

## Wyvern John Laing 1942 - 2022

*Attended Wellesley 1949 - 1954*



Wyvern was born 2 December 1942 and attended Wellesley, as a boarder, from 1949 – 1954. In 1953, he won the Boxing title at Wellesley. His older brother Ian also attended Wellesley (1948-1952) and was also a keen sportsman and a member of the Wellesley choir. After leaving Wellesley, Wyvern attended Wairarapa College.

In 1969, he married Chrissie and they took over the family farm on the outskirts of Masterton. Chrissie and Wyvern had three children, Tim, Rick, and Sophie, and three grandchildren.

Farming and the community were a huge part of Wyvern's life and according to Chrissie, "he really enjoyed his farming days, fishing and, in the latter years, playing cards (500 most weekday afternoons at local RSA clubs)."

Wellesley enjoyed staying in touch with Wyvern and recall his visit to the College back in 2007. He also contributed photos and memorabilia to our archives collection.

Wyvern passed away peacefully, after a short illness, on January 8th, 2022, surrounded by his family in Masterton, aged 79 years. Wyvern's family "made sure there was humour in the funeral tributes, he wanted a very light-hearted service with Elvis Presley and ABBA music - he would have enjoyed that."

Our most heartfelt sympathies go out to Wyvern's family, from the staff and boys at Wellesley.



*1951 with older brother Ian's sports medals*

**Sources:** *Chris Laing and the Wellesley College Archives*