

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Student Heritage Group

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Welcome to the ninth Alumni newsletter and the first for 2011. I would like to thank Hurlstone principal John Norris who retired last year for his generous support for school history and heritage. This newsletter would surely not exist without his support over the years. Hurlstone wishes him a happy and fulfilling retirement. My thanks also go to Year 11 student, Jordan Kerr, who 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.

John Tranter was born in Cooma, New South Wales, in 1943. His father, Fred Tranter, taught at a one-teacher school in the village of Bredbo, north of Cooma. When he was about four, the family moved to the coastal town of Moruya where his father took up a job as a school teacher at the large public school.

At the Intermediate Certificate exams in 1957 John did well enough to be selected to continue his high school



education at Hurlstone Agricultural High School. He completed the Leaving Certificate exams in late 1960, achieving an honours pass in English. A teacher, John Darcy, had encouraged him to begin writing poetry and one of the first two poems he wrote won a prize in the high school annual magazine, *The Harvester* in 1960.

John has since become one of Australia's leading poets. He has published over twenty books of poetry and a book of experimental fiction, *Different Hands*. He has compiled four anthologies of other writers' work including co-editing the *Penguin Book of Modern Australian Poetry* (1991). He has made more than twenty reading and lecture tours to the USA, the UK and Europe. As well he has worked as a radio drama and features producer, directing over forty radio plays and features for the Australian Broadcasting Corporation as well as managing a weekly two-hour national radio arts feature for some years.

Currently he is an honorary associate in the School of Letters, Arts and Media at the University of Sydney and an honorary fellow of the Australian Academy of the Hu-

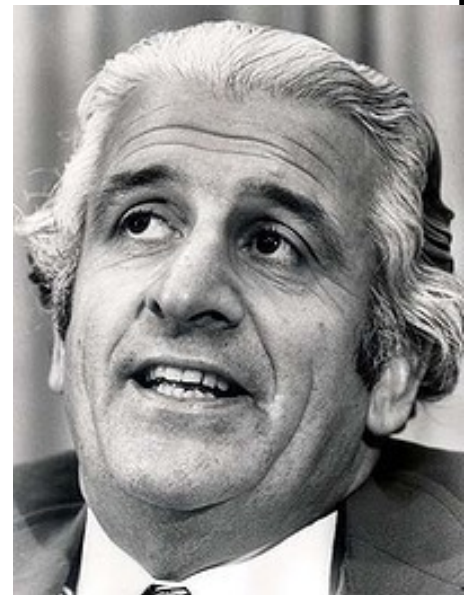
manities. This year he helped set up the Australian Poetry website, the first of its kind, which has over 42000 poems by 217 poets. The website was launched by the Governor of NSW, Marie Bashir at Government House.

Dick Klugman, born Richard Emanuel Klugman, of Jewish-Italian parents in Vienna arrived in Australia at age 14

speaking no English. He came to Hurlstone in 3rd year in 1939. By 1941, he was Dux of the school having gained 1st Class Honours in Maths and Chemistry. He went to Sydney University and gained a science degree and later a degree in medicine. He practiced medicine in Guildford and Villawood and served as an honorary medical officer at Liverpool, Parramatta and Royal North Shore hospitals.

At university he became interested in politics and became the President of the Labor Club. In 1969 he was elected as the ALP member for the seat of Prospect. His maiden speech touched on matters such as decriminalizing marijuana and homosexuality. He retired from Federal politics in 1990.

He was one of the founders of the NSW Council for Civil Liberties and was its treasurer for many years. He also retained a lifelong interest in trotting and owned a number of horses. He is survived by his widow Margaret, his daughters and six grandchildren.



Student Achievement

Hurlstone's 2010 HSC students gained 22 Premier's Awards, while 400 students achieved a band 6 result in a subject. Two students placed first in their subjects. Year 11 students Corinne Fulwood came first in NSW in Primary Industries while Ishraq Uddin topped Engineering Studies and also achieved the top mark of 99.90 overall. HAHS was ranked 21st in the top 100 schools list. 17 students were named top achievers in seven different subjects.

Hurlstone's boys' basketball team won the semi-final and final of the Sydney South West knockout competition. They defeated Canley Vale HS 41-31 in the semi-final, before defeating Liverpool Boys HS 52-49 in a nail-biter. The HAHS War Cry was given a passionate airing at centre court. The team was: Shane Jayamanne (c), Ken Tran, Chris Arsenis, Oscar Beadle, Matthew Chung, Javery Gonzalez, Victor Dang, Steven Nguyen, Jayson Edwards-Sharpe, Nicholas Tan, Aldrich Concepcion, Kelvin Vu and Eric Loo. Shane Jayamanne is the captain of the Sydney South West regional team which finished 3rd in the NSW Basketball Championships held at Bathurst.

Two teams from HAHS took part in the Model United Nations Assembly at the University of Western Sydney – Kingswood. Priyanka Kanthan, Anna Tran and Tanu Sridhar represented "India" and Aashita Hegde, Nilasi Senviratne and Kavi Karunaratne represented "Sri Lanka". Both teams dressed in their national costume and vigorously debated global issues for two days against about 30 other countries from schools all over Sydney. India finished runner up in the competition to a very good team from PLC Croydon who were Israel. As part of the prize India won a \$100 book voucher for the school. HAHS had two entrants, Katrina Ukmar in Year 10 and Jordan Kerr in Year 11 in the Quota Student of the Year Competition at Eschol House. Jordan Kerr was the winner. The criteria is based on all round leadership, involvement in cultural and service activities and public speaking. Students also undergo an interview with 3 judges. This makes 13 HAHS winners in the past 25 years.

Hurlstone students won 8 out of 10 awards in the Henry Lawson Society of NSW Literary Awards. Katrina Ukmar, Julia Kho and Jennifer Wang came 1st, 2nd and 3rd.



6 students from Year 10 took part in Forum 2011 in NSW Parliament House. They took part in a mock parliamentary sitting, debating a bill and matters of public importance. The bill argued whether the voting age should be lowered to 16. Matters of public importance included whether smoking should be banned outright in NSW and whether school uniforms should be abolished.

Hurlstone's Mock Trial team is again proving very successful. They have been undefeated in the first 4 rounds of the competition run by the NSW Law Society, winning against Holsworthy High School, St Marks Coptic Orthodox College, Thomas Hassell Anglican College and Mount Annan Christian College. The team has progressed through to the top 64 schools in the state-wide competition. The team consists of:- Avishay Kumar, Luke Prior, Monica Waters-Neil, Wendy Tran, Iesha Bapat, Ayesha Ardati, Emily Cannings, Jordan Kerr, Jinan Hammoudi and Amy Mathai.

HAHS students did very well at the Royal Easter Show. In the State Judging competitions Sam Bush got a 1st in the heifer show and a 3rd in fruit and vegetables while Emma Ludington came 2nd in the dairy show. In the steers section, HAHS came 2nd in the trade steer section and won a silver medal as reserve champion.

Hurlstone also won 1st prize for the best maintained Ayrshire team. In the Cream of the Crop competition held in conjunction with the Easter Show and which allows students to write about rural themes, Issy Molineux and Africa Vernon won 1st prize in the senior section and Vardhman Jain won 1st prize in the junior section.

The Anzac Day ceremony for 2011 commemorated the 70th anniversary of the death of Victoria Cross winner John Edmondson at the battle of Tobruk. Special guest of honour was Air Vice-Marshal Mark Skidmore who was representing past Hurlstonian, Mark Binskin, Chief of the Australian Air Force. He spoke about the history of the Victoria Cross while student speeches concerned Edmondson's school and military careers.

Hurlstone students recently performed the musical "Oliver" to near capacity audiences over five nights. There were 49 students in the cast and 112 students involved overall in this very successful production. Six staff took part in supervisory roles including Wendy Wuhler as producer and orchestra leader, Darren Payne as director and Meredith Sproule as stage manager. Some of the many stars included:- Sarah Payne as Oliver, Kheira Gabsi as the Artful Dodger, Anthony Comonos and Luke Pereira. The marvellous voice of Catherine Londos was an outstanding feature of this year's musical.



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 Reg Clarke who was Principal of Hurlstone from 1968 to 1978 and his efforts to teach the boarders some "culture".

One successful experiment that we tried was when we hired June Dally Watkins to come out and give the boarders particularly, some lessons on what I call decorum. I left the syllabus to her and she showed them how they should dress to go for an interview for a job. It was mainly for seniors and I thought at first the kids would rubbish it a bit. She brought a barber out from Liverpool to get their hair cut in a way that would impress

an employer and also she had one of the local nurses come out and show them how civilised people wore clothes. She gave them lessons in table manners, and this was particularly useful for boarders who didn't have a mother to teach them. She showed them how you handle knives and forks, which way you eat from the outside in or the inside out. Also she gave them things like what to do when going to a dance with a girl; how and where you walk with her and all those sort of things that I would call social graces. It really took on. It was financed by a group of parents I think from Orange.