

# Te Horowhenua

A Magazine of the Horowhenua College Past Pupil's

Vol. 8 No.1&2.

September 2009

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The Association is a group of dedicated "Past Pupils" who for many years have quietly maintained an organisation to be able to work for the benefit of present pupils and from time to time organise and run very successful Reunions of persons who have had an association with the College.

It has built up and maintained an extensive data base of the achievements and information on past pupil's, raised and donated money for developments at the College including the Thomas Room named after the first Principal and the Gymnasium and each year makes a substantial donation to the College for prizes presented at the final Assembly.

In an effort to keep the activities of the association relative to the 21st Century and to expand its member base we have been running an annual function in the form of an "Alumni Day". From these days we are able to boost membership, have an annual function to bring together current and past pupils rather than relying on major date reunions, to give the Association a higher profile in the local community and to attract new and younger members to the Executive thereby ensuring its long term viability.

We are currently working at collecting data and information regarding the College which will be deposited in the data bank now established to collect and collate the history of the Horowhenua District. We are working on an information page to be included in the College Web Site and to encourage those leaving College to join the Association as they are our future lifeblood.

## From the Editor:

I must firstly apologise to you all for not getting a "Te Horowhenua" out earlier this year. Time has passed much more quickly than I thought; I have been elected onto the Board of Diabetes New Zealand, and have lost many of my spare weekends to Board meetings and Conferences around the country.

I have combined all the news for the year in this broadsheet which is why it's a little larger than usual.

We are getting the website updated with the information about the Reunion and the "Past Pupil's" page on the College site is to be revamped to show more information, including photos of our past Alumni Days from the last 4 years.

The committee has been busy this year, with the Charities Commission registration, AGM in April, and the Birthday Celebrations. New members have come onboard to help with the everyday running of the Association and the Birthday Reunion next April.

It is with great sadness I have to write of the passing of Mervyn Wildbore 1944-1946. Mervyn married Norma Shilton in 1951. He and Norma

donated 500 pounds for the running of the 21<sup>st</sup> Birthday Celebrations of the college in 1961, from which the Old Pupil's Association was revived after being in recess for a number of years. Mervyn was president of our association for many years and Norma, one of the first members to serve on the Board of Trustees.

Our deepest sympathies to Norma and her family.

## 70<sup>th</sup> Jubilee Easter, April 2<sup>nd</sup> – 4<sup>th</sup> 2010

The 70<sup>th</sup> Birthday Reunion next Easter is coming around quickly and registrations are coming in almost every day. We have had to limit the numbers to the Saturday night dinner, so if you want to attend, please let me know as soon as possible.

Contact Christine on

[ceejaye@clear.net.nz](mailto:ceejaye@clear.net.nz)

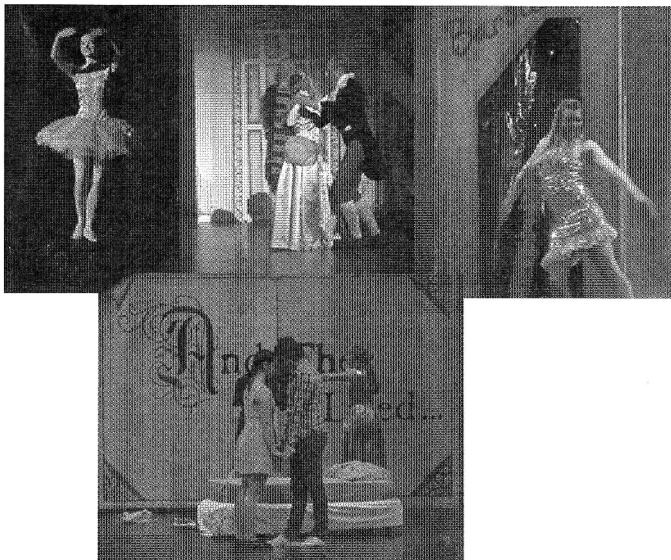
or ring 06) 3688740

Present day pupils are providing some of the entertainment on the day, with a band of past pupil's providing the musical entertainment in the evening. There will be tours of the school with the new Technology block open, also the new library in the main block.

## News from Horowhenua College

At the beginning of the year Horowhenua College was awarded a year's contract to run a services academy with programmes designed for students who wished to enter the armed forces or a ministry department. The programme runs for 24 weeks and is designed to guide and mentor applicants through the recruitment process of any uniformed New Zealand service. Students were drawn from the four colleges in the district, Horowhenua, Waiopahu, Otaki and Manawatu. It's a way of motivating kids to do something that may have been too difficult for them to access said Mrs. Burns (Principal). We are bringing it into the community rather than the kids having to go out and find it. Students needed to have NCEA level 1 to join the academy. The academy offers English, maths, ICT as core subjects with other class's fitness and routine based.

Stage Challenge this year was held late May with the regional finals in the Regent on Broadway in Palmerston North. Horowhenua College's outstanding performance claimed first place in 10 categories in the annual event among schools from as far away as Hawera, to Dannevirke. It was a clean sweep for Levin, Horowhenua placed first overall, Waiopahu second and Levin Intermediate won the junior section to take the "J Rock" award. Horowhenua's entry was themed on love, and involved a cast of 74. It opened with a scene from Cinderella and moved onto a Shakespearean setting for Romeo and Juliette before finally turning into a modern era for Barbie and Ken.



Careers Expo was held at the college earlier this term. 25 exhibitors showing their career opportunities, including Army, Navy, Air force, Police, Automotive Mechanics, Agriculture, Study Link, UCOL, Whitireia, Design Schools, Hairdressing and Beauty schools. All year 7&8's from around the district were invited, along with the colleges from region. This gave our junior students their first insight into their own career development. The expo was very successful and all exhibitors have asked to return next year along with some new exhibits.

The new Library opened at the beginning of this year. It is a wonderful space and proving to be very busy, with an average of 425 people through its doors each day and around 1,500 books have been issued.



The library runs along the western side of Main Block, and has an upstairs area for private reading. Many of you will remember this site as the Woodwork and Metalwork rooms. These are now in the South Block along with the computer rooms, Cooking, Sewing rooms and automotive workshop.

**NUA = Never Under Achieve**

## News from Levin

At the end of March The Levin Vintage Car Club ran a 5 day rally for Classic Motorcycles.

With more than 200 Classic and Vintage motor cycles on display the Events Centre was an “alive” with the sound of many bikes all week long. Different rides were planned for each day, culminating in the games afternoon and public display on the Saturday, followed by prize giving. Many past pupils were in attendance including Des Cullinane, Warwick Doreen and Peter Roe.



At Easter Levin hosted the Hot Air Balloons again, With the night glow on Saturday night, flights on Good Friday, Saturday and Easter Sunday.

While watching the early descent on Good Friday I saw some one familiar....



Brenda (Principal)



Adopt an ANZAC is moving ahead with the Cenotaph upgrade in the rose gardens in Levin. Donations have been coming in all year, and a proposed plan includes extra grass areas, muted lighting in a “poppy red” glow and a plaque to note the correct spelling of several names have all been donated to the cause. The lighting will be in a plaza of poppy boxes that will glow red from dusk till dawn.

While the Adopt an ANZAC committee, many past pupil’s, were researching the project it was discovered several names have been misspelt on the monument, Barbara Timms (nee Davies) noted that her great uncle Frederick was listed as T Davies. Her family has donated a brass plaque for the curved wall at the back, noting the correct spelling. There will be 4 other plaques added to the curved wall as well, depicting local men who died in WW11, Boer War, WW1 and Korean War who are not recorded on any memorial Locally.

Late last year a year 13 (7<sup>th</sup> form) pupil, Priyani Puketapu, was crowned Miss Horowhenua, first runner up was Amanda Gatfield, a past pupil of the college. During this year Priyani has been a lovely ambassador for Horowhenua, I have met her at many events, and she has always shown poise and grace beyond her 17 years. Priyani came first runner up in the Miss Universe New Zealand competition in April this year.

In April the Levin Stargazers held a star party at the Adventure playground which attracted hundreds of people and won the Community Outreach Award. Former Pupil Bill Bradfield 1940-1943 is one of the top Astrologer’s in Australia, where he has lived for many years. Star Gazer parties were held throughout New Zealand to celebrate 100 hours of Astronomy. Australia held similar parties as did many other countries and then photos from the parties are sent around the world to accumulate in 100 continuous hours of stargazing globally. Most of those attending in Levin were new, having never gazed at stars before through high power telescopes. Spokesman, Ron Fisher, said many people have joined local and national astronomy societies after the party.

Carl Lutz 1941 is 83, but he doesn’t have time to rest on his laurels after being awarded the Queen’s Service Medal in the Queen’s Birthday Honours list. He is still out most days on the family farm. His QSM has been awarded for services to farming and to the community. He has spent his working life in support of flood prevention on the Otaki River, working with local councils in both Horowhenua and Kapiti, and on catchment Boards to mitigate flooding on the river.

He established the Vintage machinery club 10 years ago, he has a Ford tractor museum on his farm, and was the first person to totally restore a 1919 Fordson in Horowhenua. Carl was involved in raising money for the Otaki Community Pool, Waitohu Pool and Otaki College Gymnasium.

## Steven and Leslie Young

In an item in the “Memories” magazine of February / March 2007 featuring Steven and Leslie Young, former pupils of Horowhenua College.

A Chinese proverb:-

“If you want to be happy for a day get drunk  
If you want to be happy for a week get married  
If you want to be happy for the rest of your life,  
plant a garden.”

Steven and Leslie came to New Zealand in 1951 with the rest of the family to join their father who had been here since 1924. Steven was 3 years old. They spent some time in Wellington before coming to a 100 acre property in Kawi Road, Levin, where vegetables were grown and sent to market in Wellington. The house was a weatherboard shed 5m x 4m, with a surplus American army hut on one end as the parents bedroom, another off the side was the children’s bedroom. The kitchen was the outdoor open fire and basic washing area. The main crops grown for market were cabbage, carrots, parsnips and lettuce. Later they specialized in celery, tomatoes, potatoes, pumpkins, silver beet and peas. Steven attended Levin North School, possibly as a first day pupil, as did Leslie a year later. School seemed to be a pleasant, positive experience for both boys as they were liked by students and teachers alike. Steven said it was also a help that they were both bright, and managed to keep ahead of the pack. Both boys were expected to work in the gardens before and after school if needed, but were never allowed to miss any part of their education. Their mother taught them maths from an early age, and their father General history and knowledge.

The brothers both attended Horowhenua College in the late 50’s and early 60’s to progress to university and graduation. Once they were committed to a life of professional training, the whole family had to adapt. They were excused work before examinations, especially public ones, their workload being taken up by their parents and older sister. Any mark less than 85% was considered a major screw up, along with the comment “Only 3 A’s??”

Steven is now president of the New Zealand Chinese Society, a role he has held for many year’s. He lives In Wellington with his family.

Leslie Young Dux Horowhenua College 1965  
Steven Young Dux Horowhenua College 1966



(Written as a summary of story in “Memories” Magazine.)

“ The Soy Sauce, 20 acre  
steamed bun paradise –  
The classic New Zealand experience  
with Chinese characteristics”

## Obituaries

- Mervyn Wildbore 1944-1946
- Shirley Hayes (nee Crawford) 1951
- Dale Corner 1979-1980
- Terence Lee 1962-1963
- Zita Batten (Taplin) Mother of Bruce, who was guest speaker at 2000 reunion
- Valerie Hewitt 1948-1950
- Kenneth Pemberton 1945
- Judith Crighton (Morrison) 1955-1956
- Matthew Doig 1985-1988  
Annette Goodwin (Barrie) 1949-1952
- Sandra Sesso (Mark) 1967-1969
- Nancy Blackburn Staff 1972-1982 (aged 91 years)
- Brian Piggott 1962-1963
- Donald Davidson 1960-1962
- Pamela Vertongan (Rolfe) 1959-1962
- Marjorie Hazlitt (Milnes) 1940-1943
- Diane Cunniffe (Turley) 1966-1969

## Horowhenua College Old Pupils Association

If you have access to the internet go to the College website at [www.horowhenua.school.nz](http://www.horowhenua.school.nz) and check out the Old Pupils website. We are hoping to keep this page updated at all times with information about what's on at the college and who's where etc. If you have any ideas or information we can use please email to Christine at email address below,

The association would like to thank Lynne Gill and her helpers for updating and maintaining this site, which is a way of keeping in contact with past pupils all over the world.

**Life Membership** is \$20.00

This entitles you to a lapel badge and all information on upcoming reunions, if we have your current address.

**“Te Horowhenua”** is a broadsheet intended for past pupils of our college, to keep them up dated on old friends and classmates. You will also get the latest news from Levin and the college.

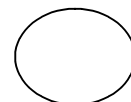
If you have access to a computer and the internet, this is available free on the college website. Alternatively you can have it posted to you for a cost of \$10 per annum.

This money goes towards cost of publication and postage, and a small amount to helping the Association funding of Prizes at both Junior and Senior Prize giving.

Please Note, if you have a red dot on this page then your membership id due for renewal at \$10 per year.

Please forward same to Christine Warren  
Secretary.

Thank you



**Donations:** The Association relies on the voluntary services and generosity of many past pupils to Maintain its profile within the college and wider community and to assist with the sponsoring of prizes at Senior Prize giving.

If you wish to make a donation you can forward the same to the Old Pupil's Association at the College.

You can make a donation

- In response to a specific appeal
- By arrangement for a particular amount to be paid annually/monthly to the Association
- By giving once a year when you pay for your Broadsheet or Alumni Day registration
- By making a gift in memory of someone you have loved and lost, for example "a donation in lieu of flowers"

I have enclosed a copy of the Reunion registration in case you have misplaced your one. We have a few places left for the dinner on Saturday night, but it is limited due to size of college hall.

Note: We have applied to the Charities Commission for registration. All donations over \$5 (five Dollars) are tax deductible

Please send all correspondence to the Secretary

:

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