

Alumni Newsletter

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

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Issue 3

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The Hurlstone Archive Group would like to welcome everyone to Issue 3 of the Alumni newsletter. In this edition we are introducing another Old Boy who fought bravely in World War I. This year has proven to be a big year for the Archive students to use their newly learnt skills in the investigation of the Old Boys who fought bravely in the Great War. We have examined different sites that can produce archival information on our Old Boys, eg Trove, AWM, State Archives, British Archives, ancestry.com.au, RSL archive databases and our state library.

In speaking with the students about the importance of Anzac Day we realise we are all the products of migration influenced by war and it has reminded us of the sacrifices our Old Boys, and their families made for King and Country. This journey into researching some of our Old Boys has become more personal when you hear their stories and we start thinking of our own families and what they have gone through. I personally lost a great Uncle at St Omer in France during WWI and researching our Old Boys makes us think about the horror they faced but also about what our families would have faced.

I would like to thank all the Alumni who attended this year's Anzac Service especially the Meek family and the Osmond Family. Mr Robert Meek most kindly donated his fathers World War I medals to the school. Robert was a legacy child due to his father Charles being heavily gassed during WWI. He suffered health problems for the rest of his life, it was due to this that legacy got involved and paid for Robert's education at Hurlstone. Robert speaks very positive about his time here at Hurlstone and was grateful for this opportunity. Charles' medals, which include a Boer War medal and a Military Medal are now on display in the hall of Honour. We sincerely thank Brian and Helen Meek for attending our Anzac service.

We also had the Osmond Family attend our Anzac Service. Mr Allan Osmond attended Hurlstone from 1942-1944. He was a regular attendee at Alumni events held at Hurlstone. Allan most kindly paid for the restoration of the Cairn in the Anzac Memorial Forest. Allan unfortunately passed away two weeks after last years' Anzac service and the Archive group has placed a plaque on the cairn to immortalise Allan's memory at Hurlstone. We were also honoured to have Amity College attend our service and a student from Amity and one of our students planted a Lone Pine during the Anzac Service.

I also look forward to seeing everyone at our Country Fair which is on the 22nd of August 2015. The Alumni stand is back and tours of Clarke House and the boarding school will be running on the day.

Johanna Leglise, Archivist

Alison Hope Oliver

Alison Hope Oliver was an Australian soldier who fought in WWI. Not only was he an Australian soldier who unfortunately lost his life when fighting for Australia, he was an Old Boy from Hurlstone Agricultural High School. His amazing journey began when he was born in 1893 in Bourke and his exact date of birth is still unknown. His parents were William and Elizabeth Oliver. On 18th October 1915, aged 22, he enlisted in the army as a gunner, he operated and specialises in guns.

His service number was #9956 and he is listed as a Christian. His known relatives and the people he occasionally wrote letters to, were his parents, William and Elizabeth Dowell Oliver and his brother Gunner James Whateley Oliver no 35652 of 4th Bty.

Gunner Oliver was posted to Cairo, Serapeum & Tel El Kebir. He was posted to France on 17th May 1916.

On 1st July, 1916 Oliver was transferred to Muster Driver in the Field. In December, 1916 he was admitted to hospital with "sore feet". He was admitted several times to hospital over the next several months & in June, 1917 he was transferred back to England. On 5th February, 1918 it was noted that Driver Oliver was suffering from bronchitis & he was transferred to Military Hospital at Fovant. He died on the 7th February 1918.

According to the matron's letter that was sent to his family, Oliver died from a "malignant growth of the lung. He was admitted on the 7.2.18 with pain in the chest and left eye, growth on the chest rapidly extended until he died." He was buried at Compton Chamberlayne and his name can be found in the Hall of Memory Commemorative Area at the Australian War Memorial, Canberra, Australia on Panel 16.

According to an internet website, this was A.H Oliver's will:

Dear Ken

These few lines are just to express a few little wishes. The trinkets of mine Cigarette case and match box are to be given to Jim. My deferred pay and any money that I might have saved is to go to Mother if anything should happen to her then it is to go to Jean. There is nothing more worth mentioning which is property of mine. I remain your affectionate Brother A. H. Oliver

A later Will, dated 16th July, 1917 stated "my personal estate I bequeath to Elizabeth Oliver "Pendiana" Macpherson Street, Neutral Bay, Sydney"

By Vanessa Dang, Year 7

For Alumni / reunion enquiries please contact Johanna Leglise on phone 9829 9222 or email Johanna.Leglise@det.nsw.edu.au



Country Fair & Open Day

Saturday, 22nd August 2015

10am to 3pm

A great day out for the whole family

50m from Glenfield Railway Station
Gold coin entrance fee



Join us for farm tours, market & food stalls, art displays, white elephant stall, carnival games & rides, meet the animals, watch demonstrations, auctions and many more events.



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Auction Goods for Country Fair

We are looking for any business's or individual 's from the Alumni who may be interested in donating quality goods for our Auction at Country Fair 2015.

Old Boy Visit

On the 4th march 2015 we were privileged to have 5 Old Boys from the Class of 1963-1968 come and visit their old school. The Old Boys were Richard Chappel, Andrew Frost, Geoff Goodfellow, Richard Smith and Tony Souter. They were taken around the school by Annie Paton, Anna Dinh, Adeline Lam and Kristina Petkovich. The students certainly enjoyed taking the Old Boys around the school and hearing their stories about their time here at Hurlstone and the students were quite willing to share their stories with them. It was great to see a group of old and new Hurlstonians having a good afternoon together.



We marched on

We marched on to the frontline
With all courage that we can find
Into the battle we shall charge
Leaving our families far behind

Landing at Anzac Cove
We charged up the hill
Bullets spraying down
We were ready for the kill

Many of us fell hard
Many of us stained with blood
Many of us were injured
Yet we charged with the bright red flood

We marched on to our trenches
Fighting for our country
No time on the benches
We were filled with hunger

Biscuits were inedible
Tea was strong
We were fighting on empty stomachs
The war was long

Our hearts stayed on
Strong and tough
Our mateship's has taken us far
Even at times that are rough

Three years later
The bloody was over
Loved ones were lost
But not forever

Now as we remember the fallen soldiers
We remember what they fought for
Our freedom and our peace
Which some of them never saw

By Kylin Lu
Year 7



Anzac Day Service 2015

During my first Hurlstone ANZAC Ceremony, I noticed that this could have been one of the ceremonies where they could have quickly ran through the commemoration without expressing the meaning. Instead this ceremony was one that gave a deep and meaningful message, especially from Wing Commander, John Leo. It must have been of great importance for visitors to have come to Hurlstone to commemorate Anzac. This year was the Centenary of the Landing at Gallipoli and stunning speeches were read to honour those who fought in both wars. Overall I think that this ceremony proved worthwhile, telling us how important Anzac can be. It reminded me to pay respect to the ANZAC soldiers who fought during the war. We were also honoured to have Amity college attend and join our Hurlstone Ceremony with some of the guests placing wreaths and assisting in the planting of our Lone Pine Tree.

By Natalie Chhai,
Year 7

