



Raukura

Old Boys Association

Kia ora Raukura Old Boys,

Welcome to the third newsletter of the Raukura Old Boys Association. It's been a while since we've sent something out to the group but we've had plenty going on in the background which we're really excited to share with you.

Our database now consists of over 260 old boys spread far and wide across the world, from different age groups and wildly varying professions. It's awesome to see so many boys keen to be part of what we're trying to build.

We're hoping that we can now begin to regularly schedule these newsletters to try and time them with school terms, so you can expect something from us once every three months or so.

Events

As we said from the start, one of our big drivers was about creating settings in which old boys can catch up, have a drink, meet new people and talk some rubbish. Really pleased to be able to announce the following three events for just that purpose:

- Tauranga after-work drinks – The Phoenix – 5.30pm on Wednesday 3 June. The annual RBHS v TBC exchange takes place in Tauranga the following day. A calendar invite will follow to everyone who is in the Western Bay in our database.
- Rotorua after-work drinks – Brew Craft Beer Pub – 5.30pm on Wednesday 27 May. A calendar invite will follow to everyone who is in Rotorua in our database.
- Lunch at RBHS before Hamilton Boys High School Super 8 fixture, Saturday 20 June – lunch at 11.30 in the Millennium Centre lounge for a 12pm kickoff. Please RSVP to Jodie Rose (jrose@rbhs.school.nz).

We have possible venues in both Auckland and Hamilton where we can host events, we just need someone to take the lead in those cities to organise them. We can provide all the detail you need, we just want to have someone on the ground. Please reach out if you can help.

We're also in the initial stages of planning an event where we welcome this year's school leavers into the realm of the Old Boys. This event will likely take place either immediately following the senior prizegiving or in the days following. Hopefully we can pull this off and turn it into a traditional event where we welcome the boys into our group.



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Centenary

The school has engaged someone to prepare for the 100th centennial celebrations next year. She has provided me the information below. Chuck the weekend in the calendar, organise your leave passes if need be, but do everything you can to get to Rotorua.

Rotorua Boys' High School is set to mark an extraordinary milestone over Labour Weekend 2027—its 100-year centennial celebration. This special occasion will honour a century of excellence in culture, sport, academics, and the arts, bringing together generations of Old Boys, whānau, and the wider community. It's more than just an anniversary; it's a vibrant tribute to the legacy, pride, and brotherhood that have shaped the school's identity for a hundred years.

The weekend promises something for everyone. Saturday will be a highlight, featuring an action-packed old boys sports day showcasing the school's proud athletic traditions, alongside a fascinating historical exhibition that brings the past to life.

As evening falls, the gala dinner will offer a memorable chance to reconnect, share stories, and celebrate in style. Throughout the weekend, a variety of social gatherings will create the perfect atmosphere to reminisce, forge new connections, and be part of this once-in-a-lifetime celebration.

We'll endeavour to keep you updated with everything we know via these communications but for information as it comes out, make sure you are following the school on [Facebook](#).

Chris Grinter Scholarship Fund

Hopefully many of you saw [this](#) story that was published last week. It was the public launch of the Chris Grinter Scholarship Fund that we announced to you in our last newsletter.

When we discussed our original plan for this group, an endowment fund was part of the longer term plan. However, when the opportunity came up to create something permanent for Raukura students—and to honour the principal who transformed the school over 38 years—it felt like the right thing to do right now.

Chris Grinter led Rotorua Boys from 1991 to 2024. When he arrived, the school faced real challenges. When he left, it was one of the best boys' schools in the country. He drove academic excellence, particularly for Māori students, and led the school to national prominence in sport and culture. His legacy deserves something permanent.



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The Chris Grinter Scholarship Fund sits with Geysler Trust and is managed by a group of Old Boys alongside a school representative. The fund's capital stays intact—only investment returns get distributed. That means every dollar donated keeps working forever. If we hit our target and nothing more, in the first ten years of distribution we can spend over \$400,000 on initiatives that will benefit students. But I think we can blow past our target.

Here's where we're at: The base target is \$1 million by October 2027. At last check, we were at \$53,050. That leaves over \$940,000 to raise in 18 months—ambitious, but achievable if we mobilise properly.

We need your help:

- Help us connect – this is the big one. If you know someone who might be able to help—successful Old Boys, business leaders, philanthropists with Rotorua connections—connect us. These conversations matter.
- Spread the word – share this newsletter with your networks and old boys. The more people who know about this, the more connections we make.
- Donate – large, small, regular, or one-off. Every contribution builds the fund: geysercf.org.nz/chris-grinter-scholarship-fund

This fund can do transformative things for the students of our school. Any way you can support us in building the fund allows us to support our school and make sure that future students have amazing stories to tell.

Old Boy Stories

As part of our efforts to tell the stories of Old Boys doing great stuff out in the world we've worked with the school on including profiles of two Old Boys in every newsletter.

I've included links to the first two newsletters for the year here where we've told the stories of an old mate of mine who runs really quickly around a [golf course](#) and an old boy who went from reporting on [One News](#) to driving communications for Qantas out of Sydney.

We have a set list of seven questions and are looking to build a bank of profiles that can be included in newsletters through the year. If you're keen to tell your story then reach out. If you're too humble to tell your story then feel free to do in a mate who you think we should read about. Then I can bully (sorry, ask nicely) them into doing it!



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Hall of Fame profile

As part of this work we've been researching Old Boys and we are constantly amazed at the stories and achievements that we've learned about.

If you weren't already aware, the school has a Hall of Fame, over 160 names of Old Boys (and girls) who have gone out into the world and done amazing things. Right now, a name and a portrait in A Block is the hall of fame. I hope that as part of what we achieve we can build the platform to tell these stories in depth.

Current students, former students, the school community and the city of Rotorua should be so proud of what its sons and daughters have achieved out in the world. We just have to tell people about it.

As opposed to a list of things we've spotted out in the world in the last few months I thought I would share stories I've come across in the course of my research. This story is simply the tip of the iceberg when it comes to what past students have achieved.

Keith Turner – an Old Boy from the 1960s. In 2025, Keith was named in the New Years Honours List for his services to the New Zealand electricity industry. Founding CEO of Meridian Energy is just one of a myriad of hugely important jobs in the sector. He was also Chair of Fisher and Paykel and Team New Zealand during the '10s. In the 00's he was named by Listener Magazine as one of New Zealand's 20 most powerful people on two separate occasions.

This news article sums up his story better than I ever could, and I'm sure we can all relate to the childhood spent on the countless lakes and streams around Rotorua.

Keith's story is exceptional, undoubtedly, but it isn't unique. We'll try and use our platform to make sure people know these stories.

What's been happening at the school.

With a term in the books now and the winter terms quickly unfolding there has been plenty happening at the school. Some highlights below:

- Anthony Grant and Tyson Pearse were selected for the New Zealand Under 17 Fly Fishing team.
- Auditions have been completed and rehearsals are beginning for the 2026 production, Tarzan.
- Noah Lomas won the 50 and 100m backstroke for Under 15's at the New Zealand Age-Grade swimming nationals.
- The 1st XV have headed off to Japan where they will take part in the SANNIX World Youth Tournament. The school has a proud history in this event, having won it previously. I met with the 1st XV captain and head boy a month ago and we were sitting in the lobby of A-Block talking about his year ahead; he looked at the photo of the 2003 1st XV who won that tournament and said he wanted to emulate that side at the very least.



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One of the new(ish) things that happens in the school these days is the Year 13 (7th form in the old language) Wero Challenge. At the beginning of the school year, the Year 13 group take part in a gruelling two day event aimed at building a stronger bond amongst them as they look to lead the school through the year ahead. The challenge involves:

- A run from school to the top of Mount Ngongotaha and back (a casual 26km) carrying the pillars of the school as they moved as a group.
- Then, in the words of one of the students, the challenge really started... an 80km bike to Waitapu to set up camp before a climb up Rainbow Mountain. I kind of thought that one mountain in the course of two days was enough, but no...
- After an overnight camp the boys then return to school where the rest of the school welcomes them with the school haka.

While the thought of doing that across the course of two days fills me with absolute horror I have no doubt that you share a unique bond with brothers that you complete something like that with.

Merch, Merch Merch

Alongside Kukiri, the school has designed a merchandise range for supporters of the school. Kukiri have kindly agreed to donate 10% of the proceeds from all sales to the Chris Grinter Scholarship Fund.

We're just waiting on the link to the website and we will share it in our next newsletter, but it will be posted on the school's Facebook page when it is available.

If you've got any questions about anything above, stories to share or if you would like to talk about how you can help with the fund please reach out to us and we can answer any questions you've got.

Thanks for reading!



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What we've been up to - the Chris Grinter Scholarship Fund

After our last communications we were approached by an Old Boy who wished to make a donation to the Association with the intention that the donation was used to set up a scholarship fund for students of Raukura.

Thanks to that incredibly generous Old Boy we've now used the \$50,000.00 donation to set up the Chris Grinter Scholarship Fund with the Geysers Community Foundation and because we're nothing if not ambitious, we've set ourselves a target of raising 1.5 million dollars by the time of the schools centenary in 2027.

Once we hit our targets we'll be able to start using the income from that fund to support students at Raukura, be that via scholarships or specific targeted grants to students or programs at the school.

We'll be doing an official launch in the next month or so and will be designing some marketing collateral to go alongside the fund but in the meantime, if you're interested in learning more about the fund or how you can help us hit that lofty target we'd love to hear from you. Or if you know of someone (and it doesn't have to be Old Boys) who might like to support the fund, please let us know.

What's been going on at Raukura?

The First XV won the schools fifth national title beating Fielding in the Top 4 final. Having to get through Tauranga, Hamilton and Wesley to even get to the Top 4 is an incredibly impressive achievement before beating Southland Boys in the semi-final. As an old boy working in Tauranga, surrounded by TBC old boys, it was a very nice few weeks!

The cricket academy recently returned from India where they had been touring. Cricket had all but disappeared at the school but through the hard work of a number of people it has got going again which is awesome to see. I'm of the age that I remember Ian Trott out watering the pitch in his full whites for days on end so it would be great if we could start returning to days like that. It doesn't get much better than a tour to India for a young cricketer. The boys all return to the, what must seem quite mundane in comparison, Baywide competitions now through the regular season.

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Kotahi Te Rà, won the national Tangata Beats competition. The school has never had a band win this competition before so to get the victory is a huge achievement. The boys won equipment and recording time which I'm sure they'll put to good use.

This years Young Achievers were celebrated recently at the annual awards ceremony. The award, now in its 32nd year, is an awesome recognition of success while at school. This years Raukura winners were – Waahanateranginui Downes, Tokoaitua Owen, Braythyn Lemon, Toby James, Jake Hutchings, Tyson Hansen and Matiu Mear.

Old Boy Achievements

In an awesome innovation from the school, Old Boys were invited back to take on current students across rugby, football, hockey, basketball and golf. In what can only be described as a massive shock, the old boys came out on top across all the codes. I can only imagine the state of the collective calf muscles and hamstrings the day after. Big day for the physio industry in Rotorua I'm guessing.

Allan Bunting lead the Black Ferns to a third place finish at the recently completed Rugby World Cup. Between 7's and 15's, Allan's trophy cabinet looks mighty impressive after having coached the Black Ferns Sevens to Olympic Gold in Tokyo before joining the Black Ferns for the 2021 Rugby World Cup campaign then adding another medal at this year's tournament.

The Steamers, stocked with old boys on the field and in the coaching team, had another great NPC season getting tipped up at the semi-final stage. Pasilio Tosi now heads away on another All Black tour. Ben Sandford was elected to Rotorua Lakes Council in the recent elections. It takes a brave man to stand for Council and put yourself forward for public service so we wish Ben all the best on delivering for Rotorua. Rawiri Waru ended a three year term on Council at the same election.

Jamie Carrol, current teacher at school and Old Boy, was recently involved in the coaching team for the New Zealand Under 18 boys hockey program. Jamie is currently running hockey at school helping it go from strength to strength so it's awesome for him to get this recognition in the national set up.

As always, keen to hear stories of Old Boys doing cool stuff. Reach out if you want to dob in a mate who's achieved something cool recently that we can share.



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