this concept, it took some considerable time (six months) for the Board to obtain similar approval from the Ministry of Education. The Ministry had anticipated extending the two existing buildings rather than creating a large new building

at considerably more cost than they had assumed. When we began the detailed design and documentation, we visited a number of schools in both Wellington and Auckland that had new or reasonably recent Library and Administration facilities. This was an extremely useful exercise – particularly going to Auckland where most of the new facilities were located.

Some of the more important things that we wished to achieve with the design were to:- create a building that was interesting and attractive, and that had a sense of presence and permanence; use relatively low maintenance finishes and fittings; have tall stud heights to give good natural ventilation and temperature control; have open, airy spaces with natural lighting wherever

possible; have high quality acoustic separation and absorption, so that privacy and reasonable comfortable acoustic conditions are maintained; allow for future requirements for technology as far as possible and access to maintain or alter systems relatively easily. We also wanted the users to feel good about being in and around this building

Whether we have mostly achieved these objectives is for the users to decide. I have certainly enjoyed the process of creating this building and working with my old school to provide a facility for the present and for the future.

John Grant (1964-68)  
John Grant Architects Ltd.

## HVHS Hosts International Debate.

On Saturday 22<sup>nd</sup> February Hutt Valley High School hosted Round 10 of the International Secondary Schools' Debating Tournament. Five teams of top secondary school debaters from Singapore, South Africa, Australia and New Zealand competed for supremacy in the tournament sponsored by law firm Russell McVeagh.

The school was asked to host Round 10 because the captain of the New Zealand Secondary School team was Seb Tuohy, Head Boy in 2002. The new staffroom and library proved to be a great debating venue.

It is pleasing to report that New Zealand won Round 10 and made its way on to the final, only to be defeated by Australia after an excellent, hard fought debate!

### French students visit New Caledonia.

A group of HVHS students who have been studying French spent ten days in New Caledonia during December. They stayed with local families and attended French lessons on weekday mornings. Among many highlights of the trip were visiting the downtown markets, the botanical gardens and probably best of all - a day at Amédée lighthouse which is perched on the reef which surrounds the island. By all accounts the trip was a great experience for the students.

### Current Student Achievements

#### *Congratulations to :-*

- ◆ **Casey Glover** who won the Kapiti to Mainland swim recently in a time of 1 hour 14 minutes 32 seconds (7minutes ahead of the nearest competitor.
- ◆ **Chris Armour** who gained a silver medal in the 13 year old boys' 50m butterfly event at the recent Division 2 National Swimming Championships in Hamilton.
- ◆ **Daniel Baxter** who won the Senior Boys' Singles at the Wellington Secondary School Tennis Championships.

### WE STILL HAVE A FEW LEFT!

Yes, there are just a few copies left of our Jubilee publications:

**Video 'HVHS Past & Present' ONLY**

**\$10**

**Book 'HVHS An Informal History' ONLY**

**\$15**

Just send a note specifying how many copies you require, along with payment

to:  
The Secretary, PPFA, PO Box 31909, Lower Hutt

## A word from the Principal.....

The start of the new year saw a lot of exciting change: everyone on one site, the new building complete and occupied, and the Learning Support Unit building close to completion. The twenty LSU students spent the first two weeks based in the old library, but are now in their new home and enjoying the superb facility that John Grant, former HVHS Head Boy, designed.

We are looking forward to welcoming the Prime Minister, Helen Clark, to the school to open the new administration and library building on March 26 at 4.00pm. Its completion is the culmination of years of planning and negotiating and frustration, and we all feel that at last the school has a building that adequately reflects the quality of education we provide.

We were reasonably pleased with the results of the first round of NCEA. It is difficult to know how best to measure the success of the school overall, given the variety of Achievement Standards taken nationally and the inevitable irregularities that go with a new system. Suffice it to say that we now have a base line from which we aim to improve year on year.

The philosophy that everything can be improved upon, no matter how good the starting point, lies behind the work of the Education Review Office, who visited the school in October last year. They took a "snapshot" of the school, found much to praise and some areas for development, as one would expect. We are constantly working to improve our practices and systems, and it is always useful to see the school through outside eyes. The full report can be found on [www.ero.govt.nz](http://www.ero.govt.nz)

A school's strength comes from its people, however, rather than practices and systems. We welcomed 11 new teachers to the staff, and look forward to the mark they will make on the place. At the end of 2002 we farewelled Bob Sage, who had served here for 26 years, an amazing contribution of time, energy and personal strength. We were as a community saddened by the death of Bill Sanderson at Christmas time. Bill had worked in the Graphics and Technology department since 1998, and was full of energy and originality.

This year will see the start of detailed planning for the new student centre, a project which is being generously supported by past pupils. We intend to involve the students, through both senior and junior councils, and representatives of the past pupils, so that the limited funds we have are used wisely and for the long term benefit of the whole student body. At present we are just drawing breath from the BIG building project before we plunge into this. It will be great to have a place that students can in a very real way call their own. Everything we do, after all, is for their benefit, and I hope that succeeding generations of HVHS students will look back on the enjoyment of their school days with the rosy spectacles that a lot of us are happy to wear.

The school is in good heart.

Sylvia Burch

## PAST PUPIL NEWS

**Ivan England** (1937–39) was awarded the Queens Service Medal in the New Years honours list. Ivan is well known for his sports administration in soccer, tennis and bowls in the Hutt Valley. He also served on the Epuni School Committee. Congratulations Ivan.

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**Nick Willis**, who left HVHS recently, has become the youngest New Zealander to run a sub-four minute mile. Nick ran 3min 58.15sec at the University of Notre Dame indoor track at the age of 19 years 290 days (John Walker was 21 years 177 days when he broke the 4 minute barrier in 1973). Nick's elder brother **Steve** (also a past pupil of HVHS) has also broken the four-minute mark making the pair the first and only New Zealand brothers to achieve this feat. Congratulations to you both.

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One of our most famous past pupils **Professor Alan MacDiarmid** (1941–43) was back in New Zealand recently. Alan and the two colleagues who share the Nobel Prize with him were guests at a public forum at Te Papa titled "Where is Science Taking Us?" Three science students from HVHS were invited to be part of the panel putting questions to the three Nobel Laureates. The three students found the occasion to be an inspiration and they thoroughly enjoyed it.

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Ten past pupils from the lower North Island who were in 3 Special in 1953 celebrated the 'Golden Jubilee' of their first days at HVHS when they met for a luncheon at Rushes in Pauatahanui recently. Organised by Alan Nicholls, the function was a most enjoyable event and many memories from 50 years ago were exchanged.

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Stephen Lyus (1962-64) left HVHS at the end of his 5th form year and moved to England with his family. Recently, Steve and his wife Helen visited New Zealand and toured around the country in a campervan. While in Wellington they met up with former classmates - Jean Powell, Dennis McGavin and Ray Marten for a mini reunion. Steve and Helen also took the opportunity to visit HVHS to see the developments that have occurred over the last 40 years.

**From the 'inbox' We've got m@il**

Well actually, we haven't. Since HVHS changed its internet provider about 4 or 5 months ago, we have not been receiving any mail at our former address [ppfa@hvhs.school.nz](mailto:ppfa@hvhs.school.nz) This has been very disappointing for the association as we do like to hear from you. In the meantime, why not send a message to the editor at [ken.stevenson@paradise.net.nz](mailto:ken.stevenson@paradise.net.nz).

We are especially keen to hear from past pupils who have got together with former classmates to chat about 'old times' and of course it is always good

to hear about the achievements of past pupils since they left HVHS.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

of the HVHS Past Pupils and Friends Association will be held on **Monday, 31<sup>st</sup> March 2003 at 7.45pm** in the School staff room. From 7pm onwards, there will be an opportunity to tour the newly opened administration facilities.

**ALL WELCOME**

## WWW.EBSITES

You will already know about the HVHS website at [www.hvhs.school.nz](http://www.hvhs.school.nz) and the link from there to the PPFA's 'Jubilee Message Board' and chat room. In addition, from the message board there is a link to [www.oldfriends.co.nz](http://www.oldfriends.co.nz) which is a site offering past pupils of any school, university etc the opportunity put your name on their list so that other past pupils can contact you. At the time of writing, they have almost 900 past pupils of HVHS on their list. There is a type of message board seeking the whereabouts of past pupils and currently 61 messages appear. In addition there are 53 photographs - classes, teams, bands etc. This site is worth looking at.