



Norman Graham Thomas (Graham Tommo) 1937 – 2020

Attended Wellesley 1950 - 1951

Born in Christchurch on 22 April 1937, Graham attended Wellesley, as a boarder, from 1950 - 1951. After Wellesley, Graham attended Wellington College.

At Wellesley, he had significant sporting achievements. His medals pictured below include these descriptions:

Senior athletics champion 1950-51; Cross Country Champion 1950-51; Captain 1st XV rugby 1951; LGT HW Boxing Champion 1950-51; Open Mile Champion 1950-51; Champion of Champions 1951.

At Wellington College, he pretty much repeated his Wellesley sporting achievements, becoming the cross-country and athletics champion. What an outstanding athlete.



Graham moved to Whakatane with wife Trish in 1978 and became a well-known part of the community. As the town's Community Recreation Officer, he was known as a positive, friendly and community minded man. As the town's recreation officer, he did huge amounts for the youth of the town, organising interesting activities to keep them busy every school holidays. He was an active country music singer and was well known in the community, often promoting community events and getting people engaged.

As the local spokesman for the New Zealand Motor Home Association, he campaigned long and hard for the council to introduce overnight camping sites for self-contained vehicles, knowing such visitors contributed positively to the economy of the town. He was also chairman of the Awatapu Residents Association, born in the aftermath of the 2004 floods to discuss problems that occurred prior to and during the flooding of Awatapu.

Graham was a well-loved man of many talents and he shared many of those talents for the enhancement and the enjoyment of others. Sadly, this Champion of Champions passed away on the 10th of December 2020, aged 83 years. He was the devoted husband to Trish for 41 years. Our most heartfelt sympathies go out to Graham's family and friends, from the staff and boys at Wellesley.

