An aerial photograph of the Waitara High School campus and its surrounding environment. The school buildings, featuring white walls and red roofs, are situated on a green hillside. A large, winding river flows through the landscape, with a bridge crossing it in the upper left. The foreground shows a parking lot and a road. The overall scene is lush and green, with various trees and fields scattered throughout.

Waitara High School Jubilee

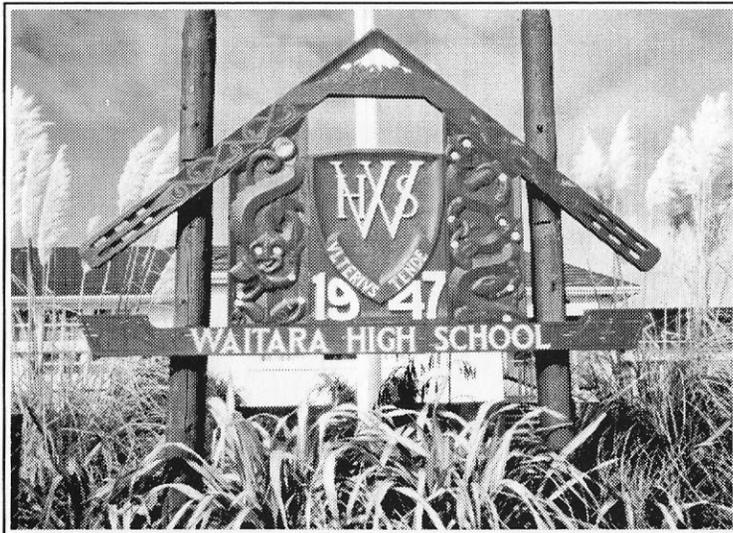
1947 ~ 1997

WAITARA HIGH SCHOOL



JUBILEE

1947 - 1997



FOREWORD

Our lives are based on relationships. These start before we begin school, with family, friends, people we meet as we grow and develop.

At five we start school and new relationships begin, with school friends, teachers, neighbours.

At eleven, it is on to intermediate and, then the "big one", high school.

Along each step of our journey, our relationships have consolidated, extended and grown.

In the mid-eighties, Methanex New Zealand's two petrochemical plants, in the Waitara Valley and at Motunui, were constructed and brought into production. They were the neighbours to an already established high school - Waitara High.

After introductions a tentative relationship was started. In conjunction with the school, a formula was worked out so that the company could help the school students by making educational scholarships available on an annual basis.

For over ten years three scholarships have been awarded each year and Methanex has followed with interest the development of the recipients. Each one has completed his or her tertiary education and proceeded with a chosen career, be it in medicine, science or engineering. And, as each degree has been awarded, the relationship between school and industry has grown closer.

Waitara High School can take pride in the achievements of its students. As a neighbour who has grown into a friend, Methanex too takes pride in these achievements. And just as friends share good times and bad, Methanex has enjoyed wonderful moments with the Maori culture group, Te Roopu Kapahaka O Waitara, but it has also tried to help when the school has suffered as in the library fire several years ago.

Through the ups and the downs the school has gone on to grow and develop into the excellent educational provider it is today. Over the last fifty years its students have achieved well in all fields and we know that this will continue over the next fifty.

We also hope that the relationship which has developed between the school and the company will continue to grow as we go forward into the next century.

JOHN LINTON
Managing Director
METHANEX NEW ZEALAND LIMITED



THE CHAIRPERSON BOARD OF TRUSTEES

With a very successful reunion now over, I am sure each of us can only say, "What a great weekend". We met with old school mates and reflected on the past years at Waitara High School which contained many happy memories, a few mischievous ones, and hopefully, not too many unhappy ones.

Over the past fifty years we have had Governments which keep changing the education system, at times causing a lot of frustration and hard work for Staff and Boards

One major change was in 1989 when the Board of Governors became the Board of Trustees. This put extra responsibilities on Boards for the running of the schools. Due to the dedicated board members this has not proved to be too much of a problem for our Board

At Waitara High School an environment has been established where each student can recognise, accept and strive toward personal excellence, in academic, physical, cultural and social learning. Our dedicated staff have always had a significant input into the lives and education of the students.

We can be justifiably proud of our Maori Culture Group, Te Roopu Kapahaka O Waitara, for the mana and enjoyment they have brought to our school. They have won many competitions, the most recent being at the National Maori Culture Festival at Manu-Ariki, where they won the intermediate and senior trophies. The present Culture Group was established in 1994 and I trust that it will continue to bring many more years of mana to our school.

Sports have always featured highly in the school with many gaining success, both as individuals and teams. Without the commitment and support of the students, staff and community, the high level of achievement in sporting activities would not be possible. Many past and present students have brought much pride to our school and community through their achievements.

I am proud to be an old boy of the school and it is a pleasure to serve on the Board of Trustees. I wish Waitara High School every success for the future and look forward to meeting many of you again at our next reunion.

TERRY WELLS - Chairperson

THE PRINCIPAL WAITARA HIGH SCHOOL

As the Principal of Waitara High School for the last two years it was a pleasure, but also a humbling experience to welcome so many students back to Waitara High School for the 50th Jubilee.

Over the last fifty years Waitara has had few Principals - all have left their mark in different ways. Most who attended the Jubilee were students in the eras of the first three Principals; they came back into a school far different from the school they left.

The nature of education has changed markedly over the last eight years with the introduction of the Tomorrow's Schools concept and the subsequent competitive educational environment. Waitara has had to deal with the loss of major employers (Affco and Subaru being the main ones) and the ongoing negative perception of our town from those who live out-of it.

Despite these factors the characteristics you admired and respected when you were at Waitara High School are still here. Waitara High School continues to have a presence in Taranaki that is greater than its roll would suggest - perhaps this is due to the Waitara spirit.

In welcoming you back to your school it is an opportunity for me to acknowledge and thank you for the contributions you made as students to make this school what it is today. Our reputation is based in part on what you achieved.

Best wishes

H CAST - Principal

As many of the early school records including the Waitara District High School log-book were destroyed in the 1989 fire, some early information about the School has been lost. To fill the gaps this Jubilee booklet includes a section tracing and recording the more important changes and developments within the School during its first fifty years.

The task was made more difficult by the absence of a school magazine until 1956. The period 1947 - 55 has therefore been reconstructed from old sports photos, newspaper clippings and the recollection of people who were at school during that time.

Help received from the following is gratefully acknowledged:

- The New Plymouth and Waitara libraries for access to newspaper records.
- The Waitara Public Relations Office.
- Parents and ex-pupils who provided biographical information on Synfuel, Petralgas and Methanex Bursary winners.
- Those who contributed articles to this booklet.
- Old pupils who produced school photos and documents, racked their brains to recall or confirm dimly remembered events, and checked the final draft.
- Diane Watts, Mac Telfar and Peter Savage for assistance with the 1970 - 96 section.
- Methanex New Zealand Limited for the very substantial contribution made towards the cost of printing this booklet.

HUGH WALLACE

THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE SCHOOL

In 1945 the New Zealand school leaving age was raised to fifteen years, effectively meaning that almost all children leaving primary or intermediate schools would continue to some form of secondary education. To accommodate the increased numbers additional secondary schools were planned, and the Waitara School Committee, long dissatisfied with an arrangement which required Waitara pupils to travel by bus to New Plymouth secondary schools, resolved to apply for the establishment of a district high school combining the existing primary school with a new secondary department located on a new site on the eastern side of the river.

The Committee's efforts were successful and in February 1947, in a building consisting of five classrooms, laboratory, general purposes room, staff room and headmaster's office, the new secondary department opened with a roll of 121, the majority being third formers with a small number of fourth and fifth formers who had transferred from other schools.

To lead the new School the Education Board appointed Mr E W P Massey, previously Headmaster of the Tologa Bay D.H.S., with a staff of Lionel Meiklejohn (Senior Secondary Assistant), Ruth Day, Florence Harding, Cliff Crossman, Hugh Wallace and, for a brief time, Lesley Coleman. Later Barbara Jury joined the staff to teach commercial subjects. As caretaker the Committee appointed Norm Denton.

The School's catchment area was Waitara, the area north of Waitara, Tikorangi, Huirangi, Waiongona, Lepperton and Sentry Hill districts.

The story that the School lacked even chalk on the first day is well known. This was an oversight and quickly remedied, but the lack of equipment and facilities was very real.

The builders had been hard pressed to have five classrooms ready for that first day. Blackboards were still being installed in some rooms as pupils assembled, and of the rest of the interior only the headmaster's office, cloakrooms and toilet blocks were completed.

The design of the School is indicative of what was considered important in secondary education at that time. The classrooms, designed for 'chalk and talk' - style teaching were excellent, but there were no changing rooms or showers, no provision for storing sports gear or physical education equipment, no recognition in fact that sport and sports teams were a major part of secondary school life.

There was no main office and, until 1948, no clerical assistant. When a part-time appointment was made, the lady had a desk in the medical room as there was no other space for her.

There were, however, two substantial open buildings, now demolished, at the rear of the School, modelled on primary school shelter sheds. Never used for this purpose, they were quickly converted into a physical education store, an armoury and a cricket shed.

The list of equipment initially issued by the Department of Education is equally revealing.

science	a basic set of laboratory equipment.
music	a piano
physical education	Swedish benches, box horse, mats, cane hoops, rubber balls, medicine balls
typing	two typewriters
art	crayons, brushes, paint, paper
English	several class sets
library	several reference books
agriculture	spades, forks, shovels, hoes, rakes
general	hand bell, clocks, office typewriter, registers

In subsequent years as the School grew additional equipment was received from the Department, and other equipment including sports gear was purchased from locally raised money. Until the library was established, however, pupils were dependent on their textbooks for most of their background reading and reference material.

COURSES

For all third and fourth form pupils there was a common core of subjects:

English, social studies, general science, mathematics (full or core), music, art and craft, physical education and health.

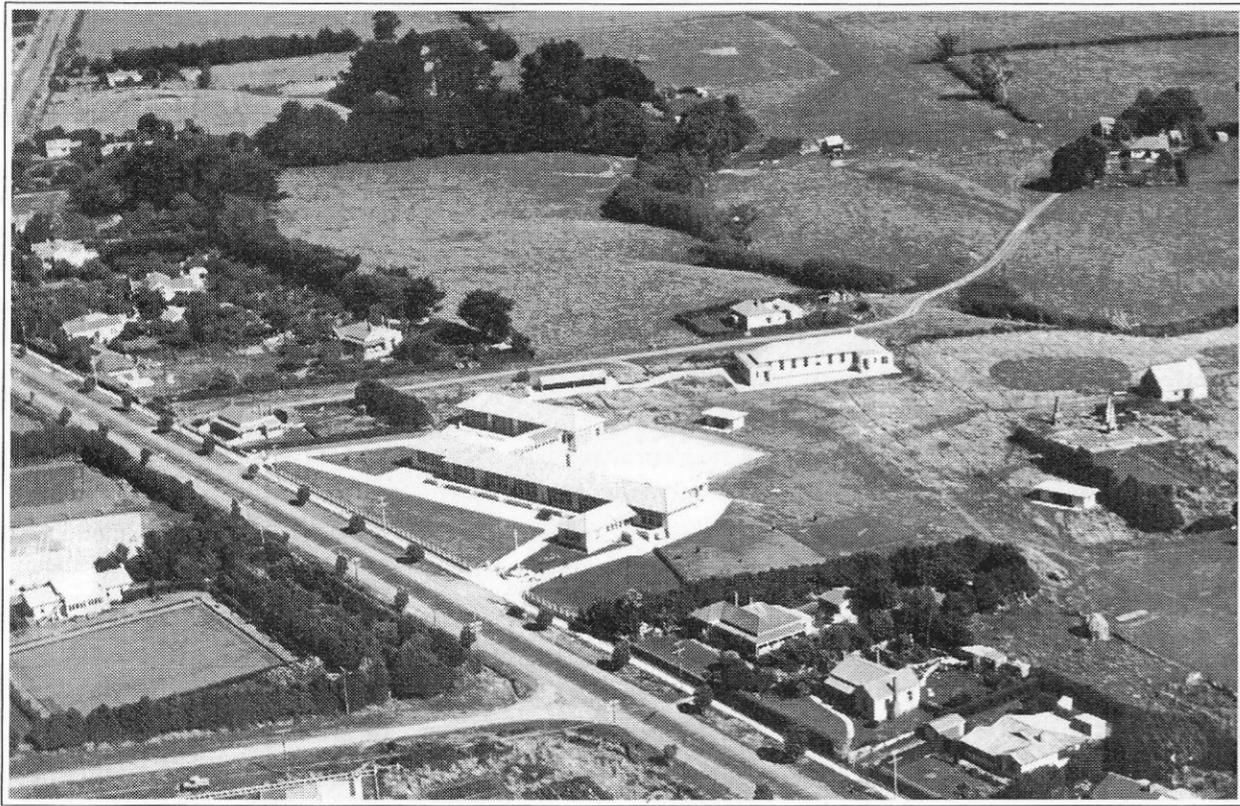
Pupils could then select from a number of options:

Latin, French, book-keeping, shorthand, typing, homecraft, woodwork, agriculture.

UNIFORM

The original uniform was navy blue gym, white blouse, School jersey and tie, black stockings, beret with badge for girls; navy blue flannel shirt, shorts, socks, School jersey, cap with badge for boys. A Donegal tweed sports coat was optional for winter.

School rugby jerseys were unprocurable in 1947. Surplus army singlets were all that could be obtained. Dyed blue, they only just held together, with much patching and stitching until the end of the season.



The School 1949.

The old house has just been demolished but the shed and chimneys are still standing.
The area in the front of the School has been developed but the ground at the rear is still rough paddock.

THE SCHOOL BADGE

The original School badge incorporated the letter W.D.H.S. on the dark blue and light blue background with the words *Ulterius Tende* which, translated from Latin, meant *Strive On* or *Strive Further*. The original intention had been to use an expression in Maori conveying the same or similar meaning but the suggested words were considered to be capable of more than one meaning.

When the district high school received full secondary status in 1954 some thought was given to a change of name. 'Clifton College' and 'North Taranaki High School' were briefly suggested, but there was strong support for retaining the word 'Waitara' to capitalise on the reputation the School already had achieved. The only changes were the omission of the word 'District' from the name and the 'D' from the badge.

THE FIRST PUPILS

There is a photo of the two youngest pupils, Marion Verry and Peter Blyde unlocking a classroom door as the first pupils to enter the School on the morning of February 3 1947, signifying the beginning of a new School.

Several hours earlier two third formers, Barry Graham and David Pryme had achieved their ambition of being the first pupils on site on the first day. Determined to succeed, they arrived at the front of the building at 7am only to be told they were far too early and that they should go home and return at 8.30. Undeterred, they approached the rear of the School through the pa grounds, and made their way over the area which is now a sports field. There, undisturbed they awaited the arrival of their future classmates.

The first year was one of innovation and improvisation. The main building was completed by June and as war restrictions on building materials were relaxed, concrete access ways and terraces were poured. Norm Denton, the Caretaker, assisted by groups of pupils, began the task of laying down the lawns. Building activities were soon to resume, however. Before the end of the year government approval was received for a new wing to provide three classrooms and a library, and a second approval was given for a free-standing block containing woodwork and homecraft rooms.

Sporting activities began on the first day, with pick handles for cricket and softball bats until a basic set of equipment could be obtained.

Softball, cricket, tennis, rugby and basketball (now renamed netball) were played during sports periods, the Clifton Park and Raukura Tennis Clubs generously making their courts available and the Borough Council allowing the School full use of two fields on the Pound Corner.

Two basketball, two rugby and a cricket team were entered in Saturday competitions. All performed creditably with the School seventh grade rugby team having the distinction of winning for the School its first Taranaki title. The first inter-school fixture was a visit from Opunake District High School on July 16 and games were played against Stratford Technical High School on July 30.

On establishment the School had been issued with a basic set of equipment. This did not include sports gear, grounds equipment or audio-visual material.

On June 13 the School Committee launched a public appeal for funds. The response from the community was generous. For example, every man employed at the freezing works donated ten shillings from his pay, and in August £450 of the £630 raised was used to purchase a radiogram, a sound system wired to classrooms, a filmstrip projector and filmstrips, gramophone records and art prints. Sports equipment and reference books were bought subsequently.

Other events during this first year were:

- The formation of a cadet unit, with Ron Sinclair as CSM.
- The obtaining of a School bell from the Avonmore School which had been blitzed during the bombing of London.
- The introduction of after-school dancing classes.
- Approval for the building of a house for the Senior Secondary Assistant who had been living in two prefabricated huts on the lower ground.
- All schools closed on December 1 as a precaution against a polio epidemic. Pupils were required to return individually, hand in books, and not congregate.

Monty

Motorists travelling to New Plymouth on the morning of July 25 1947 would have encountered a long stream of cyclists making their way to the entrance of the old New Plymouth Airport. The occasion was the arrival of Field Marshal Lord Montgomery, the redoubtable 'Monty' who had commanded the Eighth Army in the Desert Campaign.

As he was driven past the line of waving pupils he called out, "What School are you?" and "Is it a good School?" The enthusiastic response would have left him in no doubt about what Waitara District High School pupils thought of their new School.

1948

The epidemic delayed the opening of schools and correspondence work was set and marked for pupils.

The School was officially opened on April 20 by the Minister of Education, the Hon T H McCombs. As the day was wet the ceremony was held in the foyer with speeches relayed over the sound-system to pupils and parents seated in the classrooms.

Builders were on site throughout the year but the results more than compensated for any disruption caused. The new wing provided the classrooms required for the increased roll and the purpose-designed library accommodated the growing collection of books. An adjacent small room became the School's first typing room.

The completion of the woodwork and homecraft block brought Miss Bottrill and Mr Stead onto the staff. For the latter this was the beginning of an association with the School that was to last until his retirement in 1973.

As recognition that the district high school served a much wider community than Waitara an Advisory Committee with representation from country schools was set up. The Chairman was Mr V G Foreman.

Although the School roll comprised mainly third and fourth formers, sports teams began to make their mark on local competitions. The 1st XV won the fifth grade rugby competition, and the 1st XI the Taranaki junior cricket title. A second team was entered to cater for all the boys wanting to play cricket. Three basketball teams competed in the Waitara division, playing under house colours.

1948 saw the formation within the School of a Young Farmers' Club with membership from boys in the agriculture course.

1949

The original third formers were now fifth formers and in sport the added experience and maturity showed. 1949 was an outstanding year for School sport. Three basketball and three rugby teams were entered in the Saturday winter competitions. All played well, and the rugby enjoyed notable success. The 1st XV and 2nd XV won the fifth and sixth grade titles respectively and the eighth grade team was runner-up, being beaten narrowly in the final decisive game. The 1st XI Cricket was promoted to play in the senior grade of the North Taranaki Country division. The experience this team gained from playing at this higher level was reflected in good wins over Opunake District High School and the New Plymouth Boys' High School 2nd XI. Softball was so popular that during sports periods games were played between Maori and Pakeha teams from which the School teams to play inter-school matches were selected.

The School still lacked its own sports fields. Frustrated by lack of government action, parents, staff and pupils worked to fill and level the lower field so that some use could be made of it. The full development of the sports grounds came a step nearer when at the end of the year the old house in the middle of the site was demolished.

The Prime Minister, the Rt Hon P Fraser, who was attending a ceremony welcoming home Sir Peter Buck, paid an unexpected visit to the School and stated that he was well pleased with what he had seen.

The Brixton Football Club gave £11 to the School and requested that the money be used to purchase books for the library.

1950

Increases in the roll were causing problems with accommodation in the primary department. To overcome the difficulty Forms 1 and 2 were designated an intermediate department and located in the recently completed south-east wing of the secondary school. Planning began immediately for a new secondary block containing two classrooms, a typing room and a chemistry laboratory. Construction began later in the year.

Soccer was introduced as an option on sports afternoons and the first steeplechase was run over adjacent farms.

The 'A' Basketball team playing in the adult grade was runner-up in the Waitara division, and the 2nd XV Rugby

again won the sixth grade convincingly. The 1st XV was entered in the fourth grade for the first time and although it played attractive rugby, it was not placed.

Waitara students were showing a real aptitude for softball. Playing in a tournament at Kai-iwi the girls' team caused some amusement in their uniform of rompers, white blouse and tie but amusement changed to respect as they went on to win the title.

A Waitara High School Old Boys' Cricket Club was formed and completed a successful season.

Also successful was the School Young Farmers' Club debating team which won the local debating cup and the Wellington provincial shield. Three members of the team, Barry Bishop, Peter Blyde and Don Ashley secured the top three places for individual speakers.

By the end of 1950 the original intake of pupils had passed through the School. For four years they had been the senior forms and by their attitudes and achievements on the sports fields and academically they had established the reputation that 'Waitara was a good School'.

1951

In 1951 Waitara celebrated seventy-five years of primary education in the town. 1,500 people took part in celebrations which included a parade of past and present pupils, a drill display, and a dinner at the Manukorihī Pa. For secondary school-age pupils a dance was held in the Clifton Hall, which was destroyed by fire in the early hours of the following morning.

With the primary roll now 600 the Education Board began negotiations for the purchase of a site for a second primary school in Waitara.

On the secondary department site the new science lab block was completed and approval was finally received for the earthworks required to form the long awaited sports fields.

One result of the increasing secondary roll was that the School was entitled to a Careers Adviser. Mr C A Crossman was appointed to this position.

School teams continued to win championships. Successful this year were the 'A' Basketball which won the Junior Tournament and was again runner-up in the Waitara division, the 1st XV Rugby, and the 1st XI Cricket which won Taranaki honours.

The first inter-school visit to Taumarunui District High School was held, initiating what was to become for many students a highlight of the sporting year.

1952

In 1952 sixth form subjects were offered for the first time. Previously, successful students in the School Certificate examination wanting to continue their secondary education had travelled to New Plymouth Schools.

The agriculture course continued as a popular choice with boys; 63 of the 115 boys attending were enrolled in this course. The arrival of a prefabricated building allowed the School to equip it for the teaching of metalwork. With the appointment of Mr G Swindells the School was able to offer metalwork as an option to woodwork.

School-work was badly disrupted by a flu epidemic in August, one-third of the pupils and several teachers being absent at one stage.

1952 saw the introduction of rowing as a sports option, using facilities at the Waitara River. The only team to achieve championship honours that year was the 1st XV Rugby, again playing in the fifth grade.

Basketball (Netball) was well established with lower grade matches in the morning and 'A' and 'B' in the afternoon competitions. The School quadrangle was regarded as the Number 1 court.

The Cadet Unit provided an armed guard which stood with arms at the present while the Mayor read from the steps of the Council Chambers the proclamation announcing the accession to the throne of Queen Elizabeth the Second.

At the end of the year Mr C A Crossman left to take up the position of Senior Secondary Assistant at Okato D.H.S. His contribution to the School both in the classroom and on the sports field had been outstanding, and in recognition of his work and that of other foundation staff members the Home and School Association decided to donate annually six prizes, each bearing the name of a staff member.

The Swimming Session That Could Have Ended In Tragedy

Until the Waitara community baths were built the School lacked facilities for swimming.

Cadets using the rifle range above Birdling's Bay sometimes managed a swim at the beach while waiting their turn to shoot. This practice stopped in 1952 after several boys were caught in a rip and only the strenuous efforts of the strong swimmers in the group avoided a possible tragedy.

1953

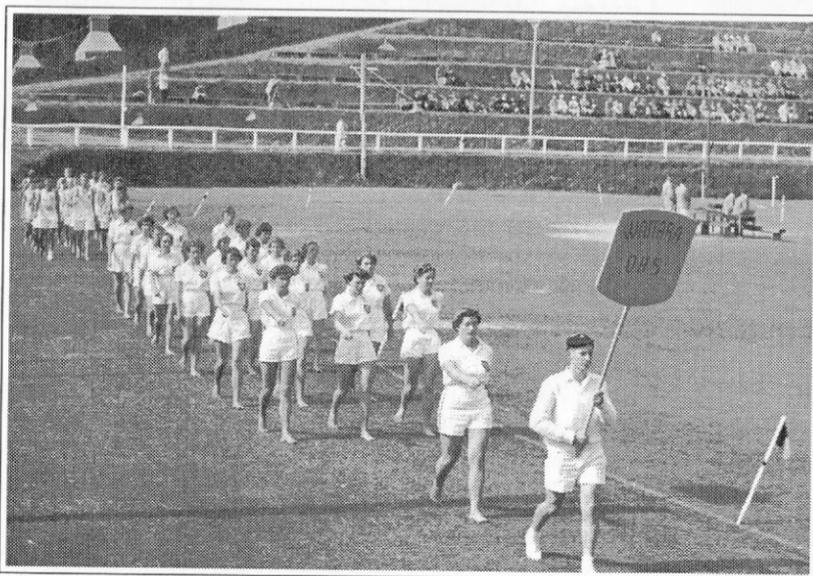
To commemorate the Queen's Coronation a native tree plantation was established between the western end of the lower field and the boundary. Donations of trees and money resulted in 130 trees being planted with the intention of further plantings in future years. The Coronation was marked also by the planting of a claret ash donated by the Waiongona W.D.F.F.

In July the School farewelled Miss Barbara Jury and thanked her for her work in setting up the commercial course and for her coaching of School sport.

The first Taranaki inter-secondary schools' athletic sports were held at Pukekura Park, Waitara being represented by a team of 41 athletes who performed creditably.

In October the School was informed that the district high school would be disestablished at the end of the year and that three new schools: Waitara High School, Waitara Central and Waitara East primary schools would be created. The news that Mr Massey had been selected to head the new high school was received with enthusiasm.

To mark the end of Waitara District High School a display of rhythmic and gymnastic activities was held culminating in a tableau forming W D H S.



The first Taranaki Secondary Schools' Athletic Championships 1953

1954

Waitara High School opened with a roll of 291 secondary and 120 intermediate pupils.

The new summer uniform which for girls was a saxe blue gingham pinafore dress and a white blouse with Peter Pan collar won praise from visitors and parents for its attractive appearance and suitability. For boys, lightweight khaki shirts and shorts replaced the navy blue uniform, and both boys and girls wore Roman sandals.

The original two cloakrooms were now quite inadequate for the number of teams using them. The Committee of Management decided that a sports pavilion with changing rooms, showers and storage below, and sports rooms above was required, a target of £800 was set, and fund-raising began.

The only team to achieve championship honours that year was the 1st XV Rugby.

In September an Old Boys' Reunion was held. In the curtain-raiser the 1st XV played a Clifton team, and in the main game a team of Waitara High School Old Boys played Opunake High School Old Boys. Between the two games, representatives of each of the seven 1st XV which had represented the School planted a tree on the embankment.

1955

In 1955 Waitara celebrated fifty years as a borough and the School's contribution to the Jubilee was a display of rhythmic exercises and a skipping ballet performed by girls, followed by gymnastic and balance routines from the boys. Finally a tableau revealing the word WAITARA was formed.

For several years the School had tried to gain approval for an assembly hall, but the government priority was classrooms. Hall plans had been prepared and the Committee of Management realised that changing rooms, showers and sports storage were included in that building. A decision was taken to postpone the pavilion scheme and divert all money raised to a hall fund. A target of £1500 was set and by the end of the year £1350 had been raised.

Gymnastics and athletics were added to the range of sports available during sports periods, and Otorohanga District High School paid its first visit to Waitara.

Three former pupils gained distinction. By graduating B.Sc Margaret Muir became the School's first university graduate, and Collier Henderson and Denis Yardley were selected in Taranaki cricket teams.

The Outdoor Gymnasium

Gymnastics were a popular part of the physical education programme and in the fifties the School had several excellent gymnasts. The development of this sport was hampered by the lack of a proper gymnasium with fixed gymnastic equipment. To compensate, on the grass area between the quadrangle and the upper field outdoor equipment consisting of a horizontal ladder, parallel and horizontal bars and a frame with climbing ropes (the gallows) was set up. A hardwood pole left after building operations was planed smooth and set in concrete as a greasy pole. One boy achieved fame by making a habit of shinning up this pole each morning before school and sitting nonchalantly on the top.

School activities were recorded for the first time in a School magazine. The School diary lists visits to a National Orchestra concert, a ballet, the New Zealand Players' performance of 'Twelfth Night', and a film 'The Living Desert'.

Despite the lack of a stage nine class plays were produced, and critically reviewed in the magazine.

Fund-raising for an assembly hall reached the target and the School was advised that its application would be considered when the 1957 building programme was being decided. The School's request for a music room was declined, the Department believing that the need for a third laboratory took precedence.

Two additional concrete courts were laid on Clifton Park, a prefabricated building was moved on site to serve as a dressmaking room, and tenders were called for a mower and tractor shed on the lower ground.

15 pupils from schools north of Mt Messenger were enrolled and the Education Board commented favourably on their regular attendance.

An ATC unit and a Signals unit were added to the Cadet Company and, after five years' negotiations, a miniature .22 rifle range was built on the edge of the No 2 field.

Sporting achievements were:

- 1st XI Cricket winning the North Taranaki Country and Taranaki Junior Championships.
- 'A' Softball team remaining unbeaten in inter-school games.
- 'A' Basketball team playing at Senior A level, and
- 1st XI Soccer, promoted to Senior B grade, having a good win over Hawera High School.

A fifth former, Cyril Tamati was placed second in a national poster art competition, and two old pupils, Peter Lucas and Colin Kennedy had the distinction of becoming the School's first Olympic representative, and winning the prestigious Albert Portvin medal at the University of the Sorbonne Paris, respectively.

During the year Miss Ruth Day, who had been one of the foundation staff members, retired. As Senior Assistant Mistress she had been responsible for organising activities for girls and for the School music programme. Past pupils remember her for her enthusiasm and her insistence on high standards in work, dress and behaviour, which did much to establish the tone of the School during its first decade.

As S.A.M. Miss Day was succeeded by Mrs L B Howard.

The 1957 magazine recorded further School visits to the National Orchestra and to Shakespearian productions, 'Richard III' and 'Merchant of Venice', the formation of a camera club, and the achievement of the Cadet Unit in being awarded 'honours' for its performance in the Press Challenge Shield shooting competition.

The perpetuate the memory of Sir Peter Buck a medal was presented to the School to be awarded annually to the School Dux. The first award was to the 1957 Dux Shirly Squire.

The School fielded seven rugby, seven basketball and two soccer teams in winter sports competitions. Championship honours were won by 1st XI Soccer and the 1st XV and Sixth Grade rugby teams.

In August the 'A' Basketball and 1st XV Rugby travelled to Ohakune to inaugurate an annual fixture with Ruapehu College.

The new wing containing metalwork, draughting, geography rooms and an additional classroom came into use during the year, providing very much improved facilities for these subject areas.

In October the long-awaited approval for the construction of an assembly hall was finally received, and the digging of foundations began two days later. This good news was followed almost immediately by the announcement that the School was to be provided with another block containing a library, typing room, classroom, and art and craft room. Both contracts included linking the new buildings to the existing school and provided additional office and ancillary space.

A Waitara High School Old Pupils' Association was formed at a meeting on December 2. Peter Blyde was elected President, Eileen Foreman and Bob Hutchinson (Vice-Presidents) and Ken Bedford (Secretary).

Club activities recorded in the 1958 magazine included the Crusader group (guest speakers, films and end-of-term socials) and the Young Farmers' Club (visits, debates, public speaking).

The School magazine had this to say about School sport:

'The 1958 season must rank as one of the most successful in the history of the School. The improved performances and the new records established at the School athletic sports indicate that better facilities and more intensive training are producing results. Cricket in the School also reached a high standard. The 1st XI developed into a formidable team, strong in batting and spin bowling. The ease with which it won the Taranaki semi-final and final indicates this was one of our best years.

The School has always had strong rugby teams and this year the 1st XV established an unbeaten record and took Taranaki honours. The 'A' basketball team won all its inter-school fixtures convincingly. Hockey, a new sport this year, made a promising start and should develop into a major sport'.

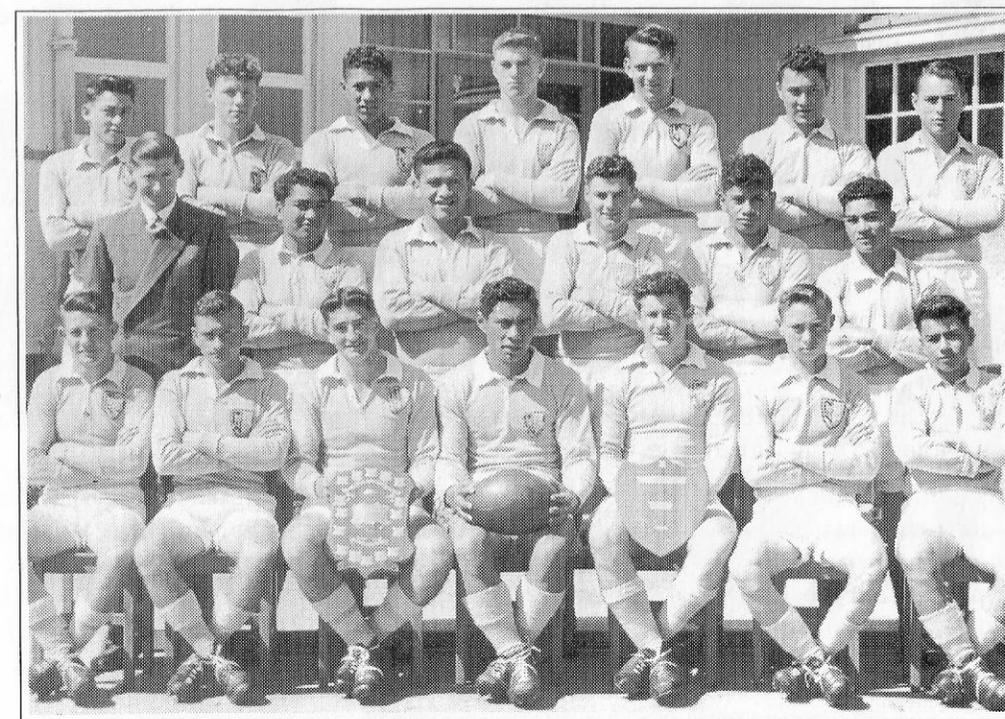
Similar success was achieved by the girls' softball and the tennis teams which won all their inter-school matches.

Several School players achieved representative honours. Tom Tamati and John Prout were selected for New Zealand A.T.C. rugby team.

Moana Tamati and Nancy Glassford represented Taranaki in the Minor Reserve Grade basketball team.

Tony McGreal, Neville Richards, Maurice Limmer and Whare Bailey were lower grade Taranaki soccer representatives.

1st XV 1958
Winners Taranaki Fourth Grade Championship



Back Row: H Knuckey, L Crofskey, W Bailey, S McGregor, L Sampson, S Bertrand, J Chard
Middle Row: Mr H L Wallace (Coach), B Kupe, K Matuku, R Baker, T Waru, J Kupe
Sitting: T Kettle, N Adlam, B Sampson (Vice-Captain), T Tamati (Captain), G Verry, G Wallace, T Skelton
Absent: J Prout

School Dances

Before the assembly hall was built School dances and socials were held in a variety of places. Older pupils will remember School dances in the St John's Hall, Clifton Hall and Manukorihi meeting house. Socials for visiting teams were often held in rooms at the School, the art room, geography room, and woodwork room all serving this purpose on more than one occasion.

1959

'The year 1959 will go down in the history of Waitara High School as a period of great building expansion. From opening day in February until the present date we have had continuously with us craftsmen representing many trades' - the Headmaster's foreword to the 1959 School magazine.

The high point of the year was the opening of the assembly hall by the Minister of Education, the Hon P O Skoglund on December 3rd. This was the culmination of years of fund-raising and persistent effort to obtain a much needed amenity. Fittingly it was named the Massey Hall in appreciation of Mr Massey's guidance and leadership during the School's formative years.

Although officially opened at the end of the year, the School had begun to use it from the end of the second term. The first function was the Arbor Day ceremony, later Sir Edmund Hillary addressed a School assembly, and the first School dance was held there on October 9th. This brought to an end the School's use of the Manukorihi meeting house for School dances.

At the end of the year the Old Pupils' Association, encouraged by the response to two dances held earlier, organised its first ball in the new hall.

1959 was the year of the introduction of the free textbook scheme for secondary schools.

The Cadet Unit achieved the distinction of being selected as Area 8 Most Efficient Unit for 1959 and competed against other area winners for the Riddiford Gold Cup.

Distinction in sport was recognised by the award of royal blue sports blazers, and for girls, proficiency in physical education activities brought the award of physical education colours.

Waitara High School was well represented in winter Saturday competitions by ten basketball, two hockey, eight rugby and two soccer teams.

Tennis was a popular summer sport. To cater for the demand padder tennis courts were marked, and tennis players had a sequence of padder tennis, umpiring, coaching and court work.

Those School Buses

For many pupils the School day began and ended on a school bus. About half the School roll travelled by bus, and bus timetables limited extra-curricular activities for many country pupils.

Those living north of Uruti had the longest journey, some leaving home about 7am to catch the Awakino bus. The distances some children travelled daily caused concern, particularly in winter, and for some years a hot drink or soup was provided for them on arrival. Despite the distances, the Taranaki Education Board was able to report in 1956 that fifteen pupils from schools north of Mt Messenger were enrolled and their regular attendance was favourably commented on.

For rugby teams, travelling on Bob Ham's or Johnny Hills' bus for away games was an integral part of School rugby.

Until 1969 buses loaded and unloaded outside the main gates. In wet weather or heavy traffic this could be both unpleasant and hazardous. The construction of off-road, covered loading bays adjacent to the gymnasium was a major improvement.

1960

The School opened with a roll of 439 (secondary) and 240 (intermediate).

Setting up the assembly hall and new classroom block was a priority. Hall furnishings included stage curtains, lighting, a grand piano, and an oak refectory table and chairs. The oak lectern was donated by Mr and Mrs V G Foreman.

Commissioning the new library was greatly expedited by the appointment of Mrs J Allen as Library Assistant, and, for the first time, there was space to display loan collections, magazines, newspapers and careers material.

The exterior and interior painting of the older blocks to match the new buildings greatly enhanced the appearance of the School. This was followed by the laying of lawns and planting of trees, shrubs and rose beds, many of the plants being donated by friends of the School.

New developments during 1960 were the formation of a drama club, the introduction at Form 4 level of a Waitara High School Certificate of Attainment as a goal and qualification for pupils in the junior school, and the revival of the School Steeplechase as an annual fixture in the sports programme.

The outstanding sporting achievement of the year was the performance of the 'A' Basketball team which was unbeaten during the season, winning the Taranaki Senior 'A' Championship, the Secondary Schools' Tournament, and the Waitara 'A' Grading Day and Championship Cups.

Raewyn Skelton and Kirsty Meiklejohn represented Taranaki in inter-provincial tournaments.

In athletics the outstanding performer was Helen Graham who dominated the School athletics event and achieved four 'firsts' in the Taranaki Inter-Secondary Schools' meeting. At that event Brian Maxwell showed that he was a promising athlete by winning three events in the Junior Boys' section.

For tennis players the long dependence on club courts ended with the construction of three sealed courts on the Clifton Park area.

"A BASKETBALL TEAM, 1960
Winners Taranaki Senior "A" Basketball Championship



Ada Edwin, Eileen Skipper, Helen Graham, Maureen Keith, Lorraine Limmer,
Kirsty Meiklejohn (Vice Captain), Miss G Pennington (Coach), Raewyn Skelton (Captain).

Undefeated in all championship, club and inter-school matches 1960 season.
Won also: Waitara Senior "A" Division • Post-Primary Tournament • Waitara Senior Grading Day Tournament

With the increase in the School roll the School needed a third laboratory. The plans provided for a building with storage space underneath. It was quickly realised that with further excavation this area could provide additional changing rooms and showers. This was agreed to provided the School contributed £300 towards the extra cost.

New staff members were Mrs Merle Brownlie and Mr Jon Leitch, both old pupils, and Mr S Thompson. Mr John Orams transferred from the intermediate department to take charge of School music. Under his guidance the School choir was re-formed, instrumental groups were established and the School took part in the Taranaki Schools' Music Festival.

A Maori Club with Miss Joy Wilson as teacher-in-charge was formed and participated in the end-of-year concert.

1961 saw the introduction of 'steaming' third form pupils in English, Social Studies and General Science. Remedial help for those with learning difficulties was provided.

At the end of the year four Maori students applied for entry to the carpentry training course, one of the programmes offered under the newly established Maori Trade Training Scheme.

James Rumbal won the provincial competition to design a ship's badge for the newly commissioned 'HMNZS TARANAKI'.

The outstanding sports team for 1961 was the 'A' Basketball team, runner-up in the Taranaki A grade and unbeaten in inter-school games.

At the end of the first term Mr Massey retired. He had guided the District High School, then on translation the High School through its first fifteen years. The School and community came together to acknowledge his leadership and express gratitude for his contribution to education.

His successor was Mr J F Sharkey, previously First Assistant at Hawera High School, who was welcomed to the School at a function organised by the Home and School Association.

During the year Mrs Howard resigned and Mrs J Bridgeman was appointed to that position. Other appointments were Dawn Pascoe and Mac Telfar, both ex-pupils.

A further development in School music was the formation of a brass band using instruments on loan from the Waitara Borough Council. By the end of the year sufficient progress had been made for the new unit to combine with the New Plymouth City Band in a public concert.

In sport changes were occurring. Earlier School teams were entered in local competitions playing against club or district teams. With the growth in the number of secondary schools inter-school competitions in athletics, cricket, steeplechasing and swimming had been introduced. In 1962 an inter-secondary rugby competition was started, although junior school teams continued to play in grade competitions.

Three members of the 1st XV: Kerry Lash, Joe Crow and Brian Maxwell were selected for the Taranaki Secondary Schools' Rugby team which visited Australia.

Ada Edwin represented Taranaki in the Major Reserve grade, and the Senior 'A' and 'Junior' teams captained by Maureen Keith and Adrienne Barlow respectively won Waitara Division titles.

As the number of boys interested in the ATC had fallen, this unit was disbanded and the remaining boys rejoined the army companies.



E.W.P. MASSEY
B.A. Dip Ed.

Headmaster
Waitara District High
School
1947 - 1953

Principal
Waitara High School
1954 - 1962

If there is one topic on which there is substantial agreement among the older group of former pupils it is that in Mr Massey the School had an outstanding headmaster. And it is always "Mr Massey" when they speak of him, no nickname, not "Ted Massey" even from staff who worked with him. What was there about this man who, in establishing a school, won the respect of a community, his staff, and that most discerning of all groups, his pupils?

Asked this question, former pupils mention a number of qualities, but the two which are heard most frequently are 'integrity' - there is respect for the standards he set and personally exemplified, and 'manner with people'. Unfailingly courteous when dealing with people regardless of their background and what they might or might not have done, he conveyed to people a feeling that they and their concerns were important to him.

In the 1962 School magazine one of his pupils wrote this tribute.

When Mr Massey retired from the Principalship of this School, he completed a service to education extending over forty-two years, the last fifteen of which were spent as Principal of this School. Formerly the Headmaster of Tologa Bay District High School, Mr Massey came to Waitara when the District High School was established in 1947, and when this School achieved full post-primary status in 1954, he became the first Principal.

Mr Massey's ability as an administrator was revealed first by the control and organisation of the District High School with its two departments set in different areas of the town, later by the administration of a rapidly growing High School. In the years when the staffing shortage was most acute, he undertook the added burden of class teaching.

Mr Massey's interest in plants and trees is shown in the School grounds. Originally farmland, they have been transformed by the planting of shelter belts, shrubs and flower beds. The native tree plantation, established to commemorate the coronation of Queen Elizabeth, is another expression of his deep interest in trees.

But it is neither as an administrator, nor as an enthusiast for plants and shrubs that pupils will primarily think of Mr Massey. They will remember him for the interest he took in them as individuals. Many he knew from the time they entered the infant department and he followed their progress with keen interest as they moved through his School. They recognised that he set high standards of conduct and they respected him for it. In wishing Mr and Mrs Massey health and happiness in their retirements, present and past pupils express gratitude for their services to this School.

PHYLLIS HOOPER, Form VI.

1963

The development of the School grounds continued with the purchase of the adjacent Jarvis property as a site for a future gymnasium, and the planting of a large number of flowering shrubs along the School frontage to improve the appearance and reduce road noise.

During the visit of the Governor General and Lady Fergusson the Cadet Unit mounted a guard of honour and the band played at the civic welcome.

Two vocational guidance evenings attended by parents and pupils and a vocational experience day which allowed senior pupils to work in offices, shops or with tradesmen were organised by the Waitara Rotary Club.

The School athletic sports was notable for the performance of the Maxwell brothers, Brian and Bill, who established new School records in the senior and junior 100 yards, 200 yards and 440 yards events.

The 'A' Hockey team won the North Taranaki competition and by drawing with Hawera shared the Taranaki title. Encouraged by this success the girls played in the Secondary Schoolgirls' tournament at Pukekohe.

The Cadet Unit R.S.M. W/O Darrell Simpson was selected to represent the New Zealand ATC on a trip to Malaya.

Several ex-pupils achieved national honours during the year.

John Major was selected in the 1963-4 All Black team to tour Britain and France.

Barry Stroud was a member of the Maori All Black team selected for a short tour of New Zealand.

Fred White toured Australia with the 1963 Kiwi League team.

Owen Clegg represented New Zealand at badminton on four occasions.

Other successful ex-pupils were Peter Weenink, awarded New Zealand Young Farmers field scholarship to the United States, and Warren Drake awarded a Fulbright Scholarship to study for a doctorate of philosophy in musicology in the United States.

The School farewelled three people who had contributed a great deal to its development: Mrs Power for her work as clerical assistant, Mrs Wallace as girls' careers adviser and coach of successful basketball teams, and Mr Nicholls as cadets officer and coach of rugby and hockey.

1964

Two changes welcomed by pupils were the decision to make the wearing of caps and berets optional, and the introduction of a mid-term break in July.

During the year the homecraft room was completely renovated, the space above the old boiler room converted to a textbook store, and the property adjacent to the Massey Hall purchased for future developments.

The opening of the town swimming baths allowed swimming to become once again a part of the sports programme. Table tennis, jogging and rowing were added to the range of sports options.

The 1964 magazine recorded with regret the disbandment of the Cadet Unit which for sixteen years had been an integral part of the School programme. It had carried out ceremonial duties on School and civic occasions and had introduced boys to a variety of forms of army training.

1965

The 1965 year opened on a high note academically.

A record number of passes in the 1964 School Certificate examination resulted in the largest ever sixth form, and University Entrance and Chamber of Commerce results exceeded expectations.

Fund-raising for a gymnasium began, the target being £4,500. By the end of the year, without recourse to a

direct appeal to the public, £1,470 had been raised.

1965 was the year of the 'Big Flood' and the School's involvement in the massive job of cleaning up the devastation.

Notable events in 1965 were:

- The introduction of a home-and-away fixture with Ngaruawahia High School to replace the Ruapehu College games.
- The production of the pantomime 'Robin Hood' involving 120 pupils on stage or back stage.
- A music festival with band, choirs, accordion band, instrumental items and bagpipes, and the inter-house music competition for the Fletcher Shield.
- An inter-school music visit with Spotswood College.
- The twelve-day tour of the South Island by a party of forty-six fifth form pupils and six adults during the May holidays.

At the end of the year Mr Meiklejohn retired, ending an association with the School dating from his appointment as Senior Secondary Assistant in 1947. In this position he had been responsible for day-to-day administration, he had commanded the Cadet Unit for sixteen years retiring with the rank of Major, and he had set up the agriculture course and the Young Farmers' Club.

As First Assistant he was succeeded by Mr Wallace.

Other staff members to leave were Mr J Leitch and Mr M Lina.

1966

Fund-raising for the gymnasium continued through 1966, £3,900 having been reached by the end of the year.

The School was alive with the sound of music. There was now a band with thirty-seven players, a newly formed orchestra, massed singing and individual items at assemblies, and School trips to musical events. A highlight of the year was the pantomime 'Alice in Wonderland' with a cast and stage crew of third and fourth formers.

The athletic sports saw Rosemary Old set four new School records, and Bill Maxwell and Bill White each set new figures in two events.

The 'A' Basketball team retained the title won in 1965 at the Inter-Secondary Schools' tournament, and was unbeaten in school matches.

Gymnastics under the guidance of Mr Gibson was a popular activity, especially after the purchase of a trampoline, while the introduction of a circuit system of coaching, umpiring, padder tennis and courtwork allowed boys to play tennis during sports periods. Boys' hockey moved ahead with the entry of a team in the Saturday competitions.

Two ex-pupils to achieve distinction were Kevin Bint, selected as the outstanding journeyman plumber in New Zealand, the travel grant and bursary awarded enabling him to study plumbing methods in Australia for a year; and Ross Henderson who won a New Zealand Craftsman Training Foundation Award entitling him to study mechanical design work in Australia.

1967

A very successful School gala enabled the gymnasium fund target of £4,500 to be reached exactly two years to the day the campaign was launched.

The School's growing reputation for music was further enhanced by the series of musical occasions: the Taranaki Music Festival, the Fletcher Shield House Competitions and the School Music Festival which was memorable for the quality of the performances, especially that of the choir singing 'Jonah - Man Jazz' and Negro spirituals. Outstanding progress was made by the orchestra which now had twenty-four members.

The magazine records the field trip and field study carried out by two fifth form classes as a practical exercise in

geographical research.

In sport, both basketball and rugby had good seasons. The 'A' and 'B' Basketball and 1st XV Rugby were unbeaten in inter-school matches, and during the visit to Taumarunui the 'A' team played an extra game against the Taumarunui representative side which was beaten 29 - 11 in a 'dazzling display of precision basketball'.

1968

Construction of the gymnasium and two additional classrooms was in progress with the prospect of transferring the woodwork room and creating a new dressmaking room.

A poster designed and painted by Evan Webb was selected for entry in the national World Understanding Week poster competition. It was chosen as one of the select few to be sent to the USA for final judging.

School successes in basketball continued with School teams winning all four grades in the Waitara division and both inter-school games. The 1st XI Cricket was unbeaten also in the 'A' grade secondary competition and Terry Heppell and Felix O'Carroll were selected for the Taranaki team.

Both the girls' and boys' Hockey teams won their grades, while the 1st XV Rugby developed 'into the most formidable team the School has fielded in recent years', helped by the 179 points scored by Terry Heppell.

Four staff members resigned to move to more senior positions.

Mr R E Brine, H.O.D. Science, took up the position of H.O.D. Mathematics at New Plymouth Boys' High School. Mr Brine had taught science and mathematics, and had coached rugby and 1st XI Cricket teams.

Mr J S Orams under whose guidance music had flourished was promoted to a Position of Responsibility Music at Otahuhu College.

Mr D W Hinch who had coached 1st XV Rugby, tennis and produced a number of pantomimes moved to H.O.D. Social Studies at Makora College.

Mr H L Wallace, a foundation member of staff and First Assistant who had taught English, French and physical education and coached 1st XI Cricket and 1st XV Rugby was appointed to the position of Principal, Huntly College.

1969

Despite initial staffing difficulties, 1969 was a successful year highlighted by the opening on November 12 of the new gymnasium by the Minister of Defence, the Hon D Thomson.

Built at a cost of \$49,609, of which \$17,368 was raised locally, the new building provided for physical education and indoor sporting activities an amenity which the School needed. Two immediate results were the introduction of indoor basketball and a gymnastics competition for girls.

The Commerce Department recorded excellent success rates in public examinations and the introduction of shorthand-typing as a sixth form option.

Three prominent New Zealand sportsmen: Bert Sutcliffe, Don Clarke and Peter Snell spoke to the assembled School before coaching groups of pupils in athletics and cricket.

Eleven new records were created in the School athletics sports with Bruce Newton setting three of them.

1969 was not an outstanding year for basketball or rugby but both the boys' and girls' 'A' Hockey team won Taranaki honours.

The guest speaker at Prizegiving was an old boy of the School, Dr Alan Poletti, Professor of Physics at the University of Auckland.

Mrs S Chittenden who had taught at the School for ten years resigned at the end of the year and Mr Norm Denton who as caretaker and jack-of-all-trades had developed the grounds, raised funds for School projects, coached cricket and soccer, and been a friend to staff and pupils for twenty-three years left for a well-earned retirement.

At the end of first term the Principal, Mr Sharkey retired after eight years at the School. His successor was Mr D F Audley.

The system of 'streaming' pupils on the basis of ability was modified in the third form, and sixth form committees took over duties previously carried out by prefects.

Four new records were set at the School swimming sports, three of them by Christine Limmer.

Peter Eliadis, physical education teacher, was selected for the New Zealand soccer team to play a test against Wales.



J F SHARKEY
M.B.E. M.A.

Principal
1962 - 1970

Mr Sharkey, who had previously been First Assistant at Hawera T.H.S., came to Waitara with the reputation of being a strict disciplinarian, a good organiser, and an outstanding teacher.

In the sixties schools were still judged by the public on their external examination results, the performances of their sports teams, and the standard of their discipline as evidenced by student dress and behaviour. Mr Sharkey attached importance to all three criteria, particularly to raising academic standards within the School and encouraging a wider range of cultural and sporting activities. He insisted that School rules be obeyed and although some pupils did not agree with his ideas, they admitted that "you always knew where you stood with Jim Sharkey".

Coming from a School and community with excellent facilities, he realised what an asset a gymnasium would be to this School. With characteristic energy and enthusiasm he launched the School on a fund-raising campaign which achieved its target in two years.

The sixties were difficult years in secondary education with many schools having problems in recruiting and retaining staff.

That Waitara High School emerged from this period in good shape is a tribute to Mr Sharkey's leadership and hard work.

Every school has had its 'characters', memorable for their colourful personalities, their enthusiasms or their idiosyncrasies.

Norm Denton, for twenty-three years caretaker, general factotum, sports coach and local identity was such a person, and there are many old pupils who remember him with respect and affection.

A Yorkshireman by birth and deeply proud of it, Norm was an enthusiast, happiest working with people, growing and creating things, playing and talking about sport, especially cricket. Within the role of caretaker he found scope for all these enthusiasms: forming lawns, gardens and playing areas out of rough paddocks, coaching junior cricket, soccer and rugby teams, and being involved in any activity that would improve the School or help pupils, whether it be lighting the boilers at 5am in winter or raising funds for another School project.

For two decades of pupils he was "Norm", dependable, totally loyal, good-humoured, perpetually optimistic, an essential part of the fabric of the School.

1971

Good coaching, improved facilities and keen competition combined to produce ten new athletics records. Brian Stokes went on to establish a new Taranaki school record in the intermediate 400 metres at the inter-secondary meeting.

The girls' cross-country event was keenly contested, and the team selected to represent the School had a convincing win in the inter-schools run.

The outstanding School swimmer was Dennis Jordan who broke two Waitara records and gained three placing in the Taranaki Championships.

Mr G F Swindells, who had joined the full-time staff in 1952, retired from the position of H.O.D. Trades. His success as a teacher of metalwork and technical drawing was evidenced by the high regard employers had for pupils trained at Waitara High School.

1972

The School celebrated its Silver Jubilee in May 1972 with an excellent attendance of more than 800 past pupils. It was a highly successful occasion with a reunion, games between past and present pupils, a ball, and a church service. The donation by old pupils of library books and overhead projectors was greatly appreciated. One outcome of this reunion was the formation of an Old Pupils' Association.

Sporting highlights that year were:

- The visit from Tongariro College, with Waitara winning all the games.
- Hosting the secondary schools' softball tournament and being undefeated in the Senior and Intermediate Boys' grades.
- A successful season for 1st XV Rugby with Dennis Watson, Phillip Jones and Peter White gaining selection for representative teams.
- The introduction of surfing as a School sport.

Early in the year Mr E Stead retired. He had joined the Staff in 1948, taught woodwork and technical drawing, coached cricket and soccer, and conducted the very popular evening classes in woodwork. His successor was Mr P. Lucas, an old boy of the School.

Other resignations were: Mrs J Summers who as library assistant, clerical assistant and teacher of commercial subjects had made a significant contribution to the School and Mr F M Hogg, Head of Commercial Department, who left to take up an appointment at Palmerston North.

1973 saw the School's first seventh form, the Maori Culture Club involvement in the ceremony marking the opening of the new Waitara River bridge, and the completion of conversions which relocated the dressmaking, geography and woodwork rooms.

The School enjoyed a very successful year in sport. Waitara won four, and was runner-up in the fifth, of the six divisions in the inter-secondary softball tournament.

At the North Island Secondary Schools' Athletics Championships John White won the Int. 200m sprint in the record time of 23.1 secs. and Des Fitzsimmons and Brian Stokes were placed in their events.

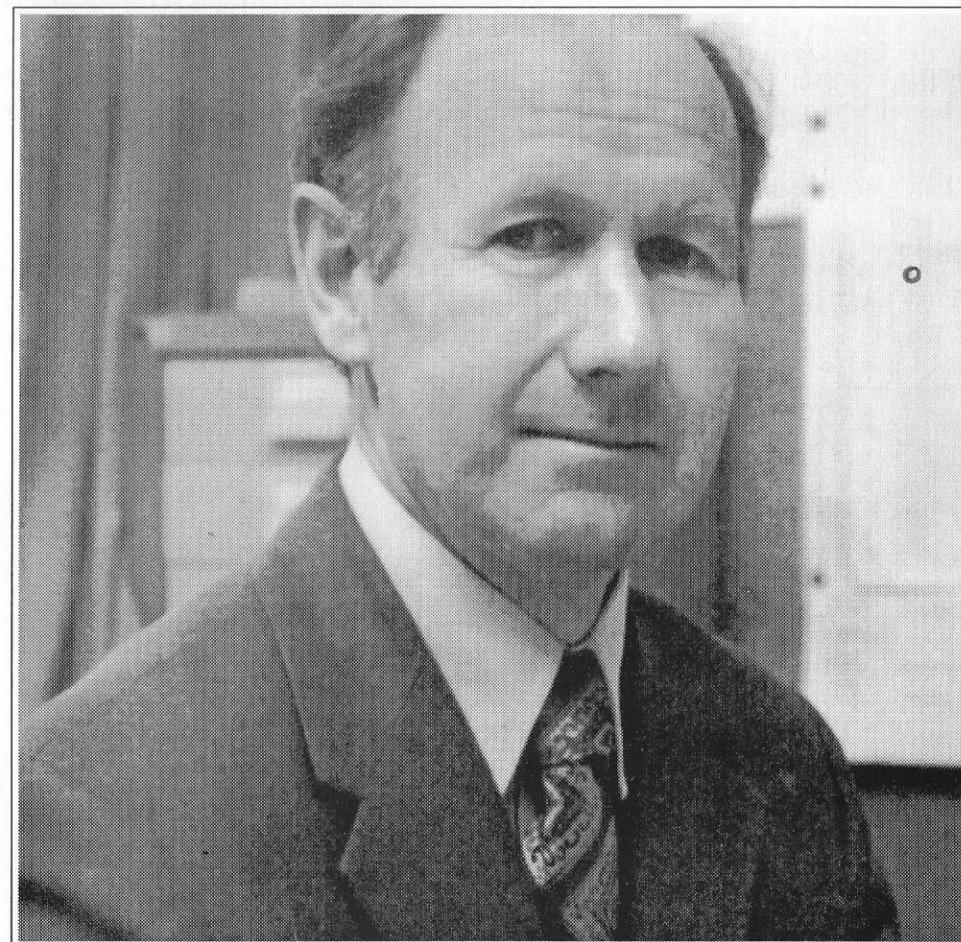
Des Fitzsimmons was successful also in winning the Senior Boys' event at the Taranaki Schools' cross-country meeting.

Competition winners in winter team sports were:

The 'A' Girls' Hockey, the 'A' Netball, the 3A Netball, the 1st XI Soccer, Sixth Grade Blue Rugby.

The death of Mr C A Woods, H.O.D. Science, deprived the School of a dedicated and much respected teacher.

The Principal Mr D F Audley announced that he had been appointed to the equivalent position at Mt Maunganui College. Mr Audley had been at Waitara for three and a half years and described his time there as 'demanding but rewarding'.



D.F. AUDLEY
B.A. Dip Ed.

Principal
1970 - 1973

By the early seventies secondary education was coming under increasing criticism from those who accused schools of being authoritarian in tone, inflexible in structure, and out of touch with their communities.

The new Principal, a liberal in education thinking, was not unsympathetic to some of these demands for change but he realised the need for balance "to accept some change, but to preserve what is valuable from the past".

He moved to expand the School curriculum and replace the prefect system, and he fostered collegial leadership

Innovations this year were the introduction of a five-period day, the offering of Maori language as a subject option, the formation of an Interact Club, and the setting up of a Work Experience class.

Other 'firsts' this year were a visit from Rongotai College rugby, Kelston Boys' High School rugby and soccer teams, and an inter-school cultural visit from Opotiki College.

1975 was not an outstanding year for School sport although netball with seventeen competition teams and an 'A' team unbeaten in inter-school games had a successful season. In rugby, Colin Cooper and Arron Gibson were selected for the Taranaki Schools' rep team.

During the year ill-health forced the retirement of Mr Max Smart who as art master and sports coach had given twenty-six years' enthusiastic service to the School.

On June 1 a Waitara High School Board of Governors came into existence, replacing the Committee of Management which had served the School since 1954. The new Board, chaired by Mr A R Jones, provided greater local autonomy over staff appointments and School finances.

The sudden death of the Deputy Principal, Mr A W A Parkes was a severe loss to the School. For twenty-three years he had been involved with the coaching of sport, the Cadet Unit, School music and the Crusader movement while carrying out the duties of a Head of Department or Deputy Principal.

It was decided to launch a public appeal to set up a reading and reference room attached to the library as a fitting memorial to him.

The new Deputy Principal was Mr P Savage.

The School Tramping Club cleared a section of the York Track to provide easier access to the Waipuku Hut on Mt Egmont.

With twenty records broken at the School sports 1976 looked a promising year for athletics. This promise was confirmed with forty-five placings including seven new records at the Taranaki Schools' meeting, and four placings at the North Island Schools' event. This included a record in the javelin event by Florence Tamehana.

Students selected to represent Taranaki secondary schools at the 'A' team level were:

Jennifer Gray, Florence Tamehana and Denise White (indoor basketball), Gael Surrey, Debra Kearns, Maureen Soffe, Heather Smith, and Denise White (netball), Stephanie Portway (hockey), Arron Gibson, Colin Cooper, Robin Smith (rugby).

School opened with a roll of 650, including five adult students. Changes in organisation included the adoption of the six-day timetable and a system of vertical form groupings.

During the year a group of fifth formers completed a ten-day trip to the South Island, a confidence course was built on the School grounds, a successful gala day raised money for the purchase of teaching equipment, and a visit from a touring Marlborough College 1st XV Rugby team resulted in a keenly contested game.

In his Prizegiving report the Principal summarised sporting successes during the year.

- School 'A' for the sixth successive year won the secondary schools' netball tournament.
- Twenty-one Waitara athletes were chosen to represent Taranaki at the North Island secondary schools' meeting.

with greater responsibility delegated to senior staff. The Department of Education regarded him highly enough to second him to the inspectorate for a term to share his philosophy with other principals.

Staff remember him for his wry sense of humour, sometimes lost on those not perceptive enough to gauge that the man was 'having them on', and for his quiet, almost diffident, manner.

The brief time he spent at Waitara makes it impossible to assess how the School would have developed under Doug Audley's leadership. Sadly, his tenure at Mt Maunganui College was equally short. With his untimely death education lost a kindly, caring man who genuinely felt that teaching was a vocation.

As the new Principal, Mr R J Kivell did not take up the appointment until May, Mr A Parkes was Acting-Principal during the first term. Changes in the Education Act allowed for staff representation on the Committee of Management and Mr P Savage was elected to this position.

At the beginning of the year there had been problems with the cost and availability of material for girls' uniforms. A questionnaire to parents indicated support for a uniform but with a mufti option in the senior school. In October a decision was announced that the 1975 uniform for girls would be a Royal Black tartan skirt or pinafore dress.

Staff and parents were involved in a series of discussion groups on topics affecting secondary education.

An innovation was the three-day visit by a fifth form class to Flock House at Bulls in order to look at the vocational training available.

Fourteen netball, six rugby, five soccer and two hockey teams were entered in winter sports competition. The most successful was the 'A' Netball which won the Taranaki trophy and had four members selected for the Taranaki Schools' team.

With a 60% pass rate in University Entrance and all five Bursary candidates being awarded A or B bursaries, the School had a very successful year.

The Intermediate Department ceased to exist at the end of the year as Form 2 pupils moved on to secondary education. From 1975 all Forms 1 and 2 pupils attended the Manukorihi Intermediate School.

'SCHOOL A' NETBALL, 1974



Back Row: Heather Smith, Arena O'Carroll, Linda Mooney, Debra Kearns, Michelle Bryant, Mrs V Russell (coach)
Front Row: Gael Surrey, Barbara Fussell (capt), Denise White.

Four North Island titles and two placings were gained.

- The girls' indoor basketball team won the Taranaki 'A' grade competition, and was narrowly beaten by Mairehau H.S. in the New Zealand finals.
- The School won two and gained a second and third placing in the Taranaki Schools' cross-country events.

Twenty-three teams played in winter competitions and three cricket teams, one of them a girls' team, were entered in the summer grades.

During the year the Old Pupils' Association presented a handsome honours board to be inscribed with the names of the School's university graduates.

1978

"... in sporting and academic achievements this School has had success out of all proportion to the size of the School". - Mr Kivell's address to the Prizegiving ceremony. Academically, the highlight was the University Junior Scholarship awarded to Cliff Arms, the 1977 Dux.

During the year three pupils, Raewyn Lucas, Carolyn Moratti and Raewyn Luxton went on a student exchange visit to Australia; a School camp was held at Okoki; a second fifth form geography group toured the South Island; pupils raised money for Telethon and the Southland flood victims; and the Board of Governors, dissatisfied with the standard of student dress, decided to re-introduce School uniforms.

Outstanding individual sporting performances were those of Lyn Stokes who, with a jump of 1.55m, set a new West Coast/Taranaki high jump record; Chris Moller and Kathy Mohekey with eight and five new record times respectively in the swimming sports; two sisters, Denise and Vicky White chosen to play for New Zealand in the junior women's basketball team; and Florence Tamehana and Allan Pollock with new records at the North Island Secondary Schools' Athletic Championship.

Later Allan was selected in the Taranaki secondary rugby team to tour New South Wales.

Waitara athletes gained seven titles at the North Island meeting. These achievements and those of previous years are a reflection of the commitment to training by the athletes and the quality of the coaching they had received, especially from Mr Eliadis and Mr Clarke. The 'A' Basketball team again reached the New Zealand schools' finals. Ten members of this team were subsequently selected for the Taranaki Under-20 squad. The 'A' Netball team completed the season as winners of the Waitara Division senior grade, and as joint holders of the Taranaki Senior Grade Championship and the Taranaki Secondary Schools' Tournament.

1979

Further expansion occurred during 1979. Additions to the School were a senior science laboratory and prep room, two H.O.D. offices and two offices for administration staff. To provide the School with its quota of sports fields the Department moved to obtain an additional 3.32 hectares of land.

Student activities included the painting of an impressive mural on the wall of the assembly hall, an Interact Ball, lunch time activities organised by the Central Committee, and a defensive driving course.

Although the departure of experienced players had weakened some sports teams, the Principal was able to report that "In athletics, Waitara pupils won twenty-one Taranaki titles, two North Island titles and three second placings, and at the National Secondary Schools' Championships gained two second and one third placing.

Twenty-two School teams played in Saturday competitions during the winter term and forty-eight pupils represented Taranaki in various teams during the year".

1980

The 1980 School magazine records that:

- Plans were being drawn for a second storey to be built above the four-classroom block at the rear of the School.
- Pupil concern for others, especially those in need, was shown by their response to three appeals: \$1,700 for World Vision, \$180 for sponsorship of a child in Taiwan, and \$100 for the Thermacot Appeal.
- There was increased interest in cultural activities. After a gap of several years there was a major dramatic production, 'The Chicken Run', and the King Cup, Fletcher Shield and speech competitions were keenly contested.

In sport many teams had been weakened by the loss of senior players, but there was evidence of genuine ability in the junior school. The two most successful teams were the Eighth Grade Rugby, unbeaten during the season, and the Boys' 1st XI Hockey. Twenty-three Waitara pupils were selected for the Taranaki Schools' Athletics team.

Outstanding in sport were Duane Gwiazdzinski (athletics), Shelley Glentworth and Robyn Laurent (netball), and Helen Dowdle (cricket).

1981

Although there was concern about the falling roll and its effect on the School, the 1981 year started well. Ruth Christie became the School's second University Scholarship winner and good results were achieved in external examinations.

A well supported Student Work Day raised over \$1,000 enabling computers to be bought for student use.

Work on repainting the building and improving the frontage was completed.

Sporting successes continued. The athletes performed well, the surfers dominated the inter-schools' event, and three medals were won by School wrestlers. For the first time a girls' soccer team represented the School. Successful teams were the Sixth Grade Rugby, the Junior Girls' Hockey and the Girls' 'A' Basketball.

Two long-serving members of staff announced their retirements.

Mrs Bridgeman had been Senior Assistant Mistress since 1962. She had won the respect of pupils, staff and community for her enthusiasm, concern for pupils, and her willingness to give unstintingly of her time to coaching and any activity which would benefit the School.

Mr Thompson's resignation was to take effect from early in 1982. He joined the staff in 1961, was appointed H.O.D. Engineering in 1972 and for three years was staff representative on the Board of Governors. He, also, had given generously of his time to coach and referee sport, and to assist with School pantomimes and plays.

1982

The new Senior Assistant Mistress was Mrs V O'Keefe, previously H.O.D. Commercial.

In the New Year Honours list the Chairman of the Board of Governors, Mr I Dowdle was awarded an M.B.E. for services to the dairy industry.

Sixty students took part in the Forty Hour Famine to raise money for World Vision.

The School drama production for the year was 'Badjelly the Witch'.

To encourage greater competition, the organisation of School activities was changed from an inter-house to an inter-form basis.

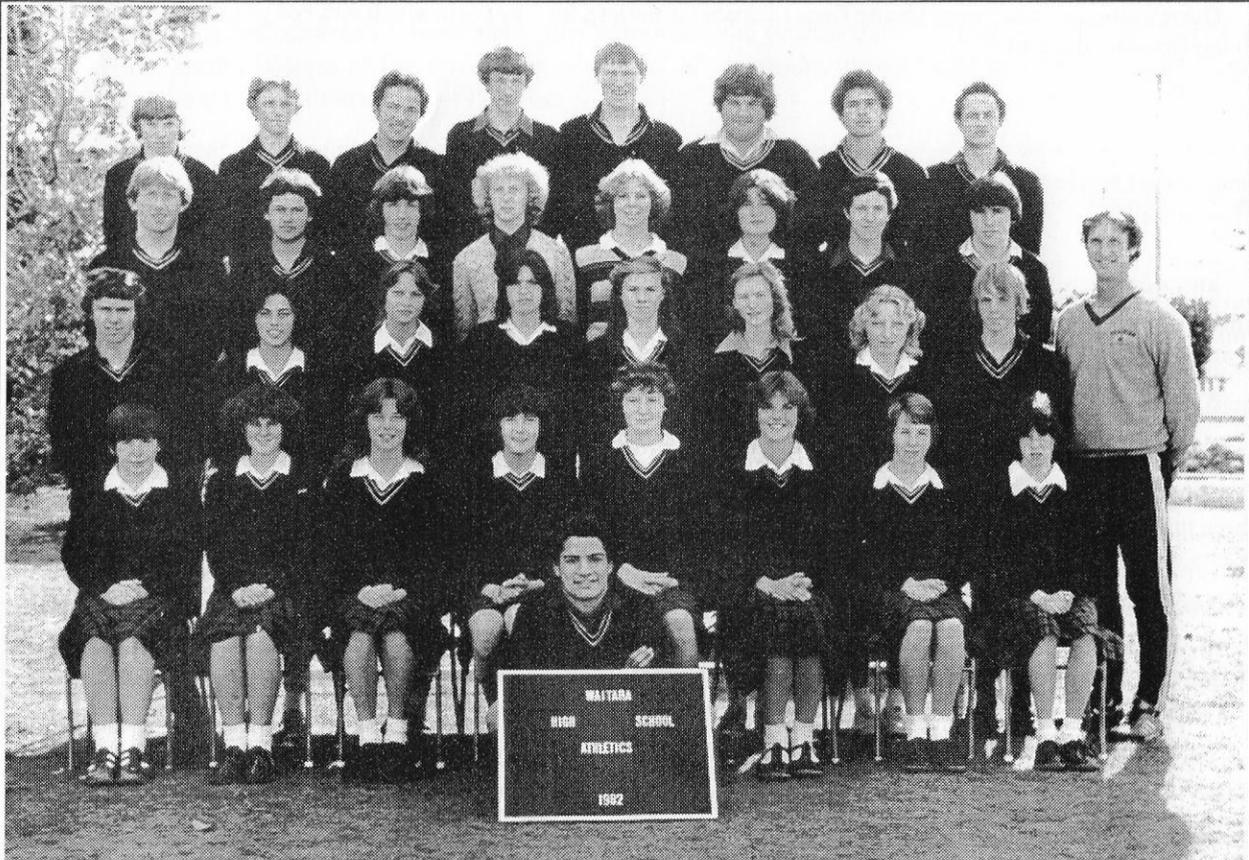
Three sixth form pupils, Maree Pollock, Mette Hansen and Debbie Jury spent three months at schools in Oregon USA and then returned with three exchange students who attended Waitara High School.

Sporting distinction was achieved by:

- Edwina Eriwata who gained a first in the Int. Girls' discus at the North Island Schools' Championships.
- Peter Black, Mark King and Todd Sheridan who were selected to tour New South Wales in a Taranaki Schools' Rugby team managed by Mr P Savage.
- Michael Montgomerie who gained a gold medal at the New Zealand Wrestling Championships.
- Geoffrey Tangira, Tony Kemp and Rayner Te Wake who were selected for a touring New Zealand Rugby League team. Rayner was later chosen as Taranaki Junior Sportsman of the Year.

Detective Inspector Stan Keith (1954 - 56) was awarded a Queen's Service Medal in the 1982 Honours list.

ATHLETICS 1982



Back Row: G Landers, G Cock, P Jones, R Hansen, A McLachlan, R Baker, T Sheridan, G Brown.
 3rd Row: B Sharrock, R Crean, R Herbert, J Buchanan, R Laurent, E Eriwata, K Dickson, M Skelton.
 2nd Row: P Stokes, E Brown, K Limmer, J Terrill, S Dickenson, R Irvine, M Hansen, G Jury, P Eliadis.
 Front Row: J Godderidge, S Keith, P Brosnam, C Rapley, M Pollock, R Finer, K Marr, J Pryme.
 R Te Wake

1983

School resumed knowing that the 1982 external examination results had been particularly good. A 65% pass rate had been achieved in University Entrance, three A and four B bursaries had been awarded and the 1982 Dux, Graeme Judson had won a national scholarship.

For Form 4 - 6 students the introduction of work experience programmes provided an opportunity to gain vocational experience by working with employers or attending short courses, such as the four-day shearing course

at Okoki.

A questionnaire to parents revealed a preference for changing the colour of the boys' uniform from navy to gray and adding a gray-blue Swandri jacket.

Among events during the year were the staging of 'Timesneeze' - a fantasy travelling from King Arthur's court to time machines, a concert for Age Concern, a Work Day to raise money for a photocopier and more computers, and the carving of a totara log by a group of Rangimarie Art and Craft Centre students to produce panels for the assembly hall.

The purchase of additional ground at the rear of the School was completed and work began on draining, and planting trees for shelter.

The 3A Netball team was unbeaten in the Schools' tournament, winning the Pentelow Cup and promotion to first grade in 1984. At the New Zealand Inter-Collegiate Wrestling Championships Scott and Mark Savage won gold, and Michael Montgomerie and Paul Freakley silver medals. Students selected to represent Taranaki were Mark King, Michael Skelton, Renato DaRos, Peter Jones (Rugby) Maree Pollock, Keri-Ann Marr, Lisa Kupe (Netball) and Marlene Gaustad (Hockey), Daryn Pomare (Soccer).

1984

Two new subjects were added to the curriculum: computer studies and horticulture, the latter assisted by a \$4,200 grant from the Education Department.

In February the carved totara panels on each side of the assembly hall stage were dedicated and blessed. The mural above the stage opening was painted by Phillip Lamb.

1984 was notable for:

- The 100% success rate achieved by students in Pitman senior, intermediate and elementary level examinations. Particularly meritorious were the achievements of twenty-two students awarded honours at the intermediate grade level.
- The Central Committee was very active in organising socials, and inter-house competitions in indoor soccer, tug-o-war, volleyball and softball.
- 'Charlie and the Chocolate Factory' played to appreciative audiences.
- Approval was finally received for the construction of four classrooms as a second storey to an existing block.
- In sport, touch-rugby was introduced, the Waitara team won the inaugural Taranaki Schools' Wrestling, the 'A' Netball team won promotion to the 'A' grade competition in 1985, and the Hertz Cup returned to Waitara as a result of successes in the Athletic League Competition.

A former School Dux, Hugh Whittaker wrote in Japanese a book titled 'Son of a Kiwi' while he was teaching English at a Japanese university. The book was in use as a reader for Japanese children to tell them about life in New Zealand.

1985

A senior common-room came a stage closer when the School was granted use of a surplus prefab. Plans for converting it were drawn and fund-raising began.

After an absence of several years the School again had a choir, which performed at Age Concern.

Forty pupils of the Maori Studies group spent a week in Wellington.

As part of their work experience pupils ran a creche at a local church one morning each week.

'Jack and the Beanstalk', freely adapted, was the very successful 1985 pantomime.

As part of the Linguistic Exchange Scheme Miriam White, a student taking French, spent six weeks in Tahiti.

Seventh formers were involved in a tutorial programme helping younger pupils having difficulty adjusting to School or schoolwork.

Netball teams travelled to the South Island and very successfully competed against five schools.

A visiting Hato Pauro College party combined with the Waitara cultural group to present a concert in the assembly hall. Before continuing their tour their 1st XV played this School at rugby.

Sports to have good seasons were cricket, badminton, athletics, boys' hockey, basketball, and the newly formed yachting group.

Mr R Clarke, H.O.D. Mathematics, left the staff to take up a position as Senior Master at Hamilton Boys' High School.

During the year the death occurred of Mr E W P Massey, founding Headmaster of this School.

1986

After long delays working drawings were being produced for the much-needed changes to the administration area and the front classroom block but efforts by the Board of Governors to obtain better facilities for the teaching of music were unsuccessful.

During the year a senior common-room for students came into use, students produced and sold Waitara High School calendars illustrated with local scenes, the Synthetic Fuels Corporation announced that three bursaries would be awarded annually to Waitara High School pupils continuing to university or polytechnic, and two former pupils were in the news: Robyn Laurent for selection in the International Netball Training Squad, and Shelley Soffe, having won the Miss Taranaki title, to compete in the 1987 Miss New Zealand contest which she won.

Successful sports teams were the 3B Netball and the 'B' Netball teams, runner-up and winner respectively in Taranaki championships; the girls' Basketball and boys' Hockey teams which won their competitions; the girls' Athletics team, winner of the Hertz Athletic League Cup; and the girls' Rowing crew which performed creditably at the Maadi Cup championships. There was a revival of interest in cricket with three teams being entered in grade competitions. Sixty students were selected to represent Taranaki at various levels and codes.

1987

Carl Muller continued the tradition of the School Dux winning a University Scholarship.

In May Mr Kivell who had been Principal for fourteen years retired. Quietly and effectively he had guided the School through a period of educational change and under his leadership Waitara High School had achieved notable success both academically and on the sports fields.

To succeed him the Board appointed Mr N Jessep, Senior Master at Rotorua Boys' High School.

A Student Committee representative of student activities replaced the positions of Head Boy and Head Girl which students felt were no longer appropriate.

During the year three American and one Japanese student attended classes and in December six Waitara students left to attend schools in Oregon.

Nine new EXZEL computers were installed, six of them purchased with money raised through Work Days. With these acquisitions the School had a computer bank of seventeen machines.

Groups of pupils stayed on marae during the year and visiting groups were given a marae welcome.

The fortieth anniversary of the establishment of the School was marked by the planting of a tree and the burying of a canister containing items such as a School magazine, stamps, McKee oil and Golden Kiwi ticket, the canister to be opened at the School's centenary.

Although the School magazine commented that the performance of some teams suffered from a 'lack of concentration' or 'lack of commitment' there were a number of successes recorded. The Under-15 Rugby had a very good year, and the local newspaper published photos of thirty-two students who had been selected to represent Taranaki in winter sports.



R J KIVELL
M.A. Dip Ed.

Principal
1974 - 1987

During Ron Kivell's fourteen years as Principal, Waitara High School was enjoying a very stable time before the many drastic changes occurred in the education system.

The School was headed by a Board of Governors under the Taranaki Education Board. There was no ERO, no Unit Standards and drugs had not surfaced as a problem. It was a time when teachers could teach without hours spent on administrative paper work.

Ron, together with his wife Jewell, also on the staff, created a very friendly atmosphere. Staff and pupils always found his office door open when they wished to discuss anything that concerned them. Ron also gave his time willingly at weekends to support sporting activities.

Many of the things Ron mentioned he'd like to forget are still relevant today - smokers, the number of pupils with bad health on cross-country days, watch alarms in assembly, petty theft, trying to balance the budgets, those pupils who came to school just to eat their lunches.

But the pleasant things listed in the 1984 School magazine included co-operation and friendliness of pupils and staff, growth and extension of the Work Exploration programme, the introduction of horticulture and computer studies, all of which are relevant today.

When Ron and Jewell began planning for their retirement, they bought an avocado orchard in Tauranga. On their numerous trips over there, they always came back with some of their produce to give to staff.

A garage in which they lived before their home was built was always offered to anyone who wanted a few days away and many staff took advantage of this haven.

It was with some sadness that the Kivells departed from Waitara High School but we wished them well in their new venture and we know we are always welcome to call at Hinera Orchard, Omokoroa Road, Tauranga.

1988

Re-roofing and refurbishing of four of the original classrooms were carried out and the upgrading of the administration area commenced. This involved resiting offices and staff room and providing additional space for administration.

An impressive carving at the entrance to the School was dedicated on November 16. Carved by an ex-pupil, Peter Skipper the work symbolised the School as a store house of knowledge with the carved panels of the pataka depicting peace, learning and participation.

The School enjoyed success in public speaking contests. At the new Speech and Drama Festival Jane Andrews won the fifth form speech section and a team consisting of Heather McDonnell, Helen Lehndorf and Andrew Barnett won the senior debate. Joanne Hardwidge was the Taranaki regional winner of the Korimako Speech contest.

Ryan Gregorash was one of forty boys selected to fly to Melbourne and man the "Spirit of New Zealand" while it was part of a fleet of fifteen Tall Ships in the Australian Bi-Centennial celebrations.

In her 1988 Report the Chairperson, Mrs Luond referred to the 1st XV Rugby, Netball B, Volleyball team, and Under-16 Basketball as teams which had enjoyed highly successful seasons. To this list could be added a rower, Jackie McAlister, silver medallist in the Under-19 Single Sculls at the Maadi Cup Championships.

Carla White, a former pupil was one of thirty-two young New Zealanders chosen as ambassadors at World Expo 88.

Long-serving staff who resigned were Mr P Gall, Mr I Kurta after twenty-one years' service, and the popular caretaker, Les Jordan and his wife, after fourteen years.

Aila Taylor (1948 - 50) was awarded an MBE for services to the Maori community.

1989

1989 will be remembered as the year of the disastrous fire which destroyed the block housing the library, commerce and art departments. Destroyed also were contents and equipment valued at over \$300,000, pupils' work and many of the School's early records and photographs. There was an immediate and spontaneous response. Donations, books, teaching resources and offers of assistance were received from individuals, firms, organisations and other schools. A Fire Relief Fund appeal raised \$70,000.

As part of the government restructuring of education the Board of Governors was replaced by a Board of Trustees with greater responsibilities and wider powers. The new structure allowed for student representation and Andrew McBride was elected to the Board.

An old pupil, Shelley Soffe spoke to the assembly about her year as Miss New Zealand, Shamice Taylor became the School's first recipient of a CREST award for creativity in science and technology, and three fibreglass racing canoes were presented by the Taranaki Savings Bank, NZ Synthetic Fuels and the 1990 Commission.

Teams to win their competition were the boys' 1st XV Hockey and boys' Lifesaving, junior girls' Softball and the 1st XV Rugby. This was the first time the 1st XV had won the Taranaki Schools' Championship. Players to achieve distinction were Richard Jarman, New Zealand Under-17 team; Kérry Eynon, Northern Region team. Cousins Bevan and Jarrad Martin represented New Zealand at the Under-19 Softball World Cup in Canada.

1990

A Sixth Form Certificate course in journalism, the teaching of Japanese as a third form language option, an increase in the number of students taking LINK courses with Taranaki Polytechnic, and activities in science such as the Chemistry Club, Science Fair and Senior Science Competition were some of the features of 1990.

On August 3 the community had the opportunity of seeing the School in action, viewing facilities and discovering the range of courses available.

Good progress was being made on the re-building programme. The library report stated that the massive job of accessioning 8,000 purchased or donated books was well under way.

There was an increase in interest and participation in the King Cup, won by Stacey Cameron, and the Fletcher Shield competitions, the latter featuring five items of dance.

There was criticism from a section of the community that the School was failing to make adequate provision for the teaching of Maori language and culture.

Team sporting successes were enjoyed by the Lifesavers (Butcher Cup), A & B Netballers (Tournament winners), and Basketballers (Boys' Divisional winners). Fifty-six students gained places in Taranaki teams.

During the May holidays Waitara netballers visited Australia combining sightseeing with games against Australian schools.

1991

With the completion of the new buildings replacing those lost in the fire the School was provided with a modern art suite, a commerce suite and library. Other improvements during the year were the redecoration of Massey Hall, the installation of a computerised careers information system, the upgrading of the confidence course, and the planting of trees to improve the School environment.

Two new ventures were the holding of a twilight gala and the staging of an Expo. The former raised \$3,000, enabling fitness equipment to be purchased. The latter, staged at the Waitara Valley Plaza, was designed to show the community some of the many activities and opportunities at the School. The displays of work, demonstrations of educational technology, debates, music, and theatre sports were viewed by more than 1,000 people and created a very favourable impression.

Other events noted in the School magazine were the appointment by the Student Council of a Maori Liaison Officer, the presence of exchange students from France and Argentina, and the departure for Japan of Manu Corcoran on an American field service exchange.

Girls' netball, volleyball and softball teams received special mention for successes during the year, Brent Hutchieson won a place in the New Zealand Schools' Surfing team, and Waitara teams played in the first inter-school rugby league games in Taranaki.

After seventeen years as guidance counsellor Mr G Court left the staff.

1992

Issues raised by the Human Rights Commission were resolved by discussion. One charge, that of racial discrimination, was vigorously denied by students in the School newspaper "Class". As the segment of the community best able to judge the worth of a school their comments merit recording.

"Our school is a school of which the students are proud. We have excellent facilities . . . the teachers are concerned with the welfare of all students and spend many hours with extra-curricular activities. We are successful in external exams, sports and cultural activities. Our students who go on to tertiary education have a very high success rate".

The 1992 magazine referred to a new computer room with improved facilities for computer studies and the commissioning of computerised library systems. In the gymnasium a weights room with new equipment was set up.

Sporting success were enjoyed by:

- The 'A' Netball team winning the Secondary Schools' championship.
- The Girls' and Boys' Lifesaving teams winning the Tilley and Butcher Cups respectively.
- The Surfing team winning the Whittaker Cup.

Waitara was well represented in representative teams. The performance of the Head Girl, Tui Katene who represented Taranaki in five teams and won the Senior English and Impromptu sections at the Regional Korimako contest was outstanding.

With the death of Mrs Sandy Smith the School lost a teacher who had brought to the position of Head of Department and Assistant Principal enthusiasm, energy, and an insistence on doing things properly.

Her successor was Mrs Gabites.

The School Council was active, gaining approval for an outdoor volleyball court and for trackpants to be worn as part of the School uniform. It initiated a move to have School caps reintroduced. To assist Maori students a Maori Student Council was established.

Hard work and dedication brought Te Roopu Kapahaka O Waitara success at the National Culture Competitions.

The School hosted two groups of students from Mishima and exchange students from America, Australia and Switzerland.

Students learning Japanese joined a school group for a trip to Japan.

The 1993 Interact Ball with the hall decorated as a medieval castle was a highlight of the year.

Stage 1 of the refurbishment of the technical block was completed.

The School magazine listed the following teams as the sporting successes of 1993.

- The 'A', 'B' and 3B Netball teams.
- The Boys' and Girls' Lifesaving teams.
- The Under-16 and Under-18 Basketball teams.
- The Girls' Athletic team, and the Girls' Rugby team.

Mrs I Topping, an outstandingly successful coach of netball teams, resigned to take up a position of Coach Development Officer. During her twenty years at Waitara High School Mrs Topping coached many sports and the success achieved by her teams contributed greatly to the reputation of the School.

In the 1993 Honours list Howie Tamati (1967 - 69) was awarded an MBE for services to Rugby League.

Following an upgrading of equipment Methanex New Zealand donated five IBM compatible computers and two printers to the School. Installed in the Methanex Computer Room, they extended the computer facilities available to pupils.

As a result of increasing awareness of Maori culture a waiata, and haka written specially for this School were learnt by all pupils and performed during inter-school functions.

A former pupil, Teri Tamati was employed by the Hillary Commission as a sports co-ordinator to encourage student participation and organise lunch-hour activities.

A lively drama group successfully staged a fifteen minute production of scenes from 'Hamlet'.

Alison Weston had the honour of being Prime Minister in the national Youth Parliament in Wellington.

School teams won the Women's Division and the Under-14 and Under-16 Men's Divisions in the Taranaki Schools' surfing event.

The 'A' Netball team played in the national secondary school finals and was ranked seventh in New Zealand, and the Girls' Softball team achieved a third ranking in the national finals.

A trip to Australia by a composite team of 1st XV and 6th Grade players was the highlight of the rugby season.

Two students to distinguish themselves were Tessa Wallace who represented Taranaki at netball and softball and New Zealand at softball, and netball captain Abbie Nowell, a Taranaki netball representative selected to attend the Lois Muir Training Camp.

At the end of the year Mr Jessep resigned, having led the School through eight years of rapid change and the problems caused by the disastrous fire. The 1994 magazine paid tribute to 'his conscientious, dedicated and unstinting stewardship'.



Nevill Jessep
B.A. (Hons) Dip Tchg.

Principal
July 1987 - Dec 1994

After eight years as Principal Mr Jessep is leaving to take up a position in the private sector. During these eight years the school has undergone many changes, the most obvious of which has been the up-grading of most of the school buildings.

The set back of the major fire and the difficulties it caused were crosses Mr Jessep was forced to bear. These he did with his usual tenacity and the fine plant which emerged from the ashes is testimony to his hard work.

Mr Jessep's constant aim to raise the standards of Waitara High School pupils has been a hallmark of his tenure. His careful management of affairs leaves the school in good heart.

The rate of change in our education system places all principals under enormous pressure these days. The increasing bureaucratic demands make the task an onerous one. Mr Jessep has coped with these stresses and strains with great skill and good humour.

There was always genuine interest in the well-being of Waitara pupils, genuine caring and a heartfelt pride in their achievements. For the best interests of the school Mr Jessep has stood firm.

He is a man of integrity who did not shirk the hard tasks. A tireless worker, meticulous planner and well versed in the bewildering array of regulations which are sent to try school managers, he has laboured well on behalf of the Waitara community.

His conscientious, dedicated and unstinting stewardship of Waitara High is worthy of salute. The school wishes Mr and Mrs Jessep well for whatever the future holds.

- School Magazine, 1994

The new Principal was Mr H Cast, previously Principal at Ruapehu College.

During the year Form 6 and 7 economics students gained experience of running a company as part of the Young Enterprise Scheme.

Waitara students gained the largest number of awards for excellence in the Technic Computer Awards competition.

The 1995 drama production was 'Jack and the Beanstalk'.

Te Roopu Kapahaka O Waitara won Te Kupenga, the intermediate trophy, at the International Culture Competitions and brought it to Taranaki for the first time. After much fund-raising the group then toured areas of the North Island performing at schools and promoting a positive image of Waitara.

Tamzyn Pue's success in winning both regional and national speech contests completed a very impressive year.

Successful sports teams were:

- 'A' Netball which won the Taranaki championship and games against Taumarunui High School and Otorohanga College.
- 1st XV Rugby which won the A2 competition and retained the Top Dog Trophy with an unbeaten record for the season.
- The School hockey team which won the second division for the fifth consecutive year.
- The outstanding athlete was Patricia O'Carroll-Leota who represented New Zealand at softball, won a silver medal in the shotput at the National Secondary Schools meet, and represented Taranaki in netball and rugby league.

50th FIRST FIFTEEN - 1996

Winners: Taranaki Secondary Schools A2 Division Championship.

Holder: A2 Division Top Dog Shield All Season. Record: Highest season's points score in 1st XV history.



POINTS:

For	818
Against	201

GAMES:

Played	20
Won	19
Lost	1
(Clifton Under 19+)	

Back Row: Jason Whitmore, Chris Orchard, Dinnie Moeahu, Jared McKee, Lance White, Daniel Baikie, Matthew Flay.
 Middle Row: Mac Telfar (Manager), Tyrel Hall, Pieree Gall, Alan Gladding (Backs Coach), Aaron Simpson, Daniel Moratti, Pat Kershaw (Coach).
 Front Row: Regan Hayman, Heydon Healey*, Aidan Morrell, Mark Gladding, Jarrod Atkinson, Michael Taiapo, Cheyne Kettle+.
 Absent: Tim Tuffery.
 Inset: Luke Nuku (Highest Individual Points Scorer in 1st XV History - 241 points : 15 games).
 * Taranaki Secondary Schools Representative. + Taranaki Under 16s Representative.

In 1996 the School moved to a four-term year, trialed a new School uniform, received a government grant towards the cost of setting up a whareniui, and commissioned a report on School health and safety.

The Student Council was successful in having a student ID card introduced.

Using the opportunities created by the National Qualifications Authority some pupils began to record credits in automotive trade, child care, retailing and horticulture.

By winning nine of the thirteen sections at Manu Arika Cultural Competitions Waitara High School retained Te Kupenga Shield.

In sport the School again had a cricket team, boys' and girls' softball teams again had very successful seasons, the 3A Netball team won a Taranaki Championship, and the 1st XV Rugby had an outstanding season, being unbeaten in twenty games and amassing 818 points. It again won the A2 title. A composite team of 1st and 2nd XV players visited Australia in September and won games at Coffs Harbour and Surfers Paradise.

In 1996 teams from Waitara High School competed in athletics, badminton, basketball, bowls, cricket, cross-country, equestrian, gymnastics, hockey, lifesaving, netball, rugby, rugby league, soccer, softball, surfing, swimming, tennis, and volleyball. In eleven of these sports Waitara pupils won selection for Taranaki representative teams.

PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATION

The PTA as it is now called has played a major role in the School even though at times there appears to have been little support from parents and even from staff.

In 1947 when the district high school opened, the Home and School Association, as it was then called, was based at the primary school with a sub-committee involved in the high school. Fund-raising for the new school was the organisation's main function and it continued until the late sixties when the group petered out through lack of support.

In 1974 the PTA was re-formed with Thelma Luxton as Secretary, following in her mother's footsteps. Since that time the organisation has been through heady times running gala days, uniform sales, raffles, and other fund-raising activities to provide the extras the School requires. At present a small band of dedicated parents keeps the organisation afloat.

THE MASSEY TRUST

This Trust was set up after the fire in October 1989 when a group of concerned former pupils and local residents gathered to help the school. An appeal was made to former pupils and the general public and by March 1990 the sum of \$72,000 had been raised. This money was used to provide immediate relief for pupils sitting examinations and to fill immediate requests. When final funding was received from the Education Department the Trust was reimbursed and had \$42,000 to invest. \$2,000 was set aside to meet preparatory costs of the 50th Jubilee (this money to be returned to the Trust), and the balance was invested. Until 1997 this was held in a loosely constructed Trust, but in that year the deed was reconstituted and the trust renamed the Massey Trust enabling funds to be used throughout the School. It is the intention of the Trustees to increase the capital to enable a regular disbursement of interest to the School.

A list of those who contributed initially to the fund is held in the School library.

The Trustees are: Thelma Luxton (Chairman), Graeme Orr (Secretary), Eileen Gundeson, Kinsley Sampson, Les Armfield, Harry Cast (Principal), Terry Wells (Chairman BOT).

If you would like to contribute to the capital base of the Trust, please send your donation to P O Box 178, Waitara.

The Forties

OVERHEARD AT THE REUNION

- What I remember about the first day was the size of the School, all those rooms and hundreds of kids. At least, that's how it seemed coming from a small country school. They tell me there were only seven rooms and a hundred and twenty kids that first year. Well, it seemed pretty big to me.
- . . . Chatterton's trucks grinding past the School in low gear. You couldn't talk above the noise so everyone stopped and waited. Some teachers wouldn't let you waste time. You were expected to revise or go on to the next exercise.
- Peter Blyde was never very big but he was the only one game enough to do the long dive over two boxhorses placed end-to-end, without touching them and finish with a forward roll off the mats.
- Remember Jim Rowe who taught us science in the third form? Went on to be a professor somewhere.
- The first week was always cadets and at the final parade we'd march past some Army officers and the Headmaster. By the end of the week we could turn on a decent show.
- "Three-and-waan" - Eric Stead. . . we made wooden school cases and listened to stories about the air force.
- In the sixth grade we practised against the 1st XV who were a lot bigger and heavier. They were supposed to go a bit easy on us but sometimes things got really keen, especially if we managed a try against them. It probably helped us though, because when we played teams in our own grade they seemed easier by comparison. We won the championship two years running.
- At primary school we didn't have enough to make a real team and it was great to play in a proper team here. Teachers were as keen on sport as we were. Practices Tuesdays and Thursdays, and if your boots weren't polished and your laces white you wouldn't be allowed to go on the field on Saturday.
- Melroy Huggard's feet were so big he couldn't get boots to fit. Eventually he got the largest size made, and he got called 'Boats' from then on.
- Some of us did our third form year at New Plymouth schools and as third formers you were nobodies. Waitara was different - small, friendly, new. Teachers knew who you were. It was a different sort of atmosphere. I enjoyed it.
- One of the things I remember was - if we were going somewhere Lionel Meiklejohn, Ruth Day or Crossy would tell you what was expected. We'd never been to an orchestra or been billeted before. It was good to be told beforehand what to expect.

The Fifties

I REMEMBER -

- Going into the library in Form 1 and discovering hundreds of books I could take out and read. Bliss!
- Sitting round a table in that same library in the fifth form with several other girls, knitting when we should have been working. Warren Drake in his usual inimitable style crawled under the table to annoy us. At that moment - enter Miss Day. The knitting was hastily hidden in our laps and we applied ourselves assiduously to our books. Meanwhile, friend Drake, unwilling to come out and give himself away, spent the period knitting our wool together. The agony of realising what he was up to and being unable to do anything about it without getting into trouble!
- The time Ana Watson and I climbed the cliff on the School side of the bridge. Just as we disappeared behind the trees, June Fraser and several others who were watching from below yelled out "Look out. Here comes Mr Massey. We froze. Climbing that cliff was forbidden. However, nothing happened and we continued to the top. Next day in assembly Mr Massey asked to see "the boys who were climbing the cliff by the bridge after school last night". I was petrified but Ana was not. She pointed out that we were not boys so it was nothing to do with us. I am ashamed to say that we never owned up.

- Miss Blight's history lessons. She made the past so real I had to stand in the corridor and consciously bring myself, reluctantly, back to the twentieth century.
- Mr Wallace's English lessons in the sixth form. He took us through 'Treble and Vallins' 'ABC of English Usage' from A to Z and made it interesting. He taught us also to write economically. Any unnecessary word or phrase was firmly crossed out. (Occasionally I write articles and book reviews and I still go through them looking for unnecessary words and shorter ways of saying things before I send them).
- The School dance held as part of the town's celebration of seventy-five years of education in the district. After the function the hall in which it had been held burnt down. It had recently been named the Charles Smith Memorial Hall after my father who had run a sports club there for many years. Before that it was known as the Clifton Hall. It was a most spectacular fire but, of course, rather sad for our family.

I am grateful to Waitara High School for all that it gave me. The staff gave me a love of learning that I have never lost (I have just finished a two-year Latin course) and I think it says a lot for the New Zealand education system of the 1950's that even in an out-of-the-way place like Waitara we were given a solid academic grounding, much better in many ways than what is available now in English independent schools. My only regret is that we weren't taught Latin. But you can't have everything, even at Waitara High School. And so I end. May Waitara High School continue to flourish.

Vivat academia. Vivant professores!

NGAIO MALCOLM (Ngaio Smith)
School Dux 1956
- now resident in London

1st XI CRICKET, 1956



Back Row: L Low, R Adams, M Smart (coach), G Collins, K Matuku, J Decke
Front Row: L Pryme, B Stevens, T Power (capt), A Andrews, D Skelton, J Hoskin

The Fifties

SCHOOL MEMORIES ARE INCOMPLETE. A SCATTERING OF THEM:

- Cultural interaction was called race relations - the politically correct never use four syllables when seven will do - and they were better at Waitara in the 50's than anywhere else experienced since, in New Zealand or overseas. They were probably helped by egalitarian prosperity, with jobs available to all. My first approach to a speech was a talk to Crusaders (run by David Diprose) contrasting our togetherness favourably with apartheid developing in South Africa. Lacking an assembly hall, we had school dances each term in the beautiful Manukorihi meeting house, a big and relatively recent asset for all of Waitara. The Human Rights Commission's unfavourable findings a few years ago were, therefore, one of the worst news shocks of a lifetime. Hope there will be people at the reunion discussing whether they were justified. (Later: There were, and locals I talked to all thought not. Congratulations to the organiser who displayed The Dominion's feature on this episode, including material not read before). Five Waitaraities - Hugh Wallace (principal and by then married to Gwen Pennington), the late Jon Leitch (deputy-principal), Michael Walker and I were involved together in the early 70's at Huntly College, where Pakeha-Maori relations were much less relaxed.

- CRICKET - Player-coach Max Smart said everyone in the first XI should have a job. He put up a duty list in the gear shed, omitting himself. A bold team member - can't recall who, Warren Drake says not him - pointed out the omission. The list briefly came down, then reappeared with more art room paint at the top: "M G Smart - General Duties". Bob Armstrong, later Mike Watson and Jeff Hoskin, were opening bowlers, Laurie Denton till he left, the star left-handed batsman. Bob Clouston arrived from Hutt Valley, coached there by John Reid. Wicketkeeper-batsman Lew Pryme was 1st XI captain in 1957: later maybe the best known of our school generation, through show biz, and definitely the only one to have a documentary made on his final illness. But the best Waitara High School cricket product, quicker than anyone at school in my time and with a fine action, was Denis Yardley. He should have played first-class; late in his career he had compensation as Taranaki captain in a lengthy Hawke Cup tenure.

- SOCCER - Eric Stead began soccer in an overwhelmingly rugby-oriented town. The first XV - while Cliff Crossman was still coach or after Hugh Wallace took over? - beat a lower grade NPBHS XV 72 - 3, an unheard-of score). Soccer bait included that, unlike other team sports till much later, it offered annual August holiday North Island rep tournaments at three age levels. As just four Taranaki high schools played soccer - NPBHS, Hawera, Stratford, WHS - you didn't have to be Stanley Matthews to have a show. Three rep trips as goalie were big highlights. School matches first were at the primary school, then at Clifton Park with our fellow-exiles from the mainstream, rugby league teams.

By 1954, Eric wanted a break: it seemed there would be no soccer. So we boys formed a club, dubbed in to buy a ball, entered a competition that meant going to New Plymouth most winter Saturdays, ran down Eliot Street after to catch the bus and, if there was time, get an icecream at the dairy by the bus stop. Leading lights included Neil Thurlow, Chas Worsley and Peter Furze; Monty George left just before this phase. Ever since, I've been annoyed at teenagers yelling that adults should organize and pay for their fun, or else they'll have nothing to do and it would be the system's fault if there was trouble.

- Ted Meuli, of the impeccable handwriting, taught 3AB Core Maths and General Science ("We noted a pungent odour . . .") in 1952. The following summer, he played a cricket test against South Africa, then was unluckily dropped. I badly wanted to ask him about the experience, practised many approaches, but couldn't think of a way that didn't risk sounding cheeky, and never asked. Current adolescents have fewer such inhibitions.

- The brightest person met at WHS, by a big margin, was Alan Poletti, a fellow chemistry lab monitor. He finished at NPBHS, became professor of physics at Auckland, and led the government's investigation into the alleged dangers of Mururoa testing site.

- Current events discussions with Don Franks (4th form social studies, 1953) were an enlightened innovation. Annoyingly, some pupils took his willingness to discuss on even terms - then unusual - as weakness and exploited it. One exchange, near the Korean War's end, was on the ethics of defecting, with or without your fighter plane. Peter Fraser said no loyal democrat would do it; the teacher asked if loyal communists would, either. Churchill said jaw-jaw was better than war-war; we debated that.

- Working in summer holidays at Borthwicks; a comparison of the wage scale on the chain with secondary teaching showed that, in a 40-year career and assuming you became foreman or principal, you'd earn over £4,000 more at the works. That the freezing works would not be supplying 600+ jobs in the season till we all retired never occurred as the remotest possibility. The economic advantages of Mr Massey's insistence that we should all get as highly skilled as we could weren't immediately obvious but eventually he was proved oh! so right.

- The rock revolution hit. Debate, with Ana Watson always prominent, centred on whether Elvis Presley was

better than Pat Boone. The punch line of a Presley song ("I'm in lerv; I'm all shook up") had all of us labelled 'the shook-up generation'. Triumph was flourishing a survey showing that (in the US) Boone fans had higher school grades than Presley fans.

- Also in 1956, Warren Drake and I were the first 6A (7th form). In a year mostly short of academic achievement, we learnt typing from Gwen Pennington. You can speed up yourself once you have the rudiments, and this has turned out as important a skill as any learnt in the WHS class. We started out in the typing room. Presumably we were thought a distraction to the younger typists (wot, us?!), and soon did our typing out in the corridor. (Later: Gwen says Vellen Puke, Head Boy c.1952, was the first male typing student).

- In November 1956, our final term, the intercom came on at lunchtime. We could hear in classrooms and library radio news on twin international crises, Suez and the Soviet invasion of Hungary. A harsh reminder that, compared to a protected school environment, the big wide world could become nasty. Strong doubts on the desirability of facing it, but no choice.

- Can there please be a Diamond Jubilee reunion in 2007, when many from the first decade will still be around, rather than waiting till the 75th Jubilee in 2022, when most probably won't be?

TERRY POWER

WDHS Primary Dept 1948 - 49

WDHS and WHS, 1950 - 56

now freelance journalist, Hamilton

1st XI HOCKEY
Taranaki Championship 1963



Back Row: L Coxhead, E Murphy, F Pepperell, J Coxhead, M Fraser, Miss M Elliot.
Front Row: J Reynolds, D Pratt, J Hide (Captain), L MacRae (Vice-Captain), V Brough, A Campbell.

The Sixties

WHEN THE SIXTIES STARTED TO SWING, WE WERE STILL IN SCHOOL UNIFORM

Being invited to reminisce on one's schooling is potentially hazardous - what to say; what theme to choose that will not seem overly self-indulgent, and hence to others, irrelevant and boring? Nostalgia can be a treacherous friend, so let's not wallow! I certainly think, for instance, that there is mismatch between present-day nostalgic images of the 1960s and the reality of our day-to-day experience - a mismatch that is perfectly captured in the clothing of the times.

So let's recall school uniforms. (How could we forget!) An inside/out view might be an interesting place to start. Hands up everyone who remembers navy blue bloomers - nothing very swinging about them! There was an infamous episode in which the form one and two girls were asked to demonstrate the wearing thereof - by lining up in the corridor with gym slips raised to the waist, while the boys vied frantically for views through the little windows in the classroom doors. Did it really happen to me? I can't remember, but my mother speaks of it sometimes. She was not amused!

The rompers we wore for 'phys.ed' were in the same league. Making them must have been a nightmare for mothers. All those yards of black poplin, designed to make us look as fat and unsexy as possible. What could THEY possibly have been worried about?? The adventurous rolled theirs over at the waist and hitched up the legs to make 'short shorts'. I was too chicken. But I did enjoy the outing in which we all appeared with the legs pulled down to our knees, knicker bocker style. That must have been the day that we discovered that our young and trendy teacher actually had no sense of humour, at least as far as we could see. I forget what the punishment was, but I recall that there was one.

Thinking of that teacher reminds me of straight skirts - especially hers. Pencil-thin and down to the knees - we watched with awful fascination each morning as she minced crab-like up those steep stairs onto the stage for assembly. Did it put us off hobbling around in the things ourselves in the weekends? Not at all. We couldn't wait to get out our Simplicity patterns and all the other accoutrements of sewing class. Shortie pyjamas, shift dresses, skin tight pants (that usually required a good deal of pinning in of seams) - we made the lot because if we hadn't we'd have gone without. Well, some of us did. One friend recalls unpicking and resewing the same zip, in the same skirt, for a whole year in sewing class. Bet she never actually wore it.

I can, however, think of three purchased wardrobe items that were 'essential'. What lengths we went to, in order to parade around in our 'car coats' from Hong Kong! The money orders, the customs declarations, the writing away, the waiting for a reply. What would the Warehouse generation have made of such a to-do? And then there were ruffle blouses - remember them, all frills and fussiness? Or stiff petticoats - the sixties' answer to the Victorian crinoline. I can think of plenty of adjectives to describe the reality of wearing them, but 'swinging' they were not!

Looking back, the flounced, fluffed and gathered garments of our school dances must have been a nightmare for those who had progressed beyond the petite - as must the gym slips we wore in the winter term, complete with adjustable 'girdle'. As I recall, there were undergarments called girdles too; fearsome monstrosities designed to imprison impolite and over-generous flesh - and remove every last vestige of muscle tone from the unfortunate wearer. We wore scaled down versions called 'easies'. If ever there was a misnomer for a garment, that surely was it! At the end of the decade, 'flower power' females dispensed with pretty much all their underwear. I was still too chicken. But I could understand why.

Let's go back to uniforms. That should be fairly safe, shouldn't it? Well, pause and think about those dreadful garments we were made to wear in the summer. Who could believe that adults would actually choose a fabric loaded with inviting little bobbles just begging to be dismembered in yet another boring class. How many uniforms fell apart prematurely I wonder? And most families, ours included, had little in the way of financial resources to be squandered unnecessarily. But then, those same adults chose a style that buttoned right down one side. And well-worn buttonholes are not the most reliable form of fastening, as boys with long rulers and a skilful turn in flicking buttons undone knew all too well.

Then there were the hats - another lingering remnant of Victoriana? Can I confess to quite liking my Panama when I first started at high school? And, actually, they wouldn't look out-of-place on today's 'Sun Smart' primary school playgrounds. But the berets we wore in the winter were another story. Their main inconvenience, of course, was that they flattened 'the beehive'. All those hours of teasing and backcombing, all that hair spray, the dinky clips plastering the 'bangs' firmly to the side of the face for the night - such effort to no avail when the dreaded beret had to be placed on top.

Still, at least in this one respect we could show we were true children of the swinging sixties. Doubtless our

parents were happy that most of the real action was in the bigger cities, or safely offshore. Remember Roger Miller - 'England swings like a pendulum do'? Perhaps it did. In those pre-television days, we had to rely on magazines and radio to find out. Some of us were braver than others, of course. Two girls from our class got suspended from school for travelling to Auckland to see the Beatles. (Hi Jill, Hi Tui). While they lived it, the rest of us sat in class and wrote earnest essays about "Beatlemania". Sigh.

Not that the English had a monopoly on our easily bestowed fashion faith. Oh no! 'Seventeen' was the arbiter of fashion sense and we studied it dutifully, wondering why the 'preppy' American look and all that talk of sororities, sophomores and semesters didn't quite seem to fit. There are some equivalents for young girls today - take a look inside a Dolly or a Girlfriend next time you're in a magazine retailers. It's a sobering experience!

I could go on, but I'm past my thousand words. (Remember when we sat in school and actually added them up? Now it all happens at the push of a button). I've looked at some of the downside but actually I think the sixties was probably a pretty good time to be at school. I sometimes remember those days fondly. I hope you do too.

ROSEMARY HIPKINS, nee Whittaker
(Form 1 - 6, 1958 - 1964)

THE ORCHESTRA, 1967



The Seventies

MEMORIES FROM THE PAST

It is hard to believe that 25 years have elapsed since I began my secondary school education at Waitara High School, as I vividly recall my first day as a third former in February 1972 setting into a routine that would become very comfortable over the next five years.

My arrival at Waitara High School was a 'culture shock' after having spent my primary school years at Huirangi Primary School with a roll of approximately 35 pupils. My only colleagues on Day 1 were old primary classmates Linda Sarten, Ross Jury and Tahu White and my cousin Jeny Martin (in those days having two brothers in the 4th form just did not count) and yet it could not have been long before I began a lifelong friendship with two members of class 3/32, Debra Kearns and Tricia Lucas.

The old routine of the 8.05am pick-up on the Huirangi School Bus and a cheery greeting from bus driver Mrs Mona Fenton and then in later years Mrs Neale began the day. It was amazing how much last-minute cramming for