



May 2015

Dear Foundation members,

It is with great pleasure that I write my first introduction to a Foundation Newsletter. The Otago Boys' High School Foundation remains a significant part of our schools strategic vision and planning.

The Foundation in the past has perhaps been accused of not contributing directly to the school. I am this year very pleased to report the Foundation **has** contributed financially to my two first projects: the resurfacing and revamping of the lower tennis courts and the purchase of a new school van. The generosity of the Foundation has made these things possible and as a new Rector I have been most appreciative.

The school is in good heart. The only truism in education is that it is always changing. But the more the outside bureaucracy looks to shift the paradigms, the more our school traditional values of honesty, decency and high expectations ensures that we remain true to the values of our school. We will never back down from what may not be popular, but is correct. It means something to be an OB's boy.

For example this year we are openly championing the old fashioned value that is 100% completion. This means every student, regardless of who they are must complete every piece of homework or assessment set by a teacher. I am pleased to report that most of our young men have run with this, and even if you are in the 1<sup>st</sup> XV, if you fail to meet it, you don't get to play or train until you do.

Academically the boys continue to do well, although there is room for improvement, particularly at NCEA Level 3 and University Entrance qualifications. In Scholarship we topped Dunedin for boys – with 12, including one for Scott Bezett, this year's Head Prefect.

The Prefect leadership is making a difference to the culture of our school. The culture is strong when the boys value and support it. This year, they have led from the front and I have reinstated from the Michael McMillan days, a regular Monday morning meeting with them. It has been beneficial for me to get a student perspective.

The Hostel, School House is stronger than ever. It is currently 151 boys, the largest it has been for some time. Our recent hostel tours have already had success and we are well on the way to recruiting a good number of Year 9's for 2016. These boys will also be of quality. I see the Hostel as the heart and soul of the school.

Over my first fourteen weeks I have enjoyed the opportunity to learn more about our school, our Foundation and our community. I have been humbled by the welcome I have received from all quarters. People have been honest and open, they have been frank in both their opinions of the school and the Foundation and I welcome that – I prefer to be stabbed in the front.

Otago Boys' is perfectly positioned for change, perfectly positioned to grow and perfectly positioned to lead. As I have said before, 'When you're green you grow, when you're ripe you rot.'

As an old boy, our school is close to my heart. As an expert in boys' education, it is simply the best job in New Zealand. There is no other place I would rather be. I look forward to working closely with the Foundation.

**Richard Hall**  
**Rector**



## Golf Tournament Review

This years' annual golf day was held on Friday 27<sup>th</sup> March at Balmacewen with a full field of players. The tournament was played in great conditions with the team from Westpac running out the winners, breaking the 3 year winning streak of the Forsyth Barr team. Over \$12,000 was raised from this event with the proceeds going towards the purchase of a new van for the school. Tony Brown from the Highlanders and Jamie MacKay from the Farming Show provided excellent after dinner entertainment and it was great to hear from the Rector on his plans for driving the school forward. A big thanks to Grant McLauchlan of Crest Cleaning for his generous support of this years' tournament and to all other sponsors, supporters and Mike Christie for organising the event again. Next year promises to be another great event – see you there!

## 10th Annual Ambrose Golf Classic

CrestClean OBHS Foundation 2015  
Friday 27 March 2015  
Balmacewen Golf Course



HEALTHY  
CLEAN  
WORKPLACES



## *Old Boys' Society*

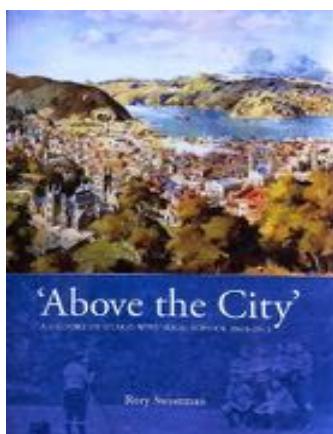
The Old Boys' Society held a farewell function for Clive Rennie at the Savoy on Wednesday 19<sup>th</sup> November to mark his 14 year tenure as rector of the school. The contribution Clive made to OBHS has been immense and cannot be undervalued. He has ably led the school through some tough years, in a changing world and at a time of massive educational restructuring. Clive spoke of Otago Boys as being his 'turangawaewae' - his place to stand, a place where he felt at home. The Old Boys' Society presented a magnificent oil painting of the Otago Harbour which we felt was a fitting thank you gift. On behalf of all Old Boys' I extend our very best wishes to both he and Ann for their hard earned retirement in Wanganui.

'One door shuts and another door opens', as the saying goes and so it is with great pleasure we welcome Richard Hall, our new rector. Richard is an old boy of the school (1987-88) and has enjoyed a successful career to date in teaching and secondary school administration. Richard returns to Dunedin with his family from his last posting as deputy principal at Tauranga Boys' High School. He has settled in quickly and seems to have been well accepted by staff, parents and most of all, by the students.

I know Richard is only too aware of the challenge that lies ahead and the responsibility that comes with the position. He brings a fresh perspective, new ideas and a renewed energy to the school with a focus on uniform standards, 100% completion of assignments and high academic achievement. Continued support for cultural and sporting activities remains an important part of the educational offering and point of difference at Otago Boys' High School.

Despite recent media attention around declining school roles in Dunedin, Otago Boys is marching into a period of anticipated growth. The current role of 788 is expected to return to its capacity of around 900 in a short time. However with increasing pressure on grabbing market share the school needs unwavering support from its community and stakeholders. Now, more than ever, the value of our Old Boys network can be put to good use. Old boys should keep an eye out in the (social) media, through their families and via internal communications for opportunities to get involved and to help fundraise. Our thanks go to Brent Nicholson for his tireless and continuing fundraising work toward upgrades to the hostel (which is full to overflowing). An expedition of volunteer Old Boys will head up to Mt Aspiring to tackle some well overdue maintenance and improvements. Please don't be afraid to ask how you can help - just phone, email or call into the school.

**Brent Alexander  
President  
Otago High School Old Boys' Society**



**Copies of the OBHS book  
'Above the City' are available  
from the school office for  
\$65.00 + P&P  
Also available are 150<sup>th</sup>  
Commemorative ties for \$25.00**

## *Model life for plain fellow*

When you are from West Taieri, 14 years old, and an Otago Boys' High School pupil, modelling may not seem like the future. But for Tommy Spence (21), despite it being "pretty strange", there were benefits from doing a course at Dunedin's Ali McD agency in modelling, confidence and make-up. And the occupation that resulted has given him something his former school mates may only dream of. Spence said he was "dragged along at the ripe old age of about 14". "At 14, I thought it was pretty strange, but it was a bonus there were lots of girls there; it's good for confidence." The move would have other benefits. While he was too young at 14, "Ali put me on lay-by till I was old enough, and then flicked me off overseas, to see how I'd go on the international market". After modelling at recent iD Dunedin Fashion Weeks, there was "a bit of interest", resulting in communications with international agencies. "They were keen to meet with me, so I went to Los Angeles and New York and Milan, and pretty much got signed up straight away, and I just stayed."

Spence did two seasons at the New York Fashion Week, and one season in Milan Fashion Week. "I started off doing shows, did a lot of editorial work and campaigns, so it was full-time." He has returned to Dunedin to finish his university degree in zoology. "That's why I'm back in Dunedin, to finish my degree. I've only got four months left. "After that, I'm going to return to the United States with my one-year visa, and pretty much do [modelling] as long as possible, suck out as much money as I can from it. "I do love it, but I can't say what I love about it. "It's a real strange thing for a guy to like, really. It's a lot of standing, waiting around, waiting, waiting, waiting. 'Spence said there was, though, the "adrenaline rush" of the catwalk, and from doing shows and being on the cover of a magazine. "It's quite prestigious really, especially when there's thousands of guys gunning for the job and you get it - it's great." As was the bonus of travelling around the world. And friends from university had a different attitude from those at high school.

*\*Much thanks to the Otago Daily Times for the use of this article*



## *Josh Finnie (2010-2014)*



The 2014/15 cricket season has been a spectacular roller coaster ride for the school's outgoing 1<sup>st</sup> XI captain. As a NZ under 19 representative at the 2014 World Cup in Dubai, much was expected of Josh this season. Consistent club performance saw him make a successful debut for the Otago Volts in the T/20 (taking two wickets) followed by some promising performances for the Volts in the Ford Trophy (50 over games). Josh made his first class debut (Plunket Shield) mid-way through the competition and held his place in the team with some solid efforts. As a result he was awarded the SBS Rising Star award at the Otago Cricket Association Prizegiving. To cap off a great season Josh has recently departed for England where he is spending five months at the Elite International Academy run by the Hampshire Cricket Club supported by New Zealand Cricket and Otago Cricket. This is a great opportunity for Josh to be involved in a top level coaching programme in England, as well as getting a taste of life as a professional cricketer. Watch this space. Good luck Josh!

## Shanghai Trip

The Barock Choir, conducted by Karen Knudson, is composed of members from Otago Boys' and Otago Girls' High Schools. In 2014, they were selected for the Choral Federation's Big Sing National Finale. They were joint winners of the Auahe Kore Award for the best performance a song with Maori text. The combined choir has been rehearsing and performing for the last 14 years, but has only been called the Barock Choir since their inclusion in the 2011 National Final Members of the Dunedin Branch of the NZ China Friendship Society (NZCFS) and the Dunedin Shanghai Association have encouraged and supported Barock's endeavours to participate in the 2015 Choral Arts Week of the Shanghai Spring International Music Festival (SSIMF). In November 2014, the Barock choir received an invitation to participate in the festival in May 2015. Barock is honoured to accept this invitation. The Barock students will also spend time in their sister schools Number 8 High School (OBHS) and Guangming High School (OGHS). These experiences will further increase the choir members' appreciation of not only choral music, but of different cultures, and enhance Dunedin's special sister schools and sister city relationships. The Barock choir is grateful for the prestigious invitation and generous support from the hosts of the Choral Arts Week of the SSIMF, Shanghai Audio and Video Publishing House. The NZCFS has provided generous financial support through the Simon Deng Li and Rewi Alley Friendship and Exchange Funds. The choir members are also fundraising for this exciting opportunity of singing and participating alongside the very best of international music groups, and visiting the sister schools. The Barock group will be in Beijing from 10 to 13 May 2015, where the members will visit Tiananmen Square, the Forbidden City, and the Great Wall of China. From 14 to 24 May 2015, the group will be based in Shanghai. The choir will be involved in the Choral Arts Week of the SSIMF from 14 to 18 May 2015. On 22 and 23 May 2015, the group will be home hosted with students of their sister schools.



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## Otago Boys' High School Fair Saturday 28 March

After a gap of many years, Staff, Students, Board of Trustees members, Parents Association and Parent volunteers worked together to hold a School Fair to raise money towards the renewal of a school van. Despite the threat of rain the Fair went ahead in the quad area in front of the main teaching block and the library. Stalls selling plants, books, 2<sup>nd</sup> hand clothing and goods, sports gear, cakes and sweets and raffles proved to be very popular with the large crowd. The group looking after the café and hot food stalls were kept very busy selling sausages, hot meat sandwiches,



burgers, scones and cakes. The chocolate wheel run by Board of Trustees members, golf putting, kicking and throwing competitions along with the bouncy castle for smaller children, meant there were activities for everyone. Towards the end of the Fair a Giant Auction was held with donated goods from local businesses and friends of the school. Kane Hames and John Hardie from the Highlanders squad made a guest appearance and helped encourage bids for the numerous items in the auction. We raised just over \$23,000, which

was a great result, and all involved enjoyed working together with our whole school community.

## Wilf Knight Old Boy (1903-1906)



Wilf Knight, the first Kiwi to die at Gallipoli landed with the first Australian forces, hours before the New Zealand contingent. He died of his wounds and was buried at sea.

When Mary Knight heard her son Wilf had been killed at Gallipoli she said, "Well, I have no regrets, because he died for a just cause, and if I had a dozen sons I would not object to every one of them going to fight for their King and country and the flag of liberty." The stoically patriotic response came from an Otago woman whose son was the first reported New Zealand casualty of the Gallipoli landing, and whose husband was chairman of the Waipori Patriotic Association in both the Boer War and World War 1. On May 1, 1915 the Tuapeka Times published a letter written by Trooper Wilfred Knight, of the Australian Expeditionary Force, to his parents in Waipori. The first Australians went ashore several hours ahead of the first New Zealanders, many of them cut down by heavy Turkish machine gun fire. In a letter home, described his training, the heat, flies and camp life. He wrote of the two vaudeville shows in the

camp, two picture theatres and dozens of shops which were branches of Cairo firms. Newspaper boys came around each morning and evening with the latest papers. "At night the camp is a bright scene with the picture shows all illuminated with electric lights, the shops with gas, and the light of the different cook fires." He had met his younger brother Eric and his cousin Syd, both with the Otago Mounted Rifles, in Cairo. He didn't go to Cairo much as the novelty had worn off, he wrote. He was going to see Eric again and, "judging by the way things are going I think it will be the last time we will see one another in Cairo." Little did Wilf, or anyone back in New Zealand, know how poignant this statement was. By the time his letter was published he had died of wounds received at Gallipoli. On May 3, 1915 details were first published in New Zealand newspapers of the landing and the part played by Australians and New Zealanders. Among the items, was the headline, The Roll Of Honour. Death Of Private W V Knight. Defence Minister James Allen had received a cablegram from Australian defence headquarters in Melbourne telling him Knight, who was with the First Australian Infantry Battalion, had died between April 27 and April 29 from wounds. Knight attended Waipori School, Lawrence District High School and was a boarder at Otago Boys' High from 1903 to 1906, where he played junior football, was a member of the fourth eleven and a Senior Cadet in 1906. The Waipori Bachelors' Ball was the most important social occasion in the town. In 1906 more than 50 couples attended. Many dressed up in costumes - a King Charles courtier, Lord Nelson, a fireman, a Highlander, a footballer and the gravedigger from Hamlet.

Wilfred Victor Knight was born at Waipori on April 6, 1890, the second son of Fredrick William Knight and Mary Snell Knight, nee Lean. Waipori was a gold mining town 90km from Dunedin. Apart from the cemetery, it now lies beneath Lake Mahinerangi, which supplies hydroelectricity to Dunedin. Knight attended Waipori School, Lawrence District High School and was a boarder at Otago Boys' High from 1903 to 1906, where he played junior football, was a member of the fourth eleven and a Senior Cadet in 1906. The Waipori Bachelors' Ball was the most important social occasion in the town. In 1906 more than 50 couples attended. Many dressed up in costumes - a King Charles courtier, Lord Nelson, a fireman, a Highlander, a footballer and the gravedigger from Hamlet. However, the sensation of the evening was "Miss Smith" who, after several dances with young men, was found to be Knight, 16, in a very elaborate disguise. His "ladies toilet and lady-like conduct" caused "no little merriment." Knight was described as adventurous and having a roving and restless spirit. Family legend has it he and his father did not get on very well, and that he left home after a disagreement with his father. He first went to the West Coast where he worked in mining and later to Sydney, his passage to Australia paid for by his mother. He became a tram conductor, then a tram driver. His wayward nature led to the NSW Tramways issuing him with a warning letter for "reckless driving". Eighteen days after war was declared, he signed up for the "War and four months after." The First Battalion was the first infantry unit in New South Wales formed as part of the Australian Imperial Force for the Great War. Knight was 24, with fair hair, blue eyes and a tattoo on his left forearm. He had been a member of the Loyal Waipori Lodge and at the September 1914 meeting his resignation, and those of brother Eric and cousin Syd were accepted. The meeting moved, "that the resignations be accepted with regret and that this Lodge expresses its high appreciation of the self-sacrificing devotion to the welfare

of the British Empire shown by Bros. E. S. Knight, S. W. Knight and W. V. Knight in joining the Expeditionary Forces which are to be used in this the greatest war the world has ever known."

Wilf embarked on the SS Afric on October 18, 1914. In Egypt he trained at Mena Camp, near Cairo. His postcards home were full of the wonders of exotic places, giving insight of his character. He spent Christmas Eve in Cairo which was "a bit lively". When his company was on fatigue duties he was given charge of two camels for carrying firewood from the tram terminus the half mile to Mena Camp. Although he had an Egyptian boy to assist him he soon had control and wrote "I am an expert camel driver now." In March 1915 he put in for a transfer to become a driver in the signal company of the Engineers. "It is very interesting work and besides it would mean promotion, and an increase in pay

of a shilling a day." The transfer never happened and his postcard, received at Waipori on May 5, 1915, was one of many to arrive weeks after his death. The 1st Battalion arrived on Lemnos on April 12, where it practiced embarking and disembarking from small boats. The first mention of Gallipoli in the 1st Battalion war diary is on April 13. There was a very high expectation of success for the coming landing. The men were paid on April 22 with Turkish notes and were told there was to be no haggling in the villages they passed through on their way to Constantinople as all prices would be fixed. Their confidence had been boosted by the relatively easy defeat of a Turkish force which attacked the Suez Canal early in 1915. The Battalion left Lemnos on the 24th and Knight wrote his will in his army pay book early on April 25, leaving the whole of his property and effects to his mother.

## ANZAC Service

On the morning of 21 April the school held their Anzac Service. Being the 100th commemoration of the landings at Gallipoli this years' service was especially poignant. In a break with tradition the whole school took part in the service, with the junior school being part of the wreath laying at the Memorial Arch.



## Foundation Members

As has been mentioned in a number of newsletters now, part of your Board's deliberations on the Foundation's forward thinking centres around the fact that whilst we have confirmed contact details for 7,530 living Old Boys, only 447 have so far made a financial contribution and have thus become Foundation members. We would dearly love to at least double that number (or better) because new members are the future of the Foundation. We still need your support so please give this serious consideration!

Remember, pledges do not need to be large lump sum payments – we are very grateful for all contributions, large or small, and in one payment or spread over a period of up to five years, which often makes the donation much easier to handle from the Old Boys' budgeting point of view.

Since our last newsletter, we have received a donation from:

**Paul Twemlow (1991-1995) – Associate Fellow**

**Geoff Bates (1972-1976) – Associate Fellow**

**Philip Gibson (1963-1967) - Fellow**

**J Robb (Bequest)**

**George Mason – Senior Fellow**

We are genuinely appreciative of the continued support and belief in the Foundation's objectives shown by those Old Boys who have become Foundation Members. If you wish to find out more about how you can make a pledge or donation please contact the Foundation Office on 03 - 477 2546.

## Cheap fuel with OBHS Foundation's fuel card

As fuel prices remain high the OBHS Foundation has an exclusive Fuel Card offer available to all Old Boys, past Staff and their immediate family members. All Foundation card holders receive **5 cents per litre** discount to the national pump price for petrol and diesel. Discounted petrol and diesel can be purchased at all BP, RD Petroleum and most Gasoline Alley retail sites along with Truck Stops.

**HOW IT WORKS:** If today the national price for a litre of 91 octane is \$2.159 cents, the cost to you would be \$2.109 cents. If on the West Coast 91 is priced at \$2.389 cents per litre - those with Foundation fuel cards will still pay only \$2.109 cents per litre. That's a 28 cpl saving!

This offer is open to all Otago Boys' High School - Old Boys, staff, parents of a student and their immediate family members so please pass this on to anyone you think may well benefit from joining the programme.

**CLICK HERE TO FIND OUT MORE AND START SAVING ON ALL YOUR FUEL PURCHASES!**

Individual Application – [Click here](#)

Limited Companies Application – [Click here](#)



**Save up to 28 cents per litre**

On petrol and diesel by using a personalised Foundation RD Petroleum card



## *In Memoriam*

*We acknowledge the recent passing of the following Old Boys of the school:*



- Alistair David Dick (1943-47)** died in Queensland
- James (Jim) Robb (1937-41)** died on 23 December in Dunedin aged 90 years
- David Geofrey Ellis (1947-49)** died on 26 December in Nelson aged 84 years
- Norman Cecil McGeorge (1947-49)** died on 30 December in Dunstan Hospital
- Alan Adrian Stirling (1962-65)** died on 5 January in Nelson
- Lloyd Spencer Brundell (1960-61)** died on 7 January in Dunedin
- Neville Thornicroft (1935)** died on 9 January in Hawkes Bay aged 90 years
- Kerry Drummond Lethaby (1944-45)** died on 23 January in Aroha Hospital
- Richard Daniel Hunt (1998-2001)** died on 23 January in Dunedin aged 30 years
- Keith John Ross (1957-61)** died on 28 January in Whangareri
- Russell George Edwards (1962-65)** died on 6 February in Dunedin aged 66 years
- Mark Tracy Williams (1976-79)** died on 6 February in Dunedin aged 53 years
- Leslie Eaton Tombs (Les) (1939-41)** died on 16 February in Roxburgh aged 90 years
- Grahame Elsbert Felton (1933)** died on 21 February in Christchurch aged 95 years
- Alastair Francis Sturgeon (1954-57)** died on 1 March in Wellington
- Alan Dickson Greene (1957-59)** died on 1 March in Frankton aged 71 years
- David John Ross Fleury (1956-58)** died on 6 March in Dunedin Hospital aged 73 years
- Richard Frederick Cameron (1956)** died on 15 March in Auckland
- Rev James Albert Brook (1939-1940)** died on 2 April in Oamaru aged 90 years
- Lance Ewing Bardwell (1946-47)** died on 2 April in Dunedin aged 82 years
- Howard Archie Ellwood (1937-38)** died on 5 April in Oxford Court Rest Home aged 91 years
- Gary William George Hogg (1964-65)** died on 15 April in Christchurch aged 66 years
- Kevin Owen Robertson (1952-53)** died on 19 April in New South Wales aged 79 years
- Dennis Gordon Crosado (1949-50)** died on 28 April in St Andrew's Hospital Dunedin, aged 79 years
- John Gilbert Sheddan (1938-39)** died on 1 May in Avonlea Rest Home Christchurch, aged 91 years

*We will remember them*