

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Student Heritage Group

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Welcome to the sixth Alumni newsletter and the second for 2009. In 2010 we hope that a Memories book will be added to the Alumni Website. We also aim to begin a new section 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. Thanks go to Year 9 student Jordan Kerr who has joined the Heritage Group and has been instrumental in finalising this newsletter.

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.

Catherine Nguyen completed HAHS in 2002. She completed a Bachelor of Pharmacy at the University of Sydney in 2006. Caroline has been working as a hospital pharmacist since 2007, locuming in Adelaide at Flinders Medical Centre. She is soon to head over to the USA for a holiday with old Hurlstone friends Kim Nguyen, Clarita Dam, Henry Huynh and Scott Walters. Caroline hopes to open a community pharmacy some day.

Edgar Thomas "Ted" Ballard passed away in his hundredth year on 30th October 2009. Ted was born in 1910 in Carlton, NSW. He gained entry to HAHS as a boarder in 1924. The school was at Summer Hill and he relocated to Glenfield in 1926. He was a school prefect in 1925 and 1926 and played in the First 15 rugby team as a lock forward from 1924 to 1926. He won the Ploughman's Cup in 1925 and the Principal's Prize – "The Farmer's Handbook for Practical Agriculture".

Ted entered Hawkesbury Agriculture College and passed with honours in 1929. In the Depression Ted gained his first job at the Cooperative Butter Society Ltd at Raleigh. He later worked for the Department of Agriculture in the Dairying division. When WWI broke out he enlisted in the 2nd AIF. Ted was badly injured during training but recovered and served in New Guinea in the Signals Section. He returned to the Department of Agriculture as a Dairy Officer based in Coffs Harbour. He later purchased a dairy farm which he worked until retiring in 1967.

Peter Bryson better known as "Cosmos" was born in Sydney and attended HAHS in the 1950s. He had a number of jobs including mechanical fitter, navigator, songwriter and community radio announcer. He was perhaps best known as the Navigator in 1967 of the Trident which sailed for the French nuclear testing zone near Mururoa Atoll as a peaceful protest. The Trident got as far as the Cook Islands where they were forced to stop for repairs under the watchful eyes of the French Government.



Bryson returned to work in Brisbane and was in charge of the Folk room at the Trades Hall. In the 1990s he moved to the Mudgee region where he became involved with the Kandos-Rylstone Community radio station on which he had his own Sunday morning program of country and folk music.

John Hatton was born in Hammondville in 1933. Hammondville was established during the 1930s depression for people who were unemployed and had been evicted from their homes. His father came from England and jumped ship illegally in Sydney. He worked for a time as rivet catcher on the Sydney Harbour Bridge before losing that job in the middle of the depression. John went to Hurlstone in 1945 and left in 1950. He played 3rd grade Rugby and captained the first Water Polo team to compete from HAHS.



He won a teaching scholarship and trained as a secondary teacher at Armidale Teachers College. He taught agriculture and science for eighteen years.

He was heavily involved in local politics in the Shoalhaven shire where he lived and was elected as an Independent Member of the NSW Parliament in 1973. He remained an MP for over twenty one years, retiring in 1995. He made a name for himself as an anti-corruption crusader. In the early 1990s he was instrumental in setting up a Royal Commission into the NSW Police. The Wood Royal Commission vindicated his allegations and exposed entrenched corruption in the police force.

John received a Churchill Fellowship in 1989 and was awarded an Order of Australia in 1999. He is still heavily involved in local politics and is presently campaigning against over development on the South Coast. A biography of John is soon to be released entitled "The Stench in this Parliament".

Lindsay Wilson attended Hurlstone from 1972 to 1977. He left Hurlstone to take up electrical engineering studies at UTS. He then became a teacher of English, History and Legal Studies before qualifying as a solicitor, specialising in Personal Injury and Public Liability.

Lindsay has made a full circle and returned to Hurlstone, this time as a boarder. He joins his wife, Lynda Pinnington-Wilson who is currently the relieving Deputy Principal of the boarding school. They reside in the same house as Keith Wilson who was Deputy Principal when Lindsay was at HAHS. He is renewing and reinscribing the circle with ever deeper bonds as he has dinner nightly with his Science and Chemistry teacher, Mr Greg Pitt and his Year 8 Maths teacher, Mr. Geoff Holmes. Working bees at the school see many of his old classmates come to paint various classrooms and memories are relived.

Student Achievement

Meera Kaushik, Year 11, won the Sydney Morning Herald Short Story Competition for the South West Sydney region. Meera's story, a gothic thriller about a woman's descent into madness was named "My Lantern's Light".

Dominic Bui Viet of 7A received a Highly Commended in the Years 7-8 Division of the Sun-Herald MS Readathon Ultimate Story Competition.

The Hurlstone Mock Trial Team of James Phillips, Jordan Mechan, Joanna Luong, Lehana De Silva, Alex Betcher, Meera Kaushik and Jonathan Daniel finished in the top 16 teams in a statewide competition of over 200 schools. They were defeated by St Patrick's College Campbelltown for the Regional title and a place in the quarter finals. A fantastic achievement.

The Sydney South West Regional Triathlon was held at HAHS in November. Individuals or teams completed a 100m or 200m swim, 4km bike ride and 2km run. Tom Burke and Corinne Fulford won the Open Boys and 16s Girls. HAHS teams were also successful in the 16s Girls, 14s Boys and 16s Boys.

Hurlstone teams were Hume Zone Champions in the following sports:- Basketball, Indoor Soccer, Netball, 7 a side Soccer,.

Brendan Byron, Year 11, took part in the Newtown Theatre's production of the play, Alien Chooks in Lithgow.

Yelena Vercoe, of the HSIE Faculty, will again be taking a history tour group to Europe in January 2010. 19 students from Years 11-12 and 10 parents and teachers will depart on January 7th, returning on January 21st after visiting Rome, Pompeii, the Western Front battlefields of World War One and Paris. A highlight will be the Memorial Service at the Menin Gate at Ypres in Belgium where two HAHS students will place a wreath during the ceremony.



Hurlstone Agricultural High School and Australian Rugby League Development personnel hosted a Rugby League 9s Tournament featuring Ashcroft, Robert Townsend High School and St. Marks Catholic College. The emphasis of the day was on students with little league experience getting a chance to participate in a competitive environment. Hurlstone displayed skills at a level well above what their experience would suggest.

Although they did not win a game on the day, HAHS drew with Robert Townsend, went down by four in a close battle with St Marks and were not disgraced against a tough Ashcroft High School (HAHS scoring several great tries) who eventually



went on to win the event. The team was: Oscar Beadle, Tri Cao, Matthew Chung, Victor Dang, Javery Gonzales, Ben Luephaiboolphantha, Roshan Mathew, Kale Munien, Steve Nguyen, Brendan Sing, Peter Thang, Douglas Tran, Ken Tran, Jeffrey Xie.

Zoe Diamond, Year 10, continues her remarkable swimming career. She attended the School Sports Australia Swimming Championships in Perth, Western Australia during 14th-18th September. She won seven gold medals for 15-16 year old girls and set three new Australian records in 400IM, 200 Free and 200 IM. She was selected to compete at the World Schools Games in Qatar but had to turn down the offer due to training commitments.

Year 10 Hurlstone students excelled themselves in the 2009 NSW History Teachers Association competition. 38 students were awarded a High Distinction which represented the top 3.6 of candidates and 66 students received Distinctions which represented the top 16% of the candidates. To top this off, Ian Pan of 10N, scored 48 marks out of 50 which was the top mark in the entire state! In 2009, 151 schools and 13,196 students took part in the competition.

The Year 11 History Debating team emerged victorious in the regional History Debating Competition. The team of Brendan Byron, Anya Romani, Emma Groucutt, Vivek Bhatt and Thomas Pearson competed throughout the year against a number of prestigious schools including The Kings School, Barker College, Baulkham Hills and James Ruse Agricultural High School. The semi-final against Baulkham Hills was on the topic "That contemporary film destroys history". The topic in the final was "That truth in history is unattainable". HAHS was in the negative and defeated James Ruse to become competition winners. This is a superb result and follows on last year's victory in the Year 10 competition.

The History of Hurlstone

A regular part of the alumni newsletter is a tidbit from Hurlstone's illustrious and colourful past. The following is an excerpt from the history of the school launched in 2007, entitled Bedbugs, Daygos and Slabs, A Century of Memories, The History of HAHS, 1907-2007, written by HAHS history teacher, Alan Pollock. Copies are on sale from the Hurlstone Front office for \$10 and \$5 postage. This excerpt is a memory from 1965-1967 student Geoff Cochrane.



Corporal punishment was the order of the day and my father was very pleased when I told him at the end of my first year that I received 126 cuts of the cane, topping my year. He was pleased to see

that they were as strong on discipline as he was. Some teachers were ruthless and seemed to delight in inflicting pain on their victims. Others weren't very good at it. I remember one night at "prep" (the 2 hours between 6:30 pm and 8:30 pm when we had to do homework with a prefect out the front to keep control) when the prefect sent the whole room (about 30 of us) out to be caned. The teacher lined us up outside the staffroom and we were called into the hallway one at a time to receive two cuts each. After about ten boys the teacher took off his coat, a few more and he loosened his tie. He looked outside to see how many more were left, a few more and near exhaustion; he looked out again but the line didn't seem to be getting any shorter, he sent the rest back to the classroom. I don't know if he realised we were getting back on the end of the line after we were caned but we had a great moral victory that night.