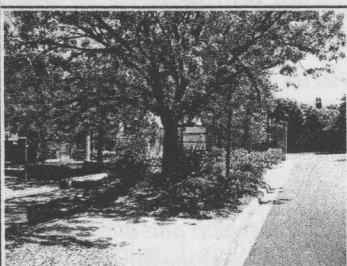




## IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Report
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- Discourse – Laurie Barton
- Obituary for former CHS Principal – Hubert Slattery
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- Kelvin Club Dinner



## CHES MEETINGS:

**12th July**

**13th September**

**8th November**

- We are now holding our meetings bi-monthly.
- Meeting at a later starting time (and outside CHS) means that two of the committee members won't have to leave their work early and this also fits in with my family commitments – and it takes pressure off Elida, Glenn plus the school cleaners who need an early lock-up time.
- Anyone interested in joining us, at a local restaurant, please ring Bernard on 9416-3155 (W) or (Mobile) 0407-300678.

# CHES MOVES

## CAMBERWELL HIGH EX-STUDENTS' SOCIETY

<http://www.chessmoves.com>

July 2004

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### THE FUTURE OF CHES

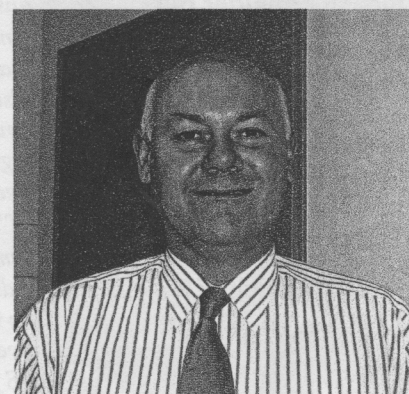
Our CHES April meeting triggered a number of suggestions from the committee, in response to issues raised by one of the school representatives about CHES's viability and aims.

Survival for CHES may lie in our committee facing a number of issues as we plan for 2005. Outlined below are some items, sent to the school for comment.

- CHES will meet every second month as some members wish to have less time commitment than the current 11 meetings per year.
- CHES will meet at a venue other than the school so that we may start later and not have to depart the building because of the cleaners need to secure the school building.
- CHES welcomes the attendance of a school representative whilst not wanting to be a consumer of staff or the principal's time as we understand the demands on the school administration.
- CHES wishes to preserve document and photo archives at the school with direct school assistance.
- CHES plans to maintain the CHESMOVES website and data collection.
- CHES has donated \$500 dollars to the Principals fund.
- CHES will review its future in February 2005.

CHES members may write or email their thoughts to myself or the committee on your suggestions for future directions of our ex student group.

Disco Consulere Allis  
Bernard Corser (Class of '71)



**PRESIDENT**

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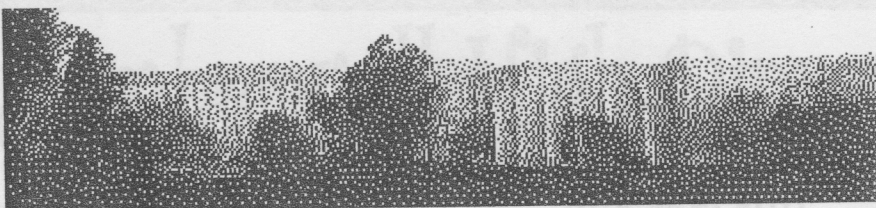
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au

**We welcome any contributions from past students. Please contact Deb by post or email with any written articles. Also, if any CHESS members wish to place ads, please contact Bernard. Also, please consider our chessmoves website for your advertising!**

CHESSMOVES  
DEADLINE FOR NEXT  
ISSUE:

October 15th, 2004.  
Send all articles to Debs  
at her address or via  
email.



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*It has been a busy, exciting, involving, exhausting (for some) and largely triumphant time since early May! The performance of FAME, in mid-May, was a great success and performances had large and enthusiastic audiences. Huge congratulations went to students in the cast, the musicians, support students and stage, lighting and sound crews, and to the staff involved, with an acknowledgement that many of them sacrificed weekends and after-school hours for months to ensure the high quality that we witnessed.*

*Following this success, our Mid Year Music Concert was a magnificent treat for a large and appreciative audience on June 16th. Major ensembles were interspersed with solo performances from scholarship winners, Steven Semmler-Farr, Simon Flavell and Alex Lunnon, and saxophone, flute and trombone groups. The Senior Stage Band, Concert Band, Beginner Band, Wind Ensemble, together with the Junior String Orchestra and String Orchestra, delighted us with their energy, discipline and quality (matching age and experience). Congratulations went to all performers and staff, and to the Friends of Music for providing supper. Jemima Bunn, our Director of Music, was chosen to conduct the Eastern Region (combined) Symphonic Band at the performance in the Concert Hall on June 9th, and we congratulate Jemima on this high-level recognition of her talents and her outstanding organisational ability. We congratulate too the thirty music students chosen to play in the concert and Josi Bruce for her great achievement in being selected to be part of DET's "Joining the Chorus" troupe of singers and dancers. Well done all! (The Symphonic Band also toured Phillip Island and West Gippsland in late June, under the baton of Kathryn Cooper.)*

*The new building along Prospect Hill Road continues to develop and attract much interest from the community. The classrooms on the upper level and the larger Drama, teaching and performing space, will not only be a joy to use but will allow us to say "goodbye" to another group of portable classrooms. The completion date is expected to be late September.*

*Two English principals have spent part of a week in late mid-June, 'shadowing' me and other staff as part of an official project to compare educational developments of Australia with the UK. Both lead secondary schools in England, and both were impressed particularly with the good-naturedness of our students. Like us they deplore the use of 'league tables' of Year 12 results which ignore policies and practices that differ from school to school.*

*You will be reassured to not see the name of Camberwell High School in media lists of assaults at schools and other crimes and violence and we all hope that our school remains so trouble-free in that regard. Even more reassuring (or equally so!) has been the recent announcement that, on the basis of its performance academically, and in areas of management, welfare, and staff, student and parental levels of satisfaction with CHS, this school has been places in the top 17% of government schools. This recognition means that Camberwell High School will be involved in a "Negotiated School Review". This is the type of Triennial (three-year) Review of all school activities towards our and DET's goals and priorities, which has the least input or 'examining' of our achievements by DET, because, in their words, "this school is performing above DET expectations". May we never lower our expectations or stop striving to improve all we do, but this is a genuine vote of confidence in CHS from the department.*

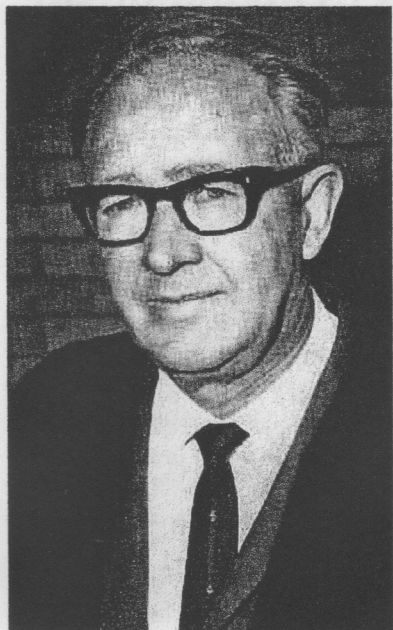
Elida Brereton





# Hubert Joseph Slattery

## CHS Principal 1968 – 1971



Hubert Slattery, or Mr Slattery as we students fondly remember him, died recently at the grand age of 98 years. He had a most impressive record within the Education Department until his retirement in 1971 where he was ranked the 3rd highest Principal in the State of Victoria.

He initially commenced his vocation as a teacher aide in 1925, then undertook studies to become a primary school teacher. The Department of Education selected him to commence training to become a secondary school teacher and he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Melbourne University and also a Diploma in Education. His career as a secondary teacher began at Melbourne Boys' High School where he taught English, Latin and History. In order to achieve promotion, he then moved to higher elementary schools at Terang and Korumburra, then high schools at Dimboola and Morwell, which entailed many moves for his family before they returned to Melbourne in 1959, where he became Principals of Reservoir and Nunawading High Schools.

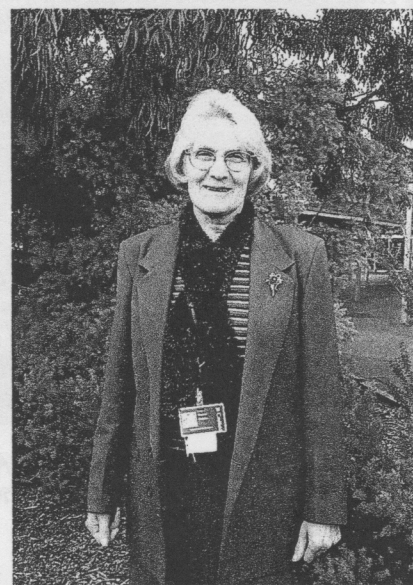
Hubert Slattery then became Principal of Camberwell High, upon the retirement of Mr Gazzard. During his time at the helm of CHS, he achieved many great things.....he was extremely interested in the curriculum and instituted a successful transition program for First Form that enabled new students to adapt better to a secondary environment. He also introduced electives for Forms 3 and 4 and also was an advocate for the abolition of exams. Mr Slattery was very supportive of the music side of our school, especially the choral festivals and our orchestra. He also was instrumental in fostering donations towards the rowing program to purchase new equipment. (This period saw a resurgence in our rowing reputation, much as during the glory years of the late 50s)

To me, as a young student in those times, the 1970s building (proposed by his predecessor) stands as a monument to him, because he was directly involved in overseeing its creation whilst he tried to minimise the disruption to our lives. It was truly a major capital works project, which incorporated an assembly hall designed to hold 1000 students (with a cafeteria underneath) and the three floors, holding science rooms, the library, general purpose classrooms and modern cookery classrooms. After experiencing the privations of large classes in portables, sited on all points surrounding the original building (they were on basketball and volleyball courts plus the rear of the original building) it was truly wonderful when we moved into a fabulous new building. No more Monday assemblies outside in the elements but a permanent place for choral festivals, speech nights, drama festivals and our orchestra to play onstage every Monday morning. Can I say it was Mr Slattery's vision fulfilled?

Hubert's daughter, Margaret, kindly gave me the eulogy, given by his eldest son, John, at his funeral service – it mentions a true gentleman, one who, though he had a long career as a teacher, did not seek public recognition and who enjoyed his privacy. A devoted family man, he took a keen interest in their lives and was immensely proud of their achievements. He was an active lawn bowler and a keen fisherman. Hubert lost his beloved wife, Freda, 5 years prior and he is survived by his three children, John, Margaret and Peter (who was also an ex-Camberwell High student).

I wish to thank his daughter, Margaret, for kindly answering my request for information on her father's impressive career in education and for giving me insight into the personal side that his family enjoyed. He was described to them as a 'dignified, loving man'.

*Vale Mr Slattery*



*Margaret Clayton (née Slattery)*

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## Reminiscences from Marie Donald (née Curtis)

### CHS 1946 – 1950



A recent trip to Riversdale Station, Camberwell, during the week brought back many memories of High School days. On the insistence of my brother – who assured me there were tea-rooms and a craft shop on the station, my husband and I paid a visit. The tea rooms were shut but Camberwell High School students filled the platforms on both sides as it was “going home” time. We adjourned to a tea-shop-restaurant on the other side of the railway gates. This establishment was formerly a milk bar with a residence and was a nice cosy spot to observe the students who were catching the tram home. There were quite a few uniforms mingling with the High School ones as well. Some of these I could identify, but not all. And of course the High School uniform is totally changed now. On reflection it does seem that we are breeding a special race for the purpose of transporting around the huge back packs that have replaced the school bags and small suitcases of yore. Apart from the students I did want to see the station again as it was the scene of a recent heroic rescue by a student. Well done to him!

My story of the group who chummed up because of our names starting with M was just of meeting during our lunch time. This was a social group who discussed things that were of interest at the time. We were not overly political and of course had never heard of the “glass ceiling” so had no thought of raising it in the future. Fashions of the day were hugely important as we were growing toward womanhood and it was a mark of your progression if you were allowed to wear certain styles. I say “allowed” as parents were not to be disobeyed at this stage. To appear in public unsuitably dressed, (by parents or school standard) was simply not done. Of course there were one or two “M”s who turned up to school wearing blood-red nail polish on a Monday. Quelle horreur! They were nearly always spotted by teachers and sent to the staff room. A useful bottle of nail polish remover was kept in the lockers for such occasions. So an innocent “M” would report to the staff room to have her hands inspected. The mistress would not request socks (or stockings) to be removed so the painted toes remained intact.

About this time there were quite a lot of industrial “strikes”. One I remember was a bread strike when Melbourne bakers did not produce any bread so therefore no sandwiches could be made for lunches. Our mothers had to try to make substitutes. No home bread-making devices existed at that time and apparently no supplies of yeast could be obtained in Camberwell-Hartwell shopping areas or nearby suburbs either. There were some strange substitutes for bread and I remember we all compared notes.

Whilst a few of the “M” were good at sport the Arts seemed to be of great interest. “Music for the People” had just started in the gardens near the later addition of the Myer Music Bowl. We sat on the grass to hear Glenda Raymond singing and marvelled at her voice and her glamour. Hector Crawford had this idea and crowds flocked there. Not all our group attended as we all used public transport to get there and guess what! – you had to ask your parents’ permission. But our interest in music was definitely fostered at the school through the choral competition when the different “houses” competed for the Dr A.V. James Cup. Mostly these events were held in the Camberwell Town Hall. Yes – we all walked there en-masse to compete. I was one of the few girls receiving private piano lessons. As a school we also attended the late Bernard Heinz special school orchestral concerts held in the Melbourne Town Hall. We went by train – no buses for schools then as I think petrol was in short supply. But the trains were considered safe transport for both girls and boys at that time.

Two subjects of contentious issues came up for discussion. Our sources of information came from the newspapers. The saddest issue was the dropping of the atomic bomb on Japan in order to end the war in the Pacific. The resonances of that went on through my High School years. However the subject was never broached by our teachers so any discussion was held amongst ourselves. I think we all attended Protestant Churches of various denominations so through these areas we gained some information. At least one of our group always ended up in tears so discussions were probably abandoned.

The other subject that came up was something called the “Kinsey Report”. A breakthrough in research into unmentionable areas of human life had been published in the U.S.A. One of our group, whose older brother was studying at Melbourne University (and who was thought to know everything!) had brought this into his family discussions. So his sister started to talk about it in our group and we all rushed home to read about it in “The Herald”. I think basically we thought we knew about it but we could just as easily have been talking about the origins of the “tooth fairy”.

One of our science teachers (Mr Harrison) did talk about future world predictions of melting ice caps and lack of wood if all the forests were denuded. Population explosions were mentioned also. Little did we know that these far-off predictions would come true in our lifetimes.



## Reminiscences from Marie Donald (née Curtis)

5

Another science teacher Mr "Snoop" McCance whose children also attended the school was extremely popular for his eccentricities. He was keen on safety and always conducted his experiments in front of the lighted Bunsen burner holding a small asbestos mat with tongs in front of his face. I remember the boys loved this. Their hilarity probably stemmed from the fact that no student would be protected anyway if something went wrong. I don't recall that we were actually to follow by doing the experiments ourselves. Anyway experiments probably wouldn't be allowed these days. It would all be on videos I suppose or computerised in some way.

Some of the girls in our group studied subjects like commercial principles and practice and were ready to leave after form 4 or Intermediate Certificate. They would go into business colleges, or get jobs in banks etc. For the "professional courses" one staggered through form 5 or Leaving and onto Matriculation at another school. However I only know of two of my class of girls who actually carried on into University. I'm sorry I lost touch with so many. There was little career advice at schools then especially for the girls.

Marie Donald (née Curtis)



### Treasurer's Report – Neil Bouvier

CHESS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 10 MONTH PERIOD ENDED 19 April 2004

The AGM was held at the MCG on 19 April 2004 with the usual high interest from ex-students, so much so that this year seating had to be pre-booked with Ticketek and a security firm employed to prevent non-financial members from attending. An unprecedented number of nominations were tabled for honorary Committee positions especially for the highly desirable and illustrious positions of Treasurer and President, however, despite the many challenges and secret ballots the "old firm" held through in what were many tight contests. With that backdrop of huge excitement and drama the Treasurer's Report had everyone riveted on the edge of their seats as a \$2m loss was recorded due to the fallout of the Leonda Dinner Dance not going ahead and the President having to sell his 2 beach properties plus his Ferrari (red of course), racehorse and yacht to cover the debt as a result of being personal guarantor. Due to this debacle the committee is now having clandestine bi-monthly meetings at undisclosed destinations whilst yours truly is enjoying a pina colada in Rio funded by the CHESS chequebook.

Now that I have your undivided attention and we can drift back out of fantasy land, I'll now present the actual CHESS results. There was a deficit of \$1,922 for the year with total receipts of \$4,689 being exceeded by payments of \$6,611. The main revenue items were Subscriptions of \$2,900 and Donations \$1,789. With no re-union our income was down compared to previous years. Total costs were made up of Printing \$710, Postage \$3,375, Bank Charges \$221, Catering \$264, Webpage and Newsletter Updates & Hosting \$971, Archives \$225, School Gardens \$250 and Sundry Items of \$595.

#### CANCELLED LEONDA DINNER

Unfortunately due to a number of reasons the Committee did not proceed with the Black Tie Dinner Dance at Leonda as it was felt, with over 2 months to go, there were not enough numbers to proceed. If we kept the venue open within the last sixty days CHESS could have been caught with a 30 or 40% cancellation fee which would have broken the bank balance. This year we are pursuing a more low key and less risky strategy but still nonetheless enjoyable night at the Kelvin Club on Friday 8 October 2004 for all ex-students at the very reasonable price of \$69 a head. Details elsewhere on this newsletter and on the website.

#### COSTS OF MAIL-OUTS TO ALL EX-STUDENTS CUT BACK

As mentioned before and as seen by the figures above there will be no further mail-outs with the annual subscription renewal notices once a year covering the 4,500 total ex-student mail-out (ie. the whole ex-student database). It is way too expensive and prohibitive and with say 230 positive responses it's a terrible 5% success rate. From now on newsletters will reach regular subscribers in the post and any ex-students with email addresses will have access to newsletters (and the sub reminders) via email. So if some-one wants to be on our CHESS register and keep in contact please forward your email address to the Editor!!!



Neil Bouvier  
CHESS Treasurer

SENIOR  
MEMBERS  
CHESS

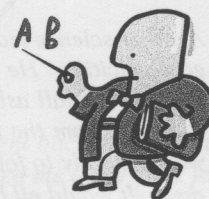


## DISCOURSE

*Our 13 question questionnaire.....*

*Replies from Laurie Barton (1965-1971)*

*Married with three children – Chaplain at Caulfield Grammar School*



*Which teacher inspired you at CHS?*

The teacher I remember inspiring me most was Mr. Robertson. He was my English teacher for a number of years (I later became an English teacher for three years). I remember him smoking his pipe in class (I quite enjoyed the aroma). I later learnt that he had been a "Dambuster" during the second World War - I wish I had asked him about his experiences!

I also enjoyed Mr. Glenn as coach of the football team - although most of my memories involved him yelling at me for some stupid mistake I had made! Geoff and I were colleagues a couple of years ago. It was great to tell him my favourite story of the day I "outmarked Peter Knights at Camberwell Football Ground!!!"

Ron Longmore and I worked together for a number of years. We shared friendship and lots of stories.

*Your funniest school memory?*

Adolescent memories conjure images of events during Mr. Whitcroft's Geography classes. More mature reflection (from the other side of the classroom) evokes a somewhat shamed observation that we really were so insensitive of 'Barney's' limitations.

*What subject did you hate and why?*

In Form 5 I tried to do sciences (It was what the "brains" did - I was kidding myself!) I was absolutely hopeless at Chemistry. I don't think Dr. Yuer could see a future for me in the laboratory. I then crashed out of Physics in Form 6. I repeated Form 6 in 1971, and enjoyed Humanities.

*What school house were you in?*

Roosevelt. I am pleased to record that my children were/are in 'blue' House at their school!

*Can you hit the high note at the end of the school song?*

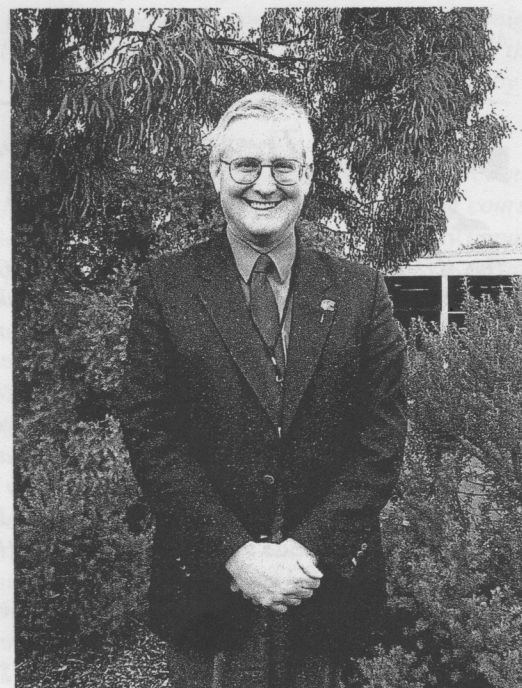
I think so, but it's all a very long time ago. I read the words in a recent edition of "Chessmoves". They're not too bad for a school song.

*Do you still have any school library books?*

No. But I can well remember the book I would have liked to borrow. It was called Living Anatomy. They definitely didn't do 'Brazilians' in those days! I recall us hiding behind the shelves to read it (and that it was a much perused edition).

*Your favourite sport or, conversely, what sport did you try to get out of?*

'Footy', by a mile! It was great fun to part of a team with a champion schoolboy player (Peter Knights). I think we all walked taller because of him. However, my only photographic record of this time is bizarre! The photo of the team in Prospice in 1971 rather prominently shows Rob Davey and me holding hands. Thirty-three years later, I cannot quite understand why we did this!





## DISCOurse (continued)

*What did you do on the last day of school? (we won't tell the police)*

All I can remember is going to Riversdale Park next to the East Camberwell Tennis Club and swinging on the swings at the children's playground. It wasn't the most wonderful period of my life (I had great difficulty with the rigors of 'swat vac.'!)

*Who was your best friend at school?*

I think of Warwick Cavell, Geoff Clift, Bruce Butler, David Davies - but probably these are friends I kept in contact with after school.

*What book are you reading now?*

The Da Vinci Code, Queer Eye for the Straight Guy (my wife insists I read it!), The Bible.

*Did you have a crush on a classmate?*

Too many to be specific....(what a 'cop out' response)!

*What classroom prank can you recall? (we know nothing)*

I was a member of 9E! I recall a day when a teacher (I don't think it was Mr. Whitcroft) was late for class and Chris Day was climbing out of the window of one of the rooms next to the swimming pool (before the Hall was built). A few boys were trying to "assist" him, so he began to wave his pocket knife around. Unfortunately, I was cut on the hand (I can still see the scar!). There was blood everywhere (I recall dripping it into Mr. Markham's rubbish bin). I had to go to Box Hill Hospital, and had three stitches. I was a hero the next day. I can't recall what happened to Chris or the teacher!

*Did CHS have a lasting influence on your life?*

Of course it did. I was never a strong student (am understatement!), but I eventually scraped into Uni. I don't think there was much individual differentiation then, but I have positive memories at so many levels. It's great to have an alumni society like CHESS to invite reflection!

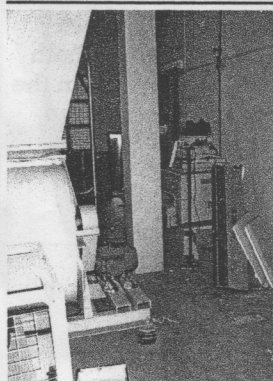
## A bit about me....

After my two years in Year 12 I scraped into Monash Arts. At last I began to learn how to study - and to enjoy it! I completed an Honours degree in Linguistics, then a Dip. Ed. In 1977- 8. I taught at Swan Hill Tech. and then returned as the only male under 30 on campus at Strathcona (up the hill from school) for 1979 - every CHS boy's dream!!!

Wendy and I married in 1980. I then became a Baptist Minister, ordained in 1984. In 1985 I started as Junior School Chaplain at Carey Grammar, then in 1993 I moved to Caulfield Grammar as Chaplain at the Wheelers Hill Campus.

We have three children - Tom (18) is training to be a teacher at Deakin Uni, Richard is in Year 10, and Annabel is in Year 7 (both at Caulfield Grammar).

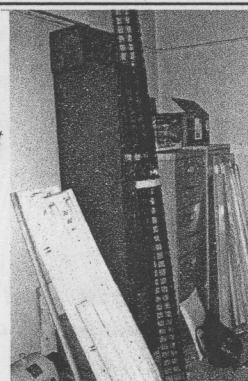
Laurie Barton



### THE ARCHIVES PRESERVATION ISSUE.....

I've written to the school, asking for a permanent home for our archives and am hoping for a reply. In May, I went into the archives area, which is the fan room on the second floor of the 70s building, next to where the library was, and I measured all the brownbuilt storage and emailed them to the school, asking for a dedicated storage area. I've been concerned about the dust and dirt that blows in (with old Prospectives and albums) and also, every time I need to open our CHESS filing cabinets, I have to move fluoro tubes to access them. Let's cross our fingers that they can find some appropriate space.

Debs



# CHESS Camberwell High Dinner

Kelvin Club, Melbourne CBD.

7pm, Friday October 8th, 2004.

\$69 pp (all inclusive)

(RSVP September 24th)

Book early to avoid disappointment.

Maximum 100 seats.

Gourmet food from Head Chef Rob Mott.

Pre-dinner drinks/drinks throughout meal.

Gents dress - Jacket and Tie.

Contact Bernard on 9416-3155 (W) or

0407-300678 for further info.



## chessmoves website update

I have had to take a break from the 'heavy-duty' archiving side of the website due to a very intense time here at home, with another third son being diagnosed with a disability, plus the needs of the older ones....things are starting to settle down a little so I hope to crank up again, especially after I finally found the missing photo albums for post-1986, which were in a storage room in the original building. It was like finding the Holy Grail (from the movies) because I've been searching for the missing photos for the past two years!

On to another subject....CHESS has been discussing making the website open to financial members only and we would appreciate feedback, from our members, on this issue. This should create an incentive for non-financial past students to join up and also help fund the site. A suggestion being that we issue financial members with an individual username and individual password which would give them access **beyond** the home page where significant notices will continue to be prominent. Links within the site would commence after authorised access. A thought was that, with providing newsletters online etc, that we should have distinctive benefits for those who support CHESS and the school.

Deb Johnson

*The views expressed by contributors to every Chessmoves are the reflections of private individuals and not those of the committee. All articles are edited for grammatical purposes only...and we accept articles in good faith.*