





Highlights

The Governors Centre Naming Ceremony Shaving for a Cause OBU Tech Talks

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The completed Governors Centre Photo: Rodrigo Vargas

Below

Front cover shot from Student Survival Guide

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Sydney Boys High School

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The first term of 2021 was a very productive one at High. We were able to start the year in a more normal fashion, with our Year 7 Welcome, Summer Sports and Student Awards Scheme assemblies. COVID restrictions on indoor gatherings eased in time for us to host a decentsized audience at our first event in the Governors Centre—Presentation Night. Despite some teething troubles we were able to produce a live-streamed event, which has had over one thousand views. We plan to build the capacity of our 40-strong Student Media Team to produce better live-streamed events in the future. The team has acquired a portfolio of useful equipment, following a grant of \$10,000 by the P & C which was matched by the School. I believe hybrid or bi-modal events will be organised quite frequently going forward, in order to reach a wider audience. While there is a longing for face-to-face events, streaming keeps those unable to attend still interested and engaged.

During the second semester of 2020, Mr Kay (DP, Junior School) led the School through a process described in detail by Stones & Hatswell in their book The Window of Certainty: Defining what matters in your school, Exploring the difference it makes (December 2015). Using the metaphor of a window with four interactive frames, the process focusses on actions and conversations to build consensus in a community. To know where we are going, we need a vision. To know what counts as improvement or success, we will need specific outcomes. To know what the culture is that will drive our effectiveness in achieving success, we must know what we stand

for—our agreed values. To understand how best to guide our practice, we need to articulate our beliefs in the best things to do to achieve our stated outcomes. Effectiveness is enhanced when there is a balance struck between individual autonomy and collective purpose.

The High school community was engaged in formulating a shared vision, in describing outcomes that could be used to assess progress towards that vision, and in developing agreed values that would facilitate the growth of a learning community to achieve our vision. Surveys were sent to students, staff, parents and Old Boys. Much time was spent in analysing the data and applying qualitative evaluation principles. Key stakeholders were consulted. Our High vision: 'We strive to be at the forefront of educational practice, pursuing excellence while contributing positively to the world as scholars, sportsmen, educators and leaders'.

After distilling all our school community data and incorporating the priorities of the Department of Education outlined in the School Success Model and What Works Best, a School Improvement Plan was drafted in 2020 and tested against a Department of Education rubric during Term 1 this year. The Plan was signed off by the Director, Educational Leadership. We believe our School Improvement Plan has the right mix of targets and action descriptors which provide the freedom to individuals and groups to find their own paths to successful outcomes. This plan will drive the direction of our School from 2021-2024.

Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM

Sporting Highlights

In Fencing, our Foil teams claimed silver medals in both the Intermediate and Senior divisions of the NSWFA School Age Program and our Sabre teams kept up their 7-year gold streak by winning the Intermediate and Senior Boys Sabre divisions.

Ike Matsuoka was selected to captain the 2021 AAGPS Representative Swimming team. Other High boys chosen to compete at CIS were Mark Yan (12 years), Jiazi Chen (13 years), David Kim (14 years), Brian Ahn (15 years) and Jaden Yi (16 years).

Brian Ahn was selected to the Water Polo NSW Metro Academy Squad.

In Cricket, Bilal Abbasi was selected in the under 17 NSW Metropolitan team, Anay Baruah in the CHS 1st XI, and Aditya Nigul in the Combined GPS 1st XI side. Raunak Roy, Chris Roussos and Xavier Nath were selected for the Combined U/16 GPS side.

Jia Qi (Jackie) Wu set a new coached SHSRC club record for target rifle shooting, achieving a 50.9 out of 50.10 at 600 metres, shooting all centres with nine out of ten V bulls.



Lucas Adamson was selected in the Manly Warringah Basketball U16 years representative team; Isaac Ayoubi was selected as the starting PG for the U18 Basketball NSW state team as well as to the Combined GPS teams along with Izac Taylor, Andrew Kim and Alec Ryan.

Andy Danis and Blair Zong were named in the second grade combined GPS tennis team.

At the Head of the River, our 1st VIII beat the TAS crew to finish 8th with a time 8.97% away from the winner's time and the best row since 2018.

Our 1st and 2nd Volleyball teams finished their seasons as GPS champions and our Year 11 and Year 12 volleyball teams won Division 1 gold medals at the All Schools Volleyball Championships (see photo above).

Academic and Co-Curricular Highlights

William Winter (2020) won a Leadership Award from the University of Sydney and Mridul Pant (2020) and Ramon Zhang (2020) were awarded UNSW Co-Op Scholarships in Business Information Systems and Commercial Information Systems respectively.

In the Australian National Geography Competition, High teams came equal first in NSW for Year 7 (Andrew Pye & Leo Zhuang) and Year 8 (Eric Scholten & Daniel Nguyen).

Nine HSC music students were nominated for possible inclusion in ENCORE, and one student each was nominated for the ARTEXPRESS and SHAPE exhibitions.

The High team of Blair Zong, Ryan Lee, Arnav Bansal and Saksham Bhatia earned an Honourable Mention in the International Mathematical Modeling Competition, and our Year 10 team were National Finalists.

In the NSW Senior Business Studies 2020 'Plan Your Own Enterprise' Competition, Martin Lee achieved 3rd place in NSW Division 1. In the group entry, Saarthak Aggarwarl, Jo Kawahashi, Terence Lim and James Walker, came 3rd in Division 2.

Nicholas Arvanitellis and Harry Wu were invited to attend The National Mathematics Summer School, the oldest and most prestigious program of its type in Australia. Six students were also invited by the Australian Maths Trust to attend the summer 'Informatics School of Excellence'.

Our Open Chess team (Justin Wayne-Lowe, Kerwin Ma, Ryan Lee, Jack Keating, Toby Huey and Jason Pan) represented NSW and came 4th in the Australian Schools Team Championships.

In the VEX Robotics National Competition, Joshua Li's team received the Excellence and Teamwork Challenge Champion Awards and he qualified to compete in the World Championships to be held in May.

Andrew Nguyen won the 2020 Games category of the Bright Awards, earning prize money for himself and the School.

Sydney Boys faced Sydney Girls in the state final of the Premier's Challenge (Karl Cramp) debating competition.

An Historic Presentation Night

The 138th Presentation Night held on 16 February 2021 was the first major event held by Sydney Boys High School in the new Governors Centre. The event was notable not just because of the new venue, but also because of the unique safety procedures in place this year.

Unfortunately, due to COVID regulations, only the Class of 2020 and one guest per family were able to attend in the main auditorium. The Year 12 prefects assisted with the Service NSW QR code and hand sanitiser as students, parents, and guests arrived through the foyer. The award ceremony was live-streamed via YouTube by the School's talented Media Team, enabling year 7-11 students to watch and cheer their fellow students from afar. The live-stream also allowed others in the school



community to watch the ceremony remotely, with approximately 1600 views.

The guest speaker for the evening was Old Boy Bruce Corlett AM (1961), a Patron of the OBU and one of the founders of the Sydney High Bursary Program. Students, parents, guests, and staff enjoyed the award ceremony at the new venue. Although some of us missed the honour boards and the familiarity of the Great Hall, we appreciated the comfortable seating in the Governors Centre auditorium. It was a wonderful evening celebrating students' achievement in their academic and sporting pursuits, and their community and school service and co-curricular activities.

Joanna Chan, Head Teacher Student Wellbeing



PDHPE (Personal Development, Health & Physical Education)

Since 2014, 92% of our PDHPE candidates have achieved a Band 5 or higher. This is due to the diligence of the students and teachers, coupled with the fact that these students chose a subject that they have a genuine interest in. The Class of 2020 was no different—under the guidance of Mr Smith, 91% of students achieved a Band 5 or higher. Six of these 10 students gained a Band 6 result, with Anish Joseph leading the class with a mark of 94. 2020 was Mr Smith's third best HSC result with an impressive 'Z' score of 1.18, having set a high 'Z' score benchmark of 1.50 in 2014.

LOTE (Languages Other Than English)

An outstanding LOTE result was achieved in 2020 by Ms Willa Zhang and her Chinese in Context class. Chinese in Context was first offered at our school in 2011, and its students are typically those who have been brought up in a home where the Chinese language is used and who have a connection to Chinese culture. The course is very challenging for our students, most of whom were born in Australia. In 2020, the bar was set very high, as all students received a Band 6. Xi Liu topped the class with a mark of 97, and ranked 5th in the state. Three other students—Yifei Wu, Matthew He and Yuchi Zhang—received a mark of 96.

Farewell to Robert Dowdell (SHS 1996-2020)



In the last scene of our 'long goodbye', I want to pay a final tribute to the 25 years of service that our former Deputy Principal Bob Dowdell dedicated to High. First as HT Administration (1996-2000) and then as Deputy of the Senior School (2001-2020), Bob has always been a

larger-than-life figure at High as our resident go-to, big brain guy. He was great to work with—calm, rational, logical, unflappable and meticulous. His razor-sharp mind and quirky wit were the pillars of his leadership style. I cannot recall a single heated emotional exchange between us in over twenty years of close collaboration. He gave a great deal of his time to the School in the co-curricular areas of Basketball and Football. His major contribution to the administration of High was the development, management and upgrading of his Student Information System (Find a Student). He also constructed a system for assessment data that allowed comparisons to be made among students and between academic years.

Bob constantly refined the Student Reports as elements were added and formats changed. Early on in our administrative collaboration, Bob opened up the timetable across the lines, spread subjects and systematised vertical grouping and demand-driven electives scheduling. He achieved >87% success in matching students to course selections at the first iteration of a free choice selection process, and maximised student opportunities to study the suite of courses that they desired. He responded to the call when asked to break down the barricades of the 53-minute period, two-week cycle. The result was his one hour, three-week cycle which has been in operation for many years. He designed many other apps and programs to make school systems and administrative processes more efficient or effective. The value of his proprietary systems to us was >\$550k during his time at High. As the song says, 'you don't know what you got 'til it's gone'. Thank you from all of us, Bob, for your exceptional contribution to this school. You will be missed.

Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM

Introducing Dr Lynda Pinnington-Wilson



Dr Lynda Pinnington-Wilson joins Sydney Boys High School staff after a long and varied career across three education sectors. Her roles in the primary, secondary and tertiary sectors have enabled her to broaden her experience in the NSW Department of Education's

corporate service as CEO of the Leadership and High Performance Directorate, and, more recently, with Educational Services as Rural and Remote Education's Principal Education Officer. Last year Lynda led the small team responsible for delivering the department's <u>Rural and Remote Education Strategy (2021-2024)</u> launched by the Minister in February 2021.

Dr Pinnington-Wilson's experience at selective schools started in 2009 when she served as Deputy Principal at Hurlstone Agricultural High School then as Deputy at partially-selective Tempe High School.

Lynda has taught 15 subjects from the secondary curriculum, including English, Mathematics and Science to HSC level. Her love of learning has driven her to undertake over thirty years of university study, including her Doctorate from the University of Sydney. Her study centres around literacy, professional learning, curriculum and pedagogical practices. She currently teaches Year 7 English and is the Senior Deputy Principal. We welcome Dr Pinnington-Wilson to Sydney Boys High.

Photo courtesy Mr Yun Teoh



The Governors Centre Naming Ceremony

It is with great excitement that I report that on March 25th we held an intimate naming ceremony in conjunction with Sydney Girls High to celebrate the completion of the Governors Centre. It was a privilege to tour the beautiful modern facility and to be able to thank many of the major contributors to this multi-year project. We are thrilled that the vision formed by earlier members of both school communities and fulfilled by thousands of parents, Old Boys and Girls and other community donors has culminated in an inspired piece of stunning architecture gracing the Cleveland St streetscape.

We were honoured to have representatives of both eponymous Governors in attendance (see photo above). Our SBHS Patron Lady Joan Cutler, wife of former Governor of NSW Sir Roden Cutler (OB1934), was accompanied by Richard Cutler (son of Sir Roden), and the SGHS Patron, another former Governor of NSW, Dame Marie Bashir arrived with her daughter, Ms Susan Shehadie (both SGHS OGs). Our distinguished guests had an enjoyable evening meeting other guests and touring the venue, with appreciation for the architecture including the stunning vista of the flat/lower grounds.

Other special guests in attendance included Executive Director Dr Sylvia Corish and Director of Educational Leadership Mr Richard Skinner from the Department of Education, building architect Alex Kibble from TKD, and SINSW Assistant Project Director Mr Andrew Watts. It was a wonderful opportunity to host many members of the team who worked on the project.

Our School was well-represented by many major contributors to the project including donors, Old Boys, and past and current parents. We welcomed a diverse group of our community members, including a number who had not visited the School in many years.

Upon arrival, guests were treated to the exquisite musical talents of members of the SBHS Jazz Ensemble and Senior Strings and the SGHS String Quartet. We thank music teachers Sarah Kim (SBHS) and Julia Henshaw (SGHS) for their support. We also had some wonderful students meet and greet our guests and the SBHS Media Team on hand to film and photograph the proceedings. All of the students involved are to be commended on their interpersonal skills as we were very proud of the way they represented their schools.

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The Governors Centre Naming Ceremony

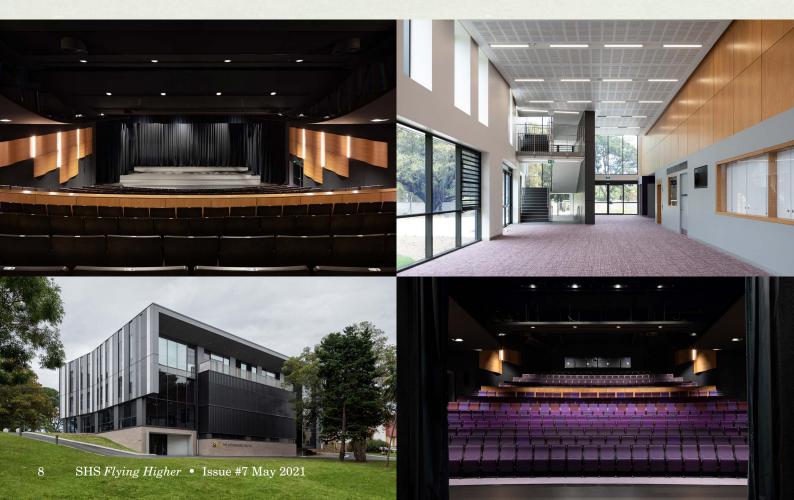
Both schools contributed to the short formal section of the afternoon. Thanks to Charlie Appleton, who served as Master of Ceremonies, as well as Dr Jaggar and Foundation Chair Judite Santos, for their impassioned speeches on behalf of the SBHS community.

Following the formal speeches, guests were treated to beverages and a sumptuous spread of food coordinated by our parent committee, as well as tours of the new facility. As we toured the stunning building which began with a vision in August 2010 for a multi-purpose performance space, it felt like, as a community, we had achieved the unachievable. After the initial 'vision' was formed, an inordinate amount of work followed as our stakeholders embarked upon a challenging navigation through setting up a feasible structure, establishing a company and board, contractual negotiations with the State Government, legal complications and working with structurally-different entities, including the Department of Education and the girls' school.

Despite the differing perspectives brought by the champions of this project, we shared the same goal: to create a state-of-the-art multipurpose

educational facility to give our students the greatest opportunity for development in the areas of performing arts, music, debating and public speaking. Our communities then embarked on a variety of fundraising campaigns to achieve the goal of an impressive \$14.5 million.

Every SBHS parent in recent years is a donor to the project; about 500 individuals will be acknowledged on the Wall of Gratitude for their donation of \$1000 or more; approximately 30 donors will be acknowledged on a seat plaque in the main theatre for their donation of \$3000 or more. We thank all of these donors, as well as those who have generously donated other amounts, including monthly donors and our four major SBHS donors to the project. It really has taken a village to turn the vision into a reality. With a facility including a state-of-the-art theatre space seating 400, a modern conference room boasting 4000 sq m of space which may accommodate 250 people for a cocktail reception or 200 for a seated event, our 'village' has created a unique, beautiful and practical space where our students and larger community can come together and connect.



We are planning a larger-scale event later in the year to thank our many donors from over the past decade and will be in touch with more information about that soon.

In addition to the funds already raised, we are still in need of further funding for a number of 'finishing touches', including the purchase of a grand piano, white goods and soft furnishings. So it's not too late to contribute further and help finalise the vision begun so many years ago. Please see the back page of this magazine or visit https://www.shsobu.org.au/pages/finishing-touches for information on how you can donate towards these finishing touches.

I would like to express my thanks to everyone involved with the Governors Centre, especially to the SHS Foundation Board past and present—many of whom have worked hard behind the scenes for years on the Governors Centre—especially Dr Jaggar, Paul Almond, Geoff Andrews, and Paul Harapin.

Thank you to my colleagues on the Governors Centre Limited Board: Paul Almond (OB1981), John Taylor (OB1967), Kate Morgan (SGHS parent), Chris Graham-White (SGHS parent) and Matthew Stubbs (SGHS parent) who are working to support both schools. Many people were involved in the naming ceremony event. This includes the planning committee which consisted of representatives of both schools: Mark Grosser (SGHS P&C President); Janet Len (SHGS P &C Treasurer); myself (GCL Chair); and the talented and very well-organised Binh Johnsun (SBHS Communication Manager).

A large group of devoted parents worked very hard on logistics and catering for the event. I would like to acknowledge: Carrie Waring, Geoff Waring, Les Cheng, Andrew Chan, Emma Huynh, Vivian Tan, Tim Trent, Charlotte Trent, Desiree Fiene and Leslie Wait, who were invited guests and volunteered their time to serve others. These people are consummate volunteers who do everything from sitting on our boards and committees to helping at sports BBQs and debating dinners. Their commitment is another example of what makes High so special.

With regards and deep thanks

Diane Williams Harapin Chair of the Governors Centre Limited Board Mother of Tyler (OB2019), partner of Paul (OB1983), and SGHSOG 1985

Photos courtesy of Paul Almond, Mr Yun Teoh, Rodrigo Vargas and James Walker (Skywalker Studios)



LAUNCH OF OUR NEW COMMUNITY PORTAL



The Old Boys Union is excited to announce the launch of its new online community portal: www.shsobu.org.au.

Years in the making, the new portal is for the whole Sydney High community including Old Boys, current students, parents (both past and present) and staff.

Please take a few minutes to register so you can continue to stay connected. Once registered, you will be able to search for school friends and parents via the network section and send them a message asking to connect.

Your details will already be in our system, however, please feel free to add a photo, update your contact information and add more details regarding your background and career.

The portal will give us the ability to form community groups, some of which have already been established. These include year groups, parent groups, university affiliations, sports, music, city-specific groups and more. You will be able to read updated news, write your own stories, establish events for reunions or get-togethers, purchase items and make donations. The OBU can handle ticketing and payments via the platform to make organising events much simpler, as well as updating attendees' contact records upon registration.



In addition, we have a new Mentoring section, where you may register your interest to be either a mentor or mentee. We also have a Jobs section, where you can advertise a new role you have available in your organisation, or search for a new job yourself.

We will also be taking company advertisements to help support the School and the Old Boys, so please reach out if you would like to advertise your business on the site, which reaches over 15,000 people regularly via the eBulletin, Flying Higher and news articles.

It will be exciting to watch how these new areas start to evolve to support our Sydney High Old Boys network as well as the current students.

I look forward to connecting with you more as part of our community.

Paul Harapin (1983)
President, Sydney High Old Boys Union

Shaving for a Good Cause

On Friday the 15th of March, the Sydney Boys Community Services Committee (CSC) hosted the annual World's Greatest Shave event at the School, with the help and cooperation of the Prefects. From the beginning of lunchtime, a crowd of enthusiastic onlookers gathered in the amphitheatre behind the canteen, looking forward to seeing their friends and many highprofile staff members be shaved.

The World's Greatest Shave is an annual fundraising event for the Leukaemia Foundation, and funds raised support Australians diagnosed with blood cancer and their families. The Leukaemia Foundation's goal is to ensure every Australian with blood cancer has access to the best possible care and treatments, regardless of where they live, their circumstance or background.

Having previously participated in the Shave, I drew from experience on how to organise a smooth event. Over half of the Prefect group was signed up to shave, and we spread the word to the rest of the School through our social media outlets, rallying up over forty boys in total to take part.

We invited several high-profile staff members to participate and serve as milestones for our fundraising: Deputy Principal Mr Kay committed to being shaved once we reached \$4.5k, Ms Ibbott at \$5k, Deputy Principal Dr Pinnington-Wilson to be sprayed when we reached \$6k, and Dr Jaggar to being shaved at \$12,160. This final figure was a thoughtful amount given the School's current enrolment of 1216 boys.

When word spread that our figureheads might be shaved, fundraising gained momentum. We began earlier than in previous years, giving us time to tap into our boys' connections, and the first three milestones were quickly smashed. With news of Dr Jaggar's milestone nearly being reached, a wave of parents' donations came through, bringing our team total to over \$18k by the eve of the event.

During the Shave, more brave teachers joined in, with Mr Ohlback and Mr Barris leading the charge. The excited crowd filmed and cheered as locks of hair fell with every swipe of the clippers at the five stations set up for the shaving. A brave band of junior boys came up to us from the crowd and volunteered to take part. I hope







these boys will continue the tradition of fundraising for this fantastic cause.

By the end of the day, we had raised a total of \$21,295.86, smashing our original target of \$4.5k. We also smashed the school record by a country mile, nearly quadrupling the total from the years before. With all proceeds going to the Leukaemia Foundation, we are extremely pleased with this year's tremendous result.

I'd like to thank Ms Ibbott (Head of the CSC) for getting us involved, and all those who took the plunge to sacrifice their hair and go bald, as well as our volunteer barbers. Huge thanks to the teachers who were game enough to take part this year, as well as the parents of our amazing community, who donated so generously.

Jack Nguyen (Year12), WGS Organiser 2021



From the President of the Old Boys Union

While it has been an exciting start to 2021, and we seem to be managing our way through COVID and can see the horizon of normalcy within the community, we were saddened late last year by the loss of one of our patrons, **Sir James Wolfensohn** (1949). His obituary on page 22 outlines the amazing life achievements of a truly great Old Boy who will be missed by all. I am currently reading his autobiography, A *Global Life*, which provides more detail on how he went from High to the Olympics to the World Bank.

After so many years of fundraising, it was an honour to attend the naming ceremony for the Governors Centre. It is a unique building, encompassing a 400-seat theatre rivalling that of any professional arts body. We are planning a Back to High Day on Saturday, 31 July, when the entire community will be invited to view the Governors Centre and the Wall of Gratitude, as well as watch the Firsts play Football and Rugby against St Josephs at McKay in the afternoon.

The Old Boys Union welcomes some new Committee members who are already contributing tremendously to our community work. John Taylor (1967), who sits on the Board of School Infrastructure NSW, is supporting the work on our new Pavilion at McKay Oval as we commence the early survey and geotechnical phases. Alex Feldman (2003), having worked through the sale of Amaysim to Optus, is helping us with the building and maintenance planning for the Outterside Centre along with John Croll (1981), the Chair of Disability Sports Australia. We also welcome Tyler Harapin (2019) as our member representing the new Old Boys community, following Marcus Borscz' (2019) completion of his year in the role.

Further, as we refresh our Foundation Board, it is wonderful to welcome board member Judite Santos as our new Chair, along with Alex Feldman and **Andrew Chan (1998)**, a new Year 7 parent.

A huge thanks to **Christopher Fong (1997)** who has been using all his tech connections from Google and other companies to set up our now regular 'High Tech' community events. For Old Boys in the technology community, these regular meetings combine start-up founders with venture capitalists for ideas sessions and discussions. Read more from Chris on page 16.

OBU Patron **Bruce Corlett AM (1961)** gave the occasional address at the 138th Presentation Night, the inaugural such event in the Governors Centre.



James Walker (Skywalker Studios)

Bruce reflected on the impact his time at High has had on his life. The speech in full is available on the OBU website at www.shsobu.org.au.

I welcome all the boys of the Class of 2020 (including a record number of 100 new life members) to the Old Boys Union. These boys had a year of challenges and difficulty that I am sure has made them more resilient. I was lucky enough to be able to present the boys with their Life Member certificates and lapel badges, even though their parents could only join us via video streaming. Many of our traditional rites of passage for these boys were either cancelled or compromised last year, and so I look forward to seeing them during our new Old Boys Welcome event.

Joshua Lam (2020) and music teacher Ms Miller are keen to establish an Old Boys Symphony Orchestra. With the Governors Centre opening, this is a great opportunity for all you Old Boys with a musical background to rejoin the School's music community as part of an orchestra made up of Old Boys from all eras.

It will be a fantastic way to stay connected to the School and bond with fellow Old Boy musicians and Old Boys of any instrument at any level are invited to join. The School's Music Department is supporting this initiative and will provide rehearsal space in either the Great Hall or the new Governors Centre. We are currently looking at weekly one-to two-hour rehearsals which will culminate in performances at the School Music Concert and an Old Boys event. For further information see the NEWS section on the OBU website.

As always, I wish you and your families all the best and please, don't hesitate to reach out to me on any matters at: president@shsobu.org.au.

Paul Harapin (1983)
President, Sydney High Old Boys Union



Upcoming Reunions

Class of 1981: 40 Year Reunion

Royal Oaks Hotel, Double Bay

Saturday, 31 July 2021 from 18:00-22:00 AEST

Starting at McKay Oval around 1:00 pm, attend the OBU Back to High Day featuring High v Joeys (with free sausages) followed by a tour of the School, before an evening event at the Royal Oak in Double Bay starting at 6:00 pm.

Cost: \$50 for venue & food. Cash bar.

Contact Paul Almond, John Croll, Steph Turner or Brett Jowett if you need support to attend.

Sign up online at:

https://www.shsobu.org.au/event/class-of-1981-40-year-reunion



The Outterside Centre, Abbotsford

Sunday, 29 August 2021 from 12:00-15:00 AEST

We welcome all rowers, especially those from the 1950s to 70s to join us for lunch at the Outterside Centre.

Cost: \$70 per head includes lunch and drinks.

Contact Ian Toll for further details: <u>iantoll@optusnet.com.au</u> / 0407 402 721

Sign up online at:

https://www.shsobu.org.au/event/sydney-high-school-rowers-reunion



1971 School Prefects

Class of 1971: 50 Year Reunion

Tattersalls Club, 181 Elizabeth St, Sydney
Friday, 15 October 2021 from 16:00-22:00 AEST

The reunion is in two parts starting at the School.

From 3:45 pm to 5:30 pm there will be an OPTIONAL school tour including the newly-built Governors Centre.

At 5:30 pm those attending the tour will be taken via school bus to the Tattersalls Club in the city. Alternatively, you could just meet us at the Club. (6 pm pre-dinner drinks, 6:30 pm dinner, 10 pm finish)

Cost: \$100 for three-course dinner and open bar. (\$10 donation for optional tour.)

Contact Brad Jelfs for more information and to pay: jelfsbrad@gmail.com / 0414 987 200

Sign up online at:

https://www.shsobu.org.au/event/class-of-1971-50th-reunion

Update on the Makerspace

The School's Makerspace has continued to evolve to support co-curricular and extra-curricular projects. We have recently purchased three of the latest Oculus Quest 2 Virtual Reality headsets (see photo). Students in Architecture and Engineering Drawing as well as HSC Design and Technology are now able to use these headsets to explore their models and architectural designs from a first-person perspective. Using the controllers, students can also sketch preliminary concepts of their designs in 3D virtual reality space.

Year 8 Design and Technology students will be given an introduction to programming through a series of small challenges involving Microbits. The Makerspace now has a class set of Microbits for students to develop personal projects that extend upon the skills covered in class time. One of our talented junior students Hamzah Ahmed is currently developing a prototype of a wireless training device for fencing using Microbits.

The 3D printers continue to support innovation and design exploration. Year 10 Architecture and Engineering Drawing students have developed their reverse engineering and CAD skills by modelling Lego style bricks and printing them.



replacement parts for

products such as an easel that was otherwise destined for landfill without the locking bolt and nut.

The Makerspace acts as a hub for student-led STEM-related workshops, courses and classes. With Dr Jaggar's support, we are pleased to announce that a projector and wireless desktop mirroring system will be installed, allowing students to easily share their work and collaboratively discuss group projects. Student presenters will be able to conduct courses more effectively with larger numbers of participants and the HSC Design and Technology class will be better able to receive peer feedback on their project work.

Daniel Comben, Robotics Teacher

COVID and Communications

It was noticeable that our students in the Class of 2020 felt a sense of isolation and loss due to the cancellation or scaling-down of events that normally comprise the 'rites of passage' in the last year at High. Despite their resilience and good cheer, I believe that they keenly felt the absence of these rituals and celebrations in front of their parents and peers. They did

their best to lift morale with some organised 'High Spirit' events. So too, this year's Year 7 cohort have a feeling that they didn't quite get the welcome to High that they had heard about and expected. Our Orientation Day had to be a very low-key affair and the

incoming students and their parents must have felt disappointed that the School

could not promote itself better to them. Later-year enrolling students had a similar experience. We were unable to make that personal connection with School Prefects, students in action and the co-curricular groups. On the positive side, our P & C Association has been able to reach many more parents in 2020-2021 with its zoom meeting format. Thanks to efforts by

parents to present engaging material prior to the meetings commencing, and on-line voting for resolutions, the meetings have been very well-attended, with up to 100 participants logging on.

Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM

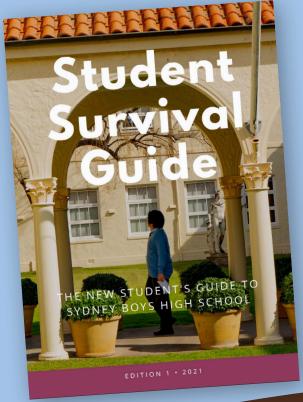
A Guide to Surviving High

'Who are we, if not measured by our impact on others?'—Carl Sagan

The first days of high school were a frenzy. Shuffling through labyrinthine corridors, we were barraged with information: Year 7 camp is next week, the Swimming Carnival the Monday after; always bring your apron for DT; remember where's 502 and 503; hand in your form for BYOD. For that first week, our homework wasn't English or Maths—it was managing forms and making sense of our surroundings. Those experiences led our team of senior students to create Sydney High's Student Survival Guide, a guide for new students to navigate High. (https://www.sydneyboyshigh.com/publications/survival-guide.)

Most of us had already worked on the Zenith Student Opportunity Handbook in 2019. Spanning 27 pages, it catalogues the extensive activities on offer at High, from science programs and writing competitions to cadets and volunteering. We already knew the ropes from running through meeting agendas to knocking on faculty doors. So last year, we set to work not only on updating Zenith but on creating the new student guide.

A publication is a complex project to manage. There are interviews to schedule, questions to prepare, and transcripts to then edit. You have to assign roles to every editor, and follow up when necessary. You have to incorporate feedback, procure school approval, and fill in team members who couldn't make meetings.



As the end of the year loomed, it was safe to say that I had underestimated the workload of managing two publications. What we originally envisioned as a collation of information swelled into a comprehensive handbook replete with interviews, a photo gallery, and FAQs. What was supposed to be a few study tips turned into five pages of app recommendations, note-taking methods, and advice on studying effectively and stopping procrastination. What we planned to be a directory of support options inflated with two feature interviews with the School Counsellor and a Year Advisor. Our editors, most of whom were also in their HSC year, handled the workload with verve and gusto. Working frenetically towards strained timelines, we persevered for a common mission—to provide new students with a single source of clear and vital information in a year when they need it the most.

Despite our best efforts, we had to push back our original schedule. Most of our design work was done during the school holidays, and our guide was published near the end of January. We hurried to promote it—we needed IT to publish it digitally, Dr Jaggar to mention it in *High Notes*, and the Prefects to market it on social media. Thanks to their support, we managed to get the word out in time, and I'm pleased at how much it's helped new students transition to our School.

I'm very lucky to have worked with such a dedicated team without whom this project would never have been possible. Thank you also to Dr Pride for her supervision, Dr Jaggar for his invaluable counsel, and Matthew Awad, Eric Wu and Ms May for their brilliant photos.

Harry Wu (Year 12), Coordinating Editor, Student Survival Guide



High Tech

Since students aren't able to go overseas this year, we wanted to bring the innovation of Silicon Valley to them. Old Boys and current Industrial Arts Department teachers **Daniel Comben (2003)** and Dat Huynh (2004) (who led thirty Year 9-12 students to Silicon Valley in April 2019) decided to organise a session on technology for current students. By sharing the latest opportunities in tech, we hope to inspire the next generation of tech entrepreneurs, for them to understand the careers available, and prepare them to apply for the jobs of tomorrow. Another goal is to bring Old Boys together who are involved in, or are interested in being involved in, the tech sector, whether it's starting a tech company, joining one or investing in one.

On 18th March over 100 current students, parents and Old Boys assembled to learn about the tech industry. Blockchain and crypto expert **Peter Pan (2017)**, Investor at 1kx and Founder at MetaCartel, joined moderator **Kevin Lu (2014)**, Portfolio Analyst at AirTree Ventures, for a fireside chat on why current students should learn cryptography and why someone recently bid US\$69M for Non-Fungible Token (NFT) artwork The First 5000 Days.

There was an hour-long networking session prior to this fireside chat during which over 40 Old Boys ran small mentoring sessions where they shared career advice, provided insight into the daily reality of specific jobs and discussed the expectation versus reality of certain career paths.

This was preceded by a panel with **Rob Schonberger (1998)**, Software Engineer at
Google, **Shawn Noronha (2014)**, Business
Development Representative at Workramp, **Aaron Tran (2010)**, Founder and CEO at
Workflow86, and **Kevin Lu (2014)** in front of
current students where they discussed their
career paths and what else they wished they
had done to get them ready for their careers.

On 26th March, **Michael Bacina (1997)** hosted sixteen Old Boys at his law firm where **Richard Lin (2012)**, Investor at AirTree Ventures, moderated a fireside chat with Mike Ng, the Founder and CEO of a stealth healthcare startup that has raised from Silicon Valley's best venture capital firms. Mike shared tactical advice on attracting and curating a co-founding team, building









an efficient process to get from blank slate to product-market fit and other key learnings. We also recently organised an impromptu lunch on 13th April to discuss the latest in blockchain technology and NFTs.

Our next event will be held at the School and consist of rapid-fire presentations with a range of speakers on topics in tech, entrepreneurship and investing in startups. There will also be time for Old Boys to mingle and grab a drink at the Bat and Ball Hotel afterwards.

Old Boys that are interested in the tech world are gathering on a regular basis in Sydney and have a WhatsApp group. Email chris@xoogler.co if you would like to be informed of future events, added to the WhatsApp group or are willing to mentor current students to share your expertise. I'm sure many of you Old Boys will enjoy reconnecting with the High community.

Christopher Fong (1997)

Chris worked at Google in the US from 2006-2015. He is the founder of Xoogler.co, a community of 10,000 former Google employees and has invested in over 60 startups across areas such as autonomous vehicles, machine learning, fintech, edtech, crypto and healthcare. He credits Sydney Boys High School with opening his eyes to the world, giving him unrivalled opportunities and the ability to achieve more than what he thought was possible. He hopes to do the same for current students which started with the SBHS USA Technology Tour 2019 that he initiated.

The Great Outdoors

Sydney Boys High School's Outdoor Education Program involves physically and mentally challenging activities which are outdoor, and adventure-based. They are designed to be sequential but are structured so that the students can participate at their own level. Despite the challenges of 2020, all four Outdoor Education Programs were able to run, although at slightly different times than usual.

Year 7 started things off, heading to Morisset on the Central Coast. Accompanied by their Year Advisors, Ms Mellor and Ms Millet, they undertook three exciting days of challenges. They were able to make new friends, overcome personal challenges and come back as a cohesive year group, ready to face the next six years together.

Year 8 camp unfortunately had to be postponed in Term 3. However, we were able to get back up and running in Term 4 and headed to Mangrove Mountain just north of the Hawkesbury River. The boys were very excited to be able to attend and talked of little else for the weeks leading up to camp. The highlight of the camp was a thunderstorm that hit the Glenworth Valley just as the boys out camping were eating dinner. After a quick dash to the bus to get out of the rain, they bundled up and went back to base camp and the safety of dorms. It was an experience they will remember for a long time to come.

Year 10 camp went out at the same time as Year 8, only this camp was voluntary, with 42 boys

heading down to Biloela on the Wingecarribee River in the Southern Highlands. The five-day expedition program also forms part of the Silver Duke of Edinburgh Award Scheme. The boys journeyed from the edge of the Belanglo State Forest, down to the river and up and out the other side near Tugalong. They were selfsufficient for the five days, carrying everything in and out again. The boys overcame the physical challenges of hiking for five days and the personal challenges of being away from their usual support network, and relied on their group to make it through. A wonderful time was had by all participants. They are to be congratulated for making it through the week with big smiles still on their faces at the end.

Year 9 were the last group to head off to camp in 2020. Year 9 have a choice of programs, and 120 boys opted to do the three-day expedition program at Wombaroo near Mittagong, with a number using it to start their Bronze Duke of Edinburgh's Award. The boys were able to develop their teamwork skills, and overcome the physical and personal challenges of being away from home and being self-sufficient for three days. The remaining 80 boys headed back up the coast to Morisset to complete a centrebased program with more challenging activities than years 7 and 8, including a trip to the TreeTops high ropes course.

Kerryn Ibbott, Coordinator Outdoor Education



Foundation Report





While I have been an active member on the Foundation Board for two years, I was recently elected to Chair and have accepted this honour with great responsibility and care. My son graduated from SBHS in 2019 and has started his journey into young

adulthood, and it is my time to give back to the school that has shaped him into the fine young man he is today. My experience in large projects (predominantly in the Financial Services sector) across business and technology domains will be put to the test as we have great expectations for the Foundation. These will require a team effort and fortunately we have a strong team to support our vision.

The Sydney High School Foundation has seen some changes in 2021, with a number of new Board Directors joining the current team of dedicated volunteers: Paul Harapin (OBU President and Technical Executive), Paul Almond (OBU and Legal Adviser), Eric Wong (OBU Treasurer), Charles Appleton (Secretary) and Dr Kim Jaggar.

We welcome the following newcomers onto our Board and know that their experience and expertise is aligned with our objectives:

Alex Feldman (OBU Representative and Old Boy, Class of 2003) is a lawyer by trade and a business person at heart. He brings years of executive corporate experience to the Board and has a particular passion for the School's Rowing program.

Stephen Yu (P&C Representative, Year 8 parent) has been working in the fundraising sphere for many years across a number of not-for-profit organisations. An IT data manager, Stephen has a passion to support fundraising activities, specialising in system and data management.

Andrew Chan (P&C Representative, Old Boy, Class of 1998, and Year 7 parent) is the principal adviser and owner of financial planning business Phoenix Private Wealth Management. He cares deeply about the importance of gratitude and efforts we invest, to improve our futures and those of future generations who succeed us.

Karen Harvey (P&C Representative, Year 7 parent) works in higher education within a university School of Business, after many years as a senior commercial manager. A passionate and successful fundraiser, Karen is looking forward to bringing her knowledge and enthusiasm to raise much needed funds for the School.

The Foundation has a strong vision to deliver outcomes during 2021. These include: a number of significant improvements to the Outterside Centre; the development of a design for the new Pavilion at McKay Oval; and improvements to the newly-opened Governors Centre that will allow many opportunities for our boys, parents, teachers and staff and the wider community to make use of the wonderful facilities that this new resource provides. The Foundation will continue to support the Governors Centre in a joint venture with Sydney Girls High School.

In addition to these projects, there are a range of smaller projects that we expect to be tabled: the development of a new Science Facility Building; continuing the upgrade of technology in classrooms; renovations and maintenance of the boat sheds and accommodation; maintenance of the tennis courts; and many other smaller initiatives in response to extra-curricular activities that the boys may undertake. This year the Foundation is recognising the efforts of the top fundraisers for The World's Greatest Shave (see page 11) by providing them with SBHS beanies to keep the winter cold at bay.

All of these initiatives would not be achievable without your generous support. We would like to remind you of our regular Monthly Giving Program and that we will be reaching out to you for support for some of these larger projects as we launch our upcoming appeals. For information on how you can support the Foundation, please visit our website at https://shsfoundation.org.au or email me directly at: chair@shsfoundation.org.au.

Judite Santos
Chair, Sydney High School Foundation

The Junior Library's Old Boys' Collection

Over the twenty or so years I have been the Teacher and Librarian in the Junior Library, I have enjoyed interacting with Old Boys who have given us books or donated their entire libraries.

Old Boys have a special relationship with the Junior Library, which was the only school library prior to the Study Centre morphing into a Senior Library. My predecessor, Pamela Noller, set up the Archives (with the assistance of then-student, Joseph Waugh (1987)) and established the Old Boys' Collection in the Library.

Old Boys have generously donated books they have authored, as well as significant books or other related materials, and a number have also bequeathed their libraries to the School. The Old Boy authors model to our present-day students that they can aspire to become writers or academics, and they and the other donors offer our boys access to books that would not otherwise be in our Library.

The Old Boys' Collection currently consists of 177 titles. Approximately one third of these are sports-related and the remainder include works of literature, academic publications, and non-fiction covering topics from cancer treatment to biographies, wartime experiences and local history.

We greatly appreciate the generosity of all of these donors, and in particular, the following Old Boys:

Over the years, **Alan McLeod (1945)** has sent books to us from America, where he lives and was a Professor of Literature. In addition to eleven of Alan's academic titles, he generously posted us a comprehensive collection of American classic literature (named the Alan McLeod Collection in his honour) which our Library did not have. More recently Alan sent us an author-signed copy of Duty by former US Secretary of Defence Robert Gates.

Gregory Babic (1981), who died at the young age of 49, came to see us with several books he had published and then bequeathed our libraries 42 boxes of books.



Librarian Veronica Crothers with the Old Boys' Collection

The Ian Heads Collection consists of 35 sports-related titles authored and co-authored by sports journalist Ian Heads (1960).

Phil Tressidder (1944) donated a collection of books to the Library, and a selection is on display in the Outterside Centre.

Alan Nichols (1953) has sent us some widely-varying material.

Joe Goozeff has very generously sent copies of The New York Review of Books, the London Review of Books and the Planetary Guide, for the last twenty years and continues to do so. The latest of these publications is kept on display on the Library coffee table.

It is heart-warming to witness the ongoing connection and generosity of so many of our Old Boys to the Library and to the School.

Veronica Crothers, Teacher and Librarian, Junior Library

A Challenging Year Brings Out the Best in the P&C and SBHS Community

Our parent community continues to thrive and build on the momentum of online meetings triggered by COVID last year. With many of our usual activities restricted, we discovered new opportunities to engage with our parent community in a broader and more inclusive way, meaning distance is no longer a barrier for participation in our meetings.

We were able to highlight this at the SBHS P&C Welcome Evening for incoming new Year 7 and 9 parents and at our first P&C meeting in March. The use of video conferencing has expanded our parent engagement significantly, along with the introduction of a WhatsApp year group chat for Year 7 parents. We are finding that Year 7 parents, like their sons, are more tech-savvy than previous cohorts, and they desire fast and efficient means of communication. SZapp, the school mobile communication app for parents, is now into its third year of usage and it has become an essential tool for parents to stay informed of the latest updates sent from the School. The P&C will continue to work with the School to see how SZapp can be further utilised to streamline parent communications.

This year the P&C will aim to support the School in their three strategic objectives:

- Student growth and attainment;
- · Nurturing personal wellbeing; and
- Closer reading, clearer writing.

We will support these objectives through closer collaboration within the High family (current parents, the Old Boys Union (OBU), the Sydney High School Foundation, the School Executive and teaching staff), by inviting expert guest speakers to the monthly P&C meetings and donating to learning resources required by the School.

Communication and collaboration have been a key focus of the P&C in recent years. Representatives from the OBU and Foundation were guest speakers at our first P&C meeting in March, which helped embed the important role and continuity they play in the High family in the minds of the parents attending the meeting. We are grateful for our P&C Representatives who sit on the Sydney High School Foundation, who contribute to the continuity of our outstanding facilities such as the Outterside Centre and the



Fairland Pavilion and the opportunities they provide to the boys at High. Both parents and boys see that they benefit from a culture of ongoing volunteering and donations from past and current parents and students.

Guest speakers are always popular at our monthly meetings, and this year the P&C has decided to include external speakers in collaboration with our SBHS staff on subjects related to the topic areas of each meeting. For our May P&C meeting, we are looking forward to having Professor Daniel Herman discuss his research on adolescent brain development and the effects of physical activity on brain and mental health. Staff member Kurt Rich will join the discussion and outline how his Strength and Conditioning Program at the School supports healthy adolescent development. Other external guests invited to speak at upcoming monthly P&C meetings will include authors and SBHS teaching staff who will highlight how they are targeting reading and writing skills within the curriculum.

Our SBHS parent community is active and innovative, with volunteers, committees and donations being the cornerstone of the P&C. This year, our Library and Literacy Representative has started a parent newsletter, *Light on Literacy*, which supports one of the School's strategic focus areas. Our canteen remains a strong contributor to the school community thanks to our dedicated staff, their roster of parent volunteers and nutritious food for our busy boys.

The P&C also responds to curriculum and resource demand, and we were delighted to support the staff and students in the Student Media Team by donating \$10,000 towards specialised camera and technology equipment for the School. The P&C also remains committed to assisting the School with completing the classroom technology upgrades which will hopefully be achieved by the end of this year.

The Sydney Boys High School P&C Team



Vale James Wolfensohn KBE AO, Class of 1949



Photo courtesy of The Australian

James Wolfensohn entered High in 1944 as a gradeskipped accelerant at the age of 11. Lacking the support that would be provided to students today, he found it difficult to relate to his older, more worldly peers. As a result, he became a keen observer of others, which proved a great asset in his later career.

At High he found a love of music and performance that would remain with him throughout his life. John Tingle wrote in *The Record* of 1949: 'Jimmy Wolfensohn, who will be remembered as Ruth in *The Pirates of Penzance* last year, is to be highly commended for a brilliant and polished performance as the haughty Duchess of Plaza Toro' in *The Gondoliers*. The High performer would go on to join the boards of the famed Carnegie Hall and Kennedy Centre in the US.

The young James failed his first year at Sydney University as he rarely attended lectures, and credited this as a turning point. He joined the university Squadron and fencing team, and competed in the Australian Epée team at the 1956 Olympic Games in Melbourne.

Wolfensohn graduated with a BA, LLB (USyd) and worked at Allen, Allen & Hemsley. He went to Harvard Business School in 1957, then on to positions in Switzerland, and New York, before moving back

to Sydney and starting a family with his American wife Elaine. Wolfensohn bought a seat on the Sydney Stock Exchange, became a partner in Ord Minnett and then a managing director of Darling & Co (Australia's first merchant bank). His career in finance took him to London and back to New York, where he eventually set up his own firm.

Wolfensohn became President of the World Bank in 1995. His decade there was characterised by his focus on reducing world poverty and fighting corruption. His projects included reconstruction in Bosnia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and India, as well as the coordination of international efforts in support of the Israeli disengagement from Gaza. He opined that 'my decade at the Bank was the reason for my life'.

Following his resignation from the World Bank, Sir James set up in private practice again in New York, and shared his time between that city and his family estate in Jackson Hole, Wyoming.

A defining feature of Wolfensohn's career was his parallel involvement in his 'social and cultural context'. A dedicated philanthropist who believed 'if you have wealth, you have to share it', he was conferred a Knighthood for his contribution to the arts.

Sir James Wolfensohn was a Patron of the Sydney High School Old Boys Union. He passed away on 25 November 2020, having been weakened by a fall earlier in the year. He will be missed.

Vale Chris Hawkins BA, MSc, Tc (1963)

Chris Hawkins BA, MSc, Tc (1963) passed away on 1 October 2020. Chris was a member of the 1st XV GPS Premiers 1963, Waratahs Head Coach 1996 and Gordon Rugby Club Head Coach 1990-1995 and 1998, winning three premierships (1993, 1995, 1998). He was a celebrated Science teacher at Shore for 24 years.

His 1963 team-mates remember him fondly. Ken Monson recalls Chris 'as the instigator in achieving unity and harmony among an unlikely disparate team teaching us to respect and value not only that which we had in common but to equally respect and draw upon our differences'. Van Cooney remembers 'his dry sense of humour' and John Brass recalls Chris 'as the number one eclectic in the team highlighted by his sense of humour'.



First XV Rugby, 1963

Donor Acknowledgements

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We would also like to

thank those donors who have chosen to remain

anonymous.



Images from this year's Head of the River



Let's put the Finishing Touches on the Governors Centre

Although the Governors Centre has been built, we haven't yet finished the complete fit-out.

Help us put the Finishing Touches on this project:

WHITE GOODS FOR THE TWO FOOD HANDLING SPACES

(c. \$35K)

A GRAND PIANO (c. \$75K) SOFT FURNISHINGS FOR THE FOYER AND PUBLIC SPACES

(c. \$15K)

ADDITIONAL PRODUCTION LIGHTING SYSTEMS

(c. \$25K)

We are so close to finalising this project that has been the result of the contributions made by so many over the years. Help us finish by making a tax-deductible donation of any size. A donation of \$3000 will be acknowledged on a seat plaque in the Governors Centre theatre.

Donate online at: https://www.shsobu.org.au/pages/finishing-touches or contact us at enquiries@shsfoundation.org.au to discuss how you can contribute.

Please help us make the Governors Centre a top-notch meeting, examination and performance space.

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