



CHESS NEWS

camhigh.exstudents.org



As we conclude Camberwell High School's 80th year, we invite you to take a walk through the decades of our history and celebrate 80 years of Educational Excellence.

Our story is best told through the annual edition of Prospice that can be viewed here: <https://camhigh.exstudents.org/prospice/> and also our website: camhigh.exstudents.org

1941–1949

Despite the turmoil of the war and temporary relocation to other schools, students from 1945 onwards experienced the “real beginning of the school” (Dr James, Speech Night, 1945). Prefects, school Houses, green uniforms, Prospice, a choral festival, sports carnivals and the new school motto, Disco consulere aliis, all helped to create “an excellent school tone” (Roy Andrews, 1948).

Potted History:

<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/1941-1949-potted-history>



Photo taken in 1946

1950–1959

Even though the school was overcrowded with inadequate facilities and staff shortages, students of the 1950s participated in professional and academic programs and a wide range of sports. Boys and girls were kept separate at assemblies, in the school yard and in some classes. Dedicated and highly qualified teachers had a positive influence, despite having 40 pupils in each class in Years I to IV.

Annual visits to Warragul and by Warragul High School students to Camberwell were a highlight.

Potted History:

<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/1950-1959-potted-history>



Warragul High and Camberwell High students at Wattle Park Chalet, 1948

1960–1969

By 1963, 900 students were enrolled and there was a critical shortage of accommodation. Some highly qualified members of the Parents' Association were unhappy about the accommodation problems and the lack of a strong educational focus. They formed a parents' lobby group and set up regular parent/teacher nights. Unfortunately, there was a gradual erosion of traditional values. Respect for authority, cheerful and willing obedience, courtesy and formality, and loyalty toward the school were not evident towards the end of the 60s.

Potted History:

<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/1960-1969-potted-history/>



1st Eight, Rowing regatta, 1969

1970–1979

Under the leadership of Principal Joan Essex, a number of much needed changes were implemented. New subjects, electives and extra-curricular activities enhanced the learning opportunities during and after school. Unfortunately, there was a rise in anti-social behaviour, and little commitment to the House system, competitive sport or team activities. The Monday morning Patriotic Ceremony was disbanded!

Potted History:

<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/1970-1979-potted-history/>



Asian students, 1970

1980–1989

Throughout the 1980s, conservative staff and parents ensured the senior school maintained a high academic standard. Camping in regional Victoria and Outdoor Education was introduced. Considerable discussion occurred about a collaboration with Wattle Park High School, but eventually it was decided that Camberwell High School would remain a "single site, co-educational Year 7-12 high school with a ceiling of 850 students".

Potted History:

<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/1980-1989-potted-history/>



Year 9 camp at Lake Nillahcootie, 1982

1990–1999

In 1991, under the leadership of Principal Ann Rusden, the school celebrated its Jubilee year with a black-tie dinner, a concert at the Camberwell Civic Centre, Back to School Open House and tours.

The Ex-Students group, CHESS was formed. The school enjoyed increased enrolments and encouraged combined musical events with nearby schools. Students started participating in drama and sport again.

Potted History:

<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/1990-1999-potted-history/>



Tasmanian Music Tour, 1999

2000–2009

Principal Elida Brereton continued to ensure that new works and renovations matched increasing enrolments. Students toured overseas, interstate and to regional Victoria for a variety of educational activities and the Year 12 students achieved outstanding results that led to university places. Music and sport continued to have a high profile.

Potted History:

<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/our-story/2000-2009/>



Elida Brereton (right) with students on Medieval Day, 2002

2010–2019

During this decade, the school continued to build on the past while looking to the future. The new Enterprise building for Year 9, and renovated spaces for Year 11 and Years 7 and 8, enhanced group learning in worthwhile ways, while students from all year levels had opportunities to engage in many learning experiences outside the classroom.

Potted History:

<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/2010-2018-potted-history/>



Year 9 students in the Enterprise Centre.

Membership

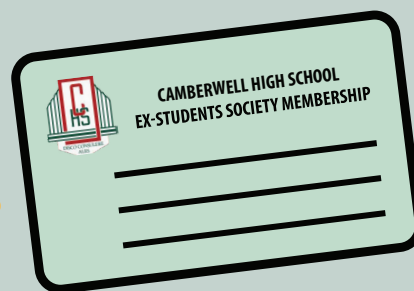
<https://camhigh.exstudents.org/membership/>

Make our 80th year count by becoming a member!

With only a click of your mouse you can become a member for 1 year, 5 years or 10 years.

We are proud of the way we distribute our membership fees and bequests:

- Ex Students Scholarships: \$700
- \$2,800 to the Principal's Well Being Fund for students needing financial assistance with their education
- \$1250 to the library from CHESS and the Robert Ewins Memorial Fund (REMF)
- \$250 for literature scholarships from the Robert Ewins Memorial Fund
- Naomi Harrison Trust: \$1,000 per annum for an aboriginal student



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2020–current

It is difficult for those of us who attended the school at any time from 1942 to 2019, to imagine learning from home, being isolated, catching up with classmates on Zoom or missing the special celebrations that made each year memorable, particularly in Year 12. We commend students and staff for their resilience, adaptability and determination to continue learning in an unpredictable environment.

As we conclude our 80th year, we invite you to celebrate the achievements of our Ex-Students Committee during 2021.



Well attended 80th year twilight gathering at the school that included school tours and an assembly where three CHS generations of the Lee Dow family spoke.

<https://youtu.be/2geM23In3r8>



80th year celebration video produced for the school with photos accompanied by the Ex-Students recording of School of our Youth made in 2005.

<https://youtu.be/EWoaXSGCfY8>



Well attended online presentation by Emeritus Professor Peter Gronn on the topic: Celebrating 80 years of Academic Excellence.

<https://youtu.be/LQGdjlbam6l>



Produced a motivational video for Year 12 students and also sent each Year 12 student a CHESS bookmark and pen.

<https://youtu.be/QAwG4Yq-Jcc>



Attained Charitable Status which enables us to access the in-perpetuity gift from Bruce Hayman's Trust Fund and offers other alumni the opportunity to give donations or bequests.



Principal Jill Laughlin interviewed Professor Lyn Gilbert AO. The video was shown to students at the Achievement and Recognition Ceremony.



Scanned and uploaded hundreds more photos and documents to our website.



Maintained annual donation of \$6000 to the school for scholarships and donations to the library and the Principal's Well-Being Fund.



Increased membership as a result of the new *JoinIT* payment system



Members from around Australia joined the AGM and committee meetings via Zoom



Increased engagement with Ex-Students as a result of regular posts on Facebook