



# You are Peter, and on this Rock Foundation I will build my Church - Matthew 16:18

## Greetings to all

Following our two previous newsletters, that can be viewed on the College website <http://www.stpetersgore.school.nz>, it is good to have the opportunity to communicate with you again. It may be that you are one of our previous generous donors, a person yet to donate, or merely a loyal former student or parent who is keen to keep in touch. In any case, your trustees and committee members extend greetings to you all. In this publication we have tracked down some former Head Students to see what has happened to them since SPC launched them on the ocean of life.

## Foundation personnel working for success

After more than 36 months of low key voluntary activity, the St Peter's *Foundation Trust Board* is now in place. The founding committee continues to perform duties under the supervision of the trustees. Current members of that committee are: Chairman- Noel Kelly (pictured), Martin Chamberlain, Mark Febery, Cara Ferris, Andy Hunter, Elaine Kelly, Father Vaughan Leslie, Patrick Mills, Trish Morris, Mary Pullar, Lyn Roughan, Peter Stack, Pauline Weir.



Foundation trustees are:

- ☪ BOT – Peter Goodger, Suzanne Boyle, Fr Vaughan Leslie
- ☪ Hostel Board of Governors – Susan Rowley, Lyn Roughan (pictured) (Chairperson)
- ☪ PTFA Chairperson – Pauline Weir
- ☪ Principal - Martin Chamberlain
- ☪ Hostel Manager – Cara Ferris
- ☪ Former Students – Trish Morris
- ☪ College staff – Mark Febery



## Our Objectives continue to be ...

- ☪ To continue to provide **enhanced educational opportunities** for our children in the spiritual, academic, cultural and sporting arenas beyond the limitations of government funding.
- ☪ To be able to supply and maintain facilities that enable families in **all** parts of the southern region to access Catholic education.
- ☪ To continue to have **competitive facilities** that will aid in attracting staff.
- ☪ To provide scholarship funding for the **disadvantaged**.

We want our Foundation to provide a substantial nest-egg that will generate earnings with which we can satisfy the objectives above. Only then will we have intergenerational sustainability.

## Progress Report

In the previous newsletter, our strategies were outlined along with our success statistics. One of the initial tasks involved the compilation of our database. Trish Morris (nee Corcoran) solicited the help of many acquaintances to obtain contact details of students from their year groups. Her efforts continue so that the more than 2000 contact details remain current. This year we are including students who commenced at the College as third formers in 1993.

We currently have more than \$40 000 invested. The Trustees have decided to make no disbursements at present.

Despite our humble beginnings, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we have made a start. We now have a vehicle for receiving contributions to provide for the future of the College. By the time of our 40th jubilee in 2009, this Foundation should indeed be built more on a rock than a pebble.

## What's next?

How about you? Were you one of the people we did not reach initially? Were you one of the people who made a pledge that you are yet to fulfil? Were you one of the people who wants to know a little more? Will you donate if you can be certain of specific aspects? Do you disagree with the whole concept? The committee wants to be available to answer any queries or address any concerns. We do not purport to know all the answers nor to have always used the optimum methods but we do want the best for the College. With the generous support of a strong Foundation the community of this College can dream dreams for our children and put them into action.

## What can you do if you want to donate?

If you want to donate, want to know more, or give us some constructive advice, these people would be glad to hear from you:

- Foundation Trust Board Chairperson-  
Lyn Roughan (03 209 3456)
- Foundation Committee Chairperson-  
Noel Kelly (03 207 1840).

Your donation would be more than welcome. The enclosed sheet should allow you to match the generosity of those who have paved the way with their magnanimous gestures.

## What of the College?

Our College was founded to give an education in its fullest sense. The Church has mandated us to be a school with a Special Character. That means two things – the first is to be a very good school, doing what all schools do to the best of our ability. The second is to weave through all that we do, the teachings of Jesus Christ so that our students emerge as skilled

citizens imbued with Christian motivation and values.

The dedicated staff at the College believe they are providing for the needs of our students with care and skill. We are all aware that St Peter's College has to be viewed as the more attractive choice by our parents since they have the alternative of a state education available. For this reason our Special Character education, our academic results and the other co-curricular opportunities we offer, have to be viewed as comprehensive and superior. The continuing enrolment of former students' children and consistent positive feedback suggest that we are perceived to be on track.

Our hostel is presently in a thriving position, unlike the doldrums it experienced a few years ago. It is currently at full capacity with 75 occupants. The capable management of Cara Ferris, coupled with the dedication of her staff, result in a structured safe environment for students aged from 11 to 18 from areas as diverse as Te Anau, Milton, Queenstown, Malaysia and Japan.

### NCEA Results

It may seem like old news to be still talking about NCEA but we are very proud of these statistics from 2004 that have just been confirmed.

	SPC	All of NZ
<i>Third year secondary students with Level 1</i>	85%	55.5%
<i>Fourth year secondary students with Level 2</i>	81.6%	57.1%
<i>Fifth year secondary students with Level 3</i>	84.6%	48.4%
<i>Third year secondary gaining literacy requirement</i>	86.7%	71.1%
<i>Third year secondary gaining numeracy requirement</i>	95.0%	78.0%
<i>Fifth year secondary gaining University Entrance</i>	71.8%	45.9%

(NB Our statistics would have been even better if they had not included many of our international students who were not eligible for literacy nor consequently NCEA)

### Remembering our Roots

Our feast day last year gave us a special opportunity to salute and thank in person, some of those who have toiled in years gone by to provide the foundations we have today. We were privileged to have Rosminian priests Michael Hill (our second principal) and Aidan Cunningham (25 years at St Peter's) as celebrants in our Mass along with our Chaplain Father Pat McGettigan and a regular supporter in school Masses, Father Gerry Fitzgibbon.

An impressive contingent of Mercy Sisters was able to support us also on the day. It was especially gratifying to have all foundation Mercy staff members Sisters Pauline Gallagher, Stephanie Glen (who has unfortunately since died) and Zita Kean with us. Sister Pauline spoke during the Mass of the need for our students to ask themselves the question, "Who do I think Jesus is?"

The cooperation that existed between two foundation orders was symbolised in the physical assembling of our school crest by present students and a teacher who were children of foundation students from 1969. Participants were: Brooke Witham (Year 7) -

daughter of Margaret Mortimer, Laura Whiteley (Year 8) - daughter of Brenda Broome, Nathan Adair (Year 9) - son of Stephen Adair, Trent Hood (Year 10) - son of Michael Hood, Ainslee Roughan (Year 11) - daughter of Patrick Roughan, Kieran Boyle (Year 12) - son of Christopher Boyle, Kieran Mackay (Year 13) - son of Billy Mackay, Jon McDowall (Teacher) - son of Kim McDowall and Maureen Herron.



Back: Sr Josephine Mary (was M. Kevin) 1980-86, Sr Mary Aquinas 1970, Sister Moya McKeown (was M. Julianne) 1973-76, Sister Leona Garchow 1978-79.  
Front: Foundation Staff: Sister Stephanie Glen—RIP (was Stephena) 1969, 1975-78, Sister Pauline Gallagher (was M. David) 1969-74, Sister Zita Kean (was M. Fidelis) 1969-73.

These participants were overseen in their duties by our longest serving present staff member (32 years), Mr Mark Febery. He was however reminded that he was still tying for first place with another of our guests Mrs Loyola Williams who served for a similar time before retiring in 2001.

During our earlier years, Father Maurice White (pictured at lower left) had the unenviable task of collecting funds for the College over a seven year period, as well as a long record of service on our Boards of Governors. It was appropriate that we were able to celebrate the 40th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood that occurred on that day.

Brother John Tedesco, who died 20 years ago on the day previous, was remembered on the day as well as in the school assembly. A group of students was taken by staff member, Anne Perniskie (nee Hickey) to place flowers on his grave.

It was regrettable that Mercy Sisters Mary Barbara (a past Head Mistress) and Sister Helen O'Neill (teacher for eight years) were not able to be present with us on the day.

Antonio Rosmini, founder of the order we were so fortunate to share in the giftedness of, will have the 150th anniversary of his death marked in Rome on 1 July this year. Members of his order are preparing a case for his beatification, a step towards being recognised as a saint of the Church.

### Another former student on the staff

We are delighted to welcome back Dana Bond who attended the College from 1988 - 1994. Dana is presently balancing her teaching load with a demanding schedule playing netball for the Otago Rebels. She is pictured here with Simon Moore, son of another former student staff member, Monica Moore (nee Dore).



## Former Head Students

It has been exciting to track down some of the more than seventy people who were given the opportunity to be Head Student in their final year. We hope you enjoy catching up on them. We are once again grateful for the Tedesco legacy that ensures we have wonderful photos of most of these people—although they may beg to differ!

### 1974 - Martin Chamberlain

Martin is currently the sixth principal of the College. He married Claire Ford (sister of former students Des, Jim and Joe) and they have two daughters who presently attend SPC. Martin



taught at St Kevin's College in Oamaru for 12 years before returning as Principal in 2001. He sees his return as being appropriate for the school to keep the links with its heritage alive.

### 1974 - Diane Finn (now Dodds)

"I remember the excitement of our first day at St Peter's as a first day pupil in Form 2 in 1969. A brand new school, teachers, uniforms ... and new boys – other than those we knew from St Mary's. "With only Forms 1, 2 and 3 in the beginning, it was more like a large family than a College and we were lucky to have many outstanding teachers: Father Hurdidge, Brother Willett, Brother Ted, and Sisters Stephanie, David and Andrew. In 1974 I was proud to be named the first Head Girl along with Martin Chamberlain as Head Boy.



"After leaving school, Dunedin Teachers College came next and flatting days with Paula Holden and Suzanne Irwin (now Boyle) – not to mention those who frequented our flat for free food, T.V. and coffee – namely Martin Chamberlain, Stephan France (deceased) and Stephen Bone.



"I then taught in Clydevale and Maramarua before a two year O.E. that included a nanny job in Mayfair and a factory job on an Israeli Kibbutz.

"Teaching positions at West Gore and Waikaka followed and then a move to the North Island. I finally found a husband, got married in 1992 and later left teaching to join my husband Ian in Real Estate at Harcourts, Brown's Bay on the North Shore where we're still working as well as being part owners in four offices on The Shore.

"With mum and dad both gone, there are no more Finns in the Gore area now. Raymond is in Nelson, Brian in Wellington and five of us are in the Auckland area.

"If anyone is up this way, we'd love to see you!"

### 1975 - Basil Chamberlain

Married to Yvonne and living in New Plymouth with three secondary school aged children.

Has been Chief Executive of the Taranaki Regional Council since 1989. Serves as a



member of the Ministerial Reference Group to review the Resource Management Act and serves as the Chair of the NZ local government body to advise that process. Serves also on other national bodies active in local government issues.

Has travelled to France and Mexico as part of ministerial delegations to present papers at conferences.

Serves as a BOT chairperson and JP. Keen on golf, gardening and reading.

### 1982 - Dominic Flatley

Dominic graduated from the University of Otago in 1987 with a Bachelor of Laws and Bachelor of Arts (Geography). He began employment in Central Otago.

From 1992 Dominic practised family law primarily with the former Commissioner for Children, the late Laurie O'Reilly, as partners at Cameron and Co. Solicitors. In 1997 Dominic commenced his own practice before merging with Layburn Hodgins in August 2000. He now heads the Family Law team.



He has been a Child Support Review Officer for the Inland Revenue Department since 1996, was appointed to the New Zealand Residence Review Board (formerly Residence Appeal Authority) in 1999 and was appointed to the Removal Review Authority in 2003. He is a member of the Children's Issues Committee of the Family Law Section of the NZ Law Society and acts as Counsel, appointed by the Family Court, to represent children. Dominic completed a Masters of Education (with Distinction) at the University of Canterbury 2003.

His recreational interests include relaxing in the Central Otago region.



### 1983 - Shelley Dore (now Steans)

"Since leaving St Peter's I have had five children who range in age from 20 years to two weeks! While my older children were growing up I completed a Bachelor of Arts degree extramurally through Massey and a Diploma of Teaching and Learning through Christchurch College of Education. Presently I am a full time mother caring for two little people. I live on a farm in the Hakataramea Valley with my partner Nat.

"In terms of memories of my time at St Peter's it seems appropriate to mention how tolerant my 7th form Chemistry teacher was considering most of the time I only had a vague idea about what he was talking about!! The teacher was

Martin Chamberlain.

"If I had any advice to offer it would be to the young women at St Peter's - make sure that you gain some sort of qualification so that in times of need you will be able to support yourself and your children. Self-sufficiency not only builds confidence it will also give you great personal strength."



### 1984—Ann La Hood

Since leaving St Peter's in the mid 1980's, I went straight to pharmacy college then returned home to work for my family for what was supposed to be one year. Sixteen years later I am still here. I often leave to travel but keep returning as the



pull of my home town is huge. I became a mother earlier this year to Seba Metzler and I am thoroughly enjoying the change. I still pass St Peter's daily and constantly remember the good days as I see the children up the field doing exactly what we were doing, and I could swear it was only yesterday.



### 1993—Michael Puru

"It's been a whirlwind of a ride over the past ten years. From setting the first St Peter's College radio show "Tied Up" to now hosting nationwide breakfast show with 450 000 listeners across the week. After leaving St Peter's I was lucky enough to attend the NZ Broadcasting School where I learnt more about media eventually leading to an internship in Tauranga. Six months later I took the job as Edge night announcer where I have been since. During the past three years I hosted a daily news show on TV2 which ended its run last year. No TV at the moment, plenty of opportunities but enjoying the new challenges of radio so trying not to do so much this year".



### 1985—Clifford Joiner

"When I left St. Peter's and abandoned my loosely held intentions to attend Otago University I fell into a career that I've been unable to pull myself away from.

"After radio reporting jobs in Invercargill, New Plymouth and Christchurch I moved to television.

"Much of journalism is based on being in the right place at the right time and I've been lucky enough to have worked as a correspondent in London and in Australia, both postings for TVNZ. I've



also had the privilege of working on some interesting assignments in places like East Timor, Bougainville, Africa, Fiji (during the coup), and on the 2000 Olympics. Last year showed me I'm not too old for career highlights... as I had the good fortune to spend 14 days at Scott Base on an assignment for TV3. I moved to Christchurch 18 months ago to take advantage of a lifestyle change and to spend more time with my 5 year old daughter."



### 1995—Simon Rogers

"On completing my schooling I attended the University of Otago and graduated in 2000 with a Bachelor of Commerce majoring in Operations Management and a Bachelor of Arts, majoring in Human Geography. I completed the BA with the intention of going teaching, but the words of my 1995 Biology teacher, Mrs West, put paid to that idea, "Those who can do, do, those who can't do, teach." I must admit though that further study and teaching is still an option down the track.

"Since graduating I have been living in Melbourne, soaking up the culture and of course enjoying the many varied sporting events and occasions this city has on offer. I am currently working as an Account Executive for MBA Insurance Services, within the building and construction industry across Australia .

"I am intending on travelling later this year through Vietnam, Cambodia and Thailand before making my way to London on a two year working visa. My intentions after that are open to suggestion.

"I have very fond memories of my time at St Peter's and the fact that it was a smaller school allowing you to build a rapport with your teachers and fellow students across all years that you wouldn't necessarily be able to do at larger schools, all adding to the learning experiences and good times had."



### 1986 -Tania Herron (now Shallard)

"In 1987 I was a trainee accountant with KPMG Invercargill, followed by three years at Otago University graduating with a B.Com in 1991. Around this time I met Mark Shallard whom I married in 1995. This meeting and Bob's death (brother) held me close to Southland and aspirations to go to the big cities and pursue a serious career were replaced with a desire to be



around my family and later, 'settle down'. I worked in chartered accounting firms, including O'Connor Richmond, until we had our two (now school aged) children. We sheep farm 800 acres just outside Riversdale. I am very much enjoying family life and making the most of the children while they're at home."



### Obituary

It may seem inequitable to single out one former student who has recently died, but those who knew first year student Martin Black recognised him as a natural leader who was always a strong force for good in his community involvement. We extend our sympathies to his wife Helen and his family. A mighty totara has fallen ...



### Keep in Touch

All members of our community are reminded that they are welcome at the school to visit and reminisce. 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](mailto:mchamberlain@stpetersgore.school.nz) or fax to 03 208 0000 or write to 121 Kakapo St Gore. Trish Morris also invites you to assist her quest for names and locations by referring to [www.oldfriends.co.nz](http://www.oldfriends.co.nz) and adding your knowledge.