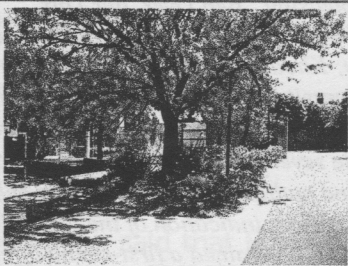




IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Report
- Principal's Message
- Discourse – Geoff Smyth
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- Membership form



CHESSES MEETINGS:

April 19th – AGM
10th May
7th June
12th July
9th August
13th September
11th October
8th November

Please come along to our AGM on April 19th – we would love you to meet us and consider joining our committee.

Meetings are held at CHS (except school holidays) at the new conference room near the main entrance from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. All ex-students are welcome. Meet Elida and find out the latest CHS news!

CHESSES MOVES

CAMBERWELL HIGH EX-STUDENTS' SOCIETY

<http://www.chessmoves.com>

March 2004

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Dear Chessmates,



We're all looking forward to a rivetting President's Report.....see how we're all on the edge of our seats with anticipation.....

Disco Consulere Allis
Bernard Corser (Class of '71)

Now you've seen our Page 1 girls, visit page 5 for the President's invitation to the Kelvin Club Dinner...

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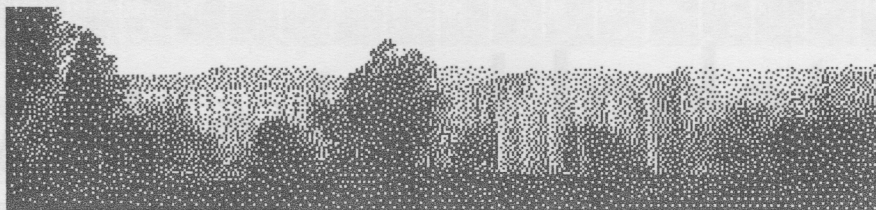
We welcome any contributions from past students. Please contact Deb by post or email with any written articles. Also, if any CHESS members wish to place ads, please contact Bernard. Also, please consider our chessmoves website for your advertising!

CHESSMOVES

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

June 15th, 2004.

Send all articles to Debs at her address or via email.



PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*Welcome to 2004 at Camberwell High School, and to a school year hopefully of promise and of great opportunity for us all. We have begun the year smoothly, with just over 1200 studnets (all year levels **full** except for five spaces only in Year 12), three new staff and five returning, gleaming new classrooms on the third level of our second main building and fewer portables, an upgraded, attractive and accessible courtyard, and a cleared building site being prepared for our next exciting project!*

Year 12 students attended their study camp at Monash University in February, staying overnight in the Halls of Residence where they gained some appreciation of university life. Head of Senior School, Maureen Slater, and Pastoral Team Leader, Steve Beck, the organisers and all staff who attended and/or stayed overnight were impressed with the behaviour, courtesy and excellent attitude of the students. (I received a phone call from the University's swimming pool manager saying 'he'd never met a better group of young people'.)

The results of last year's Year 12 students were most pleasing. Ben Dyer, our Dux (ENTER of 99.90 and featured by ABC-TV, Channel 10 and the Herald Sun) has won a prestigious Deans' Scholarship to Monash University; Khoa Pham (ENTER of 99.30) and winner of a highly-coveted scholarship to the University of Melbourne, and 35 students who gained ENTER scores above 90.00. Two students gained perfect study scores, in English and Information Technology: Systems, while seven Media students, five Information Tech Systems, eight Maths Methods students and multiple numbers in many subjects, gained study scores in the top 8% in Victoria. A strong indication of the level of success of the Class of 2003 is that over 84% of our Year 12s gained a first-round offer from tertiary bodies, including 31 offers from Monash University and 29 from the University of Melbourne. We hope that all our graduates find the courses and careers that give them the greatest sense of purpose in their lives. I congratulate and thank their committed and hard-working teachers for all the time, care and effort they gave to their students, and remind all families that Camberwell High School is proud of its policy of non-selective entry to VCE.

We recently held our 2004 Inter-House Swimming Sports at the Northern Pool in Balwyn. The last event decided the overall outcome, with Macarthur winning narrowly (Editor – hooray!) over Churchill, followed by Roosevelt and Montgomery.

Congratulations went to Year 9 students and Ms Ronchi for raising funds, via the cooking and sale of pancakes recently: this money went towards assisting homeless young people in our area. We also saw 18 Year 9 students begin training as Peer Resource Leaders; they are learning skills to help and support other students their own age – and they will learn to direct them to appropriate resources within the school and community. This has flowed on from research showing that secondary students are more likely to seek help for problems from their peers, than through adults.

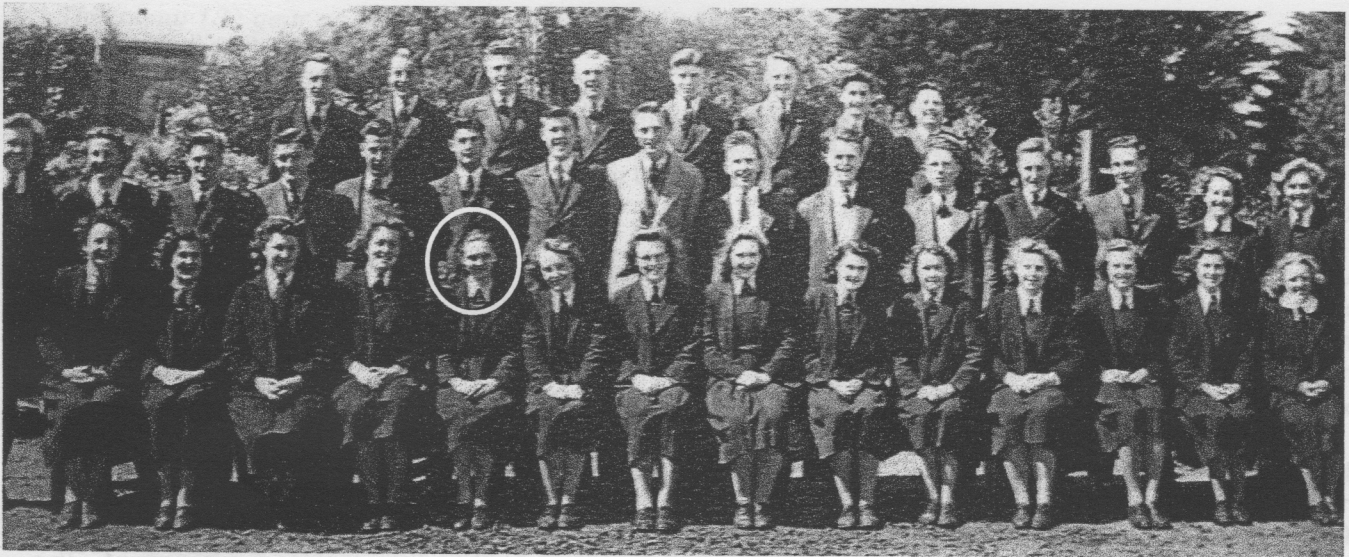
An recent inclusion in our Camberwell High School newsletter from Brent Thiele, our Assistant Sports Director, highlighted our participation in sporting programs such as the Surf League, rowing, cross country and lacrosse. We had a successful campaign in 2003 that saw Camberwell students compete in local, regional, state and even National finals... and we believe that 2004 will be even bigger and better.

Elida Brereton
Principal



Another "Do you remember?" or "Where were you?"

3



Speech Night 1946

"Please wear white dresses and GLOVES."

The next day was that all-important English exam for Form V (Year 11). In those days, C.H.S. did not have Form VI.

Under Miss Egan, Nobody in Form V dared to fail English, so THREE Form V'ers turned up at Speech Night.

The programme said that Form V'ers would sing "Forty Years On". Great. Since we didn't have any singing classes we THREE didn't know it – well, not to sing at Speech Night anyway, but full marks, I believe, for trying.

"Forty Years On -

Will you look back and forgetfully wonder – What you were like at your work and your play?

I will never forget that night (and the new gloves were perished and split!)

I loved my school and our wonderful green uniform, but I certainly remember my work and my play! I wish I didn't! It was definitely too much work and too little play.

"Forty Years On"

I have sung my way through musical comedy, National Opera and Gilbert and Sullivan, and one night forty years on, in 1986, I left another exam room to sing at the National Theatre in St Kilda – another night I will never forget.

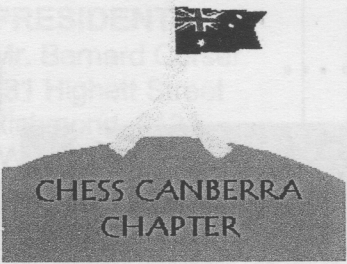
Where were you?"

Naomi Harrison (née Carter)



Naomi and her husband, George (right), share a joke with Lawrie Hodgson (centre)

SENIOR SCHOOL CHIEFS



CHESS CANBERRA CHAPTER

News from the Canberra Chapter

Canberra is slowly but surely recovering after the devastating fires of January 2003, but the scars can still be seen where thousands of hectares of forest were wiped out and over 500 homes destroyed. Quite a lot of rebuilding has already taken place and some people have moved back into their 'new' homes on the old sites. Others can't face it, and either have sold up or are still thinking about what to do.

As to the burnt-out forests, the Government is still thinking about redevelopment options. There won't be forest replantation, at least, not in the areas close to the suburban west of Canberra which suffered the greatest devastation. But what to do? Build more suburbs where the pine forests stood, or perhaps try to make something of the 'open space' possibilities? We all watch with interest as the various debates proceed.

The Canberra Chapter has once again passed an enjoyable year, with several interesting and rewarding functions. Two recent ones proved very popular. The first was a conducted tour by member Gina Hall 'behind the scenes' at Parliament House, where she is a guide. We all learned a lot about the nuts and bolts of this magnificent edifice and how its inhabitants adapt to the strange environment. The second, also a guided tour, viewed the exhibition of French paintings from the Musee Fabre showing at the National Gallery, where I work as a voluntary guide. Both functions included our customary enjoyable lunch, with good food and quaffable wines. That's a feature of all our get-togethers!

All good things must come to an end, and my decade as Convenor of the Canberra Chapter of CHESS has run its course. I'm in the process of handing the baton to another foundation member, Allan Carter (CHS 1953-57), who is looking forward to taking on the task. It's not onerous, but it's time I retired and left the field to a fresh player with new ideas. Thanks, and good luck, Allan! I've very much enjoyed my time as Convenor, but now look forward to becoming a common or garden member of CHESS and its Canberra Chapter.

Any CHS alumni coming to Canberra would be more than welcome to contact Allan and hear about our social program and perhaps join us at one of our functions. Allan's phone number is (02) 6258 1445, and he'd love to hear from you.

Fred Roberts



Fred is pictured here with his wife, Lois.

On behalf of CHESS, I would like to thank Fred Roberts for his wonderful effort in setting up the Canberra Chapter and his continuing devotion to Camberwell High. Well done!

A note from the Secretary's desk.....

This is my 13th year as Secretary and I have seen lots of changes during this time.

We started out with a very good membership database in the first year because of the enthusiasm from the Golden Jubilee, but over the time we have settled into a loyal number of members. Of course we could always do with more as the money from the membership subscriptions goes back to the school in one way or another.

The school database of ex-students is forever changing with people shifting house and we lose contact with them. We have partially solved this problem with the introduction of our website.

There is in place a "Canberra Chapter", which is been run by a very enthusiastic group of ex-students who meet for breakfast or BBQ's and generally have a pleasant time with people who have a common interest. We would like to see this happen in other capital cities. I would be prepared to help in any way that I can in setting up another Chapter.

Over the years we have held many re-unions at the school and on the whole they have been very successful. We have helped ex-students to run their own re-unions. These usually have been great fun.

Since CHESS was formed there have been many changes to CHS in respect to new classrooms, the gardens around the school, the old swimming pool gone and the house on the corner also gone to make way for more interesting activities for the students.

All these changes have helped in shaping Camberwell High School into the great school that it is today and we hope that as the ex-students association we have helped a little in this.

Pat Douglas



CHESS CAMBERWELL HIGH DINNER

Kelvin Club, Melbourne CBD.

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.

Booking form with this issue of Chessmoves plus

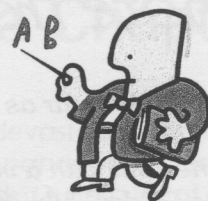
Kelvin Club brochure.

Contact Bernard on 9416-3155 (W) or 0407-300678 for further info.

DISCOURSE

Our 13 question questionnaire.....

Replies from Geoff Smyth (1980 – 1985)



Which teacher inspired you at CHS?

"Frosty" – Peter Frost.

Your funniest school memory?

A guy in our class, Dean Barron, threw his cigarette butt into one of the poplar trees that were beside the front door of the school (during year 12 I think) – it caught fire and burnt to a cinder. The school's reaction to this event? They cut down the other tree to balance up the look!

What subject did you hate and why?

Physics – too many formulas and too bloody hard.

What school house were you in?

Roosevelt.

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

Only with tight undies.

Do you still have any school library books?

NO – still trying to clear out my shelves of unwanted textbooks!

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

Favourite: swimming Avoided: gym

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

I think we went down to the pub – over 18 by that stage.

Who was your best friend at school?

Andrew Evans

What book are you reading now?

The Kelly Gang

Did you have a crush on a classmate?

Kylie Minogue.

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

A guy in our class lit a fire in a toilet bowl (friend of the person in question 2)...it fractured.

Did CHS have a lasting influence on your life?

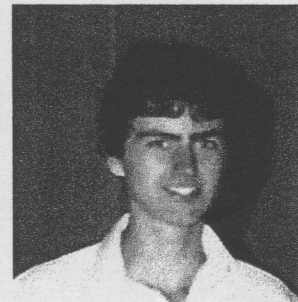
Absolutely. It's a great school with a good teaching / physical environment.

A bit about me....

I graduated from Camberwell High in 1985 and enrolled at Monash (Clayton) to study engineering. However, after a year of maths, physics and chemistry, I decided that this course was definitely not for me - especially the 32 hours of class time per week!

So, I then moved onto Swinburne University of Technology to study Science, majoring in Computing & Maths, which despite not being the ideal course (deep down I really wanted to be an architect) certainly had greater diversity than engineering.

Post-Swinburne I took a year off to backpack around Europe for 8 months to experience new cultures, look at flashy German cars and ski mountains that did run out of piste after 60 seconds!



I then worked in London for 3 months – however it was the height of the '91 recession and working at the Waldorf Hotel for £3.30 per hour didn't exactly make me flush with cash. So whilst it enabled me to get a taste for London life, I returned home to enrol in a one year post-graduate Economics course at Monash.

During the course I obtained a graduate trainee position at BP Australia (commenced 1993) which was a very lucky break. The company was fantastic to work for, with the first two years on the graduate program enabling me to work in any area of the company, after which you applied for positions in the departments that interested you. My various roles covered EFTPOS development, business analysis in Lubricants(!) and stock management in the fuels business (service stations). In late '99 the company had a major reorganisation in the Retail division which resulted in redundancy for me. My wife, who was working for Arthur Andersen, was able to obtain a job in London and we moved over here in February 2000.

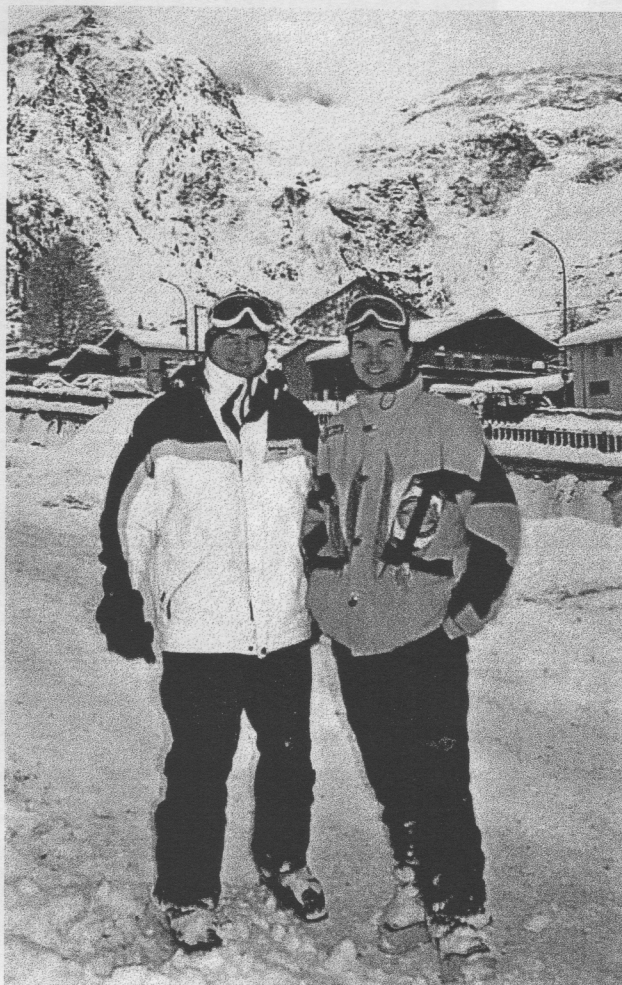
Life in one of the world's great cities has been a dream for me, as working and travelling certainly has its advantages in a big city like London. I worked for Virgin Mobile in 2000 as a business analyst, which was quite dynamic, especially as the firm was only 8 months old and striving to sign up new customers and compete against the other big mobile operators.

Next stop was Worldcom for two years, which was became a bit of a joke with our friends since my wife was working for Arthur Andersen, which specialised in shredding paper and I worked for a firm that just simply cooked its books! Needless to say my wife won the "competition" to see who could lose their job AND their company first. I'm now at British Telecom and this is my final job in the UK before returning home. We've had a great time here and I must say that places like Russia, Vienna, Paris and numerous ski resorts hold a special place in my heart. Living overseas for an extended period of time gives you a broader outlook on life and I truly believe that for distant countries like Australia where taking a train to Paris is definitely not an option, working overseas widens your view on life.

Finally, CHS seems a long time ago but certainly not forgotten. I've heard that parents are striving to enrol their children as pressure to obtain a good education mounts in this competitive society we live and to that I must say I consider myself lucky to have attended CHS.

Geoff Smyth

(seen here on the right, with his mate, Scott, in the carpark at Chamonix)



chessmoves website update

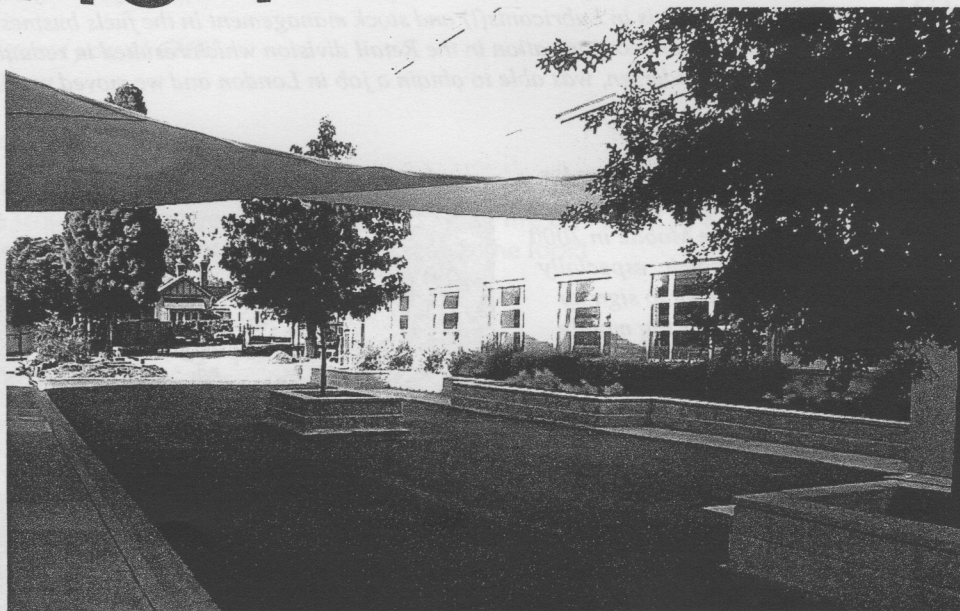
It was onwards and upwards with scanning and uploading photos – reached 1986 and then needed to recoup from all the effort....so I took the holidays off (was, in reality, busy with my children anyway!) More cuttings are online and I've created a special section for the 1963 Reunion, held recently at the school and organised by past students from that year. I've borrowed a large green book (created in the Jubilee Year – 1991) that is full of old photos and cuttings....but because of the binding I cannot scan it. So, I'll experiment with my digital camera and see if I can reproduce them for the site. (I'm not optimistic about the cuttings) Shall see....

The Tour section is continually updated with digital photos of all major projects around the school... especially handy for past students, separated by distance. I am very excited about the new development near the Byron Street corner which has had old portables on it for several years. CHS facilities are incredible, compared to when I was there! As they say, watch this space.....

Deb Johnson

<http://www.chessmoves.com>

CHS Works Update

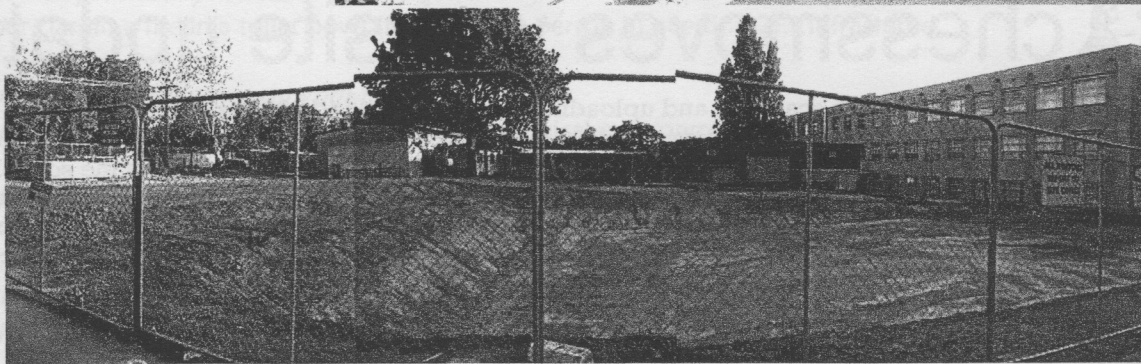


TOP: The new courtyard landscaping with one of the two new huge shadesails.

RIGHT: Landscaping along the drive.

BELOW: Panorama of the excavations on the corner of Byron Street and Prospect Hill Road.

Visit our website
for the architect's
concept drawings...



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.