

# SHS flying HIGHER



## Highlights

*Celebrating High Rowing*

*Athletics Success*

*High Music*

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## SHS flying HIGHER

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Old Boy rowers at the 100 Years of GPS Rowing at High celebration (see page 12)

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Photo: Eric Wu

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# From the PRINCIPAL

We began the year with much improved staff wellbeing, higher morale and a stronger sense of collective purpose. The resolution of the salaries campaign meant increases flowed through into teacher salaries and the temporary to permanent placement initiative allowed multiple teachers to improve their positions. Teachers are now busy implementing, writing or preparing programs to meet the learning needs of the new syllabuses.

## Technology

Last year we worked hard to stay independent and not migrate to DoE Et4L, so we could continue to run Clipboard and other applications it could not support. Thanks to fantastic design work by James Rudd and David Isaacs, the negotiating skill of John Prorellis and the support of our Director, Angela Lyris, we met the DoE's stringent security demands. The efforts of Jamie Kay, George Barris and David Isaacs, enabled us to transition to *Sentral* for our reconfigured *Student Awards Scheme*.

## Planning and implementing

The expectations driving the *Strategic Improvement Plan* remain the same—we just added the same strategies to Year 9 programming as this year's goal. The Year 7 and 8 programs were audited for compliance with the basic skills requirements. We are still firmly focused on what we know will improve HSC results in writing-based assessments—de-coding sentences; writing clearer, more coherent and more complex sentences; constructing better paragraphs; and composing more nuanced and sophisticated responses to questions. We also added five sentence building exercises to our Stage 4 programs.

## Literacy initiatives

We completed the roll-out of the 'sentence conscious pedagogy' strategies from *The Writing Revolution* and maintained the literacy workshops initiative for identified students in Years 7 and 9. We gave access to ATOMI course-specific materials and assessments to identified year 12 students who completed 598 hours of online learning and answered more than 35,000 questions, and are planning to roll out ATOMI access to selected students in Years 7–12. In addition, we provided every student free access to 'Study Samurai' and invested in supporting various literacy experiments. My thanks go to the P & C for donating \$100k to help with a range of these initiatives—this turned our P & L from a loss to a tiny profit, much to our relief.



(L-R) Rowing Committee President Binh Johnsun, Rowing MIC George Barris, Dr Kim Jaggar OAM and Lesley Cheng (Past President Rowing Committee) at the opening of the Dr Kim Jaggar OAM Weights Room during the 100 Years of GPS Rowing at High event

## Collective efficacy

Following on from last year's 'shared understanding of effective classroom practice', we are focusing on the 'deep learning matrix'. Teachers need to ask themselves about the importance of the outcomes being pursued and why they are important for students. We need to be sure of the alignment between intended outcomes and the success criteria for the unit/topic or lesson. We need to use strategies for gauging understanding and follow up with activities and feedback for students who have not grasped the big ideas. The objective is to ascertain our impact on learning.

## Properties update

The COLA roof was extended and other maintenance work completed ahead of sending the site out to tender. Thanks to **Graeme Anderson (1979)**, we secured an advantageous Community Use Agreement with Eastern Suburbs Cricket Club. We are working on a longer-term agreement to be managed by the SHS Foundation. While the toilet refurbishment was completed last year, the Cooler Classrooms project has only completed the Killip Wing and delayed plans to aircondition the Junior Library. Spectator seating alongside the tennis courts was installed.

Six student groups from Year 10 Design & Technology produced designs for a clubroom for the tennis courts complex, to complement the Pro Shop and join it with a storage bay, and the plans for the winning design were sent to the DoE for approval. Construction of the facility was completed thanks to a bequest from Old Boy **Barry William Finigan (1937)** (see pp. 8 & 15). It has been a privilege to have been able to support assessment projects that bring to life the creativity of existing students, and realise these with the support of an Old Boy, for the use of current and future students.

## Dr K.A. Jaggar OAM

# Academic & Co-curricular Highlights

At the Sydney Philosothon, Andrew Pye came first in Year 10 and our Year 10 team came first in Teams.

High performed well at the National Chinese Eisteddfod, with two teams coming first in the group performance category and three students coming second in the individual performance category.

Joshua Li and Eric Scholten were invited to participate in the Australian Mathematics Olympiad Committee Contest where Eric won a Bronze Award. Aaron Huang, Michael Zhuo, Joshua Li and Tanish Sarathy were invited to participate in the Australian Maths Trust's 2023 High Performance Mathematics School of Excellence and Aaron was offered a place in the Junior Division of the AMT's Selection School.

Joseph Britton was selected to the Public Schools State Drama Ensemble.

Ahasan Kabir and Kaden Kuang's Design and Technology major works were nominated for SHAPE and Kaden's work was selected for exhibition.

Akira Ha, Timothy Jian, Yianni Scarlis, Joshua Tang and Moshe Tao's music performances and Benjamin Pirom and Yianni Scarlis' compositions were nominated for ENCORE 2023.

Aiden McManus, Brannavan Prabakaran and Dimitri Tsovolos claimed second place in NSW for their business idea of glass solar panels in the EBE Plan Your Own Business Enterprise Competition.

The SHS Cadet Unit won third place in the CSIRO's CyberTaipan 2023, an Australian youth cyber defence competition in which teams of students analyse virtual images to find and fix vulnerabilities, strengthen systems, and maintain critical services.

Our Year 9 Ethics Olympiad team of Jude Ou, Tristan Cheung, Balhar Athwal, and Mohammad Rachid earned a silver medal and were invited to compete in the International Final.

Ioannis Chatzinikolaou's short film *The Earth Dies Screaming* won the People's Choice Award at the V-Fest 2023 and was a finalist at the Flickerup Shorts National Youth film competition. Justin Huynh won first prize at the Youth Photographic Award & Short Film Prize 2023 and Dimitri Tsovolos, Kalan Cusick, Brannavan Prabakaran and James Cao's short film *Beyond* was Highly Commended.

Liam Nottage was selected into the CHS Junior State Debating Team.

Leon Lu's team won second place in the VEXIQ 2023 National Championship robotics competition.

Drama student Nathan Nguyen was selected to be a 2024 Griffin Theatre Ambassador.

## Sporting Highlights

High had strong results at the GPS Athletics carnival, placing 3rd in the Junior, 5th in the Intermediate and 7th in the Senior Point Scores (see page 7).

Henry Lau recorded the second highest individual point scoring total in High Basketball history (44 points vs Kings) and Ary Balhero the eighth highest (38 points vs Grammar).

Kevin Bui played in the U14s and Nelson Lee in the U17s at the Australian Youth Volleyball Championships. At the National Schools Competition our Year 10 team took out silver and our Year 8 team bronze in the honours division. Ethan Yu was selected to play in the Australian Youth beach Volleyball Championships and Karan Dahiya, Jerald Yu, Steven Yin and Andy Zhang made the Sydney East Region Volleyball team to compete at the CHS Inter-regional Carnival.

Our Water Polo team finished runner-up in the Dave Woods Shield Sydney East final.

Jacob Yin (Rowing), Jack Wang (Rowing), Ren-Shyan Balnave (Cross Country), and Dimitrios Logothetis (Volleyball) earned Sydney East Blues.

Oscar Shi represented Australia at the Junior Asian Fencing championships in Bahrain.

School records were broken at this year's Swimming Carnival by Jiazi Chen, Brian Ahn, David Kim, Brian Cho, Brendan Tan, John Hong and Jinu Shin. Oliver Yin qualified for the Australian Age Swimming Championships.

At the CHS Rowing Regatta in Grafton, Jacob Yin was Best Male Rower and Roman Samsonov Junior Champion.



Mr Gainford with some of the current Old Boy staff members and Drew Laidlaw Hoare from the OBU

## Farewell to Mr Gainford

Anthony Mark Gainford has officially retired as a teacher at High after 48 years of service, having started teaching at the school in 1975. He retired as the longest serving staff member in the school's 140-year history.

After attending North Sydney Boys High School, and going on to gain degrees in chemical engineering, science and teaching, Mr Gainford had an interest in pursuing his teaching career in a similar academically-selective high school. Although he was not a rower, a friend recommended that he try coaching at High, and this became an enduring passion during his time at the school.

Our own version of Mr Chips, Mr Gainford has been the soul of High Spirit and much loved by cohorts of boys. Teaching Mathematics at all levels, he was a great recruiter for Rowing and Rugby, both of which he served continuously since his appointment to the school. He was also involved for a time in Rifle Shooting and Cross-Country. He served as CO of Cadets, long-term editor of *The Record*, Prefects MIC, Chair of the Badges Committee, and was a long-serving executive

member of the AAGPS Committee. His contribution has been extensive, long-lasting, and valuable.

Mr Gainford could fill volumes with his memories of the boys—their gifts, talents and struggles—as no doubt the boys could with his anecdotes and stories. In particular, he remembers the maths genius of many boys, including one who went on to study at Trinity College, Cambridge. Other highlights include watching the First IV win the Yaralla Cup in 1976, and the First XV beating Joeys in 1979, 1988 and the famous last win of 1993. He is proud of the fact that his junior teams beat every other GPS school at least once, of his twenty productive years of Cadets, and the great achievements of the prefects. Mark says his love for sport and the GPS is one of the main reasons he stayed at High for so long.

When asked what he'll miss, the main thing is the banter in the Maths staffroom and in his classrooms. As to what has changed from when he joined the staff at High in 1975, it would be the demographics of the school, from the larger numbers of Greek and Jewish students in his early years, as well as the shift in sporting participation.

Sports like Basketball and Volleyball have grown in popularity while interest in some of the 'traditional' sports has shifted over time. When he was the Rugby Master many years ago, the school had twenty-one Rugby teams and only two Football teams!

There have been many fantastic and long-serving teachers that have defined the school experience of a large number of High boys, but few could claim to have made such an indelible mark on the fabric of Sydney High School as Mr Gainford. As his time at the school comes to an end, he will be fondly remembered by decades of High Old Boys.



Prefect Master Gainford (with sunglasses) and Headmaster Bob Outterside with the 1987 Prefects

# BOWLED OVER

Cricket is a sport with a history at High dating back to 1906. We have had great success in the GPS competition, winning the First XI premiership in 1933, 1934, 1938, 1968, 1979, 1982 and 1994. Our Second XI won the premiership in 1981 and in 1980 we won the Alan Davidson Shield. More recently, Sydney High represented NSW in the National Championships after making it through into the finals of the CHS Competition. Our cricketers have also made representative honours over the last four years—Hunar Verma (U19 Australian team and current Blues squad), Albert Giles (GPS XI 2021), Xavier Nath (GPS XI 2022 & NSW U17), and Atharv Ramakanth (GPS XI 2023 and NSW U16).

SBHS cricketers play in the GPS Competition, Davidson Shield and annual exchanges with other schools. We currently have 13 teams in the GPS Competition and the coaches aim to improve individual performance as well as teamwork. Each Cricket team participates in three training sessions per week and plays many matches throughout the season. After the GPS season ends, we feature our annual exchange visits. Our First XI participates in the Annual 5 Highs National Carnival over five days, where State



Representative high schools from Adelaide, Brisbane, Melbourne, Perth and Sydney take turns to host this prestigious national Cricket event. SBHS players are regularly selected in the Australian 5 Highs team.

As the Cricket Program evolves, we anticipate increased participation and a rise in the overall skill level of our teams. We have paired up with the Easts Cricket Club, who run special programs and camps to develop our young boys. High is not only creating a nurturing environment for cricket enthusiasts, but is also actively working towards establishing a strong presence in regional and inter-school competitions.

**David Smith, MIC Cricket**

# High Tech

The new Software Engineering HSC course provides opportunities for students to engage more deeply with modern topics like computer science and software engineering through the lens of practical tasks and projects. The focal areas of mechatronics, object-oriented design, machine learning, secure software architecture and programming for the web allow students to develop the technical, creative, teamwork and computational thinking skills which are crucial to success in this field. The Year 10 course will also be replaced with a revamped curriculum which explores contemporary software development practices, and design and systems thinking along with data analysis and programming skills.

The Makerspace has become a hub for collaborative design, architecture, modelling, software design and mechatronics activities. A team of enthusiastic Year 10 Graphics Technology students have provided their services to the school community to design, model and 3D-print bespoke solutions to problems. Hamzah Ahmed has made solid progress with his stair-climbing robot

prototype in addition to a web-based school timetable app which is widely used by other students.

Competitions encourage students to reinforce and expand upon their skills: Year 10 Information and Software Technology students (shown above) are practising their mechatronics and CAD skills for the upcoming RoboCup Junior competition; in 2023, Andrew Pye, Akith Perera and Arthur Qiu formed one of only two junior teams to progress to the national grand finals of the UNSW ProgComp; and Kaden Kuang's innovative quick switch learner plates and Ahasan Kabir's computer parts educational boardgame developed in the HSC Design and Technology course using the Makerspace facilities were nominated for the HSC Showcase SHAPE exhibition.

**Daniel Comben, Robotics Teacher**



# Athletically Challenged



The High Athletics Program has evolved over the past decade. Our program model moved High Athletics from the bottom to the middle of the table, and for a while it was frustrating not to see our school on the podium, as we placed 4th many times. It was with great pride for all involved—past and present—that we saw Sydney Boys High place 3rd in the Junior Division at the 2023 GPS Athletics Championships.

The following were top 3 placegetters in the 2023 Championship events:

- Dylan Dutt: 200 Metre U16 Championship 22.78 (2); 100 Metre U16 Championship 11.19 (2)
- Nicholas Fung: High Jump U15 Championship 1.80m (2)
- Oscar Greville: Shot Put Open Championship 13.52m (1)
- Mekaeel Khan: Long Jump U13 Championship 5.14m (3)
- Lachlan Leung: Long Jump U15 Championship 6.08m (1)
- Aiden McManus: 800 Metre U15 Championship 2:03.62 (1)
- Alex Ruhfus: 200 Metre U14 Championship 23.41 (1); 100 Metre U14 Championship 11.53 (1)
- Max Russell: 3000 Metre Open Championship 8:50.60 (1)
- Owen Trinh: 200 Metre U13 Championship 24.39 (1); 100 Metre U13 Championship 11.81 (1)—**GPS Record**
- Mark Yan: 400 Metre U14 Championship 54.58 (2)
- Owen Smith, Mekaeel Khan, Aaron Li & Owen Trinh: 4x100 Metre Relay U13 Championship 49.09 (2)
- Liwen Deng, Mark Yan, Roger He & Alex Ruhfus: 4x100 Metre Relay U14 Championship 46.19 (1)
- Brendan Woo, Lachlan Leung, Tim Chen & Athithan Mayuran: 4x100 Metre Relay U15 Championship 44.72 (3)

The CHS season was summed up with the delivery of the 2023 Kippax Cup for Highest Points for a Boy's School at the CHS Championship. Medallists included Max Russell: 1st Opens 3k, 1st Opens 1500m, 3rd Opens 800m; Liwen Deng, Mark Yan, Roger He & Alex Ruhfus: 2nd 14's 4x100m Relay; Naeer Nibras, Khai Pham, Garry Liu & Dylan Dutt: 2nd 16's 4x100m Relay; Alex Ruhfus: 1st 14's 100m; Owen Trinh: 3rd 13's 100m; and Lachlan Leung: 2nd 15's Long Jump.

At the 2024 NSW Championships, five current students and two Old Boys took to the track with the goals of placing on podiums and qualifying for the National Championships. Special mention to Alex Ruhfus who placed 1st in the U16 100m with a time of 11.12—the fastest all conditions result of any High boy ever in his age group.

I would like to thank Dr Kim Jaggar for his ongoing support, Ms Hannah Jackson, the relieving Head Teacher of Sport, my support staff including Ms Natalie Luu and Mr Casey Writer, and all the amazing Athletics coaches. Of course the success of the 2023 season would not have been possible without the amazing efforts of the athletes themselves. A special thanks to our largest group of Year 12 athletes, led by Athletics Captain Kaden Kuang (four GPS sports in Year 12), as their commitment to training during their trials really set the tone for the other cohorts.

**Kurt Rich, MIC Athletics**

**SBHS Athletics Records are kept updated and can be viewed at: <https://bit.ly/49iU81Y>.**



# Advantage High

Tennis is one of the most popular sports at Sydney Boys High, with over 150 students playing in the 2023-24 season. The Tennis Program is committed to providing a quality program for as many interested students as possible. Teams from the Development Squad to First Grade receive quality coaching, attention, and resources. All players train three times per week, with two court and one speed and agility session. (First and Second Grade players have an additional court session.) Tennis athletes are also encouraged to attend the weights room and resistance bands and strength work were introduced this season to help build on the standard of fitness.

The focus on training and development in the Tennis Program has led to above-average performance. Our players win over half of all their matches against other GPS schools. In 2020 our Second Grade team won the Premiership and we won both First and Second Grade in 2016.

Moving forward, a main goal for the Tennis Program will be boosting the competitiveness of our First and Second Grade teams. By building the physical competency of our Tennis athletes and enhancing development pathways and opportunities for all our players, we aim to have the best quality Tennis players represent the school. We aim to teach our Tennis athletes across the board to take on greater autonomy



of their health, fitness, and skill. This year saw a large drop in performance at the start of Term 1 compared to the end of Term 4, as a significant number of students reported doing little to no exercise over the summer holidays.

The program and school courts have received a major boost with the construction of a Tennis clubhouse (pictured above) thanks to a generous bequest from an Old Boy (see page 15 for more). This will serve many purposes including hosting First and Second Grade events. We are also grateful for the increased parent involvement in fundraising through parking as this is a vital component of enabling the school to keep the program running.

**Kurt Rich, MIC Tennis**





# The Duke of Edinburgh Award

The Duke of Edinburgh's International Award is a positive and rewarding challenge of self-discovery that is offered to students of Sydney Boys High School from Year 9. The Duke of Ed framework is one of individual challenges that encourage personal discovery and growth, self-reliance, perseverance, responsibility, and community service. Each student undertaking the Award becomes more physically active, learns a skill, volunteers in their community, and undertakes a team adventure.



Our students mainly use their GPS sports to fulfill the physical recreation component of the Award. The skills students have chosen to develop range from chess, debating, and languages to musical instruments. Our students participate in voluntary service that includes library monitoring and volunteering with St Johns Ambulance, surf lifesaving and teaching Sunday School. Year 9 students will participate in the hike at their annual camp as part of their Bronze Adventurous Journey.

The Duke of Edinburgh program continues to serve as an all-round leadership opportunity for our students. In 2023, we had nine students who completed the Bronze level, seven who finished their Silver Award, and one who completed the Gold Award. Another three students are about to finish their Gold. My role as the Duke of Ed Coordinator is to continue supporting students as their award leader.

**Joanna Chan, Head Teacher Student Wellbeing**

## CHECKMATE

This year saw our largest number of players compete for a place in the NSW Junior Chess League's 2024 Inter-Schools Competition. After a post-COVID lull, we have had a resurgence of interest in competitive Chess at the school and have rebuilt a thriving community of players. Students coming in from their primary schools with NSW Junior Chess League ratings and competitive experience are invited to continue improving their games under the tutelage of our coaches. We ask that players, regardless of whether they win a place in a team, demonstrate a serious commitment to Chess through participation in weekly coaching sessions throughout the year.

In 2023 we had enormous success, with our Senior and Intermediate teams playing in the regional finals of the Inter-School Competition and our Junior A team (Anay Gautam, Jinda Zhu, William Tran, Stephen Faulder, Yashneil Lucknauth) playing in the State Finals.

Each year High hosts a GPS Invitational against Sydney Grammar, Newington, Scots, Kings, Riverview and Shore. We reclaimed the cup from Grammar to become 2023 Champions, with our team of Toby Huey, Quan Nguyen, Nestor

Chan, Vedantik Bhattacharyya, Aaron Huang, Leo Le, Anay Guatam and Kayden Santoso.



High's Open Team (Toby Huey, Quan Nguyen and Nestor Chan) also won the coveted Terrey Shaw Shield held at North Sydney Boys High and we are proud to announce that, in January, Quan Nguyen became the Australian Under 18s National Champion.

I would like to thank our talented senior player and Chess Prefect, Toby Huey (*pictured above*), for the assistance he has given over the past couple of years in running our increasingly busy program and our coaches Vladimir Feldman and Maxwell Ponza for their continued effort and skill in coaching our boys.

We look forward to 2024 being another exciting and successful year for our Chess community.

**Rowena Barr, MIC Chess**

# Giving Back

The Community Services Committee (CSC) is dedicated to raising money and awareness for a range of different charities and organisations, both in Australia and overseas. CSC comprises a student leadership executive (of Year 11 students) and student members across all year levels who share a common passion for giving back to society through volunteering and fundraising. The 2024 student leadership executive includes Henry Shan (Chairperson), Louie Zhang (Secretary), Ric Hou (Treasurer), Arthur Qiu (Publicity Officer), Maurice Wong (Outreach Coordinator) and Thomas Cao (Events Coordinator).

The CSC student leadership executive run weekly meetings and organise a variety of events, including BBQs (*one for the Koala Hospital is pictured, right*), bake sales, muffin days and external donation collections before school at locations such as Martin Place, Hyde Park, Pitt Street Mall and the QVB. Additionally, CSC provides outreach volunteering opportunities for Year 10 students at Bourke Street Primary School and Central Sydney Intensive English School, enabling the development of a range of critical skills in leadership, teamwork, empathy and communication.



This year's CSC will be looking to surpass the outstanding fundraising total and participation levels from 2023, when more than \$40,000 was raised and over 450 students volunteered throughout the year. CSC will continue to support a diverse range of local and international charities including Clean Up Australia, World's Greatest Shave, Lak Saviya Foundation, Salvation Army, Boggabilla Central School, Jeans for Genes, OzHarvest and Legacy. Last year, we also supported two new charities (UNICEF's Türkiye and Syria Earthquake Appeal and the Port Macquarie Koala Hospital) and CSC will continue to adapt and update our charity partnerships based on community need and the interests of our members.

**Mick Ormsby, MIC Community Services Committee & Student Support Officer**

## TABLE TENNIS GROWS

Sydney Boys High recently began competing in the first ever Secondary Table Tennis Competition, playing against students from various schools in the weekly Saturday competition.

Students have been training on Saturdays outside of the competition, with qualified coaches to upskill their techniques as the competition grows. Table Tennis players have also been participating in the school's speed and agility sessions on Monday, Wednesday, and Thursday afternoons to increase their overall fitness levels. These expanded training sessions help foster a deeper sense of community and competitiveness.

Paddington RSL is the school's new Table Tennis home venue, and the recently-renovated upstairs now holds fourteen tables, allowing for more students to participate in the sport. The program is proving popular as it regularly produces quality athletes, often winning the CHS State competitions.



To complement the growth of this sport at High, new international-level tables have been purchased to replace older models, as well as pro nets and balls. We are looking forward to seeing the results from the Saturday competition and congratulate students for their participation across the summer season.

**Hannah Jackson, Acting MIC Table Tennis**

# Music to our Ears

2024 has marked a vibrant and bustling period within the Music Performance Program, as all performance ensembles resumed their activities with renewed energy and enthusiasm. The thriving program is made up of over 280 students who are actively-engaged across Years 7-12, embodying the rich musical culture at Sydney Boys High School.

The year commenced with the Music Recruitment Night, held online to warmly welcome new students, parents, and guardians to the school. A remarkable turnout of over 130 participants joined the event virtually, highlighting the growing interest in our Music Performance Program.

Setting the pace for the school year was the highly-anticipated Hot Potato Band workshop and performance (*pictured below*) at the beginning of March. This event brought together our Junior, Intermediate, and Senior Stage Bands along with the Chamber Choir for an invigorating two-hour workshop session. Following this, students had the opportunity to showcase their talents in a captivating lunchtime concert held in the Great Hall.

A recent highlight was graduate **Benjamin Pirom (2023)** having the honour of being selected as one of the top 20 candidates (from over 5000 NSW HSC Music 1, 2, and Extension students) to present his HSC Music Extension Composition *Incognito* at the esteemed NESAs HSC Encore showcase. Premiering at the iconic Sydney Opera House in March, Benjamin's composition will also be broadcast on the radio, further elevating his remarkable achievement.

In preparation for the annual Anzac Day March in the Sydney CBD, our school's Marching Band had

the privilege of collaborating with the esteemed NSW Police Marching Band. Following invaluable workshops and performances led by our drum major and Year 12 Music Prefect Michael Li, our Marching Band will proudly march alongside cadets and community bands through the city on April 25th, with the parade to be broadcast on the ABC.

Looking forward, our Annual Music Camp awaits at the Tops Conference Centre (Stanwell Tops) in late June. This immersive experience provides intensive ensemble rehearsals and workshops across four days, bringing together students from all 15 music ensembles and dedicated conductors for a transformative musical journey.

Term 3 will see a collaborative effort between Sydney Boys and Sydney Girls High School, as we unite for a combined music performance workshop. Culminating in a joint concert featuring Concert Bands, Stage Bands, Orchestras, and Chamber Choirs from both schools, this event promises to showcase the synergies between our talented musicians.

Lastly, our end of year music concert will serve as a grand finale, showcasing the diverse talents of our music ensembles in the Governors Centre.

The Music Department extends its heartfelt gratitude to all students, parents, and music staff for their unwavering dedication and contributions to the school's Music Performance Program. Together, we continue to inspire and elevate the musical landscape of our school.

**Sarah Kim, MIC Music Performance Program**



# Celebrating 100 Years of GPS Rowing at High

On Saturday, 9 December 2023, close to 200 people gathered on an extremely hot day at the Outterside Centre to celebrate High Rowing and 100 years since our first GPS Head of the River. Over 120 Old Boys from 1948 to 2023 came 'Back to the Sheds', with nine crews coming back to row against the current First VIII.

There was a wonderful atmosphere in the Outterside Centre as Old Boys reignited memories of their time at High and shared stories with our current rowers. From the speeches by members of the High Rowing community, we learned about the record number of rowers in the program and the support staff like Mark Gainford have given to the program over the years.

Principal Dr Kim Jaggar OAM's support of the Rowing Program was recognised on the day by the opening of the Dr Kim Jaggar OAM Weights Room.

Dr Jaggar came to High at a time when funds were low and the rowing centre was unfinished. As a result of his stewardship, the Outterside Centre is now well-maintained and a support system has been built up around sport at the school.

The contribution of the Barris family to High Rowing was also recognised—for one third of the 100 years of High GPS Rowing, a Barris has been in charge! Con Barris managed to run an entire rowing program on no budget and without paying a single coach. He coached, ran the weights room at the school and kept everything going at the Rowing Sheds—all while serving as Head Teacher of History. His son George is now carrying on his legacy as MIC of Rowing.

The day was headlined by the First VIII vs Old Boys race. With a historically-large number of Old Boys in attendance, nine crews braved the



hot, sub-optimal conditions to compete over two races. The conditions only added to the fun, as a wash ran through the first race, spraying relieving, cold water onto the rowers, and causing one of our Old Boys to go for a swim in the Paramatta River.

Special Old Boy guests included: **David Anderson (1948)**, Olympic bronze medalist and member of the 1948 Head of the River (HOR)-winning crew; **Ric Donaldson, Jim Woodcock and Warren Leroy** from the 1953 HOR -winning crew; **Reg Smith** from 1957 HOR-winning crew; **Ian Stewart** from the 1959 HOR-winning crew; **Mark Prater (2000)**, the current coach of the Australian Men's Olympic VIII; former World Champion **Dom Grimm (2005)**; and all of the members of the 1976 Yaralla Cup-winning crew—**Mark Vangelatos, Cameron McMorrow, Daniel Vieira, David Dickison & Andrew Bowey**.

It was fantastic to see so many Old Boys reunite at the Sheds to celebrate this milestone in High's Rowing history. They serve as a constant reminder of our past and their lasting love for the Sheds and High Rowing is an inspiration.

High Rowing is where it is today thanks to both the Sydney High School Foundation and the Rowing Committee. The Foundation maintains the Outterside Centre and has funded many improvements over time; the Rowing Committee provides essential support for our rowers, spending hours cooking, cleaning and driving the boys. We are grateful for their support and thank the Rowing Committee (led by President Binh Johnson) for organising such an amazing event, the SHSOBU, and all those who came for making the day so special.

**George Barris, MIC Rowing and Michael Li, Captain of Boats**





# From the President of the *Old Boys Union*



The SHSOBU is excited for another big year in 2024, after arguably our strongest ever year in 2023.

High reunions are the most successful they've been in decades, with almost

20 reunions happening last year, and a similar number planned for this year. We also work closely with the school on 'multi-year' events, such as the recent 100 Years of GPS Rowing at High event, where we had many Old Boys in attendance from the Class of 1948 up to the Class of 2023. Additionally, our database numbers continue to grow positively, meaning we're able to keep more Old Boys updated on our alumni news and events, and help to keep them connected to the school and to each other.

Most importantly, the OBU continues to build on its strong relationship with the school, the Principal and the various bodies that make up the High community. This is no doubt helped by the fact that we have more than ten Old Boys currently working at the school, plus many more contributing their time to help extracurricular activities. We also welcomed over 200 Year 12 students from the Class of 2023 into the Old Boys fold at the end of last year. We encourage those who aren't Life Members of the OBU, to become one, for all the benefits available to them as members, as well as to support the OBU and keep allowing us to continue our important work for High Alumni.

We are actively looking to continue to expand our reach outside of Sydney, as so many Old Boys live and work around Australia and the globe. We are working to connect the Old Boy diaspora and have held international events in London, New York, Singapore and San Francisco. If any groups of Old Boys in other cities are interested in holding similar events, please don't hesitate to contact us.

On the topic of enrolment, the OBU continues to encourage Old Boys to consider High for their sons', grandsons' or nephews' education. In addition to the traditional Year 7 entry, there is also an intake at Year 9 where family connections to High are taken into consideration. Applications for 2025 entry in Years 8 to 11 open in June this year and close in July (see page 20 for details); applications for Year 7 entry in 2026 open in

October this year and close in November. (Please note how early the application process begins for Year 7 entry.)

In Old Boy news, **Nikhil Autar (2011)** (below) was named NSW Young Australian of the Year for his fantastic work in disability advocacy. Nikhil is a cancer survivor, doctor and entrepreneur—but most importantly, he is an inspiration to Old Boys and current students.



We were pleased to have one of our oldest living Old Boys, **Professor Geoffrey Kellerman AO (1942)**, as guest of honour at the Speech Night at the beginning of this year. Professor Kellerman, the Dux of the Class of 1942, gave a tremendous speech covering his time at High and his career in medicine and academia since he left school. On a more sombre note, **John Pilger (1957)**, internationally-renowned journalist, documentary maker, and 1957 Head of the River winner, passed away in London late last year. John was a keen supporter of the school and its endeavours despite having lived in London for decades.

Finally, iconic Sydney High School teacher, Mr Anthony Mark Gainford, has retired as the longest serving teacher in the 140-year history of High, after 48 years of teaching. The OBU would like to thank Mark for his decades of service to the school and the important place he holds in the memories of many Old Boys.

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

# Leaving a Legacy

A gift in your Will to the Sydney High School Foundation provides the opportunity to leave behind an enduring contribution towards promoting and advancing the education of students at Sydney Boys High School. For alumni, a bequest to the Sydney High School Foundation is a means to leave a lasting legacy towards the future of the school—a school that has provided (and will continue to do so) so much to so many.

When asked about the impact that bequests have had on the school, Dr Jaggar mentioned three major Old Boy bequests that have been transformative during his time as Principal of High:

- The **Raymond Casey (1954)** (pictured below, left) bequest paid for the construction of the Covered Outdoor Learning Area (COLA), which has evolved as an important facility for our Cricket and Fencing programs, as well as a means of having professional coaching gratis for our students from first class cricket players.
- The **John Henry Fraser (1933)** (pictured below, right) bequest was a turning point for High as it enabled our fundraising to reach a total from which a beginning could be made on the construction of the joint project with SGHS—the Governors Centre, our world-class performing arts centre and dynamic learning space which was completed in 2021.
- The **Barry William Finigan (1937)** bequest, which we received just last year, enabled the school to construct a student-designed tennis clubroom and connection store beside the existing pro shop at the school's tennis courts (see page 8), enhancing facilities for our Tennis Program.

These three bequests will have a lasting impact as they have greatly enhanced the facilities and services on offer to the current and future generations of Sydney Boys High students.

Depending on your values and passions, you may specify where you would like your bequest directed. (For example, those wishing to support boys experiencing financial difficulties may choose to support the Bursary Program.) Alternatively, you may wish to consider an unspecified gift where funds will be allocated for use where most needed at the time. Bequests that support general priorities are greatly valued as they allow the school to respond with the greatest speed to changing needs and emerging opportunities.

There are different ways to leave a bequest in your Will to the Sydney High School Foundation, including:

- a specific gift—you can leave a fixed amount of money, or a specific asset such as shares or real property;
- a percentage of your estate—you can leave your entire estate or a percentage of your estate;
- the residue of your estate—you can leave what is left of your estate after providing specific gifts to family and other beneficiaries.

Remembering the school in a bequest provides an opportunity for you to leave behind an enduring contribution to education, while still enjoying your assets during your lifetime. Your legacy will honour yourself, your family or someone you cherish for years to come.

**A Will is a legal document and you should seek the advice of a qualified solicitor when preparing or altering your Will. More information on leaving a bequest to the Foundation can be found at: <https://shsfoundation.org.au/bequests/>**

**Any bequest or gift should be made to: Sydney High School Foundation Limited ABN 62 078 650 439.**



Raymond Casey, 1953 Junior Athletics



John Henry Fraser, 1933 First Grade Shooting

# Sydney Boys High School

## PARENTS & CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (P&C)

It seems the COVID-19 pandemic is well behind us. Last year was another normal full year of school, with the P&C back in the full swing of supporting the school through various events, parking and the Canteen.

Last year's Open Day had a big turnout despite adverse weather conditions, with over 463 families registered for the event and over 1000 attendees. The P&C provided morning tea, serving up an assortment of hot and cold food and beverages, generously donated by the parent body. Dr Jaggar acknowledged the support of parent volunteers and emphasised the strong sense of community at the school that plays an essential role in its success.

The P&C also supported the Orientation Day and Year 12 Farewell events last year. There is always an abundance of food at these events to ensure our staff, parents and students are well-fed and can relax and enjoy the occasion. The SBHS P&C Welcome Evening for new parents was held at the Governors Centre in February, with fantastic catering from the Sailing parents and students. We look forward to running these events again this year and encourage parents to volunteer and be involved.

Our Canteen Volunteer Coordinator, Grace Guan, introduced the *Sign-up Genius* last year. This new system made it easier for parents to choose and amend their volunteering times, resulting in an enhanced recruitment and volunteering experience. Our two Canteen staff members are always looking for ways to improve the menu. They introduce new items, and with the assistance of our parent volunteers, prepare and serve a variety of dishes, drawing in more customers—our hungry boys! Our volunteers are the backbone of the Canteen. They are quiet achievers who work tirelessly every day to serve the school community.

The success of the Canteen has enabled the P&C to donate funds to the school to support the students in their learning and wellbeing. These include contributions towards bus replacements to transport students to school activities, textbooks, language offerings, Sentence Conscious Pedagogy professional development for teachers, the COLA roof extension, LED sign replacement, the Wayfinding

project, and a one-off donation for an unexpected increase in staffing costs.

Car parking events raise funds for the sports and co-curriculars at High. Sport and cultural events held at nearby venues have increased over the last twelve months, providing more opportunities for the subcommittees to raise funds. One example was 10 February this year, when the SBHS Football subcommittee parked over 350 cars and raised over \$9,000 from the P!NK concert! Thank you to all the parents and students who have volunteered their time at our car parking events.

To keep parents informed of school activities and processes, the P&C continues to improve on the way we communicate, including creating a WhatsApp group for the subcommittees and each year group (phasing out the WeChat groups used by older years), sending emails regarding General Meetings and the AGM, and posting announcements on SZapp in their areas of interest.

Earlier this year, the P&C funded the installation of a new LED school sign on Cleveland Street. With the new fencing around the school, the old sign was no longer visible. This new sign is clearly visible from the street, which enhances the overall image of the school. The sign will be used for car parking events, to improve signage, and to communicate announcements and messages to visitors and the wider community.

P&C meetings are held every second Monday of the month. Online meetings via Zoom continue to be the preferred mode for parents, and attendance can reach as high as 200 when popular topics are presented, such as *HSC Results* by Dr Jaggar and *How to study for English* by the English Head Teacher. Our aim is to have a topic of interest at each General Meeting to inform parents on how they can support their sons in their learning.

The P&C is always in need of assistance, either at the Canteen, school functions, car parking events, or in subcommittees. Please look out for our call for volunteers in the various communication channels!

**Tania Kirkland**  
**Year 11 Parent and P&C President**





## Families of Sydney High School

# *The McKays: Three Generations at High*

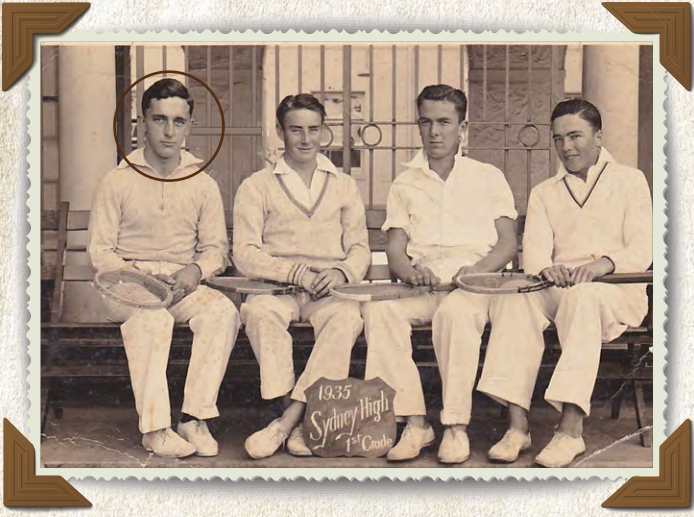
The McKay family's connection with High commenced in 1930 when twin boys Laurie and Jack McKay entered the newly-constructed campus at the old Sydney Zoo at Moore Park. The identical twins had memorable times at school and, according to Laurie, were often in trouble but stuck together as twins usually do. On at least one occasion, one of them was given a detention but had other commitments and the other agreed to substitute for him. They were both competent tennis players and represented the school in what was then a very popular sport. **Laurie McKay (1934)** was Captain of Second Grade premiers in 1934 but his schooldays were cut short when he left school that year to take up a full-time trainee accountant position. Due to ongoing health issues, **Jack McKay (1935)** spent considerable time absent from school, but still managed to play in the successful 1935 First Grade Tennis team and attain the Leaving Certificate. Laurie worked as a public accountant and tax agent until his passing in 2007. Jack worked at the ANZ Bank but faced ongoing health issues and passed way too soon in 1958, aged 39. Both brothers spent time in the army in the 1940s.

The second generation commenced with Jack's son **John McKay (1960)**. John's time was emotional, with his father's ongoing poor health and subsequent passing when he was in Year 9. He has fond memories of the choir and working with the girls of SGHS in musicals and still has a number of good friendships which were formed at school. John spent a season rowing in the 6th IV and represented the school in Rifle Shooting. He went on to study medicine at Sydney University and specialise in nuclear medicine. He currently lives in Melbourne and in 2023 was awarded an AM for his services to the study of diagnostic PET scanning. Laurie's son **Bob McKay (1964)** came from out-of-area Berala Public School, thanks to the then-Education Department rules which allowed academically-qualified sons of Old Boys to attend. He enjoyed participating in school life, even though it involved daily travel by train, tram and bus. Bob was School Captain in 1963 and represented the school in Cricket, Rugby, Swimming and Athletics. He won the SGHS Cup for games and sportsmanship in 1964 and was the senior CUO in Cadets and the first recipient of the DJ Duffy Sword of Honour. On leaving school, Bob played with the SHOBs rugby team whilst he pursued a degree in Civil Engineering at Sydney Uni. He subsequently worked for the NSW Government in highway construction and

maintenance and played a significant role in the Hume Highway, F3 Freeway and Pacific Highway construction projects. Bob now lives in the Newcastle region.

The third generation commenced in 1985 when Bob's eldest son **Joshua McKay (1990)** led the way for his two brothers. He represented the school in Swimming, Cricket and Rugby, and later dropped Cricket for Rowing, a love that he passed on to his children. Josh rowed in the First VIII for two years, was Captain of Boats and Senior Prefect. He went on to study Economics at Sydney Uni, and pursue a successful career in commerce and marketing, working overseas since 2007. **Matthew McKay (1992)** followed Josh into sport, representing the school in Cricket, Swimming and Rugby, also switching from Cricket to Rowing. Matthew rowed in the First VIII for two years and was the champion sculler, stroke of the VIII and Captain of Boats. He also played Rugby in the First XV for two years, culminating in being selected as hooker for the Representative GPS First XV and NSW schools in 1993. He and brother Ben played together in the front row of the 1993 First XV which had the honour of beating Joeys at McKay. Matthew earned a Sports Science degree from Sydney Uni and currently works as an ambulance paramedic in the Lake Macquarie area. **Ben McKay (1993)** represented the school in Tennis and Swimming and also rowed for a couple of years. His real passion was Rugby, and he was fortunate to have a cohort which included several good players. Ben played two years in the First XV as hooker and was selected to the GPS First XV and Australian Schools First XV, playing a Test against the touring Welsh Schools in Brisbane. After leaving school, Ben played in the Australian Under 19 Rugby team which played and beat the All Blacks U19s in 1995. That same year, he captained Randwick Colts Rugby, in a team coached by Old Boy Alan Gaffney (1964) which won the Sydney competition. Ben pursued a career in logistics management and currently lives in Sydney.

**Footnote:** When Bob was School Captain, the teacher/editor of *The Record* rang Bob's dad for a story about his late father and the history of McKay Oval. Laurie took great delight in advising with a chuckle that his dad was still alive and had nothing to do with the establishment of McKay Oval. The three generations of McKays in this story loved playing there, but are not related to the McKays of McKay Oval fame.



Jack McKay, 1935 First Grade Tennis



Bob McKay, 1964 First XV Rugby



Joshua McKay, 1989 First VIII Rowing



(L to R) Laurie, Ben, Josh, Matt & Bob McKay, 1990



Matt McKay, 1992 First VIII Rowing



Ben (left) & Matt McKay, 1993 First XVIII Rugby



# OBU Reunions and Events

Tuesday, 30 April 2024

**SHSOBU Golf Day**

Wednesday, 1 May 2024

**Class of 1954: 70 Year Reunion**

Saturday, 10 August 2024

**All Old Boys Reunion:  
High vs Grammar at Grammar**

Saturday, 10 August 2024

**Class of 2004: 20 Year Reunion**

Friday, 6 September 2024

**Class of 1955: 69 Year Reunion**

Sunday, 8 September 2024

**Old Boys vs the School:  
Annual Basketball Match**

Friday, 11 and Saturday, 12 October 2024

**Class of 1991 & 1992:  
GPS Gold Challenge**

Saturday, 2 November 2024

**Class of 1994: 30 Year Reunion**

Saturday, 2 November 2024

**Class of 1974: 50 Year Reunion**

Friday, 15 November 2024

**Class of 1964: 60 Year Reunion**

Saturday, 23 November 2024

**Class of 1979: 45 Year Reunion**

More details on these upcoming reunions and events can be found on our website:

<https://www.shsobu.org.au/events>



1994 First XI GPS Cricket Premiers 30 Year Reunion



Class of 1972 52 Year Reunion

## SYDNEY BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

Nurturing scholar-sportsmen since 1883



### ENROLMENT APPLICATIONS

Applications for Years 8 to 11 entry,  
2025 will be available at

[sbhs.co/apply](http://sbhs.co/apply)

From 14 June 2024 to 26 July 2024 @ 3.00 p.m.



# Vale



## John Pilger (1957)

**John Pilger (1957)** passed away in London on 30 December 2023. John was a world-leading foreign correspondent, journalist, author and documentarian.

His reporting and analysis, including of the wars in Vietnam and Cambodia, while at times controversial, won him international recognition and a number of journalism and film awards. He was described by *The New York Times* in their obituary as a 'voice for the voiceless, Mr Pilger was comfortable in his roles as a journalistic provocateur', and in *The Guardian* as 'a journalist who never shirked from saying the unsayable...the impact of Pilger's journalism was enormous'. John was still an active participant in global affairs at the time of his passing.

He was also a very proud Sydney High School Old Boy, attending High along with his brother Graham (1950). Despite living in London for decades, he maintained a keen interest in the school and in the last few years he attended our London Old

Boys reunion, as well as the reunions of his 1957 Head of the River Winning First VIII crew (pictured below). Rowing was a particular passion of John's during his time at the school and, in addition to being a member of one of our last remaining Head of the River-winning crews, he also held the rare distinction of rowing in the First VIII for three years during his time at High. Kerry Rubie MBE (1958) had this to say on John's passing: 'The depth and strength of feeling that I and his other fellow crew mates had for him is perhaps best captured by the fact that although many years have now passed since we rowed together, we always found time to come back together to celebrate the extraordinary bond that we all had for each other. It was at the heart of winning the Major Rennie Trophy. We rowed as one in 1957 and, even after almost 70 years, did not ever lose that wonderful sense of "oneness"'.

John was a powerful example of a High boy who grew up with very little, in what was then the working-class suburb of Bondi, became internationally-recognised for his achievements across many fields, yet still maintained a certain humility and kindness. Vale.



## George Richards (1950)

**George Richards (1950)** passed away on 16 January 2024. Although the deputy principal of High said he should go to university, George went into journalism instead, later finishing an arts degree part-time at Sydney University. In 1958 he joined *The Sydney Morning Herald*, and had an illustrious career there and at other Fairfax publications over 45 years. During this time he was posted to London and travelled overseas to learn about the computerisation of newspapers. For fifteen of those years he served as editor of *Column 8*.



# Vale

1955 School Captain **Bill Summers (1955)** passed away in September 2020.

**Professor David J.A. Clines (1955)** passed away on 8 December 2022.

**John Bennett OAM (1954)** passed away in May 2023. After leaving High, John studied Engineering at Sydney Uni and went on to work on many dam and tunnel projects both in Australia and the United States before setting up his own consulting business. John was a member of Kogarah Rotary and through this worked with Orthopaedic Outreach. He oversaw its financial management for nearly 25 years, resulting in approval for funding for over 500 international team activities throughout the Asia-Pacific, work for which he was posthumously awarded an OAM.

**Ross Allan Smith (1951)** passed away on 3 June 2023.

**Kenneth James Paul OAM (1949)** (below, with the 1949 First VIII) passed away on 5 June 2023. He studied architecture at the University of NSW and an early role involved drafting the plans for the Fisher Library at Sydney Uni. He eventually built a reputation in the health and education fields and went on to redevelop a number of hospitals. In 2019 Ken was awarded an OAM for service to architecture and to the community. High and Rowing remained dear to his heart, and when he moved into aged care, he wanted his rowing photos on the wall.



**Ronald Hutchison (1951)** passed away on 13 October 2023, two days after his 89th birthday.

**John Cantwell (1956)** (below, with the 1956 School Prefects) passed away on 19 October 2023, aged



84 years. A Prefect, who rowed in the First VIII and played Rugby in the Second XV, John was an accomplished scientist and educator who made significant contributions to public health in the fields of food hygiene, fluoridation, blood alcohol and forensic science.

**Dr Peter Duke (1951)** a gifted and caring ophthalmologist, passed away on 21 October 2023

**Alan Skinner (1959)** passed away on 21 October 2023. Alan was in the last High VIII to win the HOR in 1959 (pictured below) and went on to play Rugby for Australia.



**Anthony Reid (1977)** passed away on 26 November 2023 after struggling with diabetes for many years. While at school, Senior Prefect 'Reido' was in the First VIII and Second XV (pictured below).



**John Brand (1968)** passed away on 3 January 2024 after battling a brain tumour called Glioblastoma Maxiforme for ten months. Remembered by his classmates as an exceptional human being with great humility and character, highly respected by all with whom he came in contact, John leaves a significant legacy, one example of which is the gymnasium at Warilla High School (his last teaching posting), named in his honour.

**Felix Fries (1959)** passed away on 11 Feb 2024. He had good memories of his school days.



**Ian Heads OAM (1960)** passed away on 25 March 2024. Vice Captain of the 1960 Second XV (shown left) while at High, Heads went on to become a respected sports journalist whose career spanned more than 60 years. He was inducted into the NRL Hall of Fame in 2023. A sports historian, he was also the author of many sports biographies and histories, 35 of which were donated to the school library and make up the Ian Heads Collection.

## Donor Acknowledgements

The Sydney High School Foundation would like to acknowledge the generous support of the following donors as well as those donors who elected not to be publicly acknowledged.

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