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## Professor Doug Booth

### Dean, School of Physical Education

Welcome to all our alumni, from the 'pioneer' generation of the late 1940's to those of you who have only recently graduated - this newsletter is for *you*: multi-talented people from a wide variety of backgrounds, who are now following career and personal paths of great richness and diversity, and making your mark in the wider community.

This newsletter coincides with the 'soft' launch of the University of Otago's **NetCommunities** contact site, and the School of Physical Education is one of six departments chosen to go 'live' in the first wave of this exciting initiative. We hope it will become a forum for you to keep up to date with the latest research and thinking, network with like-minded professionals, find out what happened to old mates, investigate new opportunities for learning, and explore the lighter side of undergraduate life through the decades. We look forward to receiving your feedback, memories, photographs, and suggestions for making the new site flourish - a full explanation of how to use the site will be included in week 4 of this series of newsletters.



Students sauna, then plunge in the 'Euphrates' during Camp circa 1973

## Sauna Stories

When we used to "let It *all* hang out"

"...it was a great time to be young, and to be a PE student; there was no self-consciousness about our bodies then ... after all, we were at Paradise, in the Garden of Eden.."  
**Warren Dukes**

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# The Exit Interview

**Warren Dukes** DipPhEd 1966

First as an undergraduate, and since 1971 as a lecturer and **totally awesome bloke** around campus, Warren has shared his passion for Aquatics with generations of staff and students for a mind-blowing **47 years**, but has now decided to dry off his togs for the last time...we asked him to share his memories:

## What was life like as an undergraduate in Swinging 60's Dunedin?

"As you can all imagine - or remember - it was **totally fab**, although everything was happening on a much smaller scale back then, for example there were only 4,000 university students in total, so the physedders were a tight-knit group. Moana Pool had also only just opened."

A couple of Warren's bikini-clad contemporaries enjoying Camp.



A more restful type of aquatic experience from the '70s or early '80s, we think



Warren and his now almost legendary beard: "The beard stays, no matter what".

## Tell us about your post-graduation travels.

"I took a Masters of Physical Education at the University of Alberta, Canada: many physedders have done this before and after me, as Otago and Alberta have very strong links. Other names which come to mind are **Rex Thomson, Denis & Di Fedoruk, Bob Marshall, Phil Handcock** and **John "Rowdy" Maxted**. Then, I worked as a school teacher in New Brunswick on the eastern seaboard of Canada, where I first got seriously involved in swimming and water safety."

## In 1971, you returned to Dunedin?

"Yes, I taught for a couple of terms at Kings High School, before landing my "dream" job as a Lecturer back at the School of PE...where I've stayed ever since, first full-time, then part-time and lately as the main tutor for the PHSE 104 Aquatics programme held every November and February."



### Any highlights?

Things really got going when we changed to “block” courses outside regular semester times - this enabled students to really concentrate on their aquatics, without the distraction of essay deadlines and other commitments getting in the way. We were able to introduce the **surf lifesaving** programme and things like **springboard diving** and using the **flume** - and I’m proud to have helped with introducing the **Riversafe** programme in recent times.”

### And your future plans?

“I will be handing over the reins of PHSE 104 Aquatics this November to another PE graduate, **Michelle Summers** (known to many of you as Michelle Billington in her undergraduate days), and I’m sure she will enjoy it all as much as I have. I shall continue with my other part-time position as property manager for Otago Playcentre, where a lot of PE folk send their under-fives, so I will still have contact with the School that way: the chances are that several of these children will follow in their parents’ footsteps, **so I could already be working with the BPhEd graduates of 2025!**”

### Any final words?

“I would like to thank the **many talented students** who have helped me teach the PHSE 104 Aquatics programme over the years, many of whom have gone on to elite swimming careers or to be fine aquatics educators - I couldn’t have delivered such an excellent programme without their boundless enthusiasm and commitment. Here are just a few of the names which spring to mind: **Lachie Marshall, Liz Van Welie, Carla and Steph Laughton, Ian Ansell, Heather Wallace, Rob Creasy, Kurt Kennedy, Dan Gerrard, Mel Tantrum, Steve Stanley, Jon Doig, Duncan Humphrey and Peter McNair**”



Students on February 2009 Aquatics in the chill-out zone after their Surf-Harbour Swim



Silver medallist for NZ at the 2000 Commonwealth Games **Liz Van Welie**, just one of many talented swimmers who have helped Warren run the Aquatics programme over the years



Professor Steve Jackson

## Hot off the Presses

On 8 April 2009 the Dean, Professor Doug Booth, hosted a book launch for **Professor Steve Jackson** to acknowledge the publication of his most recent book **Sport, Beer and Gender (2009)** and to recognise Professor Jackson’s significant literary contribution in the field of socio-cultural analysis of sport.

# A Runaway Success

**Anna Frost** BPhEd 2004



[Article on Anna in Mud Sweat and Tears, a UK running magazine](#)

[Anna wins Commonwealth Mountain Running Championships](#)

[Anna wins Südtirol Three Peaks Alpine Run](#)

“Kia Ora from Llangollen in Wales, where I’m currently a PE teacher and pursuing my sporting passion for adventure racing, triathlon and mountain running. Back in 2004, I completed a BPhEd, majoring in Sport & Exercise Science and Professional Studies at Otago: those were the best days of my life ... **I gained so much knowledge, made unbreakable friendships and was provided with awesome opportunities.** Some of my best buddies from PE School are **Andrew Curtis, Katrina Richardson, Mike & Bridget McLeod, Chris Scarlett and Michelle Todd** - even though we haven’t spent much time together in the last few years, they are still in my heart.

Sport-wise, I’ve had great success over the past few seasons. I’ve really enjoyed my running and clocked up a lot of mileage, racing hard all over Europe and eventually winning the World Mountain Running Grand Prix Series and finishing 10th in the World Championships.

I’ve been sponsored by a British shoe company for 4 years and this year I have signed a new professional contract with Salomon, which I’m super-excited about, as they will provide me with amazing race opportunities such as the Trans-Rockies running race and the Mount Everest Marathon.”

## Oarsome!

### Richard Parr coaches Otago rowing team to victory in China

A team from the Otago University Rowing Club, which included three PE students, recently won the 2009 Xinjin Water City International University Rowing Regatta in Chengdu, China, beating teams from Sydney University, Trinity College USA and Peking University in the final. Our team was coached by Richard Parr, a PhD student and teaching assistant at the School of Physical Education, who works in the area of sporting excellence. Richard is a former coach of the Canadian and Irish Olympic rowing teams and he is also “writing the book” on coaching techniques for Rowing NZ.

**A High Performance Centre for Rowing** will soon be established on the Otago campus, following an accord between the University and Rowing New Zealand, and will be the preferred training venue for the development of young NZ rowers. **“We are delighted by the move as it recognises the status of the University’s rowing club as an elite national club in New Zealand”**, said Dave Gerard, Development and Alumni Relations Director at the University.



The winning Otago team in Chengdu



PE boys on the winning team, L to R: coach Richard Parr, coxswain Mike Dessoulavy, rowers Campbell Lowe, Richard Sharp