



the bulletin

December 2020



The Magazine of the Nelson College Community

Message from the Headmaster

It's tempting to write that 2020 has been a year like no other. But for a 164-year old school, that's not true. Nelson College has endured typhoid and polio epidemics, fires and earthquakes that destroyed our buildings, and world wars that killed our young men before they could grow old and contribute more to our country.

However, for modern generations not used to such events, COVID-19 changed our lives dramatically in 2020.

In January, few of us had heard of a new virus circulating in Wuhan, China. The Australian bushfires were the bigger story as New Zealanders watched our skies go red from the smoke from across the Tasman.

By March the bushfires were extinguished and New Zealand hurtled into Alert Level 4 lockdown. We knew it was the right thing to do, but the days leading up to the lockdown were stressful for schools, staff and students.

Across the country people were struggling with the implications of closing schools for an indefinite period. Would teaching and learning continue? If so, how? What about the pastoral care of students? What about sports ... arts ... student leadership? The MAADI Cup, one of many pinnacle sports tournaments in New Zealand was only weeks away and we had to decide whether to proceed, delay or cancel. Our students had many questions. Would year 13 students be able to complete Level 3 NCEA and move on to university or a trade? Would there be a school ball? Would there be a school production?

Teachers and schools had even more, being asked to switch from face-to-face learning to distance learning with no, or minimal, preparation. Schools and the Ministry of Education grappled with many challenges, such as equity. If we were to deliver teaching via the internet, what about the households without computers or the internet? What of households where the students chose to go to work at supermarkets in lieu of their parents now without jobs? At Nelson College our "bubble of 80" made national news as our staff looked after 55 international students trapped in New Zealand.

As a leader at two schools this year, I want to recognise the work of others. I thank the Secretary of Education and her Deputies for realising the situation facing school leaders and choosing to support them and work with them to keep learning going for students.

I thank staff for their work through and since the first lockdown. This year has been punishing in what has been demanded of staff to try and ensure that all students enjoy the same success as previous years. I thank parents and whanau for their support of students this year. Having a teenager full-time at home, anecdotally, made many parents better appreciate the work of teachers. Importantly it reinforced the role that parents play to support their rangatahi's learning. I thank the students on whom more pressure fell to continue their studies in far from normal circumstances, and who stepped up in their leadership to stay connected and support each other.

Looking back, there are many lessons. As a leader I learnt the importance of making big decisions early, and the importance of communication, especially in uncertain times. We quickly learnt how to really use ICT to support learning. Significantly, we were reminded of the reality of inequity in our communities. We learnt that schools play an important role in addressing inequality in our society. With them closed and having to rely on expensive technology, the gaps between the rich and poor were more exposed. As (if) we return to normality, I hope that none of these lessons are forgotten.

Nelson College is a unique school to lead, the oldest state school in New Zealand. Single-sex education in the 21st century. Nelson is rapidly changing. Population growth is occurring in Stoke and Tasman, while Nelson itself is (mostly) land-locked and its population is aging. This has brought debates around zoning and access to schools in the wider region. I struggle with these debates. Every school should be a magnet school, a school that parents want to send their son or daughter to.

At Nelson College we face challenges. In recent years, the college committed to boarding and renovated Rutherford and Barnicoat houses. We're financially challenged as boarding has retrenched and is slowly growing back. Our closed borders mean a much-reduced income from international students, doubly so as many of them board at the school. This has forced us into difficult decisions around staffing and programmes. I wish there was another way forward but, like our forefathers, we must face our reality. And we will.

This has been an unbelievably hard year but, together, we've got through it. We've developed a five-year strategic plan with the vision of being a school that "is a leader in our community and that provides a world-class education in Nelson". This is neither rhetoric nor a small vision. I believe we can and will help lead our local community. I believe that we will deliver a first-class education that's recognised in New Zealand and overseas. We've established three school-wide goals for 2021 – enhancing our junior curriculum, improving student behaviour and wellbeing (especially in the junior school), and lifting our NZ scholarship results. These are important first steps. They emphasise innovation, collaboration, and high expectations. We can and will be a leader in all of these, and so be a school that our community is proud to send its sons to.

I want to acknowledge the engine of our school – our staff. Our staff are extraordinarily committed to our school, our students and our community. They've worked tirelessly this year to keep the 'wheels of learning' turning and to provide the best and widest range of opportunities for our students.

I especially thank those close to me in my work. My Personal Assistant, Judith Jordan, and the Leadership Team – Tim Tucker, Ron Kelly, Brian Hore, Jarrod Aberhart, Samme Hippolite, Richard Nott and Brett Mochan have done a great deal of work to support me as I learn the intricacies of a new school.

I thank the Board of Trustees who have done a lot of extra work in 2020. Initially to recruit and employ a new Headmaster, and then to support me in my new role.

I'm excited to be at Nelson College. For a school with a tremendous past, it has an exciting future. It is the right time to start looking forward, irrespective of this year's event. I look forward to working with students, staff, Board and community to enact our plan and achieve our goals.

Nga mihi nui, Richard Dykes - Headmaster



J G McKay Scholarship

Nelson College Old Boys' Association outgoing President Paul Sturrock presents 2020 Head Boy Liam Brennan with the J G McKay Award at the 2020 AGM. The Scholarship was first awarded in 1960, in memory of Mr J G McKay, who was a master at Nelson College from 1906 to 1944. In gratitude for his services to the College and for the deep impress for good which he left on the boys who passed through it in his time, the Old Boys' subscribed a considerable sum of money with which to endow a Scholarship to his honoured memory.

It is their hope that succeeding generations of Nelson College boys will respect and cultivate the qualities of manliness, industry and integrity which his life so richly exemplified.

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Dear Fellow Old Boys,

This is my first Bulletin report as president of Nelson College Old Boys' Executive Committee. Thank you for taking the time to read the Bulletin. I hope that you find it informative. We all belong to a great school and this edition of the Bulletin gives an excellent overview of what is happening at college. I can say without a doubt that we can be very proud of our young men attending college and the efforts and commitments of the staff, leadership team, and our Headmaster.

New Headmaster

I want to welcome our new Headmaster Richard Dykes and wish him well as he finds his way in what is an important and challenging role. The engagement that Richard has had so early in his tenure with Old Boys and the Executive has been top class. Our commitment is to help him and the college as much as we possibly can. There are exciting times ahead.

2020 successes by our college boys

Across many fronts, there have been so many sporting and academic successes from the traditional sports and newer versions such as mountain biking. These successes are a result of strong leadership, constant encouragement, and the incredible skills of so many of our young men. Nelson College sure does punch above its weight in so many areas. Being a rugby man it was great to see so many Old Boys attend the 2020 Rugby Quadrangular Tournament and to be able to renew friendships and make new ones. The profit we made from our "Quad" Old Boys' function will be going to help out with instruments for the college music department. If there is anyone out there who can financially help with that project please contact Lucy Jackson, our Liaison.

Tours of the College and Scriptorium

Old Boys are always welcome to visit the college and see what is new and what remains the same. We are fortunate to have such a grand collection of memorabilia in the Scriptorium and there are lots of team photographs in the assembly hall and around the college.

I want to acknowledge the amazing work of David Roberson (1956-61) for his ongoing voluntary work in our Scriptorium, including archival work and showing Old Boys and family our school and history.

If any Old Boy or someone you know who has a bent for maintaining our history your assistance would be very welcome. Contact Lucy Jackson at college 03 5483099 ext 825. Email lj@nelsoncollege.school.nz.

Reunions

We are always keen to hear from Old Boys interested in holding some form of reunion, please contact us for help.

Our Students

Our students have had some wonderful successes in 2020. Congratulations to all prize winners, sports teams, and all those who are proud of their achievements during 2020. We look forward to seeing you become part of the Nelson College Old Boys' Association and look forward to meeting you at NCOB events in the future. Old friends are often the best ones!!

Best regards to all NCOB family and friends

Chris Harvey (1965-1969)

President NCOBA



Check out Nelson College Old Boys worldwide with Linked in and Facebook

Or contact us direct through our Old Boys Liasion Lucy Jackson

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Phone: +64 03 548 3099
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NCOBA Executive 2019

President: Chris Harvey (1965-69)	Executive: Paul Bromell (1981-86)	Edward Kelling (1958-62)
Treasurer: Brett Mochan (1972-75)	Campbell Ching (1969-73)	Rob McKegney (1966-70)
Headmaster: Richard Dykes	Kieran Cleary (staff)	David Robertson (1956-61)
	Iain Graham (1969-73)	Paul Sturrock (1980-84)

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Cover Image:
New NCOBA President and new
Headmaster for 2020. Read
more on page 4-5.

Changing of the guard for Nelson College

Q & A with Headmaster Richard Dykes and President Chris Harvey

2020 has seen many changes here at Nelson College, with Mr Richard Dykes taking over as Headmaster in Term Two just after the region emerged from the Covid 19 Lockdown. Mr Dykes has come from Auckland's Glendowie College. He is working closely with staff to develop a vision for the future of Nelson College. Chris Harvey (1965-69) has taken on the role of President of the Nelson College Old Boys' Association Executive Committee in Nelson, after being a member of the committee for two years prior. Chris is looking forward to working with the College.



Richard Dykes catching up with students.

Q What is your background in teaching and leadership?

A "After leaving university, I worked for Shell Oil for six years before leaving to train as a teacher in Christchurch. In Christchurch I first worked at Mairehau High School and then Burnside High School. After two years there, I gained a promotion to Faculty Leader at Waimea College in Nelson. I shifted into senior leadership in 2005 when I gained the Deputy Principal role at Tauhara College in Taupo, followed by the Associate Principal at Pakuranga College in Auckland. In 2015, I took up my first principalship at Glendowie College where I was for five years, before taking up the role of Headmaster at Nelson College."

Q What was your experiences prior to this, growing up/studying?

A "I mostly grew up in Auckland, attending Auckland Grammar School as a teenager. I loved my time there and understand the pride that students have while there, and after they leave the school. Many of my closest friends date back to my school years at Grammar."

I studied at Otago University in Dunedin, Christchurch Teachers College and most recently (well ... 15 years ago) at Massey University completing a Masters in Education Administration (Hons)."

Q What drew you to come and lead Nelson College?

A "It's an exciting opportunity. I'd led Glendowie College successfully for five years and achieved a lot to move that school forward over that time. I'm not one for sitting back and maintaining the status quo, and so the chance to come to Nelson College is exciting. Also ... and I suspect Nelsonians won't struggle to understand this ... my wife and I didn't want to spend the rest of our lives in Auckland. I enjoy Auckland, but"

Q What do you do to relax and switch off from work life?

A "Sleep! In between that and work I like to play tennis and basketball. I also attend a local church – All Saints Anglican."

Q What are your short and medium goals for Nelson College?

A "I've worked with staff to develop a vision for Nelson College – to be a leader in our community and to provide a world-class education in Nelson. This is not too dissimilar to the school's founding deed in the 1850's. I will know we're doing this across all aspects of school life when we have people looking to us as an example of best practice – academically, in sports and arts and with regard to student and staff wellbeing. When we have our staff presenting at conferences in New Zealand and overseas, and overseas staff are contacting us to ask if they can come and visit to see what our staff are doing, then we know we're on the world map."

More specifically, my goals are to put teaching and learning at the absolute forefront of who we are and what we provide for our young men, and to build a culture of pride and belonging that is seen in how our students act at school and beyond school. How they respect their uniform, their teachers, their learning, members of the public."

Q How do you see Old Boys' fitting into the fabric of the College and it's future?

A "Having attended a school with a strong Old Boys' network, I understand the importance of Old Boys to the life of the college ... and the importance of the college to the Old Boys. Hopefully we both benefit from the relationship."

Just as I want our current students to be proud of the college, I hope that our Old Boys are equally proud of the college in the past and present. I hope that they feel welcome and that they belong to something special."

Increasingly schools also rely on networks such as the Old Boys to maintain the quality of education and co-curricular opportunities. Left only to government funding, Nelson College would be a shadow of its former self. We must look well beyond government funding to be a community leader and to provide a world-class education."

Q What are you enjoying about Nelson College so far?

A "Two things stand out. Firstly the friendliness of our young men and the staff. They are positive, confident and friendly. Secondly I love the history of the school. It's something that so many schools lack, because they're so much younger, and that provides a richness of experience for our young men."



Q Years at NC? And your best highlight/achievement?

A "I attended college between 1965 and 1969. Highlight would be being captain of the 1st XV in 1969."

Q What has inspired you to come back, and join the Association?

A "When I retired and returned to Nelson, I was keen to get involved in college matters so getting involved with the association seemed to be a useful thing to do."

Q What are you looking forward to most about your role as President?

A "I am keen to maintain and grow the association, particularly by encouraging younger old boys to keep involved with their network of Nelson College friends, many who will be friends for life. I am also committed to helping the college in any ways which we as old boys can."

Q How does the Association support the College?

A "Apart from general support of the college, any financial help we can give to the college is important. This year we have provided financial support to pupils to go on sports trips. We also replaced the NC mainfield goal post pads and sideline flags. In addition we provided some funds for class room electronic screens which are an important aid for teachers."

Q How else are you involved in the school, apart from the Old Boys?

A "I spent three years coaching rugby at the college and maintain my interest in being the college ground manager at Broads each Saturday over the rugby season. I am also manager of the NC cricket 1st XI."

Q Can you give us a brief history of your life experiences since leaving College as a school boy?

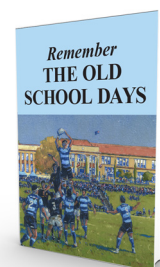
A "After college I completed a history degree at Canterbury University and then trained as a social worker which I practiced for a few years before moving into social work management. I was also involved in the development of electronic case management computer systems and business information systems. In the years leading up to my retirement I was the South Island manager for Child Youth and Family."

Q Do you have any advice for our younger old boys out there?

A "Make good use of the years immediately leaving college as they send you on important pathways, which are sometimes hard to change. Stay in touch with your college friends, as in my experience many of these will always be your best friends and confidants. When the time is ready for you, get back involved with one of our various Nelson College branches, it can be great fun."

Book for sale!

Remember the Old School Days - by Alan Turley



Copies of the book published in 2019, featuring anecdotes, recollections and over 100 photos of Nelson College, are still available to purchase, for \$20, plus postage.

Three ways to buy!

1. Online at <https://shop.nelsoncollege.school.nz>
2. At Nelson College Finance Office during school hours
3. By contacting the Nelson College Old Boys' Association at lj@nelsoncollege.school.nz, or phone 03 5483099 ext 825.

Please note, orders will be processed during term time only.

College News

Board of Trustees Medallion Recipients

Congratulations to the following boys who were national title holders or New Zealand representatives:

NZ Quarter Horse Youth Team	Reece Mahuika	NZ U18 Underwater Hockey Team	Harrison Brosnan
Cycling New Zealand U19 Junior World Cup Team	Kaio Lart	NZ U18 Underwater Hockey Team	Nick Peterson
NZ U20 Ultimate Team	Harry Edwards	NZ U18 Underwater Hockey Team	Jaimen Muncaster
NZ Inline Speed Skating Team	Jamie Manson	NZ U16 800m Freestyle Champion	Oxford Bayley
Duke of Edinburgh Silver Award	Jayden Houghton	NZ U16 1500m Freestyle Champion	Oxford Bayley
NZ U17 Indoor Cricket Team	Kaleb McKay	NZ U14 200m Breaststroke Champion	Wilson Huata-Findlay
NZ Secondary School Brass Band	Ned Rainey	NZSS U15 200m Breaststroke Champion	Connor Eden
NZ Secondary School Brass Band	Liam Heaphy	Football McCartney Cup 2020 Champions	Caleb Williams
NZ Secondary School Brass Band	Josh Mansbridge	Football McCartney Cup 2020 Champions	Rhys Goodger
NZ Secondary Schools Orchestra	Josh Mansbridge	Baseball NZ U16 Player of the Year	Cooper Grant
National Secondary Schools Choir	Charle Rainey	National Online Chess Champion	Alexandre de Maupou d'Ableiges
NZ Secondary School Brass Band	Charle Rainey	Indoor Cricket	Logan Andrews
NZ Chin Wrestling Champion	Sang Hlichal	U21 NZ Croquet team for 2021	Michael Lauer



An Nguyen was announced Dux at the End of Year Senior Prizegiving held on Wednesday November 11, 2020. An also received several other prizes in accounting, economics, statistics, physics, as well as the science, electronics and business, and multiple scholarships, including the General Academic Excellence Scholarship.



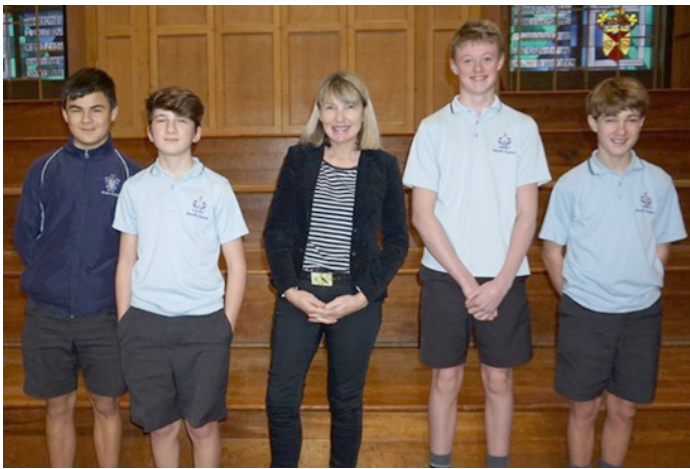
Kaio Lart was named Head Boy for 2021 at the 2020 Senior Prize Giving. He also received the Memorial Cup for Influence in cycling and the NZ U19 Junior World Cup Team award for cycling.

Future problem solvers world class!

In June four Year 10 students competed in the International Future Problem Solving finals. Because of the Covid-19 crisis, the competition (originally to be held in Boston USA), was virtual this year and the exam was done online.

The topic was Terraforming, and the scene centred around a human colony on Ganymede (one of Jupiter's moons) that was under threat from underdeveloped terraforming efforts that were harming the colonists' health. Their winning solution was a micro-sensor that monitored colonists' bodies, identifying areas where radiation, gravity and psychological trauma affected them most significantly.

These boys have already represented NZ in the United States and between them, have three International Trophies (two first places and one fourth). The results, announced recently saw them placed an incredible FIFTH internationally (out of nearly 100 middle division teams). Congratulations on this outstanding achievement.



Adam Barton, Sam Brookes, Fergus Richards and Oliver Taylor, pictured with teacher Sarah Watts.



Huge congratulations to Y11 Charle Rainey for making the NZ Secondary Students Choir for 2021/22. The Choir gathers every school holidays for rehearsals and concerts. We expect to hear wondrous singing!



Congratulations to Y12 Flynn Mercer for placing second in the 2020 Wallace Arts Trust Secondary School Art Awards. The Trust are keen to purchase the work. "I based my folio theme on human anatomy and portraiture. I have been inspired by books like Gray's Anatomy and artists such as Leonardo De Vinci and William Orpen". Flynn's focus has been on developing his technique of combining acrylic with water colour.

Boarders win house comp!

This year, our combined 'Boarders' won the Neale Cup for the first time ever. This impressive win of the Nelson College Inter-house Competition, is a reflection of the unity that now exists in boarding: enthusiastic boarders, good organisation by boarding student leaders and exceptional staff commitment.



Congratulations to Luke Walker (YR 13) who was recently promoted to be the new CSM WO2 (Company Sergeant Major Warrant Officer Class 2) of the Nelson Cadet Unit. Luke is now the highest ranking Cadet in the Unit.



Farewell to some special staff

This year we farewell a number of staff at Nelson College, and some of these have been at the college for many years. We can't mention them all, but some deserve an honourable mention.

Leigh Tutty is retiring after being at Nelson College for 40 years, (1980-2020) in the English Department. He recalls being offered the position by telegram! During his time here he has been in the English and Social Studies department, tutor and assistant Housemaster at Rutherford House, and Housemaster of Barnicoat House. Mr Tutty has seen many changes at the College during that time.

Also retiring is Gordon McKenzie from the technology department, who has been here for 27 years (1993-2020). Peter Grigg, master in charge of rugby, and the manager of the 1st XV is retiring after 24 years (1996-2020), and our much loved Deputy Principal, Ron Kelly (2000-20) after 20 years service to the College. Ron started in the technology department, and has been part of the leadership team since 2006. He has worked on many fundraising efforts with students during his time here, and is always assisting students with various community projects.

John Francis (2004-20) from the mathematics department is also leaving this year, after 16 years service. From our administration staff we also say farewell to Leonie Keyse (2002-20) who has been here for 18 years, most recently as the student achievement manager.

We wish all staff leaving this year well, whether it's into retirement or on to new roles elsewhere.



Quad Tournament Happenings



Nelson College Old Boys gather from all over the country to get together for the 94th Quadrangular Tournament held in Nelson in September this year. They enjoyed a range of off-field events, including a cocktail evening, a tour of the school and a chance to meet the new headmaster, Richard Dykes.



It was a special time for the 1971 1st XV team, as they got together for the first time in 49 years to show support to the 94th Quadrangular tournament played on home soil. Members with their original team photo are: Back row L – R: Phil Costello, Gary Winter, Alan McLean, Derek Wood, Phil Ryder. Middle row : Brett Taylor, Bruce Easton. Front row : Peter Moriarty, Jeff Rackley (Capt), Marty Fuller.



John Harwood (1950-53) with his team mate Clifford Saxton (1949-53) from the 1953 1st XV team, with Clifford Saxton Jnr (1978-83) who played in a winning Quad 1st XV team in 1982, and younger brother Tim Saxton (1984-88) who was in the 1988 1st XV.



Greg Lummus (1970-73) and Iain Graham (1969-73) catch up at Quad, and remember their time together in the 1973 1st XV.



The Paterson brothers back at Nelson College to celebrate Quad. Scott (1974-78), Bruce (1970-74) and Glen (1979-83).



NCOBA President Chris Harvey and Richard Dykes enjoying one of the games during the Quad Tournament.

Off the field, a group of over 150 Old Boys descended on the College from around the country to support the team, and enjoy a range of functions, while reminiscing and catching up with old mates. Unfortunately due to Covid, we weren't able to have our overseas supporters join us. It was a chance for many to meet the new Headmaster Mr Richard Dykes, and see the many changes around the school over the years. A highlight was having nine members of the 1971 team getting back together, and a father and sons trio getting together. Clifford Saxton Senior and Clifford Saxton Junior were both part of winning Quadrangular teams in their days, 1953 and 1982 respectively, and younger brother Tim Saxton also played in the 1988 1st XV team.

The NCOBA thanks all of you who were able to be here to celebrate 150 years of Rugby in New Zealand, and the 94th Quadrangular Tournament.



Father and son catch up with another old boy! Paul Sturrock (1980-84) with Dad Bob Sturrock (1949-50), along with Jeff Rackley (1966-71)



Three members from the 1982 1st XV team. Ken Trathen (1978-82), Arron Saunders (1980-82) and Cliff Saxton (1978-83).



Christchurch branch rep Richard Poff (1971-75) and Wellington cobbler Simon Read (1971-75) made it to Nelson for the original Quad dates, back in July 2020, and still managed to have a good catchup and look around the College!



Friends, Clifford Saxton (1949-53) and Waari Ward-Holmes (1956-60), catching up at the Old Boys drinks and bites evening during the Tournament.



A tour of the school took members from the 1968-1970 1st XV teams back to the old gym, where they found their names still lining the walls. Here's the start of a scrum! From left: Philip Wilson (1965-69), Chris Reeves (1966-70), John Edmondson (1966-70), Grant Smith (1965-70) Bruce Warren (1966-69), Peter Moriarty (1967-71), and Gary Winter (1968-72).



As part of the school tour, old boys visited the Whare, had a look through Rutherford House which was refurbished in 2018, the two gymnasiums, the Gibbons Trade Centre, the business block, finishing with a lunch in the dining room.



All four Colleges' teams assembled in their Number 1's ahead of the tournament clash.

New Rugby Post Pads



The Nelson College Old Boys' Association made a special donation to Nelson College Rugby to enable them to purchase new goal post pads and sideline flags - just in time for the start of the new season.

Old Boy and Captain of the 1st XV in 1969, Chris Harvey (1965-69) is pictured here with members of the 1st XV Squad; Luc Waterman-Thomas, Ollie Inch, Ethan Burt and Reegan Lawton.

A & P Award for 50 years service

John Harwood (1950-53) was recently recognised for 50 years service to the A & P Association with the Royal Agricultural Society Medal, presented by Debbie Cameron, CEO of the RAS.

John has had a range of roles over the years, first joining the Nelson A & P Association in 1970. But prior to this he was a member of the Inangahua A & P Association from 1966-70.

In Nelson, he has held the reins of President twice, first in 1991, and again in 2004-06, and then treasurer from 2008-2020. He was made a Life Member in 2010. John also had 45 years with the NZ Shearing Sports as a judge, referee and examiner, and convenor of the Ewe Hogget competition for many years. He has also judged shearing on an international scale.

Currently John is still the property manager at the Nelson A & P Association, and very much the “go to guy”!

The NCOBA congratulates John on receiving this award, which is only available every three years, and only six are awarded each time.



Tex Morton's guitar

Thank you to the Reith family for the donation of Tex Morton's guitar to the Nelson College Old Boys' Association. This will be well cared for in the Scriptorium, and an incredible addition to the current display on Tex Morton. The iconic NZ and Australian singer and actor was known as Robert William Lane when he attended Nelson College in 1930-31. He left home at the age of 15, attempting to run away to the circus before embarking on his music career... and the rest is history, as they say! Alex Reith is pictured handing the guitar over to Acting Headmaster Tim Tucker.

1930s Piano



Nelson College Old Boy Gus Roxburgh (1977-83), has made an incredibly special donation to the College, gifting a Baby Grand Piano. The piano belonged to Gus' mother, Dame Alison Roxburgh, a women's rights advocate and community leader. Gus learnt the piano when he was a student at the College, and feels this is a “poetic home for the piano”.

We called in piano tuner Neville Cloughton, who knows the piano well, and was able to confirm its vintage as 1930 (from the serial number on the piano). The piano is in excellent condition, has a lovely tone, and has a new permanent home in the music department. We know it'll be a huge benefit to many students.

NCOBA Branch Functions

Christchurch Branch

The Christchurch NCOBA Branch recently held their Annual General Meeting in November, with dinner. These were well attended. Headmaster Richard Dykes was the guest speaker, sharing news of the College, and his vision for the College.

Nelson Branch

The Nelson branch welcomed a new President at the AGM in July. Thank you to Chris Harvey (1965-69) for taking up the reins of this very important role, and thank you to Paul Sturrock (1980-84) for your last five years of service. The branch also hosted Old Boys events at the 94th Quadrangular Tournament, seeing members gather from around the country. Unfortunately due to the Covid-19 situation, people were not able to attend from further afield. The branch also hosted a small gathering in Blenheim, where numbers are very low currently. If you are an Old Boy living in Marlborough, please get in touch so we can make this branch strong once more!

Nelson also hosted a very successful end of year Christmas function.

Young Old Boys get together

This group of young Old Boys enjoyed a great night out catching up. We are always encouraging young Old Boys to get together, so if you would like to organise an event for your year, get in touch with us.

Back row L-R: Emma Topliss, Emma Maguire, Karl Russ, Michael Maguire, Scott Dayman, Mark Neal, Andrew Goodman, Nick Goodman, Wyatt Crockett, Nathan Madden, Joe Greaney, Chris Goodman, Chloe Goodman. Front row L-R: Nina Goodman, Jenna Crockett, Sarah Fitchett, Melanie Madden, Missie Neal, Michael Fitchett.



Fellow classmates of Sir Toke Talagi Rob McKegney and Hugh Tuckey (1966-70) took his children Nicholas and Peleni Talagi on a tour of Nelson College.



Top: Members from the Nelson Branch AGM. Above: Paul Sturrock (right) welcoming new president Chris Harvey to the NCOBA Nelson Branch.

Donation to Nelson College

The Nelson branch made a very generous donation of \$20,000 to the College this year, to help towards the sports coaching programme, which had been affected by the Covid19 situation. This enabled outside coaches to still be paid, and meant that the sporting programme could still continue at its best throughout the year.

A smaller part of this donation also went towards purchasing large format LCD screens to go into the classrooms as learning aids.



Children of Sir Toke Talagi visit College

On July 15, 2020 Sir Toke Tufukia Talagi (1966-70) passed away after a long illness. He came to Nelson College as a 12 year old by boat all the way from Nuie to board at Barnicoat House for his college years. While at college he played sport, both cricket and rugby, until he was advised by the doctors not to play anymore due to problems with his heart. He was also a Prefect in 1970. Toke was the Premier of Nuie from 2008 - 2020, and was also the Minister of Education and Environment in Nuie. He received a knighthood in 2017. He published a book on his life story last year, and two of his four children, Nicholas and Peleni, visited Nelson College recently, and gifted the school a copy of his book.

WE NEED YOUR EMAIL!

Contact us to update your email and postal address in our database, so you can receive the latest news and information.

Old Boys: Where are they now?

Costa Simpson (2009-13) is reaching the high notes in the music world, conducting the Chroma Chamber Choir back in Nelson in July, and is doing post graduate study at University of Auckland. He also directs the Auckland based ensemble Orlando Singers and often conducts the Saint Matthew's Chamber Orchestra.

Dmitry Loukine (2002-06) is co-founder and director of Swivel Group and Swivel Tech, and despite challenges presented by Covid 19, they not only have a NZ operation but also one in Sri Lanka, offering software engineering to companies in Australia, NZ and Indonesia.

Eddie Mann (2003-07) spoke out this year about the #Blacklivesmatter movement, in his own unique way, using his talent of music. He is currently based in the UK, and continues to build on his acting career.

Harry Jowsey (2014) got a little steamy under the collar this year, featuring as a stand out on the UK Netflix reality TV series, "Too Hot to Handle." He also owns his own clothing brand called Naughty Possums.

Bosho (2008-12) is taking his music to the next level, launching a poignant music video this year called "Truth". Stream it on Spotify to listen. <https://spoti.fi/3gpYYsS>.

Student and businessman **Will Hewitt (2013-16)** is making artificial intelligence tools to help doctors diagnose and treat heart disease, through his company HeartLab, working on a global scale, based out of Auckland, helping cardiologists around the world.

Mitch Seek (1999 & 2004) has been heavily involved in major tree planting in the Nelson area through his role as operations manager at FuturEcology.

Fish sampling and testing in Antarctica is on the agenda for **Peter Edwards (1998-2002)**. Peter has been working for the Ministry of Primary Industries since completing his Master's Degree. On a re-training week in Nelson, he came back for a visit at Nelson College.

Hugh Davis (1940-43 & 45) came back to the College after 75 years to give a talk to some Rutherford House boys. Hugh boarded in Rutherford House for part of his time at College, when he was evacuated to NZ from England in 1940. Hugh went back to England in 1945, and then came back to NZ with his wife and children in 1972. He now lives in the Nelson area.

Alistair King (2012-16)

has put his entrepreneurial skills to good use since leaving Nelson College, and in 2020 launched his premium pet food range, Nood Petfood, into supermarkets across the country, after lots of challenges and trials in his factory in Canada and launching with the supermarket giant Walmart over there in 2019. Where to next for Alistair and his team?... Well.... France, USA, UK... We will watch this space! While at school in 2016, Alistair was part of the team that won the Lion Foundation Young Enterprise Company of the Year for their business project based around a children's book called Where's Woolly.



Dennis Christian (1974-74) stepped down from his role as Chair of the Nelson College Board of Trustees after eight years, and has taken on a new challenge, on the Nelson Marlborough Rescue Helicopter Trust. He also runs the tourism business called Flying Kiwi Adventures. Speaking about his time as chair of the BOT, he said "I have enjoyed my time as Chair, with highlights being the successive 4-5 year ERO Reports, and the redevelopment of the boarding houses."

Queen's Birthday Honours

Officers (ONZM); **Thomas Richard Barton Rainey (1976-1980)**, Cashmere, Christchurch, for services to music and music education; **David John Zwartz (1946-53)**, Kelburn, Wellington, for services to the Jewish and interfaith communities. Members (MNZM); **Donald John MacLean (1980-84)**, Epsom, Auckland, for services to education. Queen's Service Medal (QSM); **Richard Alexander Scadden (1948-50)**, Granity, for services to the community.



James Bruce McKenzie (1957-61) of Masterton was awarded a Companions CNZM for services to the cattle industry. He runs the 113-year old Maungahina Hereford Stud in Masterton with his son, and has been at the forefront of genetic development in the primary sector in New Zealand over the last 50 years, embracing technological advancements in the industry. His remarkable eye for desirable animal characteristics and his ability to breed them into stock has led to major improvements in the national herd quality. He pioneered the importation of different livestock breeds, as well as material such as frozen embryos and semen, with the aim of improving herd quality in New Zealand. He refined the Charolais breed, creating the Red Charolais. In the last decade he has been responsible for introducing a new cattle breed, Speckle Park, into New Zealand. With a passion for a range of livestock, McKenzie also imported fallow deer from Europe in the early 1980s, sourcing stags from Sweden and hinds from the UK. Internationally he has been a leading cattle judge at most major events in New Zealand, Australia, Canada, and the United Kingdom. He was recently the first non-Angus breeder to be asked to judge at Australia's National Angus Sale. McKenzie said he was honoured to receive the Queens Birthday recognition and wanted to also give credit to his late wife Jenny who was always a "big part of the operation".

Good Sports

Basketball

Tom Gargiulo (2002-08) played in the Nelson Giants squad for the 2020 season. He had always been the Giants top fan, watching every home game since 2009, and began training with the wider squad in 2014, after switching his golf clubs for a basketball. He will play alongside **Mika Vukona (2000)**, who is the returning Captain for the Tall Blacks.

Athletics

Luke Hassan (2015-19) competed in the U20 National Javelin event at the National Athletics Championships earlier this year.

Cyclist **Finn Fisher-Black (2015-17)** who earlier this year set a world record in the under-19 3000m individual pursuit, has taken his first pedal stroke towards the World Tour by signing a two-year contract with the newly-established academy of Jumbo-Visma, based in the Netherlands. He is the current Oceania champion for his age group in both road and track.

Cricket

Peter Younghusband (2005-07) is taking his cricketing career to the next level, swapping the Wellington Firebirds for a summer at Cambridge Cricket Club.

Jarrod McKay (2014-18) played with the Otago Volts in the 2020/21 Season.

Tennis

Alex Hunt (2007-11) is playing tennis on the world stage, and taking his game to a new level. He has worn a prosthetic arm for most of his life, but has recently ditched this, and plays without it, and says he's had a massive improvement to his game.

Football

Biak Tha Thang Vanuk (2013-17) is one of the top scoring strikers in the Nelson club football scene this 2020-21 season.

Rowing

Jack Burrows, Will Samson, Flynn Mercer and NCOB Dylan Crick (2014-18) had multiple successes at Nelson Rowing Club's annual prize-giving. Jack won Best Novice; Flynn won Most Improved; and Will and Dylan won Best Crew as a Men's Premier Lightweight Pair. Will also collected the award for Outstanding Male Rower.

Nelson College Old Boys' Rugby Round-up

Former Chiefs and Tasman Mako player **James Lowe (2006-10)** signed up to play test rugby for Ireland for Leinster. Tasman Mako legend **Mark Bright, (1992-96)**, at 42, is now signed on for another year with London Scottish.

2019 1st XV Captain **Anton Segner (2017-19)** is now signed on with the Tasman Mako, and the Crusaders Nelson-based academy.

Nelson College was well represented in the recent Super Rugby tournament as well as the 2020 Mitre 10 Cup in teams around the country.

Our Old Boys featured as follows;

Crusaders:

Andrew Goodman (Coach)
David Havili (Captain)
Mitchell Drummond
Mitchell Hunt
Leicester Fainga'anuku
Tima Fainga'anuku
Quintin Strange
Ethan Blackadder

Tasman Mako:

Andrew Goodman (Coach)
David Havili (Captain)
Mitchell Hunt
Quintin Strange
Leicester Fainga'anuku
Tima Fainga'anuku
Ethan Blackadder
Isaac Salmon

Highlanders:

Tima Fainga'anuku
Fletcher Smith

Hurricanes:

Ben May
James Marshall

Otago:

Mitchell Scott

Waikato:

Fletcher Smith

Taranaki:

Ben May

Canterbury:

Mitchell Hunt

Northland:

Tyler Kearns



Wade Phillips (2008-12) is going hard on the national power lifting scene, competing in the Wellington Regionals, taking out best open male. He then competed at the National Powerlifting competitions in Christchurch in October where he placed second in the 105kg category, making him the 13th heaviest lifter in NZ.

These Old Boys have recently graduated from the Armed Forces and are now serving the community and country in their new roles.



Joseph Young (2014-18) graduated as a Junior Navy Officer, and is going onto to study naval engineering.

Sajal Kumarz (2018-19) is a Private, training as an armourer at RNZAF Woodbourne Base.

Private Reece Breen-Richerby (2015-19) graduated as an Infantry Soldier. In his infantry role he will continue to receive professional development around leadership training.



Nicholas Lowe (2015-19) graduated as an Ordinary Electronics Technician from the Navy.

Antonnio Rodrigues (2015-19) is now a Combat Driver with the NZ Army.



Corporal Jack Everett (2013-17) graduated this year from the Royal New Zealand Air Force as a helicopter loadmaster. Corporal Everett needs to be able to assess fast-changing situations, determine the right course of action and then communicate that effectively to achieve a successful mission. He will now join No.3 Squadron which is called on to carry out aid delivery and search and rescue missions in New Zealand and around the South Pacific. He is also a firefighter with the Feilding Volunteer Fire Brigade.

LOCKDOWN 2020

How Nelson College and our Old Boys managed

Nelson College had a unique experience during the Covid 19 lockdown of 2020, which will certainly add to the rich history of the college, and old boys around the world were affected in so many different ways.

The college was led by a strong team of staff, with Acting Headmaster Tim Tucker at the helm, as the College waited for newly appointed Headmaster Richard Dykes to be able to transfer from Auckland and start in his role at Nelson College.

On 23 March the Government quickly put the country into Level 3, which meant all schools were closed, and students had to be at home. This level only lasted 48 hours before the country moved into Level 4, meaning most businesses were shut, and the country was in lockdown to fight against the spread of the Covid 19 virus.

For Nelson College this meant a “bubble” of 80 staff and boarders were isolating together on school grounds, moving between Rutherford and Barnicoat Houses. Most international boarders were unable to return home at this point.

Student Mac Harris says he was trying to return to his parents in Japan, but “there was a chance that I couldn't come back into New Zealand because of coronavirus so I didn't want to risk it”.

The school holidays fell in the middle of lockdown, but there was a defined start to term two. Mr Tucker said the students experienced “possibly the most unusual distance learning”.

“They sit down in their classrooms and do their work in the classrooms, at a distance from the teachers they would otherwise have, supported by teachers from the school.”

For the rest of the students, they were grappling with distance learning from their homes, in their own family bubbles.

Nelson College Old Boy and science teacher Sam Currie (1994-2000) shares his thoughts on what this was like as a teacher.

“Teaching from home was a challenge. I missed the social interaction and seeing the boys face-to-face, but lockdown teaching had its advantages. Learning new systems and adapting to video communication was tricky, but an enjoyable learning experience.



Rutherford House and the College in Lockdown, and a boarders' bubble Anzac Service.

Communication was troublesome. Boys are not the best communicators at the best of times – so getting messages to them via cyberspace often failed miserably (despite the fact that they are supposedly “digital natives” !) This lack of communication, and many other factors, led to boys falling into two main groups: the workers, who made great progress, and the non-workers, who twiddled their thumbs for six weeks. The upside of this from the teacher's perspective was that, because of only half the students completing meaningful work, and myself not having to be directly in class with them, I had time to read and critique almost every piece of work they did. So it was doubly beneficial for the ones who made the effort. From the teacher's perspective it was very busy, but also very rewarding.”

Head Boy Liam Brennan was at home doing distance learning in his home bubble. He said, like a lot of students, his sleep schedule was a bit hectic – but he was surprised at what he achieved. “The trickiest thing for me about distance learning is putting my own routine in place. Over the last few weeks, I've found myself getting into things I've always had interest in but no time, or motivation, for. Playing piano is one, and weirdly enough, the economy

is another. While watching Netflix and simultaneously gaming and checking Facebook is fun, I know I'd feel a whole lot better when this is over for trying to learn a new skill or hobby.

Plus, with everyone at home, you start to appreciate what you've got. Honestly, family board game night isn't actually that bad.”

The last time Nelson College saw anything like this was when schools were closed for the lockdown of the 1918 Spanish Flu, and boarders left school grounds to go to a secluded location in the Maitai Valley.

Many old boys around the world were affected in different ways, and our thoughts are with those who were affected with on-going health issues, changes in business and employment status, and of course those Old Boys who worked hard as essential workers throughout lockdown.

Some of our Nelson College Old Boys' sports stars made the best of it to keep their training up, while events around the world were cancelled.

Cyclist Keegan Hornblow (2015-19) spent lockdown with his family on a lifestyle block near Mapua giving him plenty of room to get out and cycle.

Keegan was in the midst of training for a four-month stint in Europe before the coronavirus outbreak.

Inline hockey player Josh Stove (2009-13) was stuck in lockdown in Vancouver where all training facilities were closed, but the 24 year old managed to keep up his skills with an electronic puck and some resistance bands! He is currently playing for the Roller Cats in the Langley League as well as representing New Zealand with brother Devon (2013-17) in a senior side against Australia, however this tournament was of course cancelled.

Crusaders wing Leicester Faingaanuku (2013-17) was confined to working out at home, but he had a gym set up in his garage, and the Crusaders had given him a training plan, and playing Rugby Challenge on Playstation. He was very happy to get back into the season once it was able to kick off again in June.

And former All Black and old boy Wyatt Crockett (1994-2000) offered himself up as a delivery boy to help Nelson restaurants under Level 3!

OBITUARIES

The Nelson College Old Boys' Association respectfully acknowledges the passing of the following Old Boys.

To ensure Old Boys are recognised please send any notifications to: oldboys@nelsoncollege.school.nz.

2019

ALBORN Robin Victor (1954-58) passed away on 29 May, in Nelson.

BROWN Rev Denzil James (1942-43) passed away on 7 April aged 93 years, in Wellington.

DANKELMAN David Francis Joseph (1977-80) passed away on March 23, in Nelson.

DONALD Christopher Dale (1976-78), passed away on 21 March, aged 57.

DYSART Keith Mervyn (1942-43) passed away 4 July, in Blenheim. Thank you to the family for the donation to the NCOBA.

HENDERSON Dr John Trolove (1959-62) passed away on September 30. He enjoyed a long and successful career as a public servant and scholar of modern politics. He joined the Defence Department in 1969 as its first in-house historian, and lectured in Political Science at the University of Canterbury.

KENNINGTON Stuart Robert (1945-47) passed away on 16 November, aged 88 years in Blenheim.

LUCAS Edward Hubert (Ted) (1946-51) passed away 23 November, aged 86, in Blenheim. Ted was Head Boy in 1951.

MAYSTON Maurice Colgan (1932-37) passed away 20 October, aged 98. NZ 2422304 FL/Lt 485 Squadron Spitfire Pilot total service 3 years 270 days. Awarded Legion d'Honneur Frances

highest military honour for service on D day and the Normandy Landings.

MIRFIN Allan Walker (1958-61) passed away on 27 November, aged 74 years.

MORRIS Michael Stewart (1949-52) passed away on 20 June in Waikanae.

RUDD Eric Foster (1941-43) passed away 18 October, cherishing 66 years of marriage to Celeste. He was a boarder in Fairfield House at College. He then went farming in Marlborough, and was involved in a number of local organisations, including the A&P Assoc. and Lions Club. He developed a strong rental portfolio and was the 2nd president of the NZ Property Investors Federation, working with the Government on tenancy matters.



SPENCE Rev Bruce Alister (1947-50) passed away on 29 December in NSW, aged 86 years.

TRATHEN Benjamin Geoffery (1954-57) passed away on 22 December, aged 79, in Nelson.

MARSHALL Kerry Leigh Francis (1954-58) passed away on 3 March 2020, in Nelson in his 80th year after a long illness. In his political career, Kerry Marshall had the unique distinction of being the mayor of three different authorities in Nelson and Tasman. His political journey began as a Richmond Borough councillor in 1982, and concluded in 2010 after serving a term as the mayor of Nelson. In the intervening years he was the last mayor of Richmond and the first mayor of Tasman, and was instrumental in bringing the region through the local government reforms of 1989 – and in the same year was awarded an MBE for services to local government. After marrying his wife Colleen in 1964, and graduating from teacher's college, the couple spent two years teaching in Southland, before heading off on a three-year OE before returning to NZ to raise their children, spending 10 years teaching in Wainui on Banks Peninsula, and joining Federated Farmers. They returned to Nelson in 1980 where he taught at Richmond Primary School, and during this time fostered his interests in politics. He chaired various boards and authorities, including the New Zealand Conservation Authority, New Zealand Lotteries Commission, Local Government New Zealand, the Conservation Authority, WOW and the Greyhounds as Pets Trust. Another great passion was sailing.



THOMAS Roger (1939-41) passed away on 7 February, aged 93 in Nelson.

2020

ARROWSMITH Matthew Kevin John (1994-97) passed away on 29 August, in Nelson.

BROUGH Peter David (1961-62) passed away 6 March in Greymouth.

BURRIDGE Richmond Seddon (1946-50) passed away on 15 May.

CATTO Andrew David (David) (1982-88) passed away on 12 April, in Cambridgeshire, UK, aged 49.

CRAIG Douglas A (1953-57) passed away 6 January.

EATHORNE Bevan John (1956-58), passed away on 22 July.



EDWARDS Jock (Graham Neil) (1968-71) passed away 6 April, aged 64. Jock was known as a big-hitting wicketkeeper-batsman who played six

tests and eight one-day internationals for New Zealand. He played for Central Districts province in 67 first class matches between 1974 and 1985.

ELLIS Jerome Furlong (1965-66) passed away on 16 August.

HAWES Gerald Malcolm Henry (1949) passed away 26 February.

LANGLEY, Jeffrey Patrick (1982-86) passed away in August. His career with the MFATs cut short.

MOORHOUSE Evan Charles (1956-1957) passed away on 19 February, aged 77 years in Nelson.

OWEN Larry (1956-59) passed away 30 January in Dunedin.

PEARCE Dr Euan Ian Frederick (1949-54) passed away February 25.



ROSS John Brown (1934-37) passed away 24 February, aged 99 years, in Nelson.

VERCOE Paul (1961-63) passed away 27 September, in Nelson.

WALKER Andrew James Brook (1987-91), passed away on August 14, aged 46. Andrew was a Prefect at College in 1991 and a member of the senior basketball team.

SPILMAN Sidney Lewis (Buzz) (1936-38) passed away September 18, aged 98. Buzz played junior A grade rugby in 1938 and was a Bantam weight boxing champion. He became a Flight Lieutenant 75 (NZ) Squadron RAF. Lancaster bomber pilot. Aerial topdressing operations manager and pilot. He retired to Nelson early the 1980s and was a volunteer for the Nelson Provincial Museum helping save historic images.

TALAGI Hon Toke Tufukia (1966-70), passed away 15 July in Nuie. Sir Toke was the Premier of Niue for 12 years. reformed the tax system, started relations with China, and drove initiatives for greater economic independence from New Zealand. He was knighted in the 2017 New Year Honours.



TRATHEN John Melville (1956-60) passed away on 8 February, aged 77 years in Nelson. John was a NZ track champion in the Junior Mens 110 yds and 220 yds.

Abridged. Courtesy Nelson Mail.

150 years of Rugby & Quad

Nelson College wins 94th Tournament



'THE CRADLE OF RUGBY' - contributed by Alan Turley

This year we celebrated the 150th anniversary of the first game of rugby in New Zealand, played between Nelson College and Nelson Town at the Botanics Reserve, Nelson, on 14 May 1870. It was an 18 a side game played before some 200 spectators. Rugby was introduced to Nelson by 20 year old Nelson College old boy Charles Monro upon his return from England, where he had played the 'Rugby School Game' at Christ's College, Finchley, a public school on the outskirts of London.

Rugby in its various primitive forms had long been played in England, largely in the form of village mauls. It wasn't until 1845 at Rugby School, that a group of 15-year-old students codified and printed, 'The Laws of Football' – based on the exploits of William Webb Ellis. In New Zealand, Charles Monro was to become recognised as the Father of New Zealand rugby. Arguably the first New Zealander to ascend the stairway of achievement – his legacy remains.

After 1870 and up until 1876 there was no such thing as a Nelson College 1st XV. Saturday games, when they did occur, were casual pick-up affairs involving those players from the two clubs that turned up at the ground on the day. College players were also involved with Nelson Club players in the combined Nelson sides that played the Wellington Club over this period.

However, in 1876 a further significant event took place – one that history has virtually overlooked. Nelson College journeyed to Wellington on the S.S Phoebe to play Wellington

College at the Basin Reserve. The team arrived at 8am on 20 July and played the same day. Nelson was able to field only 13 players to Wellington's 15. Wellington won. This was the first secondary school game played in New Zealand and was probably the first inter-school game played in the world, after Scotland. Games continued to be played between the two colleges on a home-and-away basis for most years up until 1904.

That same year, the year of the Nelson College fire, the so-called Gymnastics Affair occurred. As a result of the controversy that arose over the judging of the gymnastics contest with Wellington College, the headmaster of Wellington, J.P Firth, suspended all sports contacts between the two school forthwith. What followed was a period of almost complete sports isolation for Nelson College. Between 1912 and 1923, the college played only two games of inter-school rugby in Nelson.

Soon after the college fire, work commenced in 1905 on levelling and draining the main college ground. It was a huge task involving horse drawn scoops and carts. As a result, the first game of rugby played on the ground was in 1908 against a local club side. The main ground was now the home of college rugby. The first inter-school game was played in 1910 against King's College of Auckland.

Time heals most wounds and 21 years after the Gymnastics Affair, Wellington College issued an invitation to Nelson College to join the triangular tournament which included Christ's College

and Whanganui Collegiate School. Nelson first played in 1925. So began the Quadrangular Tournament, to this day, the oldest rugby tournament of its kind in the world. With its centenary fast approaching in 2024, it involves four of New Zealand's oldest secondary schools.

Nelson College first won in 1930 at Nelson. Never before had the college witnessed such jubilation.

Since 1925 the Quadrangular Tournament has taken place 94 times with Nelson College winning/drawing on 26 occasions.

Over time, larger more comprehensive tournaments have occurred but the Quadrangular Tournament remains the holy grail of rugby for the four participating colleges.

Backing up to the Champion 2019 cohort was always going to be a tough ask for the 2020 1st XV. While they did not scale the lofty heights of the previous year, they can still hold their heads high and be proud of their achievements this year. With the Covid delayed start to the season, the bold decision was made to complete a full Round-Robin competition of the UC Championship.



It was a mixed bag for the team, with a couple of comprehensive defeats, which meant they narrowly missed the semi-final of the Cup competition and had to settle on sixth place in the fourteen team UC Championship.

Fortunately, however, the team was able to showcase its talent in the home Quadrangular Tournament, which was well supported by crowds of Old Boys from around the country. Played in stunning spring weather the boys really turned the skills on, especially in the final. While Wellington put on a battle on Day One, on the lay day a lot of hard work and preparation by both coaching staff and players alike meant that the group was well prepared for the challenge ahead. There was a steely resolve as the boys wanted to put to bed the

disappointment of being defeated by Christ's in the UC, plus the desire to represent their school and Old Boys proudly in the 150th year of Nelson College Rugby.

Both colleges are to be commended on a fantastic exhibition of schoolboy rugby played in front of a large and appreciative audience. While the visitors displayed some nice touches, they were well trumped by the dominant home team as Nelson College ran in FIVE TRIES to win the match with consummate ease. A solid scrum and abrasive running from the back row meant that Nelson was always on the front foot and the pacy outside backs were able to ice the victory.

With plans to prepare well over the off-season Nelson College can look forward to a stellar year in 2021.

(By Master in Charge of Rugby Peter Grigg)



The Captains.