



CHESSMOVES

SEPTEMBER 2001

IN THIS ISSUE:

President's Report
Principal's Report
Memories of a retired policeman and Hawks supporter
It was different for girls.....
Discourse
The Chessmoves website
RSVP for our Xmas break-up party -
ALL WELCOME

CHESS MEETINGS:

10th September
8th October
12th November
4th December*

*Annual Xmas break-up party - to be held at the Rose Hotel, Fitzroy - details inside this CHESSMOVES.

Meetings are held at CHS (except school holidays) at a staff room opposite the main entrance from 5.30pm to 7.00pm.

Welcome to our 3rd edition for 2001.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

As President of CHESS, I occasionally receive telephone calls with various request or notices. These range from news to reviews, requests for information on specific students and the passing of ex-scholars and teachers.

Last month, I received the news of the death of Miss Joan Essex, Principal from 1971-1976.

I attended the service at Saint Dominic's, Middle Camberwell, and met Miss Moore, a teacher in the late 60's and early 70's.

In 1971, as Head Prefect, I was to serve under Mr Slattery and Miss Essex in her first year at CHS.

Miss Essex retired after 1976 and lived in Camberwell with her sister.

DISCO CONSULERE ALIIS

Bernard Corser
Class of '71

PRESIDENT

Mr. Bernard Corser
331 Highett Street
Richmond, 3121
(W) 9416-3155

(H) 9429-5026
(M) 0407-300-678
bc@corserproperty.com.au

SECRETARY

Pat Douglas
PO Box 1
Bayswater, 3153
(H) 87042973
(M) 0409-598-504
frankd@opalsaust.com.au

TREASURER

Mr. Neil Bouvier
20 Jamieson Avenue
Footscray, 3011
(W) 8695-4587
(H) 9687-3835
neil_bouvier@pivot.com.au

EDITOR

Deb Johnson
2 Duval Court
Wheelers Hill, 3150
(H) 9560-6735
(M) 0412-844175
landie@dingoblue.net.au

We welcome any contributions from past students. Please contact Deb by post or email with any written articles. Also, if any CHESS members wish to place ads, please contact Bernard.

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

Miss Joan Essex, Principal of Camberwell High School from 1971-1976, died recently after a long illness. In his official history of CHS, "Camberwell High School 1941-1991", author Robert Ewins writes:-

'Problems of lack of specialized staff, an inadequate staffing establishment and, at times, the poor quality (if not outright incompetence) of teachers were inherited by the next principal, Joan Essex (1971-1976) along with a school which was overcrowded and unsettled, perhaps by the recently completed building programme, but certainly by the general decline in respect for authority, and willingness to accept discipline and direction, which was the product of broad social and cultural changes.....

Margaret Joan Essex began her career as a student-teacher at Cambridge Street Primary School in Collingwood in 1935 and subsequently taught English in a wide range of schools..... At Maribyrnong High School as Acting Principal, she demonstrated that a woman could successfully run a large co-educational school..... Joan Essex herself loved teaching and was therefore disinclined to accept slovenliness in others; as a result of her efforts, some staff were removed from the school..... For Joan Essex, the school was the workplace for both staff and students... The school should remain academic, in her view, but those who were not academic needed to be catered for..... In her 1971 Senior Speech Night address, she stated:

"If we are to turn our students from selfishness, unconcern and lack of commitment then we must look at the total experience in their schooling.....

We seek to impart certain knowledge and skills, but we must include attitudes and values. I believe that the goals of education are pushing towards the goal of individual fulfilment in a rapidly changing society."

In 1972, a five day period day was introduced to facilitate the introduction of new elective subjects, eg. First

aid, pre-driver education, orchestra. Boys were encouraged to do cooking and girls to do metal work and wood work. Much encouragement was given to extra-curricular activities in drama and music.... In 1975, a careers programme of one period weekly was started for Form IV students.... Work experience was also started for Form V..... There was also a considerable expansion in the opportunities for parent/teacher contact. Ninety-nine parents attended a Parent's Evening in March 1976 - a very high response rate.... On Sunday March 16, 1975, the school held its first Open Day with large numbers of students participating, most of the staff and overall about 1000 people attending.....'

On behalf of the school community, I acknowledge Miss Essex's unique and valuable contribution to Camberwell High School, and offer our condolences to family and friends.

*Elida Brereton
Principal*

Memories of a retired policeman and Hawks supporter

By Alan Scott (1945-1947)

I remember early days at CHS for my first public announcement that I wanted to be a policeman.

This came about when our very nice form mistress, Miss Parkhurst, who was also our French teacher asked the class if there was anyone who didn't want to do the compulsory subject French. After my experience with Latin at Central School, I most certainly did not wish to attempt the learning of another language. When I raised my hand to indicate my dissent, Miss Parkhurst asked my name and what I wanted to be. Following my answer, she replied, I can see the headlines:

DETECTIVE INSPECTOR SCOTT SOLVES MURDER DUE TO HIS KNOWLEDGE OF FRENCH

In my 35 years in the Victorian Police Force, I was involved in many investigations, including homicides, but my French education was never tested.

As a result of being seen playing football for Camberwell High School (CHS), I was approached and signed up by the Hawthorn Football Club (HFC). My future with Hawthorn as a player only extended to the Under 19s and the Reserves, however my interest with the Hawks has shown a significant connection with CHS. The 1946/47 CHS football team included Frank Schwab who was to umpire the first grand final Hawthorn was to win in 1961. His son Peter is the present coach of Hawthorn. Early days at CHS also produced Hawthorn players, Peter Hancock and Norm Maginness (his son Scott also played for Hawthorn). Later, the most outstanding footballer to play for CHS (1971) was no doubt Peter Knights who is in the AFL Hall of Fame after playing 264 games including three premierships with the HFC.

My three children followed me to CHS too.....John, Geoff and Michelle. And they're all Hawthorn supporters!

EDITORS NOTE: I should mention that Alan Scott became a Detective Superintendent of the Victorian Police and also received the Queen's Police Medal for distinguished service.

It was different for girls.....

By Margaret Cowin (nee Boyd) 1947-1951

I have enjoyed reading the stories of ex-students and now offer up some recollections of my own, mainly because I want to report how different things were, in many ways, for girls.

For a start, in 1946, the local primary school, gently steered pupils towards a wider variety of secondary schools than presently exists. So, according to results, and perceived expectations, girls were directed towards Camberwell High, Box Hill Girls Tech, "Mangarra Road" (now Canterbury Girls), or central classes. I was fortunate that my curriculum choices were not limited so early and I arrived at Camberwell High.

I loved learning and enjoyed stimulating maths with Miss Jenkins, English with Miss Anchen and Miss Tellick (to name a few) and got through their classes with typical adolescent boredom. (Did the teachers know their nicknames? "Waxy", "Snoop" and "Snifter" come to mind)

At the end of year 8, as I remember, we had to make subject choices and subsequently went into "professional" or "commercial" streams, basically decided on whether or not one did a language. (Melbourne University had study of a language as a prerequisite for an Arts degree). One consequence of these choices was an imbalance of gender in the groups - more boys in the "professional" stream, more girls in the "commercial". In retrospect, I

can only remember one girl (Myra King) who actually acknowledged any expectation of going to university.

The years passed quickly, then, towards the end of Year 10, bursaries were offered for students prepared to commit themselves to either nursing or teaching, and many of the girls, including myself, were successful in obtaining these. Some went on to professional training after Year 11 (the Leaving Certificate), a mere handful of those who had started in Year 1, change schools in order to matriculate. This was a challenging process, moving to a very large school into a cohort of largely unknown peers and highly demanding academic expectations. I survived but could not say that I enjoyed the experience.

Teacher's College was great and I was surprised and pleased on graduating, to be offered the opportunity to study Arts, majoring in Psychology, at Melbourne University (where I met up again with Myra King). I was fortunate in that my parents believed in education and were able to support me through it.

Eventually I started primary teaching in Richmond, which was quite a culture shock. No one in Teachers' College had ever told me that I might have pupils who could not speak a word of English, or whose grandmothers would come up at lunchtime and spoon-feed them. I was of course, paid less than my male counterparts, and not only expected to do yard duty, but also to prepare the staffroom for morning tea and lunch.

I then married and joined the Psychology and Guidance Branch as a Guidance Officer - another name for an Educational Psychologist. (I did not have to resign from the Department at this time, as, a couple of years previously, legislation had been passed enabling the permanent employment of married women.) This was against the norm, and I can recall my mother justifying to a friend that I needed to work for two years in order to be qualified as a psychologist. Whilst this was true, being twenty three and only having worked in full time employment for one year, I was not exactly cashed up. Soon after the two years was up, happily pregnant, I had to resign - no family leave in those days!

The next nine years saw three children, part time coaching, School Committee work (where the Department usually assumed that any representations I made were on behalf of the Mothers' Club) and a period of living in New Guinea. Then my husband encouraged me back to part time work. Mothers reading this will identify with the fact that subsequently, should any of the children be ill, it was because I was at work.

Nine years of this, including gaining a Bachelor of Education degree, and I moved into full time work and the position of Senior Guidance Officer (Primary). Heady years where I had a leadership role in the implementation of the abolition of corporal punishment; visited Great Britain and Sweden supported by a VTU scholarship to look at school discipline in those countries; wrote the official Departmental publication "Preparing for School"; did related radio and press interviews on this topic; was a member of the Primary Education Committee which determined curriculum in primary schools; along with the esteemed Elida Brereton took part in a secondary school review etc. etc. Around this time, with a group of five others, I wrote a book on school discipline that was published both in Australia and in Great Britain.

But the political climate intervened and the position was abolished, so I spent a year as a Policy Analyst with the State Board of Education, another year as a Senior Education Officer (like the old District Inspector) then moved on to manage a School Support Centre. (In this role I was one of the ten most senior women in the Ministry of Education.)

Politics intervened again and the Support Centres were dismantled so I resigned and set up my own successful consultancy business. This gave me more time for family, travel and voluntary activities - a good balance. Keeping a promise to my family I retired from paid work at the age of 65.

At school I had no ambitions about an academic education or a career. At home, whilst education was valued, the hope and expectation was that I would become a good wife and mother. As it turned out, I was able to have so much - higher education, a career, a happy marriage and great children. However it was not easy to challenge societal and institutional expectations and it was not easy to learn to sell oneself when applying for positions. I count myself very fortunate in having the opportunities and being supported to do so.

Margaret Cowin

CHESSMOVES DEADLINE FOR NEXT
ISSUE:

February 15th, 2002.

Send all articles to Debs at her address on page 2 or via email on landie@dingoblue.net.au

We have a request from an ex-student, asking if there was a video made of the Year 12 Final Presentation Assembly on 29th October, 1992. If anyone knows of its existence and/or has a copy, could they please email me.

Debs

DISCOurse

Our new 13 question questionnaire.....

Replies from Geoff Davidson (1951-1955)

Drummer in school band with Miss Mills.

Self-described gentleman of leisure. Always was, and still is, a fanatical Hawthorn supporter. Still heavily involved in Richmond Cricket Club and Hawthorn Football Club.

Which teacher inspired you at CHS?

Jack Holloway (Phys Ed) tried to get me to lose weight and gain fitness. Lasted for 2 years.

Your funniest school memory?

Choral Competitions - antics of our schoolmates conducting house choirs.

What subject did you hate and why?

Art - could not draw an orange to save my life.

What school house were you in?

Macarthur and proud of it.

Can you hit the high note at the end of the school song?

Yes, with a little help for "Aliis"

Do you still have any school library books?

No - never borrowed any.

Your favourite sport or, conversely, what sport did you try to get out of?

Tried to get out of Phys Ed. Favourite sport was cricket - 12th man in first CHS team to beat Melbourne High School.

What did you do on the last day of school? (we won't tell the police)

"Kissed the girls and made them cry"

Who was your best friend at school?

John Duncan (my protector)

What book are you reading now?

Robert Ludlum - The Cassandra Convert

A Biography - Jeff Kennett

Did you have a crush on a classmate?

Different crush each term but thought Heather Doncaster a bit of a spunk.

What classroom prank can you recall? (we know nothing)

After final year exams, (1953) we decided to drop kick milk shake canisters over the tuck shop roof.

Succeeded but ended up in headmaster's office for lecture.

Did CHS have a lasting influence on your life?

Yes - not so much academically but taught me to work hard to succeed.

CHESS SNIPPETS:

Our new CHESS WALK birch trees are in place, lining the path to the park, near the new VCE Centre. I took a photo of the path just last week, with the sunset and it has the potential to look fantastic when the trees have matured. It's a wonderful tribute towards past students and the recognition of their contribution to the school community and beyond, over the years. On another note, the RSL has contacted us regarding war memorials in the school. If there is anyone, who knows of a former student or teacher that served in any war from 1941 onwards (including those who died in action), please contact me (details on page 2) and we will pass on the necessary information in the submission forms they have sent to CHESS.

CHESS now has our own computer to maintain and update school records throughout the year. Our database is critical to our raison d'être and we have purchased a back-up drive also.

CHESS provides funds towards the Year 12 End of Year Lunch, to be held on 23rd October this year in the new VCE Centre. We are expecting 130 students to attend.

Also, since the last CHESSMOVES, I have done a crash course in web design and have taken on the responsibility of the CHESS website - <http://www.chessmoves.com>

Please do visit the site - I have been accessing the school archives, which CHESS maintains at the school campus, and have started the monumental task of scanning photos. So you will gradually see more and more appearing in the photos section. At some time, (maybe summer when it's brighter) I hope to set up a virtual tour where visitors to the site can click on a map and see digital photos of classrooms, the facades of all the major buildings. I think that it is a great way of invoking memories and also seeing how facilities have evolved. The school song is there, but I need a midi file or a wave file of a piano. The names of all former prefects are there and house captains, barring the gap from 1974-1982 where there are no school records. I would appreciate any info on these missing names to update the details correctly. One day, we hope to get all the newsletters and membership forms onsite. Reunions will be listed as well as CHESS projects, such as the walk and donations to the school. My major focus has been simplicity and ease of navigation. The green theme aligns the site to our traditional CHS colour. I would like to feature prominent past pupils...such as those in the Gallery of Fame in the school's main hallway. If anyone out there would like to contact me, for the purpose of lending photos for the site...please ring me. I will take every care with them.
Deb Johnson

The Editor and Committee members of CHESS sincerely thank Creffield Reproductions (101 Rosslyn Street, West Melbourne, Phone 9329-5177) for their help in the production of CHESS MOVES.