

Whanganui Collegiate School Museum and Archives

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Incorporated Pursuant to the Charitable Trust Act 1957 - Reg No 1714844



NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER 2025

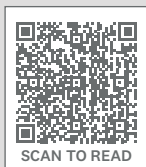
Another chapter of our School's 172 years of history closed at the end of 2025 with the departure of our 20th Headmaster Wayne Brown and his wife Alycia and family.

From his arrival in 2018 Wayne took a keen interest in our Museum, recognising the importance of recording and maintaining the history of our School. Appointed to the Museum Trust, he served it well, always approachable and ready to assist in any way he could. He regularly called in to see how things were going and promoted the Museum at every opportunity.

Wayne, Alycia and family were farewelled at a Collegiate Connect event held in the Headmaster's Garden on 5 December.



[Read Wayne's speech to that gathering HERE](#)



HOW TO USE QR CODES:

- Open the Camera app on your smartphone or tablet.
- Point the camera at the QR code so it fits within the frame.
- Wait for a notification or link to appear on the screen.
- Tap the notification or link to access the associated content.

Two new sections to our newsletter

1) Memories - From Yesteryear

In 1954, the Schools' centenary year, Old Boys' 'Reminiscences' were published in the Collegian. In the lead-up to the 175th in 2029 the Museum would like to collect 'Memories' of Old Boys from the 1950s, 60s and 70s in the first instance (other decades to follow).

Please send your memories as Word docs (including your name, House and years) to museum@collegiate.school.nz

2) St George's School

We hold historical photos, items and memorabilia of St George's School; with that School's upcoming centenary in 2027 we are working to digitise the collection.

See St George's section later in this edition.

Attention Old Boys and Old Girls

Is your OBGAs Register Entry Up to date? We are currently updating entries in The Register. For the 8th edition to be published prior to the Schools 175th in 2029.

To request a copy of your current entry email

editor.obga@collegiate.school.nz or museum@collegiate.school.nz



Recent Additions to our Collection

In July Old Boy **Andrew (Andy) Jefferd (S 1967-71) - All Black #815** donated memorabilia from his rugby career to the Museum - his 1980 All Back rugby jersey, his blazer and a collection of 21 Rugby Union ties from around the world.

Andy was introduced to members of the 2025 1st XV on hand for the presentation.



Andy had a notable sporting career at WCS, playing 1st XV rugby and 1st XI cricket for three years (1969-71), captaining both teams in his final year, as well as being Head of Selwyn House. He was awarded the Morison Cup as the School's outstanding sportsman for both 1970 and 1971, a rare feat, and in 1971 the award of the Malcolm Beattie Memorial Prize acknowledged his upholding of WCS traditions in respect of honour, loyalty and duty.

While at Lincoln University Andy continued playing rugby, while from 1974-78 he gave great service to Canterbury - among his 36 games were

appearances against Ireland in 1976 and the Lions in 1977, scoring tries in both matches. In 1976 he won selection for NZ Juniors and NZ Universities, touring North America and Japan.

Returning to farm at Tokomaru Bay in 1976 Andy played for the East Coast Union, gaining All Black trials in 1979, 1980 and 81 and was chosen for the 1980 and 1981 All Blacks teams. Internationals included Scotland and the Springboks.

Andy is a keen WCS Old Boy and past parent who served on the WCS College Board of Trustees 2001-07. Married to Sally, their two sons Jack and Ted attended the School both playing in the XI and XV for two years.



St Georges School Centenary 2027

For information go to

www.stgeorges.school.nz/community/alumni





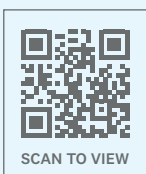
Displayed are Andy Jefferd & Sam Strahan's All Blacks jerseys, along with those of John Daniell (England Schoolboys 1990, NZ U19s 1991) and Simon Dickie (NZ Rowing, 1972 Olympic Games, Munich, singlet).



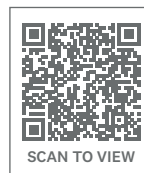
Neil Monro QSM (Hy 1945-48) and Dr David Kirk (G 1974-78, ABs World Cup Captain 1987) at NZ Rugby Museum Hall of Fame. - photo sent to us recently by Neil.

Centenary of Quadrangular Rugby Tournament

Whanganui Collegiate School is hosting the prestigious 100th Quadrangular Rugby Tournament (Quad) from 18-20 June 2026, featuring historic matches against Wellington College, Christ's College, and Nelson College. This premier, century-old tournament brings intense competition to the Schools grounds. The event is a long-standing tradition in New Zealand schoolboy rugby.



See Quad100 website
HERE for details



See the full story HERE

18-20 JUNE 2026

It will be a great occasion
- Get your team together

For information go to
Quad100 web page

Quadrangular Rugby Tournament



Recent Additions to the Collection

Mike Clancey (M 1964-68) visited and donated a boxed collection of glass 'Lantern Slides'.

Mike's story: While at WCS I took music with Mr Ellison. At one stage while we were helping him spring clean the Music Block (now the Museum) I came across a wooden box hidden away in a dusty corner. Mr Ellison obviously saw little value in it, saying I could have it if I wished. It is



a box of lantern slides that obviously go with a lecture on WWI. I found it again when cleaning out at home and now that the School has a museum I felt that's where they should be held – a home-coming of sorts.



Daughter of **Anthony Lewis (G 1942-45)** Niccola, kindly donated her father's 1945 Rowing cap, photos of the VIII and an unidentified photo featuring a group of boys with a cup. Research confirmed the cup was for Inter-house Boxing and from the Collegians of the day we were able to confirm the photo is of the Grey House boxing team.

In a previous newsletter we featured a painting by **Peter Williams (H 1947-50)** donated by **Hamish Mackay (M 1969-73)**. This prompted **Richard Gaddum (H 1967-90)** to donate a book on the artist's works – *thanks Red*.



Sam Irvine (M/H 1981-85) donated several books and photos of Auckland University Rowing that had once hung on the wall in Peter and Janet's home.



St Georges School Centenary 2027

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Museum and Archives *Collection Additions.*



Lisa and Tanya with their latest donation



Swimming and Diving medals



Athletics Trophies



Autograph book and 1923 and 24 Old Boys' Easter Ball dance-cards

Our June 2024 newsletter featured items of **Arthur Weekes (DBs 1915-18)** kindly donated by his granddaughters Lisa and Tanya. They were delighted to see those items displayed, and have now given us more treasures from the old family home, among them a selection of Collegians, Registers and WCS published books donated by his estate.



Simon Bloor (M 1976-80) has donated his collection of vinyl records of School Choirs covering the years 1975, 79, 80-81.



At the Big School Society reunion on 31 October a very carefully-wrapped package marked "*Fragile this way up*" was delivered by **J D Edmonds (M 1960-64)**. Opening with care revealed a bulk bottle of ink, as used in the fountain pens of the day and to top-fill ink wells set into the desks.

18-20 JUNE 2026
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100TH
Quadrangular Rugby Tournament





An 1871 book prize awarded by the School's second Headmaster Henry Godwin to **Thomas Allison (1867-72)** - the oldest book prize in the collection.

The book was donated by David Nicoll, friend and neighbour of **Kim Ellis (S 1964-68)**.

Allison along with brother John is credited to be the first European to summit Te Heuheu Peak of Mt Ruapehu in 1877.

He was a keen astronomer, and in his will of 1927 donated his telescope to the School. Now on display in the McKinnon Building, it was used by students for many years.



[See the story HERE](#)

Thanks to **Bridget and Sophie Trott (B 2020-25)** we now have a newer item on display - a girl's triathlon uniform. We are delighted for this to come into the collection as today's events are tomorrow's history.



Don Polson (G 1963-67) and wife Liz have been having a clear-out and kindly donated items once belonging to **John (G 1929-31)** and **Rob (G 1933-36)** including a traditional Old Boys silk cravat, a Grey House colours badge and a St George's 1st XV badge of 1927-28. The St George's badge of particular interest as 1927 was that school's first year.



Rob Burnet (M/H 1964-68) donated a set of WCS etched glass coasters from his father Alan's home

Other donated items include:

1917 Full School photo from the family of **Leslie Richards (G 1917-18)**

Selection of Collegians, Registers and WCS published books donated by the estate of **David Hammond (M 1952-55)**



St Georges School Centenary 2027

For information go to

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Recent Visitors to our School and Museum.

It is always a *pleasure* to welcome visitors.



Geordie Beamish
(Hy 2012-14)

called in during a fleeting visit to WCS following his gold medal winning run in the 3000m Steeplechase at the 2025 World Athletics Championships in Tokyo.



Michael Payne
(M 1949-52)

was among a group visiting; we were able to show him the Camera Club cup he won in 1952.



Nitish (Bob) Niranjan
(Gn 1976-80)

visited; he is a keen Gilligan House Old Boy and is seen here alongside the bust of F W Gilligan.



Otaki Scholars

from Robert Gordons College, Aberdeen, 2024 and 2025 Otaki Scholars Michael Onyemeziem and Harry Wood visited.



When Terry Peacock
(Hy 1954-58)

paid a visit he was pleased to see on display book prizes won by his father **Patrick (Hy 1926-30)**.



The Meuli Family

have a long connection with the School with Mr N Meuli being the local contractor who built the School on this current site in 1911, replacing the "Old School" on Victoria Avenue. A number of family members visited while in Whanganui for a reunion.



David Millward
(P 1973-77)

was delighted to see his father Fred's album covering his years at School 1943-45.

18-20 JUNE 2026

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Quadrangular Rugby Tournament



100TH



1900 – 125 Years Ago

Debating

The School's major debating exercise - the Parliamentary Union - took place over several weeks, with the first session electing officers - Clerk of the House, his Deputies and Sergeants-at-Arms - and defining procedural matters. Four later sessions debated pertinent topics of the time, especially the conduct and outcome of the war in South Africa. Another debated the motion "That Cromwell was the greatest of Englishmen past and present" (rejected 78-42) and "That regular and systematic exercise and fagging should be introduced: that flannels should always be worn in summer: that no grub should be allowed except of certain specified kinds, and that nothing but fruit and bread should be eaten between meals" (carried 81-24).

Vice-Regal Visit

Governor of NZ the Earl of Ranfurly received an enthusiastic welcome when visiting WCS. In his speech he stated that "the high tone of loyalty he saw pervading the School would ensure the future defence of the Empire if it were found in an equal degree throughout the colony. War in the future, and in the near future too, was in his mind almost a certainty and he felt sure in that event that New Zealanders would again be found side by side with English" (in hindsight, a prescient comment).

South African War

Deaths of two Old Boys during the South African War were noted, one from enteric fever (typhoid), the other from "malarial fever exacerbated by privations suffered in the blockade of Ladysmith".

Parcels containing chocolate, tobacco and socks had been despatched to each Old Boy fighting in South Africa, the cost of postage being defrayed by a subscription in the School and among local Old Boys.

The Collegian printed extracts from letters written by serving Old Boys which left no doubt as to the horrors of War. Back at the School the students were addressed by two gentlemen who had first-hand experience of the conditions. Old Boy **P B Fitzherbert (1892-96)** who, having joined Lord Roberts' Horse, had taken part in the relief of

Kimberley, the disaster at Sanna's Post, the Battle of Sand River, the capture of Johannesburg and the entry into Pretoria before being invalided home with typhoid, while the War Correspondent of the Melbourne Argus "in one short hour placed us in full possession of the leading points of his enforced sojourn during the Siege of Ladysmith".

Rugby

The majority of the 1st XV matches were played against local Club teams, as well as Te Aute at Woodville (WCS lost 15-6). At the annual triangular tournament, WCS defeated Wellington College (28-3) and Christs College (8-3). Reports from all 1st & 2nd XV games were published, with mentions of nine lower-level teams.



Study Space

A letter to the Collegian from a student suggested "a room should be set apart for the Upper School in which they should be allowed to work in peace for examinations - currently proving difficult under present conditions".



Local character "Granny Dalton" was found to be "houseless" once more. Erected for her by the boys of WCS, her tiny cottage was unfortunately burnt down about a month

ago and "Granny," after some exciting experiences in the Court, is again reduced to that well-ventilated apartment, kerosene tins appearing to form the mainstay. We hope that by the time this appears in print the old lady may be once more housed in a water-tight building. She described the old one as having been "splendid but rather narrow".



Library

Concern was expressed at rough treatment meted out to copies of Illustrated Papers (London News) and Punch, such mutilation

making it impossible to bind them.

Workshop

Described as “well patronised”, it was however also noted that “a good deal of discontent existed among certain members because they were not allowed to use the machinery until they have become fairly dextrous with hand tools”. Sharpening of tools was still a difficulty, although it was thought the purchase of a gas-engine to drive the grindstone could prove useful.



1925 - 100 Years Ago

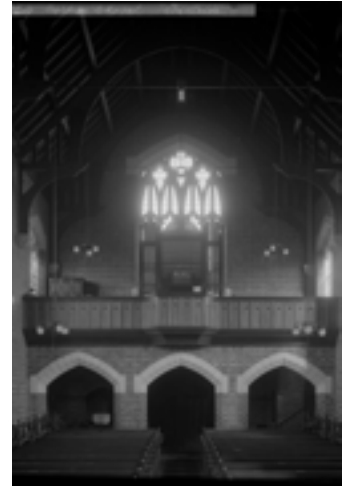
Golf Course

A four-hole golf course was opened “on the piece of broken country lying between the House gardens and the new road. Although not ideal in size, and with “many and exacting hazards, its existence is a tribute to the patience and industry of a few enthusiastic members of the School who for some months devoted all their leisure to the clearing and laying out of the ground.” It was noted that “Although they are very short links, they are sporting, and accuracy is required rather than length”.

Chapel Organ

The much-anticipated arrival of the new organ for the Chapel was preceded by the removal of the existing one, however “news came through one night towards the end of the second term that the steamer Kent on which the organ was packed, was “a raging inferno” in Auckland Harbour. The fire, however, was confined to one hold, and it was hoped that the organ was not damaged. The next we heard was that one case had been charred and that the rest were under water. Although the cases were water-tight, there was the danger that the heat might have melted the zinc lining. Beyond the fact that only the action, and not the pipes were on board, nothing more was learnt last term”.

“Official news came through that the complete action of the organ had been destroyed. The cases had become strongly heated, then the sudden contact with cold water had split them, and the contents had been literally boiled. The School suffered no financial loss; but Mr Lawton, the organ builder, will lose considerably, for he will have to return to Scotland, build another organ, and return to New Zealand with it. It will be six or nine months before we have a new organ”.



Old Organ in Chapel

Vice-Regal Visit

Governor General Sir Charles Fergusson and Lady Fergusson visited on 12 September; following an inspection of the guard of honour formed by 100 Senior Cadets and the Headmaster’s speech of welcome, His Excellency in reply mentioned that his wife’s two brothers had been educated at Collegiate School between 1893-97 while their father the Earl of Glasgow was Governor of NZ. (The name of the oldest son, the Hon James Boyle, appears on the honours board in Big School which lists names of the 700+ former students who served in World War I. While a captain in the Royal Scots Fusiliers, he died during the First Battle of Ypres in October 1914).

Interhouse Drill Competition: Musketry was carried out on the asphalt before the Chapel, the Physical Training in the Gymnasium and the Platoon Drill on the cricket field. Harvey came first, with Grey second by half a mark. Selwyn (third) and Hadfield (fourth) were also separated by half a mark. As Harvey consisted mostly of first year boys, they deserve congratulations on their success. Day Boys did not compete as their numbers were too small.

Wanganui Woollen Mills visit: “We went through in batches of 20, starting with the raw wool in bales, and ending with the finished articles, such as blankets and rugs. It was extremely interesting” - an especially pertinent outing, as many students had rural backgrounds and practical knowledge of the raw product prior to its processing at the Mill.

A Plaintive Plea from a Student re Morning Runs: “Dear Sir. I give in. We still continue to do a morning

run. I am fading away; every day I grow weaker and weaker. I can count my ribs - I have seven on each side, and the two bottom ones are caving in. The contents of my abdomen are out of place. When I run I no longer sound like a human being, but like a very antiquated Ford car. I hope, in a way, that someday I will explode, or implode, during my morning run; then, perhaps, the School authorities will be convinced by my words, and will save the rest of the School from a similar fate, by abolishing this absurd early morning exercise. I remain, yours truly, a Health-broken Sprinter”.

1950 – 75 Years Ago



Gymnasium

Having been declared unsafe, the gym was to be demolished by the year's end. Built in 1879 as the original Big School at the Victoria Avenue site, it was then relocated to the Liverpool Street site in 1912 to provide gymnasium facilities (Headmasters House in background).

Library

An Education Department inspection team made constructive suggestions for improvements, one being that “the Library should be used for regular instruction in its proper use”.



Dramatic Society

T S Eliot's *Murder in the Cathedral* was performed, with **Michael Godfrey (S 1947-51)** as Archbishop Thomas Becket. The School Chapel formed a fitting background for the production to deliver the author's message - through Becket, he made clear to us that “in spiritual matters there must be no compromise - a lesson he felt particularly applicable to the present day”.

School Centenary, Easter 1954

A Central Committee was being set up to plan this most important event four years hence.

Cadets

The objectives of cadet training were stated as being (1) To give as many boys as possible the opportunity of taking responsibility & of leading (2) To provide a military background (3) To give training in basic military matters such as drill, rifle and L.M.G. (4) To allow a few boys with special aptitude to develop that aptitude, e.g., signals.

Scouts

At the end of November the whole Troop went to Raorikia for three days, with the 5th and 6th Form Scouts will staying for a week. Part of the proposed programme consists of building a raft and bridge, day and night hiking, mapping the camp area and making records of weather, stars, flora, fauna and aircraft.

In June the three King's Scouts of the Troop were presented with their Royal Certificates by the Dominion Chief Scout at the annual meeting of the Local Association. An honour for the School Troop came when **A R McWilliam (G 1947-50)** was selected for the small NZ contingent to attend the International Jamboree in Austria in 1951.

Debating

The Senior and Junior Debating Clubs had another good season; the moot for the final of the Junior Debate was “That cinema has an adverse effect on one's reading” while the Senior finalists debated that “A nation's culture is of more value than its commerce”.

1966 - 60 Years Ago



We recall here the tragedy of 9 January 1966 when four WCS boys died while yachting on the unpredictable waters of Lake Taupo; **Stephen**

Kennedy, Robert Russell and Gavin Sedcole - had left WCS at the end of 1965, while **John Bradley** was due back for his 7th form year. The funeral service for the boys was held in the School Chapel. Sadly, Gavin Sedcole was never found.

1975 - 50 Years Ago

Tributes were paid following the deaths of **J W Macky (G, 1938-53)**, Board of Trustees member and Old Boys President for three years, who was described as “having a deep affection for his old School and a strong sense of obligation to serve her interests”; and **D R Bowie** who, although not an Old Boy, nevertheless had served as a Trustee since 1965. (The Bowie family service to WCS continues to this day; Doug’s daughter Liz (Polson) was a Trustee on the College Board 1994-2004 (Chair 2000-04), while grandson **Jason Bowie (M 1985-89)** currently chairs the College Board).

University Entrance Accreditees

A programme was arranged for those boys who did not need to sit the UE examination but were still required to attend school. They toured the RNZAF base at Ohakea, inspected forestry sand-dune reclamation at Santoft, in the Wellington area underwent a social education course, and attended a variety of commercial, industrial, social and cultural visits. Back at School they assisted Mr McNab run Year 9 & 10 athletic contests then took part in Mr Martel’s leadership course to prepare them for their 5th year responsibilities.

Gil Barnitt (Hy 1971-75) won the Morison Cup as “Best All Round Athlete”, playing 1st XI cricket & 1st XV rugby and becoming 1975 Senior Swimming Champion. (Gil is currently Strength and Conditioning Coach at WCS).



Flying

Three boys gained their private pilots’ licences during the year – **N W Iazard (Hy 1971-75)**, **C L Macky (G 1971-75)** & **P B McKay (Hy 1971-75)** – while

M Gower-James (G 1972-75) and **K R McKay (Hy 1972-75)** having gained student pilot licences were working towards their full qualification.

25 Years Ago – 2000

Rugby

The WCS Rugby Supporters’ Club was formed, under the guiding hand of OBGA President **Richard Bourne (M 1963-66)**, with former All Black **Andy Jefferd (S 1967-71)** as President and former Grey Housemaster and 1st XV coach from 1961-79 **Mr Jim Wallace** as Patron.

Empson House Closure

Having opened in 1967 with Peter Irvine at the helm, in 33 years Empson had seven Housemasters, nine Matrons and six Heads of School. In 2025 the complex currently provides accommodation for a number of Bishops House girls.

Multisport

A six-person team was entered in the Crater-to-Lake Challenge - from the Whakapapa Ski Slopes to Taupo township. Participating were **Pepita Fernandez** (Snow Skiing), **William Dickie** (Mountain Biking), **Miles McBain** (Road Cycling), **Jared Robertson** (Kayaking), **Scott Tait** (Water-skiing) and **Tom Osborne** (Running). Unfortunately wind conditions caused one metre waves on the Lake, so kayaking and water skiing legs were cancelled, and a second leg of road-cycling was substituted, followed by the 11.5km run into Taupo. WCS finished 4th in the School section and 34th overall.



Richard Bourne Chairman

Frances Gibbons Museum Archivist



1927 Boarders



1922 1st XV



Dedication



Under Construction



St George's School Celebrating their Centenary in 2027

Our Museum also houses historical photos, items and memorabilia of St George's School; we have been busy scanning old photos with a view to having them all in digital format in time for the Centenary in 2027.



[For Centenary Celebration Information click HERE or SCAN QR](#)



St Georges Prints For Sale

Size: 480x160
Unmounted \$35
Plus P & P

Funds to the
WCS Museum Trust



Inquiries and orders to museum@collegiate.school.nz



St Georges "Chronicle" We hold a collection of Chronicles from issue No1 in 1930, but are missing the following years - 1932, 33, 41, 45, 48, 58, 79, 80, 81, 2014-24.

Should any St Georges Old Boy or Girl families have copies of those years please let us know museum@collegiate.school.nz



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