

HERITAGE NEWSLETTER

Produced by the Student Heritage Group

Issue No 12

December 2012

Welcome to the twelfth Alumni newsletter and the second for 2012. This year has been a very busy and successful year with the students participating in many school and extra-curricular activities.

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 - Bob Irvine 1915-2012

Born in 1915 on February 16 in North Sydney, Robert William Irvine moved to Tooles Creek in the Wagga Wagga region when his father, Alexander, was granted a soldier settlement block after returning from World War 1. Here Bob Irvine lived the farming life where he learnt to milk cows and was educated in a one-teacher school in Wagga.

In 1933 the Irvine family moved to West Pennant Hills and Bob attended Hurlstone Agricultural High School in Glenfield and a scholarship to Hawkesbury College, Richmond, followed. Bob Irvine graduated with a Diploma In Dairy Technology in 1936 and in the following year he joined Dairy Farmers Co-operative Milk Company as a laboratory assistant.

When World War II began he enrolled in the Army Medical Corps as a medical assistant and enlisted in June 1941. He was sent to the base hospital in Tamworth and in 1943 was transferred as a medical technologist with an army casualty clearing station. This role lead him to Oro Bay in New Guinea, then Rabaul and then Bougainville. He served in Hospitals in Port Moresby and Lae after being given a lieutenant's commission.



Bob Irvine worked at Greenslopes General Hospital in Brisbane after the war. He was discharged from the army in 1946 and returned to Dairy Farmers as a bacteriologist. In 1961 Bob Irvine married Dulcie Nichols.

Bob Irvine was active in industry associations such as the Australian Society of Dairy Technology (now the Dairy Industry Association of Australia) and served as treasurer for two decades and was federal president in 1965 and 1966.

Bob Irvine helped Dairy Farmers change from a milk company to a food company when he introduced natural and flavoured yoghurts to Australian palates. He first began with flavoured milks, then natural yoghurts and sour cream, before becoming the company's first cottage cheese-maker. Dairy Farmers then obtained the rights to the Ski brand where they were the first to have fruit in the yoghurts. Bob was proud to have been involved in popularising the new yoghurts.

Bob Irvine retired in 1980 and was interested in family history research and working with a Bushcare group until the age of 90. He is survived by his wife Dulcie, son and grandchildren.

The History of Hurlstone

Alumni Morning Tea - Report by Krisha Umali Yr9

On Friday the 14th of December 2012, Hurlstone held its annual Alumni Morning Tea and our English class was chosen to interview the alumni. I interviewed many people that day with so much history and stories to share. It was so interesting to see what has changed at Hurlstone since the 1940s and what has



stayed constant throughout the years. Mr Allan McElloly, attended HAHS from 1940-1944, remembered that during the Second World War, in case of air raids, they would evacuate to an area where the swimming pool currently is situated. It was a time of the rationing system and the students at the school had to use coupons

to have lunch and coupons to buy uniforms. Mr Allan McElloly had said that he used one single jumper throughout his 5 long years at Hurlstone because of how expensive the uniform was and I was amazed that he hadn't lost it like I've lost mine 3 times. However, even during the war there was a sense of family and togetherness, just like there is now. This is definitely something I sensed when speaking with the many alumni present: the school spirit and unity were the dominant themes. This truly makes me proud to be a Hurlstonian and I'm sure that from all the positive and blissful memories the alumni had recounted during the interviews, they too, would say the same.



Student Achievement

2012 HSC results

Hurlstone again achieved great results in the HSC including:

- 3 in top 10 Agriculture
- 7 in top 10 Senior Science with 1st place Jessica Richardson
- 1 in top 20 English Standard (16)
- 1 in top 20 General Mathematics (20)
- HAHS was placed in the top 20 of the 100 schools in NSW

AND 25 students are included in the 2012 HCS top all rounders list.

2012 Worldskills National Finals

On the 29th of September 2012 Jordan Kerr, Year 12, attended the Worldskills Australia National Finals held at Sydney Olympic Park. He was a participant in the Primary Industries category which is a subject available at Hurlstone to year 11 and 12 students. This is a VET course which results in receiving a TAFE certificate.

The National Worldskills final brought together around 500 highly skilled young trades people from across Australia, competing in over 30 different categories. The Primary Industries competition came with 3 days of competition in the 5 day event. Day 1 was the orientation day where participants got to know the tasks involved with the competition. Day 2 Jordan put his skills to the test with tractor driving and fencing. Each of the activities tested the competitor's abilities and confidence in completing each task safely and efficiently. Day 3 Jordan worked with live-stock and conducted chemical application work. The final day of competition was a teamwork task as well as a first aid and chemical spill simulation. Each of the practical tasks involved a number of written questions and calculations that had to be answered. The practical and theory marks of the competition were then collected and calculated.

Jordan Kerr was presented with a silver medal at the presentation ceremony on the final day.



2012 Premier's ANZAC Scholarship Tour

These scholarships are an initiative of the Premier of NSW and is led by the DEC. The aim is to ensure ongoing recognition of ANZAC Day as an important national day of commemoration.



Mrs Yelena Vercoe was selected to accompany ten students from throughout NSW on a 17 day tour of Vietnam and Singapore in September. Two Vietnam veterans, as representatives of the RSL, returned to Vietnam for the first time since their service and provided invaluable insights into many aspects of the war not included in the history textbooks.

The tour began in Ho Chi Minh City and included the Cu Chi Tunnels where first hand memories were shared. Many battle sites were visited where tears were shed as students realised how real the veteran's memories were. Areas visited included: Vung Tau, Long Tan, Hoi An, Hue, and Hanoi before flying to Singapore to visit Changi, and the Kranji War cemetery.



The group made official visits as ambassadors of the NSW government to two schools, the Education office and embassy in Hanoi, and to the Australian High Commission in Singapore. The Premier's ANZAC Scholarships are open to year 9 &

10 students from all schools in NSW.

2012 Highlights

Agriculture-students participated in many shows including: Canberra, Camden, Castle Hill, Jersey State, South Coast and Tablelands Spring Classic and the RAS winning numerous awards. In addition they showed the dairy cattle, unistears, calves and participated in the World Vet Skills.



English - Year 10 Debating State semi-finalists; Year 11 Debating State semi-finalists; Henry Lawson Society National Library Awards winner; ICAS English Competition, 90 Distinctions and 13 High Distinctions; What Matters? Whitlam Institute Year 7 runner-up; State semi-finalist SMH Plain Speaking; Regional Finalist in Legacy Speaking Competition; and 35 students completed the Premier's Reading Challenge.



HSIE- Europe Tour; Geography fieldwork involving over 320 students; Mock Trial Team participated in the Law Society of NSDW competition and made it to the fourth round; NSW Premiers' Scholarship Tour to Vietnam and Singapore; Five students received distinction and high distinction awards in the University of NSW Economics and business Studies Competition; Australian Business Week involved 157 students, 15 staff and guests from business

and universities.

Learning Support - Independent Learning Centre established; Establishing an innovative whole-school approach to Assessment of learning; preparations begun for the National Curriculum.

LOTE - Many excursions including to theatre performances, Restaurants, Karaoke, the Language Centre. Cultural Exchanges with Enbetsu High School and one student from Akita. A Japan tour is being organised for September 2013.



Mathematics - Australian Mathematics Competitions: 11 High Distinctions, 105 Distinctions, 168 Credits. ICAS: 61 High Distinctions, 317 Distinctions, 270 Credits. NAPLAN results were also very good.

Sport - 13yrs boys relay team won bronze at the NSW Combined High Schools Championships; Year 8 Alec Nguyen also won 4 individual gold and was selected to the National Championships winning 3 silver and a bronze. In swimming Year 9 Kate Diamond won 2 silver and a bronze at the NSW Combined Championships at Olympic Park. At the Allschools championships she Kate won a silver and 2 bronze. Year 12 Henry Davey won the 18yrs division at the Regional Cross Country and came 10th at the State Carnival. Tori and Zoe Hall played in the Sydney South West Regional Hockey and finished 2nd at the State Carnival. Katrina Ukma played in the Sydney South West Regional Cricket team which finished 2nd at the State Carnival.

Stanley Cook Memorial Library - A number of improvements have occurred in the library to make it a more student and staff accessible learning area. Many new fiction and non-fiction books have been purchased for the changing curriculum. A new library webpage has also been established for the new HAHS website.