



# Network News

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

9

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## Ivan Hills 1915-2004

Past Pupils will be sad to learn that former Hutt Valley High School teacher and Life Member of the HVHSPPFA, Ivan Hills, passed away on September 27<sup>th</sup> 2004. After teaching at HVHS for no less than thirty-three years, a large number of our members will have been taught or coached by Ivan and much larger numbers will remember him.

Ivan was born in Masterton in 1915 and attended Wairarapa College from 1928-32. He graduated from Victoria University in 1936 with MA Hons in French. The following year he trained to be a teacher at Wellington Teachers' College and eighteen months later, in July 1939, joined the staff at HVHS.

In his early years at the school there was no music teacher, so Ivan took the music at the school for 5 years. During this time he established an orchestra, a brass band (where he occasionally played the trombone when they were short of players), and took a large girls choir. The production of the annual school concert was also his responsibility, carried out with the organisation and efficiency that were to become the 'hallmarks' of everything he undertook.

In the sporting field his own attainments as a tennis champion and lifesaver were put to good use in the coaching of the school tennis teams and life saving squads. From the start of his teaching career at HVHS he could be found during the summer months at the pool every weekday morning before 8am coaching the very successful school life saving teams. The Royal Life Saving Society recognised his contribution to this sport by awarding him its Badge and Bar and an honorary life

membership of the RLSS. In the winter months, coaching a rugby team took much of his extra curricular time for 28 years. He also took part in the school cadet scheme for around 25 years, attaining the rank of Major and being the OC of Cadets for some considerable time.

Ivan's teaching subjects were mainly French and mathematics, and his maths students will recall the way he used a piece of string tied to his chalk to draw perfect circles. In 1958 he was appointed deputy principal and held this position until he retired in 1972. During this time he acted as principal for five months during the absence overseas of Mr Ramson. The duties of deputy principal were many and varied and included involvement with the school timetable, enrolment, discipline, examination arrangements and arranging for substitutes for teachers who are absent. Writing

in his valedictory article for the 1972 school magazine, his long time colleague Bert Davidson wrote of Ivan "Everything he did was done with meticulous and scrupulous care."

After his retirement, Ivan continued his interest in music being a member and deputy conductor of the Orpheus Choir and later a member of the St James church choir. He also played first violin in the Hutt Valley Concert Orchestra for many years. His other interests have been gardening and woodturning.

Ivan's contribution to HVHS was legend and his influence for the good will long be remembered by the hundreds of pupils with whom he came in contact.



## Past Pupils in the news

### Jonathan Wyatt

One of the two past pupils competing at the Athens Olympic Games has had an outstanding two months in competition. On August 29<sup>th</sup> Jonathan Wyatt finished a creditable 21<sup>st</sup> place in the marathon event in a time of 2h 17min 45s and then just one week later competed in, and won, the men's world mountain running championship in Italy. He thus regained the title he won in 2002. Next year he has the opportunity to defend his title on home soil when the event will be held on Wellington's Mt Victoria. Since that event Jonathan has competed in no fewer than six more events on European mountain circuits with five wins, his only loss to the Olympic marathon winner Stefano Baldini. To cap this impressive performance, Jonathan was named NZ distance athlete of the year and the overall NZ Athlete of the Year at the Athletics NZ annual awards.

### Nick Willis

Our second past pupil competitor at Athens this year, Nick Willis, just missed qualifying for the 1500 metres final. He finished a comfortable third in heat 2 but in the semifinal, which was a slow and tactical race he finished sixth just one place and less than a quarter of a second from qualifying for the final. However, at the Athletics NZ

annual awards he was named NZ middle distance athlete of the year.

### Katrina Troughton

Katrina, who attended HVHS in the early 1980s, has recently been appointed to the position of Managing Director of IBM New Zealand. She grew up in Eastbourne and after leaving school attended Auckland University, graduating in 1990 with a degree in science and commerce.

She has spent much of her working life with IBM, including four years as IBM NZ software manager. Following this, she spent five years in Sydney as a business executive responsible for data management across the Asia-Pacific region and later general manager of IBM's Australasian software business.

Katrina, who has two pre-school children, will be based in Auckland.

*Congratulations to these past pupils for their achievements - (Ed)*

## From the school archives

At its August meeting, the HVHSPFFA committee approved a grant of \$1300 to enable the purchase of a computer plus accessories for the school archives team. The letter below is from archivist Colleen Cresswell.

*The President  
HVHS Past Pupils Association*

*Dear Rosemary  
We in the Archives thank your association for the donation that allowed us to purchase a computer, scanner and printer. Having a good computer system has made such a difference in time and effort to mount displays and cope with the day-to-day routine work. We got a computer with lots of memory for storing scanned pictures and also can link to the school email system and the Internet.*

*Thank you so much. The attendees at the recent reunion of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> decade were impressed with the news of such a gift to us. We were able to scan photos they had brought along and give them back straight away and also print copies of photos that we have on CD disc.*

*Colleen Cresswell  
Archives*

At the senior prize giving, held at the beginning of November, Colleen received an 'Ad Alta' award for her services to the archives and the preservation of historical material in the school.

*Congratulations Colleen for this well deserved recognition of your work in archives. (Ed)*



Colleen using her new equipment.

## PPFA Activities

### Tea & Chat

Seventy-three past pupils from the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> decades, attended an afternoon on 8<sup>th</sup> September, held in the HVHS Student's Centre.

It was lovely to hear the background music, played by present school students, as the past pupils arrived. After a brief welcome from the principal, Sylvia Burch (*sincere apologies for spelling your name incorrectly in our last news-letter Sylvia*) and PPFA Chairperson, Rosemary Thompson, the main part of the afternoon was taken up with reminiscing and lots and lots of lovely talk.



Rosemary addressing the group.

A senior student, Nicole Lynes, had been working on a video project, and this was shown to the gathering. The video concerned the life of a past pupil Claude 'Nipper' Jarvis, who was a pupil at HVHS during 1935 – 36, and then became a casualty of war, being killed in Germany in 1941. Nicole had spent time talking with Claude's sister Dawn England, getting background

information, and we were sad that Dawn didn't see the final video, as she passed away only a few days prior to the function.

Our most senior past pupils were acknowledged with corsages being given to Lois Mair, Poppy Watts and Eileen Smeaton, and one delivered to Mary Blacker (foundation pupil) who was unable to attend. Buttonholes were presented to Moc Robertson, Norman Carter and Keith Maynard. (*Some photos of the event appear on our website*)

Many of those who attended said how much they had enjoyed the Tea and Chat and it is hoped that the event will continue next year.

*Thanks to Jean Bowden and PPFA committee people for their contribution to this event. (Ed)*

## PPFA Activities (continued)

### Music Festival

As another way of raising the profile of the PPFA, it was decided to provide supper at this year's music festival, which was held on August 20<sup>th</sup>.

An excellent array of finger food was provided by committee members and enjoyed by those in the audience who partook.

The committee decided that they would repeat this next year.

ooOoo

### Furniture for the Student Centre

The PPFA committee has disbursed some of its profit from the 75<sup>th</sup> Jubilee and has paid for 18 tables and 84 chairs for the Student Centre. The new furniture enhances the centre and is a marked improvement on the old classroom furniture that was being used previously.

ooOoo

### Scholarships awarded

At the 2004 Senior Prize-giving, the Past Pupils and Friends Association awarded the following scholarships to students

who are going to continue their study next year at a university:

**Keesing MacLeod Scholarship to Jeremy Moller**, who intends to study for a double major degree in Law and Arts at Auckland University. Jeremy was Head Boy in 2004

**Chris MacKay Financial Planning Scholarship to Matthew Webby**, who intends to study Architecture at Victoria University of Wellington next year.

**Past Pupils and Friends Association Awards for Valued Contribution to School Life** has been awarded to **Kathryn Grant** who intends to study either for a Law and Science degree at VUW or attend Otago University and study Health Sciences.

### HVHSPFA Committee 2004-05

**Chairperson:** Rosemary Thompson

**Vice Chairperson:** Paul Giles

**Secretary:** Judi Witcher

**Treasurer:** John Cranefield

Celia Andrews, Carol Barker, Pat

Blades, Katriona MacDonald, Pat

Manning; Graeme Marshall,

Pauline Patchett, John Stanton,

Pam Stevenson, Ken Stevenson.