



Old WPPS Newsletter No.17

The official Newsletter of the Old WPPS Association, incorporating past pupils, parents & staff

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Term 3 2011

PAST STAFF

Ernest Hand (staff 1966-88)



Ernie died peacefully at Pinelands Place on 31 August, aged 88. His last six months had not been easy as he had had a fall, a long wait for an operation as his general health was not good, and then, although the operation was successful, he could not walk and was confined to a wheelchair for the last month. In spite of this, he remained cheerful and his mind was as sharp as ever. He loved to talk about his time at school, particularly about the plays and Gang Shows and his famous Film Club. He surprised the staff of the intensive care unit when he was in hospital by singing "I'm Reviewing the Situation", word perfect from his role as Fagin in *Oliver* over 20 years ago.

Ernie was a veritable *Mr Chips*. He was resident at Mount Royal for all the years he was at WPPS and could be relied on to welcome new staff and boys and make them feel at home with the inevitable, "Cup of tea, dear?" He taught English and history in Standard 3, and really made his subjects live; many a Roman battle (in full costume) was fought on the playground. The boys loved it!

Ernie ran a very active Cub Pack for many years and took his cubs on hikes and camps, although when it came to sport, he was "Off games, dear." Perhaps his most exciting activity was the Film Club where

he encouraged the boys to write, direct and act in short films. At a recent gathering of the class of 1986, the anecdotes and laughs about film club abounded. I was able to tell him the following day, two days before he died, how much the boys had appreciated and valued him. He was so pleased that they had such happy memories of his teaching.

Ernie was a talented actor himself and could steal the show even in a minor role. He was a wily Fagin and a superb Rainbow, the school porter, in the staff production of *The Happiest Days of your Life*. His personal party piece was miming to "My Boomerang Won't Come Back", where that rubber face could twist into the most amazing contortions.

Reading through all the personal tributes from the staff and parents to him on his retirement, one realises that he was a man full of talent, warmth and friendship. Both those who were taught by him and those who taught alongside him were fortunate indeed.

Pauline Pearce

Flo Peters (staff 1967-81)



Until her death in April this year, Flo was our oldest surviving past staff member and, as you can see from the photograph taken on her 97th birthday, was gracious and elegant to the last. She joined the staff in 1967 and spent all her years at WPPS teaching the Standards 1 and 2 boys. Strict, but fair, she was loved and respected by her pupils and returned their love in full measure. She was a talented artist, which revealed itself in her

creative projects with the boys; she also painted sets and backdrops for school plays with great skill. She was always ready to go the extra mile and was great fun in the staffroom. Who will ever forget her role in *Flo's Flappers*, in the revue *Music Boxes* in 1981, when she led a 20s chorus line of befringed, befeathered and beaded lady staff members in a show-stopping dance number! She loved it!

We extend our condolences to her daughter and sons and their families. She was very proud of you all.

Anne Stansbury (staff 1952-59)

We reported the death of **John Stansbury** in our last newsletter and were sad to hear of the death of his wife **Anne**, nine weeks after her husband. Anne was only 22 when she and John arrived in Cape Town in 1951, to take over WPPS. She told me how overwhelmed she was by the situation as she was in charge of the boarding house, which included housekeeping and standing in as relief matron. She found her mother-in-law, Christine Stansbury, who was still running the business affairs of the school, very supportive, but the care of 50 boarders, some of whom did not get home at all until the school holidays, was very difficult. Nevertheless, recent tributes from some of those boarders show that Anne was a very kind and caring substitute mother.

Anne had four children of her own, and it was not until she and John went to Rhodesia in 1959 that she had her own home and her own kitchen!

In spite of her failing health, she put together all John's letters and memorabilia of his WPPS days so that we could have them for the centenary book and the archives.

Our deepest sympathy to her sons and daughters. We are grateful for her steadfast and gentle influence in her time as headmaster's wife – an influence remarked upon by several appreciative old boys.

This is my Farewell Newsletter!

It is with deep sadness that I inform you of my departure from WPPS at the end of this year. The reason for my leaving is two-fold; work has commenced for the 2014 centenary. I know I would not want to remain here until then - my second reason; I would prefer to be more flexible, in order to see the children for my daughter goes overseas next year for a gap year, and my son still has another three years at St Andrew's.

This has been an incredible five-and-a-half years for me. I have really loved the work, the fantastic people I work with and the reward in watching this 'baby' of the Old Boys' Association, develop and grow.

A big thank you to all of you who have been so amazing with sending your news, memorabilia, photos, etc. Without this, so much of my work would have been more difficult.

I will now be on the receiving end of old boys' communications as a past parent, and I wish those filling my shoes all the best of luck.

Kirsty Schaffler will be taking over from me so all news and snippets can be sent to schaffler@wpps.org.za.

Carey Neill

News from St Andrew's

St Andrew's was recently voted as the highest rated private school in the Eastern Cape.

St Andrew's College pupils love audacious challenges. Thirteen Grades 10 and 11 boys participated in the Cambridge International Examinations A Level course in Thinking Skills.

All 13 candidates passed the A Level Examination, among them two of our old boys who were fortunate to have been invited to sit this exam. **William Cahill** (1999-2006) and **Gregory Slack** (2000-2007) are to be congratulated on this wonderful opportunity.

Rugby:

William Cahill was awarded his colours and **Buddy** (Andrew) **Kebble** (1999-2006) received a team award.

Congratulations to **Jason Baggott** (2001-2008) [Grade 10], who was selected to play scrumhalf for First XV in the latter part of the season.

Golf:

Bryce Bosman (1999-2007) and **Jason Baggott** played in the Fish River Junior Golf Championships, one of the bigger Border Foundation Tournaments on the calendar. Both players did well with Bryce finishing in second place in the A division, one stroke behind the eventual winner, and Baggott fifth, also in the A division. Well done to both players!

Bryce also played in a number of prestigious

golf events in the Western Cape in June. In the Westlake Junior Open, he was placed second out of a field of 70 in the A division, and in the Glacier Junior Series held at Erinvale he was tied fourth in the A division out of 79 players. Well done to Bryce on his selection to the Eastern Province Golf team.

In August, Bryce and Jason travelled to Johannesburg for a practice round at the River Club, before travelling on to Sun City to take part in the International Schools Golf Tournament hosted by St John's College.

Cricket:

During the holidays the 1st Cricket XI went on tour to Zimbabwe, where they played four 50 over matches against St George's, St John's, Peterhouse and Falcon. They lost to St George's and beat the others comfortably.

They then took part in the St George's 20/20 Festival where they won four of their six games. Unfortunately, a loss to Falcon meant that they did not make the final. **Josh Devis** (1999-2007) [son of **Simon** (1968-73)] is the only Old WPPS in the First XI.



Josh Devis

Water polo:

The U15A team travelled to Cape Town to play in the U15 Mellier Cup. There were five old boys in the team, namely:

Stephen Cragg (2003-2009)

Stefan Zimmerman (2002-2009)

Kayle Bovijn (2003-2009)

Joey Slack (2002-2009)

Stuart McMaster (2002-2010)

They managed to get into the final against Wynberg but lost 6-0. This was the first time that St Andrew's have made it into the final since this tournament began in 2007. Joey was chosen as goalkeeper of the tournament – a fine effort, considering he only started playing polo at the beginning of this year. Well done boys!

Greg Slack is the Captain of Rowing for the 2011/2012 season.

Lwandle Mseleku (2004-2008) sang and danced as one of the thugs in the St Andrew's/DSG production of Footloose staged in June



Lwandle (far right)

News from Bishops

Exchange Students:

Congratulations to the eight Grade 10 boys who were chosen to go on exchange to various parts of the globe:

Ian Douglass – Providence Day School, USA

Nicholas Marine – The Hotchkiss School, USA

Oliver Marr – Haileybury, UK

Jasanth Moodley – Rijnlands Lyceum Wassenaar, Holland

Oliver Neill – Pembroke, Australia

Mitchell Nixon – The Lawrence School, India

Alex Stewart – Christ Church Grammar School, Australia

Murray Walters – Episcopal Academy, USA

Four other old boys have been very fortunate to have gone on private exchanges to the UK.

They are **Wesley White** and **Justin Holliday** both to Bromsgrove School.

James Murphy and **James Day** are both going to Blundells School.

We wish our boys all the best for their travels.

Debating:

Nicholas Marine (2007-2008) went to Brisbane, Australia in March as part of the South African Public Speaking team to take part in the World Public Speaking and Debating Championships. Four Bishops boys, one of them **Thomas von Zahn** (1998-2006) went with a delegation of 12

Sport:

Tim Swiel (1998-2006) has had an incredible year. He has represented his province and his country. Special congratulations should go to him as he acquitted himself extremely well playing against France for SA Schools and SA Academy respectively. These took place in recent curtain-raisers to SA's Tri-Nations matches against Australia and New Zealand in Port Elizabeth.

Full colours were awarded to **Ghaalib Van Der Ross** (1998-2006) and **Tim Swiel**.

James van Heerden (2000-2007) played for the First XV this year and has gained valuable experience, which will stand him in good stead for 2012 season.

Hockey – Sebastian Golding (1998-2006) and **James Drummond** (2003-2006) both represented Western Province in the U18 team.

Alex Stewart (2001-2008) represented U16 Western Province A team while

Luke Barker (2001-2008) and **Josh van Niekerk** (2001-2008) were in the Western Province B Peninsula team. **James Murphy** (2007-2008) represented the U16 Western Province Disas.

Justin Nel (2002-2010) who captained the Bishops U14A side was in the U14 Western

Province Disas team.

Water polo:

We are so proud of the number of old boys in the U15A side who got to the semi-finals of the U15 Mellier Cup tournament. The boys are:

Luca Bersella (2002-2009)

Kimon Haralambous (2002-2009)

Seamus Murphy (2004-2009)

Alex Raubenheimer (2004-2009)

Kilimanjaro

For many years now, Bishops staff and boys have undertaken an expedition to summit Mount Kilimanjaro, and 2011 has been no exception. Eight of the 28-man group are old boys who were fortunate to spend the beginning of the Easter break adventuring up Africa's highest mountain via the Machame route:

Carlos Albrecht (2005-2006)

Mark Austin (1997-2006)

Cameron Harries (2003-2008)

Ross Christopher (2001-2008)

Justin Fanton (2005-2008)

Daniel Nel (2002-2008)

Luke Heydenrych (1999-2007)

Ian Douglass (2001-2008)



Daniel Nel at the summit.

boys and girls. In fact, Nicholas and another boy were the reserves, however they were able to participate fully and Nicholas was placed twenty first overall, top 16 year old and top Bishops boy.

Nicholas was awarded his Distinction tie last term. This tie is only awarded to a boy

who has represented his country or saved a life!

PR Group:

The Public Relations (PR) Group at Bishops was started in 2006 with just eight members and now stands at 23. These boys are tasked with performing various

roles at important school events: mainly as ushers, tour guides, runners/messengers and general dogs' bodies at sports events, school plays, Eisteddfod, Experience Bishops, The Heritage Luncheon, quizzes, the OD Dinner, amongst many others.

Kishan Chagan (2000-2007)

Gregg Christy (2000-2007)

Shaun Janse van Vuuren (2003-2007)

Luke Kuhn (2003-2007)

Jan Roux (2006-2007)

James van Heerden (2000-2007)

In recognition of their service, the boys have been awarded PR Group ties.

Bishops Wins UCT Maths

For the fourth year in a row they have won the UCT Maths Competition. This is now the fourteenth time that they have done so in the 24 years of the competition. Old WPPS boys who participated are:

Grade 8 - **Soo Min Lee** (2009-2010) - 1st

Grade 9 - **Daniel Mesham** (2002-2009) - 1st

Grade 10 - **Guy Paterson-Jones** (2001-2002) - 1st

Grade 12 - **Ramsay Collins** (1999-2006) - 1st in his pair

Canoeing

On 3 September, **Murray Walters** (2001-2008) and **Josh van Niekerk** (2001-2008) were (two of the most competent members of the Bishops canoe club) partnered by senior accomplished canoeists, participated in the two day 72km Breede River Canoe Marathon from Robertson to the Kambati River Resort. Josh and his partner placed sixty-second, and Murray and his partner were placed seventy-fourth out of around 240 competitors. Congratulations to these canoeists on their achievement. We wish them all the best for their next race which is on the Fish River during the upcoming holidays.

Wynberg Boys' High School

Quintin Dreyer (2002-2008)

was selected to play for the U16A Western Province hockey team and SA Schools squad. Congratulations! We look forward to hearing how the SA Schools fare when they compete.

Woodridge

Anthony Haralambous (2000-2007) has made the Eastern Cape U19B water polo squad.

News from Around The World

South Africa:

Sean Whitehead (1988-94), **Alistair Burns** (1976-82) and **Johnny Anderton** (1966-73) coincidentally all took part in the school's inaugural Eco Expo which

was held for a week in June. Sean was representing the Goedgedacht Trust and was displaying the Wonderbag. For more information on this NGO's products, go to: www.goedgedacht.org.za.



Sean, Alistair and Johnny

Alistair is a director for SCD/Probiokashi which manufactures probiotic products for the agricultural sector. Visit www.bokashi.co.za for more information.

Johnny represented the company Oxygenics which manufactures the eco-shower. Go to www.oxygenics.co.za for stockists and other valuable and interesting information.

It is truly wonderful to see so many of our old boys are involved in businesses which provide various products, solutions and systems to aid better living within our environment.

Ryan Bass (1988-94) writes ...

"At the moment, I am journeying in the Peruvian Amazon. I sold my business last year, so presently, there is nothing going in the business world for me, but I have become interested in and am studying Amazonian plant medicines at present.

A few years ago, I started a business in energy efficient lighting design and manufacture, specifically using LEDs (which are a new lighting technology). I was lucky enough to be one of the few specialists in my field when the market took off, and my business grew rapidly. A friend of mine from university joined me in a partnership for the last three years of the business which is called "Electric Blue". It was a high pressure undertaking and I am glad now to be relaxing."

Best Wishes

Ryan

555magical@gmail.com

Paul Boughey (1985-91), who was working in the educational administration for the City Council, has now been promoted to the post of Assistant to Cape Town's Mayor, Patricia de Lille.

Paul.Boughey@capetown.gov.za



Congratulations to **Matthew Kempthorne** (1982-88) on his landslide victory in the May municipal elections. Matthew is now the DA councillor for Ward 58.

Dad, **Ley** (1954-60), must be justly proud!

Two other old boys also ran for election, **Stephen Goodson** (1955-61) as Leader of the Abolition of Income tax and Usury Party, and **Jack Miller** (1990-97) as founder of the Cape Party.

Patrick Rogers (1982-88) was named in the Mail and Guardian as one of the Top 200 young South Africans for his work in the maternity hospital at Tonga, Natal. mampat@gmail.com

Thomas Loubser (1988-94) was selected out of a large field of applicants to sail in the last leg of the Clipper Round the World Yacht Race, the longest ocean race in the world.

Congratulations, Thomas, and we look forward to an account of your experience for the next newsletter – Ed

Thomas' e-mail address is taloubser@gmail.com

NEWSLETTER NO. 16 RESPONSES:

Roy Watson

"You guys do a great job! Bit of egg on my face regarding my Stansbury cricket memories – particularly being a journalist (get facts right and all that!!) – but I was only nine at the time. I left for Salisbury, Rhodesia, with my late father in 1958 and was with most of the group featured in your 1960 photo when I left. Most interesting."

Best regards
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Mike Buchanan (1958 –61)

"Thanks so much for your effort in compiling this newsletter, it is much appreciated. To add to the black lump of cake we were given for pudding that was harder to

swallow than a mouth full of peanut butter, was the sago pudding which was under cooked and lumpy, I have never touched the stuff since! Keep up the great work."

mikebu@telkomsa.net

Peter Steyn (1942-49) writes:

"What an excellent WPPS April Newsletter, full off nostalgia for an 'oldie'. On p7 in the 1960 school photograph sits Headmaster Pridmore whom Crispian Trace and I hated for making us kill our pet Rhombic Schaapsteker, an incident described in a previous newsletter. Also, in the same row is the Reverend Stanley Wakeling, who was commandant of the Hermanus Scout Camp, which I so enjoyed for many years, and he married us in the Bishops Chapel in 1959. He was a wonderful man.

The obituary for John Stansbury was wonderfully written. I only got to know him well in later life through a little group of former teachers from Zimbabwe and South Africa who meet on the second Tuesday of every month. John regularly joined us until shortly before his death. We still meet and call ourselves The Barnacles, because we move very slowly and are still clinging on. My brother-in-law, **Paul Cannon** (1943), is a regular member of our group.

It is gratifying to see the Archives Room dedicated to my contemporary Martin Simpson, who was always cheerful and smiling as in the photograph. Over several years we had an annual game of squash when he visited Cape Town from USA, and he won our last encounter not long before his tragic death in the Lockerbie air disaster.

Finally, I see an appeal for one of those ghastly grey felt hats we had to wear which made us resemble peripatetic blue mushrooms. I can't supply one, but at least I can provide a photograph of myself wearing one at a very early age."

peregrine@mweb.co.za

Mike Keeling (1938-42)

"Thank you for another interesting Newsletter; great memory joggers they all are.

Some fifteen years, or more, ago, I was at a veterinary meeting in Surrey, UK, when I noticed someone wearing a SCHERMBRUCKER name tag.

I introduced myself with, "The only other Schermbrucker I have come across taught me Drama at school in South Africa."

"Ah!" said he, "My Aunt, at Wetpups, and she's still going strong."

Well, that was a long time ago, and I guess she's no longer with us, but it did evoke

fond memories.

We irreverently, but affectionately, referred to her as Shermie Shufflebottom, which had nothing to do with her anatomy as she was slim, trim and elegant.

She achieved greatness in managing to get me on stage dressed in shambolic clothes, where I stood transfixed and recited this chart-topping ditty:

*A scarecrow stood in a field one day,
Stuffed with straw, stuffed with hay.
He watched the folk on the King's Highway
But never a word said he!*

I wonder if it was her influence that led me to membership of Finuala Dowling's monthly poetry workshop?!"

Yours sincerely

Michael Keeling

mike.keeling@hotmail.co.uk

Alastair Hope-Robertson (1957-63)

Thanks for all the WPPS newsletters; I read them cover to cover, if there is such a thing on e-mails.

alastair@universalequipment.net

Rob Coombe (1973-79) sent this in about Spencer Johnson (1977-80)

who recently swam from Robben Island to Blouberg. The water was a chilly 12°C and he did it in just over three hours of swimming, clothed only in a speedo and cap. Spencer is in the purple cap in the foreground. The distance in a straight line is 7.5km, but he actually swam about 10km. Spencer and his mate swam this distance two days before the official annual Cadiz Freedom Swim, but still did everything by the book. They were monitored by three escort boats which included an official lifeguard.

spencer@lona.co.za

rcoombe@brait.com



Overseas:

Bruce Coomer (1984-88)

We have been receiving a monthly newsletter from Bruce Coomer and his wife, Jeanne, who are in Korea for two years, teaching English. They make fascinating reading as Bruce and Jeanne are making the most of every opportunity to get to know the country and its people. Their first accounts of Korean cuisine are very funny with Bruce sighing with relief when he could source a burger but nothing daunted, they are trying everything. They have made many friends through two English speaking church communities and have attended a Korean wedding. They have travelled a lot in the region in which they live and their descriptions of the sights and sounds are lively and informative. They will use the school holiday to take a tour to China, including the Great Wall and Terracotta warriors. This photograph shows them in traditional Korean costumes, a pity Bruce didn't have that when he was teaching at Wynberg Boys' Junior, it would have installed instant discipline! We wish that we could include the newsletters in full, but Bruce and Jeanne's email address is jandbcoomer@gmail.com and I know that they would love to share their news with other old friends.

jandbcoomer@gmail.com



Bruce and Jeanne Coomer

Martin Cruickshank (1942-45)

While on holiday in Scotland in May, Malcolm and Pauline Pearce were delighted to meet up with Martin at his spectacularly beautiful estate near Tyndrum, in the central Highlands. Martin brought out his old WPPS reports, spelling books and GK tests (79%!) and shared his memories of Wetpups. His was a wonderfully warm welcome (which was in contrast to the snow on the mountain on his farm!). Martin was

wearing his Friends of Wetpups tie and had hoisted the Southern African flags, old and new, in their honour. Martin has promised to come and visit WPPS before too long and we look forward to that.

auchreoch@gmail.com



Martin and his friend at WPPS

Peredur Williams (1955-57)

I was delighted to find the OW Newsletters on the web and most interested to read of my contemporaries **David Richardson** (1954-57), **Nick Taylor** (1950-57), **John Grayling** (1955-57) and **Fred Holroyd** (1955-57) in the November issue. I was at WPPS as a boarder in 1955-57.

Like David and Fred, a long way from home, Walvis Bay in my case (I think Fred came from Lusaka). The train left Walvis Bay on Friday nights and arrived in Cape Town on Tuesday mornings, where JIS or Mac would meet me.

They were very caring, and made WPPS a very good place to be, with boys encouraged to participate in a wide range of activities, whatever their levels of ability. The food was not so good - has anyone mentioned the fried breadcrumbs on toast?

On Sunday mornings, the boarders walked to Christ Church (Kenilworth) and on Sunday afternoons up to Wynberg Park or Newlands. About once a year there was a marvellous treat: Mac, who had been in the Royal Navy, would take a group of us to see a visiting warship in Simonstown naval base. I hung out mostly with Fred Holroyd and **Roger Clegg** (1951-57), and remember Fred and I writing the Scholarship exam in (the senior) Mrs Stansbury's house on the other side of Newlands Road. I am glad Fred and I were not competing, as I know who would have won. Fred got a scholarship to St Andrew's and the school got a half holiday; I then got one to Bishops, and the school got another half holiday. I remember excellent teaching from JIS, Mac and Sainty and learning the proper ways to hold a chisel from Mr MacFarlane - a lesson underlined by the fact that he was missing the tip of a finger (lost, I think, in the Great War rather than a carpentry accident).

*With all good wishes
Peredur Williams*

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Bruce McGhie (1972-79) contacted us from New Zealand ...

Greetings WPPS. Having finished year six at WPPS 1979 and moving to Bishops, I regrettably had little to do with the school thereafter, although I did pop up once or twice to observe the changes and some of the activities. It's sad how high school dominates one's post-school boy involvement and memories, but reading this weekend of Mrs McNaughton's farewell brought a tear to my eye and left me to ponder all the good times I had... and there were many.

It was in Mrs McNaughton's first year, from memory, as a junior teacher at the school and recall her attempting to teach me Afrikaans – something I was not particularly good at. In hindsight, I have a healthy respect for her patience.

After leaving school, I crossed paths with her once or twice and was always impressed how she remembered the class which including **Toli Cardasses** (1972-78), **Jonathan Blackmore** (1972-78) and others. She coached me rugby, took the cricket, was involved in the swimming, and participated in a couple of school plays in which I was involved in and much, much more. She is a fantastic teacher and responsible for some fond lifetime memories that I have from my time at Wepups. Please send her my very best regards and wish her well. She will be sorely missed by the school no doubt.

Short update: Mrs McNaughton may be interested that I've now been married a long,

Craig Gibbs (1970-73)

I'm the joint Head and owner of a prep school called Great Houghton School of 320 pupils www.ghschool.net This is my third headship and when the opportunity arose we decided to buy the school.

I've been amused in the past as I was Deputy Head at Edge Grove who have a link with WPPS (after I left sadly) and I've kept in touch with a number of the members of staff who have been out to Cape Town to visit WPPS. They can't stop talking about the experience and what a great school it is. That and the fact that when a group from WPPS visited Edge Grove they were very complimentary about the behaviour and attitude of the WPPS boys. I wrote an email to the Head stating all of this as I know that it is important to receive positive feedback rather than just complaints!

Unfortunately, every time I'm in SA it seems to be a school holiday, but hopefully this time I could find time to come and see the school - your Deputy Head is a friend of a close SA friend of mine in England who is also a Head (Iain Gilmour, Kingshott School).

long time (18 years) and have two lovely girls, Megan 13 and Amy 10.

We live in Auckland (my wife's a Kiwi and kindergarten teacher) so as can be expected we're very involved as parents.

The junior school asked me to coach their water polo team a few years ago and this I have been doing for four years now.

It is somewhat the norm in NZ for the parents to get stuck in and coach/manage teams.

Our free time is spent camping, travelling and generally getting outdoors with the family and



I look forward to hearing about the continued progress of WPPS and from the website and feedback I've received over the years everyone connected with WPPS should be justifiably proud of the school

We have a house in Kommetjie, Cape Town and come back home every main holiday.

Best wishes

*Craig
gibscan@btinternet.com*

Thanks Craig. You've got no excuse not to visit us next time you're here. We look forward to it. - Ed

Gary Taylor (1962-69)

My wife found two WPPS school magazines, one from December 1965 and the other May 1969. I have scanned a few pictures of interest, which you might want to feature over future editions of the e-magazine.

Regards

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Director*

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friends, and like SA, NZ is a great place to be outdoors.

Regards

*Bruce (nicknamed "lang neus" by Mrs
McNaughton) McGhie*

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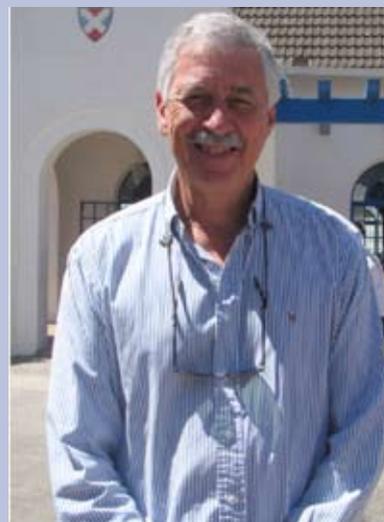
21 912 921

bmcghie@xtra.co.nz

Thanks for this, Bruce – it's good to hear from you. Hope you still support the Boks? - Ed

Visit From An Old Wpps

Tudor Lacey (1953-55) surprised me on break-up day last term when he dropped by to have a look around. Tudor is currently the swimming coach for DSG and St Andrew's but will be leaving at the end of this year to return to the States. We wish him well for the future.

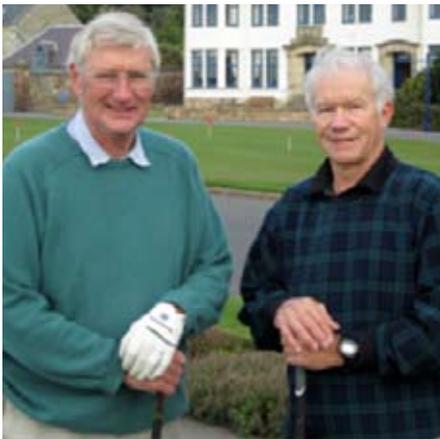


Tudor Lacey

Global Reunion in Scotland

Hugh Childers (1953-59) from Brisbane and **Gordon Denby** (1956-59) from Seattle met up with **Peter McMorland** (1956-59) in Scotland (for the first time since Wetpups) for a couple of days of golf - all thanks to Hugh's photo in Newsletter No 13. Peter sent this ...

The first photo is in The Dome, Edinburgh, fortifying ourselves with single malts. The next photo is of Gordon and Peter at the first tee, Gullane Golf Club at Course No. 1 near Edinburgh, having last played together 50 years ago.



Peter and Gordon

What might happen when three ex-Wetpups boys from three continents meet up in Edinburgh after an interval of five decades?

There was some scepticism among their spouses and friends. Will you recognise each other? Will you have anything to say to each other? How can you possibly know whether you might still have anything in common after all that time?

The answers to all these questions can now be revealed. When Peter McMorland now living near Edinburgh, Gordon Denby from Seattle, USA and Hugh Childers from Brisbane, Australia graduated from Wetpups in 1959, their destinies took them in very different directions. None of us could possibly have known what lay ahead. While Peter and Gordon went on to Bishops, Hugh went to Michaelhouse and onward to Australia. But what followed when they met on Thursday, 15 September 2011, was a reconnection of the extraordinary bonds of friendship and camaraderie created by WPPS so long ago. After a very short hiatus at Edinburgh airport, when Peter and Gordon at first walked right past each other, the conversation flowed, easy and open, and the years rapidly receded.

Their game of golf at Gullane Number 1 golf course in glorious weather was an interesting challenge on Peter's home course.

Without saying who won, they both reconnected with their competitive sporting side which was so much in evidence at Wetpups and Bishops!

When Hugh joined the others in The Dome, a marvellous restaurant in Edinburgh the next evening, the circle was complete. Deeply shared experiences created an extraordinary opportunity to recall the past in a great wealth of detail. Hugh brought with him from Brisbane a copy

of the 1959/1960 Wetpups magazine, and combined this with his oddly retentive memory for obscure occurrences. Anecdotes flowed and we all shared our life stories and recollections of Wetpups, Cape Town and the apartheid era. The essential truth is that once you are touched by South Africa, you can never forget what you saw or experienced. Camille, Gordon's wife, was amazed at the way the whole evening flowed. We must say that the process was lubricated by the most varied selection of pure malt Scotch whiskeys that any of us had ever seen or tasted. After such an evening, even small eccentric details of persistent mannerisms we displayed caused a great deal of amusement.



Gordon, Hugh and Peter

When Gordon, with his flair for project and people management, interacted with Hugh to consider where Peter should go with his biggest life project (a major research study of British imperial education policy in India), a replica of a Bishops Prefects' meeting was reconstituted! We are very pleased to report that McMorland has been disciplined to pursue his project with renewed zeal!

Unfortunately, Betty, Peter's wife, who had a prearranged holiday organised, could not be there to enjoy the reunion. However, she had prepared a wonderful series of meals that everyone enjoyed.

We are all resolved to come out for the Centenary celebrations and plan to share an apartment together for the event!

Hugh Childers, Gordon Denby and Peter McMorland

2006 Mothers' Lunch



On 25 May, 20 mothers met at Basilico restaurant for a relaxed luncheon. It is always entertaining when a bunch of women get together. There is no end to the chatter and laughter, and it was great to see these ladies again



Class of '86 Reunion

Pauline Pearce writes: I had a marvellous evening recently when **Ross Wilson** (1980-86) invited Mrs Mac and me to a reunion of the Class of '86. There were 29 'boys' there; including **Mark Shuttleworth** (1980-86) from the UK, **Ollie Potgieter** (1980-86) from Oz and the talk and laughter flowed. Ross is sending their email contacts, and they have promised to let me have things for the book.

Which year group is going to be the next to have a WPPS reunion? Please let us know – Ed

2006 Leavers' Reunion



On 17 August, we gathered in the Stansbury Hall with many of the leavers from 2006 and their parents, alongside some past staff members as well as those current staff who taught these boys. What a happy and enjoyable evening it was. **William Cahill** (1999-2006) made a brief speech and **Bradley Bolus** (2000-2006) read a poem which he had written in Grade 6. **Zade Bester** (2001-2006) was the lucky man to have his name drawn out of the hat for a WPPS rugby ball which was signed by all the boys.



Zade Bester

The parents were thrilled to be back and to spend time with one another.



Andrew Golding, Bob Bolus, Adèle McNaughton, John Bailey, Ricky Carter-Johnson

The Reunion was appreciated and we received some emails from some of the adults...

Susan von Zahn wrote:

A big thank you from us to all of you for a lovely evening. It is always very special returning to WPPS and tonight was no exception.

PS. Please tell Fiona Bosman that her food was great!!

Many thanks for a great evening on Wed evening. We really enjoyed seeing everyone and catching up. It was also a real treat to see all the boys together.

Rod, Shayne & Dane Wilson

Thanks for a great evening and being made to feel so welcome.

Dave, Amanda and Ross Smith

Thank you for a fabulous reunion – it was



so happy, which I guess reflects the years our boys spent there!

Stephen and Candy Cahill

Verna Baguley - I just want to thank all those concerned with the planning and preparation for last night's 2006 leavers' reunion. I absolutely loved seeing the boys

again. Some of the boys were instantly recognisable, whilst I would never have recognised others. I enjoyed spending time hearing about their hopes and dreams and realising how much vision, adventure and excitement those dreams involved. I felt so proud to have been a part of their lives in the two years I spent working with them.

WPPS Wine Festival



Adèle with Michael McPetrie (1980-81) and Jason Gifford (1977-81)



On 24 August, the Stansbury Hall was transformed into a wine haven with 20 of the country's top wine producers exhibiting. The Wade Bales Wine Society co-ordinated the producers and included ten Old WPPS winemakers. The evening went off well and we anticipate that this function will grow each year as the word gets round about its high standard.

News from WPPS

DVD's on order - we have had DVDs made of some of Ernie's productions:

Gang Show 1983

Oliver 1985

Smikey 1986

Happiest Days of your Life (Staff and boys) 1984

Anyone wishing to order a copy, please contact Kirsty Schaffler at shaffler@wpps.org.za.

Evening of the Arts:

This year we were privileged to have The Perfect Score, an a capella group, sing to us before the proceedings of the evening got under way. **Alexander McClarty** (1995-2001) and **Stuart Noland** (1993-2001) are two of the eight singers. We were blown away by their talent and could have listened to them all evening. For further details, contact them on www.thepresentscore.co.za



Alex McClarty (middle) and Stuart Noland (far right)

The Pavilion

On 29 July was the 'Last Round' at the Pavilion before the builders moved in to strip it down to the four outer walls. We watch daily as they work away to renovate this building into a double-storey with a full kitchen and tuck-shop downstairs, and the old boys pub upstairs. There will be a totally new entrance with decking on the upper level. The new pavilion will be rented out for conferences, etc, and will one day be a coffee shop for parents to frequent whilst waiting for their sons or watching their sport. Go to www.wpps.org.za, click on Downloads, Centenary Pavilion, to see pictures of the new pavilion.

Blisters for Bread

This year marks the last Blisters under the supervision of Adèle McNaughton. Adèle has organised Blisters since 1975 and it has been incredible to see how the total monies collected rise from one year to the next. Mrs Mac has done a fantastic job and has managed, over the years, to get the boys (which includes a lot of you) to raise close to R2 million since WPPS began a relationship with the Peninsula School Feeding Association. A remarkable achievement by a remarkable lady.

Inter-house Cross Country

Again, another 'last' for Mrs Mac. Thankfully de Villiers won so she was on an absolute high with the result. The staff were luckily permitted to stay on at Klein Constantia in the old cellar to enjoy a few refreshments.



Mrs Mac with some of the old boys who are current parents: From top back: Andrew Cross and his son Ridge, Jasper Horrell Middle: Etienne Braun, Cameron Bruce, Gerrie van Niekerk, Mrs Mac, Lowell Jooste Front: Steven Emary, Jonathan Sedgwick, Mikey Kirsten

Breakfast Club

This year, we decided it would be a fantastic idea to present information to the Grades 10, 11 and 12 parents about their sons' future after matric. We had Annette Miller (career guidance counsellor) and current parent Alison Meadows (a faculty advisor for Business Science and BComm at UCT and who runs the post-graduate diploma course in management) to share their

expertise with us and give us pointers on the pro's and con's of gap years, university, etc.

This function will become an annual event on our calendar and will be held earlier in the year in future.



Facebook

We have re-launched our Old WPPS Facebook page. Go to <http://www.facebook.com/pages/OLD-WPPS-Western-Province-PrepSchoolAss/277292728963383>

Forthcoming Events

(www.wpps.co.za for further details)

WPPS Christmas Market will be held on a Saturday this year. Please diarise 29 October for you, your family and friends to come and start your Christmas shopping. There will be something here for everyone.

Remembrance Day will be on Friday, 11 November. All are welcome to attend this moving service.

Prize giving is on 8 December from 10.30.

Mrs Mac's Final Farewell!

FAMILY NEWS

Congratulations to: Births:

Paul Kennedy (1977-83) and Donna, twin boys, Luke and James on 3 August.

Patrick Rogers (1982-88) – a son, Jeremiah in January.

Hylton Eachus (1988-92) and Beth, a daughter in June.

Engagements:

Matt Biden (1980-86) to Rosie Swan.

Jeffrey Friedlander (1991-96) on his engagement to Josephine Groom in London in August.

Simon Sandler (1983-89) is engaged to Miss Susan Walland of Port Elizabeth. They will be getting married next year as he is presently doing a Fellowship in Spinal Surgery at the Royal Adelaide Hospital South Australia. He is, as you know, a fully qualified neurosurgeon.

Marriages:

Brendan Kevany (1987-94) married

Nease Carroll in January in Ireland.

Chris Warncke (1985-90) with his bride, his brother **Jonathan** (1987-93) and his parents.



Obituaries:

Tommy Gentles, who was at WPPS from 1940-44, died on 29 June 2011 from complications after heart surgery. Tommy had a distinguished rugby career, starting at Wetpups and on to Bishops, UCT, Villagers and Western Province. In 1955, aged only 21, he played for the Springboks firstly against the touring British Lions, then in 1955 on the tour to Australia and against the French tourists in 1958. At only 1.6 m and 60kg, he remains the smallest Springbok ever, but what a great player and the darling of Newlands.

The Gentles family rented Cruden, the house which belonged to WPPS, just below what is now the Dauncey field. Young Tommy got into serious trouble one day for setting off a box of fireworks under his brother's bed, nearly setting the house on fire!

Our sincere condolences go to his wife, Jean, and son, Ian.

We received this news recently from Martin Cruickshank...

This is simply to let you know that my cousin in Hermanus, **John Melvin Philip**, died on 7 September. He and I overlapped at WPPS in 1944/45, so it may be of interest to the school.

Geoff Lunn (1938), my husband and your past pupil, passed away on 25 May. He had a stroke five years ago and I'm afraid he was severely disabled by it - being confined to bed most of the time and unable to speak, so in a sense, it was a merciful release for him, but nevertheless a great loss to me - we had been married 55 years.

Sincerely yours,
Romaine Lunn

Our sincere condolences on your loss, Romaine, and thank you for letting us know. – Ed

David Wilson (1942-49)

We are very grateful to **James Wilson** (1950-55) for sending us a detailed obituary of his brother, David, who died earlier this year. David had practised as an attorney in Somerset West for nearly 50 years. Space does not permit the inclusion of the whole tribute, but we read with great interest about his life. As James says: "He was a highly intelligent and humble man, blessed with a sense of humour, diligence and integrity."

Our sincere condolences to his widow, Jill, and her family and to his two brothers, **John** (1974-76) and James.

*James Wilson
3 Imperial Court,
Henley-on-Thames,
Oxon RG9 1NP
Telephone: 07721 690524 (mobile) 01491
578816*

Johnny Marr (1974-75)



Johnny died in June after a short, but devastating illness for which he knew there was no cure.

Our deepest condolences to Sue, Ollie [2001-2008], Jean, Matthew (Grade 4) and their families

on the loss of their husband and father.

Johnny was a brilliant and innovative surgeon, specialising in laparoscopic techniques. He was highly thought of in his profession, which will be very much the poorer for his loss.

Neil Garlick (1926-31) died peacefully at his home, Chart Farm, on 14 May 2011, aged 93. Neil was the 289th boy to be admitted to WPPS in 1926 and was the first of three generations to attend the school. His son **Alan** (1954-59) and grandson **Donald** (1987-93) followed him. His granddaughter Robyn, a brilliant mathematician, who taught science, was on our staff for several years. Robyn is now lecturing at UCT in the Educational Department.

Congratulations

Justin Womersley (1995-2001) finished his engineering degree at the end of last year graduating in Electrical Computer Engineering. He achieved the highest overall mark across all

the engineering departments at UCT, and was presented with an award by the South African Engineering Council of SA as well as from UCT. Amongst other ventures, he now is running his own business, travelground.com, together with his brother, Jonathan (19 - 95).

Jamie Bartlett (1974-78) is currently starring as David Genaro, the lead male role in the e.tv local soapie called Rhythm City which airs weekdays at 18.30.

Justin Pearce (1977- 80)

After some years in journalism, which included two years as BBC correspondent in Angola and then with BBC back in London, Justin was granted a scholarship to Oxford University to study for his MSc which he achieved cum laude. He was invited to stay on to do a Doctorate and graduated in September as a DPhil in African Politics.



*Just flanked by his parents,
Malcolm and Pauline*

One of Justin's master students last year was **Dugald Macdonald** (1996-2000).

His brother, **Matthew** (1977-82) is a Supersport commentator of choice and is currently covering the 2011 World Cup Rugby in New Zealand.

Pauline Pearce turned 70 on 16 August. This special occasion was celebrated with her family. She was thrilled that Justin was here from the UK.

Rugby:

Matthew Turner (1988-2001) has played for the England Sevens squad during the 2010/11 HSBC World Sevens series.

Peter Haw (1992-2000), **Nick Fenton-Wells** (1993-99) [captain], **Greg Mallett** (1996-2002), **Zandy Macdonald** (1996-2002) were all part of the victorious UCT Varsity Cup team. **Stephen Knoop** (1994-2000) was on the management team and **Paul Cohen** (1998-2004) played in most of the matches although not in the final. Paul also played for WP U21.

Stuart Commins (1995-2001) was chosen for the Northampton Saints squad for the Heineken Cup final.

Marc van Heerden (1997-2003) and **Zac Prins** (2002-2003) represented Simonsburg in the 2011 Varsity Cup Koshuis final.

Chris Cooke (1991-99) Mother, Sue, wrote... He is in the Glamorgan 20/20 1st team squad and had an exciting debut - hitting 22 off six balls. We can listen to the

radio through the computer which was fun but very nerve-wracking as you know what cricket is like! The commentator said, "Take a bow Sir!!" which touched his old mum's heart!



Judd Berg (2000 - 2002) is a brilliant tennis player who has played for Cornell University in America for the last two years, but is now trying out football!

I phoned Judd's mother to ask her if I had the right person and she told me the story...

If you're a professional sportsman at a US university, and have played in professional tournaments, you could be 'red-flagged', which means that you have to sit out for a year - no training or competitive tennis.

Judd wanted to maintain his fitness so began playing with a club football team. He had not played soccer since he was a child when he was a goal keeper whilst living in Spain.

A New York coach came to Cornell and watched Judd playing and afterwards approached him about playing full-time. The coach invited him to New York to play there and was advised to take up playing full-time. The predicament he now faced was what to do about his studies. Cornell offers a leave of absence but under special circumstances so Judd applied and his two credits have been frozen until such time as he is ready to complete his degree.

When Judd came back to Cape Town, he contacted Farouk who saw his potential and through the Farouk Abrahams Goalkeeper Academy, he went to the Sunderland Football Club in England for trials



Judd Berg with Farouk Abrahams

Good luck with your new sport and we look forward to hearing of your further developments.

We would also like to congratulate Judd's brother, **Charles** (2003-2011), who left WPPS at the end of last term to commence high school at world-renown college, Eton. Charles is in the A team rugby and is the No 1 player, out of 240 boys, for the games Fives. He absolutely loves his new school.