



Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletter

Vol. 6 April 2009

EDITORIAL

Recently I received an email from a former student, now a resident in Sweden. In 1977 whilst a student at Asquith Boys, Jesper and his family re-emigrated to Sweden. Jesper's request was for a supplier of the ABHS School tie (junior tie), as he wishes to, *'honour my School by wearing its colours from time to time. Especially since I have strong & fond memories of my time there'*.

Jesper's letter prompted me to check the current, recently revised School Uniform. Was the junior tie the same as the original dark green tie, with fine maroon diagonal stripes, flanked with white? I am relieved to report that the original tie, shown to students, and subsequently worn by students for 49 years, has survived. The other unique element in the School Uniform to survive is the long grey socks, banded with School colours. Readers interested in viewing the current, thoughtfully designed uniform, can do so by viewing the School's relaunched Website: www.abhs.nsw.edu.au

Jesper extends his heartfelt sympathy to all Aussies touched by the recent tragic fires in Victoria.

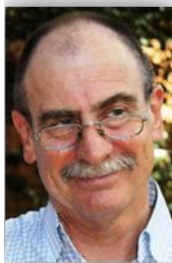
Earlier this year I received a letter from Iain Gorry. Iain was one of the students responsible for an enduring landmark at Asquith Boys. The Australian Flag, painted on a wall adjacent to the Basketball courts near Pacific Highway. Iain explains The Flag was student initiated, and gives some insight into the thinking behind this project. Next year this landmark achieves 30 years. It is planned to bring readers the story behind The Flag in the next edition of this Newsletter. If you have knowledge or anecdotes about the Australian Flag wall, you are invited to contact me. Likewise your comments, questions and articles on this and other subjects are always welcome.

Your Old Boys Club was represented at the recent Asquith Boys High School Open Night. This function is held annually to enlighten prospective students and parents of the outstanding programs and facilities available at Asquith Boys High. Community interest in this event has grown steadily in recent years, with a record attendance this year. This interest reflects a growth trend for parents choosing to enrol their sons in Year 7. The 2009 student enrolment is the largest for many years.



Chris Kent
Former student 1960 – 1965
Former Head Teacher
Creative Arts 1982 – 2005

DR CAHILL'S PRESCRIPTION FOR ASQUITH BOYS



Recently, former student Dr. Jeremy Cahill, addressed the School's HSC Awards Assembly. Assembled in the School Hall were students, staff, parents of the Award recipients and the Asquith Boy's high achievers from the 2008 HSC.

The School Captain, Sean Szabo, introduced Jeremy as growing up in East Gordon, attending East Gordon Primary, then Gordon Primary. Lived on the edge of an oval adjoining the Ku-ring-gai bush. Great childhood days of bike-riding the streets and bush, of Tarzan swings, waterholes and rivers, cracker-nights, bonfires, fishing and camping, swimming and playing soccer. Enrolled at ABHS in 1960, in the pioneer student group.

At Asquith Boys, Jeremy enjoyed Soccer, Basketball, Cross Country and middle-distance running, (half mile and mile in those days), Jeremy gained and held the mile distance record for his age group, for a few years. He was a member the School's successful debating team for some time. Jeremy was elected a school prefect. In 1966, following Jeremy's graduation from Asquith, he formed a rock and blues band with four former students, playing for 5 years or so, including an ABHS old boys gig or two. He repeated his final year, (5th year in those days) to gain a scholarship to Sydney Uni.

Jeremy graduated in Medicine in 1972 and trained in Sydney hospitals before undertaking two years country GP practice. Dr. Cahill has practised as a GP in Westleigh for the past 30 years.

Jeremy is married with three adult children.

Dr. Jeremy Cahill:

"First of all, let me say that I consider it to be both humbling and an honour to be asked to speak here today as an Asquith Old Boy. About addressing you today, let me take you back to 1960, to the quadrangle outside, where I was asked as a 12 year old, to address the school on a specific occasion.

1960,49 years ago..... I did my best but I wonder now how poor an impression as a public speaker I may have made on the ABHS establishment at this time, such that it has taken nearly half a century to be invited back for a second go. Perhaps, (and let us hope), that the boy has improved. Perhaps it is a post-graduate student betterment initiative. In any event, thank-you ABHS, for a second chance.

We were a mixed and motley crew, ranging from Lindfield to Brooklyn, from all walks of life, of all shapes and sizes. Physically I was a weed, around five feet small in year 1 and 2 (one and a half metres), and very skinny, forty kg (or 90 lbs). 'Jerry the Germ'. Thankfully, I shook off the title. The smallest kid in the class, or was that the school? We were the kings, the roosters. We felt we owned this new school in those days, from year 1, the senior students. The teachers were as domestic staff paid to look after our needs, showing us around our brand new lodgings, some more obliging than others. However as the days went by it became apparent that the domestics were actually still in charge and did indeed enforce the rules, and we came to an amicable agreement.

A brief comment on some of my school activities mentioned in Sean's introduction.

I was a reasonable student marks wise, but never top of the class. Having said that, I repeated the final year (a five-year course in those days). The repeat year was in fact to try to gain a university (Commonwealth) scholarship to allow me to study Medicine at Sydney Uni. Incidentally, a significant number of fifth years returned that year. We were keen to do better and generally did so.

Two lessons here, take your pick.

1. If at first you do not succeed..... **or**
2. Do it right the first time.

Now these you will have noted are the "good" things I did. However, was I good?

Some of my teachers would have had none of that. At the risk of being a bit hard on myself, I was a habitual offender, a petty criminal. If schools kept a criminal record, my charge card would have been liberally dotted with entries in police-talk like "attempted humour, disturb class" or "excess use of disruptive talk and bad jokes".

continued over...

HSC AWARDS ASSEMBLY *CONTINUED*

Punishment for such offences, were generally, detention after school, the cane, politically incorrect and somewhat barbaric now, but quite acceptable to both sides then, or classroom banishment. This involved being sent out of the room, to stand conspicuously alone, in the corridor. Do they still do this today? Outside the room the quietness broken perhaps by the sound of approaching footsteps up the stairs, either a harmless student, a neutral teacher, but always possibly..... the DEPUTY HEADMASTER, or the Headmaster. Bad enough for a junior boy to be caught outside a classroom, but what about a PREFECT. Very very embarrassing. Like the feeling of a disillusioned, saddened father figure saying, "son, you've let me, down the school down, but worst of all, you've let yourself down". Decisive evasive action required... The 'toilet walk'. Walk boldly and urgently toward the footsteps, trying to look pained, nauseous and anxious, not that hard really, brief greeting without slowing down, mumble something sounding like 'toilet sir' followed by a muffled 'urgent' as you hurry past. This happened twice, perhaps three times, I think in my school career and to this day, I wonder if the dear old Deputy Head felt Jeremy Cahill did medicine to do bowel- research.

In Mr F's class I found on the floor a drawing pin which I placed on the seat of, I shall call him Graeme, for that was his name, a school genius, a fascinating and humorous person, (I sat immediately behind him), just as we rose to greet Mr F. I have to say two things right here boys, to temper this event. One: don't try this at home. Two: there was no malicious intent here, I regarded it in fact as a pre-career experiment in the pain-withdrawal reflex, which I had read of in my biology books. Well, did it work? I have to say the experiment was a great leap forward for science. The sound from Graeme's lips as he sat down, then rapidly rose, was unearthly, think alien, dingo, coyote, horror movie, an absolute classroom classic. He was in deep trouble, (" Ridiculous and disruptive animal noise in class") until he produced the drawing pin from his buttock to establish reasonable cause. I thought it was hilariously funny, my mates similarly, Graeme took it on the cheek, so to speak. Mr. F. played a straight bat. (I never knew how teachers were able to do that). I was ready to confess. No such action was required. The class commenced.

There may be hope out there yet for all you bad blokes. Some parting advice. Things that have been very helpful for me.

Be yourself. Be your own person. Pursue your dreams, cultivate your strengths and talents. Cultivate them if you are passionate. Don't be put off by the naysayers. Dare to be different if you genuinely are, and always try to be your own person, no matter how 'straight' or non-straight' or weird that is. You can be a leader not a follower. If not a leader, you are not obliged to run at all times with the herd. You will ultimately be respected in your difference or true persona, if it is genuine, well intentioned and not malicious.

A simple practical example here, which you may very well encounter here in school and in outside life, would be to speak or act out against a bully, and to support the bullied underdog, or the teased 'outsider.'

In this regard please consider seeing or asking your English Teacher to screen, Peter Weir's wonderful movie "Dead Poet's Society", with Robin Williams, an absolute inspiration for nearly all who have seen it.

'All work and no play make Jeremy a dull boy'. How simple, trite, boring. However, is it? Strive for and experiment with balance and harmony in your life. Time for work, study, rest, sleep, family, friends, and play. Time for others, and "selfish" time for yourself.. Like your own company. While it is probably not wise to love yourself, it is very OK to like yourself.

Finally. Grow in wisdom but don't grow up.

As you age 'Grow in wisdom' as most of us hopefully tend to do , virtually automatically as we age, (unless we have closed steel-trap minds), but don't grow old too quickly. Maintain the vitality, the passion and the energy of youth, that today you take for granted.

I don't think this is Guinness book of record stuff, but today approaching 61 years in April, I still ride my mountain bike every day, over 100 kms/week, I play O45 soccer competitively, and incidentally have played on Asquith Boy's Oval on a number of occasions in the last few years, bringing back many memories. Lastly, I sing and play blues harmonica and a bit of guitar in a casually gigging rock and blues band, playing mainly 60s and 70s stuff. I also happen to be a doctor practising medicine, which I enjoy.

I currently refuse to act my age, and will do this for as long as I am able. 'Grow in wisdom, but age as slowly as you can'.

At this stage Jeremy pulls out his harmonica and plays a few bars of a 60's pop song, to the joy of all assembled.

"Back to Dead Poet's Society. As they say. Carpe Diem. Seize the day. Seize the week, and seize the years.

Thank you".

ASQUITH BOYS NEW WEBSITE

Last month, the School's Computer Coordinator, Derek Bennett announced the launch of the second version of the School's website. *'The first version, created by an ex-student, Scott Sanders, served the School well for several years and we thank Scott for his endeavours,'* Mr. Bennett said.

When explaining the benefits of the new website, Mr. Bennett identified *'a modern appearance that has been tailored to our requirements and has the flexibility to allow staff to update all aspects of the site from school and home.*

Other features of the site include Faculty pages that explain the courses available to students and general school information pages providing information about policies and facilities at the school. The activities of special interest groups, digital copies of current and previous newsletters, a range of documents and forms, and photo galleries are also displayed.

The Internet is a social and cultural phenomenon of our time. It's great to be a part of it. I hope the site will grow from here and provide even more information in the future. We invite you to examine the site and hope that you visit regularly to monitor events at the school'.

Highlights of interest to former students and staff include:

- Recent student sporting achievements and up to date information about the international football tour program.
- Details of the new School Uniform, being implemented progressively over the next few years.
- Information about planning for the School's 50th Birthday, in 2010.
- The School's monthly community newsletter; Backchat is a source of up to date School information from diverse sources. Archived editions are also available through this website.
- Information on recent developments and improvements to the School's infrastructure and resources.
- Up to date news and upcoming events.
- A user friendly website which reminds you of your location, no matter which path you have explored, presented in the Schools attractive corporate colours.

REUNION

**Yr 12 Class of '89 / Yr 10 Class of '87
Saturday 7th November 2009**

Asquith Bowling & Recreation Club
RSVP: Brett Jollie: jolls7@bigpond.com or
Mark Rudd: mark.rudd@det.nsw.edu.au

50TH BIRTHDAY CELEBRATION 2010

A couple of meetings have been held in recent months to plan this event.

On Saturday 8th Nov. 2008, the ABHS Old Boys Club held a Reunion Dinner, in the Asquith Bowling and Recreation Club. The purpose of this function was to share an enjoyable meal and to consider former principal, Chris Bonnor's thoughts on the organization of the School's 40th Birthday Celebrations, held in 2000. Highlights of Chris's presentation included ideas for:

- sponsorship of the celebration
- use of the 40th Birthday Archive CD
- souvenirs
- preparation of a flyer to outline a program and gain expressions of interest
- planning an Open Day
- 50th Birthday Dinner and entertainment
- a Thanksgiving Service

Subsequent discussion at this function and a further meeting held on 23rd February highlighted a need for:

- a 50th Birthday Logo
- production of a DVD
- deciding early on a venue and date for the Reunion Dinner (Hornsby RSL, 15th May, 2010)

Other suggestions received to date include:

- holding a Golf Day at Asquith Golf Course
- writing a School History with an 'In Memoriam' section
- 5 x Decade 'Time Capsule' displays
- setting up Retrospective Signing Out Register, for students for whom no provision was made on their last day as a student of the School

Work has commenced on implementing some of these ideas. A date and venue has been chosen for the Reunion Dinner, next year. This occasion will be held on Saturday 15th May 2010, at the Hornsby RSL. Members should put this date in their 2010 calendar now. Your continued assistance in advising other former students and staff is appreciated and requested. More details will be available later this year via a special flyer being prepared, to advise of 50th Birthday functions. A 50th Birthday Logo Design Competition has been launched. The Competition is free to enter, and open to the Asquith Boys High Community. See further details in this Newsletter.

Recently, all participants in the School's 40th Birthday Celebrations who registered their attendance in 2000 have been contacted with information about planning the 50th. They have been invited to update their communication with the School, to ensure full details. A further planning meeting/dinner is being held in early April.

Other suggestions are welcome, as are further offers of assistance.

CAN YOU HELP?

If you would like to help with the 50th Anniversary planning please let us know by email to Chris Kent: christopher.kent7@det.nsw.edu.au

I can help with:

- Graphic Design
- Printing
- Promotions
- Event Logistics
- Organising Committee
- Video Production
- Scanning of photos and documents
- Organising a Golf Day
- Other (specify)

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL 50TH BIRTHDAY LOGO DESIGN COMPETITION

You are invited to design a logo for use during celebrations of Asquith Boys High School's 50th Birthday in 2010. Entry to the competition is free. A prize of \$100 will be awarded to the designer of the winning entry.

Asquith Boys High School provides exceptional learning opportunities for boys.

Competition rules and submission requirements:

- The award winning design will be suitable for use in a variety of promotional contexts, including stationary letterhead, School Website, posters and banners. The School's corporate colours must be used. The 50th Birthday Logo may be used in black and white.
- Entries to be in full colour and may be submitted full size on A5 paper or as a digital file.
- Digital entries will be accepted on condition that files can be opened, and be of suitable resolution for printing to A5 size. Digital Logo images must be scalable.
- The Logo will be used to promote the School's 50th Birthday prior to and during the anniversary.
- The 50th Birthday Logo must work well when used adjacent to the Asquith Boys High School logo. The 50th Birthday Logo may be used independently.
- Logo design submissions must be the original work of the entrant.
- Entrants must display their full name, address, phone no. and e-mail contact where available, with each submission.
- All members of the Asquith Boys High School community are eligible to enter this competition.¹
- Submissions that do not satisfy the conditions will not be considered.
- Entries must be received at Asquith Boys High School by Friday 26th June 2009. The winning entry will be announced by the end of July 2009. Unsuccessful entries can be collected from The School from the first week in August 2009.

¹ ABHS Community includes: enrolled students, staff, parents, former students and staff.

**CREATIVE AND PERFORMING
ARTS FACULTY
PRESENTS**

**VARIETY
NIGHT**

Thursday 11th June, 7pm
@ ABHS AUDITORIUM
More details in May
www.abhs.nsw.edu.au

in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service

John Morrison's

SWING CITY

Saturday 8th August 2009



ABHS Stage Band and
Hornsby North Primary School Band
Tickets go on sale end June 2009

CHANGE OF EMAIL

Long standing members of the ABHS Old Boys Club may have noted a change of email address through which this Newsletter is sent. In November last year the Department of Education & Training, hosts to this account, made changes to my email. Hopefully you were advised at that time and made that change to your contacts. Making that change will ensure you continue to receive your free ABHS Old Boys Newsletter and keep up to date with planning for the School's 50th Birthday.

In addition, many members have supplied both business and personal email addresses. That is a useful insurance that you will maintain contact with this organization. In the event of one of your addresses becoming inoperative for any reason, I will try your alternative email.

Chris Kent
christopher.kent7@det.nsw.edu.au

HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH THE ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB?

(If you receive Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletters by e-mail you are already registered as a Member)

This Club was commenced in 2006 with the purpose of:

- Assisting former students of The School maintain links with their peer group and their former School and teachers
- Organising and communicating information about former student events
- Assisting in the development of a program for celebrating the School's 50th Birthday, to be celebrated in 2010

To facilitate these goals, an Old Boys Newsletter is published twice a year. This is e-mailed to members free of charge

ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name: (please print) _____ (tick your preferred contact)

Address: _____ Post Code: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone () _____

Calendar Year Graduated: _____ Academic Year/form: _____

What recollections do you have of your school days? Do you have any photos? _____

What benefit did you derive from your time at Asquith Boys? _____

How would you like to celebrate your years at Asquith Boys, in 2010? _____

Mail to: Asquith Boys High School Old Boys Club: PO Box 242 Hornsby 1630 **or**
E-mail: Chris Kent (former student & Head Teacher): christopher.kent7@det.nsw.edu.au

Thanks to current members for passing this Application to prospective members