



# CHESSMOVES

**JULY 2003**

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**CHESS MEETINGS:**

**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! (and last time we had mixed lollies!!)

**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**

Mr. Bernard Corser  
331 Highett Street  
Richmond, 3121  
(W) 9416-3155  
(H) 9429-5026  
(M) 0407-300-678

[bc@corserproperty.com.au](mailto:bc@corserproperty.com.au)

**SECRETARY**

Pat Douglas  
PO Box 201  
Chirnside Park 3116  
(H) 87042973  
(M) 0409-598-504  
[patjdouglas@aol.com](mailto:patjdouglas@aol.com)

**TREASURER**

Mr. Neil Bouvier  
10 O'Dwyer Street, Mordialloc 3195  
(H) 9588-0328  
[booves@optusnet.com.au](mailto:booves@optusnet.com.au)

**EDITOR**

Deb Johnson  
2 Duval Court  
Wheelers Hill, 3150  
(H) 9560-6735  
(M) 0412-844175  
[landie110@bigpond.com](mailto:landie110@bigpond.com)

**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 our second issue of Chessmoves for 2003. This is our bumper edition for the year when we write to all the ex-students on our data base, some 4000! Contact us by email, fax or phone with the names of any other ex students that we may include on our 2004 mailout.

### **WERE YOU A STUDENT OF CAMBERWELL HIGH?**

This is the headline of our brochure for the shops and offices of Camberwell. CHESS is organising the "dinner of dinners" at Leonda by the Yarra on 31 October 2003.

This event will include Jack Levi and Mic Conway (both from the class of 1968). Elliot will be our MC and entertainer and Mic Conway is presenting the National Junk Band with music and dance.

The venue can accomodate 500 people so please mark your diary now and fill in the application form. It's \$105 each or \$1000 for a table of ten.

It will be a great night so book now and confirm your place with Pat Douglas.

On Saturday 1 November, the school will be open from 1pm to 3pm so that ex-students

may inspect the new buildings and stroll down what is left of their memory lane. Some year groups will be organising to meet at the school on this day.

I will be organising the raffle for the night. Barry Garnham has donated a superb piece of JARDAN lounge furniture. The proceeds will be utilised to assist the computer work of CHESS in storage of date and expanding our website for ex-students. Ring or email me for any prize you may care to donate.

Disco Consulere Allis  
Bernard Corser (Class of '71)

## PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

*Many exciting things have happened at CHS since the beginning of Term II... especially four weeks ago when we lost our administration portable from the front of the school and moved into the recently refurbished ground-floor administration area of the original school. The new library, which dazzled visitors on Open Day (May 27th) is looking even better now that carpet has been laid, painting finished and shelving installed. The size, beautiful soft colours, amount of natural light and range of spaces will make our library a local showpiece and a wonderful place to learn, discuss and to relax with a good book or activity on the computers. We were also able to hold our first whole-school Assembly of 2003 in the Hall, and somehow our 1200 students and 90 plus staff fitted and could even breathe easily! The students were reminded by Ken Tenner of the wonderful tradition CHS has of holding dignified, orderly and impressive Assemblies, most led by student leaders and all of them involving recognition of some students' achievements. Many schools never hold Assemblies, and visitors to ours always comment on the excellent behaviour of our students.*

*The publication in newspapers recently of all Victorian secondary schools' data relating to the percentage of Year 12 2002 students applying for and actually enrolling into university and TAFE courses or employment, was quite revealing. Camberwell High School's university enrolment from last year's Year 12s, a little lower than our usual percentage, placed us in the top 12 government schools. If we discount the select-entry schools above us and two girls' schools whose rankings in tertiary entries reflect the absence of boys (girls doing VCE statewide performing as a cohort higher than boys), Camberwell High School is placed in the top six government schools. This is a credit to the teachers, students and families of our school community and means that our students are given the opportunities to achieve their goals for their careers after leaving school. The open entry nature of our VCE and determination by some students to take the VCE path, rather than the TAFE alternative – which may have met their needs more appropriately – means that CHS will (unlike some high-profile schools) continue to cater for VCE students of clear consciences in doing so.*

*The visit by Dannii Minogue, at lunchtime on May 14th, accompanied by her entourage and camera crew, occurred, at her manager's request, in the middle of a very busy day for this ex-CHS student, and fortunately for students gathered in huge numbers out the front of the school, only 1 hour after the admin portable was taken away (a 4-hour procedure). Dannii was delighted to renew her acquaintance with four of her CHS teachers from the 1980s – Bruce Anderson, Peter Frost, Terry Ymer and Denise Taylor. Students crowded into corridors and onto staircases, at windows and doors, and despite Dannii's short visit, most of them had an opportunity to see her, cheer, and in some cases, obtain an autograph. Mrs Deb Johnson, from CHESS, took many photographs of Dannii's visit and put them on the website for the students to enjoy!*

*<http://www.chessmoves.com/dannii.htm>*

*As part of our Gallery of Fame, Dannii and Kylie Minogue balance world-famous opera singers, athletes, academics, writers, educational leaders, lawyers, etc. who also attended our school.*

Elida Brereton

CHES welcomes **ALL** past students and teachers of Camberwell High to **THE GREAT BLACK TIE DINNER DANCE** at **LEONDA!**

**7pm to midnight**

**Friday, October 31st, 2003**

**Leonda, 2 Wallen Rd, Hawthorn\*.**

Featuring our MC – Talented Comedian and Corporate Humorist, Elliot Goblet, and the fabulous Mic Conway and his National Junk Band – and, YES, they do DANCE music AND fire eating!!!!



Tickets \$105 per person. \$1000 for a table of ten. Bookings only confirmed upon full payment. This includes a 3-course meal, wine, beer, non-spirits. (And there's HEAPS of parking.) For tickets – ring Bernard 94163155 (work) or 0407-300678 OR Debs 95606735 (home) or 0412-844175 OR Pat 87042973.

\* Wallen Road is the continuation of Riversdale Road, next to the old tram depot on the Power Street intersection.

CHES – the CAMBERWELL HIGH EX-STUDENTS' SOCIETY

## *Mic Conway (CHS 1966 – 1969)*

*1968 was a mixed year for me at Camberwell High. I struggled academically, due to the distractions of a difficult family life, boredom with schoolwork, and an enthusiasm for extra-curricular activities – a gang of friends, hell-bent on fun, including Peter Crichton, Barbara Webb, Vera Banker, brother Jim, David and John McDiarmid, Mark Caldwell, Liz Bott, Hayden Marlow, Jeff Cheeseman, Jack Levi and others.*

*It was the year that I wrote, printed, and secretly distributed, an 'underground' newspaper to discuss issues we thought were important, but weren't allowed to in the official organ "Aliis". Issues like politics, the Vietnam War and conscription, helped give me a healthy disregard for authority. Ironically, I was elected by the students as a Prefect (despite the misgivings of some of the staff) and managed to uphold my elected platform of not dobbing anyone in.*

*Having dodged the prefect raids in earlier years at Kenneally's Billiard Shed or smoking behind Dellers Tuck Shop, the job of student policeman didn't suit me. I still remember the roar of hilarity when my name as a prefect was announced at assembly.*

*It was the year 'Our Gang' decided to take the mickey out of avant-garde theatre at the newly-opened Camberwell Civic Centre, by performing a 'symbolic death play', which failed because the audience thought we were serious – not ONE laugh!*

*It was the year I discovered Jug Band Music, which would set my life on a path of music, theatre, circus, comedy and subversive activities (despite qualifying later as a high school art teacher). My sister, Jamie, (also ex-Camberwell High) and her boyfriend, Carrl Myriad, gave me a tape of blues and jug music and I was hooked. Despite having vaudeville grandparents and operatic uncles, I had no musical ability, but immediately organised brother Jim to play harmonica with myself on jug, washboard and as a singer. Jeff Cheeseman could play guitar, Peter Crichton banjo-mandolin, Mark Caldwell tea-chest bass, and The Jellybean Jug Band was formed for the high school talent quest. We thought we would send up pretentious pop-stars, just for a laugh. So, blowing smoke-rings through vacuum-cleaner hoses, tap-dancing, bad jokes, etc., and some very raw jug-band music at a couple of heats in a packed gymnasium down on the oval, had us winning (by popular vote and money donated to charity) - the school talent quest, much to our complete surprise. Coming off stage in a very excited state, I was told that Russia had invaded Czechoslovakia and it was the beginning of World War III. This, of course, chastened my excitement but, at the same time possibly gave me inspiration to try and say something with my music, other than 'silly love lyrics'.*

*Soon the band was performing at the school SRC Café Concerts, then in folk and jazz clubs, and then the rock/pop scene as Captain Matchbox Whoopee Band.*

*I wasn't very good at schoolwork, okay at sports like squash, AFL and golf, but I was definitely shaped by my friends and teachers at Camberwell High. In particular, Mr. Lloyd Press, Mathematics Teacher, was an inspiration – one of the greatest performers I have ever seen (on or off stage). Mr. Trevare, Music Teacher, whose father, George, led a dance-band who performed with my grandfather, and several eccentric students, including Jack Levi (Elliot Goblet), shaped my future as a performer. Jack was always very smart at school and one of the top students, but he also had a very wicked and dry sense of humour. This led to much hilarity between us and despite an earlier career of computer programming, Jack has become one of Australia's finest and funniest comedians. It will be my pleasure to work with him again.*

*Mic Conway*

## *Jack Levi (CHS 1965 – 1968)*

*After a burst of early schooling at Auburn Central on Rathmines Rd, I started at Camberwell High in 1965 and then spent four memorable years in the place. In those days we had a rate of about one new headmaster per year with Mr Andrews, Mr Gazzard and Mr Slattery all there in my time at the school.*

*My brother Eddy also went to the great school and these days when we catch up for a bit of ten pin bowling we sometimes reminisce about our old bowling days at The Golden Bowl.*

*I was a studious kid...but also found time to engage in two very contrasting sports - Volleyball and Football. In fact I made the school Volleyball team in my final year but I was always just an average footballer. Even though I dreamt about it, I never looked like wearing the brown and gold at Glenferrie Oval.*

*Inspired by wacky maths teacher Mr Press, I found myself putting funny bits into any talks I had to give to my classmates. I just loved the laughter which I generated and this experience probably sowed the seeds for my later career as a stand up comedian.*

*These days I keep in touch with just a few old school buddies - the main ones being Martin Kuchmar and Mic Conway. And I've got to say that Mic Conway in his early Captain Matchbox days was a real inspiration to me.*

*In 1972 after a Computer Science degree at Melbourne University I spent 14 years working as a Systems Analyst and Project Leader at Telecom but while immersed in the corporate world I still had the desire to make strangers laugh. Hence when the opportunity came up to do so at The Last Laugh in Collingwood I took it with some weird inventions that I had concocted eg The Portable Dipstick Unit - a device to allow people to enjoy the pleasures of checking a car dipstick without going to the expense of buying a motor car. An appearance on Channel 10 talent show "You're A Star" exposed me to the "Daryl Somers Show" and I got regular television appearances for years later especially on "Hey, Hey, It's Saturday".*

*After six years of a "Jekyll And Hyde" existence, I finally left my day job and did the comedy full time. I've worked to a range of audiences but these days 90% of my work is in front of corporate type people at conferences, product launches and dinners. For two of my jobs I was hired by old classmates Ben Scheltus and Andrew Lovitt (who I used to know as Andy Lovitt).*

*Apart from performing I've also brought out a CD, a best selling book and a range of Elliot Goblet socks. Last year I completed 15 months as host of the comedy audio channel on Qantas flights worldwide and earlier this year I did my first cameo role in a movie (Fat Pizza).*

*It's an exciting sort of life and I guess that I'm really lucky that my job and my hobby are rolled into one. I'm really looking forward to being the MC at the big dinner on 31 October. Will be a real hoot.*

*Jack Levi alias Elliot Goblet*

## *DISCOurse*

*Our 13 question questionnaire.....*

*Replies from Kerrie Gottlieb (1981-1983)*

*Which teacher inspired you at CHS?*

I had a few favourites. Mr Anderson for his sarcastic degrading humour, Mrs Littlewood for her laconic eye rolling, Mr Sgro for his punk/rockerbilly hair do and pointy shoes and Max Caddy for the tattoos that peered out from beneath his rolled up shirt sleeves.

*Your funniest school memory?*

Shooting an arrow prematurely in Mr Anderson's archery class and seeing it whizz past his temple.

*What subject did you hate and why?*

I hated French because I thought it ridiculous to have feminine and masculine. Why can't they just make everything 'the' and be done with it?

*What school house were you in?*

Sorry, can't remember!! Can you track this down for me???\*

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

Not without hurting myself. Pretty groovy having the word Disco in our song though.

*Do you still have any school library books?*

Was there a library at school?

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

I loved volleyball and despised swimming. That pool was like cold water shock therapy for the mentally deranged.

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

I was probably at Camberwell McDonalds or the Golden Bowl with a bunch of hoons.

*Who was your best friend at school?*

Kellie Saddington, Rebecca Sharp and Marcus Binks (Babs) were close friends.

*What book are you reading now?*

Misconceptions by Naomi Wolf.

*Did you have a crush on a classmate?*

No.....I don't think so.

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

I seem to remember climbing out of a window at some stage.

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

It certainly did. I don't mean to bring out the violins or anything but after a fantastic year 7 (one of my paintings was in Prospice), straight As for English, fastest runner (I also beat the fastest boy, Jim Vassos!), I went to another school which I didn't like, returned to Camberwell High for year 9 (turbulent), my parents moved again, went to another school and then decided I'd had enough. I spent some time on dialysis and the rest is history.

Although I only spent 2 years at CHS, they had a profound affect on me. Fortunately I have been able to study along the way in life and love writing, painting, illustrating, and working in the

Corporate world. My 19 month old boy Cameron keeps me busy.

I have a funny story to share with you. If anyone from year 9 class of '83 is reading this, you may like to sit down.

There must have been at least 15 of us that met in the park before school and decided that it would be thoroughly enjoyable to have a break from school. We all rocked up to one student's house and partied all day, swam in the pool and made lots of noise. It didn't occur to anyone that the neighbours might consider it strange that seemingly half of Camberwell High had taken over the place. Nor did it occur to us that such a mass student vacancy might attract a little attention. We all turned up the next day, sick notes in hand and with some colourful and interesting excuses. One by one, we were picked out of class, taken aside and asked for a 'please explain'.

I remember the sickening feeling in my stomach as the message got back that we were indeed busted. We were like lambs to the slaughter. I looked across at one of the 'straight' students as my name was called out for questioning and thought 'why can't I be like you, your life is so uncomplicated'.

## *Kerrie Gottlieb's story*

*Growing up in my teens was a bit disruptive. My parents moved more times than a travelling circus.*

*I went to Camberwell High, Upwey High, back to Camberwell High and then onto Box Hill Tech. By this stage, I decided that working looked quite attractive and commenced my first job as a computer data entry operator. As this was 1984, working on a computer seemed quite exciting.*

*Ahhhh, those were the days. Seated at your desk with another 20 or so chain-smoking employees. I spent most of my time from 16 – 17 with my legs up as I enjoyed hour upon hour of Kidney dialysis for Good Pastures Syndrome and more side-splitting treatment for Cryptococcal Meningitis. My face was the size of Bert Newton's due to the bizarre cocktail of drugs I was on, my hair & toe nails fell out and I looked gorgeous. Due to a rather intoxicating course of prednisolone and cyclophosphamide, I was told I would never have children. No matter, cats were cheaper and cleaner anyway.*

*From 18 onwards I hit the dance floors of Melbourne. I worked in the IT departments of Brian Sweeney & Associates (Market Research) for two years, then for another two years at Indosuez, a French Merchant Bank. I went for a job selling advertising for Computer Publications, which was bought by Kerry Packer soon after I got the job. From there I worked in many different Magazines and Newspapers, both in Sydney and in Melbourne, including the Financial Review, The Age, Inpress (Sales & Marketing Manager), Ansett Panorama and now, VIVE Magazine, BMW Magazine and Air NZ Magazine. I have one of those annoying marketing spin brains in which my friends call upon regularly. Over the years I have studied journalism, graphic design, short story writing and other wordy, arty pursuits. I have played the guitar for around 13 years but never quite became a rock star. I have travelled through Europe and nearly didn't leave Barcelona.*

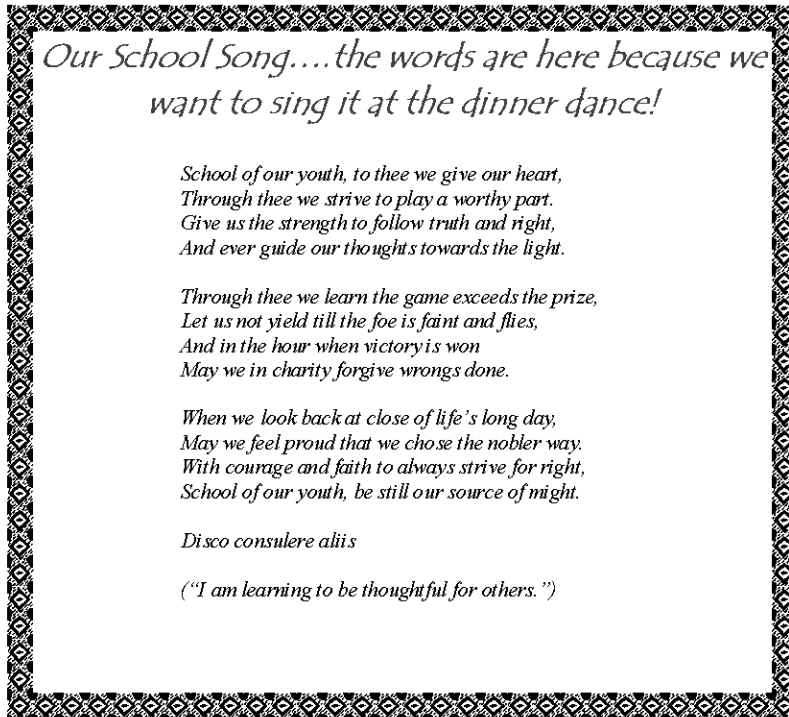
*Despite being told I couldn't have children, I ended up with a bun in the oven and thankfully it was my fiancé's!! I have been engaged for five years and have a gorgeous 19 month old son called Cameron.*

*I have about 127 unfinished projects on the go in my study and two that are being completed. One is a cartoon called Judy. I have completed about 50 panels and will be aiming for an exhibition and hopefully being published. I received a Community Arts Grant to do a mural on the local kindergarten wall (3m x 5m) which I will be doing in October. I love painting and drawing. I have had two hip replacements due to the drugs I was on whilst on dialysis, these are both working fine and put me in touch with my inner senior citizen.*



*When I look back upon my life I remember Camberwell High as being a time when I was really happy. I certainly wished my parents hadn't have moved around but that's life and at least I am familiar with Melbourne's train circuit.*

*\*Editor – We've narrowed it down to either yellow or green – so Kerrie is a Churchillian Macarthurite!*



## *Chessmoves Website*

So much has been uploaded to the site – all photos are up till 1971. I'm borrowing batches of five years from the archives each visit....and, in terms of volume, 1969 was a big year. I have much to thank the magazine committees for – they took great candid shots of everything, even the taps from the toilets! Also, lots of cuttings are online. And speech night programs. Even the teachers have their own section. When Dannii Minogue returned to CHS recently, I really enjoyed meeting her (briefly) and taking many shots of the interaction between her and the students....they were online within 24 hours and Elida mentioned the Dannii webpage in the students' newsletter – the idea being that they could access the site and download photos. The URL is <http://www.chessmoves.com/dannii.htm> if you want to look at the throngs surrounding her car. I've uncovered all sorts of things in the archives folders. I even found an old Maths exam and put that online! A school social invitation. There are photos of schoolmates donated to the school. Building works from '68 and '69. My regular updates on the building works....downstairs AND the new library look incredible! So please look at the site: