

Greetings from St Peter's College...

Entering its 35th year, our College continues to be a vital part of the education scene for Catholic families and others in the Southland and Otago region and beyond.



This publication has been prepared to inform our community comprising: clergy, former parents and students, and other interested people, about our current school, as well as offering some glimpses of the past. You will find brief details about old times, past and present identities and information on our website through which you can find out more and communicate with others who share the legacy of a connection with our College.



School Year 35

March
2003



The present scene...

The school opened this year with a student roll of 380 and 57 staff members from school and hostel responsible for teaching, pastoral supervision, administration, clerical services, property management, grounds, food preparation and cleaning. Modern schools are significant institutions influencing the lives of many in their community and our students continue to succeed because of the extra dimension of Special Character and the pastoral input of a caring community and capable staff.

	St Peter's College	All decile 7 schools	Southland schools	All N Z schools
% of students leaving school with at least Univ. Entrance	38%	23%	21%	26%
% of all students leaving with no formal quals	4%	17%	16%	17%

Recent statistics in this table from the Ministry of Education for 2002, speak for themselves.



Former student **Martin Chamberlain** has returned to become the sixth principal of the College and the present school has continued to gain good results from happy and well adjusted students. Our Head students this year are **Josephine Copland** and **Brent Soper**. They wear a distinctive red trim on their blazers and lead a team of four school captains of: Christian Service, Student Services, Culture and Sport.



Seven years ago our school buildings received a full face-lift. Stair-wells were rebuilt, rooms at the rear of the school were connected by covered walkways, a lift was installed and classrooms were equipped with new carpet, wall coverings and lowered ceilings. The hall and school have been connected by a futuristic structure affectionately called the "Fishbowl". Just this month, a contract to beautify the front of the school was completed. The concrete area north of the main block now features planter boxes and coloured paving. Once plants are established the starkness of the buildings will be a thing of the past.



Our PTFA continues to be an effective body for the benefit of all. School Fairs continue **Brother Ted's** legacy and the creative team continues to bring in a handsome annual total to benefit our students. Foreign fee paying students are an essential dimension of our College. We presently have ten students from: Hong Kong, Malaysia, Korea, Thailand and Japan. These students add a cultural diversity as well as assisting the school in its funding.



Our curriculum...

This year we have four students studying university tertiary papers while still here at school thus showing the flexibility of the modern education system. For the less academic, we offer a large range of vocational subjects offering tertiary qualifications while still within the nurturing environment of a school with its advantages of a place to complete growing up in as well as access to sporting and cultural opportunities. As well as Religious Education, we feature the Seven Essential Learning Areas required in New Zealand education. This has meant an expansion of the area of Technology with its disciplines of: computing, graphics, food & fabric and workshop. The Arts have also seen diversification into: music, dance, drama and visual art. An Arts Coordinator has joined the staff to work in a similar capacity to our Sports Coordinator.

The new NCEA has had its teething problems but has brought success for our students with 70 of the 91 Achievement Standards on offer at the College obtaining results better than the national average. We begin Level 2 this year to replace Sixth Form Certificate and expect similar success.



Our Hostel...

Our hostel continues to be a vital part of the school. Apart from allowing the precious option of Catholic education to rural Southland, it ensures that we can offer a more diverse curriculum given the increased funding and staffing generated by the boarders.

During the early 80's hostel rolls exceeded 120, the school roll reached a high of 597, and St Paul's complex across Kakapo St required an extension wing to be built on. The early 90's brought a period of retrenchment during adverse economic times that saw the sale of St Paul's to Southland Polytech and an all time low of 22 boarders in 1996. The hostel of today, under manager **Cara Ferris**, however is once again at capacity—74 being today's limit. Our students range in age from 10 to 18 since the inclusion of our 'Closer Care Option' which ensures that our Year 7 and 8 junior students are looked after by a supervisor in an environment that is somewhat segregated from other students.

Hostel spirit is strong and a home-like atmosphere is engendered by individually decorated cubicles, colourful common rooms featuring student contributed art work and a range of appealing foods prepared by our popular cook. Hostel spirit is engendered by friendly rivalry between **Buckner** and **Tedesco** Houses.



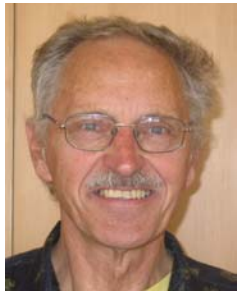
Where are they now?



Over the years the College was fortunate to have the services of 27 Rosminians and 18 Mercy sisters, along with many more lay staff. Founding Headmaster **Father Lance Hurdidge** died in England several years ago. **Sister Pauline Gallagher** (Sr David) was the senior founding Mercy sister. She still features in our community as observed in the photograph taken while she led a day of reflection for our Board of Trustees last year.

Past Assistant Principal **Loyola Williams** (also pictured) retired in 2001 after serving from 1970 till 2001.

Fr **Michael Hill** (second principal) is editor of the successful and provocative Catholic newspaper *Tui Motu*, published out of Dunedin. He lives in community with Fathers **Aidan Cunningham** (now head of the Rosminians in New Zealand) and **John Buckner**. Father **Eric Willett** lives near Cambridge in England where he works in a parish and acts as Vice Provincial of all Rosminians. Sister **Leona Garchow** who taught here in 1978 and 79, is now Congregational Leader of the Mercy Sisters in Otago and Southland. The final Mercy sister to serve at the College (Sr **Susan France**) is presently studying for her doctorate in pastoral counselling in the United States. First lay principal **Kerry Henderson**, coordinates secondary school sport for Christchurch, while his successor **John Boyce** shifted to Nelson in 2001 as founding principal of Garin College – the first Catholic college to open in the country since St Peter's.



Mark Febery has completed 30 years of teaching in the College and continues as an enthusiastic staff member. Other long serving staff, with more than ten year's service are: **Shona Baillie** (teacher's aide), **Jan Bridgman**, **Lindy Cavanagh-Monaghan** (now Deputy Principal), **Brenda Dudley** (hostel), **Reta Gray** (hostel), **Liz Greenfield** (librarian), **Margaret Ferris** (hostel), **Barbara Fraser**, **Kate Leebody**, **Ruth Low**, **Christina McCormick**, **Joy Miller** (cleaner), **Art Santure**, **Prue Scorgie**, **Mureen Turfrey** and **Eldred Wilden**. This lengthy list reflects a stable continuity among a harmonious workforce.

The College can be proud of the generous response by four of our former students who are serving as priests in our diocese. They are: **Mark Chamberlain** (ordained 1985), **Hamesh Wyatt** (1993), **Gerard Aynsley** (1994) and **Michael Hishon** (1997). Another former student, **Nicholas Dillon** is preparing for ordination later in the year.



The future...

The College looks to a promising future as it enjoys the Southland renaissance. A full hostel, a full complement of staff and a more certain future with government assistance for our building needs, mean we are well positioned to continue to serve the needs of Southland and Otago Catholic families.

Our Catholic Special Character which supplies a values framework in a more challenging society, superb academic results, splendid facilities, capable caring staff and a student body that has a pride in its school, are all part of the successful recipe that is the current St Peter's College. With many children of former students in our classrooms, we are certainly an established part of the Catholic landscape.

How to learn more and communicate with others...

Patricia Morris (nee Corcoran, Form 3 1976) has been busy with some knowledgeable deputies, tracking old names and compiling a former student database. With the help of school records, the knowledge of others and the telephone and internet, Trish and her crew have located the whereabouts of about 1500 of the approximately 2000 former students of the College up till 1991. That's how this publication got to you! It is intended to add one year of 'youngsters' (1992 next year) on an annual basis.

Our school has a website with address <http://www.stpetersgore.school.nz>. It has details for intending students, including international students, the beginning of some former student details, and an account of our history. Please refer to it and submit your own details to principal Martin Chamberlain by email to mchamberlain@stpetersgore.school.nz or fax to 03 208 0000 or write to 121 Kakapo St Gore.

The College is grateful that the funding of this publication was made possible from the small surplus the Former Students' Association supplied from their successful reunion in 1994. Our 40th Jubilee is in 2009 – it will be here before you know it....