



CHESS MOVES

CAMBERWELL HIGH EX-STUDENTS' SOCIETY

Issue 27, October 2000.

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Welcome Deb to the editorship of Chessmoves. Thank you to those members who provided some feedback on improvements and alterations to our format.

Our computer ace, Blake, has been relieved of the dual responsibilities of Chessmoves and the website. Blake's role is to work on www.chessmoves.com to achieve more data on the site and more sponsors. We welcome your criticisms and we welcome your cash. For us to move to photographs on the web, much work will have to be done. Advertise your business in print or on the electronic media!!!

PATRICIA LITCHFIELD

The Principal of CHS, Elida Brereton, wrote this brief eulogy in the Oct 13th school newsletter:

With great sadness, I share with you the news of the recent untimely death of Camberwell High School English teacher, Patricia Litchfield, who lost her brave and prolonged battle with cancer last weekend. Patricia came to this school from Wattle Park High School in 1993. She was a dedicated, hard-working and totally professional teacher, (continued on page 5)

2001 means 60 years of Camberwell High. The old swimming pool is no longer. There is a huge building program at the moment and the formal opening will coincide with the original school opening in May 1941. The school council is planning the events for next year and the most likely event is an open day in May. We'll keep you posted in the bumper 2001 mail out.

If dogged persistence was the measure of a successful committee then your current team is home. Thank you to those party faithful who keep the flame alight. REMEMBER we always welcome fresh faces, just ring me on 0407 300678 to confirm dates.

"An invitation to all" the CHESS break-up is on Monday 4 December at Juliano's on the corner of Camberwell Rd and Toorak Rd, Hartwell.

BYO

Modest tariff

7pm start

Happy new Millennium

Bernard Corser

Class of '71

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CHESS MEETINGS

NB Nov 13

These are held at
CHS (except school
holidays) at a staff
room opposite the
main entrance on
every second
Monday from
5.30pm to 7.00pm.
All ex-students are
welcome.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Sarah Vien Lu, Joe Piantoni, Angela Webster, Andrew Wilkes, Richard Peterson and Head Librarian, Nola Schlegel, returned safely and quite triumphantly from the International Students Project "summit" conference in Greece. Mrs Schlegel was delighted with our team's behaviour, attitudes and achievements in Thessaloniki in this 2000 forum for gifted students. There has been a school survey about a blazer (and tie) involving 286 voters; 221 voted 'Yes'. Black was favoured by 199, pure wool/flannel by 137 (84 for wool/polyester) and the great majority of voters, when asked about the decoration of the blazer, wanted the pocket logo only (not braid). To the question, "Should ties be worn with such a blazer?" 183 said 'Yes'; 24 'No'. Useful comments were provided in many cases. These findings will be passed onto parent groups, students and staff, and any decisions will follow extensive consultation.

The Valedictory Evening was held on October 19th and the following is a list of major prize winners and academic high achievers who won awards:

The Outstanding Academic Achievement Award:

Ashley Stephens (highest academic results during year)

The Principal's Award:

Keith Niven (for outstanding leadership, etc)

The Jurgen Tauchert Award:

Natalie Carter (excellent contributor to life of school)

The Citizenship Award:

Sarah Botham (outstanding participation, leadership, etc)

The Caltex All-Rounder Award:

Jessica Monaghan (great success in a range of areas)

The C.H.E.S.S. Award:

Grace Pang (for a most positive contribution to school and study)

The Senior Writer's Award:

Chris Bitmead

The Senior Poetry Award:

Ashley Stephens

Also at this evening, there were Academic Excellence Awards to each 'dux' of their subject, and we are delighted to acknowledge a new prize, for Legal Studies, donated by much respected lawyer and former student, Don Farrands.

The new building complex is 'growing' rapidly and the land link is being prepared with some speed. It is an exciting time for us all to see it appear!

Elida Brereton

PS. Elida Brereton, principal of Camberwell High School, is currently visiting Tianjin Experimental School as a guest – to join their 70th birthday celebrations and to enrol our first student from there. She will be returning later this week.

MEMORIES FROM PAST STUDENTS

SOME REMINISCENCES FROM 1945

- by Lawrie Hodgson

The 1945 Year was the real beginning of Camberwell High School. That year must also be a major turning point in the world's history. The Second World War had ended and the events which opened up a new beginning for the world had a profound influence on the students of Camberwell High School.

The Principal

Dr. James inspired respect and loyalty and that certain fear of the retribution that would surely follow misconduct. I shall never forget his indignation upon discovering that certain prefects were using their position of authority to distribute to students political how-to-vote cards in the school grounds, or on that geological excursion at Oliver's Hill, Frankston. One certain boy and one certain girl were doing their own personal experiment on the city side of the cliff.

The Prefects

We had the power to punish errant students by giving them lines to write out, but we were far from perfect ourselves. Ernie Ward should have finished up as leader of a jazz band. One day a great noise was emanating from the boys' prefect room, situated where the flyover to the Eastern Complex joins the old building.

It is no longer a separate room. Dr. James came upstairs to quell the commotion. Wilbur Menadue (the Head Prefect) maintains that the reason why the principal did not confront the noise makers was that it was contrary to his nature to accuse his law enforcers of misconduct. It is significant, however, that in the end-of-year photo, another prefect is standing in Ernie Ward's place.

The Day the School was christened with ink

Due to Ernie's musical enthusiasm, the broom stick, which he pretended to be a trombone or something, got shoved through the window of the prefects' room. The school did nothing about repairing the window. As I had to study there, suffering from the cold winter winds, I determined, one day, to patch up the hole. The window operated with a spring hinge, designed to force it shut into a vertical position. I tied the window open horizontally, with string attached to a railing inside the room, then endeavoured to stick a piece of brown paper over the hole. The wind kept blowing up the corners of the paper so I grabbed a bottle of ink to hold one corner of the paper down. Yes, it was the dark ages. We used ink in bottles and fountain pens; biros had not been

invented. Well, you guessed it. The string broke; the window slammed shut; the bottle of ink flew out in a circular orbit, colliding with the wall. There was a great splash of ink from the window to the overhang of the S.E. entrance. I cannot tell you how much I appreciated the help of the caretaker when cleaning up the mess. Lawrie Hodgson

LETTER FROM PAST STUDENT – Alistair Stirling (1949 – 1952)

Dear Pat

For some time I have meant to reply each time I received CHESS notices, now it appears I have strengthened my resolve and here are a few words.

Am surprised that Camberwell High School is celebrating 60 years next year and, in particular, Yvonne Wray's letter. I was under the impression that Melbourne High School occupied the building from when it was built, until the US Army vacated MHS at the end of the war. Perhaps a short article on the beginnings of the school would be appropriate with the anniversary next year.

Since leaving at the end of 1952, I attended Dookie Agricultural College, graduating with a Diploma in Agriculture in January, 1956.

(continued on page 4)

(letter from Alistair Stirling – continued)

I did reasonably well without setting the world on fire.

Was student rifle captain in my third year. We won the district competition for the first time in 17 years and, at the same time, won the Australian Intercollegiate shoot for a record third consecutive year; this was broken by the College winning again the next year.

In May of 1956, I joined the Soil Conservation Authority, a young organisation, staffed largely by young, energetic people, who worked 6-7 days a week, without looking for overtime, time-in-lieu, etc. In short, we worked hard and, at times, played hard. There was, naturally, a great learning period and many inservice training courses. Shifts across the country were frequent in the first few years. I have worked at Coleraine, near Hamilton, Charlton, Ouyen, and was privileged to establish a new soil conservation district in Mildura in 1960 at age 24; the youngest District Officer ever appointed. In that year, I also married Ethel Gretgrix, a farmer's daughter from Wycheproof. We have two daughters and five grandchildren. One daughter lives in Cairns, to which village I am moved each winter to play homage to the Coral trout and other tropical fish. The letter is currently being written in the village while I recover from a

very serious bout of pneumonia, apparently very lucky to be writing at all. At the end of 1975, we left Mildura and moved to Bendigo. I was in a position to retire in 1990 and intended to establish a book-keeping service for small tradesmen, a niche my accountant said was well needed. (I note that there are now some large firms offering this service at present.) Unfortunately, along the way, the recession of 1990 worsened and to occupy myself, I started a lawn mowing round, which is now quite large for a one-man outfit.

I was also involved in community work. Am a life member of Mildura Apex Club, served on the Strathfieldsaye Shire Council for six years (now part of the Greater City of Bendigo) which included a term as Shire President. Am also a member of the Australian Institute of Management and served on the Bendigo Committee for some time. I also spent many years on the Bendigo TAFE Agriculture Advisory Committee. However, I enjoy the easy life, am the fittest I have ever been, which was important last year when I had a battle with the Big C in the mouth and neck. I am winning so far and have another 12 months to go before we are out of the woods. That, and the touch-and-go situation of

the last couple of weeks, have been the only blot on my health during my life, for which I am grateful. I have not had any contact with students I was at school with (CHS). Neil Chick sent me a letter many years ago but I lost it before I could reply.

Obviously, this is a very brief outline of where I've been, etc since 1952 and I would attend, if possible, a reunion next year.

Best Wishes

Alistair Stirling

WEB SITE NEWS

Our web site is under construction at present.

<http://www.chessmoves.com>

CHESS REUNIONS COMPETITION WINNER

All CHESS memberships, fully paid by July 31, 2000, went into a draw for a free overnight stay at Tolarno's Hotel, Fitzroy St, St Kilda, for two (accommodation only), provided by our benevolent President. And the winner was...Professor Robert Burton. Congratulations!

And the Champion House of 2000 is.... Churchill, with Montgomery as runners up. (The Editor is upset as she comes from a long line of Macarthurs.)

CHESS REUNIONS HISTORY

The first real organised CHESS-sanctioned reunion was the celebration of the first 50 years in 1991, with a number of functions, including a black tie affair at the Sofitel Hotel in Collins Street and an open day at the school. Over the last few years CHESS has regularly held decade reunions at the school each October, which have been reasonably well attended. A nominal entry fee is charged to cover food, liquor, light refreshments, staff, postage, advertising and telephone costs. Speakers, tours of the school, memorabilia and a photographer are supplied and no music or entertainment is deemed necessary as it may distract from the theme of the reunion. Entry may be \$20 for a Friday night (all inclusive) or \$10 on a weekend afternoon, such as the Devonshire tea and sherries provided at last year's 1940's and 1950's combined one. October was found to be the optimum month with the lead-in time necessary to organise and contact people and is just prior to school exams and Christmas functions. Below is a summary of how well the reunions have performed over the years with Revenue being based on both entry fees and door sales of CHS items.

DATE	DECADE	NUMBERS	ENTRY FEE	EXPENSES	REVENUE	NET PROFIT
27/10/95	1940's	60 (est)	\$10.00	\$560.00	\$570.73	\$10.73
25/10/96	1950's	165	\$20.00	\$3,315.00	\$1,267.65	\$2,037.50
17/10/97	1960's	189	\$20.00	\$4,100.00	\$2,128.70	\$1,651.30
16/10/98	1970's	135	\$20.00	\$2,910.00	\$2,572.85	\$337.15
23/10/99	1940's & 1950's	145	\$10.00	\$1,655.00	\$962.50	\$692.50

Next year, in April or May, we plan to have a 60 year reunion across all decades in conjunction with the school council, so we are not holding a reunion this October after 5 straight years. If you wish to help in any way, please attend any of our meetings as indicated elsewhere or contact the President, Bernard Corser.

PATRICIA LITCHFIELD

(continued from page 1)
and an honest, gentle, unassuming and thoughtful colleague, highly-principled and totally reliable. Patricia had a number of close, loyal friends at CHS, particularly in the English faculty, and we offer them our sympathy. Patricia commenced Sick Leave in 1998, and was missed by staff and students. Visiting school one day in 1998 to discuss her situation with me, Patricia (and I) became moved

when she confessed to me that not continuing to teach her students upset her more than her life-threatening illness. Vale, Patricia Litchfield.

Elida Brereton

CHS EXCELLENCE

* Australian Science Competition (6 High Distinctions; 27 Distinctions; in top 1% of 445,047 participants across

CHS EXCELLENCE

(continued)

- Australia/New Zealand)
- * Australian Maths Challenge for Young Australians – Years 7-10 (12 Distinctions; students in top 1%)
- * Year 8 Goethe poetry reading competition; one state finalist.
- * Australian Schools English Competition (4 High Distinctions;

(continued overleaf)

CHS EXCELLENCE

(continued)

* 20 Distinctions; 32 Credits; 43 Participation Awards)

ISOGO HIGH SCHOOL, JAPAN AND CAMBERWELL HIGH SCHOOL – Sister School Visits

In 1998, 17 students from Isogo High School in Japan visited Camberwell High School. In 1999, a memorandum was signed between the two schools, as sister schools, and 8 students from CHS made their first visit to Japan and Isogo High School. All students have found these events a rewarding experience, developing an understanding of cultural diversities and fostering lasting friendships.

15 students and 2 teachers from Isogo High School will be visiting CHS from Monday 19th March, 2001 to 30th March, 2001. CHS is planning a visit to Isogo High School and Japan during the period, 21st June to 5th July, 2002. It is hoped that both juniors and VCE students are able to attend.

CHESS MOVES 2001
EDITORIAL DEADLINE
February 15th, 2001.

Send articles to:

Deb Johnson, 2 Duval Ct,
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EDITOR'S NOTES:

My name is Deb Johnson and I attended CHS from 1968 – 1971. I was asked by my brother, the Treasurer, if I could take over the newsletter and he insisted that I had to write a bio, which I was reluctant to do. Sometimes, you don't feel like peeling open the layers of your life. My life has not been exactly dull as you will see. I left school with a nursing bursary and trained at the Royal Children's Hospital and later went to Tasmania to do my Midwifery. I returned to Melbourne and did 2 years with the RDNS, which was eye-opening. Most of my work was in the poorest parts of St Kilda (rooming houses with patients that were very destitute – sometimes I had to fetch stray ones from the pub!) I left District, married and had two boys. (This is where my life became complicated) They were both normal until nearing their second birthday, then they (due to suspected vaccine damage) became severely autistic. One, perfect in every way, was an overnight changeling. So, I have been (up till the last 10 months when both boys had to be placed permanently because of their extreme behaviour) in a sort of frantic whirlwind of gastrostomy feeds, medications, toilet training/nappies till the age of 12 with the second, wheelchairs with restraints...and the rest. We extended the house, out of necessity – their behaviour settled down for a time – so we embarked on natural gender selection and we were lucky to

have a daughter, normal and boisterous in every way. (She was immunised late.)

We see our sons a LOT; the younger one we visit every week and he goes on outings in my husband's Land Rover. The older one stays here on alternate weekends and he has mellowed considerably...I can't believe how far he has come. Even his profoundly autistic mute brother has shown signs of improvement, but food/fluid refusal remains his forte. So, where there's light, there's hope. To our surprise and delight, we found out recently that I am expecting.... at 46! The obstetrician said "You shouldn't be HERE!" Life's full of surprises!

By the way, I have been very mindful of readers' suggestions, regarding font size and layout. So I have resolved to keep type size readable and aimed for simplicity. I welcome any articles submitted by past students and also any suggestions on topics that you would like to see included. I have been searching for a CHS girlfriend from the 1969 era for many years – perhaps a Where are they now? column might be helpful. The CHESS committee welcomes any appropriate advertising in CHESS MOVES as we have a readership of over 4,000. Preferences will be given to past CHS students or their firms – and rates will be reasonable. Please contact Bernard Corser for more information.
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