



# CHESSMOVES

## DECEMBER 2002

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### CHESS MEETINGS:

**10th February**

**17th March**

**14th April**

Meetings are held at CHS (except school holidays) at a staff room opposite the main entrance from 5.30pm to 7.00pm. All ex-students are welcome. And Elida gives out FREE chocolates to attendees!

### IMPORTANT NOTICE:

*Our annual March mailout will continue to be posted to all members - non-members will receive it by email only. CHESS would like members to update their email addresses with us, as we might use these if we need to send out notices (to save postage) and if you are able to give us email details of other CHS ex-students, we would appreciate that immensely.*

*Debs*

### PRESIDENT

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**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. Also, please consider our chessmoves website for your advertising!**

#### **PRESIDENT'S REPORT**

Our reunion for this year was celebrated for the decades of the 80s and 90s. Camberwell High's longest serving teacher, Peter Frost, addressed the students and then conducted a tour of the new school.

CHESS is a "not for profit" and also a "not for loss" organisation. We fund our activities by charging enough (hopefully) to cover costs on any event that we run and invest our time and effort in data collection for our mail outs and archiving student records at the school.

Recent observations on organising our 80s and 90s reunion were that we need more telephoning of students from the respective years. This effort in communication is both expensive and time-consuming. Our aim is to facilitate communication by the building of a database of email addresses to our ex-students. This will be more cost effective than postage and telephone costs that face us at the present.

Again, I would welcome any ex-student to join our committee and mount a rival faction to unseat your current President. The current committee have been a faithful team of about a decade in service but are not seeking life tenure and new ideas and enthusiasm are welcomed. CHESS meetings are held at the school on the second Monday of each month, commencing at 5.30pm. The school is represented by either the Principal, Ms Elida Brereton, or one of the Assistant Principals, Mr Ken Tenner or Mr Glen Linton.

Merry Christmas

Disco Consulere Allis  
Bernard Corser (Class of '71)

#### **Canberra Chapter Report**

**Fred Roberts**

**It's been a while since you last heard from us. We still exist, but we're a quiet, mild-mannered lot and we don't make much fuss!**

**We are a small but select group, and it's a happy fact that some of our most loyal supporters are the partners of the actual CHESS members. At our last function, a barbecue lunch at the home of original chapter member Thelma Bell (Cocks) and her husband, Bob, we had a marvellous time (again) enjoying interaction with friends and going on a tour of the Bell Botanic Gardens.**

**As I key this, we're gearing up for our next get-together: brunch at the Crown Plaza Hotel on 21 July. All of our social functions have a good meal at their heart and the formula seems to work well.**

It's not all good news, unfortunately. We've had to abandon a part of our program of which we were very proud. Our member, (Professor) Graeme Cox, initiated a program of inviting an outstanding Science student from Year 11 at CHS to visit Canberra and spend a day exploring the John Curtin School of Medical Research, which numbers a couple of Nobel Prize winners among its distinguished members. After the scheme had been running for a couple of years, another member, Dr Rosemary Wright, added her own contribution. She hosted the young visitor at her home and, on the second day of the visit, escorted him or her on Grand Rounds at the Canberra Hospital.

We welcomed four splendid young people under this program, but two events last year have led to its collapse. Rosemary left Canberra and returned to live in Melbourne, and the JCSMR's funds dried up in the arid atmosphere which has affected all research institutions. Reluctantly, the John Curtin School told us that it could no longer support the annual visit, so, even more reluctantly, we have had to drop it.

We'd love to have some new members. As I mentioned, we are a small group, but we're mostly of what might be described as Mature Age and we could do with a transfusion of younger blood. If any ex-CHS people are moving to Canberra, please get in touch and we'll make you more than welcome.\*

#### VALE

Helen Daniel (1958-1963)

Peter Foard (1951-1956)

Peter Greer (1947-1949)

Ross Reading (1954-1956)

Norman Walsh (1945-1946)

#### **PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE**

*We recently had our focus on our Year 12 students as they finished their formal classes and were the guests of the school at the Valedictory Luncheon. Later, they were praised in the presence of their peers, families and friends at the Valedictory Evening, where a packed house saw the several students awarded with major prizes: Outstanding Academic Achievement Award and also the CHESS Award went to Quince Chen; Principal's Award - Eleanor Bullen; Jurgen Tauchert Award - David Evans; Senior Writer's Award - Anna Dao; Senior Poetry Award - Katherine Neuendorf; Don Anderson Award - Hannah Payne; International Student Award - Quince Chen; C.H.E.S.S. Award - Katherine Neuendorf; Caltex All Rounder Award - Angela Webster; Citizenship Award - Amanda Davey. In addition, students, across all subjects and in many categories, received certificates for outstanding achievements, and their teachers, AP Ken Tenner, PTLs Tob Poyntz and Gail Frost, and I noted with much satisfaction the number of students who probably exceeded our and their expectations, as well as those always expected to do well. Cr. Jackie Fristacky, a former student of CHS and a most distinguished corporate lawyer, and School Council VP Lawrence Gilbert, spoke to the Year 12s on the night. Sam Daly's heartfelt reflection on how strong words to him from "Mr Tenner" some time ago (to the effect of "why don't you get off your backside and **do** something for your school!") had changed his life (and he'd **done** something!) was deemed a definite highlight of the night.*

*The Stage 2 Building Works (and destruction works!) are happening and students, staff and visitors are aware of the largish Administration portable against the front steps, the six "new" (read "very old") portables on the southern lawns next to the park, and the fencing along the northern (front) areas, that has closed off the north half of the courtyard. The successful tender was that of McGinley and Partners, who built our beautiful Arts/Technology/VCE/Music complex in 2000-01. The first job was the destruction of the stairs in the Old Building that lead to the*

*flyover corridor and rooms: at the moment, the upstairs route between the two large brick buildings requires us to go up, then up again, along and then down just to access the connecting corridor! At the end of this work, there will be one sweeping set of stairs (!) and a **level** passage-way across to the other building. To allow for wheelchairs and also deliveries of heavy items, a **lift** will be inserted into the front of the younger major building. Alas, my foolish dream of a glass and bronze-fronted lift with bright lights that move, is being ignored totally.....!*

*Rooms 7 and 8 (ground floor Old Building) and Rooms 12, 13 and 14 above them will be closed off, as will Rooms 207 and 208 on the flyover. Students and staff will be “decanted “ (not **my** word!) into the extra portables for several months, while the office ladies, Isabelle McKenzie and I ‘decant’ into the Administration portable. I do feel for my excellent colleagues, Assistant Principals, Ken Tenner and Glen Linton, on whose shoulders most of the burden of adjusting daily life and movement of 1300+ students will fall. The patience and co-operation of us all will be vital.*

*Elida Brereton  
Principal*

## ***CHS TEACHERS FROM 50 YEARS AGO - CAN YOU IDENTIFY THEM?***

*From Gerry Robinson (1951-1956)*

*Here's a little quiz, not meant to be hurtful. No doubt others could add to it!  
Answers underneath..*

*We had many teachers with nicknames:*

- 1 Fossil*
- 2 Long John*
- 3 Sniff*
- 4 Bulldog*
- 5 Galah*
- 6 Jackie*
- 7 Dark Satanic (after she made us sing Jerusalem)*
- 8 Eddie*

*And others known by their characteristics.*

- 9 a gammy knee*
- 10 consistently-late returns after lunch*
- 11 Olympic rower*
- 12 lunchtime volleyballer*
- 13 a librarian's strictness*

*And some by their christian names:*

- 14 Ollie*
- 15 Brian*
- 16 Wilbur*

**ANSWERS:**

- |                   |                  |
|-------------------|------------------|
| <i>1 Heywood</i>  | <i>9 Dunne</i>   |
| <i>2 Holloway</i> | <i>10 Begbie</i> |
| <i>3 White</i>    | <i>11 Aikman</i> |

4 Muirden	12 Onyons
5 G.A.L Adams	13 Clark
6 Foster	14 Ferris
7 Mills	15 Krahnert
8 Hart	16 Keane

CHESSMOVES DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

15th February, 2003.

Send all articles to Debs at her address on page 2 or via email on  
landie110@bigpond.com

## *Mic Conway's National Junk Band*

are coming down south for a night in Melbourne at:  
The Corner Hotel, 57 Swan Street, Richmond  
On Sunday, December the 1st at 8pm.

Especially for those who have great memories of  
The Jelly Bean Jug Band winning CHS Talent Quests - and also The Captain  
Matchbox Whoopee Band.

*"Dost thou love life? Then do not squander time, for  
that's the stuff that's life is made of".* (Benjamin Franklin circa 1790)

*"I love life but I'm a shocker at time management".* (Andrew Lovitt,  
2002)

*In all of us there is possibly a feeling of unfinished business. This is cheerfully dedicated to  
many who may have known me in Camberwell High School during the 1960s and I'm grateful  
for the opportunity.  
Thank you CHAOS!*

*I was in 1st form in 1961 and should have been in sixth form in 1966. But I missed a year as  
an exchange student and had to repeat Matric so I would be known to the graduating classes  
of 1966,67 and 68.*

*More importantly I'm the brother of Nonie, Charles and Michael. The four of us enjoyed to  
the hilt the high standing and the traditions of Camberwell High School from the early 1950s  
to the early 1970s. Our Mum and Dad were school teachers (though never at CHS) and they  
shaped our attitudes as much as the school. It was a happy convergence of endeavour,  
philosophy and family tradition. (Not that I would have used those words back then).*

*My discourse answers give more reflections but I must also mention the all-night poker  
schools on Friday nights, the many summer days at our adjoining swimming pool, trips to  
swim in the Yarra at Warrandyte, the school trip to Warragul, and the heady days of watching  
the rowing, the cricket team winning most of the time, the football team winning some of the  
time and the soccer team... well let's just say multi-cultural talents were slow to reach middle  
class Camberwell. Politics was paternal and boring but Gough Whitlam would change all*

*that a few years hence. (I can remember my father saying he'd never voted for a winning politician in 40 years, his only regret of living in the blue ribbon seats of the eastern suburbs).*

*In 1969 I joined TAA as a management trainee in a scheme that sent me to do Eco/Pol at Monash on a part-time basis. I loved the airline business and even did a stint at Essendon Airport in the days before Tullamarine. The last few years I was in the Marketing Department as the classic stuff was done with Great Keppel Island and Take 7 holidays.*

*In the 1970s I was active with Rotaract, a spin off from Rotary, played lots of sport and did lots of travel, including many visits back to see exchange student dayfriends in upstate New York. I did manage one minor piece of fame: Australian Frisbee Golf Champion of 1977. Seriously!*

*Newly married to Anna (from Gulargambone, NSW) I resigned from TAA in 1980 and moved to a new career in Tasmania. I had a few fascinating years in Advertising and then Marketing and eventually joined a client full-time helping to run a car and campervan rental company. Including the consultancy I've been with AutoRent for 21 years and have just enough of a shareholding to keep my nose to the grindstone to make sure I can get 2 sons and 2 daughters through their schooling.*

*Tasmania is a wonderful lifestyle though you do have to have satisfying work. It is still a largely undiscovered demi-paradise. Launceston is a beautiful city with a pleasant inland climate. It used to take me only 5 minutes to get to work in peak hour, but it's now blown out to 5 and a ½ minutes.*

*As the years jog on, so do I. There are tracks by the river and there are the fun runs to aim for such as the Burnie 10, the Cadbury ½ marathon. (The cross-country training at CHS has stood me in good stead. Forgive the pride that I recall all we 3 brothers won the Open Mile at CHS. Oops, that dates us!)*

*Now for the big one and why I love CHAOS:*

*In July 1991 I attended a reunion of my old upstate NY High School. It was the 25th anniversary and my/their very first reunion. It was fantastic. I thought it could not be topped. I was wrong.*

*The October 1991 CHS reunion (Golden Jubilee) was like out of a time machine I was not expecting to encounter. These were the people I grew up with - over many years! I was dumbfounded I could have forgotten them in the deluge of life, career, family and all that. It was simply a wonderful emotional shock to 'rediscover' so many wonderful people, and a part of myself.*

*Di George, Liz Firth, Helen Nolt, Helen James, Julie Grant, Ian Messer, Rod Maddock, Ian McBain, Geoff Brain, Jack Levy (aka Elliot Goblet) and I'll bet I've offended some really wonderful other friends who were also there that weekend. It was as fabulous as it was unexpected. That was the big night at the Hyatt in town. The Sunday at the school was something else again. I really did cry singing the school song.*

*Lest I get maudlin I had better sign off. I hope this reaches many of friends and tells them a little of what I've done, where I've been etc. I'm hoping there is some reciprocation through*

*the pages of this newsletter or direct.  
My e-mail is alovitt@autorent.com.au*

*Andrew Lovitt  
(pictured right in the 1968 Boys' Basketball Team)*

## *DISCOurse*

### *Our 13 question questionnaire..... Replies from Andrew Lovitt (1961-1968)*

**Which teacher inspired you at CHS?**

*Quite a few. I wish I could remember more names. But Ms Rusden certainly had energy and focus and cared (even for Martin Kuchmar who beat me hands down in the competition to be class clown). Does she still drive that blue Morris 1800?*

**Your funniest school memory?**

*Finding I have a vague recollection about someone having mixed ENO into the sugar bowl in the staff room. It was funny for about 0.5 seconds - until Mrs Levy (a Latin teacher with gravitas) stormed out into the hallway looking for culprits. A new school record was set for running the length of the corridor.*

**What subject did you hate and why?**

*Woodwork. I failed in first form. Followed by music. I was seriously tone deaf.*

**What school house were you in?**

*Churchill. I was one of 4 Lovitt kids who played/swam and cheered for the glory of the yellow. We all adored sport. My big sister, Nonie, was also Head Prefect, 6 years before me and dux of the school to boot. Groan - what a reputation to follow.*

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

*I couldn't hit any of the notes. I sang a random version of the words. (So how come I had tears streaming down my face singing Disco Consulere Aliis in 1991?)*

**Do you still have any school library books?**

*I can remember falling in love with a young Librarian and she tried to teach me how to take out a book. Alas, the administrative difficulty of that step defeated me so I retreated to the sporting fields and volleyball courts.*

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

*My group played Volleyball before school, lunchtimes, recesses and after school. Several of the then teachers also played regularly. Mr Kamphausen was one.*

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

*I did 6th form (12th grade?) three times; once as an exchange student in 1966 in upstate NY. Then in 1967 and again in 1968 at CHS. (Getting into Uni in those days*

*wasn't easy for somebody like me who didn't know how to take out a library book). Having dropped back several years behind my peers my final day at Camberwell High was highlighted by sighs of relief from the staff room.*

**Who was your best friend at school?**

*I can remember David Harewood, John Patrick in the early years. Later there was Max Fraser, the McBains, the Maddocks etc. Then there was the academic group led by Jimmy Backholer. I always felt peculiarly lucky having friends in most of the sub-groups that formed in our generation (and between years as I dropped back and back).*

**What book are you reading now?**

*The story on the Ansett collapse. I love aviation. My first job out of CHS was with TAA; for 12 years (before coming to Tasmania).*

**Did you have a crush on a classmate?**

*There were many. Some silently rekindled during that wonderful 1991 reunion.*

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

*Martin Kuchmar named his physics lab stool "Doris". He wrote it under the seat. We swapped it and substituted another. I never saw such distress (or acting prowess) when he discovered it. Ms Rusden did not know what to make of it and was genuinely flustered. It sounds silly but you had to be there at the time.*

**Did CHS have a lasting influence on your life?**

*Yes. The getting of wisdom started back then. It was special to me and, I'm certain, to many of my former classmates.*

## ***Alison Walter (née Harewood\*) writes:***

*Soon after I finished my studies at Camberwell High School, my parents were transferred by The Salvation Army to Toronto, Canada, and I went with them. I met my Canadian husband, Stan Walter, and lived in Calgary, Alberta, for a year before we trained as Salvation Army officers (pastors/ministers). We served in a church for three years and then, because my husband has a degree in Maths and Physics, and hearing that teachers were needed in boarding schools in Zimbabwe (then Southern Rhodesia), we offered for missionary service.*

*In 1959, with two small children, we travelled by boat to Capetown, South Africa, and by train inland to Harare, Zimbabwe. Our third child was born whilst we were teaching on a mission station. That school, Mazowe Secondary School, is still one of the leading boarding schools of the country, preparing students for university. Because we lived some distance from the big city, it was my duty to teach our children their elementary grades, using correspondence lessons. After two years of home tutoring, they had to go to boarding school.*

*In 1964, we were transferred to another boys' boarding school in Kenya, on the border with*



*Uganda. This was a newer school and my husband, as Headmaster, did a lot of pioneering work there. At that time, Kenya had recently become independent and it was an interesting contrast to the white government of Zimbabwe.*

*Following these six years in Africa, we returned to church work in Canada, which included several years on the staff of The Salvation Army's Training College (seminary) as well as youth work and administration.*

*In 1978, we were asked to return to Nairobi, Kenya. Leaving our children in university in Canada, we returned to Africa to give leadership to the church in Kenya, which has the largest membership in the Army world. After four years there, we were given leadership positions in the church in Canada.*

*In 1986, we were again challenged to return to Africa - this time to South Africa at a very crucial time in their political history. Ignoring the limitations of apartheid, we sought to care for, and help, all races. We had been living in Kenya when its beloved leader, Jomo Kenyatta died, and we were in South Africa when Nelson Mandela was released from imprisonment. What interesting times we have lived through!*

*To conclude our years of active service, we were sent to London, England, in charge of the Africa Desk at the Salvation Army's International Headquarters. This appointment necessitated visiting the many countries in Africa where The Salvation Army works with churches, schools, hospitals, clinics, etc.. Needless to say we have left part of our hearts in the great continent of Africa.*

*We still keep active in retirement in Toronto, Canada. My husband does the accounting at some of The Salvation Army's homeless shelters and I enjoy helping with grandchildren. It is interesting that, although, they were dependent on their mother for their elementary education, the three children have Masters Degrees in engineering, medicine and actuarial science/business administration.*

*Alison Walter  
Retired Salvation Army Commissioner*

*\*Alison was Head Prefect of CHS in 1948*

## ***DINNER PLANS FOR 2003***

*We are currently discussing the possibility of a dinner, late next year, for past students from every decade to make up their own tables...the idea to have a get-together on a smaller scale of the 1991 Hyatt Jubilee Reunion...with some entertainment and guest speakers...so that we can have some fun! Of course, we would appreciate any forthcoming help from ex-students to give us some input and also help us organise the evening. Anyone who wants to be involved with this specific project, or better still, to join the committee, would be welcomed!*

*Give Bernard a ring on 9416-3155 (work) or 9429-5026 (home) or simply turn up at the meeting nights listed on the front of Chessmoves. (We still plan to have a 40s and 50s reunion in 2003, perhaps along the lines of the previous successful afternoon tea held a few years*

back.)

*Our projection for this evening is a Friday/Saturday night, approximately \$60 to \$80 a head. Dress formal. All years - any ex-student. Tables to be organised through CHESS. Details will be in the March newsletter.*

*The CHESS Award for 2002 was awarded to Katherine Neuendorf, who also received the Senior Poetry Award on the Valedictory Night.*

## **Chessmoves Website Update**

This last few months has been busy with behind-the-scenes letters to high achievers amongst our past students - to ask them to write biographies for the chessmoves website for the Gallery of Honour. It's coming along well and I have 12 profiles there with more to go. I find it fascinating to see how diverse this section is becoming....with all sorts of occupations and interests.

At the last reunion, I used a digital camera and the result is about 30 photos of the attendees, including the odd candid committee snap. Also, the virtual tour pages of the school have encouraged feedback with nostalgic emails from past students all around the world.

Please DO look at the site: <http://www.chessmoves.com> and if you have any candid photos you want featured, please email me. My email address is [landiel10@bigpond.com](mailto:landiel10@bigpond.com)

Debs