



## In this issue

*In Pursuit of La Dolce Vita:* **Doug McClymont** *Caroline Plummer Fellowship:* **Sean Curham** *It Could Happen To You:* **Neil Stuart** *Lessons from the Bird's Nest:* **Geoff Kohe** *Three In a Row for Roger:* **Roger Bartlett** *Introducing NetCommunities*

## In Pursuit of La Dolce Vita

### A globetrotting career in Biomechanics, Coaching and Teaching

**Doug McClymont** DipPhEd 1966

"Ciao from Brindisi in Southern Italy, where I've been living and working for the past few years. Since my time at PE School, I've pursued a career in **teaching, coaching** and **biomechanics** and lived in five countries on four continents!



Doug living the good life in Italy



I have fond memories of my undergraduate days, especially Camp at Paradise and Trotters Gorge, Gymnastics with **Malcolm Marshall**, and Philosophy with **Phillip Smithells**. I keep in regular contact via email with my Class of '64 contemporaries, including some of those in the picture (left).

I'm also happily married to a physedder, **Theresa Iliohan** (known as Teri), from the class of '71.

1962: in front of what was then the only PE building and waiting to go to Camp. L to R: Bill Richardson in blue shirt, Mike Nitz in light blue-grey shirt, Doug McClymont in plaid shirt, Phil Jack in black shirt, Maetel Grant (née Cambie) in fawn cardigan, Valmae McKay (née Magee) in blue jersey, Chris Gibson with hat, Richard Wilton in turquoise shorts

I gained a teaching diploma and first worked at **Southland Boys'** in 1966, then went to **Canada** in 1969 where I taught in three different schools in BC and Newfoundland, and also completed a PE degree at Alberta.

**Back to NZ** then to teach in Dunedin, Taradale and Timaru before spending another two years part-time at Otago studying biomechanics and motor learning. I then headed north in 1991 to use my new qualification to teach teachers at Christchurch College of Education, lecturing in biomechanics, motor learning, gymnastics and athletics.

I also spent six weeks at Griffith University on **Australia's Gold Coast** in 2000 as part of the Christchurch position. I managed the sport science lab there and, in conjunction with a computer whizz, developed several biomechanics applications that are now used in coaching environments around the world.

**Along the way, I had a parallel career in athletics**, as NZ pole vault coach, NZ advisory coach for jumps, NZ selector, and coach on several international teams to **Europe, North America** and the **Pacific Islands**. I left the national positions in the mid '90's but continued coaching pole vaulters and hammer throwers at international level.

In the late '90's I got into the rugby environment and began providing biomechanics advice for Canterbury coaches and the Coaches Information Service. That involvement has continued, and I still write biomechanics articles for an international coaching journal based in the UK.

In 2004 I taught elite coaches how to use the latest technologies at NZ Academy of Sport - then Teri convinced me to revive my teaching career in **Kuwait**. We did that for two years then went to **Italy** to work in an international school at Brindisi where we are now, at least until June 2010.



Brindisi, in the "heel" of Italy's "boot"



Teri teaching in Brindisi

**Currently I seem to be an international traveller!**

Our friends show some concern at the failure to settle down and be retired Kiwis, but that will happen soon: we have a farm on the Banks Peninsula where we plan to spend time enjoying this lovely country.

Meanwhile we will continue to enjoy Italy and the surrounding countries, and hopefully get the travel bug well out of the system."

# The Caroline Plummer Fellowship

Dance was the greatest of Caroline's passions, but it was more than just a passion. Dance was what she loved to study, to write about, to watch, to perform, to teach. It was what she believed in, and - as she wrote in her journal: "**..it is the most powerful form of expression I have.**"

[quote from [www.carolineplummer.org.nz](http://www.carolineplummer.org.nz)]



**The Caroline Plummer Fellowship in Community Dance** honours Caroline Plummer (1978 - 2003). Caroline completed a Bachelor of Arts in Anthropology and a Diploma for Graduates in Dance, and was awarded the University of Otago Prestige Scholarship in Arts. What made her academic achievement most remarkable was that she was diagnosed with and treated for cancer during her study. Caroline completed her studies in November 2002, and she was given a personal graduation ceremony in March 2003. She died on 28 April 2003. The Fellowship acknowledges Caroline's outstanding scholarship at the University of Otago, her passion for dance, and her vision for community dance in New Zealand.

For more information on Caroline's life, achievements and legacy:

<http://www.carolineplummer.org.nz/>



Sean Curham

## **The Caroline Plummer Fellow for 2009 was Sean Curham.**

**Sean** is a well-known Auckland community dancer/choreographer, who was resident in Dunedin for the six months of the Fellowship to work on his dance project "**Four Legs Better Than Two**".

His project was based on the exciting and innovative idea that walking a dog is a dance, as well as a great way to meet people and engage in healthy exercise. Sean believes that the unusual partnership of dance and dog walking will help resolve misconceptions about dogs through bad publicity and enhance the sense of community through the creative and constructive experiences that can arise from walking with a dog.

He brought his own dog Tippi with him and got local people and their dogs to participate in the project.



# It Could Happen To You

## From Native Bush to Urban Jungle in One Manly Stride!

**Neil Stuart** BPhEd 2006

“At Uni I thoroughly enjoyed my undergraduate days and was on the Student Exec – **the best day of my life was walking down the street in that silly gown in May 2006.** I went on to University of Otago College of Education in 2007 to get a Graduate Diploma in Secondary School Education, then took a job in Fiordland as a Milford Track Guide.

On the Milford and Routeburn Tracks, **I was lucky enough to work with many physedders.** My boss there was **Shaun Liddy** (who’s now my best friend). We didn’t meet until after PE School – which is great, as it shows that physedders are kindred spirits whatever age we are. Other physedder track guides were **Brad Morton, Caitlin MacGill, Imelda McMillan, Andrew “Maps” Curtis, Katrina Richardson, Niki Earnshaw and AJ Vincent** – all of whom have become my good friends.



Neil at work on the Milford Track

Milford Track clients typically include professional people from all over the world, and I often talked to them about my long-term plans to travel and pursue a teaching career, but **I was taken completely by surprise** when one client tapped me on the shoulder at the end of a trip ... **and offered me a lucrative job at his brokerage firm in London’s Square Mile!** When I recovered enough to speak, I felt it only fair to point out that I was a graduate in PE, not Commerce, but he explained that the very qualities I’d developed on the PE degree and used as an outdoor guide – the ability to gain the trust of diverse groups of people and adapt to a constantly changing environment, good teambuilding skills, **plus my dashing good looks** – were what would make me a good operator in the financial markets – **who knew?** When I arrived in the UK, I gave him a call, and my new career, complete with a **‘substantial’ salary**, is now well underway!

Work so far is enjoyable – it’s an early start and often a late finish. At the moment I’m learning the ropes, and since I never took a single commerce class at Uni, it involves a fair bit of study. So far I’ve found that there’s a **lot of jargon in this industry that people use to look like they know stuff.** I figure once I get that mastered I should be right as rain.



Whole New Life: Neil checks out the share price index over breakfast

I’m not sure yet whether it’s going to be a long term career option for me, but the next couple of months will be very interesting. **The opportunities job-wise have broadened fairly dramatically with the finance door now being open.** Experience is a big thing, and to be able to write on my CV that I’ve worked in a fairly big brokers is something that I never expected to be able to do.

I stay in touch with a lot of physedders – **Michael Hayes, Justin Carnaby, Hamish Muirhead, Andrew Campbell, Nathan Alexander and Miki Humphrey** – and there’s quite a crowd of us in London at present – **Scott “Lettuce” Healey, Amber Kersten, Chris ‘OB’ Scarlett and Phil Donnelly.**

# Lessons From The Bird's Nest

**Geoff Kohe** BPhEd 2005



“Bird's Nest” Olympic Stadium, Beijing

Hearty congratulations to Geoff Kohe, who currently works as a Teaching Assistant at School of Physical Education. His article **‘Promoting Olympic Values: Lesson's from the Bird's Nest’**, has been selected by the International Olympic Committee as one of twenty winners (from a pool of 1,600 submissions) in an essay competition organised as part of the IOC's XIII Olympic Congress.



Geoff Kohe with Juan Samaranch (left), former President of the IOC

The prize included a **trip to Copenhagen** in early October to **attend and participate in the XIII Olympic Congress**. This year's Congress followed the 121<sup>st</sup> Session of the IOC at which members choose Rio de Janeiro as the city to host the 2016 games.

A **profile** and an **opinion piece** Geoff has written on the Olympic Congress and the future of the Olympic movement will also appear in the next edition of the IOC's magazine ***Olympic Review***, which is quite a coup for Geoff and the School of Physical Education.

In fact, an Olympic theme runs throughout Geoff's education and academic career. As a first-class Honours student, he was awarded the **2005 Peter McIntosh Prize in Physical Education** as the School's most outstanding graduate, and his Honours thesis examined the philosophy and educational aspects of Olympism.

He is currently undertaking a PhD on the history of the Olympic movement in New Zealand entitled **‘Making it ordinary: An *unexceptional* history of the early Olympic movement in New Zealand’** which analyses NZ sports history, the national character and social memory.

For more information on the Olympic Congress:

<http://www.2009olympiccongress.com/international/en-gb/menu/home/ioc.htm>

# Three in a Row for Roger

**Professor Roger Bartlett's** significant literary contribution in the field of biomechanics was recognised with an official book launch, hosted by the Dean, Professor Doug Booth, for his three most recent publications:

*Introduction to Sports Biomechanics 2nd Edition*

*Analysing Human Movement Patterns*

*Routledge International Handbook of Biomechanics and Human Movement Science*

*Biomechanical Evaluation of Movement in Sport and Exercise*

In addition to these three books, Professor Bartlett has co-written the 3-volume *Encyclopedia of International Sports Studies*.



Professor Roger



**introducing**  
**NetCommunities**  
**we hope you'll join us**

[www.alumni.otago.ac.nz](http://www.alumni.otago.ac.nz)

The University of Otago is about to launch **NetCommunities**, which is not only a website but has networking facilities for all Otago alumni. Physical Education alumni are invited to be amongst the first to access the site, and we're launching the Physical Education network with this Newsletter.

**Click [here](#) to look at the site now, or you can wait until you receive an individual email from us next week giving your password and login details.** After logging on, the first thing to do is to update your personal profile: you can include as much or as little information as you like and choose what will appear in the Alumni Directory for fellow alumni members to see. The site is intended to open up a whole new world of networking to Otago graduates - things like news and events, current research, graduate profiles, opportunities to be a career mentor or be mentored ... it'll be a great way to stay in touch or reconnect with friends from your student days.

***That's it for the 2009 season of Alumni Newsletters.*** We hope you enjoyed the articles. The 2010 newsletter is already being planned - your ideas for stories and people to feature are most welcome.