



SMTC, Seddon High and Western Springs College Reunion

celebrating 50 years of education at Motions Rd

Alumni and Friends Update – Issue 6

Reunion attendees enthusiastic about returning to school.

Approximately 250 ex-students and teachers turned out for our 50th Reunion on Saturday, August 16th. The reunion was the celebration of 50 years of education at Motions Road, which has been home to Seddon Memorial Technical College (1964 – 1968), Seddon High School (1968 – 1991) and Western Springs College (1991 onwards).

The day and evening dinner were full of laughter and warm conversations. People were genuinely pleased to have the opportunity to walk around the school grounds and reminisce about the old days.



Principal Ken Havill

The old boys and girls versus WSC sports matches were an absolute hit with lots of laughs and hilarity and the matinee performance of Spamalot received a standing ovation.

There were a number of heart-felt speeches made by students and teachers, with past principal Cyril Hicks (1969 – 1983) definitely becoming a crowd favourite, while past teacher Peter Baran received a standing ovation for his poignant words about what it meant to teach at Seddon. Returning teachers were warmly received and had clearly made a pivotal, positive difference to many of our alumni.

The reunion dinner was a relaxed affair with a range of entertainment including a dance troupe made up of ex-Western Springs College students, who are now all professional dancers, a graceful performance from our Tongan group, and an entertaining speech from ex-student Jeremy Poi.

Our returning alumni are certainly extremely proud of attending school at Motions Road and were very happy to be reconnecting with Western Springs College. It was clear that Western Springs College's success today has strong links back to the schools past and its unique strength to do things differently.



The reunion dinner guests

Reunion decade photos

If you didn't order your decade photo at the reunion and would like one, please contact Athol Corbett on 0274 731 470 or athol.corbett@xtra.co.nz.

We also have a disk of candid photos available for purchase. See more details in main part of document.

Keep us up to date... have your details changed? Email changes to alumni@wsc.co.nz

Feature as our next Alumni profile. Register your interest at alumni@wsc.co.nz

What's happening at The Auckland Performing Arts Centre (TAPAC)?

Event Guide

Moana 14' – A pacific dance showcase. 25th – 30th September

Ivy – saviour of the dinosaurs 3rd – 5th October

Gifted 8th – 11th October

Yo Future 16th - 25th October

Take note – a music collaboration of intermediate and high school students.

Alumnus, Lance Riesterer talks about his career path which takes him from Pt. Chev to Papa New Guinea and back.

Lance Riesterer is General Manager Specialist Trades and Business for The Skills Organisation. Lance left school with School Certificate in four subjects (NCEA Level 1) during the May holidays of the 6th Form and started a career in Banking. He attended Seddon High School from 1974 to 1977 and we caught up with Lance at the recent 50th reunion.



Lance Riesterer (4th from right) catching-up with '70s' school mates at 50th reunion.

Tell us about your career. I spent over 20 years working for ASB in a variety of different roles. At that time ASB were growing and employing school leavers regularly meaning that they were well placed to train and develop people (and it was a fun place to work). I attended Unitec in the 1990's and achieved a Diploma in Business. I left ASB in 1998 for an employment opportunity in Banking in Papua New Guinea.

What is Papua New Guinea like? PNG is known as "The land of the unexpected" which summarises it very well. One minute you are out on a boat catching a marlin and having the time of your life and in less than an hour later you are being held up in your vehicle in a road block on the way home. You had to constantly keep your wits about you and safety was always our first priority. In saying that, our family had a great time and we have very many fond memories from our time in PNG.

When did you return to New Zealand? We returned home in 2002 after 4 ½ years, primarily because our eldest son was due to start high school. I completed an MBA by correspondence through Southern Cross University whilst I was in PNG which was probably a key factor to obtaining a job when we returned home. I ended up working in banking and transitioned into what was a booming finance company market at that time.

So how did you end up in your current role? I consider myself a "people manager" as opposed to a financier or banker. I came to The Skills Organisation on a contract role and initially worked with them in acquiring other industry training organisations. That contract opened up a fulltime position with Skills and I now manage a nationwide team.

What do Skills do? We are an industry training organisation (ITO) which means we are the standard setting body for over 20 different industries. We work with firms and industry to help them provide training solutions to their staff to achieve national qualifications but we don't deliver the training. The easiest example is an apprentice electrician who wires up a plug in your home. The plug has to work, they shouldn't burn your house down and hopefully they won't electrocute you or themselves. Their actual training is done on-the-job by a qualified electrician. Skills make sure that this training is done to the required standard. My team meet with the trainees and firms and provide support, expertise and solve problems for them.

What is your working style? I like to roll my sleeves up and get stuck in. I'm big on keeping people involved and making certain that they are all aware of where we are going and why.

Any regrets? I wish that I had spent some more time at school and perhaps done some further study before starting work. Studying as an adult has an impact on your family life and is a major juggling act...it is doable but hard work.

Where do you live now and what are your likes? I'm a Pt. Chev boy and still live in Pt. Chev. I am an avid league supporter and follow both the Pt. Chev Pirates and Warriors. My golf is more about a good walk, than

Concert - 28th October.

Zing – Jump into life – October 30th

For more event guide information [click here](#)



BISC – is our local business group. Enthusiastic supporters of Western Springs College. www.bisc.org.nz

Come along to their next meeting... *Thinking about getting a project manager for your next build?* Find out about how Paul Styles can help you. *Styles Project Management manages residential, commercial, educational and maintenance projects.*

Wednesday 24 September - 7.30pm Venue - Western Springs College Library
RSVP paul@tinsoldier.co.nz

Our alumni mission is to reconnect with all students, teachers and friends of Seddon Memorial Technical College, Seddon High School and Western Springs College. We want to keep you up to date with what is happening at Western Springs College and build an Alumni community. Join at <http://westernsprings.school.nz/Alumni/>

No longer wish to receive this email. Please reply to this email with unsubscribe in the subject line.

good golf.

Favourite quote. It's only money – I have seen too many people get uptight about money which has caused heartache, fights and sorrow...it is just not worth the hassle.

Candid photos of reunion day and dinner.



Past Principal Cyril Hicks and oldest returning student Noeline Aitken cutting the reunion cakes.

Cheques are to be made out to Western Springs College and posted to: Western Springs College Reunion, 100 Motions Rd, Western Springs, Auckland 1022.

We have candid photos of the reunion day and dinner for sale. \$10 for a disk of photos, including postage within New Zealand. The photos in this update are a small sample of those that will be included on the disk. Please email your request for a photo disk to reunion@wsc.school.nz. Your photo disk will be posted out when your payment is received.

Make your payment into account: 12-3020-0333033-53. Include your first and last name and put 'photos' as the reference.

Teacher, Peter Baran, looks back on the first days of Seddon Memorial Technical college at Motions Road.

My first impression on arriving at the Western Springs site in December 1963 was of buildings rising in the middle of a desert. The two-storey blocks were up, but the administration block was not, and the contractors were still in the process of burying the rubbish tip. Trucks were bringing in loads of clay, and every time one of the tractors went past, the dust would rise higher than the buildings. We were able to deposit our truck-loads of text-books and library books in two of the classrooms, and then we had to leave the site.



Left to right: Cyril Hicks, Alan Clarke and Peter Baran.

Needless to say, the start of the school year was somewhat difficult for everybody. Students had to be sorted into classes, but we were not certain how many we would have, or where we would put them. The book-room had to be established and that meant sorting the text books, which were still in piles as they had been stacked in December. Supplies of stationery had arrived during the holidays and had been stacked in one of the classrooms. This was all right until the builders saw the stack and nearly exploded. They explained that paper is very heavy, so that a large stack of it can damage the foundations under the floor, particularly in built-up ground. The stack was duly demolished, and the packages spread around the room.

When writing about one's time at Western Springs, it would be all too easy to concentrate on the difficulties experienced at the start. The fact is that at the time we just had to ignore the dust and the smell and the unfinished buildings, and get on with the job. Staff and pupils alike rose to the occasion and got the school up and running. The principal at the time, Mr S H Lee, remarked later in the year that anyone who survived that initial period must have had iron in the soul. We had! For me, it was a pleasure to be out of the city and to have modern classrooms with windows that could be opened. Students helped willingly in the work of getting the school up and running. My assistants in the book-room worked tirelessly, and the firms supplying the books and stationery sent staff out to see that we received everything we needed when we needed it.

As our playing fields were not yet established, we had the use of the Council paddock down by "Elephant Creek". Two boys managed to fall into the creek and had to be hosed down. The rest of us kept our distance, from the creek and from them. Funnily enough, they didn't seem to suffer from poisoning or any bacterial infection. Seddon types were tough! After about seven days, order was established out of chaos and we saw that it was good.

In spite of the insalubrious start, the school went on to become a place of learning and achieving, and it is always a pleasure to remember those students who excelled academically or in sport – and there were some noteworthy examples. Like most dedicated teachers, I delighted in watching the progress of people who arrived in the third form as children and eventually left from the upper forms as fine young men and women. Two brilliant students I remember were Leslie Charters and Richard O'Keefe, and two senior football players were Mario Vulinovich and Martin Timbers, each of whom could kick a wet brown leather soccer ball most of

the length of the pitch.

Peter Baran took up a teaching position at Seddon Memorial Technical College in 1959, moved from the Wellesley Street site to Motions Rd with the High School in 1964. Peter retired in 1987.

Memories and comments from guests who attended the reunion - Celebrating 50 years of education at Motions Road – August 16th, 2014

Henry Stanley - 'Always a Seddonian' 1979 - 1982

It was such a pleasure to see many faces I haven't seen in many a year and remember the great times we had there. To walk around the school and go through the gym and locker rooms, classrooms and rugby grounds allowed memories long thought lost, to flood back and allow me to be that teenage boy again.

To give homage to those friends long past who walked the same grounds, touched the same walls, ran on the same tennis courts and laughed and danced around the grounds is something I will deeply cherish for many years to come.

To see Mr Hicks and hear him speak and remember his calm voice from the days of our full assemblies, to see Mrs Reeder who I always wished was my form teacher, to seeing Mr Baran and his little 'moustache' to Mr Wickham, who was such a breath of vitality that I couldn't stop smiling all day! Then when I thought I'd seen it all, to see Mr Layzell and how youthful he still looks I couldn't believe it! Surely something has to be said for keeping oneself active no matter how many years pass.

Your students also should be commended. They were full of knowledge about the school and its history and spoke plainly and clearly when asked of them. They were professional and enthusiastic which the school should be proud of. To have these students coming through the ranks of Western Springs College has set a very high precedence and a very proud one.

Your kapa haka group made me feel absolutely special when welcomed into the main hall. They sang with confidence and pride and left a 'fire in my belly' which swelled with admiration for them and the college. To walk the same floor as I did all those years gone and to listen to the waiata they sang, brought a tear to my eye as I walked the hallowed ground of the Seddon Hall.



Nga Puna O Waiorea performing at the powhiri

How many times I looked around and could 'see' my friends as they would glance across the hall at their first 'crush' during full assemblies and whisper as boys do, how a certain friend would sing the school songs the loudest he could and be 'eyeballed' by Mr Stubbs as he stood there and watched him, made me smile and laugh. And how a certain kid who hated full assemblies due to the unbearable heat in the hall, decided to buy "An evening in Rotorua" stink-bomb liquid and pour it onto the steps where both the male and female teachers entered for the assembly, as well as the main stage itself, thereby reeking the entire hall of Rotorua geysers!! To say it stank was an understatement. The smell wafted outside and could be smelt from the grass area (boy's entry) to the entry of the courtyard where the girls enter. Inside the hall was so uncomfortable that the assembly was cut short. Students laughed as we watched the teachers on stage 'try to keep a straight face' but it was just too much for them. Later on I had Geography with Mr Hutchinson who glared at me across the room and mentioned the stink-bomb prank, searching my face for any sign of guilt. I pleaded ignorance but deep down he knew it was me - a wry smile was all he gave to show this.

So you see, this reunion had to happen. For many of us it was closure to a time when life was free and easy,

when space-invaders ruled the day and when dance groups from neighbourhoods and schools would contest the first moves of break-dancing on Friday and Saturday nights down Queen Street.

Please pass my admiration on to the student council, the teachers and of course yourself for allowing us, if only for a brief moment, to be that person we were so many years ago.



Matt Shephard – Attended Seddon High School 1985 – 1989. The Wonder Years!

Superb day, catching up with my old 1985 friends! Amazing to catch-up with my old principal (Jim Peters), who was a seminal influence on me. Fantastic to see all these guys 20 years later! Thanks for all your efforts – you pulled off a brilliant day.



Above: Past Principal Jim Peters (1983 – 1992).



Bryar Inwood - Te Hira previously known as Barbara Inwood - Attended Seddon High School 1973 -1976

I just want to say that the Re-Union on 16 August 2014, was the greatest and had a good show of several different students from different decades over the years. Some were recognisable and others it did not take long to figure out who was who particularly once we had time to talk to one another. It was wonderful to hear and speak with former Principal Cyril Hicks, and meet with Principal Jim Peters again and meet the recent Principal.

It was a bit haunting, walking on tour with our group down memory lane through the old school buildings and classes.

I could remember baking a gooseberry pie in Home Economics for the first time. Walking along the old school field brought back memories to many, rugby league games, hockey for me and my old team in 1975 and being in athletics to 1976 and winning the Intermediate Girls School Trophy that year! Thanks to Mrs Cummins in PE.



Wow! Yep, this is where I took off, right here at Seddon High School. Memories of being with friends like family, going to the duck pond after school, taking off socks and shoes and wading our feet in the water, and once, a friend fell in and we helped her out of the pond hee...hee. Running up the bullock track, old Chinaman's Hill as we use to call it, and going over to the zoo when we could sneak in. The sound of the old cheverolette cars, Pontiacs etc. that the old Pt. Chev. boys would arrive to school in and lucky for the girls who got a ride!

Yep, love to do this all over again, hopefully when the new school is built we can come together and celebrate..... Many Thanks to all the staff who made this possible, we should have televised it on T.V. to share the prosperity. Lots of love to the families of Seddon.

Darryl Hunt - Attended Seddon High School 1977 – 1979

It was a very good reunion, great to see old friends and have a friendly chat.

Howard Moore – Seddon Memorial Technical College - 1961 – 1965. *The era when Kennedy aspired to go to the moon, no-one had heard of inflation, and half the cars on the road predated 1945. Balmy days.*

Thank you for arranging and managing the reunion, which seemed to go quite smoothly as far as we could tell. The sincerity and friendliness of the staff and volunteers was really appreciated.

I have found it a mistake to revisit old places, as they age and change to suit the needs and aspirations of their new owners, which seldom coincide with my own. In that respect, people are more reliable; a friend once is usually a friend always.

The school site of course is much more built up than in 1964/65. There are car parks, trees and new paths, more buildings, all of the service cables and pipes now seem to be above ground and most things look tired; they were new when we last saw them. Please pass on my best wishes to those who worked to make it a successful day.

Togia Lanefale - Attended Seddon High School 1980 - 1984

Thanks for organising this reunion for us, as it was fun to catch up with old classmates. I, and those with me really enjoyed the whole day that much we went clubbing, just like we did when we were at Seddon back in the day, hehe. The sports organized for the day were awesome fun and a good laugh too. This reunion was a great success and I think the next will be the same or even better, as many of my mates that weren't there are wishing they were after seeing the photos and what we got up to.



Old boys and girls verses WSC in netball and basketball.

Sarah Kaulima - Attended Seddon High School



I would also like to extend my thanks to you and the organisers for the great work that you did for the reunion and making it happen.

My friends and I had an enjoyable time and it was fantastic to catch up with some familiar (old(er)) faces. To some extent it almost felt like being back at school again. We had such good memories at high school and shared so much laughter over some the things that we did then.