

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Student Heritage Group

Issue No 5

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Welcome to the fifth Alumni newsletter and the first for 2009. In semester two this year we hope that a Memories book will be added to the Alumni Website. This will have over twenty written recollections of ex-students and teachers of their time at Hurlstone from alumni dating back to the 1910s. This will serve as an excellent historical resource for past and present alumni to learn about the history of HAHS.

In 2010 we hope to begin a new section on the website entitled Famous Hurlstonians which will be a series of brief biographies of Hurlstonians who have achieved fame in the outside world after their time at HAHS.

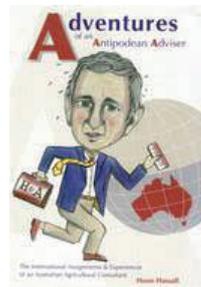
Where are they now?

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 or write to him at HAHS, Roy Watts Rd, Glenfield, 2167. My thanks to Laura Watt who arranged for a number of the more recent alumni to send me their details.

Adam Commens completed his HSC at Hurlstone in 1994 after which he moved to the Australian Institute of Sport for hockey in Perth. He completed a Sports degree whilst playing hockey for Australia. His national playing career spanned ten years and included an Olympic Bronze medal (Sydney), a Commonwealth Games Gold medal and World Cup Gold and Silver medals. On retirement in 2005, Adam moved to Antwerp, Belgium to begin a career in coaching. He is now coach of the Belgium men's hockey team which competed at the Beijing Olympics. Adam and partner Kristine have a daughter, Olivia.



Huon Marchmont Hassall attended Hurlstone and graduated in 1951 receiving 1st class Honours and coming first in NSW in Agriculture. Huon studied at the University of Sydney and qualified for a Bachelor of Science in Agriculture. Huon founded Hassall & Associates (HAI) in 1964. In the early years, the company focused on providing advice to local farmers before branching into the international development scene. Huon is credited with gaining the company's successful entry into offshore consulting in 1968. Huon undertook 88 consultancies to 18 countries. 16 of these consultancies to China. Today, HAI has completed more than 500 projects for clients in over 50 countries. Their key clients include the Australian Agency for International Development, Asian Development Bank, World Bank, United Nations agencies, and national governments.



In 1973 Huon received an award for "Outstanding Service to Livestock Development" from the Korean Ministry of Agriculture; an "Outstanding Expert" award from the People's Republic of China in 1988 and an "Achievement in Community Services Overseas" award in 1995 from the University of Sydney alumni. In 2005 he was awarded an Order of Australia Medal for his contribution to primary industry and to his work in the international development field. He has recently published a book, *Adventures of an Antipodean Adviser*;

[the international assignments and experiences of an Australian agricultural consultant.](#)

Alison McMillan completed HAHS in 2002. Currently a single mum with two children Kailey (aged 5) and Van-Austin (2). She is working as an Insolvency Accountant at Robertson, NSW as well as completing her degree at University. She is also a part time model having done work for some well known maga-

zines in Australia.

Ross Bowman, finished Yr 12 in 2004. After Labouring in Sydney for 6 months, he joined the Royal Australian Air Force as an Aircraft Technician, and got a Certificate IV in Aeronautical Engineering and has been working on the F/A-18 Hornet at Williamtown near Newcastle for 3 years. He represented the RAAF at the F1 Grand Prix in Melbourne as ground crew for the Aerobatic Displays and is now completing the process of re-mustering for Pilot in the RAAF.

Amie McGraw attended Hurlstone in 1997-2002. She graduated from the University of Wollongong with a Bachelor of Teaching in 2005, and was an adjudicator for the DET Arts Unit from 2003. Amie travelled with the DET Arts Unit to regional NSW areas to coach K-6 debating and public speaking skills. During 2006-07, she worked as a private debating and public speaking coach and adjudicator covering all of the Illawarra and South West Sydney Region. She also worked for P&O Australia as a Youth Councillor travelling to the South Pacific Islands. During 2007-08, she worked for Royal Caribbean International travelling through the Caribbean, Mexico and Miami. Since 2008, she has taught casually at multiple schools in the Illawarra and SWS Regions.

Laura Watt, Yr 12, 2002. Originally from Greenethorpe, NSW.
2004, Bachelor of Health and Sport Science, UNSW.
2005-08, Bachelor of Education, University of Sydney.
Currently living in Drummoyne and teaching Kindergarten at Orange Grove Public School, Leichhardt.

Thomas Watt, Yr 12, 2004. Originally from Greenethorpe, NSW.
2005 - Worked as farm hand.
2006 - Bachelor of Farm Management, Charles Stuart University, Orange.
2007 - Currently completing apprenticeship at Thermal Air Orange.

Emily Watt, Yr 12, 2007. Originally from Greenethorpe, NSW.
2008 - Full time work at Panasonic Call Centre, Sydney.
Currently studying Bachelor of Medical Science, University of Sydney, living on campus at St John's College.

Ashley Vermeulen, Yr 12, 2000. Originally from Camden, NSW.
2000-04, Bachelor of Exercise and Sport Science with Honours, University of Sydney.
2005-07, Equine exercise physiologist and trainer of race horses in Sydney
Currently living in Brisbane and studying Veterinary Science at University of Queensland.

Elizabeth Tenney, Yr 12, 2002, Originally from Gunnedah, NSW.
2003, Gap Year in boarding school, Southhampton, England.
2008, Bachelor of Health and Sport Science, UNSW.
Currently cycling around South America .

Student Achievement

Hurlstone again achieved marvellous results in the Higher School Certificate examination. Two of our students achieved the exceptional result of coming first in the state in the HSC in the following subjects: Mohan Menon for Senior Science and David Paton for Primary Industries.

In the 2008 HSC, 16 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. Hurlstone students achieved 339 band 6 results. This means they scored 90 per cent or more in a subject. 13 students were placed on the Top Achievers list which is made up of students in the top 1% of a subject. Seven students gained a UAI of 99 or higher and 70% of students achieved a UAI of 90 or higher.



In April, HAHS students ran another successful ANZAC Day service in the Memorial Forest. The topic for the ceremony was Myths and Legend. Speeches were given on the Myths of Gallipoli by Courtney Lor & Shafi Salam and

on a famous Hurlstonian, Cyril Herborn, a veteran of WWI, by Paige Hawkins and Noha Ahmed. The comperes of the ceremony were Alice Corkill and Jasmine Nguyen. Highlights of the ceremony included the school choir singing, "Always Remember" and the HAHS cadets conducting the catafalque party.

In May, Hurlstone students were featured on a new TV quiz show called Histronics. The series was devised and run by the University of Western Sydney and Community television station TVS. The show was launched by former Premier Bob Carr. Students involved were Morgan Hannan, Adeeb Chowdhury, Cheryl-Anne The and Laura Jensen.

Musicians at Hurlstone are flourishing. Amanda Ramos successfully completed an audition to gain selection in the NSW Public Schools Vocal Ensemble. Tansy Gardham and Thomas Burke are in the State Wind Ensemble. Pradeepti Singh and Jenny Liang are participating in the Regional Talent Identification Program.

2008 school captain, Lloyd Setter received a National Ward for Primary Industries based on a 70-hour work report, a Principal's and a District Office report.

Yukti Arya has won a Silver Medal in the World Dance section 13-15 years of the McDonald Performing Arts Challenge.

Zoe Diamond, Year 10, is an Olympic swimmer in the making. In the Australian Age Championships (15 years) she won 1 gold, 4 silver and 3 bronze and was named in the Australian Allstar team. In the All schools State finals she won all her events gaining 7 gold, breaking 4 records and was named 15 years age champion. In the Open State Championships Zoe was successful in the 100m freestyle and 200m and 400m individual medley. In the Australian Telstra Championships held in March she made the Final of the 200m individual medley. Truly, a young girl to watch for the future.

The Open Girls Hockey team reached the final round of the Sydney South West Hockey competition. In the Preliminary round they defeated Sefton, Elizabeth Macarthur, Ambarvale and Moorebank High Schools. The team was led by NSW representative Casey Hall and supported by regular players Issy Watt and Tori Hall. They drew 1 game and lost 3 in the final, but were competitive in each.

HAHS raised over \$5000 for victims of the February bushfires in Victoria.



The musical Peter Pan was performed on July in the School Hall. Over 50 staff and students were involved, all nights were sold out and the performances were terrific. Congratulations go to all those involved, in particular Bella Ludemann who played Peter Pan and Morgan Hannan who played Captain Hook.

Debating teams in Year 7, 8 and 9 travelled to Orange to participate in the annual competition between HAHS and Orange High. HAHS again was successful in a close fought competition which came down to the last debate.

HAHS students and cattle had great success at this year's Royal Easter Show. All HAHS cattle did remarkably well. Overall in the dairy section, Hurlstone recorded a first, 2 seconds, 4 thirds, 3 highly commended, several production awards and an Honourable mention for Flick in the Champion Class. HAHS was declared the Best Displayed Ayreshire Cattle team and the Best Displayed Dairy team overall. Hurlstone entered eight steers in the Schools Competition. The majority performed well with our Limousin X Angus gaining 2nd place in the lead section of the competition. Special mention goes to Bede McAlpin who was placed in the top 4 of the Beef Paraders competition, as well as 3rd in the state final of the grain judging and 2nd in the fruit and vegetable judging.

The Year 11 Mock trial team is now in the last 32 in the state whilst both Year 10 and 11 History debating teams are in the semi-finals of their competitions.

This year 69 students participated in the ICAS [International Competition and Assessment for Schools] Computing and 4 students achieved High Distinction, 23 Distinction, 28 Credit and 14 Participation.

The History of Hurlstone

This titbit comes from Roy Grieve who attended HAHS between 1925 & 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, mollasses 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 hungeriness 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.