



# Network News

The Newsletter of the HVHS Past Pupils & Friends Association Inc.

# 6

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## FROM THE ACTING CHAIR

Since the last newsletter, our very recently elected Committee Chairperson John Eastwood has moved to Australia, which has left the committee leaderless! The committee is most grateful to John for his brief but enthusiastic time in the chair. He has defined the PPFA objectives for the next few years and it is disappointing that he will not be leading us through this period. I am holding the fort until the next AGM.

One of the objectives agreed to was to attempt to increase the number of financial members of the Past Pupils & Friends Association (presently numbering almost 350). In an effort to encourage new members, we are sending this newsletter to an extra 850 past pupils on our database in the hope that some of these people will join the association.

### Why belong to the HVHSPPPFA?

We believe that it is essential that HVHS has a past pupils association. Not only does such an association assist past pupils to keep in touch with each other but, possibly even more

importantly, it maintains a channel of communication between the school and its former students. This communication is achieved through the PPFA Network News that is published three times each year and which always features a message from the school's Principal. In addition, the PPFA regularly reports to the school's Board of Trustees.

The PPFA needs funds to:-

- produce regular newsletters
- maintain a PPFA website
- contribute to school archive work
- finance other PPFA activities

We believe that the modest membership fee of \$20 per annum that we have set will achieve our objectives if sufficient past pupils sign up. We look forward to your support.

### How to join the HVHSPPPFA

Just fill in the enclosed form and send it to the address shown on the form. If you are currently a member, please check the date that your membership fee expires by referring to the wrapper that this newsletter came in. We look forward to hearing from you.

Ken Stevenson (1950-54)



**DO NOT THROW AWAY THE WRAPPER YET!  
IT HAS IMPORTANT INFORMATION ON IT**

**If you are a member** then look on the address label for the year that your financial membership expires. If it shows 2003, then please fill in the form and send in your \$20 subscription for next year.

**If you are not a member**, there will be no date! Please fill in the form and send in your \$20 sub for next year.

***WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT***

## Rupert Tomlin reminisces

Rupert Tomlin and wife Bobbie (Barbara Young) both attended HVHS 1932–36. Rupert writes about their lives since leaving school at the end of 1936:–  
“Bobbie worked as a clerk and I went to Wellington Teachers’ Training College and gained a “C” Certificate.”

Rupert taught in several types of schools including one of the first district high schools and also ‘sole charge’ primary schools. In one of these he extended the role to include 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> formers (now known as year 9 & 10).

World war 2 interrupted his teaching career and Rupert found himself manning anti-aircraft guns in Wellington, Auckland and then in Fiji. He found the time sitting around waiting for some action very trying. “Such a waste of time all this was, just waiting for something to happen.”

After the war he returned to teaching. At one stage he became headmaster at a district high school but left to take up full time secondary teaching at another district high school, eventually becoming Senior Secondary Assistant at that school.

He left teaching and obtained his pilot’s licence and writes: “I ferried aircraft around the place, did some teaching of pilots towards their

licences, and also navigated for pilots who were not familiar with NZ routes”.

Rupert and Bobbie attended the 60<sup>th</sup> Jubilee of HVHS in 1986. Rupert writes “I saw Miss Shepherd, Crow and Mary McKenzie and D W McKenzie and former classmates Owen Whiteman, Peter Renshaw, Doreen Tomkins and Joan Cowie. I was delighted to find that Crow and Mary remembered me”.

Rupert and Bobbie now live in Whangarei and they would love to hear from former classmates who remember them. Rupert suggests to those who have the 1935 HVHS magazine to look for a story “Das Tanze” written by Rupert (alias R L von Phludt).

*Thanks Rupert for your interesting letter and thanks too for sending the school badges, songbooks and blazer pocket for the school’s archive collection.*

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

At Senior Prizegiving we honoured the achievements of a year-group that is very special in the history of the school.

Most of them started at HVHS in 1999, and that was the first year in the school's history without a secondary school "across the river". High School has always been a big school, but up to 1998 there was a choice for parents in this lower part of the valley.

No one knew quite what to expect in 1999 – we did not know how many students there would be, we did not have the same strong connections with the new contributing schools that we enjoyed with our traditional feeder schools, we did not know what expectations our new intake would be coming with. And we were not the only ones with more questions than answers – our traditional community was unsure how "their" school would be affected; estate agents saw little pulling-power in the words "in HVHS zone".

In my first months as Associate Principal in 1999 I got the distinct impression that all eyes were on the school to see if it would rise to the challenge or sink under the burden placed on it.

I am happy to say we rose to the challenge, and the cream has risen to the top. The intake caused us headaches: we faced a wider range of learning needs and behavioural problems than we had previously; we introduced new courses to cater for a wider range of abilities and interests; we reviewed a lot of our structures and processes to ensure that the school continued to run smoothly.

I am proud to state publicly that HVHS is stronger than ever, and that the students who will be leaving us at the end of this year are equal to the best we have seen. Their hallmark is that they accept differences, they are not afraid to ask questions and they have all

achieved success in some field of endeavour. The school has been able to adapt and respond to changed circumstances, without losing sight of its traditional values.

And this is what state-funded education is all about. Schools convey that which is too precious to be left to chance. We are charged with offering to all who live in our zones, whatever their needs, difficulties, talents and aspirations, the best and most stimulating educational opportunities.

It concerns me that schools are increasingly dependent on the fees from overseas students to maintain the desired level of provision; it concerns me that funding for programmes as diverse as Arts co-ordination and meeting moderate learning difficulties is contestable and based on limited term contracts; it concerns me that talk of the Knowledge Wave seems to concentrate on the crest, when it is blindingly obvious that a wave is built up by strong forces from beneath. This country cannot afford to neglect investment in its young people – they are our economic future, they are our political future, and we cannot leave their fate to chance.

The school is in good heart, and going from strength to strength.

Sylvia Burch

## PAST PUPIL NEWS

### Paul Giles (1967–71)

Paul and Christine Giles, who run Naenae Pharmacy, were recipients of the 2003 Hutt News Top Shop award. Paul told the Hutt News: "We just do the basics well, ensuring that people are relaxed and comfortable within the pharmacy." He also acknowledged the good work done by his warm and friendly staff. *Congratulations. Paul is also a member of the HVHSPFA committee.*

~

### John R Reid (1942–46)

The former New Zealand cricket captain was appointed president of New Zealand Cricket at their recent annual meeting in Christchurch. Reid, a top all-rounder who captained New Zealand in 34 tests and was named Wisden International Cricketer of the Year in 1959, has recently been serving as a match referee in international test matches in several venues around the world.

~

### Bob Keall (1942–46) writes

In 1942 a John Campbell was a senior pupil and cadet platoon commander B Company. It is quite likely that within a year or two of leaving school he would be involved in World War II. Does anyone know of what became of him? After a recent Holmes programme, I had reason to recall his accepting responsibility for a minor indiscretion and absolving us third formers of

about 3 days into Barracks Week. It lifted my sights of what High School might be about.

His platoon sergeant was one Tressider – well-known name in building circles in the Hutt Valley, for whom my dad worked at one stage, and was glad he did.

~

### Joel Batson wins music scholarship

The 22 year-old percussionist, and past pupil is the primary winner of the Patricia Pratt music scholarship and will receive \$38,000. He will study at the University of Miami. *Congratulations Joel!*

### HVHSPFA Committee 2003–04

**Chairman:** vacant

**Secretary:** Judi Whitcher

**Treasurer:** John Cranefield

Celia Andrews, Carol Barker, Pat Blades, Paul Giles, Katriona MacDonald, Pat Manning; Graeme Marshall, John Stanton, Pam Stevenson, Ken Stevenson, Rosemary Thompson.

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

### John Berry (1946–49) writes

I was interested to read the obituary written by A.L. Whiteman. He was our form teacher in 5B 1948

I would be interested to hear from classmates from 3L 1946, 4A 1947, 5B 1948 and 6B 1949.

Thanks and regards,  
johnandbethberry@xtra.co.nz

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### PPFA Tea and Chat afternoon

The annual function, for first and second decade past pupils, was held in the Student Centre on September 11<sup>th</sup>. Three foundation pupils attended: Mary Blacker (Frame); Margaret Goldfinch (Tilbury) and Agnes Wrigley (Carey). Over ninety past pupils attended and they were shown through the new library and Learning Support Unit, the latter occupying the site where the caretaker's house used to be. A big thank you to the staff and pupils of the school for their help on the day. We hope to hold this popular event again next year.

### PPFA team participates in PTA Quiz night

Early in October the PPFA entered a team in the HVHSPTA's Quiz night. They were one of at least ten teams that took part and they acquitted themselves very well in a keenly

contested event. Our team was very well placed in the early rounds scoring well in topics such as 'Science' and 'Sport' and at the halfway mark were second overall. Sadly, in the penultimate round, they could only recognize four of the ten rather obscure national flags but still finished a creditable third equal.

*Well done team!*

### *Help wanted – please contact us.*

In order to complete the set of photos of those past pupils on the school's "Roll of Honour", we need photos of these people:

ARMSTRONG, K. L. *dates not known*  
(Air Force)

DRAWBRIDGE, Herbert John 1929–30  
(Air Force)

JOHNSON, Albert Andrew 1930–32 (Air Force)

KING, Edward Prideaux 1934–36  
(Army)

LANSDOWN, Ernest George 1930–32  
(Army)

PIERARD, Arthur Walter 1933–34  
(Army)

SMITH, Robert Quinton 1926–27  
(Army)

TREVITHICK, Donald Charles 1934–38  
(Army)

WALLIS, Bernard Forfar 1937–38 (Air Force)

Any assistance would be greatly appreciated.

*Bev Whitelaw & Merle Ramsay are organising a MINI-REUNION for their year groups  
1966-72*

## ARE YOU HAVING A 50TH BIRTHDAY THIS YEAR OR NEXT?

Have some more celebrations with us at Easter 2004.

**When:** April 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup>, 2004

**Where:** HVHS and surrounding areas

**What:** Dinner on Saturday night including photographs.

**Other activities** may include quad biking, rafting on the Hutt River,  
cricket/tennis matches, picnic (any other suggestions welcome!)

We need approximately 50 to make this go ahead, so let us know asap if you can make it. Looking forward to catching up again with you all.

**Contact:** – Bev [bev.w@paradise.net.nz](mailto:bev.w@paradise.net.nz) or Merle [merleramsay@clear.net.nz](mailto:merleramsay@clear.net.nz)