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GDC ALUMNI

July 2019

The Principal's Desk

Dear Alumni,

Richard Dykes, the Principal, is currently overseas on a Woolf Fisher fellowship. He has been visiting schools in Canada, the USA and London. We look forward to his return, so that we can hear about the best practices overseas and also how well New Zealand schools compare.

Richard referred to the property changes that are taking place in the last newsletter. We are currently finalising tenders for the new weights room, which will be attached to the side of the Moore gym, the new garages, which will be replacing the old weights room behind the original gym, and for the science block. By the time of the next Alumni newsletter, the weights room and garages should be completed.

Winter sport is well underway with over 50 winter sports teams. The Senior A netball team is in the Premier A grade for the first time in our history. We are also fielding an open weight First XV Rugby team for the first time in a number of years. There are 11 football teams, 15 netball teams and hockey is a growth sports with 7 teams. The college's Underwater Hockley teams continue to do well with the Junior Open team recently winner of the Northern Regional Tournament. Jeanette Bell's legacy continues.

The Arts Faculty has undergone considerable change with the retirement of Mrs Myhre (Music), and Ms Stone (Drama) and Mrs Cooper (Art) both moving out of Auckland. As a result, there has not been a school production this year. Instead, there has been the successful Whakaatu Toi Art Exhibition for two days in the school hall followed by Whakaatu Toi Showcase highlighting the talents of our music, drama and dance students.

The college has a very active Parents' Association and if you live locally, please take advantage of the events they organise. Recently, they arranged for Nigel Latta to present on 'Adventure in Parentland: The teenage years'. Nigel was highly entertaining and offered sound practical advice to parents. I also had the pleasure of catching up with a couple of former students. The next Parents' Association fundraising event is planned for Saturday, 24 August 2019. The Principal's newsletter will have further details.

Having been at the college for 32 years, it is great that I have the opportunity to share events that have been happening in the college. It is always enjoyable catching up with former students even if I do struggle to remember names and faces at times.

Nga mihi
Gordon Robertson
Acting Principal

Coming up in 2019...

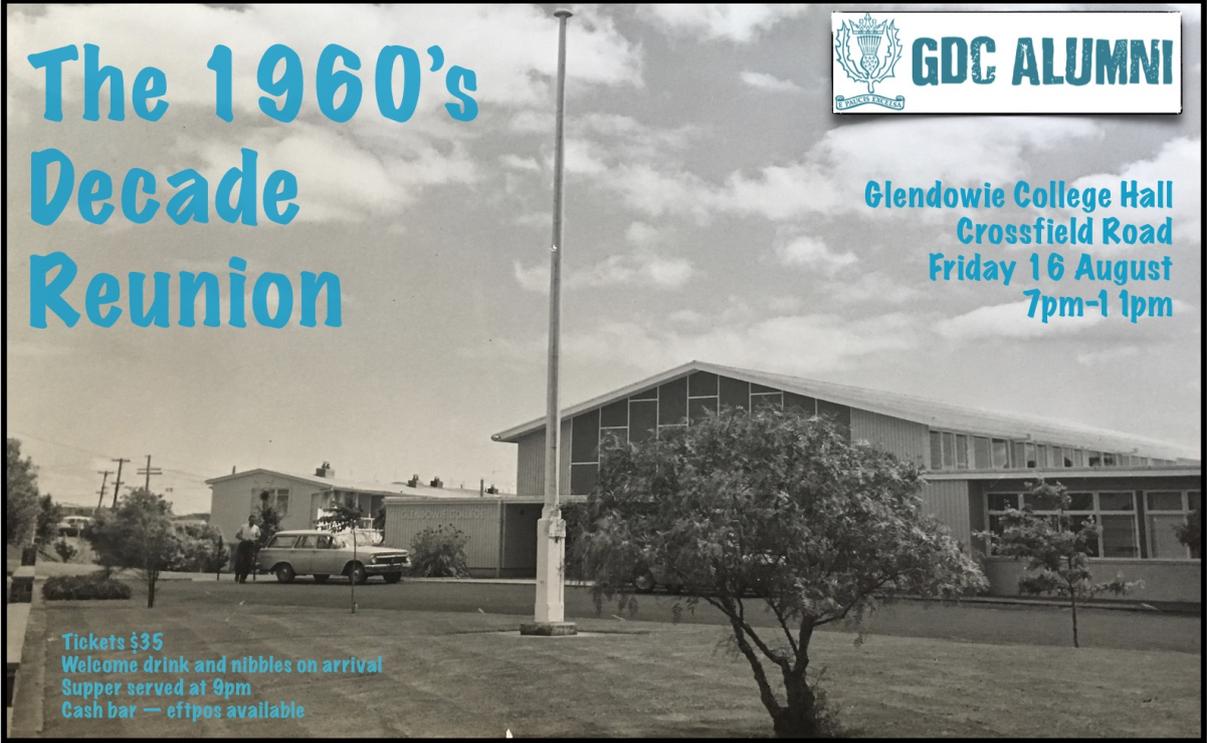
1960's Decade Reunion - August 16, 7pm-11pm

2019 Leavers' Morning Tea, November 1

1960's DECADE REUNION, FRIDAY AUGUST 16

To book: <https://www.trybooking.co.nz/BEV>

Bookings for this event are coming in thick and fast with **more than 100 people currently registered**. Many foundation pupils will attend and former students are coming from as far away as Australia, as well as all around New Zealand. Don't miss out on this opportunity to catch up with old classmates who attended Glendowie College during any year of the 1960s -- make a booking before August 12.



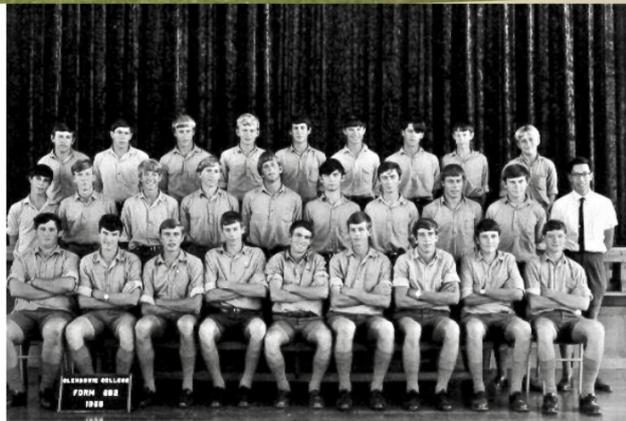
**The 1960's
Decade
Reunion**

GDC ALUMNI

**Glendowie College Hall
Crossfield Road
Friday 16 August
7pm-11pm**

**Tickets \$35
Welcome drink and nibbles on arrival
Supper served at 9pm
Cash bar — eftpos available**

A little reminder of some of your 1960s classmates ...



Stay in touch...

Find us on Facebook - Glendowie College Alumni

[Link to Facebook group](#)

and on Instagram:

<https://www.instagram.com/gdcalumni>

Alumni News

Ben Thompson into the Major Leagues



Former Glendowie student Ben Thompson has signed with the Atlanta Braves after becoming just the third-ever New Zealander to be drafted in Major League Baseball's Rookie Draft.

Ben, 21, has overcome a serious elbow injury, which required surgery and meant he missed the 2017/18 season to achieve this success.



He faced a difficult to decision in signing for the Braves as he was also offered a full scholarship to Tulane University in New Orleans, Louisiana. Ben has been based in Canada and the US for the past four years, furthering his baseball career, and has been in impressive form for his Chandler Gilbert

Community College team in Arizona this year.

NZ coach Dan Tan praised Ben for his tenacity on coming back from injury and for often finding the time to give back to upcoming generations of young New Zealand baseball players. Huge congratulations to Ben on this historic achievement.

Follow us on Instagram to keep up with our news

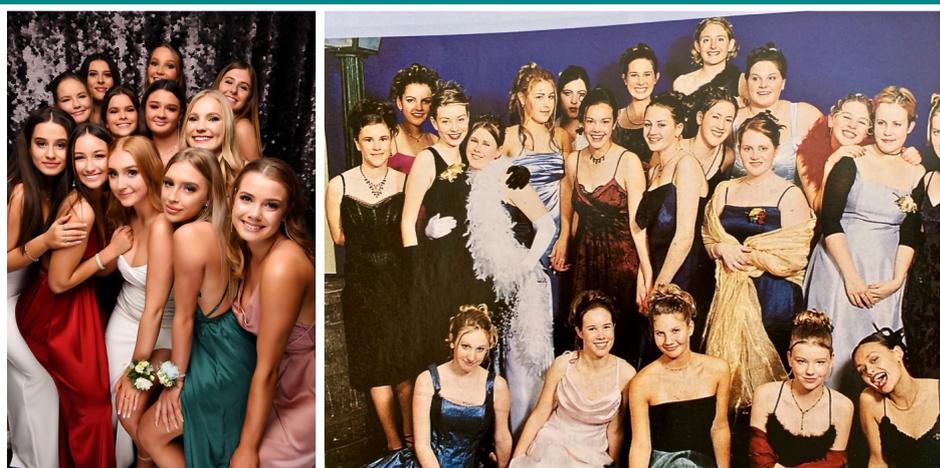
[gdcalumni](#)



Keep us in touch with your news and send updates to [*alumni@gdc.school.nz*](mailto:alumni@gdc.school.nz)

Then and Now...

Girls at this year's GDC Ball versus girls at the ball in 2003



School news

CHINA TRIP

A group of 20 Glendowie College students travelled to China during the April school holidays, taking in Beijing, Ningbo, Suzhou and Shanghai. The students were able to experience many different aspects of Chinese culture and extend their language and business skills. The group went to landmarks such as the Great Wall of China, The Forbidden Palace, Summer Palace, the Yu Yuan gardens and Shanghai Disneyland. The students learned a great deal about China's long history and had a lot of fun and formed a tight-knit group along the way.



HAVING A BALL

The college held its annual ball in late May at Eden Park, which is always a highlight of students' time at the school. It was an opportunity for the students to get dressed to the nines and the venue was transformed into a tropical paradise, adorned with palm trees, fairy lights and birds-of-paradise fronds as per the "Tropical Nights" theme. The students made the most of the photography options as well as the great music provided by DJ Dan Holland, assisted by student Julian van der Plank, and the students danced the night away.



ARTS ON DISPLAY

The new-look college Arts Faculty presented the first-ever Whakaatu Toi in the second-to-last week of term: an exhibition and showcase of student learning in the arts in 2019. The three-day event was a celebration and collaboration from all four disciplines. The art exhibition ran for two days and almost 500 pieces of art were on display by students from year 9 to year 13. It was officially opened on the Monday with live music, food and drinks and judging by Melissa Wallace from Turua Gallery. The Gala Showcase took place on Wednesday June 26 and featured performances from 139 students in drama, music and dance. The programme included work from the performance arts at all year levels, including NCEA assessment pieces and co-curricular groups (the choir, concert band, big band, theatre sports demonstrations, scholarship drama, and the junior and senior dance troupes).



Would you like to help us stay in touch?

We are looking for a key person from each year (1961 - 2018) to be involved with promoting the alumni events. If you are interested, please contact Nicole at alumni@gdc.school.nz

Spread the Word

If you are in contact with other ex-students

please forward them this newsletter or the link to join our growing Alumni



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Thank you for being part of the Glendowie College Alumni
We look forward to staying connected
alumni@gdc.school.nz