

The David (Edwin) Smart Collection 1943- 1951

We have been taking some time to revisit the school's rich history of images, books, recollections and memories, and want to share these stories with you, making this trove of material accessible to all. As we dip into the archive, we find correspondence from David (Edwin) Smart who wrote of his memories boarding at Wellesley from 1943 – 1951. Dave's older brother Trevor started at Wellesley on the same day in 1943 (pic shows them leaving their home, a sheep station near Martinborough, Wairarapa to begin their boarding days at Wellesley). Their younger brother Graeme (known as Jim) started five years later. David (known as Dave) stays in close contact with Wellesley and we thought these accounts which are complemented by the Smart photos donated to our archives collection are of particular interest.

Some of David's boarding memories are published below:

"Chemistry with Hoppy was an experience at Wellesley not to be missed. One of the things he loved to do was get a jar of liquid oxygen/hydrogen and dip a dead rat into it or anything that bounced, like tennis balls. When they came out of the mixture frozen and you hit them with a hammer, bits of frozen rat and tennis ball would fly everywhere. Hoppy would tell us that if we stuck a finger in it, it would end up like a dead rat."



Picture: c. 1949 Trevor back row second from left and David front row with broken arm

"I was running around on top of the desks, fell out the window and broke my arm (on a Sunday night). No rushing to the hospital there. 'Don't worry Dave, we'll take you on Monday' ...my arm was in plaster for three months. Finally got it out of plaster...went back to school, jumped over the tennis court net, fell and back in Hutt hospital with the same arm broken again. Didn't go down too well with the hospital staff."

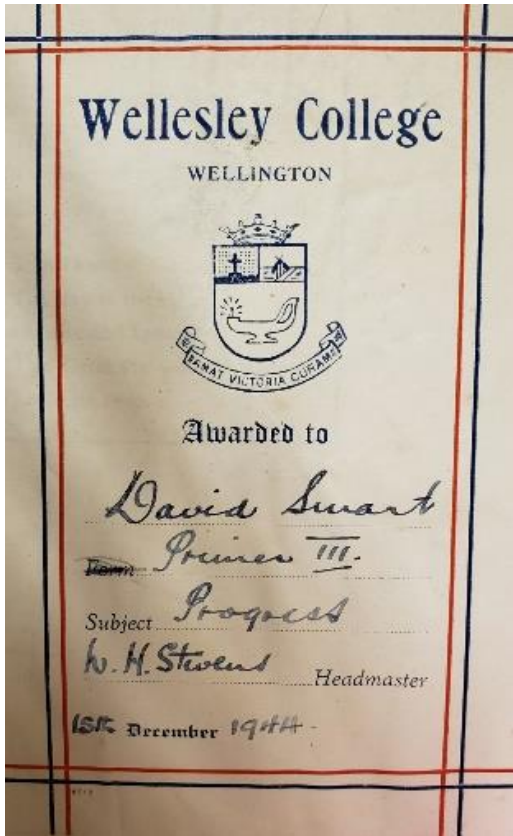
The grounds were tendered by the boys, let loose with six or seven hand mowers. They cut their names in the grass and raced around aimlessly before knuckling down to help Kitty Stevens (the Headmaster's wife) frantically weed flower gardens in preparation for big events.

David joined older brother Trevor in the school choir, encouraged by the thought of getting supper at the end of year party and when singing at the Eastbourne churches. "The food appealed much more than the singing."

Manners, especially table manners, were drummed into the boys. On returning home, Edwin recalls telling a shepherd on his parent's farm that "he wasn't holding his knife and fork correctly."

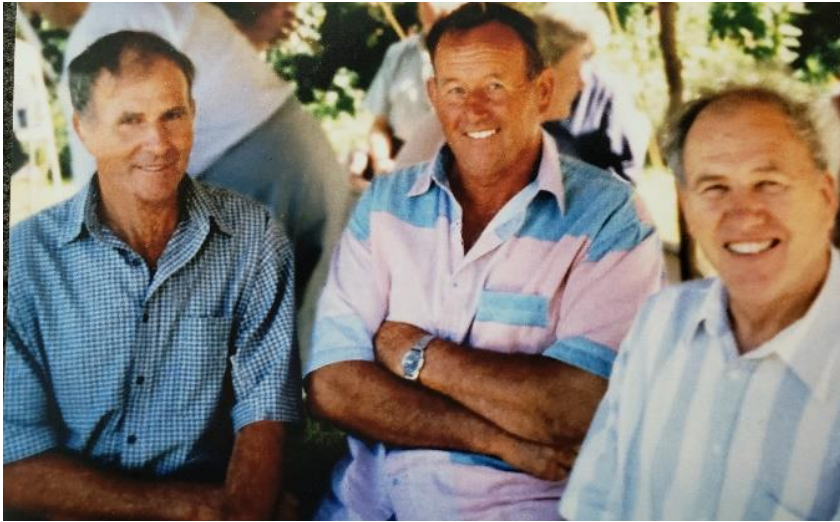


Large group of boarders pictured at Wellesley 1948: L-R: Gerry Pallo, ?, Neil Aston, ?, Brian Monks, Barry Shorter, Constantine Garland, Robin Saggars, Peter Lewis, Lindsay Hart, Ken Herd, Trevor Smart, Ron Grieve, Brian Bolt, Antony Hargreaves, x Holyoak (Keith or Roger), ?



Left Image: Book template for the book 'Tom Thumb' was awarded to David for his progress in Standard 3, in 1944.

Right Image: David Smart and Robert Rose, c1948 on Days Bay beach



It has been wonderful to reconnect with the Smarts. Trevor is 84 years living in Lower Hutt; Dave now 83 lives in the Hawkes Bay with his wife Steph, and sadly, younger brother Graeme passed away in 2012. They are pictured here together in 1995 (L-R: David, Graeme and Trevor Smart)