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## MEETING DATES:

**14 April (AGM) @7pm**  
Meeting is at Melbourne Boys' High.  
See ad on right

**7 July @ 6.30pm**  
This meeting will be held at Conachie Hall, 2 Rochester Rd, Canterbury.

**CHESS still has stock of school song CDs @ \$10 and badges @ \$5 - email**  
[patjdouglas@primus.com.au](mailto:patjdouglas@primus.com.au)

# CHES MOVES

**CAMBERWELL HIGH EX-STUDENTS' SOCIETY INC.**

<http://www.chessmoves.com>

**March 2008**

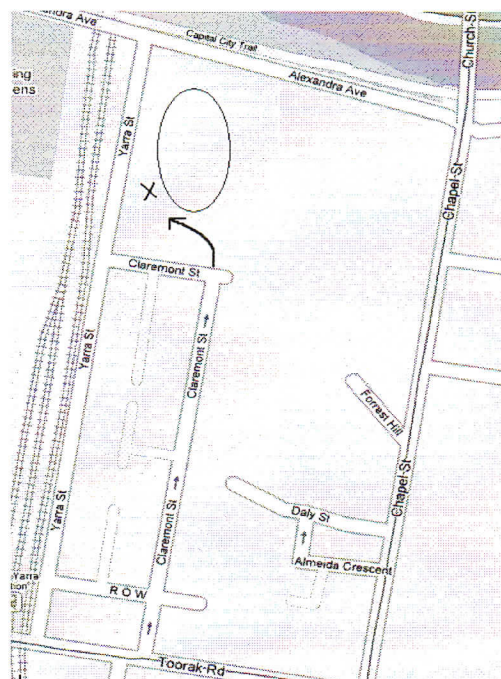
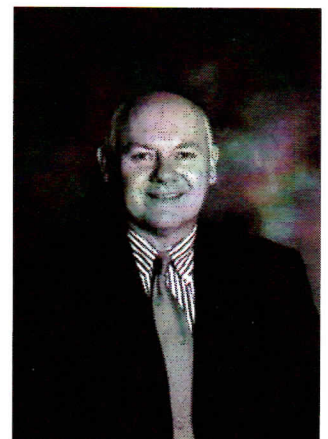
## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear CHES Members

2008 opens with our AGM to be held this year at the rooms of the Melbourne High Old Boys Association at "Forest Hill" in South Yarra at 7pm on the 14<sup>th</sup> April. CHES, being incorporated, has to hold our AGM and present our report to meet government statutory requirements. Our guest speaker will be Colin Green, a legend in the Melbourne High ex student group. Colin will address CHES on some of the challenges and opportunities facing ex-student groups. Colin has valuable experience in databases and member networking. Don't forget to tap into our website [www.chessmoves.com](http://www.chessmoves.com) for photographs and CHES notices. Donations are being sought to secure the software and budget for the time to key in all the data that we can secure from Camberwell High. The ability to conduct email newsletters is vital for maintaining and increasing our contact with former students.

Remember to complete your 2008 membership forms and update your contact details with us.

Regards  
Bernard Corser  
(Class of '71)  
Disco Consulere Aliis



## CHESS AGM 7pm Monday 14 April

This will be held in the Old Boys building, which is adjacent to the football oval. There is limited parking alongside the oval. Enter the school grounds via the ONE WAY Claremont Street, South Yarra (from Toorak Road). Colin Green from MHSOBA will give a dynamic presentation on the database program that they use to keep up to maintain links with past students. Following the AGM, there will be a general meeting of CHES.

Ring Bernard on 0407-300678 .



## PRESIDENT

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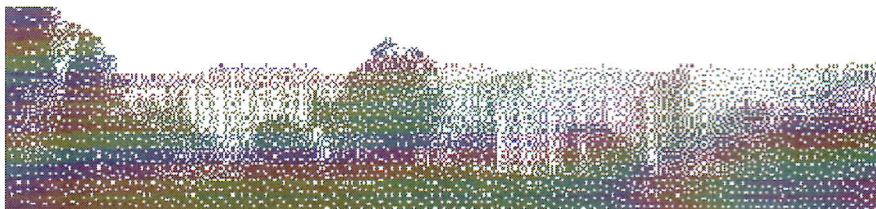
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**We welcome any contributions from past students. Please contact Deb by post or email with any written articles. Also, if any CHESS members wish to place ads, please contact Bernard. Also please consider our chessmoves website for your advertising!**

**CHESSMOVES  
DEADLINE FOR NEXT  
ISSUE:**

June 15th, 2008.  
Send all articles to  
Debs.



## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*It gives me much pleasure to greet new and existing members of the Camberwell High School community and to welcome you all to the 2008 school year with the hope that this year brings good health, success, and satisfaction for us all. We have begun the year smoothly, with two camps already completed, all staffing complete, and strong enrolments as usual - just over 1200 students of whom 400 are girls. The physical upgrade of the old Science rooms in C-Building continues, necessitating the use by classes of a new portable classroom for the next 8-10 weeks, and we have engaged a gardener for one day a week to assist in keeping the grounds in reasonable condition.*

*School Council has authorised our architects DL Design of Hawthorn to produce documentation and to go to tender for the creation of our new canteen, multi-purpose space, outdoor weather-proof space and upgraded change rooms. This is an exciting development and exemplifies our commitment to making Camberwell High School the envy of other government school in terms of facilities.*



*We have increased the level of staffing with our own funds to ensure staff workload is a little less and that class sizes remain at our usual average of 25 students in Years 7-10, and 20 in VCE.*

*Already this term we have sent off our Year 12s to the Monash Halls of Residence for a two day Study Camp/Retreat, where they made us proud through their behaviour and attitudes (and Head of Senior School Daryl Bennett felt that his discovery of four laughing boys hiding in a medium-sized wardrobe as he did the rounds of rooms at 1.00am was not a life shattering issue!), while the Year 7s and accompanying teachers and some parents have just completed their three day Orientation Camp at Portsea, which Assistant Principal Isabelle McKenzie and I spent some time at.*

*There have been educational excursions and fieldtrips, sport and instrumental music programs are under way, building continues in our Science rooms upgrade, families of Year 7 students have attended an Information Evening and Senior School families the same, a successful working bee has been held, and students have settled into a good learning routine (we hope!) after setting their goals for the year.*

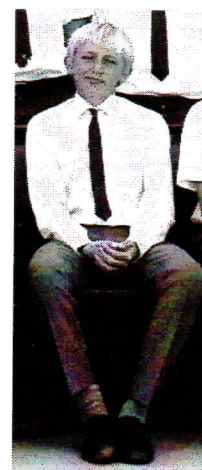
*The national apology of Prime Minister Rudd to the Aboriginal people was telecast from before our school day began, but Year 9 and some other year levels were fortunate to get to the Hall in time for this historic event and were able to see some of the impact of the action of saying "Sorry".*

*A memorial service to celebrate the life of a former Principal of Camberwell High School, David Collins, Principal here from 1977 to 1987, was held in the Assembly Hall on Wednesday, 20th February. The audience was drawn from many parts of David's wonderful life, and I want to honour David for the strength and humanity of his principalship of our school. Vale, David Collins.*

Elida Brereton  
Principal



*(annual satirical piece by Neil Bouvier)*



*Well another year goes by and the same routine occurs – we have an October reunion, no newcomers to our AGM and I'm re-elected Treasurer unopposed for the 14<sup>th</sup> year in a row. Still 2007 was memorable for a couple of big reasons – I turned the big 50 on 07/07/07 with a James Bond 007 theme of course and my beloved football team Geelong were premiers after only losing 4 games all season. I could go on about how Geelong had 9 All Australians, the Brownlow Medalist and Rising Star plus winning the VFL (seconds) premiership but I digress from the hoary old chestnut (drum roll please) "The Treasurers Report".*

*I'd like you all to grip the edge of your seats in anticipation of the financials for the year as I can't (sadly) fluff the figures anymore as they have to be lodged with the Government (Consumer Affairs) now that CHESS is incorporated.*

*Please see the attached report and if you have any queries or concerns kindly contact my youthful offsider from the committee – Lawrence Hodgson - who will be happy to ward off any potential bullets whilst I'm visiting my old ex-AWB bosses and mentors at Her Majesty's Pleasure.*

*I think we still have in stock quite a few CHESS collectables in Badges and School Song CDs. We have this merchandise on show at reunions and it has become the ideal Xmas present for that ex-classmate that you may have admired from afar.*

*On the Reunions side we had a successful 1970's one last October, with a small profit of \$370, and then the 1980's and 1990's combined will be earmarked for Oct 08. I'd say 40's and 50's in Oct 09 (maybe at another venue and during the day) and then to the 60's in Oct 2010 back at the ideal evening location and format – the Kelvin Club in the CBD*

**2007 Annual Financial Statement - cash basis**  
**Year ended Monday 31 December 2007**  
**ABN 54 448 712 733**

**Total  
Year To Date  
from 1.01.07  
to 31.12.07**

**Opening Balance at National Bank**

**\$3,395.58**

Badge Sales 51 @ \$5		255.00
Donations from Members on top of Subs :		1,723.82
Luncheon Kooyong Tennis Club 13/11/07 19 @ \$40		760.00
Reunion Income 70's - Kelvin Club 13/10/07 84 @ \$35ph		2,940.00
School Song Sales 14 CD's @ \$10		140.00
Subscriptions banked this year:		
2008 at \$20	57	1,140.00
2007 at \$20	164	3,280.00

TOTAL CASH RECEIPTS

**\$10,238.82**

*continued overleaf.....*



**PAYMENTS**

Annual Statement fees - Consumer Affairs	38.60
Badge Expenses	74.20
Bank Charges and Taxes - NAB Account Fees	20.40
Bank Charges and Taxes - NAB Merchant Fees	264.53
Dinners - Meetings, Christmas & AGM - Staff & Committee	2,040.70
Donation - Principal's Fund	200.00
Membership Secretary - Out of pocket expenses	300.00
Postages - CHESSMoves	640.10
Postages - "Prospice"	0.00
Printing - Ticket Orders, Membership & Acceptance forms	100.00
Printing - CHESSMoves	853.75
Publication - CHESSMoves	450.00
Reunion Exps - Equipment (projector/screen) hire	205.04
Reunion Exps - Printing, Postage, Stationery & PowerPoint	464.60
Reunion Exps - Kelvin Club finger food 100 @ \$19ph	1,900.00
School Song - CD's 1040 & artwork	0.00
School Song - CD mailers & mailout to financial members	50.00
Stationery	61.10
Webpage Domain name "Clickngo" chessmoves.com 9 years	180.00
Webpage Hosting & Updates www.chessmoves.com	601.17

**TOTAL CASH PAYMENTS** **\$8,444.19**

**Cash Surplus (Deficit) for the period** **\$1,794.63**

**Cash Balance - Surplus (Deficit) YTD** **\$5,190.21**

**TOTAL ASSETS**

Closing Balance at NAB Cheque Account : 50 - 723 - 8691	\$3,990.21
Purchase of Digital Projector - for reunions 50% share	1,200.00
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$5,190.21</b>

**MEMBERSHIP (PAID UP) HISTORY**

No. of 2008 Subscriptions banked this year	57
No. of 2007 Subscriptions banked this year and last year	234
No. of 2006 Subscriptions	228
No. of 2005 Subscriptions	245
No. of 2004 Subscriptions	158

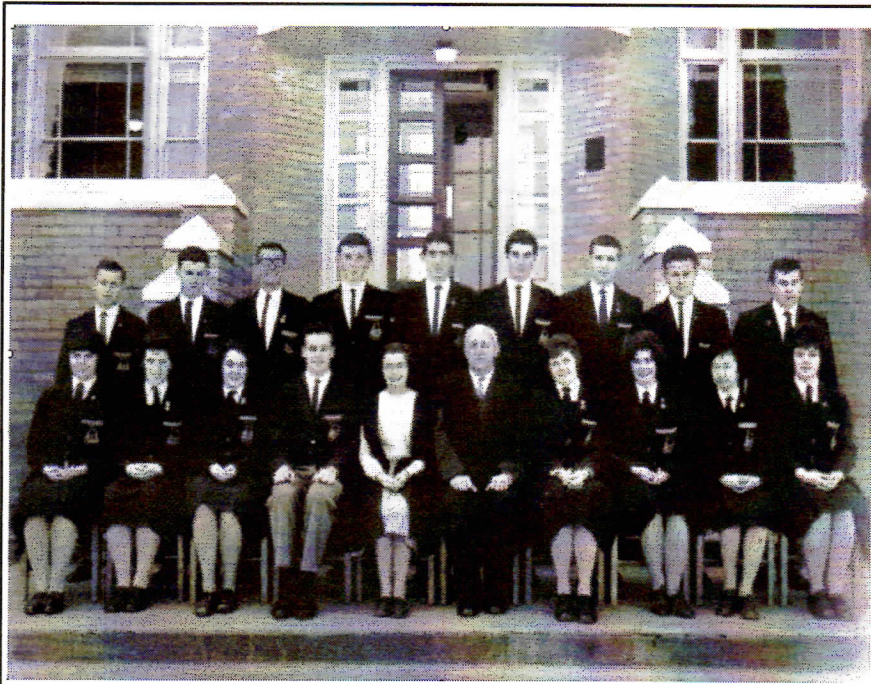
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## *Helen Menzies - Head Prefect 1962*

*I started at Camberwell High in 3<sup>rd</sup> form, after "doing" 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> form at Mont Albert Central School. CHS was bulging with Baby Boomers and sometimes it seemed that teachers had been disinterred from the vaults to make sure there was an adult wearing an academic gown on the dais in front of each class. They were the poor victims who provided us students with the most fun. I remember Nimrod Gargya - indeed, who could forget that name? - who was the Naughty Boy - well, as naughty as anyone got in Camberwell at the end of the 1950s, which wasn't very. One day Nimrod was Blackboard Monitor and our temporary teacher, the dead spit of Miss Havisham, wrote two boards of copperplate notes before leaving the classroom to get more chalk. Nimrod leapt to his feet and zealously wiped the boards clean, as per his job description, while the class breathlessly awaited the return of Miss Havisham.*

*Nimrod was one of the many children of post-War refugees who must have totally changed the character of CHS in the 50s and 60s. I remember being envious of the large number of Jewish students because they were excused the Religious Instruction classes that filled the rest of us with atheism and cynicism. "Sir, sir, who was Cain married to?" generally did the trick, and freed the swots to try out their Socratic method on the imported RI teacher while the rest of us went back to arguing the merits of Elvis Presley and Ricky Nelson.*





## 1962 Prefects

**Front row:** E. Roddick, L. Barton, J. Gibbs, J. Waters (Head Boy Prefect), Miss McMillan, Mr Andrews, H. Menzies (Head Girl Prefect), J. Symons, O. Pun, S. Cook.

**Back row:** M. Walsh, J. Burnian, G. Paulusz, G. Ellis, L. Mills, B. Burton, K. Adams, G. Tilmanis, C. Levy.

Elvis heralded the invention of "teenager" as a concept. Marlon Brando in *The Wild One* set the tone: "What are you rebelling against?" he was asked. "Waddya got?" he replied. It was something to live up to. I was hindered though by being good at sport. It's hard to be a dedicated widge with your hair green from chlorine and your knees skun from playing netball on asphalt courts. I was bemused to find out 10 years after Matric that I still held a school swimming record – though apparently only because the change from imperial to metric measurement meant "my" event was no longer competed!

I was also OK enough academically to qualify for the classic Enid Blyton-style journey through school life, from class captain to house captain (Montgomery) to head prefect (1962). In so far as being a teenager can ever be a good time, it was a good time.

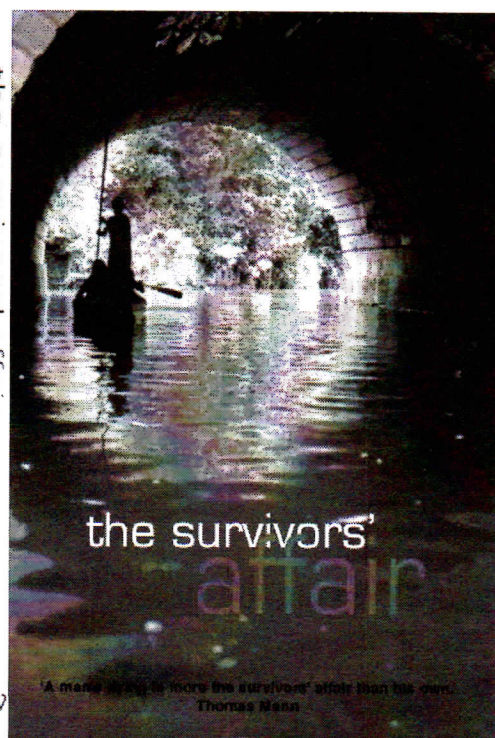
A teaching bursary took me through university and I served out my bond teaching English at Essendon Boys Tech and La Trobe University. After that came careers in a union, as a sports journalist for Rupert Murdoch,

as Deputy Commissioner for Equal Opportunity, and as a Suit in the NSW Public Service. Now I – and what seems to be most of the rest of the Baby Boomers – live on the NSW coast, among the runabouts and the spoodles.

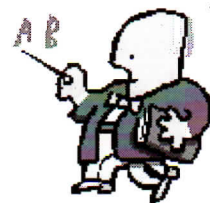
I wrote *The Survivors' Affair* over a couple of years, drawing on generations of stories and broadening the memoirs beyond my life and the life of my family by having each of the 28 chapters sparked by a "public" death. Where were you, for example, when you heard about the death of Diana? Or JFK? Or Harold Holt? The very mention sends you back into your own life – and *The Survivors' Affair* does that for readers, as well as involving them in my story – which in so many ways is everyone's story anyway.

CHS, the characters, the settings, feature in a good few of the chapters, particularly those inspired by the deaths of Marilyn Monroe, Edith Piaf and Judith Wright. If you were there at CHS in the 50s or 60s, or if you wonder what "there" was like, you'll probably find *The Survivors' Affair* a fun read. Copies are available most directly through the Wild and Woolley website; just go to the Biography section in the Bookstore.

Helen Menzies







*Which teacher inspired you at CHS?*

Not many to be fair but Ms Petrenko in form 6 inspired a love of the English language and Tim Sullivan awakened my interest in politics and was an all round good guy.

*Your funniest school memory?*

Most of my good times were had outside of school either partying or playing sport. I remember in my final year we were going through a time when hand held water pistols were all the rage. I held up Mr McDonald the maths teacher and threatened to shoot him if he moved. He did so I shot him and when he asked me to hand over my weapon I did so. He did not realise that before going on my shooting spree I had but some bonding adhesive on the grip. Not sure how he got it off. Had a lot of laughs during our school trips to Canberra and geography trip to the mountains

*What subject did you hate and why?*

Probably Chemistry

*What school house were you in?*

Montgomery

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

I didn't know there was one

*Your favourite sport?*

Cricket and football.

My memory is fading but I think I played both for the school. Peter Knights was a classmate in 1970. Even then he was a superstar but also a real good bloke

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

We barricaded the top floor in the new block, dropped water bombs. The usual stuff. The aforementioned incident with Mr McDonald

*Most embarrassing incident?*

Rob Nowak and I printed and published an unofficial school magazine which we sold for 5c a copy. We were hauled before Mr Slattery who gave us a stern talking too as we had not said that the views expressed (which were quite inflammatory) did not represent those of the school.

*Who were your best friends at school?*

See profile but I mustn't forget the Trigar brothers, Phillip Tart and Neil Lancashire.

*What book are you reading now?*

White Heat a social history of 1960s Britain

*Did you have a crush on a classmate?*

At one time or another I probably had a crush on just about every girl in every class. I could not believe the transformation at school dances.

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

No real influence I don't think but that was more my fault than the schools. I got a well rounded education and developed a passion for politics and the English language. Together with Rob Nowak I cut a few days to attend anti Vietnam moratoriums and protests at Monash.



Pat (inset) with Form 5W in 1970





Bernie, Pat and their four children....,Gerald, LaVerne, Malcolm and Matt.

Having graduated from CHS in 1971 I moved to New Zealand to take up the Management Studies course at Waikato University where I have the distinction of being the very first drop out in that particular course lasting six weeks before I ran out of enthusiasm and money. The bus home happened to stop outside the National Bank where I applied for a job. They took one look at

CHS MOVIES

this long haired hippy wearing holey jeans and sent me away, however, as in those days all you needed was a pulse to get employment they came chasing after me and sent me to the branch down the road. So began a highly successful 23 year career ending with the management of several branches.



Although I was destined for higher things I became increasingly frustrated at the emphasis on financials rather than the people behind them and after a year or so of tilting at windmills I realised that it was more likely that I would need to change rather than that the bank would, so together with my wife Bernie who also worked in the bank, we left in February 1995 to purchase the lease of a small old motel the Grange Lodge in Papatoetoe. To say that this was an inspired move would be a huge understatement as we have had a simply marvellous life at the motel, giving us the freedom to be masters of our own destiny and to give me the time to indulge my passion for sport, particularly rugby and my involvement in the community.

We now own the motel outright and are recognised as amongst the best operators in the business. For two years running we won the award for the best motel in the country and over the last two years have won the Manukau business awards for excellence in customer service and then for small business. As there are over 25000 businesses in Manukau we are particularly proud of this success. (visit [www.grangelodge.co.nz](http://www.grangelodge.co.nz))

Bernie and I met when she was 15 and I was 17. It was love at first sight with me being attracted by the fact that she wore the shortest skirts imaginable and she being thrilled to learn that I had a seemingly endless supply of t shirts that she could convert into dresses. Over the years Bernie has been my best mate, confidante and lover and is the rock around which our family has grown.

I guess we first met due to our interest in music. We wrote about 20 or so songs, one of which was recorded and got plenty of local radio air play but sunk without a trace. We probably sold about 6 copies which no doubt were purchased by family members. My eldest boy was lead singer of a heavy metal band, The Gravel Monsters who did quite well locally but gave it away probably due to being propositioned while playing a gig at Mt Eden Prison. Both Bernie and I love all kinds of music and she still plays guitar. Bernie's favourite genre is heavy metal while I am a punk aficionado. I love the rawness and passion and am delighted to see a revival over recent years.



We have 4 children all of whom excelled in sport and each have gained representative status in a variety of sports including rugby, cricket, soccer, badminton and athletics. Malcolm our youngest was a particularly brilliant sportsman in rugby and cricket and a Young Olympian in javelin, long jump and 100m.

As neither Bernie nor I are particularly good at sports I have to blame the milkman for this array of sporting prowess who, if memory serves me right, was a particularly fast mover.

Gerald is a tutor in the bakery industry. He is married to Pega, a beautiful Samoan lady who is a trainer at Air New Zealand. Gerald is training for the Ironman competition in April and completed his first marathon last week. LaVerne is a picture framer in Nelson married to Anthony and they have a son Aidan who is already showing the signs of being an outstanding cricketer. Matt is married to a gorgeous Tongan lady, Sita. Matt is factory manager for a pharmaceutical company and unfortunately will probably have to move to Australia at some stage to further his career. They have two boys Mason and Lorenzo. Mason is a natural sportsman and an absolutely brilliant rugby player who has already gained junior rep status and is touted as a future Auckland representative. Malcolm who is married to Ali has 2 boys also, Kees aged 3 and Fynn. He has recently taken up a team leader's role at DHL and with Fynn being born only a few days ago is now pretty well tied up with family activities. Bernie was delighted to learn that our next grandchild will finally be a girl, due in March. Girls are very much the exception in our family. So the tribe is growing and the great thing is that apart from LaVerne all live in Auckland.

It was because of my children's involvement in sport that I also got involved and, for years, I have coached and managed rugby, cricket, soccer and even a wrestling club. A highlight was managing the Auckland Rugby Development squad in 1998 with several players going on to higher honours and one becoming an All Black. As those who will recall me from schooldays although I played all sports I never excelled and indeed I believe I still hold the record for the Mount Maunganui Cricket club for the most number of ducks in a season. I also played soccer and golf to equally abysmal standards but I did have a lot of fun and, more importantly, drank a lot of beer. Together with Gerald I play indoor netball which is surprisingly competitive and we have gradually moved from D Grade to A Grade over the past 5 years. The 3 boys and I all belong to the local bowling club where Malcolm is the current junior champion. This is really just another excuse to get cheap booze but is a lot of fun.

I have been heavily involved in community activities, more particularly since leaving the bank and Bernie and I were recognised at a gala dinner two years ago with a Contribution to the Community Award. I have been in Rotary for over 20 years and through this have become involved with several local and mainly low decile schools. I am on a trust board for a support group for the local college. I have just been appointed to the advisory board for the School of Hospitality and Tourism at AUT University and am past president and current board member of the Motel Association. I have been trustee and deputy chairman of the Manukau Beautification Charitable Trust since it was established 6 years ago and am on the executive of a couple of local business and community boards. Just last month I was appointed as a Justice of the Peace. Just as well that Bernie does all the work around the motel.

I have mixed emotions remembering my days at CHS. My biggest regret is that I probably just drifted along and never got involved as much as I should have in sport and other school activities. I put this down to having a large circle of friends outside the school but that is a pretty feeble excuse. I remember that Rob Nowak, Chris Leitch and I represented the school at Its Academic being absolutely hopeless but the one consolation being is that one of the schools that beat us was Melbourne Girls Grammar who went on to win the quiz show that year. I do have great memories of times with my mates who included Rob Nowak, David Lyons. Paul Lom, Alan Major, Neil Coker, Rory Toombes, Phil Seibler, Greg Camileri, Doug Evans and David Owens. This is mainly through partying and playing cricket and football with them outside of school. David Lyons and Paul Lom stayed with us in 1976 and I have been in email contact with Phil Seibler recently but other than that I have lost contact. I would really like to get in touch with Rob Nowak who was my best mate from Camberwell Central days and with whom I had a real affinity for sport and politics. I would also love to contact Alan Major who on more than one occasion made sure I got home safely after indulging far too heavily.

I think at one time or another I had a crush on every girl in every class. I particularly remember Sue Kitchen who I think married Gordon Allison, Myra Gold, Marina Nicholas, Deb Bouvier (who hasn't changed a bit - still a bossy lady) **Editor's brother/CHESS Treasurer - You're telling me!!!!**, Jane Hall, Lisa Cowdell, Helen Thermopolis and Jane Elliot, a British exchange student who I was madly in love with the year she was at CHS. I kept in contact with Jane for 2 years or so after she returned to Oxford but lost contact when I moved to NZ.

I would love to hear more about these and my other mates from school. My move to NZ was really a life changing move, developing me as a person and giving me opportunities I do not believe would have been open to me in Oz. NZ is a fantastic country and really packs a punch and we almost speak the same language. The people are easy going and deep down we really do like Aussies If you haven't already done so I urge you all to pay a visit. I guarantee you will be amazed at the diversity of scenery and the greenery. We even have rain. Needless to say any CHS student who choses to stay with us will receive a substantial discount.

Pat Taylor





Pat & Bernie Taylor  
Grange Lodge  
Cnr Grange Rd &  
Great South Rd  
Papatoetoe  
Auckland  
NZ

Ph: 0064 9 277 8280  
Fax: 0064 9 277 9367  
Reservation only:  
0800 GRANGE

E mail:  
grange.lodge.motel@xtra.co.nz

Website:  
www.grangelodge.co.nz



*The award photo for winning Small Business of the Year at the Manukau Business Excellence Awards. Back row are our two staff. The other two standing are 2 Aussies who were originally guests of ours who we couldn't quite manage to shake!! They've become really good friends. Front seated from left are, me, CEO Westpac Bank, Rt Hon Helen Clark - Prime Minister, Sir Barry Curtis, our Mayor and Bernie.*

## VALE DAVID JENKIN COLLINS

### CHS English & History Teacher 1960 - 1962

### CHS Principal 1977 - 1986

Within 2 days of David Collins arriving at CHS in 1960, every girl in the school knew about him. He was so "divine" and we hung around the portables at lunch or recess, watching him move over to the main building. He was, in today's language, so "cool" because he wore modern clothes and desert boots (as the weather cooled that year, he also wore a duffle coat with wooden toggles - the ultimate in fashion for the 16 - 25 age group. He was 27, but certainly knew how to dress to impress 12 - 17 year olds and still maintain his professional image.

Later that week, I had the supreme honour of going to Portable A and notifying Mr. Collins that my younger brother, of whom he was Form Master, would be away for a week after being rushed off to Box Hill Hospital the night beforehand and operated on for peritonitis. Mr. Collins smiled that "divine" smile that reached his "divine" eyes and asked me how my brother's nickname came about. He smiled even more, thanked me and I left Portable A in seventh heaven.



I knew that I was the envy of every girl in my class. What's he like? What did he say? Oh, he's so divine!!!

Very quickly the word spread that he was not only "divine" but that the boys thought he was a good bloke with a great sense of humour (guaranteed success with boys) and a really good teacher. Reluctant readers wanted to read and everyone wanted to be in his English and History classes.

In his book, "Camberwell High School, 1941 - 1991, A Jubilee Retrospective", Robert Ewins wrote of David's decisive move from Primary into Secondary teaching, strongly supported by Bobby. (They had met at Melbourne University in the early 1950's via their mutual love of drama and wit. David was the Student Review Producer.) "His first appointment being a Class 3 position at Camberwell High School where he taught History (as did Bobby) and English. (He was not trained for the latter but [Principal] Roy Andrews did not hesitate. 'Of course you can teach English. You are a trained Primary Teacher!')"



Andrea (Savage) Ramirez remembers "his friendly, open demeanour and his lovely, open smile. He certainly set the girls' hearts a-flutter! He was so approachable and could relate to teenagers; he really understood where kids were coming from. Oh, and his 'brothel creepers' - those thick rubber-soled suede boots that he wore. Yes, he was patient, friendly and approachable."

In late February, we had the induction of Prefects and House Captains at Canterbury and I was selected to respond to Councillor

Fordham, Mayor of Camberwell, on behalf of the House Captains. The following day, Mr Collins stopped me in the corridor and complimented me on my speech, noting my "excellent vocal projection", (probably resulting from Miss Cameron's tuition in choir and madrigal groups.) Seventh heaven again! Little did I know that he'd done so much in drama or that I would spend most of my teaching years using drama. (My final seven years were as a specialist in Performing Arts.)

By April, 1960, an aura of intrigue surrounded Mr. Collins. "He was in Pentridge before he came here." What

had he done, we wondered, What was his crime? It took about a week for us to discover that Mr. Collins had been teaching literacy at Pentridge Special School. (Only in 1991 did I discover that he'd taught at Hillside Reform School for Boys - ironically on the site on which my present school stands. In the late 70's and 80's, I taught many boys who "ended up at Hillside" and used the David Collins technique - establish my standards in the first week of the year, crack a few jokes to make them want to come back next day or next week, tease them, love them, teach them and build self-esteem at every opportunity.

Since 1979, I have taught so many children from sad backgrounds, my philosophy being that whilst I cannot live in their homes, I can make their time at school as enjoyable, productive and positive as possible.

As 1960's winter descended, we noticed David Collins and Bobby Ewins frequently strolling around the school together, Bobby's academic gown flapping in the wind, David in his duffle coat, scarf flapping. Obviously they were friends! (They were probably doing yard duty, but we didn't know such a phrase.) On mentioning it at home, my father laughingly informed me that not only were they friends, they were also in the group of "regulars" from Carey and C.H.S. who met with him on Friday evenings at the Tower Hotel. These were still the days of 6 o'clock closing.

My mother, who was President of the Women's Auxiliary and grew to know David well so it was not long before my parents and he socialised outside school hours. By the time we came to rehearsal for our final Speech Night, David played a joke on me. It was terribly funny and we all laughed like mad.

I moved on to Burwood Teachers' College and withing a few weeks my singing was noticed by the late, great Frank Higgins. "Who trained you?" he asked. "You have a trained voice. Who trained you?" Since I'd never been "trained", I explained that I'd done some singing in the choir and madrigal groups at school with Miss Cameron. "Miss Cameron?" he responded. "Wonderful woman. You must have been at Camberwell High. You are a very fortunate young lady." Yes, I was. I was one of many who went through CHS in what David later described as its "Halcyon Days". Most of our teachers were excellent, interesting, entertaining, but the three who had most effect on my career were, chronologically Miss Cameron, Bobby Ewins and David Collins.



The Staff, 1961. Back Row: Mr V. Soloduhin, Mr J. Hobill, Mr A. Hardenberg, Mr N. Green, Mr J. Lewis, Mr A. Staigaitis, Mr E. Conway, Mr T. Burns Third Row: Mr C McCallum, Mr K. Robertson, Mr G. Smith, Mr D. Gibb, Mr L. Costermans, Mr C. Edwards, Mr R. Ewins, Mr J. Rich, Mr P. Joyce Second Row: Miss M. McLean, Miss M. Clark, Miss J. Cother, Mrs J. Hobill, Miss J. Morley, Miss J. Young, Mrs G. Hurnall, Mrs B. Levy, Miss M. Pettitt, Dr G. Huttner, Miss D. Tuckfield Front Row: Miss A. Cameron, Mr. D Collins, Miss E. Moore, Mr G. Horne, Miss D. McMillan, Mr R. Gilmour (Acting Principal), Mr A. Green, Mrs A. Gliddon, Mr A. Jones, Miss B. Taylor, Mr R. Orgill



David was promoted to University High School at the end of 1962 and I did not see him again for many years. However, John Waters, Head Prefect in 1962 with Helen Menzies and, later, President of Camberwell High Old Students' Association (CHOSA) wrote:

"I consider myself fortunate to have known him and been involved with him in a series of visits to Pentridge Prison to witness debates between teams from both outside and inside the Prison.

These evenings were always interesting and informative and ended with a visit to a coffee lounge for supper afterwards - a special treat for young schoolboys.

I always found David to be a man who cared about others - especially his students and their school. He had a good sense of humour, he was approachable and helpful at all times and, as with the visits to Pentridge, he went out of his way to develop and interact with his students."

Bobby Ewins recently told me that his memories of David at CHS 1960 - 1962 were that "he was never frightened of children. He never failed to establish his rules, thus he gained respect. He was so articulate and had such common sense, especially in his attitude toward educational content and student conduct. He never lost that in his many years in education."

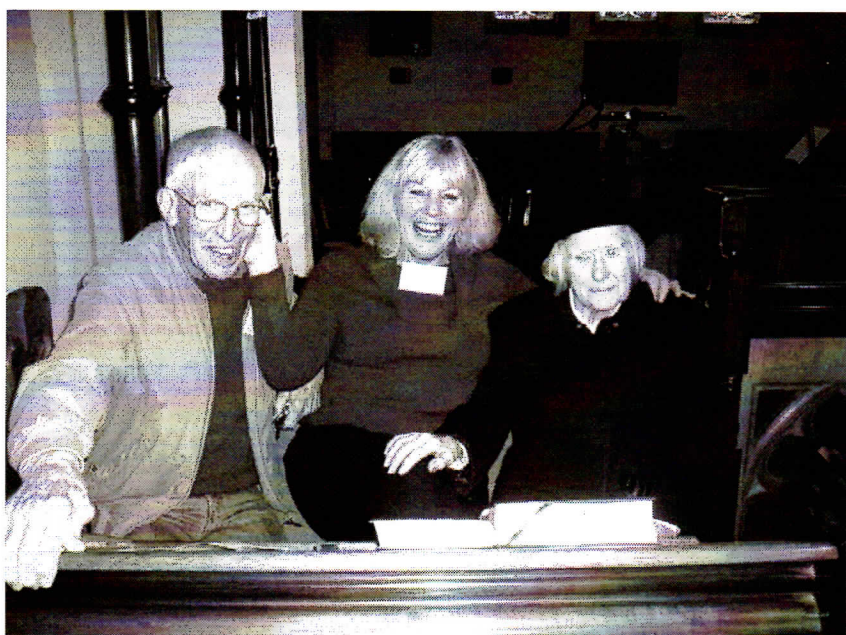
As I went on with my life, my mother, still living in Camberwell, fed me snippets from "the grapevine" - David had gone overseas; David had married a woman he called "his soulmate"; David was back at CHS as Principal.

In 1983, my son was desperate to get out of the local High School, so I went to David to see if we had any chance of getting my son into CHS. We had a lovely chat about our lives since we'd seen each other last, then he gave me an absolutely honest response to my question and made a few suggestions as to where I could look. By mid-1984 we found the right school for my son and I thanked David for his advice.

In 1991, Barry Garnham formed CHESSE, as we know it today, and the wonderful night at the Hyatt, followed by an Open Day at the school and party, which made for a truly great weekend, celebrating the school's Golden Jubilee. Robert Ewin's book was released and he delivered the A.V.G. James Lecture the following year, with his brilliant wit to the fore. David came up to my mother and me as he arrived, greeting us by name with a cuddle each.

I joined CHESSE and in 1995, helped Jeff Bates organise a reunion of those who attended CHS in 1960 - 62. It was a great night, highlighted by the

attendance of Athol Jones, Bobby Ewins and David Collins - still the same marvellous men we'd respected and loved back in the Halcyon Days.



David Collins, Mary Hill and Miss Cameron at the school song CD recording.

When CHESSE decided to record "School Of Our Youth" in 2005, we were delighted to find David and Miss Cameron attending on that July day! She was an even tinier little bird than when she taught us and he was still divine and impeccably attired as always. (The photograph does not show the British gentleman's motoring cap and sun glasses that he was wearing upon arrival.) How we talked and talked, laughed and sang. At the conclusion of the day, my elder brother and I rushed to tell Mum all about it, including the fact that Miss Cameron and David Collins were there. She was delighted and referred to David as "such a lovely, lovely man".

Later that year, I asked David to be our guest speaker at the 40's and 50's reunion at the Tower Hotel. "Ah, the old watering hole - I'll do it with the greatest of pleasure", he laughed. At the reunion, he spoke brilliantly of the school and its history from 1941 - 2005.

That was the David Collins I knew. Like everyone else, I was shocked and saddened by the passing of David on 6th. January, 2008. Following his wishes he had a private funeral but later the school felt that he should have a memorial service which was held on 20th. February. David's niece, Bronwyn, acted as M.C. and introduced Elida Brereton to welcome all those present... so many, many people. She introduced Jan, David's wife, who thanked everyone for the warm condolences she'd received and for the particular support of a very dear friend. She explained that David had grown up in Berwick where his father was Chaplain of the Anglican Church and how David had gone on to Geelong College, where his love of music was accentuated by the great George Logie-Smith whilst he learned to play the tuba and perform in Gilbert and Sullivan operettas. When the family moved to South Australia David went to Ballarat Teachers' College.



Bronwyn returned to tell us of her childhood memories with David and Jan; of how she went to Melbourne State College to study Drama where her lecturers were colleagues of David and Jan and the word came back to her parents that she had not handed in *THAT* assignment!

Graeme Bartle, who first met David at Ballarat Teachers College, then asked us all to sing David's favourite hymn, "To be a Pilgrim" from John Bunyan's stirring poem. It's one of my favourites too, but I never discussed religious music with David. We sang it as David believed it should always be sung...with great gusto!

Brian McFarlane, a fellow student of David's at Melbourne University told us of David's excellent performance as Victor Prin in Noel Cowards "Private Lives" and of his "sartorial splendour"; of how David had started in country primary schools then moved on to Melbourne to gain his Bachelor of Commerce, where he showed his talents in performance and later as Director/Producer of the Melbourne University Drama Company. However, he confessed that in the mid 50s his favourite girlfriend lost interest in him in favour of David. David wrote to him, "I hope this doesn't lead to a rift in our loot." Brian thought the phrasing so sophisticated and they maintained their friendship for another fifty years.

In Paul Wilhelm's reminiscences of being a student of David's at Uni. High in 1962 he spoke of David being "the acme of fashion" and how Paul spent all his pocket money to emulate David's broad-necked fishnet singlet which could be seen under a shirt! "He captured our imagination with his white MG Midget and his endless tales of sun and surf. How well he played the tuba for our performances at Uni. High and how great was his pastoral care of final year students. He always referred to us as 'young lads' and was unwavering in his warmth and friendship, his sincere, active and abiding interest in our lives, both at school and beyond."

Anne Scott Pendlebury spoke of the fun in growing up next door to David and Jan who shared her parents concern with the council re the behaviour of cats and the problems of on-street parking. As she went on to become such a well-known actor they supported her every performance from Union Theatre days to Melbourne Theatre Company; they were always committed to drama. She went on to explain how the Performing Arts always work around seasons then read to us, with her brilliant actor's enunciation, the words of Ecclesiastes: "To every thing there is a season".

Doug Sherman shared his memories of David from 1972 at Paisley High School and latter years. He spoke of David's love of British cars and the white Jaguar at Paisley. David was the foundation Principal and "built the school on the unpromising site on an old SEC briquette depot" (Robert Ewins) Doug told of how he became David's "right hand man" and learned so much about education and organization, and of the staff doing their best to cope with portable classrooms, dust, mud and the fire. "Many arguments with the Public Works Department and the Education Department reversed, each time, David's regular 'open door' policy. David won the respect of the students and support of his staff." (Nan Darby remembers that "we always had to wear gumboots in winter because the mud was so bad – that was my first position, he was my first Principal. He and Jan took me out to dinner in London, when I went overseas. He was an excellent Principal who was fond of his staff and always supported his staff. When I followed him to Camberwell High he was just the same... an excellent Principal to work with.") Doug told of how David instilled in his students a duty of care (citizenship) and soon had students helping out at Senior Citizens' Clubs and local kindergartens. He introduced Pet Day, Dickens Day and Paisley Day, 14th March. Doug concluded with "When my son was born on 14th March, we gave him the middle name of David, for obvious reasons."

The final speaker was Graeme Bartle, who gave "The 49ers Tribute". He told of sharing twelve months with David at Ballarat T.C. and them organizing so many "exes reunions" ever since, their motto being "Forever '49ers". "When it came to the girls, David was like a magnet to iron filings," Graeme continued. "He looked so debonair in his belted rain coat – I couldn't afford one and never could have looked like David anyway. He set up our newsletter "Extra Muros" to help us stay in touch with each other. We performed 'Iolanthe', 'Princess Ida' and 'Ruddigore' together. He was a man of charming speech and warmth of character – he was a friend."

Graeme then read the Irish blessing which begins, "May the winds be gentle upon your face" and the service concluded with David's favourite piece of Mozart.

As we moved on to afternoon tea we examined the creation and circulation of 'Extra Muros' and the board of David's photographs, divided into his seven ages, as in Shakespeare's Seven Ages of Man from "As You Like It", which begins "All the world's a stage, And all the men and women merely players."

VALE, DAVID JENKIN COLLINS.

Mary (Ellis) Hill

Vice – President, CHEAD.

CHS 1957-60.

*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.*