

ST BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
OLD BOYS'  
ASSOCIATION

# Weekly News

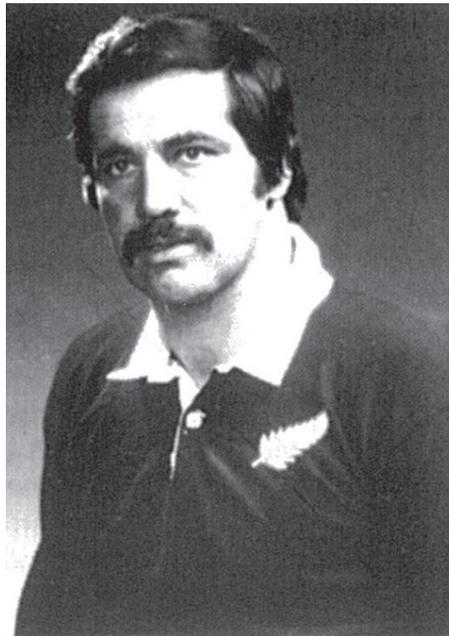
Week Ending 23 November  
Issue 40, Spring 2018

## BILLY HARMON - 4TH MAORI ALL BLACK

*Congratulations to Billy Harmon (2008-12) on his selection for the Maori All Black team that toured the America's recently. He is the college's fourth Maori All Black and joins Mick O'Connor (1928-32), Vance Stewart (1962-67) and Elliot Dixon (2003 -07) with this distinction. We congratulate him on his selection and a successful tour. We also apologise that it has taken this long to get the story out. In researching this story we came across the remarkable tale of Mick O'Connor and his tale is well worth retelling.*



*Mick O'Connor - 2 games.*



*Vance Stewart - 17 games.*



*Elliot Dixon - 9 games.*



*Billy Harmon - 3 games.*

Michael (Mick) Tahumata O'Connor, Ngai Tahu, came to the college in 1928 from Temuka. Within a year he was in the 1st XV and in 1930 took on the captaincy. He remained captain until he left and this is almost certainly unique in the rugby history of St Bede's. Match reports of his play at fullback frequently singled him out as an outstanding player and one who had a bright future in the game.

In addition to his rugby prowess Mick O'Connor or Hone as he was sometimes called was an outstanding field athlete. He was regular winner of shot and discus titles. In 1932 he set new records in the discus and cricket ball throw and remarkably, it is believed, his cricket ball throw record still stands.

In 1936 he was selected for South Canterbury and in the same year was picked for the NZ Maori team to play the touring Australians at Palmerston North. It was not a happy occasion for him or the team because there was an altercation between two of the players after the match that resulted in the death of Bernard Rogers.

Mick O'Connor, who had paid his own way to Palmerston North, was quoted in the "Beneath the Maori Moon: An Illustrated History of Maori Rugby" saying, "It's a strange thing. There was a sort of division in that damn team." He went on to say that when he was introduced to the rest of the team Tom French said "I don't know anything about this person." O'Connor concluded saying, "it wasn't a very nice introduction to Maori rugby .... the team wasn't a team."

Perhaps Mick O'Connor was seen as an outsider in a side that was dominated by North Island players.

He died in 2009, aged 96.

# RECENT VISITORS



**Peter Haywood.**

A fortnight ago Peter Hayward visited. He is the son of Anthony (Tony) Hayward (1943-48) and was keen to see the photos in the dining room and to also learn of this father's time at the college. Peter did not follow the family tradition

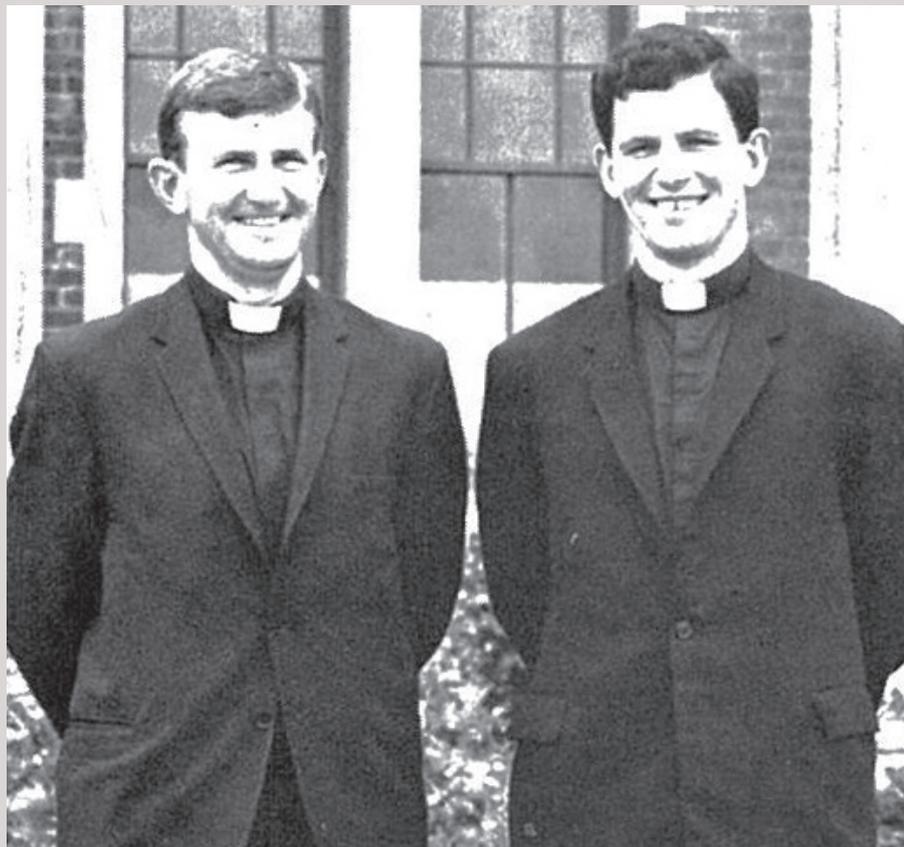
because Tony became a bush forester soon after leaving and spent his life in Southland eventually owning a hotel. He was pleased to hear of the Hayward family links to St Bede's, especially of his grandfather Leo (1911-12), a founding pupil at Ferry Road.

## REQUIESCAT IN PACE

**Paul Henry Lagan (1954-56)**

**Vernon Winter (1942)**

*If you know of the passing of an Old Boy or someone who has had close links to the college please advise Jacinta Gardner [jgardner@stbedes.school.nz](mailto:jgardner@stbedes.school.nz)*



**Frs. Michael McVerry and Mick O'Connor pictured in 1969.**

Fr Michael McVerry spent only two terms on the staff at the College but had strong memories of his time here in 1969. "I really liked teaching ... it was a great atmosphere and I enjoyed being involved with coaching and the occasional biking adventure with Fr Tony Williams." However teaching was not to be and Mick has spent his priestly life as a missionary, firstly in the Solomons and then in Fiji.

This week he visited and was full of stories about his life's work. Currently based at Tutu, about 90 minutes from Nandi he has played a leading role in establishing a training centre that focuses on providing skills for farmers. It was established some years ago by the Marists and works with indigenous Fijians giving them the knowledge to farm successfully but also to manage their lives. The centre was established in response to a government request to develop programmes to help rural based Fijians.

Questioned about the rugby skills of the young men on the programme Mike said that, "yes we do have some good players but interestingly when one of the trainees was asked to play for Fiji he twice declined saying that his work was more important."

## FULLY PAID MEMBERSHIP & SUBSCRIPTIONS

For further information please go to [www.stbedes.school.nz/community/oba/joiningmembership/oba-membership-form](http://www.stbedes.school.nz/community/oba/joiningmembership/oba-membership-form)  
Or to download a printable form please go to [www.stbedes.school.nz/app/uploads/2017/05/2306-Old-Boys-Invoices.pdf](http://www.stbedes.school.nz/app/uploads/2017/05/2306-Old-Boys-Invoices.pdf)

# 1963 REUNION LOOMING & A GREAT STORY

*Excitement is building toward next weekend when the 1963 cohort return for their reunion. The organising committee of John McDermott, Peter Davidson, Humphrey Archer, Simon Hubble, MG Ryan and Allan Turnbull have done a great job finding lost old boys. The Association is indebted to them for their assiduous sleuthing. As is always the case the reviews of class names provides the opportunity to recall stories from the past. This week John McDermott remembered a dormitory prank that, at the time, had everyone laughing.*

Considerable efforts had gone into finding John Gilbert (1964-66) a boarder from Buller. Eventually he was tracked down to South Canterbury and there is every hope he will come along. He is pictured opposite with the successful Lightweight I team of 1965.

Conversation had turned to John's lengthy rugby career for Buller. He had made his debut in 1971 and went on to play until 1986 notching up 127 games for his union. In addition he played for the West Coast/Buller combined XV, the South Island and also appeared in NZ trial matches.

Back in the day it was the custom for the dorm prefect to get into bed after lights out. One night the prefect had completed his duties and headed to bed unaware that all the bolts had been removed. To everyone's delight he did not gently subside but threw himself down with some vigour. There was an almighty crash as the bed collapsed and he went sprawling.

John McDermott recalled that there was pandemonium in the dorm, "... shrieks of laughter ... you just could not stop laughing ... then Fr Curtain (Boss) came in and demanded to know what had happened." He said, "I want the person who did this to fix it and then come to see me ... so who did it?"

According to John there was silence for a few moments and then John Gilbert reached under his bed and triumphantly held a large spanner over his head – akin to an Olympian acknowledging victory. "The dorm went into



**Lightweight I - 1965**

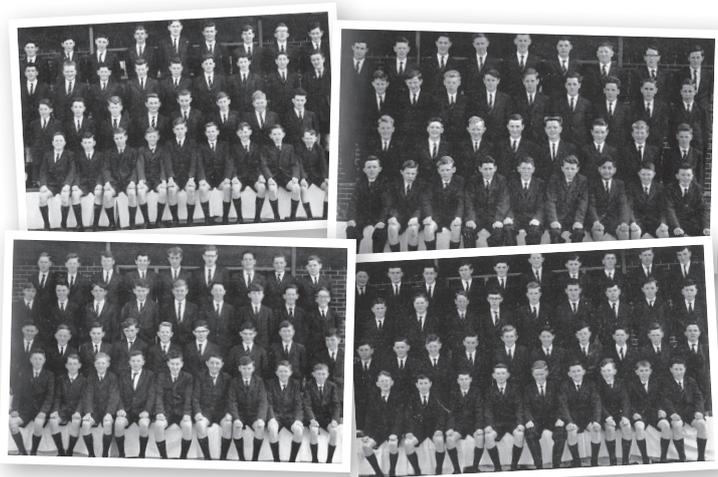
**Back row L-R: LD Brentkelly, JC Cooke, JF Butchard, VW Costello, JG Gilbert, GP Hessey. Middle: GJ Reardon, BP Dwyer, CL Cutler, PC Townshend, HR Brown, MW Small, MJ Stoddart. Seated: GL Ferguson, CJ Scollard, AW Ford, JB Petre (Capt.), PR McDonald, RA Judkins.**

**The team finished first equal, winning 7 of its games. Vince Costello with 15 tries lead the scoring. Later, he would go on to play three seasons for Hawkes Bay, scoring 26 tries. In all the team scored 158 points while conceding a mere 18. Brian (haggis) Dwyer and John Gilbert both went on to play first class rugby for Buller and Marlborough respectively.**

hysterics again at this act of bravado ... he showed no remorse and of course bore the consequences a few moments later".

Concluding John McDermott said that he thinks Boss curtain grinned when the spanner was thrust aloft.

## 1963 REUNION



### Friday 30 November

Drinks at JDV (private bar) from 5.00pm. Finger food provided.

### Saturday 01 December

Tour of the college at 11.00am

Lunch at the college at 12.30pm

Pre dinner drinks at the Airport Commodore from 6.00pm

Dinner (private room) at 7.00pm

### Sunday 02 December

Mass at 9.30am followed by morning tea

### For further information:

[jgardner@stbedes.school.nz](mailto:jgardner@stbedes.school.nz)

Phone 03 375 0647 ext 886



# BRIAN KWOK YEE - CAN YOU HELP?

Last week Sally Wong called to seek information about her father, Brian Kwok Chun Yee, who attended the college for just one year in 1942. It was a fascinating conversation and older readers may recall Hop Yick Cheong, a local business in, we think, Madras Street. It stocked a range of goods from China including possibly the best fireworks available at the time. Sally had thought the photo below may be of boys at St Bede's in 1942.



Sally has been trying to date her dad's early life, initially thinking that he was at St Bede's in 1937. Along with the photo above Sally also sent one of the old main building at the college and of a boy outside a classroom. Significantly there is a foundation stone visible in this photo and while it is only partially visible

the words Marist Brothers stand out. We have asked around and the consensus is that Brian Kwok Yee, in the back row fifth from the right, was at the Marist Brothers school before coming to St Bede's. Visible to the lower right of the photo above is the roman numerals VI and this probably denote the Standard Six group of that

year. Further to this some think that the grotto of Our Lady to the right was in the grounds near the Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament.

Readers are welcome to let us know their thoughts and we will pass them on to Sally.

## WANT TO ORGANISE A REUNION?



The Community Development Office and the Old Boys' Association are keen to support class, team and year-group reunions. If you would like to get together with your former school mates please contact either Tony Murdoch or Jacinta Gardner at the college. Contact details below.

The format for reunions can be tailored to suit.

**Options include:**

- Lunch or Dinner in the dining room.
- Lunch and refreshments in the boardroom overlooking No. 1.
- Tours of the college.

**Please Contact**

jpgardner@stbedes.school.nz  
Phone 03 375 0647 ext 886



# ROGER MUIR REMEMBERED

*Roger Muir, father of Simon (1998-2001) and Tim (2001-05) passed away on 25 October. He was just 61. The notice in the Press said of him, "a very respected farmer, stock rep, friend coach, family man and community member." Roger was fondly remembered at the college. He supported both Simon and Tim and was always prepared to pitch in and help out. We sought comment from those who knew him and these thoughts are printed below. The College and the Association extends sincere condolences to Roger's family and friends.*



*Roger Muir is pictured here with the 2005 1st XI.*

*Back row L-R: Alex Taylor, Cameron Bracewell, Matthew Teale.*

*Middle: Roger Muir, Liam Bartholomeusz, Alex Nicholson, Greg Curtain (coach).*

*Seated: Craig Hutchinson, Tim Muir, Chris Bartholomeusz (Capt), Stuart Hailes, Ben Enoka.*

*Absent: Reuben Koorey, Ian King.*

Chris (2001-05) and Liam Bartholomeusz (2003-07) combined to recall Roger.

"Roger (Rog) was a very generous, supportive and knowledgeable manager of the First XI – whenever someone needed something, Rog was on the job. He would go above and beyond what was required of a manager, and he was pivotal to the success and smooth running of the team. He was a very unselfish man, who was so focused on helping others, and he loved his family, of which the cricket boys were part of his family. All of the parents bonded so well, and led by Rog, helped out so much with our sporting endeavours. He always had a smile on his face, and his commitment to the college was across many facets not just sport. He and his

family were the first people to put their hands up to support SBC with volunteering or fundraising assistance, which included the things like the Canteen Run for a Life, and many sporting trips across NZ and overseas.

A funny story I remember from our playing days, captain Chris Bartholomeusz had a sore leg on field, and called for Rog to bring on some deep heat or anti-inflammatory rub. Unfortunately, Rog couldn't find any, and the best thing he had was sunblock. The sunblock was massaged in by Chris, and his leg was as good as new!"

**Gerry Davidson has also written about Roger:**

"Roger coached rugby teams at St Bede's and travelled on the 2003 1st XV / Under 15 tour to

the Blue Skies tournament in Australia. He was also involved in cricket tours to Australia during the same period and his many contributions and availability as a rugby referee were greatly appreciated. Roger was the epitome of the unconditional supporter as he followed his two sons Simon and Tim through the grades in both cricket and rugby, always displaying a huge sense of fair play and sportsmanship. Roger also provided the 1st XV with their first ever set of practice jerseys – an old Darfield Rugby Club set which puzzled many drivers on Main North Road, trying to work out who was the team in red and blue always training on the Number 2 ground."

# CHRISTMAS LUNCH - 12 DECEMBER

## CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS



Seniors Old Boys are warmly invited to attend a pre-Christmas lunch in the College Dining room on Wednesday 12 December at 12.00 noon.

Parking will be available close to the dining room and there is ramp access.

The cost is \$35 per head and this includes complimentary beverages.

Please RSVP to Jacinta Gardner:  
jgardner@stbedes.school.nz  
Phone 03 375 0647 ext 886



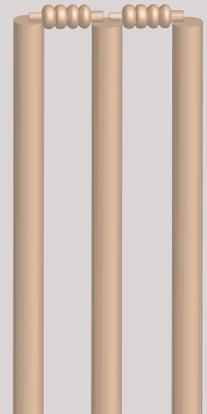
## CALL TO CRICKETERS...



*Matt Winter in action against St Andrews old boys in 2010.*

For the past eight years a team of old boys has played an annual fixture at the picturesque Valley of Peace cricket ground. Opponents alternate each year between old boys teams from Christ's College, Boy's High School and St Andrew's College. Results to date have been mixed but the setting and the conviviality are compensatory factors. For cricketers 'The Valley' is a unique playing experience and the ground, complete with in-field tree and short boundaries, is all about the game and its rituals.

This year's fixture will be held on **Sunday 10 March 2019 vs CBHS Old Boys**. Play commences at 11am and there is a break for lunch.



If you are interested in playing please email - Tony Murdoch, [tmurdoch@stbedes.school.nz](mailto:tmurdoch@stbedes.school.nz)

## ENDOWING A SCHOLARSHIP

If you would like to endow a scholarship please contact...

Tony Murdoch 03 375 0647 (ext 828)  
[tmurdoch@stbedes.school.nz](mailto:tmurdoch@stbedes.school.nz)



ST BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

## MAKING A BEQUEST

If you would like to make a bequest to the college please contact...

Tony Murdoch 03 375 0647 (ext 828)  
[tmurdoch@stbedes.school.nz](mailto:tmurdoch@stbedes.school.nz)

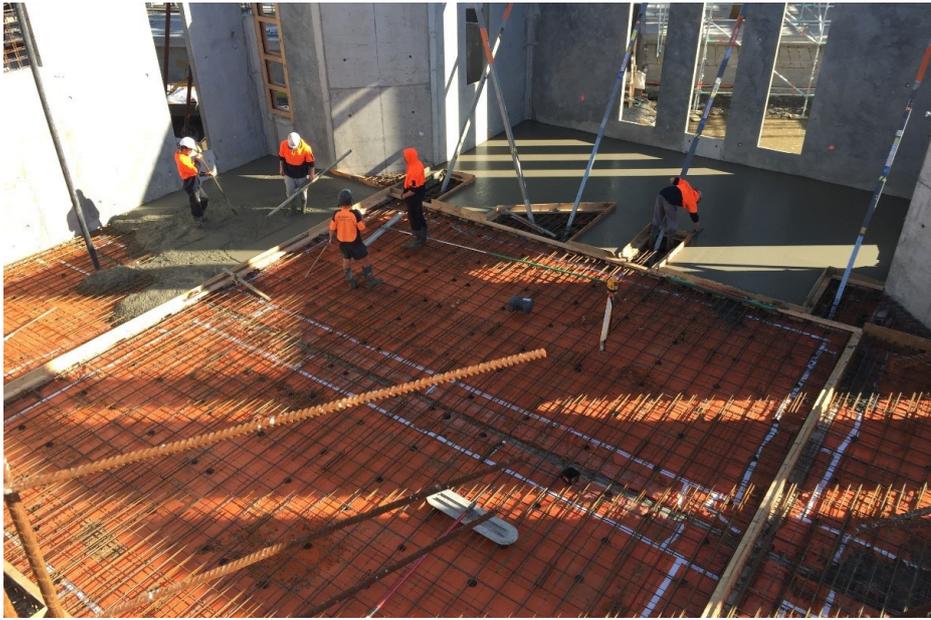


ST BEDE'S  
COLLEGE  
FOUNDATION

## SEND US YOUR NEWS

We are always keen to receive information about old boys. Our readers enjoy snippets of information and the longer stories that come through. If you have had an old boy friend or family member who has passed away please drop a note to [tmurdoch@stbedes.school.nz](mailto:tmurdoch@stbedes.school.nz). Photographs, especially of generational Bedean families are especially welcome.

# CHAPEL FLOORS POURED



Since our last report on the new chapel there has been significant progress with the floor being poured and work continuing on the external structure.

Alongside the new chapel there continues to be a flurry of activity with the strengthening of the PAC foundations. In addition to this the PAC extension, that sits between the new chapel and the PAC, is being roofed.

Across the quad the new Grimes block is a hive of activity as various subcontractors beaver away on the project. It is hoped that this will be ready for the start of the new school year in 2019.



## “A Little from a Lot” *Our Fundraising Campaign*

THINGS ARE  
MOVING -  
SUPPORT THE  
CAMPAIGN



### WATCH THE VIDEO

To view the campaign video please go to:  
[www.oldboys.stbedes.school.nz/chapel-appeal](http://www.oldboys.stbedes.school.nz/chapel-appeal)

To make a donation...

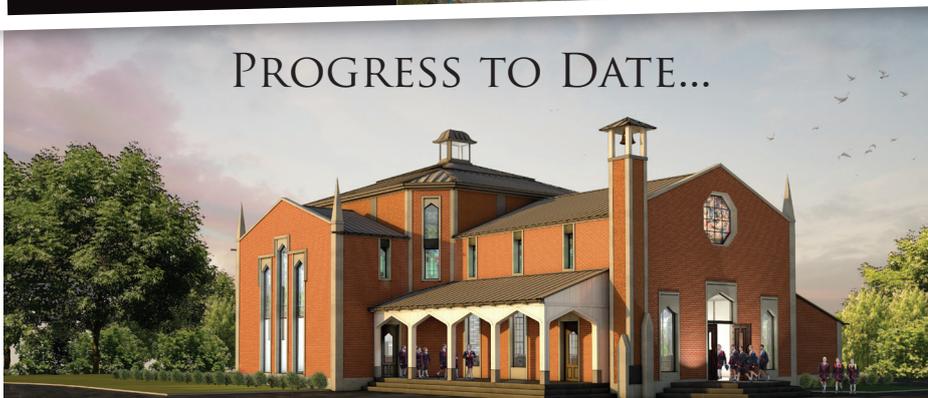
### GO TO THE WEBSITE

Please go to:  
[www.oldboys.stbedes.school.nz/chapel-appeal](http://www.oldboys.stbedes.school.nz/chapel-appeal)

The options available for giving are detailed on the website. If you would like to receive the campaign booklet please email or call and this will be posted to you.

Online Payment - please go to:  
[www.oldboys.stbedes.school.nz/donate](http://www.oldboys.stbedes.school.nz/donate)

### PROGRESS TO DATE...



\$250,000

\$500,000

\$750,000

\$1M

\$1.25M

\$1.5M

### GIVING IN MEMORY

To donate to the new chapel in memory of a loved one please go to:  
[www.oldboys.stbedes.school.nz/chapel-appeal](http://www.oldboys.stbedes.school.nz/chapel-appeal)

*The estimated cost of the new chapel is \$3.5m. The Chapel and Fundraising For the Future Campaign has an immediate goal of raising \$1.5m. As in the past, this fundraising appeal is being made to Old Boys, parents (past and present), staff, students, and the wider Bedean and Catholic community. The Society of Mary has generously donated \$1m and the Board of Proprietors another \$1m. In the latter case, these funds derive mainly from the insurance payout on the old Chapel.*