



CHESS MOVES

www.chessmoves.com

The Voice of the Inner East, 94.1FM, is a busy little radio station. I sit waiting for my turn and watch the over 90-year-old presenter co-ordinating a quiz with his three guests. I'm here to meet Iain Messer, the 2–4pm announcer. We both went to Camberwell High School. We were in the same year and had the same teachers. Iain wants to chat about the school's 75th celebrations that have taken place. He wants to reminisce about our teachers and talk about where our careers and our lives took us after high school. He also reminds me that my father employed him in the Middle Camberwell Post Office while he was a student.

I have done some preparation for my hour-long chat. I have the Potted History that I have compiled summarising every decade of the school's history (<https://chessmoves.com/1940-1949-potted-history>) and also some information from the school.

- There are currently 1200 students, including 80 international students who have come for Years 10, 11 and 12. The school provides a 20-week intensive English Language course for recently arrived students.
- Year 11 and 12 students have a choice of 31 VCE subjects.
- French and Chinese (Mandarin) are taught and students have the opportunity to attend sister schools in Normandy, France and Suzhou, China every alternate year.



- There is a very strong music program from Years 7 to 12. Senior ensembles undertake local, interstate and international tours.
- Year 9 students learn in the Enterprise Centre, a specially designed building that has an auditorium, a multimedia and recording booth and a green screen for film-making.
- There are many opportunities for overseas travel through language studies, Classics tours, Music tours and the World Challenge. In recent years students have visited Canada, Italy, Greece, Turkey, Borneo, Nepal, South Africa Vietnam and the United States.
- Learning to be considerate of others is our motto and underpins all that we do in our school community. Disco Consulere Aliis.

I hope listeners enjoyed hearing about Camberwell High School.

in this issue

- President's Report
- School Report
- 75th Gala Dinner
- Reunions

Postal address

CHESS, PO Box 1101
Surrey Hills North LPO 3127

For your diary

Mid-Year Luncheon

Sunday 9 July 11.30 for 12.00
Box Hill Golf Club
chsalumni.files.wordpress.com

Have you changed your details?

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

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

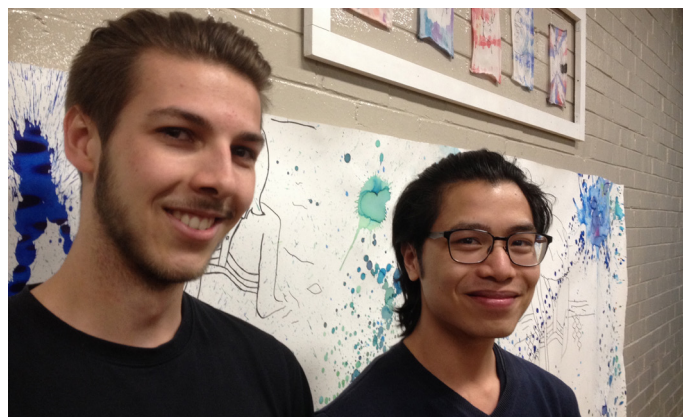
In this edition we have included details of our Mid-Year Luncheon. We are delighted that former Principal Elida Brereton will be the Guest Speaker. Please keep the date free and join us on Sunday 9 July.

Yvonne Giltinan, President

School News

In October each year the Valedictory Evening and Annual Arts, Technology and Design Exhibition is held. On this occasion, ex-students from the Class of 2014 who are studying at Swinburne University, were invited to return to judge one of the Arts prizes. Sam Armitage is studying a Bachelor of Industrial Design and Harley Stafford, a Bachelor of Communication Design. They also gave some advice to the Year 12s who were about to sit their exams. Rachel Caine won the Principal's Award for her photo collection and Cindy Wei won the Senior School Award for her design. The Valedictory Evening marks the completion of six years of education, and rewards those Year 12 students who have excelled in sporting, artistic and academic pursuits. I presented the Sports Awards to four students who have represented the school with distinction in a range of sporting activities. On behalf of the Ex-Students Society I also presented the annual CHESS awards and prize money which is given to "two individuals who have sought to achieve their personal best. They have both displayed outstanding leadership across the school and contributed positively to the life of everyone in our school."

Charlie Capp and David Kavanagh, the Student Representative Council Captains, received the Year 12 CHESS awards for 2016.



Sam Armitage and Harley Stafford



Rachel Caine with her award-winning photos



Charlie Capp and David Kavanagh with Yvonne Giltinan

Open Night Tuesday 2 May 6pm

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 Tuesday 2 May at 6pm.

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



Cindy Wei's winning design

CHESS Awards



Bob Taylor presents Principal Jill Laughlin with two substantial cheques

At the end of 2016 our CHESS representative on the School Council, Bob Taylor AM, presented Principal Jill Laughlin with a cheque from the Ex-Students Society for \$3,000 and a cheque from the Robert Ewins Memorial Fund.

Annual memberships from members go towards four CHESS awards which are given each year to a student in Year 10, Year 11 and two students in Year 12. The remainder of our contribution is used to assist students who need support with their education.

The Robert Ewins Memorial Fund donates \$750 p.a. for 2 English Literature Awards and the remainder is used for the benefit of English Literature within the Brereton Library.

It was delightful to receive two handwritten letters from students. Rebecca Rough wrote:

"Dear Ms Yvonne Giltinan,
I would like to thank you and, of course, CHESS for the support and opportunities you continue to provide Camberwell High School students through your annual awards. I have recently returned from a month exploring, helping and hiking in Vietnam through the school's World Challenge program. When I learnt that I had been announced as the Year 11 recipient I felt very surprised and honoured to be acknowledged in such a fashion.

If it is appropriate, I would also like to mention that I really enjoyed your speeches at our year level assembly and then at the formal assembly with alumni during the 75th anniversary celebrations. When you described the opportunity Camberwell High offered you to continue your education and your enjoyment of your time at school it really resonated with me. I

"It is really such an honour for me"

"This scholarship will benefit me in many aspects of my learning"

think it is amazing that we have so many opportunities at our school to participate and engage in many different areas and, as such, I feel very proud to be a Camberwell High school student. Thank you, once again, for this acknowledgement and generous scholarship. It is really such an honour for me and the scholarship funds will be used carefully to support my year twelve studies".

"My name is Sophie Roughsedge and I am a year 10 student at Camberwell High School. On the 24th of November I received the Ex-Students Society Scholarship. I would like to thank you for this wonderful opportunity, and this scholarship will benefit me in many aspects of my learning. This award is very encouraging for many students to receive and I feel it will be a major factor in students becoming confident in their education".

75th Gala Dinner 2016

It was fitting that the Camberwell High School community returned to Wattle Park Chalet to celebrate its 75th anniversary. In the 1940s exchange visits occurred between Warrigal High School and Camberwell High School students. After their day of competitive sport, students from both schools enjoyed a combined dinner at Wattle Park Chalet. The Warrigal students returned home by train. The 1947 farewells can be seen on our website. <https://chessmoves.com/our-chs-story/1940-1949/sports-photos/#jp-carousel-424>

On 11 November 2016 over 100 ex-students enjoyed a three-course meal. Music was supplied by a fabulous swing band of five ex-students who played with the

current Director of Music, David Hirst. Alumna from 2003, Tineka Everaardt, Senior Reporter for A Current Affair, also spoke. The highlight of the evening was the cutting of the celebratory cake by two former Principals, Ann Rusden and Elida Brereton and Jill Laughlin, the current Principal. The CHESS committee received many emails from ex-students who thanked them for running a most memorable 75th Gala Dinner.

You can enjoy the photos on our website.

<https://chessmoves.com/2016-75th-gala-dinner>



Above: Elida Brereton, Anne Rusden and Jill Laughlin cut the cake.
Below: Ex-students and current and former staff gathered at Wattle Park



David Hirst, back row second from left, with the five-piece swing band made up of ex-students



Reunions: Class of '76 and '66

During 2016 a number of year groups organised reunions and enjoyed catching up with each other.

The 1st Matriculation class had their 60th reunion in Maling Road, then walked to the school for a photo on the front steps.

Some from the Class of 1966 (top right) attended the Gala Dinner with guests flying in from around the country. "Wonderful occasion – thank you so much for organising it – but much more so for keeping Chess so alive and vital."

The Class of 1976 are pictured below right at their 40th reunion at The Geebung. Their photos can be seen here: https://drive.google.com/open?id=0B_tACHcw982TbE5xbmJCNk5EMHc



..... Is 2017 your reunion year?

This year is a significant one for those who attended Camberwell High in 1957, '67; '77; '87 etc. It is also 25 years since the class of 1992 graduated.

Please contact CHESS so we can assist you with organising a memorable reunion:
chs.chessmoves@gmail.com.



Mid-Year Luncheon with Guest Speaker Elida Brereton

Sunday 9 July 11.30am for 12.00 noon

Box Hill Golf Club, 202 Station Street Box Hill

\$40 per person for a two-course meal

Drinks at bar prices

RSVP: 9am Monday 3 July

Booking:

<https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/>

[BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=262530&embed=262530](https://www.trybooking.com/Booking/BookingEventSummary.aspx?eid=262530&embed=262530)



The first days of CHS



Camberwell High School, 1942

A reflection by Don Walker (Class of 1941)

I am going to paint two pictures for you.

The first is of a terrible war. Now, all wars are terrible, and I am in no way belittling people who have served in later wars: the Malayan Emergency, the Korean War, Vietnam, Iraq and Afghanistan, and peace keeping work in the Solomon's and Timor Leste and the anxiety and sorrow caused to their families, but World War 11 was full on. There was no family in Australia which was not touched - relatives or friends away fighting, loved ones lost, and rationing at home.

Lots of things cost some ration coupons - meat, butter, eggs (sometimes relations in the country might send some eggs). With clothing, my mother could claim a few extra coupons because I had long arms. Shirt tails were cut short. Petrol was rationed also, and some cars wore "gas producers" at the back. Everything was "austerity" until long after the war ended - even newsprint and books were on brownish austerity paper.

In Melbourne there was a "brown-out", i.e. street lighting was reduced and dimmed. Curtains and blinds had to be closely drawn, and Air Raid Wardens patrolled streets to check that no chink of light penetrated. Everyone was encouraged to learn First Aid - children often acting as the "victims". People made enormous and continuous efforts to raise money for the War Effort - stalls, fetes and shows, and were encouraged to lend the Government money by buying War Savings Bonds. People made camouflage netting to

disguise tank and gun positions. Families sent "comforts" to the troops - knitted socks, fruit cakes etc.

Families were encouraged to dig their own air-raid shelters in their back yards. (Many of them eventually filled with water!) Zigzag slit trenches were dug in parks and schoolyards by the boys who later had to fill them in. Preparations were made for evacuating children from Melbourne. Everyone was very concerned when it was reported that a Japanese plane had flown over Melbourne. Everyone eagerly scanned the war maps and news published daily in the newspapers and listened avidly to radio news bulletins that were censored. It was full on.

The second picture is of a stark yellow brick building in a sea of mud - the new Camberwell High School.

I, like many others, had finished Grade 6 at Canterbury State School at the end of 1940, but the new building was not ready, so we were spread around. I went to Camberwell Central with some of my school friends for Term 1, then started at the new school at the beginning of Term 2. The opening took place on Tuesday 27th May, 1941. Dr. James addressed the new pupils in his kindly tone from the top of the steps at the main entrance. We, the new students, were all gathered at the foot of the stairs.

The school ran smoothly, everyone knew what to do - students and teachers. Schools were all very similar then: same rules, same times, same subjects. Mr White controlled the boys and Miss Egan ruled the girls under



Camberwell High School under construction in 1940

the benevolent eye of Dr James. It was a "co-educational" school, but boys and girls were strictly segregated: the boys' yard, the girls' yard, the girls' locker-room, the boys' locker-room, the boys' stairs, the girls' stairs. Those stairs! The poor cleaners must have had a terrible job each night after boots and shoes has clumped in yellow clayey mud up those stairs and along the corridors.

The war drew closer and became more urgent. Australia came under attack. Darwin, Wyndham, Broome, Katherine and Townsville were bombed. Midget submarines did damage in Sydney Harbour, and Sydney and Newcastle were shelled by submarines off the coast. The American general MacArthur, who was overall commander in the Pacific, withdrew from the Philippines and fell back on Australia. The American troops arrived and when we went to the pictures at the local theatres we stood rigidly to attention for The Star Spangled Banner. At the end of the show we stood again for God Save the King.

The US Army made its headquarters in Melbourne at MacRobertson Girls' High. The Royal Australian Navy took over Melbourne Boys' High School and some of those boys descended on the new Camberwell High School. The students at the new school, after only two terms and a couple of weeks into the new year of 1942, were all dispersed around to other schools.

I went to Box Hill High School with my friends where we stayed until Form 5 (Year 11) 1945. By 1945, the war was coming to an end and the Services had vacated the school buildings. MacRob and Melbourne Boys' High School



Digging air-raid trenches, 1942

students returned to their respective sites and Camberwell High School was re-constituted in its own building. Many students returned at the beginning of 1945, however I and the Box Hill coterie didn't return, doing well at Box Hill and not wanting another disruption.

So, although I spent only two terms plus a few days at the school, I have the honour to be able to claim, with a small handful of others, to be an original student at Camberwell High School.

Don Walker (Class of 1941)

Ex-students are welcome to submit material for Chessmoves. Contact Yvonne Giltinan for details: chs.chessmoves@gmail.com OR 9816 9413

Tribute



Robert Wilbur Keene 1932–2017 CHS Teacher 1955–1958

Wilbur obtained a Bachelor of Science degree majoring in Pure Maths, Chemistry, Physics and Geology in 1954. He taught at Camberwell High School from 1955 to 1958. Students in the first Matriculation class of 1956 remember him as a great chemistry teacher. Another wrote that his maths was outstanding, and there was nothing he didn't know. Any question would be answered. One day he stopped the class after there had been some laughter about a silly question, and said 'You can ask a silly question

and be thought a fool for five minutes. Or you can sit there and look intelligent, and be a fool for the rest of your life.'

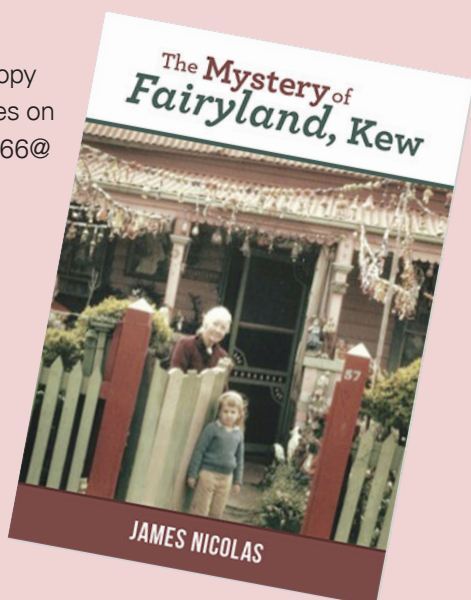
Other teaching appointments included Macleod High School, Oak Park, Myrtleford, and evening classes at University High. He taught at Wangaratta High School from 1986 until he retired in 1994. Thousands of students had the privilege of being taught Mathematics and Science by him, and he gained the highest respect from colleagues and students alike.

The Mystery of Fairyland

James Nicolas latest book, *The Mystery of Fairyland Kew*, tells the story of a Gallipoli veteran and his wife who dedicated their lives to creating a children's wonderland in Kew from the mid 1940s until her death in 1965.

As a tourist attraction it was visited by people from all over Melbourne, Australia and from overseas, and was covered in many newspapers and magazines in its era.

To obtain a copy contact James on jamesnicolas66@gmail.com or mob: 0407511057



Reminder: 2017 Membership fees are now overdue

Options include:

- ☐ Annual Membership:
\$25 for a calendar year
- ☐ Membership for 5 years: \$120
- ☐ Membership for 10 years: \$200

The membership form is on our website:
<https://chessmoves.com/membership>

Payment methods include:

- Credit Card or PAYPAL
- Direct Credit: BSB: 083125 Account Number: 507238691
- Scan the membership form and send with payment to: chs.chessmoves@gmail.com
- Cheque: Post form and cheque to
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