

## 1888

Captain - 1st XV - - - F.H.Campbell

Captain - Juniors - - - R.Matheson

### First Fifteen

C.S.Haggitt, J.N.Owen, W.J.Cran, R.C.Gillies, R.Hendrie, A.W.Gillies, E.J.Gibson, E.A.Paterson, F.H.Campbell, E.Webster, H.Morris, J.McBrearty, J.R.Montgomery, F.G.Gibson, D.McKay.

### Interschools

1st XV	<b>Christ's College</b> - Christchurch - lost 1 point to 3 McBrearty try (1 point) Williams try (1), Perry goal (2) Played 6, won 2, lost 4
2nd XV	Waitaki High School 1st XV - won 5 points to nil Played 3 ,won 3

School Magazine October 1888

Excerpts from a report on the teams trip to the West Coast.

The season of 1888 will forever be, by reason of the visit of the football team to Hokitika and Greymouth, an eventful one in the annals of our School sports. It was at first thought that the expenses of such a trip would be too heavy, but all difficulties were at last overcome, and the morning of the 5th of July saw our representatives on the station, ready to start for the West Coast via Christchurch. Nothing of interest occurred until we reached Oamaru; but, reader, imagine the surprise of the good people of that city of white stone at the spectacle of about a dozen of our fellows speeding up the streets in search of "grub;" while the consternation was re-doubled when that same troop came speeding down again, each pair of cheeks working in a remarkable way; each hand grasping a paper bag. And so we journeyed on.....until we at length arrived at the "City of the Plains," all safe but rather tired. Here all was excitement as we were welcomed by the Christ's fellows,.... The whole team was, I may explain, "put up" at private houses.... The eventful match with College came off on Saturday, the 7th, but the football deity did not smile on us..... we had the best of a hardly fought game, our success ended in "mourning and gnashing of teeth," for we could not increase our score of one point while our northern friends had the good fortune to top our score on the very call of time.

Tuesday morning found us again on the Christchurch station..... We arrived at Springfield at 11 am and started out in two coaches on our eventful journey. It was raining in torrents, but the deluge became snowflakes when we got up in the hills. We changed horses at "Seven Springs," and shortly afterwards reached Cloudsley's Hotel.... The next place we changed horses was "Craigieburn";..... and the rate we came down the hill would have astonished many people... It was about 5.30 pm and the shades of night were fast closing in. Both coaches then left for Bealey and arrived there about 9 o'clock.

At 5.30 am the first coach started in the freezing morn, without a bite of "grub;" thank goodness, I went on the second conveyance, which did not start until 8.30 am. On we went over road so heavy with snow, that we had to tramp up all the inclines. Having crossed Arthur's Pass, we arrived at the post which marks the boundary line between Canterbury and Westland. The descending road, which is cut out of the side of the rock, winds round the edge of the mountain..... On we sped down this lovely road, which was little more than the width of the coach.....the leading coach was joined at "Taipo" by one of the mining fraternity, who was just a little the worse for drink.....after starting, his hat blew off, and he jumped after it, the wonder being that he did not break his neck in the attempt.... we went after our erring brother, and tried to hurry him on, but this made him all the worse, as, pulling out a penny, he offered to bet our worthy representative to a race.

The Assault was a great success..... All the items of the performance went off very well considering the fatigue consequent on the afternoons match. Nothing else of importance occurred in Hokitika before our departure to Greymouth.

The drive to Kumara was very pleasant, while the tram drive from Kumara to Teremakau was one of the most beautiful pieces of scenery on the journey. The fellows all wish the Teremakau River had been a few miles longer, as the journey in the queer little cage was splendid. We got into Greymouth pretty late in the evening, having gone off the line only once. A few of the fellows were accommodated at Messrs. Mackay and Perotti's, but the majority put up at Kilgour's Hotel. The weather was beautiful.....notwithstanding the icy wind, named "the barber." The match took place in the afternoon, resulting in a draw.

Sunday proved uneventful, being spent in visiting the wreck of the Gerda and the churches, of course. On Monday, the Lawn Tennis Courts were kindly placed at the disposal of the fellows, who, although out of practice, made good use of them..... On Tuesday, the team was photographed by Mr. Ring; thence proceeding to the race-course, where the second match was played and won (2 points to nil), the team being entertained at a dinner in the evening. Next day we started our return journey to Kumara..... Next morning saw us on our coach journey back to Hokitika.... arriving safely the next day at noon. On Friday afternoon, the great cricket match was played in the presence of a good many spectators, amongst whom were several ladies.

Our opponents were not brilliant cricketers..... The fellows were greatly amused at one of them, called "Ike," a genial half-caste, who exclaimed, on his appearance at the wickets: "My word, I believe I've got the pad on the wrong leg." After an interesting game, the School won by 22 runs. Those who did not take part in the match went up to Lake Mahinapua, in a four-oared boat; some of the crew appeared to be rather "out of form" as one gentleman who witnessed their departure remarked afterwards, "that every man seemed to be 'stroke' " In the evening, the whole team, at the invitation of the Hokitika team attended the Literary Society's concert..... Next day, the final match of the tour - v Hokitika - was played. The weather was fine, and the ground in good order, while the attendance was fairly numerous. The game was won by the School by 8 points to nil. At its conclusion, medals were presented for the best back and forward on the ground....best back was won by Owen.....special prize to R.Hendrie for his excellent play. Next morning, we started at 6 am for Springfield; it is needless to say that everybody was sorry to leave Hokitika...treated right royally, both by the Football Club, and by the general public.

During our visit.....we had been fortunate in having fine weather; but on our return journey, we had to pay the penalty, as the rain came down in torrents. After leaving the "Taipo" the worst part of the road was encountered, as several slips had occurred. Once the coach stopped, and we received the order to "get out and clear the boulders off the road" and boulders they were too, as it took four of the team,

with crowbars, to roll one of them over the bank. The Otira Gorge was not reached until 5.45 pm, instead of 1.30 pm, Here we had dinner, and then pushed on, cheerful, though soaking wet, for the Bealy, which was reached about 10.30 pm. Next day (Monday), we started at about 8 am, arrived in Springfield just in time to catch the train for Christchurch. We travelled the last ten miles in about an hour, and when I say that the average rate is about five miles an hour the reader can imagine how the driver "put it on." We arrived in Christchurch at 7.40 pm, and "put up" for the night at the Metropolitan Hotel. Next day we made our way to Dunedin.....Just as we were leaving the Palmerston station, the station-master put his head in our carriage, exclaiming "You're the quietest football team that ever came through Palmerton." If that station-master had only known that we were all half-asleep, he would not have paid us such a compliment. We arrived in Dunedin, all safe, and received a very hearty welcome from a large crowd who had assembled to meet us. Our trip had lasted exactly twenty days.

The result of the matches played is as follows:-

Won 3                      Lost 1                      Drawn 1

The trip was hardly a financial success, but all things considered, we did very well.