

# SHS flying HIGHER



## Highlights

*Infrastructure Update*

*The Changing Educational Landscape*

*Our School Council*

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# From the PRINCIPAL



Dr Jaggar with Deirdre and David Greatorex AO (1950)  
at Presentation Night

So far, 2020 has been tumultuous for the wider High community. Bushfires disrupted our rowing camp in Canberra, hailstones damaged our COLA, first heat and then rain deprived us of a GPS premiership in Tennis, and lately the coronavirus has challenged us to work together in very different ways. By acting with truth to articulate the problems we faced and with courage to combat the effects of the virus and quickly build our capacity for online learning, we have enacted the School's motto, *Veritate et Virtute* (With Truth and Courage). Our staff and students have worked collaboratively and cooperatively to make it possible for our 1200 students to keep learning effectively while offsite.

We have so far resisted the natural tendency to 'yield up' a term or two of student progress. We have tried to stick to the timetable as much as possible despite students not being onsite at the School. We have endeavoured to keep business as usual. Our Executive and specialist teachers prepared plans that brought us to the end of term one. Should we not be in full lockdown in May, they have further plans for how we will proceed from then on. We have strategies planned to enable online learning to continue with no teachers onsite.

Our Canvas learning management system has powerful tools that facilitate interactive online learning. Our staff and students face a steep learning curve but are rapidly gaining in confidence. A significant proportion of our pedagogy is being re-imagined to accommodate the possibilities of online environments. For example, assessments need to be re-conceptualised as tasks completed or

submitted online. Questions around the validity and equity of tasks carried out without direct supervision need to be answered. Teachers are beginning to design tasks with a limited time span online or with randomised question numbers to minimise the possibilities of students not submitting their own work.

My sense is that the coronavirus pandemic will be the catalyst for a paradigm shift in teaching and learning in our School. New ways of doing things will emerge and student needs will be better met. I cannot speak highly enough of the manner in which the staff and students at High have stepped up and gotten on with the job.

The AAGPS decision and announcement on March 24 that 'all AAGPS 2020 fixtures will be suspended indefinitely, effective immediately' was the only one possible, given the escalation of the COVID-19 pandemic. In response, the School had to make radical cost savings, including giving notice to or standing down coaches and MICs. There will be a great deal more disruption to our culture ahead as the nation fights its battle against the virus, possibly for up to six months ahead.

Having cancelled all co-curricular activities, we are now laser-focused on pedagogy, its online delivery and its capacity to meet the additional learning needs of our students. We hope to make an opportunity out of this threat to our institution by coming out of it as more skilful teachers and learners.

**Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM**

# Online Learning from a Student's Perspective

As schools across the State abruptly switched to online learning towards the end of March, everything felt uncertain. In particular, because we in Year 12 had our first HSC task of the year the following week, our transition to online classes within such a crucial period became a concern. The School's use of their primary online learning platform—Canvas—proved to be efficient, and lecture-like lessons could be held, modules and homework could be delegated, and attendance easily marked. We found that asking questions was easier, and could be done without distraction, either through private messaging or on a video call, when other students were muted. Though the new format obviously lacked the classroom's social discussions, teachers were able to place us in 'break-out' rooms to talk in groups, which was a manageable alternative. Within the comfort of home, motivation may be an issue at times, especially within lower year groups, but the School seems to be attentive to students maintaining good attendance, homework submission, and

remaining healthy (some teachers even emailed us at-home workouts). One benefit is saving at least two hours per day that would've been spent on travel to and from school (for me, it's meant two extra hours of sleep!). Whilst it will take some time for both teachers and students to become used to online learning, my experience so far is that the transition has been reasonably smooth—and ultimately it's a true testament to how quickly our teachers have adapted their teaching methods.

**Alex Zhou (School Captain 2020), Year 12**



## And from the Teachers' Perspective

The rapid transition to online learning in March and April this year has been a significant challenge for the School but one that has been met with resounding success.

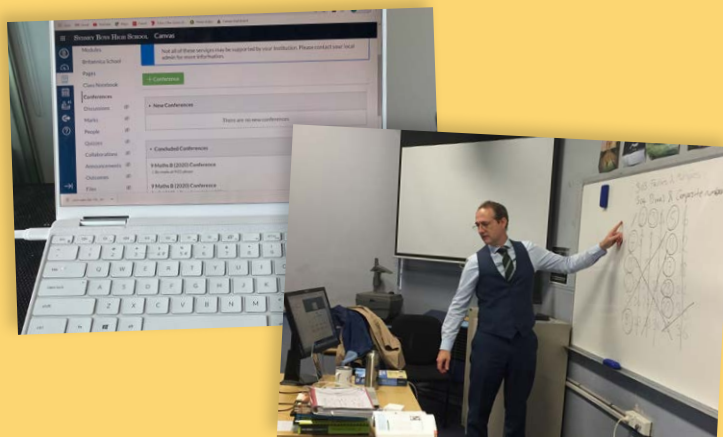
Within the course of one week, teachers were upskilled in online learning tools and plans were put in place allowing the School to transition from face-to-face learning to an online environment. Maintaining our regular timetable during this time has helped create a sense of certainty and normality in a period of such ongoing change.

Teachers have been using a range of strategies within High's new Canvas platform to engage students including:

- online discussion tools
- uploading of learning resources
- video conferencing
- online quizzes
- footage of teachers completing experiments and
- recorded explanations of concepts.

The workload for this transition has been immense for the teaching staff, who have had to swiftly develop new resources while learning how to integrate these new technology tools within virtual classrooms. However, many teachers have commented on the satisfaction gained from learning these new skills while being able to maintain a connection with the boys through Canvas.

Though the challenges have been great in learning how to maintain continuity for the boys while balancing our own wellbeing as teachers, the School has shown that by working together and supporting each other as a community we can continue to overcome any obstacles we may face.



# Academic & Co-Curricular Highlights

Kevin Fernando was selected in the Performing Arts Unit 2020 Drama Company and Yung Kim (performance) and Kent Gu (composition) were selected to perform at ENCORE.

Three of our HSC Design and Technology students had projects nominated for Shape 2019 (see page 16).

Our Chess teams had a fantastic season, winning the GPS Invitational Chess Cup, the Terrey Shaw Shield and bringing home the third place trophy from the Australian Schools Championships (see page 19).

Timothy Hanna was selected to the Sydney Region team that won the NSW Schools Debating competition.

Jared Smith (2019) was awarded a Macquarie University Leaders and Achievers scholarship for Marketing and Media, David Goh (2019) was awarded a UNSW Co-op Scholarship in Commerce Information Systems and Ryan Jepson (2019) was presented with the John Lincoln Award for significant service to the community.

Ryan Ong was selected by the Australian Informatics Olympiad Committee to attend the School of Excellence at ANU last December.

Matthew Ko and Neel Pradhan finished 2nd and 3rd respectively in NSW, in the ASX Schools Share Market Game 2, 2019.

Tian Yang won a medal for the highest score in NSW in the ICAS Science Competition.

Agustin Palais placed second in Spanish at the Open High School and Klimenty Tsoutsman achieved first place in Russian at the NSW School of Community Languages.

Matthew Awad, Victor Zhang and Eric Wu's surreal film *Peter*, won the junior division of V Fest and James Walker won the Young Filmmaker Prize at the 2019 My Rode Reel Competition and was nominated in the 'Flickerup' competition, as was Victor Zhang.

## Sporting Highlights

Hunar Verma and Samuel Yu were awarded NSWCHSSA Sporting Blues for Cricket and Volleyball respectively. High boys also won Sydney East Blues in Athletics, Cricket, Cross-country, Rowing, and Volleyball.

The U17 Volleyball team won the Australian U17 Championship (see page 13) and many players were selected to representative teams, including a number in the Sydney East team, Oliver Yang and Billy Nguyen in NSW CHS, Alec Ng in the All Schools U16s and Joshua Reid in the all Australian U15s.

The Open Basketball team won the Sydney Shootout Tournament and finished fourth at the National Schools Championships, where the U17s placed third in their division. Eoin Fitz-Gerald was selected to play in the Australian Junior Basketball Championships as well as to the AAGPS' 'Merit Team' with Kwabena Brefo and Adam Gordon.

Following a strong performance at the GPS Athletics, our CHS athletes went on to perform strongly at the State meet, bringing home medals in the U15 400 and 800m, open high jump, U12 4 x100m relay, and long jump.



High won the Peter Bond Trophy for overall point score at the CHS Rowing Championships and performed well at the historic live-streamed (spectatorless) Head of the River, where we competed in the first three IVs races for the first time since 2010.

At the National Schools Judo Championships, Ivan Samsonov won gold in the Senior Boys D1 60+kg competition.

Kieran Guan was named Junior Champion at the Australian Open Short Track Speed Skating Championships, and went on to compete at the Junior World Championship in Italy and the Winter Youth Olympic Games in Switzerland (see page 19).

Oscar Shi won medals in Sabre at the U14 Boys Fencing NSW State Championship and Sydney Olympic U15 Cup.

Our 2nd Tennis team were GPS Premiers, even after having to supply a player to the 1sts for most of the season.

# The Old Boys Fairland Pavilion at McKay Oval, Centennial Park



The first Cricket match played on the McKay playing fields—SHS 1st XI vs St Ignatius, 1932

Volunteer working bee, McKay Oval, 1957

Many of you Old Boys will have great memories of playing Cricket and Rugby at the McKay Oval playing fields and preparing for the game in the Old Boys Fairland Pavilion dressing rooms. Parents will have memories of watching their sons emerge from the Pavilion through the tunnel of boys onto the Oval. But how many of us know the full history of how our School happened to have these great facilities within the Centennial Parklands area?

In 1911, the Old Boys Union provided an undertaking to the then AAAGPS that they would seek to provide playing fields for the High community, worthy of a 'Great Public School'. Over the next 20 years the President and Secretary of the Old Boys Union, Messrs R.T. McKay and C.A. Fairland, worked tirelessly to have 18 acres of swamp land allocated in 1928, and then drained, to become what we now know as McKay Oval.

During the difficult times of the Great Depression, they managed to raise funds to the amount of £10,000 to prepare the grounds from a swamp to a top-flight playing green.

Shortly after, in 1933, they built the Fairland Pavilion, and following that, in 1952 the Old Boys Pavilion was extended to add the second level and dressing rooms, with a function and canteen area below. This was with support from Old Boys and the parent community including the Levi, Tzannes and Ward families. In 2008, further renovations were made to refurbish the

Fairland Pavilion led by Peter Tzannes and more recently an electronic scoreboard was donated in memory of High parent and Rugby supporter, Richard Green, by the Green family amongst others.

The McKay Oval and the Fairland Pavilion have borne witness to our School's sporting history. High has participated in the AAGPS sporting competitions since 1906 and many New South Wales and Australian representatives from High and other schools have commenced their sporting careers in events conducted using the McKay and Fairland facilities. They have been integral to the sporting history of the School.

As we approach the 90th year of the Pavilion, we have reached an agreement with the Centennial Park Trust to rebuild the Pavilion for the use of the next 100 years of student scholars at High.

Further details on the support we require are outlined in the appeal letter on page 8. You now have a unique opportunity to leave your legacy, as Old Boys did in 1933, and parents have since, and be a part of rebuilding a unique school community facility that we can all enjoy whenever we visit Centennial Park. I urge you to join me in helping fund the rebuilding of this substantial landmark which is the cornerstone of sport at High.

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

# Update on *the Governors Centre*

Construction of the Governors Centre is on time and essentially on budget. The sewer diversions were completed in February as were excavation and sequestration of building waste or removal from the site. Earthworks, piles and retaining walls were finished and the concrete slabs for the lower ground floor, ground floor and mezzanine were poured by March 5. We should see the auditorium and level one steel 'in situ' and both the auditorium roof and the level one roof in place by the second half of May. The basic structure of the building is scheduled to 'top out' by the end of May.

The architect and the principals have finalised the seat design and fabric choices for the auditorium seats.

We will soon turn our attention to the fit-out of the building. While a good sound and lighting system is an essential component of a working theatre, such items are outside of the scope of the current contract. We have already committed the bulk of our contingency fund to the previously 'unfunded' portions of the original design so we will need to raise money for these items. We are turning to our communities once more to assist with the financing of the fit-out stage of the project.

We have been running an appeal for some time asking our Old Boys and wider community to donate an inscribed brick to commemorate their (or their family member's) connection with High.

In my case, I purchased a \$1000 brick for both my mother and my daughter, who are alumnae of SGHS. It is also possible to have one of the theatre seats named after you or your family by means of a small plaque, as I have done also. These donations are fully tax-deductible. We need to close out the appeal on June 30 of this year so that the arrangements can be finalised to order the bricks and theatre seat plaques for installation later in the year. Our plan is to erect a 'Wall of Gratitude' somewhere in the landscaped approaches to the building. In any event, we have to make way for our next campaigns—for a new Fairland Pavilion, an additional science laboratory and air conditioning in the Junior Library. Any financial assistance would help.

If you are interested, please contact [Paul.Harapin@shsfoundation.org.au](mailto:Paul.Harapin@shsfoundation.org.au).

**Dr K.A. Jaggur OAM**





With the construction of the Governors Centre well under way, we are now focused on Sydney High's two most urgent needs:

- The internal fit-out of the **Governors Centre**, to ensure we have an exceptional facility for students and the High community to enjoy; and
- The exciting opportunity to rebuild the **Fairland Pavilion** at Centennial Park ensuring another 20 years of access to the **McKay playing fields**.

## *Governors Centre Interior*

We still need to raise funds for the internal fit-out of the Governors Centre—to provide auditorium seating, furniture, staging, sound, and lighting. **This is your final invitation to donate.** With a gift of \$3000 or more, you can have a **theatre chair** named after you or your family; with a gift of \$1000 or more, you will be acknowledged with an inscribed **brick** on the Wall of Gratitude. The inscription of your choice will remember and honour you or your loved one(s).

Join the many other Old Boys, students and parents who have already left their legacy to the School. Applications **MUST** close by the end of June, in order to keep to the construction schedule, so please don't miss this final opportunity to contribute.

Donate online by clicking [here](#).

## *Rebuilding the Fairland Pavilion at McKay Oval*

In the late 1920s, a dedicated group of Old Boys accessed and developed the McKay playing fields in Centennial Park from a swamp to a GPS-standard sporting oval and the Fairland Pavilion was built in 1933. High students currently enjoy rugby, football, cricket, athletics and cross country at the McKay fields. As we approach its 90th year, we have reached an agreement with the Centennial Park Trust to rebuild the Fairland Pavilion.

This is a unique opportunity for us to turn the Old Boys Pavilion into a modern facility suitable for the needs of our sporting students and families. If you fondly remember your days playing at the Oval, preparing in the dressing rooms or watching your son run out through the tunnel from the Pavilion onto McKay Oval, now is the time to leave your legacy, and contribute to the next 100 years of High sporting achievements at Centennial Park. Donations above \$1000 will be recognised on the Donor Acknowledgement Board at the completed new Pavilion.

Click [here](#) to donate online.

## *Let us recognise your generosity further*

If you donate to either of the above with a gift of \$1000 or more, you will be recognised on our digital acknowledgement board displayed within the foyer of the School, and invited to the opening of the building to which you have donated. Donors of \$10,000 or more will be publicly recognised and invited to a private donor event and tour prior to the public opening of either building.

A donation of any size is much appreciated and is fully tax-deductible. We thank you for any support you are able to provide.

**Dr Kim Jaggar OAM**  
Principal

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

**Andrew Bowey (1977)**  
Chair, SHS Foundation

For further information or any enquiries, please contact us at [enquiries@shsfoundation.org.au](mailto:enquiries@shsfoundation.org.au) or 0435 355 238.







I would like to make a tax-deductible donation to the Sydney High School Foundation towards:

- A seat in the Governors Centre Auditorium for \$3000
A brick on the Governors Centre Wall of Gratitude for \$1000



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Rebuilding the Fairland Pavilion at McKay Oval for the amount of \$1000 \$5000 \$10,000
Other amount \$

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Donations will be directed to the Sydney High School Foundation Building Fund ABN: 62 078 650 439 except donations towards Fairland Pavilion, which go to the Australian Sports Foundation ABN: 27 008 613 858 to be dispersed to the Fairland Project. Please see www.shsfoundation.org.au for our Collection Statement and Privacy Policy



# From the President of the *Old Boys Union*



I would like to welcome everyone to this 5th edition of our *Flying Higher* magazine, which we have created during these times which have been uniquely challenging for not only our own High community, but for the whole world. I trust that you are getting through

this period of isolation with your families safely, and perhaps finding unique and varied opportunities to reconnect with everyone.

I recently had the opportunity to speak with some Old Boys about their experiences as students at Sydney High during World War II, and they told me of the regular practices they undertook, with air raid sirens signaling the move from classrooms to bunkers on the 'Flat'. The boys from those unique times managed to get through and I trust the current crop will do the same as they face the challenges of remote learning. Their teachers have had to come up to speed quickly and are finding new and interesting ways to engage with their classes. The Old Boys Union would like to thank Dr Jaggar and the staff for their dedication to the students at this time.

I have also spoken to many of the Old Boys who generously support our Bursary Program. The Program has already helped a number of boys so far and we look forward to further support from the Old Boy community to expand our ability to provide much-needed assistance to other boys in need. I thank **Ron Schwarz (1962)** and **Bruce Corlett AM (1961)** for their leadership amongst the 1960s cohort. This includes **John Thornton (1961)** (below), who is currently based in Adelaide.

John served in the Army after graduating from High, and retired as a Major after serving as an Artillery Officer from 1962 to 1983. He then worked as an executive in Finance at Ernst & Whinney and lectured in Corporate Strategy, Finance and Investment, Business Ethics, Entrepreneurship and student community engagement programs from 1989 to 2010



at SALT/UniSA. He has two adult daughters. John is motivated by a 'pay-it-forward' philosophy as he feels that he has been afforded a wonderful life, and would like to contribute to ensuring other (current) High boys have the same opportunity. As a student who travelled in from the south western suburbs during his time at High, and felt somewhat like an outsider, John wishes to ensure that no student misses out due to economic circumstances. He has decided to provide financial support through the Bursary Program to new students who may be walking in his shoes, for which we are extremely grateful. The Program continues to look for supporters to help more boys in need, so please contact either Ron or Bruce via [bursary@shsfoundation.org.au](mailto:bursary@shsfoundation.org.au) if you'd also like to help.

On the 18th of February I attended the SHS Presentation Evening, where **David Greatorex AO (1950)** gave the main address, focusing on the character-building nature of experiencing life adversities of various kinds, stating that 'the opposites of such adversities are thereby understood better'. Whilst we were not aware that evening of the community challenges to come, David's address resonates today more than ever. (We will have an overview of David's life achievements in the OBU e-Bulletin.) Dr Jaggar gave a farewell to the Class of 2019 leaving them with his plea to live their post-school lives to the full and to develop and use their talents for the betterment of our society. Those who rise to the challenge and make the commitment to go for it may face great difficulties, but are likely to be more fulfilled.

I welcome all the boys of the Class of 2019 including our 77 new life members to the Old Boys Union. We had been planning a casual event for this term, however we now hope to hold this later in the year. I look forward to hearing their news and working with them to connect with other Old Boys. Thanks to **Marcus Borscz (2019)** for agreeing to be our new Old Boy representative.

I look forward to working with the community as we commence fundraising to build a new Pavilion at McKay Oval, and have provided some

history in the article on page 6. This will provide an opportunity for you to contribute to another century of school sporting achievements.

Most reunions have been postponed at this point, so we will continue to post updates via the OBU e-Bulletin as plans become clearer. However, at this stage:

**Bill Avery (1955)** is organising the Class of 1955 reunion luncheon on Friday, 4 September;

**Michael Fischer (1970)** has organised the 50th reunion for the Class of 1970 for Saturday, 10 October at Bonnie Doon Golf Club; and

**John Green (1980)** is organising the 40th reunion for the Class of 1980 which is set for 6pm on Saturday, 21st November.

Thanks to Michael, who continues to liaise with the Old Boys for all reunions.

Sadly I've just heard of the passing of OBU Patron **Sir Robert May (1952)**, Baron of Oxford, at the age of 84 in London. Lord May's work in biology led to the development of chaos theory and he was chief scientist to the UK Government. We are also sad to have lost **Frank Murray (1948)**, an avid rower, in December 2019 and send our sympathies to the family and friends of both of these Old Boys.

In summary, I wish you and your families all the best as we get through this community crisis and please, don't hesitate to reach out to me on any matters at [president@shsobu.org.au](mailto:president@shsobu.org.au).

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

## Presentation Night 2020



## The Honour Cap

Prior to 1917, 'The Honour Cap' was really a super blue for outstanding sportsman. A proposal from the School Union later tightened up the criteria to: considerable sporting prowess, general interest in school affairs and as recognition for Honour brought to the School. Our Blues Committee regulations insist on outstanding merit in a number of sports. Since Eedy was awarded an Honour Cap in 1884, there have been 31 others awarded to 29 individuals.

Take Reg Clarke (1932) as an example. He broke the CHS and GPS records for shot put, earned School Blues for Athletics and Swimming and was awarded the Sydney Girls High School Cup and Honour Cap for 'outstanding sporting achievement and intense interest in school affairs'. Other notable recipients last century were: Robert Higham (1938), Brian Allsop (1954), Neil McGill (1973), Bruce Ramsay (1977), Alan Davies (1982), Andrew McGill (1985), Adam Magro (1988) and Sohail Mohideen (1993).

Since 2000, I have interpreted bringing honour to the School to include obtaining a quality UAI/ ATAR. Recipients at Presentation Night this century:

2006: Mischa Steen (Rowing & Football, 99.7 UAI)

2008: Dakshika Gunaratna (Cricket & Athletics, 99.1 UAI)

2014: Ivor Metcalfe (Athletics & Volleyball, 97.2 ATAR)

2016: Leonard Mah (Swimming & Athletics, 99.95 ATAR)

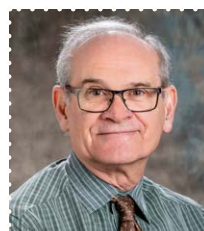
2020: Samuel Yu (Volleyball & Tennis, 99.85 ATAR)



I was very pleased to present the latest one to Samuel Yu in February 2020. Samuel was a member of both the Tennis and Volleyball 1sts teams to win the GPS Premiership and was Captain of the combined GPS Volleyball team, amongst various CHS Honours. He also achieved 99.85 ATAR.

**Dr K.A. Jaggur OAM**

## Our School Council



When you walk through the main entrance at SBHS and continue towards the Great Hall, there is a plaque on the wall titled *SBHS Life Governors*. On it are the names of individuals who have provided outstanding service to the School Council. The SBHS School Council was formed in 1952 with the current Constitution dating from 1995. Its objectives are to:

- Discuss and ratify broad SBHS policy in relation to the aims and educational goals, educational priorities and needs, welfare of students, relationships with the community, consistent with SBHS being an academically selective school operating within the NSW public education system and the AAGPS.
- Advise and assist the Principal, staff and other appropriate persons/organisations (including SHS Foundation) in matters affecting the priorities, needs, welfare and operation of SBHS.
- Coordinate activities of the P&C, OBU, SHS Foundation and other bodies within the school community in implementing policies consistent with the first stated objective.
- Encourage and promote community participation in school activities.

The School Council comprises 17 members representing the broad school community, including parents, staff, Old Boys and current students. The agenda for the eight meetings per year includes: Reports from the School Principal, Sports Council, P&C, OBU, SHS Foundation and SRC; and issues of importance (e.g. The Governors Centre; fundraising by the school and SHS Foundation; negotiations around McKay Oval, sporting fields in Centennial Parklands and the Light Rail). Some recent activities include the development of a Sports Policy and review of the Site Development Plan 2011-2020. The latter provides a comprehensive overview of school facilities (buildings and grounds) and it has been pleasing to see many major improvements in how the School looks (painting and repairs), with renovations and updates to how teaching is delivered.

**Ron Trent**  
**President, SBHS School Council**

# Taking Aim

Rifle Shooting continues to strive for exceptional results through our strong training programs at both smallbore and fullbore. The smallbore program runs in both summer and winter and involves training at the Sydney International Shooting Centre. Our Old Boy coaches teach the fundamentals of bench rest and then prone shooting to prepare students for fullbore shooting.

Talented smallbore shooters are selected to join our fullbore squad, which trains every Saturday at the ANZAC Rifle Range at Malabar. The smaller squad of shooters trains to shoot from 300 metres to 800 metres with larger calibre rifles in preparation for our GPS matches. Competition experience is gained through external prize meetings where our students compete against adults at Cessnock, Wingham and Malabar. The season culminates in an intense week-long GPS training camp in the winter holidays. This leads straight into the Fiona Reynolds All Schools Match and the GPS competition.



**1st and 2nd grade GPS fullbore teams and coaches with their trophies**



**Emmett Kim Narushima after achieving the highest score in the GPS second grade match**

The fullbore squad had an extremely successful season in 2019. They were crowned the champions of the All Schools Match and retained the Prorak Trophy. This achievement was followed by Sydney High winning both the First and Second Grade GPS Premierships amongst fierce competition. Frank Zhou (2019) and Jackie Wu (2022) were selected for the GPS Combined Team.

These brilliant results would not have been possible without the dedication of our shooters to their rigorous training program and the unwavering support of our Old Boy coaches, parents, Dr Jaggar and the wider High community.

**Daniel Comben, MIC Rifle Shooting**

# National Volleyball Champions

High sent four teams to the 2019 Australian Schools Volleyball Cup at the Gold Coast last December. This was the first time the competition took place on the Gold Coast as it had been held in Melbourne for the last twenty years.

While High has maintained an excellent record at the event in recent years, 2019 was a standout. All our teams came home with medals and our Under 17s achieved the result High has been seeking since becoming a regular competitor at the Australian Schools Cup.

In an exciting five set final on the last day of competition, our Under 17s defeated the 2018 Australian Champions, Mazenod College, to become current Australian Champions. Captain Josh Reid was named MVP of the tournament.

On top of this, our Open team won the Division 1 final bringing home another gold medal, our Year 10 team won the bronze medal in Division 1 and our Year 8s won the silver medal in Division 1. (Teams compete in four divisions: Championship, Division 1, Division 2 and Division 3.)

Thanks must go to the great work done by coaches Pinyan Gao, Jerry Chang, Ryan Seong and Ray Gu. Thanks are also due to parent Jimmy Yu who drove a team bus all week.

**Michael Kay, MIC Volleyball**



**The U17s in action**



**U17s Champions**

# *Families of Sydney High School*

## The McGills

At Sydney High School we are lucky to have families with a long association with our School. One such family is the McGills, who have sent two generations of boys to High.

Mr J.E. McGill of Kensington sent all his boys to High and his daughter to SGHS. His four sons became shining examples of the scholar-sportsman ethos of our School, and eventually so did one of his grandsons.

John, the eldest, started in 1953 and was appointed Vice-Captain of the School in 1957. He was an excellent sportsman and strong scholar, gaining Honours in Physics in his Leaving Certificate and earning a Commonwealth Scholarship. From the School, he was awarded the Lodge SHS Prize, the John Skyring Cross Memorial Cup and the Claude Tressider Trophy. John was in the 1st XV Rugby team who were undefeated CHS Premiers in 1957 and was selected in the Combined CHS Rugby team. John was a member of the 1st VIII crew who won the 1957 Head of the River by half a length. He also represented High in both Swimming and Athletics at the zone carnivals.

Stuart commenced in 1955. He was also appointed Vice-Captain in 1959. In the Leaving Certificate, Stuart gained 1st Class Honours in Chemistry and a Commonwealth Scholarship. In Third Form (1957), he played in the 4th XV Rugby team and was also in 1st IV Rowing crew, coached by Olympian Mervyn Woods. They won a metropolitan regatta and came fourth at the GPS Head of the River. Also that year, Stuart was a member of the CHS Athletics team and won the U16 high jump at the GPS carnival. In 1959, Stuart was a member of the 1st VIII crew who were driven by coaching legend Alan Callaway for 650 miles in training. The crew rowed 50 full-pressure trials and competed in 13 races, and won the Head of the River by the biggest margin in 20 years. Stuart was awarded a Special Rowing Prize in honour of the Head of the River victory. He also played lock in the 1st XV Rugby team coached by Bob Outterside. He married a Sydney High Girl, Meryl, and went on to work for Exxon Oil for 38 years at a global level.

David McGill attended High from 1961 to 1965. David made both the CHS Swimming team and Junior Athletics team and was a successful

diver. He rowed in the IVs, placing third in two regattas, and in the 1964 Athletics carnival, came 1st in high jump and 2nd in triple jump. He was awarded a Commonwealth Secondary Scholarship at the Leaving Certificate. From the School he received a Declamation for Oratory in Fourth and Fifth Form and was Open Field Games Champion (aeq.).

Neil McGill attended High from 1968 to 1973 and was School Captain in 1973. He played in the 1st XV Rugby 1972-73, winning back-to-back GPS premierships, and was selected in the Australian Schools Rugby Union team in 1973. He was in the 1st VIII 1972-73, which competed in 26 races, winning eight, with nine seconds and three thirds and was also a Zone Athletics Representative (1968-1973). He was awarded the John Francis Bush Memorial Prize, the John Skyring Cross Memorial Cup and received a School Blue for Rowing, and was the fourth recipient of a School Honour Cap since the school moved to Moore Park in 1928.

Stuart McGill's son, Andrew, attended High from 1983 to 1985. He was appointed Senior Prefect in 1985. In 1983, he was Age Champion in Athletics (1st 100m, 1st long jump, 1st triple jump, 2nd shot put) and was selected in the GPS Athletics team. He was a GPS Representative and was awarded a School Blue for Basketball. He played 1st XV Rugby (1983-85) and was selected in the GPS 1st XV (1984-85) and NSW Schools 2nd (1984) and 1st XV (1985) and was a reserve in the Australian Schools Rugby Union team. He was awarded a School Blue for Rugby. He was also in the 1st IV Rowing crew in 1983 and the First VIII (1984-85). In 1984-85 Andrew was awarded: the JM & WG Forsythe Memorial Prize, the John Francis Bush Memorial Prize, the A.M. Eedy Cup for 100m champion, the Frank Albert Cup for Senior Athletics Champion, the Claude Tressider Trophy, the John Skyring Cross Memorial Cup, the Allan Kippax Trophy for Rugby, the Old Boys' Prize and the SGHS Cup for Games & Sportsmanship. Andrew became the seventh recipient of a School Honour Cap since the School moved to Moore Park.

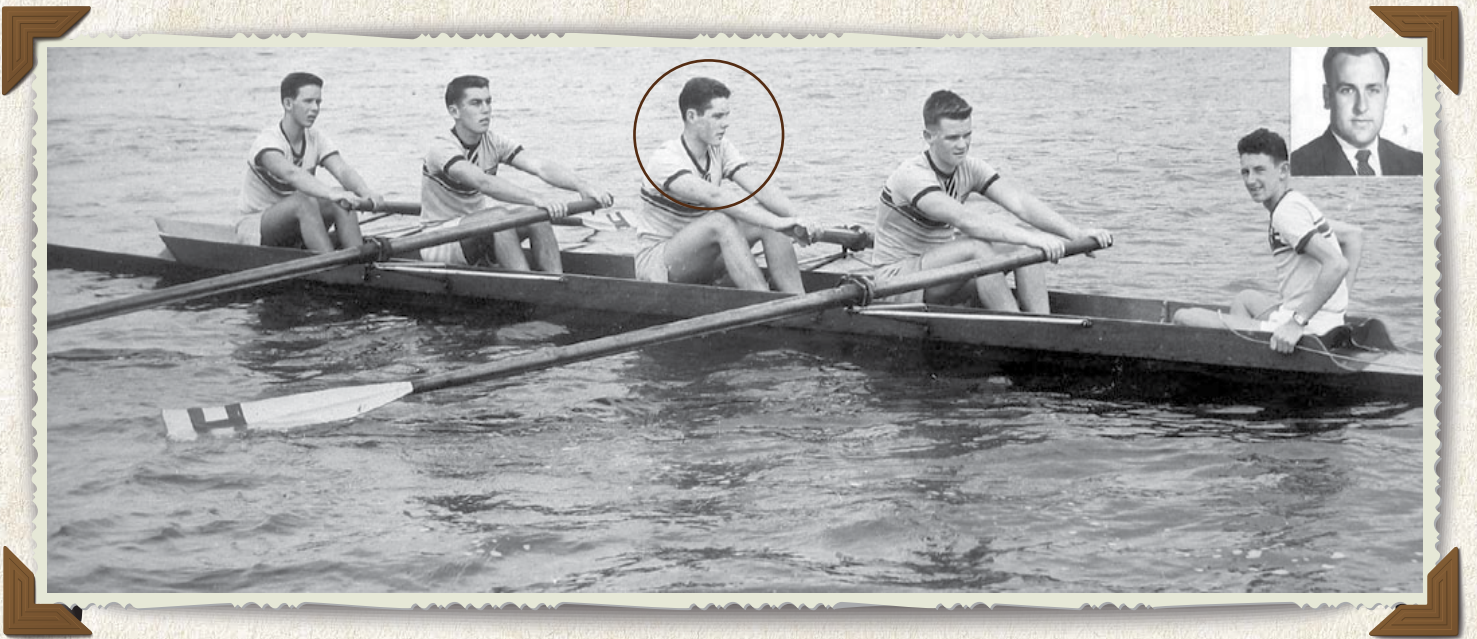
We are fortunate as a community to still have a connection to the McGills, who remain engaged with the School and its students.



*John McGill Vice Captain, 1957, School Prefects*



*David McGill, 1965, Senior Athletics*



*Stuart McGill, 1957-First XV Rowing*



*Neil McGill, First XV Rugby 1973 GPs Premiers*



*Andrew McGill, Senior Prefect, 1985, School Prefects*

# Sydney Boys High School

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

Positive changes arise from difficult times, as over 150 parents attended our online March P&C meeting. Questions were submitted prior to the meeting and those with the most votes were answered first by Dr Jaggar. Parents were able to make the most of Dr Jaggar and Deputy Principal Jamie Kay's availability in a lively Q&A. Parents who did not make the 100-person video meeting limit were able to join with audio only by phone and a video of the meeting was distributed afterwards for those who were unable to attend. Feedback showed the online format to be popular as it enabled parents and the principals to gain a better understanding of each other, proving helpful during a period of rapid change in the move to a virtual school.

The P&C assisted the move to online learning by conducting a survey with the aim of passing parents' views on to the School. 83% of parents responding to our survey agreed with the move. 23% felt they had to supervise and help their son with online learning. Internet quality was an issue for



9%. Over 100 suggestions were made to the School. Parents also donated \$1610 to the school for hand sanitiser.

On 18 June we will be holding a joint event with the SGHS P&C. The expected topic is online learning from home.

**Geoff Waring**  
P&C President

## Focus on Design & Technology

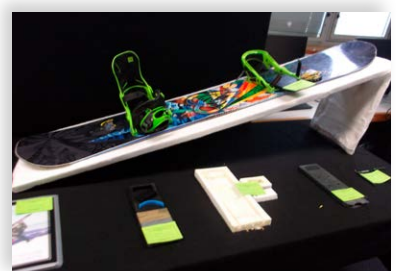
Design and Technology has a unique focus on creativity, innovation and the successful implementation of innovative ideas. Students investigate the importance of evaluation, the role of computer-based technologies, management, communication and collaborative design, as well as exploring current and emerging technologies. They are given the opportunity to explore and develop technologies and demonstrate insight into the potential future uses of technology. They learn to articulate arguments on issues and consequences including environmental and social impacts and develop skills which are transferable to University and their careers, which will hopefully lead to lifelong learning.

As part of the HSC course, students design and produce a Major Design Project in the area of their interest, for example software

design programs, architecture, and innovation of products in timber and/or other materials. The project folio includes a project proposal and management plan, project development and realisation, and project evaluation.

Students enjoy the process of producing their own ideas for a product from start to finish. In 2019, 80% of our students achieved a Band 6, with the remainder achieving a Band 5. Three students were also nominated for the first round of the Shape 2019 Exhibition, and their projects are shown on the right (*from top to bottom*): Dennis Cho's bedside night light/emergency torch; Ben Kernohan's bike locking product/system with alarm/GPS; and Jordan Whittacker's snow board brake with GPS and night lights.

**Rebecca Dam,**  
Head Teacher, TAS





# Foundation Report



**SYDNEY HIGH SCHOOL  
FOUNDATION**



I am pleased to write my first report for *Flying Higher* as Chair of the Foundation, having served on the Board for over four years. I have a long-standing connection with the School as I am an Old Boy, as are my father, brother and nephew.

The Sydney High School Foundation is committed to ensuring that the current and future cohorts of students enjoy and take advantage of all that our School has to offer. I feel honoured to Chair this group which is comprised of parents, Old Boys and our Principal, Dr Jaggar. These volunteers all carve out valuable time from their family, work and social schedules to devote themselves to the continuous improvement of our school community.

Some of the programs that the Foundation has delivered recently are:

## Governors Centre

For those who have not visited the School for a while, this building has emerged out of the ground, and what was but a vision for a long time is now becoming a reality. The foundations have been laid and work is ongoing with an expected finish date later this year. This has involved a lot of hard work, bringing the differing philosophies, visions and operational management of the two schools involved and the Department of Education together. The Foundation's contribution of \$6.2m in funding—the result of your generous community support—is an outstanding result and one that will benefit the School community for generations to come.

## Outerside Centre

The good news is that we have secured the purchase of a small parcel of land from Sydney

Water. This sliver of land alongside the drive, and behind the boat bays, will ensure a simpler future development of the site as a more commercially-viable property.

Unfortunately, as Rowing parents are well aware, one of our pontoons has had to be removed for safety reasons. The location of our boatshed is in one of the worst affected sections of the river with respect to passing water traffic and the washes from boats that impact both the seawall and pontoons. Time has been spent on designing a new pontoon that will hopefully achieve a 25-year lifespan in this environment.

## Indigenous Art Collection

The Foundation has one of the most outstanding Indigenous art collections in NSW displayed at the School, known as the Na Ngara Collection. The works include those of beloved national artists such as Vincent Namatjira, Tony Albert and Laurel Nannup. The Foundation always welcomes support and donations for our Art Fund to continue to grow this collection, which can be viewed most school days by appointment.

We are a community here at High—a community that is made up of all who are connected to this extraordinary institution, including current students, staff and parents both past and present, and Old Boys. We should work together to deliver the best outcomes for all our current students and those to come. If you would like to contribute in any way, by giving time, expertise, resources or financially, please let us know. Let's drive the School to realise its potential and foster an environment which is unquestionably unique and recognised as one of the premier schools in the State.

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



# Tribute to Geoff Andrews

The School, the Sydney High School Foundation and the Old Boys Union wish to acknowledge the extraordinary contribution that **Geoff Andrews (1964)** has made to the school community over many years.

Geoffrey Arthur Andrews attended Sydney High from 1959 until 1964. Geoff's principal sport at High was Rowing (then based in the old weatherboard boatshed at Abbotsford). He was a member of the 1st VIII in 1963 and, in 1962, was a member of the 4th IV (*pictured below, with Geoff Andrews third from the bow*) which won its race at the Head of the River—one of only a handful of crews to do so since 1959.

In the years after High, Geoff established a private consulting group, married his wife, Nada, and together they had two sons who each took advantage of the School's post-year 7 enrolment policy—**Christopher Andrews (2008)** entering in Year 11 and **David Andrews (2012)** entering in Year 9. Both followed their father as members of the 1st VIII.

This brought Geoff back into the School community, and more particularly into its governance bodies. It would be almost impossible to list all of Geoff's contributions to Sydney High School, so enmeshed has he been in the School's governance bodies over the course of more than a decade.

In 2007, he started as Treasurer of the P&C. At the end of that year, the P&C recorded its gratitude to Geoff for his 'meticulous effort in balancing our budget and maximising our contribution to the School'. This accolade could easily apply to all of his subsequent involvement in school governance.

Geoff continued as Treasurer of the P&C in 2008 and 2009 and served as Vice President

from 2009-2012. At the end of his time with the P&C it was recorded that he, together with President Julie Connolly, had 'driven a significant number of reforms which will provide benefits for school and students alike for many years to come'. One of the more significant reforms was the reorganisation of the system of sporting committees, under the Sports Council. Geoff himself was Chair of the Rugby Committee from 2008-2014, providing steady leadership in a difficult period for the sport.

Without any apparent need to rest, Geoff joined the management of the OBU as a Vice President from 2009 and Membership Registrar from 2013, roles he still maintains. At around the same time, Geoff joined the School Council and the Sydney High School Foundation, becoming its Chair from 2011 until 2018. The Foundation is one of the School's most important governance bodies, being responsible, amongst other things, for managing the Outterside Centre at Abbotsford, the Fairland Pavilion at the McKay Sportsground, the High Store and the tennis courts at the School.

During his tenure, Geoff has been integral to the progression of the planning, funding and building of the Governors Centre, a project which is now mid-completion. He is currently a member of the Sydney High School Council and was appointed by that body as a 'Life Governor' of the School in 2019. Geoff continues his valuable volunteer work as a member of the Old Boys Executive Council as Membership Manager.

On behalf of our students, staff, Old Boys and the wider community we wish to thank Geoff Andrews for his ongoing and extensive contribution to Sydney High School.



# High at the Winter Youth Olympics

Even before I began taking Speed Skating seriously, one of the most common questions friends would ask was whether I wanted to go to the Olympics. I never dared to think I could make it there. I never dreamed that one day I would be competing at the 2020 Winter Youth Olympic Games in Lausanne, Switzerland, as the only one representing Australia in Short Track Speed Skating. My races at the Games in January exceeded my expectations, as I broke my PB's and ranked 14th out of 32 in one of my distances.

I started Short Track Speed Skating when I was seven and immediately enjoyed how the sport integrated elements of speed, balance, power and strategy. Over time, my weekly hobby went from two, to four, to five times a week of three hour training sessions. In preparation for the Olympics, I trained daily in Sydney, and then twice a day in



Melbourne, before flying to Lausanne, Switzerland, where the Games were held. The event had no shortage of friendly staff and competitors, activities or food. The Olympic Village was a vortex, accommodating 1788 athletes from 79 nations, in addition to over 3000 volunteers and officials. Crowds were abundant, and the organisation of the events was beyond impressive. The unique atmosphere of the Village was the highlight of my time in Lausanne, teaching me that hard work pays off, and motivating me to continue training hard.

**Kieran Guan (Year 12)**

## Check Mate

Chess at High has grown substantially over the years. In 2019, over 60 students participated, spread across two classes, and this depth in the Chess program contributed to its success. High won the NSW Intermediate School Competition for the second year in a row, with the team (Jack Keating, Kerwin Ma, Matthew Ko, Ryan Lee and Austin Liu) beating James Ruse in a thrilling final. We then went on to perform extremely well in the NSW Secondary Schools One Day tournament. In the Open division, the High team (Jack Keating, Peter Boylan and Kerwin Ma) won the Terrey Shaw Shield for the first time since 1996. The team playing in the Junior division (Toby Huey, Jason Pan and Austin Liu) won their category for the second year in a row.

In the prestigious GPS Chess competition (hosted annually by Sydney Boys), the team comprised of

Peter Boylan, Jack Keating, Toby Huey, Henry Chen, Justin Wayne-Lowe, Kerwin Ma, Jason Pan, Ryan Lee and Matthew Ko retained the trophy for the third year in a row.

This stellar season was topped off by our performance at the National Schools Chess Championship in Canberra. The team consisting of Jack Keating, Peter Boylan, Justin Wayne-Lowe, Toby Huey and Kerwin Ma represented the School and State valiantly and placed a commendable third. Justin Wayne-Lowe and Kerwin Ma each received a board prize for getting the most wins on his board. Overall 2019 was a successful year of Chess for Sydney Boys High and we are motivated to maintain our high level of achievement.

**Dean Nguyen (Year 10) and Jack Keating (Year 10)**



# Making Waves

The School Swimming carnival was held at the beginning of February at Des Renford Pool, Maroubra, in what marked the beginning of the GPS Swimming season. Despite early showers the boys showed up and participation was higher than ever, especially in the 100m and 200m freestyle events.

A number of records were broken by the following as the day progressed: Justin Yi in the 14 years 50-100m butterfly; Jaden Yi in the 15 years 50m freestyle; Ike Matsuoka in the 17 years 50-100m backstroke; Derek Sae-Jong in the Open 50-100m butterfly, 400m freestyle and individual medley; and Titus Zhao in the Open 800m freestyle. Congratulations to all participants and record holders, including an excellent effort by our 4 x 100m medley GPS relay team of Titus Zhao, Ike Matsuoka, Jaden Yi and Derek Sae Jong.

Swimming Captain Derek Sae-Jong and Vice Captain Yung Kim represented High at a swimming leadership function where Derek gave a speech which focused on the spirit of the competition and the power of the team.

Our swimmers went on to perform well at the next three GPS carnivals before the fourth

carnival was cancelled due to COVID-19. The Combined GPS Swimming Team was selected and included the following High students: Ike Matsuoka (17+ 800m freestyle, 400m individual medley and 100 and 200m butterfly); Benjamin Marcellino (12-14 years 100 and 200 m butterfly); Derek Sae-Jong (17+ 200m breaststroke); Brian Ahn (12-14 years 200m breaststroke); and the 12-14 years medley relay team of Jasun Xu, Brian Ahn, Justin Yi and Peter Zhao.

## Peter Loizou, MIC Swimming



# Donor Acknowledgements

## We would like to thank our late 2019 and early 2020 donors for their support:

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## We would also like to thank those donors who have chosen to remain anonymous.

All 2020 Annual Appeal donors will be acknowledged in the next issue of this magazine.



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