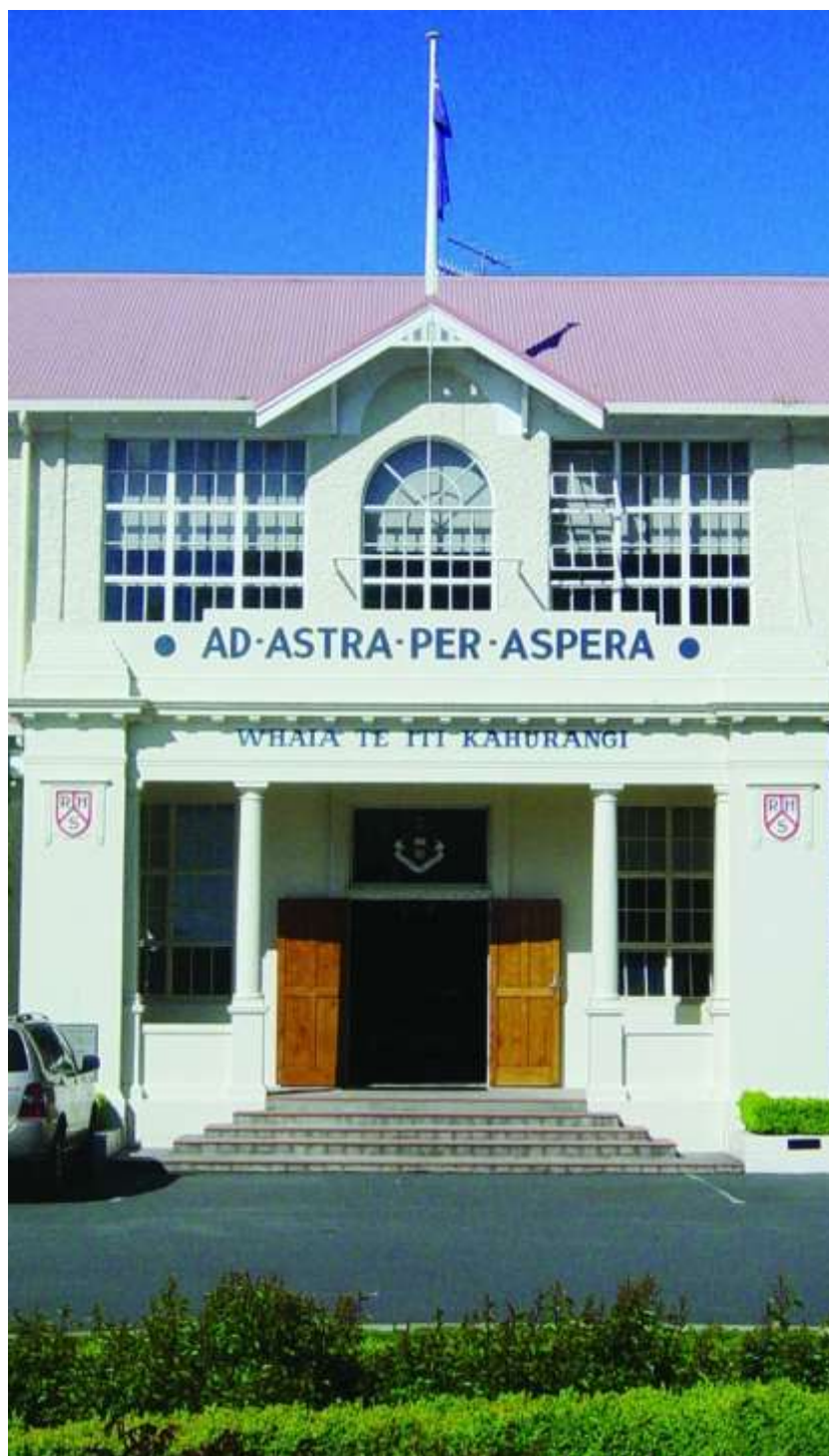


ROTORUA BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL



AN HISTORICAL INTRODUCTION

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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, as is stated in the last paragraph of the Greetings/Mihi above, to preserve the history of Rotorua Boys' High School. Here you will find information about the School's history; its traditions; notable old trees; grounds; buildings; and other special heritage features.

It is these attributes, I feel, that give this School its unique and certainly very special character amongst the five State high schools in Rotorua.

I hope that you will enjoy looking through the pages ahead, and will learn interesting things about the School and how it has developed over the course of almost a 110 years.

At Rotorua Boys' High School, the boys are surrounded by the generations of their predecessors since its original establishment in 1914. They really do "walk the corridors of history" here every day.

Ad Astra Per Aspera.

Kevin J. Lyall,
SCHOOL HISTORIAN
September, 2022

SCHOOL NAMES

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

Secondary education in Rotorua officially began, however, when a Secondary Department was added onto the Rotorua Public School just before the start of World War I. The Rotorua Public School, which was the first State school to be established in Rotorua in 1886, was converted under Section 55 of the Education Act 1877, into a District High School on 8 June, 1914. This meant that it could operate a Secondary Department, and then became officially the Rotorua District High School. This was the School's original name, and it was known by that name from 1914 until the end of 1926.

In 1926, the Secondary Department of the Rotorua District High School was granted full High School status in own right. It re-opened, as the Rotorua High School, at the start of 1927. At the same time, the Primary Department of the previous District High School reverted back to its pre-1914 status and it became Rotorua Primary School.

The Rotorua High School was also known by one other name from 1927 until 1953: Rotorua High and Grammar School. This name appeared on the School's letterhead and stationery, was the name engraved on some of the oldest of the sports cups and trophies, and was also the original sub-title of the school magazine or year-book, *Raukura Rotorua – The Magazine of the Rotorua High and Grammar School*. The 'Grammar' part of the name was finally dropped in 1953. Its curious usage may have derived from the name of the School's 1881 endowment, the Rotorua College and Grammar School Endowment, or it could have been included as an attempt to keep up with the two new secondary schools which were established in Auckland in the 1920s: Mt. Albert Grammar School in 1922; and Takapuna Grammar School in 1927.

An entirely new school, the Rotorua Junior High School was also established in 1927. It opened at the same time as the Rotorua High School was, and was for intermediate-aged pupils in Years 7 and 8. However, it was merged with the Rotorua High School at the end of 1933 and then became its Intermediate Department from 1934 until the end of 1956.

The School is also known by one other name, Raukura. The Rugby First XV, in 1984, were the first to use this name outside of its traditional context. It was not until the mid-1990s, however, that the School itself started to be referred to as *Raukura* and this became common from the 2010s onwards. Today, Rotorua Boys' High School is *Raukura*. Its current boys and Old Pupils are the "Plumes of Raukura". Only those educated here are a Plume of Raukura.



Rotorua Boys' High School

THE SCHOOL FLAGPOLE

The New Zealand Flag is flown every day from the School Flagpole above the Entrance Portico of A Block. Our country's 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 most important 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, or British Flag – also known as the “Union Jack” – in the top, right-hand corner of the Flag acknowledges New Zealand's imperial British colonial heritage first as a Colony, then a Dominion of the British Empire, and now a country in our own right.

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



THE SCHOOL SHIELD

***Heraldic Symbols Selected by the Secondary Pupils, 1915
Modified and Finalized, 1927***

The most defining and truly “iconic” symbol of our school is the historic School Shield. It is proudly displayed on our uniform, letterhead, stationery, the School’s Web Site, and various other social media sites, vehicles, and buildings. It is the key image that immediately – and uniquely – identifies us. It has, since 1927, also been an early example of a truly bicultural symbol in New Zealand.

Our School Shield, however, is not only a visual symbol, it also 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 our commitment to the boys and young men of the city 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 School Shield, as it is shown above, was fully completed in 1927. This was when the Māori Head, called “Tane Raukura” since 2020, and the Motto Scroll were the final two features of the overall design to be added.

The central shield with its four historic English heraldic symbols and the Motto Scroll were all given their colours in 1927. The red, black, and white colours for Tane Raukura were not, however, finally determined until 2018.

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

The Open Book – This is symbolic of knowledge, learning, and education.

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

The *Lion* – Again, this is a traditional English heraldic symbol and 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* – This represents and signifies the Sovereign, His Majesty King Charles III, King of 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 Whakauae. It acknowledges their 1880 gifting of the land for the establishment of the new Town of Rotorua in 1881, and his position atop the central shield is indicative of 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 by A.R. Ryder, principal from 1927-1931, and was the winning entry from a public competition held in Rotorua in early 1927 for this purpose.

The Open Book, the White Rose, the Lion, and the Crown were all chosen by the secondary pupils of the Rotorua District High School in 1915. It was not until 1927, however, that these symbols were complemented with Tane Raukura and the Motto Scroll to form the completed design shown above.

The School Shield has been officially trademarked since 2008. 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, adopted in early 1927. It was the winning entry to the public competition that was held in Rotorua to select a suitable Motto for the School early that year.

This was prominently displayed for the first time later that same 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 mid-1990. This Motto was first painted onto the architrave of the Entrance Portico directly beneath the Latin Motto later that year.

These two Mottos translate as follows:

Ad Astra Per Aspera

Ad – To

Astra – The Stars

Per – Through

Aspera – The Rough

In 1980, the newly appointed 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 to mean: "To the stars through hard work." His interpretation has formed the official meaning of the 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 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 prominently displayed in the War Memorial Hall at the back of the stage flanking the School Shield and on the Raukura Sculpture on the roundabout in front of A Block. It is, along with the School Shield and the Prefect’s Badge, an important symbol of our school.

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

The Three Plumes symbol was designed, in 1991, by Old Boy T. Hale. It gives emblematic expression to the concept of “Raukura” and is symbolic of leadership. Only high-ranking Māori chiefs and women were traditionally able to wear three (or more) plumes on the most sacred part of the body – the head. When Mitchell gave *Raukura Rotorua* to be the name for the school 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. It is kept in the specially commissioned Waka Huia O Te Raukura held in the Principal’s office. It further enhances – and strengthens – the School’s association with the extinct bird and with the special concepts associated with its prized and revered tail feathers.

The Three Plumes symbol has 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 “Rotorua College and Grammar School Endowment”, was created in 1881. It consists of five blocks of land (now worth about \$70 million) in the CBD of Rotorua which produce around \$4.5 million annually in rental income. Although Ngati Whakaue gave the land for the Endowment under the Fenton Agreement of 25 November, 1880, it was actually created by the Government.

This occurred when the site for the new Town of Rotorua was surveyed and laid out by the Crown Lands Department in May, 1881. Five blocks of land were designated on the original Rotorua Town Plan as “Local College and Grammar School Endowments”. These blocks were intended to generate money for a future College and Grammar School in Rotorua from rents from the lease-holds (Ngati Whakaue retained the ownership of the land itself) established on the blocks. In the terminology of the 1880s, a ‘College’ implied tertiary-level education; a ‘Grammar School’ secondary-level. 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) was not opened in the city until 1978.

From the mid-1880s onwards, when the first lease-holds were granted, the Endowment’s money was diverted by the Government to the Auckland Education Board. When, in the early 1910s, the people of Rotorua first asked for secondary education to be established in the town they wanted the money returned to Rotorua for its use. Although the School was established in 1914, the money continued to be retained by the Auckland Education Board and distributed amongst the schools under its jurisdiction. Inquiries were made by the people of Rotorua about the Endowment’s exact status and this resulted in a long and complex legal battle to get the (by then) growing amount of money from the Endowment 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 to both control the Endowment and to govern the Rotorua High School. The accumulated money up to that time amounted to £11,000 (just over \$1 million in today’s money), and the bulk of this was used to erect the original part of A Block in 1927.

In October, 1995, the Endowment’s original purpose was changed by the Government by an Act of Parliament to “general education purposes.” It was also vested in a new Endowment Board which is directly controlled and managed by Ngati Whakaue.

HISTORY OF THE SCHOOL



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

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

Although Rotorua Boys' High School had its formative beginnings as the Secondary Department of the Primer 1 to Form 7 (Years 1 to 13) Rotorua District High School almost 110 years ago, it can trace its origins back to its parent school the first State school to be established in Rotorua.

In 1886, the Rotorua Public School was opened at the Comet Store on Lake Road. In 1914, a Secondary Department was added to that school and it then became the Rotorua District High School. This is when secondary education in Rotorua first commenced. The Rotorua District High School was officially opened by the first School Chairman, J.R. Reynolds, on Monday, 8 June, 1914.

When the School first opened, the secondary pupils were housed in one of Rotorua's most historic and important – but now long forgotten – early colonial buildings, the Victoria Institute on Arawa Street.

Pictured above, the Victoria Institute was a wooden weatherboard building with a Neo-Classical façade. Built in 1898, it stood until 1962 next to the Native Land Court on the site of what is now the Family Court wing of the Rotorua Court House building. The Victoria Institute housed all of the town's local government offices, the Public Library and first museum, and it also had a meeting room available for the general use. It was named the "Victoria Institute" in honour of Queen-Empress Victoria, and it was erected as the town's principal commemoration of her Diamond Jubilee in 1897.

The School's twenty-one Foundation Pupils – 11 boys and 10 girls – and their teacher, F.W. Greenwood, who was the first secondary teacher to be appointed in

Rotorua, commenced just a few weeks before the start of World War I. The School started in what had been the general meeting room at the back of the Victoria Institute. One of the earliest tasks that the pupils were given by Greenwood, in 1915, was to think of symbols that they wanted to identify the new school with. What the pupils selected later became the design for the original part – the central shield – of what is now the School Shield.

By 1923, the School had long outgrown its small back room at the Victoria Institute. In August, 1924, the pupils were re-located to the former Young Men's Christian Association (YMCA) building on Pukeroa Hill next to King George V Hospital, which stood on the site of what is now the Rotorua Public Hospital. The School was housed there until the end of 1926.

In 1927, the School was moved, as a temporary measure pending the completion of the new school building (now A Block) on Pukuatua Street, from the YMCA building into the "Suvla" and "Lowry" Wards of the hospital itself. The YMCA building, which had been built in 1919, was brought down to the Pukuatua Street site at the end of 1928. It used there for teaching purposes until it was demolished in 1963.

At the end of 1926, the Rotorua High School Board of Governors was established by the Government. They controlled the Endowment and also governed the School under its new status, as a full State high school, from the start of 1927. This was when the School officially became the Rotorua High School (also known as Rotorua High and Grammar School), and the completely new and originally separate Rotorua Junior High School for Years 7-8 (Forms 1 and 2) pupils. Both schools operated under the same principal but with separate staffs. The two schools commenced, in 1927, at King George V Hospital, with a combined roll of 209 pupils.

The Foundation Stone for the new school building on Pukuatua Street was laid by the Minister of Education, the Hon. R.A. Wright, at a public ceremony at 2.30 p.m. on Tuesday, 12 April, 1927. Its construction was funded with the money that was refunded from the Endowment back-dated to the early 1880s, and construction started immediately after the Foundation Stone was laid. The building was completed that August, but its internal fit-out carried on into the first few weeks of 1928.

The year 1927 was a very busy one for the School. Many crucial things happened in that year, apart from the construction of the new school building, which established many of the School's traditions.

One of the first things to happen was the holding of a public competition in Rotorua to select a Motto for the School. The winning entry, "Ad Astra Per Aspera", was submitted by a Miss C.E. Carter (later Mrs. Gilmore). She had seen

this phrase in her father's Webster's dictionary, and had both felt it would make an appropriate and suitable aspirational statement for the School.

The School Shield was also completed in 1927. This was when the newly selected Latin Motto was included in a Motto Scroll beneath the central shield, and Tane Raukura was added atop the centre of the shield.

The first school uniform was also introduced in 1927, as were the: original Prefect's Badge; the original eight Houses; and the Annual Athletics and Swimming Sports. Impressive bronze Sports Medallions bearing the School Shield were first struck and awarded to mark the setting of sports records that year, and the School Colours of red, blue, and gold were officially adopted. The first of the School's impressive Sterling silver boys' and girls' sports championship cups were also presented to the School by people in the town.

The internal fit-out of the new school building was completed in early 1928 and the School was officially re-opened at the Pukuatua Street site by Minister Wright in the afternoon of Thursday, 9 February, 1928.

At the end of 1929, the school magazine or year-book, *Raukura Rotorua – The Magazine of the Rotorua High and Grammar School* (its full title) was first published to record the various events, activities, and happenings at the School. That edition also recorded some of the events that had happened dating back to 1927, and it also acknowledged the District High School era from 1914-1926.

The 1930s were a period of steady growth, consolidation, and new development for the School. The start of this decade coincided with the Great Depression of 1930-1935. However, it did not have too much of an effect on the School thanks to the money it received from the Board of Governors from the Endowment. The Napier Earthquake struck on 3 February, 1931, resulting in a large crack on the front wall of the original A Block.

Three major events for the School marked the 1930s. The first was the merging of the Rotorua Junior High School with the Rotorua High School to become its Intermediate Department in 1934; second, the addition of a second-storey over the central part of A Block in 1938 (the 1931 crack was fixed at the same time); and finally, the opening of T Block in 1939.

One of the School's early aspirations was to establish a boarding hostel. This facility would have enabled pupils from throughout the Bay of Plenty (and beyond) to attend the School. A broad strip of Railways Reserve land adjoining the School's eastern boundary was acquired for this purpose in 1934, and, in 1939, some plans were drawn up for a hostel building and a principal's house to be built on it. Mitchell also made efforts to establish boarding bursaries to enable Māori pupils from throughout the Bay of Plenty to attend the School. However, all of these plans were disrupted.

The first half of the 1940s was marked by World War II. Over 500 Old Pupils served our country in the war, and the School was extremely proud of their service and the contributions that they made. Sixty-two Old Boys and one staff member were killed in World War II, and seventeen Old Boys were decorated for their heroic deeds. The War Memorial Hall serves as the School's War Memorial to our sixty-six men who lost their lives in war: two in World War I; sixty-three in World War II; and one in the Vietnam War.

After World War II, the roll grew rapidly as a result of the post-war "Baby Boom". It also had to face the poliomyelitis epidemic that swept through New Zealand at the end of the 1940s. This closed the School earlier than usual in late 1947, and it did not resume again until April in 1948.

By the early 1950s, there were 1,250 pupils on the roll – the highest in its history. This was a result of the "Baby Boom" and it caused serious accommodation problems for the School. Although the original gymnasium and S Block were built in 1952, and 1953 respectively, there were no new general purpose classroom buildings approved by the Government to accommodate the extra growth. As a result, by 1955, the School was seriously overcrowded.

The Government decided to address this problem by separating groups of pupils off to form new schools of their own rather than build new classrooms. The first group to leave were the Years 7 and 8 Intermediate Department pupils at the end of 1956. They left to form Rotorua Intermediate School in 1957. The next group to leave were the girls. They left at the end of 1958 to form Rotorua Girls' High School in 1959. That left 582 boys on the Pukuatua Street site to form Rotorua Boys' High School also in 1959.

The main developments during the 1960s were: the construction of B Block in 1963; the establishment of Year 13 (Form 7), which had previously been known as the Upper Sixth Form, by the Department of Education; and the introduction of the "Levels System". This very innovative system was devised by the Principal, E.F. Hamill, and it was considered at the time to be a bold change in school management and organization. This introduced rigid academic streaming in Years 9 to 13 and the groupings of a cross-section of boys drawn from all Year levels into separate "House Groups". The main idea behind the House Groups was that the boys and their teacher would remain together throughout their time at the School. The Levels System also greatly changed the organization of the School's timetable and the teaching of the curriculum. However, these features of the system did not survive the 1960s.

The 1970s were marked with the introduction of the first computers at the School, and the lead-role the School played in the development of a tertiary education institution for Rotorua. As the first step towards this, in February, 1972, a Technical Institute Division (TID) was established. The TID brought together

all of the night classes for adult students that had been operated by the School since the opening of T Block in 1939. The TID's primary purpose was to build up the number of post-secondary students in Rotorua and the wider Bay of Plenty to qualify for the establishment of a fully Government-funded tertiary education institution. This was achieved on 1 April, 1978, when the Waiariki Community College (it was re-named Waiariki Polytechnic in 1987, and, finally, Waiariki Institute of Technology in 1998) was established. It served the Bay of Plenty's (excluding Tauranga) vocational tertiary education needs from 1978 until it was disestablished on 30 April, 2016.

The 1980s were a much more settled period for the School after the social and educational changes of the 1970s. Most of the buildings were refurbished during this decade for the first time since they had been built, and computing was expanded with the purchase of a suite of "Poly" computers. A modified system of academic streaming with three levels, called "Bands", was also implemented. However, this was not a success and it was discontinued in 1986. The major change came at the end of the decade. This was when the whole education system in New Zealand from primary through to tertiary level was completely transformed with the "Tomorrow's Schools" and the "Learning for Life" educational reforms of 1989. The Department of Education, regional Education Boards, and school committees, which had been in place since 1877, were disestablished and separate Boards of Trustees (with pupil representation) were created. The Awhina Activity Centre on Pererika Street also passed to the School's control at this time.

The 1990s were decade of further re-development and new development for the School. The Māori Motto was adopted in 1990; an Accelerate Class was established in 1992; the re-introduction of Years 7 and 8 was briefly considered (but not proceeded with); the first international pupils arrived; significant national and international achievements were made in sport; new building development took place at a level not seen since the 1950s; further advances in computer technology were made; and most significantly hostel boarding was established.

Originally named "Raukura House", the School's first boarding hostel was opened in early 1994. This was initially started in the old Nurses Home (since demolished) on Pukeroa Hill next to the Hospital. It was re-located later that year to the refurbished former Department of Labour Māori Apprentices' Hostel building on Ranolf Street, where it was re-named and operated as "Mitchell House". In early 2001, a separate hostel was also established on Malfroy Road and it was named "Malfroy House". When the two new hostel buildings were built at the School (on the land that had been purchased for this purpose in 1934) the two hostels were merged and re-established as the Tai Mitchell Hostel in 2005.

The new millennium was marked with the opening of the Millennium Centre by the Governor-General in 2000. The first major book on the history of the School was published in 2003, and many new innovations based on the traditional boys' school model with a particular focus on lifting achievement for Māori boys were made. The School also fully embraced all new digital technologies and resources for learning during the 2000s.

The 2010s was a decade of further development and innovation. In 2015, the School officially moved the date of its establishment from 1927 back to 1914, when secondary education had originally commenced in Rotorua. In 2019, the School marked the Diamond Jubilee or Sixtieth Anniversary of its re-establishment as a full high school with the introduction of the Jubilee Scholarships. The School also won, in 2019, the Prime Minister's Excellence in Leading Award and the Prime Minister's Supreme Education Excellence Award for the success of its Tai Mitchell Hostel.

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 the first mainstream State high school in New Zealand to be awarded "Apple Distinguished School" status by the Apple Computing Company in the United States. This three-year accreditation is given to schools recognized by Apple as being leaders in providing educational excellence in learning with technology. This award recognized and confirmed the School's continuous innovation in its digital learning, teaching, and the school environment for the boys' education.

2020 saw the COVID-19 pandemic hit the country. This moved the School to delivering online-only education for some months, which it was very well prepared for and placed to do with its already advanced computer and digital learning work. 2020 also marked an historic change. For the first time since their establishment ninety-three years earlier, in 1927, the School's four Houses were re-named. Frobisher, Drake, Raleigh, and Nelson were formally "retired" on 8 December, 2020, and Te Akitu; Ngongotahā; Utuhina; and Rotorua replaced them and officially came into effect from the start of 2021.

In September, 2021, site preparation work for the construction of the long-planned for – and much awaited – new Science Building to replace S Block commenced. The foundations for were laid in June, 2022.

Rotorua Boys' High School is today, as it has been since its original establishment as the Rotorua District High School in 1914, the "Pride of Rotorua" – "Rotorua's Plume". It is proud of its historic past, celebrates the many 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 F.D. Wood's absence 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

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

Built, April-August, 1927

Officially Opened by Minister Wright on 9 February, 1928

Extended, 1929, 1930, 1938, 1951, 1959, 1997, and 2021

Earthquake Strengthened and Upgraded (central part), 2006



E. La Trobe Hill
The Architect of A Block

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

A Block was commissioned by the Rotorua High School Board of Governors to accommodate the Rotorua High School and the Rotorua Junior High School. It was designed by the early Rotorua architect, Edward La Trobe Hill (1887-1966), and he oversaw its construction. His architectural plan for the building and

also a papier-mâché model (shown above) were completed for the approval of the Board of Governors in November, 1926.

The building's ceremonial Foundation Stone was laid by Minister Wright at a public ceremony on 12 April, 1927. Construction of the building began immediately afterwards by Geany and Clark, building contractors of Rotorua, and it was built with "pumcrete" – pumice mixed with concrete. The construction was completed in August of that year, but the building's internal fit-out carried on 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 9 February, 1928. At that ceremony, Te Naera Houkotuku of Ngati Whakaue asked if he could perform an old Māori rite. Standing in front of the building, he drove away through the reciting of incantations and with impressive gesticulations of his walking stick any evil spirits that may have been lurking inside the Entrance Hall. Te Naera 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 originally consisted of: seven large classrooms; a science laboratory with an adjoining preparation room; two large cloak rooms (one for the girls and one for the boys); two separate toilet blocks at the rear (one for the girls and one for the boys); two staff rooms (one for the male staff and one for the female staff); a Principal's office; a storage room; and a long corridor along the full length at the back (west-facing side) that connected all of the rooms on the front (east-facing side) and the two toilet blocks at the back.

Within a year of its occupation, the original A Block was too small for the School. The South Wing, which originally terminated at classroom A4 in 1927,

was extended with two further classrooms, A5 and A6, in 1929. Another classroom (after A6) was added in 1930, and the rooms beyond that were added in 1951.

The most significant early change made to A Block was the addition of the second-storey over the central part of the building in 1938. This was planned to have been carried on over both wings, but World War II disrupted this plan. The second-storey originally consisted of: four large classrooms; a Library room in the middle at the front; and an office and a textbook storage room at the back. As part of this work, two additional boys' and girls' cloak rooms were also built on the ground floor. They opened directly off the back corridor.

The erection of the War Memorial Hall was the last major addition made to the building in 1959.

The buildings behind A Block were erected in 1994, 1997, and most recently in 2021.

A Block's distinctive architectural features are the: Neo-Classical Entrance Portico with its two Doric order columns and entablature, which was 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 its fanlight on the top.

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

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



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, May, 1927-January, 1928

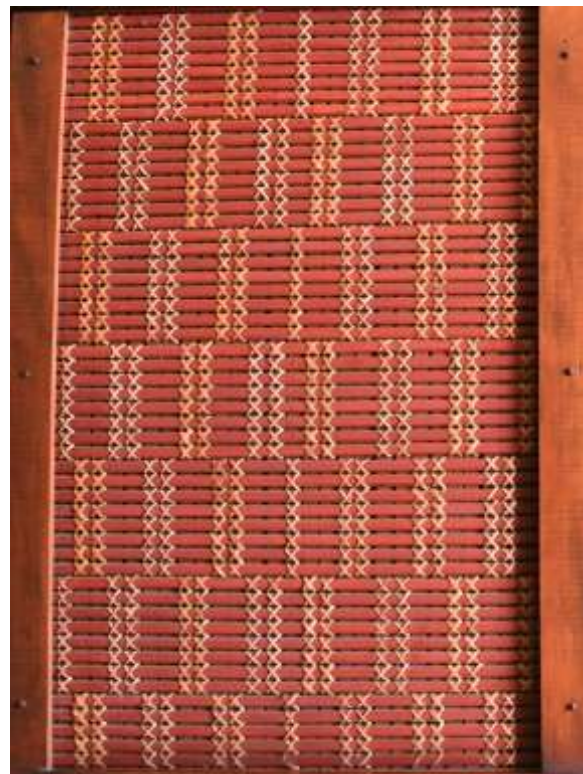
Generations of pupils, staff, and visitors to the School have passed through the historic and unique carved Entrance Hall of A Block. It is a special place right at the heart of the School with a wairua (spirit) all of its own. As with the School Shield, it makes a bold and quite emphatic statement about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

The Entrance Hall is, in fact, the only interior part of A Block that has survived intact in terms of its original decorations since the building's opening in 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 opened at Ohinemutu in 1927, and they were paid for by the Te Arawa Māori Trust Board (now known as Te Arawa Lakes Trust) of which Mitchell was the first Chairman. He had three main 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 Ngati Whakaue for their generosity in this regard; and third, so that the Māori pupils would always be mindful of, feel pride, and be inspired by their own culture and heritage.



Kowhaiwhai



Tukutuku

There are three principal elements to the Entrance Hall's decorations. These are the: kowhaiwhai; tukutuku; and carvings.

The kowhaiwhai, which are painted patterns on the ceiling rafters, are 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 stems of toetoe grass), feature the traditional "Roimata toroa" or "Tears of the albatross" design.

The carvings, which are reproductions of very old ones based on early 1900s photographs taken of the originals, were overseen by the master carvers Rotohiko Haupapa, Wihau Te Raihi, and Tuhaka Kapua. These men assisted the first apprentice carvers at the new national Māori Carving School, which was originally based in Te Ao Maramara at Ohinemutu and was opened in May, 1927. The Carving School's first apprentice carvers were: Pineamine (Pine) and his younger brother, Hone (John) Taiapa; Wiremu (Piri) Poutapu; and Waka Kereama. John, who went on to become a renowned master carver, was later appointed a Member of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire for services to traditional carving. He also oversaw and worked on the carvings and the Roll of Honour panels for the War Memorial Hall in 1959.

The kowhaiwhai, tukutuku, and carvings in the Entrance Hall were the first commission for the national Māori Carving School, which is now part of the New Zealand Māori Arts and Crafts Institute at Te Puia. They are, therefore, of national significance and very valuable.

The prominent maihi (the head-shaped carving) at the centre of the apex of the Entrance Hall's carvings that surround and frame the entrance into the foyer, was the inspiration for Tane Raukura atop the School Shield.

In 1991, the Entrance Hall's original large and opaque window above the main doors was replaced with the present clear pane of glass emblazoned with the School Shield. Spot lights were also installed at the same time to highlight the kowhaiwhai.

In 2018, a very significant change in the Entrance Hall was made. The long carved form, which had stood there from 1928, was moved to outside the Deputy Principal's office in the south corridor. Old Boy Roi Toia's carving called "Tane Raukura" was moved from his original position at the base of the stairwell in the Millennium Centre into the centre of the Entrance Hall. Tane Raukura was commissioned by the School's former Parent-Teachers' Association and was their gift to commemorate the opening of the Millennium Centre in 2000.

SCHOOL BUILDINGS



Introduction

The School has been located at its Pukuatua Street site since the beginning of 1928. The history of this site, however, can be traced back to 1885. That was when the surveying 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 survey work for the railway line, the surveyors camped on the then scrub-covered site and planted the first trees here in 1885 – most of which 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 majestically and sentinel-like directly opposite A Block.

When the School was officially re-opened on the 25-acre (10.11 hectare) site on 9 February, 1928, it was located some way out of town in the countryside. Across the other side of Old Taupo Road, which, in 1928, was little more than a pumice track there was only 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 in the late 1940s.

Since the original A Block was constructed in 1927, a number of buildings have been built around and behind it. The buildings which are 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

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

Extended, 1996-1997

Refurbished, 1997 and 2000

Modified, 2016

The School's 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 and by 1961 and then right up the end of the 1980s there were around 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 first 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 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 1996-1997, and was also refurbished. In 2016, the main Library was modified internally when the original central workroom area was reduced in size.

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

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

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 the Weights Training Centre), which was designed by La Trobe Hill and was built in 1952.

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

The classroom in front was built in 1996. The small flagpole above its entrance, from which the currently leading House's Flag is flown, was added in the early 2010s.

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 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 the Fire Service. They were able to get to the School quickly and prevented the fire from spreading throughout the rest of the block.

B Block was extended with a new frontage, modernized, and completely upgraded 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, known as T Block, was La Trobe Hill's second major building to be built on the site after A Block. Construction commenced on 2 November, 1938, and it was completed in early 1939. T Block was officially opened by the Rt. Hon. P. Fraser, then the Minister of Education (later Prime Minister), on 24 February, 1939. Unlike the Foundation Stone for A Block, which

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

T Block was built to accommodate the School's metalwork, woodwork, home cookery and arts and crafts, and adult student night classes. It was fitted-out with all of the most up-to-date woodworking and engineering machinery equipment imported from Great Britain. Some of that original machinery is still in use there today. The building originally had two large workshops: one for woodwork and one metalwork (for the boys); and two rooms, of equal size, for home cookery and arts and crafts (for the 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 columned Entrance Portico was removed and closed in to form a spray painting booth.

T Block was extensively upgraded and again extended in 2002. At that time, the 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, C Block is a multi-purpose classroom block and 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 on what had previously been the site of a pottery firing kiln in 2003.

THE BARN

Built, 1975

Re-Purposed, 1977

Behind C Block there is an interesting building in the School's and also Rotorua's history. This "barn-like" building is the home of the Grounds and Maintenance Department and is known as M Block. It was, in fact, one of three identical such buildings to be erected at the School in 1975.

All three of buildings were the first, purpose-built buildings to be erected in Rotorua for tertiary education purposes. They were built to accommodate the TID, which was the ancestral forerunner of the former Waiariki Institute of Technology. Two of the three barns were the TID's engineering workshops for its apprentice mechanics and engineers, and the other one (now M Block) was the carpentry workshop for its 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. They are still in use there today.

S BLOCK

E. La Trobe Hill, Architect

Built, 1953

Officially Opened by the Hon. Sir R.M. Algie, Minister of Education,

30 April, 1954.

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 built to accommodate the School's 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 \$7 million Science Building behind S Block commenced. When the Science Faculty moves to the new building, it is planned that S Block will be refurbished for use as general classrooms.

TE WHARE-O-RAUKURA

Built, 1979

Officially Opened (as the Golden Jubilee Cafeteria) by E.F. Hamill,

20 March, 1980

Re-developed and Officially Re-opened as Te Whare-O-Raukura,

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 commemorated the Golden Jubilee of the School's attainment of full high school status in 1927. It originally served as a cafeteria and tuck shop.

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 across the threshold.

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, 2021-2022

Behind Te Whare-O-Raukura is the Millennium Centre. The planning for this major building project 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.

The Millennium Centre was officially opened by the Governor-General of New Zealand, the Rt. Hon. Sir Michael Hardie Boys, a former Judge of the Court of Appeal, on 28 October, 2000.

The building includes: 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 on the western-side with an outdoor deck opening off it. The cafeteria, which occupies the whole of the western-side of the second-storey, features floor-to-ceiling windows providing superb views over the playing fields and the surrounding landscape.

A special feature of the carpets in the Millennium Centre is the *Raukura* plume woven into its design.

TAI MITCHELL HOSTEL

Boarding Est. 1994

The two Hostels Built, 2005

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

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

Hostels Named “Tūtauru” and “Hahauterangi”, 2020

The Tai Mitchell Hostel, which is located adjacent to the School’s south entrance at Pererika Street, was officially opened on 19 August, 2005.

The hostel block that is closest to C Block was opened by Mrs. Whakarato Waetford, who was the eldest granddaughter of Mitchell, and the hostel block by the south gate was opened by former teacher and Old Girl Mrs. D.M. Moore in honour of her (then) 39 years’ teaching service at the School.

The two hostel blocks stand on the strip of land that was purchased, at Mitchell’s suggestion, for this purpose in 1934. It had been the School’s intention from 1927 onwards to establish a boarding hostel. A plan for this and also for a principal’s house next to the Pukuatua Street gate were drawn up by La Trobe Hill in 1939. However, World War II disrupted those plans from being carried out. It would not be for another fifty-five years that boarding for the School would be established.

Boarding officially commenced at the School at the start of 1994. This was when the first boarding hostel, named “Raukura House”, was established and opened in the former Nurses’ Home (since demolished) next to the Hospital on the eastern-side of Pukeroa Hill.

The hostel was re-located a few months later to the former Department of Labour Māori Apprentices’ Hostel on the western-side of Pukeroa Hill on Ranolf Street opposite Kuirau Park. That building was refurbished and it was officially re-opened on 1 July, 1994, and was named “Mitchell House” in honour of Mitchell’s early efforts to establish a boarding hostel 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 Tai Mitchell when the new hostel blocks were built at the School in 2005.

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

SCHOOL TRADITIONS

THE HEAD PREFECT AND PREFECTS

Head Prefect (originally known as Class Monitor) Est. 1914

Prefects Est. 1927

The first Head Prefect, Cecil H. Goodson (1898-1918), was our only Old Boy to be killed in World War I. He was appointed the “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 and Head Girl Prefect in 1927. The first Prefects of the School were also appointed at the start of that year.

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



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



The updated Prefect's Badge, 2018.

The unique, historic, and certainly very distinctive Prefect's Badge, which 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 ninety-one years!

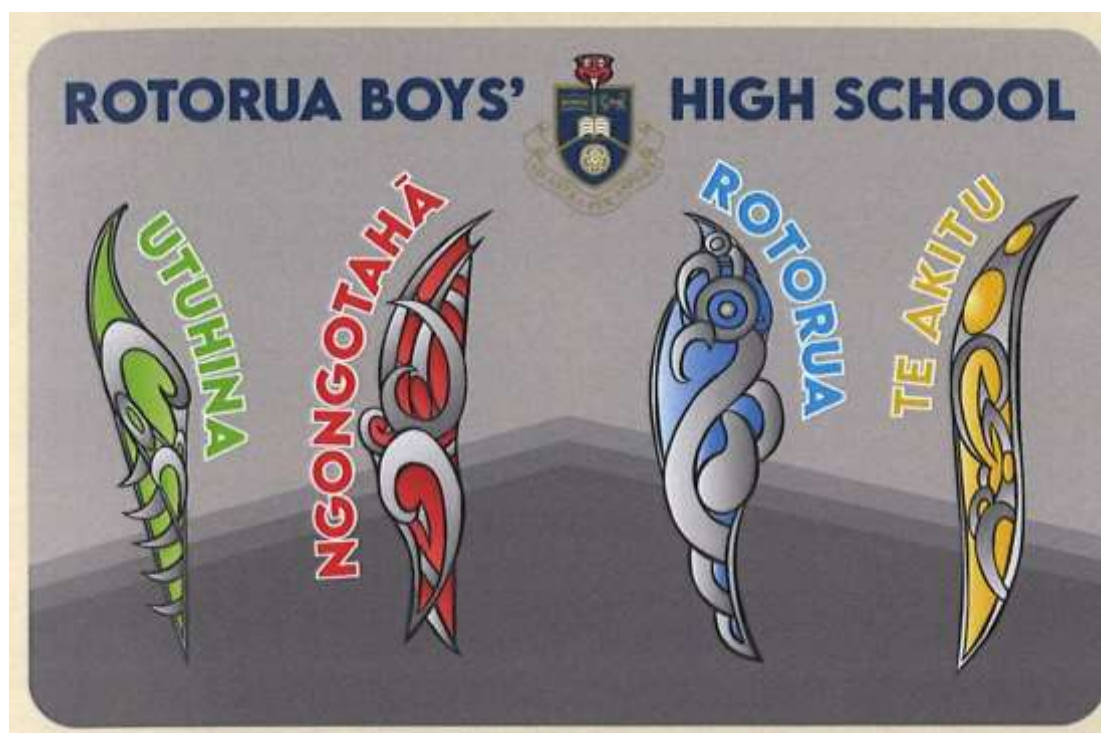
In 2018, the badge was updated and also slightly modified while retaining its historical integrity. The changes made to it were: to update the name of the school on the badge from Rotorua High School to Rotorua Boys' High School; Tane Raukura was inserted in his customary place atop the central shield; the name *Raukura* replaced the date 1927 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 a defining and iconic symbol 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 all of the Head Boy and Head Girl Prefects of the School from 1914-1936, and then re-commencing from the re-establishment of the position of Head Prefect in 1960, are displayed 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 their educational learning and sport. The Houses also gave the pupils a means of having a unique and proud identify within the School.

In the mid-1920s, the School looked to Great Britain and her centuries of history for its inspiration and role models. Accordingly, the boys’ four 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 girls’ four Houses, which have been defunct since 1958, were named after the great battles in British history that were fought by: General Sir John Churchill, the 1st Duke of Marlborough, at Blenheim (in 1704) in Germany; by King Edward III of England and King Philip VI of France at Crècy (in 1346) in France; King Henry V of England at Agincourt (in 1415) in France; and Admiral Lord Nelson at Trafalgar (in 1805) off the coast of Spain. Miniature versions of the girls’ House Flags complemented 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, which are held in the collection of the National Portrait Gallery in London, were obtained and handsomely framed. 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 ship, the "Golden Hind", and of the "Death of Nelson" were first hung in the corridors of A Block in 1930, this was the first time that the portraits of these four men were displayed at the School!

Since their establishments, 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 carried on with the new Houses.

The annual Inter-House Haka Competition, which was developed to support sports teams and also to perform all-of-school haka, was first held in 1999. The main impetus for this being the visit to the School that year of the Prime Minister, 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 annual Athletic Sports and Swimming Sports events, fiercely contested amongst the Houses.

In the early 2010s, the House Flag of the House with the most points on an event-by-event basis during the year started to be 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 more so 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, and this decision was announced (with a degree of excitement that had not been anticipated) at the Senior Prize Giving Ceremony held on 12 November, 2020. 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

Namesake of Frobisher House, 1927 – 2020.



National Portrait Gallery, London.

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

Namesake of Drake House, 1927 – 2020.



National Portrait Gallery, London.

Sir Walter Raleigh
c. 1552 – 1618

Namesake of Raleigh House, 1927 – 2020.



National Portrait Gallery, London.

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

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 located below King George V Hospital on Pukeroa Hill.

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 where the new Science Building is now) was opened, the Swimming Sports were then held there. When that became too small for them in the early 1990s, the Swimming Sports were moved to the Aquatic Centre and they have been held there every year since then.

The Athletics Sports have been held at the Pukuatua Street site of the School since we moved here in 1928.

Commencing with the first two Sports Days held 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 vacant 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 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. They continue to be used there.

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 and our own War Dead each year with an ANZAC Assembly. At this, we remember and honour the sixty-six men listed on our Roll of Honour.

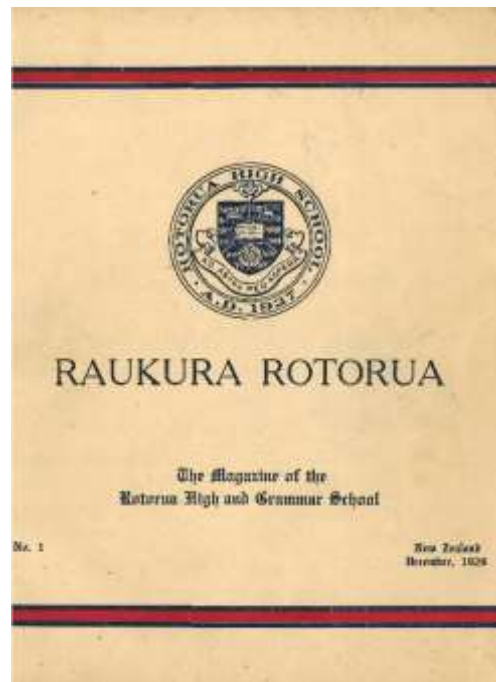
The School is also represented by the Head Prefect and the Prefects at the annual Rotorua ANZAC Day Civic Service held on 25 April. On that occasion, they lay a wreath in honour of our own men and also for all of the men who are listed on the Rotorua Roll of Honour.

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. They stood with their heads bowed and their rifles reversed in mourning. The pupils, who were all grouped into their Houses and led by their House Captains with their House Flag out held 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 the School's fallen men.

Since 1960, ANZAC Assemblies have been held in the War Memorial Hall. Commencing from 2014 onwards, an address about one of the men listed on the Roll of Honour is given by the School Historian. Wreathes are then laid by the Head Prefect and the four House Captains below the two Roll of Honour panels. The names of all sixty-six men listed on the Roll of Honour are then read out.

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



The front cover of the foundation edition of Raukura Rotorua.

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

Raukura Rotorua is the second oldest continuously produced 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 the 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 due to the shortage of paper.

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

The name for the magazine was chosen by Mitchell after he consulted with his Ngati Whakaue people. 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 team was formed, 1927



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The First XV, 1928.

The National Secondary Schools' Rugby Champions

1998

2002

2003

2015

2020

2021

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 its establishment in 1914. It is a game that we have done well at, have enjoyed great success with, and now lead in.

Ten Old Boys have been selected to play for the national rugby team, the New Zealand All Blacks. Fourteen Old Boys have been selected to play for the Māori All Blacks, and two Old Boys have played as All Blacks Rugby Sevens. There have also been numerous Old Boy Rugby representatives at provincial-level, three Old Boys have played for other countries' national Rugby teams, and the School's eighth principal, N.H. Thornton, was 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 claim them having played for our school's former Old Boys' Rugby Club.

Rugby was first played at the School on the same day of its official opening, 8 June, 1914. That first game took place on the two vacant sections next to the Victoria Institute. These are now the sites of the Rotorua Public Library building and Jean Batten Square.

Rugby was the first game that the boys played in the School's first inter-school game with the Secondary Department of the Tauranga District High School (now Tauranga Boys' College), which was 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 photograph of any of the School's pupils was taken of fifteen Rugby boys in the early 1920s, and the first official First XV photograph was taken in 1928.

The First XV commenced the first of its annual Rugby fixtures against other high schools in 1927. The first fixture was with Takapuna Grammar School in Auckland, and the first game with them was played in Rotorua at Arawa Park. That game was 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 later 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.

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

Since then, the First XV have toured Japan, Dubai, Fiji, South Africa, Argentina, and Europe (but not, as yet, the birth place of Rugby, Great Britain).

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 this title in its own right. The First XV also won that year, for the first time, the Moascar Cup.

The Moascar Cup is described as being a "Loving" cup mounted on a World War I bi-plane propeller blade. The cup itself dates from 1904, and it has been played for by New Zealand high schools since 1920. It is considered to be the equivalent of the "Ranfurly Shield for secondary school boys' Rugby".

As a result of being the National Secondary Schools' Rugby Champions in 2003, the First XV gained automatic entry to the Sanix World Under-18 Secondary Schools' Rugby Championship held in Japan that year. The School was the first New Zealand high school to win that championship.

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

Two Prize Giving ceremonies are held each year. Senior Prize Giving, for Years 11-13, normally takes place in mid-November before the end-of-year external examinations commence. Junior Prize Giving, for Years 9-10, which has been held since the mid-1980s, takes place on the last day of school in December. Both ceremonies are held in the War Memorial Hall. At these Prize Givings, boys are both acknowledged and awarded for their academic, sporting, cultural, and other successes achieved and for the contributions they have made during the year.

At Senior Prize Giving, the Principal and teaching staff wear black academic gowns with their differently coloured silk hoods representing the various degrees they hold.

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

The sports and other cups and trophies are also presented to their winners at the two Prize Givings. Up until the mid-1990s, the cups and trophies 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. 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. They are, therefore, of particular and special significance. The School's first memorial cup, the Chandler Memorial Cup, is awarded for the steeplechase or cross-country champion. It was presented by Mrs. Mary K. Chandler in memory of her son, William Eric Chandler (1900-1919), in 1927.

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 Friday, 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, later the Civic, Theatre (now known as the Sir Howard Morrison Centre). From 1960 until the early 2000s, they were staged in the War Memorial Hall. They then moved back to the Sir Howard Morrison Centre until it was closed for earthquake strengthening and refurbishment in early 2017. All School Productions have, since 2018, when they are held at the School, 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 on the northern-side of B Block where the basketball court is now)

were sold. The school-grown vegetables were supplemented with those by the staff and parents grown in their own gardens at home. Home-made preserves, jams, cakes, sweets, 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 either the School or 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, and they were worn for the first time on the original School Tie that year. The red and blue were first worn on the original Rugby First XV jersey that year as well.

The School Colours were also able to be worn by the members of the former Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc. (1928-1978), on its official Member's Blazer.

The School Colours Award was established in 1938. This was originally awarded for Rugby and then 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 given to the members of the First XV for that year, and it has not 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. 1954



Photographic Collection, Rotorua Boys' High School Archives.

The National Secondary Schools' Kapa Haka Champions, 2017.

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 School. The club was developed so that the Māori boys and girls of the School could get together and learn and practice their language, traditional arts, and crafts. Non-Māori pupils were also originally able to join the Club as well.

When, at the end of 1958, the Rotorua High School was closed and separate Boys' and Girls' High Schools were 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 2017, and again in 2018.

THE YEAR NINE PŌWHIRI

Est. 2005

Up until 2004, all new Year 9 boys at the School 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 there by the Deputy Principal, introduced to their new teachers, allocated to their House Groups, placed into their classes, informed about the School Timetable, and the various events planned for their first weeks at the School.

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

This ceremony, which was originally held in the quadrangle (where all new boys had to sit very uncomfortably and for a long period on the hot tar seal) until 2017, now takes place on the soft, green Rugby field behind A Block.

On their first morning at the School, all Year 9 boys gather with their families or supporters in the large gymnasium. There they are greeted by the Year 9 Dean and one of the Deputy Principals. From there, they are then led out onto the main drive where they are joined by the new staff members. All then walk together past the Harwood Library and down along to the west-facing end of A Block where they, as the manuhiri (visitors), gather 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, greet each other, and hongī (press noses).

At the conclusion of the pōwhiri, the families or supporters of the new boys and the new staff members then join the Principal and senior staff for refreshments in the Millennium Centre. The current boys go off to their classes, and the new boys remain on the field 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 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 for the new boys to assist them to get to know each other when they first arrive at the School, and a camp for the senior boys preparing for their new roles, such as being 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 the School 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 Year 9 boys have been held by the School since 1990. In 2005, this camp has been called the “Tane Raukura Camp”. All new boys are expected to attend.

At the camp boys learn about the history and traditions of the School, they get to know each other, and they do all sorts of fun physical and other activities together. Presentations are also given by various members of the staff, the 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 Year 13 boys was an overnight one held at the start of 1989 at the Kahukura Rugby Club. It is designed for senior boys in their last year of school and, since 2008, it has been called Te Wero (the challenge) Leadership Camp. It is held at the beginning of the year so that 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 prepare for the leadership roles that they will fulfil in the year ahead. A prominent Old Boy or other guest is usually invited to speak. If the guest speaker is an Old Boy, he will share his memories of his 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 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, 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 event, the Scholar's Blazer was awarded to its first ten recipients.

The Scholar's Blazer recognizes the School's top academic achievers in Years 11-13. It is awarded annually, and it is physically placed onto each of its recipients by either the Principal, a Board Member, or an invited guest.

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 award 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



THE WAR MEMORIAL HALL

Built, 1959

*The Roll of Honour Panels Dedicated by the
Revs. J. Taiapa and T. Parsons*

*Unveiled by Old Boy Brigadier (later Major-General) R.B. Dawson
28 February, 1960*

*The War Memorial Hall was Officially Opened by
Major-General (later Lieutenant-General Sir) Leonard Thornton
3 December, 1960*

*The War Dead Portraits and the War Decorations Honours Board
Dedicated 16 April, 2013
Unveiled by Old Boys Major C.J. Gray and J.H. Stafford, D.F.C.*

The War Memorial Hall is the School's official memorial to the sixty-six men listed in golden letters on the two Roll of Honour panels flanking the proscenium. The Hall is one of Rotorua's principal War Memorials, and it is 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 Māori carvings surrounding the entrance doors in the foyer, which depict the great warrior-chief Rangitihi and his eight children – known as the eight “beating hearts of Te Arawa” – and the carvings surrounding the proscenium and the foot of the stage are the Hall's Memorial features. The carvings were carved by John Taiapa with the assistance of Tuhaka Kapua.

The Roll of Honour panels, which are of Totara, were the first of the Memorial features to be completed and installed into the Hall. They were officially unveiled and dedicated 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, Brigadier (later Major-General) R.B. Dawson unveiled the panels.

The Hall was officially opened by Major-General (later Lieutenant-General Sir) Leonard Thornton, who was then the Chief of the Army, on 3 December, 1960. General Thornton was promoted to Lieutenant-General and was knighted when he later became the Chief of Defence Force.

The War Dead Portraits and the War Decorations Honours Board were the last of the Memorial features originally envisaged for the Hall. They were unveiled by Old Boys Major Chris Gray and Jack Stafford, D.F.C. respectively at the ANZAC Assembly held on 16 April, 2013. Stafford was at that time the School's last surviving decorated war hero.

The Latin phrases inscribed at the top and 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



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.
Herrold, J.D., 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



Built, 1991

Dedicated, 1993

Signage Replaced, 2020

The entrance gates to the School on Pukuatua Street are a memorial to A.R. Ryder (1887-1961), principal from 1927-1931.

Ryder's first memorial at the School was an old *Scarlet oak* tree that stood at the end of the South Wing of A Block in the area between it and where Te Whare-O-Raukura is now. It had originally been planted in front of the 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 here 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 at the base of the tree by the President of the Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc., I.F.H. Gainsford, and by I.W. Kingi, both of whom were pupils of Ryder's in his first year at the School in 1927.

At the end of 1991 the Pukuatua Street entrance was re-designed and upgraded. As part of that work, the present front wall and gates were erected. It was decided to dedicate the new gates to Ryder. The black 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 held in 1993.

In mid-2020, the original blue signage on the front wall of the gates was replaced with gold-coloured lettering. At the same time a new feature, the name *Raukura* was also added to 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



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 which originally flanked these gates. Both trees were planted on Arbour Day, 1933, as a memorial to Walter Steele (1874-1932), 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, which died in the early 1980s, was planted by H.A. Goudie, the Rotorua Conservator of Forests for the New Zealand Forest Service.

Steele, who was an early European settler in Rotorua in the 1870s, was elected 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. They were named there in honour of Field-Marshal Sir Arthur Wellesley, the 1st Duke of Wellington.

MITCHELL MEMORIALS

Mitchell Memorial Tree Planted by Mrs. J. Fraser

12 September, 1944

The Hostel Buildings Officially Opened 19 August, 2005

Hostels Named Tūtauru and Hahauterangi, 2020

Tai Mitchell Boarding Scholarships Est. 2005



Weeping Totara, Podocarpus totara

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

Tai 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 in 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 was 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 later became the District Surveyor for the Rotorua region. In 1915, he established his own surveying and civil engineering practice in Rotorua. He 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 of the Rotorua Borough Council from 1931-1944. He 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 Te Arawa Lakes Trust). It was the first Māori Trust Board to be established in New Zealand.

In 1922, the Crown reached an agreement with Te Arawa whereby the beds of Lake Rotorua and thirteen other nearby lakes were vested in the Crown (The King) 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 was established, in 1924, to administer Te Arawa's interests and disburse the annuity money.

Mitchell was closely involved with the fundraising and for and the erection of the Te Arawa Soldiers' War Memorial in the Government Gardens after World War I, and he oversaw the arrangements for the unveiling of the monument by H.R.H. The Prince Albert, Duke of York (later King-Emperor George VI) on 28 February, 1927. He also assisted with the arrangements for the visit to Rotorua of the Duke's younger brother, H.R.H. The Prince Henry, Duke of Gloucester, in 1934.

Outside of his professional work and his very 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 the 1930s, 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 the Board to purchase from the Railways Department a broad strip of Railways Reserve land adjoining the School's eastern boundary. 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 were to have a boarding hostel established for the School and Māori Boarding Bursaries funded by the Te Arawa Māori Trust Board established to enable Māori pupils from the Bay of Plenty and beyond to attend the School. These dreams of his were both finally 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 services to Māori he was, in 1939, appointed a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George (C.M.G.).

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

At the Hall of Fame Ngā Raukura I Te Ao Induction Ceremony held on 1 June, 2018, Mitchell was made an Honorary Member of the Hall of Fame in further recognition of his services to the School.

HOCKING MEMORIAL TREE
Planted and Dedicated, 1993



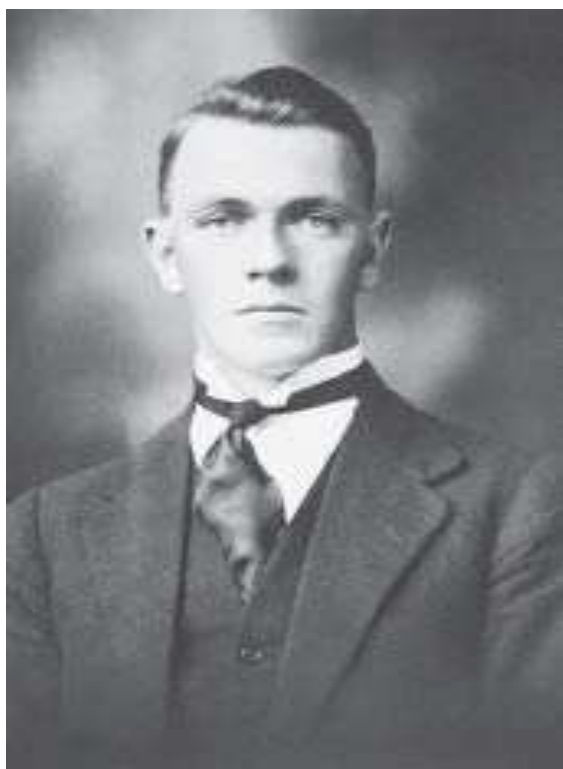
Golden Totara, Popcarpus totara
“Aureal”

The tree third down from the Ryder Memorial Gates on the main drive is dedicated to G.M. Hocking. He was a teacher 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, and it is awarded annually to the Dux of Year 12 at Senior Prize Giving.

THE HARWOOD LIBRARY

Dedicated 10 October, 1992



W.G. Harwood
1895-1971



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

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

Harwood, the School's seventh principal since 1914, was the first Principal of Rotorua Boys' High School in 1959. He served with distinction for 28 years and devoted his life to the School. His record, as the School's longest-serving principal, stood for a remarkable 60 years until July, 2019.

Mrs. Harwood, who was a superb and very gifted teacher of mathematics and physics, taught at the School for 45 years from 1932-1977. Her record stood for 37 years until it 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 Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (M.B.E.) for services to education. In 2022, her M.B.E. insignia and Royal Warrant of Appointment were presented to the School by her granddaughter Susan Harwood. These are now displayed at the Harwood Library.

EVANS MEMORIALS
Presented 1941, and 1943



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

A Memorial Assembly for Evans was held 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 that we have, the Evans Memorial Portrait and its accompanying Memorial Brass Plaque. These were given to the School on behalf the members of Evans's former Hauraki Regiment, in which he had served with the rank of Major. The Memorial Portrait shows Evans in his military dress uniform just before his departure for the war; 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 north corridor of A Block. It is hand-illustrated with contemporary scenes from the School before Evans left for the war, and it is signed by the Prefects and the First XV of which he had been the Coach.

The Evans Memorial Trophy for General Excellence is the third of the School's memorials to him. It was given by the Rotorua High School Old Pupils' Association, Inc., and 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 is the form of the Prefect's Badge. On 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), and 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. The General Excellence Award was, for those years, thus the School's premier award, and was from 1934-1958 the equivalent of Dux Boy of the School.



***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.



Kauri, Agathis australis

The *Kauri* 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.

O'Regan wanted his ashes to be scattered (not buried) at his old school. These were later scattered by his family in a circle around this tree in a private ceremony held on 15 November, 2014.

The tree's memorial plaque records his name, the dates of his birth and death, and the years of his attendance at the School. There is also a quote recorded on the plaque from the American golfer Jack Nicklaus. It reads: "Resolve never to quit, never give up, no matter what the situation."



T. O'Regan, 1966.

HOYLE MEMORIAL TREE
Planted and Dedicated, 2000



Ginkgo biloba

The *Ginkgo*, 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 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



Douglas fir, Pseudotsuga menziesii
1885

Without doubt one of the most striking features of Rotorua Boys' High School are its many magnificent, majestic, and noble exotic old trees. They give the School a very special character, and they are greatly admired. During spring and summer when they in full leaf, and especially in autumn when their leaves turn into a variety and real riot of golds, reds, browns, yellows, and greens, they are simply stunning! When driving south down Old Taupo Road the trees and the sweeping green playing fields surrounding them make for a particularly impressive site. No other high school in New Zealand matches – or has ever matched – the trees of Rotorua Boys' High School.

The oldest trees on the site are the *Douglas firs* along the Pukuatua Street boundary and the sole *Douglas fir* that stands directly opposite A Block. As we have already learned, these trees were all planted, as saplings, by the Railways Department survey parties which camped on the then scrub-covered site of the School in 1885. We know this because, in 2015, one of the *Douglas firs* on the Pukuatua Street boundary was cut down and this allowed for its annual growth rings to be properly counted thus ascertaining its precise age.

The *Douglas fir* that stands directly opposite A Block (shown above) is the sole survivor of three such trees that originally stood on this 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 and directly opposite the three *Douglas firs*. In mid-1927, when A Block was being constructed, these trees were forty-one years old and they were already fully grown. This last survivor of the three (the first one was removed in the early 1980s and the second one was removed in 1985) has stood tall, proud, and sentinel-like silently watching over the School and the passing generations of pupils since we moved to the site in 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 in 1939, and in 1940. Both trees are known as the “Coronation Oaks”. They were grown from acorns which were gathered from Windsor Great Park outside Windsor Castle in Great Britain at the time of the Coronations, in 1937, of King-Emperor George VI and his Queen-Empress Consort Elizabeth, who was later (and perhaps best) known as Queen Elizabeth, The Queen Mother. The acorns were distributed around the British Empire. These two trees were pointed out to George VI's daughter, Her Late Majesty Queen Elizabeth II, when she visited the School with her late husband, Prince Philip, Duke of Edinburgh, as part of her Coronation Tour of New Zealand in 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 planted at the School on Arbour Day in 1934, probably by Mitchell himself. There were

originally five *Rimus* in a line boarding the drive. However, two were removed when S Block was built in 1953.

In front of Tūtauru (by the putting green) and beside the student car park there is a *Ginkgo*, and the first tree in a line of six on the northern-side of the small driveway leading down to the rear of Hahauturangi there is a *Pohutukawa*. The *Ginkgo* was originally planted in the site of the new Science Block in 2017. 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 former teacher and Old Girl Mrs. D.M. Moore to mark her retirement from the School after 48 years’ teaching service – the longest in the School’s history – in December, 2014. It was also originally planted in the Jubilee Quad. In 2020, both of these trees were moved to their present positions in preparation for the new building’s construction.

From 1954 until its demolition in 2013, the site of the new Science Building was where the School’s (originally geothermally-heated) “Silver Jubilee Baths” once stood. The pool commemorated the Silver Jubilee or Twenty-Fifth Anniversary of the School’s attainment of full High School status in 1927, hence this area being known from 2013-2020 as the “Jubilee Quad”.

Lining the western-side of the south drive commencing from the Millennium Centre up to the *Wellingtonia* at the south gate and then up to Pererika Street, are the stunning and widely admired *Tulip* trees. The trees that line Pererika Street up to the corner of Old Taupo Road are *English oaks*. The *Tulips* were planted on Arbour Day, 1933, by the members of the Board of Governors, the Mayor of Rotorua, T. Jackson, the Councillors of the Rotorua Borough Council, and the eight House Captains. The first eight *Tulips* were planted by the House Captains. They were, therefore, 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 for safety reasons: one in the early 2010s; the other in 2015. The two trees that stood on the site of Te Whare-O-Raukura were later re-dedicated further along the south drive in 1990, and one new *Tulip* tree was planted to replace one of the two *Tulips* that were removed in 2015.

On the small terrace between the upper and lower playing fields (between the Millennium Centre and Old Taupo Road), there are a number of very prominent and quite stunning old trees. The largest of these are the *Coastal Redwood* next to Old Taupo Road, and the *Chinese Poplar* in the middle of the terrace. The *Redwood* is the most notable and outstanding example of this species in central Rotorua, and the *Chinese Poplar* is believed to be the largest of its species in New Zealand. All of the trees on the terrace (except for the *English oak* between the *Redwood* and the *Poplar*) were planted on Arbour Day, 1935. The *Redwood* was

planted by Ryder during his first return visit to the School after his departure from Rotorua at the end of 1931.

There are three trees at the School planted by former Prime Ministers of New Zealand, and one tree planted by the wife of a Prime Minister. The *Pohutukawa*, which is located just behind the front wall in the garden area between the Ryder Memorial Gates and the staff car park, was planted 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, 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, the wife of Prime Minister the Rt. Hon. Peter Fraser, on 12 September, 1944.

THE RAUKURA SCULPTURE



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

The prominent sculpture in the centre of the roundabout in front of A Block is called “Raukura”. It was commissioned from Old Boy 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, it features the Three Plumes symbol.

TE HOKINGA SCULPTURE



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. It was sculpted by Nathan, and is his first artwork acquired by the School. It was created, as one of seventeen original sculptures, at a sculpting workshop held in Rotorua in late 2014. The sculptures were then originally placed at various positions around the small outflow lake from the Rachel Spring next to the Blue Baths in the Government Gardens, where 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 and the School’s two World War I soldiers, Captain C.S. Algie and Driver C.H. Goodson, who did not return home to peace.

THE NESBITT GRANDFATHER CLOCK



Made in England, c. 1690

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

The long-case or “grandfather” clock 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. He held that position from 1926 until 1941, when he stepped down as Board Chairman but remained on the Board until his death a year later.

The clock is believed to date to about 1690 during the joint reigns of King William III and Queen Mary II. It had been in the Nesbitt family since it was made, and it was brought out to New Zealand when they emigrated here from Great Britain in the 1850s.

On its presentation to the School, the clock was first 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). It remained in that position until 1980, when it was 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 from the staff room and placed in its present position beside the trophy cases. It chimes on the four-quarters of the hour.

MEMORIAL ASSEMBLIES

Est. 1916

Memorial Assemblies have been held by the School since 1916. They are held only for serving members of the staff, currently attending boys, and for others closely associated with the School that have died in tragic circumstances or suddenly. The body or ashes of the deceased is not present at Memorial Assemblies.

A photograph of those for whom a Memorial Assembly has been held is displayed at the School, and their death is noted in *Raukura Rotorua*.

Since 1916, nine Memorial Assemblies have been by the School held on the following dates in memory 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.
June, 1986	K. Clarke
July, 1993	G.M. Hocking, Teacher.
October, 1998	S. Veen
April, 2000	B. Farthers
October, 2006	J. Tuifagalele

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

Along the ground floor and the second-storey corridor 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 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, the School's longest-serving Deputy Principal from 1941-1967.

All of Thomson's photographic displays remained in place until 1985. They were taken down and re-presented by Mrs. D.M. Moore. Her displays remained in place until 1992, when they were taken down 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 updated each year and 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 significance to them. The Young Achievers are all in their last year of school, and have been nominated by their respective schools for their Excellence and/or Achievement in the various fields of recognition. The 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 permanently displayed.

Since 1991, the School's Young Achiever Awards photographs have been hung together in 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 former teacher John Raphael in 1991, and given its Māori name in 2020.

The Hall of Fame consists of a framed photograph of its Members on a red-coloured mounting with a brief citation. Their photographs are interspersed amongst the Year-Frames and 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 inducted into the Hall of Fame at an Induction Ceremony held in the War Memorial Hall. The most highly honoured Old Pupil Members of the Hall of Fame are:

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

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

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

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

Sir Howard Morrison, K.B.E.
Knight Commander of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire

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



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 stood where the trophy cases are now.

In the School Museum are permanently exhibited a selection of the following surviving old school memorabilia: the original school bell of 1914, and also its larger replacement of 1927; the original boys' School Cap of 1927, which included two of the School Colours (the red and blue) accompanied by a photograph of its owner; surviving examples of the School's 1940s monogrammed dinner service, which was ordered from England and features the former School Badge; a 1932 First XV Rugby Jersey, which, again featured two of the School Colours (the red and blue); a 1941 Rotorua Rugby Sub-Union Rugby Cap and a 1968 School Colours Cap; an Old Pupil's classroom workbooks from the 1930s; old school photographs; examples of the original (1927) and updated (2018) Prefect's Badges; an original bronze Sports Medallion (in its original presentation box) of 1927 and 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 (the same as the School Colours) of 1934.

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 in October, 1992, the School Song was set to music for the first time. Previously, it had only been sung without musical accompaniment. A re-arranged and worded version of it was written by former Head of Music, R.D. Paul, in 2007. The School Song is sung at 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. 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 is called Te Haka-O-Raukura. It 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 R. Morris, 2018

The School’s own waiata is called Raukura e! It was composed by Ms. Rie Morris, one of the Deputy Principals, in 2018. She composed it for use by the boys and staff. It can also 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



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 diagonal bands. 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 ordered again after the war.

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

In 2000, three new tie designs were introduced. They were all based on the original 1927 School Tie and were the: Staff Tie, which was discontinued in 2010; the Presentation Tie, which was originally the Old Boys' Tie but is now worn generally; and the Honours Tie. The Honours Tie is the same design as the Presentation Tie, but has the School Shield included in the bottom right-hand corner.

The Honours Tie is awarded to Year 12 and 13 boys who attain a high-level of success in the academic, cultural, and sporting areas, and also to boarders of five-year duration at Tai Mitchell Hostel. A register of the recipients of the Honours Tie has been kept since 2000.

SCHOOL MEDALLIONS

Est. 1927

Re-Designed, 1995



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 instituted 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 principal or 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 to be engraved. The original Sports Medallion was awarded up until 1994.

In 1995, the medallion was re-designed on the obverse side and re-named the School Medallion. It was also made with a loop at the top 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



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

School cadet battalions were a feature of the New Zealand 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 in the 1950s. However, some schools, like ours, persisted with them well into the 1960s.

Our Cadet Battalion had a very proud history over the fifty-nine 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 (one rank below a Major-General); and an Air Commodore (equivalent in rank to 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 the cups on display in it is the School’s first and oldest trophy, the New Zealand Cadets Ladies’ Challenge Cup (see below). This silver cup is mounted on a small plinth and it was presented to the Rotorua Public School by the British General, General Sir Ian Hamilton, on 11 May, 1914, just few weeks before it became the Rotorua District High School on 8 June.

THE NEW ZEALAND CADETS LADIES' CHALLENGE CUP
Made in 1913
Presented to the Rotorua Public School by General Sir Ian Hamilton
11 May, 1914



Awarded to the Best Cadet
1914 – 1969

PROMINENT STAFF

Since 1914 five staff members have achieved prominence either before or after their service 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 on the staff for the first half of 1917. He left when he was called up for 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 represented 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.)
Early Childhood Education Patroness

Miss Helen M. Donald, as she was known before her marriage, joined the staff in 1937. She was a teacher in the Intermediate Department until her resignation in 1948.

In 1950, Mrs. Downer, as she became after her marriage to A.H. Downer, established Rotorua's first free kindergarten named after her, the Helen Downer Kindergarten.

In 1957, Mrs. Downer was elected President of the New Zealand Free Kindergarten Union and she held this role until her retirement in 1966. On her retirement, she was appointed Patroness of the New Zealand Kindergarten Association and she held this honorary role until her death in 1989.

Mrs. Downer was appointed a Member of the Most Excellent 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 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. He 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 author 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 appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (O.B.E.) in 1988. Both 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 and valuable 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 2005, four large and very striking murals painted by Bullmore (some of which were two-dimensional) were displayed on the upper walls in the foyer of A Block. The murals had originally been painted, as backdrops, for an exhibition on wildlife at the Rotorua Museum of Art and History in the mid-1970s. When that exhibition was dismantled at the end of 1989 the murals were obtained for the School by former staff member and close friend of Bullmore’s, John Raphael. They were slightly reduced in size to fit into the three vacant spaces of the upper south, west, and north-facing walls in the foyer.

When the earthquake strengthening and refurbishment work took place in the central part of A Block in 2006, it was decided not to reinstate the murals back into the foyer and they were placed into storage. The murals were later sold to the Bay of Plenty Regional Council, where they are now displayed at its office in Whakatane. From the money paid for the murals, the School was able to purchase two framed paintings by Bullmore. The smaller of the paintings is displayed in the Board Room adjoining the Principal’s office, and the larger painting is displayed in the staff room.

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

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



The impressive carving that stands outside the Millennium Centre is called Te Waharoa or “The Gateway”. It was carved by an Old Boy Robert Rika, and it faces the north-west towards our maunga, Mt. Ngongotahā.

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

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



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

Kahukura is the name of a Māori deity associated with knowledge, and Ngā Pae refers to the levels in reaching the pinnacle thus evoking the School’s 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 twenty-five years until it became unstable, as well being insufficient to seat the whole school. Construction work on the terraces commenced in mid-2020, after geo-technical investigations into the land beneath it was carried out to ensure that it could support its weight. The terraces were completed in early 2021.

The carvings on the top level of The Terraces were carved by Rika and they are full of symbolism. An information plaque beneath the carvings 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 and the *Douglas firs* along the Pukuatua Street boundary.

TANE RAUKURA

*Commissioned and Gifted to the School by the Parent-Teachers' Association
Carved by Old Boy Roi Toia, 2000*



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



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Est. 1914

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