



## Welcome

Welcome to the new look Parapet, the official newsletter of the **Marlborough Boys' College Old Boys' Association** (MCOBA), distributed free to our members' inboxes on a monthly basis.

Our aim is to keep all our Old Boys in touch with each other, and keep you updated with news, events and developments at the college.

To assist with distribution, your committee is seeking the email addresses of all former **Marlborough Boys' College** pupils and teachers. If this copy has not been delivered by email, please email your details to [oldboys@mbc.schools.govt.nz](mailto:oldboys@mbc.schools.govt.nz) or phone Ross Anderson at 021 709579.

## New website

We're currently working on a new MCOBA website, to provide former students and staff a connection to your old school, wherever you may be living in the world today. We hope to have the website ready to launch in September.

## MCOBA executive 2014-2015

Patron: Wayne Hegarty (Principal)

Life Member: Fergus Murray

Chairman: Ross Anderson

Treasurer: Domenic Romano

Secretary: John Bailey

Committee: Malcom Adams, Don McIntyre, Dennis Robinson, Phil Robinson

Meetings are held on the first Tuesday of the month. Members are welcome to attend all committee meetings. Please contact any committee member for details of meeting venue and time.

## Obituaries

We would like to acknowledge former pupils who have passed away recently.

Clunies-Ross, Athol David 12/01/14 in Blenheim aged 87 years

Dwyer, George William 29/05/14 in Blenheim aged 80 years

Please advise the Editor if you know of recent Old Boys' passing.

## Back in the day - quiz

Crime and Punishment – from the MBC Punishment Book 1969 Guess the number of cane strokes – answers at end of magazine.

Offence	Master
Slow to Class	J Mathews
No homework	M Bowling
Eating in class	P Minehan
Insolence	R K Harding

## Marlborough Boys' College 50<sup>th</sup> reunion

With the opening of the Marlborough Girls' College in 1963, Marlborough College became Marlborough Boys' College (MBC) and to celebrate this milestone, a 50th reunion for all staff and students who attended MBC in 1963 was held on November 1st and 2nd, 2013.

Eighty-seven registrants from New Zealand and two from Australia attended, including Marlborough mayor Alistair Sowman (Form V in 1963), and prefects, Bill McEwan (head Boy and captain of the first XV), John Bailey, and Brent Bythell. Special thanks to Mr Anthony (Tony) Deavoll, who was the only faculty member from 1963 who was able to attend. The other living faculty members from 1963 who unfortunately could not attend were: Mr John Croucher, Mr Ron Hubbard, Mr Lloyd Kerr, Mr Ray Miller, and Mr Len Wilson.

Throughout the two days, the organizing committee was pleased to work with Ms Simone Bailey, MBC Classical Studies Department, parents and students who were raising funds for their tour of Europe in April 2014.

Reunion highlights included a 'meet and greet' for all registrants to reminisce and acquaint themselves with old friends and colleagues, a group photo session, organised by Graham Brooks (Form 3, 1963), guided tours of the college by the current prefects and the dinner and dance in the college hall.

A great weekend was had by all, and a total of \$1600 was raised for the MCOBA.

Graham Brooks produced a DVD of the reunion, including many still photos from 1963. This is available for \$20 by contacting Graham at [ghbphoto@mlb.planet.gen.nz](mailto:ghbphoto@mlb.planet.gen.nz)

## Marlborough Boys' College 1st XV

King Salmon MBC 1st XV have been competing in the Press Cup Crusaders competition to defend their title won last year.

Currently sitting second on the points table after nine games, our boys have some big games ahead to stay in the top four teams and earn a semi- final. With two home games scheduled in July, we would love to see a good contingent of old boys' on the front field sideline.

Results to date	Still to be played
v Christ College Won 25-20	v St Bedes Home 2 August
v St Andrews Won 26-13	v Burnside Away 9 August
v Waimea Won 16-10	
v Shirley Won 26-20	
v St Thomas Won 21-13	
v Nelson Loss 17-18	
v Ashburton Won 37-5	
v Rangiora Won 43-3	
v Lincoln Won 38-5	
v CBHS Loss 13-58	
v Timaru Boys' Draw 20-20	
v Roncalli Home	

## Back in the day - quiz

Can you remember/guess who the names refer too? Answers at end of magazine.

1. Spike
2. Stumpy
3. Zeek
4. Cluck

## Past student excelling – Jono Kenyan

It's not every day you wake up and look out your bedroom window to see a bus go by with your face on it but that's just the type of publicity former Blenheim man Jono Kenyan has had to get used to.



Kenyan appeared on TV screens across the country in the lead role of the New Zealand-produced comedy drama Step Dave.

The 24-year-old former Marlborough Boys' College student landed the role just four years after graduating from the Wellington drama school Toi Whakaari.

"It was very humbling, actually, because I'd been doing part-time bar work for a year," said Kenyan. "I'd gone down the cliché route for actors, hustling for work and doing all the jobs you don't want to do."

Kenyan, now based in Auckland moved to Blenheim from England with his family as a youngster. Paula Kenyan, and older sister Beth Kenyan, still live in Blenheim.

Kenyan said he was grateful for having the opportunity to grow up in Marlborough. During his time here a number of people had helped him get to where he was today including his first drama teacher, Kristine Hudson, former Marlborough Boys' College deputy principal Alistair Williams, and directors Duncan Whiting and Gavin Richards.

"I do look forward to coming back to Marlborough and catching up with everyone - I just want to say thanks to everyone there who has helped and supported me along the way. I'm very grateful to them."

*Article courtesy of the Marlborough Express, 10/2/14*

## Letter from MBC principal Wayne Hegarty - future options for secondary education provisions in Blenheim

Dear former students

Last year public consultation started on secondary schooling in Blenheim. Both MBC and MGC required significant building work and the Ministry of Education decided that health and safety building work would only occur on both sites after the community had been consulted on the future secondary education in Blenheim. This model of approach has arisen in the aftermath of the Christchurch earthquakes.

The first round of consultation was strongly in favour of single sex education and resulted in three proposals, which were investigated by the Ministry of Education.

Option A: Relocate one or both schools so that there are two single sex colleges co-located on one site or in close proximity to each other

Option B: Retain the status quo

Option C: Have one purpose built co-education college

Unfortunately the options are not comparing apples with apples based on the funding and opportunity allocated to each option. In fact one might be said to be a lemon.  
Projected cost

Option A: \$51.5 m if on MGC site\*

Option B: \$10.8 m

Option C: \$52.6 m if on MGC site\*

\*The cost of A or C would be higher if land had to be purchased

Either Board does not support option B. Simply it does not allow the vision the Boards have for future education in Marlborough to become a reality.

The MOE have estimated a \$10.8 million price tag for essential health and safety work and infrastructure at both schools. The Ministry have said they would fund essential Health & Safety and infrastructure work only although concession has been made in the option on the MBC site to replace the Tech and Art Blocks at some time in the future at a cost of \$3.7 million. The schools' other facilities would be modernised to Modern Learning Environment (MLE) standard only if funding remained after the essential work above is completed. Given the age and state of our buildings the chances of money being left over for MLE is unlikely..

What we have at MBC is a modern hall, admin block and special needs area. We also have a lot of tired old buildings some of which require earthquake strengthening. Some of these including the Tech Block, the Art Block and the Wharenui are older and in worse repair than others. We also do not have sufficient gym space for a school of our size.

In all developed societies a desire of all parents is to provide a better life and environment for their children than they had. I question whether Option B is going to provide that. In 10 – 15 years there might be a new technology and art block but the rest of the school will be 10-15 years sadder.

The historical and architectural significance of the MBC site is huge to so many people including yourselves and while we know some of what we will gain we might not truly appreciate what we could lose, that which you cannot put a dollar figure on – culture.

Our board believes the future students of Marlborough deserve better than what Option B offers. Pragmatically Option A and C if built on a large enough site will offer future students and our community so much more and the MOE and government are to be commended for the offer.

Interestingly the MOE report on the 3 options estimated a \$30.8m price tag to modernise buildings that will not be rebuilt on the existing sites. Unfortunately the \$30.8 m is not part of the offer. The funding for Option A or C is from a pool of \$350m the government has designated for new schools. It's a matter of we use it or lose it.

There are common advantages to Option A and Option C. Firstly, students would have all new and MLE's to learn in. Secondly, both options can provide benefits from site sharing. If only one hall has to be built for two schools the space saved can be used in different ways. If halls and other buildings can be shared then more funding can go into buildings to support teaching and learning and identified priority areas the school and our community might choose.

The MBC BOT does not support Option C because we think that single sex education with opportunities for co-education is the best option for Marlborough students. This was the view expressed by the vast majority of submissions in the first consultation round. My background is almost exclusively co-ed. I applied for the MBC position because of the challenge of the position not because it was single sex. While there are pros and cons for both types of schooling I have seen excellence to degrees I have never experienced in co-ed schools in all facets of school life. Sporting, cultural and leadership excellence is very visible and the report that has just come out on academic achievement in boys' schools is very timely for this discussion. For every indication of academic success over all groups of decile ratings boys in single sex schools outperformed boys in co-ed schools - some indicators are staggeringly better. I would expect the same results if girls' achievement in single sex schools were to be analysed.

Boys thrive in a single sex environment. Being in a single sex environment allows us to concentrate on every aspect of being a man in a non-judgemental non-pressurised safe environment where there is no seeking the approval from girls.

In reality we already have aspects of co-education with boys being taught at MGC and girls being taught at MBC.

Given the constraints of option B the MBC Board supports Option A based on a greenfield site of suitable size. The MBC Board wants a new school:

1. That can benefit from co-location – the MOE work to a formula of so much building space per student. All new schools will have a hall and administration block. If these and other buildings can be shared then as stated earlier more funding can go into buildings to support teaching and learning and identified priority areas.
2. The ability to retain the positive aspects of culture that have evolved at “MBC and “MGC”.
3. Single sex education with opportunities for co-education.
4. A site large enough to have sports fields on site and potential tertiary courses and their facilities e.g. auto workshop and horticulture block.

We don't support either the MBC or MGC site as a site option.

At 4.5 ha, the main MBC site is too small for co-location or a co-educational school. We feel having 2400 (MBC/MGC/Bohally) students on one site adjacent to a state highway poses unacceptable traffic/congestion risks.

At eight ha the MGC site is not big enough to have sports fields on site and potential tertiary subject provision and their facilities.

MOE guidelines suggest a suitable size for 2,500 students on a new site is 8.5 ha. Based on our current combined MBC/MGC student footprint of 17.16 ha, the MBC BoT do not believe that the MGC site of 8 hectares will provide adequate space now or future proof for 30 years on.

For option A or C to occur in a way that will ensure they meet the needs of future students, we believe, a greenfield site of suitable size must be considered.

We have a chance to future proof to enable current initiatives the MOE are driving to be included in the new schools footprint. There is a big MOE push toward providing more relevant courses for students whose aspirations is work rather than university. We have courses in horticulture, construction and forestry, for example whose practical components are currently very constrained by site size. We end up with chainsaws cutting up wood near classrooms, garden sheds being built in a small easily vandalised area and horticulture operating in a very small area. We have the chance to provide for these activities with a site of suitable size.

Who is to say what initiatives in the future might require more land. For example, at some time in the future, boarding may again be considered by a board. This could be linked to courses or academies that utilise either facilities or talent in our region. Meetings I have been at in recent weeks have talked about the potential of offering horticulture with strong viticulture links, and rowing and rugby academies. On a practical note a greenfield site would also reduce the disruption to the learning of students at MGC while building took place.

- The Ministry has said they would consider negotiating land acquisition for a greenfield site if three things happened:
- The existing MGC site proved to be unworkable – we struggle to see how there could be sufficient land for sports fields or for practical courses whose programmes could be compromised on a small site.
- The community indicated a strong preference for the inclusion of a tertiary courses – why wouldn't we?

A suitable site is available - The Marlborough District Council has been proactive and has some potential sites the Ministry could investigate.

Given that the status quo offers so little, the MBC Board desire is to have single sex schools that provide opportunities for co-education, sharing specialist facilities on a co-located greenfield site that is big enough to meet the co and extra curricula needs of students, while future proofing the school to enable future educational opportunities on the site.

We look forward to reading in submissions whether you agree this is the best option or not and hope your submissions will encourage the MOE to work with the Marlborough District Council to look for a suitable greenfield site. The decision to support an option that takes us away from this historical site has not been made easily. The heart says remain but the head says pragmatically that an opportunity exists that we cannot turn down based on how the cards have been dealt to us.

**Wayne Hegarty**

## **Subscriptions**

Subscriptions are due.

It is only \$25 per year. Please help us to help your old school.

We apologise for not sending a 2013-2014 subscription account last year due to an administrative oversight. If you did not pay a sub last year, we would appreciate you doubling up this year as we have some exciting developments ahead, which will require old boys' financial support to the school.

You can now pay on-line direct to our bank account :  
Bank Account: Marlborough College Old Boys' Association Inc  
Account #: 01-0598-0019661-00  
Particulars field: your name  
Reference: Membership

## **Back in the day – quiz answers**

### **Crime and Punishment**

A: 2 strikes, B: 2 strikes C: 2 strikes D: 4 strikes

### **Nicknames from the past**

A: Horricks B: Nimmo C: Williams D: McClatchie

If you have a story to be told of MBC Old Boy's life beyond the college, please drop me an email. Correspondence should be addressed to The Editor at:

<mailto:oldboys@mbc.schools.govt.nz>

*Disclaimer: The views expressed and appearing in 'The Parapet' are those entirely of the contributors and in no way reflects the policy of Marlborough Boys' College or Marlborough College Old Boys' Association.*