

# HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Student Heritage Group

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Welcome to the fourth Alumni newsletter. A special thankyou to Julianne Beek for her help in the production of these newsletters.

Leaflets for a guided HAHS Historical walk are available on this website and from the Front Office and the History staff at HAHS.

A new History section will be added to the Alumni website in the near future. There will be a section of transcribed memories of old Hurlstonians talking about their memories of the school. This is similar to the quotes that were used in the centenary school history. If anyone would like to have their memories included please send them to Alan Pollock at [pollocks4@optusnet.com](mailto:pollocks4@optusnet.com). A series of recent photographs of school activities will also be added to the website.

There are plenty of copies of the school centenary history still available at the giveaway price of \$10 plus \$5 postage. Contact the school on 98299222 or visit the office personally.

## 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](mailto:pollocks4@optusnet.com)

Jonathan Kearney was at Hurlstone in 1996 and 1997. He attended the University of Technology 1998-2002 where he did a Communications/Law degree. He worked as a lawyer during 2003-2006 for the DPP and the Aboriginal Legal Service. In 2006-07 he was an Australian Youth Ambassador for Development located in Cambodia where he worked as a Project Assistant to a local Non-Government Organisation attempting to improve the human rights of women and children. In 2007-8 he retrained as a high school teacher and is currently a casual teacher teaching Economics and Commerce and Geography in the HSIE faculty at HAHS.

Richard Withycombe was a boarder at HAHS between 1979 and 1984. He was House Captain of Wentworth in 1984. After leaving school he studied Sports Science at the University of Wollongong whilst working part time on camps for the NSW Department of Sport and Recreation. After university he spent nine years working in camps around the world but mostly in the south of France. He returned to Australia in 1999 and joined the Department of Sport and Recreation full time as the General Manager of the Broken Bay Centre. After six years at Broken Bay he transferred to the Point Wolstoncroft Centre on the southern shores of lake Macquarie where he lives with his English wife Anne-Marie and their two daughters Samantha and Lucy.



Tom Taylor was educated at Hurlstone in the 1920s. Tom is now 102 and was a star participant in the Centenary celebrations of 2007. He obtained an agricultural degree from Hawkesbury Agricultural College and then worked with the NSW Department of Agriculture helping to develop more sustainable and efficient use of fertilisers, cropping and

soil erosion. Eventually he was appointed a Director of Agriculture and Stock with the Department of the Interior in Canberra. He was responsible for the establishment of the beautiful Tidbinbilla Nature reserve. Before retirement he served with the department of Foreign Affairs as an Agriculture Advisor under the Colombo Plan working in Afghanistan and Pakistan.



John Kerin attended HAHS in 1950 and 1951. He grew up on the family farm in the Southern Highlands. He worked on the farm as a poultry farmer, orchardist, axeman and bricksetter. After matriculating from University with a B.A. he worked with the Bureau of Agricultural Economics in Canberra. In 1972-75 he was the member for Macarthur in the House of Representatives. He later served as the Member for Werriwa from 1978 to 1993. In the Hawke and Keating governments he held several ministerial portfolios including a brief stint as Federal Treasurer. He is best known for being a long serving and well respected Minister for Primary Industry. In 2001 John was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia for service to the Australian parliament. In the same year he received the Centenary Medal for services to Australian society in technological science and engineering.

Douglas Blood started at Hurlstone in 1933. He was an outstanding academic student, achieving ten "A" passes in the Intermediate Certificate. He was awarded the McKern Prize in 1935. Doug graduated from Sydney University in 1942 with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science. He saw service until the end of WWII with the Australian armed services. He lectured in Veterinary Science at Sydney University and at the University of Guelph in Ontario, Canada. In 1962, the Melbourne Veterinary School was reestablished at the University of Melbourne after a lapse of 34 years. Blood became the Foundation Dean. He worked desperately to organise finance, building, staff and courses. He was Professor of Veterinary Medicine at Melbourne until 1985 when he retired. He was awarded an OBE (Order of the British Empire) and the Gilruth Prize from the Australian Veterinary Association in 1983.

## Student Achievements

A group of Year 9 students including Courtney Lor, Bella Ludemann, Zul-iqam Ahmed, Peter Thang, Karen Le, Lana Nguyen, Kelvin Tran, Judy Tran supported by the Student Support group have created a youth support program for use with next years' Year 7 students. Thirty Year 10 2009 student leaders have been selected to run the Creating Connections course with Year 2009.



The Year 10 History Debating team of Thomas Pearson, Anya Ramani, Emma Groucutt, Brendon Byron and Jess Verwey were successful in winning the J.J. Thompson Trophy by defeating The Kings School and are the Year 10 History Debating champions. Twenty four schools took part, mostly selective or private. The topic in the final was That Australia should be a republic.



Morgan Hannan, Cheryl Anne The, Laura Jensen and Adeeb Chowdhury participated in a pilot television History Quiz show called *Histrionics* in November. They won their first heat against Meriden but were defeated in the semi final. The show will be aired on community television in March next year. The filming took place at the University of Western Sydney's Penrith campus in the School of Communication's Television studio.

The Mock Trial team for 2008 was Alexandra Arellano, Ashley Lay, Tram Nguyen, Wendy Tran, Lisa Soo, Natalie Huynh, Paddy Ward and Ben Ngo. They defeated a number of schools including: Meriden College, Picnic Point

HS and La Salle Catholic College. They reached the final 16 of the competition but were defeated by Bankstown Grammar. This is an outstanding achievement considering there are over 260 teams in the competition.

Laureena Wang, Alex Lahey, Monica Nguyen were awarded medallions for scoring the highest mark in the state for their age group in the ICAS Mathematics competition.

Six Year 10 students participated in the meet the Keeper program at Taronga Zoo. They attended tours through the zoo's Veterinary hospital, the lion's den and enclosure and had the chance meet the Asian elephants up close.

HAHS entered two teams in the State Finals of the Wakakiri National Story Festival. One team, the Storytellers received 3 gold medals and 1 silver for their performance winning the regional final. The team was Ebony Larrea, Karen Le, Kassie Huynh, Jayson Edward-Sharpe, Lana Nguyen and Pradeepti Sen.

The other team, the StorySingers was Prasanthi Purusothaman, Alexandra Arellano and Xanthe Kerr. They also won their division with 4 golds and 1 silver.

Nicole Wilson came first in the Division 1 Female Alpine in the Interscholar Skiing and Boarding Competition held in Thredbo. Milly Dixon and Diana Nixon also won first prize in the female Snowboard G.S. and Border cross team event.

Romein Samarasekara, Year 11 was runner up in the Ingleburn Quota Club Student of the Year Competition.

Laura Nguyen won the Ultimate Story competition (Senior) of the Sun Herald short story competition. Her story was published in the Sun Herald.

Lloyd Setter, school captain 2008 was selected as the Vocational Student of the Year for the South West region.

## The History of Hurlstone

This selection is about the recently threatened Memorial Forest and its beginnings in 1950.

Saturday afternoon, 27<sup>th</sup> May, marked the beginning of a new chapter in the history of Australia and of Hurlstone. The nucleus of a forest of 600 flowering eucalypts, the first of its kind in the State, was planted on a five-acre plot of land facing that old historic building, Macquarie House, to commemorate those Hurlstone lads who offered their services in both world wars...

The mind that first gave birth to the idea was that of Max Moore, son of Mr Guy Moore, president of the School's P&C Council. He contended that brass and stone are not fitting memorials of the valour and service of the immortal or living saviours of the land, and in their place should be substituted a memorial which in itself was living – a tree.

The trees enclose what will be a circle of lawn. In the centre of the lawn stands a cairn of stone, surmounted by a perfect, if slightly shallow, slab of Scone Granite. Near the base of this edifice are engraved the words:

*This cairn was erected and trees planted in memory of Hurlstone boys who offered their services in the two World Wars, 1914-1918 and 1939-1945*

*PRO PATRIA*

*By the P&C Council and School Authorities*

The planting took place in brilliant sunshine with a light mountain breeze gently wafting the scent of the first Winter Wattles. The trees were planted by those who served and were able to plant their own, or by a representative for those who were not able to be present.

After as many trees as possible had been planted in the wet and soggy ground, the cairn was dedicated by Chaplain J.O. Were. The dedication ceremony briefly took the following form:

### *The Exhortation:*

"That their sacrifice and service may be remembered for all time, we shall dedicate this cairn and this place of trees which bear their names."

### *The Dedication:*

"In sacred memory of all who served God, King and Country, going forth from this place. I do solemnly dedicate this cairn and this area."

### *The Blessing:*

"May those in whose memory it is established ever be remembered. May the names of those who sacrificed their lives ever be honoured. May the memory of their deeds be ever-green even as the trees planted in this place."

In his address, the guest speaker, Mr G. Ross Thomas, spoke of the inspired heights of the ceremony. "Today," he said, "instead of a memorial of stone, you have a memorial of living things that breathe and speak of beauty. I trust that present pupils will find an inspiration in it to higher things."

Present at the ceremony were two of the headmasters and the present headmaster of the school, representing in time almost the entire span of the School's history.