



CHESS MOVES

www.chessmoves.com

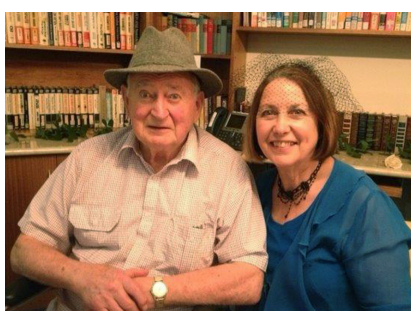
On writing well

Like many, I am collating our family history and feel privileged to be able to listen to the stories of my 94-year old father Aub McLaren. (Seen here with me on Oak's Day)

Dad thinks he is the oldest living ex-employee of the former Rosella Preserving and Manufacturing Company that operated in Cremorne Gardens Richmond.

He wrote: 'I started my employment in November 1936 at age 15 as a Junior Chemist. I turned 16 on 3 December 1936. I had war service from 1941 to 1946 then returned to Rosella. After the war I completed a seven-year Diploma in Industrial Management at night which stood me in great stead when later I had to learn to serve Peters Ice Cream cones to all the kids in Middle Camberwell, and sell twenty-cent postage stamps to their parents from the Middle Camberwell Post Office!'

Dad's record keeping has given me an insight into his fastidiousness at work and at home. On 7 March 1949 he made his first batch of home-made blackberry jam. He started making home-made apricot jam on 6 January 1952. Until a few years ago he was still making large quantities of a variety of soups and on 4 December 2012 he wrote: 'I



have just made enough tomato soup to last me through the winter. Any resemblance to Rosella is purely coincidental!!!'

In his book *On Writing Well* William Zinsser wrote 'Memoir isn't the summary of a life; it's a window into a life'. This edition of *Chessmoves* features some of our writers. Current student Ben Parker won second prize in the 2014 Boroondara Literary Award in the Courage and Adversity category that was created to honour the centenary of the First World War. Mic Conway (1969) and James Nicolas (1984) have both released new books. Our alumni@work article features Rachel Porter who wrote a book about pregnancy loss.

And alumnus Hazel Edwards' talk at the luncheon about her book *Writing a non-boring family history* was motivating. We thank Hazel for her generosity and applaud her most successful writing career.

Yvonne Giltinan (McLaren)

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Postal address

CHESS, PO Box 1101
Surrey Hills North LPO 3127

For your diary

Committee Meetings:

19 August, 21 October

End of Year Dinner:

Wednesday 2 December

Have you changed your details?

Please advise us so we can update our database:
chs.chessmoves@gmail.com

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CHESS is on facebook
www.facebook.com/Camberwellhighexstudentsocietyinc

Births, Marriages, Farewells

Chessmoves would like to hear from you if you have celebrated a birth, marriage or are aware of the passing of a former student. Contributions of up to 100 words are welcome, with photos if appropriate, to:
chs.chessmoves@gmail.com

The Victims

a short story by Ben Parker

Current student Ben Parker won second prize in the **2014 Boroondara Literary Award** in the Courage and Adversity category that was created to honour the centenary of the First World War.

The wind blows me back and forth. Back and forth. Back and forth. I stare ahead, observing the charred wasteland that was once my home. I was once surrounded by happiness and joy, green fields and smiles. Now there is only mist. I continue to sway, my roots still strong. Through the yellow haze I see men, coughing and heaving. It's coming closer. The men fall to the ground and remain still; no longer weighed down by their equipment.

Months ago the world surrounding me was vibrant and alive. That was until the day the men came. Soon flying objects whizzed through the air as the two groups of men set up home. I heard the screams and wails as they were struck down. I struggled to understand the reasoning behind this suffering. It looked like they had clothing that distinguished them, but to me they all looked the same. Men holding weapons charged at one another, fast as cheetahs. They fell even faster. The next group of men were forced to run over the bodies of those who came before them; the cycle forced to continue as men kept on running.

As the fighting continued I began to notice the first man to run forward would be holding something. Something different from what the other men carried. It wasn't a weapon. It was colourful, unique in the drab and dark surroundings. The first man was always the first to go down, the object falling from his hands. Perhaps this item represented something? Something that would identify the men? Perhaps that is where they're from? I thought. Far off lands where these men lived their lives, separate from this carnage. This made me think about something I had once forgotten long ago, something I had made myself forget. Once a man came to me every day, leant against my trunk and ate his lunch. Sometimes he would even talk to me, tell me of his life. He had children, a boy and a girl. Sometimes he spoke of impending danger; soon he would have to fight for his life. Perhaps this man was out there? What if he was just one of those bodies lying on the battlefield now resting? Hopefully he was peaceful, though his children would be thrust into great pain and suffering wondering why their father never came home. I made myself forget this man. I didn't want to think about what had become of him. It made me too sad. My thoughts gravitated towards other things that I had lost.

Before the men came I was surrounded by my friends; the birds, the shrubs, the grass. They all spoke to me in their own

languages. When the men came the birds left, flew away to a safer place. Sadly I didn't have the ability to fly. The grass and shrubs were trampled by the men's heavy boots, buried deep into the soil crushing the life out of my neighbours. I always thought it was so quiet before the men came; that there was no noise. I was wrong. The noises that I once thought of as silence vanished and replaced with the screams of men. The birds chirping and the leaves rustling. Gone. The winds blow and the bees' buzzing. Gone. All drowned out by the never ending wails of men dying. Once the men had been here for a while they began to dig up the ground around me. I saw the men work every day, shoving blunt objects into the ground and dropping heaping piles of soil and mud next to their ever enlarging holes. Soon great labyrinths of passageways were built and the men appeared to live under the ground, like moles. Sometimes I would see a head pop up and fire their weapon. This could be met with a scream of anguish and pain, but more often than not an insult from the victim was shouted back. I struggled to understand the meaning behind these slurs, but I could hear the vile hatred coming from the men. The aggressive tone with which these insults were thrown at one another indicated that these were not friendly jests, but loathsome abuse. What caused these men to hate each other so much I will never know, and I don't think I want to.

As the mist drew closer I began to reflect once again on what I had lost. To me I had lost my friends, my world, my sense of safeness. These men had lost the same things too. The men that were cut down by the weapons were other men's friends, the same men who were taken from their homes and thrown into this hell. It seemed now as if this particular battle was ending. The mist had now reached the men's underground system. The throngs of men rose from their holes and fled from the incoming fog. It seemed to me that they were just as confused as I was to what it was, however the men falling to the ground was clearly a bad sign. As it inched ever closer I felt my leaves begin to shrivel up as if the oxygen was being replaced with something else.

The decay spreads to the branches, next the trunk and lastly the roots.

A tree.

Killed in a man's war.

Principal's Message

We have concluded Term 2 with a full schedule of activities and events. In this last week of term alone we have had four big events and each one of these has highlighted to me the value and importance of providing opportunities for our students to be independent and interdependent learners.

Our Year 7 students presented an overview of their learning for Semester 1 to their parents and Learning Mentors in student led conferences. The eight minute Celebration and Challenge Conferences provided each Year 7 student with the opportunity to outline understanding of their own learning journey over Semester 1 and their perceptions of the areas which have been difficult. It was a pleasure to hear students provide insights into their own learning and their understanding of how to further develop their skills. Research clearly indicates that students who understand themselves as learners and know how to take the next steps in developing their learning are much better equipped and more likely to experience success at school and as lifelong learners.

The Music Department held the annual Mid-Year Concert at Hawthorn

Town Hall. Despite having to move off site this year due to the condition of the hall, the venue was filled to capacity with wonderful supporters of our music students. The students demonstrated self-management in preparation for the event with independent practice and participated with their ensemble members to produce wonderfully entertaining music.

In June student leaders from Years 7, 8 and 9 participated in a Student Forum which focused on the Student Attitudes to School Survey results. The students studied the data, raised questions and shared observations and experiences at school to verify the data. Students then made recommendations about actions which should be put in place.

The Year 9 Connexhibition was enjoyed by a large numbers of parents and students. The E Centre was filled with the creative endeavours of students showcasing the models they had created to represent their focus for the term. Making a Difference took many and varied forms from posters to sculptures each showing how an individual, era or process had made a difference to humanity. Parents also heard from two students about their



Jill Laughlin, Principal

projects and the thinking, passion and processes behind each.

We concluded the term with the Talent Quest assembly, planned and led by our student leaders, featuring our talented students. Funds from the \$2 donations supported the nominated charities for each House.

Next term we will welcome back our six Year 9 students who have spent Term 2 at the Alpine School for Student Leadership. It was a pleasure to visit them last week and see the growth they have experienced individually and as a team. We look forward to working with them as they implement their community project next term.

Jill Laughlin, Principal

School Tours

Camberwell High School offers prospective students, parents, ex-students and community members the opportunity to take a guided tour to see the school 'in action' on a normal day.

School tours are conducted fortnightly and bookings are essential. PH: 9836 0555.

CAREER ADVISORY NETWORK

CHESS is working to establish a Career Advisory Network where current students are given the opportunity to talk with ex-students who are enjoying a variety of careers. If you are keen to participate, please send your name, profession, email address and phone number to Yvonne Giltinan: chs.chessmoves@gmail.com and your information will be forwarded to the Assistant Principal.

CHESS Committee News

2015 AGM

At the recent AGM the following members were elected unopposed.

■ **President:** Yvonne Giltinan (McLaren 1965)

■ **Vice President:** Joel Porter (2012)

■ **Secretary:** Geoff Head (1972)

■ **Treasurer:** Eugene Smarrelli (1976)

■ Steve Callinan Moore (1971)

■ Ashley Wah (2013)

■ Neil Robson (1972)

■ Bob Taylor (1962)

■ **Associates:** Jill Fletcher (Davies, 1965);
Audrey Broomhead (1946); Marnie Kok (White, 1963);
Bernard Corser (1971)

■ **Website:** Lisa Grayson (1984)

■ **Newsletter desktop publisher:** Helen Cumming
(current parent)

'CHESS can only function because of the ongoing interest, commitment and conscientious contributions from the committee and our associates and I am very grateful for their support.' Yvonne Giltinan

The AGM reports that were presented by the President and Treasurer can be viewed on our website:
<http://chessmoves.com/membership>



Music Captain Stephani Kourambas with Bob Taylor and Daniel Beddison, School Captain

Leader's lunch

In May Camberwell High School student leaders and staff shared lunch with CHESS committee members. As always, this was a delightful exchange of experiences both past and present, with the goal of enhancing the learning opportunities for students and raising the profile of CHESS among current students. Our two younger committee members, Ashley Wah and Joel Porter, also took the opportunity to encourage the Year 12 leaders to promote CHESS to their classmates so that all exiting students sign up and become members before they leave school.



Neil Robson with Junior School Captains Daniel Surkitt and Serena Beddison



Ashley Wah, Joel Porter and Music Captain Ryan Lynch

Mid-Year Luncheon with Hazel Edwards

Our July luncheon was a lovely gathering of 60 alumni, including some who had travelled long distances. Our tables were grouped in year groups with ex-students from 1945 to 1972. It was wonderful to once again have ex-Principal Ann Rusden with us. Ann started CHESS and continues to be most supportive.

Our distinguished author and alumnus **Hazel Edwards OAM** is best known for her book *There's a Hippopotamus on Our Roof Eating Cake*. Hazel gave us helpful and amusing tips from her book *How to write a non-boring family history*.

<http://www.hazeledwards.com/shop/item/authorpreneurship-the-business-of-creativity>

Many attendees appreciated the opportunity to come to a CHESS function during the day, and we are hopeful that it will become an annual event.

Postscript

Hazel has forwarded an e-pub version of '*Authorpreneurship: The Business of Creativity*'. This is a gift for those that spoke to Hazel about marketing their books. CHESS will also consider Hazel's advice about making *Robert Ewins' A Jubilee Retrospective* an e-book.



Alumni@Work – Rachel Porter



After leaving Camberwell High School I had a management position early in my career on the 'First Bounce' project which helped with the marketing of the VFL as it transitioned through to the AFL. This was an enormously exciting time in football history and provided a unique opportunity for a young achiever who at that point had never attended a football game! I then started my own successful events, marketing, media and PR company which was highly respected in corporate circles.

I lost my first two sons then experienced the birth of my first healthy son. While pregnant with my fourth son, I felt compelled to help other families struggling through the emotional pain of pregnancy loss. I established a charity for pregnancy loss, grief counselling, support, education and medical research. The charity funded vital medical research projects and ran 24-hour, seven day per week grief counselling services which supported many thousands of families throughout Australia. I wrote a highly successful book about pregnancy loss which sold in bookstores across

Australia with 100% of proceeds going to charity. The book includes stories of every day families and celebrity families who struggled to have a healthy baby. The book was launched at Parliament House and many politicians were visibly moved by the tragic stories of families struggling to have a healthy baby.

For the past 20 years I have been helping in the community, including working with Nelson Mandela on World Reconciliation Day, which raised over one million dollars for his children's charity. On Christmas Day in 2013 I volunteered at Parkville Juvenile Justice Centre with Whitelion and I was very moved by the stories the young people told of the cycle of abuse that had led them to being incarcerated. Some had been sexually abused, others had parents who were involved with drugs or alcohol, some had come from extremely disadvantaged backgrounds – every story was different but every young person deserved a better life. Very few of them would receive a visitor on Christmas Day. Later I became the National Partnerships Manager at Whitelion and our team work diligently to raise funds and public awareness to help young people find the courage to choose a better future.

I have been fortunate to receive recognition for my community work including the 1999 Patch Adams Humanitarian Award, the Tattersall's Unsung Heroes Award and the Growing Years Award. I have been a finalist in the Telstra Business Women of the Year awards and the Australian of the Year Awards and received a Celebrating Melbourne Award from the Lord Mayor of Melbourne. I feel very privileged to be involved in such important community work helping vulnerable young people at risk. Each and every person can make a very real difference in the lives of others if they have the aspiration and are compassionate about helping those less fortunate and vulnerable in our community.

Contributing to Alumni@Work

If you would like to share about your career since your days at Camberwell High School, please forward your details to:

chs.chessmoves@gmail.com

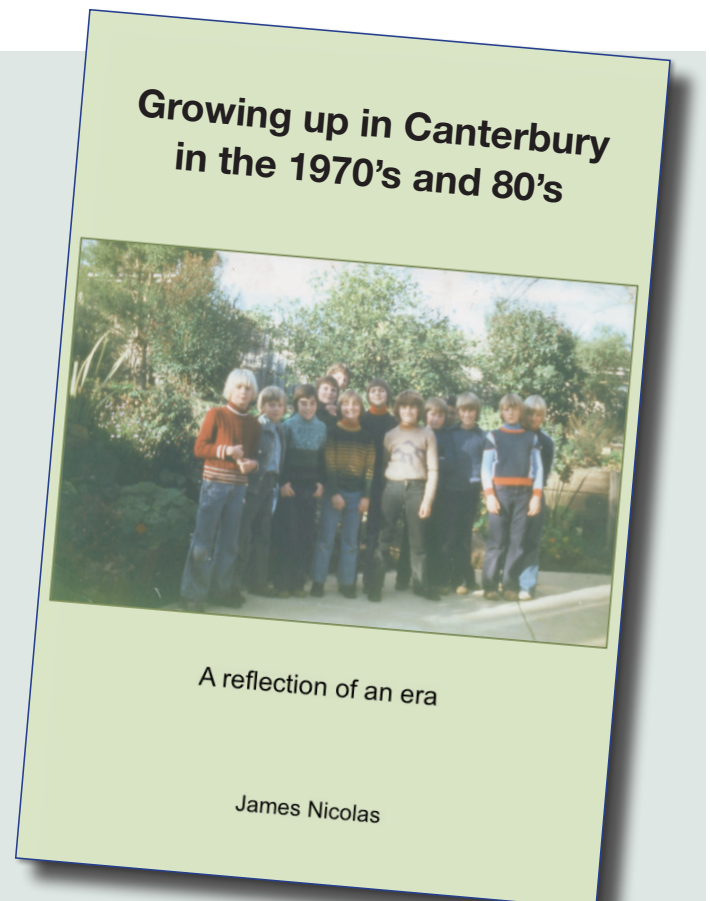
New book releases



Brothers Mic (1969) and Jim Conway (1968) formed a band at CHS called *Jelly Bean Jug Band* that became the *Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band* and later *Circus Oz*.

The newly released book '*Captain Matchbox and Beyond*', contains various amusing references to their Camberwell High days. The book can be purchased from Mic's website www.micconway.com or www.melbournebooks.com.au

Part time writer and historian James Nicolas (1984) has recently released a booklet on Canterbury in the 1970s and 80s. It is a reflection of an era and talks about the characters, shops, schools, churches, and clubs and traces their history back to their origins. It costs \$5 plus postage and is available from Cobrasfc@gmail.com or 0407 511 057. Proceeds go to the Canterbury History Group.



In Short

Looking for missing photos

We are keen to add to our photo collection on the website. If you have photos that are not on the website, please scan them, name them clearly and send them to our email.

chs.chessmoves@gmail.com

Contributing to Alumni@Work

In our next edition of *Chessmoves* we are featuring alumni who have returned to study and then commenced a second career later in

life. If you would like to share about your second career, send a short summary of about 150 words to our email marked attention Yvonne Giltinan.

Looking for a 1998 Prospice

Many thanks for your wonderful response to our request for missing Prospice's. They are gradually being scanned and will be uploaded on our website for all to enjoy.

We only have a 1998 one missing. Please contact us if you can assist.

Correction to dates

Bill Stringer provided the following correct information about

Dr Cameron. 'Miss Cameron returned to teaching from some study or special trip and was sent to CHS early in 1958. Her official Education Department appointment to the position at CHS was confirmed for 1959. I was in my final year at CHS in 1958 and sang under her direction in the madrigal group. While she was a Music Inspector my brother became a music teacher and then my daughter was a member of the Chamber Strings and went to China with her. I met her a number of times and she always remembered my name.'

Tributes

Ian Stanley CHS 1953

Ian's friends remember him as a colourful character and a loveable eccentric. He worked for a time in the VicRoads Head Office and later in the Commonwealth Public Service. He had many and diverse interests. He was an early enthusiast of the tramway movement in Victoria. Away from transport he was an avid fan of the VFA. For many years, Ian was the scorekeeper at the Camberwell football ground, where trams passed by!

In 2012 he received the 50-year membership award for his involvement with Puffing Billy. Towards mature age Ian met and married Kathy and they retired to the Beaufort area of western Victoria. He was 77 when he died in May 2015.

Below: Puffing Bill



Peter Bremner 1951–1955

When Peter came to CHS he made lifelong friends with Ray Carroll and Don Kerr. After school he joined the Sun Insurance Office as a junior, then moved to Bendigo as District Inspector with wife Libby in 1966. After 13 years he returned to Melbourne and became the Marine Insurance Superintendent but his health was deteriorating in the cold. The family moved to Brisbane in 1986 but sadly his health continued to deteriorate and in 1988 Peter retired. Retirement was wonderful. Peter and Libby joined a boat club, a 4WD Club and a caravan club and travelled extensively around Australia. They moved to a five-acre property at Cedar Grove which gave Peter much fresher air to breathe.

Peter died in March 2015.



Ron Pratt 1946–1951

After completing National Service Ron was honoured to receive a medal. In 1963 he commenced dairy farming in Neerim South then worked as an agricultural officer at Dookie from 1970. He retired to acreage in Coleville near Moe in 1980 and continued farming. He enjoyed playing tennis and also became President of the Mid Gippsland Family History Society. After a Pratt family reunion his wife Pam began researching the family history and they were able to trace the arrival of the Pratt ancestors in Australia to 1853. There is a possibility that some relatives were also coach makers to Queen Victoria. Ron died in May and is remembered as outgoing and bubbly and a frequent writer to the local paper.

Below: Immigration Monument at Morwell

