

Acknowledging the life and contribution of Thomas Trevor Ryder (TTR) JP NZOM.

It is with regret that New Plymouth Boys' High School informs you of the passing of the schools' seventh Headmaster - Thomas (Tom) Ryder. At this time of grief, our thoughts and condolences are extended to his wife Joan, his children, grandchildren and wider whānau and friends.

Tom passed away peacefully, pain-free on the morning of the 5th April, 2018, aged 83.

Tom gave an impressive 16 years of service as Headmaster from 1979-1994. Foremost in his mind was an unrelenting focus on excellence. He demanded, rather than requested, the best from everyone. Students, teachers and even parents were very clear on the required standard and, while not everyone liked this pressure and attention, no one was in any doubt as to why he demanded it. It was for the betterment of the boys and our school.

Tom (or TTR as he was often referred to) expected excellent academic results, something he set about with fierce determination. Attainment levels were

raised considerably during his tenure and it is not overstating to say he demanded high behavioural standards from every student (and any adults within his sphere of influence). It was not uncommon for Tom to stop his car and accost an unsuspecting student on a NP street for having his socks down or shirt slightly askew. As a result of this relentless pursuit of excellence, New Plymouth Boys' High School's reputation grew both inside and outside the classroom.

Although Tom had old-fashioned values, upon these values was layered a vision for improvement and innovation. Whether this be in the form of significant curriculum and pastoral care reform, flagship buildings enhancing the school grounds, and developing a burgeoning and financially viable hostel (in which he took a particular and passionate interest) Tom saw what many didn't and was, in many regards, revolutionary for a Headmaster of a traditional boys school. His commitment to using te reo and his support of Māori and Pasifika students was an impressive example of this.

Tom was a doer. He led by example, he picked up rubbish, he worked incredibly hard and long hours. No barriers or excuses were accepted. The jobs got done. Tom made things happen. The big projects were completed and yet his attention to detail was extraordinary, right down to personally polishing the brass on plaques that were scattered around the school.



While he walked the talk, Tom liked to talk. His ability to hold an audience (often longer than they often wanted to be held) was legendary. His vocabulary, his recall of facts and figures due to a razor-sharp long-term memory, his eloquence and repartee was impressive in full school assemblies or small groups.

Tom's legacy *is* our proud history. It is woven throughout the fabric of New Plymouth Boys' High School in the form of our impressive grounds and buildings, excellent results (academic and extracurricular), and most importantly, throughout the fabric of our communities via people whom he pushed, supported and *expected* to reach their potential and who now contribute positively to society.

A man focussed on the pursuit of excellence, a man ahead of his time (a visionary), and a man who just got stuff done..., for the boys.

Et Comitatus Et Virtute Et Sapientia

Comradeship Valour Wisdom

TTR - On behalf of all the boys and staff, past and present, rest in peace

The funeral will be held at Knox Presbyterian Church, Fitzroy, New Plymouth at 2:00pm Tuesday 10th April.

This will be followed by a public reception at the Church Hall.