



**NAPIER HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS  
FOOTBALL CLUB**

**Centenary  
CELEBRATIONS**

Queen's Birthday Weekend

June 4th to 6th, 2010

held at the Napier Old Boys Marist Clubrooms  
and adjoining grounds, at Park Island, Napier.



## QUEEN'S BIRTHDAY WEEKEND PROGRAMME

### *Friday 4th June*

**7.30pm** - Official welcome and get-together. Supper provided.  
Display of old club photos and memorabilia etc.

### *Saturday 5th June*

Traditional Club Rugby Day for the Napier Old Boys Marist Junior Club (**9.00am**) and Senior teams (**1.15pm**) at Tremain Field and Bond Field, Park Island, followed by aftermatch function (**4.30pm**). Note the Napier OBM Premier team will be playing (**3pm**) against Technical RFC and will be wearing the traditional Napier High School Old Boys Football Club playing strip.

**11.30am - 1.00pm** - Rugby day luncheon available at the clubrooms (your cost)

### *Sunday 6th June*

Kicks off with the traditional Easter Tournament **7.00 Club 10.30am at East Pier Hotel** (*Those that have taken part in the past know just what that's all about!*) and the **Sherry Libbers** also at **10.30am at East Pier Hotel**

**11.30am** - Pre-luncheon assembly and drinks

**1.00 pm - Official Centenary Dinner** (long luncheon). This will include guest speaker John McBeth, plus other speakers and a **Centenary Jersey Auction** of the Napier High School Old Boys Football Club jerseys worn by our Premier team the previous day.

*... and onwards, and the opportunity to while away a few more hours with old team mates and friends.*

## WELCOME TO THE NAPIER HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS FOOTBALL CLUB CENTENNIAL.



**Gary Macdonald**

*President*

Napier Old Boys

Marist Rugby

Football Club

It gives me huge pleasure to welcome you all to the Napier High School Old Boys Football Club 2010 Centennial celebrations. The planning for this weekend was discussed at about the same time as the Marist Centennial was being investigated. We saw no reason why the two – now amalgamated clubs – could not celebrate each of their individual histories. So in 2008 we had a very successful Marist centennial and it was this template that we used as the cornerstone for this centennial weekend.

Old Boys has a very proud and very successful history. Who could ever forget those halcyon days of the 1960's which coincided, not incidentally either, with the rise (again) of Hawke's Bay rugby. It is a history which stretches back to 1910 and still boasts the most wins of the Maddison Trophy of any club. It truly is a history to be proud of.

I hope you all have a wonderful weekend. It is a unique opportunity to refresh old friendships and to relive old memories. My thanks go to the organising committee who have put in plenty of hours planning this weekend. I have no doubts it will be a huge success and will only add to your memories of Napier High School Old Boys rugby. We have included some events that are uniquely Old Boys, thus you will notice the 7 o'clock Club and the Sherry-Libbers play a part in these celebrations.

Unfortunately, a change in personal circumstances has meant that I will not be able to fully participate in the weekend, but I do look forward to meeting you all on the opening night.

# Old School Ties

*A condensed 100 year history of the Napier High School Old Boys Football Club.*

## Meeting of the Minds

It was the ex-players of the very successful Napier Boys High 1st XV of 1909 who, the following year, inspired the formation of a new football (rugby) club for old boys of the school. On the 18th March, with the added support and encouragement of other ex-pupils and a teacher, "about a dozen" old boys attended a meeting at the Masonic Hotel (presided over by the

school's head master, Mr ASM Polson) where Napier High School Old Boys Football Club was formally established.

The next month, at the club's first AGM, again held at the Masonic, the 18 members present agreed on subs, playing strip (which essentially has never changed), and club training sessions. At a further meeting in May a coach and selection

## N.H.S.O.B. FOOTBALL TEAM - 1911

*WINNERS: Junior Flag - Won 15, Lost 1*



Back (L-R): A Mildon, W Thompson, JA Berry, HJ Clements, LS McLernon, N McCartney

Middle: ASM Polson (President), HV Phillips, R McCarthy, (Vice-Captain) NG Grant (Captain), W Corbett, J McRae (Secretary)

Front: AE Lowry, AL Bailey

committee were appointed, and the club's first team was entered in the junior competition.

In its first year of existence the new club also had its first All Black, Dave Evans, who was selected to tour Australia and played in the third Test.

Two year's later the club was elevated to senior status, and for the next two seasons, with some very good players, made steady progress.

### Playing the Fields

Any history of the club would not be complete without referring to the playing grounds of the day. A site in Carlyle Street (now occupied by the technology museum) was originally laid out as a site for a town hall and Pukemokimoki Hill, which covered most of the area, removed to form the railway line to the port. The remaining area was then developed by a private company as a recreation ground and came to be known, unsurprisingly, as "the Rec". This was the centre of all sporting activity in the town for many years. It was here the club began its rugby life, playing all its senior games until the 1916 season,

before the ground was abandoned because the borough council needed the land for a power house and tramway barn. There was also another ground, Logan Park, south of the present Marewa shopping area, but it was a very wet and poor field that could only be reached by paying a boatman sixpence to be rowed across the Tutaekuri River.

However, the biggest difficulties arose when the club had to play at Hastings (at 'the Ridge'), a "not very level" ground out near where Hastings hospital now stands.



**Dave Evans** toured Australia in 1910, playing three of the seven matches, including the third test. He turned to League the following year and represented NZ in 1911. His son Eric played for Hawkes Bay in 1934.

Most players had to work on Saturday mornings, and it was always a rush to have lunch before catching the 1.30pm train to Hastings. Players often changed into their gear on the way, and then walked (and ran) to the ground in time for 3pm kick-off. It was then another rush to catch the returning train to Napier—running to the station and changing on the way home.



**Dick Steere** *was educated at Napier Boys High. He locked NZ's last 2-3-2 test scrum against Australia and toured there the following year with the new 3-4-1 formation. He captained NHSOB, Hawke's Bay and Wanganui. He went on to become Wellington RFU president in 1960. He also represented Hawke's Bay as a sprinter and shot putter.*

## Wars and Peace

The outbreak of the Great War in 1914 caused some lean years for the club. Large numbers of old boys enlisted to serve overseas (tragically, 10 of them never returned). This seriously affected actual and prospective membership, and it was only the enthusiasm of the committee that prevented the club from going into recess. Other clubs had the same problem and because of this the senior competition was suspended and replaced by an under-20 competition – a situation which continued through until the end of the war in 1918.

In peacetime the club flourished. By 1921 Old Boys could enter three teams—seniors, juniors and thirds—and during the next five years had 174 new members. It was by now a strong club and won the Black & White Shield (inter-city competition) more than once during the period. Steady progress continued and four teams (one in each grade) were fielded for several seasons. This progress was enhanced by Dick Steere's All Black selection in 1929.

During a lean mid-1930's period the club was mainly held together by Harry Crawford Smith—a player who possessed a considerable amount of energy and drive. Progress continued slowly before war intervened again in 1939.

As before, playing strength was greatly affected (28 playing members had enlisted by 1940) and when the war finally ended in 1945, some 34 club members had paid the ultimate price. Without the efforts of lifetime Old Boys stalwart Bruce Hawkins

during that period, the club would have been lucky to even field a team.

Once peace returned the standard of the rugby in the district began to show a marked improvement. The club began to build on its pre-war progress and the next year, for the first time in a number of seasons, a team was fielded in three grades with 39 players gaining rep honours, and two players, B.A. Sweet and B. Russell making the All Black reserves.

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<p>H.S.O.B. v. M.B.O.B., McLean Park No. 2, 2.45 p.m. <b>M.B.O.B.</b> (Six to be omitted) 1 J. Mahony (Captain) 2 J. Dooney 3 M. Fearn 4 P. Scullin 5 A. Torrance 6 N. Lyons 7 E. T. Moss 20 P. Munroe 21 G. Sutherland 19 V. Algar 8 P. Mahony 9 C. Pickering 10 M. Andrew 11 R. Crawford 12 O. Rodda 16 K. Munroe 17 N. Ferratt 18 J. Knowles 13 J. O'Rourke 14 M. Coady 15 J. Seed Referee: Mr. G. NORTHCOTE CURTAIN-RAISER.—Pirates v. Taradale (Junior Grade), 1.30 p.m. Referee: Mr. G. Marshall.</p>		<p>H.S.O.B. v. M.B.O.B., McLean Park No. 2, 2.45 p.m. <b>H.S.O.B.</b> 1 F. Chapman 19 J. Kennedy 8 L. Carson 18 D. Harris 5 A. Ingram 3 B. McConnochie 7 P. Magill 9 J. Gunnell (Captain) 14 P. Sandtmann 10 E. Wiig 12 J. Conly 16 S. Burgess 15 P. Newman 17 I. Atkins 20 V. Kurta Emergency.—11 L. Stuart. Referee: Mr. G. NORTHCOTE CURTAIN-RAISER.—Pirates v. Taradale (Junior Grade), 1.30 p.m. Referee: Mr. G. Marshall.</p>	
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**Kel Tremain** *was educated at Auckland Grammar and played his early rugby at lock before switching to flanker on his All Black debut in the second test against the Lions in 1959. He held his place for the rest of the series and, in South Africa in 1960, established himself as one of New Zealand's finest loose forwards. He played for the All Blacks through until 1968 captaining the team when Brian Lochore was unavailable. His 136 tries in 268 first class games is the second highest tally by a forward (behind Zinzan Brooke). He was chairman of the Hawkes Bay Rugby Union from 1985 to 1990 and was also on the NZRFU Council His son Simon played flanker for Otago in 1988 and '89 and Wellington from 1990 to 92. He also represented Hawke's Bay in 1993.*

## Building Blocks

In 1953 the first major steps towards building a club gymnasium began—kick-started with a fund first established by Bill Heffernan back in 1929. A Latham Street section was bought for £350 from the Lamason Estate, and early in 1954 Peter Harris organised the first of many working bees. The building was finally completed in 1958 with the assistance of additional fundraising and with £2,500 in debentures raised from members. During this period progress on the playing side continued with Old Boys teams doing reasonably well in all the grades. One player in particular from this era, Harry Marett, deserves special mention. In a long and successful career he played all his club rugby for Old Boys. He was also selected to play for the North Island; for the Rest (against the All Blacks in 1954); for a NZ XV (against the Maoris) and was also selected as an All Black reserve. Another player, Barry Neale, made the Juniors in 1959 as well as trialling for the All Blacks.

## Cups Runneth Over

The gym's completion was timely: with Kel Tremain's arrival, the club's greatest era was about to begin. Tremain played for the All Blacks from 1959 to 1968 and his influence in Hawke's Bay rugby not only ushered in the great Magpies 1967-69 Shield era, but also Old Boys' most glorious period. Anyone around during the exhilarating days of the 1960s and early 1970s will relate tales of the mighty battles between Old Boys and Marist for inter-town

supremacy. Games between these two McLean Park-based clubs often attracted crowds of 4,000 to 5,000. Old Boys were a formidable team, winning the Maddison trophy seven times between 1964 and 1971, and providing the majority of the Hawke's Bay team during the decade. Although the club failed to win the Trophy again after 1971, it still to this day boasts the most Maddison wins of any club. (It did also win the 'new' Baywide championship in 1988.)

## N.H.S.O.B. FOOTBALL CLUB - SENIOR TEAM 1965

*CHAMPIONSHIP WINNERS – WINNERS: Maddison Trophy, HB Challenge Shield, Banks Shield, Bro. Virgilius Cup, Harris-Duckworth Cup, Harris-Jeffrey Cup, Lance Preston Memorial, Bernie Furlong Memorial Cup, Jeffrey-Dawick Cup*



Back (L-R): P Bergstrom, E Jackson, C Hay, SR Little, D Haig, AR Natrass, J Chrystal  
Middle: ME Wall (President), HJ Clare, AH Dick, RS Abel, CC Little, I Hay (Masseur)  
Front: GW love, FP Dauvenage, DG Curtis, KR Tremain (Captain-Coach), BR Neale, IR Bishop, JH Howell  
Absent: A Waldin, A Meech, P Lynch

During the 1982 season Old Boys had the services of Englishman Peter Winterbottom who, on his return home at the end of that season, went on to play for both England and the British Lions. The following year another All Black, Frank Shelford, arrived at the club playing for one



**Frank Shelford** made his first class debut in 1977 and was in the national Maori side within two years. His game for the Maoris in 1981 against the Springboks undoubtedly was a factor in his selection for the All Blacks when he replaced an injured Ken Stewart in the third test. He toured France and Romania in 1981 and England in 1983. He also toured Argentina in 1985 but was injured in the first game.

season; and at the end of the decade future All Black Stu Forster played for the club during the 1988 and 1989 seasons before moving to Otago.

### Joining the Clubs

By the end of the 1980s the dynamics of the club rugby environment had changed. With player numbers declining and club running costs escalating, both Old Boys and their arch-rivals Marist saw a merger as the only realistic, and perhaps inevitable, means of survival. In 1991, the two clubs – with a total of some 26 Maddison Trophy titles between them joined forces. (Napier Old Boys won the first of their 15 inter town championships in 1930 while Marist first triumphed in 1936 and finished with 11.)

Despite the enthusiasm of all those involved success took a while, and it was ten years before the club recorded its first Maddison Trophy in 2001. The following season proved even more successful with the club's premier team achieving a remarkable treble—taking out the Spillane Cup, Nash Cup, and Maddison Trophy.

## Backing the Future

Since moving to its new clubrooms at Tremain Field, Park Island, other affiliate clubs have been welcomed aboard. Cricket, netball, football, and softball adjuncts now make it the largest multi-sports organisation in the province. With over 700 active sports men, women and juniors—along with families and supporters—the club is a vibrant and inclusive organisation that promises many more successes in the years to come.

One hundred years ago, it would have been inconceivable for those founding ex-pupils to even imagine their club as it is today.

But no doubt they'd be mightily pleased that the original ethos behind its establishment still persists—providing the environment, support, and camaraderie that allows ex-pupils and others to remain involved with the game “made in heaven”.

**"The club today is a vibrant and inclusive organisation that promises many more successes in the years to come."**



The current Premier side model the N.H.S.O.B. Football Club colours.

**WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK THE FOLLOWING ORGANISATIONS FOR  
THEIR GENEROUS SUPPORT IN HELPING US STAGE THIS EVENT**

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