

Towards the end of my last year at Intermediate school I needed to decide where I would go to High School. I was zoned for Tamaki College and although my father was insistent that I was to go there, I did not want to. The school had a terrible academic record and a reputation for thuggery. I wanted to go to Selwyn College in Kohimarama, but getting entry was tough. Firstly, I was out-of-zone, secondly my father was not supportive of the idea and thirdly if I had any chance then I had to pass some tough IQ tests and entrance exams. I aced them and was offered a position. My father was never ever happy with that decision.



1968 - My first year at Selwyn - Class 3A

L to R back row: Barry Thom, Greg Everard, Tony Bracegirdle, Lindsay Knott, Alan Rasmussen, Geer Iseke, Ken Farrell, Raymond Joy, Laurie Stanton
 L to R 3rd row: Melitta Faine, Eddie Darvil, Mark Jefferson, Alan Bollard, Richard Fletcher, ms, Robin Meltzer
 L to R 2nd row: Fiona Mouat, Brenda Ellis, Nicola Barney, Christine Rudman, Caroline Hawker, Karen Booker, Judith Gibson, Christine Miller, Claire March
 L to R front row: Lorraine Johnstone, Lorraine Bright, Sylvia Rosevear, Robyn North, Rosemary Bloomfield, Sally Dutton, Julie Bartley, Lesley Wallace and Miss Rae Storey

In 1968, I started my high school education at Selwyn College. I was placed in a the "A" stream alongside some extremely bright students and my first form teacher was Miss Goodwin (now Mrs Rae Storey). We wore uniforms including a cap (with knob – which I still possess), long socks (with garters) and dark grey shorts. We had 34 in our class.

We were assigned the very best of the teaching staff and given the opportunity to indulge in some advanced education practices. Our first lesson with the science teacher, Mr Chris Smith, was a shock. He pointed to the chart of the periodic table on the wall and said "you all have one night to learn this table in your head ... or you are out of my class!" – we all learned it and yes, I still know it to this day. It is important to note that this same Mr Smith was the man who introduced me to Bridge more than 50 years ago!



Principal - O. W. G. Lewis

Our teachers included Mr Stan Walker for Latin, Miss Evans for French, Mr Skerrett for music, Miss Goodwin & Mr Alan Burton for English, Mr Keith Patience for Social Studies, Mr Smith and Mr Millar for chemistry and physics and Miss Rachel Tucker for maths, Mr Paddy Malone for art, Mr Armstrong for Phys Ed, Mr Green for technical drawing, Miss Gay Griffith for English and the principal was Mr Owen W G Lewis, a hugely respected man and former English master at Auckland Grammar School.



Miss Rachel Tucker
 Mathematics (Introduced me to computers – I am forever grateful!)



Mr Green - Woodwork
 (Taught me Technical Drawing – wonderful mentor)



Mr Paddy Malone - Tried to teach me Art



Miss Rae Goodwin - English



Mr Keith Millar - Physics



Mr Alan Burton - English



Mr Steven Lowe - Maths
 (one of my all-time great mentors)



Mr Geoffrey Skerrett - Music
 (fostered my love of music)



Mr Stan Walker - Latin



Miss Evans - French (I hated the subject!)



Mr Keith Patience - Social Studies



Mr Armstrong - Physical Education