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*Right: This stunning aerial
colour photograph is one
of a series commissioned
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Help Commemorate 75 Years at Moore Park

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Balance Needed In Debate

Following the publication of the March 2002 issue of the *High Bulletin*, sweeping and erroneous misrepresentations were made in the media in relation to a committee constituted by the OBU and mentioned in the President's Report in that issue. The President wrote immediately to the media and followed with another letter to correct the misrepresentation. His letter (detailed below) was never published.

Letters Editor, Sydney Morning Herald

Sydney High School – Entry Criteria

• From **John Goddard**, (53)
President, Sydney High School Old
Boys Union

"The article in the SMH on Saturday 6 April by Gerard Noonan relating to Sydney High School contains a factual error. It quotes me saying that sons and grandsons of Old Boys could in the past gain entry to the School without meeting the Selective Entry Test requirements. This has never been the case.

At one period the School was area-based on a drawing area of the Eastern Suburbs. Sons and grandsons

of Old Boys were allowed entry if they lived outside this area provided they met the Selective Entry Test standards. This is no longer relevant as the School now draws from the whole of NSW.

The Old Boys Union has formed a committee to work with the Principal to review the Selection Criteria. This review is in early days and as yet no clear outcomes have been determined, however, the criteria for entry to Sydney High School will always include the Selective Entry Test even for sons and grandsons of Old Boys".

Over a period there was considerable and often ill-informed debate. The matter even spawned its own website. In this issue we will

attempt to include a representative sample of all the views expressed. It is important to understand the OBU recognises its members often have widely differing views on many subjects. (As you would expect from a School with the academic standards it has fostered for more than a century). The *High Bulletin* seeks to air the views of all its members without necessarily endorsing any of them. Rarely do we intervene in a debate since we believe no progress is ever made until all sides of an argument are understood.

However, in view of the frenzy generated in the media, the Executive Council of the OBU has issued the following statement.

Statement Concerning Sydney Boys High School

Last February the OBU constituted an Admissions Committee consisting of a number of Old Boys, under the chairmanship of a former Principal, to consider concerns expressed over some time within the school family and the wider community about difficulties the School has been experiencing recently in achieving its maximum potential and meeting community expectations. These issues include:

- Problems in maintaining the unique attributes of the school – e.g. selective, single sex, the only government school to be a GPS school – while continuing to achieve high intellectual standards, historically excellent sporting and other extra curricular achievement
- The perceived need for expensive and intensive coaching in order to gain entry to Sydney Boys' High and other selective schools
- The inability of the Selective Schools Entrance Test to distinguish between intrinsic academic ability and coached performance in 11-year-old children
- Misunderstandings in the community about the strategic directions and goals of the School

The Committee's Approach

In the light of public misrepresentations about the activities and views of the Committee, it is imperative to understand what the Committee did not consider. It did not seek the establishment of any system, or changes, which would directly, or indirectly, promote either racism or preferment.

On racism:

Contrary to mischievous and quite ignorant suggestions in the media, there was not the slightest consideration of any direct, or indirect, racist criteria being introduced. In fact, all members of the Committee have been lifelong opponents of all forms of racism. Further, the School's present Strategic Plan, long adopted by the School Council, states:

"We value acceptance, inclusiveness and tolerance of difference" and commits the entire school family to:

"Implement strategies to promote acceptance and inclusiveness in our multicultural learning environment". The Committee unanimously adopted and endorsed these principles.

On preferment:

The media stated that the Committee was seeking to have a family placement privilege applied in future without regard to academic achievement. Nothing could be further from the truth. Sydney Boys' High School has built its well-deserved reputation and its acceptance, in the community, for over 120 years as a flagship government institution, on its academic standards. It was and is absurd to suggest that anyone would see a future for the School on any different basis.

The Committee has made some study of the historical background to the academic quality of the intakes for selective schools. In 1977 a departmental report, "The Education of the Talented Child", controversially recommended that "the academically selective high schools in their present form be phased out." In response, the School Council of the day took a number of initiatives, which were supported by government and eventually lifted the intellectual quality of the Year 7 intake.

All members of the school family, including the Committee, desire that

students always be selected on a competitive basis. Until the 1980s, entry to the School was also restricted on residential grounds, although provision existed for sons of old boys and brothers of former or current students at the School to apply as well. The lifting in 1988 of residential requirements for entry to New South Wales Selective Schools meant that qualified students with a family association with the School could apply from anywhere in the State, but they would receive no special consideration. The committee has never contemplated seeking to change that principle. There cannot be a hereditary caste in a publicly funded school.

Proposal to Minister for Education

In May, four members of the Committee met with the Minister, Mr Watkins to present its proposal for consideration.

The Proposal

The proposal concerns the "ethos" of the School which is embodied in its Strategic Plan Mission Statement:

"Sydney Boys' High School provides opportunity for boys to achieve excellence in academic, cultural, sporting and civic endeavours, in an environment conducive to learning, teaching and friendship."

At Sydney Boys' High, every boy is valued, regardless of difference, and is encouraged through many educationally sound strategies to become a skilled and talented all rounder. Indeed, the uniqueness of the School derives from its capacity to provide fine scholars and outstanding community leaders who can also perform to the highest standards in sports and co-curricular activities. The ethos of the School revolves around these three elements, and it is this ethos that the Committee, supported by the Principal and the teaching staff, are seeking to preserve and augment.

Thus, what was proposed to the Minister was that the selection process for Sydney Boys' High henceforth include a small proportion of students selected on the basis that they would make a particular contribution to the advancement of this ethos. It would work in this way:

1. All applicants wishing to attend Sydney Boys' High will apply and sit for the Selective Schools Entrance Test (SSET) in the usual way.
2. Of the annual intake of 180 Year 7 students, 150 are selected in the usual way using the SSET results. An additional 30 students will be selected for an Ethos Enhancement Group using both the SSET results and additional criteria.
3. Applicants, who wish to be considered for inclusion in the ethos enhancement group, would submit a detailed CV to the School, including their Basic Skills Test results, two school reports, their records of co-curricular, sporting, civic, community service and leadership achievement, and any other information considered relevant to their likely contribution to the advancement of the School's ethos. A School Placement Committee (constituted by the Principal and the teachers) would consider the applications and determine a suitability list based on the all-round merit of the applicants.

4. The SSET is conducted in June. The Test Results are communicated to applicants in August. Between June and August applicants on the suitability list would be interviewed and a Merit List created.
5. When the results of the Selective Test are finalised, the top 150 applicants will be offered places in the normal way.
6. A predetermined cut-off score, set in consultation with the Selective Schools Unit, will be applied to the Merit List. Those applicants not in the top 150, but above that score, will be retained from the Merit List.
7. The remaining 30 places will be filled in applicants' rank order on the Merit List.

Melbourne High School, Brisbane State High School, Adelaide High School and Kent Street Senior High School, Perth, comparable selective high schools to Sydney Boys' High assess complementary criteria as well as academic test results as part of their selection processes.

The Minister's Response

The Minister stated that a departmental paper canvassing options for review of the entire selection process for all selective schools will be published for discussion, and the Committee's proposals would be considered as part of that review.

The Departmental paper has now been published.

The Committee's Objective Now

The Committee welcomed the Minister's review and joined a new Placement Committee chaired by former principal **R Outterside** AO. Other members of the committee included the current principal, **Dr K Jaggar**, and representatives of the teaching staff, the Parents and Citizens Association and the Old Boys Union. The committee met on several occasions, and prepared a response to the published paper with a submission stressing the need to encourage and enhance such matters as:

- Genuine intellectual capacity in students rather than pseudo-achievement produced artificially by cramming or private coaching.

- The capacity and willingness of students to realise their maximum overall potential and contribute significantly to the School's extra-curricular activities, and to community leadership, responsibility and service.

Equal opportunity for all without disadvantage or discrimination because of race, family background, limited parental means, or other irrational or unfair factors.

A summary of the submission is outlined below. The full text may be viewed on our web site www.shsobu.org.au.

NSW Selective Schools Unit Year 7 Placement Process Discussion Paper: A submission on behalf of Sydney Boys High School

Summary

1. Sydney Boys' High School (SBHS) convened a committee representing teachers, parents and former students to develop its response to the Discussion Paper.
2. SBHS supports a number of elements of the paper, including the inclusion of a written component in

Continued on page 6



The Cutler Drive

... A Lasting Memorial



HEADMASTERS APPEAL

Recently, to commemorate the 75th Anniversary of the laying of the Foundation Stone for the building of the School at Moore Park, **Stan Heaton** (28), who was at the School when the move was made, (*see story page 11*) launched the Headmaster's Appeal "\$75 for 75 years" with a donation of \$75. After making a similar donation, the Principal **Dr K Jaggar** said, "I hope that a large number of Old Boys support this Appeal, which is scheduled to run until 6 June 2003, the anniversary of the official School opening 75 years ago. By that time we would like to achieve some fitting 75th anniversary improvements." One of the major improvements envisaged is the **Sir Roden Cutler Memorial Drive**.

Sir **Roden Cutler** (33) was arguably the greatest of the alumni from the School. He also demonstrated a great love for the school by acting as the patron of its organisations, regularly attending school functions and donating schoolboy trophies to our archive room.

He is a revered figure at High who kept in close contact with the affairs of the school. The School family would now like a fitting monument erected to mark his passing.

The School has a roadway of 300 metres linking Cleveland Street to Anzac Parade named '**The Cutler Drive**'. This road runs along the front of the School facing Moore Park. It is in a state of disrepair. For decades, the School has had plans and drawings of gates to be erected at the drive's entrance. Last year, the Principal commissioned Carroll & Carroll, architects, to design a set of gates at each entrance and a paved roadway with a sliding gate in front of the School.

For old time's sake would you please help to make the School look its best for its 75th year of operation at Moore Park! Tax deductible donations made out to the Sydney Boys' High Building Fund can be sent to the OBU.

Honours

Queen's Birthday Honours – Medal (OAM) in the Division

- **Errol Bruce Davis** (43) for service to the arts, particularly through the establishment of the Sculpture Park at Macquarie University.
- **Bruce Miles** (37) for service to the law, particularly through the New South Wales Aboriginal Legal Service.
- *****
- **Andrew Botros** (96) has been awarded the University Medal for Computer Engineering (BE) at the University of NSW. He was also awarded a Master of Biomedical Engineering (MBiomedE). (*See story p30*)
- Professor **Ron Bracewell** (37) has been selected as a

Fellow of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences in recognition for his outstanding contributions in Astronomy and Earth Sciences. The mission of the Academy is "to cultivate every art and science which may tend to advance the interest, honour, dignity, and happiness of a free, independent, and virtuous people." Professor Bracewell is not only a very successful scientist, but he is also a great artist and plant historian.

- **Emmanuel Kiriakos** (97) has been awarded the University Medal for Pharmacy (BPharm) at the University of Sydney.

Sydney High Hosts New Rowing Club at Outterside Centre

For many years Old Boys have been asking about the possibility of reviving their Rowing exploits by boating from the old 'sheds'. Now that the Outterside Centre has been completed and the Rowing 'Fleet' expanded to full capacity, the opportunity now exists for Old Boys to relive the dream.

The new club will be called Colleagues, renewing a name that was used for a former GPS old boys rowing club, which competed with great distinction.

Whether you rowed at school and would like to row again with you old Colleagues, or would like to begin now (you're never too old) you can

help School Rowing financially and have fun at the same time, by joining the Colleagues Club. Membership fees are \$1,000 joining and \$500 p.a. – about the same as an up-market health club and a hell of a lot cheaper than most Golf clubs!

Alternately, if you would like to make a tax-deductible donation of \$1,000 to the Foundation, the joining fee will be waived.

For those who require some basic coaching, or a refresher course expert coaching is at hand. On Tuesday and Sunday mornings Xenergy operate a learn-to-row program. Learn the finer points of rowing from ex Olympians Corina Weiland and Alison Davies.

Please don't delay because membership is limited and we would also like to see Old Boys making up the majority of members if possible. We hope that through the Colleagues Rowing Club Old Boys will be able to offer both financial and moral support to the boys rowing for Sydney High.

For more information or register your interest contact **Mark Livingston** (69) on 0412 950278 or send you email and address details to mark@insurancebroker.com.au or P.O. Box 1431 Darlinghurst 2010.

P.S. For recent Old Boys who are full time students membership fees are only \$200 + \$200 p.a.





John Goddard

Last February the OBU convened a committee of Old Boys under the chairmanship of former principal Bob Outterside to consider issues relating to difficulties the School has been facing in recent years. Elsewhere in this issue the committee's deliberations and recommendations are outlined.

Following a meeting between the committee and the Education Minister, the Minister has issued a Discussion Paper covering options for review of the selection process for all selective schools. A committee representing the whole SHS family has responded to this paper. We owe a major debt of thanks to Bob Outterside and the committee for their efforts.

Would You Like To Get Involved & Enjoy Yourself?

Recently a number of our members have told me they would enjoy having the opportunity to be involved in social and sporting activities with their fellow Old Boys – WOULD YOU?

The OBU is presently in the process of setting up a "Seniors Rowing Group" operating out of the School boatshed at Abbotsford. This initiative is being received with great enthusiasm by Old Boy rowers. At the 2001 GPS OBU Gold Challenge (for Old Boys turning 50), SHS won the Rowing VIIIs.

The OBU has a Bowls Group which competes in GPSOBU competition and an OBU Golf Day is an annual event.

In past years we had the very successful SHSOBU Rugby Club which played in the NSW Sub District Rugby competition.

The School is the present GPS Rifle Shooting Champions – are there any old shots out there interested in forming an OBU group?

What about swimmers, runners, cricketers, sailors (the School now competes in all Schools sailing), water polo players, soccer players, fencers, basketballers, tennis players or even debaters?

I recently heard of a group of Old Boys who regularly go on fishing trips together. They reckon the social activities are more arduous than the fishing!

I often receive comments similar to "what is there to be involved with in the OBU?" Well, here it is.

There must be many of you who would enjoy one of these activities.

Let us know and we will provide the support to get your activity up and running. Who knows you may even be able to assist the School as well as enjoying yourself.

John Goddard (53)

Feature: Entry Criteria Debate *Continued from page 3*

the external test, and suggests a limited number of refinements to the test.

3. SBHS is strongly of the view that criteria additional to those measured by the external test should be considered in the selection process. These complementary criteria would be aimed at assessing performance, whereas the external test measures ability.

4. Material required to assess performance is already being provided to the Selective Schools Unit by primary school principals and applicants, but would need to be augmented and collected in a more systematic manner

if it is to be used in the assessment process.

5. There are technical and procedural issues that will need to be addressed before the complementary criteria can be incorporated into selection procedures.

6. Several possible models for selection of students using existing and complementary criteria are presented for consideration as Appendix 1 to this submission.

7. A template for the collection and presentation of complementary criteria information is presented as Appendix 2.

Since the last edition of *High Bulletin* went to press, selective high schools and their entry procedures have been high profile political issues. An important media debate is still in progress concerning state controlled selective education.

The debate arose from a journalist seizing on two pieces published in the *High Bulletin* and linking them together. The 'Kings of High' article was essentially a nostalgic celebration of a family's long connection with High. An unfortunately expressed comment about the presumed flow-on effects on sports like rowing and rugby of our current high NESB student population, was linked to a separate article by John Goddard, president of the OBU, announcing the establishment of an 'Action Committee' to investigate selection criteria and develop proposals to go to the Minister of Education. With an emotive billboard: "Old Boys Tell Top School: Let Our Sons In", the *Herald* feature article talked about a 'good old boys push to keep Sydney High in the family'. The obvious reference to the American South ignited the debate about racist exclusion and privileged preferment. A stream of articles, editorials, letters to the editor, radio commentaries and TV interviews followed. In a cruel irony, several of our eminent Old Boys and a former Headmaster of High, men with lifelong and internationally regarded credentials in human rights, were accused of being racist. I have a very high regard for the members of the Action Committee who bore the brunt of the stress occasioned by this debate with dignity and forbearance.

Despite the pain it caused to individuals, I feel that this was a much-needed debate that generated rapid momentum because so many people in Sydney feel they have a stake in selective education and a view as to how it should operate. For some, the debate was a social safety valve enabling them to let off steam about how their sons, friends or relations missed out on selection into the highest profile selective schools. For others, the debate affirmed their suspicions that if you scratch away the politically correct veneer, you will find racist tendencies in our society. For those with a broader perspective, the issue was raised to the



level of an examination of the social and pedagogical purposes of selective education in our society. Why do we have selective schools? What outcomes are they meant to produce? What are the social, educational and political issues involved in the existing selection procedures?

Many individuals were moved to attack the Secondary Schools Selective Entrance Test. Its coachability, its omission of an extended writing component, and its differential treatment of certain classes of applicants, were discussed from many points of view. A great deal of useful social soul-searching on multiculturalism in Sydney has followed. The wide-ranging consequences of the rise of the coaching industry in Sydney were explored. The issues of location of selective schools and the effects of extended travelling time on students were argued. The resentment against inherited preferment being part of a state school's selection processes was strongly expressed.

After meetings with the Minister, and after over a month of misrepresentations, the Action Committee's proposal was printed in full in the *Daily Telegraph* on May 22. The Minister's *Discussion Paper*, released in May, invited submissions from interested individuals on selection processes. Our submission was sent on 26/7. It can be accessed from our web site www.sydneyboyshigh.com in the News page. We have broadened our argument from our individual school's ethos enhancement group towards the exploration of several models with a system focus. Analysis of the submissions and a report on responses to the Discussion Paper, may take some months.

The recent release of another stage of the Vinson Report advocates a reduction in the level of academic selectivity within the state system.

The proposal to phase out OC classes and to convert to bi-modal operation (partial selectivity) all but the original seven fully selective schools, met with a hostile bi-partisan political reception. In the foreseeable future, proposals to extend either OC or selective classes are unlikely to be on either party's agenda. Nevertheless, useful research into selective schools and their outcomes may be commissioned as a result of Professor Vinson's recommendations.

At High, we are continuing with the second phase of our ethos enhancement strategy that was approved by staff on January 30. This phase involved marketing our ethos to as many of our feeder primary schools as possible to try to broaden our profile amongst prospective applicants. The executive team visited 45 primary schools during term one to sell our message of the 'leadership school'. We have left packages with a history of our school, two copies of the CD, our expectations and our curriculum. The publicity we have received concerning Saturday sport and our membership of the AAGPS has strongly reinforced our marketing campaign. **Mr Gainford** has conducted numerous tours for groups of prospective students. Several well attended Open Days were held for Years 5 and 6 from our major feeder primary schools. A very strong interest in the school and its directions was shown by a recent Year 7 Parents Meeting, as evidenced by the attendance of 55. We want boys and their parents to join our school to become part of the ethos of all round excellence. We are working on a Commitment Statement to provoke a written understanding and acceptance of support for the values and culture of our school to be signed by enrolling students and their families.

In addition, we are marketing involvement within the current school population to build identification with our ethos amongst existing students. The Student Leadership Program requires candidates for Prefect to have reached a high standard in the Student Award Scheme, which was expanded to ten categories. We have stressed involvement in sports. Participation rates for winter sports were very

good. We cannot satisfy the demand for GPS competition for 537 interested players. More students are involved in school activities. We implemented a 7-10 Outdoor Education program this year.

The School Family has carried forward the 'ethos enhancement agenda' vigorously. We believe that we have wholeheartedly confronted the issues surrounding selection processes. We feel strongly that we have explored all practical proposals to vary selection procedures for the benefit of all prospective students who believe as we do in the development of all-round excellence. We look forward to future developments with great interest. I particularly want to acknowledge the tremendous efforts of **Bob Outterside** on behalf of the school throughout the year.

Our 75th Year at Moore Park

Next year in June we would like to have some significant landmarks opened for our 75th anniversary at Moore Park. Our first-class Canteen renovations have been completed and are ready to be opened officially. Although expensive at \$176k. they have resulted in a state-of-the-art facility, with significantly increased sales to students. The Old Boys Union has taken up the challenge to fund the Cutler Drive memorial. We intend to build sandstone entrance gates at both Cleveland St. and Anzac Parade, to open out a sliding gate in front of the entrance to the main building, and to refurbish the Cutler Drive with paving, in order to produce both a fitting memorial to our great former student and a much more attractive entrance way to our school. At least \$90k. is required to do the work. We have had no success so far in our appeals to the Premier, the Department of Veterans Affairs or the RSL.

We need some high profile intervention to help raise the funds. We also will rely on Old Boys who want to contribute something towards this eminent former patron of the OBU. Our *\$75 for 75 Years* appeal has been launched. For purposes of tax deductibility, donations should be made payable to the *Sydney Boys High School Building Fund*.

New OBU Patron

Last April the OBU Executive Council invited Major General Jim Norrie (40) to be Patron of the Union. Here Michael Selway, a teacher at the School, profiles the man.



Jim Norrie Vice Captain First XI 1940 Front row 3rd from RHS. His best GPS innings in 1940 was against TKS where he scored 120 in the first innings and took 3 for 14 in the second. He was awarded a Cricket "blue" in 1939.

Jim Norrie AO OBE

Jim Norrie was born at Dyers Crossing in country NSW. He spent his childhood at a number of small country schools before coming to Sydney in 1933. He attended Randwick Public School where his cricketing prowess brought him to the attention of Mr **Ossie Taylor**, the President of the Randwick Cricket Club and a teacher at Sydney Boys' High. Ossie encouraged Jim to attend High.

Jim has fond memories of Ossie. He remembers one occasion when he suggested Ossie, who was a small punter, back a horse in the Caulfield Cup. Jim's family knew the owner/trainer well. The horse won at 25/1 and Jim later won the geography prize. He has often wondered whether his academic standing in geography had anything to do with his tipping ability! Jim also has vivid memories of others he met through his involvement at High. He recalls 'Wild Bill' Cerutti and Aub Hodgson – both international Rugby representatives who helped train the school Rugby teams. On one occasion Aub arrived in a new suit. Jim was greatly surprised when he was heavily tackled from behind by Aub, new suit and all! He enjoyed and later applied the many lessons learned on

the sporting field and in the classroom. Indeed his life has been typified by the finest qualities of teamwork; hard work, and mateship – qualities always admired at High.

He played in the GPS First XI and the SHS First XI and First XV for four years. On one occasion, he and Arthur Morris (later to become a famous Test opener and a member of Bradman's Invincibles) opened the batting. Both players scored centuries. Later he played first grade cricket and Rugby in Sydney when he could get time off from the Army. He has captained Army sporting teams in most parts of the world.

He entered Duntroon straight from school in 1941 and spent the next 37 years in the Army, finally reaching the rank of Major General. He became a keen infantryman, with excellent administrative skills, showing a good knowledge of human nature, and at all times a willingness to learn. His character, formed by his family and SBHS, came through these testing times not only strengthened, but also demonstrating fine leadership qualities. He is a commander who throughout his long life has demonstrated a deep compassion and a wry sense of humour.

Jim travelled extensively in his service life. He saw service as platoon commander in the Aitape-Wewak campaign in New Guinea in World War II. He had been training his platoon for some six months when the platoon's original commander returned to the unit. Jim was moved to another platoon but remained in the same Company. Four days later the veteran platoon commander was killed in action with four members of Jim's old platoon.

Later in the same campaign Jim met **Fred Kaad** (39), an old Rugby mate from High who was in ANGAU in charge of the native police. Fred was almost unrecognizable at the time – his face was covered with six inches of beard. Jim remembers:

"I had the lead platoon and Fred wanted to go forward of my position just prior to last light. I will leave the conversation to your imagination!"

Fortunately Fred heeded his advice.

Jim also saw service as a company commander in the Korean War. In his Company were Sergeant Ray Simpson, later VC DCM, Sergeant Jack Morrison DCM and Bar, Corporal Chalky White MC and Bar, Lieutenants

Brian Bousfield MC, Charles Yacopetti MC and Mentioned in Despatches. He was awarded an OBE and Coronation Medal for his service in Korea. Later he made valuable contacts at the Command and General Staff College, Fort Leavenworth, Missouri, U.S.A. He served in Vietnam from early 1969 as Military and Naval Attache for two years. Sir Arthur Tange, Secretary, Department of Defence made the following comments in writing on his service: *"Although it has not been the practice of the Secretary to comment on the service of individual service Attaches, I wish to do so in the case of Col. Norrie. I am informed his services were outstanding: his energy, his industry, and his ability to make wide and sometimes unorthodox contacts were exceptional and contributed to the value of his reporting to the Embassy as well as to this department."*

Jim returned to Papua New Guinea in 1959-62 to command the Pacific Islands Regiment and again in 1972 as Commander, Joint Forces Papua New Guinea. In 1973 he was appointed Commander of the Papua New Guinea Defence Force witnessing the granting of Independence before returning to Australia in late 1975.

Papua New Guinea was not without incident. One was when the PNG Governor General Sir John Guise personally resigned to Jim on the day of Jim's scheduled departure from Papua New Guinea. Jim had gone to

Government House to make his farewell when Sir John asked him to receive his resignation – Sir John did not want the appointment of Governor General. This put the cat was among the pigeons and Jim hurried down to the House of Assembly to notify Sir Michael Somare. In true Melanesian fashion Sir Michael dealt with the resignation – he let it die on the vine.

Jim was closely associated with military training throughout his career. On his return from Korea in 1953 he was appointed Commanding Officer of the 18th National Service Training Battalion. He became an instructor at the British School of Infantry at Warminster in 1957-59; at Duntroon on two occasions, firstly as an infantry instructor in 1949-52 and then as Director of Military Art in 1965-68. He was appointed Commandant, Jungle Training Centre Canungra in 1970 on his return from Vietnam.

Jim was appointed GOC Training Command with promotion to the rank of Major General in 1976. In the same year he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia.

Horse racing has always been one of his great interests. He was very much involved in racing as an owner while still serving. He laughingly remembers many racing stories.

He was the judge on a number of occasions at the Port Moresby Turf Club meetings. He remembers well the many endeavours he and the

Army Chaplain made to keep contact with the horse races back home in Australia. (This story was related in detail in a previous issue of the *Bulletin*.)

In 1977 he was approached to become Secretary/General Manager of the Australian Jockey Club. He gave the change of career careful thought before taking up the appointment. He found himself in a different world – he had to make his way politically relating not only to the AJC Committee but also to the owners, trainers, racing clubs in NSW and throughout Australia. He travelled to England, France, Korea, Japan, Hong Kong, Singapore and USA on racing matters. His Army training stood him in good stead. He successfully managed the AJC in the period 1977-84.

Since 1984 Jim has been associated with a number of business ventures. He has now retired and devotes his spare time to his investments on the Stock Exchange.

Jim became President of the Old Boys' Union in 1993. He remained President until 1999 during which time he served on the School Council and the Foundation where his wry sense of humour and knack of asking probing questions at crucial times is well remembered!

When asked recently the secret of such a successful life, he remarked with that famous twinkle in his eye: "Hard work is the only way to succeed in any venture."

.....

Foundation Stone Ceremony

Here is an account of the actual ceremony taken from *The Record* of June 1927.

"Under a dull and threatening sky on the afternoon of Saturday, 5 March 1927, the foundation of our new school was firmly set, and another landmark in the history of the Sydney Boys' High School was successfully passed. Some idea of the shape and size of the building could already be gained, as the foundation work was almost completed. The gymnasium, which promises to be a handsome building, was well on the way to completion. As was natural with such an important occasion, speeches were rendered, and all were sorry when the rain rather curtailed speakers' remarks. The speeches were delivered from an improvised platform placed under a large Moreton Bay fig tree. Those on

the platform included the Headmaster, **Mr Saxby**, the Minister for Education, the Hon T Mutch, MLA; the President of the Parents and Citizens Association, the Rev H Hulme; the President of the Old Boys' Union, **Mr R T McKay** (1909); the Vice Chancellor of the Sydney University, Sir Mungo MacCallum, MA, LL.D; the Director of Education, Mr S Smith; and the President of the GPS Union, Mr David Maughan, KC. The ceremony opened with the singing of the School Song by the boys, followed by the Australian National Anthem. The Rev Hulme then gave an address. He spoke of the good work of the Parents and Citizens Association, who, although they had

only been in existence for 20 months, had, in conjunction with the Old Boys Union successfully appealed for a new School.

Before the actual setting of the foundation stone, Mr Mutch was made the recipient of two presentations. The first was a handsome coffee set which was presented by the President on behalf of the Parents and Citizens' Association. The other was a beautiful clock presented by the Old Boys' Union. A move was now made to the spot where the stone was waiting to be set. In spite of the heavy rain, the ceremony was successfully carried out and proceedings closed with three cheers for the new School."

Mary Ann Street

The Sydney Boys' High School commenced work on 1 October 1883 on the lower floor of an old Greenway designed building that stood on the site of what is now the David Jones Elizabeth Street store.

The Girls' School occupied the upper floor of the same building.

The 1933 history of the School records merely that "the old School building was very inconvenient and noisy." This was quite an understatement given that the boys' floor consisted of one large room divided into smaller classrooms by big drop baize blinds. However, this was quite a luxurious arrangement compared to what was provided for the lower forms who were housed in a galvanised iron shed at the end of the Castlereagh Street playground.

Eventually, in 1891, the Department of Education decided to move the School to Ultimo. The Technical College was being built at the time, and a new building was built

alongside. It was intended that both the Girls' and the Boys' High Schools should occupy this building. However, protests from the then Headmistress regarding the locality led to a change of plans, as far as the girls were concerned. The boys moved to the new building, and the girls occupied the whole of the original old building at the commencement of 1892.

Work commenced on the new building in Mary Ann Street, Ultimo, on 25 January 1892. However, it was almost immediately apparent that the new arrangement was utterly inadequate. **H S Dettman** (1892), later Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School, was one of the boys who

made the move to Ultimo. He recorded the following impression nearly 40 years later:

"The changeover to the new building at Mary Ann Street, Ultimo, was a disappointment. Of the building and its surroundings, its unimpressive structure and its cramped playground, I need say nothing, for later generations know it only too well. It is something of a miracle that a great school has been built up on such a foundation, amid such surroundings, but, as G K Chesterton has said, the really miraculous thing about miracles is that they do happen."

Aubrey V Colefax (20), recorded the following details in a memoir deposited with the School Archives:

"The School was then situated in Mary Ann Street, Ultimo. One walked down Harris Street from George Street,



The Mary Anne Street site today

Memories of Mary Ann Street

Mary Ann Street in inner Ultimo was by no means a perfect match for Sydney High around the 1890s. The locality was dirty, noisy, some even decried it a slum. It was far from a salubrious setting for a centre of learning.

There were larrikin elements. Razor gangs were common in the nearby Wentworth Park precinct. Times were tough and even though the School building was the first designed for a High School in any of the British colonies, it soon became cramped and incapable of expansion. There were no playing areas, except for an asphalt yard and vandalism was rife.

The *Centenary History of Sydney High School* relates the tale that

locals caused so much damage to the school's property that the headmaster **Joseph Coates** seriously considered employing an armed guard. But home is home and students took a shine to Mary Ann Street. Some were even reluctant to move to Moore Park in the 1920s.

Alex Dandie (29) was a pupil at both schools, so is well placed to share his memories of life in the inner city and the plot of land once

formally known as "Billygoat Swamp", now Moore Park. Alex, who commenced school at Mary Ann Street in 1925, spent his last three years at Moore Park.

"There was no great farewell or fanfare when it was decided to up and leave Mary Ann Street, as I recall it," Alex said recently. "We left school just before Christmas 1927 and rolled up to Moore Park in the New Year."

The present school was officially



The original Mary Anne St School

passing the Technical College and Technical High School on the left, then immediately turning left into Mary Ann Street. Still on the left, in this street, one advanced up the hill past the side of the Technical College, arriving at the entrance to

the Sydney High School at the top of the hill. The main building was of red brick, consisting of two stories. A narrow passageway separated it from the Technical College. The school tuck shop was situated in this passage. On the other side of the

school's main building was the so-called playground. Its entire surface was of asphalt. Its perimeter consisted of low form-like seats permanently fixed and fully occupied at lunchtime. There was another two-storey building at the other side of the playground on the corner of Mary Ann Street and Jones Street. This was part of the Technical College, but the High School had the use of the ground floor. This space consisted of four rooms – the staff room, the theoretical science lecture room, the practical science laboratory and a first year classroom. Across Mary Ann Street, directly opposite, was Scrutton's Foundry and Engineering Workshop. The multi-decibel volume of sound issuing therefrom was not conducive to smooth knowledge assimilation."

opened by the Honorable D H Drummond, Minister for Education on 9 June 1928. Alex, who came to High from Bexley Public, remembers an inscription "Sydney Boys' High" above the doorway to the school and his first scripture lesson from Reverend Hulme in a ground floor classroom. "Ultimo was really a grimy industrial area in those times and I remember when we would go to Wentworth Park for special sports events, the place would stink, all because of the nearby wool stores. We used to play cricket in Centennial Park, we walked to buses to get there."

It was no nirvana for young boys wishing to emulate their sporting heroes of the day, with limited space for activities in between lessons. "It was an asphalt ground, and there were a few trees around on the Mary Ann Street side."

Alex now lives in West Ryde and although 89, works for the Presbyterian Church Ferguson Memorial Library once a week to archive photos and establish a computer databank.

Stan Heaton (28) lived only a walk from the Mary Ann Street school in Glebe, and was sad to change schools. "I recall the feeling of spaciousness of the new building when we first got to Moore Park and by the playing fields, after coming from such a confined space," Stan says.

Stan was given a dressing down by the then headmaster **George Saxby** over the standard of his schoolwork and was told how he would have to buck up to keep up with the rest of the year.

Stan played rugby (7st 7lb)[48 Kg] and shared in the excitement of our Head of the River victories in the 1920s. He was inspired to take up rowing with the Glebe Club after leaving school. Stan's first job was as a deckhand on the lighter that ran each day from Pymont to Manly, carrying cargo before the Harbour Bridge was constructed. He was attracted to accountancy when he heard accountants could make 100 pounds a week (\$200.00), worked as a bookkeeper at Kolynos Toothpaste in Crown Street and later as a cost accountant with Australian Glass Manufacturers. He spent four months touring China in the 1930s. On his return to Australia, Stan was offered a job as a cost accountant for Vesta Batteries in New Zealand. He completed his tertiary training there. At that time a large proportion of tertiary students held down a full time job as well as studying at night for university degrees. Stan qualified as a CPA.

When war was declared Stan tried to enlist as a pilot but was rejected because of his colour blindness. He was accepted as an equipment officer

with the 24th Squadron in Townsville. He was posted to Port Moresby with the 32nd Squadron and after most of its slow Hudsons were shot down by Japanese Zeros, he joined the 76th Squadron of Kitty Hawks which were prominent in the attack on Milne Bay. Finally, Stan was sent to Plymouth, England, with the 10th Squadron. He remembers the effects of the German bombers and V2 rockets on life in London during the blitz.

After the war Stan forged a successful career in accountancy and pursued his interest in travel. He spent six months touring the USA in a motor home and travelled extensively in Russia, Scandinavia and Europe.

Sydney Austral "Aussie" Wills (31) never went to Mary Ann Street but was a trailblazer at the Moore Park establishment. "It was a colossal school and I was very privileged to be there," Aussie recalls. "I used to catch the tram down from Clovelly along Anzac Parade to get to school." It's a family tradition at High. Aussie and his three sons went there, as did his brother, **Roy**, and his three sons. "In those days you could apply for your sons to go to Sydney High," he says.

A great supporter of the Old Boys and the High Club, Aussie helped build the top floor of the Fairland Pavilion at McKay and erected picket fencing around the oval.

The Keith Cameron Memorial Lecture was founded to perpetuate the memory of one who devoted most of his life to the wellbeing of Sydney High School. The lecture has among its aims that of encouraging research and writing into the history of the School. It is delivered on or about the 6th June, because on this day in 1892 the Old Boys' Union was founded. A committee comprising the Headmaster, the President of the Old Boys' Union, and the Master of Lodge Sydney High School administers the Memorial Lecture.

REMINISCENCES:

Joseph Coates and the Early Days of Sydney High School

by Eric Dunlop

The Lecturer: Eric W Dunlop, MA was the Administrative Assistant for Teacher Education in NSW, was for many years senior lecturer in history at the Armidale Teachers' College and lecturer in history method at the University of New England. A Master of Arts at Sydney University with First Class Honours in History, he has made many historical studies and published articles and books.

The title of this lecture has been chosen carefully. At first I intended to call it "Joseph Coates – first headmaster of Sydney Boys' High School," but I changed this in view of a letter to which the present headmaster, **Mr Murray Callaghan**, recently drew attention. This was a letter advising Mr **John Waterhouse** of his appointment as "Headmaster of Sydney Boys' High School" from October, 1883. The commonly accepted view is that, as Joseph Coates, was unable to take up the position until the beginning of 1884, John Waterhouse was appointed as acting head until then.

Substantially that is correct. Waterhouse and Coates were both on the staff of Newington College in 1883, and when the first public high schools were established late in that year each applied for a headship. Coates was selected for Sydney, Waterhouse for Maitland, but at that stage it became clear that Newington could not be left without both its head (Coates) and his assistant until the beginning of the New Year. The upshot was that Coates's appointment was deferred until 1884.

Waterhouse was appointed to SHS for the intervening months, and Maitland High School was not opened until 1884. In effect Waterhouse was nothing more than acting head of Sydney, and that is how his appointment would be worded these days. On the other hand his letter of appointment unequivocally designated him "Headmaster," and as it was he who actually opened the school and presided over its early months, my change of title is perhaps warranted.

Waterhouse, however, was at Sydney High for a very brief and pre-determined period. He knew that Coates had been chosen, and as a member of Coates's Newington staff, he would unquestionably have kept in very close touch with him in all the preliminary organisation and establishment of the school. Coates took over the reins of office in 1884, and during the next 12 or 13 years he continued to guide the school's development.

There were, of course, no public high schools before 1883. Up till that time secondary education in this State had been left almost entirely to Church and private schools, but as a result of certain clauses in the Act of 1880 the Department of Public Instruction proceeded to establish eight high schools in 1883. Separate high schools for girls and boys were to be set up in Sydney and at Goulburn, Bathurst and Maitland – these country centres in theory serving the southern, western and northern districts of the State.

Most of the early country high schools failed miserably. By the end of last century only the Maitland and Sydney high schools had survived. At Maitland development was slow, but the two Sydney schools were firmly established despite some very lean years during the economic depression of the early 90s.

Applications for principals for the new high schools were called in June 1883, the positions being widely advertised throughout Australia. In those days there were relatively few well-qualified teachers, and teacher training was in its infancy. Most

primary school teachers began as monitors or pupil teachers, and the more fortunate might later qualify to enrol for short courses at the Fort Street Training School, though in general progression was through a series of examinations for which teachers prepared themselves by following prescribed reading. There were very few degreed teachers in the service, and most of these had no professional teaching at all.

It is nevertheless surprising to find that Joseph Coates, the successful applicant for the headmastership of Sydney Boys' High School, had neither a university degree nor any formal teacher training, although numerous publications have stated to the contrary.

Born at Huddersfield on 13 November 1844, Joseph was the son of a humble Yorkshire cordwainer (or shoemaker). We know nothing of his elementary schooling, and the historical records of Huddersfield College show that he entered the College as a senior boy.

In all probability young Joseph left school quite early and continued his study privately or by evening classes until he was able to go to the College. His name does not appear in the 1861 lists of pupils' names, but in 1863 he was in sixth form, at the age of 19 years, and figured prominently in the prize lists.

In a letter of 29 March 1967, the present headmaster of the College told me that Coates was one of the very few boys who were awarded Certificates of Honour in 1863. At the same time he won a gold medal for

Quiet Achiever

Continuing a series on a special kind of Old Boy ... the Quiet Achievers. This issue we catch up with Dr David Cooper

Life Member and emergency medical specialist, Dr **David Cooper** (76), was called on by NSW Health after the tragic events of September 11 to help deal with potential anthrax outbreaks here, and for the mass New Year's Eve celebrations.

As Acting Director of the Counter Disaster Unit at NSW Health and Area Director of Emergency Services for the Western Sydney Area Health Service, which includes the emergency departments at Westmead, Blacktown, Mt Druitt and Auburn Hospitals, David was also one of the operational commanders involved in setting up a system to counter any potential disaster response for the 2000 Olympics. "Fortunately, nothing happened but the systems were in place just in case," he says.

He is actively involved in disaster planning for the State and running the emergency departments of the Area Emergency Department "in his spare time".

"Among all of this I did an MBA at Macquarie University," David says.

David is a Life Member of the Old Boys' Union and at School was a member of the 1st XI, captain of the 2nd XI, re-established the 5th XV "gentleman's" rugby side and played trombone in the brass band, the orchestra and the inaugural jazz band. "I learned the trombone in primary school, but I gave it up. It's in a cupboard somewhere, I think."

He was in dentistry for a couple of years but didn't like it. "The public is lucky I didn't continue with dentistry, which I took up after I left

High. I was abysmally bad at it, I remember setting my colleague's hair on fire with a Bunsen burner trying to make a denture in an exam. I think when I gave up dentistry I did the public a favour," he laughs.

The year of 1976 was a watershed one for the HSC. It changed to the new unit system and when there is a change it causes problems. "I tended to do humanities, 3-Unit modern history, which I did well at, and 3-Unit French, but unfortunately the French was scaled down and I missed out on medicine, which was what I wanted to do. The tragedy was I missed out by one mark," David recalls.

Although he achieved high distinctions, David had to re-sit the dentures part of the course and because of that he could not transfer to Medicine at either Sydney or NSW Universities.

Having then enrolled in the new medical course at Newcastle University David got in with the second intake of 1979, but not before he went back to school. "I'd decided to give up dentistry and went back to High for a few weeks where I started to play cricket again. It was while I was in a French class that a letter came to say I got into medicine at Newcastle so I walked out halfway through the class and said 'sorry guys, I'm going to do medicine.'"

After he obtained his medical degree and following his internships, he was required to spend three years in the Air Force as they had sponsored him. "I was on the rapid



deployment force, to respond to an invasion or potential threat to Australia. I did a lot of survival training, aero medical evacuations and aircraft accident investigation and was trained in aviation medicine."

After leaving the Air Force David worked for a company that did international retrievals and the next year was spent travelling around the world picking patients up and bringing them back to Australia. "At the same time I started doing emergency medicine training and went back to the hospitals at Liverpool, Royal North Shore and Bankstown."

After passing his exams in mid-1996 David gained a fellowship in emergency medicine, making him a specialist in the field. He became Director of Emergency Medicine at Coffs Harbour for a year, established a private hospital in Adelaide and a retrieval system, and then undertook some consultancy work in 1996.

He worked at Hornsby Hospital Intensive Care Unit prior to accepting an appointment as Director of Emergency Medicine at Mount Druitt Hospital. Since then, he has progressed rapidly and is now Area Director of Emergency Services for Westmead, Blacktown, Mt Druitt and Auburn.

David is also Chair, NSW Faculty Board College of Australasian College for Emergency Medicine, a member of the Board of Western Sydney Area Health Service and has recently been elected as National President of the Australasian Society for Emergency Medicine and a Councillor for the NSW AMA.

David, now 42, is married to Caroline and they have a son, James. David is also a keen golfer.

Reminiscences

History, a silver medal for Mathematics, and a silver medal for second place in Classics. The History medal was presented by E A Latham, Esq., MA, MP, the Mathematics one by the president, Mr W Williams, JP and the Classics one by the Earl de Grey and Ripon.

This was virtually the end of Coates's academic training. He was accepted from Huddersfield College

as a matriculant to the University of London, but it is clear from the University Calendars that he was never an undergraduate of London. London University at that time was only an examining body which prescribed courses of study and set examinations which candidates could take at approved centres.

To be continued...

Aussies Who've Made Good

– From an article in The Sydney Morning Herald

Lord May of Oxford (52)

Sir **Robert May** boasts the British Prime Minister, Tony Blair, is the type of scientist whom “I can actually understand.” Perhaps that is why May – with his earthy honesty, wry humour and sparkling intellect – seemed a natural as British Chief Scientific Adviser when the then prime minister, John Major, made the appointment in 1995. A year later he was knighted and in late 2000 became president of the Royal Society – Britain’s academy of science, founded in 1660.

May’s academic achievements are remarkable and his penchant for stirring popular interest in the sciences, and for putting critics in their place, legendary. Since graduating from the University of Sydney, he has held chairs in three different subjects on three continents. He taught maths at Harvard in the 60s and physics at Sydney in the 70s before becoming professor of biology and zoology at Princeton. He has been at Oxford since the mid-90s.

OBU Dinner, Melbourne

From **Frank Fisher** (54)

The inaugural OBU dinner held in the Victoria Club, Melbourne, in May, was a great success. The venue in the Club’s Room on the 41st floor of the Rialto Building was superb, with its wonderful night panorama of the city, including the floodlit MCG where Hawthorn was in the process of beating Carlton in the AFL. (Most – but not all – Old Boys resident in Melbourne understand this).

Thirty people enjoyed the dinner, including 18 Old Boys and their wives and partners resident in Melbourne. Among those who attended were **Harold Byrnes** (40), **John McKay** (60), **Norm Gilberthorpe** (42), **Bob Dalziel** (64) of Coles Myer fame, **John Hardy** (61), **John Pollock** (57), **Roger Lloyd** (58), **Tom Biegler** (53), a former Director of CSIRO, **Frank Fisher** (54), **Ian Hind** (67), **Bob Slatter** (59), **Colin Wiggins** (63) and **Eric Willson** (57). The honour as the “youngest old boy”



Above: A happy group at an outstanding venue

Left: **John Goddard** (53) chats with **Major Peter Cumines** (87)

Below: **Bob Dalziel** (64) discussing the Melbourne Chapter of the OBU with **Kim Jaggar**



went to Major **Peter Cumines** (87). Peter, an army legal officer at Puckapunyal Military Base, was pleased to be present at the dinner given the furore in Victoria over the necessity for kangaroo culling at the base.

The OBU President **John Goddard** (53) and Secretary **Lee Ruth** (51) travelled from Sydney with Principal Dr **Kim Jaggar** for the inaugural dinner.

A highlight of the evening was the opportunity given to each Old Boy to speak briefly about his life and career since leaving Sydney High. Distilling that task into a 30-second time slot is not exactly an easily attainable goal for a Sydney High Boy! It was very interesting to hear of the achievements of

the group. We should all experience a good measure of pride and satisfaction at what the current generation of former High Boys have contributed to this nation, in a very wide range of professional, community, social and sporting activities.

Those present were particularly pleased to learn from the Principal, Dr Kim Jaggar, of the School’s current achievements and his initiatives to enhance the School’s standing and performance. There are at least 52 Old Boys known to be resident in the Melbourne area. The success of this Dinner will no doubt lead to further activities in Melbourne. It has inspired Bob Dalziel to form an OBU Chapter in Melbourne.

Club Facilities in Melbourne

• From **Max Williams** (a member of the Melbourne High School Association and Manager of the Victorian Club).

The Victorian Club would be pleased to extend to Members of the Sydney High School Old Boys Union the same agreement as we have with MHSOBA.

Basically the agreement is that Members of MHSOBA when they visit the Victorian Club, or make bookings, identify themselves by showing their current Membership Card, or advising verbally that they are Members of MHSOBA. We would expect members of the SHSOBU to do the same.

They can use the facilities at the Club – Restaurant, Bars, etc and must pay for any food or alcohol by either cash or credit card.

I look forward to a close association between Members of the SHSOBU and the Victorian Club.

• From **Bill Russo** (69)

I read **Max Hayes'** (91) item about old boys working in film in the last *High Bulletin* with interest. In response to his question as to whether there is a list of others – here are a few more:

The actor **Simon Burke** (78) who acted in the *Devil's Playground* while still at school.

Nick Meyers (79) editor of *The Boys* and *The Bank*.

Iian Kidron (93) a successful recent Screen Composing graduate of AFTRS (Australian Film TV and Radio School) whose brother **Tull** (95) has just been accepted as a student in Location Sound.

Jacob Stretton-Southall (95) runs a successful editing facility in Newtown.

Bob Miller (70) a law graduate works with his brother **George** (63).

I am Head of Editing at AFTRS but currently away editing the new TV series *Young Lions* for Southern Star/Michael Jenkins/9 Network. Among other credits are *Blue Murder*, *Wildside*, *Joh's Jury*, *Come in Spinner*, *Edens Lost*.

There must be more out there.
Oh by the way I rowed in the

"Sweet Revenge" (69) crew that won the rowing at the GPS Gold Challenge last September mentioned in the newsletter. The crew included:

Geoff Franklin (70) – stroke

Randal Lawrence (69)

John Brabant (69)

Col Whelan (69)

Wally Wall (70)

Bill Russo (69)

Tim Schindler (69)

Mark Livingstone (69?)

I row every week (and compete) in a masters eight for North Shore Rowing Club with **Geoff Franklin**, **John Brabant**, **Col Whelan**, **Wally Wall**, **Mark Livingstone**.

I am one of three generations of High boys. My father **Tony Russo** (30) and my son **Paul** (94) also attended.

• From **Jansson Janus Antmann** (92)

While completing my Bachelor degree at the University of Sydney, I produced, directed and designed Andrew Lloyd Webber's *Tell Me on a Sunday* at Sydney's then World Trade Centre (95), before going on to direct and design the Australian premiere of the John Kander and Fred Ebb musical, *The World Goes Round* at the Sydney Opera House (96).

Upon graduating I departed for Europe, settling in Prague where I went on to complete my Master's degree in Set and Costume Design at the Prague Academy of Performing Arts (DAMU), with my Master's project, Leonard Bernstein's *Candidate*, selected for exhibition as part of the 1999 Prague Quadrennial.

In 2000 I designed *The Barber of Seville* for Prague's open-air opera festival in the grounds of the Lichtenstein Palace. Since then I have gone on to work for the BBDO Worldwide network affiliated advertising agencies in Prague as Senior Art Director.

Among the projects I have conceived and designed was the international print and television campaign for the international Monetary Fund and World Bank Group Meetings in Prague, 2000. In addition I have continued in my function as liaison for Andrew Lloyd Webber's Really Useful Group. In this

role I supervised the 2001 Czech premiere of *Tell Me on a Sunday*, also contributing as co-translator, designer and co-director. This production was honoured last month by earning of its star performer, Marta Kubisova, the Czech Republic's highest theatrical honour, the Thalie award, as well as high praise from Czech President and writer, Vaclav Havel.

That outlines in a nutshell what I've spent the last few years doing. Obviously, following the success of *Tell Me on a Sunday*, further projects of a similar vein are being planned, however nothing that I am at liberty to disclose at this time. I send you all my fellow Old Boys, the fondest wishes from Prague.

Continuing the tradition of brilliant Sydney High actors/soap stars, **Stephen Hunt** (98) has shown some flashes of talent on *Neighbours*, as Matt Hancock. Those who know him better will remember him more for his record-breaking performances in the pool, and also his brilliant shooting skills in water polo. He was captain of the SBHS swim and water polo teams in 1998 and was present at the annual swimmers dinner held at the Woollahra Golf Club on April 3. While there, he preached the benefits of GPS swimming, and then went on to discuss his plan to swim the English Channel in July this year. Stephen plans to enter the icy channel waters between July 18 and 23 at Dover, and he estimates the 40-kilometre swim to Calais will take 15 hours. Steve is raising money for the AIDS Trust of Australia (www.aidstrust.com.au) and pledges of support can be made through the Trust.

HMS Pinafore

The following par appeared in Column 8 of *The Sydney Morning Herald*

The obituary of the great US soprano Eileen Farrell noted that her first stage appearance was in high school in Connecticut, playing Buttercup in G & S *HMS Pinafore*. As she appeared at the Metropolitan Opera, Carnegie Hall and the Kennedy Centre, we wonder if she

Continued over page

ever compared notes with **James Wolfensohn** (49), the august chairman of the World Bank, who has been deeply involved at governing level with all three institutions. His first stage performance was at Sydney Boys High in the 1940s, also in *Pinafore* – and also as Buttercup.

And a couple of days later.

Memories of being a marine in *HMS Pinafore* in 1946 at Sydney Boys High with a future chairman of the World Bank singing Buttercup (column 8, Tuesday) have flooded in for **Bob Alger** (47). He has always boasted that he had the same accompanist as Dame Joan Sutherland – the music for *Pinafore* was provided on the piano by a young **Richard Bonyng** (46).

Editors note: Pinafore must have been a great hit because your Editor can dimly remember being a marine in a production in the late 40s. Were there two in the space of three years?

- **Mike Jobbins** (54) recently retired after 40 years teaching at Kurri Kurri. Mike was one of the many Old Boys who carried the Olympic flame.

Due to the long, hard work of **Phil Day** (65) and the other GPS swimming MICs, swimming has finally become an official GPS sport, enabling those boys who excel at swimming to receive the recognition that they deserve.

- **David Eyers** (94) is engaged in postgraduate study at Cambridge and expects to be there for three years.

- **Paul Veltman** (75) has recently joined JB Were as a Director of its Corporate Finance Division. JB Were is one of the top stockbroking and investment houses in Australia.

- The Archives received great patronage at the Anzac ceremony. Visitors included **Ray Neeson** (45),

Bob Higham (38), **Don Heywood** (45) and relatives of Mrs Mackillop.

Donations received include:

- From **Ken Davies** (42), a badge which details GPS participation in Junior Tennis 1940-41 and Junior Athletics 1941. The badge is now placed in the badge drawer with notation included.

- From relatives of Captain **Geoff Bowen** (35) killed in action 1943 in Papua New Guinea, photographs and war information (see story p?)

- From **David Lewis** (73), (current Chairman of the School Council) and son of **Alan Lewis** (32), (former OBU Hon Secretary and Honorary Life Member) and father of **Kieran Lewis** (Year 12), has kindly donated school memorabilia he has painstakingly collected and preserved over the years. This pristine collection included a brief history of the Cadet Unit and its involvement in the cadet movement in New South Wales in 1872, its achievements in the First and Second World War and the growth of the Unit, post war, at a national level. The Cadet Unit's activities included being captured on film, a segment of unarmed combat sequence for army training, cadet representation at State and National functions and the affiliation of the Cadet Unit with 1/RNSWR (Commando) Sydney's own regiment in 1960. This interesting and priceless collection will enhance our growing collection of school memorabilia.

- From Dr **H J Emd** (35)

I am a few months from 84 years of age and am still in active medical practice both at Newtown and the Eastern Suburbs. I still retain a great interest in Eastern and Western medicine. I feel about 39. I was in the same year as **Ralph Blackett** (35) who was Dux of the School and the first Professor of Medicine at the University of NSW.

Also in the same year was the Reverend **Bernard Judd** (35), a great public figure and a superb orator and debater. We both shared the same English teacher **Mr Lynch**. He inspired us all to never stop reading, especially the classics and we loved it. This man remains with me forever. I owe him so much and

all the boys adored him.

My grandson **Michael Walder** is in Year 11 and is in the Rowing Eights. The number of great pupils my old school has produced seems endless – a marvellous record.

- From **Arthur W Haddon** (42) I have never been concerned about the Old Boys Union as I have spent many years either interstate or intrastate and knew that you would not have been able to contact me with information re the Union as the name used at Sydney High turned out not to be my legal name. The recent controversy over elite schools and seeing reference to the school in letters to *The Daily Telegraph* prompted my action in locating you.

I was enrolled at Sydney High from Erskineville Special in 1939 or 1940 as **William Duncan** using my stepfather's surname. When I joined the Navy in 1944 I found that I had not been legally adopted, so took my father's name as per the birth certificate.

- From **Stan Ellis** (38)

Many thanks for the e-mail of the *Bulletin*. I wonder how many survivors other than myself remain of the classes of 1938. I am almost 80 but am active as secretary of a Probus club, the largest in the Southern Hemisphere, with 308 members. I am also secretary of a Seniors computer club, with 45 members, which I founded within Probus, having obtained in 1999 a TAFE Diploma in Information technology. I retain fond memories of the school and of the three close friends I made there in the persons of **Richard Steele**, **Byron Munro** and **Philip Morris**, all of whom are now deceased. My motto is still "Veritate et Virtute".

Stan was writing in response to the new OBU E-bulletin which is being distributed to all members with e-mail addresses. The OBU has two very active young editors dedicated to keeping us all up to date with pertinent OBU news. The first issue for 2002 was distributed in July and we were surprised to find we had 300 e-mail addresses that were out of date.

If you have forgotten to keep us informed, please send in

**HOW TO
GET INTO TOUCH**

Phone: **02 9549 2704**
 Fax: **02 9315 7796**
 E-mail:
admin@shsobu.org.au
 Internet:
www.shsobu.org.au

your current email address to the union

Its easy just e-mail

Admin@shsobu.org.au

- From **Mark Denton** (92)

I have just booked our 10-year-old School Reunion. Below are the final details.

INVITES:

Sydney Boys' High Class of 1992 and teachers (no partners).

DATE:

12 October starting at 7pm (note that the date has changed from previous emails so that it doesn't coincide with the long weekend).

VENUE:

Foresters Hotel, Cassata Bar, Level 3, 336 Riley Street, Surry Hills.

COST:

\$30 per person to cover the venue, plenty of finger food and possibly a drink if we get enough numbers. Please let me know if you are vegetarian. Further drinks to be purchased at the bar.

RSVP: By emailing me and paying by 1 October.

As I need to confirm numbers and pay for food before the night, I need to receive everyone's money by 1 October. There are two ways that

you can get the money to me.

1) Send a cheque to me at the address below.

2) Put the money in my bank account (Name: Mark Ian Denton, BSB 012-396, Account 5561-74348). Please make sure that you put your name on the transaction so I can see where the money has come from.

Please don't just turn up on the night with your \$30 as there will not be enough food and if I am unable to confirm that enough people are coming before the night then I will be out of pocket.

Finally, please pass on this email to anyone from our year who is not on the list and encourage them to contact Tony Elliott on telliott@apra.com.au to receive future correspondence. Note that in the past Tony has tried to interest someone to become a moderator of the list. This would be very useful in ensuring that emails regarding the reunion get out to everyone.

Help Wanted

- From **David Lyon** (68)

d.lyon@unsw.edu.au

I have lost contact with Dr **John Mitchell** (68) who went to work in

England about 4-5 years ago after working as a Paediatrician in Bathurst for many years. John left SHS the same year as myself and I would like to make contact. Can you supply an address or email address.

Editors Note: The OBU has also lost contact with John. Can anyone assist?

- From **Russ Law** (46)

In our March 2002 issue Russ asked for help in locating his mate **Kevin Fetherston**. We were successful. He writes:

Many thanks for your help finding **Kevin Fetherston** (note spelling). We spoke for nearly an hour on the phone and hardly scratched the surface of our recollections. We and our wives intend to visit for a few days in May either at St Huberts Island or Banora Point, depending on my travel ability. I will suggest that he rejoin the OBU. His son, **Robert** (81) was at High and was a successful schoolboy sportsman.

We are trying to locate **Steve (Snowy) Hamilton** (67). Can anyone assist?

Anzac Ceremony

Editors Note: The Anzac Ceremony at the School is open to all Old Boys and the OBU encourages you to attend.

BOOKS AND WRITING

The following books have been donated to the OBU Section of the School Library

Kings Cross Boy in the Sixties

by **Colin Sherwood** (74)

An extract

"Sydney Boys' High School was certainly a far cry from Darlinghurst Public School. At the beginning of the 1969 school year I was still, in actual fact, only 11 years old (I turned 12 two weeks later). After all the preliminaries had been dealt with I was allocated to Class 1C at Sydney Boys' High School. In theory this meant that there were at least 60 students (i.e. Classes 1A and 1B) who were considered more intelligent than me. Straight away this was very off-putting to an 11-year-old who throughout his 6 years at Darlo' had always been in the top one or two students in his class.

This initial dent to my confidence

was compounded when I began to communicate with the 1A and 1B students. The majority of them seemed to speak on a different wavelength to me and most things that they said went completely over my head. Further, a number of my fellow 1C students, as well as some 1D students, frequently picked on me and bullied me. The combination of all the setbacks I have mentioned heralded not a very enjoyable introduction for me to Sydney Boys' High School."

The Class of 35 at War

Was recently presented to the Library with appreciation and gratitude by a pupil of 1925 - 1929. The four members of the Class of 1935 Faculty of Medicine in this book who matriculated from Sydney High School at the end of 1929 were:

Malcolm Stening, Clive Statham, Philip Simons who were in the Navy and **Bertie Khan** who was the Cox of the winning VIII in 1929 who served in the RAAF.

About The Author

Malcolm James Lees Stening

was born at Bondi. His primary education was at the Bondi Superior Public School whence he gained his Qualifying Certificate (QC) to commence his secondary education at Sydney High School first at Ultimo and then at Moore Park. He matriculated in the Leaving Certificate in 1929 with a Public Exhibition to study Medicine at the University of Sydney. Academic qualifications achieved on graduation in 1935 were Bachelor of Medicine (MB) and Bachelor of Surgery (BS) Honours.



The classes of 41 -45 assembled in the quadrangle after the service.

1941-45 ANZAC Service

Last April some 70 members of the classes of 41 to 45 together with their wives and partners assembled outside the Great Hall and were welcomed by the Principal, Dr K Jaggar.

Jack Brooks (44) who attended wrote "I register with you appreciation for the School's recent Anzac Commemoration Service held in the Great Hall. It was indeed a great little get together. A school prefect showed June and I around the complete school. It was a magnificent gesture on his part."

The Principal then led the procession of Old Boys' into the Great Hall where 800 students were assembled. Students **Hamish Nairn, Hugh James and Connor Hannan** delivered the following addresses on the theme - **Reflections on War and its Impact.**

Connor Hannan

Today I'm going to talk to you about my grandfather, Peter Badcoe, who won the Victoria Cross, for gallantry during the Vietnam War for actions partaken between 23 February - 7 April 1967. Since its creation in 1856, the Victoria Cross has been the highest British award for outstanding bravery in combat. I will now outline my grandfather's time in the army and the actions that caused him to win this highly prestigious medal.

On 23 February 1967 he was acting as adviser to Regional Force Company

in support of a Sector operation in Phu Thu District. He monitored a radio transmission which stated that the sub sector Adviser, an American officer, had been killed and that his body was within 50 metres of an enemy machine gun position. An American medic also been wounded and was in immediate danger from the enemy. My grandfather, with complete disregard for his own safety, moved alone across 600 metres of fire swept ground and reached the wounded medic, attended to him and ensured his future safety. He then organised a force of one platoon and led them towards the enemy post. His personal leadership, words of encouragement, and actions in the face of hostile enemy fire forced the platoon to successfully assault the enemy position and capture it. He then picked up the body of the dead officer and ran back to the command post over open ground still covered by enemy fire.

On 7 March 1967, at approximately 0645 hours, the Sector Reaction Company was deployed to Quang Dien sub sector to counter an attack by the Viet Cong on the Headquarters. Major Badcoe left the command group after their vehicle broke down and a United States officer was killed. He joined the

company headquarters and personally led the company in an attack over open terrain to assault and capture a heavily defended enemy position. His personal courage and leadership turned certain defeat into victory and prevented the enemy from capturing the District Headquarters.

On 7 April 1967, on an operation in Huong Tra District, Major Badcoe was with the 1st ARVN Division Reaction Company and some armoured personnel carriers. During the move forward to an objective the company came under heavy small arms fire and withdrew to a cemetery for cover. This left my grandfather and his radio operator about 50 metres in front of the leading elements, under heavy mortar fire. Seeing this withdrawal Major Badcoe ran back to them and by encouragement and example got them moving forward. He then set out in front of the company to lead them on.

The company stopped again under heavy fire but Major Badcoe continued on and prepared to throw grenades. When he rose to throw a grenade, his radio operator pulled him down as heavy small arms fire was being brought to bear on them.

He later got up again to throw a grenade and was hit and killed by a



burst of machine gun fire.

You see, for this bravery my grandfather was awarded the Victoria Cross posthumously.

He was never given the award. When my grandfather died my mother was 10, she had two sisters aged 5 and 7. My mother grew up without a father as did her sisters.

My grandmother raised three children without a husband. I never met my grandfather, I grew up without one.

The repercussions of grandfather's death are huge for my family and although pride sweeps through my heart for his valiant actions, he is sorely missed by many, including family who never met him, such as myself. I can't but help think of the thousands of families like this and the impact each death that war has caused, has had.

Every year on Anzac Day during the minute of silence I think of my grandfather's brave actions and I am proud. I think of the brave actions thousands of young men and women partook in during wartime over the years, I am proud. Then I think of my mother's childhood that he missed, the hardships my grandmother faced raising three children on her own, I think of the grandfather I never had, this saddens me deeply. My grandfather died fighting for his country, and I am proud, but my mother grew up and lived her life, all the time asking, 'why?'

Hugh James

Flung into the abyss of war, a generation was lost. To understand the loss, consider those around you – your mates, your beloved family, your friends and your relatives – and think to yourself, “they are gone.” This void, multiplied thousands of times over, does not replicate the reality of war.

Lest we forget those lost to war.

Also, Lest we forget the lessons of war. The following is an extract from Brigadier General Count Gleichen's personal diary of 1917:

When going round the trenches, I asked a man whether he had had any shots at the Germans. He responded that there was an elderly gentleman with a bald head and a long beard who often showed himself over the parapet. “Well why didn't you shoot him?” a man asked, to which he replied, “Why, Lord bless you sir, he's never done me no harm.”

This is a case of live and let live, and it challenges us to ask ourselves some questions:

Should the man shoot the enemy? Is it his moral obligation to protect his national people, and to therefore pull the trigger? Or is it his moral obligation to refrain from killing?

The youth of the war-generations, bright eyed and bushy tailed, held the horrible privilege of answering these questions in practice. Each individual

was forced to deal with them, not as hypothetical questions, but as real-life choices. War necessitated the case to be so.

Let war challenge us today – imagine Brigadier Gleichen: imagine the vile stench of corpses, the grogginess of fatigue, the rats fat with human meat, the fear of imminent death, and, imagining that you were he, ask yourself, ‘what would I do?’

Lest we forget.

Lest we forget the great sacrifices of those who fought and died.

Lest we forget the great sacrifices of their friends and family.

Lest we forget the lessons of war.

Hamish Nairn

I know no one closely who has fought in combat for Australia. I am not closely related to anyone who has died in combat for Australia. That is because we live in an age of relative peace. Europe is the most stable that it has been for two centuries, and our nation has strong diplomatic and trade ties with many countries throughout the world.

For my generation, even the cold war is something to be studied in the history books: I was only four when the Berlin wall fell, and some of the students in this hall were yet to be born. So we find ourselves today in a sense of complacency, and a new generation is growing that is devoid

Continued over page

41-45 Reunion

Continued from previous page

of the emotions and experience of war and its impact on society. The tragic events of September the 11th last year exemplified this complacent nature, as one shocking event so deeply surprised us.

So it is, with the death at home of **Sir Roden Cutler**, and abroad with the Queen Mother that we see that a new age is upon us. It is not good or bad but still inevitable that we can see that the memories of World War 1 and 2 have moved from the homes and the pubs to the RSLs and the history books.

So the term, 'lest we forget' has become more important and valid.

For our parents' generation, it was Vietnam, for our grandparents' World War 2 and for our great-grandparents' World War 1. In each generation, from trenches to tanks to tactical officers, Aussies fought and died for us.

And it is true; surely, that society has changed much since the days of the world wars, but it is also true that it has only been able to, due to its defence over several periods during the 20th century. Our country is what it is today because of those Australians, many of whom we, the people of today, do not know. So, it is very important that we take this day and this assembly to acknowledge and respect those people.

If Australia was again put in a position of threat, and I was asked to join the ranks to defend it, whether here or abroad, I would not simply think to do it for my country against the enemy. I would not simply do it for the flag. And I would not simply do it for the pride of my nation.

But: I would think that I would fight because I have lived – and still do live – in a free, open, and beautiful country whose people I *never* knew *fought* to be this way, so I may fight for someone I will never know.

We have, at the front of the hall, many old boys, who we may not know personally, but we do know and are grateful for everyday by living the life we live in the nation we love.

For this invisible Aussie mateship, I thank them.

Lest We Forget

At the Anzac Ceremony a member of the late **Hal Dent's** (38) family asked that we publish the following "if I don't come back" letter. It was written by Hal prior to an operation and lodged with his Commanding Officer. Fortunately Hal survived the War. Hal's family hopes that it serves as a reminder to younger Old Boys of the courage of that generation and expressed the wish that no Old Boy will ever have to write a similar letter again.

411428 P/O Dent, H.I.C.
#461 SQDN RAAF
England
Oct 30

"Mother Darling,

I hope this letter never reaches you but I am writing it just in case. For this morning I am going on to another squadron for a month on a job which has been described as important and which entails a certain amount of risk more than ...

I am pleased that I am going, not because I am one of those brave foolhardy lads that you read about so often, but for these two reasons. Firstly, if I come through, and there is no reason to suppose I shouldn't, I will have had some very good experience. Secondly, if I don't then you will know that I bought it on an offensive action. The aircraft on which I am to fly this month is a Halifax.

Many times in my life I know that by my indiscretions and misdemeanors I have caused both you and Dad many heartburns. But on each of these occasions, my conscience has paid the full price for my errors.

Since I have been away I think I have lost quite a bit of that selfishness and thoughtlessness which were an integral portion of my pre war character. I have tried my hardest to be an exemplary son to you so that I might cause you as little worry as possible. For I have always said that this war is hardest on those we leave behind for as you always imagine us to be in situations far more dangerous than we actually are.

Please remember, darling, that I volunteered not only for the cause of all free people, but also as a Jew, so that I might add my small effort to aid in the downfall of the Nazi machine.

I have enjoyed myself to the utmost in those quick 15 months that I have been away from home, and whilst I treasure life and all that it holds for me I would like you to know that if I am one of the unlucky ones who does not return, that my passing on has been painless.

I don't think there is much else for me to say here. Look after Dad and Norma as you always have done. Do this, and live the future in the knowledge that I chose this life, knowing full well what the future was and that if ever I had my choice again I shouldn't hesitate in doing the same again."

Hal Dent (38) went to Cleveland Street for three years and then to Sydney Boys High from 1937 to 1938 passing the leaving certificate in 1938. He excelled in sports, representing the school in athletics, football and cricket. On leaving school joined Woolworths Ltd as a "management trainee". He joined the RAAF. He did his "basic" in Australia, then to Edmonton in Canada in the "Empire Training Scheme." Where he graduated as a navigator later he joined his operational squadron "#416 RAAF" a unit of "coastal command."

Captain Geoffrey Thomas Bowen (35)

"Don't worry, I'll bounce! ... Look after Mum!" They were last words of farewell from Captain Geoffrey Thomas Bowen on his final leave. Briefly, these words expressed his courage, and his concern for his parents, sisters and friends. Geoff, at 20 years, had joined the AIF in 1940, deeply concerned about events overseas and the defence of Australia. He trained with soldiers of the 22nd Anti Tank Company. He was very proud and fond of these "lads" and they of him, bringing many home when on leave. Now, as Sergeant, Geoff was sent to Officer Training School, the 22nd Anti Tank Company was posted to Rabaul. When they were captured by the Japanese, Geoff immediately transferred to a Commando Unit, "must get those lads out!" As Captain of the 2/7 Independent Company, Geoff was sent to New Guinea, and was killed in action, January 1943, whilst defending Wau Airport. His grave was never found.

Moore Park

Every Sydney High School student of the past 70 or so years will be familiar with the School's bear pits, however, significantly fewer will know the story behind the School's Moore Park site.

Joseph Waugh (87) writes:

Moore Park, originally part of an area of 1,000 acres set aside by Governor Lachlan Macquarie as common pasturage in 1811, is named after Charles Moore, a prominent citizen of Sydney and Mayor of the City from 1867 until 1869. He was instrumental in establishing the right of the City Council to maintain the Common as parkland for the recreation of the people of Sydney and round about. The Sydney Common, later to be known as Moore Park, was dedicated on 5 October 1866. It was not until 1879, that the High School site, then known as Billygoat Swamp, was set aside for the establishment of a Zoological Garden.

The Zoological Society of New South Wales was originally envisaged as a "Society for the acclimatisation of song birds and useful game." At least this is what the circular advertising the inaugural meeting of 24 March 1879, suggests. Two names appeared on this first circular one of whom, **Walter Bradley**, (1887) came to be known as the founder of the Zoo.

In its early days the Society engaged in "acclimatisation" activities. A number of game and other birds were purchased and liberated in the State. Fish were also imported and farmed, including brown trout. English perch were bred and harvested in one of Moore Park's ornamental lakes.

The most significant additions to the collection in 1883 were two elephants. Jumbo, a gift to the Society from the King of Siam, arrived at Circular Quay on 12 July 1883, while Jessie, the younger of the two, arrived near the end of 1883.

Jessie lived to see the move to Taronga Park in 1916. She died some time later and her hide was then purchased by the Sydney Grammar School, which used it to make leather boots for its horse. The horse's main task was to draw a two ton sandstone roller in preparation of the turf wicket at the Weigall Sports Ground and the

boots were employed to protect the wicket from its hoofs. It would seem Jessie remained profitable to the end.

The bears also received considerable attention, with one bear pit taking pride of place in the embankment at the entrance to the gardens on Randwick Road (now Anzac Parade). At least one of the two pits dates from 1883, originally without the flights of steps which now run up either side. These, however, would seem to have been added soon after. To entertain the crowds the unfortunate animals had to climb poles placed in the centre of each of the circular pits. There is also some evidence of the use of balls and swings. Their daily ration was generally a thick soup of meat, pollard, grain, and potatoes, turnips, or cabbage when in season. This concoction was boiled for several hours before serving. The large open pits were apparently too much of a temptation for some visitors who attempted to supplement the bears' diets. There is one account of an attempt to harm the bears in 1892 when some youths apparently threw down a hollow cork which contained a lolly surrounded by a row of pins. Fortunately the attempt did not succeed.

The years around the turn of the century were rather unfortunate for the Zoo. In 1900 a disastrous flood was caused by a burst water main in Cleveland Street. This was followed in 1901 by a drought, and in April, 1902, the Zoo was closed due to an outbreak of Bubonic Plague among the animals. Of the 25 animals that died at the time only five were actually diagnosed as having succumbed to the Plague. The subsequent vigorous disinfecting was thought to be responsible for killing the largest number. It was suspected that the Plague was carried into the Zoo by the rats from the nearby tip at Moore Park (now the Golf Course). The outbreak set the Zoo back considerably as much had to be burned. The Zoo reopened on 18 August of that year.

As if this was not enough, religious fundamentalists sought to exact their toll. The years around the turn of the century saw agitation over Sunday Observance, including

an unsuccessful attempt by one gentleman in 1906 to bring an action against the Zoo's board under the *Sunday Observance Act*, an old English Act from the time of George III, which had remained in force in New South Wales.

The Zoo Outgrows its Site

By 1910 it had become clear that the Zoo's Moore Park gardens were unsatisfactory. The site was too open, subject to flooding, too near the tip, and the cages did not conform to recently emerging views on the keeping of animals. The site was also too small. The 15 acres at Moore Park compared unfavourably with the Zoos of other Australian cities – Melbourne had 50 acres and Perth had 40.

During its 32 years at Moore Park, the Zoo received approximately 5,500,000 people. Many of whom were admitted free or at a nominal rate on Sundays. The school children of the state were always given free run of the Society's collections.

With the transfer of the animals the Moore Park Zoo was closed some four years before the expiration of the Society's lease there. The site was eventually dedicated for the Sydney Girls' High School in November, 1919. They occupied the site from 1921 followed by the Boys' School in 1928.

The only reminders of the old Zoo, apart from the occasional flooding on the site of the ornamental ponds (filled in by 1929), are the two bear pits, one in each school. These pits have, over the last 70 years, been used as places for punishing miscreant girls, completing unfinished homework, and more recently, the storing of maintenance equipment and disused school furniture. The Girls' School bear pit apparently spent some time as a fernery from 1928. When a new building was planned in the late 1960s, the Headmaster of the Boys' School, **Murray Callaghan**, prevailed on government officials to preserve the Boy's bear pit. The resulting courtyard and preserved bear pit are now the central features of the Sir Charles McDonald Building which was opened in 1972.

SHS Old Boys' Union Annual Report 2001–2002

It is with pleasure I present the Annual Report of the Sydney High School Old Boys' Union for 2001-2002.

The Executive Council has met monthly to conduct the business of the Union during the year 2001-2002.

The Union thanks the following for their representations on the various bodies on our behalf during the year.

School Council

Graeme Dunn

Nathan Scudder

Joseph Waugh

SHS Foundation

Lee Ruth

Cam Lyon

Ken Baret

Norm Lamerton

Jim Flowers

Terry Pullinger

The Ladies Auxiliary once again provided significant support, both social and funding. Their efforts are much appreciated. Thank you, Ladies.

SHS had a major year in GPSOBU activities. **Ken Baret** (40) was elected their President. The GPSOBU Church Service was conducted at High and thanks go to Bishop **Brian King** (54) and his team for an excellent Service. SHS was the only School to be represented at all the other GPSOBU dinners thanks to **Ken Baret**, **Nathan Scudder** and **John Goddard**. A meeting of the GPSOBU Council was hosted at Abbotsford. The Delegates all proclaimed the facilities as the best on the River.

Some of the activities of the Union in 2001-2002 are as follows:

- A first-class production of the *Bulletin*.
- A Rowing committee to assist SHS Rowing through coaching and fundraising.
- A group led by **Mark Livingstone** (69) representing High in the GPS Gold Challenge in which they won the Rowing.
- Creation of a Database of all SHS Rowers.
- Creation of a Networking Database to assist the Principal in providing Career support and advice to Students.

- Provision of Old Boy Speakers for School Assemblies.
- Involvement in Foundation Day and other School Assemblies.
- Creation of a Database of all Captains, Vice Captains and Prefects to enable a reunion to assist in the development of support for the School.
- Organisation of a Dinner in Melbourne for Victorian-based Old Boys.
- Preparation of a plan to publish a book about Old Boys.
- Planning for investment of Union funds.
- The 2001 OBU Dinner at the AJC. A great social event with lively debate. Thanks to **Jim Norrie** (40) and **Graeme Dunn** (52) for their excellent organisation.
- An outstanding ANZAC Assembly at the School attended by some 70 Old Boys from the 1940-45 era.
- Involvement of the Student Representative Council in the support of the OBU Website, thus building links with the Students.
- Preparation for funding support for the School's 75th Anniversary at Moore Park and the Roden Cutler Drive.

On accepting the Presidency I stated an aim of recruiting some younger Old Boys to the Executive Council. I am pleased to report the recruitment of:

Mark Livingstone (1969)

Alex Apoifis (Vice Captain 2000)

Nick Armstrong (Captain 2001)

They are providing excellent new input.

As a further move toward involvement of recent members of a Sub Committee, **Nathan Scudder** (Chair) is planning a BBQ for later this year as a prelude to a GPS Rugby game to provide an opportunity for younger Old Boys to socialise. We need young blood, it is essential for our future.

As you are no doubt aware we have set up a sub committee to consider a range of issues relating to the future of the School. This initiative has resulted in considerable comment and publicity for the School.

Hopefully significant good will result.

Sadly during the year we lost our Patron, Sir **Roden Cutler** (33). Sir Roden was a major supporter of the OBU for many years and could always be seen at the Dinner chatting with many friends. He will be missed.

It however gives me great pleasure tonight to propose for election as our Patron, **Jim Norrie** (40).

Jim has provided huge input over many years and I am sure he will do us proud.

It also gives me pleasure to propose the list before you for election as Vice Patrons. We are indeed fortunate to have a collection such as these who are prepared to support us.

Congratulations to all the many Old Boys who have achieved success in many fields of endeavour during the year.

Several persons deserve our thanks for their efforts during the year – **Jim Flowers** (79), James Hsieh and **Neerav Bhatt** (99)

Thanks must also go to Dr **Kim Jaggard** for his support and cooperation.

The SHSOBU could not function as well as it does without our intrepid Secretary – **Lee Ruth** (51).

From all of us, thanks, Lee.

Thank you all for a great year and let us all work for another in 2002-2003.

John Goddard
President

Auditor Needed

Recently our auditor **F Tony Mason** (57) retired. We are very grateful for the help Tony has provided. Tony has a long and distinguished record of service to the School, the OBU and the Foundation. His retirement has meant the OBU and Foundation is looking for Audit services on a professional basis from a qualified and interested Old Boy. If you are able to assist please call the Secretary on 02 95492704 to register your interest.

Income and Expenditure Statement

FOR THE YEAR ENDED 31 DECEMBER 2001

	2001 \$	2000 \$
INCOME		
Subscriptions		
Ordinary	22,121	20,683
Life Membership	17,550	15,425
Donations		
SHSOBU Ladies Auxiliary	500	500
Other	2,980	7,310
Profit/Loss on Trading		
Centenary History Book Sales	631	1,119
Reunion Dinners		
Annual Dinner	6,682	8,938
1951 Reunion Dinner	-	(195)
Expenses Recovered from SLM Fund	5,445	5,905
Other Income	459	164
Interest received	2,755	1,456
TOTAL INCOME	59,123	61,305

Less EXPENSES

Accountancy fees	485	-
Amortization	646	-
Annual Dinner Expenses	6,953	7,938
Auditor's Remuneration	2,070	2,010
Bank Charges and Merchant Fees	1,056	1,046
Bulletin & Postage	12,899	16,442
Computer & Software Expenses	511	763
Consultancy Fees	4,847	6,120
Courier Expenses	324	167
Depreciation	1,014	1,055
Donations	1,900	700
General expenses	1,586	165
Meeting expenses	1,072	711
Printing and Postage - membership etc	5,730	3,646
Printing - General	3,332	3,296
Secretarial expenses	2,124	1,898
Stock written off	295	-
Student Life Membership running costs	1,872	2,542
Subscription - GPS Old Boys Council	150	150
TOTAL EXPENSES	48,866	48,649
Net Surplus for the Year	10,257	12,656

Balance Sheet

AS AT 31 DECEMBER 2001

	2000 \$	2001 \$
CURRENT ASSETS		
Cash	69,232	60,235
Receivables	875	760
Inventories	14,626	13,672
TOTAL CURRENT ASSETS	84,733	74,667
NON CURRENT ASSETS		
Property, Plant & Equipment	314	1,328
Intangibles	-	-
NON CURRENT ASSETS	314	646
TOTAL ASSETS	85,047	76,641
CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Other	260	-
TOTAL CURRENT LIABILITIES	260	-
NON CURRENT LIABILITIES		
Creditors & Borrowings	48,186	50,298
TOTAL NON CURRENT LIABILITIES	48,186	50,298
TOTAL LIABILITIES	48,446	50,298
NET ASSETS	36,601	26,343
ACCUMULATED FUNDS		
Balance at 1 January 2001	26,344	10,257
Net Surplus for the Year	13,687	12,656
TOTAL ACCUMULATED FUNDS	36,601	26,343

To contact the Secretary, call 02 9549 2704 or 0419 672 758 or email leeruth@rci.com.au Please remember that Lee works in an honorary capacity, and any formal dialogue, such as changes of addresses, should be in email form or mailed to: PO Box 114, Darlinghurst 1300.

THE HEADMASTERS'
75TH ANNIVERSARY
APPEAL

\$ **75**
for 75 years

Help us fund the Cutler Memorial Drive
to commemorate the School's 75 years
at Moore Park

Tax Deductible donations maybe sent to:
SBHS Building Foundation Fund
C/- Sydney Boys' High School, Moore Park
Surry Hills NSW 2010

- From **Robert Darroch** (57)

I trust and hope I am not the only Old Boy to write to protest, in the strongest possible terms, about the tone and content of your last issue. Some of the remarks published were downright racist ("Year 7 is currently 90 percent Asian") and inexcusable in a journal purporting to be the voice of the School and the alumni.

The references to "the School's traditional sports of rowing, cricket and football" were particularly offensive; the slur being that the so-called Asian composition of the student body was to blame for the School's recent (admittedly poor) performance on the sports field.

It brought back to mind the fawning attention lavished in my day on the muddied oafs and flannelled fools (and, even worse, on the demi-gods of the rowing shed) who strutted about in their beribboned blazers, and from whose burly ranks the prefects were chosen, and whose gormless activities were held up to us each week at Assembly as the height of schoolboy achievement.

Selection and advancement at Sydney High should be based on one criterion only – mental ability and performance. (Or is it being suggested that we add sporting preferment to that of nepotism?) If the sprouts of Old Boys can't cut the intellectual mustard, let them find somewhere else to go.

I'm proud to be the Old Boy of a school that now places academic pursuits above sporting prowess and family preference.

You quoted Kipling's "if" (which, by the way, is not a sonnet). Perhaps the more apt quote for the issue is from his poem "We and They":

All good people agree,
And all good people say,
All nice people, like Us, are We
And everyone else is They

- From **Melissa Holmes** (82)

With much interest as an "agitated parent", I read in today's *Herald* of your organisation's attempt to change the entry requirements to Sydney High. As a Sydney High old girl and now a single parent of a bright, sporty and local son, I feel compelled to contact you.

The issue of tutoring skewing the selective school entry test has been one of great concern to me. In my

son's class, about half are coached. This proportion will, of course, be in the majority as the test approaches. This method of entry is painfully apparent when I see the demographics of the school now and frustrates me no end, especially when I compare it to the talented diversity of my day.

As a single mother of an accomplished child, my resources are limited and for him to end up at Randwick Boys High (machete attacks on other schools?!) because he is not tutored riles me. Though it would not be impossible for me to pay for coaching, my moral stance may see my child wasted. Surely those who can afford coaching can afford private schools. I hear of children commuting from the Blue Mountains to get to Sydney High which is, at the end of the day, a public school.

My son was in the top 10% of the State in his Year 3 Basic Skills test, received dux of his year award in Year 4 as well as the football prize. He has trophies for rugby league, rugby union, cricket, shot-put and chess. He attends Kensington Public School and we live ten minutes walk from the school. He would once have been considered prime material for High, given his accomplishments in both the academic and sporting fields, his locality and his history within the school. (My twin brother, **John Holmes** (82), was vice captain of Sydney Boys in 1982 and captained both the First XV and the First VI. My father, also **John Holmes**, graduated from Sydney Boys High in about 1957 and also had a distinguished record). According to the criteria of Dr **Jaggard** in today's *Herald*, my son is "the excellent all rounder, the modern Renaissance man that we're trying to produce." All of this counts for nothing without coaching and this issue is changing the school for the worse. I cannot imagine the new Sydney High turning out judges or Wallabies or international film producers or men of the high calibre of my father and brother. My father was the first in his family to attend high school, let alone University, and he ended up a lawyer. No more is it considered a privilege to attend High. Rather, it represents hard work, cold cash and the sacrifice of youth – sport, fun, growing up – thereby producing a dull and neurotic alumni with no stars and many cogs. The consequential change in the sporting and creative traditions of

Sydney High are indeed weakening the school and should change.

- From **Peter Say** (46)

In 1941 when I was a sixth class lad at Double Bay Public School the whole class sat for the QC, the Qualifying Certificate, to determine what secondary schools we would go to. I remember I missed out by one place to go to the SHS, much to my bitter disappointment at the time, and was sent off to Cleveland Street Intermediate High. Some boys went to Sydney Technical High School at Darlinghurst which was on a par (almost) with SHS, and the less gifted finished up at Darlinghurst Junior Tech. After serving my time (and it seemed like that) at Clevo, I was delighted to be accepted into the great SHS where, I had learned, there was no caning. This point appealed to me immensely after being caned on the hand summer and winter for three years for the slightest offence by the Clevo Principal Dixon and his henchmen. A handful of us came over from Clevo to fill the places left by the boys who went off to apprenticeships and the like, because in those days it was important to start earning as soon as possible to take the load off Mum and Dad.

This new school seemed to me a wonderful place full of kids who could do remarkable things like play the piano or the violin, shoot real guns, wear cadet uniforms one day a week, make speeches and the like. So that when the first football season came I was inspired to put my body on the line, as they say, and actually play rugby, and then later "do" rowing. I never progressed beyond a permanent place in the Third Fifteen and the Third Four, but I did learn the joy of winning now and again, and more frequently, learned to lose graciously. Neither was my schoolwork very brilliant, but I did manage to matriculate, and with the inspiration that my chemistry teacher, **Lenny Bassar**, gave me, go on to work in the chemical industry for the next 52 years.

I believe that a schooling at SHS was, and is, not only for the great high achievers that are celebrated in issues of the *High Bulletin*, and of whom we are all justifiably proud, but also the rest of us ordinary mortals who nevertheless have gained much from our time at the school and have perhaps excelled in less prominent ways. SHS

was selective in my day, and was later changed so that sons of old boys could gain entry. I am grateful for that, and for the fact that both my sons **Paul** (78) and **Bill** (81) were able to get in during that time. They have both been greatly enriched by the experience and I am immensely proud of them both.

Now that it is again selective, perhaps the school does not perform as well in sports, but that does not mean that she fails, or will continue to fail to produce great individual sportsmen along with distinguished men in other less physical fields of endeavour. Perhaps in the future all that will change will be the names; so that then the prominent old boys will include the Wangs, the Ngs, Wolfensohn, et al, and (dare I say it) the Says.

• From **Oggie Kolev** (97)

My name is **Oggie Kolev** (97) and a proud Old Boy of one of Australia's premier education institutions, as I am sure you will undoubtedly agree.

I also have a younger brother, **Bob Kolev** who is currently in Year 11 at High. You may have heard of his name being mentioned in Sports assemblies as he is a member of the 2nd Grade Tennis Team, and a new addition to Mr **Tony Hannon's** lethal 1st XV in the position of breakaway.

At any regard, I am not writing this email in an effort to brag on my family's involvement at High, rather a more attending concern.

Currently I study Financial Management at the University of Arkansas, USA, where I am due to complete my fourth year. Always looking forward to receiving mail from home, I found myself deeply interested in reading the latest *High Bulletin* (March 2002), which my parents had kindly sent in the mail.

I would like to draw particular attention to the "President's Column" in the issue which I find immensely important. I must express my deep concern for the future of one of our nation's most prestigious traditions – HIGH. It is without doubt that in recent years much of the student body has expressed a deep disinterest in following a true pursuit of universal education that a GPS school provides. By this I do not mean the HSC results, rather a pursuit of all possible avenues, such as athletics and the arts, that High

provides to the selected students. Indeed, it is to my disappointment to hear that many students fail to represent their school in sporting fixtures on Saturday or participate in School organized theatre productions. I firmly believe that academics take much of the student's time, however participating in other school organised activities ought to be another priority to the GPS student. After all, there are only a selected number of GPS schools across NSW and we, the OBU, ought to do everything in our power to keep High in the GPS and re-establish the importance of family successions by providing allowance for siblings.

I would love for my sons and grandsons to attend High, sing the School song, and yell out the war-cry on Saturdays.

• From **Daniel Gilbourd** (2000)

While normally I merely glance through the OBU rag and note how many names in bold I can recognize, the recent bunch of *SMH* articles has led to me having a read of an article.

So I would like to comment on what I believe is a point of great concern for many old and current High boys. The School once associated itself with the motto "it is a disgrace to be content to come last." And to this day it always excels in at least a large number of fields. Thus it greatly irritates me and many others that such unseemly focus is placed on the rugby and rowing camp, which year after year has no chance in the competitions.

Why not? Because certain other schools place so much value on the sports that the goal of making a well rounded student is forgone and that is something not seen at SBHS. Conversely, the school's true achievements of being the best school in Australia for maths, and one of the best overall academically, as well as real achievements of "minor" sports like fencing, volleyball, rifle shooting and soccer struggle to get in to the tail end of rowing assemblies.

If certain old boys want their children to become "nice chaps" who are racist, can't see past the football field or the next erg, and expect their children to follow in their footsteps, then certain other GPS schools, usually put down by High Boys, are the place to go. Conversely, if the school is to

remain a place where the leaders of the future go, it must seek out the best students and facilitate their ability in whatever field they choose.

• From **John Chapple** (72)

The future of Sydney High Rowing

I have recently received a second glossy brochure regarding the above. The first I believe was received in late 2001. I considered the first brochure and the letter with which it came for a considerable period of time before deciding not to respond for fear of saying something inappropriate or socially unacceptable.

The second brochure came at about the time I was speaking to another Old Boy regarding his two sons and how well they are going at Newington. They weren't the smartest boys in the world and he didn't want to put them through the "selection process". They are however good cricketers and footballers and will probably both play in either/or the First XII and First XV.

The point of the above is that until the school changes its position on the availability of places for sons of Old Boys, there will be a continual movement of sons of Old Boys to other schools, particularly other GPS schools.

Until there is a change, then in my view rowing at High will never again be competitive. I have grave concerns about the school's ability in say five years time to put crews on the water and teams on the field.

I will soon be having dinner with a dozen or so of my closest friends, to celebrate our 30 years since leaving High. They will include the 1972 Captain, **Rob Middleton**, and several of the members of First VIII and First XV of that year. It will be a sad night in some ways because I know the talk will come around to how the school has evolved. We were more than competitive then, and a large part of that was because many of the teams and crews were made up of sons of Old Boys. I wonder how many sons of Old Boys were in the First VIII and will be in the First XV this year?

I write this letter with a great deal of sadness having seen how the school has changed since I left. Sure things must change, but one of the great things about High was its

Continued on page 31

Bruce Miles

An edited extract from The Sydney Morning Herald

Bruce Miles (37) veteran of more than 50 years of battling in the NSW Courts for the underdogs – including some of the most helpless, hopeless and impecunious – confessed yesterday to being “a bit weepy” when the system he had fought against for so long honoured him.

Described by a colleague as the “Mother Teresa of the legal system,” he was summoned before the Chief Judge of the District Court, Reg Blanch, for a special session to honour his outstanding contribution to justice.

Judge Blanch, speaking to a court packed with lawyers, retired lawyers, Aboriginal representatives, friends, relatives and former clients, commended Mr Miles for his “great service to your country”. In response, Mr Miles said “Australian judges treated us with plenty of argument but at least we had the opportunity to try our best for the helpless and hopeless and naughty people.”

Mr Miles, an RAAF bomber pilot, was shot up, crash-landed, hit by shrapnel and left with a limp. He started his legal career in Australia at the end of the war. He married, settled in Brookvale and brought up two sons and triplet girls.

Soon he saw the plight of thousands who, in the days before formalised legal aid, were at the mercy of the system. When he started, the state provided a few public defenders but they could scarcely cope with the demand.

“Only a few idiot lawyers like myself tried to help the rest,” he said. “I could go to Darlinghurst Court on a Friday and sometimes there would be 60 or 70 people in the cells who needed help.”

Chris Whitaker

An edited extract from The Sydney Morning Herald

Chris Whitaker (92) is ecstatic that, as Australia A captain, he will not do his usual U-turn after the national anthems are played before the Canada match at Parramatta Stadium.

Being George Gregan’s Test halfback understudy since 1998 has meant he has spent season after season rugged up on the bench. During that time, he has made the field just 10 times, starting in only two internationals.

If that is not exasperating enough, there are the nicknames, such as “Anthems” – as the playing of the national anthem is supposedly the only time he appears on the Test field. And even “Hobo” because, as the NSW halfback did not get on the field in his first three Tests, he “couldn’t see the point of having a shower” afterwards. “After the game I would get straight into my number ones (team jacket and tie), so they started calling me Hobo,” Whitaker said.

“From then on, I had to have a shower even if I didn’t get on the field.” For Whitaker, who would be first choice Test halfback in many other countries.

“You can either be sitting on the bench for Australia

In many cases he went beyond the strict bounds of evidence. Sometimes he fought the law, bringing into his arguments a broader dimension, including factors of social deprivation. That inevitably led him into Aboriginal representation and he went on to spend 25 years with the Aboriginal Legal Service.

“We got no real appreciation from the courts,” he said. “We were not cheered on by the legal system. That is why I am a bit weepy today, quite frankly, because we were brawling with judges from the beginning.”

Daughter Wendy Wheeldon said, “The law was Dad’s passion. We lived simply but we got by. Dad always had a steady income but not the income he could have commanded.”

Mr Miles worked in association with the legal firm Brock Partners, which admired his innovative approach but was often frustrated because he did not put his hand out for fees.

“We had to chase the fees up after the event or before it,” said a senior partner in the firm, Kevin Rogers.

Mr Miles had offices at his disposal but preferred to range free, using court conference rooms or even the odd café.

He took on huge cases for Aborigines, including one lasting five years which the High Court was asked, in vain, to declare that the Aboriginal people had got a rotten deal.

The Aboriginal people declared him one of them, giving him an Aboriginal name meaning “Talking Bird.” *Sadly, Bruce Miles died in August – His obituary will appear in the next issue.*

behind the best halfback in the world, or just playing club rugby. It’s not a very tough decision. The first year I found it pretty hard just sitting there, especially as the first Test I sat on the bench we beat England 76-0, and I didn’t get onto the field. I thought to myself ‘Oh no, here we go!’”

And is he hoping to win the waiting game, to take over from Gregan when the Test skipper retires? “I can see it though, as soon as he retires, I’ll be too old, my knees will be gone and I’ll have to pack it in,” Whitaker replied. At least, to NSW’s relief, he is staying around for two more years after renegotiating his Waratahs contract. “I just thought it would be very disappointing to leave NSW, especially with things starting to look all right. As we are starting to play better football, I am more enthusiastic than ever to stay. Then again, my job was made a lot easier this year because we were getting good, quick ball. We were going forward. Opportunities opened up, as opposed to going backwards, which happened the previous season.” Whitaker has been rewarded for his persistence and commitment with his elevation to the representative captaincy ranks.

Footy boots not needed in halls of higher learning

Padraic P McGuinness (55)

An edited extract from The Sydney Morning Herald
Not so many years ago, my late wife told me that our daughter, in her final year at Sydney Girls' High School, was to go to a GPS rugby match with the captain of Sydney Boys' High. Drawing on memories of Sydney Boys' when I was a student there, I started to bellyache. My daughter quite rightly said to me, "Daddy – you must be the only man in Sydney who would give his daughter a hard time for going out with the captain of Sydney Boys' High." My wife supported her. They were absolutely in the right. The boy in question is a fine young man whose parents, when I later met them, I liked very much. Later on the Old Boys' Union tried to recruit him (and even me) to a campaign to lift the profile of sport, especially rugby, in the school. I was delighted to find myself totally in agreement with him that the idea of turning SHS into a ruggie bugger rah rah team spirit school was totally objectionable, and inimical to its primary purpose as a selective school dedicated to high academic standards.

No doubt this attitude of mine was partly responsible for the headmaster of my day, one **Ken Andrews**, writing me a school reference which, among other things, declared, "in the two years he has been at this school he has never really become a part of it." Naturally this would have cruelled me for any job in private industry (and maybe even in the Public Service), fortunately my results were enough to ensure a Commonwealth scholarship and entry to Sydney University.

It was, in any case, an accident that I found myself at SHS, living – as I did – a good way away. I had had to leave Riverview, another GPS School, since my uncles could no longer afford to pay the fees (boarding and tuition). I then expected to go to Fort Street Boys' High, the nearest appropriate selective school, but since I performed well in what was then called the Intermediate Certificate, and was awarded one of the rare secondary bursaries, I had the choice of any State school I liked. My mother, for sentimental reasons, wanted me to go to SHS, so I did. It was one of the best decisions I ever made. (Although if I had gone to Fort Street I'm sure I would have enjoyed studying alongside Michael Kirby). As a result I was able to spend many happy hours as a truant reading and studying in the magnificent reading room of the then public library in Macquarie Street, and mixing with the Sydney Push and university people afterwards.

The school tried to make me play football and I flatly refused. At the school I met many intelligent boys, including **Marcus Einfeld** (55) and the late **Peter Wilenski** (55). They were central European Jewish

immigrant kids, and I never knew any of them to take a great interest in sport; they had intellectual – and sometimes Zionist – interests, and took far more interest in chess than in football. (In the Ancient Greek class there were three students – myself, a fledgling atheist; a Jew; and an evangelical Christian. The teacher was a young wet-behind-the-ears evangelical, and was broken hearted when we non-Christians refused to study the New Testament, (but insisted on classical Greek). I don't recall Marcus having been a footballer, but he may have been.

The boofy football and rowing image was the product of the school's desperate attempt to keep up with the private school Joneses – where intellectual performance, other than at Sydney Grammar (also with many recently immigrated central European Jewish kids), was at something of a discount. Even then it was a futile attempt, since Riverview, for example, while it then, as today, had many students who were the bright sons of urban professional Catholics, also had a lot of rural students, sons of old boys, who loved ruggie (and majored in wool classing). Since then much money, mostly public but some raised from Old Boys, has been squandered on expensive facilities for these pursuits by SHS.

The money is wasted. The new immigrant children now gaining entry to Sydney Boys' (and Sydney Girls') are like the Jewish immigrant children of the postwar era – determined to get on in the world through study and application. Some like to play football or row, but many prefer modern sports like basketball. My brother, who taught mathematics at Sydney Grammar, was amused at the way the bright central Europeans of his generation were worried about the influx of Asian kids with the same motivations as they had – unlike their fully assimilated children. Sydney Grammar is now wasting its money trying to play competitive ruggie, at the expense of its great reputation for academic and musical excellence.

Of course the bright Asian kids are not interested. For them, life is real and earnest until they establish the same kind of foothold in Australian society as earlier waves of immigrants did. There were quite a few teachers at Sydney Boys' High (whom I may not name) who are unhappy about this new pressure to ruggie buggerise the school at the expense of good students with high academic potential.

They understand that the whole point of Sydney Boys' High is to promote academic excellence, and sports are merely a subsidiary activity. Of course exercise is important, though all the nonsense about being a "team player" is not. (If you want to pick a Liberal Party Idiot, wait for him to start talking about being a team player). Character development is so much empty rhetoric.

See 'Postscript', page 29

A system in need of closer examination

This edited column written by Jennifer Hewitt appeared in The Sydney Morning Herald

My column about the extremely high percentage of students of Asian background at selective high schools (April 11) provoked such an extraordinary rush of emails and calls and letters to the editor that I think it's worth another go.

Certainly, it was a vigorous start to a debate that clearly has been fomenting furiously below the surface. Some of the responses were highly critical including plenty of references to racism – but many correspondents wanted to add their views to a sensitive and complicated issue.

These fell into two broadly defined lines of argument. One was the general belief that academic excellence, as defined by the Selective Schools Test, was ultimately the only fair way of choosing students and that any discussion of cultural background was inherently racist and divisive.

The other was the view that the Selective School Test was leading to severe imbalances in producing well rounded students with a range of interests – as opposed to too many products of coaching colleges devoted to getting the highest marks possible.

Within those rough boundaries, of course, there are many nuances and politically fraught questions.

The many responses from students of Asian background and their parents I found particularly interesting. Victor Leung, a self identified Asian parent of a Year 7 student at Fort Street High, for example, said it was neither “healthy nor desirable” for anyone that so many selective schools were dominated by Asian students and that more “diversity” was needed.

He suggested a mix of two selection standards, including one which also recognised special achievements in areas such as music, sports, drama, computers and debating. It was a view backed by a 1998 graduate from James Ruse. Kim-Son Nguyen said the proposal by a committee of Old Boys at Sydney High School to give some extra weighting to siblings or sons of Old Boys went against the meritocratic ethos that underpinned the whole idea of selective schools. But he suggested a

Merit, and clash of cultures

This editorial appeared in *The Sydney Morning Herald*. The campaign by Sydney Boys' High Old Boys to have places reserved for their sons and grandsons outside highly competitive academic selection criteria amounts, however guardedly it might be expressed, to an attack on the school's present ethnic make-up. The Sydney High Old Boys Union says it is trying to restore the school's family tradition by ensuring generational community, arguing the present academic entry criteria is “weakening” the school's ethos. More specifically, according to the Old Boys' magazine, “Year 7 is currently 90 percent Asian, which has a flow on effect on the

place in the selection process for extracurricular activities and said that interviews might be necessary as well. “While I did participate in some extracurricular activities, as did a lot of my classmates, it seemed that every new lot of Year 7s was more academically orientated, a product of the coaching college and the parental pressure gravy train,” he wrote.

Another parent of European background – who has two children at a selective high – said he and his wife had decided not to try to send their third child because of their disillusionment. “As an immigrant myself, I find that one of the great things about Australia is the racial mix,” he wrote. “However, there is no real mix at this school: it is for all intents and purposes monocultural. That in itself wouldn't be a problem if it were not for the fact that one feature of this culture is its view of education as a meal ticket.”

But is that wrong?

Many other correspondents complained the arguments about selective schools reflected little more than middle class angst from parents of Anglo background whose own kids weren't prepared to work hard enough to be competitive.

Andrew Chia said that if there was a lack of Anglo Australian students in selective schools, it was a problem with not having enough selective schools. “Don't make the people the problem; this is the path of stereotyping and ultimately, bigotry and hatred.”

Another university student of Bangladeshi parents said that as someone who worked and studied hard at public school, he “was constantly harassed by Anglo peers for being a ‘square’” while some parents complained about the school system being “overrun with ‘f...ing Asians’.”

Despite disagreements, the overwhelming message was the passionate desire to achieve the best education for life in an inclusive, multicultural and increasingly competitive society. But the jostling for position is creating the normal frictions and fears of being left out – from people of all sorts of backgrounds for all sorts of reasons.

Talking about that – and whether the system can work better – still seems a good idea to me.

school's traditional sports of rowing, cricket and rugby.”

A racist overtone in such a campaign is unfortunately inescapable. The former Sydney Boys' High principal, **Bob Outterside**, muddied the waters when he said Asian students would not be rejected if they were “joiners”, particularly in sport. The Sydney High debate touches a very raw nerve. It is true the state's selective high school places are won, disproportionately, by children of Asian background. It is also true many children of Asian background attend coaching colleges. Some parents argue coaching “distorts” the selective schools results, and has the compounding effect of forcing more and more children into after school classes to compete.

Marks kill off school's traditions – Old Boys lobby for changes to Sydney Boys' entry rules

This article appeared in The Wentworth Courier

The long cherished traditions of Sydney Boys' High School are in danger of being subsumed by the pursuit of higher marks.

The school has been in the limelight in recent weeks, following media reports that the school's Old Boys Union was campaigning for the reintroduction of some family based placements.

The school's new students are selected by an external exam in Year 6 which proponents say students cannot prepare for.

Lucrative coaching colleges would disagree, as parents fork out thousands of dollars yearly to increase their children's chances of getting a selective school place. "The issue is about the impact that coaching colleges are having on the culture of our school," ex-headmaster **Bob Outterside** said. "Does the measuring instrument measure what we want?" he said. While most talk had centred on the school body's ethnic make up, the real issue was the erosion of family involvement at school.

"The non participation of students and the non involvement of parents is the issue," Mr Outterside said.

"In a market driven world, some parents are prepared to sacrifice their children's childhood in the pursuit of additional marks on the Selective Schools Entry Test which they believe are assured through attendance at coaching colleges.

"While parental rights are respected, it does not make the practice more palatable."

There has been a radical drop in parents volunteering to help at the school where the school previously had five rugby teams in the under 13s, now they're "scratching to get two teams."

"We still have the subjects we had when the school opened 118 years ago – English, maths, science, but also Classical Greek, Latin and French taught through to Year 12. With such a targeted pursuit of marks, we fear these may fall by the wayside," Mr Outterside said.

The Department of Education insists the exams are designed to measure natural "ability", which it says no amount of coaching can produce.

Every year about 15,000 students compete for the state's 2500 selective high school places. With such intense competition, and long reserve lists, there can be only one credible entry criterion – merit. The Sydney High Old Boys are, effectively, seeking preferential entry for their children. If this was achieved it would set a precedent for all other selective schools. Trying to determine what kind of Australians would then "qualify" for preferential entry would be practically impossible, not to say deeply divisive.

"The school's membership of our great State education system and our membership of the Athletic Association of Great Public Schools (AAGPS) provides a dual role not shared by any other government school.

"Not surprisingly, the school is keen to preserve these and other unique features that have earned for the school its reputation as an academic institution."

He said there were misconceptions about the strategic direction of the school in the minds of some parents, saying the educational aim was to concentrate on all round student development. "We're not in the business of training but of making students trainable."

However, the selection criteria's dependence on a race for marks, which saw one or two marks take children out of the competition missed the full picture. "Many extremely able children are being denied places in schools for which they have some not unreasonable attachment and they move in large numbers to the non-government sector," Mr Outterside said.

Postscript

Mike Carlton writing in the SMH

Meanwhile, shocking news reaches me about the rugby career of my fellow *Herald* columnist, **PP McGuinness**. Contrary to Paddy's dogged attempts to portray himself as a soulful aesthete, one of his old Riverview classmates writes to me of "a very solid front rower who never took a backward step and was very hard to stop with his low centre of gravity.

And worse, "he scored a try against Scots (won 6-3), Grammar (won 9-0) and was one of our best players against both Joeys and Kings. We all knew that PP was 'a bit of a thinker' but he was well respected." Say it ain't so, Paddy, say it ain't so.

Immigration has profoundly changed Australian society and brought in successive waves of aspirational migrants with high hopes for their children. The most recent arrivals, mainly from Asia, are highly visible and often wrongly stereotyped as a single group. Tensions are inevitable, particularly at established schools bound by such traditions as rugby. There are many valid issues to be raised about the state's selective schools, including the role of coaching and the multiple-choice form of entry tests. When selection is on merit, as it must be, there is no place, even indirectly, for race to come into the argument.

'Cyberflute' wins national innovation prize

From the UNSW Newsletter

UNSW engineering student, **Andrew Botros** (96), is the winner of the 2002 Siemens Prize for Innovation with a project that could change the way the modern flute is played.

Andrew, whose research has already won him a University Medal, has beaten hundreds of final year students in the fields of electronic, electrical, communication and computer engineering to take out the national prize, worth \$25,000.

Andrew's project allows for the prediction of hundreds of thousands of alternate fingerings and multiphonics for the flute. To date, 150 years of flute playing has resulted in only several hundred fingerings. His research, which was supervised by Professor Joe

Wolfe and Dr John Smith from UNSW's School of Physics, has resulted in a web service which allows flute players to select the note or chord they wish to play, and then shows them all the possible fingerings. Some 150 flautists from around the world use the site every day. Many unknown or improved ways of playing the flute have been found and verified.

Andrew, a graduand of Computer Science Engineering, was assisted in the project by Jane Cavanagh, the principal flute of the UNSW symphony orchestra.

Further details of the project can be found at "The Virtual Boehm Flute" <http://www.phys.unsw.edu.au/music/flute/virtual/>

UNUSUAL OCCUPATIONS

Another in an occasional series. In this issue we talk to Daniel Rabin.

Daniel Rabin (97) was such a "dead hopeless catch at football" at High, that he ran off and joined the circus.

Well, not quite. After Rabin's school days, he worked as a rigger on 60-metre tall communications towers in Sydney. Rabin says school football led him in a roundabout way to take up juggling and a career in circus art. "I wasn't a bad sprinter, which kept me on the football team, but one day I decided to prove to myself that I was coordinated," he says.

He took up juggling and discovered it was more fun than playing Rugby. He perfected theatre clowning under the guidance of Philippe Gaulier, one of the world's best clown teachers and started juggling on the side. He found he was making more money at weekends with circus related work, so he resigned from his day job to become a professional circus artist. He has been working professionally for four years and one of his party pieces is juggling six balls at a time. He is also working on tossing five clubs. Rabin performs juggling, acrobatics and clowning acts along with some street theatre, under the title, Captain Crinkle, or some other name he makes up on the spot.

Rabin's best street theatre trick involves balancing a 2-metre pole on



his head. On top of the pole there is a pedestal and two tiers of glasses on a tray. "There's a bowl on top of the pedestal, I juggle three tomatoes and throw them into the bowl one by one," he says nonchalantly. He went to the State's Northern Rivers district on holiday last year and remained there to work with the Spaghetti Circus. One of the teachers is from the world famous Moscow Circus and

Rabin says it was most beneficial. Rabin also teaches circus artistry with the Spaghetti troupe.

"We instruct about 500 schoolchildren a week and I'm now teaching performance skills at the first NSW circus TAFE course." He is considering attending the circus university NICA (National Institute for Circus Arts) which only began last year in Melbourne.

From The Principal

The achievement of students in 2001 were as usual, many and varied. In order to present a sense of what our students accomplished I shall give some examples from each area of endeavour. A fuller description appears in the school's Annual Report.

The New HSC

Congratulations to **David David** who topped the state in Hebrew; and to **Evan Oh, Daniel Ossher, Sigmund Stern, Tony Vuong** and **Xiao Liang Wu** who received the Premier's Award for All Round Excellence for Band 6 attainments in 10 or more units. Evan Oh scored a UAI of 100. In terms of pursuit of excellence at the highest level our results were somewhat disappointing, with only 12.43% of boys over 99 UAI. Yet in overall terms the percentage of UAIs above 90 was 69.49, which was better than last year and 1998, despite the inclusion of two units of English in the calculation. At 12, the number of UAIs at 75 or less was the lowest for decades.

Debating and Public Speaking

The Year 11 debating team (**David Carter, Tim Davis Frank, Alex Gruszka** and **Alexander McCauley**) won the state Karl Cramp Competition and were also undefeated in the GPS seconds premiership – an important double victory. **Henry Chapple-Cox** (Year 12) won the Leslie Andrews Memorial Scholarship for Speech and Drama. **Hamish Nairn** (Year 10) was selected in the Metropolitan East debating team.

Music

Peter Hayward was selected in the SBS Youth Orchestra to perform in Spain. **Raj Kumar, Hamish Nairn** and **David Quach** were selected to attend the State Music Camp. **Ashley Townshend's** music project was selected for Encore performance. In our much-admired Performance Music Program, 227 individual students played in 15 different ensembles. Participation rates increased by 16% in 2001.

Visual Arts

Costa Avgoustinos (film), **Alex Reznick** (computer images) and **Simon Manetti** (graphics design) had their HSC major works selected

for exhibition in *Art Express*. **Tom Petty's** architecture building design project for a sustainable school won the Interbath Conservation Award and a cash prize.

Academic Competitions

All boys are entered for junior competitions. Seniors are entered on request. Our boys earned one medal, 79 prizes and 550 High Distinctions in eight major competitions.

Mathematics Olympiad

Charles Qin (Year 10) was selected in the Asian Pacific Mathematics Olympiad team. **Ivan Guo** and **George Zhong** earned High Distinctions.

Community Service

More than \$13,000.00 was raised directly by students for distribution among ten charities. Apart from mufti days which benefited The Spastic Centre and the Children's Medical Research Foundation, more than 200 boys from Years 7-12 were involved in charity work.

School Achievements

The great work of the Student Welfare team and Living Skills teachers enabled us to push through with the major initiative of a Living Skills program 7-10 for 2002. Integrating Peer Support and Peer Mediation training into the program in Stage 5 means that every boy will be exposed to leadership skills and training.

The production of the promotional CD by Rob Francis, Pam Brewster and Randall Magro was a major step forward in external and internal marketing of our image and culture. Out in the community we want to show people what we stand for and make our expectations of incoming students known. We need

to sell to ourselves the idea of culture change at High. We need to show leadership in boys' education, gifted interventions, negotiated learning and cooperative endeavour, as well as in sport, music and debating.

Capital Works

Our disabled toilet/shower facility is nearing completion, along with the extra female toilet to service the Hall. The Canteen extensions and renovations are under way. Financing of this significant project will require additional School Family support this year. A grant of \$60k from the Government is less than half the budget required for the project. The P&C and the School Foundation are helping the school to find the remaining funds.

Lycee Paul Cézanne French exchange

21 students from Aix-en-Provence visited and spent three weeks home stay with the families of students from Years 10, 11 and 12 from SBHS and SGHS.

This is the fifth visit the school has made to Sydney and is part of an ongoing reciprocal exchange program operating between our two schools. Our most recent visit to Aix was last October. The students attended classes with their host brother or sister, and visited the many attractions of Sydney as well as trips to Jervis Bay and the Blue Mountains.

This exchange is an expression of the philosophy that languages cannot be divorced from active interaction with the culture of which language is a part. Such interaction, not only provides for greatly increased communicative proficiency, but also facilitates personal growth, independence and development of lifelong friendships.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR *Continued from page 25*

tradition and the determination to succeed both in the classroom, on the water or on the field. **Murray Callaghan** ensured that this occurred. Most of the other GPS schools have maintained their traditions and I see little difference in Joeys and Kings now and when I was at school. From what I see now, there is little tradition left at High and I fear for the school's

future and it's unique position as both a state and GPS school.

If I had sons, they would not have gone to High. I would not have put them through the selective process, and they could not have gone there, as the sons of an Old Boy, and had the wonderful experience that I did.

I owe the school a lot, but the school owes its Old Boys a lot too.

Sir Roden Cutler's Funeral

The Principal Dr **K Jaggard**, Major General **Jim Norrie** (40), **Lee Ruth** (51) and Mr **J Fittler** represented the School Family at the State funeral of Sir Roden Cutler. Our school banner and 20 school prefects led the funeral procession into St Andrews Cathedral prior to the commencement of the service. It was an unexpected privilege accorded to the school representatives by the protocol officer. The Governor General, the Governor and the Premier, ex Prime Ministers, ex Governors, ex Premiers and a large number of Army personnel, diplomatic service officials, RSL figures and church dignitaries attended. Such a distinguishing group of mourners in attendance indicates the very high esteem in which Sir Roden was held in his circle of high-ranking State and Commonwealth politicians, statesmen and officials.

• From **John H Fraser** (33)

I attended Sir Roden's funeral service. The prefects looked wonderful and I spoke to some of them outside the Cathedral afterwards.

• From **Mrs Joan Cutler**,

responding to our condolences.

Sir Roden was always a very proud member of a great family at Sydney High School. It was a memorable farewell to a wonderful Old Boy. The flowers were beautiful and were put on his grave where he is buried with Lady Helen Cutler at South Head.

Sir Roden Cutler, VC (33)

In the March 2002 edition of the *High Bulletin* we quoted from **Alan Renouf's** (36) book *The Champagne Trail* in which he cryptically wrote "Cutler, an Australian Minister to Egypt drove straight through the Egyptian soldiers..."

The *Telegraph* in London in its obituary of Sir Roden fills in the details:

"Cutler's experience as a man of action proved useful when he was appointed Minister to Egypt just as the Suez crisis began. One of his first decisions was to remove the large



Sir Roden with his family on his return home to Manly after WWII

number of weapons from the basement of his residence, on the ground that it could not, in any case, be easily defended.

"He quickly discovered that the Western powers were not only divided, but totally ill prepared to cope with Nasser. The British Prime Minister, Anthony Eden, and the American Secretary of State, John Foster Dulles, were hostile to each other, and both were in poor health; the Canadians were rudderless after their minister in Cairo had committed suicide; and the Australian Prime Minister, Robert Menzies, was displaying unjustifiable optimism about what the allies could do.

"With an invasion about to take place, Cutler sent home all but four of his staff. The British were slower, and Cutler watched from the roof of

the British Embassy with the ambassador, Sir Humphrey Trevelyan, as the airport, by which they had hoped to escape, was being bombed.

"Since the British Embassy was now cut-off and short of food, Cutler and his commercial secretary drove at high speed to a bazaar where they bought rice and a whole sheep. On returning to the embassy, where an Egyptian soldier stood guard before a hostile crowd, Cutler distracted the soldier while his colleague passed over the purchases.

"After the Anglo-French invasion was called off, Cutler joined other diplomats on a stinking train which wove its way slowly through the battlefields at Mersa Matruh, El Alamein and Sidi Barrani to reach Libya."

Dr Bob Smith (47)

• From **John Squires** (47)

I am writing to advise you of the death last January of Dr **Bob Smith** (47) known to all as "Soot" or "Sootie".

Bob, who was at school with me, obtained his Leaving Certificate in 1947 and subsequently graduated in Medicine from Sydney University in

1953. He became a FRCS and FRACS and specialised as an orthopaedic surgeon mainly on the northern beaches.

Bob represented the school in athletics and swimming at both GPS and CHS. He was a keen yachtsman and sometime vigneron.

Adam Berry (94),
John Moschione (94)

Adam Berry and **John Moschione** were killed last May on a country road in Pennsylvania, USA. Their car was in a collision with another car travelling in the opposite direction whose driver was attempting to overtake a line of vehicles. John's wife of nine weeks, Rebecca, was seriously injured in the accident. She is making a good recovery and was released from hospital after four weeks to begin a long program of rehabilitation.

Adam and John became friends when they were at School from 1989 to 1994. Adam graduated as a Bachelor of Technology in Biotechnology from Macquarie University. At the time of his death he was employed as a scientist at the Cancer Institute within the National Institute of Health at Bethesda, Maryland, USA. John graduated as a Bachelor of Engineering, Chemical Engineering, Honours Class 1, from UNSW. He was employed as an environmental analyst by E H Pechan & Associates, Springfield, Virginia – a consulting firm undertaking environmental research for the US Environmental Protection Agency. He was also retained by Superalloy Technologies as a database consultant

Joe Correy (41)

(Edited extract from The Sunday Tasmanian)

Professor **Joe Correy** has been an important player on the Australian medical scene over the better part of half a century. He also has been one of his profession's greatest characters.

He was one of Tasmania's best-loved and most well known medicos

The national road transport convention was being hosted in Tasmania for the first time. But the speaker, a local medical academic, knew no more about trucks and buses than the next bloke. So Professor Joe Correy began his speech with a joke. This went down well, so he told another one. Then another, until, half an hour later, the audience was rolling in the aisles. When the story was told at a recent memorial gathering in Hobart, another sombre assembly was in stitches.

Joe Correy – doctor, sportsman, humorist, humanitarian – who died last month aged 76, was much larger than some of his achievements. He was a great achiever. But friends, colleagues and ordinary folk all over the world knew him as an even greater character.

Joe was born in rural New South Wales in 1925, the first child of migrant parents from Lebanon, who moved to the tough, poor, inner-Sydney suburb of Redfern in the Depression.

His dad died of a brain tumour when Joe was eleven. His mother worked as a seamstress to pay the rent on an old terrace house and – with what little was left – feed and clothe her three young sons and a baby daughter.

Young Joe worked odd jobs, helped out at home and hung out on the streets. He got into fights, learned about girls, picked the odd pocket and never paid for a tram ride.

A scholarship got him into Sydney High School. Another one, and some borrowed books, got him through Sydney University medical school, where he established a formidable reputation – as a poker player.

He came to Hobart in 1948, to the Royal Hobart Hospital, as a senior resident medical officer. His life and career remained in Tasmania – apart from a period in Britain studying for qualifications in obstetrics and gynaecology. He would climb the heights of his profession, win the Advance Australia Award and be made a Member of the Order of Australia.

When he retired as professor of obstetrics and gynaecology at the University of Tasmania in 1991, accolades came from around the world. As hundreds stood and applauded his farewell speech, Joe responded: "That's the first time I've had a standing ovation." "He made us laugh," friend Ron Fisher said. According to one estimate, Joe brought 10,000 Tasmanians into the world – many through pregnancies that would not have occurred without his expertise. He set up Tasmania's first infertility and IVF clinics and had a thriving practice when, in 1969, he was appointed director of obstetrics and gynaecology at the New University of Tasmania Medical School.

Chairmanship of the faculty followed and then the presidency of the Tasmanian Medical Council. He would be president of the Royal Australasian College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, of the Australian Medical Council and the Australian Medical Association.

Professor Correy travelled the world as an examiner for the Royal College and the Royal Australasian College of Obstetrics and Gynaecology and as a sought-after expert on pregnancy and fertility. Everywhere he went, he took his sense of humour.

Attending a friend's funeral, he introduced himself as the only Arab ever to give a eulogy in a synagogue. "No one who met Joe forgot him," Dr Gerald Gartian said. "A bit of a larrikin, he was alert, intelligent and intensely focussed." Joe was a fearsome car-trialler, a peerless card player and a lawn bowls champion. His presidencies of the Royal Hobart Bowls Club and the Athenaeum Club were characterised by skill and flair.

Henry Cumines (40)

(Edited extract from The Sydney Morning Herald)

Henry Cumines charismatic leader of one of Australia's longest-standing, fourth generation Chinese families, died suddenly, aged 80.

The extraordinary Cumines family, whose name is derived from Scottish settlers at Bega on the Far South Coast of NSW in the 1870s, began with the arrival of a 16-year-old immigrant from a small village near Canton in 1877. He was Lo King Nam. Henry Cumine's grandfather became one of the first Chinese naturalised in Australia, in 1882, under the name of Young Cumines, the application supported vigorously by the then powerful Cumines family, his employer.

Using his Chinese name, Nam moved to the then centre of Chinatown in Sydney – The Rocks – in the 1880s, to form a trading and guesthouse empire and raise seven children, before returning to China in 1921. He died there in 1939.

Henry Cumines was one of several second-generation Cumines children who made prominent names for

Continued over page

themselves in Australia in the 20th Century.

He created and ran for almost 40 years a Pacific Islands company, Henry Cumines Pty Ltd, exporting mainly food and beverages throughout the Pacific. He founded his company in 1966 after 25 years in the island business with other companies and became known everywhere – in Tonga, Samoa, Santo, Gizo, Viti Levu and Papua New Guinea as well as Australia and New Zealand – simply as “Mr Pacific”.

Cumines was born in Sydney in 1921 and survived a very colourful childhood, doing the hard yards. The old house where he was born at 85 George Street was built in 1846 and still stands next to the Oriental Hotel. Cumines visited China in the early 1930s – a family prerequisite for Cumines males over three generations. He revisited China in the late 1990s and was outraged at the treatment of children in orphanages.

In his younger days, his ambitions to stay at university were forfeited when World War II broke out. He then went on to play a major hand with export bodies over many years, as well as being Honorary Consul for the Solomons for seven years, a position he resigned on a matter of strong principle.

He was a world traveller. He never married, partly because of this wanderlust, and instead became a rock of support for many charities and a contact person for prime ministers and governors of many countries, diplomatic staff, senior business executives, wily one-person island traders and beachcombers.

He became a life member of a multitude of Sydney clubs – especially his beloved Australian Pioneer’s Club – and its members often saw the small, waistcoated, smiling dynamo with a glass of scotch or red wine in hand.

In 60 years of trading to the islands, Cumines was responsible for tens of millions of dollars of exports of Australian products – flour, sugar, condiments, meat – a lifelong effort which, sadly, was never rewarded by either worthwhile export recognition or awards.

In his early days he would spend

months overseas, in tiny trading boats, seaplanes or canoes, peddling knives, meat or tea.

Cumines was keen to keep the family name and “sell the business to the people who helped me build it up, not some outsider with probably a lot of money.”

In the last days of his life, Cumines finalised the documentation handing over the management and ownership control of his empire to his staff. It follows years of conjecture about the effervescent lifelong bachelor at least for major acquisition forays by outsiders.

When a detailed history of the contribution to Australia by Chinese immigrants is written, it would be a tragedy if the Cumines family and its characters were omitted.

Ray Mathew (46)

(Edited extract from *The Sydney Morning Herald*)

Ray Mathew, poet, playwright, short story writer, novelist, critic, schoolteacher and adult education lecturer, was well known in the Sydney literary world in the 1950s. One of the midwives of the Australian cultural self confidence that emerged in the 60s, he was never to return after leaving Australia for London at the end of the 50s with a British Arts Council grant and a production lined up for his play *The Life of the Party*, a finalist in the 1957 *London Observer* competition. From the mid-60s, his home was to be in New York.

Ray published three books of verse, many short stories, monographs on Miles Franklin and Charles Blackman, and a novel. He wrote radio plays, film scripts and contributed to the thoughtful Australian magazines and journals of the time, including the *Observer*, *Meanjin* and *Australian Letters*. But it is as a playwright that he is most remembered.

“He awaits the critical attention he deserves,” Katherine Brisbane, the Australian theatre authority and founder of Currency Press, wrote in 1995, noting that in the 1950s his plays were ahead of the imagination of the time. “In retrospect, his was the most innovative mind. His work also foreshadowed the more

indigenous new forms that emerged in the 1960s.” In particular, his *Sing for St Ned* anticipated such plays as Ron Blair’s *Flash Jim Vaux* and *The Legend of King O’Malley* by Michael Boddy and Bob Ellis. It also reflected Ray’s fascination with the theme of the randomness of life and death. “[Ned’s father] was a bad lot – and Irish, you can imagine what that means. He might have been a farmer who planted and grew things or a pen pusher who wrote things or a counterjumper who sold things but he happened to be a Kelly who took things. It wasn’t a matter of choice.”

Ray’s best known play, *A Spring Song*, has had productions in Melbourne, Brisbane and Sydney. Currency Press published it in 1985 and next year, in a second volume of plays of the 50s will give *The Life of the Party* its first publication. In Katherine Brisbane’s view “it is the most difficult of Mathew’s plays ... A bitter comedy based on his experience of bohemian life among the writers and artists of Sydney’s Kings Cross.” She thinks that even nearly 50 years after it was written a lot of the characters are immediately recognisable.

Ray was a child of parents battered by the Great Depression – his father lost his job, although as things improved he was to become a manager with Horlicks (lots of malted milk then on the Mathew menu). Ray was born in Leichhardt, moved to Bondi, where he surfed, and he went to Sydney Boys’ High and Sydney Teachers’ College before teaching for three years in NSW country schools at Tottenham, Derridong and Ironbark.

Ray was the first to admit that he didn’t fulfil the expectations raised by his early prolific period. Although he kept on writing (he was working on a long novel at the time of his death), he had nothing much new published after 1967. He had been disappointed by his lack of success in London, had treatment for alcoholism, and kept melancholic tendencies under control with a wide circle of friends – loneliness, being cut-off from agreeable company, was an early theme in his work. Along with his avid reading habit, a great personal resource was an interest in people – including himself some-

times – as dramatis personae, a quality that had made him a playwright (and his sort of poet, short story writer and novelist).

Many who knew him in Australia will remember him with affection. He was one of those great people you don't have to see often for them to be an enhancing part of life.

Vincent Pike (21)

(Edited extract from The Sydney Morning Herald)

Vincent Pike who died at the age of 97, was a solicitor for more than 50 years and one of Sydney's great characters.

He was a man small in body but big in heart. A man who could appear irascible but was in truth the very essence of gentleness. He had a puckish sense of humour and you could never be sure if he was pulling your leg. He was a generous man but his generosity was a very private thing. He sought no praise or reward for it in this life. He was a perfectionist and expected much from those to whom much had been given. He was a demanding, instructing solicitor but one who threw himself fully into the fray. He was a man with a passion for causes, a man of great loves and loyalties.

Vincent was the terror of law clerks and secretaries. Most were terrified of him, little realising that his hyperbole was studied and designed to ensure that his message was passed on.

Vincent won a scholarship to Sydney Boys' High School and wanted to be a lawyer, but to his disappointment and that of his family he failed to matriculate into the faculty of law. Fortunately, his mother gave him a second chance. He went to Fort Street High and sailed through the Leaving Certificate and progressed to the University of Sydney.

He was taken into articles in the office of H E McIntosh, where he briefed the leading counsel of the day – men such as Sir David Maughan, Sir Perch Spender and Nicholas, KC. From watching them he gathered the initial seeds of what was to blossom into a considerable skill as an advocate.

He was admitted in 1929, and a

month later set up his own legal office in the city, with a branch office at Redfern opposite the courthouse. Vincent was happy now. He had achieved his ambition of becoming a solicitor. He threw himself into practice, honing his skills as an advocate in the police courts and soon becoming one of the four leading police court advocates of the state.

In late 1935, tragedy struck. His sight was failing. Vincent was found to have a brain tumor affecting his optic nerve. The prognosis was poor, an operation essential, but the operation carried with it a high potential to be fatal, and even if not fatal, to destroy his sight.

Vincent heard of a Professor Nafziger, the world's leading neurosurgeon, and decided to go to the best, even though he was in the United States. He sailed for the US on 1 August 1936. The operation was a great success. His sight was saved and he lived another 65 fruitful years.

Vincent held his practising certificate for more than 50 years. He "sort of" retired in 1980. "Sort of" because he would still come into the office from time to time and he remained a formidable figure in the law. The law was one of his great loves, but despite the eminence which he had achieved in it, he remained a humble man.

Dr Ross Robinson (30)

Edited extract from The Sunday Times W.A.

Dr **Ross Robinson**, (30) a stalwart of Royal Perth Hospital, was a major contributor to the development of neurosurgery in Australia. Born in Sydney, he was dux of Sydney High School and began studying medicine at 16, graduating with a science degree in 1934 and a degree in medicine in 1938. He began his medical career at Newcastle General Hospital, followed by work at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital.

While serving as a medical officer with the RAAF in World War II, and posted in Perth, he met Phyl Truslove. The couple married in Sydney in 1942. A squadron leader and group surgeon when he was demobbed in 1946. He remained an air force consultant until 1949.

The medic became a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons in 1945 and worked at Royal Perth Hospital for more than 30 years, from 1946 to 1979, 20 of those as senior neurosurgeon.

Much of his early work was done as an honorary surgeon, unpaid. His son, Craig, recalled many gifts of appreciation from patients at Christmas, including fruit, poultry, alcohol, woodwork and art.

With neurosurgery still in its infancy, Dr Robinson worked with JP Ainslie to establish the Department of Neurosurgery at RPH in 1949 – only the third in Australia. In 1959, he and colleague Dr Anthony Fisher pioneered a new technique for the treatment of Parkinson's disease.

Dr Robinson was instrumental in establishing the neurosurgical ward at RPH's Shenton Park annexe. Colleague and friend Bryant Stokes said Dr Robinson's care and compassion for his patients and their relatives was a lesson to fellow surgeons.

He was president of the Neurosurgical Society of Australasia in 1977-78 and was on the AMA Council of WA for two years.

Retiring at 65 he became interested in farming and developed land from bush at Ongerup in 1957 and bought a property at Gidgegannup in 1964, where he discovered a passion for cattle breeding. At Gidgegannup he served as ward councillor with the Swan Shire Council between 1967 and 1971.

Deaths recorded with regret:

Emmanuel Kalokerinos (42)
Stan Graves (46)
Campbell Hastings Thornburn (38)
Mark Hudson (51)
Norman Spence (42)
John Betty (38)
Warren Murphy (40)
Noel Widerberg (54)
Leslie Ian Letts (56)
Denis Anderson (55)
Bernard Beard (31)
Richard Steele (38)
Ralph Shapiro (45)
Ken Glass (38)
David Arthy (40)
Bruce Miles (37)

How to contact:

- **THE SCHOOL**
Ph: 02 9361 6910
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Ph: 02 9549 2704
Fax: 02 93157796
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Ph: 02 9361 5248
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Ph: 02 9331 7075
- **THE OUTERSIDE CENTRE**
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Ph: 02 9663 4980

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Single Pack Playing Cards	\$14.00
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Letter Openers	\$6.50
SHS Pad	\$3.00
Car Sticker	\$4.50
SHS Foldable Chair	\$50.00
SHS Sticker	\$0.50
Address Book	\$12.00
School Centenary Book	\$15.00
Silverware: Sugar or	\$5.50
Fluted Spoon	\$8.00
Ashtrays	\$8.00
Hatbands	\$8.00
SHS Plaque	\$50.00
Coathanger	\$5.00
SHS Cufflinks	\$15.00

Old Boys Memorabilia

Lacoste Polo Shirt (with SHS crest)	\$49.50
Rugby Jersey (sky with SHS logo)	\$60.50
Rugby Jersey Original	\$60.50
OBU Plaque	\$30.00
OBU Tie	\$27.50

E-mail Addresses

When we last published an e-mail edition of the *High Bulletin*. The large number of incorrect e-mail addresses on our database surprised us.

Please record your new e-mail address with us. Just e-mail us admin@shsobu.org.au

Old Boy Receives Rifle Club Life Membership

The students of the Rifle Club awarded retired coach of the Rifle Club, Mr **Ron Wotherspoon** (52), life membership in a surprise presentation.

Ron first competed for SHS in shooting in the early 50s, coached the rifle team in smallbore shooting from 1997 until, due to ill health, he was forced to retire from the sport in 2000. Since leaving school Ron has maintained a keen interest in rifle shooting at the school, and his more recent involvement has seen him coach hundreds of students, many of whom went on to form part of winning GPS and touring teams in fullbore shooting. Mr **Douglas**

Fergusson, Shooting Master at Sydney High from 1997 to 99, attended the presentation and commented on Ron's patience and determination in coaching students starting out in the sport.

Life membership is the highest honour the Rifle Club can bestow on a member. Whilst the final award is made by the President of the Club, it stands alone in the school's honour system in being the only award presented solely on a recommendation made by the students themselves, who must petition the President on their own initiative before the award can be made.

Great Moments in SHS Rowing

This unique video is now available. Featuring historic clips from Cinesound and Movietone newsreels. The video covers all our great rowing moments, including races on the Parramatta River in the early 30s. This video is a must for Old Boy rowers. Commentary by **Doug Donoghue** (53), **Norman May** (44) and **Ian Toll** (59).

Price \$45.00 GST Inc, Post paid.
Write enclosing cheque or credit card
Number to: Rowers SHS OBU
PO Box 114, Darlinghurst 1300

SHS Supporters Shirt

Show your support of Sydney Boys High School at GPS sporting matches by wearing the official design and colours High Spirit Supporters Shirt.

Cotton rugby-knit in school blue and brown vertical stripes, with embroidered crest, SHS knit collar, long sleeves and side slits, this sensational High Spirit Supporters Shirt is available now. Be sure you're a supporter!

Order through Michelle at the High Store on 9331 7075 10.30 to 1.30 on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday.

In sizes 44(s), 46(M), 48(L), 50(XL)

**NEXT
ISSUE:**

Copy for the next issue of *The High Bulletin* should be sent to:
**The Editor, The High Bulletin,
PO Box 114, Darlinghurst NSW 1300**

Lodge Sydney High School

THE FIRST SCHOOL LODGE IN AUSTRALIA
Consecrated August 1929

Meetings at Masonic Centre, Castlereagh Street, Sydney on the third Tuesday of February, May, August and November from 7.15pm
Membership open to Old Boys, Former Masters, Parents of Students and Friends of the School

Do you qualify? — *Enquiries will be most welcome!*
Contact: Hon Secretary G L (**Laurie**) **McKay** Phone 9974 5872

GPS Sport

- The highlight of the year was the achievement of the Rifle Shooting team coached by Mr **John Fittler**. **Jonathan Moore, Wilson Chong, Justin Hill, Josh Cuneo, James Davies, Andrew Jacques, Greg Shar** and captain **David Jacques** won the GPS Champions title (awarded for only the ninth time since 1906 to a team winning all the trophies contested). They won the Rawson Cup, the NRA Shield and the Buchanan Shield. The team also won the All-Schools Competition. Jonathan Moore, Justin Hill and Greg Shar were selected in the combined GPS team.
- It was a strong year for Soccer at High with the First XI finishing runners up and the Second XI, coached by **Nick Apoifis**, winning the premiership. Four of the First XI were picked to represent the GPS. In first grade **Matthew Mulroney** and **Daniel Pinkus** and in second grade **Tom Cusbert** and **David Kaldor**.
- The First XI cricket team finished third in the GPS Premiership, but showed better form than the place suggests.
- **Jack Manning-Bancroft** and **Robert Dooley** were selected in the U17 GPS cricket team. Both had stand-out seasons.
- At long last a win in the sport of rowing. The Year 10 VIII, coached by Guy Morgan, won the Riverview Gold Cup. We could not sustain our form until the Head of the River but we have moved closer to the pace.
- The First XV had six good wins

during the season. Unfortunately only one of these was in the GPS competition.

- **Reece Hamer** was selected in GPS First's Rugby, with **Rob Lyons** and **Andrew Knight** in GPS Seconds and **Lenny Pereira** (Reserve) – a strong representation of players, given our lack of depth in Rugby.
- **Matthew Turner, Michael Terry-Whitall, Tom Miller** and **Ellis Louie** were selected in the GPS representative swimming team for the Independent Schools Carnival at Homebush.
- **Ben Lonsdale** (Year 11) won the U17 shot put at the GPS Athletics Carnival. **Scott Morrow** (Year 12) ran a gallant third in the open 800m and

second in 1500m. **Suren Wickramasinghe** finished second in the 100m and 200m championship. **Lachlan Mitchell** (third U16 400m) and (third shot put) performed well.

CHS Sport

- **Tom Miller** and **Ellis Louie** were chosen in the CHS swimming team for the All Schools carnival. They both competed in the Australian Age Championships in Melbourne. **Gabriel Knowles** was selected in the Metropolitan East Soccer team to play at the CHS carnival. **Michael Hayes** (Year 9) was chosen to represent Sydney Region and the CHS in tennis.

General

- **Michael Hayes, Tom Lung** (Year 9), **Bosco Cheung** and **Ruo Li** (Year 10) won the prestigious Strathfield Junior Tennis Tournament. **James Trezise, Scott Berglund, Tom Crocker** and **Alex McCauley** gained third place in the NSW Interschools Skiing championship teams slalom.
- The senior A team won a bronze medal at the State School Fencing Championships.
- **The Sports Wall of Fame** is open to all Old Boys who have represented Australia in recognised International sporting events.
- From **Adrian Alle** (46) – As a matter of interest I notice in the “Wall of Fame” Tennis Section it appears it is possible that my name could be added as playing for Australia internationally. In International Veterans Tennis I have had the opportunity of both representing and playing for Australia as follows:

Von Cramm Cup	1994	International over 60 years
Brittania Cup	1995/96/98	International over 65 years
Crawford Cup	2001	International over 70 years
- From **Michael Pruscino** (99) – I recently won the Men's Individual Epee title at the Australian Junior National Fencing Championships. I was also part of the team that defeated New Zealand in the Trans Tasman Challenge of 2002.

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Sydney High Sporting Greats

- **Jack Metcalfe** (29)
Jack Metcalfe was the only Australian to win a medal at the infamous Berlin Olympics of 1936. Before those Games he held the triple jump world record, but lost out to two Japanese athletes in the final. Metcalfe finished half a metre behind the gold medal winner, Naota Tajima, who became the first man to reach 16 metres in the event.
Born in 1912, and a student at Sydney High between 1925 and 1929

(he was a prefect in his final year), Metcalfe won Empire (now Commonwealth) Games gold medals in the triple jump in 1934 and 1938, a bronze medal in the long jump in 1934, and a bronze in the javelin in 1938. He also competed in the high jump at both Olympic and Empire Games.
He later became a high profile Australian athletics coach, and managed the Australian track and field team at the 1948 London Olympics.

Junior Rugby Camp 2002

A junior rugby camp held at McKay, saw over 100 players take part. NSWRU Development Officers conducted the camp. One of the highlights of the camp was the visit by ex-Sydney High players and current Waratahs, **Chris Whitaker** (92), **Duncan McRae** (92) and **Mark Stcherbina** (92). They spoke of the friendships made through High rugby, of playing for the enjoyment of the game and signed autographs for the boys.

Rowing

This is an edited extract from the Principal's speech at the last rowing assembly:

Mr Tim McLaren, an internationally renowned rowing coach, has kindly allocated us a regular portion of his valuable time to develop a blueprint for coaches to follow. His input as our Adviser has been very much appreciated. Mr **David Daish** and Mr **Chris Watson** are stalwarts of High rowing, keeping the shed, the shells and the machinery running and transporting equipment to regattas and interstate to the Nationals. As usual our Rowing Committee, led so ably by Mr **Jeremy Glass** (70), has raised funds, organized events, provided parental support for camps and working bees for the shed and devoted large amounts of time to our students. Thank you all.

We have begun to implement our plan to improve the competitive performance of rowing over five years. We can only be successful if boys stick with the program and build their performances over the full five years. Also, boys who are identified as being suitable candidates for rowing

should row. We do not have the luxury of excess potential at our school. A limited number of potentially good rowers enrol each year. We rely on peer and staff encouragement to help build our program. Our tradition suggests strongly that the effort is worth it. The high profile in Australia of rowing as a team sport ensures potential employers will look very favourably on students with a proven track record in rowing. They are impressed by the process of team development that you went through and by the team and personal skills you acquired, and not by whether your crew won the Head of the River. It is what you do for yourself that counts in the long run. Behind the scenes, the Strategic Rowing Committee has been working on fundraising and promoting rowing among Old Boys. My thanks to Justice **Rod Madgwick** (58), Mr **Lee Ruth** (51) and Mr **John Pilger** (57) for their efforts on behalf of rowing this year. Thank you to Karinna and Alison of Xenergy Health for their coaching input and supply of ergos for us to use at the shed.

We are facing the future with optimism. We are getting out to the

primary schools to let them know about High and the programs it offers, like rowing. We are trying to get sporting boys to put High first on their list of selective schools. We are increasing the depth of our coaching expertise, the quality of our fleet, the accessibility of our ergos and the financial base of our sport.

Finally, it gives me great pleasure to introduce our special guest speaker this morning. Mr **David Anderson** (48) member of the High First VIII which won the Head of the River in 1948. He joined the Leichhardt Rowing Club in 1949. David went on to represent Australia in the Helsinki Olympics in 1952, where he was a bronze medallist in the VIII. In Canada, in 1954 at the Commonwealth Games, he won a gold medal in the coxed fours and a bronze medal in the coxswainless pairs. David was a successful teacher (1954-62) until making a career move as a teacher trainer at Sydney Teachers College in 1965. After the Institute of Education merged with the University he was appointed Dean of the Faculty of Education, a position he held from 1983 until he retired in 1990.

Head of the River

There were some great races at the Head of the River regatta. The weather was perfect for rowing with a still, fair course, a humid day and an enthusiastic crowd. The spoils were shared among the major rowing schools, Shore, St Josephs and King's. The upset of the day was the First VIII where the St Ignatius crew were beaten by less than half a second by King's. What a great row! Dr Jaggar believes our crews should finish within the 10% margin that brings us closer to the required standard. At around six minutes for an VIII for 2000m we need to finish less than 36 seconds behind to be respectable and less than 18 seconds behind to start becoming competitive. Two crews finished within the 10% zone, notably the First IV at 6% off the pace and the Second VIII at 5.8%. Our goal for 2003 should be to get more crews inside the 5% zone, where we can look realistically at getting a place.

CHS Regatta

Jacob Stretton won a gold medal in the single scull. It was a shame that the combination of carrying a coxswain and a quite ill crew member (**Alex Tiedgen**) robbed the High team of victory in the coxswainless squad sculls.

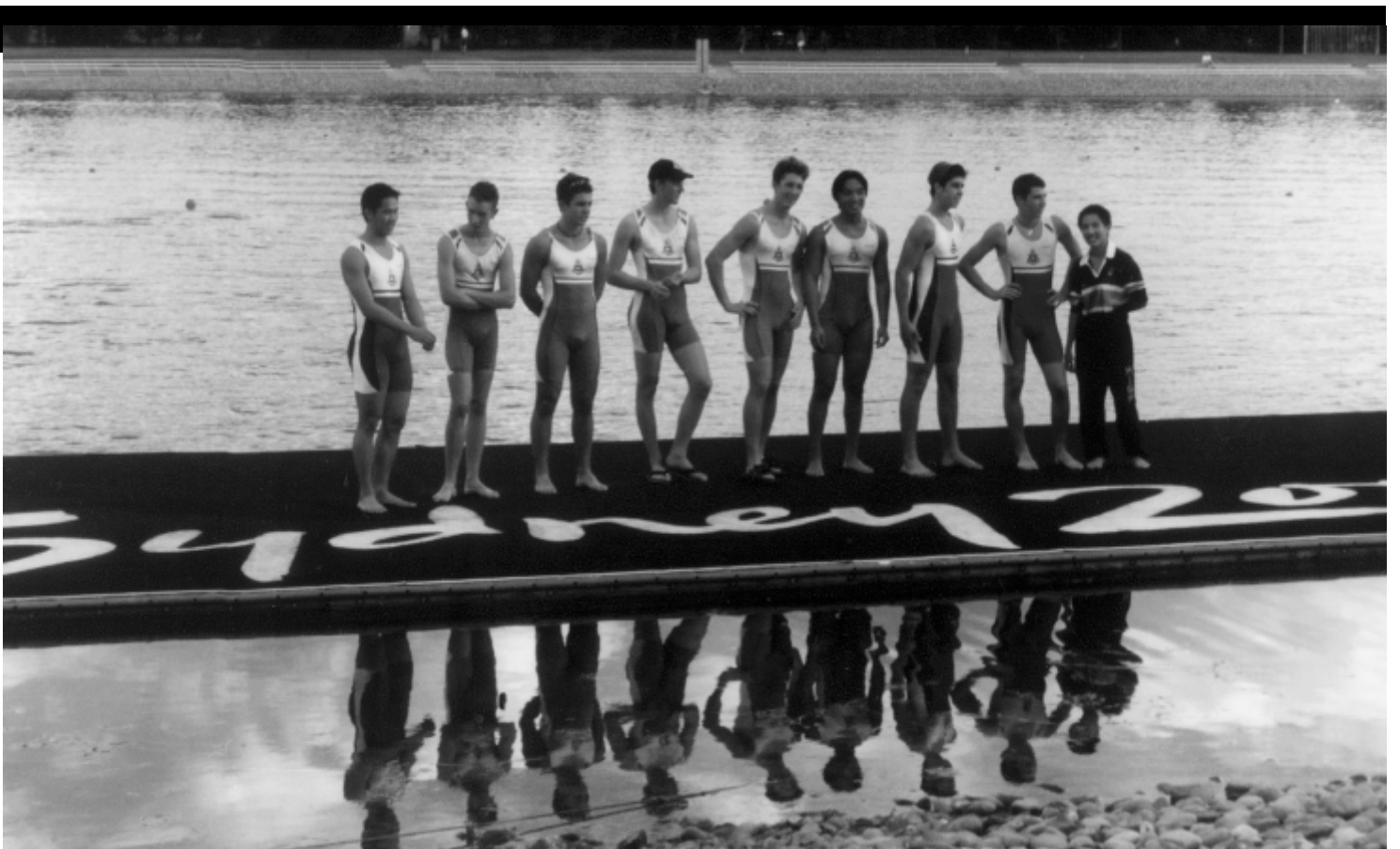
Pan Pacific Championships

A combined crew of the First and Second VIII recently won the Pan Pacific Age Championships for the under 17 years in the eight oared event. They beat a composite Crew of Shore/Kings/Newington. Five of the crew are expected to row next year. The Olympic rowing course (Sydney International Regatta Centre) at Penrith was the venue for the regatta. Crews were from all States. Crew members were; **Eugene Hooi, Hamish Nairn, Pete Kailis, Andrew Simpson, Tim Edmeades, Richard Zhoo, Brett Saucis, Shane Talbot, Jack Tam** (coxswain).

Sailing

Second Place in All-schools Tri-Series

High showed impressive skills and teamwork to take an emphatic second place behind Cranbrook in the teams placings of the first of the 2002 All-Schools Tri-series sailed at Rose Bay. The result is all the more impressive given that it is the first time High has entered the Tri-series Regatta and that sailing has only been re-established at the school for one year. **Tom Petty/Phil Rigg** gave us our best result with a fifth. **Justin Hill/Cameron Hall** and **Lucian Francis/Oliver Pickles** were our best crews overall, **Jeremy Charles/Rory Pearson** sailed consistently well all day, while **Jack Gough/Hugh James** hit their straps after a slow first race. A special accolade goes to **Seamus Butler-Ryan** who sailed excellently having only started skippering the week before the Regatta.



THE SUCCESSFUL VIII — **Len McPherson** (51) coached the combined crew. Len has been confirmed as the Coach of the First VIII for the 2003 season.

SHOBS Cricket

In 1986 a group of Sydney High Old Boys, and a few mates, formed a cricket team in what is now the Sydney Morning Cricket Association. After all these years the team is still going strong, although many of the original squad have long since retired. Games are played in the Moore Park area mainly near the netball courts where the Colonial Diner once stood. Last season we played a few matches on the three new wickets directly adjoining the school. Thankfully no sixes broke any windows although I suspect if Adam Gilchrist was playing he might do some damage!

The main attraction of the comp is that it takes up so little time. 50-overs-per-side games are played over two Saturdays during summer between 9am and noon. There are no boring net sessions during the week. This makes it ideal for those old boys with a family, or studying, who want to play a bit of cricket but don't want to spend the whole weekend doing it.

Over the years the club has been reasonably successful, winning six times and usually making the semis. The club has grown and we now field

teams in first division and second division. Last season the first grade side won the comp without losing a game while the second graders lost the grand final in a close tussle.

In recent years the batting has been dominated by GPS premierships winning opening batsman **Andrew Czerski** (95). Andrew has scored a mountain of runs including a hundred in 7 overs in one match and an unbeaten 86 in a grand final. **Nathan Chan** (91) has also been a consistent scorer with the bat and once scored a ton off just 36 balls. Other old boys who have done well with the bat include **David Heydon** (83), **Justyn Boyle** (89), **Ian Marchant** (91) and **Sohail Mohideen** (95).

Andrew Czerski & Nathan Chan have been the bowling spearheads in recent years. The **Gupta** brothers, **Manish** (91) and **Sarib** (93) have added variety to the attack when available. **Steve Porthouse** (87) holds the club record with 35 wickets in a season. **Tony Matis** (91) can still turn a ball a mile.

Other old boys who have played in the competition include **Jamie Wilson**

(83), **Kanchan Bandy** (91), **Oliver Slobodetsky** (91), **Andrew Wilson** (84), **Paul Chambiris** (83), **Whoi Chin** (93), **Alex Tungrall** (95) and **Mark Walton** (96).

Games against teams with Waverley College and Cranbrook Old Boys are the highlights of any season. The competition also plays in the Martin Shield and other representative fixtures on turf, including McKay Oval, for those with higher ambitions.

The club is always looking for new players, whether you want to play the whole season or a game here and there. It costs as little as \$10 per game to play. The short boundaries favour attacking batsman while the astroturf suits genuine quicks, but all types of players aged 20 to 40 are welcome. It would help if you played in the A's or B's at school, as the games are of a reasonable standard, but this isn't essential.

Anybody interested can give **Adam Heydon** (84), club captain, a call on 9338 8905 during work hours or on 0148241198. The season starts early September so call now!!



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