



Celebrating the community of Hamilton East

## Jim Hawes: Teacher of respect and laughter

AS Jim popped in from across the road for the interview, my dog shot through the front door and went cat hunting. After helping me 'capture' her, we grabbed a cuppa and got down to the business at hand.

Like many of his fellow passengers, Jim's great grandfather made the six month sea voyage to New Zealand from Buckinghamshire circa 1896. They were promised 50 acres of land in return for spending time each year building a road from Karamea to Westport. The alcoholic skipper sold alcohol to punters on board before expiring from cirrhosis of the liver three weeks out from Nelson. The passengers were deposited on the beach at Karamea and told the boat would return in two months time. His great grandmother sat on a fallen tree and cried, being afraid of wild animals in the forest! The family lived at Waimangaroa with Jim's grandfather working on his father's dairy farm. Jim's father was destined for the coal mine but got as far as the coal mouth before voicing his disapproval of this idea and joining the railway on the same day; becoming a railway porter in Westport and later a shunter in Christchurch.

Jim was born in Christchurch in 1930 and went to Christchurch Boys High, graduating with University Entrance before attending Christchurch Teacher's College. Country service as a primary school Probationary Teaching Assistant was spent at the hamlet of Hawarden, south of Hamner Springs. Although enjoying the teaching, with little to do, Jim was quite relieved to move on to Westport and later the newly opened Woodstock School in Hamilton.

In 1956, Jim met Joan, a nurse in Te Awamutu at a friend's party above the BNZ. In those days, bank staff had accommodation upstairs from what is now a pub still called "The Bank" in Victoria St. They married in 1958. The Hawes had three boys and a girl. They now have 10 grandchildren and two great grandchildren. They are great as it is- "all care and no responsibility". One of the Hawe's offspring is a teacher at Berkley Intermediate, another retraining to teach computer science at Teacher's College, and another a Chaplain. If he had his time over, Jim says he would spend more time with his children when they were young which was very difficult with his job.

Hamilton East

### Local Lives

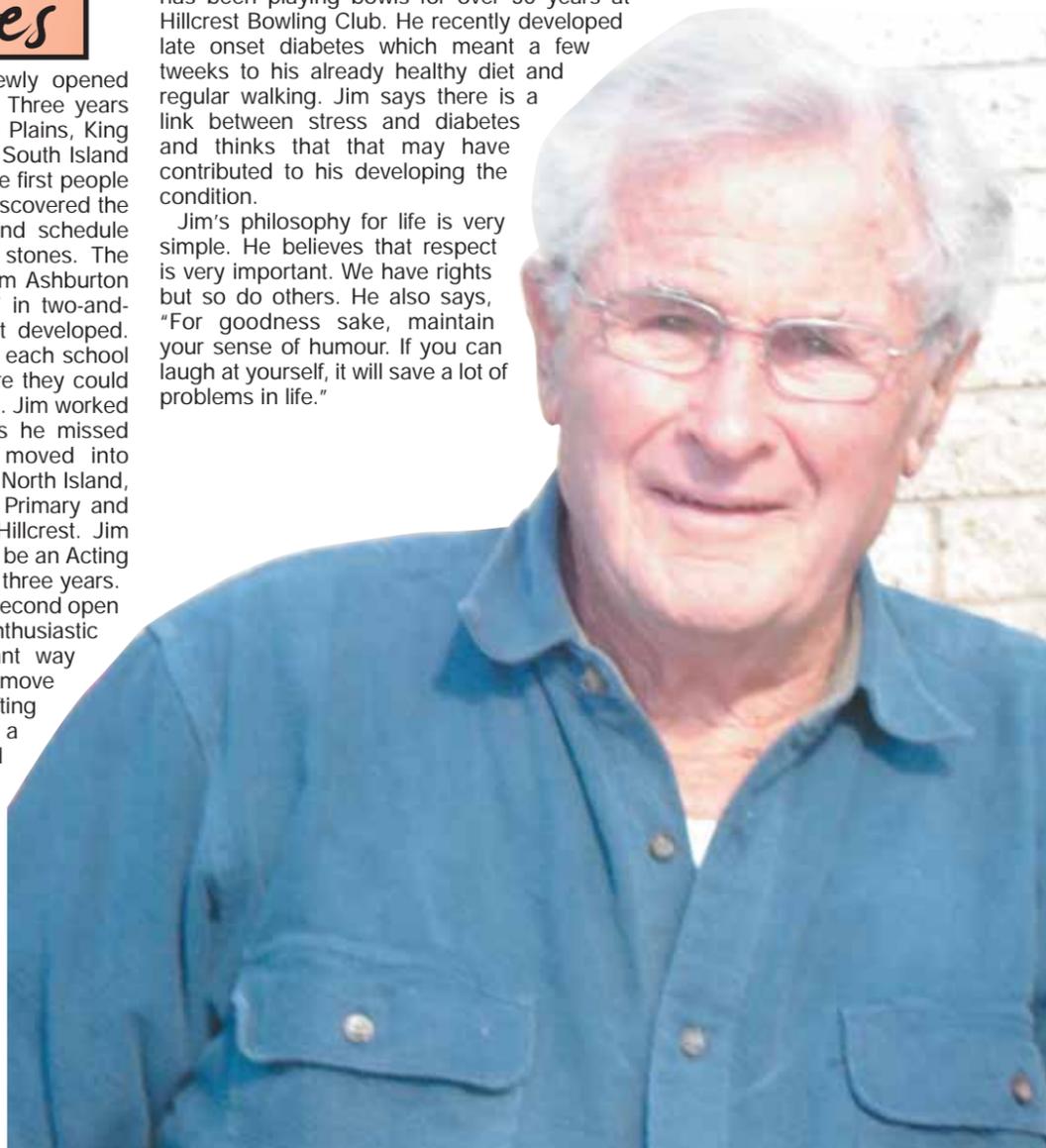
In 1957 Jim arrived at the newly opened Peachgrove Intermediate School. Three years on, the Hawes moved to Hauraki Plains, King Country and then returned to the South Island - this time to Twizel. They were the first people to live in Twizel. On arrival, they discovered the school building was a little behind schedule being just piles and foundation stones. The school was literally trucked in from Ashburton and grew from two rooms to 17 in two-and-a-half years as the hydro project developed. Teachers were required to stay at each school for a minimum of two years before they could apply for a transfer and promotion. Jim worked his way up to principal but says he missed the hands-on teaching as he moved into administration. He returned to the North Island, becoming Head of Ngaruawahia Primary and commuting from their home in Hillcrest. Jim also lets slip that he was invited to be an Acting School Inspector which he did for three years.

Pukete Primary beckoned - the second open plan school in Hamilton. He is enthusiastic about this now mainly redundant way of teaching. Jim describes the move from teacher to Principal as shifting from a teacher of children to a teacher of teachers. He returned to Peachgrove as Principal in 1981 where he remained until his retirement in 1990. He says today teachers are given more and more jobs that used to be done by parents such as teaching manners and personal responsibility. There also seems to be a drop in personal responsibility and increasing lack of respect. In his day, Jim says, "if you got the cane at school you didn't tell your parents for fear of another caning. These days if you gave a

student the cane, the parents would be in your office in the morning with a lawyer."

He aims to walk around 40 minutes daily and has been playing bowls for over 30 years at Hillcrest Bowling Club. He recently developed late onset diabetes which meant a few tweaks to his already healthy diet and regular walking. Jim says there is a link between stress and diabetes and thinks that that may have contributed to his developing the condition.

Jim's philosophy for life is very simple. He believes that respect is very important. We have rights but so do others. He also says, "For goodness sake, maintain your sense of humour. If you can laugh at yourself, it will save a lot of problems in life."

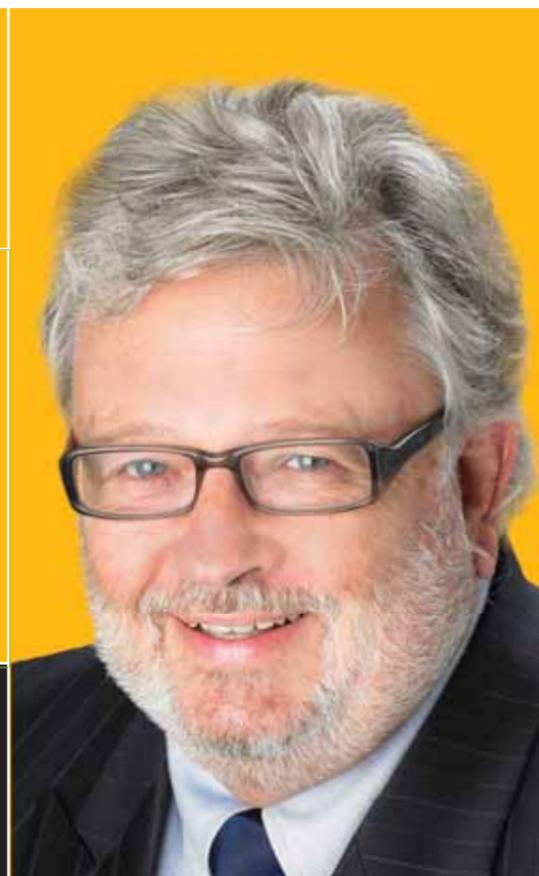


If law-breakers have rights, so should home owners!

## Gordon Chesterman for Mayor

Leadership  Council experience  Community service

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