



# High Flyer

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The magazine of **Sydney Boys High School**

Anzac Parade

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## LINKS

[www.sydneymboyshigh.com](http://www.sydneymboyshigh.com) (The School)

[www.shsfoundation.org](http://www.shsfoundation.org) (The Foundation)

[www.shsobu.org.au](http://www.shsobu.org.au) (The Old Boys Union)

'High Old Boys' Group on Facebook

# Reconciling Cultures

Sydney High has developed a reciprocal biannual exchange program with Boggabilla Central School, a largely indigenous public school in rural NSW. The students from 'Bogga' are exposed to the variety, excitement and opportunities available in Sydney. The students from High embrace a culture that is very different from their own and typifies the strengths and weaknesses of many indigenous communities.

High boys have billeted and guided 'Bogga' students around Sydney since 2003. Many of the young people from Boggabilla have

never swum in the ocean, visited a shopping centre or seen a State of Origin game with 80,000 other rugby league fans before coming to Sydney. More importantly, few of



High boys canoe with Bogga kids on the NSW-Queensland border.



The boys from High camp with the Bogga kids, learning Aboriginal customs.



The 2007 contingents from Boggabilla Central School and Sydney High assembled in the bush.

them have the opportunity to visit a university or TAFE or to develop the close bonds with city kids that come from a reciprocal billet arrangement held over a number of years.

The High boys are challenged by the experience. A group of boys spend a week in Boggabilla, learning about indigenous culture and the operation of a small regional economy. The boys visit sites of historical and cultural significance, play sport with the indigenous students and go camping on indigenous land. They play didgiredoos, eat goanna and witchetty grubs and experience the bush. This hospitality is matched when the 'Bogga' kids are billeted in Sydney.

High boys also work throughout the year fundraising to maintain a creche at Boggabilla which assists young women in the community return to school or TAFE after giving birth. **Con Barris** (1971), coordinates this program.



Girls from 'Bogga' experiencing classes at Ultimo TAFE.



# A New Entrance Stream

Permission has now been granted for Sydney High to select up to 20 additional students to enter the School in Year 9. As our purpose is to deliver a full education, the selection criteria for this class balances curricular and extra-curricular abilities and interests.

The Headmaster wants to enrol students who will actively engage with the School's programs. The new Year 9 intake will allow the school to cease its Year 11 intake after 2009. The extra two years will give incoming students more time to connect with the School's academic programs and to contribute meaningfully to co-curricular activities. Incoming boys will be mentored by dedicated staff and students to facilitate engagement.

The Headmaster, Dr Jaggar, sees this as a landmark opportunity to expand our breadth of co-curricular participation, strengthen the School's ethos and increase our results.

Once the program is fully operational the population of the School will rise slightly to 1160. Three extra classrooms, one on the flat and two in the McDonald Wing, have been constructed to provide accommodation for these students. An extra class will be formed in Year 9 for core subjects. Incoming students will be spread across multiple classes.

The community at High is encouraged by the possibilities that the Year 9 intake will provide. The School has marketed the innovation to people living within a 5 kilometre radius of the School. The Headmaster hopes that Old Boys, and their relatives, who live locally will be attracted to the program. He fully expects alumni support as the initiative becomes widely known.

**For information and application forms visit: [sydneyboyshigh.com](http://sydneyboyshigh.com) and select the enrolment link.**

## Chinese New Year Dinner

organised jointly by  
Sydney Boys High  
Development Committee  
and P&C Association

**When:** 6:30, 23 February, 2008

**Where:** The Great Hall, SHS

**Price:** \$25 (per person) \$100 (family)

**Contact:** Charles Ovardia 0412 560 511 or [covardia@medemail.com.au](mailto:covardia@medemail.com.au)

**Businesses:** donate a prize

**Parents:** donate some time

**Everyone:** pen this in the diary

# Representative Achievements



The CHS and GPS representatives assembled in the School's quadrangle.

Sydney High is unique because its boys may be selected in either GPS or CHS representative teams. In 2007, 11 boys received representative honours.

Congratulations to **Joshua Weight** (Year 12) and **Lachlan Street** (Year 11) who were selected in the combined GPS 1st XI football team. Well done to **Daniel Campion** (Year 11), **Aaron Shuttleworth** and **Gehan Karunaratne** (both Year 12) for their

selection in the combined GPS 2nd XI.

**Michael Coutts** and **Kelvin Yu** (both Year 12) were selected in the CHS debating team. Our summer sport representatives were **Matt Fetherston** and **Dakshika Gunaratne** for GPS cricket, **Harry Walker** for GPS basketball and **Matthew King** who was selected for both CHS and GPS tennis (all in Year 11).



*Support the boys at High by donating towards the library appeal.*

*Visit: [sydneyboyshigh.com](http://sydneyboyshigh.com) and click on donations to find out how, or turn to page 15 of the 'Flyer'.*

# Winter Sport 2007

High's First Grade Volleyball team won the NSW and GPS titles for the third and fourth years running respectively. High is going to have to stay on its toes to maintain this standard in the future as many of our GPS competitors are combining their volleyball and basketball programs (as the sports occur in opposite seasons) to produce formidable teams. **Oliver Konakoff** was selected in the Australian Volleyball team and **Victor Nguyen** played for NSW and was awarded a Sydney East Blue for Volleyball.

coach the 1st XV in 2008. **Serdar Bolen** will direct Junior School Rugby, ensuring skills development is strong.



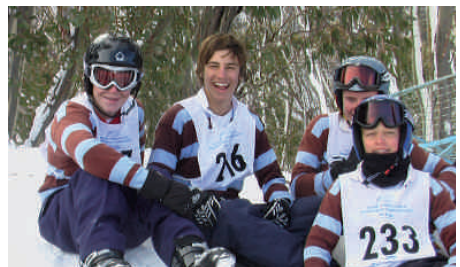
High's 16A XV dominating a lineout on McKay One, High Rugby's home.



Three High cross country runners relax before the endurance event.

In rugby, High fielded 12 teams, an improvement on recent years. **Tony Hannon's** 15As played a strong season and **Matt Fetherston** and **Alex Vertoudakis** played well in the 1st XV. **Paul Scrivener** will

High's athletics team won the Eastern Suburbs Zone Championship in 2007. In the GPS our Junior Athletics team finally achieved that most elusive goal by beating both The Scots College and The Armidale School.



Andrew Blomberg, Michael Ambrose, James Whiting and Alex Koerber (all Year 9) relaxing after racing for the School's ski team.



A long jumper bracing himself for landing during the GPS Carnival.

At the School Athletics Carnival **Kogulan Sriranjana** announced himself as the fastest boy in the school by winning both the open 100 and 200m races. However, this triumph was not to be unchallenged. At the Waverley-Cranbrook Invitational **Joshua Tassell** ran a scorching 11.22 in the 15 years 100m race. **Harrison Lane** placed 2nd in NSW in the 3000m. **Michael Denny-Smith** won silver in the gruelling 400m hurdles, **Dakshika Gunaratne** claimed a well deserved bronze in the opens 110m hurdles and



High a neck in front of Scots and Newington at the GPS Carnival

**Dinghau Xiao** came 2nd in both the shot-put and discus with throws of 14.23m and 42.08m respectively. Special mention must also go to **Michael Phung** who placed well all year in 13s 100m, long jump and high jump.



The 1st XI celebrating a goal against The Scots College at McKay.

Association Football (soccer) had a good year. High provided five GPS football representatives. The 1st XI finished fourth in the GPS. Overall 250 boys played football in 2007, with the 13s fielding five teams. The 15As suggest future seasons will be successful after progressing to round three of the Bill Turner Cup. High's 5th Grade won the Dolan Cup (for winning the most games in a season) and **Ian Lu** of the 15Ds won the Golden Boot (for scoring the most goals). **Matt Lee** (5th Grade) won the Golden Glove (for saving the most goals) after managing not to concede a goal all season.

**Anyone interested in coaching should contact the Head Teacher Sport, Mr R. Ayre on 9361 6910, extension 133.**



# Debating 2007

High's debating program has expanded rapidly thanks to **Jocelyn Brewer**, a young social science teacher whose dedication has achieved results. High won the Karl Cramp (NSW Year 11) and was runner up in the Hume Barbour and GPS (Year 12) competitions. The entire first grade team was selected in the CHS team which represents the public school system against

its private peers. **Ashwin Rudder** (Year 8) was best speaker at the UTS School Day. **Antony Paul** (Year 9) was selected for the NSW Junior Debating Team.

High's debating program has 120 boys and 11 coaches. High will enter a new competition with independent schools in 2008 to expand pre-season training.

## Ancient Victories



Christian Katsikaros won the NSW Ancient Greek and Latin Speaking Competitions in 2007. Classics may be studied from years 7-12.



# An Education Revolution

**James Wolfensohn**, AO, KBE, recent president of the World Bank (and an Old Boy from 1949) was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from UNSW earlier this year. Upon receipt of this honour he commented, in the context of growing Chinese and Indian economies, that he was disappointed *'our young people are...not putting the effort in to understand, learn and provide bridges to India and China.'*

High's linguistic and cultural programs help address this concern. Mandarin and Chinese Cultural studies have flourished at High in the last two years. Two competitions indicate success.

The Chinese Eisteddfod is a prose-recital competition in which students must perform dramatically in Mandarin. Each year over 3000 candidates present. High has entered 70 candidates each year and has consistently achieved 1st, and 2nd places in both individual and group events.

Our Chinese language students also gained the highest number of High Distinctions of any school in the 2007 Chinese Certificate 2 tests, conducted by ACER.

These tests are competitive and sat by most Australasian Chinese students.

Thanks go to the People's Republic of China's Sydney Consulate for their very large donation of books on Chinese history, culture and society to High, pictured below.



## 2006 HSC rankings in Chinese:

- **David Cao** was 2nd in Chinese Continuers and 4th in Chinese Extension;
- **Henry Liu** was 3rd in Chinese Continuers and 3rd in Chinese Extension; and
- **Francis Wong** was 5th in Chinese Extension.

# Pumping Iron

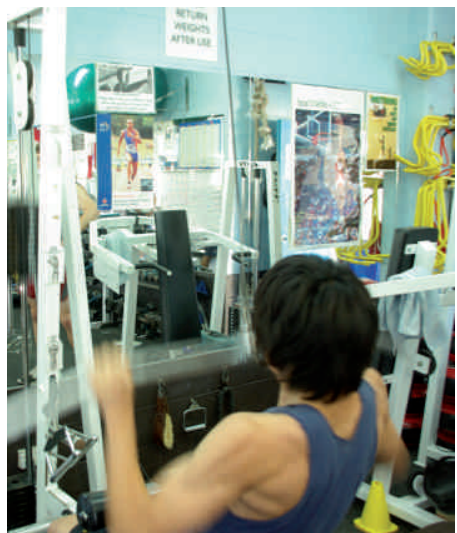
The Alan May Strength Room is designed to be the place where High boys get bigger, faster and stronger. It is coordinated by Jason Tassell (TJ), a parent, professional trainer, rugby league player and business owner.

TJ helps coaches by developing the muscular strength and agility boys need to compete. He lets the coaches focus on the technique behind any game and works with them to develop nutrition, rest, recovery and development programs.

Every sport has a strength program, both in and out of season, to develop the specific muscular characteristics required. In conjunction with these

are speed, agility and endurance sessions. These are compulsory for all senior athletes. The boys are encouraged to work in the gym through TJ's annual strongman competition and monthly strength tests. This encouragement works, with 250 boys (a quarter of the school) using the gym last term.

Every boy now spends time in the gym during Years 7, 8 and 9 Physical Education, learning the theory and practice of weights training. The boys work in pairs, with their own bars and plates, learning lifting techniques for nine basic exercises. As an assessment they must attend the weights room to master four other techniques.



# The Cutler Memorial Gates



WO2 Anthony Ho stands to attention after preparing the ranks for inspection.

His Excellency Major General Michael Jeffery AC CVO MC (retd), Governor General of the Commonwealth of Australia dedicated the Sir Roden Cutler VC Memorial Gates on 24 May 2007. The Gates are located on Anzac Parade, between the Killip and McDonald Wings of the School.

High Cadets formed an Honour Guard for His Excellency, parading with arms for the first time in 12 years. Lady Cutler, Major General Kelly (Land Commander of the Australian Army), Keith Payne VC and Mark Cutler also attended. Later in the day the boys supported Sir Roden Cutler Charities, raising nearly \$9000. See the *High Flyer*, V1(1) for more on this project.



His Excellency, the School Captain, Senior Prefect and Lady Cutler.



# Mapping the High Way

High Boys dominated the 2007 National Geographic Channel Australian Geography Competition.

**Anthony Morris** (Year 12) achieved a perfect score in the senior division. This has never before been accomplished.



Anthony Morris achieved 100% in the senior division of the National Geography Competition.

**John Wormell** (Year 9) came first in Australia in the junior division and **Ashwin Rudder** (Year 8) came equal fifth. **Maxwell Phillis** (both Year 9) came equal third in the

intermediate division. These ranks were supported by a solid cohort to enable High to claim the number one school ranking for Australia.

The test examined 86,000 entrants from across Australia on geographic issues. Geography is taught from years 7 to 12.

Anthony Morris and John Wormell also achieved brilliantly in the UNSW Mathematics Competition. Anthony Morris gained a prize for the sixth consecutive year (another first). John Wormell ranked first in the Junior Division. John will sit for Mathematics Extension 2 (a HSC unit) this year. John only turned 13 in November. High boys won five High Distinctions in the Australian Mathematics Olympiad.

Anthony Morris has also twice won a Gold Medal in the Australian Mathematical Olympiad and has been awarded a Bronze Medal in the International Mathematical Olympiad. But not all his time is spent in books. He also plays wing in the 3rd XV, competes in the 100m freestyle, debates for the CHS and plays the clarinet in the Senior Concert Band. He was elected a prefect by his peers.

# High Resolves

High Resolves is a program designed to motivate students to become purposeful global citizens, that is, people who feel a sense of responsibility to humanity not just their local community. A series of programs are executed to achieve this. These focus boys on questions of identity, justice, poverty, conflict resolution and the dilemmas of collective action. Selected students were instructed for a day by T. Schelling, a Nobel Prize winning economist.

These lessons are taught in unconventional ways. For example, students learn about poverty by engaging in a 'hunger banquet'. 55% of the boys (the poor world) receive a bowl of rice and a glass of water for lunch, seated on the floor. The next 30% of boys (the developing world) receives a few vegetables and rice, a jug of water and were allowed a chair, but no

table. The next 15% of boys (the rich world) were allowed to feast on meat, vegetables and soft drinks, seated on chairs at tables.

High boys also engaged in global negotiations about climate change. The negotiations exposed them to the tensions between short run and long run societal interests. Other activities encouraged students to view conflict by understanding perspectives so that they resolve conflict without unproductive, heated disputes. Finally, in Year 9 students must consider whether, in a society based on injustice, they have an option besides being complicit in this injustice or leaving their society. Senior students are trained to facilitate junior students' classes.

This evolving program grants students the philosophical skills they will need as global leaders.



**CPL Johan Santoso** was the dux of the 2007 NSW Cadet Brigade Signals Course. He is pictured here at the Pacific Chiefs Heads of Army Conference, which preceded APEC. High Cadets supported the Army Cadet display and underwent familiarisation training with current service equipment on the day.

# Enriching Mathematics

Since the start of 2007 15 boys and 15 girls from Sydney Boys and Girls High Schools have been participating in a maths enrichment program. Mr Peter Brown has acted as the mentor for this program. Mr Brown is a mathematics lecturer at UNSW.

The program extends students' learning by engaging students with talented university mathematicians in tutorial groups which tackle mathematical problem solving and challenge boys to confidently present their findings to their peers. This builds upon enrichment programs already in place at High.

Mr Brown's work at UNSW has prepared him well for teaching students at High. While his research areas of number theory, diophantine equations and the history of mathematics provide him with the intellectual background to extend our students, his leadership as a mentor of university students and academic adviser to the teaching and learning committee reflect his excellent pedagogical skills.

The mathematics enrichment club is open to students from Years 9-11 and is divided into a junior and senior program.

## The GPS Choir



17 High boys were selected to sing in the GPS Choir in 2007. The boys rehearsed and performed at The King's School. A portion of the Choir, with High boys located in the centre, is pictured above.



# Check Mate, Again!

Chess is a game of strategy. Victory requires a clear mind which can accurately predict one's opponent's moves and manage resources with distinct abilities as a coherent group. High boys have consistently excelled at this challenge.

In 2007 High won the GPS Championship and the Senior and Intermediate A categories of the NSW Junior Chess League Competition.

Three senior school boys (**Jason Cohn, Oleg Koudashev and Johnny Shih**) were selected in the Combined GPS Squad. Chess is taught in small weekly tutorials run by **Alex Feldman (2003)**.



High was host and champion at the 2007 GPS Chess Championship. This built well upon High's GPS victory in 2006.

*Support the boys at High by donating (tax deductible) to the library appeal. Visit: [sydneyboyshigh.com](http://sydneyboyshigh.com) and click on donations, or simply post the cut-off slip below to the school (the address is on the front cover).*

Our 125th Anniversary Project  
New Library and Performing Arts Centre

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# Sport



The 2007 NSW and GPS Volleyball Champions in the school gym.



High's 1st Grade Basketball Team ranked third in NSW at the CHS Tournament, defeating several elite sport high schools on the day.