

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Student Heritage Group

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Welcome to the eleventh Alumni newsletter and the first for 2012. Over the over the past few years Alan Pollock has been passionate in his research and recording of the history of Hurlstone Agricultural High School and its many illustrious students and staff. He is retiring this year and I have taken on the challenge in producing this newsletter in his stead. We wish Alan well in his retirement. Alan "would like to thank Hurlstone principal John Norris who retired last year for

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 Yelena Vercoe at yelena.vercoe@det.nsw.edu.au or Alan Pollock at pollocks4@optusnet.com or write to HAHS, Roy Watts Rd, Glenfield, 2167.

Vale - Alfred Lloyd Hurrell CMG OBE MC

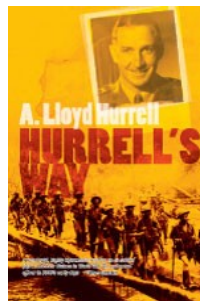
Lloyd Hurrell was born in 1916 at Wingham, NSW and had three brothers; Les, Dick and Frank. Lloyd proved to be an excellent all round student at school winning a scholarship to Hurlstone Agricultural High School, where he excelled at football, cricket, swimming and boxing and in 1932 he was awarded the McKern Prize.

In 1936 he graduated from Armidale Teachers College and worked briefly at Adaminaby and Bombala High Schools. Following a season as a professional footballer at Maitland he successfully applied for and became a New Guinea Patrol Officer with his brother Les.

The onset of war prompted Lloyd and Les Hurrell to enlist. Demonstrating military skill and leadership resulted in Lloyd undertaking officer training and thus, as a Lieutenant he sailed to the Middle East with the 2/31st on the Queen Elizabeth early in 1941. After distinguishing himself as a platoon commander in Syria the battalion was returned to Australia in 1942.

As Captain, Lloyd Hurrell served in New Guinea where he was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry during fierce fighting on the Kokoda Track on 11th November 1942. He was badly injured and while recuperating married Margaret. In Gona his brother Les was killed in action.

After the war Lloyd and Margaret Hurrell returned to New Guinea where he resumed his occupation as a Patrol Officer in Salamaua, Morobe, Finschhafen and Borgia. In 1950 he established a new Patrol Post at Menyamya with 13 native po-



lice and 157 carriers. Here he formed a close attachment with the people and later was to employ many on his coffee plantation. After rising to senior rank Lloyd subsequently left the Administration and started a thriving farm at Wau which initially provided much needed fresh vegetables for local and nationwide distribution. His brother Frank joined him and together they developed the farm with poultry, cattle and sheep as well as growing coffee.

Lloyd was highly influential in the Highlands Farmers and Settlers Association and in 1960 was elected as member for New Guinea Coastal in the Legislative Council until 1963 when he became Deputy Chairman of the Select Committee for Political Development which laid the framework for eventual self government and independence in New Guinea. He was also State President for the RSL in 1967 and 1968 and also held office in his own Sub Branch in Wau. Between 1965 and 1979 he was Chairman of the Coffee Marketing Board until he sold the plantation to the local people. He moved to Lau and became a Director of SP Brewery.

Lloyd was awarded an OBE in June 1969 for public and community service and in 1980 was created a Companion of the Most Distinguished Order of St Michael and St George for distinguished service.

Lloyd and Margaret Hurrell returned to Australia in 1982 where they settled in northern NSW. They had five children. Lloyd Hurrell wrote and published an autobiography of his time in the Army and as a Patrol Officer in New Guinea, "Hurrell's Way". He died 22 May 2012, aged 96.

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 supplied by Kevin English who was at Hurlstone from 1974-1976 as a classroom teacher and from 1982-2004 as Head Teacher History.

Kevin English:

"There were some real characters teaching there at Hurlstone. One was the P.E. teacher Jim Downes, known as "Jimbo". He was the only PE teacher on staff. Two classes were combined for a double period and another teacher with a light load was

assigned to help. The kids would assemble at the oval or pool at the beginning of the lesson. The first kid who arrived did one pushup, the second kid two and so on and last kid did sixty. As you can imagine there was great competition to get to the area first. So much so that boys would actually start to change into their PE uniform towards the end of your lesson, if PE was next, and would bolt as soon as the bell rang. It was a real sight to see the stampede by the boys. The poor kid who was last was "puzzled" by Jimbo and the students for the next week."

Student Achievement

2011 HSC results

Hurlstone again achieved great results in the HSC. These were highlighted by:-
Our school was placed 26th in the top 100 schools in NSW.
21 students achieved marks of 90 and above.
In Agriculture six students were ranked in the top 10.
In Primary Industries two students were ranked equal third in the top ten.

European History Tour January 2012

Thirty students, staff and parents participated in a History tour to



Italy, Belgium and France between January 7-21 this year. The focus was the Ancient History Core Study of the Cities of Vesuvius and the Modern History Core Study of WW1.

The winter weather was fabulous as we were able to ascend Mt Vesuvius for the first time in many years. The visits to Pompeii, Herculaneum, Paestum, Naples, and Sorrento were overwhelming. Rome was also a site of visual excitement as we visited both the historic and the tourist attractions. The stay in Ypres in Belgium proved to be sobering as the devastation of WW1 was still evident. A wreath was laid on behalf of HAHS by students Monica Waters-Neil, Aleksa Ozegovic and Katrina Ukmar, at the Last Post Ceremony at Menin Gate where the names of the missing soldiers were far too many to comprehend. In Paris we visited the Louvre, Les Invalides, Notre Dame, Champs-Elysees and the highlight was the Eiffel Tower where students were able to ice skate on the second floor! All participants returned with a better understanding of the history of the regions especially the role played by Australia in WW1. Another tour is being organised for 2014.



ANZAC Day Service

This year the service compères were Janeda Ong and Dominic Bui Viet while Sarah Payne and Neil Jain spoke about *Australia at War*. Christine White and Michael Innes followed with a very interesting topic of *Australians as POWs* and Tabussum Hussain sang a moving rendition of 'Hero' accompanied by Jordan Blencowe. The special guest this year was Group Leader Sue McGready (pictured) who spoke from a personal account about



Women in War. She was inundated with many questions

from both students and special guests at the morning tea which followed the service. The Hurlstone Cadet Unit performed the Mounting of the Catafalque Guard and the School Choir sang the national anthem and the school song.



Go Mason Go

The Year 10 band of students: Sid Cremer, Jesse Taunton, Jordan Blencowe, Rohan Raman and Max Groblicki, have been successful in the Battle of the Bands



and have recently played at the Metro in the city in the Emergenza concert after winning heat 4 of the Red Bull Bedroom Jam.

2013 Prefects

In July the Prefects for 2013 were inducted following in a very moving ceremony where each new Prefect was escorted to the stage by an outgoing Prefect. The new Prefects were each given their badges, honour pockets and a candle to light whilst reciting their oaths. The 2013 School Captains are: Jay Kajale and Kathy Quach (pictured). The Vice-Captains are: Cameron McQueeneey and Christina Wu. The Senior Prefects are Brendon Kim and Katrina Ukmar. Boarder Captains are: Erin Goodacre and Alex Rookyard. These students participated in a leadership camp which prepared them for their new responsibilities. They are to be congratulated on their elections and have already embarked on a few projects.



Jordan Kerr and the US Presidential Inaugural Conference

Year 12 student Jordan Kerr has been selected to attend the High School Presidential Inaugural Conference in Washington D.C in January 2013 because of his status as an alumnus of the Global Young Leaders Conference. For five days Jordan and other Inaugural Scholars will participate in various activities during this extraordinary event including listening to special Keynote Speakers, Dr Condoleeza Rice and General Weesly Clark.



Jordan represented Australia at the Global Young Leaders Conference in 2011 and also spoke at the United Nations in New York.

Farm Day

This year Farm Day was introduced to showcase the farm and the Boarding School to the community. The school boarders, led by the Boarder Prefects, organised a variety of events from boarding school tours and farm tours to hay rides. Demonstrations included: handling chickens, milking, using ultra-sound technology for sow pregnancies, preparation of cows for shows and whip cracking. Piglet racing proved to be an entertaining highlight for the spectators. School Boarder Captain Alexander Rookyard is pictured with one of the many calves on show.



Country Fair



The annual Country Fair was a great success as the school was able to showcase the wonderful talents of the students with Rural Youth very proudly demonstrating their confidence with the animals. Once again the baby animal nursery was inundated with both young and old whilst the school orchestra and the many buskers entertained the crowds throughout the day. The Art Faculty showed a variety of works, the Agriculture Faculty had many plants for sale and the Alumni stall had plenty of interest.