

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Student Heritage Group

Issue No 7

Welcome to the seventh Alumni newsletter and the first for 2010. In late 2009 a Memories book was added to the Alumni website. It contained the reminiscences of thirty ex-

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Hurlstonians. This year we 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. The first two will be John Edmondson and Roy Watts. Another section entitled the Pro Patria files will be added to the website. These are the transcripts of interviews with ex-Hurlstonians which were conducted in the 1990s by students. Another historical plaque has been added to the seven already scattered across the school. This will be a plaque commemorating the Hicks' Highway, a road completed in 1957 by students and parents under the leadership of Milford Hicks, a parent of the period. Check out the plaque on the website. The class of 1958 generously sponsored the plaque and the planting of a number of Wollemi pines on the Hicks' Highway and around the school. My thanks go again to Year 10 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.

The first item this year is to report the sad passing of Reginald Clarke, principal of Hurlstone from 1968 to 1978. He passed away in April after a long & illustrious career in education. Reg, known affectionately as "Clackers" by boys from the 1970s was the last principal to head an all-boys Hurlstone.



Reginald Clarke taught at Hurlstone in 1950-51 as a teacher of Agriculture. He had graduated B.Science Agriculture from Sydney University in 1939. He was an Assistant teacher for nine years at Muswellbrook High School and later became Subject Master at MacLean Intermediate High School on the North Coast and then Deputy Principal of Yanco Agricultural High. He was Principal of Broken Hill High School, the largest school in NSW for four years before taking up the Principal's position at HAHS which he held between 1968 and 1978.

Reg was an innovator; the first principal to take P & C meetings to country venues and far-sightedly enlisted the help of June Dally-Watkins to school the boarder boys in dress, deportment and table manners. He also introduced the exclusive "white" jersey for the First XV and noted that he had a hard time convincing traditionalists that it was time for a change. Driver education flourished under Reg and he was responsible for Hurlstone's first bus—to take sports teams and the Duke of Edinburgh Scheme students to their venues.

Keith Wilson, principal from 1983 to 1987, remembers Reg in these words, "My transition (to Principal) was made easier by the welcome and support of the Principal, Mr Reg Clarke and Mrs Clarke. Mr Clarke was a great encourager and progressive in his outlook. I was amazed at his encyclopaedic knowledge of many things but especially of his knowledge of the boys and more so of the boarders. Not only would he know all their names and characters but

also in many cases, their parents, relatives, properties etc. During this period (1973-1977) Mr Clarke became president of the NSW Secondary Principal's Council and was also a member of the Secondary Schools Board of Studies who travelled to regions throughout NSW to advise on major changes to the HSC curriculum being introduced at the time. Reg will be sorely missed by his family, friends & many old boys & staff of Hurlstone.

Tim Soutthommasane was at Hurlstone from 1995 to 2000.

Of Chinese and Lao extraction, and a first-generation Australian, Tim was raised in the southwest suburbs of Sydney. He completed a Doctor of Philosophy degree in political theory at the University of Oxford, from where he also holds a Master of Philosophy degree (with distinction). Tim studied at Oxford as Commonwealth and Jowett Senior Scholar at Balliol College. He is a first-class honours graduate of the University of Sydney. Today he is a political theorist, commentator and the author of [Reclaiming Patriotism: Nation-Building for Australian Progressives](#).



He is currently a research fellow at Monash University's National Centre for Australian Studies and a senior project leader at the Per Capita think tank. Tim writes the "Ask the Philosopher" column in The Weekend Australian, which offers a philosophical take on politics, society and public policy. He has written widely for the British and Australian press - among other things, as a contributing leader-writer for The Financial Times and The Guardian. His work has also appeared in The Australian, The Sydney Morning Herald, The Age, The Monthly, The Australian Literary Review and The Spectator.

Tim worked on the speechwriting staff of former New South Wales premier Bob Carr and on the staff of then opposition leader Kevin Rudd during the 2007 federal election campaign. Tim is also a keen follower of cricket, and once captained the Balliol College First XI.

The History of Hurlstone

A regular part of the alumni newsletter is a tidbit from Hurlstone's illustrious and colourful past. The following is a story from Geoff Holmes, a Mathematics teacher who started here in 1972 and still does casual teaching at HAHS.

"When I first came here there was a bit of a war between resident staff and the matron, the old matron they called "Barge". Someone had put instant coffee in her bed so she was quite upset about that. The guys up there decided they'd make home brew and they went into it in a big way, every bathroom up there had plastic garbage

bins with home brew in various stages. Eventually matron thought she would get back at these guys so she rang the police. The police came out and they said it wasn't on, not that it was illegal to make home brew but the amount they had it couldn't possibly be for private consumption it must have been commercial. They ended up loading it all into paddy wagons and all the guys were watching all this home brew loaded into wagons after school. This happened my first year here in 1972. Sick bay at the time was part of Clarke House and matron lived in there."

Student Achievement

Hurlstone again achieved marvellous results in the Higher School Certificate examination. These were highlighted by:- Our school was placed 17th in the top 100 schools in NSW.

26 students received Premier's Awards placing the school in 5th position in the state. 425 students received Band 6 results. 10 students achieved an ATAR of 99 or better. 2 first places in the state.



Our three students from Norfolk Island; Kaitlyn Sheridan, Jack Robertson and Jessica Hammond each planted a Norfolk Island Pine tree along the Service Road near the school canteen. Mr Norris and other Environment Group members completed the row of Turpentine along the Service Road.

On 4th March, prefects and teachers held the Year 7 Showcase, a day which promoted extra-curricular activities to Year 7 students within the school. A number of organised interactive workshops were held for the Year 7 students to learn more about Interact, Rural Youth, Cadets, music and debating. The aim of the day was to promote involvement in the wider school community for Hurlstonians from a young age. As well as informing Year 7 students about why they should join each group there were also interactive activities for them. There was an Interact stall which involved a paper crane making activity, as well as a Rural Youth workshop which allowed Year 7 students to experience first-hand what it would be like to adopt a calf. The Cadets had an impressive abseiling demonstration while the debating workshops allowed students to practise their public speaking skills. Finally the music workshop gave the Year 7s the chance to sing their hearts out.



Vivek Bhatt of Year 12 has won the Charles Sturt University *Making a Difference Writing Competition*. The competition required students between 15-21 years of age in NSW and the ACT to write an engaging story, poem or script that was creative and addressed an issue of Social Justice. It could be fictional or non-fiction. A spokesperson described Vivek's entry as, "demonstrating balanced writing skills with innovative ideas for addressing issues of social injustice". Vivek received a prize of \$250 and CSU will make a donation of the same amount to UNICEF on behalf of Vivek. His story, *Trash and Treasure*, will be available on the CSU Website <http://www.csu.edu.au/student/mad/>



There have been a number of excellent Rural Youth results this year At the Kangaroo Valley Show in the Zone 5 Final of the Junior Beef Cattle Judging event, ex- student Bede McAlpin came 1st as did Jessie Leroy. In the Zone 5 Final of Fruit/Vegetable/ Grain Judging at Kiama, Delena Pagena came 1st, Grace Marshall and Joss McAlpin got 2nd and Ben Essam and Jessie Leroy placed 3rd.

In the Canberra Royal, 3 steers were entered in the Live Carcass Judging and Charolais came 1st and in the Junior Judging Sam Bush was placed 1st. At the Camden Show, Dairy Cattle HAHS achieved two 1st places, one 2nd place and three 3rd places. Jamie Whybrow came 2nd in the Dairy Junior Paraders and Emma Ludington came 2nd in the Dairy Senior Paraders.

At the Royal Easter Show HAHS did extremely well. In the Dairy Cattle section, 6 animals were exhibited with the result



being 3 second places, one 3rd place and one production ribbon. In the beef cattle section Bede McAlpin came 4th in the State Final and the Speckle Park steer sold for \$6.10 per kilo, the 2nd highest price at auction. Sam Bush was reserve Champion and Jesse Leroy 4th in the State Final of the Fruit and Vegetable Judging.

Ishraq Uddin took part in the 11th Asian Physics Olympiad in Taiwan. He was one of eight students in Australia who took part. He plans to study astronomy or quantum physics at university.

Michael Rutherford of Year 11 represented Liverpool in the YMCA NSW Youth Parliament. The event held in State Parliament featured debate across a wide range of youth issues. Michael featured prominently in the debate concerning health.

The Henry Lawson Society held their annual National Student Literary Awards during the first half of the year. Danica Huynh, Wendy Tran, Tracy Tran and Karen Soo of Year 10 were finalists in the competition.

Students from Hurlstone competed in the Australian Informatics Competition and were very successful with Jason Wang and Lisa Lai receiving High Distinctions and

seven others receiving Distinctions.

In the Australasian Problem Solving Maths Olympiad our Year 7 team achieved 86% after two rounds. Anton Tran achieved the best individual result with a perfect score.

Hurlstone Year 10 students entered a team in the Law Society's SCRAM competition where teams mediate solutions to situations where groups are experiencing conflict. Our team confronted school based issues like bullying and defamation. They made it to the semi-finals of the competition. The students involved were:- Wendy Tran, Thai Nguyen, Alvin Chung, Ayesha Ardati, Danielle Huynh, Amy Mathai, Priyanka Kanthan, Jinan Hammoudi, Kabir Dulichan and Tanu Sridhar.

Hurlstone's 2010 Mock Trial has achieved outstanding results. They have won five Trials defeating Macquarie Fields, All Saints Casula, Picnic Point and Fairfield Patrician Brothers

High schools. In a competition of over 250 schools they have reached the last 32 in the state. The team is:- barristers –Zoe Diamond, Arabella Ludemann, Michael Rutherford; solicitors – Mei Wei Tran, Melinda Boutkasaka; witnesses – Jordan Hall, Judy Tran, Jane Le, Jenny Tran and Rayan Calimlim. All students are from Year 11. Their

last trial was against Fairfield Patrician Brothers High school where they were the defendant in a criminal case of arson.

Hurlstone's Anzac day ceremony for 2010 was on the topic of Anzac day itself. Mariel Malabanan and Veronica Luu were the comperes and Joss McAlpin and Andy Pham spoke about the history of Anzac Day while Jordan Kerr and Margaret Tram gave their personal view of Anzac day. The guest speaker was Tim Soutphommasane, an ex-student of the school and a political philosopher and writer spoke about the place of Anzac day in a changing Australia. The school choir performed a musical item, "Walk with me, my friend" as well as the school song and national anthem.