

President's Report for 2020 AGM Camberwell High School Ex-Students Society (C.H.E.S.S)

The Camberwell High School Ex-Students Society continues to be an effective not-for-profit organisation that is diligently maintained by our volunteer committee who contribute their skills, enthusiasm and time. Many ex-students have thanked us for our efforts and the committee appreciates this encouragement. On behalf of the members, I thank the 2019-2020 committee: Theo Mantamadiotis (Vice-President), Ken James (Treasurer), Luci Bombaci (Secretary), Ashley Wah (Database management), Steve Callinan-Moore, Bob Taylor, Jill Fletcher (Davies) and Marnie Kok (White). Audrey Broomhead and Phil Giltinan also assist throughout the year.

This report is a summary of the various ways the Ex-Students Society has connected with alumni and our school since the 2019 AGM.

Awards

Ex Students Scholarships and Well Being (from CHESS funds) \$4,000

Your donations and memberships have enabled the Ex-Students Society to present the following awards and donations.

- Year 12 CHESS awards: SRC President Natalie Litsas and Churchill House Captain, Darcy Littlechild
- CHESS awards: Summer Metcalf (Year 11); Toby Stewart (Year 10)
- The remainder was contributed to the Principal's Well-Being Fund for students who need assistance with their education costs (\$3,300)

2019 Robert Ewins Memorial Fund (REMF) \$1500

- Literature awards for outstanding students: Roy Loveday (Year 11); Lucy Bui (Year 10)
- \$750 was donated to the library from REMF and \$500 from CHESS funds.

Other awards of interest to ex-students include:

- A writing prize in memory of former teacher Don Anderson
- A leadership award in memory of former teacher and Principal David Collins
- An award in memory of former student, Jurgen Tauchert (Class of '88) for a student who was a positive role model.
- A scholarship in memory of Jennifer Gibbs, (Class of '62) School Prefect, Dux in Humanities who excelled academically and in sport. She became an executive producer with ABC Radio and Television. She died in 1997 after a six-year battle with Multiple Sclerosis.

Naomi Harrison Trust (\$1,000 p.a)

CHESS also administered the bequest given by Naomi Harrison (1942-1946) who wanted to support an aboriginal student with her education for 5 years. It was a great pleasure to work with Principal Jill Laughlin so that Jayde, who is in Year 7, could receive her first laptop and assistance with uniforms and school fees.

Website: <http://camhigh@exstudents.org.au>

We are very proud of our website. It is a wonderful archive that includes our history and over 4,000 photos. It is now accessible on all electronic devices. Under the heading *Our Story*, ex-students can find class and sports photos dating back to the 1940s. In addition, there are reports and photos from events and reunions, the Robert Ewins book as an E-book, the AGM reports and all the CHESS newsletters since 1991. Details for payment of membership can also be accessed. Every Prospect from 1946-2019 is uploaded on the website thanks to the diligent work of Steve Callinan-Moore who scanned them all. Keen ex-student Phillip Richardson has scanned hundreds of photos that are being uploaded. CHESS would value the assistance of an ex-student to assist with uploading to our website. At the moment, CHESS is paying a university student to do this.

CHESS News

The newsletter is published 3 times a year and is collated by KwikKopy Camberwell. The electronic version is sent to over 1,400 ex-students. 47 ex-students require a postal version and Audrey Broomhead assists with this task. I am the editor.

Finances

The sound financial management by our treasurer, Ken James, has enabled us to receive and process members payments and donations. Many ex-students have taken up the option of 5 or 10-year membership and our funds are invested wisely.

Memberships

Here is a summary of memberships over the last 5 years:

	June 2020	2019	2018	2017	2016	2015
Financial Members	215	217	194	224	210	186
Honorary Student Members	541			209	216	193
Life Honorary Life Member	1	1	1	1	1	1
Total	757	?	?	434	436	380

JoinIT

Over the last 12 months, the committee has adopted the use of JoinIT, a database and payment program. Members can pay their membership and join online. The program issues receipts so that members don't pay multiple times or forget to pay! It's proven a worthwhile and strategic move.

Year 12 morning tea

CHESS obtained the details of most Year 12 students by putting on morning tea at the school and giving them a CHESS pen. For 5 years they are regarded as honorary members in the hope that they will choose to become financial members later.

Leader's Lunch

In August, some members of the CHESS committee met with 8 student leaders over lunch. Principal Jill Laughlin led discussion about raising the profile of CHESS with current students.

Opening of D building

In September, I attended the official opening of the new D Building for Years 7 and 8 and then gave the School Council a 10-minute update on CHESS. This was an excellent opportunity to share with the School Council what we are doing.

Social Media

Social media is a strategic way to engage with our younger alumni. Many ex-students are also using Facebook to contact people in their year group and organise their own reunions. We continue to consider how to be active and relevant in this space.

EVENTS IN 2019/20

2019 Mid-Year Luncheon Chapter 3 Maling Road Canterbury

Graham Morris (class of '59) entertained over 45 ex-students and partners with stories about his distinguished career as Director of the Great Barrier Reef Marine Park, Healesville Sanctuary and the Museum of Victoria.

2019 End of Year Dinner: Café Paradiso Camberwell

In November, Assistant Principal Emmanuel Skoutas (Class of '80) along with 25 other ex-students enjoyed the opportunity to share a meal together. Cheques to the value of \$7,500 from CHESS and the Robert Ewins Memorial Fund were presented to Emmanuel for scholarships, the library and assistance for needy students.

REUNIONS in 2019

We were delighted to be able to assist reunion groups with information from our database so they could plan their significant reunions. The Class of '59 had their 60th reunion at the Tower Hotel; the Class of '69 met at the Yarra Valley Country Club, and the Class of '72 had their annual catch up at Glenferrie Hotel. The organising of reunions often falls to a few keen ex-students, but everyone who attends finds their reunion most enjoyable and worthwhile.

2020 PROJECTS

TV Hall of Fame

The Principal is enabling CHESS to use a mounted television in the school foyer so that post 1991 alumni can be added. A list of notable ex-students who have received national and international recognition and made a significant contribution to society and their community, will be profiled. Robert Monaghan (Class of '59) is assisting CHESS by compiling short summaries for the TV and longer profiles for our website.

Memberships

Ken James, our Treasurer, is continuing to assist members with their ongoing membership.

Members are advised that: membership renewal starts from the day you pay; you can pay for 5 or 10 years (for a discount) and make a donation. Members can update their information by logging onto: www.joinit.org/o/camhighexstudents

Reunions

2020 is a significant year for those who attended Camberwell High School in 1950, 1960, '70; '80; '90 etc. It is also 25 years since the class of 1995 graduated. We have an extensive database that may help a reunion group with names and contact details. We can also assist by advertising in the newsletter and on Facebook.

The Class of '60 is already gathering names for a post-Covid 19 reunion later in the year.

Archives and Website updates

Donations of photos and other memorabilia continue to be received from ex-students. Harvey Broadstock assists with the archives so they can be sorted, scanned and uploaded to the website or donated to the school. The library takes items of clothing, books and badges which are displayed from time to time. Ex-students are also encouraged to assist by adding names to the many 'unknown' photos on our website: <http://camhigh@exstudents.org.au>

2019 End of Year Dinner

Our Mid-Year luncheon was postponed due to Covid 19 restrictions. If government regulations are lifted, we hope to again invite Lyn (nee Murray) Gilbert (Class of '59) as our guest speaker.

Professor Lyn Gilbert AO is a senior researcher at the Marie Bashir Institute for Emerging Infections and Biosecurity and at Sydney Health Ethics at the University of Sydney. Until recently she was Director of the Centre for Infectious Diseases & Microbiology Laboratory Services and Director of Infection Prevention and Control for Western Sydney Local Health District at Westmead Hospital.

In conclusion, I thank the committee and other volunteers for working with me. CHESS can only function because of your ongoing interest, commitment and conscientious contributions, and I am very grateful that I have your support.

Yvonne Giltinan (McLaren)
President