



CHESS NEWS

camhigh.exstudents.org

2020 will be a memorable year in so many ways. Now that we're on a roll with 'double donut days', I wonder if we will still take time to reflect on how the pandemic affected us, our families, our work, our community, and most of all our school and the Year 12s whose year was turned upside down. One of the keystone celebrations of the year, the Valedictory evening, was held online, but effort was still recognised, awards still given. Here is the program: <https://camhigh.exstudents.org/our-story/2010-2019/2020-current-document-archives/>

I was delighted to read the comments made by Principal Jill Laughlin about Yahia Khafagi, the recipient of one of the Ex-Student awards: *I am especially proud of Yahia Khafagi, SRC President, who has created a Year book for Year 12 students this year, acknowledging that this is a year when lots of events and celebrations have not been able to take place, however lots of memories were made nonetheless. Congratulations to Yahia for his dedication to his peers, the school and to this task.*

Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.

Throughout the year, the Ex-Students committee have continued to "work from home!"

I'm proud of the way we engaged with you by:

- Organising a very well-attended Zoom event with Professor Lyn Gilbert AO (Class of '59), a leading

research scientist in infectious diseases

- Completing an electronic Hall of Fame to go on the TV in the school foyer
- Updating all the profiles and adding to the alumni page: <https://camhigh.exstudents.org/alumni>
- Processing memberships and sorting out any financial issues
- Scanning hundreds of photos for our website: camhigh.exstudents.org
- Sending a message of support to teachers and staff
- Renaming 'unknown' photos with help from our ex-students
- Holding our AGM online so that members from around Australia could join in
- Planning next year's 80th celebrations with the school leadership team
- Sending a video message to the year 12s (see below) and a CHESS pen and bookmark
- Increasing our memberships so that we could donate \$6000 to the school for the library, the Principal's Well-Being fund and CHESS awards.

Vincent Van Gogh said: *Great things are done by a series of small things brought together.* This reminds us that every action we have taken this year, every action we plan to take, regardless of how small, can make a difference. Thanks for your support.

Yvonne Giltinan (McLaren)
Class of '65

in this issue

- Video message to the Year 12s
- Letter to the editor
- The man who made Gippsland greener
- In short

For your 2021 calendar: **Alumni@work**

An interview with Emeritus Professor Peter Gronn Faculty of Education, Monash Uni Monday 22 March by Zoom 7.30pm

Have you changed your details?

Please advise us so we can update our database

Email

info@camhigh.exstudents.org

Postal address

CHESS
PO Box 1101
Surrey Hills North LPO 3127

Like us on Facebook

www.facebook.com/CamberwellHighExStudents

CHESS Secretary, Rory Hughes (Class of 2017) is introducing the [Video Message to the leaving Class of 2020](#) (click link)



Letters to the Editor

From Norma M. Williams (class of '47) Farmville, Virginia, USA

Recently I found the website of Camberwell High School and immediately read the 1947 Prospice. I attended CHS in the first days when Melbourne Boys High moved back to their school. It was the era of Dr. James and Miss Egan with new faculty, new motto, new uniforms, new house names (student suggestions-staff decision), poor landscaping and no matric-an exciting time. In 1946 I was Roosevelt House Captain (Form IV) and in 1947, Head Prefect. Our 1946-1947 class was a very special and happy group in a unique time.

After receiving my Bachelor of Music Education and Master of Music in the USA, I moved to Europe (mainly Germany) and sang lyric soprano roles for thirty years. Back in the USA, I continued in music: teaching voice, opera and choral direction. Two years ago, I retired.

Would there be a possibility that you could enquire if any of our classmates are still living? I trust this is not an inconvenience as I would be interested in renewing old friendships. Not too much time as I will be ninety in May.

Ed: We were delighted to report back to Norma that another nonagenarian, Audrey Broomhead, from the class of '46, remembers playing in the hockey team with her. The team photo can be viewed here: <https://camhigh.exstudents.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/07/1946.pdf>

1947 Prefects Left to right:

Boys: Alex McLellan, Richard Goff (Head Prefect), Jack Collins, Geoff Hodgson, Donald Allen.

Girls: Joan Irwin, Mary Good, Norma Williams (Head Prefect) Phyllis Lawrence, Lois Smith.



Vale Barry Teesdale: Class of '58

Barry's early years gave no indication of the passion for the environment that was to consume his later life. He completed Form 6 in 1958 and was awarded a Secondary Teachers College Studentship. His career as a Primary school teacher was a perfect fit for his caring and mentoring nature. After teaching in Melbourne, he taught in isolated one-teacher bush schools in Gippsland including Yalungah, Korrine, Bruthen, Bairnsdale and finally, Nowa Nowa. The experience cemented his love of the bush, and after he retired Barry wrote lovingly about the one-teacher schools in a series of amusing short stories published by the ABC. The schools were modest places where a dozen students aged four to fourteen learnt their '3 R's' from a young teacher in a suit and tie. The mix of ages in the one room, he said, helped children see that "the little'uns need guidance and the biggies have responsibilities".

Barry's passion for the bush and his great concern for the environment led to him taking over the Melaleuca Nursery just outside Inverloch in 1984. A movement had begun in Gippsland in the '70s to revegetate the degraded waterways and eroded pastureland with plants and trees indigenous to the region, but not enough was known about the native species and how to propagate them. By experimentation and trial and error, Barry grew the tube stock to supply the widespread revegetation programs that took off under Landcare in the 1990s.

In 1997 over 1200 scouts planted almost 90,000 seedlings supplied by Melaleuca Nursery. It was the biggest ever two-day planting effort in South Gippsland. Supported by local volunteers, the eager scouts covered the eroding hillsides of the Candowie Reservoir and the banks of the Bass River. They used tube stock Barry had grown using a new technique specially designed to train the roots and strengthen the growth of the seedlings. By 2008 the nursery was producing a quarter of a million seedlings a year for Landcare and local revegetation efforts. By the time he retired in 2011, Barry had supplied well over a million and a half seedlings, all carefully selected, and custom grown, to suit a wide variety of landscapes. Barry loved helping nursery customers select the right native plant for their garden, but he had no time for people who stubbornly opted for pretty flowers. When asked, "where should I plant my Geraldton Wax?", his grumpy reply was, "in Geraldton!"

A cancer diagnosis forced him to leave his beloved nursery in 2011, but in retirement he was able to indulge other passions: red wine, Citroens, politics, writing those amusing, perceptive short stories, and enjoying the company of his wife Loretta. Barry died in February 2020. The legacy of "the man who made Gippsland greener" lives on.

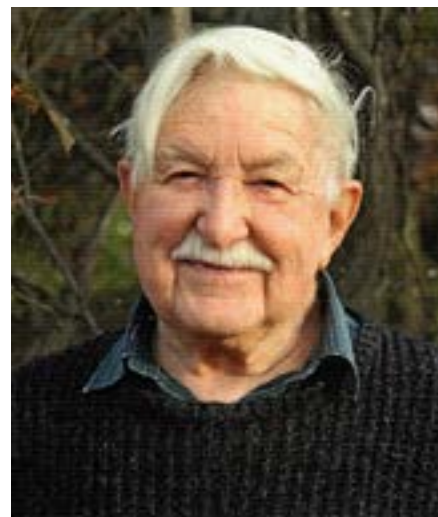
<https://www.theage.com.au/national/the-man-who-made-gippsland-greener-20200629-p5575t.html?btis>



In Short

Vale Don Walker (Class of 1941)

Don was one of the first pupils at Camberwell High when it opened for two terms in 1941 and a few weeks in 1942. When the new building was required for Melbourne High, Don was transferred to Box Hill High and later Melbourne High to complete his secondary education. After graduation he and his wife Fay sailed to Europe where they taught at schools in Scheveningen, Holland, Islay in Scotland and India before returning to Australia where they settled in Castlemaine to raise a family. Don remained a dedicated Secondary School teacher at the High School until his retirement. Don was also an enthusiastic member of CHESS and travelled from Castlemaine to attend events. He was 90.



Am I Financial?

Ex-students often ask us this question. It's very easy to become, and remain, a financial member and you can now do it online. Your membership renewal starts from the day you pay. For a discount, you might like to pay for 5 or 10 years. You can also make a donation!

Here are the steps:

1. **Click on this link:** www.joinit.org/o/camhighexstudents
2. **Donation:** If you would like to make a donation to CHESS, click on the Donation link. Add your details and pay with your credit card.
3. **Membership:** Choose which membership you want: Annual \$30; 5 years \$130; 10 years \$250.
4. **Click JOIN**, enter your details and pay with your credit card. You will receive a receipt immediately. (Use the same email address that you use to receive this newsletter)

Forgotten your password? Click *Forgot Password* and follow the links.

PLEASE NOTE: if you have a recurring payment there is no need to renew. This happens automatically if you signed up for an annual payment

We still accept payments by bank transfer or cheque. Contact us to arrange this. If your information needs to be updated or an error corrected, please contact us by email: info@camhigh.exstudents.org. Thank you for your continued support.

Helping with "Unknowns"

Our very impressive website camhigh.exstudents.org has over 4,000 photos. Some are unnamed and marked Unknown. We would value your assistance in renaming them correctly. Please check any unknown photos from your era, scan or take a screenshot and send the details to: info@camhigh.exstudents.org

