



CHESSMOVES

AUGUST 1995

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This year marks the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. This event has been highlighted in the press and media. Camberwell High has had various student projects on this theme. CHESS has chosen October 27 to celebrate a reunion of the 1940s students. This event will be held at the school between 5.30 and 7.00 pm and will involve an address to the ex-students, then a tour of the school complete with the new sports hall. Supper will be provided.

Under positions vacant, CHESS is keen to secure an interested member to be editor of CHESSMOVES, our newsletter. Any interested party can contact me on 9247 9757.

Bernard Corser

CAREERS SEMINAR

Again, CHESS has organised a Careers Seminar for the benefit of current students in Years 10 and 11. It will take place on Thursday evening, August 10th.

In previous years, the seminar has been in the form of a breakfast. However, a new format has been devised, one that will better suit the needs of students at the school.

There are thirty-two presenters, representing a wide range of vocations. Presenters are grouped four to a room, and each makes a fifteen minute outline of their occupation. There are two 'series' of presentations, so clients have an opportunity of sampling a wide range of occupations.

Bernard Corser, Barry Garnham, and other members of the CHESS committee, have planned the event, in conjunction with school staff.

Most people participating are members of CHESS. We are extremely grateful to them for their participation.

SPORTS HALL

Work on the new \$750,000 facility is currently on schedule for a completion date of October 13, 1995. The pre-cast concrete panels will all be in place by the end of the week, then the steel frame goes up, the roof on and....it's finished!

Then all we have to do is pay for it!

Speaking of which.....

RAFFLE

Part of the school's fundraising program is a major raffle, to be drawn on Friday September 22nd.

First prize is \$1200 worth of goods from Angus Tuckerbag's Middle Camberwell store. Second prize is a weekend for two at the Bryson, plus tickets to Beauty and the Beast (package valued at \$400). Prizes 3,4 and 5 are tax returns or financial consultations with Kotros and Associates, chartered Accountants, each to the value of \$200.

Excellent prizes, I'm sure you'll agree. If you'd like to assist the school by selling some raffle tickets, we'd be most appreciative. Simply phone the school on 9836 0555 and we'll forward a book or books of tickets to you. (Books of 10, \$2 per ticket.)

Proceeds will go to the Sports Hall project.

Thank you in anticipation.

CHESS COMMITTEE

The committee of CHESS meets at the school on the first Monday of each month at 6.00pm. Meetings combine business efficiency with conviviality. A light meal is provided. You are most welcome to attend. We'd love to see you.

Annual Combined Concert

On Tuesday, June 27, this annual event was held in St. Paul's Cathedral. The combined musical talents of Canterbury GSC and our school produced a wonderful concert.

House Competitions

On Wednesday, May 17th, the annual Choral Festival was held. Churchill won. The House Captains and their Creative Arts Captains are now preparing for the Drama Festival, to be held on Wednesday, September 6th.

The Houses are alive and well. At a recent meeting School Council discussed the names of the houses. There is a view in some circles that the names need to be updated. You will be consulted before any decision is made. What do you think?

MORE ON THE SPORTS HALL

The project is being undertaken by the Camberwell High School Co-operative Society. The Co-op has 296 members, each underwriting a share of the project. The total cost of the project, not including interest, is being done by Eric Leech and Co, a firm who have done excellent work for the school before and who have been most helpful and patient during the long process of waiting for permission from the Treasury to provide a guarantee for our loan.

It has taken ten years to raise sufficient funds to commence building, and it will take another ten years to pay off the loan. Raising funds each year will be a significant job for the community. Over the ten years, more than \$180,000 was raised by parent donations and school fundraising activities. Another \$70,000 was contributed to the fund by the School Council.

A loan of \$400,000 has been obtained by the National Australia Bank. The loan has been guaranteed by the State Treasury. In addition, an interest subsidy, worth around \$110,000 has been approved by Treasury and the DSE.

The Sports Hall has always been planned as a community asset, not just a school building. Many sporting groups have expressed interest in using the facility and we anticipate that Camberwell will derive a useful income from the source.

MEMBERSHIP

We encourage people who have not become financial members in 1995 to rectify this situation. It is very important to the continuation of the ex-students' society that it maintains its financial strength, which of course, derives solely from its subscription paying membership.

Thank You

DECEASED

We have recently been informed of the passing of three former CHESS members.

Carol Seymour - Class of '54

William Howard Savory - 1945-1950

Hillary Lane, 1961-1966

Bob Kearsley

SIX MONTHS IN SOUTH AFRICA

It started with a phone call from an old ABC colleague: "Would I be interested in a spell as a consultant with the South African Broadcasting Corporation, helping them make the change from a state broadcaster, very much under the thumb of the apartheid National Party, to a more democratic institution, reflecting in their News and Current Affairs programs, Nelson Mandela's new South Africa?"

The answer, of course, was "you bet", and - armed with the generous support of my employers GTV-9 and the backing of an Australian government aid project - I was on my way early in October last year.

I'd been there before, but only once and that back in the 'bad old days'. I'd done my homework, but nothing could have prepared me for the experience ahead. Like the whole country, the SABC - by far the biggest broadcaster in South Africa - had just gone through a revolution, and most people were still pleasantly surprised at how remarkably well they'd done it.

Most whites had become reconciled to the need for change, despite their apprehension about how it would affect them. Most blacks were celebrating the end of a nightmare, but looking for progress, not revenge.

Television News Productions, the arm of the SABC I was involved with, was going through an enormous upheaval, with old management practices (and indeed old management) being pushed aside and new ways being found through a ferment of staff workshopping and discussion.

No small exercise: TNP has almost seven hundred staff. It produces daily news bulletins in six languages (and will soon raise that to eleven).

There are current affairs and discussion programs, a three-hour morning show, magazine programs and religious broadcasting. Apart from my obvious language shortcomings, there simply weren't enough hours in the day to watch all the department's output and do some

constructive work as well. But I gave it a try. In fact, after six weeks I was asked to step aside from my consultancy and take on the role of Editor in Chief while a permanent appointment was made. What followed was like four months of uninterrupted white-water rafting: constant exhilaration, a huge amount of effort in the company of some equally excited and hard-working people, a full-time struggle to avoid the rocks, and the occasional dousing with water as a timely reminder not to get too cocky.

It was impossible not to become caught up in the mood of the times....for a journalist, South Africa is again one of the most exciting stories in the world, but now it's mostly a positive one. There are still great problems and great tensions: how will Mandela's ANC and Buthelezi's Zulu Inkatha movement reconcile their differences? What will happen when Mandela - the symbol, the very embodiment of the new South Africa - steps down, or passes on? Can the expectations of the great mass of black people, for housing, education, a better lifestyle, be met at a fast enough rate to avert serious unrest? Will foreign investment and aid continue to flow until stability has been achieved?

But the mood is optimistic. Whites are still being astonished to discover how many talented black people live (and have always lived) amongst them. Black managers and workers, in the SABC as much as elsewhere, are making their presence felt, with dignity and forbearance. The extreme right of the Afrikaaner movement is fading away, losing power even in its own Northern Transvaal heartland.

The recent Rugby World Cup win, with President Mandela's joyful acceptance of and by the national team, was another important milestone on the journey to mutual understanding.

One thing is certain: South Africa's fortunes will always be important to my family and me. Our two boys, aged nine and six, had a marvellous time at school, despite lessons starting at 0740! The system was not greatly different to ours and, as you might expect, there was a strong emphasis on sport as part of the curriculum.....swimming, tennis, cricket, t-ball, athletics, rugby and soccer were all available and enthusiastically taught and played. And we made so many friends, of all ages, colours and backgrounds, among people who very much want to earn the world's liking and respect, that we'll never forget our time there and never cease to wish them all well as they write an entirely new chapter in their country's already dramatic history.

Bob Kearsley was a student at Camberwell High School from 1952-1957, and is a senior producer in the newsroom at television station GTV-9, Melbourne.

WHAT'S GOING ON AT YOUR OLD SCHOOL IN 1995

Uniform

A sub-committee of School Council has worked for several months on a review of the uniform. Its recommendations were accepted by Council recently, and the changes will be phased in during the next two years. The changes affect the girls' uniforms only.

The girls' summer and winter dresses have been altered. The summer dress will be a green, black and white check and there is the option of wearing shorts in summer (green standard school style). The winter skirt is of permanently pressed plaid poly/wool boxed pleats. The blouse (in both seasons) has turned to white.

Australia Remembers

A group of students has produced a book, "Australia Remembers: Camberwell High School says thanks for our freedom". This has been produced by a group of Year 10 students under the guidance of an 'historian-in-residence'.

A special School Assembly will be held on Tuesday, August 15th. The assembly will begin at 9.10am. The School Choir and Band will perform and Mr John Farthing of the Camberwell Returned Serviceman's League will present a plaque. ***You are cordially invited to attend this assembly. Please arrive at the school by 8.45am.***

Camps Program

Many Year 8 and Year 9 students enjoy a week at Wollongarra, a hiking camp situated in Gippsland, not far from Licola on the Macalister River. The core activity is a three-day hike, camping out in the Victorian Alps.

A number of Year 9 and 10 students go to Mittagundi, near Omeo. In winter, this is a five-day cross-country ski camp; at other times of the year, it is a nine-day hiking camp.

CHESS provides financial support for students who would otherwise be unable to participate in the challenging and rewarding experiences these camps provide.

There is a Year 10 trip to Tasmania planned for the end of the year.