



# Grammar Link

## Mark your Diary

Ex-Pupils, Friends of T.G.S. & Students

90th SCHOOL REUNION

Venue – Takapuna Grammar School

Date – Labour Weekend 2017 (Friday, Saturday & Sunday)

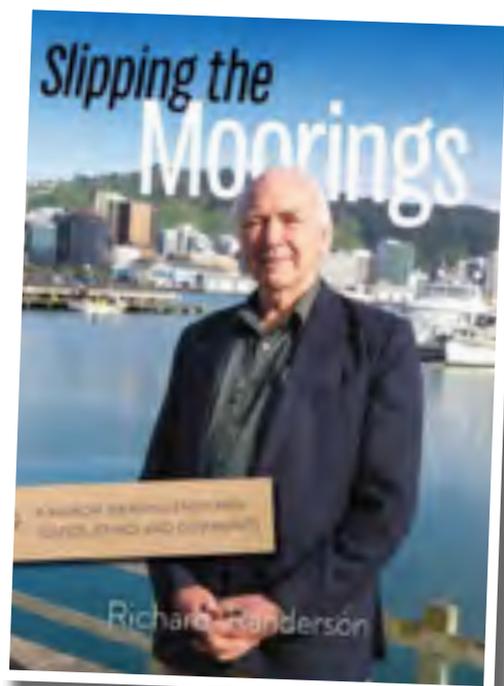
## Looking back, looking forward

Bruce Mason's *End of the Golden Weather* has a particular poignancy for me. Growing up near Takapuna beach in the 1950s was a magical time of life, one which ended all too soon when I went off to Otago University in 1958, and my parents moved to Te Aroha.

From the fifth form I felt called to the Anglican priesthood, and seven years of university and theological study led to my appointment as assistant priest in Papakura in 1964. But I was restless. Ministry in quiet Auckland suburbia, especially in a time of growing secularism, sparked a vocational crisis. A ministry focused on maintaining existing church life, weddings and funerals, seemed too inward-looking - too disengaged from the big issues of life and society.

So in 1967 I married Jackie, a high school teacher, and in 1968 we sailed off for two years' study and work in New York City. There everything changed. Black Power, the anti-Vietnam peace movement, working with churches amongst the poor in Harlem and the Bronx, and re-thinking the role of the Church as engagement with poverty, justice, peace, corporations and ethics, blew our minds and changed forever our concept of Church – not just a Sunday gathering point for the faithful but a springboard for community involvement.

Fifty years, three children and five grand-children later, I look back over a life I would never have expected in the 1950s. I have worked as an industrial chaplain in Auckland, inner city priest in Wellington, social justice officer nationally during the Richardson/Shipleigh years, assistant bishop in Canberra, and



Dean of Auckland's Holy Trinity Cathedral. I retired in 2007 and Jackie and I now live in Wellington, close to children and grand-children.

'What was it all about?' many of us ask in retirement. For me, it has been very satisfying to be engaged publicly with issues such as industrial relations, anti-apartheid, nuclear-free New Zealand, same-sex relationships, corporate and public ethics, poverty and social justice, and debating with Richard Dawkins and Lloyd Geering around the issue of God in the 21st century. I wrote it all down in a book published last year- *Slipping the Moorings*, a memoir weaving faith with justice, ethics and community (see cover image). Many of my TGS classmates will be familiar with this story of life in New Zealand over the last 50 years and also find it a challenge to stay engaged with many of the same issues that continue today.

Richard's book is available (\$20 + p&p) from [randersonjr@paradise.net.nz](mailto:randersonjr@paradise.net.nz), Tel 04 976 6050.



## Alistair Mark Cameron B.E.M. (1935 -2016)

We note with great sadness the passing of Al Cameron, or Mr Cam as he was affectionately known to generations of Takapuna Grammar School students. Al spent 23 years in the Navy, enlisting as a Boy Sailor in 1952. He then began teaching at Western Heights High School and, after a brief return to the Navy, joined Takapuna Grammar School in 1985 and stayed for 18 years until 2002.

Al was an outstanding PE teacher – he was renowned for his booming voice and the two main names he had for his students, 'boy' or 'girl'. He loved all aspects of his subject – he was a talented athlete himself and there were a great number of sports that he played and excelled at – and he joined enthusiastically into his own lessons. He had a great sense of humour and unconditional support for all his students.

Cricket and rugby were his main loves and he coached both. Al was a great organiser and also had the capacity to get parents and staff involved with his teams. He was a difficult man to say no to. He organised trips for cricket to Australia and I had the pleasure of arranging with him a rugby development squad tour of Japan – Al did what he did best, getting the players and parents committed and raising funds. Those involved will remember him taking the field in a 7 aside game; exhorting the Japanese host families, in Japanese, to ensure the boys did the dishes; and setting out on a bicycle late at night to search the railway station in Kyoto for a lost boy.

Al, towards the end of his time at Takapuna Grammar School, was appointed as our first Sports Co-ordinator, responsible for overseeing the whole co-curricular sports programme. He created the foundations for the strong programme of sport in the school that exist today.

In his "retirement", Al continued to help others. Much of his time was devoted to the RSA, both in Devonport and around Auckland, where he worked tirelessly on promoting the welfare of ex-servicemen. The numbers who attended his funeral service at the Naval Base: family, friends, service personnel, RSA members, ex colleagues, and the sincerity of the eulogies, were testament to the regard in which Al was held.

Al epitomised what makes a great teacher – energy, positivity, enthusiasm, compassion and commitment. "Here he lies where he longed to be, Home is the sailor, home from sea".  
By Terry Holding



Mr Cam ready for 7 aside

## A question for ex-pupils

Does anyone have any information on Takapuna Grammar School, Ex-Pupil Flight Lieutenant Ian Stewart Leahy, born in 1917, son of Charles Stewart Leahy and Dorothy Leahy of Auckland. Service number NZ404031? He had served with a torpedo squadron in Coastal Command in the UK, being involved in the action against the German battleships Scharnhorst and Gneisau, when they escaped from Brest in early 1942. His squadron was moved to Ceylon in April 1942 where he was promoted to Flight

Lieutenant and became a Station Navigator. He was listed in reports as being Navigator, Bomb Aimer.

There will be a visit to Sri Lanka to visit the Commonwealth War Graves cemetery to acknowledge those New Zealanders killed in the service of our country. They would like to focus on one or two particular graves. We'd be very grateful for any details you might have that might allow us to do proper justice to his memory.



## A wee story from 1958

Dear Wendy,  
Takapuna Grammar School - A wee story from 1958  
I love creative and gently disruptive actions. This one came back to me just the other day.

"Outside the school gates there was a pedestrian crossing over Lake Road which in those days was a busy road, maybe even more so than now because this was in the days of the ferries and before the harbour bridge. Some wag waited until there were about 20 or 30 pupils wanting to cross and then organised us to slowly walk across the crossing single file with about four meters between walkers. By the time we had walked slowly across there were another 20 or 30 and the idea had caught on. Some motorists may have had to wait four or five minutes! It went on for several days and it caused quite a bit of adult brouhaha.

From Peter Miller (1955-1959)

Peter would love to make contact with classmates from his class. Do you know the whereabouts of Carol Warner, Jenny Bowie, Judy Robbins, Jon Henderson, Derek Brickell.



TGS 6B - 1955 Photo

## Step back in time with us

Memorabilia received with thanks from Sylvia Hayes (nee Billett) 1932-35

A wonderful collection of class photos and Jubilee memorabilia.

We hope you enjoy her photos contained in this issue of Grammar Link



Year Group 1951-52 - 60th Jubilee 1987



1977 50th Jubilee - Year Group 1952



Memorabilia - 1951 Blazer - Ali Salehiwbams tries it on to fit.



Girls' Annual Swimming Sports 1955

# Takapuna Grammar School

## Dusk Anzac Service

Monday 25 April 2016

5.30pm, School Library

All Welcome

## BOARD OF TRUSTEE ELECTIONS

The School Trustee Elections are being held this year, we need you to get involved.

Our school is governed by a democratically elected group of people called the **Board of Trustees**. These trustees make important decisions about our school's strategic direction, student achievement outcomes, resources, staffing and much more. Being a trustee is an important and rewarding role. Parents, family members, whanau and people from the wider community can all be trustees.

We're looking for a range of people with a variety of skills, experiences and attributes who believe in making a difference to our children's learning.

If you're interested in standing for election or nominating someone you know who could make a positive input into our school, please contact the school office on (09) 489 4167 or the Returning Officer – Michael Barlow on 0210 422 423.

Details on the Parent Trustee Elections and a Nomination Form will be sent to all eligible voters by **Friday 6 May 2016**.

Nominations will close at noon on **Friday 20 May**.

Voting Papers will be posted to all eligible voters by **Wednesday 25 May 2016** and the poll will close at noon on Friday 3 June 2016.

Make sure that your vote counts – all parents and legal guardians of full time students who are on the school voting roll can, and should, vote in the elections.

Any further information, please contact the Returning Officer - Michael Barlow on 0210 422 423.