

Foundation May 2002 Issue 8

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The Foundation would appreciate your [Donation](#) to provide this service and keep you in touch with other Ex-Pupils

GORE HIGH SCHOOL FOUNDATION Incorporating the EX-PUPILS ASSOCIATION

The Gore High School Foundation aims to keep past pupils informed of what is happening in the school and to assist in fostering a greater involvement in the school's development and in ex-pupil activities.



THE FAMILY AT THE MANSE

As a third Former in 1942 I began study at the school by the river. It was the grimmest stage of World War 2 when restrictions of all kinds limited life at school and at home. The possibility of invasion by the Japanese was a real concern so blackouts and emergency services were organised in the town. One of the big events in those years was the crash of a Tiger Moth plane in the Main Street at noon one day resulting in the death of the pilot and injury to several Gore people.

The school buildings were a hotch-potch of poorly maintained classrooms with extras brought from elsewhere, including an ex-army wooden hall as the school assembly hall. For several years, in the autumn, as part of the war effort, truck loads of pupils went out into the countryside to pull linen flax flattened in storms. It was a vital component of parachutes and

other equipment needed in the UK.

1943 was the year when meningitis struck, causing a real scare in the school. I contracted the disease and spent a week or two in Gore hospital, recovering thanks to a newly introduced drug flown down from the North Island. Later I was able to get permission to take English and History extramurally for my Arts degree, and so spent most of my seventh-form-equivalent year studying for these papers.

In 1947 I started at Otago University, boarding with May Gerken (nee Brownlie of Gore) who had been widowed by the death of her husband at the battle of Monte Cassino. Later I moved to Arana Hall, sharing a room with another Gore High ex-student, Mac Kingsbury, who was at Teachers' College.

I had begun working on an MA when in 1949 I contracted tuberculosis, and the day after my 21st birthday I was admitted to the Waipiata Sanatorium for over five years before transferring to Cashmere Sanatorium. Those long years of illness finally came to an end in 1957 thanks to bilateral thoracic surgery and the new TB drugs.

A new chapter in life began with my 20s almost finished when I was accepted to train for the ministry at Knox College in 1958, then to Seacliff for five years as chaplain to the Seacliff Group of hospitals with their 1300 patients plus staff.

Then I accepted a call to the Tapanui parish for eight years, which brought me back to the Matura Presbytery with Gore as our shopping centre. My time there included serving two terms on the local borough council, having been nominated by the priest and seconded by the vicar!

In 1970/71 I had study leave, focusing on Clinical Pastoral Education, at the hospitals of the Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minnesota, USA. This also gave us, as a family, experience of life in an American apartment.

In 1973 we moved to Dunedin where I was appointed as a chaplain to the Dunedin hospitals, for 19 years. My wife, Benita resumed her nursing career specialising first in neurosurgery and then in renal dialysis.

On retirement in 1992 I took on part-time ministry at St Mark's, Pine Hill, until final retirement in 2001. Friendships formed at the school by the river continue in Dunedin, with Betty Macara, May (Brownlie) Gerken, Amy (Marshall) Shaw, Ian Sime, Clive Yeoman, and Florence (Silcock) Wilson.

Alex's surviving siblings are: Robert (Bob), retired in Palmerston North where he taught at Massey University. George (now 77) was Dean of the Victoria University Law Faculty but is now practising as a barrister, QC, in Wellington and has no plans for retirement. Jean (Kirton) lives in Nelson with her husband. She worked as a nurse until suffering medical misadventure when undergoing routine surgery 25 years ago, leaving her severely handicapped. Joan trained as a teacher, then as a nurse. She has a home in Napier, but is travelling the world, nursing in the UK and teaching in Tibet. Mary (Brown) became a school dental nurse and after marriage settled in Auckland where she still lives

Some more Presbyterian ministers: Neil Cowie (Culverdon), Noel Butler (Dunedin South), Tom Miller (New Plymouth), Len Currie (Plimmerton), and ex-deputy principal Bob Foster (now retired in Napier)

Anglicans include Vivienne Galletly (Milton), May (Gibson) Croft, and John Barry Wilkinson

BEYOND GORE HIGH

Alan Kerr - GHS 1956-60

currently minister of the Otago Peninsula Presbyterian Church; former moderator of the Dunedin Presbytery, Alan's five degrees (B.A., B.Sc. (Hons), B.D., M.Th, Ph.D.) mark an extraordinary commitment to learning.

Fifty years ago I was biking along Charlton Road into Gore. Near Robertson Street I saw a man riding a horse towards me. He called out, "Can you tell me where I am?" I was frightened. Why didn't this man know where he was? Who was I to tell him? I stammered something and rode off as fast as I could. That was my first encounter with the man who was later to have a large impact on my life -- Andrew Johnston, the blind evangelist. I was brought up in a farm cottage about five kilometres from Gore along Charlton Road. My father took us to Sunday School at St. Andrews Presbyterian Church on Sunday afternoon. I did not enjoy it. Some of us used our pencils to burrow into the plaster wall while the teacher plodded through the lesson.

Bible Class too seemed irrelevant until some friends and I went to the 1958 Easter Camp, where Andrew Johnston, the chief speaker, made a deep impression. Don Agnew, who was somewhat older, gathered us up and we met for Bible teaching and prayer. It was exciting stuff. But after a few weeks Don felt his knowledge was exhausted and so handed us over to Andrew Johnston, who ran a group in his home. Here I was introduced to the world of the Bible in depth and challenged again and again about my relationship with God.

This experience was supplemented by Crusaders at High School. Large numbers of girls trooped across to the Hostel Prep Room for their weekly meeting while a smaller but significant number of boys gathered in Tony Woodbury's room upstairs. He and John Gillies ("Fish and Chips") ran the Boys' Crusaders. Occasionally Peter Smart would speak. Once he spoke about the coming of the Holy Spirit on the day of Pentecost. It was so vivid I imagined us rushing downstairs when the bell rang and speaking in tongues to our bewildered classmates. It didn't happen.

All this spiritual nurture had a huge influence on my life. After a Chemistry degree and seven years teaching I trained for the Presbyterian ministry. It has been a thrilling adventure. There is always something new around the corner. Next year my wife and I are going to Ethiopia to teach in a theological college in Addis Ababa.

I believe the spiritual heritage of the Gore district is a great treasure. I have been privileged to share in it. Since leaving Gore in 1961 my spiritual horizons have been continually widening, but I will ever be grateful for the many people, parents, teachers and friends who gave me a wonderful start.

Of the rest of the family: Margaret (GHS 1958-61) is a primary school teacher in Moora, Western Australia, Mary (1959-62), teaches maths and computer science at Columba College in Dunedin; John (1961-64) is an officer in the Ministry of Agriculture in Kalgoorlie, WA.

Jan (Strang) Hamill - GHS 1980-84



I was asked if I would like to contribute a small article as someone who has followed a 'spiritual path', as a minister's wife.

This path was not of my choosing and has often

been daunting. The lingering doubts of my adequacy for the position are slowly fading, as I accept who I am and don't try to force myself into a pre-conceived image. I don't think ministers and their wives are following a more spiritual pathway than any other Christian.

The most important thing I have done in a spiritual sense has been to bring up my three girls in the faith. Here are some conversations that occurred spontaneously between myself and a daughter aged three at the time. They are very precious to me and show how some young children can think through issues that are very profound.

Me: What shall we pray for?

Child: Pray for the Yukkies. The Yucky men. (The term "Yukkies" refers to people seen on the news and in the newspaper who do bad things.)

Me: What shall we pray for them?

Child: Pray that they'll be nice.

The Yukkies featured again not long after.

Me: One day there'll be no more hurting and no more crying and no more dying in Jesus' country.

Child: But what about the Yukkies? Will they hurt? Can they still hurt people?

Me: Well, they just can't. In Jesus' country there's no hurting.

Child: Well, I think the Yukkies will be in another country then.

On hearing the Beatles singing 'Nothing's gonna change my world,' another interesting conversation ensued.

Child: That's a silly! Why does he sing that? The witch could change Aslan's world and make it Winter. Why did she? (thoughtfully, then suddenly inspired) Why didn't Aslan kill the Witch when she was a baby so then she couldn't make the snow come and not Christmas?

I consider it a great privilege that I have been here with my children to witness the dawning of their faith. I have chosen to be with my children at home in their pre-school years rather than to pursue a career. I gained a post-graduate diploma in English at Otago and also a Diploma in teaching, dabbled in painting and writing and still play the violin.

Jan's younger brother Jeremy drowned tragically ten years ago and her sister Barbara is one of the essential office staff in a rural high school.

THE CRUSADER CONNECTION

Tony Woodbury -- history teacher 1959-67

Tony, John Gillies and Anne Pickford will be remembered by the "Crusader kids" as teachers whose sense of mission led to lunchtime Christian groups at school in the 1960s.

Tony says he was never a driving force in Crusaders, but he came from an evangelical background which promoted the idea you found your mission in your workplace.

"If my 'mission' in life was to be a teacher, then that should encompass the whole of life, as well as academic work.

"Teaching was never a 'separate' thing for me any how -- I was always interested in the whole person, what they did, how they looked on things, etc.

"I aimed to be ... an influence through my own life. I never considered myself to be great shakes in the personality stakes, but an honest, upright sort of guy, and I encouraged others

to be similar."

While the staff leaders were very aware of the limitations on developing spirituality in a secular school context, and there was never a push for numbers, Crusaders provided a supportive link for Bible Class and church members, across all denominations.

Tony says he'll never know what those small groups achieved, but hopefully something of Christianity was still being worked out in his students' lives.

"That is what I aimed for -- lives with a purpose."

Crusaders dealt with aspects of life which are very important in growing up: the big moral questions, he says.

"I think there's lot of young people wandering round [today] trying to find some stability and meaning in life."

The groups also provided structured outdoor recreation opportunities such as camps, skiing, tramping, canoeing, which were not then part of the school curriculum.

Tony will also be remembered for his work with the school choir and madrigal group.



TEACHERS/MINISTERS

Keith Robertson

Keith Robertson, deputy principal 1970-74, writes that he, his wife Margaret and their two children have a connection with a number of schools, but Gore High has a unique place in their affections.

During three of his five years there, it was the place all four members of the family went every day - two to teach, two to study, and they are all proud of that association.

"In those days of 11-1200 students, the breadth of the curriculum possible, the academic, sporting and cultural standards achieved, the many pleasant staff and splendid young people, earned our regard and our respect," he writes.

In the third term of 1974 Keith and Margaret went to Queenstown to found Wakatipu High School, with Keith as principal for the next 12 years.

Then a change of direction, as he trained for the Presbyterian ministry in Dunedin -- alongside ex-GHS students Robyn McPhail (now in Methven), Peter Dunn (Waipu), Brett Johnstone (Remuera), Ross Scott (Christchurch). Keith then served the Maungatua Parish at Outram

1989-93, followed by the Dunedin Chinese Church 1994-9. Margaret contributed to his ministry as a Lay Assistant and in women's work.

A period of ill health for Keith brought them back to Queenstown, retired to a ten-acre block. Now in better health, Keith (74) is assisting in parish work again. Moving from teaching to ministering was not such a big change in Keith's eyes. "Margaret and I are both fifth generation to live in Otago, and we have lived our lives in the Southern Presbyterian tradition of religion and education being the cornerstones of a healthy society. Each of us felt individually called into these professions.

"A sense of vocation can be true of any occupation, but we have happened to feel our calls in these two fields and those who know us have not been surprised.

"Each shift we have made in life was under strong conviction of God's call even though reason said we should not go.

"However, our response and testimony is summed up in the text, 'Seek first the Kingdom of God and His righteousness and all these things will be added unto you.'

"Thus we have found life joyous and fulfilling."

Daughter Margaret, who was dux 1974, did an MA at Otago, and married a Presbyterian minister, whose postings have included parish work in Northern Ireland, and British army chaplaincy in the UK and Germany. Bruce works for Audit New Zealand with special responsibility for local government. He serves on the Board of Kings High, Dunedin, where ex-GHS Colin Donald is principal.

Harold Hill -- Teacher 1965-69

I'm not an old student but perhaps my five years teaching at GHS qualifies me as "old" anyway. My only other excuse for baring my soul here is that the editor asked me to.



Brief CV: after Gore I spent two years at the Salvation Army Training College in London, and married Pat Cruickshank in 1972. We spent the next six years at a mission in NE Rhodesia-Zimbabwe, teaching and doctoring respectively. Two children later we returned to New Zealand and spent four years in Mosgiel where I attended Holy Cross Seminary. We then spent five years pastoring the Salvation Army church in Invercargill and another seven doing the same in central Wellington. Since 1995 I've done in-service training for Salvation Army personnel and Pat has run a clinic (Te Aro Health Centre) in central Wellington for people who can't afford to access other health care.

These days my passions (apart from aforesaid wife and daughters) are:

(1) The Twelve Steps of Alcoholics Anonymous have been one of the serendipities of my present job. I have become sold on their value as a life-style programme for personal freedom from addictions of all kind - not only those substance-based. Seven years ago I teamed up with a psychotherapist and Twelve Step practitioner, Ferrell Irvine, and since then we have run numerous workshops, gradually developing our own Twelve Step manual.

(Ask pat.harold@xtra.co.nz or f.irvine@paradise.net.nz for more.)

(2) Supervision: I am convinced of the value of personal, consultative supervision for people involved in any kind of "ministry", as a means of support, learning and accountability. I have benefited from work done in this area by Margaret Pullar and Margaret Feist (there's a couple of Gore names too) and work to promote this within our organisation.

(3) Aro Valley Community Church is a sort of cafe church for people who don't go to church. Some having been 'church-burned', and others for whom 'church' is a distant, foreign concept. It's been going for about six years, meeting in a Community Hall. The format is informal and interactive. It caters particularly for people involved in the Salvation Army's Community Youth Services in central Wellington. The average age would be early 20s, so it's good for the mental and spiritual health of 60-year-olds.

Anyone taught by Harold Hill will remember his pages of teaching notes covered with scrawled cartoons, many bearing an uncanny resemblance to people we knew. "Tonkins" a cartoon strip owing a lot to life at GHS appeared in the NZPPTA journal. It's our loss but obviously the cartoonist's gain that a request for an up-to-date illustration to accompany this article (that's Tonkins above left, not HH) drew the response.

"Sorry no drawing ... it requires a degree of "gleeful glumness" (Olson) that I haven't managed to find again."

Geoff Hughes

When Bishop Peter Main ordained me as deacon of the Anglican Church of New Zealand in 1978 at Gore's Church of the Holy Trinity, and, nine months later, in St Paul's Cathedral, Dunedin, as a priest, I think it was a bit of a shock to many Gore people.

After all, they knew me as the rather extrovert head of the art department at Gore High, who had a bit of a reputation as a potter and painter, and also as a bloke who frequently appeared on stage at the Gore Repertory Society playing everything from Ibsen to the pantomime dame. Some of my students were apparently shocked at my knowledge of salacious details of the lives of some of the great painters I had to teach them about.

A few outside church circles realised I had a spiritual life too. My parents, particularly my mother, had grounded me in a simple faith in what was then the Church of England. As a boy soprano, I began singing in church choirs in London at age seven, then later, after my voice broke, as a tenor.

During the war, I spent three years as an able seaman in the Royal Navy, and that broadened my outlook considerably. It also made me realise how insignificant our human concerns seem when one is brought against the magnificence, the power, and the terror of God's creation of the seas.

After the war I took up my life as an art student, and like many young people, my church life fell into abeyance against the excitement and preoccupations of being young. However, in my 30s, I began to return to church worship, to the Anglo-Catholic wing of the church. I expect the colour, the ritual and the mystery of this kind of worship appealed to the artistic side of my nature.

It was during this period I met the young woman who was to become my wife, and we shared many matters of faith. I became a family man, and we emigrated to Gore in 1967, where I became increasingly involved in the life of Holy Trinity. I even became a lay reader.

But there always seemed to be something pushing me further. With my wife's support, I offered myself for what was then a new form of ministry, or the revival of an old one, the self-supporting minister. In other words I continued my work as a teacher, artist etc, supporting

myself and family, but also acted as an ordained priest in what time was left. Thus I became assistant priest to the parish.

However, no man can serve two masters, and eventually I found the secular side of my existence becoming a hindrance. After talking it over with Bishop Mann, I was offered the parish of Por Chalmers-Warrington, which was in poor shape at the time. I still needed to have other employment, as the parish was too poor to support me, and was fortunate to secure a lectureship at Otago University, which kept us until things got better.

I spent 10 hectic, but I hope fruitful, years as vicar of Port Chalmers, but the laws of the church at that time stated you had to retire from the ministry at age 65, and reluctantly I had to step down. However the present bishop, Penny Jamieson, has continued to license me, and my ministry continues to flourish, even though I am now in my late 70s. I conduct a weekday service at the cathedral; I fill in some times when other priests are not available; I serve other elderly people in rest homes in an unpaid capacity, and assist in the parish of St Peter's, Caversham, near my home.

So the journey that probably started in my infancy continues. I feel I feel I have been able to offer an approach to Faith which is not bigoted. That my life has been very varied and has given me a background which many people can identify with very easily. Also life has had its ups and downs and my faith has survived, and I think this helps with other people too.

I have been gifted with many useful talents, and I have been happy to offer them back in the service of my God.

Susan (Elder) Jones

I considered Christian work as a career at fourteen! Missionary was the only option for women in my church. I dreamed of heroic feats for God, watching competent young women missionaries touring the church before embarkation. The idea surfaced again in the seventies, but died a natural death fortunately, as I was a rigid young woman, terrible minister material ! Also, I was still in a church which trained women, but did not call them to parish work.

I was more ready in the nineties, training for the Presbyterian ministry in an individualised community-based programme, mostly centred in Gore. Working to facilitate others on their spiritual journeys is a fascinating, frustrating, tiring and terrific job! As many of you know, institutional religion often blurs the spirituality people seek. Also, joining the professional clergy at a time when many no longer participate in institutional religion is an interesting experience. Clerical authority can get in the way of authentic encounters - I get a lot of apologies from people - their swearing, how tidy their house is, whether they've been to church recently. I'm more interested in how they are and how they are with God. Perhaps I should swear first and put everyone at their ease !

Institutional and gender issues aside, because pursuing my own spiritual journey is a passion for me, it is great to be in a job where that is what the minister-artist brings to the canvas. My experience contributed along with multitudinous colours of other people's lives creates the work of art that is church. Creativity is an advantage, words used poetically and precisely are the brushes, and together we find God is alive and well and exhibiting in Godzone.

OBITUARY

Natalie (Double) Young

High achievers aren't just the people who went away and made a big name for themselves somewhere apparently more important than Gore. They're also those who stayed here and helped make this a worthwhile place to live.



Tributes paid to Natalie after her tragic death while diving at Jack's Bay earlier this year showed how much she was appreciated as someone who set a glorious example of how to live creatively and make the most of every day.

Natalie was loved for being what her boss at the Warehouse, Tracy Hicks, described as "Predictably unpredictable," always ready to give everything a go, always a stimulating and positive person to be around.

Natalie's funeral was notable because of the wide range of ages present, including many young former colleagues who came back to Gore for the occasion.

Workmate Wendy Gibson described Natalie's role at the Warehouse as "Mother hen, counsellor and comedian," and paid her the ultimate accolade from the younger generation: "She was pure energy, she never let her age be an obstacle."

Others described her as a dare devil with a quirky sense of humour, the sort of mum all kids loved to visit because of the fun permitted in her household.

Contemporaries recalled Natalie's enormous hard work on the farm at Pukerau with husband Lochie, "proving a townie could farm as well as the locals", her creative approach to motherhood, then her support in turn to other young mothers. People were drawn to her because she was such fun, and because of her practical common sense and kindness.

Natalie relished a challenge, taking on the chair of Pukerau School's first Board of Trustees, and filled other formal community leadership roles with competence and good humour -- but also assertiveness when it came to things that she considered important.

Family came first for Natalie, but as a friend said, "She showed how you could be a wife and mother and also achieve your goals."

Natalie returned to high school as an art student, developing skills already evident in her painting, potting, sculpture, cooking, gardening and homemaking. She joined the Warehouse team after she and Lochie moved to Gore, but had started to paint again recently. Gore has lost someone with a great talent for life.

Natalie's children Livia, Julia, Mitchell, as well as Lochie and other members of the Young-Double families will be well known to many ex-Gore High people.

GORE HIGH PERSONALITIES

New man at the top - Ex pupil Eoin Crosbie

In December 1972, I graduated from Gore High School as a seventh former. I vividly remember Harry Morton from Otago University's history department speaking at our graduation. I realized how much the school meant to me as I left it behind for tertiary education.

I thought that was it, but in 1990 I returned as deputy principal. This year, I was fortunate to be appointed as Rector and have taken up this role this term.

Our previous Rector, Paul Towers, lead the school through a period of down-sizing as families left the south and the nature of farming continued to change. Today the roll is stable at 580 including 20 International Students from China, Thailand and Japan.

While Paul reshaped our expenditure to fit our lower funding, I worked at increasing our funding base through our fee-paying student programme. The Board of Trustees has also worked through the associated issues of a lower roll with the Ministry of Education. We now have a "Rationalization Plan" in place which sets out how we are going to reconfigure the buildings in keeping with our size. They were built for 1100 students, not 600.

Work has begun on demolishing the old technical block as well as refurbishing lower C block (built across the old girls' quad and housing the art rooms). The end result over a period of years will mean that most of D block (the one by the main rugby paddock) will be closed off.

Initially all of this change was rather depressing, but we have moved on from there. We are looking forward to newly painted and remodelled classrooms equipped for today's curriculum delivery. This will take a number of years to complete but it is encouraging to be under way. The Food Technology and Art Departments will be the first to benefit from the building upgrade.

Our staff have worked tirelessly implementing NCEA this year. Despite all the complications and a steep assessment learning curve, our students are working better at year 11 than they have ever done before. This is encouraging.

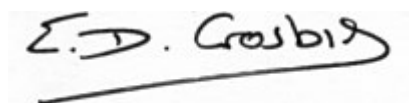
Next year we are introducing a graduation programme for our junior school. At the completion of year 9 (form 3) students receive a "certificate of learning" which allows them to study at the next level. Similarly, a "learning diploma" at the end of year 10 allows students to study in the senior school.

Our rationale for introducing this system is to motivate and to change attitudes towards learning. Students are awarded "credits" for exhibiting learning skills. They have to attain a 60% skill level to graduate to the next year level.

This Junior Graduation Programme has been enthusiastically received by the school community and we are looking forward to its implementation and impact. To teach our young people the skills to learn and the skills to think is to prepare them for the modern world. This is certainly a great privilege and responsibility.

If you would like to visit the school or correspond with me please feel welcome to do so. My email address is ecrosbie@gore-high.school.nz

With kind regards



Jackie Barron - Profile of a DP

At the beginning of the school year, Jackie Barron wasn't sure if she "would make it through the first three weeks." By the end of three terms she had been named Gore High School's

new deputy principal. From what she describes as the "bottom of the teaching food chain," to second-in-charge, is a jump which even her own students describe as meteoric. But if anyone is equipped to handle the key role in Gore High's new four-pronged management team, it is Jackie Barron.

Her life story includes education at Pleasant Point and South Otago High Schools, 15 years teaching experience and a sporting resume the envy of any sports administrator in the country. She managed the title winning-Southern Sting netball team for three seasons, has spent seven years with national netball teams and the last two as manager of the World Cup-winning Black Ferns women's rugby team.



So how did she end up in the office she now calls home? She is a self-confessed opportunist. And life's all about taking your opportunities. Not many do that as well as this lady. Her five years out of the classroom has brought her back with a wider perspective, unparalleled people-management skills and a broader skill base which she is ready to put to use as the school's first ever female Deputy Principal.

She joins new Rector Eoin Crosbie and Assistant Principals Jeanette Bell and Melanie Sim, (joining Gore High from Marlborough Girls at the start of next year,) in the new management structure that is determined to lead Gore High from the front.

But right now Jackie has more immediate concerns, such as overcoming the "altitude sickness" from her steep learning curve. Rest assured, Gore High School is in very good hands.

Eddie the oldest

The new website lists names in order of dates of attendance, putting Eddie Lyttle (1937-40) at the top of the class. While not the oldest ex-pupil signed up to the Foundation, he's the oldest with the Internet skills to join up on-line.

Eddie left school for Teacher's College, then had his studies interrupted by army service. He taught and farmed, finally retiring at 75.

Eddie was on the committee to set up SeniorNet Otago and also helped to set up SeniorNet Octagon.

"I had to learn something about [computers] as they took the one who knew the least and made me equipment officer, responsible for buying new machines," he writes. "I have just enough clues to do this."

Eddie has contributed the following memories:

Joey Hunter was the Rector when I started and Mr. Rountree [Bandy] took over. He was the rector who introduced the House system. He also started hockey, but he was not a good Goalie when he coached us, as his nickname indicated.

Jim Boyne was a very powerful man. Needing a tree in his front lawn removed, he tied a rope to the top and pulled it over.

Miss Isabel Sutherland taught history. She married Arnold Atkins who taught Geography. Was this the start of Social studies? Margaret Durwood, a no-nonsense teacher, took her place. Miss Durwood retired later and went to live in Scotland.

Miss Woodhead had her difficulties with some of the more boisterous members of the class. Rachel Naylor took us for French followed by Mrs. Sanders. Kennedy Black came up by train from Invercargill to take us for music.

Marty Fowler, our Chemistry and Physics teacher, was very proud of his gas-making machine out the back, which replaced the spirit lamps with Bunsen burners. The catch was that it had to be wound up periodically so we were asked to turn a handle that lifted a weight to keep the system working.

We were sad when maths teacher Tommy Fyfe was killed in the war. He was followed by Mr. Patterson, a very bright person, who could not get down to the level required to put ideas into our heads. Alton MacCartney was one who knew how to make us work.

One of the play sheds was converted to a sixth form room where we were supposed to study. It was a rowdy place. We had a degree of freedom and managed to climb the tower by a long ladder inside. Some managed to walk round the top and chalk their names on the roof. How we got away with it I do not know.

I well remember Mr. Rountree's favourite saying "The Lilies of the field who toil not nor do they spin," when talking to the sixth formers. When we finished off the quotation with "That Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed as one of these", it did not go over very well.

We were encouraged to try ourselves out on the Public Service Exam in the fourth form and a pass resulted in an offer of a job at œ60 a year from the Government if one liked to take it up.

School Certificate was comparatively new and then there was Matric or University Entrance with Bursary and finally Sixth Form Certificate as hurdles to cross before leaving to enter the wide, wide world.

CLASS OF 1983-87 REUNION

Debbie Keep reports it happened on-line only, as not enough people could agree on time and place.

"Maybe we aren't feeling mortal enough yet for a reunion!" she writes.

But Debbie now has a database of ex-classmates and will maintain an email network.

"Even if something doesn't happen before the 2008 centennial, we will, at least, have a very strong contingent then. It was an interesting exercise contacting everyone and the feedback was always very positive. I was surprised at times by the friendly and enthusiastic conversations (particularly by email) I had with folk that I probably had never talked to at school. Something to do with the confidence that comes with age and the lack of teenage-angst I guess?!"

GOREY DETAILS

Water, water everywhere and not a drop to drink! Gore recorded its highest rainfall for May and June for the past 40 years. In those two months 320mm (nearly 13 inches) fell up from

190mm the year before. Fortunately July was a little kinder but the wet, combined with a lack of sunshine, has meant farmers are enduring a slow start to spring. We need some of that big yellow thing up in the sky. Can someone put an order in please?

Meanwhile, even if the mercury hasn't moved, the age-old debate over Gore's temperatures has arisen. Some residents believe the numbers used for the TV news don't accurately portray the town's temperature. The reality is the only time Gore gets a mention on the tele is when ours is the lowest temperature of the day. Others believe if that's the only reason we make the 6 o'clock news, then maybe we haven't got too much to worry about.

The ongoing problem of attracting permanent doctors to Gore continues. The Gore District Council, together with a number of local affected groups, is working on solutions, but there appears no obvious antidote. Forming a community trust seems close to the top of the list of possible solutions.

The opening of Gore's new aquatic centre was marred somewhat by a public outcry when news of Council's planned \$8500 opening extravaganza broke. Celebrations were eventually trimmed back to \$2000. Regardless, hundreds poured into the new facility in its opening weekend with better-than-expected numbers since and nothing but glowing praise for the town's new pool.

Nothing but praise for Gore's new Ice skating rink also. It played host to the National Figure Skating Champs in September and put on the fine show. As did local competitors, Clair McGillan who took out the pre-primary women's under-15 title and Rachel Gregory, whose win in the pre-primary over-15 champs provided Ice Sports Southland with its best return for many years.

The Eastern Southland Gallery will soon be the home of the John Money collection. The collection was packed by curator Jim Geddes and friends in Baltimore and shipped by air and sea to little old Gore where it will hold pride of place in the newly-developed John Money Wing in Gore's Gallery. It is also housing the renowned Ralph Hotere collection, gifted to the Gallery by the man himself. The Heritage Precinct, which includes the fabulous Moonshine Museum, is attracting national and world-wide attention. A recent visitor from the Scottish Malt Whisky Guild rated it higher than any whisky museum back home in the Highlands. Hefty praise indeed, laddie!

Seventy University of Otago Tourism students have completed their report into Gore as a tourism destination. The eight-month long project found that although tourism is in only the early stages of development, the town has much to offer as an attractive destination with a nice lifestyle and comfortable environment. I kinda agree. Some of the concepts to come out of the report included: a Fantastic Fishing Festival to kick-off the fishing season, development of a farming show similar to the one at Walter Peak Station a bit more accommodation and a few more eateries - I'd never leave the place!

Former Gore High Student Scott Wilson was the big winner at the recent Eastern Southland sportsperson of the Year award. Scott represented New Zealand at the Commonwealth Games in Manchester and together with his numerous national titles, he was an obvious choice for the judges. There is something of a family tradition, with sister Hayley winning the award in 1995 for athletics.

And there are more of us Gore-ons these days. The districts population has grown by about 2.3 percent according to a Statistics New Zealand revised estimate. The estimated residential population at June 30, 2001 was 12,750 - an increase of 294, or about 2.3 percent, since the last census. The Council will be advised in mid-November of the June 2002 figure. No wonder I'm feeling cramped. -- *Nick Jeffrey*

A very relaxed and cheerful Paul Towers assures us that yes indeed, there is life after Gore High. Paul decided 12 years as a principal (five at Gore) was quite sufficient, and is taking a break from teaching. The photographer had hoped to catch up with him as a man on the land, but the spring weather had Paul relaxing indoors, the perfect picture of man (and cat) at ease.



And remember for those of you who really want to keep up with news from down south, parts of the *Southland Times* are loaded each day on the internet at www.stuff.co.nz

This newsletter was edited by Rosemarie Smith. Suggestions, comments, requests, can be sent to her at rvoland@paradise.net.nz or to the Foundation secretary bruce@reunion.com

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