

# SHS flying HIGHER



## Highlights

*Letter from the Prefects*

*Introducing our new OBU Patrons*

*High and the 1919 Epidemic*

# Contents

Message from the Principal	3
Co-curricular and Sporting Highlights	4
Debating goes Online	4
Home on the Range	5
Update on the Governors Centre	5
Letter from the 2020 Prefects	6
From the President of the Old Boys Union	8
From Sydney High to Advocacy for Social Justice and Health Globally	9
Introducing OBU Patron Bruce Corlett AM	10
Meet our Athletes	12
Old Boy Profile: Dmitri Potishko	13
Parents and Citizens Association Update	14
Old Boy Profile: David Greatorex AO	16
2020 GPS Athletics	17
Inspiring Innovation	18
The Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (OzClo)	18
Sydney High School Foundation Report	19
Vale	20
From the Archives	22
Donor Acknowledgements	23

Cover: Principal Dr Kim Jaggar OAM bumps elbows with last year's Honour Cap recipient Samuel Yu    Below: COVID masks on in Science





# From the PRINCIPAL



Since my message in the last edition of this magazine (*Flying Higher Issue #5*) the School has been operating more like it used to, with students and staff back on site. The students expressed relief at being back with their peers after their period of online learning. The School Prefects attempted to revive school spirit with High Spirit Week—a series of inclusive events to attempt to restore the pre-COVID busy co-curricular culture of the School (see page 6).

The staff worked tirelessly to assess and report on all years by the last day of Term 2 (3 July). Years 10-12 had the customary ATAR prediction calculation, but no attempt was made to assess Years 7-9 in the usual way. No examination periods were scheduled for the Junior School during Term 2.

The NSW Government, following the publication of Professor Masters' final report *Nurturing Wonder and Igniting Passion: Designs for a Future School Curriculum*, has adopted many of his recommendations. For 2021-2024 there will be a new set of syllabuses drafted for Years 7-12. The aim will be to reduce content by up to 20%, clearly stating what is mandated. The courses will be designed to build skills in applying knowledge, with each key learning area to set a standard that every student needs to meet. Grades determined against pre-specified year-level outcomes will go, replaced by information about the attainment levels reached by each student. If implemented, the Curriculum Review's recommendations will change the culture of education in NSW.

The resumption of the AAGPS competition was welcomed, despite the absence of spectators

due to Department of Health restrictions. The AAGPS Athletics Carnival was held over two days, and was split into three sessions—senior, junior and intermediate. The competition was keen, despite the surreal atmosphere of an empty stadium (see report on page 17). The Rugby, Football, Volleyball and Cross Country competitions were organised for the period August 8 to September 19. Despite the suboptimal preparation time ahead of the fixtures, the boys were keen to get back into competitive sport. Debating (see page 4) and Chess competitions were revived, contested without audiences, sometimes in person, but nearly always online. Small music ensembles started again.

Staff morale remained strong despite the deteriorating COVID situation in Victoria, with the prospect of a breakout cluster forming in NSW quite high. Despite the anxiety, everyone just 'got on with it' as they did in the early weeks of Term 2. Meetings conducted on Zoom have become the 'norm' and the teachers' skills in working with this technology have improved dramatically. I am very proud of the way that our staff have worked so collaboratively to maintain the highest quality pedagogy under the circumstances.

Mr Prorellis and Mr Barris have scoured the stores for bargains in personal protective equipment. The School has purchased a great quantity of methylated spirits, spray bottles, sanitising spray cans and wipes. Students and staff have toiled valiantly to keep the School COVID-safe. We look forward to seeing off our Year 12 cohort, even if the ceremony needs to be reduced in time and streamed to parents to experience online.

**Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM**

# Co-curricular and Sporting Highlights

Following the cancellation of the 2020 National Swimming Championships due to COVID-19, Swimming Australia announced the 2019-20 Top 25 rankings, with High's Ike Matsuoka in the top 25 in Australia for 16 years boys in 200m Butterfly, 800m Freestyle and 1500m Freestyle.

High's team of Ryan Ong, Harry Wu, Nathan Jones and Nicholas Arvanitelli, came second nationally in the online national linguistics coding competition, Ozclo (see page 13).

Thomas Zheng and Harry Wu were grand finalists at an international high school debating tournament called The Interschool Debate, losing to a team from Singapore. They tied as 2nd best novice speaker and equal 6th best speaker overall.

Unable to participate in the Mock Trial competition due to COVID-19, the Legal Debating team participated in the Future Young Lawyers Program run by the Law Society of NSW. This six-week program consisted of Zoom lectures, given by experts in different fields of law, followed by a weekly test. Year 10 student Nikolai Shchekochikhin came first out of a field of over 400 mainly Year 11 Legal Studies students. Ivan Samsonov, Dean Nguyen, Andy Xia and Anthony Hoang all came in the top 20.



Our Target Rifle Shooting team won the All Schools competition (see photo above) and High came runner-up in the Rawson Cup and third in the second-grade GPS competition (see page 5). Jackie Wu, Emmett Kim-Narushima and Cameron Young were selected in the Combined GPS Rifle Shooting Team.

Avi Ahi was selected to the A.W. Green Shield Junior cricket team.

This year's AAGPS Athletics Carnival was held over two days, with no spectators in the stands. One of the highlights was Joshua Suto's GPS-record-breaking jump of 1.95m, which also broke a school record held since 1980. (More on Athletics on page 17.)

## Debating goes *Online*

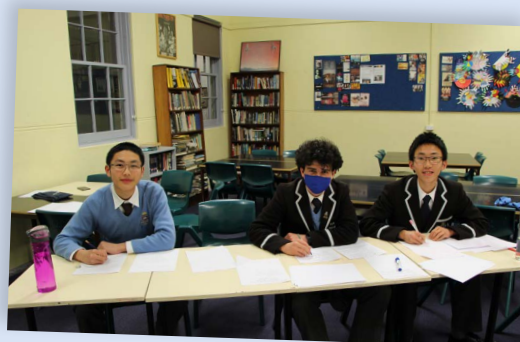
The Debating community has had to become rather flexible during these unusual times. The season got off to a normal start, with team selections and the Eastside competition. The advent of COVID led to the cancellation of both this and the FED competition, and the fear that Debating would be cancelled for the rest of the year, due to its reliance on interpersonal communication. However, there was quick adaption, and coaching was moved to Zoom at the start of Term 2, providing a unique learning experience. Despite being slightly chaotic, we were glad to have the opportunity of learning again.

As school started to come back in person, so too did Debating, which brought a sense of familiarity to our odd world. To circumvent restrictions, Newington held a 'COVID Challenge', an online invitational debating competition that gave us our first taste of the now-familiar debating via Zoom. With Zoom, teams are left to prepare on their own as usual, but as the time finishes, rather than going into a shared

classroom, we join a Zoom call through which we debate.

The GPS Debating season started relatively normally, with one face-to-face debate, before being preemptively moved to Zoom to ensure the safety of all involved while keeping the Debating experience alive. While it is a great shame that we lack an audience, we are certainly glad that we can still debate.

**Auguste McNally, Year 11, Firsts Debating**



# Home on the Range

The Sydney High School Rifle Clubhouse at the ANZAC Rifle Range, Malabar, is the hub for delivering our fullbore program and training our representative GPS teams. Renovations are now complete thanks to the tireless hands-on work of Old Boy Sam Kremer (1992) and ongoing support from Dr Jaggar. The new facilities include a fully-equipped kitchen (which Sam installed), as well as a newly-fitted hot water system and shower.

Rifle Shooting has had a long history of benefiting from dedicated Old Boys who graciously volunteer countless hours to support our student shooters. Our coaches regularly arrive early in the morning and work through to well past sundown to train our students, maintain our equipment, analyse results and determine the most effective options for supporting each of our fullbore shooters. The upgraded clubhouse facilities provide our coaches with the flexibility to stay later into the evening, or even overnight during peak training periods.

The results from the 2020 season are pleasing, considering how significantly disrupted our training season was. High won the All Schools Competition and the inaugural ANZAC Shield on our home range. In the GPS Competition, our first grade team came second in the Rawson Cup and third in both the National Rifle Association Shield and Buchanan



*Rifle clubhouse interior*

Shield matches against strong competition. Jackie Wu, Emmett Kim-Narushima and Cameron Young were selected for the GPS Combined team, and Martin Lee achieved the top individual score in the second grade competition.

I would particularly like to extend my sincere thanks to Jason Feng (2017), Terry Fong (2014), Sam Kremer (1992), Nathan Wong (2017) and our team of regular Old Boy coaches whose selfless generosity in sharing their time and expertise underpin the success of our sport. We also are also grateful for the hard work that Cathy Meaney invested to develop such a robust Rifle Shooting program in her role as our longest-serving Master in Charge.

**Daniel Comben, MIC Rifle Shooting**

## Update on the Governors Centre

Several site inspection visits in the last month or so have shown how much progress has been made in the construction of the building. In July and August most of the windows were set in place, as was Equitone and Colorbond cladding. A 'rough-in' of services was completed and ceiling and wall sheeting was installed. Most of the external works except for landscaping were finalised.

In September, it is planned that the gyprocking of walls and most of the painting will be done, and services and amenities will be installed. The complex audio-visual and IT communications installation will begin, with some items (e.g. the internal lift) being commissioned. The solar power generating system will be connected and landscaping commenced.

The Operating Committee, which will manage The Governors Centre (TGC) under the Joint Use Agreement, has been meeting to solve the myriad design and installation decisions necessary to set up a building for use by school students. I would like



to acknowledge and commend James Rudd and David Isaacs, our software and systems gurus, for all the effort they have put into mastering the design and specifications details for the AV, IT and telephony required for the building to function optimally. Their wise counsel, along with the astute oversight of the processes by John Prorellis, has helped me to get my head around the technical aspects of the project. The picture tells the story of the progress being made. If you would like to support the finishing touches—sound and lighting—please go to [www.sydneyboyshigh.com/donations](http://www.sydneyboyshigh.com/donations).

**Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM**



# Letter from the 2020 Prefects

Dear 2020, you have not been kind. In fact, not much can make you worse. You have thrown fire, flood, pandemic plus more at us, bringing isolation, the loss of homes and lives and it doesn't seem to stop. But we see hope arise everywhere, in small acts of kindness which can transform into something more. Whether it's supporting mental health, giving time to charity or even just wearing a mask, doing these things can make a year as daunting as this seem to shrink.

Alas, I bring you the 28 Prefects of Sydney Boys High School 2020. I'll start from the beginning:

Last year, we began our time as Prefects determined to make our school and the world a better place, which for a while we did. We started with our charity volunteering day where one group of Prefects helped in the maintenance of the Centennial Parklands and a second group of Prefects volunteered for the Salvation Army, sorting Christmas drive presents for children. Through these efforts, our group of boys became much closer, matured and improved their teamwork skills. Aided by a leadership course, we felt we had the capabilities to focus our efforts into improving the High experience. We started one-on-one tutoring for students; we ran Open and Orientation days for our new 2021 cohort; Prefects Ivan & Adam mentored on Year 7 camp; we attended many and hosted our own Prefect Afternoon tea; and we brought back our house shields. We were the year that was going to go down in history. And sadly we will, but for all the wrong reasons.

Following September 2019 into early 2020, bushfires burned across Australia. Many people lost their lives, thousands of homes were destroyed, and the nation was blanketed in smoke. While we realise how lucky we were not to be close to the fire fronts, the smoke had major effects on sport and the everyday lives of students and teachers, especially those with breathing conditions. Most sport was cancelled and as a rower myself, I know it caused a huge backward step in our training. The Prefects wanted to help, so we again turned to the Salvation Army with our Bushfire Appeal to raise money for firefighters, fire relief teams and people who lost loved ones and homes to the fires.

Little did we know the bushfires were just the start. In the subsequent months, the number of COVID-19 cases in Australia increased and NSW went into lockdown. Our exams were cancelled, schools were closed, and we started online learning. Although we are lucky that SBHS had the technology to provide learning online, the effects of the lockdown were detrimental not only to our study, but also to our mental health. Terry Zhai, a fellow Prefect, summed up the experience well: 'Being stuck at home for almost a month takes its toll. The days merge together, yesterdays become tomorrow, and calendars become almost futile.' Our Prefect body were determined to ensure no student in SBHS would suffer through isolation alone, so we created several online challenges—a Handstand Shirt Challenge, Juggling Challenge and the Clap Push-up Challenge. These challenges were





extremely well-received, and they not only improved physical health but also gave a routine to what felt like days of perpetual isolation. The day Year 12 returned to school, we began the 'Push-Up Challenge'—a Headspace charitable challenge of 3046 push-ups (the number of lives lost to suicide in 2018) completed in 21 days. The Prefects of SBHS jumped into the challenge with enthusiasm and despite days of sore arms and confused teachers seeing groups of boys randomly do sets of push ups in the middle of class, our perseverance brought improvements to our minds, bodies and to the mental health of Australia. The almost \$1000 raised for charity might also have helped. But we didn't want to stop there. Lead by Prefects Suvipra, Alex, and Ben, we created a video highlighting the importance of family and friends, pursuing the recognition of mental health regardless of the time and situation.

As gatherings of many people were not allowed, having an official Prefect investiture was tricky. With help from Dr Jaggar and our Prefect Coordinator, Ms Rigby, we took part in a 'social distanced' investiture, which properly recognised

the achievement of becoming a Prefect with the Prefect Book Signing, a needed morale boost for us boys.

As restrictions began to lift, the Prefects were able to bring the initiatives we had planned at the start of the year into fruition, with the inaugural 'Spirit Week'. This was a week for improving relationships between senior and junior students, as well as just increasing school morale with events like the Year 7 dodgeball, a tug of war competition and High's greatest race. The week ended with the High War Cry led by Athletics Captain Felix Cao, to send off the Athletics boys for the AAGPS Athletics Championships.

While this was a tough year to be a Prefect and the pandemic still continues, I'd like to think we did the best we could with the situation we were given. If nothing else, we hope we made this tough year just a little more bearable for every boy at High. There was never a night so dark to stop the sun rising, so never lose hope despite how hard your situation might be.

**Jordan Whittaker, Foundation Prefect**







# From the President of the *Old Boys Union*

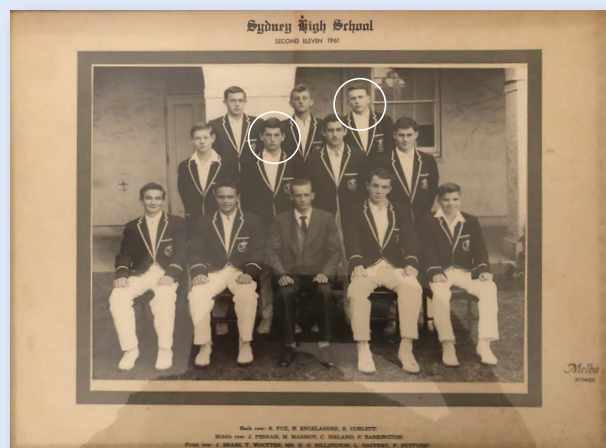


Firstly, I trust that all our Old Boys and their families are safe and well during these challenging times, particularly those in Victoria. For many of us, COVID has changed the way we work and live. With no international and mostly localised domestic travel, we have been forced to

re-evaluate what is important to us all as the hectic nature of many of our lives has slowed. Personally, I've been lucky to reconnect with many friends including with 1983 Old Boys in a weekly walking group and a trip away, and this has allowed us to support each other as we all deal with different challenges.

Each year, the Old Boys Union provides various mentoring sessions, job interview lessons and career support to current Sydney High students. This year these have been conducted via webinars, the first two being *A Career in Medicine* and *A Career in Law*. The sessions were appreciated by the students and I thank the following Old Boys for their time and support: **Dr Ying Hong Li (2000)**, **Dr Owen Mattern (1999)**, **Dr Chris Ryan (1982)**, **Nikhil Autar (2011)**, **Bruce Ramsay (1977)**, **Wen Wu (2003)**, **Professor Ian Coyle (1967)** and **Alex Feldman (2003)**.

I am extremely proud to announce the appointment of two new Old Boy Patrons: **Sir Michael Marmot (1961)** and **Bruce Corlett AM (1961)** (see photo of the 1961 2nd XI above right, Marmot on left and Corlett on right). Both of these Old Boys from the Class of 1961 have led distinguished lives, and contribute to society in various ways, through their career choices and community work. Sir Michael, one of the world's leading epidemiologists, is a man of these COVID times, and serves as Chair of the Commission on Social Determinants of Health for the World Health Organisation. He was also known to wield the sword (see photo on page 10) with gusto as MacDuff in the school production of *Macbeth*. Bruce Corlett AM has led many Australian organisations and, importantly, has given back to the community in a myriad of ways, not the least as a founder and sponsor of the Sydney High Bursary Program. They join another man of great social achievement, former President of the World Bank **Sir James Wolfensohn (1949)**, as Patrons—those Old Boys who, in the eyes of the Council, have eminent



achievement and merit of the highest degree in service to Australia or to humanity at large. Our new patrons are featured in the following pages.

I have been working behind the scenes on a new Old Boys' technology platform which has now launched, so please register and explore the platform. The platform will give us a new web front-end for news, mentoring, collaboration and group engagement, including a personalised login where you will be able to update your details and check tax receipts for donations, purchases, job boards and more. This will be a huge technological advancement for alumni engagement, and I am excited to share more details with you all in the next edition of *Flying Higher*.

With the Governors Centre almost complete, we have plans to hold a launch to recognise those who donated bricks in the Wall of Gratitude, once social restrictions allow us to do so. Due to the delay you can still donate and purchase a personalised brick, at [www.shsfoundation.org.au](http://www.shsfoundation.org.au). We are currently working through the design phase for the new Pavilion at McKay Oval, and will update you all soon.

Our Old Boys' cap (which can be embroidered with your initials and leaving year) has been a huge hit, and I encourage you to take a look on the OBU site: [www.shsobu.org.au](http://www.shsobu.org.au). This year, many SHS parents have bought caps for their sons' graduation gifts. We have also seen the highest take-up of Old Boy life memberships in recent history, for which I am extremely grateful to all parents in the 2020 cohort.

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



# From Sydney High to Advocacy for Social Justice and Health Globally



In June 2017, Grenfell Tower, a high-rise housing block in the Royal London Borough of Kensington and Chelsea went up in flames. Seventy-two people died, among the poorest and most marginal in society. This tragic event led

to justified outcry: the injustice of poor people being incinerated in poor quality housing! What went little noticed, was the enduring problem of inequality. The Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea is home to some of the richest people in Britain and some of the poorest. Ambassadors and oligarchs live in the rich part of the borough; immigrants and deprived people live near Grenfell. And we can see the difference in their health, without the tragedy of a fire. Life expectancy for men in the area near Grenfell is 22 years shorter than in the richest part of the borough. 22 years is enormous. The Democratic Republic of Congo has life expectancy 22 years shorter than the UK. We see a difference that big within one London borough.

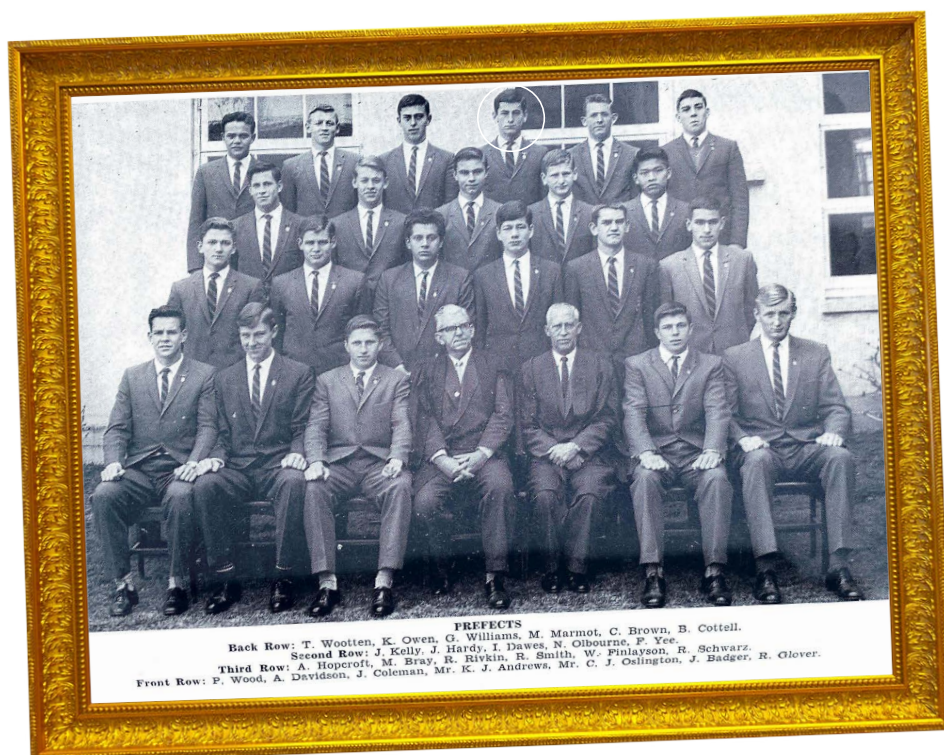
These health inequalities are not the result of lack of medical care.

'Why treat people and send them back to the conditions that made them sick' is the opening line of my book, *The Health Gap*. Sick people need doctors, but in large measure, it is not lack of medical care that makes people sick—it is the conditions in which they are born, grow, live, work and age, and inequities in power, money and resources that give rise to inequalities in the conditions of daily life. I have labelled these the social determinants of health. To take action on these causes of health inequalities, we need evidence on what is likely to work. To that end I chaired the Commission on Social Determinants of Health, set up by the World Health Organisation. As we said on the cover of our report: social injustice is killing on a grand scale.

Inequalities in health are not confined to London boroughs. We see them in all countries. As a result, we have gone global. I have led regional commissions on social determinants of health in Europe, the Americas, and now the Middle East and North Africa; and we have collaborations in India and Sri Lanka. We are in discussions with the World Health Organisation in the Western Pacific Region that includes Australia.

I felt it was important to get doctors involved as well. They can be important agents in creating healthier societies as well as treating the sick. I spent a year as President of the World Medical Association. My message to doctors representing national medical associations is: evidence-based policy presented in a spirit of social justice.

It is some distance from Sydney Boys High to what I am doing now. At High, I developed the interest in science that, one thing leading to another, led to my pursuing medical research. But in the area of



1961 Prefects

continued overleaf...

## From Sydney High to Advocacy for Social Justice and Health Globally *continued*

social determinants of health, it seemed obvious to me as a medical student at the University of Sydney and junior doctor at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital that patients' illnesses were very much related to the circumstances of their lives. It was important, then, to study the circumstances of their lives that led to their risk of illness. At University of California, Berkeley I did a PhD in Epidemiology investigating why, when the Japanese migrated across the Pacific, their rate of heart disease went up. It was related to the nature of society.

Then taking up an academic position in London, I studied civil servants and showed that there was a remarkable social gradient in risk of death: the lower the employment grade, the higher the mortality rate within a few years of follow-up. In other words, poverty is bad for health; but even among people who are not poor, the lower someone is in the hierarchy, the worse their health. Relative inequality is important.

Sydney High gave me something else—the confidence to speak in public and debate an argument. At High, I was involved in oratory and debating and, memorably for me if not the audience, performed in *Macbeth* on the steps of the War Memorial in Hyde Park in Sydney (see photo).

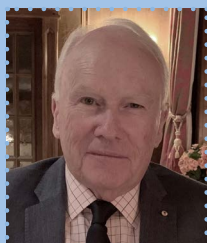
The pandemic of Covid-19 has given new focus to my work on health inequalities. The pandemic has revealed underlying social inequalities in society and amplified them. Both the disease itself and the societal response of lockdown have

been an inconvenience for richer people and a matter of life and death for poorer. Australia and New Zealand have managed well. The big challenge for the rest of the world is what society will look like as we emerge from the pandemic and associated economic meltdown. I would like to think that the evidence we have compiled on the social determinants of health and health inequalities will be an important part of creating fairer, healthier, and more sustainable societies.

**Professor Sir Michael Marmot (1961)**  
**Professor of Epidemiology and Public Health at UCL (University College London) and Director of the UCL Institute of Health Equity**



## Introducing OBU Patron Bruce Corlett AM



Bruce Corlett AM (1961) was born in Guildford, NSW, where he enjoyed a very happy childhood centred around family, Cubs, the local Church and soccer. Years 4 and 5 were spent in England when his father was awarded a

scholarship to study engineering at Dorman Long, the UK company which built the Sydney Harbour Bridge.

On returning to Sydney, he spent the first six months of Year 7 at Parramatta High School.

Midway through that year, his family moved to Hunters Hill and Bruce was fortunate to secure a place at Sydney High. His move to High certainly broadened his view of the world, exposing him to a whole new demographic of race, religion and social class, as well as contemporaries who challenged him academically.

His time at High from 1957 to 1961 laid the groundwork for Bruce's subsequent successes in life. It taught him resilience, the importance of teamwork and how to compete with the best. A number of teachers inspired him—Bob Outterside, Geoff Ball and Frank O'Rourke to



name a few—and instilled in him enthusiasm for school and a love of learning. The School provided the opportunity to participate in a range of extra-curricular activities, all of which played an important part in his development. He was a keen sportsman and actively participated in Cricket, Rugby and Athletics. Many lifelong friendships were established at that time, and Bruce continues to regularly spend time with his friends from Sydney High.

After High, Bruce attended The University of Sydney and graduated in 1969 with degrees in Arts and Law. After practicing Law for a couple of years, Bruce found his niche in the corporate world where he spent the next 45 or so years. He worked both as an executive and director of many organisations and was involved in a wide range of industries, including investment banking, property, insurance, and maritime and trustee services. Early in his executive career, Bruce spent time living and working in London and Paris with a US bank, which exposed him to the workings of the global investment and financial markets.

Upon returning to Australia, Bruce continued in the investment banking and finance industries. He retired from executive life in 1995 and went on to serve as chair and non-executive director of many corporations—both public and private. He was appointed by the Federal Government

to Chair the Australian Maritime Safety Authority. He was the co-founder and Chair of Australian Maritime Systems Ltd which, over 20 years, expanded to operate in four continents prior to being sold to private equity a few years ago.

Throughout his life, Bruce has been actively involved in many community service organisations including chairing the Microsearch Foundation of Australia and Lifestart Co-operative Ltd. He continues to serve on the Buildcorp Foundation Board and is an Ambassador of the Australian Indigenous Education Foundation. He was appointed by the Federal Government as a member of the Independent Soccer Review Committee whose recommendations led to the establishment of the A-League competition. Bruce has been a Senate Fellow at The University of Sydney and has served as Chair of the Advisory Board of the Sydney University Faculty of Economics and Business.

Along with his wife, Annie Corlett AM, Bruce continues to fund a range of academic scholarships and bursaries for indigenous and rural students. He was one of the founding sponsors and initial drivers of the Sydney High Bursary Program, which he continues to champion. Throughout his adult life he has committed considerable time to mentoring young people.

Bruce's contributions to public life were recognised in 2011 when he was made a Member of the Order of Australia. His citation read: 'For service to the community through business advisory contributions to a range of charitable, medical research and educational organisations'.

In August this year, Bruce was appointed a Patron of the Sydney High School Old Boys Union, an honour reserved for a select few of our esteemed Sydney High alumni.



1960 4th XV

# Meet our Athletes

**While the restrictions related to COVID have been hard on all of us, for the sportsmen of the School, they have meant the cancellation of sporting fixtures and opportunities to compete as well as limits on training. We check in with three of the School's top athletes to see how their sporting lives have been affected by the pandemic.**



**Kane Shields,  
Year 10,  
Cross Country  
and Athletics**

I am in Year 10 and I run Cross Country and Athletics for the School. The last three years I have competed in the national championships in the 800m and 1500m and have achieved four national medals. These last few months have seen a lot of changes to my normal life, especially in terms of training and competitions. The

Australian Junior Athletics Championships was the first competition to be cancelled, and I was aiming to take home a national championship. Since then, a string of competitions both in and outside of school have been postponed indefinitely or cancelled. Luckily for me, athletics and cross-country training were able to continue with only minor changes to keep in accordance with health and safety rules. However, the quality of my training has undoubtedly taken a hit. I know for me it has been a struggle to maintain motivation with no upcoming races to train for. I think the way that sport in general, and GPS sport in particular, has been managed under the constantly-changing health and

safety regulations has been the best possible outcome considering all circumstances. I am looking forward to getting back to competing on a regular basis and being able to travel on interstate teams again.



**Antonio Li, Year 12, Tennis**

I have been playing tennis since I was seven, and have been competing at the state, national, and international level since I was twelve. The pandemic has significantly impacted my training and competing opportunities in 2020. The tournaments I was planning to participate in both on the Tennis Australia and the ITF Junior Events calendars have been cancelled/postponed for this year. In previous years, by this time I would have competed in ten or so tournaments, enabling me to potentially improve my ranking nationally and internationally.

Normally, I would have trained at the National Academy at Sydney Olympic Park, but the centre was closed due to the lockdown and social distancing measures. This forced me to train privately with my dad at local tennis courts. In addition, the pandemic constrained my strength and conditioning sessions, as instead of training at a gym, I was only able to train at home. As social distancing and lockdown rules lifted, I was able to return to Sydney Olympic Park for training, as long as we maintained an appropriate distance between each other.

The biggest obstacle of being an athlete during COVID-19 is the inability to participate in your passion to its fullest. Not being able to train and compete has been extremely gutting. Travelling, meeting new people, and the competitive spirit have always been the elements of tennis that I have looked forward to the most.



## Rowan Tan, Year 11, Athletics

My sport is Athletics and I specialise in the 400m and triple jump, both of which I compete in at a national level. In 2017 at the All Schools Nationals in Adelaide I won gold in the U14 triple jump and I won gold again in the U15 triple jumps at the 2018 Australian Juniors in Sydney. At the 2018 GPS championships I placed first in the 400m and at the 2018 Australian All Schools in Cairns I was a member of the sprint medley Swedish relay team which placed second and I was a finalist in the 400m. At the start of 2019 I placed fourth in the Australian Junior U16 triple jump, however in the heats of the NSW CHS Championships in September 2019, I suffered a serious stress fracture in my left ankle which ruled me out of training and competition for the rest of the season. Athletics, along with most other sports has been heavily impacted by the COVID pandemic, with competition and group training sessions cancelled. Being an individual sport makes it easier to maintain training and fitness, but without clear goals of competitions to aim for, it is difficult to maintain momentum.



## Old Boy Profile: Dmitri Potishko



Dmitri Potishko (1993) attended High for only one year as a 15-year-old, but his time at the School had a huge impact on his life and set him on his course for a highly successful career.

One of two children, Dmitri arrived in Australia in April

1992, having fled the Ukraine when the USSR fell apart. A highly-talented physicist, Dmitri had won various Olympiads in the Ukraine. When the family arrived, they were provided housing in Auburn for three months, and someone there mentioned to his parents that he should apply to the selective Sydney High School. Mr Bigelow, a teacher at the time, recalls Dmitri's father commencing their meeting along the lines of: 'I am a PhD ...I am nothing compared to my son...he represented Russia in International Science Olympiad...he speaks many languages...he had an article on elliptical pendulums published in an American science journal.' Needless to say, Dmitri was accepted into High and he was placed in Year 11 even though he was only 15, and his English was basic at best.

From the beginning, it became obvious that Dmitri was way ahead of everyone, so Mr Bigelow contacted a friend at UNSW who gave him some University exams, which he breezed through. In early 1993, at the age of 16 and bypassing the HSC, he took up an early entry place at UNSW. Dmitri still jokes that despite his degrees and success, he never passed high school.

Dmitri studied Physics at University and transferred into Law a year later, winning the University Medal for Maths along the way. Finishing University in rapid time, Potishko worked first at UNSW in the Maths and Statistics department and then at Bankers Trust whilst he finished off his Law degree. Moving on to Investment Banking at Morgan Stanley, he relocated to New York in 2000 and later joined Goldman Sachs in 2006. After making Partner in 2012, he transferred to Hong Kong in 2013, where he leads the firm's Asia Pacific Equities team.

Dmitri has been a passionate supporter of the Old Boys' Bursary Program, supporting students from families with financial hardship.

# Sydney Boys High School

## PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (P&C) 2020



Our main goal for the P&C has been to build a stronger sense of community by better including geographically-distant parents. While COVID has had negative effects on the P&C (like the loss of parking revenue), one silver lining is that we switched to virtual

meetings to adapt, which meant the number of meeting participants has increased from about 20 to around 120. Parents can now open their laptops anywhere and join in a P&C Q&A with our Principal and Deputy Principal and have their voice heard. Participation in School P&C meetings is no longer determined by distance from the School.

Despite early teething problems, we formally committed to virtual meetings being the default format for all but two meetings a year. Those two meetings will be a hybrid, and offer people the option to come in person (subject to COVID



restrictions) or meet virtually. After trialling various free plans, we decided to purchase a 500-maximum participant Zoom plan from the

P&C Federation. So we now have an adequate platform to meet any likely level of participation. We have formally agreed to recognise online voting so our meetings can be more interactive and the strength of opinions recognised numerically.

As directed by the P&C Federation, we formally chose not to allow recording of meetings except via the Secretary's minutes or when a guest speaker is speaking. We want people attending, including staff, to be able to speak freely.

The virtual format allows new possibilities such as greater collaboration. In June we held a virtual joint meeting with Sydney Girls High School on how parents can help their selective school student with career decisions. We easily included two experts from the University of NSW and individual SGHS and SBHS alumni in a panel with Q&A.

Despite the cancellation of parent participation in many of our regular events such as Open Day and the Year 12 farewell, one in-person P&C activity which continues is parents volunteering to help staff in the canteen (below). Volunteers allow the canteen to make a surplus, which the P&C then donates to the School for various activities. For example, our P&C just donated \$125 000 towards a replacement school bus.

We encourage you to communicate to us your suggestions and concerns, either at a P&C meeting or via email to [sbhs.pandc@gmail.com](mailto:sbhs.pandc@gmail.com). We can advocate on behalf of our parent body to our Principal and he to the Department of Education.

**Geoff Waring**  
Year 11 Parent and P&C President





# P&C Communications

Parents like to know what is going on at their sons' school. For our geographically and culturally-diverse school community who cannot easily make it to our school in person due to the new COVID world of travel restrictions, effective virtual communications are particularly important.

We want to be inclusive, and so have adopted a multi-channel approach to communications to meet the needs of our community. In the past four years, smartphone penetration in Australia has risen significantly and as a result, our community mostly reads content on their phone rather than a laptop.

While existing messaging apps like WeChat and Whatsapp are popular and easy to use, those who are not users of these services complain about being left out of conversations. Email, while ubiquitous, is not as interactive as messaging apps. To complicate matters further, over-exuberant filters often push our emails into spam folders, as P&C emails are sent in bulk with links to files rather than attachments (and so look like spam).

As online content has exploded, we wanted a communications platform that would filter out the river of extraneous content to only receive those messages of close relevance to us specifically. SZapp excels at this, with options to choose only to receive by student year group, co-curricular activity or sport and for P&C and alumni.

Our decision to use SZapp has added a valuable extra channel of communication to the P&C. As opposed to Zoom, which enables real time interaction, SZapp is helpful for one-way communications; unlike email, messages are not accidentally diverted to peoples' spam folders.

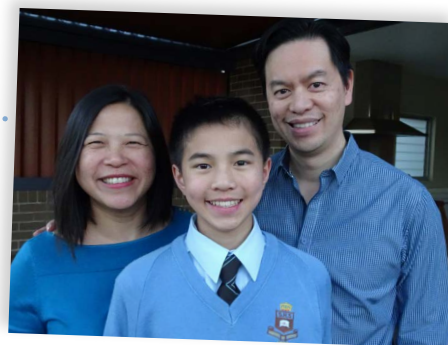
In addition, the built-in automatic language translation

feature means people of all language backgrounds can read school messages in their own language. How cool is that!

SZapp adoption via free download has steadily grown in our school community, and we now have over a thousand users. A survey of parents in 2019 showed that push notifications and event reminders were the most valued app features. A push notification could broadcast an urgent message to parents in case of a school lockdown or COVID shutdown. Email is not timely in situations like these, and bulk text messages are expensive for the School.

Currently the P&C contributes news to the weekly *High Notes*, more timely news via email and SZapp, and general interest stories to *Flying Higher*. Parent year groups often communicate with each other via messaging apps, and Facebook makes it easy to post and share visual news via cross-posting to the School, P&C, Foundation and Old Boys Union pages.

Parents Dan and Binh Johnsun (pictured above) lead the P&C communications subcommittee and have been the driving force behind the rollout of SZapp. If you have any suggestions or feedback regarding communications, please contact Dan and Binh via the P&C email [sbhs.pandc@gmail.com](mailto:sbhs.pandc@gmail.com). Parents and SBHS Alumni can download SZapp for free from the App Store on their iPhones or Play Store on their Android mobile phones.



## How much do you need to achieve financial freedom?

If you would like to know how much you need for financial freedom and achieve true wealth, speak with **Darren** and **Chris** from Merit Planning East.

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# Meet Old Boy David Greatorex AO



David Greatorex AO (1950), was born in 1933 in Manchester, England. He moved to Australia with his brother and mother as the War broke out in Europe, and the family fell on hard times.

He joined Sydney High in 1946, and found it exciting to be challenged by his intellectual peers. Although not a gifted athlete, he became a NSW champion and representative through hard work. He only played class rugby at school because he didn't have the gear. When asked by the coach of the 1st XV to play in the Firsts, he declined, too embarrassed to disclose that his family's financial state meant he could not afford the required uniform. David remembers the Rugby Coach was also the Advanced English Master, and felt that his refusal to join the 1st XV resulted in a negative relationship, leading to him dropping Advanced English. With two months to the final exams he needed to find another subject to gain a university scholarship and he managed to scrape through Economics with just two months' study.

Greatorex attended the University of Sydney, where he undertook an Honours degree in Mathematics. He taught Sunday School at the Waverley Wesley Mission and the minister, Alan (later Sir Alan) Walker, helped him gain a scholarship to Wesley College. He spent more time on activities other than study, representing the University in three sports and editing the newspaper, *Honi Soit*.

Greatorex's careers advisor when he was at High had suggested he either become a school teacher or an actuary, so he decided to try the latter and joined an insurance company. Quickly finding that role boring, he joined IBM, then a small but growing company in Australia. After overseas assignments he became Chairman and MD in New Zealand at age 37. He then returned to Australia and left IBM, eventually joining Capital Finance as Managing Director, where he and his team rebuilt the struggling insurer into a successful company. Eventually it was merged with another company and he left because about this time Premier Greiner asked him to chair the State Bank of NSW in order to prepare it for sale.

Not long before this he met Peter Farrell at a friend's BBQ. They became friends and decided to look for medical IP to commercialise—they found it in Professor Colin Sullivan's sleep apnoea research. Peter and David formed a \$2 company to exploit the technology.

The company was called ResCare, but when it became the first Australian company to list on the NASDAQ, that name was taken, so they changed it to ResMed. Today ResMed has a market cap of about \$35 billion.

Amongst a mix of other successful and unsuccessful start-ups, David and another friend, Geoff Ross, listed a cybersecurity start-up in 1996 with David as Chair and Geoff as MD, with a value of \$12 million. Less than three years later it was worth \$1.3 billion. Thus David has had two 'unicorns'.

Apart from his business ventures, David spends much of his time on community and philanthropic activities. He has served as: Secretary of the Wesley Mission; a member of the Salvation Army Advisory Board; Chair of the Girl Guides Foundation and of the Westmead Millennium Institute; and board member of TAFE and the Sydney Dance Company as well as a number of commercial companies. His wife was a professional musician and for thirty years a guide at the Art Gallery of NSW, so their foundation is mostly supportive of cultural and religious entities.

Perhaps the most important social role David played related to us at Sydney High was as the first Chair of the Centennial & Moore Park Trust, the home for our grounds at McKay Oval and the Fairland Pavilion. In 1984, then Premier Neville Wran noted some questionable financial behaviour in the Park's administration so he established a Trust to own the Park and asked David to be the first Chair. Wran dismissed the Sydney City Council and put in three eminent Australians as a committee to run it until they could implement the reforms needed. David knew all three well and suggested that they keep the land in the hands of the NSW people, and that they be moved to the control of the Trust. It proved to be a gift for generations of High students to come as we finalised a 25 year license extension.



# 2020 GPS Athletics

At the start of Term 2, it was decided by the AAGPS that the Athletics season would be moved forward ahead of the winter season. Physiologically speaking, this was the best thing for the students coming out of the learning-at-home period. The length of time until the 'predicted' championships date allowed for a longer general preparation period (including a Year 7 FUNdamental Friday morning session), which proved vital.

Due to restrictions imposed as a result of COVID, our usually massive squad numbers had to be halved, and we selected a squad of 120 students to train (compared to last year's squad of 250). As restrictions eased slightly, the general training phase transitioned into more specific training and more sessions. The week before holidays saw the beginning of 'trials' which lead into a holiday training block (which included more trials).

The GPS Championship was held over the second weekend of Term 3 and was run over three separate sessions, without the usual crowds (although there was a live stream). The Seniors began on Saturday with the usual program, followed by the Juniors on Sunday and the Intermediates in the evening with a condensed program.

Despite the unusual circumstances, it was still a fantastic program to be part of. The students were 'happy' to be back at school, and excited to be involved in physical activity and surrounded by their friends. The athletes who participated in the Championship showed great dedication to their training and adaptability to the changing circumstances.

## Stand out individual performances

**Dylan Duff:** 3rd in 13s 90m Hurdles with a time of 14.71 (the winner broke the GPS record so it was a very competitive race). A great performance considering he only began hurdles this season.

**Caden Ma:** 3rd in 16s 110m Hurdles with a time of 15.87

**Justin Lee Nonis:** 3rd in 16s 200m with a time of 23.28

**Max Russell:** 2nd in 15s 1500m with a time of 4:31.32

**Kane Shields:** 1st in 16s 800m with a time of 1:56.43 and 2nd in the 1500m with a time of 4:13

**Joshua Suto:** 1st in 15 Long Jump with a GPS record-breaking jump of 1.95m. (This also broke a School record held since 1980 by J Isaacs.) Joshua also won the 15s High Jump with 1.95m, again breaking the GPS record. During his high jump efforts he managed to sneak in a 2nd in the 100m and he also placed 5th in his 400m and gained positions for his 4x100m relay team—a super effort from Josh.

## Team results

**Junior:** 8th with 212 points (2019: 6th, 216)

**Intermediate:** 6th with 264 points (4 points off 4th place) (2019: 8th, 220)

**Senior:** 8th with 161 points (2019: 7th, 223)

**Kurt Rich, MIC Athletics**

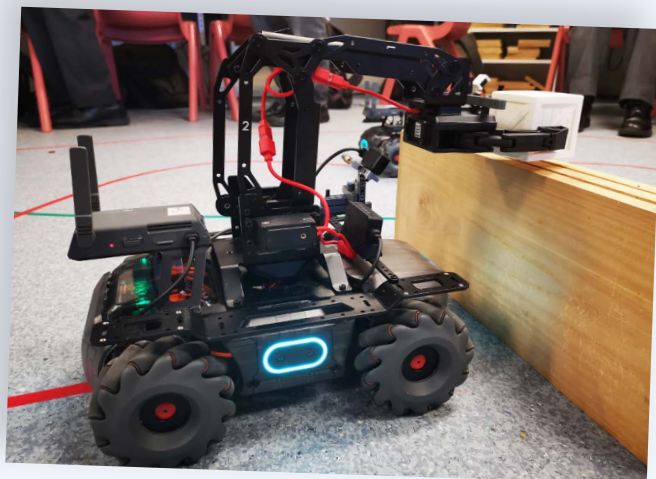


# Inspiring Innovation

The School Makerspace continues to expand and evolve to support a wide range of co-curricular and extra-curricular projects in STEM fields. This flexible learning space aims to provide students with the tools, technologies and resources to work on engaging and personally-meaningful projects. Students are encouraged to work with innovation, passion, perseverance and resourcefulness to bring their projects to life.

The facility currently enables students to explore 3D printing, electronics, architectural model making, computer aided design, robotics, software development and microcontroller-based projects. Thanks to the generous support of Dr Jaggar and the P&C, we are able to respond to student-specific project needs by acquiring the specialist tools, emerging technologies and materials that will give them the best opportunity to deliver successful and high quality projects.

Our School recently formed a partnership with DJI which gave us exclusive first access to their latest educational product, the RoboMaster EP Core. These robots feature Mecanum wheels for incredibly agile omnidirectional movement, a gripper arm, and a suite of built-in sensors and vision-based object recognition, all controlled



through Python programming. The robots also support the seamless integration of third-party sensors, which offers project versatility. The Makerspace now has two of these very advanced robots (above) available for student use in addition to a class set of robots for the Year 10 Robotics and Software Development course.

We hope that the Makerspace will continue to nurture student interest and experience in STEM fields and allow our students to form a long-lasting creative, collaborative and supportive community.

**Daniel Comben, Robotics Teacher**

## The Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad (OzClo)

In early March, our Year 11 (Ryan Ong, Harry Wu, Nicholas Arvanitellis, Nathan Jones) and Year 10 teams (Ming Lee, Jack Keating, Dean Nguyen, Mithilesh Lekhi) participated in the Australian Computational Linguistics Olympiad, also known as OzClo. We developed strategies and problem-solving techniques to decipher challenging foreign languages. Although partaking in the competition was at first daunting, we were inspired by Sydney Girls' success last year, and hoped to do equally well.

When the results were announced, we were overjoyed to learn that our Year 11 team (pictured) had made it to the national round! The national competition was even more challenging, consisting of three top teams from every state, vying for the chance to compete in the international round. Our team achieved an outstanding national placing of second, missing out on first place to Sydney Girls. Due to COVID-19's restrictions on travel, this year's international Olympiad was cancelled, though we hope to participate again next year.

OzClo was an enjoyable experience and we are thankful for Ms Eggleton's support. By thinking outside the box, our team collaboratively found patterns and created strategies to learn unknown syntax and grammar. We have developed a better understanding of how different cultures observe their surrounding world, through style and nuances in language. We are now more aware of languages, which are the threads that weave the fabric of cultural identity.

**Ryan Ong, Year 11**



Photo: Aiheak Tariq



# Foundation Report



SYDNEY HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION



The Sydney High School Foundation continues to follow our vision to provide opportunities for excellence for the boys at High. Our goal, as always, is to manage and improve the spaces and places where the boys work and play. We are

pleased to announce that we have made significant progress with some of our core work.

We are thrilled that the grand vision of the Governors Centre building is nearing completion after so many years. If you have an opportunity to drive past our Cleveland Street entrance, you will see the magnificent building, which has altered the Surry Hills streetscape. We are still in need of funds to finalise the internal fit-out, so please join many of our High community in becoming part of history at the School by clicking [here](https://shsfoundation.org.au/) to make your fully tax-deductible donation.

The new Chair of the Governors Centre is a parent of a former student at SBHS and an Old Girl of SGHS, Diane Williams Harapin. Diane is extremely passionate about this joint project and the energy that she brings will help drive this extraordinary facility. Please go to <https://shsfoundation.org.au/> to watch the latest drone footage. Our thanks go to the staff and parents who contributed to its creation.

Building on our vision, during the last appeal we launched a significant initiative to rebuild The Pavilion at McKay Oval. This project has received support from many within our community as it gives us the opportunity to rebuild a place we all know and love from our sporting days at High. We will continue to work hard on garnering support for this fundamental project, and eagerly look forward to holding events related to this project once we are able to.

At the Outterside Centre, we have initiated a much-needed program of repairs to the building and have created a prioritised list for ongoing maintenance and improvements. The project for replacing the

pontoon is progressing. Due to the location of our boatsheds and the water action that impacts them, it is essential to get this right so we can have a pontoon that will last decades, not years. Additionally, there is a significant piece of work required to ensure ongoing stability for the seawall. As part of our vision, in addition to our other projects, revamping this facility and optimising its use is strategically important.

The Board wishes to remind our community of our regular Monthly Giving Program, through which families, Old Boys and supporters are able to donate monthly to any of the programs the Foundation supports. Donors to this Program can choose to direct their funds towards: the Bursary Program; technology upgrades; art and archives; the Governors Centre; the Outterside Centre; or the Pavilion at McKay Oval.

We would like to congratulate Bruce Corlett AM, one of the founders of our Sydney High Bursary Program, on being named Patron of the Old Boys Union. Bruce was recently presented with his award by OBU President Paul Harapin (see *photos below*) in a small ceremony at the School. Congratulations to Bruce and Sir Michael Marmot for this honour.

As always, I send my regards to you and your families and a special mention to our students during this unique year. Thanks to the many Old Boys, parents and community supporters for working so hard for the Foundation.

Please join us on our social media platforms where we connect to the SBHS P&C, the Old Boys and the School social media.

**Andrew Bowey (1977)**  
**Chair, Sydney High School Foundation**



Foundation



Old Boys Union



P & C



## Vale

### Sir Robert McCredie May

Lord Robert of Oxford, OM AC FAA FRS TFSE FRSN

Sir Robert May (1952) was described as the 'grandfather of chaos theory'. His influential work *Stability and Complexity in Modern Ecosystems* (1973) established the understanding that complex systems are not more resilient than simple ones. As they grow more complex, they tend to become more unstable and chaotic. He believed that similarities among systems can help scientists to develop unifying theories. Of great relevance to us in the midst of a pandemic, was his proposition, developed with two collaborators in 2001, that for an infectious agent to establish itself in a new population it must have a basic reproductive number  $R_0$  which satisfies  $R_0 > 1$ . This number now drives the speed of our road out of social restrictions.

May was made a member of the Royal Society in 1979 and was knighted in 1996. He served as Chief Scientific Advisor to the UK Government 1995-2000 and as President of the Royal Society 2000-2005.

While at Sydney High (1948-52), May rowed at the Head of the River in the 4th IV. He was a member of the outstanding 1952 Debating team (below) which won the double—the Hume Barbour Competition and the Louat Shield, a feat that has been achieved only rarely in High's history. He topped the state in Mathematics I, was third in Mathematics II, and was named on the list for Chemistry; he was awarded first class honours in three subjects.

Robert May died on 28 April 2020, aged 84. He was unquestionably one of the greatest Australians on the world stage, in any era.



## Vale

### Edward (Ted) Pakchung OAM

Ted Pakchung (1938) was a fourth-generation Chinese-Australian whose ancestors came to Australia during the Gold Rush times in the 1870s.

Ted attended Sydney Boys from 1936, completing his leaving certificate in 1938, one of the (if not *the*) first Chinese students at Sydney High. He participated in and wrote a piece about the Chinese Pageant of 1938 for *The Record* of that year: 'The pageant was arranged by the Chinese community as a gesture to the Sesqui-Centenary Celebrations and a tender of goodwill and friendship to the Australian people' (see *photo below*).

After leaving High, Ted became the first in his family to go to university when he went to study Civil Engineering at Sydney University. Ted was a pioneer there, as one of only about seven Chinese students at the time (out of about 9000 students). During World War II Ted joined the Sydney University regiment, and he graduated with an Engineering degree in 1944.

Ted enjoyed a 45-year career at Sydney Water (formerly the Metropolitan Water Sewerage & Drainage Board). When he first started, Ted was the only Chinese working at the Water Board. Ted was appointed Chief Engineer (Design) in 1975 and Chief Engineer (Operations) in 1984 and was responsible for about 15 000 engineers and draughtsmen. The building of Warragamba Dam was a major achievement and a highlight of Ted's long career at the Board. Ted went on to work at Standards Australia (now SAI Global) and sat on various committees to rewrite a number of important standards.

In 2017 Ted was humbled to receive an Order of Australia in recognition of his service to the community and acknowledging his long service as a senior Sydney Water engineer.

Ted Pakchung passed away on 4 May 2020 at the age of 97. He is survived by his three children, Warren (Engineer, Sydney High Old Boy, attended 1961-65), Elizabeth (Lawyer) and David (Doctor).





# Vale

**Douglas William Newall OAM (1941)** died on 5 November 2019. A 35-year veteran of the NSW Police, he received many commendations over the course of his career.



Water Polo Olympian **Raymond Leslie Smee OAM, OLY, JP (1947)** passed away on 14 November 2019. Ray was Vice Captain of the Australian Olympic Water Polo team at the 1952 Helsinki Games and Captain at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics.

**The Reverend Harry Herbert AM (1961)** passed away on 6 December 2019. The former Executive Director of Uniting NSW.ACT, Harry was a champion of the Uniting Church's progressive drug policy and was instrumental in the establishment of the Uniting Medically Supervised Injecting Centre (MSIC) at Kings Cross.

**Professor Ronald Penny AO (1953)** died on 21 December 2019. One of Australia's leading immunologists, Penny's group was credited with making the first diagnosis of AIDS in Australia in 1982.



**Terence 'Terry' Uren (1967)** passed away in Canberra on 5 February 2020, aged 69. Remembered fondly by classmates as a studious, enthusiastic yet quiet young man, Terry was a School Prefect, an avid contributor

to *The Record* (prize 1967) and loved rugby. After completing a Bachelor of Architecture at Sydney University in 1973, Terence had a long and distinguished career with the Department of Works in Canberra.



**Dr William (Bill) Barclay AM (1946)** died on 8 April 2020. A prominent psychiatrist, Barclay was influential in the public sector where he improved conditions for those suffering mental illness and chaired a committee that conducted a review of mental health

services in NSW and produced the Barclay Report. Later in life he was regarded as the leading forensic psychiatrist in NSW.

**Peter McNae (1980)** passed away in May 2020.



**Murray MacGee (1950)** passed away on 21 June 2020. While at High he was a prefect and accomplished athlete. He later went on to study dentistry and became an oral surgeon prior to joining the Faculty of Dentistry at the University of Sydney.

**Frederick (Fred) Luxford, (1939)** passed away on 3 July 2020, aged 97. Fred was born and raised in Bondi, and attended Sydney High School from 1935 to 1939. As many Old Boys know, Fred's affection for Sydney High and all it stood for was legendary and ongoing until the day he passed. When his first of his three sons (Derek 1968 Captain, Ian 1970 Prefect, Richard 1976 Vice Captain) started at High in the 60s, the family's weekends were centred around support for High on the sideline, river bank and in working bees. Fred took all or at least one of his boys to every Head of the River from the middle 60s, and dressed their car in chocolate and blue streamers and cheered from the bank. The GPS Rugby 'threepeat' victories of 1971-1973 were sweeter to no one more than Fred, as was the glorious Yaralla Cup of 1976.

**James (Jim) Rigby** (pictured here with the 1961 First XI), Classics teacher 1953-1969 and Special Master of Classics 1977-1981 passed away on 15 July 2020, aged 97.



**Algis Cerkesas**, who taught PE at High in the 1970s, passed away in August.





## From the Archives

One of the words that we have heard bandied about with frequency to describe the COVID-19 pandemic is 'unprecedented'. Here at High, we would argue that this usage is incorrect. This is not the first time that our School has felt the impact of an epidemic; and not the first time that High boys have had to undertake at-home learning.

A search through our Archives unearthed an item in the March 1919 edition of *The Record* (see excerpt, right) noting that the School had a delayed opening that year due to the pneumonic influenza (commonly known as the Spanish Flu) epidemic that was sweeping through the state and, indeed, the world. Then, as now 'people were required to wear masks covering the mouth and nose; the congregation of people in public spaces was disallowed; and restrictions were placed on crossing from Victoria into NSW'<sup>1</sup>.

During the 1919 epidemic, Sydney Boys High School, then in its Ultimo location, was used as an inoculation depot and the main room was used as a hostel for Red Cross workers (see photo above). Although the School did not reopen until March, it appears that Fourth Year students received their books and some instructions a few weeks prior. So spare a thought for those High boys of a hundred years ago, who also had to study at home, but without the benefit of the modern technology with which we have been blessed.

1. <https://www.records.nsw.gov.au/archives/collections-and-research/guides-and-indexes/stories/pneumonic-influenza-1919>

THE RECORD.

5

### School Notes

Owing to the pneumonic influenza epidemic the School did not reopen till March 3rd, though Fourth Year received text-books and instructions in the middle of February.

\* \* \* \*

The School building itself was quite transformed. It was used as an inoculation depot, and food relief was given from No. 4 Room. The main room was used as a hostel for Red Cross workers, as is shown by the photograph in this issue.

\* \* \* \*

In future all contributions must be signed. Except in cases of "Letters to the Editor," the signature will not be published unless at the explicit wish of the writer. Rapidly increasing numbers of barefaced plagiarists compel us to make this rule.

\* \* \* \*

Let our masters beware! Toowoomba Grammar School supplies the following:—"The whirligig of time! 1910, scene, T.G.S.; Mr. R. Wilson (master, V. B.), loquitur. "Clowes! You were out of your dormitory after lights out. Any defence?" 1918, scene, France; Brigade-Major Clowes loquitur. "Private R. Wilson! Absent without leave! Any defence?" (Fact.)."

\* \* \* \*

The "Record" would like to see a three-colour badge awarded to all boys who gain colours in three branches of sport. At present a boy may gain colours on colours, but the only badge he is entitled to wear is that which appears on the blazer of any 1st XV. or XI. man.

\* \* \* \*

Another departure that we think would be welcomed—the award of half colours to prominent players in the 2nd XV. and the 2nd XI., also to point-scorers in junior events at the G.P.S. sports.



# Donor Acknowledgements

**The Sydney High School Foundation would like to thank the following donors for their support:**

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Boylan, Sharon  
Bray, Michael  
Briggs, Dennis  
Brown, Christopher  
Campbell, Brian  
Cashman, Ralph  
Chailse, Kiran  
Chang, Zhao  
Chen, Chung Hun  
Chen, Chung-Hung  
Chen, De Xiang  
Chen, Jianwen  
Chen, Xian  
Chen, Yingtao  
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Lam, Bonson  
Lang, Steve  
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**We would also like to thank those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous.**



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