



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

Greetings to all

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 a loyal former student or parent who is keen to keep in touch. In any case your Foundation trustees and committee members extend greetings to you all. In this publication we look ahead to a possible 40th jubilee while reflecting back on some of our proud history.

Foundation personnel working for success

Five years on from its formation our Foundation is operating on two levels. The Foundation Committee continues to perform duties under the supervision of the Foundation Trust Board. Current members of the committee are: Chairman - Noel Kelly, Martin Chamberlain, Mark Febery, Karen Goodger, Andy Hunter, Elaine Kelly, Mary Pullar, Lyn Roughan, Peter Stack, Pauline Weir.

Foundation trustees are:

- BOT – Andy Hunter, Suzanne Boyle
- Hostel Board of Governors – Hilary Waller, Lyn Roughan (Chairperson)
- PTFA Chairperson – Pauline Weir
- Principal - Martin Chamberlain
- Hostel Manager – Jon McDowall
- Former Students – Pending
- College staff – Mark Febery
- (Treasurer – Peter Stack)

Our objectives are

- 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.

Progress Report

In previous newsletters, our strategies have been outlined along with our success statistics. We currently have more than \$60 000 invested and the Trustees made donations of \$1600 to the school and \$1000 last year. Both have used these funds to assist in promoting the Foundation. As required, our accounts have been professionally audited. Despite our modest investments, we have established a foundation with good potential for communication.

What's next?

How about you? Were you one of the people we did not reach initially? Are you one of the people who wants to know a little more? Will you donate if you can be certain of specific aspects? The committee wants to be available to answer any queries or address

any concerns. 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:

FTB Chairperson Lyn Roughan (03 203 8890)
Committee Chair 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.

Our history - where have we come from?

With our jubilee potentially close, the concept of celebration is made all the richer if we spend some time examining our illustrious past. Without that it is easy to forget that the work put in to establish our College was staggering in its intensity, courage and selfless dedication.

The source document for the history summarised below was compiled in 1999 by former student Donna Richardson and Father Aidan Cunningham. Their full version can be found on our website.

In the beginning...

Saint Peter's College opened on February 4 1969. There were 171 pupils in Forms One to Three, of whom 72 were girls. There were 34 boy boarders that first year. The staff of eight religious teachers were the Rosminians: Fr Lance Hurdidge (Headmaster - pictured), Fr Larry Hogan, Br John Tedesco, Br Eric Willett, Br John Wallace, and the Sisters of Mercy: Sr David (Pauline Gallagher - who was Senior Mistress - pictured), Sr Fidelis (Zita Kean), Sr Stephena (Stephanie Glen). And all, staff and students, were well and truly controlled and supervised by Fr John Buckner, the Bursar, a crucial figure in those early years.

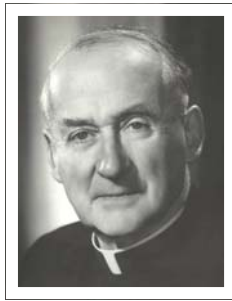
The college was opened by late Bishop John Kavanagh of Dunedin, as the first Catholic co-educational day school and a boarding school for boys in New Zealand. A maximum roll number of 576 was reached in 1979. The present 2007 figure is 368.



The Property Purchases

In 1947 Fr Frank Finlay (later Monsignor Finlay - pictured over) was appointed to the parish and remained stationed in Gore for some 25 years. His initial work begun in 1949 with preliminary enquiries in

the parish. About mid-1950 a 3¼ acre property was offered for sale in West Gore and the first purchase was successfully negotiated by Fr Finlay at \$1000 (500 pounds). There were at least another five parcels of land purchased - the final one being the five acre block on the West side of Kakapo St that has since been sold to Southland Polytechnic. Escalation in property prices is nothing new. It cost \$14000.



Most prominent in assisting "the Mons" during this time was Maurice Adair. He later became chairman of the fundraising committee and was awarded a papal medal by his grateful church.

It is hard now to imagine the incredible effort that took place, acquiring, clearing and levelling suitable land, planting the trees and putting up the initial buildings. What is not difficult to appreciate is that it all cost money, and this money came first from the generosity of the Catholics of Southland, and then from those in the parishes of Central Otago. \$410 633 had been raised when the College opened in 1969, but there was still a debt of \$341 096, and more than \$100 000 was required for the Hall that still had to be built.

The Fund Raising

With the advent of inflationary times, it took courage and resolve to move towards goal posts that kept moving further away. About the same time as he commenced property purchases, Fr Finlay sent out a letter to all the Gore parishioners appealing for donations by way of quarterly envelopes. Up to \$1000 per month was collected. Committee men then started visiting people in their homes to seek funding. The half-crown collection was instituted soon after. It involved men standing outside the church after every Sunday Mass, holding collection boxes. All wage earners were expected to contribute half-a-crown (25 cents) in this way. This method continued for about four years, bringing in approximately \$4000 annually. A Saturday night dance, held in St Mary's Hall under the supervision of Fr Reg O'Brien and under the control of Bob Ferguson raised about \$80 weekly.

"Tiny Tatts" was a type of horse race betting that was considered legal at the time. Commissions from this source were not great and required a large input of clerical time but they were indeed regular usually raising about \$10 per week. In the early 1950's Housie was introduced to Gore and raised a modest \$6 a week.

At one time a suggestion was made that the Committee endeavour to hire a hall and conduct a race meeting of its own. A race course was to be marked out on the floor, six wooden horses were to be used, the horses to be advanced according to the throwing of dice. A win and doubles totalizer was to operate. The enthusiastic Committee decided that an approach should be made to the local police, for permission to run such an evening because gambling and betting were tightly controlled, but it was all going to be for a very good, and Catholic, cause, and would all be for fun. In due course Maurice Adair made the formal request and, not unexpectedly, received a very emphatic no! Nevertheless, some very interesting evenings were held in the old Croydon Bush Hall (later to be demolished). Many of Gore's best known punters of the time were there and it appeared that a very good time was had by all. Recollections from those who took part in these clandestine activities in the country, away from the surveillance of the local constabulary, call to mind the type of story associated with the Hokonui Hills and the production of 'hooch' during even more distant times. Apparently the wily locals outwitted the police on most occasions, and the 'Mons' was most happy to bank the proceeds on a Monday, and did not ask too many questions!

Over the years there were also cake stalls; the sale of recipe books (where the names of the contributors give a strong indication of those stalwart families - the mums, and dads - who always seemed to be in the forefront of support); regular raffles; bazaars; house parties; dances of all types; sheep schemes; grain schemes and cattle schemes. They all contributed in their own way to the overall

result.

The two biggest single event fund raising efforts were a week-long Bazaar in 1955 followed almost immediately by the nationwide Monster Raffle. For the Monster Bazaar in St Mary's Hall, the Committee embarked upon a most ambitious and a highly successful preliminary campaign of preparation. House parties were arranged to obtain early funds and floats; approaches were made to many people to commence sewing and knitting and such like endeavours. Promises were asked for all types of produce and baking, sweet-making and so on. Various preliminary raffles were organised, and, in general, it seemed that almost the total parish was involved one way or another in some facet of the preparation. Mr Joe Farry, who operated an importing business and was a Gore resident at the time, made available a large variety of goods at very favourable prices. Side shows, games and other forms of entertainment were organised to ensure there was sufficient variety to bring the crowds along for a whole week. One of the biggest attractions was a tug-of-war for all local rugby teams. This was well publicised and well organised and was largely responsible for attracting a big crowd on the final night. The 'Kubala Boys' (Cyril, Ray, Brian, Dereck, Pat and their Uncle Tony as Captain) had their own team and they won the final amid great excitement, and donated their hard earned prize money to the Fund. Thus the Monster week-long Bazaar took place. It is probably quite safe to say that Gore had never before seen such a week of this type of function, which enthusiastically involved so many people. Day after day the stalls were replenished and at all times were full enough to attract more customers. When one considers the amount of baking, cooking, making, etc., that goes into a Sale of Work or similar activity, maybe lasting for a mere couple of hours' selling time these days, one can gauge the enormity of the task of restocking for a whole week. When it was all over and the balance sheet was prepared the Committee found that the nett proceeds reached almost \$8000 - an incredible figure for that time. It was a response which indeed boosted the morale of the fund-raisers.

Perhaps filled with the flush of success, the Committee almost immediately set about its second 'Think Big' project. This was a Monster Raffle, with various prizes totalling \$1000 in value, for which a licence was obtained from the Internal Affairs Department to sell tickets throughout Southland. However, there appeared to be an opportunity to extend it a great deal further. The national telephone directories were carefully perused to obtain names and addresses of likely looking clients throughout the country. A sophisticated filing system was introduced and the Committee and its helpers finished up with about 8000 names. Large teams of local typists gave their time, night after night, addressing envelopes - four for each customer - a total of 32000 envelopes! And so it was that the raffle books were dispatched. The Committee more than anxiously awaited the returns. The percentage of returns was most satisfactory and the final result was about \$5500 added to the coffers.

Collecting in Country Parishes

During the years 1954 and 1955 it became evident that a school for boys in the Gore district alone was not the answer and the decision was made, with Bishop Kavanagh's blessing, to embrace the country areas of Southland and ultimately to provide a boarding school for all Southland Catholic boys. Active among fundraisers were members of the Chamberlain, Corcoran, Ferris, Finn, Forde, His-hon, Kean, Kubala, McMullen, Monaghan, O'Brien, Nicholson and Roughan families. Martin Thyne was a member of that early Gore Committee. He was later to return to St Peter's as the Deputy Principal and teach full time for over fifteen years.

Capuchins and a Collapse

The first Central Committee meeting, as such, was held in Gore, in June 1955. Frs Vince O'Brien, Chris Gaffey and John Mullin were seconded at different times. In September 1960 the Capuchin Friars agreed to staff the school. With their beards and bare feet they caused some consternation, especially in the rural regions.

The school would open in 1964. The first buildings, the Staff House and one dormitory block, were begun.



Then came the shock and the setback: the Capuchins reported in 1963 that they were unable to provide the staff after all. An opening in 1964 was now impossible. In April 1965 Bishop Kavanagh was able to announce that the Rosminians had agreed to staff the school which was to open in 1968 (but later put back to 1969).

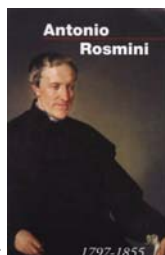
Rosminians Arrive

The Rosminians founded by Antonio Rosmini-Serbati (1797-1855) had already founded Rosmini College, on Auckland's North Shore in 1961. Brother John Tedesco flew down from Auckland to fly the flag. It was the first of many visits by the brethren from Rosmini College to the parishes of Southland. Father Lance Hurdidge, another Welshman, was appointed as Headmaster. He was able to persuade the Bishop to make the school co-educational. The Sisters of Mercy agreed to provide staff too. Over the past century the Sisters had run schools in Southland at Winton, Wreys Bush, Riverton, Nightcaps, Otautau and of course in Gore at St Mary's.

The name, St Peter's was specifically chosen by Fr Hurdidge. At our Silver Jubilee in 1994, he was to write, "It was at St Peter's, Cardiff, that I was baptised, received first Holy Communion and was confirmed - taking the name of Peter. So I have a great devotion to him, the rock on which we stand."

The Years Since

When the College opened there was no hall. Assemblies, Masses, games and wet weather programmes were all held in the still-empty ground floor of the dormitory block. The Hall was begun in the spring of 1969 and by mid 1970 another very useful gathering place was available to all Gore folk. The First Ball was opened by the representatives of the School Council, Martin Black and Ann Ferris. Among other early firsts that have become early events, were the Eisteddfod and the Fair, careers evening and drama productions. The Fair is now one of the biggest per capita in the country. Br Tedesco, along with his Tombola and the help of Kath and Jim Mortimer, led an enterprise that has retained its fame. The early musical and dramatic productions at St Peter's were extremely popular. The first major musical had to wait till April 1977 when Mr Peter Owens produced Joseph and the Amazing Technicolour Dreamcoat. Altogether some 150 staff, students and parents took an active part. Since then the musicals have become part of tradition, and Joseph and Godspell have been performed twice. These productions have been not only a showcase for talent but also a remarkable example of the long hours of extra-curricular work put in by staff and students alike. Equally, the long and patient efforts of parents in the wardrobe department should be noted: Mesdames Finn, Lynch, Mortimer and Walsh were involved for many a year. Many will recall the determination of people such as Sr David, Sr Stephanie, Fr Harwood, Mr Peter Owens, Mrs Valda Tattersfield, Mrs Yvonne Hickey, particularly with her choreography, and more recently Ms Lindy Cavanagh and Mr John Boyce, among others, in consistently producing shows of which the school community could



be justifiably proud.

In the same vein, another long standing tradition is the College Eisteddfod held every year. It gives St Peter's students practical experience in public speaking, in singing, in dance and in music. It develops invaluable confidence along the way.

In 1970 religious teachers reached their maximum number of thirteen. Mrs Loyola Williams, the first lay person, joined them in 1971, and after retiring as Assistant Principal in 2001, she was at that stage the longest serving member of staff.

'Mons' Finlay retired as Parish Priest of Gore in 1972 and a grand tribute appeared in the third term Rock that year.

From the school's inception the school magazine, the Rock has recorded events. It took its name from "You are Peter and it is upon this rock that I shall build my church". Three issues were put out every year. The Chronicle was written up each week by Br Tedesco, and then by Fr Cunningham.

In 1972 for the first time, St Peter's won the Bishops' Shield.

This was also the era of summer tours around the North Island, and even to Fiji. After 1980 tours were made to Australia. Fr Syd Marriott and Fr John Bland were also responsible for organising and taking tours and trips beyond the Mainland for inter-school exchanges with our sister school, Rosmini College in Auckland.

In 1979 our dramatic new Chapel building was completed. Fr Michael Hill launched an appeal to the Catholic community of Southland early in 1977 for an estimated \$60000. The final figure was closer to \$100000. Members of the Rosminian and Mercy orders spent their weekends speaking in parishes in support of the project. Within a year of opening, the Chapel was debt free, a monument to the donations raised by a committed and selfless community.

Changing Times

Along with the students, the St Peter's uniforms have changed with the times. When the school opened the uniform was grey and red. Boys wore grey socks with red tops, grey shorts, grey shirt and a pullover with a red v neck; girls wore white socks, grey wrap-around skirts, white blouses, ties and a red cardigan. All thought they looked very smart, though the girls' skirts tended to unwrap when they sat on the high stools in the laboratories! Since 1969 several changes came and went. A royal blue blazer was introduced in 1981 and the woollen kilt the following year.

Greater changes than uniform were also taking place. Catholic schools had been operating as privately run Church schools for almost one hundred years when the Kirk Labour Government held an historic conference in 1973. The eventual outcome was that the Crown assumed responsibility for funding and the payment of teachers, while the Bishop of the Dunedin Diocese, as the proprietor of the school, retained some rights. These were in relation to the special features of the education St Peter's provides as a Catholic school: the Special Character that distinguishes it from any state school. St Peter's officially became a private school integrated into the State System on the first day of Term 1 1982, after the conclusion of lengthy negotiations which had begun before the College was among the first group of various schools submitted by the Bishops for integration in 1978.

However, as a Form One to Seven school in an urban area, there were many objections, some locally, some nationally, before an equitable solution to the integration process was reached. Fr Eric Willett, as Headmaster, was thus able to say, "It will be an event of the greatest significance in time to come, because the school could not continue to operate in its present form without placing an impossible financial burden on its parents."

In 1984 another momentous change took place when the first lay Principal, Kerry Henderson, was appointed. He took over from Martin Thyne, who had been Acting Principal in the first term of the year. But 1984 was also the year when the school community and the townsfolk of Gore were saddened tremendously by the sudden death of Br John Tedesco who had dedicated much of his life to building up St Peter's and St Paul's as a pioneer founder of the school. He had also involved himself fully in the local community,

...serving two terms on the Gore Borough Council.

In 1991 John Boyce succeeded Kerry Henderson as Principal. Four years later he led the College in celebrating its Silver Jubilee over the long Easter weekend. Many of those involved with St Peter's, from its beginning, to current students and staff, were able to take part in the class reunions, the photos, the liturgies the Mass in the Parish Church, the Dance and the Banquet.

To achieve continuing academic success in such a competitive environment, a school must ensure that its students have access to new opportunities and new technology. Numerous projects such as the refurbishment of the science labs, the new Robertson Street entrance, the new art room and the technical block and music suites took place between 1994 and 1997, when the final stage of the new building programme was started. Completed late in 1998, St Peter's is now a thoroughly modern complex with the resources to ensure that its students and staff are able to achieve their best, in fine surroundings that facilitate teaching and learning.

Over the thirty year history of the school, and throughout the tenure of six principals, two things that seems to stand out are character and involvement.

With the departure of Sr Sue France from St Peter's in 1990 a 115 year period of teaching from the Sisters of Mercy in Gore came to an end. At the Mercy Day Assembly shortly before she left, Sr Sue gave a reason for the decline of the teaching Sisters of Mercy when she said, "The Sisters came to New Zealand to do work that others were not able to do at the time. It seems only right, now that there are able and committed teachers to carry on Catholic education, that the Sisters are moving into other areas of work, such as tertiary chaplaincy, counselling, parish work, and the care of the sick and handicapped, as well as being involved in education, but not necessarily teaching in schools." This reason would seem to equally apply to other orders.

What of the recent College?

The modern College continues to thrive. Despite declining population statistics for our region our numbers are stable. Our Catholic community and other eligible families' patronage have ensured that our classrooms and hostel have viable numbers of students.

We know that families regard a Catholic values based education very highly and we are also aware that that other aspects are essential for roll retention.

The following dimensions of the school remain vibrant:

Special Character: Students are well aware of global social justice issues and increasingly see their Religious Studies classes as valuable opportunities to learn more.



NCEA successes from 2006:

	St Peter's	All NZ	All decile 8
Y11 earning Level 1	80.8%	60.3%	70.5%
Y11 earning literacy	100%	75.2%	84.5%
Y11 earning numeracy	100%	82.3%	90.6%
Y12 earning Level 2	86.7%	64.2%	73.5%
Y13 earning Level 3	86.5%	52.5%	56.6%
Y13 earning Univ. Ent.	73.0%	48.5%	52.6%

	All NZ girls	Girls' only schools	St Peter's girls
Level 1	65.2%	77.8%	79%
Level 2	69.1%	81.2%	94%
Level 3	58.7%	71.9%	95%

	All NZ boys	Boys' only schools	St Peter's boys
Level 1	55.5%	64.6%	83%
Level 2	58.9%	65.5%	71%
Level 3	45.6%	51.6%	71%

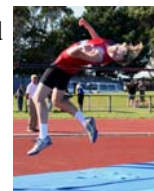
Cultural successes:

- Despite being the smallest of the diocese secondary schools, the College won the Bishop's Shield in 2005 and was runner up in 2006.
- In March this year a college troupe won the Southland final in the Sheilah Winn Shakespeare Competition. Those students will journey to Wellington to take part in national finals in June.



Sporting successes:

- Our Senior A netball came 5th in the South Island tournament last year
- Both boys' and girls' hockey teams won their tournament week competitions
- 22 all time records are broken at our Athletics. This follows the breaking or equalling of 15 records in the previous year



Student leadership:

- In line with our slogan 'Preparation for Life', our students are well balanced individuals. No one left school without academic qualifications last year.
- Our Head Students for 2007 are Hayley Saunders and Dylan Hanna (son of former student Faye Marshall)



Staff:

- Our staff members continue to be dedicated and caring. Turn-over figures are low. Former student Monica Moore (formerly Dore) left our staff for a teaching job in Auckland and was replaced by our 2002 Head Girl Amy Weir (pictured). Amy is the grand daughter of early days' fundraising stalwart Les Roughan.



40th Jubilee—calling all interested parties

If it is to occur, the 40th jubilee of our college could take place during the Christmas break of 2008-2009 or over the following Easter.

Your Foundation Committee does not regard itself as the jubilee committee. Instead, it defines its task as keeping our community's database, producing this newsletter and fundraising.

The committee will however convene the first meeting of the jubilee committee where committee members will have to be elected.

40th Jubilee Planning Meeting
St Peter's College Library
7:30pm Sunday 24 June 2007
All are welcome
Apologies to the school office at 03 208 9060 or
office@stpetersgore.school.nz

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 found at <http://www.stpetersgore.school.nz>. It has: the four previous editions of this newsletter, our weekly school newsletter, details for intending students - including international students, former student details and a fuller 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.

Julie Henry, who now administers our database from the school office, also invites you to assist in our quest for names and locations by referring to www.oldfriends.co.nz and adding your knowledge.

God bless