

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Student Heritage Group

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Welcome to the third Alumni newsletter organised by the Student Heritage committee. After this year's Anzac Day ceremony six historical plaques were unveiled. They contain historical text and a picture on the following sites around the school:- Edmondson Hall, Clarke House, Longmuir Pool, Hindmarsh Pavilion, Guthrie Dormitory, and the Manual Arts/Technology Block. The plaques were sponsored by funds raised by the Student Heritage group and by generous donations by the John Edmondson Memorial RSL Club and by past student Tony Souter. The plaques can be seen on this website. We hope to have leaflets created for a guided HAHS History walk and for a Clarke House tour available in time for Country Fair in August this year.

Where are they now?

This section details the achievements of old Hurlstonians after leaving these hallowed halls of learning. We would like to hear from past students and staff and to use their information to let readers know what alumni have been doing. To do this contact Alan Pollock at pollocks4@optusnet.com. We have decided to have numerous entries in each newsletter instead of one or two as in the past.

Peter Marsh attended HAHS 1982 to 1985. After leaving he studied education at the University of Wollongong. He first taught at Birrong Boys High School before moving to Hurlstone in 1995 where he is currently Deputy Headmaster. He lives at Alford's Point and is married to Val. They have three children; Johnathan, Ellen and Jacqueline.

Sandra Whiteway, now Sandra Hackett, attended HAHS 1980-85. After leaving she attended Sydney University and taught Mathematics at Hurlstone for three years before going overseas and doing hotel management in England where she met and married Simon Hackett. She now lives at Hurlstone with her husband and two sons, Sam and Zak and is currently Head Teacher Welfare at her old school.

Kate Ritchie was born in Goulburn and finished her HSC in 1997 after doing a Pathways course over three years. She is a TV Gold Logie winner for her performances in the TV show Home and Away where she appeared for 20 years straight (a record for continuity in the industry). She lives in the eastern suburbs of Sydney and currently works as a radio presenter on Nova.

Veronica Thomas attended HAHS in the 1980s and finished Year 12 in 1987. She studied Mathematics and Statistics at the University of Sydney and went on to join the Australian Bureau of Statistics in Canberra. A committed Christian, she was very involved with various charities and spent time in India as a missionary. Her life was tragically cut short in December 1992 in a car accident.

Jim Lees was born in Hornsby and attended HAHS in the 1930s. He entered the police force in 1936 and rose through the ranks to become Police Commissioner from 1979 to 1981. He won the Queens Jubilee Medal in 1979 and was named Father of the Year in 1981. He died in 2004.

David Lyons was born in Orange in 1980 and grew up in nearby Molong. He attended HAHS in the 1990s. He captained the touring Australian Schoolboys of 1997/98. He played 100 games for the NSW Waratahs and forty four test matches for Australia. In 2004 he won the prestigious John Eales Medal for the best test player of the year. He now plays for Llanelli in Wales.



Melanie Wells or Melanie Twitt as she was when she attended Hurlstone in the 1990s, finished her HSC in 1995. She has played over two hundred games of hockey for Australia including two World Cups, two Commonwealth Games and two Olympic Games; Athens in 2004 and Beijing in 2008. She is married to Matthew Wells, captain of the Kookaburras and lives in Brisbane.

Alan Trounson was born in Sydney and raised in central-western NSW. He was a boarder at Hurlstone in the 1960s. A product of Sydney University his earliest work was in animal reproduction. After a stint at Cambridge University he returned to Australia where he went to work at Monash University transferring his knowledge of animal reproduction to humans. Along with Dr Carl Wood he pioneered the technique of in-vitro fertilisation in the 1970s and 1980s. In the late 1990s he helped derive some of the earliest human embryonic stem cell colonies and is widely regarded as the country's top stem cell scientist.



He took up the role of president of the California Institute of Regenerative Medicine in 2007. With a \$US3 billion budget, the program is the largest research effort in the world devoted to human embryonic stem cells, which many scientists believe can help develop therapies for diseases such as Parkinson's.

Student Achievements

Three of our students achieved the exceptional result of coming first in the state in the HSC in the following subjects: Giles Gardam for Extension 2 Mathematics (year 11 accelerated student), Christopher Counsell for Senior Science and Caitlin Mack for Primary Industries.



In the 2007 HSC eight Hurlstone students were placed on the All-round Achievers List which contains the names of students who achieved a Band 6 for courses totalling ten or more units. Congratulations to: Robert Bressi, Daniel Karunairatnam, Douglas McDonald, Hayley McLellan, Tan Nguyen, Lindsay Southam, Edmond Tsui and Vincent Viengkhou.

Hurlstone students achieved 318 band 6 results in the 2007 HSC. This means they scored 90 per cent or more in a subject.

Giles Gardham was awarded the T. G. Room Medal for the above result. He represented Australia in Spain as part of the Maths Olympiad and won a silver medal. He has now been selected two years in a row.

HAHS was the only public school which exhibited dairy cattle at the Royal Easter show in 2008. Our Ayrshire cattle were awarded five winning ribbons.

Bede McAlpin gained 1st prize in the Fruit and Vegetable Judging Final. He will compete in the nationals in Melbourne.

Three Year 11 students Shakif Shakur, Romain Samarasekera and Sukhi Hedge were delegates to the Model United

Nations Assembly at the Nan Tien Temple in Wollongong. The delegates represented Israel and dressed in that country's national costume. They were selected to attend the national Model UN Assembly in Canberra.



Casey Hall of Year 11 is the captain of the Sydney Southwest Girls Hockey team.

Zoe Diamond of Year 9 took two 1sts, two 2nds, and two 3rds at the All Schools Swimming Championships.

Khabhilan Sridharan in Year 8 is a member of the Under 15 NSW cricket team.

Imogen and Tansy Gardham are part of the State Wind Ensemble Tour and will represent Australia at the Beijing Olympics.

Jim Lu and Robert Bressi won scholarships for entry into a Bachelor of Information Technology at U.T.S. valued at \$40,000.

Adam Romanowski is a worthy recipient of the Rotary Youth Excellence Award 2007 for Innovation and Technology. A truly gifted and talented student with considerable potential in the Information and Communications Technology Industry.

The History of Hurlstone

This titbit comes from Roy Grieve who attended HAHS between 1925 and 1930.

Hurlstone began, I believe as Hurlstone Agricultural Continuation School about 1907. Its purpose as the name implies was to offer Agricultural Schooling largely to sons of farmers.

"First Years" were allotted to various Third Years as "Fags". I fagged for a lordly fellow named Churchward at whose bellow I came running. "Polish my boots", "Carry my bag" etc. All newcomers were initiated in the mysteries and privileges of the school with much hilarity, singing the school song with one's head thrust through a collar coated in molasses, eating cakes of pollard, molasses and cow-dung- all very funny!

We were to vacate [the existing school] at the end of the year, but prior to doing so were required to provide two ovals for the incoming students. We, who had no level playing area, were required to assist in the job. Imagine me, a little runt of five-stone, five-pound, about 35 kilograms bouncing along behind a monkey-tailed scoop pulled by two horses shifting dirt; every time the scoop was tipped almost propelled me under the rear legs of the horses. Trinity got its playing fields.

In October/November that year we learnt of the building of the existing school. On a holiday to mourn the death of Queen Alexandra a number of us journeyed to Glenfield for the first time and were delighted with the prospect of moving there in 1926. We walked out to the river and my mates encouraged catching rabbits and foxes in their spare time of which we were to enjoy very rarely for the task of development of the new site was onerous.

"Afternoon Tea" consisted of "slabs", the buttered crusts of loaves of bread and honour required that one only should be taken from the trays set out in the dining room. After three years as a Day-go and three as a Boarder, the hungriness of the growing youth was responsible for the boarder, always seeking "chews" from the Day-goes, and possibly the reason for the removal of eggs, corn cobs, fruit and other perishables in season.