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# The High Bulletin

The Magazine of High's Old Boys

## OLD BOY BECOMES DEPUTY PRINCIPAL

The Principal has announced the appointment of **Con Barris** (1971) as one of the School's deputy principals. He is the first Old Boy to become a deputy principal of Sydney Boys' High since **George Campbell Saxby** (1886) in 1912. Con has taken on the position of Deputy Principal of the junior school, following John Beringer's retirement, in July, after ten years of service at High.



Con attended Sydney High from 1966 until 1971 and, in his final year, rowed with the 1st VIII and played with the 1st XV. He returned to Sydney High to join the English and History Department in 1984, taking on the role of rowing master, a position he held until earlier this year. He also became head teacher of history in 1991.

We wish him well as he commences his new role at Sydney High.

# FEEDBACK

## Davenport family connections

**Bob Nairn** (1940) writes in response to mention of **Jack Davenport** (1935) in the last issue:

I noticed that Jack Davenport's biography by Kristen Alexander has been published. He had two other brothers who also went to Sydney High and were both in the Airforce. His older brother **Phillip Davenport** (1933) who is now 91 years of age, has just published his autobiography in Tasmania called, *Hurrah for the Last Man*. The title is taken from a World War I mantra of gloom in the mess when proposing this toast before taking off:

“Here's to the dead already,  
Hurrah for the next man to die.”

Phil outlines his experiences in Sunderland Flying Boats and then on Mosquito bombers. He was shot down in 1945, crashed on a frozen lake in Norway and subsequently he and his navigator became prisoners of war.

I sailed to Norway with Phil, his wife Roz, and **Keith Davenport** (1940) as Phil wanted to return and thank the farmers who had assisted in his extrication from the sinking aircraft. His younger brother was my classmate at High and we were also Coastal Command pilots in the European theatre.

After the War, Phil joined UNRRA to work in China. UNRRA left China when the Communists gained control and he returned to Sydney in December 1949. He then joined Qantas as a pilot and flew with them until his retirement.

## Gridiron

The August 2009 *High Bulletin* mentioned the selection of current student **Sam Darcy** in the NSW Gridiron Football team. **Doug Richards** (1974) writes that High Old Boys and students were there during the early years of the NSW Gridiron Football League. Back in 1984, at least two Old Boys were founding members of the Bondi Raiders (**Doug Richards** and **Andrew Brundu** (1979) and Doug was privileged to coach High students involved in junior American Football with the Raiders in 1987 and 1988.

## A view from abroad

**Kerry Rubie** (1958) has recently written to the editor of the *High Notes*, the School's weekly journal of news and coming events (available on the School's website – [www.sydneyboyshigh.com](http://www.sydneyboyshigh.com)):

Living in England, but being very much aware of the impact that my formative years at High have had on my life and values, I read High Notes with great interest every week and admire how the School has broadened its focus (for example, I love reading how we seem now to dominate basketball rifle shooting, debating, etc.) over the last few years, particular under the formidable leadership of the current Headmaster.

# NOTICE OF GENERAL MEETING

## To adopt a new constitution for the OBU

A general meeting of the OBU will be held on Tuesday 23 February 2010 at 6.00pm in the Board Room at the Sydney Boys' High School, Moore Park, Surry Hills.

The meeting will consider the following special resolution:

- that the Sydney High School Old Boys' Union Incorporated adopt the constitution approved by the Executive Council at its meeting of 24 November 2009.

A special resolution, in accordance with rule 37.1 of the current constitution, must be passed by a “majority which comprises not less than three-quarters of such members of the Union as, being present and entitled under these rules so to do, vote in person or by proxy”.

The major changes introduced by the new constitution will be:

- a simplified statement of objects;
- a reduction in the maximum size of the Executive Council from 23 (1 president, 7 vice presidents and 15 ordinary members) to 14 (1 president, 3 vice presidents and 10 ordinary members);
- the creation of a new executive position of "membership registrar";
- plain-English expression; and
- a simplification and modernisation of the OBU's procedures, including a recognition of communication by electronic means.

The current OBU constitution was adopted in September 1993.

Copies of the text of the proposed constitution may be viewed on the OBU website - [www.shsobu.org.au](http://www.shsobu.org.au) - from 4 January 2010 or may be obtained by calling (02) 9907 2856.

Proxy forms may also be obtained from the OBU website from 4 January 2010 or by calling (02) 9907 2856.

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# CAN YOU HELP?

## **Seeking basketball memorabilia**

The School's Basketball Committee has recently set up a wall cabinet in the gymnasium to celebrate basketball at Sydney High. They are currently looking to add photographs of the first grade basketball teams to recognise our past endeavours.

Unfortunately, the archives holdings are patchy and a recent fire at Melba Studios has destroyed many of the original negatives. The Committee are, therefore, relying on the good will of Old Boys to come forward and provide scanned copies of their photographs for display.

Coach **George Krastev** (2004) and MIC of Basketball Ben Hayman would like to hear from you. Please contact [president@shsobu.org.au](mailto:president@shsobu.org.au) to make arrangements for copying your photos.

## **Supporting sport at High**

GPS sports competition is very demanding on people and resources. The School has ongoing needs for facilities development, equipment and development through expert coaching. If you would like to help through a tax deductible donation for a particular sport, the appropriate form can be posted to you by calling (02) 9361 6290, extension 114. Alternatively, you can go to the School's website <http://www.sydneyboyshigh.com/sport/sports-donations> to download the appropriate form.

## **Rowing coaches wanted**

The High rowing program is looking to grow both its number of rowers, and also its ability to provide coaching to these rowers. As the smallest GPS rowing program, this is an important step to winning back the Major Rennie Trophy. Currently the boatshed has very few coaches, and many of our crews are in desperate need of their very own coach, who has a passion for High rowing and is keen to help the rowing program grow and improve.

Hopefully you are such a person.

The boatshed has eager senior teams available to be coached, who are ideally looking for coaches who are competitive and ambitious enough to help push them onto the dias. While there are also novice crews seeking your friendly help in learning all about the sport of rowing; No coaching experience is required for the novice crews, as we can help you get started.

Any queries please ring 0450 278 070 or email [sydneyhighrowing@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyhighrowing@gmail.com)

## Call for Support and Volunteers for the Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation

The Sir Roden and Lady Cutler Foundation, formerly Sir Roden Cutler Charities, which commemorates **Sir Roden Culter** (1933), will be launching itself nationally in 2010. To celebrate this event and help raise funds to support the disabled, aged, infirm and their carers, the foundation is organising the BIGROLL, whereby a wheelchair will be rolled over 4,500 km from Perth to Sydney via Adelaide, Melbourne and Canberra, and many rural and regional centres along the way. The intention is to use funds raised to support the National Carer Car Program. This program purchases and installs 'carer cars', specially modified vehicles suitable for disabled people, in communities across Australia.

The foundation is looking for volunteers, affectionately known as 'The Rolling Bones', to participate in the BIGROLL. They are sought for both short legs of the journey and the entire distance. The 'Rolling Bones' will set a world distance record for 'wheelchair rolling'. The foundation is also looking for community partners to support them in the towns and cities they will visit along their route. Anyone interested should contact Christopher Williams, the foundation's founder, on 0433 125 561.

### Sponsor wanted for electronic sign

The School is looking for a sponsor for its electronic sign on the Cleveland Street frontage. Further details: Dr Kim Jaggan - [JagganK@sydneyboys-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](mailto:JagganK@sydneyboys-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

# THANKS

## OBU PRIZES

We have now received over \$11,261 in response to our appeal to support the OBU prizes at Speech Night. Thanks to the following Old Boys and supporters who responded to the appeal in the last issue of the *High Bulletin*: **Kerry Rubie** (1958); the Class of 1967; **Doug Richards** (1974); **Sir Richard Kingsland** (1931); **Philip Barr** (1972) and **Gavin Barr** (1969) (grandsons of Headmaster **Gordon Barr** (1913)) and **David Barr**, the son of Gordon Barr; **Yvonne Scales**, widow of **Derek Scales** (1937); **Ron Schwarz** (1961) – OBU Prize, 1961, **Wayne Donaldson** (1967) – J W Gibbes Junior Prize, 1965.

### The library appeal

Thanks to those Old Boys who have generously responded to the library's appeal for books. The library reports that, among the Old Boys to respond have been Air Vice Marshall **Russell Law** (194x) and Emeritus Professor **Stanley Livingstone** (1935) who, amongst other titles, has donated the travelogue - *In the Footsteps of Livingstone and Stanley*. A recent issue of the School's *High Notes* has added:

Professor Livingstone himself is a reminder to the boys that a successful career comes from a passionate interest in knowledge. He failed Chemistry at school one year, yet ended up becoming a Professor of Inorganic Chemistry. The Old Boys' Collection and the Old Boys themselves are a fabulous inspiration to the boys.

The library is also now putting the “Alan McLeod Collection” on its shelves. This valuable collection of the American “classics” was sent all the way from America thanks to literary academic **Alan McLeod** (1945). The library has recommended the collection to the boys these holidays as it contains “all those magic Faulkners and Salingers”.

Anyone wishing to donate books to the School’s library can still contact Veronica Crothers on (02) 9361 6910 or [crothersv@sydneyboys-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](mailto:crothersv@sydneyboys-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

### **Sir Roden Cutler Charities**

Thanks to those members who supported the OBU and Sir Roden Cutler Charities by purchasing the Simon Whitlam & Co wines prior to Christmas last year.

### **Basketball memorabilia**

**Alan Powditch** (1958) for donating, for display in the gymnasium, the light blue silk singlet and chocolate shorts he wore as a member of the first grade basketball team which won the CHS Competition in 1958.

Alan writes:

“The Captain of our team was David Landa, my next door neighbour from Brighton-le-Sands. [Ed: David was better known in later life as Paul Landa, a Minister in the Wran government.] David’s full name was David Paul Landa. He had a cousin also in politics called David Landa. In order to ensure there was no confusion David from the age of 25, that is, about 1965, began using his middle name. We both went to Kogarah Intermediate High School and played basketball for Kogarah. We specifically went to Sydney High to play basketball as well as getting our Leaving Certificate.

“We had a wonderful team and, at 6 feet 3 inches, there were 5 members of our team taller than me, but the best player was Dave Landa.”



### **1958 1st grade basketball – undefeated CHS premiers.**

*Back row:* A Olsen,  
W Soothill, J Skinner,  
D Bennett.

*Front row:* P Broadfoot,  
D Landa (Captain),  
Mr J Barnett, P Baker (Vice-Captain), A Powditch.

# JOTTINGS

*You can now post updates about yourself and your classmates on our website - <http://www.shsobu.org.au/bulletin/>*



**Michael Christie** (1976) was named as a Senior Counsel in the most recent list issued by the NSW Bar Association.

**Allan Price** (1941) and **Veronica (Bonnie) Pollard** (SGHS 1941) celebrated their 60th wedding anniversary last year and received congratulations from the Queen.

**Wayne Donaldson** (1967) has been an orthopedic surgeon at Ryde Hospital since 1981 and more recently has refereed GPS 1st grade football (soccer) matches. Bill Lucan-Roberts, who taught him Latin, once said to him “your education is not complete until you can read Greek”. He reports: “So, after a BA and Grad Dip Humanities externally part-time at UNE, I’m now half way through a thesis (BA Hons) on Galen. I’m thinking of giving up my day job!”

**Bill Burst** (1979) has just started with the Centre for Asia Pacific Aviation as the new General Manager - Marketing and Sales.

**Tom Kaldor** (2005) has been elected as a Fellow of the University of Sydney Senate by the undergraduate students. His one-year term commences on 1 December 2009. He is currently in his fourth year of a combined Bachelor of Arts (hons) and Bachelor of Laws degree. Tom, who is also a member of the OBU Executive Council, has been active on campus as a member of Sydney Uni Debating 2006 - 2008, in the Law Revue 2007 - 2009 and in the Band Competition in 2009.

**Alberto Dias** (1987) has been busy organising an International Conference on Tunnelling in Hong Kong and mapping some of the thousands of landslides that have occurred mid-2008.

**Will Clegg** (2005) and **Tom Kaldor** (2005) have been awarded University Medals at Sydney University. Will’s thesis (with the Department of Government and International Relations) was on warlord organisations in the Afghan Civil War. Tom’s thesis (with the Department of Political Economy) was on competition policy. Will was also recently awarded first place in the Kokoda Foundation’s Australian Defence Business Review Young Strategic Writers Competition.

**Joe Suttie** (1994) recently became the proud father of his second daughter. Congratulations!

After 10 years of developing tourist- related web sites for Bali - [www.balieats.com](http://www.balieats.com) and [www.balispaguide.com](http://www.balispaguide.com) - **Kevin Bell** (1955) is now in the process of developing an all-in-one web site for Lombok - [www.gotolombok.com](http://www.gotolombok.com) - that combines info on hotels, restaurants, spas and activities.

## *Jottings...*

**Henry Bauer's** (1947) latest publication is *The Origin, Persistence and Failings of Hiv/Aids Theory* published by McFarland in 2007.

**Rod Mitchell** (1974) has taken over an existing practice of a law firm at West Ryde.

A group of Old Boys from the class of 1981 gathered at the Woollahra Hotel on 19 September 2009 to view the last Tri Nations game live from NZ for the battle for the wooden spoon between two (former) great rugby nations. Captain **Greg Warren** (1981) and Senior Prefect **John Croll** (1981) were in Wellington being punished in person. Too bad, boys.



Class of 1981: Paul Almond, Steph Turner and Nick Day

## **Contributions**

Contributions to the *High Bulletin* are welcome and may take any form. Items should be submitted to: [editor@shsobu.org.au](mailto:editor@shsobu.org.au) or Editor, *High Bulletin*, SHS OBU, PO Box 1546, DARLINGHURST NSW 1300.

All contributions are submitted on the understanding that publication is at the editor's discretion and may be edited for any reasonable ground including appropriateness, style and to meet space, layout and legal restrictions.



Class of 1981: Greg McKittrick, Michael Dennis, Paul Almond and Iain Weston getting annihilated while Australia was too, by those All Blacks.

**Jack Manning Bancroft** (2002) has been named the NSW Young Australian of the Year for his work establishing the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience which we reported on in the March 2009 issue of *The High Bulletin*. Since then, the scheme, matches up university students with Indigenous high school pupils in order to improve their educational aspirations and opportunities, has been launched nationally, according to *The Sydney Morning Herald* of 3 August 2009:

With the expansion it will touch more than 5000 high school students and 3600 student volunteers within five years. "We will be able to have a significant impact on uni admission rates across the country," Manning Bancroft says.

But despite the impressive projections for the project and the big numbers, he says it is the individual success stories that keep him and his team motivated.

"There were these two sisters who both came up to me at the end-of-year lunch last year," he says.

"One was in year 9 and the other in year 10, and they said, 'This program has changed our lives – we're going to uni.'"

Jack will now join award recipients from all other States and Territories as a finalist for the national Australian of the Year awards to be announced in Canberra on 25 January 2010.



# FOUNDATION DAY

The Foundation Day assembly and Prefect Induction was held on 1 October 2009, the 126th anniversary of the School's first day. **David Blomberg** (1971) delivered the occasional address and handed out the prefects' badges. Among those to receive badges were David's son, Andrew Blomberg, George Denny-Smith, the son of **Steve Denny** (1968) and **Gareth Deacon**, the grandson of **John Ellison** (1935).

The occasion also provided the opportunity for **Professor Peter Anderson** (1964) to unveil the honour boards to recognise the Old Boys who have been made Members of the Order of Australia. These boards join the board unveiled last year to recognise those Old Boys who have received Order of Australia Medals. Next year, the School will add an honour board to recognise those who have been made Officers and Companions of the Order of Australia.

## **Members of the Order of Australia (AM)**

*Appointment as Member in the General Division is made for service in a particular locality or field of activity or to a particular group. Appointment as Member in the Military Division is made for exceptional service or performance of duty.*

1975 - **Maurice Shapiro** (1940)

1976 - **William Coughlan** (1919)

1977 - **Cecil Hensley** (enrolled 1923)

1978 - **Thomas Lawrence** (1932) for public service and for services to science and engineering.

1979 - **John Einfeld** (enrolled 1932) for service to the community and the welfare of ex-service men and women; **Phillip Carey** (1955) in recognition of service to the Royal NSW Regiment and to the Army Reserve.

1980 - **Maston Beard** (1933) for public service in the field of radiophysics; **Michael Calder** (1944) for service in the field of hydrography and particularly as hydrographer, Royal Australian Navy; **Frederick Cole** (1952) in recognition of service to the Australian Army for leadership of the Australian Contingent of the Commonwealth Monitoring Force in Southern Rhodesia

1981 - **Jack Watson** (1933) for public and community service.

1982 - **Kenneth Cable** (1945) for service to education; **Derek Freeman** (1941) for service to dentistry.

1983 - **John Ellard** (1940) for service to medicine, particularly in the field of psychiatry; **Norman Savage** (enrolled 1925) for service to the community; **David Thomson** (1948) for service to the Royal Australian Navy, particularly as the commanding officer of HMAS Hobart.

1984 - **Robert Fisher** (enrolled 1952) for service to Training Command; **Stephen Hall** (1953) for service to the performing arts, particularly as a producer and administrator; **Kenneth Mosher** (1930) for service to science and to the community.

1985 - **William de Vos** (1927) for service to the pastoral industry of the Northern Territory; **Rollo Kingsford-Smith** (1935) for service to the Australian aviation industry; **Douglas Price** (1943) for service to engineering; **Neville Gruzman** (1943) for service to architecture.

1986 - **Frederick Bennett** (1946) for public service in the fields of industry and defence; **Joseph Correy** (1941) for service to medicine, particularly in the field of obstetrics and gynaecology; **David Failes** (1940) for service to medicine, particularly in the field of surgery; **Harold Quinton** (1926) for service to industry, particularly in the field of commerce, and to the community; **Jack Thompson** (1955) for service to the film industry.

1987 - **Desmond Foster** (1939) for service to the media, particularly radio; **John Birch** (1948) for service to overseas aid agencies and international relations.

1988 - **George Knowles** (1944) for public service and for service to agriculture; **Kenneth Woolley** (1949) for service to architecture.

1989 - **John Blackburn** (1968) in recognition of service to the RAAF as manager of a pilot training aid project for the F/A-18 Hornet; **Neil McInnes** (1941) for public service; **Joachim Schneeweiss** (1944) for service to the community, particularly the Jewish community; **John Staveley** (1947) for service to commerce, particularly the insurance industry.

1990 - **Warren Osmond** (1935) for service to veterans; **Ivor Pinkerton** (1932) for service to civil engineering.



The President with the new life members of the OBU at the 2009 Year 12 farewell assembly on 29 September 2009.

1991 - **Victor Beaver** (1942) in recognition of service to literature, particularly in the field of poetry; **Frederick Catterson** (1935) for service to the New South Wales Parliament, to local government and to the community; **John Raftos** (1939) for service to medicine, particularly in the field of hypertension and cardiology; **Michael Smith** (1967) for service to the Australian Army as the Commanding Officer 2/4th Battalion, the Royal Australian Regiment.

1992 - **Robert Slater** (1959) for service as commander 6th Engineer Group.

1993 - **John Bell** (1960) in recognition of service to pharmacy; **Michael Harris** (1947) for service to medicine, particularly in the field of paediatrics; **John Hirshman** (1940) for service to international health, particularly in the field of health care in developing countries.

1994 - **Michael Diamond** (1952) for service to the Greek community; **Paul Stein** (1956) for service to environment law and to the community.

1995 - **David Flint** (1955) for service to the print media particularly as chairman of the Australian Press Council and to international relations; **Anthony Linnane** (1947) for service to medicine particularly in the fields of biochemistry and molecular biology; **Peter Mason** (enrolled 1959) for service to the community as chairman of the Childrens Hospital fund of the Royal Alexandra Hospital for Children.

1996 - **Kenneth Knight** (1941) for service to education, public administration and the archives authority of New South Wales; **Richard Letts** (1952) for service to music as an administrator and consultant; **Geoffrey Lumsdaine** (1941) for service to the institute of arbitrators, as chairman of the NSW chapter practice committee since 1986, and to the architecture profession; **Philip Powell** (1946) for service to the law through the NSW Supreme Court since 1977 and as an executive member of the Law Council of Australia and the Australian Law Council Foundation.

1997 - **Richard Smith** (1951) for service to international relations, particularly in the areas of commerce and trade; **Geoffrey Tombs** (1945) for service to gemmology through the Gemmological Association of Australia and the Jewellers and Allied Trades Valuers Council.

1998 - **John Gallop** (1947) for service to the law as judge, to military law as a member of the Defence Force Discipline Appeals Tribunal, and to the community; **James Hagan** (1946) for service to higher education and to the study of Australia's labour and social history; **John Sarkis** (1949) for service to ophthalmology, in particular to research into age-related muscular disease.

1999 - **Peter Anderson** (1964) for service to the parliament of New South Wales, to local government, and to the community through arts, health and sporting groups.

2000 - **Colin Powell** (1949) for service to rural communities, particularly through the Remote and Isolated Pharmacy Association of Australia, and to Molong through a range of community support organisations; **Barry Webb** (1957) for service to electrical engineering, particularly in the area of lighting as a consultant and lecturer.

2001 - **Gabriel Dadour** (1943) for service to the community of Subiaco, particularly as a general practitioner, to local government and to the Western Australian Parliament.

2003 - **Richard Longbottom** (1976) for exceptional service to the Australian Defence Force and the Royal Australian Navy in the fields of naval engineering and project management; **Peter Wertheim** (1971) for service to the community as an executive member of a range of peak Jewish organisations, and through projects aimed at promoting greater community understanding.

2004 - **Robert Dwyer** (1957) for service to Rugby Union football, particularly as a coach of New South Wales and Australian representative teams; **Alan Nicholls** (1954) for service to medicine and to the community of the Riverina area as an orthopaedic surgeon and through participation in overseas medical missions with the Australian Red Cross; **Rodney Rosenblum** (1950) for service to the development and reform of revenue law and to the community, particularly through AUSTCARE and Jewish Care; **Peter Sams** (1973) for service to industrial relations in New South Wales and as an advocate for improved workplace safety; **Ross Tzannes** (1955) for service to the community through a range of organisations, particularly in the areas of multiculturalism and the arts.

2005 - **Hans Freeman** (1945) for service to science and scientific research in the field of bio-inorganic chemistry, particularly through the establishment and development of the discipline of crystallography in Australia; **Bruce Kaye** (1955) for service to the Anglican Church of Australia, particularly as General Secretary of the General Synod and as a scholar and author of texts on theology and church history; **Garry Nehl** (1951) for service to the Australian Parliament and to the community through a range of organisations; **Graham Newstead** (1959) for service to medicine in the field of colorectal surgery, particularly through the development of the Colorectal Surgical Society of Australasia, the implementation of international specialist surgical training programs, and the promotion of health awareness initiatives; **Saxon White** (1946) for service to medicine and to medical education, particularly through the planning and development of innovative curriculum, as a researcher in the field of human physiology, and to the Hunter Valley community.

2006 - **Alan Nichols** (1953) for service to the community through charitable and refugee organisations, and to the promotion and facilitation of dialogue between government and the Anglican Church of Australia on a range of social welfare policies and practices; **Alan Barcan** (1938) for service to the study of the history of education and social sciences in Australia and as a contributor to raising public debate on educational issues; **Ian Lacey** (1951) for service to the community, particularly as a contributor to law reform in relation to human rights issues and to the promotion of interfaith harmony; **Francis Smyth** (1939) for service to medicine through the development and provision of general oncology and reconstructive surgical services in Papua New Guinea; and to the community of Port Moresby; **Peter Spira** (enrolled 1960) for service to the housing and construction industry as an architect, to the development of design standards and building methods, and to the Jewish community.

2007 - **Colin Love** (1961) for service to sport as an administrator of Rugby League football at national and international levels, to sports law, and to the staging of sporting events; **Hugh Ralston** (1951) for service to engineering, particularly as a contributor to the advancement of innovative technology, to the Warren Centre for Advanced Engineering, and to the community; **Benjamin Selinger** (1955) for service to science education and to the community, particularly as a communicator of scientific issues to increase consumer awareness and ensure public access to goods and services that meet appropriate standards.

2008 - **Grahame Leonard** (1955) for service to the community as an executive member of a range of peak Jewish organisations.

2009 - **Norman May** (1944) for service to the community through promotional and support roles with the Australian Olympic and Commonwealth Games Team Appeals and through cultural and seniors' organisations; **Glenn Gardner** (1961) for service to people with disabilities through executive roles, particularly with the Northcott Society, and to the community; **Peter Joubert** (1938) for service to engineering through research in the field of fluid dynamics, particularly in relation to submarine design and education.



Old Boys at the unveiling of the AM honour board.

# THE PHILLIP DAY MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP DINNER

A large gathering of former colleagues, students and friends celebrated the life of Phillip Day at the inaugural Scholarship dinner on 8 September 2009. The evening was hosted by 1965 School Captain, **Neville Morgan** (1965) and **Joe McIvor** (2001) delivered the inaugural economics address. Terry O'Brien, a long time friend of Phil's, spoke eloquently and in detail about Phil's networking and interpersonal skills and about the impact that he had made on a large number of people.

The Principal, Dr Kim Jagger, thanked those who attended and observed:

“Tonight is about celebrating the teaching of economics and honouring the pursuit of personal bests in co-curricular life. It is also about the purposeful reunion of people who knew Phil. James Barrie observed that “those who bring sunshine into the lives of others cannot keep it from themselves.” Your presence tonight is evidence enough of Phil's sustained solar emissions.”

Dr Jagger also noted that since June, 2006, when new regulations permitting tax deductible status to be granted to donors to scholarship funds, there has been a stream of funds flowing into independent schools. As the only State school competing in this environment, High needed to respond too.

The Scholarship Trust Fund has designated gift recipient status and donations to it are tax deductible. In Phil's memory, the financial assistance of the Trust is offered to students to help them perpetuate High's romantic notion of the Renaissance Man. The well rounded man with a grasp of most things was an ideal supported by Phil wholeheartedly. Under the terms of the Deed, each year 25% of the balance of the income of the Trust is to be applied to funding a yearly scholarship or scholarships to talented all round students with special needs or commitments, financial or otherwise, arising out of their participation in activities organised or promoted by the school in various areas of academic, sporting, cultural, performance, service, leadership or associated endeavour.

A Committee of Phil's friends decided that Alexander Belokopytov would be the first recipient. He has very ably lived up to Phil's notion of the fully engaged, accomplished High all rounder.

Given that the current balance of the Phillip Day Memorial Scholarship Trust Fund is \$25,000, the school will need to make a commitment to underwrite the scholarship fund for some time to come. In order for the Scholarship Fund to be self-sustaining, a capital sum of around \$100,000 is needed.

The Principal has appealed to Old Boys to give generously, “so that our objective of a self-funding significant scholarship honouring Phil's life and legacy can be achieved speedily”.

The donation form can be accessed on the School's website:  
*<http://www.sydneyboyshigh.com/donations/scholarship-fund>*

# CLASS OF 1959 REUNION

A small, but enthusiastic group of Class of 1959 Old Boys, returned to the School on Sunday 27 September 2009 for a 50 year reunion.

Accompanied in the main by their wives, 32 Class members returned to “familiar territory” to explore the School as it is today. Escorted by the School Captain **Patrick Desmond** (2009), and Prefect **Alex Belokopytov** (2009), the class re-ignited memories with an excellent tour of the School facilities circa 2009.

A group photo was taken “on the grass area previously forbidden to be walked upon” right next to the statue of Apollo.

A magnificent lunch was served in the Great Hall where the Class members clearly remember the “strong presence of School Headmaster K J Andrews” striding into the Great Hall with his black robes flowing behind him. All were, as agreed, “in awe of K.J. Andrews..our Headmaster!”

The afternoon was spent in reflection and conversation over a glass or two of meditation.

The Class of 1959 wishes to thank the School for allowing the opportunity of gathering in the place of their secondary education, to look back and appreciate having been a part of the great history of Sydney Boys’ High School ... 50 years on.

They are determined to meet again in five years time!



# OBITUARIES

**Bruce Hebblewhite** died on 28 July 2009.

**John Colin Campbell** (1935) died on 16 June 2009 in Brisbane. He received an OAM in 1996 for services to the Baptist Church of NSW and to the community.

**Norman Harold Henderson** (enrolled 1935) died 21 July 2008. He received an OAM in 2003 for service to the community, particularly to children with disabilities through the Sunnyfield Association.

**Rollo Kingsford-Smith** (1936), aviator, died on 14 June 2009. His career was, in some respects inevitable, given his first flight as a boy was in a converted World War I fighter plane flown by his uncle, the pioneer aviator Sir Charles Kingsford Smith. However, the Depression meant that he was unable to study medicine at university and instead he pursued a career as a shipping clerk. In World War II he made his own name in aviation flying with Bomber Command in Britain and being awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross and a Distinguished Service Order. His obituary in *The Herald* reported that his first flight in command of a Lancaster bomber squadron was to Kassel, a well-defended city in Germany. He recalled:

“It was a cauldron of hell, magnificent, awesome, and we had to fly into it and through it. It scared all the self-confidence out of me. I remembered how to pray.”

After the War, he joined the aircraft company Hawker de Havilland in 1949, becoming managing director and chairman. He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia in 1985 for helping to develop high-technology exports.

*The Herald* reported that he wrote letters to the editor supporting an Australian republic and a new flag:

“Although he had been honorary aide-de-camp to the Queen for her first Australian visit in 1954, he had become a republican in 1944 when Curtin had to argue with Winston Churchill for Australian servicemen to be allowed to defend Australia. He helped found Veterans for a Republic.”

(SMH 13 July 2009 p 14)

**Russell George Wylie** (1940) died on 8 October 2009. The following is extracted from the “Living Treasures” section of the November 1998 edition of *The High Bulletin*:

Viscosity, temperature and humidity were the specialities of Old Boy Dr Russell Wylie who spent his working life as a researcher with the CSIRO.

Dr Wylie, whose sons **Brenton** (1975) and **Nigel** (1976) also went to High and became doctors, specialised in thermal physics. After studying for a science degree in physics and maths at Sydney University and an MA, Russell began working with the CSIRO. “Apart from two years post graduate study overseas,

I've spent my whole working life with the CSIRO", he says. He did his PhD in physics at Bristol University in England during those two years.

Russell became a leader of what became known at the CSIRO as the "Fluids Group" in a section of the department responsible for Australian standards of measurement. "I was concerned with viscosity, temperature and humidity—quite a bit of my work was concerned with that and I was closely involved with the Bureau of Meteorology", he says.

He attended a number of overseas conferences for the World Meteorological Organisation (WMO), which is linked with UNESCO. "There were representatives from many nations and some of my innovations into humidity measurements were adopted as standards by the WMO", he says.

He retired at the age of 65 in 1988 but continued voluntary work for the CSIRO as an honorary research fellow. In 1989 he was sent overseas by the Australian Bureau of Meteorology to research in Germany. "My wife and I were in Germany one week before the Berlin Wall came down", he recalls of the momentous time in Europe.

Scientific research and travel were the great interests in Russell's life from school days. He says Sydney Boys' High was always a place where teachers were always respected by students. "I find that my old school mates and I had tremendous respect for our teachers", he says. "Good teachers, those who have any rapport with their students, have a tremendous affect on their students and that certainly applies to Sydney High."

**Harry Levy** (1940) died on 1 July 2009.

**Brigadier Edward Simmons Swinbourne** (1942) died on 4 October 2009. He was president of the OBU at a time when the very future of the School was in doubt and support had to be mobilised from all quarters.

Earlier this year, at the School's Anzac commemoration, Ted presented his Sam Browne and officer's cane to two selected members of the School's cadet unit for use by the unit.

**Dr John Colin Jennings** (1944) died on 8 September 2008.

**Hans Charles Freeman** (1945) died on 9 November 2008. Hans was Professor of Professor of Inorganic Chemistry at Sydney University, 1971-1995 and Professor of Chemistry, 1995-1997.

**Jon Bartlett Powis** (1947) journalist, died in June 2009. He commenced his career at the *Sydney Morning Herald* as a cadet journalist in 1948, working in Sydney, Canberra and Darwin before moving to the Herald's London office in 1956. His obituary in the *Sydney Morning Herald* says that he was "an old-time journalist who was never so happy as when bending over the keyboard of an old Remington in the 1950s or, in more recent times, a desktop computer". He moved to Munich in 1960 and became editor-in-

## ***Obituaries...***

charge of Radio Free Europe. He later returned to Sydney to become the senior feature writer for *The National Times* before leaving mainstream journalism for a succession of public relations agencies.

The *Sydney Morning Herald* records:

Powis was blessed with a commanding presence and a wonderfully strong voice that gave him a head start in any boardroom dialogue. When he went to his next post, that of press secretary to John Howard, then treasurer, these attributes quickly gained him the tag Pompey, after the Roman general, among junior staff, which amused him.

(SMH 24 June 2009 p14)

**Dick Palmisano** (1956) (aka Palmo) died from a cancer related illness recently. **Kerry Rubie** (1958) writes:

While at school Palmo rowed in several IVs and the 1st VIII (1956) when the head coach was Frank Nicholls. Although it did not win at Penrith, this crew was inspirational to the Head of the River 1957 eight which I had the privilege of rowing in and was the foundation of old boy crews which included former school chums like John Quick, Peter Shenstone, John Pilger, Bob Sample and others whose names escape me and went on to achieve considerable success in open regattas under the brilliant coaching of Allan Callaway (who also coached the 1957 crew).

Palmo had many friends not only from his almer mater but also throughout the GPS fraternity and I am sure that those who were High related would appreciate knowing this sad news.

**Robert Oliver Avery** (1974) died on 6 September 2009.

## **FORTHCOMING EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES**

### **NYC group**

The NYC group will hold its first 2010 gathering on Thursday 25 March 2010. Further details: **Christopher Fong** (1997) - csfong@gmail.com

### **Class of 1995 poker group**

A number of Old Boys from 1995 have been catching up over regular social poker games over the past few years. Led by **Chris Vik** (1995), **Nathan Hood** (1995) and **Clayton Talbot** (1995), occasionally they are short of players when trying to organise a game (usually a couple are held each month). If you are interested in taking part, please contact Chris Vik: chris\_vik@yahoo.co.uk or 0400 364 308.

## Rowing's new MIC



The Headmaster has announced that Simon Hoadley has accepted the position of MIC of Rowing and Coordinator of Coaching. **Con Barris** (1971) has held this position for 25 years and has decided to spend more time with his family and take the opportunity to pursue other interests. Simon Hoadley is a level 2 rowing coach with a background in racing, coaching and program administration. He rowed for NZ Universities, NZ U23 and Auckland Rowing Club. He has had coaching and administration experience at Canterbury University (1996-2000), Waikato University (2001), Waikato Diocesan School (2001-2002), Kings College (2002-2003) and Auckland Diocesan School (2007-2008). Simon had a successful season in 2008-2009 with the Scots 2nd VIII and relieved as resident Head Coach at Mosman Rowing Club in 2008. Simon's role is to combine MIC and coaching Coordination. He will be at School a couple of days most weeks to recruit, organise the program and take care of administration. Most of his time will be spent coordinating the coaching program for all crews. The Headmaster, in giving Simon his full support, has encouraged staff, students, parents and friends of High to welcome Simon and get behind his ideas to move High rowing forward.

## Back to the sheds

The Rowing Committee held a very successful Back to the Sheds Day on Saturday 24th October with old boys, rowers, parents, supporters and friends attending.

The day was established last year as a way for the High rowing community to revisit the Outterside Centre, and either have a competitive row, or mix socially with each other over a barbecue breakfast and coffee.

A highlight of the day was the High Rowing Challenge which was inaugurated last year. This year, the format was expanded to include not only old boys but parents, friends and supporters. As a lead up to the day, three crews of varying experience braved the early morning start of 6am over five Saturdays to train and/or learn to row as a crew.

**Brett Jowett** (1981), **David Blomberg** (1971), and **George Comminos** (1986) joined the "experienced" rowers in the "High Society" crew. **Joseph Waugh** (1987) joined the novices in the "Submariners" crew.

The coaches for the Challenge crews were **Oliver Wilson** (2002), **David Vien** (2008), **James Gerofi** (2004) and **Yaegan Doran** (2005).

Not without mishaps, which will be looked back on with a smile, all crews managed to get some good water time and experience the thrill of moving through the water, in time, in the quiet and stillness of the morning. Credit goes to all the crews, coaches and coxswains for their good spirit, humour and friendly cooperation.

On the Back to the Sheds Day, these 3 crews raced each other. In the shining sun, and with barely a wave on the water, the three mixed teams of friends, parents and Old Boys raced over the short course for a chance to take on the finest athletes in the High Rowing program, and it was the well named team, the Submariners, who won through to the final. The Submariners slickly used their healthy handicap to full advantage in holding off the more fancied crews. The Submariners seemed to have used the training session where they sunk an Eight to maximise the pity in the handicapper's eyes, and were looking quite smug once back on land having safely qualified for the final. Club President Julie Blomberg, who was 4 seat for the Submariners, seemed particularly happy as she awaited the arrival of her husband's crew, High Society, back at the sheds!

Then it got serious with the School Vllls' race for a spot in the final. The racing was fierce but ultimately the strong High A team powered through with a relatively comfortable margin. The third team to be selected for the final was the star-studded lineup of recent High Old Boys, including Olympic squad rower, Dominic Grimm (2005). The remainder of the crew consisted of **Pat Desmond** (2009), **Josh Sharfegger** (2005), **Andrew Pham** (2007), **Jack Wachsmann** (2009), **David Vien** (2008), **Matt Ling** (2009) **Yaegan Doran** (2005) and **Tim Glass** (2001). Their lack of training time together, was overcome through sheer bicep size, and a shared desire to show the current High A team how things were done "back in the day".

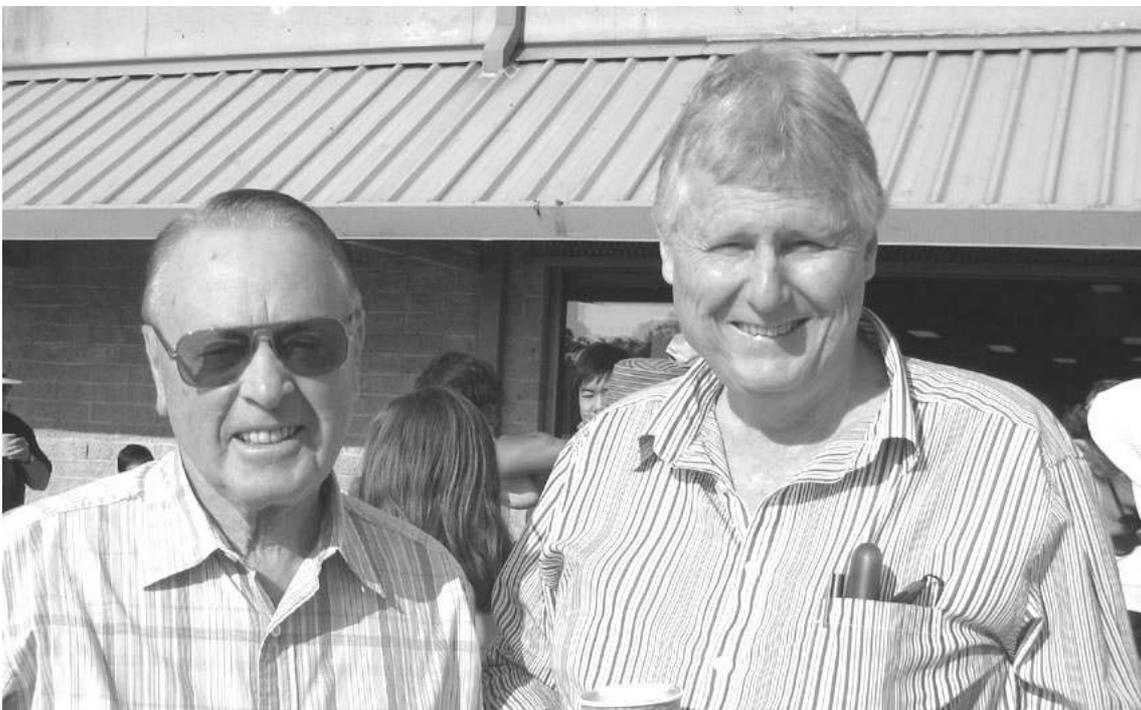
Three crews lined up for the final – The Submariners, High A team, and the Old Boys. With some sublime handicapping by **Chris Watson** (1999), a tensely contested final was won by a solitary metre. With the final underway, the Submariners used their head start to get as far ahead of the furious race at the back of the field as the younger, more dynamic teams took the racing intensity up a notch. The High A team attacked the start more aggressively and pulled ahead slightly, but the Old Boys responded well and began to gain momentum. As the Old Boys continued to pull back the High A team, the Submariners appeared as though they would be mowed down well before the finish line, until a stunning late surge gave them just enough boat speed to protect their ever decreasing lead for enough time to get them across in first place. The High A team held on for second, and the Old Boys took up third place, less than a canvas behind both the other teams.

Back on shore, all celebrated the 50th anniversary of our 1959 crew's win at the GPS Head of the River. **Ian Toll** (1959), 3 seat, represented the mighty 1959 Sydney High VIII addressed the gathering on the achievement, and wished the current crews the best of luck for their season. **Doug Donoghue** (1953), the coach of the 2nd IV in 1959, was also present. The new coaching co-ordinator Simon Hoadley urged the boys to have the courage to chase the dream of winning the Head of the River. Captain of Boats, Andrew Blomberg, responded, noting that Ian Toll's words will inspire the boys to work hard to place High back on the GPS map.

A barbecue breakfast with barista coffee was available throughout the morning thanks to the many parents who helped.



Some of the winning Old Boy crew: **Yaegan Doran, Josh Sharfegger, Dom Grimm, Tim Glass, Andrew Pham, Matt Ling, Jack Wachsmann and Pat Desmond.**



**Doug Donoghue (1953) and Geoff Andrews (1964)** catching up at the Back to the Sheds day.



All of the crews at the Back to the Sheds day.

### **The High Rower**

*The High Rower* is the regular Sydney High Rowing newsletter. It is e-mailed once a week to update rowing supporters about recent results, upcoming events, regattas, etc. If you want to receive it, please send an e-mail to [sydneyhighrowing@gmail.com](mailto:sydneyhighrowing@gmail.com)

## **E-Bulletin**

The OBU now issues a regular e-Bulletin, at least once a month.

If you have not been receiving our e-Bulletin, please send your e-mail address, with name and leaving year to:

[secretary@shsobu.org.au](mailto:secretary@shsobu.org.au)

# Rifle Club honours Sam Kremer

The Sydney High Rifle Club has recently recognised **Sam Kremer's** (1992) immense contribution to Sydney High rifle shooting with an award of life membership.

Sam was Vice-Captain of Shooting and a Prefect of the School in 1992. His father, **Ted Kremer** (1962), and brother, **Ben Kremer** (1990) were also keen shooters at High.

Sam has always maintained an interest in rifle shooting at High and supports the students in many ways both behind the scenes as well as out on the range supporting the team during competitions. Sam's involvement with the Rifle Club has included filling the role of Treasurer since 2004. He has also managed the Club's equipment upgrade and replacement project over the last 3-4 years and, through this role, has contributed to the team's success in competitions including this year's GPS Annual Shoot. Sam was also a coach and manager of the 2009 Sydney High Rifle Team tour to New Zealand. In fact, it was Sam's contacts with rifle associations in New Zealand that made the tour possible.

As a member of the Army Reserve, Sam was selected into the Australian Army Rifle Team. With this team, he has contested a number of matches, including competing at Bisley in 2000.



**Sam Kremer** (1992) with his life membership certificate.

## Advertise in the High Bulletin

Want to support the continued operation of the OBU and expose your business to 3,000 Old Boys and the current parents of Sydney High?

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Contact: [editor@shsobu.org.au](mailto:editor@shsobu.org.au)

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