

ROTORUA BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL



AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

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Front page photograph: The centre front of A Block, Kevin J. Lyall, 2009.

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GREETINGS

MIHI

Te rangi kai runga!
Te whenua kai raro!
Te moana kai waho!
Taku au kai roto!
Ko Te Aitanga-a-Raukura i te rangi e!

Tihei mauri ora –
ki a tatou e puta nei ki e whai ao,
te ao mārama!
E ngā mana, e ngā ihi,
Ngā tama me ngā mātua o Raukura!
Tenā koutu katoa.

Ko te pukapuka nei,
he whakairinga i te kete kōrero
a Raukura.
Kia ahatia ai?
Kia manu i a tatou
ngā pikitanga me ngā heketanga
o ngā rā kua taha ake.
Na reira, tēnā tatou katoa.

*The heaven above
The land below
And far out is the sea
But I am inside
We are Raukura from above*

*I give the life breath –
To us who inhabit the world of light,
of everlasting light!
To all of you
Illustrious ones!
Greetings.*

*This book
Is a preservation of history
Of our school, Raukura.
It is written
So that we will retain
Histories, peaks and valleys
I salute you all.*



FOREWORD

The purpose of this publication is to provide our new boys and current boys – and also anyone else who may be interested – with a brief introduction to the history and heritage of Rotorua Boys' High School.

Here, you will find information about our traditions, buildings, memorials, trees, and other special features. I hope that you will enjoy looking through the pages ahead, and that you will learn some interesting things about the School and how it has evolved and developed over almost 110 years.

At Rotorua Boys' High School, our boys are surrounded by the generations of their predecessors since its original establishment in 1914. The history of this school *is* the history of Rotorua and the boys really do “walk the corridors of history” every day.

Ad Astra Per Aspera.
Whaia Te Iti Kahurangi.
Raukura Rotorua!

Kevin J. Lyall,
SCHOOL HISTORIAN.

SCHOOL NAMES

The School has been known as Rotorua Boys' High School since 1959. That was when it became a boys-only school after the division of the previous Rotorua High School into separate Boys' and Girls' High Schools at the end of 1958.

Secondary education in Rotorua first began, however, 44 years earlier, in 1914. That was when a Secondary Department was added to the Rotorua Public School, Rotorua's first State school established in 1886. In early 1914, that school was converted under Section 55 of the Education Act 1877 by the Auckland Education Board into a District High School. This meant that it could also operate a Secondary Department. It then officially became the Rotorua District High School from 8 June, 1914. This was the School's original name, and it was known by that name from 1914 until the end of 1926.

In 1927, the Secondary Department of the Rotorua District High School was granted full High School status. It re-opened, as the Rotorua High School, at the beginning of that year. At the same time, the Primary Department of the previous District High School reverted back to its pre-1914 status and it then became Rotorua Primary School.

The Rotorua High School was also known by one other name: Rotorua High and Grammar School. It was the only secondary school in New Zealand to have the title "High and Grammar" as part of its name, and the use of this name may have derived from the 1881 Endowment (see below). The 'Grammar' part of the name was discontinued in 1953.

Also in 1927, an entirely new and separate school was established. The Rotorua Junior High School was opened for intermediate-aged pupils in Years 7 and 8 and, although it came under the same principal, it had a separate staff. In 1933, it was merged with the Rotorua High School and it then became its Intermediate Department from the start of 1934. In 1957, it was re-established as a separate school and opened as Rotorua Intermediate School.

The School is now also known by one other name: "Raukura". Although the 1984 Rugby First XV were the first to use this name outside of its traditional context – the magazine – up to that point, it was not until the mid-1990s that the School was first referred to as *Raukura*. This became common from the about the early 2010s onwards.

Today, Rotorua Boys' High School is *Raukura*. Its current boys and Old Pupils are the "Plumes of Raukura".



Rotorua Boys' High School

THE SCHOOL FLAGPOLE

Our country's flag is flown every day from the School Flagpole above the main entrance of A Block. The New Zealand Flag, which has been flown daily at the School since 1989, is flown for a number reasons.

It signifies that the School is open for business, and, more importantly, it is the chief symbol of our nation and of the people of New Zealand.

The Flag's blue background is symbolic of the blue seas and sky surrounding us. The four stars of the Southern Cross emphasize our country's geographic location in the Southern Hemisphere. The Union Flag – also known as the “Union Jack” – in the top, right-hand corner of the Flag acknowledges New Zealand's British imperial colonial heritage. Today, we are a constitutional monarchy as a Realm of His Majesty King Charles III, King of New Zealand.

The flying of the New Zealand Flag at Rotorua Boys' High School shows patriotism and pride in our country. It is the symbol of who we are as New Zealanders and of our place in the world as a now long-independent and proud sovereign nation in our own right.



THE SCHOOL SHIELD

The Four Heraldic Symbols were first selected by the Pupils, 1915

The Māori Head and Motto Scroll were added, 1927

The most important, defining, and truly “iconic” symbol of our school is the historic School Shield. This is very proudly displayed on our uniform, letterhead, stationery, the School Web Site, various social media, vehicles, and buildings. It is the one visual symbol that immediately – and uniquely – identifies us. It has, since its final completion in 1927, also been an early example of a bicultural symbol in New Zealand.

Our School Shield reflects very clearly a set of values, beliefs, and relationships which we, as a school, stand for. Our School Shield represents much to do with the philosophy of the School, and its commitment to the boys of Rotorua since 1914. Our School Shield represents our desire to aim high and reach for the stars. It is compatible with our vision “To become the outstanding Boys’ High School in New Zealand.”

The four English heraldic symbols in the central shield were the first features to be selected by the pupils in 1915. However, it was not until 1927 that what is now the School Shield, as it is shown above, actually came into being and was completed. That was the year that the Māori Head, given the name Tane Raukura in 2020, and the Motto Scroll were added to create the overall design.

The central shield with its four heraldic symbols and the Motto Scroll were originally coloured in 1927. The red, black, and white colours for Tane Raukura were not finally determined until 1991.

There are six key elements to our School Shield. These are as follows:

The *Open Book* – This is a traditional English heraldic symbol. It represents knowledge, wisdom, learning, and education.

The *White Rose* – This is a traditional English heraldic symbol. It represents New Zealand's historical relationship to Great Britain.

The *Lion* – This is a traditional English heraldic symbol. It also represents New Zealand's historical relationship to Great Britain. Furthermore, the Lion stands for strength, courage, honour, the determination to never to give up, and to overcome adversity.

The *Crown* – Again, this is a very old and traditional English heraldic symbol. It represents and signifies the Sovereign, His Majesty King Charles III, King of New Zealand, and his Ministers and Government in New Zealand. It is also symbolic of majesty, authority, and of leadership.

The *Māori Head, Tane Raukura* – This symbolizes the special relationship of the School with our mana whenua, Ngati Whakaue. It acknowledges their 1880 gifting of the land for the establishment of the new Town of Rotorua in 1881. His position at the centre atop the central shield indicates the high value – and status – that we give to this relationship. In 2020, this symbol was given the name Tane Raukura.

The *Latin Motto* – This is the School's original Motto. It was selected as the winning entry submitted to a public competition that was held in Rotorua in early 1927 for this purpose.

In 2008, the School Shield was officially trademarked. This means that it belongs exclusively to Rotorua Boys' High School, and that it cannot be used or reproduced without the School's authorization.

SCHOOL MOTTOS

Adopted, 1927 and 1990

The School has two Mottos: the original Latin Motto of 1927 and the Māori Motto of 1990.

The Latin Motto was, as we learned above, selected and then adopted in early 1927. It was the winning entry that was submitted by Miss C.E. Carter, who later became Mrs. Gilmore, to the public competition that was held in Rotorua to find a suitable Motto for the School. It was prominently displayed for the first time later that year in carved concrete letters on A Block's original Entrance Portico. When the second-storey was built in 1938, the top part of the Entrance Portico was re-designed and the even larger letters that we now see were made.

The Māori Motto: "Whaia Te Iti Kahurangi" was adopted in 1990. This Motto was first painted onto the architrave of the Entrance Portico directly beneath the Latin Motto that year.

Our two School Mottos translate as follows:

Ad Astra Per Aspera

Ad – *To*

Astra – *The Stars*

Per – *Through*

Aspera – *The Rough*

In 1980, the principal, G.R. Cramond, who held a Master of Arts degree from the University of New Zealand with second-class honours in Latin, interpreted this Motto to mean: "To the stars through hard work." This interpretation has provided the official meaning of our Latin Motto since then.

Whaia Te Iti Kahurangi

This Motto derives from the old Māori proverb: *Whaia te iti kahurangi. Ke te tuohu koe me he maunga teitei*. This means: "Search for great things and if one has to bow, let it be to a lofty mountain."

VISION STATEMENT

The School's Vision Statement is: "To be the outstanding Boys' High School in New Zealand."

PRINCIPLES

The School's guiding Principles are: "Rotorua Boys' High School provides an environment for boys to mature into outstanding young men to prepare them for the future important role they must play in the community."

VALUES

The Values, which all boys of Rotorua Boys' High School are expected to develop, uphold, model, and to display at all times, are:

Pūmau – Be Strong of Character

Being strong of character means you show respect for both yourself and others, have personal integrity, take responsibility for the consequences of your actions and be a good citizen. Be a good man.

Whakaatu ngārahuntanga – Demonstrate Leadership

Leadership can be taught and learned. You will have many opportunities to demonstrate leadership and be a good role model as well as encouraging appropriate behaviour in others. Be a good leader.

Ūpoko pakaru – Display Commitment

Commitment means never giving up just because something is difficult. It encompasses a work ethic, time management and sacrifice in achieving your goals. Be a good worker.

Kapu huanga – Take Opportunities

Taking opportunities is about embracing new challenges. You will be presented with a myriad of new opportunities in your time at Rotorua Boys' High School. Enjoy the challenge.

Hiratanga – Strive for Excellence

Striving for excellence means that you will always do your best, learn from your mistakes and seek continual improvement. Reach for the stars.

Whakaute – Show Respect

Show respect to family, school, friends, team mates and especially yourself.



THE THREE PLUMES – RAUKURA

Designed by Old Boy, T. Hale, 1991

“As a means of retaining our association with the Māori race and of expressing the hope that the school may ever be ‘the pride of a race,’ the name ‘Raukura Rotorua’ has been selected for the magazine.”

The Three Plumes symbol is most prominently displayed in the War Memorial Hall at the back of the stage flanking the School Shield and on the Raukura Sculpture in the roundabout in front of A Block. It is, with the School Shield, also now an important symbol of our school.

Raukura is the Māori word for the highly prized and revered white-tipped tail feathers of the now long extinct Huia, *Heteralocha acutirostris*. Its association with our school dates from 1929. That was when it was chosen by Henry Taiporutu (Tai) Mitchell to be the first part of the official name for the school magazine or year-book, *Raukura Rotorua*, which was first published in December, 1929. The definition of *Raukura*, as it pertains to this school, was provided in first edition of the magazine and it is shown above.

In 1991, the Three Plumes symbol was designed by Old Boy Tom Hale. It gives emblematic expression to the concept of “Raukura” and also symbolizes leadership. Traditionally, only high-ranking Māori chiefs and women were permitted to wear three (or more) Huia plumes on the most sacred part of the body – the head. When Mitchell gave *Raukura Rotorua* to be the first part of the name for the magazine, he was literally referring to the Rotorua High School as being the “Pride of Rotorua” or “Rotorua’s Plume”.

In late 2021, a Huia feather was gifted to the School. This feather further enhances – and greatly strengthens – the School’s long association with the Huia and the special concepts associated with its tail feathers.

The Three Plumes symbol has also been officially trademarked since 2008. This means that it belongs exclusively to Rotorua Boys’ High School, and it cannot be used or reproduced without the School’s authorization.

THE 1881 ENDOWMENT

The Ngati Whakaue Education Endowment, which was originally known as the “Local College and Grammar School Endowments”, was created in 1881. It consists of five blocks of land (now worth about \$70 million) in the CBD of Rotorua that produce about \$4.5 million annually in rental income. Although Ngati Whakaue gave the land for the Endowment under the Rotorua Township Agreement of 25 November, 1880, it was actually created by the Government.

This occurred when the site for the new Town of Rotorua was first surveyed by the Department of Lands and Survey in May, 1881. Five blocks of land were set aside and then designated on the original Town Plan for Rotorua as being Local College and Grammar School Endowments. These blocks were intended to generate money for a future College and Grammar School in Rotorua from the rents earned from the lease-holds (Ngati Whakaue retained ownership of the land) established on the blocks. In the terminology of the 1880s, a ‘College’ implied tertiary education; a ‘Grammar School’ secondary education. From 1881 until 8 June, 1914, there was no secondary school in Rotorua to receive the Endowment’s money and a tertiary institution, the former Waiariki Institute of Technology (1978-2016), was not established until 1978.

From the mid-1880s onwards, when the first lease-holds were granted on the blocks, the Endowment’s money was diverted by the Government to the Auckland Education Board. In the early 1910s the people of Rotorua first asked for secondary education to be established in the town and they wanted this money returned to Rotorua for its use. Although the School was established in 1914, the money was retained by the Auckland Education Board and disbursed it amongst all of the schools under its jurisdiction. Inquiries were then made by the people of Rotorua about the Endowment’s exact status. This resulted in a long and complex legal battle to get the (by then) growing amount rental money from the blocks returned to Rotorua.

In 1926, the Government finally agreed to return the Endowment’s money to Rotorua. It also agreed to refund all of the money that had been disbursed by the Auckland Education Board since the early 1880s. In November, 1926, the Rotorua High School Board of Governors was established and the Endowment was vested in its control. The accumulated money up to that time amounted to £11,000 (about \$1,280,000.00 in today’s money), and the bulk of this was used to erect the original part of A Block in mid-1927.

In October, 1995, the Endowment’s original purpose was changed by Act of Parliament to “general education purposes.” It was also vested in a new Endowment Trust Board whose Trustees are appointed by the Pukeroa-Oruawhata Trust and the five high schools in Rotorua.

A SHORT HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The Victoria Institute (left) and the Native Land Court, Arawa Street, 1918.

Rotorua Boys' High School originally began as the Secondary Department of the Years 1 to 13 Rotorua District High School. Officially opened on 8 June, 1914, it commenced with twenty-one Foundation Secondary Pupils – 11 boys and 10 girls – and one teacher at the historic Victoria Institute on Arawa Street.

The mid-1910s were a time of pioneering development for the School during World War I. The first traditions and the first inter-school connection with the Tauranga District High School were established, and the Foundation Deputy Principal and the first Class Monitor (Head Prefect) were killed in the war. The second principal also took leave of absence for war service.

In the 1920s, the School grew and moved three times as the roll steadily increased. Full High School status was achieved in 1927, and it then became the Rotorua High School for Years 9 to 13. The Rotorua Junior High School, for Years 7 and 8, was also established at the same time. In 1928, the School move to its Pukuatua Street site.

The 1930s was a decade of growth, consolidation, and new development. The four major events of this decade were: the Great Depression of 1930-1935; the merging of the Rotorua Junior High School with the Rotorua High School to become its Intermediate Department in 1934; the addition, in 1938, of a second-storey over the central part of the Main Building; and the opening of the Technical Block and with it the commencement of adult night classes in Rotorua in 1939.

The first-half of the 1940s was marked by World War II. Over 500 Old Pupils served our country in the war, and sixty-two Old Boys and one staff member were killed. After the war, the roll grew rapidly as a result of the post-war “Baby Boom”.

By the early 1950s, there were 1,250 pupils on the roll – the highest in its history. This was a direct result of the Baby Boom, and it caused serious accommodation issues for the School. The Government decided to address this problem by separating off groups of pupils to form new schools of their own. The first to leave were the Intermediate Department pupils in 1956, and then the girls departed in 1958. This left 582 boys at the Pukuatua Street site to form Rotorua Boys’ High School in 1959.

There were two building developments during the 1950s. The original Gymnasium was built in 1952, and S Block was in 1953.

The main developments during the 1960s were the construction of the two-storey, multi-purpose B Block in 1963, and the establishment of the full Year 13 (previously known as the Upper Sixth Form) by the Department of Education. The military Cadet Battalion, which had been a strong feature of the School since 1914, was discontinued in 1969.

In the 1970s, the far-reaching and innovative “Levels System” was implemented by the then principal; the first computers arrived; and the School played the lead role in the development of a full tertiary education institution for Rotorua. The large Gymnasium was added onto the original one in 1970, the multi-purpose C Block was built in 1971, and the original part of the Harwood Library was built in 1979.

In the 1980s, all of the buildings were refurbished; computing was expanded with a suite of “Poly” computers; and a modified system of academic streaming with three levels or “Bands” was implemented. The major change, however, came in 1989. This was the transformation of the New Zealand education system from primary- through to tertiary-level with the “Tomorrow’s Schools” and “Learning for Life” educational reforms.

In the 1990s, a Māori Motto was adopted to complement the original Latin one; the Hall of Fame was established; a Accelerate Class was introduced; the first international students arrived; Te Whare O Raukura was opened in 1994, and hostel boarding also commenced in 1994. Significant achievements were made in Rugby and Golf when the School became the joint national and the international champions, respectively, in these sports. In 1997, the concept of the “Super 8” Competition amongst the eight Boys’ High Schools in the Central North Island was developed and then launched by the School in 1998.

The start of the new millennium was marked, in 2000, with the opening of the Millennium Centre by the Governor-General. The first official history of the

School was published in 2003, and new innovations based on the traditional boys' school model with a particular focus on lifting achievement for Māori boys were made. The School also embraced during the early and mid-2000s all new digital technologies and resources for learning and education. In 2005, the two Hostel Blocks were built and opened.

The 2010s saw further progress in digital learning and sporting and cultural successes made. In 2019, the School won the Prime Minister's Excellence in Leading Award and also the Prime Minister's Supreme Education Excellence Award.

In 2020, the School was identified as being one of the most innovative schools in the world in terms of its use and application of digital technology in the classroom. It became, that year, the first State High School in New Zealand to be awarded with "Apple Distinguished School" status by the Apple Computing Company in the United States. When the COVID-19 pandemic swept around the world in early 2020, as a result of its already highly advanced work in the digital learning area, the School moved swiftly – and easily – to online-only education for some months. And in response to the "Black Lives Matter" movement, also in 2020, the School moved promptly to change the British colonial-era names of its four Houses to locally inspired ones. The construction of the new \$9 million Science Building to replace S Block is currently well underway and is expected to be opened for the start of 2024 – in the School's 110th year.

Rotorua Boys' High School is now also known as "Raukura". This name derives from its unique position of having long been designated and regarded as the "Pride of Rotorua" or "Rotorua's Plume", a status that was inherited from the Rotorua High School.

The School is proud of its historic past, celebrates the many and varied achievements of its current boys and Old Pupils, and confidently aspires "To be the outstanding Boys' High School in New Zealand."

FORMER PRINCIPALS



J.M. Warn
Foundation Principal
1914 – 1915



F.D. Wood
1915 – 1919



T.B. Tanner
Acting Principal during the absence of F.D. Wood on war service
1916 – 1918



W. Lewins, B.Sc. (London)
1919 – 1925



G. Barber
1926



A.R. Ryder, M.A. Hons, B.Sc. (N.Z.)
1927 – 1931



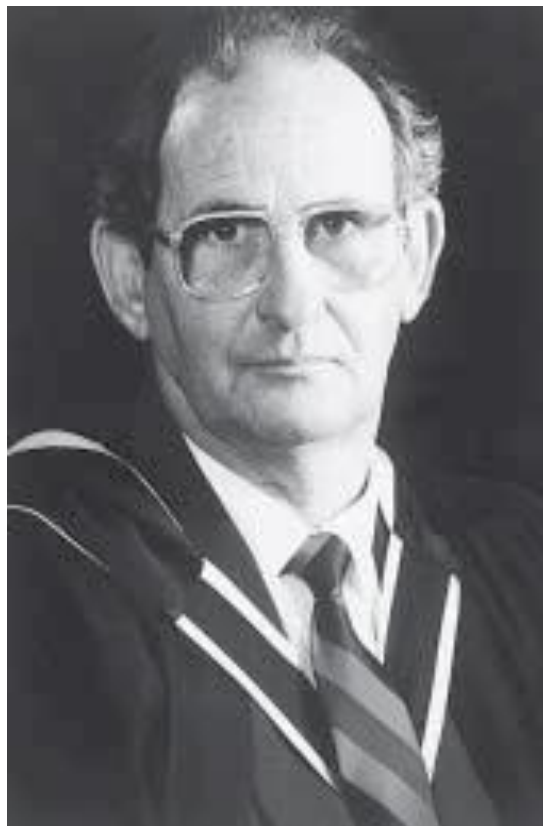
***W.G. Harwood, Cert. Tchg., B.A., M.Sc. Hons (N.Z.)
1932 – 1959***



***N.H. Thornton, E.D., M.A. (N.Z.)
1960 – 1962***



***E.F. Hamill, E.D., M.A. (N.Z.)
1963 – 1979***



***G.R. Cramond, M.A. Hons (N.Z.), Dip. Tchg., Dip. Ed. St.
1980 – June, 1991***



The Empress's Plume: Rotorua's First High School.

A BLOCK
The original Rotorua High School Building
Designed by E. La Trobe Hill, 1926

*Foundation Stone laid by the Hon. R.A. Wright, Minister of Education,
 12 April, 1927*

Constructed, April-August, 1927

Officially Opened by Minister Wright, 9 February, 1928

Extended: 1929; 1930; 1938; 1951; 1959; 1994; 1997; and 2021

Earthquake Strengthened and Upgraded (central part only), 2006



E. La Trobe Hill
Architect to the Rotorua High School Board of Governors, 1926-1955

The Main Building of the School, known as A Block, is one of the few remaining historic – and truly iconic – buildings in Rotorua.

A Block was commissioned by the Rotorua High School Board of Governors to house the Rotorua High School and also the newly established Rotorua Junior High School. It was designed by one of the earliest professional architects in Rotorua, Edward La Trobe Hill (1887-1966), who also oversaw the building's

construction. His architectural plan, and also a papier-mâché model (shown above) of his conception for the building, was completed and presented to the Board of Governors for their approval in November, 1926.

The building's purely ceremonial Foundation Stone was laid by Minister Wright at a public ceremony held at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 April, 1927. Construction of the building began immediately afterwards at a cost of £10,648 (just under \$1,225,000 today), and it was erected by the local building contractors, Gleany and Clark. It was constructed with "pumcrete" – pumice mixed with concrete (not reinforced concrete). Although the building was completed in August of that year, the internal fit-out was not completed until the first few weeks of 1928.



Te Naera Houkotuku, c. 1890.

The School was officially re-opened, at the Pukuatua Street site, by Minister Wright on Thursday, 9 February, 1928. At the public ceremony, Te Naera Houkotuku of Ngati Whakaue asked if he could perform an old Māori rite. Standing in front of the Entrance Portico, he drove away through the reciting of incantations and with the aid of gesticulations with his walking stick (seen above in the photograph of him) any evil spirits that may have been lurking inside the Entrance Hall. He did this so that all who passed through it could do so safely and leave evil behind them.

When it was first opened in 1928, A Block was a single-storey building. It originally consisted of an Entrance Hall, separate boys' and girls' entrances, seven large classrooms, a purpose-designed science laboratory with an adjoining preparation room, two boys' and girls' cloak rooms, two boys' and girls' toilet blocks that projected off the rear (west-facing) side of the building, two staff rooms (one for men and one for women), a Principal's office, storage room, and a long corridor the full length of the rear side of the building that connected all of the rooms on the front (east-facing) side.

Within a year of its opening, the building was too small for the School. The South Wing, which originally terminated at room A4 in 1927, was extended with two further rooms, A5 and A6, in 1929. Another room (now the area after A6) was added in 1930. The rooms beyond that were added in 1951.

The most significant addition made to A Block was the addition of a second-storey over the central part of the building, in 1938. This storey was intended to be continued over both the North and South Wings, but World War II disrupted these plans from being carried out. The second-storey originally consisted of four large classrooms, a Library room in the middle at the front, an office, and a textbook storage room at the rear. As part of this work, two additional boys' and girls' cloak rooms were added on the ground floor.

The erection, in 1959, of the War Memorial Hall was the last major addition made to the building. The buildings behind A Block were erected in 1994, 1997, and most recently in 2021.

A Block's distinctive architectural features are: its Neo-Classical Entrance Portico with the two Doric order columns and entablature, which were first developed by the Ancient Greeks 3,000 years ago; the Latin School Motto carved in bold concrete letters on the parapet above the Entrance Portico; and the central window directly above it with the fanlight in its top part.

The building originally had a "Marseilles" reddish-orange-coloured terra-cotta tiled roof that was replaced with corrugated iron in 1967. From 1927 until their removal at the end of 1989, two raised grass beds originally flanked the roundabout. At the end of 1990, the original red-brick fronts of the Entrance Portico (see the photograph below) were smooth-plastered over to match the rest of the stuccoed exterior.

In 2006, at a cost of \$1.25 million, the central part of A Block was earthquake-strengthened, upgraded, and fully refurbished.



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The original A Block (at the time of its Official Opening) in February, 1928.

THE ENTRANCE HALL

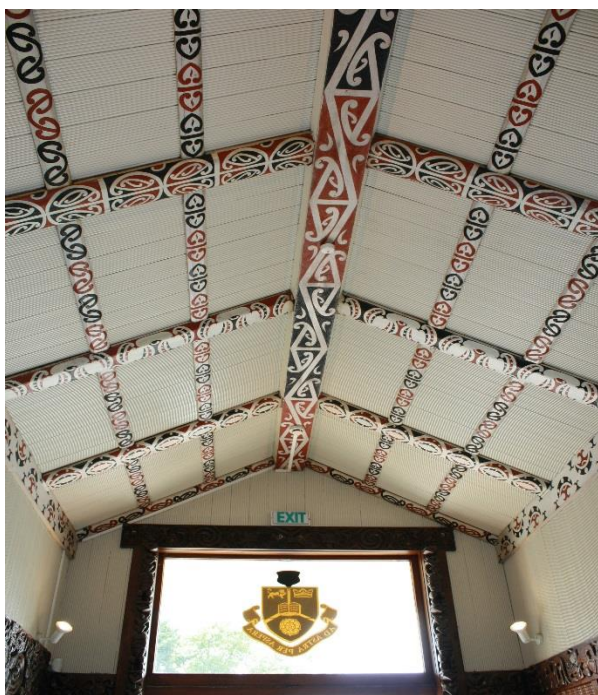
Carved and Decorated by the National Māori Carving School (now part of the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute at Te Puia)

May, 1927-January, 1928

Generations of pupils, staff, and visitors to the School have passed through the historic Entrance Hall of A Block. It is a special place right at the heart of the School with a wairua (spirit) all of its own. As with the School Shield, it makes a bold and quite emphatic statement about the School and what we value.

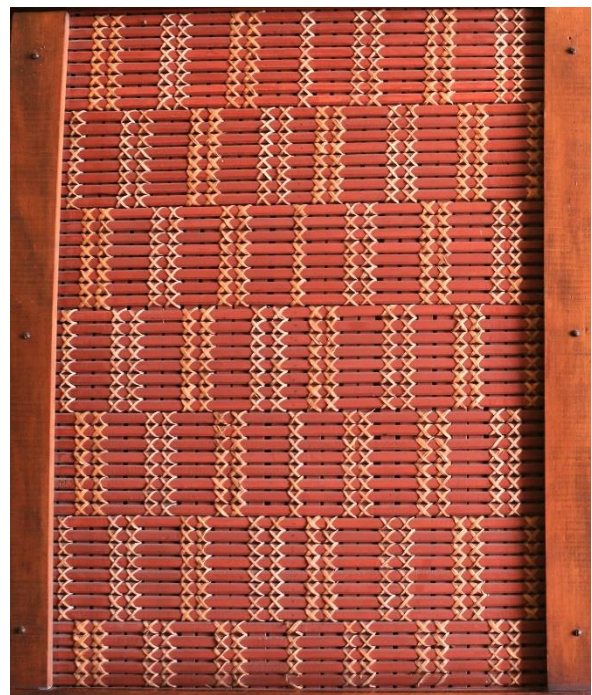
The Entrance Hall is, in fact, the only interior part of A Block that has survived intact in terms of its original decoration since the building was originally opened on 9 February, 1928.

The Māori carvings and decorations for the Entrance Hall were Mitchell's idea. They were commissioned from the newly established National Māori Carving School which was first opened in Te Ao Marama at Ohinemutu in 1927, and they were paid for by the Te Arawa Māori Trust Board (now known as the Te Arawa Lakes Trust) of which Mitchell was the first Chairman. He had three intentions in mind for these decorations: first, that the Māori pupils of the School should always remember that their tipuna (ancestors) gave the land for the establishment of new Town of Rotorua in 1880; second, that it would serve as a permanent tribute to our mana whenua, Ngati Whakaue, for their generosity in this regard; and third, so that the Māori pupils would always be mindful of, feel pride in, and be inspired by their own culture and heritage.



Kevin J. Lyall

Kowhaiwhai



Kevin J. Lyall

Tukutuku

There are three principal elements to the decorations in the Entrance Hall. These are the kowhaiwhai, tukutuku, and carvings.

The kowhaiwhai, which are painted patterns on the ceiling rafters, are, according to the master carver and Old Boy, Clive Fugill, of the traditional Mangapore or Hammerhead shark design.

The tukutuku or latticework panels around the walls, which are made of dried and woven kakaho (the steams of toetoe grass), feature, according to Fugill, the traditional “Roimata toroa” or “Tears of the albatross” design.

The carvings, says Fugill, are actually re-productions of some very old ones that were found on the Bell Block in Taranaki in the late 1800s. They were photographed in the early 1900s, and the carvings were re-produced from those photographs. Overseen by the master carvers, Rotohiko Haupapa, Wihau Te Raihi, and Tuhaka Kapua, they assisted the first apprentices at the National Māori Carving School to carve them. The apprentices were Pineamine (Pine) and his younger brother, Hone (John) Taiapa, Wiremu (Piri) Poutapu, and Waka Kereama. John, who became a master carver himself, went on to oversee and also work himself on the carvings and the Roll of Honour panels for the War Memorial Hall. He was later appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to traditional carving.

On their completion and installation in early 1928, the carvings were given a dark Shellac wood finish varnish to protect them.

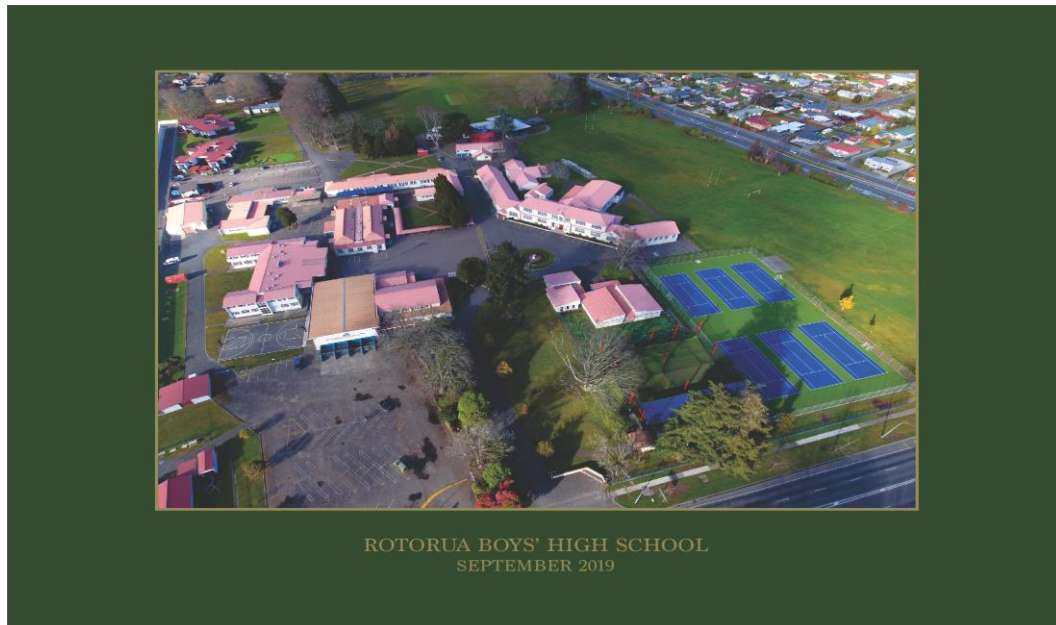
Given that the kowhaiwhai, tukutuku, and carvings for the Entrance Hall were the first commission for the original National Māori Carving School, which is now part of the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute at Te Puia, they are of national historical significance and very valuable.

The prominent maihi (the head-shaped carving) at the centre of the apex of the carving that frames the rear of the Entrance Hall opening into the foyer, was the inspiration for Tane Raukura atop the School Shield.

In late 1991, the Entrance Hall’s original front window was replaced. The clear pane of glass emblazoned with the School Shield, and some new front doors were then installed. The original doors, which had survived from 1927 until mid-1966, had featured two coloured, opaque lead-light window panes in their tops with the letters ‘RHS’ at their centres. Also in 1991, the spot lights were installed to highlight the kowhaiwhai and carvings.

In 2018, the long carved form that had stood there since 1928 was moved to outside the Deputy Principal’s office beside the School Office. Old Boy Roi Toia’s carving “Tane Raukura” (see below for more about him) was then moved from his original position in the Millennium Centre to the centre of the Entrance Hall.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

Introduction

The School has been located at the Pukuatua Street site (all Crown Land and owned by the Ministry of Education) since its official re-opening there on 9 February, 1928. The history of the site, however, can be traced back to 1885. That was when the survey work for the old railway line that formerly passed by the School on its eastern-side, and then carried on into the old Rotorua Railway Station (where the Central Mall is now), was being carried out.

During the railway survey work, the surveyors camped on the then scrub-covered and vacant site. They planted the first trees here in 1885, and four of those trees still survive almost 140 years later. These trees are the grand old *Douglas firs* along the Pukuatua Street boundary and the one tall *fir* that stands sentinel-like directly opposite A Block.

When the School officially commenced on the 25-acre (10.11 hectare) site in 1928, it was located some way out of town out “in the country”. Across the other side of Old Taupo Road, which, in 1928, was little more than a pumice and dirt track, there was only rolling green farmland and the Rotorua A&P (Agriculture and Pastoral Association) Show Grounds. The first houses were not built opposite the School until after World War II.

Since the original A Block was constructed in 1927, a number of buildings have been built around and behind it. The buildings located on its north, east, and south sides form a traditional quadrangle in the north-eastern corner of the site. We shall visit each of these buildings now.

THE HARWOOD LIBRARY

Est. 1922

Built, 1979

Officially Dedicated to W.G. and E.W.J. Harwood, 10 October, 1992

Blessed by Old Boy, the Rt. Rev. Bishop Ngarahu Katene

Memorial Plaque Unveiled by Old Pupils, W.J. Harwood and Mrs. J.M. Smale

Extended, 1996-1997

Refurbished, 1997 and 2000

Internally Modified, 2016

The School Library was established with about twenty or so books at the Victoria Institute in April, 1922. By the mid-1930s, it had grown to over 500 hundred books. By 1961, and then right up the end of the 1980s, there were 10,000.

A very generous early benefactor of the Library was the wealthy Auckland businessman and land developer, E. Earl Vaile, O.B.E. (1869-1956). He owned and developed the 53,000-acre Broadlands Estate at Reporoa. When the second-storey was added to A Block in 1938, the room at the centre (now the staff room) was originally the Library and Vaile was asked to officially open it in recognition of his generosity to the School.

In 1979, the present Library building was built on part of what were originally grass tennis courts. It was extended with two classrooms on its eastern-side in 1997, and it was also refurbished. It was refurbished again in 2000. In 2016, the main Library was modified internally when the original central workroom was reduced in size.

On 10 October, 1992, the School Library was dedicated to former principal, W.G. Harwood, and Mrs. E.W.J. Harwood, M.B.E. It then officially became the Harwood Library in their honour. Photographs of the Harwoods were presented to the School by their daughter and Old Girl, Mrs. J.M. Smale (1925-2022), and hung in the Library. Mrs. Harwood's M.B.E. insignia and Royal Warrant of Appointment were presented to the School by her granddaughter, Susan Harwood, in 2022. Photographs of these are also now displayed in the Library.

Behind the Harwood Library is the Golf Driving Range. It was opened on 24 April, 2002, by Sam Hunt, a former Head Prefect.

GYMNASIA BLOCK

Designed by E. La Trobe Hill (the original Gym)

Built, 1952

Officially Opened by D.M. Rae, M.P. for Rotorua, 26 September, 1952

Modified, 1986

Extended, 1970 and 1996

Opposite the Harwood Library is the Gymnasia Block. This block consists of the original gymnasium (now a weights training room), which was designed by La Trobe Hill and built in 1952.

The large gymnasium was added onto it in 1970, and the mezzanine floor between it and the 1952 gym was built in 1986.

The classroom in front of this block was built in 1996. The flagpole above its entrance was added in the early 2010s and the House Flag of the currently leading House has been flown from it since then.

B BLOCK

Built, 1963

Re-Developed, 1994 and 2007

The two-storey, H-shaped “Nelson Block” design building next to the Gymnasia Block is known as B Block. It is a multi-purpose classroom block, and it was built in 1963.

On 1 August, 1994, a serious fire – the second major fire in the School’s history – gutted the rear part of the south-eastern side of the block facing C Block. Fortunately, a policeman, who was on his way to work early that morning, saw the fire and alerted Fire and Emergency. They were able to get to the School quickly and prevented the fire from spreading throughout the rest of the building.

B Block was extended with a new frontage and access, and it was also upgraded and fully refurbished in 2007.

T BLOCK

Designed by E. La Trobe Hill

Built, 1938-1939

*Officially Opened by the Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, Minister of Education,
24 February, 1939*

Extended, 1960s

Extended and Refurbished, 1988

Re-Developed, 2002

The Technical Block, which is known as T Block, was La Trobe Hill’s second major building to be erected on the site after A Block in 1927. Construction commenced on 2 November, 1938, and it was completed in early 1939. It was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, then Minister of Education (and later Prime Minister), on 24 February, 1939. Unlike the Foundation Stone for A Block,

which had been laid before its construction started, T Block's Foundation Stone was unveiled by the Minister when the building was officially opened.

T Block was built to house the School's metalwork, woodwork, home cookery arts and crafts, and adult student night classes. It was fitted-out with all of the most up-to-date equipment imported from Great Britain. Some of that machinery is still in use there today. The building originally had two large workshops: one for woodwork and one metalwork for boys; and two rooms of equal size for home cookery and arts and crafts for girls.

The building was extended on its northern and southern-sides in the 1960s. It was completely refurbished, modernized, and extended again in 1988. That was also when its original Doric column Entrance Portico was removed and closed in to form a spray painting booth.

T Block was extensively upgraded and extended again in 2002. At that time, the 1988 spray painting booth was removed and the original main entrance to the building was re-opened. However, the Doric columns were not replaced.

C BLOCK

Built, 1971
Extended, 1985
Refurbished, 2010

Behind T Block and next to B Block, is C Block. Like its "big brother" B Block next door, C Block is a multi-purpose classroom block. It was built in 1971.

It was originally called the "Half-Nelson Block" because it is the slightly more modern, single-storey version of the two-storey Nelson Block-design building next door. C Block was extended in 1985, and it was fully refurbished in 2010. The Tuck Shop was built next to it in 2003.

THE BARN

Built, 1975
Re-Purposed, 1977

Behind C Block is an interesting building in the School's and also Rotorua's history, though to look at it you would wonder why. This "barn-like" building has been the home of the Grounds and Maintenance Department since 1977, and is known as M Block. It was, in fact, one of three identical such buildings that were built at the School in 1975.

All three buildings were, in fact, the first purpose-built buildings to be erected in Rotorua for tertiary education and they accommodated the TID's students. Two of the three barns housed the TID's engineering workshops for apprentice mechanics, and the other one (now M Block) was the carpentry workshop for apprentice carpenters.

The two engineering workshops originally stood on the site of what is now the staff car park. In 1978, they were transferred to the Mokoia Drive campus of what is now Te Pūkenga – New Zealand Institute of Skills and Technology and they were joined together. They are still in use there today for the same purpose.

S BLOCK

Designed by E. La Trobe Hill

Built, 1953

*Officially Opened by the Hon. Sir Ronald M. Algie, Minister of Education,
30 April, 1954.*

*Upgraded, Modernized, and Refurbished, 1984
Extended, 1997*

The Science Block, known as S Block, was designed by La Trobe Hill. It forms the third side of the quadrangle, and it was the School's second purpose-built facility for science classes.

The building was officially opened by the Minister of Education, the Hon. Sir Ronald M. Algie, on 30 April, 1954. Sir Ronald, who later became Speaker of the House of Representatives, was a younger brother of the School's first Deputy Principal, Colvin S. Algie, who was killed in World War I.

S Block was upgraded and refurbished in 1984, and two additional classrooms were added to it in 1997.

In June, 2022, construction of the long-planned for new \$8 million Science Building commenced behind S Block.

TE WHARE-O-RAUKURA

Built, 1979

*Originally Officially Opened as the Golden Jubilee Cafeteria by E.F. Hamill,
20 March, 1980*

Re-Developed, 1993

*Officially Re-opened as Te Whare-O-Raukura by Old Girl,
Mrs. M.A. Bird, Q.S.M.,
4 March, 1994*

In front of the Millennium Centre and opposite the South Wing of A Block is the School's wharenuī, Te Whare-O-Raukura.

The second-storey Lockwood-design part of this building was originally built in 1979. It was paid for and gifted to the School by the former Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc. (1928-1978) and it was their gift to commemorate the Golden Jubilee of the School's attainment of full High School status in 1927. It originally served as a cafeteria and tuck shop.

In 1993, the Lockwood building was raised up and re-developed, as Te Whare-O-Raukura, when the ground-level rooms were built beneath it. The re-developed building was officially re-opened on 4 March, 1994. On that occasion Old Girl Mrs. M.A. Bird, Q.S.M. (1917-2001), who was the last surviving child of Mitchell, cut the ribbon to officially open it.

THE MILLENNIUM CENTRE

Built, 2000

Officially Opened by the Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hardie Boys,

Governor-General of New Zealand, 28 October, 2000

Re-Roofed and Refurbished, 2021-2022

Behind Te Whare-O-Raukura is the Millennium Centre. It is named to commemorate the start of the new millennium in 2000.

The planning for this building commenced in the mid-1990s and most of the funds for its construction were raised by Old Pupils. Additional grants were also made towards its construction by the Ministry of Education and the Rotorua Energy Charitable Trust (now known as the Rotorua Trust).

The Millennium Centre was officially opened by the Governor-General of New Zealand and former Court of Appeal Justice, the Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hardie Boys, on 28 October, 2000. Over 1,000 people in attendance on that occasion.

The two-storey building has classrooms and offices; a sports hall; a self-contained flat; the Colman Theatre for performing arts; changing and washing facilities; a kitchen to cater for school functions and also for Tai Mitchell Hostel; and a large cafeteria with a deck opening off it.

The cafeteria, which occupies the whole of the western-side of the second-storey of the Millennium Centre, features floor-to-ceiling windows. These give superb views of Mt. Ngongotahā, "The Terraces", playing fields, trees, and the surrounding landscape.

TAI MITCHELL HOSTEL

Hostel Boarding Est. 1994

Raukura House opened, January, 1994

Mitchell House Officially Opened, 1 July, 1994

Malfroy House opened, 2001

Tai Mitchell Hostel Blocks built, 2005

Tūtauru Officially Opened by Mrs. Whakarato Waetford, 19 August, 2005

Hahauterangi Officially Opened by Old Girl, Mrs. D.M. Moore, 19 August, 2005

The Hostels were named “Tūtauru” and “Hahauterangi”, 2020

Tai Mitchell Hostel, which is located adjacent to the School's south gate, was officially opened on 19 August, 2005. The hostel closest to C Block was opened by Mrs. Whakarato Waetford, who was the eldest granddaughter of Mitchell, and the hostel by the south gate was opened by the former teacher and second-generation Old Girl, Mrs. D.M. Moore, in honour of her (then) 39 years' service.

The land that the two hostel blocks stand on was purchased at Mitchell's recommendation for this purpose in 1934. It had been the School's intention from 1927 onwards to establish a boarding hostel, but it was not until 1939 that some plans for this and also for a principal's house next to the Pukuatua Street gate were drawn up by La Trobe Hill. However, World War II disrupted those plans from being carried out. It would not be for another 55 years that this would be achieved.

Hostel boarding officially commenced at the start of 1994. This was when the School's first boarding hostel, Raukura House, was established. It opened in the former Nurses' Home (since demolished) next to the Hospital on Pukeroa Hill.

However, a few months after its opening, the Hostel was re-located to the former Department of Labour's Māori Apprentices' Hostel on the western-side of Pukeroa Hill opposite Kuirau Park. Completely refurbished, it was officially re-opened, as Mitchell House, on 1 July, 1994, in honour of Mitchell's early efforts to establish hostel boarding for the School.

In 2001, a second hostel was established next to Malfroy Primary School on Malfroy Road. It was named Malfroy House. Mitchell House and Malfroy House were merged to form the present Tai Mitchell Hostel when the two new hostel blocks were built and opened at the School in 2005.

In mid-2020, the two hostel blocks, which until then had been known as the “North Hostel” and “South Hostel”, were given names. The hostel block closest to C Block was named Tūtauru, and the hostel block next to the south entrance was named Hahauterangi. These were the names of the adzes (an ancient tool similar to an axe) which were used to construct the Te Arawa canoe.

SCHOOL TRADITIONS

THE HEAD PREFECT AND PREFECTS

Head Prefect (originally called Class Monitor) Est. 1914

Prefects Est. 1927

The first Head Prefect, Cecil H. Goodson (1898-1918), was the only Old Boy to be killed in World War I. He was appointed “Class Monitor” on the same day as the School’s official opening on 8 June, 1914. The title of the role was changed to Head Boy Prefect in 1927. The first Prefects were also appointed at the start of that year.

No Head Prefects – Boy or Girl – were appointed from 1937-1959. During these years, the then Principal preferred to rotate the two positions amongst the Prefects. He did this so that they could all have a turn at being the Head Boy or Head Girl for a week.



Rotorua's Plume

The original 1927 Prefect's Badge (left) and a 1990s version.



Kevin J. Lyall

The updated Prefect's Badge, 2018.

The unique, historic, and certainly very distinctive Prefect's Badge that denotes and symbolizes the role of Prefect at Rotorua Boys' High School, was first introduced in 1927. It remained unchanged, with the exception of the design of the surrounding laurel leaves, for the next 91 years!

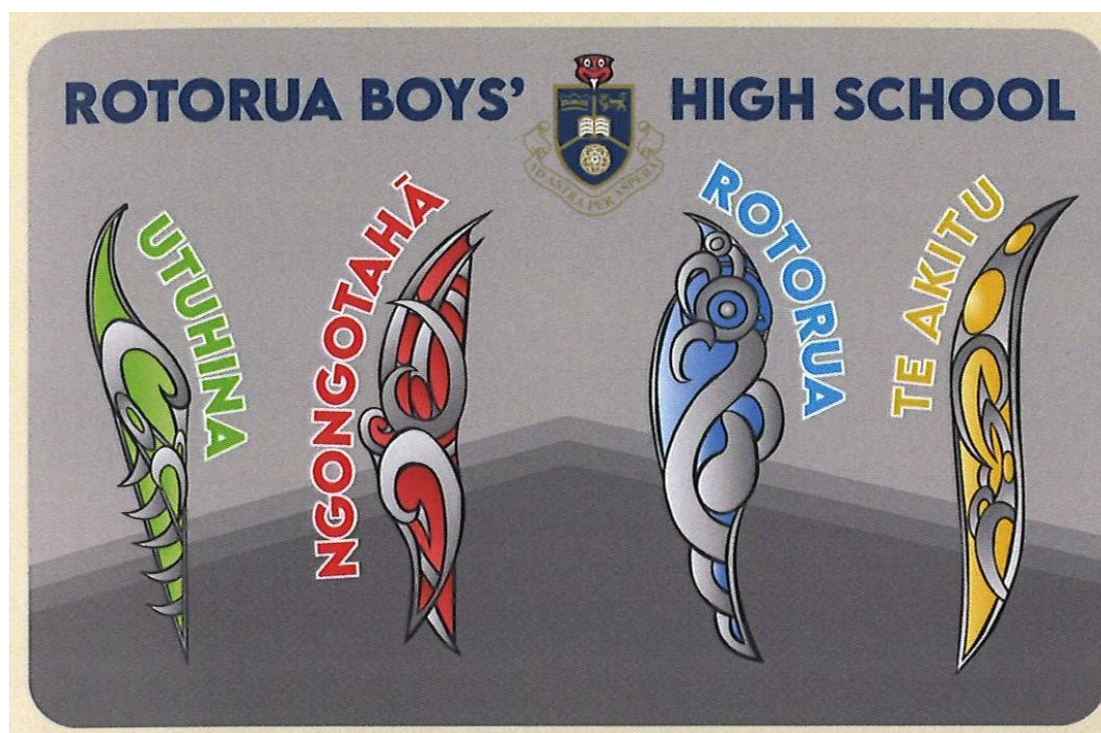
In 2018, the Prefect's Badge was updated and also slightly modified. The changes made to it were: the updating of the name of the school on the badge from Rotorua High School to Rotorua Boys' High School; Tane Raukura was inserted in his customary place atop the centre of the central shield; the name *Raukura* replaced the date 1927 originally on the badge; and two Plumes were added where two stars had originally been on either side of the central shield. Along with the School Shield and the Three Plumes symbol, the Prefect's Badge is one of the most defining and iconic symbols of the School.

The duties of the Prefects have not changed since 1914 and 1927 respectively. These are:

- To wear the Prefect's Badge with pride and honour at all times when at school and when representing the School.
- To work closely with the Head Prefect.
- The Deputy Head Prefect stands in for and represents the Head Prefect when required.
- To represent the School in Rotorua, New Zealand, and beyond.
- To represent the School at Rotorua's Civic ANZAC Service and at the School's ANZAC Assembly, which are held in memory of the city's and the School's own sixty-six – sixty-four Old Boys and two staff members – War Dead.
- To represent the School and the boys on other occasions as required by the Principal and the Head Prefect.
- To set and maintain a high standard of personal conduct and behaviour.
- To serve as a strong and responsible role model for the School.
- To attend, show support and leadership at every House event.
- To uphold, protect, honour, and positively uphold the history, traditions, and reputation of the School.

Photographs of the first Class Monitor and then all of the Head Prefects (where they are available) from 1927 onwards are displayed outside the Board Room and the Principal's office in the north corridor of A Block.

THE HOUSES
Est. 1927
Re-Named, 2020 (Effective from 2021)



Raukura Rotorua, 2021.

In 1927, eight “Houses” were established to promote and foster good-natured competition and rivalry amongst the pupils in educational learning and sport. The Houses also provided the pupils with a means of having a unique and proud separate identify within the School.

When the Houses were established, the School then looked to Great Britain and to its millennia of history and traditions for its inspiration and role models. Accordingly, the four boys’ Houses were named after the famous English seamen: Vice-Admiral Sir Martin Frobisher (1535-1594); Vice-Admiral Sir Francis Drake (c.1543-1596); Sir Walter Raleigh (c.1552-1618); and Vice-Admiral Horatio, the First Viscount (Lord) Nelson (1785-1805).

The former four girls’ Houses, which have been defunct since 1958, were named after the great battles in British history which were fought by: General Sir John Churchill, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, at Blenheim in Bavaria, Germany, in 1704; by King Edward III of England and King Philip VI of France at Cr cy in France in 1346; King Henry V of England at Agincourt in France in 1415; and Admiral Lord Nelson at Trafalgar off the coast of Spain in 1805. Miniature versions of the former girls’ House Flags with paintings of these battles are displayed on the main staircase of A Block above the half-landing.

In 2013, high-resolution digital copies of portraits of Frobisher, Drake, Raleigh, and Nelson from the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London, were obtained. These portraits were then hung, in pride of place, on the main staircase of A Block. Remarkably, although copies of paintings of Admiral Drake's galleon the "Golden Hind" and of the "Death of Nelson" were first hung in the corridors of A Block in 1930, that was the first time that the portraits of these four men were displayed at the School!

Since their establishment, the Houses have been led by a House Captain. Each House has a triangular-shaped House Flag in its own House Colours. Frobisher's colour was yellow, Drake's was red, Nelson's was blue, and Raleigh's was green. These same colours have been carried on with the new Houses.

The annual Inter-House Haka Competition, which was developed to support sports teams and to perform all-of-school haka, was first held in 1999. The main impetus for its establishment being the visit to the School that year of the Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Dame Jenny Shipley. The first Inter-House Singing (now called Choral) Competition was first held in 2000. Both of these events are, along with the Athletic Sports and Swimming Sports, fiercely contested amongst the Houses.

Since the early 2010s, the House Flag of the House with the most points on an event-by-event basis during the year has been flown from the small flagpole on the roof the Gymnasia Block's classroom.

In mid-2020, it was decided to re-name the Houses. This was done partly in response to the "Black Lives Matter" movement of 2020, but mostly because it was felt that names which are more relevant – and meaningful – for the boys of today and also better representative of who we, as a school and a country, are in the twenty-first-century was needed. The decision was, therefore, made to re-name the Houses based on the "School Pepeha". This change was announced (with a degree of excitement that had not been anticipated) at the Senior Prize Giving Ceremony on 12 November, 2020, and the new House names came into effect from the start of 2021.

The School Pepeha

Ko Te Arawa te waka – *Our waka is Te Arawa*

Ko Te Arawa te iwi – *Our iwi is Te Arawa*

Ko Ngongotahā te maunga – *Our mountain is Ngongotahā*

Ko Te Rotorua-ā-nui-Kahumatamomoe te moana – *Our lake is Lake Rotorua*

Ko Utuhina te awa – *Our river is Te Utuhina*

Ko Te Akitu a Raukura te papa – *Our treasure is Raukura*

Ko Raukura te whare – *Our whare is Te Whare-O-Raukura*

THE FORMER HOUSE PORTRAITS
First Displayed on the staircase of A Block, 2013



National Portrait Gallery, London.

Vice-Admiral Sir Martin Frobisher
1535 – 1594

The Namesake of Frobisher House, 1927 – 2020.



National Portrait Gallery, London.

*Vice-Admiral Sir Francis Drake
c. 1543 – 1596*

The Namesake of Drake House, 1927 – 2020.



National Portrait Gallery, London.

Sir Walter Raleigh
c. 1552 – 1618

The Namesake of Raleigh House, 1927 – 2020.



National Portrait Gallery, London.

***Vice-Admiral Horatio, the First Viscount (Lord) Nelson
1785 – 1805***

The Namesake of Nelson House, 1927 – 2020.

ATHLETIC SPORTS AND SWIMMING SPORTS

Est. 1927



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

Athletic Sports, 1930.

The first Swimming Sports was held off a pier at the Lake Front on 2 March, 1927. The first Athletic Sports was held later that same year on 9 November on the playing field below King George V Hospital on Pukeroa Hill.

The Swimming Sports were then held at the Duchess Baths (now known as the Polynesian Spa), and when the Art Deco-style Blue Baths building in the Government Gardens was opened in 1932, the Swimming Sports were then held there. When the School's own geothermal swimming pool (which stood from 1954 until 2013 on the site of the new Science Building) was opened, the Swimming Sports were then held there. When that was no suitable for them by the early 1990s, the Swimming Sports moved to the Aquatic Centre and they have been held there every year since 1994. The Athletics Sports have been held at the Pukuatua Street site of the School since 1928.

Commencing with the first two Sports Days in 1927, and then right up to the mid-1990s, magnificent bronze Sports Medallions (see the section on these below) were awarded to the winning athletes in each of the various sports categories. The Sports Medallion originally featured the School Shield on the obverse (the front side) and the traditional Ancient Greek victor's laurel leaves on the reverse side. A space was left blank in the centre of the reverse side of the medallion for the record-setter's name and the record set to be engraved in.

An impressive collection of cups and trophies has been built up at the School since 1914. These serve as the prizes in the Swimming Sports' and Athletic Sports' Junior, Intermediate, and Senior grade championship categories. The original boys' cups are all displayed in the trophy cabinet in the foyer of A Block. The original girls' cups and trophies were transferred to Rotorua Girls' High School in 1959.

The annual Tabloids (mini-athletic events) were first held, for the Years 9 and 10 boys, in early 1989.

ANZAC ASSEMBLY

Est. 1916



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

ANZAC Assembly, 1944.

The School commemorates ANZAC Day every year with an ANZAC Assembly in the War Memorial Hall. On this occasion we remember and honour the School's sixty-six men listed on the Roll of Honour.

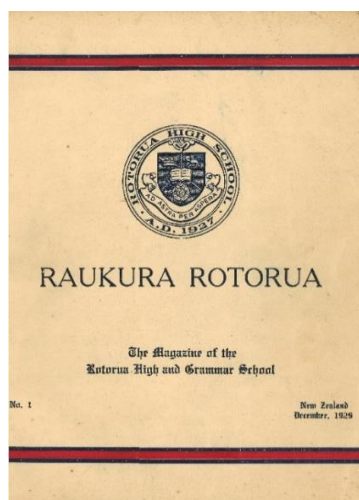
The School is also represented by the Head Prefect and Prefects at the annual Rotorua ANZAC Day Civic Service on 25 April. On that occasion, they lay a wreath in honour of our own men and also for all of the men listed on the Rotorua Roll of Honour.

The first ANZAC Assembly to be held at the School – and also in Rotorua – took place in 1916. That was the first year after the soldiers of the Australia and New Zealand Army Corps, the famous “ANZACs”, landed at Gallipoli in Turkey on the morning of 25 April, 1915.

During World War II, ANZAC Assemblies were held at the School in the quadrangle on the site of the Tai Mitchell Memorial Tree. At these, four Cadet Battalion boys formed a Guard of Honour around the School's temporary War Memorial and stood with their heads bowed and their rifles reversed in mourning. The pupils, grouped into their Houses and led by their House Captains with their House Flag held out in front of them, marched past the Roll of Honour. As they did so, the House Captains dipped their flags as a mark of respect for our fallen men. Since 1960, ANZAC Assemblies have been held in the War Memorial Hall.

Commencing from 2014, the Pro Patria Address about one of the men listed on the Roll of Honour is given by the School Historian. Wreathes are then laid below the two Roll of Honour panels, and the names of the sixty-six men listed on the Roll of Honour are read out.

RAUKURA ROTORUA
First Published in December, 1929
Named by H.T. Mitchell, C.M.G., J.P.



The front cover of the Foundation Edition of Raukura Rotorua, 1929.

Every year since 1929, the School has published its own in-house magazine or year-book named *Raukura Rotorua – The Magazine of the Rotorua Boys’ High School* (its full and official title). It records the various events, happenings, and activities that have taken place throughout the year, and it also includes a selection of photographs and examples of the boys’ artwork.

Raukura Rotorua is the second-oldest publication in Rotorua after the *Rotorua Daily Post*, which was first published, as the *Hot Lakes Chronicle*, in 1885. Our magazine forms a valuable historical record not only for the School, but also for boys long after they have left school.

From 1929 until 1980, the magazine was published in a fixed format and in a very formal literary style. During World War II, it was published in abridged (shortened) editions with only a few photographs included. This was due to the shortage of paper, which was reserved for war-effort purposes.

From the 1941 edition until 1961, the magazine also served as the School’s Prospectus. This part of it outlined the School’s curriculum and operational requirements. The Prospectus became a separate publication in 1962, and it was last published in 2012. This School Website now fulfils the same purpose.

From 1929 until 1990, the magazine was published as *Raukura Rotorua*. However, from 1991 until 2013, it was, for unknown reasons, published as *Raukura*. The correct title was restored to it with the 2014 edition.

The first part of the name for the magazine was chosen by Mitchell. It refers to the School being “Raukura Rotorua” – the “Pride of Rotorua” – “Rotorua’s Plume.”

THE RUGBY FIRST XV

Rugby was first played next to the Victoria Institute, 1914

The inaugural First XV was formed, 1927



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The First XV, 1928.

Sanix Under-18 Rugby World Secondary Schools' Champions

2003

2004

National Secondary Schools' Rugby Champions

1998 (jointly with Otago Boys' High School)

2002 (jointly with Napier Boys' High School)

2003

2015

Winners of the Moascar Cup

2003

2015

2020

2021

2022

Rugby has occupied a central and important role in the life and times of the School since 1914. It is a game that the School has done well at, enjoyed great success in, and is now one of the leading New Zealand secondary schools in.

Ten Old Boys have been selected to play for the national rugby team, the New Zealand All Blacks. Fifteen Old Boys have been selected to play for the Māori All Blacks, and two Old Boys have played as All Blacks Rugby Sevens. Many Old Boys have played Rugby at provincial-level, three Old Boys have played for other countries' national Rugby teams, and the School's eighth principal, N.H. Thornton, was himself an All Black before he became a teacher.

The former Rotorua High School Old Boys' Rugby Club, Inc. (1933-1997) had two of its members selected to play for the All Blacks. Although they were not Old Boys, we can also claim them having played for our school's former Old Boys' Rugby Club.

Rugby was first played at the School on 8 June, 1914. The first games took place on the two vacant sections next to the Victoria Institute, which are now the sites of the Rotorua Public Library building and Jean Batten Square respectively.

Rugby was also the first game that the boys played in the School's first inter-school games with the Secondary Department of the Tauranga District High School (now Tauranga Boys' College) held in Rotorua in April, 1915. It was not until 1927, however, that the first official First XV team was formed. That was also the year in which a woollen jersey in two of the School Colours, the red and blue, was first worn by the members of the First XV.

The first known photograph of any of the School's pupils was taken of fifteen plus one Rugby boys in the early 1920s, and the first official First XV photograph was taken in the Entrance Portico of A Block in 1928.

The First XV commenced the first of its annual Rugby fixtures against other high schools in 1927. The first fixture, which was against Takapuna Grammar School, was played in Rotorua at Arawa Park and it was decisively won by the School 42-3. Regular games were also played, from 1927 onwards, with: Tauranga District High School; Hamilton High School (now Hamilton Boys' High School); Auckland Grammar School; and Te Aute College in the Hawke's Bay.

When the "Super Eight" association of boys' High Schools was established in 1998, the First XV started playing annually with the other member schools: Hamilton Boys' High School; Gisborne Boys' High School; Napier Boys' High School; New Plymouth Boys' High School; Hastings Boys' High School; Palmerston North Boys' High School; and Tauranga Boys' College. This association has, since 1998, developed into a major highlight of the year.

The first overseas tour made by the First XV was to New South Wales in Australia in 1962. Each game that they played on that tour was won by the First

XV. Since then, the First XV have toured: Japan; Dubai; Fiji; South Africa; Argentina; and Europe. It has not, as yet, toured Great Britain and played at the birth place of Rugby: Rugby School in Warwickshire, England.

In 1998, the First XV won, jointly with Otago Boys' High School in Dunedin, the National Secondary Schools' Rugby Championship. The School won this title for the second time, again jointly but on that occasion with Napier Boys' High School, in 2002. In 2003, the School finally won the National Secondary Schools' Rugby Title in its own right, and then again in 2015. The First XV also that year – for the first time – won the Moascar Cup.

The Moascar Cup, which is described as a Sterling silver “Loving” cup, is a very odd-looking trophy mounted on a World War I bi-plane propeller blade. The cup itself, which dates from 1904, has been played for by High Schools in New Zealand since 1920 and it is considered to be the equivalent of the “Ranfurly Shield for secondary school boys' Rugby”.

As a result of winning the National Secondary Schools' Rugby Title in 2003, the First XV gained automatic entry to the Sanix World Under-18 Secondary Schools' Rugby Championship held in Japan that same year. The School was the first High School in New Zealand to win that championship. They successfully defended and retained their World Secondary Schools' Rugby Championship Title for 2004 as well.

Old Boy All Blacks

1938	T. Berghan
1949	N. Black
1966	P. Scott
1971	A. McNaughton
1981	A. Stone
2004	C. Newby
2008	L. Messam
2009	T. Donnelly
2009	M. Delany
2018	T. Tahuriorangi

Old Boy Māori All Blacks

1938	H. Steele
1954	P. Tapsell (Vice-Captain)
1954	R. Keepa
1954	J. Wilson

1964	D. Mohi
1966	J. Aratema
1969	A. James
1970	E. Mohi
1989	R. Stone
1991	D. Stone
2006	L. Messam
2010	R. Tipuna
2010	W. Ripia
2017	T. Tahuriorangi
2020	K. Trask

Old Boy Rugby All Blacks Sevens

2018	N. McGarvey-Black
2019	W. Warbrick

Rotorua High School Old Boys' Rugby Club, Inc. All Blacks

1955	W. Gray
1960	E. Anderson

All Blacks Principal

1947	N.H. Thornton
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PRIZE GIVINGS

Senior Prize Giving Est. 1928

The first official Prize Giving Ceremony was held at the Lyric Theatre in town in the evening of 13 December, 1928. This was also the first occasion at which the Principal delivered the inaugural Principal's Annual Report, and the boys' and girls' original sports cups were first awarded to their winners.

In 1927, a "Complimentary Dinner" had been held in place of a Prize Giving. It took place on 9 December that year, and it was held at The Mansions Hotel and Boarding House on Eruera Street to honour the members of the First XV, Cricket First XI, academic prize winners, and the sports champions. Although the first of the boys' and girls' silver cups were presented in 1927, they were not awarded to their winners until 1928. The cups were, however, all backdated and engraved with the names of their first 1927 winners.

Two Prize Giving ceremonies are held each year. The Senior Prize Giving, for Years 11-13, normally takes place before the end-of-year external examinations commence. The Junior Prize Giving, for Years 9-10, which was first held in the mid-1980s, takes place on the last day of school in December. Both ceremonies are held in the War Memorial Hall, and the Principal and teaching staff wear their black academic gowns. Those with degrees also wear the variously coloured silk hoods for their degrees.

At Prize Giving, boys are formally acknowledged and awarded for their academic, sporting, cultural, and other successes achieved and contributions made during the year. At the Senior Prize Giving, the incoming Head Prefect and new Prefects for the next year are also announced.

The School's four premier awards and their trophies are the: Dux (Top Scholar) of the School Prize; Dux Ludorum (Top Sportsman); the Evans Memorial Trophy for General Excellence; and the Barnett Award for Head Prefect. These awards are all made at the Senior Prize Giving.

The other cups and trophies are also presented to their winners at Prize Giving. Up until the mid-1990s, these were able to be taken home by their winners and kept there for the following year. However, this practice was stopped in the early 1990s and they are now retained by their winners for the duration of the Prize Giving and then immediately handed back at the end of the ceremony.

A number of the cups and trophies have been presented to the School as memorials. These cups are, therefore, of particular and very special significance. The School's first memorial cup, the Chandler Memorial Cup, is awarded to the Steeplechase or Cross-Country Champion. It was presented, in 1927, by Mrs. Mary K. Chandler in memory of her son, William Eric Chandler (1900-1919), who died, aged 19, from a skin infection.

SCHOOL PRODUCTIONS

Est. 1928



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

A scene from the 2014 School Production of “Aida”.

A highlight of most years since 1928, has been the staging of the annual School Production. The first School Production was staged at the King’s Theatre in town in the evening of 7 December, 1928. This event was originally called the “Annual Concert in Aid of the School Sports and Prize Fund.”

From 1928 until 1939, School Productions were staged at the Lyric Theatre, the King’s Theatre, or at the Majestic Theatre (all long since demolished) in town. From 1940 until 1959, they were staged at the Regent Theatre (later known as the Civic Theatre and now known as the Sir Howard Morrison Centre).

From 1960 until the early 2000s, School Productions were staged in the War Memorial Hall. They moved back to the Sir Howard Morrison Centre until it was closed for earthquake strengthening and refurbishment in early 2017. All School Productions have, when held at the School since 2018, been staged in the War Memorial Hall.

During the World War II and in the immediate post-war years, it was not felt appropriate to spend money on staging lavish School Productions. New Zealand was at war, resources were limited, and most of the country’s goods and products were reserved for the war effort. In place of the School Production, a “Patriotic Fair” was held instead.

For the Patriotic Fairs, vegetables grown in the school vegetable garden (it was located where the basketball court is now on the northern-side of B Block)

were sold. The school-grown vegetables were supplemented with those from the staff and parents grown in their own gardens at home. Home-made preserves, jams, cakes, sweets, and woodwork and metalwork items made by the boys in T Block, were also sold. All of the funds raised from the Patriotic Fairs was sent to the Government as part of the School's contribution to the war effort.

Since 1960, the School has combined with Rotorua Girls' High School to produce and stage the School Production. These are held on alternate years at the School and at Rotorua Girls' High School.

School Productions

1928	Station YYY
1929	A Christmas Carol
1930	The Merchant of Venice
1931	The Lost Wing
1932	Mrs. Nickleby's Garden
1933	H.M.S. Pinafore
1934	The Pirates of Penzance
1935	Trial by Jury
1936	Princess Ju – The Emperor's Daughter
1937	The Nautical Knot
1938	A Kiss for Cinderella
1939	Will Tell

1940-1947 Patriotic Fairs held in place of a Production

1956	Macbeth
1957	Three One-Act Items
1958	Very Extravaganza!
1960	The Toxic Toxicologist
1961	Hiss The Villain
1962	H.M.S. Pinafore
1963	The Ghost Train
1964	Mikado
1965	The Gondoliers
1966	Life with Father
1967	The Boyfriend
1968	The Pirates of Penzance
1970	Yeoman of the Guard
1971	No, No Nanette

1972	H.M.S. Pinafore
1973	Summer Song
1974	Rudigore
1977	The Way of the Lord
1978	Vampirella
1981	A Man for All Seasons
1984	Stiff Luck for the Undertaker
1985	Dracula Spectacular
1986	A Funny Thing Happened on the Way to the Forum
1987	Bugsy Malone
1988	Oliver
1989	One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest
1990	The Pirates of Penzance
1991	Hurricane Smith
1992	Little Shop of Horrors
1993	Grease
1994	Savages
1995	Big River
1996	Annie
1998	Fiddler on the Roof
1999	The King and I
2000	Jesus Christ Superstar
2001	The Boyfriend
2002	West Side Story
2003	Hunchback of Nostradamus
2004	Footloose
2005	Mystery of Edwin Drood
2007	Fame: The Musical
2008	Showboat Aotearoa: The Musical
2009	Grease
2010	The Wedding Singer
2011	Jesus Christ Super Star
2013	Buddy: The Buddy Holly Story
2014	Aida
2016	The Wiz
2017	Hairspray
2018	Footloose
2019	A Midsummer Night's Dream
2020	Saturday Night Fever
2021	Once On This Island
2022	In The Heights
2023	Legally Blonde: The Musical

SCHOOL COLOURS

Est. 1927

THE SCHOOL COLOURS AWARD

Est. 1938

THE SCHOOL COLOURS CAP

Est. 1968

THE SCHOOL HONOURS AWARD

Est. 1984

The School's official Colours are: red; blue; and gold. These colours were selected in 1927. They were worn for the first time on the original School Tie that same year, as were the red and blue on the original Rugby First XV jersey.

The School Colours were also worn by the members of the former Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc., on its official Member's Blazer.

The School Colours Award was established in 1938. This was originally awarded only for Rugby, and then also for other sports achievements. In the 1990s, this award was broadened to also recognize achievements made in the leadership and cultural fields.

In 1968, the School Colours Cap was produced and first awarded. It was only presented to the members of the First XV and the Rowing Eight Team for that year, and it has never been awarded again since then.

The School Honours Award was introduced, as an additional and higher-level to the School Colours Award, in 1984.

TE ROPU O RAUKURA
Est., as the Raukura Māori Club, 1954



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

Te Ropu O Raukura

The National Secondary Schools' Kapa Haka Champions
2016
2018

Until 1954, the only association of the word “Raukura” with the School was with the name of the school magazine, *Raukura Rotorua*.

This changed when, in 1954, the Raukura Māori Club was established. This was a result of the year before, when the teaching of Te Reo first commenced at the Rotorua High School. This club was established so that the Māori boys and girls of the School could get together, learn about their culture, and practice their language, traditional arts and crafts. Non-Māori pupils were also able to join as well.

When, at the end of 1958, the Rotorua High School was closed and separate Boys' and Girls' High Schools opened at the start of the next year, the Raukura Māori Club continued jointly between the two new schools. It was re-named “Te Ropu O Raukura” in the early 2000s.

Te Ropu O Raukura were the New Zealand Secondary Schools' Kapa Haka Champions in 2016, and again in 2018.

THE YEAR NINE PŌWHIRI

Est. 2005

Up until 2004, all new Year 9 boys on their first day initially assembled in the War Memorial Hall to commence their time at Rotorua Boys' High School. They were briefly – and very formally – welcomed by the Deputy Principal, introduced to their new teachers, allocated to their House Groups, placed into their classes, and informed about the School Timetable and the various events planned for their first few weeks at the School.

Commencing from 2005, the new Year 9 boys and their families or supporters, and also the new staff members, have – much more appropriately – all been officially welcomed to the School with a traditional Māori pōwhiri.

This ceremony, which was originally held in the quadrangle until 2017, now takes place on the Rugby fields behind A Block.

On their first morning at the School, all Year 9 boys gather in the large Gymnasium with their families or supporters and are greeted there by the Year 9 Dean and one of the Deputy Principals. They then go out onto the main drive, where they are joined by the new staff members. All then walk together down past the South Wing of A Block to the back (west-facing side) of it, where, as the manuhiri (visitors), they assemble in a group on the field.

A wero (challenge) is then made to them by one of the senior Māori boys. Karanga (welcome calls) are then made, first, by the tangata whenua (the people of the land), and then replied to by the manuhiri before they are seated. The manuhiri sits opposite the tangata whenua facing south; the tangata whenua, Principal, members of the staff, the Head Prefect and Prefects facing north. The rest of the current boys are seated on “The Terraces” in between the manuhiri and the tangata whenua.

Whaikorero (speeches) in Māori are then made by both sides after which the Principal speaks and formally welcomes the new boys, their parents, supporters, and also the new staff members, to the School. The new boys and staff members are now considered to be officially recognized as tangata whenua at the School.

The Head Prefect then delivers his Inaugural Address for the year, after which the manuhiri and tangata whenua come together, hongi (press noses), and greet each other.

At the conclusion of the pōwhiri, the families or supporters of the new boys and the new staff members join the Principal and senior staff for refreshments in the Millennium Centre.

The current boys then go off to their first classes for the year, and the new boys move to “The Terraces” to commence their first day at Rotorua Boys' High School.

SCHOOL CAMPS

Commencing from the 1960s onwards, school camps have been held at various locations all around the Bay of Plenty and beyond for educational, nature conversation, leadership training, social, and recreational purposes.

Since 1984, some specific camps have developed. A camp is held for the new boys to assist them to get to know each other when they first arrive at the School, and a camp is held for the senior boys preparing for their new roles, such as being the Head Prefect, Prefects, House Captains, and for other leadership positions in their final year of school. Camps are also held for all year levels at various locations throughout the year.

THE YEAR 9 TANE RAUKURA CAMP

Est. 1990

This is a three-day camp and it is held at the Lake Okataina Educational Centre. It is held for all new Year 9 boys, and it is designed to prepare them for their time ahead at the School. Camps for the Year 9 boys have been held by the School since 1990. In 2005, this camp has been called the “Tane Raukura Camp” and all new boys are expected to attend it.

At this camp, boys learn about the history and traditions of the School, they get to know each other, and they participate in all sorts of fun physical and other activities together. Presentations are also given by various members of the staff, Prefects, and others. This enables the boys to learn how the School operates, what is expected of them in terms of their behaviour and conduct towards each other and to the School, and to provide them with motivation and support.

THE YEAR 13 “TE WERO LEADERSHIP CAMP”

Est. 1989

The first camp for the Year 13 boys was held at the start of 1989 at the Kahukura Rugby Club just a short walk away. It is designed for senior boys in their last year of school, and, since 2008, it has been called the “Te Wero Leadership Camp”. It is held at the beginning of the year so that the senior boys can get know each other better, and spend time together in an informal setting over a few days.

The boys undertake various physical and team-building activities and also prepare for the leadership roles they will fulfil in the year ahead. A prominent Old Boy or other guest is usually invited to speak to them. If the guest speaker is an Old Boy, he will share his memories of his own time at the School and his subsequent life and career after leaving school.

CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS AND THE SCHOLAR'S BLAZER

CELEBRATION OF SUCCESS

Est. 2007

The first Celebration of Success event was held on 17 April, 2007. These are held annually in the War Memorial Hall, and they are all about celebrating and recognizing the leadership, academic, sporting, cultural, and other achievements and successes made by the boys.

The senior boys, who have been appointed to leadership roles such as Head Prefect, Deputy Head Prefect, Prefects, Prefect Captains, and House Captains, are introduced. They are then acknowledged for the important roles and duties that they will discharge during the year.



THE SCHOLAR'S BLAZER

Est. 2012

At the 2012 Celebration of Success, the Scholar's Blazer was awarded to its first ten recipients. This blazer recognizes the School's top academic achievers in Years 11-13, and it is awarded annually. When it done so, the jacket is physically placed onto each of its recipients at the ceremony.

The design of the Scholar's Blazer is based on the Member's Blazer of the former Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc. It was worn by its members from 1928 until the Association's demise in 1978.

The criteria for the awarding of the Scholar's Blazer are as follows:

1. The Dux (Top Scholar) of Year 11 plus any Year 11 boy who gets an A or A* in the Cambridge examinations.
2. The Dux of Year 12 plus any boy who gets Excellence in NCEA Level 2 or an A or A* in Cambridge examinations.

SCHOOL MEMORIALS



Kevin J. Lyall

THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

Built, 1959

*The Roll of Honour Panels were Blessed by the Rev. J. Taiapa and the Rev. T. Parsons
They were unveiled by Old Boy, Major-General R.B. Dawson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar,
28 February, 1960*

*The War Memorial Hall was officially opened by
Lieutenant-General Sir Leonard Thornton, K.C.B., C.B.E.,
Chief of Defence Force, 3 December, 1960*

*The War Dead Portraits and the War Decorations Honours Board were Dedicated,
16 April, 2013*

They were Unveiled by Old Boys, Major C.J. Gray, and J.H. Stafford, D.F.C.

The War Memorial Hall is the School's memorial to the sixty-six men listed on the Roll of Honour panels flanking the proscenium (surrounding) of the stage. It is one of Rotorua's principal War Memorials, and it is also the city's largest built War Memorial.

The Roll of Honour panels; the War Dead Portraits, which are hung down both sides of each Roll of Honour panel; the carvings surrounding the entrance doors in the foyer, the proscenium, and at the foot of the stage, are the War Memorial Hall's memorial features. The Roll of Honour panels and the carvings were carved by the master carver, John Taiapa, assisted by Tuhaka Kapua, and they made of Totara.

The carvings surrounding the War Memorial Hall's main entrance in the foyer depict the renowned Arawa warrior and chief, Rangitihi, and his eight children, who are collectively referred to as: Ngā Pū Manawa e Waru o Te Arawa or "the eight beating hearts of Te Arawa". They were carved in the same style and varnished to match those in the Entrance Hall. The carvings in the War Memorial Hall are modern in style and unvarnished.

The Roll of Honour panels were the first of the memorial features to be completed and installed in the War Memorial Hall. They were officially unveiled and blessed at a special Memorial Service held for this purpose on Sunday, 28 February, 1960. Fittingly, the School's most highly decorated Old Boy in World War II, Major-General) R.B. Dawson, who was then a Brigadier, unveiled the Roll of Honour panels.

The War Memorial Hall was officially opened on 3 December, 1960, by Lieutenant-General Sir Leonard Thornton, who was then Major-General and the Chief of General Staff (now known as Chief of the Army). In 1965, he was promoted to Chief of Defence Force. General Thornton was appointed a Knight Commander of the Order of the Bath in 1967, and he retired with the rank of Lieutenant-General in 1971.

The War Dead Portraits and the War Decorations Honours Board, which were the last of the memorial features originally envisaged for the War Memorial Hall, were finally installed there in 2013. These were unveiled by Old Boys, Major Chris Gray, and Jack Stafford, D.F.C., at the ANZAC Assembly on 16 April, 2013. Fittingly, Stafford was the School's last surviving decorated war hero.

The Latin phrases inscribed at the top and the bottom of the Roll of Honour panels translate as follows:

Pro – *For*

Patria – *Our Country*

Non – *Not*

Omnis – *Wholly*

Moriar – *Dead*



THE ROLL OF HONOUR *PRO PATRIA*

World War I 1914 – 1918

Algie, C.S.
Goodson, C.H.

World War II 1939 – 1945

Allen, K.R.	Hinton N.L.
Atkinson, D.K.	Hulton, F.
Balzer, O.K.	Humphrey, J.F.
Berghan, T.	Ingram, J.H.
Booklass, J.G.	Keane, D.
Brooker, R.S.	Kingi, N.
Brown, A.A.	Leonard, E.W.
Campbell, R.R.	Lodge, T.
Castleton, R.S.	Maloney, L.
Chapple, P.	Martin, W.
Clubb, F., M.C.	Mason, R.T.K.
Cottrell, F.R.	Mikaere, W.
Dansey, J.E.	Mohi, J.R.
Donaldson, O.	Munro, P.S.
Douglas, A.V.	Naera, T.T.
Douglas, H.E.	Neilson, K.M.
Douglas J.	Parkinson, M.G.F.
Douglas, W.J.	Purnell, S.A.
Ehau, H.T.R.	Robinson, B.C.
Evans, W.H.	Rogers, E.
Ewert, R.L.	Rogers, J.
Farren, P.J.	Rogers, P.P.
Fitzgerald, W.V.	Rogers, R.T.V.
French, T.H.	Shooter, K.
Galbraith, K.D.	Skinner, M.H.
Griffiths, G.N.R.	Smith, B.D.B.
Hall, C.J.T.A.W.	Sumner, J.H.
Hall, G.T.A.	Tahuiriorangi, R.K.
Hayden, W.E.G.	Tapsell, R.
Hayward, J.R.	Tunncliffe, G.V.
Herrold, J.D., D.S.C.	Whareaitu, H.T.K.
	Wolfgramm, R.E.

Vietnam War 1968 – 1970

Kidd, S.J.

NON OMNIS MORIAR

DECORATED WOLD WAR II HEROES



Rotorua Boys' High School Hall of Fame

Major-General R.B. Dawson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar

Order of Precedence

C.B. = Companion of the Most Honourable Order of the Bath

C.B.E. = Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

D.S.O. = Companion of The Distinguished Service Order

M.B.E. = Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

D.S.C. Distinguished Service Cross

M.C. = Military Medal

D.F.C. = Distinguished Flying Cross

A.F.C. = Air Force Cross

D.C.M. = Distinguished Conduct Medal

D.S.M. = Distinguished Service Medal

M.M. Military Medal

D.F.M. = Distinguished Flying Medal

A.F.M. = Air Force Medal

F.G. Clubb, M.C.

A.B. Cottrell, M.C.

H.J. Dalzell, D.F.M.

T.H. Davidson, D.F.C.

R.B. Dawson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar

D.J. Ewert, M.C. & Bar

A.P. Gainsford, D.S.O., D.F.C., A.F.C.

H.O. Grant, M.M.

A.M. Henderson, D.F.M.

J.D. Herrold, D.S.C.

G.A.R. Lock, D.C.M., M.M.

R.J. Manahi, D.C.M.

M.T.T. McRae, M.B.E., D.C.M.

B.R. Quinlan, D.F.C.

J.H. Stafford, D.F.C.

O.D. Staple, A.F.C., D.F.M.

J.F. Thompson, D.F.C. & Bar

RYDER MEMORIAL GATES



Kevin J. Lyall

Built, 1991

Dedicated, 1993

Signage Replaced, 2020

The main entrance gates on Pukuatua Street are a memorial to A.R. Ryder (1887-1961), who was the School's sixth principal.

Ryder's first memorial at the School was a *Scarlet oak* tree that stood at the end of the South Wing of A Block. It had originally been planted in front of the old Majestic Theatre on Tutanekai Street in the same year that the School was established in 1914. It was relocated to the Pukuatua Street site in 1929, and it survived until the early 1970s.

After his death, aged 71, in 1961, Ryder was cremated. His ashes were scattered privately by his children, both of whom were Old Pupils. It was decided to dedicate the *Scarlet oak* to Ryder, and, in 1962, a black granite plaque was unveiled jointly by the President of the Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc., I.F.H. Gainsford, and I.W. Kingi, both of whom were pupils of Ryder's in his first year at the School in 1927, at the base of the tree.

At the end of 1991, the Pukuatua Street entrance was re-designed and upgraded. As part of this work, the present front wall and gates were erected. It was decided to dedicate the new gates to Ryder. The granite plaque from his original memorial *Scarlet oak* had been saved, and it was inserted into the left-hand (as heading into Pukuatua Street) pier of the new gates. The gates were later dedicated at a brief, but undocumented, ceremony in 1993.

In mid-2020, the original blue signage on the front wall (as seen in the 2009 photograph above) was replaced and bollards in the centre of the gates were installed. At the same time a new feature, the name *Raukura*, was added on the middle section of the front wall (between the main drive and the staff car park).

STEELE MEMORIAL TREE
Planted by R.B. Nesbitt, J.P., Arbour Day, 1933



Kevin J. Lyall

Californian Big Tree, Sequoiadendron giganteum
“Wellingtonia”

The magnificent *Californian Big Tree* or *Wellingtonia* inside the School’s south gate is the sole survivor of two such trees that originally flanked these gates. Both trees were planted on Arbour Day, 1933, as a memorial to Walter Steele (1874-1932), who was a Foundation Governor of the Rotorua High School Board of Governors from 1926 until his death in 1932.

This surviving tree was planted by R.B. Nesbitt, J.P., the Foundation Chairman of the Board of Governors. Its counterpart was planted by H.A. Goudie, the Rotorua Conservator of Forests for the original New Zealand Forest Service. It died in the early 1980s.

Steele, who was an early European settler to Rotorua in the 1870s, was appointed to the first Board of Governors, as a Parents’ Representative, in 1926. He was killed in an accident at his Mamaku Sawmill on 29 November, 1932.

Californian Big Trees are also known as *Wellingtonia*. They were introduced into Great Britain in 1853, and were named there in honour of the great British Field-Marshal and statesman, Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington, who had died the year before. *Wellingtonia* have a life-span of 3,000 years!

MITCHELL MEMORIALS

*Mitchell Memorial Tree Planted by Mrs. J. Fraser,
12 September, 1944
Tai Mitchell Hostel Officially Opened, 19 August, 2005
Tai Mitchell Boarding Scholarships Est. 2005*



Kevin J. Lyall

Weeping Totara, Podocarpus totara

In addition to this *Weeping Totara* tree, there are two other memorials to Mitchell at the School. These are the: Tai Mitchell Hostel and the Tai Mitchell Boarding Scholarships.

Mitchell was born at Ohinemutu on 5 May, 1877. He was the eldest son of the Scotsman, Henry Walker Mitchell, who was an early European settler to Rotorua in the 1870s, and his Māori wife, Te Whakarato Rangipahere Taiehu of Ngati Te Takinga, a hapu of Ngati Pikiao on her father's side, and of Ngati Whakaue on her mother's side. Mitchell, and his younger brother, were educated at Wesley College in Pukekohe.

After leaving school, Mitchell joined the Department of Lands and Survey and qualified as a survey cadet in 1894. He became a fully licensed surveyor in 1902, and was later appointed the District Surveyor for Rotorua. In 1915, he established his own surveying and civil engineering practice in Rotorua. Mitchell spent the rest of his life in Rotorua dedicated to the service and advancement of his people. His younger children all attended the School.

Mitchell was prominent in local and national affairs. He was a member of the Rotorua County Council from 1916-1923, and the Rotorua Borough Council from 1931-1944. He also worked as an interpreter for the Native (now known as the Māori) Land Court. In 1924, he was appointed the first Chairman of the former Te Arawa Māori Trust Board (now known as the Te Arawa Lakes Trust), which was the first Māori Trust Board to be established in New Zealand.

In 1922, the Government reached an agreement with Te Arawa whereby the beds of Lake Rotorua and thirteen other nearby lakes were vested in the Crown along with the right to use their waters. In return, Te Arawa received fishing rights and were paid compensation by way of an annual annuity of £6,000 (about \$660,000 in today's money). The Te Arawa Māori Trust Board administered Te Arawa's interests and disbursed the annuity money.

Outside of his professional work and wide community interests, Mitchell was a keen and passionate Rugby man. He played the game as a young man, and was heavily involved with the development of Rugby in Rotorua. His establishment, in 1938, of the well-known Tai Mitchell Rugby Competition for primary school-aged children continues to the present day.

In November, 1926, Mitchell was appointed one of the Governor-General's two representatives on the first Rotorua High School Board of Governors. In 1934, he was able to convince his fellow Governors to purchase from the Railways Department a broad strip of Railways Reserve land that adjoined the School's eastern boundary and it is on the southern-half of this land that the two boarding hostels named after him now stand. Two of Mitchell's particular interests on the Board of Governors were to have a boarding hostel established for the School, and Māori Boarding Bursaries funded by the Te Arawa Māori Trust Board to enable Māori pupils from the Bay of Plenty and beyond to attend the School. These two dreams of his were only realized long after his death, in 2005.

In recognition of his standing in Rotorua, Mitchell was made a Justice of the Peace in 1936. For his services to Māori, he was, in 1939, appointed a Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.).

Mitchell died suddenly, on his birthday, on 5 May, 1944. His death came as a great shock to Rotorua and for the School. A Memorial Assembly was held for him on 23 May to acknowledge his services and the contribution that he had made on the Board of Governors since 1926. Later that same year, on 12 September, 1944, the wife of the Prime Minister, Mrs. Janet Fraser, visited the School and she planted the *Weeping Totara* in his memory.

On 1 June, 2018, Mitchell was further honoured by the School. He was posthumously inducted – as the only Honorary Member thus far – into the Hall of Fame Ngā Raukura I Te Ao.

HOCKING MEMORIAL TREE
Planted and Dedicated, 1993



Kevin J. Lyall

Golden Totara, Popcarpus totara
“Aureal”

The tree third down from the Ryder Memorial Gates on the main drive is dedicated to G.M. Hocking. He was a teacher at the School from 1988 until his death in a tramping accident on Mt. Tongariro in July, 1993.

This *Golden Totara* was planted, as a memorial to him, by the members of his former House Group, Raleigh 6. The Geoff Hocking Memorial Trophy was later presented to the School by his family. It is awarded annually to the Dux of Year 12 at the Senior Prize Giving.

THE HARWOOD LIBRARY

Dedicated, 10 October, 1992



Harwood Library, Rotorua Boys' High School.



Harwood Library, Rotorua Boys' High School.

W.G. Harwood
1895-1971

Mrs. E.W.J. Harwood, M.B.E.
1897-1986

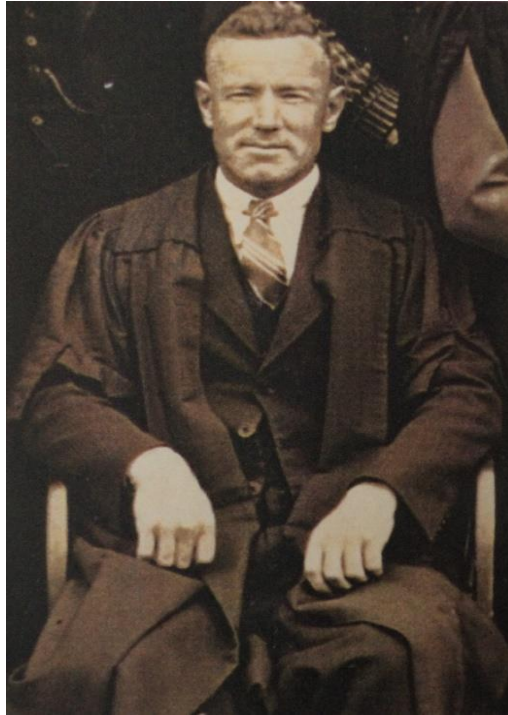
On Saturday, 10 October, 1992, during the 65th Anniversary Reunion celebrations held to mark the School's attainment of full High School status in 1927, the School Library was named and dedicated as the Harwood Library in honour of William G. Harwood and his wife, Mrs. E. Winifred J. Harwood, M.B.E., M.Sc. Hons (N.Z.).

Harwood, who was the School's seventh principal, served with great distinction for 28 years. He led us through the Great Depression, World War II, and the post-war "Baby Boom" that resulted in the restructuring of intermediate and secondary education in Rotorua. His record, as the School's longest-serving principal, stood for a remarkable 60 years from 1959 until July, 2019.

Mrs. Harwood, who was a very gifted teacher of mathematics and physics, taught at the School for 45 years from 1932-1977. Her record stood for 37 years from 1977 until it, too, was surpassed – by one of her own former pupils – in 2014.

In the New Year's Honours List for 1972, Mrs. Harwood was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) for services to education. On 12 May, 2022, her M.B.E. insignia and Royal Warrant of Appointment signed by Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II were presented to the School. Copies of these are displayed in the Harwood Library.

EVANS MEMORIALS
Presented 1941, and 1943



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

W.H. Evans
1899-1941

William H. Evans, E.D., M.A. (Columbia), Dip. Ed., was the only teacher to be killed in World War II.

Evans was appointed Senior English Master (Head of English) in 1927, and was later promoted to First Assistant or Deputy Principal. He very quickly immersed himself into the School's life and became a highly respected and much-liked teacher. He took leave of absence from the School for war service in 1939, and served with the rank of Major. Evans was killed in action at Galatos, Crete, on 24 May, 1941. His death was deeply mourned by the School, and by his Old Pupils. Curiously, the School also lost one teacher in World War I, Colvin S. Algie, and he had also been Deputy Principal.

A Memorial Assembly was held for Evans at the School on 3 November, 1941. On that occasion, Brigadier Bell of the New Zealand Army presented the first of the three memorials to Evans: the Evans Memorial Portrait and its accompanying Memorial Brass Plaque, which were given to the School on behalf of the members of Evans's former Hauraki Regiment. The Memorial Portrait shows Evans in his military dress uniform just before his departure for the war, and the Memorial

Brass Plaque records the date of his death and the details of the plaque's presentation to the School. Both are displayed in the War Memorial Hall.

The School's second memorial to Evans is the large and beautifully illustrated framed Memorial Tribute that hangs above the 1941 Year-Frame in the main corridor of A Block. It is illustrated with contemporary scenes from the School before Evans left for the war, and is signed by the Prefects and the members of the First XV of which he had been coach.

The Evans Memorial Trophy for General Excellence is the third of the School's three memorials to him. It was given by the Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc., and it was formally presented to the School by its President, Mrs. J. Lodge, M.B.E., at the ANZAC Assembly on 22 April, 1943. This handsome and unique trophy is made of walnut and takes the form of the Prefect's Badge. At the trophy's base, a small silver plaque records the details of Evans' service to the School and the date of his death.

This trophy originally served as the Boys' General Excellence Award (the girls had their own General Excellence Award). It was back-dated to 1927 to include the names of all previous boys' General Excellence Award winners. From 1934-1965, the School did not award the Dux Prize, so the General Excellence Award was for those years the School's premier award for boys. It was from 1934-1958 the equivalent of Dux Boy.



Kevin J. Lyall

***The Evans Memorial Trophy for General Excellence
Presented by the Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc.,
22 April, 1943.***

O'REGAN MEMORIAL TREE
Planted and Dedicated, 15 November, 2014



Kevin J. Lyall

Kauri, Agathis australis

The *Kauri* tree in the area between “The Terraces”, Te Whare-O-Raukura, and the Food Technology Centre behind A Block, is a memorial to Old Boy T. O'Regan (1947-2008), who attended the School from 1961-1966 and was Deputy Head Prefect for 1966.

After his death, he had requested that his ashes be scattered (not buried) at his old school and his wish was granted. These were scattered by his family in a circle around this tree at a private ceremony held on 15 November, 2014.

On the memorial plaque in front of the tree there is a quote from the American golfer, Jack Nicklaus. It reads: “Resolve never to quit, never give up, no matter what the situation.”



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

T. O'Regan, 1966.

HOYLE MEMORIAL TREE
Planted and Dedicated, 2000



Kevin J. Lyall

Ginkgo bibola

The *Ginkgo* tree, which is second in the line of six trees on the northern-side of the driveway leading to the rear of Hahauterangi, is a 2000 Family Memorial Tree. It is dedicated to Old Boy and former Head of Physical Education, Peter William Hoyle, who died on 7 March, 1995.

SPECIAL FEATURES

THE TREES



Kevin J. Lyall

*Douglas fir, **Pseudotsuga menziesii**
1885*

Without doubt, one of the most striking and impressive features of Rotorua Boys' High School is its many magnificent old trees. They give the School a special character, and they are greatly – and widely – admired.

During spring and summer, when in full leaf, and especially in autumn they are simply stunning! When driving south down Old Taupo Road, the trees on the small terrace and the cut green playing fields surrounding them make for a particularly impressive site. No other High School in New Zealand matches – or has ever matched – the fine old trees of Rotorua Boys' High School.

The oldest trees on the site are the four remaining *Douglas firs* along the Pukuatua Street boundary, and the one *fir* that stands directly opposite A Block. These trees were planted, as saplings, by the railway survey parties that camped on the then vacant and scrub-covered site of the School in 1885. We know this for certain because, in 2015, one of the *firs* on the Pukuatua Street boundary had to be cut down. This enabled its annual growth rings to be properly counted and thus its precise age to be ascertained.

The *fir* that stands directly opposite A Block (pictured above) is the sole survivor of three such *firs* that originally stood on this particular site. When La Trobe Hill was preparing his plan for the new Rotorua High School building in mid-1926, he chose to locate the building well inside the grounds at the end of a long drive and directly opposite the three *firs*. In mid-1927, when A Block was being constructed, they were 41 years old and fully grown. This last surviving one of the three (the first one was removed in the early 1980s, and the second one in 1985) has stood tall, proud, and sentinel-like silently watching over the School and generations of pupils since 1928.

In the garden between the main drive and the staff car park, there are two grand old *English oaks* with an impressive pedigree. They were planted separately on Arbour Days 1939 and 1940, and are known as the “Coronation Oaks”. They were grown from acorns gathered from Windsor Great Park outside Windsor Castle in Great Britain at the time of the Coronations of King-Emperor George VI and his Queen-Empress Elizabeth, who was later (and perhaps best) known as Queen Elizabeth The Queen Mother, in 1937. The acorns were distributed around the British Empire to commemorate their coronation. These two trees were pointed out to George VI's daughter, Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth II (1926-2022), when she visited the School with her husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh (1921-2021), as part of their Coronation Tour of New Zealand in late 1953 and early 1954.

The three *Rimu* trees in the courtyard between A, S, and T Blocks were raised, as saplings, in the garden of Mitchell's home at Ohinemutu. They were presented to the School by him in 1934, but they were not planted until Arbour Day, 1936. There were originally five *Rimu* in a line bordering the drive opposite the south

wing of A Block. The southern-most one was removed for S Block to be built in 1953, and the one immediately before that was removed for unknown reasons in the late 1970s or the early 1980s.

In front of Tūtauru, beside the student car park, there is a *Ginkgo* tree. The first tree in a line of six on the northern-side of the small driveway leading to the rear of Hahauterangi is a *Pohutukawa* tree. The *Ginkgo* was originally planted, in 2017, where the new Science Block now stands. This area was, until 2019, known as the “Jubilee Quad”. It was planted to commemorate the Twentieth Anniversary of the School’s association with Shiba High School in Japan. The *Pohutukawa* was presented by Old Girl and former teacher, Mrs. D.M. Moore, to mark her retirement after 49 years’ service – the longest in the School’s history – in December, 2014. It was also originally planted in the Jubilee Quad. In 2020, both trees were re-located to their present positions in preparation for the new Science Building’s construction.

Lining the western-side of the south drive commencing from the eastern-side of the Millennium Centre and then up to the *Wellingtonia* at the south gate, and from there along on both sides of the drive up to Pererika Street, are the stunning and widely admired *Tulip* trees. The trees that line the Pererika Street boundary up to the corner of Old Taupo Road are *English oaks*.

The *Tulips* were planted on Arbour Day, 1933, by the members of the Rotorua High School Board of Governors, the Mayor of Rotorua, T. Jackson, O.B.E., J.P., the Rotorua Borough Councillors, and the eight House Captains. The first eight *Tulip* trees were planted by the House Captains, and they were originally known as the “House Trees”. Two of these trees were removed when the Lockwood part of Te Whare-O-Raukura was built in 1979, and two more had to be removed in 2010 and 2015. The two *Tulip* trees which had originally stood on the site of Te Whare-O-Raukura were later re-dedicated further along the drive on the corner opposite the new Science Block in 1990.

The *English oaks* along the Pererika Street boundary were planted after the School took over responsibility for the portion of the Rotorua Town Belt Reserve adjoining its southern-boundary in 1943. The Rotorua Town Belt Reserve is a broad strip of land that extends from Ranolf Street right through to Old Taupo Road and belongs to the Rotorua District Council.

On the small terrace between the upper and lower playing fields (between the Millennium Centre and Old Taupo Road), there is one very prominent tree. The *Coastal Redwood*, next to Old Taupo Road on the western-side, is the most notable and outstanding example of its species in central Rotorua. It was planted on Arbour Day, 1935, by the Mayor of Rotorua, Jackson, and the Rotorua Borough Councillors. The other prominent *Redwoods* in the Rotorua district are in the Redwood Memorial Grove next to Scion, and at Humarana.

There are three trees at the School which have been planted or given by former Prime Ministers of New Zealand, and one tree has been planted by the wife of a Prime Minister.

The *Pohutukawa* located behind the front wall in the garden between the Ryder Memorial Gates and the staff car park, was given by New Zealand's first elected woman Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Helen E. Clark, O.N.Z., in 2002. The *Copper Beech*, which is two along from the Harwood Library and opposite the roundabout in front of A Block, was planted by Clark's predecessor and New Zealand's first woman Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Dame Jenny M. Shipley, D.N.Z.M., in 1998. The *Kahikatea*, between the *Redwood* and Old Taupo Road on the small terrace, was planted by Dame Jenny's predecessor, the Rt. Hon. James B. Bolger, O.N.Z., in 1997. The Tai Mitchell Memorial Tree was, of course, planted by Mrs. Janet Fraser, who was the wife of Prime Minister, the Rt. Hon. Peter Fraser, on 12 September, 1944.

RAUKURA SCULPTURE



Kevin J. Lyall

***Carved by Old Boy, Trevor Nathan, 2014
Unveiled by A. Paea, Head Prefect, 22 August, 2016***

The sculpture in the centre of the roundabout in front of A Block is entitled “Raukura”. It was commissioned from Trevor Nathan, who attended the School from 1978-1982, and it is his second artwork at the School. It is made of Taranaki andesite stone, and, as its name indicates, prominently features the Three Plumes symbol.

TE HOKINGA SCULPTURE



Kevin J. Lyall

***Carved by Old Boy Trevor Nathan, 2014
Unveiled by W. Warbrick, Hostel Head Prefect, 25 October, 2015***

The sculpture in the courtyard between Tūtauru and Hahauterangi is called “Te Hokinga”. It was purchased by the School to commemorate the Twenty-First Anniversary of hostel boarding at Rotorua Boys’ High School, in 2015.

Te Hokinga is made of Takaka marble from the South Island. Sculpted by Nathan, it was his first artwork acquired by the School. It was originally created, as one of seventeen sculptures, at a sculpting workshop held in Rotorua in late 2014. These sculptures were first placed at various positions around the small outflow lake from the Rachel Spring next to the Blue Baths in the Government Gardens. They formed part of the Rotorua District Council’s official Gallipoli Centenary commemorations in 2015.

Te Hokinga represents the ships that took New Zealand’s soldiers on their long journey to World War I and then brought the surviving men back home again to peace. It also commemorates the School’s two lost World War I men, Captain C.S. Algie, and Driver C.H. Goodson, who both died in the war.

THE NESBITT GRANDFATHER CLOCK



Kevin J. Lyall

Made in England, c. 1795

Presented to the School by Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Nesbitt, 1931

The long-case or more commonly known “grandfather” clock next to the trophy cabinet in the foyer of A Block was presented to the School by Mr. and Mrs. R.B. Nesbitt in February, 1931.

Robert B. Nesbitt, J.P. (1862-1942) was the Foundation Chairman of the Rotorua High School Board of Governors in 1926. He held the position from then until 1941, when he stepped down as Board Chairman but remained on the Board of Governors until his death a year later.

The clock and its *English oak* case were made in about 1795 during the reign of King George III. It had been in the Nesbitt family since it was purchased new, and it was brought to New Zealand when the family emigrated from Great Britain.

On its presentation to the School, the clock was originally placed in the Entrance Hall. It stood there, on the left of the door to what was originally the men’s staff common room (now the Principal’s Personal Assistant’s office), and remained there until 1980. It was then moved up to the staff room. After the earthquake strengthening and refurbishment work was completed on the central part of A Block in 2006, the clock was brought back down and placed in its present position.

The clock’s Westminster Quarters, also known as the “Westminster Chimes”, which were composed in 1793 – so the clock cannot date prior to then – strike on the four-quarters of the hour.

MEMORIAL ASSEMBLIES

Est. 1916

The first Memorial Assembly was held by the School in 1916. These are very special occasions and they are held only in honour of: serving members of the staff; currently attending boys; and for others who are very closely associated with the School that have died in tragic circumstances and/or suddenly. The body or ashes of the deceased is not present at a Memorial Assembly.

A photograph of those for whom the honour of a Memorial Assembly has been granted is displayed at the School above (or near to) the Year-Frame for the year in which their death occurred. The death is also noted in that year's edition of *Raukura Rotorua*.

Ten Memorial Assemblies have been held by the School. These have been in honour of:

1 August, 1916	C.S. Algie, Foundation Deputy Principal.
3 November, 1941	W.H. Evans, Deputy Principal.
23 May, 1944	H.T. Mitchell, Foundation Member of the Rotorua High School Board of Governors.
14 September, 1964	D. Henderson, T. Cunningham, G. McFarlane and C. Wales, Pupils.
June, 1986	K. Clarke, Pupil.
July, 1993	G.M. Hocking, Teacher.
October, 1998	S. Veen, Pupil.
April, 2000	B. Farthers, Pupil.
October, 2006	J. Tuifagalele, Pupil.
March, 2010	K. Ahipene, Pupil.

THE YEAR-FRAMES, ROTORUA YOUNG ACHIEVERS' AWARDS, HALL OF FAME AND SCHOOL MUSUEM

Along the ground floor and in the second-storey corridors of A Block, in the War Memorial Hall, along its adjoining corridor, in the Success Room, and at the Millennium Centre are displayed the Year-Frames, the Rotorua Young Achievers' Awards Frames, and the Profiles of the Members of the Hall of Fame.

THE YEAR-FRAMES

Est. 1964

Re-Established, 1985, and Re-Presented, 1992

The first selections of school photographs to be displayed in large frames along the corridors of A Block were created, in 1964, by L.H. Thomson, who was the School's longest-serving Deputy Principal from 1941-1967.

All of Thomson's photographic displays remained in place until 1985. They were then taken down and re-presented by Mrs. D.M. Moore. Her displays remained in place until 1992. They were then taken down again and re-presented by the School Historian between 1992 and 1998. This time, however, colour photocopies of the original photographs were displayed in place of the originals, which are now preserved in the School Archives.

The Year-Frames are now added to each year by the School. They serve as a year-by-year photographic history of the School.

THE ROTORUA YOUNG ACHIEVERS' AWARDS

Est. 1991

Originally called the "Lenz" Young Achiever Awards, the Rotorua Young Achiever Awards were founded by local photographer and Old Boy, O.D. Howard (1948-2016), in 1991.

The Awards consist of a professionally-taken portrait photograph of each of the Young Achievers, who are shown in a setting relating to his or her field of recognition or that is of special significance to them. The Young Achievers are in their last year of school, and they have been nominated by their respective schools for their Excellence and/or Achievement in the Awards' various fields of recognition. A Rotorua Young Achievers' Awards Ceremony is held annually. Copies of the Young Achievers' portraits are presented in one composite frame to their respective schools, where they are then permanently displayed.

Since 1991, the School's Young Achiever Awards photographs have been hung together in the northern-end of the north corridor in A Block.

THE HALL OF FAME
NGĀ RAUKURA I TE AO
Founded by C.J. Raphael, 1991
Given its Māori Name, 2020

The Hall of Fame Ngā Raukura I Te Ao was founded by a former teacher, John Raphael, in 1991. It was given its Māori name in 2020.

The Hall of Fame consists of a framed photograph of its Members on a red-coloured background with a brief citation. The Members' photographs are interspersed amongst the Year-Frames and they are hung throughout A Block, in the War Memorial Hall, its adjoining corridor, in the Success Room, and at the Millennium Centre.

New Members are formally inducted into the Hall of Fame at an Induction Ceremony held in the War Memorial Hall every three years or so. The School's most highly honoured Members are:

Major-General Robert B. Dawson, C.B., C.B.E., D.S.O. & Bar
Companion of the Order of the Bath
Twice Companion of The Distinguished Service Order

Dame Ruia Morrison, D.N.Z.M., M.B.E.
Dame Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit

Dame Georgina Kirby, D.B.E., Q.S.O., J.P.
Dame Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

Sir Robert Gillies, K.N.Z.M.
Knight Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit

Sir Matiu Rei, K.N.Z.M.
Knight Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit

The Hon. Sir Peter Tapsell, K.N.Z.M., M.B.E., J.P., M.P.
Knight Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit

Sir Gordon Tietjens, K.N.Z.M.
Knight Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit

The Hon. Justice Sir Trevor Henry
Knight Bachelor

Sir Howard Morrison
Knight Bachelor



Kevon J. Lyall

THE SCHOOL MUSEUM

Est. 1993

Re-Established, 2016

Directly opposite the main office in A Block is the School Museum. The first School Museum was established in the foyer of A Block in 1993, and it originally stood where the trophy cases are now.

In the School Museum are permanently exhibited a selection of items from the School Archives. These are: the original school bell of 1914 and also its larger replacement of 1927; the original boys' School Cap (1927-1974), which included two of the School Colours (the red and blue) accompanied by a photograph of its Old Boy owner; surviving examples of the School's 1940s monogrammed dinner service, which was ordered from England and features the former School Badge (1927-1974); a 1932 First XV Rugby Jersey with a photograph of that year's First XV wearing the jersey, which, again featured two of the School Colours (the red and blue); a 1941 Rotorua Rugby Sub-Union Rugby Cap; a 1968 School Colours Cap; an Old Pupil's classroom workbooks from the 1930s; a panoramic photograph from the 1940s; examples of the original (1927) and updated (2018) Prefect's Badges; an original bronze Sports Medallion (in its original presentation box) of 1927; the 1995 updated School Medallion (also in its original presentation box); and a Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc., Member's Blazer in its Colours (they were same as the School Colours) of 1934.

In the School Archives, which is located behind the School Museum, are stored the Photographic Collection, old books, memorabilia, and various other materials. School records of permanent public value are, as required under the Public Records Act 2005, now transferred to Archives New Zealand.

THE SCHOOL SONG

***First Composed for the Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc.,
1928***

Re-Set to Music, 1992

Re-Arranged by R.D. Paul, 2007

The original School Song was, very appropriately, called: "The Best School of All". It was first sung by the members of the Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association at their foundation meeting held in June, 1928, and was subsequently adopted for use by the School. It became the official School Song in 1930.

For the Sixty-Fifth Anniversary Reunion's Sunday Service held in October, 1992, the School Song was set to music for the first time. Previously, it had only been sung with no musical accompaniment.

A re-arranged and worded version of the song was written by former Head of Music, R.D. Paul, in 2007. The School Song is sung at the two Prize Givings and as part of the Inter-House Choral Competition.

The School Song

First Verse

It's good to feel secure and safe and treated with respect; to learn, to honour, and be a part of history time has kept. Ngati Whakaue, "Mana whenua!" You've helped us on our way; you've given us a place to grow, a place to know, and say.

Chorus

We sing the praises of our school Raukura stand supreme. We rejoice and lift our spirits high reaching for the dream; Ad Astra Per Aspera, Whaia Te Iti Kahurangi. To strive, achieve and be the best: Kia kaha, kia taea, Raukura e.

Second Verse

We are guided by a friendly word of wisdom and of truth; encourage to pursue the path, building manhood out of youth with our Colours flying red and blue with our minds set straight and true together we share the joy, kotahitanga, ho tahi kura e.

Chorus

Third Verse

The leaders of tomorrow are a part of our today; we share the House, the class and school fields on which we play. Through hard work and commitment and the passion to succeed we'll reach the starts, achieve our goals and prepare ourselves to lead.

Chorus

THE SCHOOL HAKA
“TE HAKA-O-RAUKURA”
Composed by Old Boy, F. Whata, Q.S.M., 2010

Haka are usually performed to make a challenge or to express emotion. The Haka that the All Blacks famously give before the start of their Rugby games is the most well-known example of this. Haka can also be given as a spontaneous reaction to a special or significant event, such as a tangi (funeral), after a speech, or in honour of someone – or something – special.

The School’s Haka, “Te Haka-O-Raukura”, was composed by Old Boy, Fred Whata. It is performed by the First XV at the start of their Rugby games, and, perhaps most passionately of all, at the annual inter-House Haka Competition. It was developed to evoke the spirit and special concept of “Raukura” at Rotorua Boys’ High School.

*Ko wai te kura?
Raukura!*

*Te rangi kai runga
Te whenua kai raro
Te moana kai waho
Taku au kai roto
Ko te aitanga a Raukura
I te rangi e. I a haha!
Kat u te ihi, ka tut e wana
Ka whao te puha o taku tupuna
Ki roto I ahau, e tu ake nei. I a haha!*

*My strong attachment to Raukura,
Moves me beyond the skies.
My fierce inner power soars as I feel the presence of my ancestors.*

Raukura
*A creed for Rotorua Boys’ High School.
The universal identifier for Rotorua Boys’ High School and its students.*

Raukura
*Our identity, our sense of belonging.
The challenge laid before each student to aim for success.
The source of pride and inspiration for all.*

Raukura
*Our destiny.
The foundation and footprint of this school.
It establishes a set of values we believe in and aspire to.
It commands the standards and expectations of what is required to succeed.*

*E air a titiro
Ki nga marae tapu
E takoto nei. I a haha!
Kat u mai te toa
Ka hupeke ki runga
Ki te whenua e. I a haha!*

THE SCHOOL WAIATA
“Raukura e!”
Composed by Ms. R. Morris, 2018

The School’s own unique waiata is called “Raukura e!”. It was composed by Ms. Rie Morris, Deputy Principal – Cultural Capacity, in 2018. She composed it for use by the boys and staff, and it can be used at any gathering, meeting, or occasion that requires a waiata to be said.

Raukura e!

Ko ngā rau o te Huia hai whakarākau mōu
Let the feathers of the Huia bird adorn you, and be a treasure for you
E hoka e!
Fly, and soar
Whāia Te Iti Kahurangi
Follow your dreams, aspirations, desires, and pursue excellence
Raukura e!
All who are Raukura

SCHOOL TIES

Est. 1927, 1940, and 2000



Kevin J. Lyall

Left to Right:
The original School Tie, 1927
The current School Tie, c. 1940
The Staff Tie, (2000-2010)
The Presentation (originally Old Boys') Tie, 2000
The Honours Tie, 2000

The original School Tie was designed and manufactured specially for the School in 1927. It featured the School Colours of red, blue, and gold in alternating bands, and its design was unique to this school.

During World War II, when fabric was in short supply and reserved for war purposes, the original School Tie was not able to be manufactured and the design had to be discontinued. Sadly, it was not resumed or re-ordered after the war.

In its place, the current School Tie was introduced in 1940. It has been worn since World War II. It is a commonplace tie design that is worn by millions of people all over the world – there is nothing at all unique or special about it.

In 2000, three new ties were introduced. They were all based on the original 1927 School Tie. These were the: Staff Tie (it was discontinued in 2010); the Presentation Tie, originally the Old Boys' Tie but now be worn generally; and the Honours Tie. The Honours Tie is the same design as the Presentation Tie, but it features the School Shield in its bottom right-hand corner.

The Honours Tie is automatically awarded to the: Head Prefect; Deputy Head Prefect; Dux; Approxime Accessit (the runner-up to Dux); and Dux Ludorum (the top sportsman). It is also awarded to others for academic, sports, and national-level representations and achievements. A register of the recipients of the Honours Tie has been kept by the School since its introduction in 2000.

SCHOOL MEDALLIONS

Est. 1927

Re-Designed, 1995



Rotorua's Plume

The 1927 original Sports Medallion (left and centre) and the re-designed 1995 School Medallion.

In 1927, a magnificent bronze medallion was commissioned by the School from the prestigious Auckland jewellers Walker & Hall. It was established for awarding to the setters of school records in the various Athletic Sports and Swimming Sports championship categories.

The obverse side (the side of a medal or medallion that has the main design on it) of the Sports Medallion featured the School Shield and the words “Rotorua High School A.D. 1927”. The letters “A.D.” stand for the Latin words *Anno Domini* or in the “Year of our Lord”. The reverse side of the Sports Medallion featured the traditional Ancient Greek victor’s laurel leaves around the outside with the centre of the medallion left vacant for the recipient’s name, the record set, and the year it was set in to be engraved. The original Sports Medallion was awarded up until 1994.

In 1995, the medallion was re-designed on the obverse side and also re-named the School Medallion. It was also re-designed with a loop at the top of it through which a ribbon or chain can be placed for hanging around the neck. In place of the School Shield, the obverse side now features a depiction of A Block based on a photograph that was taken by the School Historian in 1994. That photograph is featured on the back cover of his book *Rotorua's Plume: A History of Rotorua Boys' High School, 1880-2001*.

The School Medallion is no longer awarded to mark sports records. It is now awarded only to the Year 13 academic prize winners and to all Prefects at the Senior Prize Giving.

THE CADET BATTALION HONOURS BOARD AND TROPHY CABINET



Kevin J. Lyall

From 1914 until its disestablishment or “disbandment” in 1969, the military Cadet Battalion was one of the School’s major and also its oldest institution. First formed or “raised” at the Rotorua Public School in 1910, it was inherited by the Rotorua District High School on its establishment in 1914.

School cadet battalions were a particular feature of the New Zealand secondary education system from the 1860s until the 1960s. The first cadet battalion to be established in New Zealand was raised at the Dunedin High School (now Otago Boys’ High School) in 1864. All of the country’s older High Schools had them, and most of them were disbanded by the 1950s. However, some schools like ours persisted with them well into the 1960s.

Our Cadet Battalion had a very proud history over the 59 years of its existence. It produced: seventeen Old Boys who were decorated for their heroic deeds in World War II; one Major-General; three Brigadiers (the rank below a Major-General); and an Air Commodore (equivalent in rank to a Brigadier). It also built up a small collection of cups and trophies, all of which are now permanently displayed in the Cadet Battalion Trophy Cabinet in the Success Room next to the War Memorial Hall.

One of its cups on display in the cabinet is the School’s first and oldest trophy, the New Zealand Cadets Ladies’ Challenge Cup (see below). It was presented to the Rotorua Public School Cadet Battalion by the British General, General Sir Ian Hamilton, when he visited Rotorua on 11 May, 1914.

THE NEW ZEALAND CADETS LADIES' CHALLENGE CUP
Made in 1913

*Presented to the Rotorua Public School by
General Sir Ian Hamilton, G.C.B., G.C.M.G., D.S.O., T.D.,
11 May, 1914*



Kevin J. Lyall

*Awarded to the Best Cadet
1914 – 1969*

PROMINENT STAFF

Since 1914, five staff members have achieved prominence either before or after their time at the School.

R.V.D.R. Worker ***1896-1989*** **New Zealand Black Cap**

The rather splendidly named Rupert Vivian de Renzy Worker, who was the third Head of the Secondary Department at the Rotorua District High School, was a teacher for the first half of 1917. He left when he was called up for active service in World War I.

A teacher by profession, Worker was also a first-class cricket player. He represented at provincial-level: Auckland from 1914-1915; Canterbury from 1919-1920, and then again from 1922-1923; Otago from 1923-1926; and Wellington from 1926-1927, and then again from 1929-1930.

From 1923-1926, Worker played for New Zealand in the national Cricket First XI, the Black Caps.

Mrs. H.M. Downer (née Donald), M.B.E., B.A., Dip. Journ. (N.Z.) ***1906-1989***

Miss Helen M. Donald joined the staff of the Rotorua High School in 1937. She was a teacher in the Intermediate Department until her resignation in 1948.

In 1950, Mrs. Downer, as she had become after her marriage, commenced a whole new career in early childhood education. She called a public meeting in Rotorua that year that resulted in the establishment of the Rotorua Free Kindergarten Association of which she became the first President or Chairman of. Rotorua's first kindergarten was opened four years later, and it was named the Helen Downer Kindergarten in her honour.

Mrs. Downer became a very prominent national figure in early childhood education. In 1957, having previously served as the Vice-President, she was elected President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and she held that role until her retirement in 1966. On her retirement as President, she was appointed Patroness of the Helen Downer Kindergarten. She held that role until her death in 1989.

In recognition of her work in early childhood education, Mrs. Downer was appointed a Member of the Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) for services to early childhood education.

N.H. Thornton, E.D., M.A. (N.Z.)
1918-1998
New Zealand All Black

Neville Henry Thornton, who was an Old Boy of Otahuhu College in Auckland, served in World War II. He was also an All Black (number 476) before he trained to become a secondary teacher.

Thornton was first selected to the All Blacks in 1947, and he played for them until 1949. He toured Australia with the All Blacks in 1947, and then South Africa in 1949.

Thornton was the School's eighth principal from 1960-1962. After leaving Rotorua in 1962, he went to Papakura High School in Auckland and was principal there from 1953 until his retirement in 1977.

Dame Fiona Kidman, D.N.Z.M., O.B.E.
Acclaimed Author

The internationally acclaimed New Zealand writer, Dame Fiona Kidman, was the School Librarian from 1961-1962.

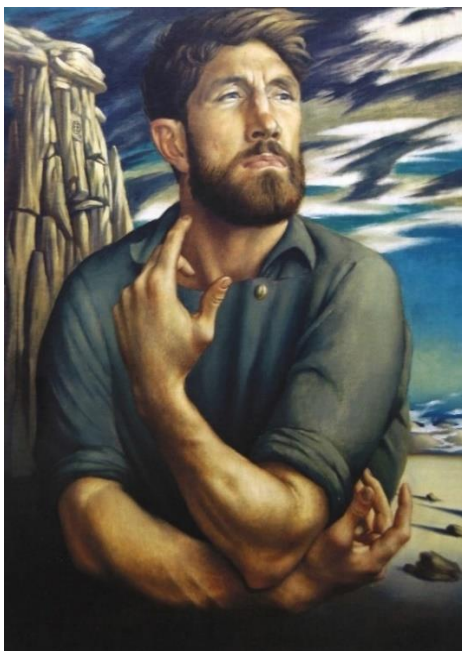
Dame Fiona was made a Dame Companion of The New Zealand Order of Merit (D.N.Z.M.) in 1998. She had been previously appointed an Officer of the Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) in 1988. Both of those appointments were made for services to literature. Dame Fiona also holds two French knighthoods: of the Legion of Honour; and of the Order of Arts and Letters, both of which she was appointed to in 2009.

Dame Fiona has also received numerous other awards and prizes for her writing, including the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in 2011.

E.A.A. Bullmore, Dip. F.A. Hons. (N.Z.), P.G. Dip. Tchg.
1933- 1978
Acclaimed Artist

Bullmore's connection with the School is covered separately below.

THE BULLMORE COMMEMORATION



C. Marshall Collection

E.A.A. Bullmore “Self-Portrait”, 1959

The School is very fortunate to own two fine paintings by one of New Zealand’s earliest Surrealist artists, Edward Aaron Alexander Bullmore, Dip. F.A. Hons (N.Z.), P.G. Dip. Tchg., who was Head of Art at the School from 1970 until his death, aged 45, in 1978.

From 1990 until 2006, six large and striking murals painted by Bullmore (three of which were three-dimensional) depicting the Bay of Plenty landscape from the east coast to Rotorua were displayed in the foyer of A Block. These murals had been originally painted as backdrops for an exhibition on wildlife at the Rotorua Museum of Art and History in the early 1970s. When that exhibition was dismantled at the end of 1989, the murals were obtained for the School by former staff member and a close friend of Bullmore’s, John Raphael. They were reduced in size in order to fit the three vacant spaces of the upper south-, west-, and north-facing walls in the foyer.

After the completion of the earthquake strengthening work and refurbishment in the central part of A Block in 2006, it was decided not to retain the murals. In mid-2007, they were sold to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council for \$25,000 and they are now displayed at its office in Whakatane. From their sales, the School was able to purchase the two framed paintings by Bullmore. The smaller of these paintings is hung in the Board Room, and the larger painting is hung in the staff room.

Bullmore’s son, Oliver (1961-2001), was Head Prefect in 1979.

TE WAHAROA
“THE GATEWAY”
Carved by Old Boy, Robert Rika, 2001



Kevin J. Lyall

The impressive carving that stands outside the Millennium Centre is called Te Waharoa or “The Gateway”. It was carved by Robert Rika to commemorate the opening of the Millennium Centre in 2000. It faces the north-west to our presiding maunga, Mt. Ngongotahā.

Te Waharoa was carved from the wood of a tree that survived the eruption of Mt. Tarawera on 10 June, 1886.

NGĀ PAEA A KAHUKURA
“THE TERRACES”
Built, 2020-2021



Kevin J. Lyall

At a dawn ceremony held on Wednesday, 14 April, 2021, Ngā Paea a Kahukura or “The Terraces” was officially opened. The above photograph was taken just after that morning’s official opening.

Kahukura is the name of a Māori deity associated with knowledge, and Ngā Pae refers to the levels in reaching the pinnacle, thus this title evokes both the School’s original Latin and Māori Mottos.

The first metal and wood-planked grandstand was erected on this same site in 1993. It was then gradually extended over the next 25 years until it became unstable and also insufficient to seat the whole school. Construction work on “The Terraces” commenced in mid-2020 after geo-technical investigations of the land beneath it was carried out to ensure that it could support its weight. Completed in early 2021, they are now a popular place for all-of-school gatherings to be held and for photographs to be taken on.

The carvings on the top level of “The Terraces” were also carved by Rika, and they are full of symbolism. An informational plaque on the top terrace records their various meanings and symbolism.

“The Terraces” provide wonderful views over the playing fields, of Mt. Ngongotahā, and of the grand old trees – particularly the *Redwood* and *Chinese Poplar* on the small terrace between the upper and lower grounds, and of the mighty *Douglas firs* along the Pukuatua Street boundary.

TANE RAUKURA CARVING

Commissioned by the Parent-Teachers' Association to commemorate the new Millennium

Carved by Old Boy, Roi Toia, 2000



Kevin J. Lyall

A modern-day portrayal of “The Good Raukura Man”.

Tane Raukura was commissioned by the School's (now long-defunct) Parent-Teachers' Association from Old Boy, Roi Toia, in 2000. He was their official gift to commemorate the opening of the Millennium Centre that year.

Originally placed at the bottom of the stairwell there, he was, in 2018, moved to the centre of the Entrance Hall.

He is now surrounded there by his traditional ancestors and greets – and challenges – all who entre this historic and special place.



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Est. 1914

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