



CHESSMOVES

MARCH 1997

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Welcome to this first edition of CHESSMOVES for 1997. Each year CHESS sponsors the mail out to all ex-students on the school list as a contribution to the publicity of the school. You do not have to be a paid up member of CHESS to receive this letter. It is our aim to assist in providing the school with a mailing list that will allow for comprehensive mail outs for class reunions and important anniversary dates like the golden jubilee celebrations for 1941-1991.

Geoff Sinclair, the long serving assistant principal is retiring in March and CHESS wishes Geoff the very best for his retirement plans. There will be a farewell supper on Friday the 4th April in the school hall at 7pm, all members are welcome to attend. Drinks and light refreshments will be served. Cost is \$10 so to help with the catering, please RSVP by Wednesday March 26 with your payment to:
The Bursar, CHS, Prospect Hill Road, Canterbury 3126.

CHESS has chosen 17 October to celebrate a reunion of the 1960s students. This event will be held at the school between 6pm and 9pm and will involve an address to the ex-students then a tour of the school, complete with the new sports hall. Supper will be provide.

Positions vacant.....!!! CHESS is keen to secure an interested member to be the editor of CHESSMOVES, our newsletter. Any interested party may contact me on 9427 9757.

Disco Consulere Aliis
Bernard Corser (Class of '71)

1996

1996 was a most successful year. Our enrolment at the start of the year was 840 students with the largest Year 7 intake for some years of 142 students. We still have the problem of a poor balance between boys and girls and the school is endeavouring to overcome this through an active program in our feeder schools. When we look back at the year past, every week was crammed with activities involving many of our students. Academically our VCE students gained very good results and throughout the year, students at all levels excelled in the various academic competitions. Some of the year's highlights are mentioned below.

Cultural Activities

1996 saw the 50th Annual Choral Festival being held at the school. It was a memorable occasion won by Churchill. The adjudicator was David Briggs, the lead guitarist in the Little River Band. The tradition of the house singing competition goes from strength to strength. The Drama festival wash held in August and Churchill continued its domination of cultural activities by winning this event as well.

The Music Department conducted a number of significant activities during the year. In February, there was a Music Tour of South Australia and New South Wales and in September, a concert was held in St Paul's Cathedral. It was a beautiful occasion, appreciated by all those involved and their families. It gave our young musicians an opportunity to display their musical ability in a magnificent setting.

The musical "Sheik, Rattle 'n Roll" was produced by the school in March. It was a highly successful venture, involving approximately 100 students. It was the school's first full scale musical production for many years and it is hoped to be the start of a tradition. The school is producing "Bats" in 1997.

House Names

After canvassing a wide range of views on the desirability of changing the existing four House names, we decided not to alter them or to put the decision to further debate. Students, parents, staff and Council have had input into this issue. The view that the names should be made contemporary, gender balanced and possibly Australian-centred was put, but there is no clear support for such a move, so the names which reflect Camberwell High's war-time foundation will remain.

AVG James Lecture

This lecture was a highlight of the year. It was a most successful evening attended by a large audience. The Education Committee of School Council engaged Hugh McKay, a well known social commentator, who spoke on the topic of Peyton Place to Melrose Place, understanding the Generation Gap.

Careers Evening

This evening was again a great success, with thirty-two highly qualified speakers, many of them recruited from the ranks of CHES by Bernard Corser, presenting information on their chosen careers. This activity continues to be an important event in the preparation of our students for course selection and career choice, and the school appreciates the involvement of CHES members.

Valedictory Assembly

On October 24 the school held our Annual Assembly for our graduating Year 12 students. Maree Purcell represented CHES and presented the CHES Achievement Award, in 1996, won by student Daniel Banfai.

Sport

Camberwell High School has been one of the few schools to fully implement the Monighetti Report requiring all students up to Year 10 to participate for two periods per week in an organised sporting program. Mr Bruce Anderson, our Director of Sport, introduced sports afternoons for Year 9 and 10 during 1996. Each student does four different sports during the year and has the opportunity of representing the school in round robin days against neighbouring schools.

Police in the Schools Programs

Senior Constable Wilson of Camberwell Police has been presenting a series of workshops on drug and alcohol issues in conjunction with Year 10 English teachers. The activities have been incorporated into the curriculum as an assessment task in oral and written communication at that level.

Social Service

One of the major student social service programs is Challenge. Responsibility for this program rest with the Year 9 students. Challenge is a program that supports young people with cancer. Again this year our students raised \$1500 and conducted a special assembly.

There has been a good start to the 1997 school year. Our enrolment has grown again and the school has attracted eight overseas fee paying students. Our calender is crammed full of activities and events and students and staff are enthusiastic about the year ahead.

Geoff Sinclair, an Assistant Principal at the school for the last nine years, and an enthusiastic supporter of the CHESS organisation, has resigned from the Department of Education effective 29 February 1997. A farewell luncheon is planned for him at the school on the evening of April 4.

Elida Brereton	Principal
Geoff Sinclair	Assistant Principal
Ken Tenner	Assistant Principal

CHESS news

Well this is the beginning of a new year and we are all looking forward to the reunion of the 1960s. Our past two reunions have been very successful and there is no reason that this one will be any different.

If anyone is interested in helping with tracing any 1960s student please be in touch with me and I will get a list to you to work from.

Our 1950s reunion was a great success and did bring a lot of ex-students back to the school for the evening. Our guest speakers for the evening were Lindsay Kline who is one of Australia's cricketers that has a 'hat trick' and Graeme Kinross-Smith who read some of his poetry.

The ex-students database is slowly growing and if anyone has any information regarding any ex-student we would appreciate the information. Also if you know of any ex-student that has passed away we would like to hear from you as we will be printing a list in our next CHESSMOVES.

Thank you for your help in the past
Pat Douglas - Membership

IT WASN'T ME SIR!

"Remember in maths when we used to hide under the desk and play battleships on the blackboard at the back?" "What about the time we all nicked off at recess and went to the pool, and they called over the loudspeakers for all Camberwell High kids to get out and nobody did."

"I used to love sneaking through the trapdoor in Room 2 and going through the tunnel out to the oval. It was fun just to see Eddie's face when we reappeared at the door three times in the same period!"

Reminiscing at the 50s reunion rekindled many memories thought forgotten. Memories of water bomb fights, girls playing British Bulldog, piggyback races and smoking behind the

shelter sheds, dodging the eye of Miss Trickett who was always on the warpath to prevent such ‘unladylike’ behaviour (How times have changed!).

If we thought hard enough, we could have recalled things we didn’t like about our schooldays, but it was refreshing to note that it was the positive things the people reminisced about most. Just to hear the constant chatter, comments and laughter during the evening reflected that most people enjoyed remembering the fun times they had at school as well as catching up on ‘who married who’, ‘if and how many kids’, ‘I wonder what happened to so-and-so’ and ‘what are you doing now?’ Some faces looked familiar, but needed the prompt of a name to complete the recognition. Some looked now just as their parents did then. For some it was just like picking up where they’d left off so many years ago.

The difference between *living in the past* and *looking back* is that one gets us nowhere but the latter can be a real motivator for us to appreciate how we got to where we are today so that we can go forward to tomorrow.

The ‘**school of our youth**’ may be part of our past but the future lies with the ‘**youth of our school**’.

Jeanette Alcock
CHESS Committee

CHESS 50S REUNION

“What a night! Oh, what a night it was..... It really was **SUCH** a night!”

After months of searching, phoning, more searching and more phoning by a most supportive crew of super-sleuths, the great reunion of CHS students who attended the school in the 1950s came to fruition - and what a super night it was!

Decorated by the CHESS committee and Assistant Principals, Geoff Sinclair and Ken Tenner, the School Hall looked festively inviting with balloons, streamers and walls covered with photos of 1950s sport, forms, debating, drama and music groups - and some intimate photos of certain members of staff, now much older and, hopefully, wiser!

Guests were welcomed by CHESS committee members, then carefully shepherded in the direction of their year’s photographs where (surprise, surprise!) they found so many of their former fellow students.....and the gossip, chat and conviviality grew louder and louder. The never-fail combination of a glass in one hand and finger food in the other, set tongues wagging furiously and promoted profuse laughter.

CHESS President, Bernard Corser, eventually restored order so that we could be addressed by the school’s Principal, Elida Brereton, on the activities of the school in these times. Door prizes were handed out (grateful thanks to pharmacist Geoff Dobbin for his fifteen donations, one of which was discreetly removed!)

Our guest speaker, Lindsay Kline, regaled us with some marvellous anecdotes of touring with the Australian Cricket Eleven, including the gentle humour of the Queen Mother when our sporting heroes knocked off the silverware at Clarence House! His best line of all, however, was his conclusion:

“People asked me what was my greatest highlight, my greatest moment.....let me tell you that

it was the day I married my wife.”

Graeme Kinross-Smith read selections of his witty and emotive poetry, much of which was of childhood days, then we got back to the serious business of gossiping and laughing again. Former teachers June Izzett and Bobby Ewins (who has agreed to be the guest speaker at the 1960s reunion on October 17th) were mobbed by their former students and a great time was had by all.

At the conclusion of the evening about twenty last-stayers repaired to the Tower for R and R, finding much to laugh over in Carole Humffray’s diaries of 1956-59, brought with her from Qld. Eddie Koleitz had travelled from WA (thanks Eddie, from the Wicked Aunt in the East) and was amazed to find himself in Carole’s diary!

It was interesting to note that so many had enjoyed the 1940s reunion that they came to the 50s night as well. Hopefully, many of the 50s will attend the 60s reunion on 17th October, 1997. I know that I will.

Thank you CHESS for a wonderful night! Roll on 17th October for 1960s reunion!

Mary Hill

Calender of Meetings:

April 7 AGM
May 5
June 2
July 14
August 4
September 1
October 6
November 10
December 1

Please note that all CHESS meetings commence at 6pm at the school and go for approx 2 hours. However the AGM meeting on April 7 will commence at 7pm

DECEMBER 1 IS THE CHRISTMAS GET TOGETHER

(Venue to be decided)

SCHOOL OF OUR YOUTH

School of our youth, to thee we give our heart
Through thee we strive to play a worthy part
Give us the strength to follow truth and right
And ever guide our thoughts towards the light.

Through thee we learn, the game exceeds the prize
Let us not yield till the foe is faint and flies
And in the hour when victory is won
May we in charity forgive wrongs done.

When we look back, at close of life's long day
May we feel proud that we chose a nobler way
With courage and faith to always strive for right
School of our youth be still our source of might.

“Disco Consulere Aliis”

**CHESS
Camberwell High School
Ex-Students' Society
INVITES YOU TO A
REUNION
OF
THE
SIXTIES**

**At the School on
Friday, October 17, 1997
from 6pm to 9pm**

Guest Speaker - Robert Ewins
(author of CHS 1941 - 1991
“A Jubilee Retrospective”)
(former teacher in the 60s)

Door prizes, Tour of the School
Plenty of Time for Reminiscing
Meet the CHESS Committee

Finger Food & Drinks
\$20 per head
Come along!

Enquiries: Pat Douglas 9801 3411