





Highlights

Expressing Gratitude
Remembering John Paul Quinn OBE
OBU Reunions

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Front Cover

The Wall of Gratitude

Below

Last year's Judy Cassab Prize winner, Social Distancing by Eric Yang

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From the PRINCIPAL



Our school started the year relatively normally in our new COVID-constricted world. We were greatly relieved when the HSC was completed late in 2021 and that our boys got through the ordeal rather well considering all that had happened to them during the year. The average ATAR was up slightly at 92.59 but the overall band 6 numbers were 20 below target at 580. We have identified multiple areas of weakness to address ahead of this year's HSC examinations. The P & C meeting where the HSC results were discussed drew an audience of 157 on zoom. One positive side effect of the pandemic is that we are now able to engage with more parents through our online meetings.

This year saw our first intake of students who sat for the revised Selective Schools Entrance Test with a Profile Score out of 120 instead of 300. We will wait and see whether there are any pedagogical implications that might flow from the test change. Our transition program for Year 7 and later enrolling students was much closer to normal but still without the important Year 7 camp, which has been postponed until later in the year. Presentation Night was very successful, with the new theatre in the Governors Centre full, and the live-streamed event reaching an audience of over 800.

I am concerned that our cultural identity has been weakened by the loss of all the rite-of-passage experiences that our students have missed out on since early 2020. High relies on its co-curricular activities to engage its students more deeply in the ethos of the school. For the past three years, incoming students have not been able to immerse themselves fully in the full co-curricular life of the school. For that same length of time our graduating students haven't had the usual senior school experience as they transition out of high school. It is regrettable that their perceptions of High will be marked forever by their schooling in the 'epidemic years'. At the same time, their unique and gallant journey together ought to unite them in perpetuity.

The administration and organisation of our school have undergone significant changes in the last twelve months. Our Student Information System relied on Bob Dowdell's bespoke suite of programs, applications and processes for 25 years. Since his retirement we are slowly transitioning to Sentral as our replacement Student Information System. Making such a big change is uncomfortable, time-

consuming, costly and challenging. In parallel with all the other changes and compliance paperwork, our staff are under added strain but have coped very admirably again this year. Having rolled out the Attendance and Wellbeing modules in 2021, we have turned our attention to implementing the Scheduling module this semester, moving over the school Calendar. Mr Kay did some impressive work as the Deputy in charge of constructing the school timetable in Sentral. We have committed to deploying the Assessment module this semester, beginning with our first semester reports. There is a great deal of work involved in making this change. I want to thank Jamie Kay and the IT Department— James Rudd, David Isaacs, Michael Silva and Eric Holmstrom—for their dedication to this task. They also managed the transition of the schools' payment receipting system to Schoolbytes. The capacity to email invoices and the ease of making online payments in real time proved to be quite a step forward in our process and proved very popular with parents. Saving labour at both ends of a payment process is a welcome initiative.

Last year was all about finalising the Strategic Improvement Plan 2022-25 and working through the process of a successful external validation of our work. As usual, we held ourselves to high standards and rated ourselves more strictly than did the evaluators. It is prudent to always have plenty of room for improvement in any organisation. As we set about implementing the Plan we isolated around 54 actions that we want to undertake to impact positively on student outcomes. To follow through on the objectives of the Plan we have set up some collaborative structures. We have reset the role of the Pedagogical Skills Leader to manage a broadbased project of capacity building among our staff. The CANVAS Leads in each Faculty will broaden and deepen faculty use of our Learning Management System. We have appointed a Coordinator of Strategic Improvement Plan Faculty Leads to oversee the modification of faculty programs as a result of outcomes weaknesses demonstrated in Check-In Assessments and NAPLAN tests. Our Staff Teams are working on strategies to implement other key objectives of the Plan. We are focussed sharply on improving student outcomes at all levels through collaborative effort.

Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM

Sporting Highlights

Oscar Shi (pictured right) was U15 Men's Saber individual and U15 Men's Saber team National Champion at the 2021 Australia Fencing National Championships. He was selected to the Australian National Fencing Squad Team that competed at the recent World Junior and Cadet Championships 2022 in Dubai.

Isaac Ayoubi was selected as starting point guard for the U18 Metropolitan Sydney basketball team and into the combined AAGPS first grade basketball team.

Despite their preparation being disrupted by COVID, High rowers performed well at the CHS Rowing Championships held in Grafton. Thomas Brcic (2021) and Jack Smiles earned Association Blues for Rowing.

Our swimmers put in a strong performance at the GPS carnivals.

Paul Fang, Owen Seong, Edward Ly and Dimi Logothesis played on the Sydney East Rep Volleyball team which won the 2022 NSW Inter Regional Carnival. Edward Ly was selected in the NSW CHS Volleyball team to play the Quad Volleyball Series.

Brian Ahn was selected in the NSW State Waterpolo team to compete in the National Championships.



Academic and Co-Curricular Highlights

Matthew Awad's short film Arriving at Eternities' Gate won 'best editing in a high school film' in the Flickerup Schools and Youth Competition and Eric Wu was a finalist with his entry Stasis. Both also had their works selected for exhibition in the 'Zoomers – excellence in HSC Visual Art Exhibition'.

Matthew Awad was also awarded a UNSW Co-op Scholarship in Computer Science.

Hanyang Zheng and Ryan Lee achieved the maximum ATARs in the HSC. The following received state rankings: Chemistry–Ryan Lee (1), Eric Ho (7), Auguste McNally (10), Richard Bao (13); Mathematics Adv.–Sarfaraz Ahmed (1) and Andy Xia (14) from Year 11; Mathematics Ext. 1–Hanyang Zheng (1); Physics–Hanyang Zheng (2); Latin Extension–Nicholas Arvanitellis (2); Chinese in Context–Yifei Wu (2); Software Design and Development–Cyril Vivek Subramanian (6); Engineering Studies–Ryan Lee (10); Biology–Julian Waring (17); and Rachit Saini came first in the state in Hindi Continuers while studying the rest of his subjects in Year 10.

Ethan Li and Joshua Li and Ethan Hu were named National Champions in their respective divisions at the REC 2021-22 VEX Robotics Australian National Championship.

Ryan Ong and Andrey Avramenko came second in the UNSW ProgComp grand final.

Patrick Chen, Wilson Sun, Justin Vu and Tony Wang were Year 10 NSW winners of the Business Idea-Marketing-Finance-HR elevator pitch with their idea of folding, reusable, washable cups attached to a key ring.

Nicholas Arvanitellis was selected to attend the ANU-AAMT National Mathematics Summer School, the oldest and most prestigious program of its type in Australia.

Joshua Li won a gold medal in the Australian Informatics Olympiad and was invited to attend a workshop at the Informatics School of Excellence.

Meet our new Head Teacher of English



I'm thrilled to have recently been appointed as the Head Teacher of English here at High. In such a busy school, the English faculty bustles with its own thriving, dynamic interests—it is a meeting place for logic, creativity, structure and poetry. I love coming in to school each morning and discovering what the day may hold; it's never quite what you expect.

I came to education later in life and with a specific passion for gifted boys' education. As I found myself having to advocate for both of my own children's education, I realised how fascinating I found the research I was sourcing. By turns I was curious, infuriated, disbelieving and in deep agreement. By the time my younger child was in preschool I recognised that my passion for reading education research needed to become something more; I began my studies at UTS.

The demands of the English syllabus are the most wideranging of any of the subjects your child will study at high school. The syllabus requires us to address writing and reading, speaking and listening. We need to select texts that will inspire and inform our students, and then check not only that they have understood them, but that the way they express their understanding is at its most clear, its most beautiful.

To achieve beauty in written expression is akin to mastering an instrument: students learning to play are encouraged to undertake daily practice to see meaningful improvements—so it is too for English, as we provide students the space for daily writing and daily homework. Students in music also listen carefully to professional works and learn to identify just what makes them so exceptional—so is it for English, as we direct students to read carefully and understand how writers have beguiled us into their worlds. Reading therefore acts in meaningful symbiosis with writing. The more we can encourage teenagers to read, the more exposure they have, not only to engaging writing, but also vocabulary, ideas and perspectives.

Encouraging teenagers to read is increasingly difficult and in English we have invested money into updating our classroom 'book boxes'—literally rolling boxes filled with quality books for students to read in class. I have also been running a Parents' Book Club over the last two years which has the aim of assisting parents with encouraging fiction reading in their homes. My aim is to have High identify itself as a 'school of readers', one where all faculties discuss what they have been reading, both between each other and with their classes, and where all students see the value of reading actively modelled around them.

Best practice depends on staying informed about current research, and in the English faculty we are dedicated to providing your son with the scaffolds and spaces to engage with our content delivery. An important part of student achievement involves their engagement with the feedback and feedforward processes. Students receive feedback in a variety of forms and across a variety of spaces, including online, in-class and in-book. Each of these moments involves the teacher carefully reading, identifying points of weakness, and responding to the work. The more students actively engage with feedback, question it and work to apply it, the faster and more directed their improvement can become. Every teacher in the faculty encourages their students to actively engage with the specific feedback they receive during class activities and submissions and use it to support ongoing study.

I look forward to meeting many of you over the course of your sons' education here at High.

Cassandra Pride



The Wall of Gratitude

The Wall of Gratitude is a monument to the generosity and commitment of the broader High community. It took nearly a year in the planning and construction and honours more than 500 donors to the Governors Centre joint project (in conjunction with SGHS), who gave \$1,000 or more by 'buying' a brick. Set on the grass bank behind the UTS gymnasium and lit up at night from a series of blocks, the Wall has become a landmark on the way to the around floor entrance of the Governors Centre.

It was a long and painstaking task to check and re-check the donors' names and inscriptions (of up to three lines of text on each brick), with a detailed spreadsheet set up depicting exactly how the bricks would be laid. Each inscribed brick then had to be identified and placed in the correct order, and each row and column had to be double-checked. I would like to thank Cindy Larson, Diane Harapin, Paul Harapin, Paul Almond and Brooke Ashton and everyone else who spent many hours contributing to preparing a plan for the builders to work with.

Thank you to Bilal Hassan of Stephen Edwards Construction for helping with the design and location and managing the construction. The bricks were sourced in Melbourne and trucked to Signature Engraving for the engraving process. I also want to thank Brett Harrison for his time-consuming liaison work in getting the bricks engraved and transported to Sydney. Once the footings were poured and the core brickwork laid, the fascia bricks could be set in place. We had concerns that there would be mistakes in the order that the bricks were laid or that bricks might crack during the laying process. I want to acknowledge the terrific work of Old Boys Daniel Xu (2016) and Steve Comninos (2014) who used a laptop and spreadsheet on site to determine the correct number of bricks for each column and row and where to set the blank bricks to enhance the presentation of the names of the donors. Thank you to Jim Crampton and Stewart Carlyle for supplying extra labour on the construction days and John Prorellis for correcting some of the hiccups that arose. Once the wall was built, Jim Crampton spent a lot of time managing the landscaping and organising Jim Gibson to do the uplighting, and the wall now blends in well with the bank and lights up impressively at night.

The Wall of Gratitude demonstrates the respect that the Sydney Boys High community feels for the wonderful efforts of others over more than a decade to produce an iconic building that provides a big boost to the creative and performing arts possibilities in both schools. I am particularly pleased to see the realisation of this fitting tribute to the many donors to the project, some of whom generously made their donations up to twelve years before the Wall of Gratitude was finally completed. Their faith was justified.

Theatre Seat Recognition

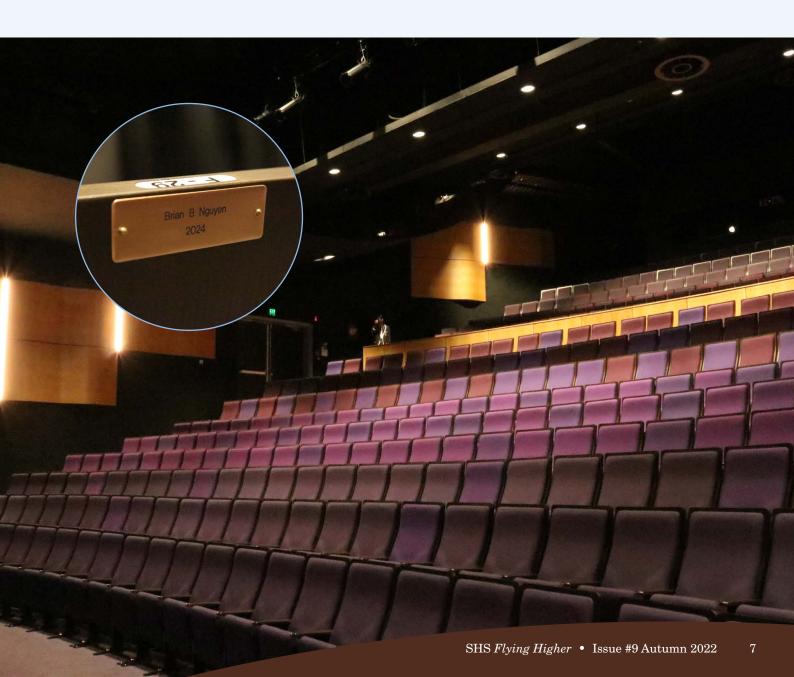
There are named recognition plaques on seats in the new theatre, an equal number of which were allocated to SGHS and SBHS. For a donation of \$3000 or more, donors are acknowledged on a plaque affixed to the back of a seat in the new theatre. The thirty-five donors who have generously donated to this campaign so far now have the opportunity to see their gift in situ.

I would like to thank Geoff Denyer, Deputy Principal at Sydney Girls, for his management of this recognition scheme. He arranged the engraving and installing of the theatre seat plaques. Each school was allocated 100 seats for this initiative, so Sydney Boys still has plaques available for purchase. Let's try and foster some healthy competition and beat the girls' school to be the first to fill our allocation!

Since the completion of the construction phase of the Governors Centre project, there are also many expenses that remain for the internal fit-out, including the purchase of a grand piano, soft furnishings, a technology upgrade, enhanced lighting, and the kitchen fit-out. So we still need your help.

Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM

You can make a donation towards either a theatre seat plaque or the finishing touches at shsfoundation.org.au/homepage/governors-centre or by contacting enquiries@shsfoundation.org.au.





OUTTERSIDE UPDATE

Almost three years after the old pontoon was damaged at the school's Outterside Centre rowing facility in Abbotsford, a new rowing pontoon was finally installed. Following is a timeline leading to the installation of the new pontoon:

January 2019 The old pontoon collapses after a storm and king tide. It is taken away to see if it can be repaired.

February 2019 The decision was made that it would be too costly to repair the pontoon as a short-term solution and that it would be more fiscally responsible to install a new one.

March 2019-March 2021 Designs submitted and approvals from council are sought.

March 2021

Old Boy Alex Feldman (2003) joins the Foundation and plans are revised. A re-surveying of the area is arranged by Geoff Andrews (1963) and Graeme Hurrell. April 2021 Contract is signed for the building of the new pontoon.

August 2021 Installation contract signed.

September 2021 Pontoon installed.

The addition of the finger pontoon has meant an increased efficiency for Sydney High rowers getting on and off the water. More crews can now row at the same time and make use of the better water on a Saturday morning. It also means that crews are not waiting on the water as long when they want to get off the water, which ensures a higher level of safety, especially with a Rivercat stop around the corner from the Outterside Centre. The new docking area has also allowed for the safer use of wave cutters in the Year 7 Rowing program.

Thanks to the many volunteers involved in realising this wonderful asset for the school's Rowing program.

George Barris, MIC Rowing



Running Man

Old Boy Lachlan Spark (1997) has taken on a (multi half) marathon undertaking. His goal is to run 222 consecutive half marathons from Hobart to Cairns to raise awareness and funds for mental health, and maybe break a world record in the process.

When he left High in 1997, Lachlan Spark never dreamed that twenty-five years later he would be attempting to break a world record as a distance runner. Rowing and Rugby were his sports at High. A late bloomer, he was a cox in the 1995 3rd IV, before a growth spurt that saw him make it into both the 1st VIII and the 1st XV in Year 12. After leaving High, the former Prefect began working in bars, which meant a lot of late nights and living what he now acknowledges was an unhealthy lifestyle. At the same time, he was struggling with chronic anxiety, depression and suicidal thoughts. It was only after a bout of illness when a doctor told him that he needed to change his lifestyle that he took up running in his midtwenties, and he found that running around Centennial Park helped him to clear his head.

With stints in the UK and Melbourne, Lachlan built a successful business, his own creative agency, and got married—and soon after divorced—all the while continuing to struggle with his mental health. Through it all he found running to be a rare source of release.

He set himself a challenge, and what a challenge it was—to run the entire east coast of Australia in a series of consecutive half marathons. His goal is to run 222 half marathons in 222 days, and hopefully break the world record for consecutive half marathons (currently at 143) along the way. With the aim of raising awareness for mental health, he has partnered with R U OK?, the mental health charity started by Gavin Larkin (1985), as well as Heart on My Sleeve and all funds raised will go towards these two charities.

On 2/2/22 he took the first steps on his epic journey from Hobart to Cairns and since then he has run a half marathon every morning followed by working remotely from his caravan every afternoon. With his support team of his partner Courtney and their trusty dog Fab, at last check Lachlan has clocked over 2000 kilometres, worn through multiple pairs of running shoes, and passed the halfway mark, as he approaches the Queensland border.

Follow Lachlan's progress on Instagram @runthe222 and cheer on this Old Boy on his epic journey. You can donate to the **The 222 Run** at www.gofundme.com/f/the-222. Funds raised will support suicide prevention charity **RU**OK?: www.ruok.org.au and **Heart on My Sleeve:**www.heartonmysleeve.org.





From the President of the Old Boys Union



Welcome to 2022, a year which has started with the slow ramp down of COVID restrictions, and a return to some normalcy in all our lives. The GPS Basketball season got off to a slow start but ended with mostly full crowds and a solid effort from our 1st and 2nd teams, who

had some great performances including finishing Top of Sydney East in the CHS competition. Most recently, new retractable international-FIBA-level backboards (finished in Sydney High Blue), rings and nets together with a game clock and shot clocks on each backboard were installed in the gymnasium replacing the original wall-hung backboards installed when the gymnasium was built in 1994 (see page 15). Donations to support ongoing upgrades of facilities are always well-supported by Old Boys and can be made via the OBU website at www.shsobu.org.au or by scanning the code on the next page.

Our best wishes go out to all our Old Boys who are dealing with the heavy rains and floods in many places across the State, especially those based in country areas. It's been a difficult two years for many of our community between COVID, bush fires and now floods. Resilience is something all of us learnt at High and I am sure this character trait is shining through at this moment.

It has been great to see reunions recommence after two years of interruptions. See page 20 for more information.

Congratulations to Wagga Wagga-based **Dr Ian Stewart** (1959) (pictured right) on his Order of Australia Medal for 'service to medicine through a range of roles'. In addition to working for four decades in clinical practice, he has taught



and mentored medical students at rural clinical schools, provided medicolegal reports and served on local and national medical boards and committees. Congratulations are also in order for **Dr Keith Bannister (1996)**, who was awarded the 2021 Malcolm McIntosh Prize for Physical Scientist of the Year. A Principal Research Engineer in Space and Astronomy at CSIRO, Dr Bannister is recognised for his pioneering research into fast radio bursts – work that may help solve some of the big astronomical mysteries.

The Sydney High School Foundation, which owns the Outterside Centre and maintains the facility on behalf of the boys, was recognised in March this year with a boat named in its honour. Many thanks to Committee member Alex Feldman (2003), who also sits on the Foundation Board, and Andrew Chan (1998) (pictured below) for attending the ceremony on behalf of the OBU



and Foundation. Old Boy **Gareth Deacon (2010)**, coach of the 1st VIII from 2017-2021, also had a boat named in his honour.

February saw the Australian Boomers attend the FIBA World Cup qualifiers in Okinawa, Japan. Uniquely across the GPS, two High Old Boys played together in the squad. **Emmett Naar (2011)** of the Illawarra Hawks, and Craig Moller (2012), formerly of the Sydney Kings but now playing in Germany, both equipped themselves well as Australia won all three games on their way to qualification. When both were at school together, High won multiple national championships and GPS premierships. With his incredible on-court organisational skills, Emmett went on to represent St Mary's College in California, where he broke the college's alltime assists records previously set by NBA players Patty Mills and Matthew Dellavedova. Craig, with his incredible athleticism, still holds the all-time basketball productivity record at SBHS. He played AFL for Fremantle for several seasons before returning to SBHS to help MIC Ben Hayman with the team prior to joining the Sydney Kings. It is wonderful to see Old Boys like these performing well on a global sporting stage.

In the Arts world, Jack Thompson (1957), Russell Crowe (1981) and Dan McPherson (1997) all attended the AACTA awards in December, with Russell delivering the opening speech. Mark Swivel (1983) successfully ran for the Byron Bay Shire Council, and whilst a close runner-up in the mayoral race, is now dealing with the terrible results of the flooding in the Byron district as he supports the community there.

Lachlan Spark (1997) is undertaking an epic journey as he attempts to run 222 back-to-back half marathons from Hobart to Cairns in support of mental health, including R U OK?, the mental health charity started by **Gavin Larkin (1985)**. (The current record stands at 143.) Read more about Lachlan's journey on page 9.

Congratulations to **Aaron Tran (2010)** for seeing his company Workflow86 graduate from the globally-renowned Ycombinator venture capital group as he continues to expand his seed funding. Further **Jack Lu (2008)** has seen his startup Magic Eden become the leading NFT marketplace on Solana globally with sales of over \$1 billion, and recently raised a Series A of \$27 million. Anyone wishing to learn more about Non-Fungible Tokens (NFTs) and crypto in general can keep an eye on the News section of the OBU website for details of an educational webinar which will occur in July.

The Wall of Gratitude was finally built behind the gymnasium on the walk to the Governors Centre (see page 6). This Wall recognises many members of the High community who generously supported the building of the Governors Centre which is now fully operational. There will be an opening ceremony later in the year for those who donated, and anyone can view the wall when visiting the school.

Committee Member Eric Wong (2000) is looking for mentors to help Year 11 and 12 boys prepare for University and job interviews. Prior to COVID this program ran annually and we are looking to reprise our work with the current students. We continue to provide online seminars on topics such as career and University choices. If you are able to participate in a panel, become a mentor or give back in any way as a coach or advisor, please contact Eric at eric.wong@zikira.com.

Our website now has its Jobs and Career portal up and running. You can use it to post jobs you are hiring for and look for positions. At this point it is free, so support your community by going to www.shsobu.org.au/careers. We are also looking for sponsors and advertisers for this magazine, which can help your advertising reach thousands of Old Boys. If you wish to advertise, or submit information on what is happening in the Old Boys community including awards, achievements or other areas of note, please email me at president@shsobu.org.au. Finally, don't forget to keep your details up-to-date, and remind friends to do so by creating or updating your profile at www.shsobu.org.au. It's the best way to keep up with what's happening in the High community.

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



Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of the Sydney High Old Boys Union will be held on Wednesday, 15th June 2022 via zoom commencing at 6:30pm. Nominations and voting are open for all paid up members or Life members of the union and close at 6:30pm on 1st June. Details may be found at www.shsobu.org.au/event/2022-annual-general-meeting. Contact OBU Secretary John Taylor with any questions on 0404 844 340.

The Student Representative Council

The Student Representative Council (SRC) is an integral body at Sydney Boys High, providing agency and representation to the student population. It is responsible for raising and redressing student issues, discussing and enacting ideas, hosting events, and aiding other committees. Currently the SRC produces the weekly 'Meet the Teacher' segment in High Notes which alleviates student-teacher communication barriers by presenting a more personal side of teachers. This series also helps parents to get to know the staff members teaching their children. The SRC also serves as an intermediary between students and School Council with two members attending council meetings to raise student concerns.

To ensure it accurately represents the student body, the SRC operates on a representational democratic system whereby students vote for nominated SRC reps from their cohort. There are six spots for Year 7, two for year 11, and four for Years 8, 9, 10 and 12. Three executives are also elected—President, Vice-President and Secretary—from the pool of Year 10 representatives. Representatives attend weekly meetings and through their leadership become role-models within the school.

For 2022, the SRC has established as a major objective increasing its profile within the school and greater community. With the removal of cohort separation, the SRC will attempt to revitalise existing events and establish new events. At the March School Council meeting, the SRC raised the issues of student toilets, launching an Instagram account, and the viability of staggered bell times for students to ease congestion.

Through the continued efforts of the SRC, the student community is reassured that their opinions matter, harnessing a stronger High community.

Owen The, SRC Coordinator

Peer Mediation

High's Peer Mediation Program has been running since the early 1990s. Each year we train approximately twenty Year 10 students who have demonstrated a high rate of co-curricular participation and who show leadership qualities and communication skills, to fill the role of Peer Mediator for the following year. The students are trained to work with a partner and conduct a process of mediation designed to help students experiencing bullying or low-level conflicts to find their own solutions and come to an agreement on how to proceed in their relationships with each other.

The program effectively addresses disputes between two students as the focus of mediation is not in providing a solution, but in having students resolve their own problems and sign an agreement to their own resolution. The mediations are private and confidential and teachers are not involved.

The appeal for students is that they have a space in which they can express their feelings without fear of them being discussed beyond the mediation room. Mediations usually take place at lunchtimes and Year 11 mediators are usually on hand to help. Over the years our follow-up with students who have sought mediation shows a high level of satisfaction with the outcomes of the mediation process.

Boys in conflict can request their own mediation via a link in the student portal but more often students are referred by a Year Adviser or Deputy Principal. While we have had fewer requests for mediations over the past couple of COVID years, we will continue promoting the program to Year Advisers and through the Values Education Classes in Years 7 to 9.

Rowena Barr, Peer Mediation Coordinator



2022 Peer Mediation Team

Top row (I-r): Zayan Farazi, Landrie Zuo, Samin Hossain, Taran Shah, Patrick Wang, Allan Tan Bottom row (I-r): Brian Wie, Xiaozong Jin, Ryan Woo, Jason Phua, Patrick Chen, Jason Sung Missing: Sungmin Choi, Abrar Chowdhury, Adit Mahidadia, Mohammad Medlej, Tanveer Mody, Subhan Mustafa Isaia Park, Zhangbo Wang, Byron Xie.

Worth the Weight

The Weights Room offers more than just a place to lift weights; it provides an opportunity to focus on personal development. It is a special place in the school that creates opportunities for ongoing physical and mental growth. Students work at their own pace, set goals, and develop the qualities required to achieve them. The main functions of the Weights Room are to provide the opportunity for students to learn the life skill of resistance training for lifelong physical development and to improve performance, increase confidence and teach injury prevention.

The school Weights Room has come to instil the values I wish to strive for: perseverance and respect. Under the guidance of Mr Rich, who has done an extraordinary job of maintaining the legacy of the gym, boys from all year groups are provided with an equal opportunity to train for their own physical and mental growth. Beyond the programs, barbells and weights, our gym has taught us to always be aiming to learn and perfect our respective disciplines.

James Liu, Weights Room Prefect 2021

In addition to using the Weights Room, High boys are also eligible to join the Sydney High Weightlifting Club (previously the Sydney Boys High Weightlifting Club). Weightlifting is a strength sport in which athletes compete to have the highest total in two lifts: the Snatch and the Clean & Jerk. There is a maximum of three attempts for each lift. Stepping onto the Weightlifting Competition platform tests students' strength, mental toughness and confidence.

The club joined the NSW Weightlifting Association in 2014 and High boys have represented the school at local comps, NSW at national comps and the Australian Weightlifting Federation at international comps. Our students have won state and national championships, with the best result in 2017 when Old Boy Rick Saha (2015) came 4th in the 69kg category at the Junior Oceania Championship. Current Year 12 student Nelson Cheng (pictured) is on the AWF Pathway squad. At the U15 & Youth State Championships in Newcastle, Nelson won Gold in his division and qualified for the AWF Youth Squad and Year 10's Luc Tran earned a Bronze.



Although this was disproven decades ago, some people are still concerned that resistance training will stunt growth. With the proper technique and progressive incremental load increases, weights training is one of the safest forms of physical activity. Through bodyweight and loaded/resisted movements, students learn to control their bodies, ensuring they are better equiped to handle the pressures of sport, PE and general daily activities such as carrying their school bags. When students are able to move with effective and natural posture(s) their bodies can function optimally. Attending the Weights Room is about much more than just lifting weights—it is supporting the longevity of the student's physical capabilities by preparing for activity and harm avoidance.

Kurt Rich, Head Strength & Conditioning Coach



Wellbeing Day 2022

On Friday 25 February, Wellbeing Prefects Tahmid Choudhury and Jarif Asad organised Wellbeing Day to promote the wellbeing services within and outside the school that are available to students. The Year 12 Stress Management talk provided this year's HSC students with important skills to help them manage their workloads and stay both mentally and physically fit. The importance of having a proper schedule was highlighted as an important tool to manage stress; people react to stress in different ways and a schedule can help minimise the difficulties associated with upcoming assessments and tasks by making sure time is managed efficiently.

The highlight of the day was the annual Prefects vs Teachers dodgeball game. This year's theme of 'Reach out' and the catchphrase 'Who's on your team?' used the analogy of a sports team, something that is very familiar to every High boy. The teachers wore T-shirts with the theme and catchphrase to reinforce the message. Although the event was moved to the gym due to the persistent rain, spirits were not dampened.

The first two rounds were won by the Prefects, so to make the game more interesting, the teachers were given advantages, such as being able to come back in if someone caught the ball, and these enabled the teachers to win the next two rounds. The competitive final round went into overtime with more Prefects left on the field, meaning they emerged victorious.

The Prefects would like to thank the teachers who gamely took part, including: Ms Rojas, Mr Chapple, Mr Rich, Mr Ormsby, Mr Ohlback, Ms Harcourt, Ms Luu, Ms O'Driscoll, Mr Fuller, Mr Higgins, Mr Brookmann, Mr Paul, Mr Matto, Mr Huynh and Mr Taylor. The turnout was the biggest ever seen for this event, and the stands of the gym were filled from top to bottom with students from all year groups. The gym was filled with loud cheers and immense enthusiasm from both those watching and those playing and the game was overall a huge success.

We would like to relay a big thank you to all those who participated and to those who came to watch. We hope that initiatives like these are not only engaging but also raise awareness and help lessen the stigma surrounding reaching out for help.

We want to emphasise how important it is to reach out whenever you need help as you navigate through stressful times of life. Remember, if you are a student and you ever need help, do not be afraid to contact our Student Support Officer Mr Ormsby, the School Counsellors Ms Harman and Ms Noakes, your Year Advisors or external services such as Headspace, Kids Helpline and Reach Out.

Jarif Asad & Tahmid Choudhury Wellbeing Prefects

SLAM Dunk

Sydney High Basketball teaches student athletes to commit to the ideals of dedication, hard work, resilience, intelligence and camaraderie. There is a unique communal atmosphere surrounding Basketball at Sydney High, not only from the current students, but also Old Boys who attended and played for SBHS in the past together with parents, guardians and families who have volunteered their services to the program. This season there were around 350 participants in the Basketball program, with approximately half of the entire student body trialling, hoping to participate in the Basketball program as their first option.

Each of the last twenty years has seen significant improvement in the Basketball Program and facilities at the school. With the support of the Basketball Committee, large donations of resources, time and money have been returned to the school in a variety of ways: the purchase of the state-of-the-art Dr Dish Shooting device was funded entirely by donations; a single substantial donation enabled the recent installation of hand-crafted nets made from rock climbing rope on both the indoor and outdoor courts; the photo display cabinets in the seating area of the gymnasium and their installation were donated; and the gymnasium walls are covered with illustrious banners that celebrate success in nearly every year of the program from 2002 and the outdoor courts have remote-controlled batterypowered electricity courtesy of the Basketball Committee.

Prior to 2008 there were only four backboards and rings on the two outdoor courts on the Flat. In early 2008, the Basketball Committee approached Dr Jaggar with a proposal for installing eight new backboards and rings along the sides of the existing courts, and with funding split between the School and the Committee, eight new backboards were procured. A Committee working bee installed the steel uprights and mounted the new backboards over a single winter weekend. The twelve backboards are now in almost continuous use.



Most recently, new ceiling-hung retractable international-FIBA-level backboards (finished in Sydney High Blue), rings and nets, together with a game clock and shot clocks on each backboard were installed in the gymnasium replacing the original backboards installed when the gymnasium was first built.

Initiated in November 2018 by a proposal from UTS (our joint venture partners in the gymnasium), the backboard project grew as the School and the Basketball Committee agreed to take advantage of this 'once in a generation' opportunity to add significant upgrades, including a game clock and shot clocks. Structural engineers were consulted and advised that the gymnasium roof beams would need to be reinforced to support the ceilinghung backboard superstructures. Electrical work was also required to run new wiring along the roof to power the electric motors which retract each of the backboard superstructures when not in use. The result of a close collaboration between UTS, the School and the Basketball Committee, the three-year long project was finalised in October 2021.

Thanks go to the many Basketball Committee parents who contributed to this gift to current and future students through each item sold from the canteen over many years. The new backboards are a huge achievement and demonstrate what can be accomplished through working collaboratively to drive a project to completion. Thanks go to Bruce Gordon, who put in an enormous effort to manage the project, with support from the Basketball Committee, Mr Hayman and Dr Jaggar.

Remembering

JOHN PAUL QUINN OBE (1919-1961)

On 13 September 2021 a ceremony was held at the Australian Embassy in Rabat, Morocco to mark the sixty year anniversary of the crash of an Air France flight from Paris to Rabat, in which all 77 passengers and crew died, including Australian diplomat John Paul Quinn OBE (1934). Quinn was travelling to Rabat in his capacity as Australian Ambassador in Cairo, with a view to initiating diplomatic relations between Australia and Morocco. Among those who spoke at the event commemorating the life of this esteemed Australian and pioneering diplomat were his son, John, the Australian and Egyptian ambassadors, the Archbishop of Rabat, Islamic Scholar Dr Ahmed Abbadi, and representatives from the French embassy and the Moroccan government. Over 70 Australian participants joined the ceremony remotely.

As Prime Minister Robert Menzies wrote in his tribute to Quinn following his death:

John Quinn has passed from us at the height of his powers and with promise of adding greatly to his already considerable achievements in the service of Australia

He combined great intellectual power, complete integrity of character, and a sympathetic approach to his fellows.

He showed great courage during his internment in Sumatra and Singapore, and recovered to give outstanding service both at home in the Department of External Affairs and abroad as a representative of Australia.

My colleagues and I greatly value all that John Quinn did for Australia, and we offer our deep sympathy to his wife, children and parents. Born in Sydney in 1919, Quinn joined Sydney Boys High in 1930. Classmate and fellow Randwick resident Frank Horner remembered fondly their time at the school, including their interest in things scientific and mechanical. They belonged to the Meccano Club and, in addition to building models, went on field trips to the Sydney Harbour Bridge (then under construction) and Mascot Aerodrome, where they flew on the old Southern Cross. Quinn had an aptitude for languages, and went on to earn First Class Honours in French and German in the Leaving, topping the State in French. Horner wrote that 'in fourth and fifth years John saw a lot of Allan Loomes and Ro Cutler, now Governor of New South Wales, and myself for we were all prefects'.

After leaving High in 1934, John Paul Quinn went on to study languages at Sydney University, winning the University Medal for French and earning a French Government scholarship to the Sorbonne. His PhD studies in France were cut short by the outbreak of war and he returned to Australia and joined the Department of External Affairs, described by his colleague Peter Heydon as then being 'a small service, about twenty officers in all...[with] the enthusiasm of pioneers'. His first posting was to the Australian Mission in Singapore and when the island fell to the Japanese in February 1942, Quinn was captured and spent the next three years in an internment camp in Sumatra, 'the first member of [the] young service to suffer such danger'. 'The physical effects [of his years in captivity]...were noticeable for some years'.





1938 After graduating from Sydney University



1946 His thin profile showing ongoing effects of his internment in Sumatra as a POW



Presenting credentials in Cairo





(Above) The memorial in the grounds of the Australian Embassy in Morocco (Left) The commemorative plaque

To aid his recovery, Quinn was sent to run External Affairs' Sydney office. He served as Private Secretary to Dr HV Evatt, assisting him with foundational work relating to the United Nations, including attending the 1948 UN General Assembly in which the Universal Declaration of Human Rights was adopted. He was awarded an OBE for services to diplomacy in 1957 as a result of his distinguished career in the diplomatic corps, during which he served as: Chargé d'Affaires for the Australian Legation in the Hague (1948-50); External Affairs officer in London (1950-51); Acting High Commissioner in Pretoria (1951-52); Australian Minister to Vietnam, Cambodia and Laos (1952-54) when he opened the first senior diplomatic representation in then French Indochina (based in Saigon); at the Department of External Affairs in Canberra (1954-60) and finally Australian Ambassador to the United Arab Republic (1960-61). In this last post, he replaced fellow Sydney Boys prefect and classmate Sir Roden Cutler VC, AK, KCMG, KCVO, CBE (1934). (Cutler had been expelled from Cairo in 1956 by the Egyptian

Government in protest against Australia's support for Britain during the Suez Crisis.)

It was while heading to Morocco on official business that he died, leaving behind his wife and three children, when the plane he was travelling in crashed on approach to Rabat Airport. As part of the ceremony to commemorate this tragic event, a plaque was unveiled and an olive tree—a symbol of peace—planted in the grounds of the new Australian Embassy in Morocco.

More information and photos of the commemoration ceremony (including links to the speeches and other related documents) can be found on the website of the Australian Embassy in Morocco. Of particular interest to Old Boys will be the document including Recollections and Tributes by friends of John Quinn.

morocco.embassy.gov.au/rbat/memorial quinn.html

Photos courtesy of the Australian Embassy in Rabat and the Quinn family

Sydney Boys High School PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (P&C) 2022

Getting Back to Normal

Thank you to the parents and school for welcoming me as the 2022 P&C President.

I have a son in Year 10 and a younger sister teaching at the school so it's a real family affair!

It's been a promising start for the P&C this year with restrictions being eased. With caution and, where appropriate, volunteering activities which require in-person presence are resuming. This is good news as a lot of these activities focus around fundraising to support the various sports offered. As events at nearby venues are now running at potential full capacity, once again the school grounds are being opened for parking, bringing in revenue as a result. This is in contrast to last year when parking revenue was impacted because external events were either canceled or running at reduced capacity.

The School Canteen has benefitted from returning to business as usual as compared to last year when it was closed during some periods and relied on Government grants. From Canteen proceeds, the P&C are

donating funds to the school which will help cover: bus replacement; Science textbooks; air conditioning in the Junior Library; Glasser Choice Theory Professional Learning for the teachers; and a Student Support Fund.

Our current Year 8 and 9 classes will be able to experience a 'normal' full year of sports with parents able to forge stronger bonds as they meet on Saturdays to support their boys. This is where friendships are made and parents learn the value of supporting their sons through participating in BBQs or supporting the Canteen.

We have some interesting topics scheduled for our upcoming P&C meetings. With the boys studying at home for long periods over the last two years, there has been a corresponding increase in device usage, with some of this related to schoolwork. We have planned topics related to cyber safety and time management, and also had recent Old Boys give some tips on what made them successful. Zoom will be the medium of choice for P&C meetings this





year. Parents may still be wary of COVID and the increased participant numbers at our recent Zoom meetings have confirmed that this is an effective option.

The process of welcoming Year 7 parents has been further streamlined as the P&C continues its path of maturing SZapp content and establishing whatsapp groups for parents related to their areas of interest. The P&C's Facebook and Instagram continue to be popular. The sum of all these communication media has been very well received by new parents based on the P&C survey from earlier this year.

The P&C representatives of the Sydney High School Foundation and the Old Boys Union contribute to the continuity of a great experience for both current parents and students. They have funded some of the recently completed facilities such as the new Outterside Centre pontoon (see page 8). Both the Foundation and OBU demonstrate that connections with the school run deep, with many parents and students keeping actively involved with the school long after students have graduated. We are all grateful for their contribution.

This year the P&C aims to continue its support for the school and also encourage parents from the junior school to catch up with the many volunteering opportunities available that help make SBHS the unique school that it is.

Andrew Hybler
Year 10 Parent and P&C President



OBU Reunions and Events

1970 50th Reunion Report

After several COVID postponements, the Class of 1970 held their 50th Year Reunion at Clovelly Surf Club on 9 April. At what was really their 52nd Reunion, 63 Old Boys gathered at a very informal event and retold stories of their memorable years at High.

Their School Captain, Dr Josh Ehrlich addressed the gathering while a sensational PowerPoint display, put together by Peter Burgess, played. Music was curated by Paul Logan and Phil Flambas and themed to the 1960s. Quite a few boys travelled long distances to attend and all agreed it was worth the two year wait for the reunion. Thanks to the organising team of Phil Flambas, Paul Logan, Josh Ehrlich, Jeremy Glass, Geoff James and Michael Fischer. And our 55th is only... three years away!



1981 40th Reunion Report

A reunion for the Class of 1981 was held on 19 February at the Royal Oak in Double Bay.

There were remarkable stories of resilience in the face of extreme adversity amongst those who attended including Rob Goodyear, Evan Sellars and Damien Carr and Andrew McEachern who couldn't attend. We wish them well. Also well done to the achievements of John Croll winning an Order of Australia for his service to disabled

sports, Tim Morris AM APM for his work following the Bali bombings and Dave Waddell becoming CEO of Orange City Council. We paid special tribute in these COVID times to our cohort's schoolteachers Rob Sharpe, John Arnold, Andrew Segelov and Andrew James, along with Doctors Chris Ryan, Tim Cheung, Gavin Angus-Leppan and John Tsingos. Well done to Brigadier Robert Lording CSM who leads Australia's flood relief program in Northern NSW. A unique addition to Australia's art scene is very much due to the work of marine biologist Dr Adam Smith, being instrumental establishing the underwater sculpture park off the coast of Townsville. Achievements have been plentiful for former Broadway producer Adam Silberman. Russell Crowe still leads in great movies. Well done to the comeback-king John McGrath, taking up the CEO reins at listed company McGrath Real Estate. We acknowledge the amazing super-8 movie footage from our past compiled by Rob Hutton, including High's last Norfolk Island excursion in 1979. While one politician moved on, Luke Simpkins from the seat of Cowan, another moved in. Councillor Bill Burst in the Randwick ward. Look out for Brad Storey, presenter on ABC Central Coast and Lloyd Segerstrom, publican of the Hotel Bargo. Go find Duncan Stemler's sculpture 'Blowhole,' at Docklands Park, Melbourne. And we remember all those who have passed on including Grea Babic, Ron Barrett, Peter Dawson, Michael Epstein, Robert Irvin, Victor Johnston, Stephen Lord, Travers Mason, Troy Serhon, Andrew Sherman, Rod Skinner and Allan Vysnevsky. Everyone is amazing, we love you all,





1992 30th Reunion Report

Every five years the Class of 1992 brings together the men with whom we spent six of the most important developmental years of our lives.

Over the decades we have found that the small circles that made up most groups of friends started to disappear. People lost touch, moved, married and remarried, and sadly some had passed. Heart-breakingly, some don't have long to go. This motivated us to make the 30th an event we would

remember, and while a few of us drove the event, almost everyone lent a hand or reached out to someone they hadn't spoken to in a while.

All in all, 60 of the Class of 1992 made it, coming from all over Australia, Asia and even Europe. The reunion featured a nostalgic school tour, a trip past Kippax Lake and the main event at Bloody Marys in Darlinghurst run by one of our very own.

The small circles we moved in during school felt like they had almost become one big circle.

The eclectic Class of 1992 will continue to come together regardless of race, colour, or even distance. The triviality of our differences 30 years ago has no place among the men we've become. The consensus was that it was a pleasure to catch up with everyone. I know we will see each other again soon to raise a glass to friends of past and the present. Cheers from the Class of 1992!

Upcoming Reunions & Events

Class of 2017: 5 Year Reunion

The Outterside Centre, 5 Teviot Ave, Abbotsford Saturday, 20 August 2022 from 17:00-22:00 AEST

Cost: \$85 all inclusive

Contact Hugh Bartley for more information:

Hbartley@optusnet.com.au

More information at: www.shsobu.org.au/event/class-of-2017-5-year-reunion

Rescheduled: Sydney High School Rowers Reunion

The Outterside Centre, Abbotsford Sunday, 28 August 2022 from 12:00-15:00 AEST

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

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

Contact Ian Toll for further details: <u>iantoll@optusnet.com.au</u> / 0407 402 721 Sign up online at: <u>www.shsobu.org.au/event/sydney-high-school-rowers-reunion</u>

SHSOBU Golf Day 2022

Castle Hill Country Club Tuesday, 6 September 2022 from 12:00 AEST

With the last two OBU golf days cancelled due to COVID, we are keen to get back on the course. Hopefully the weather cooperates. Hit off at midday, dinner and presentations at about 6pm.

Cost for Golf, Cart and Dinner: \$155.00

Contact John Kelly to register your interest: 0412 303 124. A booking sheet will be sent closer to the date.

Class of 1967: 55 Year Reunion Tattersalls Club, 181 Elizabeth St, Sydney

Tattersalls Club, 181 Elizabeth St, Sydney Saturday, 5 November 2022 from 12:00-17:30 AEST

Cost: Dependent on numbers (~\$70 for three-course lunch, drinks extra)

Contact Fred/Howard Bolling for more information: fred.bolling@yahoo.com.au / 0413 615 099

More information at: www.shsobu.org.au/event/class-of-1967-54th-reunion-save-the-date

SHS Cadets Unit 140th Anniversary

Sydney High School Cadets Unit (SHSCU) was established in 1883 at the same time as the school was founded. Next year, SHSCU will celebrate its 140th anniversary. A celebratory dinner in the school's Great Hall is planned for Tuesday, 27th June 2023. SHSCU would like to extend a special invitation to all Old Boy cadets to join us at this celebratory dinner. To register your interest, please contact Binh Johnsun at bjohnsun@bigpond.net.au.

Vale

Stuart Fredrick Pawsey (1955) passed away on 22 April 2020. After leaving High he obtained a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from Sydney University and a PhD from UC Berkeley. He taught in Ankara and at UNSW before settling permanently in Berkeley in 1975, where he took a position at the engineering firm PMB, and specialised in wind and wave stress on bridges and floating structures. He remained there until retirement.

Harry Nicolson (1940) died on 1 January 2021 at the age of 97.

Allan Bacon (1942) died on 27 June 2021 at the age of 95.

Allan Culross (Sandy) Sim (1943) passed away on 28 June 2021. Allan grew up on the family farm at Running Stream NSW, boarding at Randwick

NSW, boarding at Randwick while at high school and later while studying languages at Sydney University. He remained life-long friends with several



of the students who boarded with him. He returned to the farm and remained there for the rest of his life, farming sheep and cattle. He was very involved with his community and had an encyclopaedic knowledge of local history.

Alfred Clark (1951) died in July 2021. Alf enrolled at Sydney Boy's in 1947 and was the proud recipient of a Primary School Bursary and an Intermediate Bursary. He represented the school in Rugby and Athletics and was a successful high jumper, obtaining a Blue in Athletics. Despite gaining a Commonwealth Scholarship to study Medicine at Sydney University, he eventually decided against a career in medicine and went on to pursue an illustrious career as a Valuer.

John McKittrick (1945) passed away on 7 July 2021. A Basketball player at school, he continued to enjoy sport and then motor sport throughout his life. A skilled surveyor and navigator, he plotted the Australian legs of the London to Sydney Marathon.

Anthony (Tony) James Gray (1948) died after a long illness from Merkel cell cancer. After SBHS he graduated from Sydney University with a BSc, DipEd and MSc, majoring in Physics. He had a long career in education, including his final role as Principal of Galston High.

Colin Crossingham (1964) passed away in October 2021. He is remembered as a keen Rugby player and a student with varied interests and was deeply involved with Bowls NSW up until his death.

Steve Clarke (1965) is remembered as a really gifted Rugby player with a very keen sense of humour. After leaving school, he represented South Sydney in their winning Presidents Cup team circa 1968.

Martin Hadley (1976)

passed away on 18 October 2021 (pictured in the bow, 1975 4th IV). He is remembered as a larger-than-life character—a rower, debater, life saver,



rugby player, atheist, cadet, sailor, prefect, barrister, husband, and son of an old boy.

Michael Robert 'Sam' Mason.

Classics Teacher 1978-2007 (pictured here in a 2000 staff photo) passed away on 21 March 2022. In addition to teaching generations of students Latin and Greek grammar, he also ran Rifle Shooting and the lunchtime



Crossword club. His students achieved excellent results and a number of them continued with their Classics studies at University level.



Jim Badger (1961) died on 1 April 2022 (pictured above with the 1960 1st VIII). He was School Vice-Captain, stroked the VIII in 1960 (3rd place) and 1961; IV in 1960, winners of The Head of the Northern Rivers in Grafton; played 1st XV in 1960 and 1961; and was presented the Sir Earl Page (1895) Trophy. He went on to study Dentistry at Sydney University.

Donor Acknowledgements

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From the Archives

Kathleen Laurence (pictured above in a 1952 staff photo, the only female member of staff at the time) was an English and History teacher and Librarian at the school from 1949 to 1958. Upon her death in 1972, her estate established a number of prizes at Sydney University (in Horticulture and Biological Sciences) and she bequeathed her home to the University with the stipulation that her sister Joy be allowed to live there until she died. Forty-nine years later, following Joy's death at the age of 101, her Sirius Cove house was recently put on the market with a price guide of more than \$8 million.



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