

## THE QUADRANGLE TRANSFORMED

The main quadrangle was bounded by the original building on the west side and original science wing on the south side, the north wing and its 1950's extension, and the shelter shed on the east side. The shelter shed had a small tuck shop at one end and at the other a small prefects' room.



This image of the steeplechase – later called the cross-country – was likely taken in the late 1920s. The shelter shed is in the background. It was one of the buildings designed by W.A. Cumming, the Auckland Grammar School Board's architect. It was demolished to make way for the 1976 library building.

The quadrangle would have been covered with gorse. That was removed and replaced by gravel, which was soon paved to become a parade ground during the cadet years. Beside each quadrangle door there was – on either side – a metal boot scraper. The grounds were very muddy in winter, and these devices were installed to clean most of the mud off the shoes. The scrapers were deeply imbedded. They were removed when the quadrangle was updated, most were broken on extraction, the best of them was saved and is pictured below. Part of a flange at the end of one of the embedded feet is missing, otherwise it is intact.



The first purpose planted foliage in the quadrangle was Ivy (*Hedera* sp) growing on one wall of the building. Given the growth of the ivy this looks like a 1930 image.

The building was unpainted. It was painted for the first time in 1956 in preparation for the visit to the School by the Duke of Edinburgh on 6 December 1956. The colour of the building was largely as it is now, though the 'ivy wall' and the two adjacent walls were painted pink, a decision made by the Headmaster, M.D. Nairn.



The first makeover of the quad was at the time of the completion of the library building. There were a number of fixed planters in the same roughcast style as the library and the main building. There were also large concrete tubs, painted in terracotta, placed here and there in the quad so as to not interfere with the painted handball lines.



Before the present makeover there were two 2006 events in the quad.

The first was four performances of *Much Ado About Nothing*. The set was constructed by Theo van Zyl with help from Omid Rastkar and Zakirulla Shirwali.



Audience chairs were at the back of the quad towards the library. The musicians depicted below, and others, played during the performance, and played other roles as well.



During the performances entrants and exits were from the quad door, from the tunnel steps, from behind the south wing, stalking up the aisle between the audience seats, shouting lines from upstairs windows and even action from behind the audience. The action began before sunset and ended in 'darkness'. 'Washer-women' were using the drinking-fountain trough for their work.



Below are two images of the performance. The first is of Georgia Preston-Jones (Beatrice) and Ben Walker (Benedick). In the second shows that the show goes on despite the weather.



The second event was the farewell to Headmaster Greg Taylor which was held in a large marquee in the quad. Elements of the framework were connected on the flat. This also gives a general view of the quad.





An early event was Eddie Maliamaseali'i who came from Melbourne to sing a song in front of a slideshow of Greg Taylor, and Warwick Gibbs also spoke from the same spot and delivered a valedictory for Greg.



There were many other performances and speeches which delighted Greg and his family, and other dignitaries.

Greg made a speech and there was a front-page piece in the *Central Leader* about him. As well as the performances, there was a lot of food and many visitors.



After these festivities, the real work on the quadrangle began in mid 2006. The drinking fountain trough was demolished as was one of the more prominent planter boxes.



The seating along the tunnel wall was removed and the retaining wall was demolished.



Much debris has been taken away and here new rocks arrive for the new wall. In the other image the wall is well advanced and back filled with rubble.



The new wall is higher than the old cut-stone one and here the inside of the new wall is being pointed. One wall is being finished as another, nearby, is demolished.



Along with general debris there was some clean fill. In the first image the old steps to the lower level are loaded onto a truck in one piece. The second image is of a work in progress.



Progress work on the terracing and the first concrete is in. Also in this second, image new block-work can be seen as can the completed stone wall.



Intermediate steps are being put in and the final work on the terracing is laying edging tiles.



After laying base course on the lower level, this image of the laying of asphalt on the lower level was a significant step. Attention moves to the upper level and the second image is of a general view of early work on the upper level.



Preliminary work on new planter boxes, while another is being plastered.



Form-work is in for new paths and the base course is in and rolled, steel work is down and the yellow upturned buckets are the positions of lights which are to be flush with the paths. The image is taken through the earlier large-pane back door to the quad. It had wire safety mesh. In the second image a concrete layer is going in over the base course and is ready to be screeded.



Removing an old pipe and in the other image a service box has been removed and revealed a section of pink from yesteryear.



Sand is laid over the dried concrete and some pavers can be seen in the background, pallets of pavers can also be seen. The second image shows screeded sand and pavers being laid. Later half pavers filled the gaps and larger edging tiles were mortared in to lock the pavers.



Final touches on the lower level were a wall and planter being plastered by the library wall while a sail cloth is being erected.



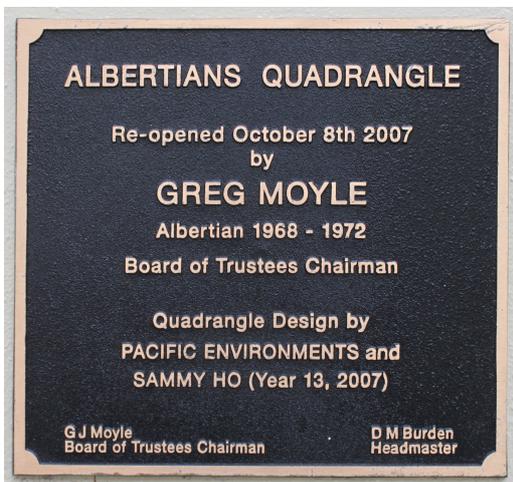
Asphalt is laid on the upper level and in the other image soil is in a planter box and electrics are installed.



Guy Wishart, HOD Horticulture is planting box hedges and *Pittosporum*. The completed development was renamed the Albertians Quadrangle and officially opened on 8 October 2007, the image shows Dale Burden, Headmaster, Greg Moyle, Albertian and Chairman of the Board of Trustees, Guy Wishart and Year 13 student Sammy Ho, who helped in the design.



The next image is of the plaque and the following day 9 October 2007 the Quadrangle was again open for business.



The planter boxes soon became seats and as time went by the growing *Pittosporum* were trimmed into conical shapes and the box hedge was trimmed.



To give a reminder of what the quad was like before the 2006-2007 redevelopment, the final image is of boys playing handball. The boys had their own arcane rules which they all understood, to the mystification of adults.



The 1976 planters and seats provided a pleasant place and a huge improvement on the bleak empty parade ground of the previous half-century, but with an increasing roll, new traffic-ways became necessary and the new development allowed this, plus the planters provide additional seating.

Brian Murphy