



CHESSMOVES

DECEMBER 1992

END OF YEAR REPORT:

As 1992 closes, we look back on a year in which CHESS has made some useful contributions to the school and laid the groundwork for further initiatives in the year ahead. Financial membership of the Society is around the 320 mark and - while that's a solid base on which to build - there are many more ex-students who could benefit from membership and help the school at the same time. If every current member would locate and introduce a new one in 1993, we would be able to offer still more assistance during what is obviously going to be a challenging time for all involved in or with state education. Financially, CHESS is in good shape with just \$5,000 in hand.

WHAT'S BEEN DONE:

In the latter half of the year, CHESS has:

- donated a trophy for inter-House swimming competition, cost \$200
- donated \$200 to the Friends of Music's drive to provide a new grand piano for the school. They're well on the way to their target, but as the enclosed sheet explains, there's some distance to go. More help from individual CHESS members would be warmly received.
- made a financial contribution to the cost of new House banners, made to a student design, which now hang in the school hall.
- adopted the Mission Statement, which was set out in the August newsletter as the basis on which CHESS will operate in the years ahead.

ON THE AGENDA:

Under active consideration as the year closes are the following:

Year 12 Reunion

After our involvement with the 1992 reunion for Year 12 students who left the school at the end of 1991, it was agreed that CHESS would take over the organisation and running of the event on a regular basis. A sub-committee met with student representatives, who welcomed the idea, and March 19th has been tentatively agreed as the date for a Reunion Barbecue.

Vocational Video

A project that grew out of our successful Vocational Breakfast in July is now taking shape, largely through the energy and commitment of ex-student Peter Allen. Peter floated the idea of a video as part of a systematic approach to help young people plan their campaign to join the workforce on leaving school. The idea is to make a video, based on Camberwell High School, but available statewide (or even nationwide) through the Rotary network. A CHESS sub-committee, ably assisted by Careers teacher Sean Hill, has done some preliminary work in assessing what is already available and identifying the gaps that could usefully be filled. Peter Allen has now developed the concept and the hands-on work will begin early in the New Year. It will require effort and goodwill on the part of many, both CHESS members and outside organisations, but the signs are good for what should be a useful tool for students in

these difficult economic times.

The Sports Hall

CHESS continues its active involvement with this major school project, which is now well and truly up and running. All the hard work put in by the school community is paying off, but more remains to be done. In particular, about eighty people are still needed to join the Co-Operative which will guarantee financing for the project. No cash input is required, just your commitment and support. The main fundraising event of the last school term was "Camberwell Cup Day" on the day before that other race meeting at Flemington.

Unfortunately, it fell victim to one of those occasional wet days that we had this Spring.

Attendance was down as a result, but \$5000 was raised nonetheless, and a good time was had by future success of the Sports Hall project, the enthusiasm and determination of all those involved was clearly evident. Most of the notable ex-students who are patrons of the project were present, led by Channel Nine's chief newsreader Brian Naylor, who helicoptered in to a soggy oval with colleagues Lou Richards and Tony Jones.

THE SCHOOL:

It is self-evident that these are testing times for our state education system and Camberwell High is inevitably affected. The government decision to close Wattle Park Secondary College rather than proceed with the planned merger involves CHS in taking on a number of the displaced students, especially at VCE level, but without additional resources. Indeed, the school has been asked to reduce its teaching staff by 3.5. Other effects of the government's police moves are yet to become clear, but the pressures on staff, students and parents are unlikely to diminish. The need for a strong and vigorous ex-Student's Society has probably never been greater. The latter part of School Year 1992 was extremely busy. Apart from the preparation for and sitting of examinations, students were immersed in a whole range of other activities, from the Camberwell Cup meeting and the Australian Studies Expo, to a Musical Soiree and Final Assemblies. By now VCE students will know their results and be facing up to the challenges of securing further education or a place in the workforce. We wish them well for the future.

SEASON'S GREETINGS:

And from your President and Committee, all best wishes for Christmas and for 1993. Our first meeting for the New Year will be on February 8th. Please feel free to come along and get involved!