



IN BLACK & WHITE

ISSUE 46 – 5 MARCH 2013

FROM THE HEADMASTER

The two weeks since the last newsletter have been full, even by our standards! The programme of Athletics Sports ran to schedule, an extraordinary logistic and management exercise, a week of reunions and celebrations as we officially opened our new Boat Shed, recognised 100 years of College rowing with a gala dinner, hosted the CCOBA reunion weekend..... Somewhere in amongst that lot, the life of the school went on. We have a deserved reputation for the quality and efficiency of our external events, but the ability to squeeze so much into the schedule certainly follows the gliding swan principle. Beneath the surface, unceasing and reliable paddling from a lot of people. I am sure those at athletics reflect on just how the whole cup presentations can go ahead so smoothly minutes after the final events are completed. My thanks to all involved.

This wall-to-wall schedule of the last few weeks has provided many opportunities to meet with alumni returning for reunions and their partners, parents, and friends of the school.

It is always reassuring to hear their appreciation of how well things appear to be going at College, and they are. However, a warm glow of institutional self-congratulation, comforting as it is, should never be allowed to disguise the time-honoured 'could do better'. There are aspects of College functioning which can always be improved, and there will always be

ways the boys' experience can be enhanced. This is where parental feedback and communication is so important, and I encourage you most strongly to share any concerns you may have as soon as they arise.

Having said that, I was recently tackled by an offended senior Old Boy who claimed the authority of 'hundreds' of old boys about his issue (our alcohol-free stance at the CBHS rugby fixture), when clearly this was nonsense. Similarly, I hear occasionally 'a lot of parents are saying....' when that is not usually the case. Even if it were true, it tells me that some parents would, perhaps understandably, rather talk things over amongst themselves, than with the school. I would be most interested in hearing of any cases where, when a direct approach is made, the matter is not simply resolved. Lest you assume I have recently been inundated with parental anguish, that is certainly not the case! Nevertheless, do contact us without hesitation should you wish to.

This weekend our tennis players won the South Island Secondary Schools' Championship, in the process beating CBHS our long time rivals, as well as the other leading South Island



Christ's College Open Day

Tuesday 12 March, 3.30–5.00pm
All welcome

schools in the points based round-robin tournament. They will progress to the nationals, in a few weeks' time. Our rowers continue their progress towards the national championships. In a week of reflection on a long and proud history of rowing, the Maadi Cup was mentioned numerous times. Prestigious as it is, we do not serve ourselves, the boys, or any sport well by a narrow view. To emphasise the elite level unduly plays into the hands of the hero or zero mentality which is about egos, self-centredness, and devaluation of sportsmanship. To do everything one possibly can in sport, and still not be the best, should not lead to a condemnation of failure, and a witch-hunt for explanations. It should trigger respect for one's superior opponents, and renewed determination to improve yet further. Everyone wants to win – no one pursues any endeavour intending to come second, and we as a school certainly never subscribe to the flaccid 'it's only a game' attitude. 'It's all about participation' is usually a justification for mediocrity. But sport is about open and fair competition, determination, resilience and optimism. Learning to handle success with humility is important, managing disappointment with intelligence and maturity equally so.

But we don't particularly want any. As we approach the final stages of our summer sports programmes, the best of luck to all our participants, at all levels, in all our many sporting codes.

The SCIRT drainage work around the school continues, but there is still plenty of room for the boys to safely cycle to school, and it is good to see so many doing so. There could be more. A few years ago I told the school in assembly there was no reason not to bike to school just because the weather was turning parky. A colleague kindly pointed out only he and I had any idea what it meant. I thereafter invented a ridiculous derivation for the term, involving Queen Victoria, the Great Exhibition of 1851, and a gardener called Parkinson.

All nonsense of course. It just means cold! Chilly mornings are all the more reason to get warmed up with some brisk exercise.

Simon Leese, Headmaster

IMPORTANT HEALTH NOTICE

With the winter months now fast approaching this is the perfect time for your sons to get the influenza vaccine. This vaccine is free to all children under the age of 18 years. Immunization is your best defence against influenza. Even fit and healthy people should consider getting the flu jab to protect themselves.

Some important points to remember:

- Influenza is a serious illness that can affect anyone
- Influenza can be life threatening and is easily spread from person to person
- Vaccinate as soon as the vaccine is available because it can take up to two weeks to protect you
- You need an influenza vaccination each year
- Influenza vaccine cannot cause influenza, as it does not contain any live viruses.

Kaye and Heather, Health Centre

ASSEMBLY NOTES

[Click here for Assembly Notes](#)

TRIATHALON RESULTS

Christ's College teams performed well in the recent Canterbury Secondary Schools' Triathlon event held at Corsair Bay, with some strong results for our individual competitors also. Our junior boys of Ethan Clements, Ben Marshall-Lee and Monty Batchelor won their grade by three minutes, while the two intermediate team entries finished 2nd and 3rd. In the intermediate short course event Henry Idiens, Joe Hutchinson and Jeremy Penrose came 2nd by just three seconds, and our senior boys finished 4th and 7th in their grade.

Among those College boys competing individually Rory Swanson finished 4th in the intermediate grade and Sam Averill 6th in the junior race.



Lachlan Stark competing for the 2nd placed team in the intermediate grade.

CALENDAR EVENTS

Week 5		
Tu 5		OBHS summer tournament (away) Rangi Ruru Girls' School athletics, Upper
W 6	8.30am 7.30pm	The Cathedral Grammar School Year 8 visit The Cathedral Grammar School Parents' Information evening, OBT
Th 7	8.35am-3.30pm 12.45pm 4.00pm	Year 10 geography field trip, Selwyn River Interhouse senior volleyball, Gym Interhouse junior tennis prelims, Hagley Tennis Club
F 8	1.05pm 1.15pm 1.15pm	Year 9 camp training session, HLT Year 12 General Studies, OBT Interhouse junior volleyball, Gym
Sa 9		Weekend programme available for all boarders
Su 10		4th Sunday in Lent
	9.00am	Holy Eucharist Senior rowing crews return
Week 6		
M 11	4.00pm	Interhouse junior tennis, first round, Hagley TC
Tu 12		CSS athletic prelims, Rawhiti Domain
	9.00am 3.00pm	Year 12 geography field trip to Mt Cheeseman departs Open Day
W 13		CSS sport ends
	3.00pm	Interhouse senior cricket, semi-finals, CCCG
Th 14	12.45pm 4.00pm	Interhouse junior volleyball, Gym Interhouse junior tennis semi-finals, Hagley TC
F 15	11.00am 1.05pm 1.15pm 1.15pm 3.40pm	Rowers depart for Maadi Cup Regatta, Lake Karapiro Year 9 camp training session, HLT Year 13 General Studies, OBT Interhouse junior volleyball, Gym Year 12 geography field trip returns
Sa 16		Weekend programme available for all boarders CSS athletic finals, Rawhiti Domain
Su 17		5th Sunday in Lent
	7.00pm	Choral Eucharist Preacher: Rev Jay Behan
Week 7		
M 18		CBHS summer sport exchange Maadi Cup Regatta begins, Lake Karapiro
	8.00am	Year 9 OE camp departs for Peel Forest
Tu 19	1.15pm	Interhouse senior volleyball, Gym

VISIT US AT THE SHOW

Senior Master, Mr Neil Porter and Registrar, Mrs Sandy Scannell, will host a stand at the Wanaka Show this Friday and Saturday.

We welcome the opportunity to chat with College Old Boys and their families. It is also a chance for us to update you on the exciting developments at Christ's College. Please call by and say hello.

CAREERS

Events since the last *In Black & White*

- University of Auckland liaison visit
- Study in US presentation

Otago Tertiary Study Open Day – 13 May

21 boys will travel to Dunedin for this Open Day. The numbers are now closed for this trip. Parents can take their sons if they wish or make an appointment to visit the different Halls during the year.

Dates

TERM 1	Important Dates:
	15 March: University of Canterbury, Liaison visit
	19 March: Broadcasting presentation
	22 March: Defence Force, liaison visit
	5 April: University of Otago, Liaison visit
	11 April: New York University Shanghai visit
HOLIDAYS	15 April: closing date for Latitude, Global Volunteering, GAP year
	23 April: Queenstown Resort College, career week
	26 April: University of Canterbury (UC) Information Day, 9.00am-5.00pm
	29 April: CPIT "Sports Science Holiday Programme"
TERM 2	9 May: CPIT liaison visit, Year 13, 12.45pm
	10 May: CPIT liaison visit, Year 12, 1.15pm
	12 May: University of Otago, On Campus Experience, Year 13 Maori students
	13 May: Otago Tertiary Open Day, Dunedin
	16 May: Careers Expo, May 16-18
	17 May: Victoria University (Wellington), liaison visit
	27 May: Otago University Law Seminar, at College 1.45-3.00pm

Defence Careers Experience May 2013

Applications are to be received before Friday 15 March. See Mr Sellars by Friday 8 March if interested.

Communication with students

I was impressed with the response I had from boys wanting to go to the Dunedin Tertiary day and the Auckland and US universities presentations. This is due to being able to use our computer system to text all boys when necessary. This means all Year 13s got the information and were able to reply immediately. A much improved system than relying on them reading emails.

A good story!

Tim Jones (Condell's Year 12, 2011) attended a Design presentation by IED at Christ's College, (Istituto Europeo Di Design) for study in Turin, Italy. He was passionate about car design and after discussion with his parents they looked at this seriously. Tim's parents moved back to the UK after he completed his NCEA Level 2 examinations. He completed the research project and portfolio that was required by IED and was accepted into the course. Before commencing the course he washed dishes and worked at a supermarket in the UK and saved a significant amount of money to put towards his course. He is working hard at IED in a class of 24 International students. All are older than him and none are English. He is living in an apartment block in Turin and having to learn a new language and culture. So far Tim has achieved excellent marks in his studies and exams. He has adapted very well to life in Italy and his parents Pete and Jacqui are delighted that he is living his dream. It took a lot of courage for Tim to take this step and for his parents to back his decision, but it looks as though he is on the way to success as a car designer.

Mr CP Sellars, Careers Advisor



CHANGE TO THE BOARDING PROGRAMME

The Crazy Legz Relay is on Friday 5 April, not on Friday 15 March as on the original pdf. This has now been updated on the website.

www.christscollege.com/college-life/boarding-programme

CURRICULUM NOTES

Aristotle is credited with the saying "We are what we repeatedly do. Excellence, then, is not an act, but a habit". I have written before about the importance of habit in boys' learning, often mentioning Art Costa's framework which he titled 'Habits of Mind' and detailed sixteen habits that can be found underpinning success in life. Costa's habits might be described as the behaviours that are most likely to lead us to success. In previous columns I have tended to focus on the behaviours that I think are most important in the classroom, those of persisting in what we do, managing our impulsivity so that we take time to think before we act, and striving for accuracy. However, if I understand Costa correctly it was not his intention to suggest any kind of hierarchy of habits. Here are two more habits that warrant reflection.



The ability to think flexibly is increasingly important in today's world. I remember a teacher of mine often saying that the definition of insanity is 'doing the same thing and expecting a different result'. How often have we craved new solutions to the problems that we see around us? How often is the difference between a Merit pass and an Excellence pass in NCEA assessment determined by the ability to think flexibly about specific problems?

Listening with understanding and empathy, 'devoting mental energy to another person's thoughts and ideas', is vital in our ever more connected world. The ability to see another's point of view can often be the difference between problem solving and conflict.

It is easy to sit at a desk and write about these habits or behaviours, but more difficult to offer advice on how to encourage the development of good habits in our boys. I did a little digging on what we might have to do to make a behaviour a habit. This was one view that I found (paraphrased):

"First, make a decision. Second, never allow an exception to your new habit pattern during the formative stages. Third, tell others that you are going to begin practising a particular behaviour. Fourth, visualise yourself performing or behaving in a particular way in a particular situation. Fifth, create an affirmation that you repeat over and over to yourself. Sixth, resolve to persist in the new behaviour until it is so automatic and easy that you actually feel uncomfortable when you do not do what you have decided to do. Seventh, and most important, give yourself a reward of some kind for practising in the new behaviour."

Possibly our biggest mistake as adults in this regard is to assume that our teenage boys know how to do this. As we know, there is no aspect of life that comes with an instruction manual. Our boys need advice and guidance on how to develop the habits that will promote excellence. These need to become a regular part of our conversations with them. There is no better time to start than now. Striving for accuracy in mathematics or French, cooperating with others on the sports field, solving problems in the science lab, wherever it is, the more we have helped our boys to develop the right habits, the more likely it is that they will strive for excellence in everything that they do. Excellence is indeed a habit, not an act.

Mr R Sutton, Senior Master Academic

FROM THE CCOBA SECRETARY

Old Boys came from far and wide to join in the celebrations of the past week at College.



It began with the opening of the new rowing shed on Thursday, followed by a dinner to mark one hundred years of rowing at Christ's College on Thursday night and a fundraising auction. Seven old boys entered the Old Boys' Race for the Corfe Cup on Friday at Sports Day with Bryan Treleaven (60 Years On Reunion Group) taking honours.

Around 300 people attended the Annual Cocktail Party on Friday night enjoying drinks on the Quad. This was a combined event for the reunion groups, branch members and past staff.

We welcomed 180 Old Boys and partners to the school on Saturday. They were shown around the school, had their photos taken in year groups and enjoyed lunch in the Dining Hall before heading off to their year group events. We had attendees who started school in 1933, 1943, 1953, 1963, 1983 and 1993.

We would like to thank all those who helped this busy week run so smoothly: Neil Porter for his assistance on Saturday and his team of tour guides; Paul, Rex and Toni and the staff in the Dining Hall for keeping us well provided with food and drink.

A smaller number attended the CCOBA AGM on Wednesday evening. Johnny Cochrane was returned as President for his final year, Mike Percasky was elected Vice President, Alex McKinnon was elected Treasurer, and the following were elected to the General Committee: Marcel Gray, John Luxton, Tom Evatt, Pete Bosworth, William Mills and Henry Wright.

Justine Nicholl, Secretary CCOBA



Johnny Cochrane, CCOBA President, (left) presents cup to Bryan Treleaven, 60 Years On Reunion Group

OFFICIAL OPENING

The Christ's College Rowing Club officially opened their new boat shed at Kerrs Reach on Thursday 28 February. The ribbon was cut by Mrs Jane Leese, with old boy Mr John Fry and current club captain Tom Chapman. Mr Fry was the captain of the club in 1939.

"This is a bitter-sweet occasion - our previous shed had had a recent complete refurbishment through the efforts of our parent community, only to see all that work destroyed by the earthquakes," Headmaster Mr Simon Leese told the guests, "But we all celebrate being back in business at Kerrs Reach. Perhaps in the longer term we will see the redevelopment of the river area yet further into a premier rowing centre for the South Island. Until then, this tremendous facility will help us maintain our deserved position as one of New Zealand's top rowing schools."



Mr John Fry, Mrs Jane Leese and Tom Chapman

Following the opening and morning tea, some of the old boys enjoyed a row in the eight. "They looked very good. Nice balance and timing!", commented Club Manager Mr Chris Sellars.

ROWING CENTENARY DINNER

Guests from all over the world gathered in the Dining Hall on Thursday 28 February to celebrate 100 years of rowing at Christ's College.

Olympians Carl and Caroline Meyer (formerly Evers-Swindell) spoke to the group of the highs and lows of their elite rowing careers.

Old Boys Marcel Gray, Matthew Trott, Donald Leach, Sam Bosworth and past head coach Duncan Holland shared their memories of rowing at College, as well as representing New Zealand at elite level.

A special presentation was made to Mr Peter O'Connor to honour his twenty six years of involvement in coaching rowing at the school. Headmaster Mr Simon Leese spoke of Mr O'Connor's total dedication to rowing.



Dinner guests arrive to the Dining Hall through a guard of honour from current College rowers.

Mr Brian Le Vaillant turned auctioneer for the evening, successfully raising over \$10,000 towards the club's goal of purchasing an Empacher boat for the top eight crew.



Christ's College and Rangi Ruru Girls' School present

Into the Woods Jr

by Stephen Sondheim
and James Lapine

March 25-27, 2013 | Old Boys' Theatre, Christ's College

Tickets \$20 | Ph 366 8705 | 983 3700

ATHLETICS CHAMPIONS 2013

The 2013 Christ's College athletics took place on Thursday and Friday of last week. The following cups were presented:

Under-14 Champion

Monty Batchelor (F)

Junior Champions

Matt McKellar (Ja) and Max Smith (F)

Intermediate Champion

Josh Browne (H)

Senior Champion

Damian McKenzie (F)

Overall House Champions

Flower's House

Overall House relays

Condell's House

Senior 4x4 relay

Somes House

Old Boys' Race

Brian Treleven



Joint junior champion, Matt McKellar

UPDATE ON MAX BECKERT

Young College cyclist Max Beckert continues to perform well in 2013. Last week he travelled to Invercargill where he competed in the under-19 Men's Omnium at the National Age Group Championships. Held over two days, riders compete in six events and the rider with the least accumulated points after the six events wins. The events are flying lap, points race, elimination race, individual pursuit, scratch race and kilo.

"I didn't start off very well after a shocking flying lap, finishing at 13th place. It was disappointing to have lost nearly all medal hopes in the first event so I went out on attack." Max lapped the field in the points race for the win, placing 3rd in the elimination, and was in 6th place overall as the competitors went into the second day. He then finished 5th in the individual pursuit and 6th in the scratch, as well as a two second personal best in the kilo for a 5th overall finish.



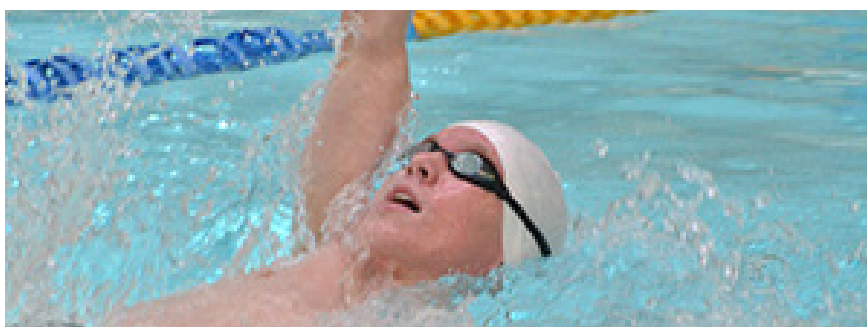
Max Beckert on the inside of the pack

Earlier in the month he competed at the elite and under-19 track nationals in Invercargill over four days. There he placed sixth in the scratch race, fourth in the points race and sixth in the elite open Maddison. He was also part of the Canterbury under-19 team who won the teams pursuit and placed 4th in the open competition.

Following on from that competition he returned home to compete in the Canterbury championships. He placed 2nd in the individual pursuit and convincingly won the points race, nearly lapping the field.

JED SMITH SWIMMING NATIONALS

Jed Smith (Julius House) has been competing at the National Age Group Championships over the past week. Entering into five individual 15 years events, he was pleased to have reached four finals. His best performances were in 50m backstroke and 100m freestyle where he ranked 5th in New Zealand in each. He was also part of the Canterbury 15 and under freestyle relay team who won Silver at the competition.



Jed Smith competing at the Christ's College swimming sports.

BOARDING PROGRAMME

It has been a busy two weekends for the Boarding programme.

Two weekends ago, and after a two year hiatus, it was a visit back to Laserstrike. This proved to be a popular activity. This was followed up on Sunday by a first visit for the Boarding Programme to the Christchurch Archery Club at Rawhiti Domain. Feedback from the boys on this activity was very positive.

The weekend just gone saw the boys release some energy (as if they had any after the Athletics Championships!) with some touch rugby on Upper on Saturday night followed by a visit to the Motordrome at Templeton for some go kart racing on Sunday. The competitive nature of the boys certainly came through as they raced against each other in ten lap races. Fastest lap of the day went to Tom Jensen of Flower's House.

This week will see the boys visiting the movie theatre on Saturday night with one of the highlights of the term, a visit to Rangitata Rafts, taking place on Sunday.

Mr DJ Thacher, Boarding Coordinator



TENNIS

Last Friday and Saturday the top tennis team played in the South Island Secondary Schools' Tennis Championships in Timaru. In a tough competition, we beat John McGlashan School 6-2, Nelson College 7-1, Timaru Boys 8-0 and Christchurch BHS 5-3 to win the championships and qualify for the National event. This is a fantastic achievement, as only eight teams make it through to the Nationals each year.

Connor Heap and Ben Johnston won all of their singles and doubles matches, with Charles Oswald winning the majority of his playing at number 3. Oliver Scholz and Jack Murison also played well sharing the number 4 spot, winning two matches each.

The team will travel to Auckland in Week 7 to compete in the Nationals.

Mr AT Moore, MIC Tennis



Connor Heap, Oliver Scholz, Charles Oswald, Ben Johnston, Jack Murison (seated) and Mr Moore

DRAMA

Into the Woods, and out of the Woods, and home before dark!

The combined Christ's College/Rangi Ruru Girls' School junior musical production opens in just three weeks. It's on in the OBT 25 – 27 March. That's the week after Year 9 Camp and the week before Easter.

In *Into the Woods*, a witch's curse condemns the Baker and his wife to a life without children. They embark on a quest to find the four items required to break the spell: the cow as white as milk, the cape as red as blood, the hair as yellow as corn, and the slipper as pure as gold. Will they succeed? And what happens after "happily ever after?" A Tony Award-winning masterpiece by musical theatre giants Stephen Sondheim and James Lapine, *Into the Woods* is a witty and irreverent imagining of beloved classic fairytales: *Jack and the Beanstalk*, *Little Red Riding Hood*, *Rapunzel*, and *Cinderella*.

Director Robyn Peers says, "the show is great fun. Lasting just over an hour, *Into the Woods* will entertain and allow a dedicated team of 50 Year 10 and Year 11 girls and boys to showcase their talents, led by boys including James Kelly, Angus Dysart-Paul, Nic Beckert, Tom Nye, Dominic Aldridge, Harry Whitnall, Martin Roe and Antony Thomas."

All Year 9 and 10 boys are expected to attend one of the three performances on Monday 25, Tuesday 26 or Wednesday 27 starting at 7.30pm. Tickets (\$20) are available on account from the College Reception.

Mr D Chambers, Director of Drama

ROWING REPORT

It has been a busy time for rowing over the last two weeks.

The under-18 eight attended the National Rowing Championships at Lake Ruataniwha to get some much needed racing experience. In the Club eights they used advantageous conditions well and covered the 2000m in a sizzling time of 5 min 53.94s. This was still not fast enough to catch a slick Hawkes Bay combination but did earn the Silver medal. College tried a new combination in the Club fours who performed well but narrowly failed to make the final in a competitive field.



The senior eights race followed in slower conditions and the College crew struggled to keep on the pace. The winning Hawkes Bay crew (coached by former College coach Donald MacDonald) comprised of New Plymouth Boys' High students finished 10s ahead of College so we now are very aware of the challenge ahead if we are to feature in the medals at the Maadi Cup!

The senior eight boys were then joined by the remainder of the Maadi squad to start their speed work. After some hard sprinting sessions, they returned to school for the Athletics Sports and the Rowing Centenary celebrations.

On the morning of Thursday 28 February about 60 people representing current rowers, old boys, coaches, managers and parents assembled for the opening of the replacement rowing shed at the same site at Kerrs Reach. New features such as floating pontoons for boat launching, more efficient floor layout, a higher roof with skylights and a large roller door at the back that allows a fully laden boat trailer to be

driven in make for a better facility. We can now look forward to returning the bulk of our training to our local river.

That evening the centenary dinner was held in the College Dining Hall. Close to 200 people associated with College rowing including recent Olympians, past and present coaches and managers, old boys and former parents enjoyed a good night out and raised a substantial sum of money for the Rowing Club. I am grateful for the efforts and long hours put in by many people to ensure this event was a success.

Immediately after the Athletics Sports on Friday, over 60 rowers headed down to Lake Ruataniwha for the South Island Rowing Championships. Three eights of Novice under-15 rowers took to the water for their first race at this lake. They showed a marked improvement on their first ever races at Lake Hood two weeks earlier and, after all making the final, performed creditably in their event.

The under-16 squad had stern opposition and were just pipped into 4th place in a fast eights race. They performed well for a Silver in the four and the younger boys in this squad had a very narrow win in the under-15 fours.

The senior squad showed the benefits of a solid training programme and won both the under-18 and under-17 eights. Both age groups also won silver medals in the fours. Overall, three Golds and three Silvers was a solid effort as schools such as CBHS, St Bede's and Marlborough Boys are producing strong and fast crews.

This week we are finishing the training camp at Twizel and doing the final intensive speed work before heading up to Lake Karapiro to challenge the best school crews in the country for the titles on offer.

Mr PDJ O'Connor, Rowing Coach



Gold medallists, the under-15 Four, Rowan Taylor, Angus Gray, Tom Darry, Luke Austin and Luke Cracroft-Wilson

DSO GIFTED TO CHRIST'S COLLEGE

On February 8 1918 Major Victor Aaron Francis Rogers set out along the road to his 5th battery after attending a court martial. He did not make it back and now lies buried in the Divisional Cemetery in West-Vlaanderen, just outside Ypres. Yet it is because of that death, that Christ's College have been presented with his DSO, medal ribbons, copies of letters and photographs. How this came about is a longish story.

Victor Rogers was born on November 9 1888, son of the late John Henry and Maria Jane Rogers. He came to New Zealand in 1902 with his family when his father was appointed to the parish of Little River. Enrolled at Christ's College in the second term of 1902 he stayed three years. He was in Cadets from the beginning of his time at College, when he left he joined the Christ's College Rifles, while continuing with his day job as a clerk. He also played rugby for the Christchurch Football Club.

In March 1912 he became part of the Canterbury Brigade Ammunition Column, in the Territorial Forces and was quickly promoted 2nd Lieutenant. A year later he passed the examinations required for the rank of Lieutenant.

On August 17 1914 he enlisted in the NZ Field Artillery, went into training and left for Alexandria and then the Dardanelles on 14 October. By the time he was promoted to Captain in July 1915, he had survived Gallipoli. He was described as having "done excellent work, and is one of the most thorough and reliable officers in his brigade. He has always handled his battery ably".

After spending time in Moascar, he embarked for France as part of the 9th battery. He was wounded slightly in the arm in September 1916, and by November he had been transferred to the 11th battery. On 13 November he was mentioned in dispatches by General Sir Douglas Haig and on 1 January 1917 the award of a DSO was published in the London Gazette. The citation read:

"During operations in September 1916, this officer, though wounded, continued to carry on his duties in a most efficient manner. He has always displayed great coolness and has brought his battery to a most satisfactory state of efficiency. During operations on 15th September he re-organised and practically took over the command of the 12th Battery when its OC became a casualty. This he did in a most efficient manner on the 25th when its OC was again casualty, and by his personal supervision and coolness, instilled confidence in the battery during heavy shell fire."

In May 1917 he was promoted in the field to the rank of Major, was wounded for the second time in November 1917 but returned to the front. He survived the Somme, Messines and Passchendaele, only to be killed, while walking, by a high explosive shell on a road near Railway Wood.

Victor was engaged to Enid Sheppard at the time of his death, and when she visited the Rogers family, probably in the 1920's, she was given the DSO. In 1925 she married and it was her son John White who visited his grave, and decided

that the medal should be returned to New Zealand, and if possible to a member of the family. Contact was made with both Christ's College and the Diocese of Christchurch in the course of extensive research to find descendants, but it was discovered that Victor's siblings had all died without children. Mr White decided that Christ's College would be an appropriate recipient for the medal, and so, he and his wife Mary visited College last week to make the presentation.

Christ's College was delighted to accept the medal and the associated items of a man of whom, Brigadier General Johnstone wrote to his father;

"I well remember in August 1914 – his coming to me & offering to join up in any capacity – gunner, NCO or officer. Since then he has been with me all the time except, when absent through wounds, & you can imagine those long years spent together – under strain & stress teach us the value of men. Your boy was a very gallant soldier – a born soldier in fact, & only the other day when I went round his Battery, I found everything in perfect order – he was too plucky to allow "war strain" to affect him & wound up a better & keener soldier than when he began, which is saying a great deal. He was probably the most popular officer in the NZFA & more important was respected by all. He knew his job thoroughly had a good head & was a fine gunner".

Sources:

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http://anglicanhistory.org/nz/blain_directory/

'Christ's College Register', April 1918 p 51

O'Rourke, P. 2011 'On the Trail of a soldier' <http://www.stuff.co.nz/timaru-herald/features/6834958/On-the-trail-of-a-soldier>

Rogers, J H Copies of letters written to him on the death of his son, CC Archives. Rogers, VAF Service Records, Archives New Zealand

<http://www.archway.archives.govt.nz/ViewFullItem.do?code=7880761&digital=yes>

Stowers, Richard 2005 'Bloody Gallipoli'

Jane Teal, Archivist



Mr Ian Bolton, retired College Senior Master and NZ territorial colonel accepts the medals on behalf of Christ's College from Mr John White (on the left)