



CHESSMOVES

MARCH 2003

IN THIS ISSUE:

- President's Report
- Principal's Message
- School renovation photos
- Treasurer's Report
- Letter from Lachlan Christie in WA
- DISCOurse – Al Shield
- Robert Davey
- Chessmoves update
- Committee News
- Membership Subscription

CHESS MEETINGS:

17th March

14th April

12th May (AGM)

2nd June

14th July

11th August

8th September

13th October

10th November

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!

Thanks Neil, for getting the Treasurer's Report off to me, despite the throes of a brand new baby in your house and the loss of a dear friend. And Bernard, for doing your President's Report, in the week that you lost your father-in-law.

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

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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

Welcome to 2003.

Camberwell High is again under reconstruction.

This time the administration is housed in prefab buildings as the old school entry and office area together with some class rooms undergo renovation.

Elida Brereton took the CHESS committee on a tour of the building works last week. Today CHS has over 1200 students on site, whilst undergoing this major refit.

Your committee is grappling with the Privacy Act and our responsibilities under it. We are receiving advice from Assistant Principal Glen Linton.

Your committee is investigating a CHESS dinner for the October November period and we are currently pricing the options. We are aiming for an MC, live music and a feast. More news to follow. Please email Deb our editor if you could be a starter.

Disco Consulere Allis
Bernard Corser (Class of '71)

PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Virtually all of our 2002 Year 12 students gained the university (or TAFE) place they wanted, which is an excellent outcome. The twenty-two students with an ENTER score of 95 and over have all received offers of places in the most highly demanding courses at the University of Melbourne and Monash University. CHS topped the state in LOTE and Geography. Our dux had an ENTER of 99.55 and our top female student achieved 99.10 – one went into Law/Science and the other Law/Arts.

You may have read an article in a recent Sunday Herald Sun headed “State Pupils do better at Uni”. The reporter included these statements:

“Government school students perform better and are less likely to drop out of university than students from private schools. Students from government schools are also more likely to pass first year university, return the following year and complete their degree, research has found. Studies by the University of Western Australiaindicates government schools prepare students better to be self-guided learners.”

The school year has begun extremely well, despite the constraints imposed by our huge building project, and in large part thanks to the quality of the staff and our students. Assistant Principal, Glen Linton, spent many days during the summer holidays, overseeing (and often actively working himself) the upgrades and furnishing of new rooms, setting up of the Assembly Hall as four separate classrooms, assisting electricians, carpet layers, painters, glaziers, lino-layers, blinds suppliers, etc, as they were engaged at appropriate times during the holidays. At the same time, the enormous task of demolishing internal walls in much of the ground floor and first floor of the original building, and the propping up of two concrete levels with pillars and steel is continuing, and a more complete progress report will be provided soon. The Staff Common Room is complete and in full use – a most attractive centre. Two IT laboratory classrooms, one new, one refurbished, are also now being used comprehensively, and the three totally new and two upgraded Science rooms are in the pipeline for later this year. Much progress is being made by our builders at work on both floors of the northern half of the Old Building. As Bill Lawry would say, “it’s all happening here!”

Last week, I received an unsolicited letter from a male member of the public, who wrote:

“On Tuesday last, I had reason to be visiting my son and family in Riversdale Road and took the tram from the city. A number of your students, aged probably 15, joined the tram at the stop adjacent to the level crossing and travelled in my section of the tram, heading east. Boys and girls alike were very well-behaved and I contrasted that behaviour with what I so often see and hear on the Toorak tram after it collects students from two private schools. I was also impressed by your boys’ habit of saying “see ya” to their mates as they left the tram and shaking hands as they left. Furthermore, the shirts were tucked in in most cases and the girls’ socks were pulled up. And nobody was unduly noisy – quite a change from what I am used to. Congratulations to your students and to you and your staff. Keep up the good work.”

I offered congratulations to those students and to all CHS students whose behaviour, speech and appearance in public is a credit to them, their school and their family!

Elida Brereton



Report from our Canberra Chapter – Fred Roberts

Canberra has the undeserved reputation of being a cold place. Admittedly, it can get a bit brisk in mid-winter, when mornings can get down to minus 8 or 9 Celsius, but if you have an electric blanket, who cares? There's always a beautiful day coming up after the frost clears. As far as most of us residents are concerned, Canberra's climate is no sweat.

But our thoughts have been far from such matters over the last couple of months. You will have seen the footage on TV, or read in the papers, about our dreadful bushfires. Over 500 homes were lost and four people lost their lives. Thousands of Canberra victims of the fires are homeless and struggling to find the will, and the wherewithal, to put their lives back together again. I won't dwell on the subject, except to say that (as far as I know) none of our CHESS members was directly affected, although we were all pretty scared!

It's hard to find too many positives, but one clear positive has come out of it all. HRH the Duke of Edinburgh once described Canberra as a city without a soul. He'd have to eat his words now. The fire-fighting effort involved not only the wonderful and dedicated trained forces, but also friends, neighbours, even people from other parts of Canberra or nearby NSW who came to stand shoulder to shoulder with desperate householders trying to save their homes and possessions. The newspaper has published hundreds of 'thank you' letters from grateful citizens who owe their homes, and sometimes their lives, to such selfless volunteers - and sometimes they didn't even know their names. In the wake of the worst disaster ever to hit the National Capital, the Canberra community has been magnificent. Fund-raising events, clothing collections, stocks of household utensils, crockery, cutlery, food, counselling - all this and more has been in evidence in the weeks following the holocaust which struck western Canberra on 18 January, and it all adds up to a wonderful demonstration of community spirit. Canberra has come of age.

The Canberra Chapter of CHESS is ten years old. We're not large in number, but we're select, and we hope to keep going with our modest social program for a long time yet. But we could do with more members. A good many local ex-CHS people have passed through our ranks, but some apparently forget us in all the excitement of living in this wonderful place, or aren't inspired by our low-key program of social activities. An infusion of new, young blood is needed (most of our present group would admit to being mature), and anyone interested in meeting or joining us is more than welcome to ring me on (02) 6281 3681 to learn all about us.

We send our best wishes to all CHESS members and look forward to seeing more of you in these pages if you can't make it up here.

*Fred Roberts
Convenor, Canberra Chapter*

CHESSMOVES DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE:

15th June, 2003.

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



Treasurer's Report – Neil Bouvier

CHESS FINANCIAL STATEMENTS – 10 MONTH PERIOD ENDED 10 FEBRUARY 2003

The AGM will be held on 12th May 2003 where the whole year will be reported.

There is a net surplus of \$152 year-to-date with total receipts of \$7,700, exceeding payments of \$7,548. The main revenue items were Subscriptions of \$4,520, Donations \$1,645 and Term Deposit Interest \$30 with, unfortunately, once again no webpage advertising income (please feel free to contribute !!)

Total costs were made up of Printing \$2,882, Postage \$417, Bank Charges \$222, Catering \$264, Webpage and Newsletter Updates & Hosting \$1,005 and Sundry Items of \$480. For once in a long time there was no School Reimbursements given by the committee for any trips, gardens or building maintenance.

CHESS RE-UNION HELD FOR 1980'S AND 1990'S EX-STUDENTS ON 18/10/2002

The strategy by the committee was to advertise this re-union via the Internet on either the Chessmoves or Schoolfriends sites with minimal phone calling. Unfortunately, there was not a great attendance on the night but the people who did attend enjoyed themselves immensely. The re-union was held in the new Science & Technology building (the old swimming pool site) instead of the Assembly Hall due to major building renovations. The revenue raised on the night was \$1,505 and expenses came to \$2,278 so a loss of \$773 was recorded.

To enable a better response public notices will be posted in The Progress Press, Herald-Sun and The Age some 4 weeks and 2 weeks ahead of a re-union and an Advertising Board will be placed on the front of the school in Prospect Hill Road. As we are a volunteer committee to ring every ex-student of certain decades becomes time consuming however we may look at phoning a few people who in turn will contact others and any out-of pocket expenses that can be verified and sent in to the committee will be reimbursed promptly.

COSTS OF MAIL-OUTS TO ALL EX-STUDENTS CUT BACK

The costs/payments include \$2,882 for printing covering the 4,500 total ex-student mail-out conducted in April 2002. The committee feels the cost of printing and posting the March Chessmoves with the annual subscription renewal notices to the whole ex-student database once a year is too expensive and prohibitive and with say 230 positive responses it's a terrible 5% success rate. From this newsletter onwards, the regular subscribers will get this year's Chessmoves and subscription renewals in the post and ex-students with email addresses will get this newsletter (and the sub reminders) via email. So if some-one wants to be on our CHESS register and keep in contact please forward your email address to the Editor!!!

Neil Bouvier

Building update.....an informal tour

The front of the building still cannot be accessed.....you have to go via the canteen area, under the Assembly Hall, then up the steps to the courtyard.

You then take the south entrance of the old building, facing the stairs down to the old woodwork room.....walk towards the Assembly Hall side entrance. Directly opposite you is the new Staff Common Room, which is an amalgamation of Rooms 7 and 8. I took a photo of it with the children in tow! Once you exit the common room, the construction area downstairs reveals that the rooms have been gutted with structural supports in place (below). This administration area is being refurbished. Further along, Rooms 1, 2

and 3 are being renovated also and will remain general purpose classrooms. Room 4 will become a Conference Room. Going up the stairs towards the old Senior Mistress's Room, you will see that the connecting walls have been removed from the northern classrooms. These rooms – 20 (the original library), 19, 16 and the staffroom – will become a 500 sq. metres library. (The light in this open area is amazing.) Once you leave this construction zone and keep walking south, Room 14 is now a Careers Centre Room 12 has been renovated into an IT room and Room 13 will serve that purpose also. The old half-stairs have gone and the southern end upstairs looks fantastic, with new stairs and lino. Going over the flyover, you can see into the courtyard, which is partially off-limits. There is a big hole, adjacent to the 1970s building entrance and this is where the disabled lift is going. Once the library has relocated, there will be 3 new science rooms built on the second floor of the 1970s building, with new computer pods. On the third floor, there will be extensive renovations, resulting in the creation of 8 general purpose classrooms. It is fantastic to see that the students will enjoy incredible facilities and resources....and as an old student, I am reassured to see that the façade of the old girl and most of the internal structures will remain intact. The library will be sensational I am sure. The anticipated finishing date for the renovations will be September 2003 and I promise to keep you all informed of how things are progressing. (The website will have regular site photos.) Debs

Rob Davey (1971)

There are those of you whom attended Camberwell High School in 1971, who may remember a student who was at Camberwell for only one year, at year 12 level.

Robert Davey was a student who attended Camberwell as an adult student in that year. This was an era when adult students attending the local high school were pretty unusual, and not as understandable or as acceptable as is currently the case. He also drove a Mini Moke which made him a conspicuous student.

Robert was the son of a English family that migrated to Australia in the 1956 to establish a textile factory in the then semi-rural Burwood area. Being the son of a "textile family", it was expected that Robert would follow his father into that industry, and he did for 3 years after initially failing year 12. This was also the time of conscription and the Vietnam war and, although not serving overseas, Robert was conscripted into the army. After a relatively short army career he felt it was time to re-evaluate and rebuild his career and with the support of his (confused) parents and a grant from the government, he sought and was granted approval to attend Camberwell High to complete Year 12 for a second time. The then Principal of Camberwell High (Mr Slattery) showing great foresight and consideration in allowing such an unusual request.

It is fair to say that Robert was fully involved in a range of activities at the school, including the senior football team, athletics and the choir. When questioned on the year at Camberwell, Robert is quick to acknowledge the support of the students and the staff at a time of significant adjustment and change. He has described the first few months returning to high school as some of the most difficulty and challenging of his life, but following the adjustment, the last part of the year was one of the best, most rewarding and influential he has experienced.

Even though he failed his first attempt at Year 12, the "reclaimed" Year 12 at Camberwell was an enormous success. The results he obtained were strong enough to gain a scholarship, that was offered at the time, with Robert subsequently earning an Arts degree at Monash University with a double major in sociology and psychology.

Robert subsequently worked for 5 years in educational research at the Australian Council for Educational

Research and was a registered psychologist for over 18 years. He was employed by the State Electricity Commission for approximately ten years and has spent a similar period of time with Pacific Dunlop in various roles as a Senior Human Resources Manager. Robert's last job was General Manager of Human Resources for the Australian Wheat Board and he is currently the Director of his own Human Resources Consultancy.

Robert has never left the Camberwell area and he and his wife live locally with their two (now adult) children. They enjoy occasionally bumping into students from that same year 12 at Camberwell. Robert clearly recognizes the value that he has gained by completing that extra year at Camberwell High School and remembers good times at the local school. And he still has a Mini Moke!

DISCOURSE

Our 13 question questionnaire.....

Replies from Al Shield (1995 -1998)

Which teacher inspired you at CHS?

Quite a few actually – Ms Warne was great, same with Mr Geddis and Peter Frost. And Ms Evans was a great maths teacher, even though I wasn't any good at Maths. And a big hello to Bruce Anderson, Mr Smith the maths teacher, Mr Ma and everybody I missed.

Your funniest school memory?

This was at the time Pizza Hut first produced it's Cheesy Crust pizzas and were encouraging people to eat their pizzas the wrong way, crust first. We were travelling to school on the busy morning train, talking about Pizza Huts new idea, when just for a laugh I yelled out 'So eat your pizza the wrong way, box first!'. I got a better reaction than I thought, the whole carriage packed up. From students to business men and women on their way to work, they were all chuckling. Not bad for a kid with a big mouth ☺

What subject did you hate and why?

Economics – One year of it in Year 9 and I never saw the point.

Textiles – How did I end up in this class? I can't remember, but I loathed every second of it as my report card later proved.

Maths Methods – I was in it for the VCE points but 4-5 years on and I still haven't used anything I'd learnt – maybe if it had really life aspects in it, like the maths behind a turbocharger's revolutions then I'd have paid more attention.

What school house were you in?

Montgomery. It seemed mostly talk, so I defected and turned up to the Churchill meetings instead to hang with friends.

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

There's a high note??? I just tried to copy the guy next to me. Nine times out of ten that would be a friend of mine and we'd do some Olympic level synchronised mumbling.

Do you still have any school library books?

Sure do. The ones I remember are AK (The story of an African boy and his trusty AK47 – what's that doing in a school!!!), The Kid and the Captain and Operation Lanus (Some weird comic book for people just learning English. And espionage)

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

Baseball was always fun. I hated the fitness tests though, they were a killer. I could have saved them a lot of time just by telling them that I already knew I was unfit.

What did you do on the last day of school? (we won't tell the police)
Turned up drunk with friends (well...semi drunk anyway.) Did the final assembly, went home, got changed and got drunk with friends again. What a great day.

Who was your best friend at school?
I had a couple – Heath Shakespeare, Javed Henderson and Mike McClelland.

What book are you reading now?
The Devil's Numbers (can't remember who writes it) – All about how hell's Underworld comes to play on earth through the Pythagoras theorem (ie 3.1416 and all that). No wonder I didn't like maths much.

Did you have a crush on a classmate?
More than just one. Most of them were going out with my friends ha ha! But they know who they are – drop me a line, it'd be great to catch up ;)

What classroom prank can you recall? (we know nothing)
I remember the classroom games of 'Everybody down! It's objects being thrown at the ceiling fan time!' that was always good for a laugh. The day with the training ninja star was a lot of fun. Especially when it embedded itself into the wall and a teacher walked in mere moments after the impact. And the rubbing school shoes on new carpet/ static electricity shock irritated a lot of people.

Did CHS have a lasting influence on your life?
It sure did. I want to go back and do year 12 all over again. Only without classes or the uniform. Just all the fun times – I had great people to spend time with and great opportunities – it was a fun place to be..

Al's biography:

Al enrolled in Camberwell High School as a year 9 in 1995 and spent the next 3 years as a creative writer, class clown and loud mouth, instead of putting any thought into what he really wanted to be. (Like his mum reminded him, 'You need good maths to be a pilot.' There went that idea..)

When he completed his VCE, he walked out with high media scores and the burning ambition to be a journalist, but no idea where to start. Without an incredibly high TER score that the universities seemed to want, (why so high for Journalism? They don't operate on people!) he enrolled in an Advanced Media TAFE Course at Holmesglen in Glen Waverley and spent a year learning the ropes on all aspects of the media. It was there he learnt that he was a horrible actor and didn't want to be a film runner (film crews just don't stop!) so he had to look for another career. Towards the end of the year, one of his lecturers suggested looking at a career in radio and pointed him in the direction of a course hosted by Swinbourne University.

The course came highly recommended, but was fiercely competitive, taking only 14 students per year out of the 200 or so that applied and involved everything from resumes to demo tapes. With the encouragement of family and friends, he applied and somehow, with a lot of favours owed along the way, he made it in. He spent the next year learning everything from writing commercials to reading the news, waiting for a big break to come along.

After a stack of rejection letters and 2 missed job opportunities (one by 5 minutes – a classmate beat him to it!), he got a call from his lecturer who told him about a fill-in job for 2 weeks at Hamilton's 3HA. So he put his part time job at the newsagency on hold, jumped on the train and spent 2 weeks filling in, making

coffees and finding out how things worked.

After a 2 week stint back home, he got another call from 3HA, asking him to work for another 2 weeks. On his last day, he was just about to head back home when they asked him for another 2 weeks. 2 weeks turned into 2 months and then the position as Copywriter and Night Announcer.

After a year and a half, he received a call from Hamilton's sister station, 3YB Warrnambool, who invited him to join the team as a mid-dawn announcer and Assistant Copywriter. Not bad for a guy who never knew where he was going!

A year and 4 months later, he's now Head Copywriter and Announcer on the new Warrnambool Station 95.3 Coast FM as well as a fill-in guy whenever somebody gets sick. He lives in Warrnambool with his girlfriend of 3 years and spends his spare time watching wrestling, partying with friends and playing havok in various shapes and forms on the internet.

Letter from Lachlan Christie, Western Australia

(C.H.S. 1944 – 1946)

I have just read in your November '02 issue of the nicknames of C.H.S. teachers circa '51 – '56. Can I add a few that I remember from '44 – '46 and give the reasons how the names were achieved.

Our Form Teacher in Form IV was a Mr Seamer. Rather slim of build, he had a very protruding 'Adams Apple' and was to all of us, Adam Seamer.

The same year, our Maths teacher, Mr Vinson (I can't remember his real first name) had just arrived back from war service. One day he was trying to convince about 40 fairly rowdy boys how he had earned his medals. From the back of the class, Brian Madden, (all 6 foot 2 inches of him) asked "How did you get your medals, Sir? Being the biggest lady-killer in the regiment?" A red-faced and rather embarrassed Mr Vinson was from then on known as "Cass" (Cassanova) Vinson.

And there was, of course, our English teacher and later Deputy Principal, Brigid Egan, whose stern demeanour earned her the name of "Battle-Axe" Egan. Although severe on the outside, she had a heart of gold and I well remember just before our final exams, three of us asked for some extra tuition and Miss Egan invited us to her home on a Sunday afternoon to give us some help.

I still have many happy (and some sad) memories of my time at C.H.S.. I will never forget the time, just at the end of the war, poor old "Doc" James, our Principal, came to our classroom door and announced his son had just been killed in action. The war ended a few days later.

I hope some of the students from '44 – '46 who read this will drop me a line. I have been to one 40s reunion but none of the boys were there from my year. Hopefully, some of us who are left will get together one day.

Life has been good to me. I have lived in W.A. since 1950 but, with 5 grandchildren in N.S.W., my wife Rhonda and I make a trip east at least once a year.

Debs – Lachlan can be contacted at 14 Chandler Road, Sorrento, WA 6020 or by phone (08) 92462829



chessmoves website update

Have been busy with the website – uploading Gallery of Honour profiles; 1954 is up; the school song now plays automatically in midi format when you click onto the song link; I've taken a new set of photos of the major construction works (some of which appear in this newsletter) to keep everyone informed; I have received some funny anecdotal letters so they are in a new section; the newsletters are up-to-date. I have the five years, 55 – 59, and hope to get enough free time to upload them. I just want to get into the sixties! And so on.....Neil mentioned, in the Treasurer's Report, the cost of newsletters, website hosting, etc. I get a small remuneration for newsletters; all the many hours of webwork (sometimes 20 per week) I do is free; CHESS gets a good deal with webhosting, considering the bulk of photos onsite. Plus the domain name must be kept current.

Debs

COMMITTEE NEWS.....

Lots of things have been happening at our CHESS meetings. Trying to grapple with the privacy guidelines with relation to contacting former students on our database is a big issue. We're currently getting quotes for our anticipated dinner dance. That will take a lot of organising and we'll have to ramp up publicity later in the year. If there's anyone out there, who would be happy to pitch in with the organising, please just front up at the next committee meeting. Elida, our Principal often gives a detailed update on all the goings on...it amazes us constantly to see how varied the life of students is with camps, academic competitions, music concerts – the school is thriving. I used to think that it was hectic in my day!

We all volunteer our free time because we are genuinely fond of the school and want to give something back. We could always do with some new blood on CHESS to invigorate us and also reduce the workload. Anyone out there, considering coming on board, email me!

Debs

landie110@bigpond.com

Erratum: *In our last issue we had Murray Marshallsea's name in the VALE list and I would like to assure our readers that he is fine and in good spirits. We had a written response (to our previous mailout) from his old address, informing us that Murray was deceased and we published that information in good faith. I had a nice conversation, subsequently, with Murray and also one of his friends (who tongue-in-cheek suggested that he should write an article for Chessmoves entitled "Back from the dead")*