



# REDWOOD

## SCHOOL

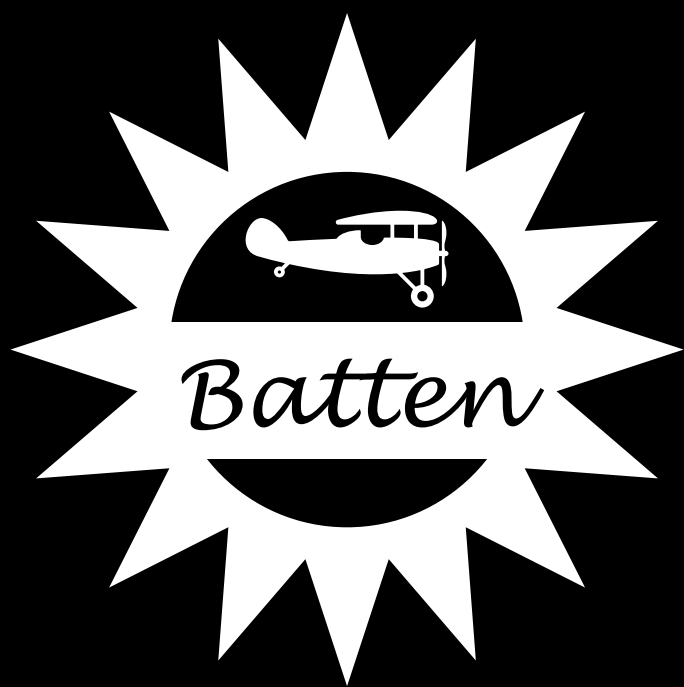
Our Redwood School Houses are named after famous New Zealanders who made an impact, not just in New Zealand, but across the world. They are people who demonstrated our **RED Values** in their personal and professional lives. They are reminders to our students that by demonstrating our Learner Outcomes of Kiritau (self belief and self confidence), Auahatanga (creativity), Whakamatemate (curiosity) and Mahi Tahī (collaboration) they can achieve amazing things.

Jean Batten was born in 1909 in Rotorua. At this time aeroplanes were a relatively new invention, but during the 1920s daring pilots began setting long distance records. Jean was hooked and desperate to learn to fly.

Jean moved to England in 1930 and quickly set about learning to fly. As soon as she had her 'A' license she started planning to break the women's record for a flight from England to Australia.

In 1933 Jean had two failed attempts to fly from England to Australia, but the following year successfully completed a return journey. Jean became hugely famous across the world. She became the first woman to fly herself across the South Atlantic and in 1936 became the first ever person to fly directly from England to New Zealand. Jean's final flight was from Australia to England in 1937, after which she retired to the island of Tenerife, Spain. She continued to enjoy travelling and exploring the world until her death from a dog bite in 1982.

Jean Batten was renowned for her daring feats of aviation and good looks. Being a celebrity in 1930s. She ably demonstrated our values of being Empowered and Driven to be a Lifelong Learner, as well as kiritau and whakamatemate.



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Bruce McLaren was born in 1937 in Auckland. His parents owned a Shell service station and Bruce loved hanging around the workshop listening to the noise of engines. At the age of 9 he was stuck down with Perthes Disease and was put into a home for crippled children for 2 years. He had permanent limp from then on.

His love of cars was something her had in common with his father, and they restored an old car together allowing Bruce to learn to drive on their section, doing figure 8s around the fruit trees. He moved on to local race meets and quickly learned how to race, sometimes against his dad.

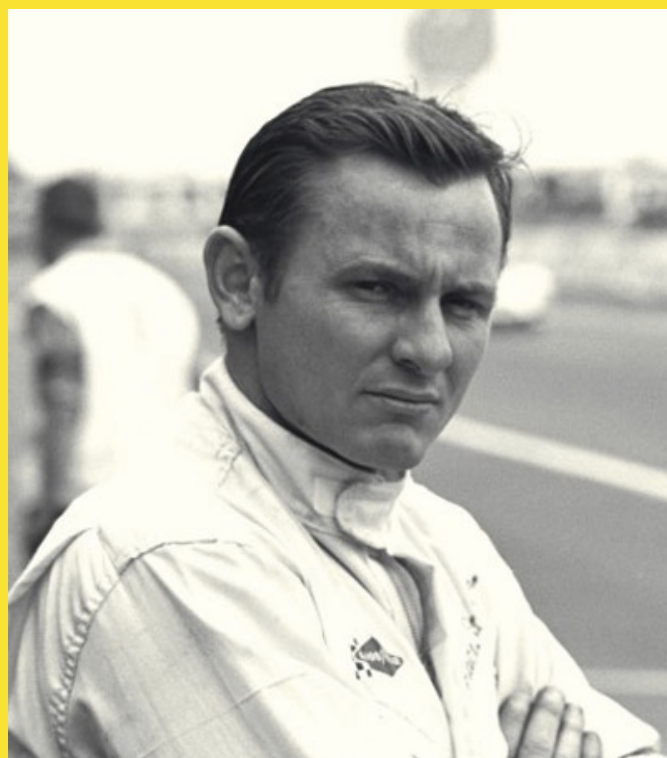
Aged 20 Bruce qualified for the New Zealand International Grand Prix racing against world class racers. In 1959 he became the youngest winner of the American Grand Prix aged 22.

Soon he was designing cars as well as racing them. In 1966 McLaren won the Le Mans 24 hour race and in 1968 he won his first Grand Prix in a McLaren car. Sadly McLaren died in 1970 testing one of his new cars. Since then McLaren International has been an important part of Formula One racing.

Bruce McLaren was not only confident, creative and curious, but able to collaborate with others. He demonstrated all our RED Values as well as Kiwi ingenuity.



**REDWOOD SCHOOL**

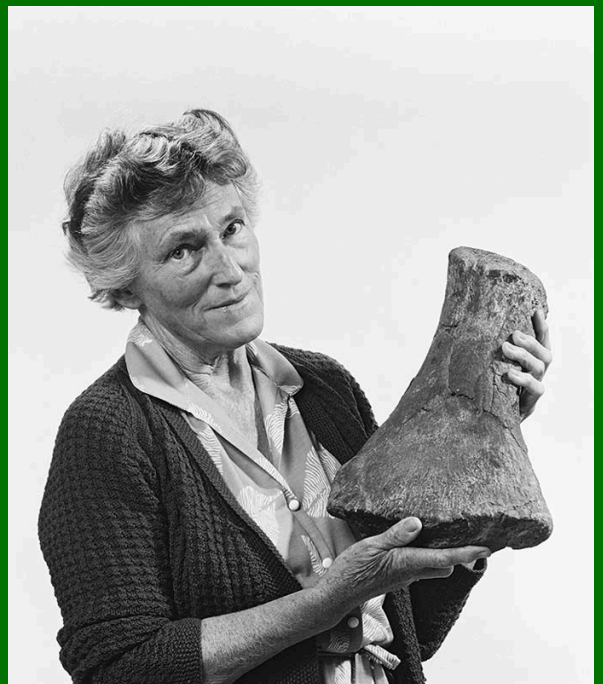


Joan Wiffen was born in 1922 in Auckland. Joan was an orphan and was adopted by a family who moved around the North Island of New Zealand. Joan left school aged 12, instead of continuing her school at boarding school.

During World War 2 Joan had lots of different jobs. In 1948 she left her Defence role, and first worked in a radio shop in the Hawke's Bay. After her marriage in 1953 she grew vegetables on her farm and was a mum to 2 children.

In the late 1960s Joan, and her husband Pont, began collecting and polishing stones. They became increasingly interested in geology and Joan discovered an interest in fossils. In 1972 the Wiffen's first visited Mangahouanga Stream in the Hawke's Bay, finding numerous fish fossils. They visited regularly collecting fossils and in 1973 found their first fossilised bone. They found plesiosaur and mosasaur bones and skulls, and eventually a theropod bone confirming that dinosaurs had walked on New Zealand land. She became a world expert on Cretaceous-era reptiles.

Joan died in 2009, shortly after publishing a paper describing the discovery of a Titansaur bone - one of the largest ever dinosaurs. Joan demonstrated curiosity and was Engaged and Empowered, and Driven to be a Lifelong Learner.



**REDWOOD SCHOOL**



William Pickering born in Wellington in 1910. His mother died when he was 6 and he was sent to live with his grandparents. At Wellington College he enjoyed maths and using the school's observatory to study the stars.

After briefly studying at Canterbury University he went to study at the California Institute of Technology (Caltech) in the USA going on to get a Masters and PhD in Physics. He became a teacher at Caltech and was appointed as a scientific advisor to the US Air Force.

During World War 2 he became involved in the Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL). After the war he started working at JPL and quickly became director. In 1957 the Russians launched Sputnik, a satellite that orbited the earth every 90 minutes. The US government wanted to make sure the Russians didn't dominate space. They turned to Pickering and JPL to design their own satellite, In 1958 the Americans launched their own satellite: Explorer 1. The Space Race had begun!

When the US founded NASA Pickering's JPL was given a contract to explore space. In 1962 they sent Mariner II to Venus and in 1964 Mariner IV was sent to Mars. William Pickering appeared on the cover of Time Magazine twice. He ably demonstrated all our RED Values and Learner Outcomes, especially curiosity and creativity.



**REDWOOD SCHOOL**



Patricia Frances Grace was born in Wellington in 1937. She is descended from Ngāti Toa, Ngāti Raukawa and Te Āti Awa iwi. She trained to be a teacher, but loved to write short stories.

In 1975 her first published book ,Waiariki, won the PEN/Hubert Church Memorial Award for Best First Book of Fiction. It was the first collection of short stories to be published by a Māori woman writer.

Patricia has written many stories for both adults and children. In 2008 she won the Neustadt International Prize for Literature and was awarded the Prime Minister's Award for Literary Achievement in 2006. In 2007 she was made a Distinguished Companion of the New Zealand Order of Merit (DCNZM).

Patricia Grace currently lives in Hongoeka Bay in Plimmerton. She displays all our RED Values, and the creativity of her storytelling showcases this attribute.



**GRACE**



**REDWOOD SCHOOL**





Sir Peter Snell was born in Opunake in Taranaki in 1938. He was a naturally gifted athlete who played a range of sports, most notably tennis, in which he participated in the New Zealand Junior Championships.

At age 19 he decided to seriously focus on running after a running coach, Arthur Lydiard told him he could be one of New Zealand's greatest ever middle distance runners. Lydiard would eventually become Snell's coach, and under his tutelage Snell broke national records for the 880 yards and mile.

In 1960 Snell won a gold medal in the 800 metres at the Rome Olympics. At the following Olympics in Tokyo he won the 800m and 1500m gold medals, the only male athlete to achieve this since 1920. This included a world record time in the 800 meters. In all Snell set 5 individual world records.

At the end of the 1965 season Snell retired from athletics and studied for a Ph.D. in exercise physiology. He became an active orienteer and table tennis player, competing in US National Championships.

Sir Peter Snell died in December 2019 at his home in Dallas, USA. Throughout his life he displayed our RED Value of being Driven.



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