



# CENTENARY

100 Years of Wollongong High

1916 - 2016 WOLLONGONG HIGH SCHOOL OF THE PERFORMING ARTS





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100 YEARS OF WOLLONGONG HIGH

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## MINISTER'S DEDICATION

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It is with pleasure that I congratulate Wollongong High school on its one hundred years of excellence.

In 1917, Wollongong High School became the twentieth high school to be established in our state, and the only secondary institution on the coast from Sydney to the Victorian border.

The school quickly established itself as an outstanding high school, academically and in the areas of sport, music, drama, dance and community service. A number of Wollongong High students have topped NSW in a wide variety of subjects. Two students won Honours in the school's first Leaving Certificate in 1917 and one of these, Mary Puckey MBE, went on to become the first female to be in charge at a major Australian hospital. In 1929, Jack Somerville secured first place in NSW in mathematics. Jack went on to become a Professor in the early days of New England University and conducted valuable research in radio physics.

Wollongong High was originally established as a Selective High School, before becoming a Comprehensive High School, and in 1993, it evolved into a Performing Arts High School.

Former students have made their mark across the world and have succeeded in a host of endeavours. The Honourable Justice Yates in the Australian Federal Court is a former student, as is the CEO of Anglo American, Mark Cutifani, who is based in London. Gastroenterologist, Dr. Justin McCarthy has been a highly regarded medical specialist in Texas for 20 years and Graham Rabey, who graduated with a degree in Dentistry from Sydney University, became one of the world's best plastic surgeons. Both Justin and Graham were Wollongong High School Captains, as was Professor Marion Lawson, who moved to Canada where she became the Head of the Language Education

Department at the University of British Columbia. Bonnie McDougall was very courageous in 1958, when as a 17 year old girl she enrolled at Beijing University to study Chinese. Bonnie had scored two first class honours, one second class honour and two As in the 1957 Leaving Certificate. After completing her PhD, she went on to lecture in Chinese at Universities around the world, including Harvard, Oslo, Edinburgh Hong Kong and Sydney.

Sport is another field where Wollongong High School has produced some big names, including internationals Keith Barnes AM (rugby league), Brian Taber (cricket), Tassie Barnett and John Bloomfield AM (surfing), Mark Kerry (Olympic swimming Gold Medallist), Cliff Sproule (Davis Cup tennis), David Johnson (Commonwealth Games Athletic Gold Medallist) and Barry Salisbury (football).

Another former student, Lorna Fejo, now in her mid 80s, can be proud of her achievements on behalf of the stolen generation, winning the 2000 Australian Achievers' Award.

Many former Wollongong High students and teachers have served their country in war time. In World War II, 33 former students made the ultimate sacrifice.

There are many others who have been successful in their chosen field and played their role in making a contribution to the broader community.

I offer my warmest congratulations to the students and teachers of Wollongong High School, both past and present, for reaching this significant milestone and I wish them the greatest success for the future.

Adrian Piccoli MP  
Minister for Education



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## CHANGING TIMES, CHANGING SCHOOL

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When Australia became a nation in 1901, there were only four High Schools in NSW. These were Sydney Boys and Sydney Girls both established in October 1883, followed by Maitland Boys and Maitland Girls in 1884. The NSW Government introduced the Public Instruction Act in 1880 and this made attendance at schools compulsory for children of both sexes aged between 6 and 14. At the same time, Secondary education was introduced to prepare for University, but this came with high fees and so the average family did not pursue it. This was certainly the case in the Illawarra region and as a general rule, if you lived south of Wollongong you gravitated to the dairy industry, while those in the northern suburbs, leaned towards a job in the mines.

Wollongong Primary was the first government school in the Illawarra district, opening in November 1851. District schools, which were mainly established in country areas and contained both primary and secondary departments, came into being in 1906. Wollongong became a District school in 1910 and the next year, qualifying exams, to select students best fitted for high school studies, began. The first Intermediate Certificate course, which was of two years duration, began in 1911 and 17 students from Wollongong District School passed the first Intermediate exam held at the end of 1912. From the 17 Wollongong successes, five received probationary scholarships to Teachers College and were probably the first on the South Coast to do this. These

students were Kathleen Murphy, Lilian Brownlow, Anne Robinson, Gordon Kripner and Richard Byrnes. There were 14 Wollongong Students who were successful in the 1913 Intermediate and 17 in 1914.

At first, the Leaving Certificate was a four-year course, but a five-year course was phased in from 1918. The first Leaving exam was held at the end of 1913. No students from Wollongong District School were successful in the first two sittings, but in 1915, Lucy Genevieve McDonald, who passed the Intermediate in 1913, became the first Wollongong student to pass the Leaving Certificate when she obtained As in English and Geography, along with Bs in Maths I and Modern History. Lucy won a Teachers College Scholarship and taught high school English in several country centres. The next year, 1916, Wollongong District School had nine successful Leaving Examination students. The best of these was John Patrick Madden who scored Honours in French and Modern History, plus three As and two Bs. He came 11th in the State for History and 32nd in French. John went on to gain a scholarship in medicine to Sydney University and became a successful doctor. Two other Wollongong students obtained honours, both in French, in 1916. They were Marjorie Monaghan and Florence Tuckey. They finished equal 12th in NSW.

Although there was no separate high school then, the pupils and the community had no doubt they were high school pupils. The local newspapers from 1912 to 1916,

described them as Wollongong High students when reporting on their achievements after leaving school. Several pupils from that era, who were never students when WHS was established on Smiths Hill, went on to successful careers. Edward Parker Davis, who taught Mathematics at WHS from 1925 to 1956, passed his Intermediate Examination at Wollongong District in 1913, going on to Teachers College, as you could do back then after the Intermediate. Florence Tuckey was another to become a high school teacher. The Mercury dated 18 December 1936, describes George "Orry" Kelly as "a man who completed his education at Wollongong High School while it was still attached to the present public school." Born at Kiama on 31 December 1897, Kelly sat for the Qualifying exam at the end of 1911 and was probably a high school student in Wollongong District for a couple of years from 1912. He won three Academy Awards for Best Costume Design in the 1950s and dressed such female super stars as Marilyn Monroe, Shirley MacLaine, Natalie Wood, Bette Davis, Katharine Hepburn and Betty Grable. The Headmaster of the District School from 1904 until mid 1916 was Mr. Wal Brown and he was also regarded as the High School Headmaster before 1917. This was evident when he was elected as a Vice President for the Wollongong High Ex-Students Union, when it was formed in February 1925.

From the time the District School was established in 1910 there had been plenty of discussion about a separate high school location. Both sides of politics were strongly behind this idea and at a meeting of the Illawarra Labor Council in November 1914, it was decided that a letter be sent to the Minister of Education to tell him it was essential that a high school be built in Wollongong. In May 1914, the Mercury reported that land had been purchased at Smiths Hill, but construction did not begin until late March 1916. The work was completed in mid November and at an official ceremony on Wednesday afternoon, 6 December 1916, the Minister for Education, Mr. A. James declared the High School open. At this official opening the acting headmaster of Wollongong District School, Mr. Melville, said there were 204 high



Smith's Hill site before building commenced

school students at the District School, of whom 78 lived in Wollongong, 70 north of Wollongong and 56 in the south. He also mentioned the possibility that hostels could be built in the near future to accommodate out of town students. In January 1921, a Church of England girls' hostel for WHS pupils was established in Corrimal Street.

When the school opened it was the only High School between Sydney and the Victorian border and it was the seventh country High School established in NSW during the previous five years. The first day for students was Monday 29 January 1917, students coming from Helensburgh in the north to Bega in the south. The first Headmaster, Frank McMullen, was in charge of 140 students and 17 staff members. The two-storey brick building consisted of eight classrooms, a science room, a manual training room, a library, plus some offices and staffrooms. The first student through the gates was 14-year-old Phyllis Wilson, who lived quite close to the school in Church Street. She told people at the fifty-year reunion in 1966 that she had been awake most of the previous night, so keen was she to begin at the new school. She did become a teacher at Hereford House Teachers College in Sydney and passed away, as Mrs. Handcock, at Mangerton on 18 July 1988, aged 86.

For the first 39 years of its existence WHS was located at Smiths Hill, North Wollongong. Before it moved a couple of kilometres north to its present location at Lysaght Street, there had been talk of relocation for several years before the decision was confirmed. When this was confirmed there was plenty of opposition to the change, particularly from ex-students. But on Tuesday 29 January 1956, classes began at Lysaght Street. The Official Opening of the new premises was not performed until 10 August that year and it was done

by the then NSW Minister of Education, Mr. R (Bob) Heffron, MLA. Local members of Parliament, Mr. Rex Connor (Federal) and Howard Fowles (State), were also present, along with many other Wollongong dignitaries. The 1956 Gleam reported that "accommodation at the old school had become so poor and inadequate that natural feelings of regret were replaced by feelings of relief and wonderment."

The 1956 Gleam went on to say that "the new school is a fine modern building consisting of fourteen classrooms, two Science laboratories, two Science Demonstration rooms, a Library, a Music Room and a Hall for assemblies and gymnastic work. There is also a Home Science unit of Kitchen and a Needlework Rooms, a Technical Drawing Room and an Administrative Block. The Entrance Hall is dignified and impressive. Acoustic tiles are used throughout and the flooring of the first floor and library is parquet. Colouring is predominantly in pastel shades and the whole effect is most impressive. On the eastern side is a large concrete assembly area. We have had to wait a long time for the new school, as it took seven years to build."

The first group to pass through WHS was the 1917 intake, which sat for the Leaving in 1920. Ernie Applegate, with Maths I Honours, four As and a B, scored the best result of the eight students who passed. In 1921, six were successful in the Leaving and eight in 1922. Ruth Davidson was best in 1921 with Honours in Latin and History, four As and a B, while in 1922, George Wood scored Honours in Maths I and Physics, two As and a B. For the first few years the final year was called fourth year, despite there being five separate years. These were First, Second, Third and Fourth years, with an additional year called Remove, between First and Second years. The Remove class only existed for the first few years and then the final year was formed as fifth year. From 1917, A classes studied Latin while the B classes took Art and Geography. The core subjects were probably English, English History, Mathematics, Science and French. One of the Remove classes did Shorthand.

From its beginning WHS was selective. In the early days this was because it was the only school in the area and students competed against each other in a Qualifying exam to be admitted. The last selective group was in 1978, which finished in 1983. The first comprehensive intake was in 1979. In Term Four 1992, the school was

officially declared a Performing Arts High School, with students travelling from as far away as Engadine in the north and Berry in the south.

Latin was a major part of the curriculum for all schools in 1917 and nothing much changed over the next 30 years. In the 1950s, German was brought in as a subject and Indonesian began a few years later. For a few years in the 1960s, WHS was the only NSW Public School to teach Russian. In 1985, Simon Tchaikovsky, who came to Australia with his family from Poland when he was 12, topped the State in Polish. Simon is now a successful Sydney solicitor.

From the early days, the school has produced some outstanding academic results. Ruth Davidson in 1921 came second in the state in Latin, while in 1929, Jack Somerville became the first WHS student to top the State results when he finished first in Maths I. Other first placegetters in the State have included Ernie Whitelaw (Geology 1931), Stan Wick (French 1932) and Marjory Brown (Biology 1941), Emma Ciufu (Music 1 and Drama 2003), and Catrina Ralph (Dance 2012). Brian Cooper, in 1934 and 1935, is the only student to have been school Dux, twice. Gillian Hynd, now a medical doctor, won a Premier's Award for her outstanding academic and all round school achievements in 1989.

When the school opened in December 1916, Mr. Melville had chosen black and white as the school colours, to distinguish it from the Wollongong Primary colours of blue and gold. However East Maitland Boys High had selected these colours some years before and so when the first group of WHS pupils attended the 1918 Combined High Schools Athletics Carnival in Sydney, they were asked to change. Black was retained and most of the girl students wanted bottle green to be the second colour, as they could see the fashion positives with bottle green blazers with black and white braiding around the edges. The manufacturer could not guarantee the fastness of bottle green and emerald green became the second colour. After the colours were finalised it became clear that they represented the two major industries in the Illawarra district at the time, mining and dairy farming. The first school badge was in the form of a white shield with a diagonal black band on which was written WHS, while the Southern Cross was superimposed. Under the badge was written "Age Quid Agas". The 1919 Leaving Certificate Art class designed a new badge with the Wollongong Harbour lighthouse

in the middle of the shield in black and green, while retaining the words, "Age Quid Agas. "Both badge and motto were to undergo slight changes over the next few years. It was realised that the translation of "Age Quid Agas" was "What on earth are you doing?" Around 1931 it was changed to "Age Quod Agis" meaning, "Whatever you do, do well."

From the school's beginning sport has played a major part in school life. With no nearby high schools in the early days, interschool competitions were non-existent. But visits to Sydney and other distant venues were a sought after treat for the eager Wollongongites. Just two months after classes had begun at Smiths Hill, North Sydney High took on Wollongong High in cricket at Stuart Park on Thursday 21 March 1917. North Sydney 110 beat WHS 81. Cyril Jackson was the best of the locals, top scoring with 31 not out and taking two wickets for 17. Jackson was a 16 year old, who had attended Melbourne's Wesley College, before his father had purchased the Nowra newsagency in the middle of 1916. Sydney Tech came to Wollongong on 13 June 1917 to play a soccer match with WHS at Bodes Oval North Wollongong. Wollongong won this clash 2-1, with the goal scorers being John Horsey and Arthur Sproule. The two schools also played tennis, which the visitors won eight sets to nil. A month later Sydney Girls came down by train to play a hockey match, which finished 1-all, at Stuart Park. The school was saddened on 12 July 1917 when 15 year old, John Horsey, died at his Corrimal home from Pneumonia. He was one of the school's best all-round sportsmen, as well as being an excellent student.

Six boys were sent to Sydney to compete in the Combined High Schools Athletic Carnival on 8 September 1917 at the old Sports Ground. Although they did not win any event, they performed well. The boys were Arrol McInnes (3rd senior 100 yards), Jasper Caiger (4th junior broad jump), Edward Jarrett (3rd junior 100 yards heat), Frank Clark (5th junior 100 yards heat), Jack Wiseman (5th under 13, 100 yards) and William Wiseman (3rd under 12, 100 yards). The school's first Athletics Carnival was held at Stuart Park on 21 August 1918. On 7 December 1918, 15 year old Waldo Lance, whose family had a well known business in Crown Street Wollongong for many years, won the junior 50 yards Combined High Schools swimming championship at the Domain baths, while on 9 October 1920, William Wiseman, from the Wollongong Wiseman Pharmacy

business, won the CHS under 16 high jump title at the Sports Ground.

As well as soccer, WHS made an early impression in rugby league. At the Sports Ground on 7 August 1920, WHS, captained by their halfback Syd Hayes, who went on to become a well-known Wollongong radio-man for 40 years or so from the late 1930s, defeated Sydney Technical High 16-3. WHS 16 (Hector Woods 2, George Manns, Eric East tries; Harold Robinson 2 goals). In September 1926, at the Moore Park Courts, fifth year student, Ellis Bridge, won the CHS 16 years Tennis Championship. Bridge was an excellent all round sportsman and he was also a member of the dominant Thirroul first grade cricket side, which won three successive Illawarra First Grade Premierships from 1925/26.

Cricket, soccer, rugby league, tennis, athletics and swimming for the boys and hockey, netball, tennis, swimming and athletics for the girls, were the sports mostly played at the school for the first decades. But since then a wide variety of sports and pastimes have been offered to the students including Australian rules, rugby union, basketball, touch football, canoeing, water polo, snow skiing, surfing, squash, baseball, softball, indoor hockey, aerobics, ten pin bowling and futsal. WHS won the 1979 NSW schoolboys team Golf championship with Graham Flint, Michael Marsh, Michael Taylor, Mark Hampton and Michael White, the team members. James Gan, now a Fairy Meadow optometrist, won several NSW age group singles, doubles and mixed doubles Badminton titles from under 14s to under 18s, in the late 1970s and early 1980s.

In the late 1950s and early 1960s, Jack Huxley guided the school to several NSW rugby league championships, while Brian Downes was behind some impressive Cross Country results in the 1960s. There have been numerous individual stars over the years. As well as the full internationals, names like Harry Bush (rugby league and swimming), Grace Williams (athletics), Ruth Hardwicke (hockey), Phil Brodie (rugby league and cricket), Beryl Davis (swimming), Egidio "Gid" Pinazza (soccer), Harry Brown (athletics), John Rowley (swimming), Ian Foye (rugby league), Peter Cook (rugby league), Alex Sakun (basketball), Ray Vliestra (soccer) Darren Morris (swimming), Brad Rees (athletics), Alex Bundalo (soccer), Lee Laycock (cross country), Barbara Birney (basketball), Tracey Simon (squash), Lisa Roberts



Opening the Jubilee Fountain

(athletics), Chris Hayne (basketball) and Annette Yeomans (hockey) dominated their sports and were much admired by their fellow pupils. The four houses-Bass, Flinders, Keira and Kembla- were introduced in 1934 for intra school competitions in several sports. In 1928, the boys played rugby union after league was banned because it was a professional sport. At the Sydney Cricket Ground on 31 July 1928, as a curtain raiser to the NSW-All Blacks clash, the Wollongong High First XV was beaten 20-5 by North Sydney. The ban only lasted for two years before rugby league was again allowed.

As Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts since 1993, music, dance and drama play major roles in the school curriculum. But the arts have been on the scene for many years before the change. William Constable, from Jamberoo, who was an original first year student in 1917, left to go and study pianoforte at the Conservatorium High School. John Lindsay Gordon, who obtained Honours in English, an A and four Bs in the 1929 Leaving, won the Sir Hugh Denison Music Scholarship, which gave him three years tuition in pianoforte at the State Conservatorium. While doing his Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University to become a High School Music teacher, he was the Honorary Carillonneur at the University for three years. The Carillon is probably the world's biggest musical instrument and consists of a series of mixed bells, which sound when struck by clappers. Mrs. Nada Brissenden arrived as Music teacher in 1951. She soon had the school choir performing at a high level in local and Sydney Eisteddfods and in 1955 produced "Trial by Jury." The next year a production

of the play, "The Skin of our Teeth," won first prize in the 1956 School Drama Festival in Sydney. Under Mrs. Brissenden's tuition the choir was chosen to sing on ABC radio in 1956. In her last year, 1962, she conducted the combined choir, which finished third in the NSW Choral Championships. Miss Buttenshaw conducted the 1968 Madrigal group, which became the first WHS singing group to win at the Sydney Eisteddfod. The Madrigals came second in 1969.

Heather Pulsford produced many excellent shows, beginning in the 1980s, including *Fiddler on the Roof* (1981), *The Sentimental Bloke* (1983) and *The Wizard of Oz* (1986). In 1983, sixth form student, Angela Stender, toured Europe with the Australian Youth Orchestra. After becoming a Performing Arts school, high quality shows have become the norm, in 1993, Natalie Bassingthwaite starred in *Little Shop of Horrors*. Other shows have included *The Pyjama game*, *Calamity Jane*, *My Fair Lady*, *Hello Dolly*, *Singin' in the Rain*, *Thoroughly Modern Millie*, *Beauty and the Beast*, *Jesus Christ Superstar*, *Grease*, *The King and I*, *Hairspray* and *The Pirates of Penzance*.

Another interesting activity of recent times is the Mock Trial. Established by the NSW Law Society in 1981. WHS soon began taking part and in October 2008 was one of two Australian schools to fly to New York for the Empire City Mock Trial competition. There were 18 teams involved representing teams from throughout the USA, South Korea, Ireland and Australia. Principal, Mrs. Grant, at her own expense, travelled with the WHS team, which finished 10th,

the best of all the International teams. Leigh Scott won a trophy for coming equal first as Best Witness from a total of around 60. WHS received an Honourable Mention for Outstanding Participation. In their first trial, WHS was narrowly defeated by Bishop Guertin School, New Hampshire. In their next outing at the Brooklyn District Court, WHS beat the Litchfield School from Illinois. They then were too good for Tottenville High, Staten Island, but in their last trial went down to Caddo Magnet High School, Louisiana. The team members included Blair McVicar, Jasmin Briggs, Olivia Kwarda-Tuivaga, Jacqueline Roth, and Chris Sirijovski.

School excursions have come a long way over one hundred years. On 9 August 1917, Miss Smith and Miss Musgrave took a group of Year Seven pupils to Mt. Keira. They travelled most of the way by horse and cart. Unfortunately Miss Smith fell over a 10-metre cliff and according to the South Coast Times, suffered a dislocated collarbone and abrasions. She was back teaching, with a sling, in two weeks. The next year, on 26 September 1918, a group of 36 senior students, visited the ER and S works at Port Kembla. They also travelled by horse and cart and while crossing the Tom Thumb Lagoon, one of the carts, with six students, a teacher and a driver on board, became slightly bogged. One of the four horses fell over but was quickly helped to its feet and the cart was then able to drive on. Nowadays, excursions involve luxury coaches, comfortable trains and sometimes aircraft. Overseas visits and exchanges are common, such as the involvement with Hillcrest High School from Hamilton in the North Island of New Zealand. This

began in the early 1980s and a group of WHS students spent six weeks in Hamilton, attending school with their billets, while later in the year, the New Zealanders came to Wollongong where they were billeted for six weeks and attended WHS. As well as this, individual pupils from several countries, including Japan, South Korea and the USA, came to Wollongong where they spent up to a year, attending WHS and enjoying the local customs and culture. WHS students did the same thing overseas.

One of many student groups that survived for around 50 years was the Inter School Christian Fellowship (ISCF). Formed in 1944 with a group of 25 or so, it usually met once a week during lunch times. In 1959, the year evangelist Billy Graham came to Australia, the Wollongong High ISCF had a membership of more than 200, which was a quarter of the student body. In the mid 1940s, other student groups at WHS included a Junior RSPCA, an Historical Society and a Social Service Club. Principal Tom Gardiner established the first Students Representative Council (SRC) in 1970

Prime Ministers and Governors General, along with other prominent Australians have visited our school across the years. The first of these was Sir Earle Page who presented some of the prizes at Speech Day in the Town Hall on 16 December 1926. At the time, Sir Earle, who was the brother of Principal Hedberg's wife, was acting Prime Minister of our country. NSW Governor, Sir Rodin Cutler and his wife came in March 1966, while Prime Minister, Bob Hawke, came in the 1980s.

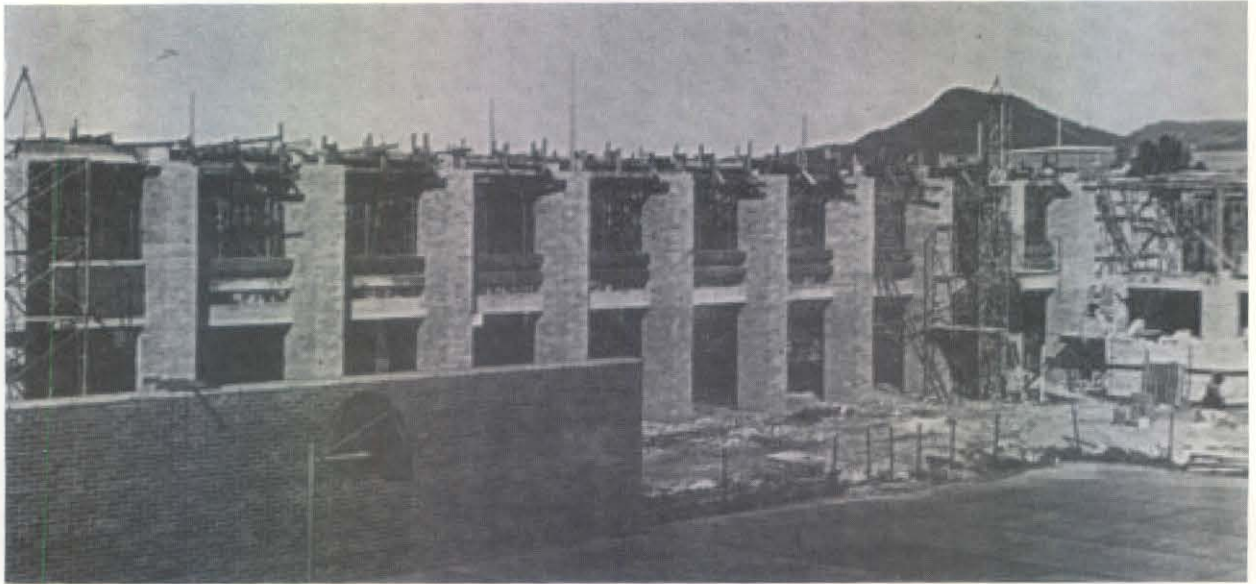




Sir Rodin and Lady Cutler



Cover of the Jubilee Gleam



Building the Lenehan Wing



The New Wing





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## HEADMASTERS AND PRINCIPALS

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### FRANK McMULLEN (1917-1918)

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Born in Sydney in 1871, Frank graduated from Sydney University with an MA (Master of Arts) at the end of 1900. He also had completed courses in advanced agriculture and experimental agricultural chemistry. His graduating ceremony from Sydney University was on 31 May 1901 with the Duke and Duchess of Cornwall, later to become King George V and Queen Mary, in attendance. The Royal couple had come to Australia as part of an eight months tour of the British Empire. On 9 May in Melbourne, the Duke officially opened Australia's first Federal Parliament.

Frank was a top class cricketer in his late teens and twenties, playing first grade with Western Suburbs and Glebe. On 11 January 1911 he represented NSW Teachers in their match with the visiting New Zealand Teachers team. His first teaching appointment was as a pupil teacher at Narrabri in October 1886, when he was 13 years and nine months, working with young primary students. The system used in those times followed the English system and saw academically minded students with a desire to become teachers, joining school staffs, while still studying, and helping the junior pupils in a tutor-type role. They were like apprentices, usually working with one teacher and were exploited, as far as adequate salaries were concerned. After Narrabri, Frank then did a similar job at some Sydney suburban schools,

before teaching at Broken Hill, Sutton Forest, South Parramatta and Linfield. In 1907, he was appointed as Headmaster of Hurlstone Agricultural High at Glenfield and 10 years later, was appointed as Wollongong High's first Headmaster. For the first month or so, Frank lived at Clarke's Hotel, but then he and his wife Blanche, moved to a house in Kembla Street. As was the custom in those days, Frank played Illawarra competition cricket with a high school team, comprising mostly of his senior students, plus a couple of other teachers. Frank was Headmaster at Wollongong for two years and then



Frank Mc Mullen

was transferred as Headmaster to East Maitland Boys High School (1919 to 1924), followed by Newcastle High (1925 to 1926), Sydney Technical High (1927 to 1934). In Frank's time as Principal, Sydney Tech was located at Albion Street Paddington and did not move to its present position at Hurstville until 1955. One of the Houses at Sydney Tech today is McMullen House named after Frank. His last position was Headmaster of Sydney Boys High in 1934, where he retired at the end of 1935. An avid golfer, Frank was captain of the Bonnie Doon club for 11 years and President for two years. During World War Two, he was appointed in August 1940, as the chief warden for the city area of Sydney. In the last 20 years of his teaching career, he was President of the Secondary Teachers Association and a member of the Appointments Board. He died suddenly at home on 5 June 1944, aged 72, while living at Haberfield. Frank and his wife, Blanche, had four children, Ken, Colin, Valerie and Blanche. Both sons received Awards in World War Two. Lieutenant Colonel Ken McMullen, received the United States Medal of Freedom with Bronze Palm for meritorious service in New Guinea, Wing Commander Colin McMullen was given the Air Force Cross from the RAF in England.

### JOHN HEDBERG BA (1919-1933)

Born on 23 June 1874, John took over as headmaster from the beginning of the 1919 school year, after moving from Wagga High. Before Wagga High, he had taught Maths and Latin at Sydney Boys High (1908-11), Yass (1912) and West Kempsey (1913-14) before being transferred to Wagga in January 1915. In his first few weeks at Wollongong High, he had to deal with a severe influenza outbreak. This began in Sydney but moved to the South Coast where it resulted in several deaths. Travel restrictions were introduced and at one stage in early February, there was talk by the authorities about establishing a temporary hospital at the high school. This would have meant no education for the students over an indefinite period but it did not happen.

John remained Headmaster for 15 successive years until the end of 1933. He moved to Parramatta High in 1934 as Headmaster and retired there on his 64th birthday, 23 June 1938. When he first came to Wollongong in 1919, there were only 167 pupils and the school was a third class high school, but when he left, it was a major school with more than 600 students.

He married his wife, Ella Page, on 28 December 1912 in Sydney. She was the sister of Sir Earle Page, who became the 11th Prime Minister of Australia for a three week period in 1939, and with 41 years 361 days on his CV is the third longest serving Australian Federal politician.

While in the Illawarra area, John became a Wollongong Council Alderman, was President of the Illawarra District Eisteddfod Society, President of the School of Arts, a Vice President of Illawarra District Cricket, a circuit steward for the Methodist Church, a Masonic club member and a first grade cricket umpire. In 1923, he established a Wollongong High Old Students Union. As a young man, he was an excellent sportsman, especially at cricket, rugby union, snooker and tennis, while he was more than a competent pianist. For more than 30 years, he was involved in the cadet movement and in June 1911, he held the rank of captain in an Australian cadet contingent, which lined the streets of London for the Coronation of King George V. A lover of cigars and in his later years a pipe, John's office was no place for non-smokers. He passed away at Bowral in March 1953, aged 82. John and his wife had four children and each one was a student of Wollongong High. They were Jean (English teacher), Eric (doctor), Kathleen (Librarian at the National Library) and Rodney (dentist). Rodney's son and John's grandson, John G. Hedberg PhD, is currently the Adjunct Professor of Education at Macquarie University.



John Hedberg

## WAL HAMMOND BSc (1934-FEB 1937)

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Wal arrived from Broken Hill High, where he had been the Headmaster and took over at Wollongong High at the beginning of 1934. Born in Maitland on 4 July 1880, Wal was an excellent tennis player as a young man and continued as an umpire and administrator in this sport for many years. He was President of the Wollongong Tennis Association and in January 1936, was elected to the NSW Lawn Tennis Association Council. He was also on the Illawarra District Eisteddfod committee, was a hard worker for St. Michael's Church of England and was keen on debating, acting as adjudicator for many Akubra Cup contests in the mid 1930s. Along with his wife Grace and their two sons, Frank and Harold, Wal lived on Ocean Street. Frank became a teacher, teaching for a time at Coniston, while Harold after working at AIS Port Kembla for a few years, became a lecturer in Engineering Technology at Sydney University in 1938. Like her husband Grace also held a Bachelor of Science from Sydney University and as a young woman, worked as a teacher.

In late July 1936, Wal was admitted to Wollongong Hospital with a serious illness. He took three months leave of absence after leaving hospital and Mr. SK Barker was the acting headmaster from late July until the end of the 1936 school year. Wal resumed work as headmaster at the beginning of 1937 but died suddenly after four weeks or so, on 1 March. He was just 56 years of age. As well as Wollongong and Broken Hill (1930-33), Wal had taught at Grafton (1923 to July 1925) and Bathurst High (July 1925 to December 1929). His first appointment as a Master was in charge of Science at Petersham Tech in 1913. He was a master at Grafton and Deputy Head at Bathurst and Broken Hill. After Wal's death, Mr. SK Barker again relieved as Headmaster, doing this job from early March until late May, when William Hatfield became the new Headmaster. Mr. Barker moved to Bowral High as Headmaster, from the beginning of 1938.

## WILLIAM HATFIELD BA (TRIPLE HONOURS) BSc (MAY 1937- AUGUST 1946)

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Born in Sydney on 26 August 1882, William began working with the Education department as a pupil-teacher at Hurstville in 1898. His wife, Ethel, joined the same school in a similar position in 1899 and the couple moved to Dubbo as teachers, after marrying in 1905. William's father was a prominent businessman in the Hurstville area and was a prime worker in the establishment of St. George Hospital in 1894, as a humble cottage hospital. William gained a Teachers College Scholarship for 1903 and graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1910 at Sydney University, with Honours in all subjects. He completed a BSc in 1919.

He taught at many places throughout NSW in his 48 year 35 day career, teaching all classes at primary and high school levels, except for infants classes. He worked at Dubbo, Arncliffe, Kogarah, Newcastle, Cleveland Street Junior Tech and Fort Street (1912 to 1926), before becoming Deputy



William Hatfield

Headmaster at Newcastle High and then Headmaster at Armidale, Murwillumbah and Lismore (1935) Highs. He took over as Headmaster at Wollongong at the beginning of Term Two, 25 May 1937. He retired on 22 August 1946 after nine years as Wollongong High's Headmaster. (From 22 August until the end of December 1946, Mr. N. Furnass MA, was the acting Headmaster, moving to Leeton High as Headmaster in 1947). On his retirement, the Old Students Union presented William with a set of bookends and two books, one of which was, "Goodbye Mr. Chips." William and Ethel, along with their three sons and daughter, lived at 4 Corrimal Street Wollongong. During his time on the South Coast, William was involved with the Crippled Children's Society, the St. Michael's Church Parish Council, the Masons, Rotary and after World War Two, worked hard for the Food for Britain appeal. A car lover, William and his wife spent six weeks in the December/January school holidays of 1938/39, driving through the Riverina, Victoria and on to Adelaide, returning through Broken Hill. He died suddenly at his home on 16 February 1950, aged 67.



John Collins

### JOHN "JOCK" COLLINS BA B.Ec (1947-1954)

Jock, as his staff knew him, had been a teacher at Wollongong in the 1920s and 1930s. Born on 3 September 1890, he was headmaster at Dubbo High in 1945 and 1946. After beginning as Headmaster of Wollongong High in January 1947, he retired at the end of 1954, which meant he had been headmaster for a total of 17 years. He had worked as a teacher for 44 years. In 1925, he was appointed to Wollongong High as an Assistant Master and at the end of 1926, he was moved to Canterbury High. In 1928, he came back to Wollongong High as Deputy Headmaster and also did this job in 1929. When the school was promoted from a second class high to a first class high in 1930, he remained as Maths Master until the end of 1935, when he went to Broken Hill High as Deputy Headmaster. In 1938 he became Headmaster of Orange High and moved to Dubbo High as Headmaster in 1945. A keen cricketer in his youth, Jock captained a Wollongong High School team to the Illawarra second grade Premiership in the 1929/1930 season. Jock and another member of the teaching staff, Mr. Greentree, joined some senior students to form an excellent team. In the final at Stuart Park on 29 March and 5 April 1930 Jock took four wickets for 13 in Tarrawan's first innings and then a match winning seven wickets for 18 in the second innings. The scores were Wollongong High 69 and 74 defeated Tarrawanna 48 and 29. Jock was also the local secretary in 1954, for the Australian Music Examination Board. He passed away in Wollongong on 19 July 1974, aged 83. Jock is the only member of the staff at Wollongong High School to be a classroom teacher (1925), a Deputy Principal (1928) and a Principal (1947).

### JACK LENEHAN BEc (1955-1969)

Jack was born in Hurstville on 29 September 1905. An excellent student all through his school days, Jack graduated in December 1925 from Sydney Teachers College with the highest classification, a 2A and an A teaching mark. He began his teaching career at Hurstville Junior Tech and at the same time enrolled at Sydney University in the Economics faculty. He graduated in just four years and then taught at Wollongong Technical School in Gladstone Avenue. Next he moved on to Telopea Park High and on to Canberra High. After 14 years in the Canberra region he transferred to Gosford High, followed by Goulburn High and Lismore High. In 1951 he was appointed as the Headmaster of Lithgow High where he remained until the end of 1954. He began at Wollongong in January 1955 and retired in December 1969, after 15 years in the position.

Jack's first year at Wollongong High was the school's final year at Smiths Hill and his second year, was the school's first year in the new location at Lysaght Street, Fairy Meadow. School began on 29 January 1956 and that day, the School on the Hill became the School in the Meadow. The official opening ceremony was performed by the Hon. R. Heffron MLA, who was the Minister for Education. In front of a large crowd, Mr. Heffron declared the school open on 10 August 1956.

After retiring, Jack enjoyed art and painting but his health began to deteriorate in the late 1980s. He passed away at St. Andrew's Nursing Home on 11 May 1994, aged 89. His wife and five children survived him, along with his sister who died in 2001, aged 101.



Jack Lenehan

## THOMAS KING GARDINER BSc (1970-1974)

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Tom was born in Sydney on 9 May 1914 and completed his Bachelor of Science at Sydney University at the end of 1936. He married his wife Dulcie in 1936 and served with the RAAF in World War Two (Service Number 252556). He began teaching again in 1946 at Dubbo High (where he edited the school magazine for two years) and spent three years there before moving to Young High School for the 1949 school year. Then followed Balgowlah High and Corrimal High before he was appointed as the founding Principal for the new Heathcote High School in 1960. Heathcote began in early February 1960 at the Sutherland Intermediate High School and didn't move to their own location until September in that first year. Described as a "work-a-holic" by his staff at Heathcote, Tom remained as Principal for the first 10 years of the school, until the end of 1969. For his first five years or so at Heathcote, he insisted on working as a Maths team teacher with 1A and 1B, so that he quickly got to know at least 60 of the new intake each year. Living at Austinmer, Tom asked for a move closer to his home and so came to WHS as Principal in 1970. He remained in this position until the end of 1974, when he retired.

Ex Student Tom Thompson who did the HSC in 1970 and went on to become a well-known author, released a two part audio disc for the Australian Broadcasting Commission (ABC) in 1986, called "Growing Up in the 60s." In this he describes his time at WHS and says this of Tom Gardiner. "February 1970 saw the era of TK Gardiner begin, bringing with it fun, tolerance and diversity on which we all thrived. Students became part of the decision making process. " Always well dressed, Tom often wore cravats. Soon after retiring, Tom and his wife moved out west to his son's farm at Wallerawang, near Lithgow. He passed away on 15 June 2003 at Westmead Hospital in Sydney, aged 89.

## REX COOK BA (1975- MAY 1984)

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Born in Mudgee in September 1925, Rex attended three high schools while growing up. These schools were Griffith High, Cootamundra High and Yass High, where he was School Captain and Dux. After graduating from Sydney University with a Bachelor of Arts he did a Dip Ed at Sydney Teachers College and his first teaching appointment was Granville High. After his marriage to Jill in 1950, the couple moved north where he taught Maths at Grafton High while completing



Rex Cook

some post-graduate study at Queensland University. In 1960, he became Maths Master at Berkeley High and then Deputy Principal at Smiths Hill in 1965 for a year and then Deputy Principal at Keira Boys' High in 1966. Back at Berkeley High as Principal in 1971, he was appointed as Wollongong High Principal in 1975. In 1970 he was awarded membership of the Australian College of Education for his outstanding contributions to education in NSW.

A representative player at rugby league, cricket, tennis and athletics while a teenager, Rex continued his love of sport throughout his life. In his later years, he enjoyed squash, surfing, tennis and snow skiing. He was elected as President of the Wollongong Lions club on two occasions and held this position at his previous Wollongong Heights Lions Club, while he was also Zone Chairman. He was responsible for the formation of the Leo Club at Wollongong High and also the Youth of the Year Quest on the South Coast. While at Wollongong High, Rex encouraged his students to participate in music, drama and to perform with excellence in all their academic pursuits. He also encouraged pupil involvement in school and community affairs, as well as readiness to help the less fortunate where possible through the Leo club. After finishing at Wollongong High, Rex was transferred to Regional Office as a Secondary Schools Advisor. Over the years Rex and his wife, Jill, have travelled extensively, visiting, America, Canada, Mexico, England, Europe, China, New Zealand, Norfolk Island and Lord Howe Island.

## DOUG QUIGGIN ASTC (MAY 1984-1989)

Doug had a remarkable entry into teaching. Born in 1929, He grew up at Lakemba in Sydney and attended Belmore Tech. After leaving school when he passed the intermediate certificate, Doug won a fitter and turner apprenticeship with the NSW Railways, where he won an annual award as best apprentice. But while successful in this field he wasn't happy and began to study for his teaching diploma as a part-time student of Sydney Teachers College. After gaining the necessary qualifications in Industrial Arts, Doug's first appointment was at Cobar High in 1954. He moved to the Illawarra district the next year, teaching at Wollongong Tech in 1955 and 1956. In 1957 he was on the inaugural staff of the new Berkeley High School in their temporary premises at Smiths Hill and in 1958 he was on the first staff of the new Dapto High School. After 10 happy years at Dapto, Doug moved to Bulli High as Industrial Arts Head Teacher, where he spent another 10 years. In 1977 he became Deputy Principal of Lake Illawarra High and late in his time at this school, took the role of relieving principal. He began as Wollongong High headmaster in May 1984, at the beginning of Term Two and finished at the end of 1989. During his time at Wollongong, Doug worked hard on tree planting through the school grounds. This served as a diversion for Year 12 Break Up days and also provided the opportunity for Leo club members to develop an interest in local trees.

A talented soccer player, Doug played at the state league level with the Woonona club. Doug was secretary of the Convening committee for the Lions International Multiple District National Convention held at Wollongong in May 2001. Around 1,500 Lions came from every Australian state, as well as New Zealand, Indonesia and Kagoshima in Japan, which is the sister city or club to Wollongong Lions club.



Doug Quiggin

## KEVIN RIOLO BA (1990-1997)

As Principal from 1990 to 1997, Kevin and his staff, in 1993, successfully made representations to the Department of School Education to have the school renamed as Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts. Born in Sydney on 7 July 1937, Kevin attended Darlinghurst Marist Brothers. After finishing school, he graduated from Wagga Wagga Teachers College in 1956 and then completed a Bachelor of Arts at New England University. Before his appointment as Principal of Wollongong High, he taught at Engadine, Taren Point, Merrygoen and Berkeley Primary schools. After this he moved into High School teaching, when he began at Keira Boys' High, followed by Smiths Hill Girls' High as English Master and Plumpton High as Deputy. His first job as Principal was at Sarah Redfern High and then came Wollongong High in 1990.

A keen sportsman, Kevin played Rugby League with Balmain, Dunedoo and Thirroul, as well as 10 years of Illawarra first grade cricket with Wollongong and then Western Suburbs clubs. He also represented Illawarra at cricket. In 1965, he joined the Illawarra Rugby League Referees Association and was Secretary from 1971 to 1980. During that time, he refereed five Illawarra first grade Grand Finals, as well as five International matches involving Great Britain, France, New Zealand and England. He was Secretary of the NSW Country Rugby League Referees Association from the end of 1976 to 2012 and is a Life Member of the South Coast PSAA, NSW Country Referees Association, NSW Country Rugby League, Illawarra Rugby League, Illawarra Referees Association and the Australian Referees Association. A foundation member of the NRL Referees Accreditation

scheme in 1992, Kevin was on its steering committee and then the Board of the Australian Rugby League Referees Association from 1997 to 2011. He was awarded an OAM in 2014.



Kevin Riolo

## MARIAN GRANT BA Dip Ed MEd (1998-2009)

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Marian was Deputy Principal at Bulli High from August 1997, before becoming Principal of WHS at the beginning of the 1998 school year until the end of 2009. She has the distinction of being the first female Principal in the school's history. Her appointment resulted in a major change to one of the Honour Boards in the school lobby. Headmaster had to be changed to Principal.

Marian completed her BA and Dip Ed, with majors in English and History, in 1977 from Macquarie University. During her career, she has taught in western NSW and the Riverina. After her 12 successful years at WHS, Marian was appointed as a School Education Director in 2010, based in Queanbeyan. She retired from this position in 2016. Describing her time at WHSPA as the highlight of her career in education, saying "the opportunity to lead this fabulous school was an absolute gift and honour."



Marian Grant



Diane Trist

## DIANE TRIST B.Ed Dip Ed (2010-2015)

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Growing up in Tamworth, Diane completed her HSC at Oxley High, where she was awarded the Sir Roden Cutler medal for best all-round student, in recognition of her academic and sporting prowess. She then enrolled at the then Wollongong Teachers College to become a physical education and health teacher. Her first appointment was to Lake Illawarra High in 1977. In addition to teaching, she also worked in consultancy roles and in 1996, was appointed to Kanahooka High as a Head Teacher, followed by the position of a Board of Studies Liaison Officer from 2000 to 2002. WHSPA was Diane's next stop and she became Deputy Principal in 2003. She became Principal in 2010, finally retiring from the position in 2015. During her time in the top job at WHSPA, the new performing arts complex was completed, a new school uniform was introduced and student numbers increased from 900 to 1050, with a sizeable waiting list.

## PAUL RYAN B Mus Ed DSCM (2016-)

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Paul was born and raised in Newcastle and has taught in various areas throughout Australia, including the Hunter, Central Coast, Sydney and the Northern Territory. He gained his Bachelor of Music Education in Newcastle, graduating in 1984. He also completed a Diploma in Performance (Piano) and Composition. Paul was first appointed to the Illawarra region in 2003 as Head Teacher Creative and Performing Arts at Albion Park High School. He later held the positions of Head Teacher Administration and Deputy Principal at the same school. He was appointed as Principal at Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts and commenced in the position at the beginning of the 2016 school year.



Paul Ryan





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## TEACHERS

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Over the school's one hundred year history, many teachers have made their mark. Some will be remembered and others may have been forgotten. However I have no doubt they all did their best. The following group is but a small sprinkling of the "Chalkies."

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### CAMILLE DEUQUET

Born at Monastier in Belgium around 1882, Camille spent 14 years at the school from 1928 to 1941. He held a Bachelor of Commerce and came to Wollongong from Fort Street Boys' High. When he retired, he had completed 26 years as a teacher in NSW schools and was Language Master at Wollongong for 11 years.

Respected throughout the world of Entomology, Camille and his wife spent numerous hours searching for insects in the Illawarra coastal ranges. In August 1938, at the annual meeting of the NSW Linnean Society, he recorded a rare and brilliantly coloured insect species. It was a new species of the *Stigmodera* and he had only captured four in 10 years. He gave one each to the British, Brussels and MacLeay museums and kept one for himself. While in the ranges near Wongawilli on Saturday, 18 November 1929, he and his wife found two valuable old shillings dated 1836 and 1874, plus a half sovereign dated 1846.

During his time at Wollongong, he often was invited to speak on Insects, such as his address on "Beetles of Australia," to the Young Peoples' Institute at Mt. Drummond Church on 5 September 1928. Over a nine-year period, he bred a new breed of fowl called "The Black or White Bearded Aussie". It was the first Australian utility fowl, being an excellent layer and a good table chicken. At the Sydney Fowl Show on 5 June 1931, he won two first prizes in the All Other Varieties class. At nearly 34 years of age on 29 January 1917, he enlisted in the Australian Infantry Forces (Service Number 7235). He sailed out of Australia on 10 February 1917 and after some training in England, arrived on the Western Front with the First Battalion, in late August 1917. Standing just 170 cms and weighing 55 kgs, he was a small man and with his parents both dying in Belgium before he left, he had to be given permission to join the AIF by the Belgian Consul. Near Etaples on 10 November 1917, he was wounded in action and spent two months in an English hospital, recovering from the wound to his thigh. Back in Australia, he was discharged on 20 August 1918. Married after the war to Leonie, the couple and their family lived at 43 Church Street, Wollongong.

## DAVID "DIRKY" THOMPSON

David held an ACTSM and taught Science at Wollongong for 22 years from 1920 to 1941. He was an Associate of the Charters Towers School of Mining and was transferred to Gosford High for the 1942 school year. He never made this move, as he became seriously ill in mid January and passed away on 18 March 1942 because of a heart condition, aged 56. He and his wife Alice and their five children lived on a 12-acre property in Mt. Ousley Road, named "Blyth Burn".

## OSSIE GREENTREE

Ossie was an English and History teacher who held a Bachelor of Arts degree from Sydney University. He taught at Wollongong for 11 years from 1928 to 1938. He came to the school with John or Jock Collins, who went on to become Headmaster from 1947 to 1954. In their early teaching days, both Ossie and Jock were active cricketers. They put a lot of time into coaching the school teams. The two teachers joined 10 of their senior students and entered a team in the 1929/30 second-grade competition with Illawarra District Cricket Association. They had a very successful and enjoyable season and on 29 March and 5 April 1930, they defeated Tarrawanna in the final at Stuart Park to win the Premiership. The scores were High 69 and 74 beat Tarrawanna 48 and 29. Mr. Collins was the star of the victory. In Tarrawanna's first innings, he took four wickets for 13 and in the second, finished with seven for 18, giving him match figures of 11 wickets for 31. The winning team was Jock Collins (capt), Fred Young, Phil Brodie, Eric Hedberg, Geoff Langdon, Ossie Greentree (vice capt), Les Burnett, William Kelly, Albert Rogers, Calvert Manusu, Ron Laughlin, William Lowe(12th man).

At Bulli on 12 October 1929, Ossie scored 102 not out in High's easy win. The Principal, John Hedberg, accompanied the team as umpire in all of their matches. Premiership caps were given out in the school Assembly Hall on the night of 4 June 1930, by the President of the Illawarra Association, Dr. Lee.

Phil Brodie from that team, went on to become one of the best fast bowlers on the South Coast throughout the 1930s, as well as a top class representative rugby league outside back with Keira on Sundays and a State League soccer player with Corrimal on Saturdays.

After that 1929/30 season, Ossie Greenberg captained the Keira team and the Waratah club for five seasons in the local first grade competition and won two Premierships. He was an avid golfer with the Wollongong club and won the President's Trophy in 1937. Ossie was also a vice-president of the Wollongong Amateur Swimming club for several years in the 1930s, where his son Ron was one of the best swimmers on the South Coast. He and his family lived at Bourke Street, North Wollongong and moved back to Sydney to teach in 1939. Ossie was very popular with his students, particularly the females and in a collection of memories in the Wollongong libraries, he was remembered years later by a former girl student as "tall and handsome with film star looks."

## JEAN ROBERTSON BA Dip Ed

Jean was born in Wollongong on 13 June 1901 and attended Wollongong Primary. She was a high school student at Wollongong District School in 1915 and 1916 and became one of the original pupils at WHS when it began at Smiths Hill on 29 January 1917. In 1918 she completed the Leaving in fourth year, as was the situation in those days, obtaining honours in English, two As and three Bs. This won her an Exhibition to study for an Arts degree at Sydney University, which she completed at the end of 1921, graduating in May 1922. An Exhibition was a scholarship to University and with it came an exemption of all fees. A Bursary winner was given a yearly allowance, as well as exemption from all fees.

Jean's father, Michael Robertson, was the editor of the South Coast Times newspaper and the family was very involved with the Wollongong Presbyterian Church. After beginning her teaching career in Sydney, Jean was sent to Nowra Intermediate High in 1928, and then back to Sydney in 1931, followed by West Kempsey in 1932. She was very happy when she received a transfer back to her old school, WHS, in 1934. Soon after joining the Language staff at WHS, she began to be involved with several community organisations. When the Wollongong branch of the RSPCA was formed in 1935, Jean was the assistant secretary and then from 1937, she was the Treasurer for many years. She was also a committee person in the Friendship with Russia group. In 1947, at 46 years of age, she married William Rees, but sadly he died two years later on 20 September 1949. Quite upset at her loss, Jean took some time away from teaching and then in 1950 moved back to teach in

Sydney for a couple of years. She returned to WHS in 1953 and on 13 June 1957, while still on the Language staff, she passed away on her 56th birthday, after a short illness. She had taught at WHS for more than 20 years.

### EDWARD PARKER (EP) "TINY" DAVIS

One of Wollongong High's longest serving teachers, Edward joined the staff in January 1925. He came from Sydney after marrying his wife, Lucy, in Glebe a few weeks before. Keen on property ownership for investment purposes, he owned six or so houses in the Wollongong area in the early 1950s. He lived just a few houses from the old school on the hill, in View Street.

While he did not hold a University Degree, he did have a Teaching Certificate and over the years taught Maths and Science. A keen footballer and swimmer in his younger days, he put a lot of time into coaching many school teams in soccer and rugby league. His daughter, Beryl, was Girls' captain in 1945, while his son, Alan, was vice captain in 1949. Alan became the school's first Rhodes scholar in 1956 after graduating in Medicine and Surgery.

Edward's final year of teaching was 1956, although he had some health problems during this year and spent some time in hospital. He passed away on 6 August 1957, aged 59, after 32 years teaching at Wollongong High.

### CYRIL ROBERT (CR) "BUCK" RANDALL

Bob was one of Wollongong High's longest serving teachers. He began on 27 January 1931 and when he retired at the end of 1965, he had been at the school for 34 successive years. Holding a Bachelor of Arts from Sydney University and a Dip Ed, Bob originally came as a Latin teacher. In the mid thirties he moved on to the Maths staff and 1960 until his retirement, was the Maths Master.

A passionate cricketer, Bob, played in a couple of Illawarra first grade Premierships winning teams with the Wollongong Waratahs in the 1930s. At school, he coached the first XI for many years and in most of this time they were the dominant school team on the South Coast, with players like Brian Taber (16 Tests for Australia). Over the years he did many extra jobs around the school, such as the Teacher in charge of Text Books

in the 1950s and the officer in charge of the Wollongong Air Training Corps during World War Two. Bob lived in Loftus Street Wollongong for most of his time in the district. He passed away on 6 October 1991, aged 90.

### JACK HUXLEY

Jack came from Sutherland Boys' High School at the beginning of the 1955 school year to replace Ernie Butler. Born in Wollongong on 17 April 1923, he travelled over many parts of NSW as a boy because of his father's job with the post office. He passed the Leaving Certificate in 1940 at Canterbury Boys High, with three As and four Bs. On 11 February 1942, while still just 18 years of age, Jack enlisted in the Australian Army (Service Number NX116145). At first he was with the stretcher-bearer unit but soon after, was moved to the Vickers Machine Gun section with the 2/25 Battalion, arriving in New Guinea in late 1942. During his time in New Guinea and later Borneo, he was involved in many fierce battles at close quarters with the Japanese Army and was mentioned twice in dispatches for bravery. He rose to the rank of corporal and was officially discharged on 20 August 1948. He graduated from Sydney University in 1951 with Honours in Economics.

Other than his wife and two children, football was Jack's main passion and during his 12 years at Wollongong High, his brilliant coaching made the school one of the best Rugby League schools in Australia. In those days, there were no sporting schools of excellence or football scholarships and although Jack had some talented players, it was his coaching that brought the many successes. During his time, Wollongong High won four NSW titles. These were two Openweight (1959 and 1960), plus two seven stone seven pounds (48 kgs).

He taught at Wollongong High in the Commerce department and was the subject master from 1961 to 1966. In 1967, he was Deputy Principal at Bulli High and then moved to Wollongong Teachers College in 1968 and on to the University of Wollongong when the Teachers College and the University amalgamated. He taught Social Science at the University and retired in 1978, aged 55. In his second year at Teachers College, 1969, Jack began coaching the first XV Rugby Union team. In 1972, he guided them to their initial Illawarra first grade title. His star player, five eighth Peter Rowles, had to miss the 21-0 win over Vikings in the Grand Final, as he was making his Test debut with the Wallabies



Marching to the Jubilee Fountain

on the 1972 Australian tour of Fiji and New Zealand. Another player from that Premiership winning side, John Lambie, played for Australia in 1974. Jack is a Life Member of the University Rugby club.

After retiring, Jack and his wife Betty, whom he married in 1947, did some overseas travelling. A few years later, he began to have some health problems and passed away on 18 March 2006, a month short of his 83rd birthday. Throughout his teaching and coaching career, Jack was highly respected and loved by his students and players. During his final years he had a constant stream of visitors from his coaching and teaching years.

## BRIAN "BASHER" DOWNES

William Brian Downes was born in Melbourne on 10 January 1920. As a boy he took a keen interest in athletics and was a Victorian Cross-Country champion at 17 years of age. He also did well in sprint races. He took up amateur wrestling in his teens and won a Victorian Amateur weight lifting title in 1939. At 19 years of age, he enlisted for war service at St. Kilda (Service Number VX113523). He spent some time in Darwin and was serving there when the Japanese bombed the city in February 1942.

After the end of World War Two, Brian took up a Serviceman's Scholarship to Sydney Teachers College and after graduating at the end of 1948 with

a Diploma of Physical Education, began his teaching career at Wollongong High in January 1949. He was sportsmaster at the school for 29 successive years until he had some health problems in mid 1978, which caused him to take some sick leave. A big and strong man, the NSW teaching fraternity and the South Coast sporting community were stunned when he passed away on 14 November 1978, aged just 58. He left a legacy at Wollongong, which will probably never be beaten. In the 10 years of the 1960s, the Downes coached Wollongong High cross-country teams won eight State titles. As well as this, he was responsible for numerous successes for the school in swimming plus running and field events. He gave countless hours of his time supervising innovative and high quality training sessions and the first class results followed.

Popular with his fellow teachers and ex-students, the Cabbage Tree Hotel at Fairy Meadow, was his after-hours office, where he would analyse the performances of his charges. Wollongong High was the only school at which he taught and towards the end of his career, he did some work as a careers advisor. Brian and his wife, Winifred, who was known as Joy, lived at Fairy Meadow and the couple had two sons and a daughter.

## MABEL ORR

Born on 5 December 1890, Mabel Norwood Orr was one of Wollongong High's first teachers when the school opened in 1917. She had been teaching at West

Maitland Girls High School since graduating from Sydney University with a Bachelor of Arts (majors in History and French, with Maths and Philosophy to second year level) in 1913. A very sports minded young woman, she was 26 when she arrived in the Illawarra district and was placed on the Maths staff. She was made the school's first sports mistress and organised the girls' tennis and hockey matches, often joining her students in matches. At weekends she played competition tennis with the Wollongong Church of England and was an associate member of Wollongong Golf Club. In the Christmas holidays of 1922 and 1923, she represented the South Coast in Sydney at Country Week tennis and on 4 May 1929, Mabel won the nine-hole stroke competition at the Golf Club. She gained her St. Johns Ambulance Medallion in November 1918, after a three-month course of night classes at the Wollongong Ambulance station. When reporting on the Diggers Ball at the Wollongong Town Hall on 1 August 1923, the Mercury newspaper wrote that she looked elegant in her powder blue cashmere-de-soie.

A month or so after the 1930 school year had commenced, she was transferred to Sydney Girls High School after more than 13 years at Wollongong High. For the next 20 years or so, she boarded with her parents while teaching in Sydney, returning to her Wollongong home at weekends. She retired on 11 September 1951. Mabel never married and around 1960 moved back to Sydney to live at Lane Cove. She died on 2 November 1983, aged 92.

## NOEL NEAL

Noel came to the school from Lismore High at the beginning of 1948. He held a Bachelor of Arts from Sydney University and taught both English and History. Born in 1909, Noel worked at Wollongong High for 21 years until he retired at the end of 1968. After taking sick leave in term I of 1967, he took over from Mrs. Dart as the Librarian when he returned at the beginning of Term II, moving back to the English/History staff at the beginning of 1968. A thorough gentleman, Noel was the Boys' Career Advisor for many years and he was quick to gain the trust of both parents and the representatives of businesses in the Illawarra region. A lover of Rugby League, Noel put in many hours coaching many of the school's junior teams over the years. He passed away on 11 May 1970, aged 61.

## SALVATORE "TORY" MACINANTE

Born at Narrandera on 10 April 1915, Tory grew up in the Hurstville area of Sydney. He attended Sydney Teachers College and his first posting was to Moree Intermediate High in 1936. It was here that he met his future wife, Mary "Mollie" O'Brien, who was the assistant Town Clerk of Moree. The couple married at Sutherland in the Autumn school holidays, on 14 May 1938.

They moved to Wollongong in 1942 when he was posted to the Junior Technical School in Gladstone Avenue. In 1944, he began doing a couple of days a



Inside the Cirque De Soleil Balloon

week at Wollongong High and three days a week at the Junior Tech. In 1945 he began as fulltime Manual Arts teacher at Wollongong High.

"Tich", as he was known by generations of High students, and his wife, were keen photographers. While at Moree they had won awards at the Moree Show in 1937 and 1938 for photography. He continued this at High and there are numerous Gleam magazines where he is given credit for the photographs. In the school's 50 year anniversary book, written in 1967 by Gray and Urwin, he is credited for his photos, while on the first page of the 1974 Gleam, it reads, "We would like to express a special thank you to Mr. Macinante for the time and effort he spent to return to school to do the photography for this magazine."

Tory retired in 1974 and this gave him more than 31 successive years teaching at Wollongong High. Throughout his long period at the school, he and his wife, plus their three daughters and a son, lived at 5 Greenacre Road. In 1948, the Macinantes won a beautiful footpath competition ran by the local council. Tory passed away in Sydney on 28 September 2003, aged 88.

### JENNIFER RAMSAY BSc, Dip Ed

Mrs. Ramsay came to the school in 1967 from Bulli High. An excellent Maths teacher, she was very popular with her students. She retired at the end of 1992 after 26 successive years at Wollongong High. Over the years, Ms. Ramsay worked under five different Principals, while she was also involved in many student activities, such as girls' basketball in 1967 and girls' supervisor in 1969.

### BRUCE SHAW BA

Born at Petersham in 1905, Bruce attended Fort Street High School. In the 1925 Leaving Certificate, he obtained honours in Maths II, an A in Maths I, plus five Bs, then completed a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University, and became a Maths teacher. An excellent cricketer, he represented a Combined Churches team in Brisbane while at University. His first appointment was to Summer Hill Intermediate High and then he transferred to Hay War Memorial High in 1934. He returned to Sydney in the May vacation of 1934 to marry his wife Ruby on 18 May. As was the custom in those days, he captained and coached the school first XI cricket team, which played in a four team Wednesday afternoon

competition. Bruce's team won this competition in the 1935/36 season. On 20 November 1935, he took a hat trick against the Centrals team, while probably his best bowling figures came on 3 March 1937, when he took 6 for 33 against the Suburban side. He also opened the batting and scored a 63 in November 1938. He came to WHS in 1939 from Hay and during his 18 years at WHS he was Sportsmaster for several years, as well as teaching Maths. He had a fine tenor voice and was a member of the Methodist Church choir. He and his wife Ruby, along with their three daughters, lived at South Street Wollongong and for the first 10 years or so at WHS, he exercised by riding a pushbike to school to and from his home each day. Both Bruce and Ruby were members of the Methodist tennis club for more than 20 years and he also enjoyed beach fishing while at Wollongong. Two of his daughters, Judith (1952) and Rosalind (1955), were Wollongong High School Captains, while a third daughter Marion, became school captain of Temora High when Bruce moved there as Maths/Science master in 1957. Marion never attended WHS, as she had severe asthma and so was at a boarding school near Bathurst until moving to Temora. In 1962, Bruce became Deputy Principal of Kingsgrove North High and retired at the end of 1966. After retiring, he and Ruby lived in the Sydney Suburb of Kingsgrove for more than 20 years, where he played plenty of golf and bowls, while enjoying reading and gardening. Ruby passed away at 89 in 1999, while Bruce died in a nursing home at Milton on 20 October 2002, aged 97.

### JESSIE GILES BSc Dip Ed

Jessie was born in Orange in 1907 and attended school there. She lived at Burwood and taught at Burwood Intermediate High before she was appointed to Wollongong in 1944. Initially, Jessie taught both Science and Maths, but from around 1950, she taught just Science, specialising in Physics. Never married, Jessie put a lot of time into her school and community. An example of this was when she gave a lecture on Heredity to the Illawarra Naturalists Society at their August 1946 meeting. Jessie was Treasurer of the Naturalists' Society for three years from November 1945. She retired at the end of 1965 after 22 consecutive years at Wollongong. Soon after retiring, she returned to Orange where she passed away on 2 August 1979, aged 72.



The New Senior Uniform 1968

## HAROLD ROY (HR) STEWART BSc

Known as Roy, he came to Wollongong in 1935 as a Maths and Science teacher. After nine years, at the end of 1943, he left the area, but returned in 1952 as Science Master, a position he held for 11 years, until retiring at the end of 1962. Roy taught at Wollongong for 20 years and passed away in Wollongong on 23 July 1988, aged 86.

## JANET CUNNINGHAM

Janet Cunningham has devoted thirty-nine years to teaching at Wollongong High School. She has been a passionate Drama teacher since the subject was first introduced into the curriculum in NSW in 1992. Janet provided her students with a vehicle for performance by writing and directing pantomimes. The annual school "Panto" became famous in the Illawarra and 5000 primary students each year enjoyed the pilgrimage to the old school hall to be taken on a journey that involved fabulous singing, dancing and acting and concluded with a visit from Santa and a Christmas donation to the Salvation Army. Thousands of students benefited from participating in the pantos – as actors, dancers and as audiences, including Natalie Bassingthwaite, Shannon Brown, Nikki Shiels, Daniel Potter, Robbie Curtis and many more. The pantos helped to establish Wollongong High School as a centre for performance work and helped to cement the credentials for the school as a performing arts high school in 1993. Janet Cunningham also established a reputation as an excellent director of

musical theatre and won acknowledgement from the ActewAGL CAT Awards – the Canberra Area Theatre awards that recognised excellence in performing arts and the contribution made by non-professional groups and schools to the artistic life of Australia. Janet's musicals, along with other drama and dance work from Wollongong High School of the Performing Arts was regularly featured at the awards, recognising the achievement and talent of students and dedicated performing arts teachers.

## ALEX "AP" LUNDIE MA

Alex was a member of the first staff of the school in 1917, after moving to the Illawarra area from Homebush High. He and his wife lived at the Oxford Hotel for the first couple of months until he purchased a property on Cliff Road. A Latin teacher, one of his early students, Ruth Davidson scored first class honours in Latin in the 1921 Leaving and came second in the State. She was one of just six Wollongong High students who passed the Leaving in 1921. Alex quickly became involved in the local community and was the Honorary Secretary of the Wollongong Bowling Club from 1918 to 1922. He was also on the committee of the Wollongong Poultry club. He owned a couple of horses which he allowed to graze in the Stuart Park area until June 1922, when the Wollongong Council stopped this practice, Alex led the campaign which saw the Council bend a little and allow light horses to continue grazing. After six years, he was transferred to Fort Street High, although he kept his house and often came back at weekends to play bowls.

In 1934 he was transferred back to Wollongong High from Bowral High and that year, his son, also Alexander, did the Leaving, obtaining four Bs but failing English. The next year, AP was Classics Master, a position he held until retiring at the end of Term Two in 1945. He taught for almost 18 years at Wollongong High. He returned to the school on 2 May 1946 and planted an oak tree to commemorate his teaching career at Wollongong High. Sadly he passed away a few months later, aged in his mid fifties.

During 1942 and 1943, Alex taught Greek to English boy, John Fethney. He was the only student doing the course and so most of the teaching had to be done, before or after school and during the lunch break. Alex gave up plenty of his own time to do this for no extra pay but he was rewarded when Fethney scored an A in Greek in the 1943 Leaving Certificate. He is probably the only student who has ever been taught Greek at Wollongong High. He also obtained second-class Honours in English, two other As and two Bs. In 1943, 51 students from High sat for the Leaving, with 46 passing. From Bradford in Yorkshire, Fethney was one of several English students who were evacuated to Australia around 1940 because of World War Two. They were sent by the Children's Overseas Reception Board (CORB) and most kept in touch with each other and their Australian friends, for 50 years or more. After returning home to England in 1944, Fethney became an Anglican Priest and the secretary for his region, of the Anglican Mission Society.

### **ERNIE ALFRED BUTLER BA BEC A.I.C.A. DIP EC.**

Born on 26 August 1892, he came to Wollongong High from Tamworth High in 1936 and taught Commerce. An excellent sportsman in his younger days, Ernie played Sydney first grade cricket and rugby league from about 1919. He gave a lot of his time to Wollongong High sporting teams over the years. His first school was West Wallsend (1916), followed by Crown Street (1917-20), Armidale (1921-22), Drummoyne (1923-27), Glen Innes (1928-34) and then Tamworth (1935). Married to Carrie, the couple had eight children, five girls and three boys. He died suddenly at home in Hinton Street Wollongong on 15 April 1954 aged 62. He taught for almost 19 years at Wollongong High.

### **JOHN FRANCIS WOODS BA**

Born in Sydney on 5 February 1904, James came to WHS in 1936 as an English teacher and was sportsmaster in 1939. He taught at the school for four years from 1936 and then enlisted at the end of 1939 in the 2nd AIF (Service Number NX126755). He left Wollongong on 30 December 1939 and fought in the Pacific, becoming a major in 1943. In May 1945 he was on the island of Tarakan just off Borneo, as the Allies were overcoming the Japanese. After returning to the WHS English staff at the beginning of 1946, James taught at the school until the end of 1954 when he moved to Leeton High as English master. He was Commander of the Wollongong High School Cadet Unit from 1947 until he left for Leeton at the end of 1954. While in Wollongong, he was a long-term member of the Wollongong Golf Club and was one of the best players in that club. In 1940, he won the Club Championship and, over the years, also won club foursome and mixed foursome titles. He was also a member of four Pennant winning teams and was club captain from 1951 to 1953. His wife, Anne or Nan, was also an official with the Ladies or Associates in the Wollongong club. John died in Nowra on 29 October 1977, aged 73, while Nan passed away on 8 May 1996, aged 90.

### **PAUL QUINN BA (HONS), DIP ED**

Paul was born in Lancashire, England in 1957 and came to Australia with his family in 1967. He grew up in Barrack Heights and did his tertiary study at the University of Wollongong. He joined the staff of WHS in 1985 from Hoxton Park High and in 2016, he began his 32nd year continuous English teaching at the school. After just one year at WHS, he became involved in performing arts, appearing as the lion in the school's 1986 production of the Wizard of Oz. After that, he worked on many different jobs such as co-director of the Little Shop of Horrors, actor in musicals such as "My Fair Lady" and "Kiss Me Kate" and set painter. During this time, he also wrote a play, "The Girl Who Lived", which was performed at school and later toured to the IPAC, Canberra and Sydney. His final acting job was in Jesus Christ Superstar, which was his 25th year of performance at WHSPA. He thoroughly enjoyed playing a wide variety of characters but has said he had the most fun as Santa Claus. A year advisor to the graduating classes of 1993, 1999 and 2003, nowadays, Paul is Head Teacher of the English department.

## WILLIAM WHITELAW FREAME BA DIP ED

Bill Freame came to WHS at the beginning of 1962 as Language Master. He was born at Parramatta on 24 July 1920 and came from Griffith High to Wollongong. During World War Two, he served in the Australian Navy (Service Number S/6587). He retired at the end of 1980 after 19 years at WHS. As a young man, Bill played grade cricket and rugby union with the local Parramatta clubs in the late 1930s before joining the navy. He married a local girl, Thelma Meredith from Westmead. After the War he was appointed to Griffith High School and in 1949, he became a rugby league referee in the Group 17 competition. While refereeing a match at Griffith on Sunday 17 June 1951, between the RAAF from Wagga and the local Griffith team, he was

attacked from behind by a Griffith player whom he just sent off. After giving the player his marching orders, he turned to award the RAAF a penalty, when the banished player ran up from behind him and punched him in the back of the head. Bill had to be assisted from the field and replaced as the referee. The offending player was banned for life from rugby league and was convicted on a charge of assault by the courts.

At WHS, he was active as coach of the cricket and soccer teams, while back in 1969 he was Prefects' Master. He was also a well-respected Illawarra rugby union referee in the local competition for close to 20 years. He also ran coaching courses for referees.



Fifth Form Ball 1959



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## ALL OF THE FOLLOWING ARE MEMBERS OF THE TWENTY-YEAR CLUB

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### **RICHARD RUSE**

A coach, mentor and teacher, Rick made a genuine contribution to the life of the school for decades. Arriving in 1979 as a replacement for the legendary "Basher" Downes, Rick retired in 2012. A committed Federationist he valued public education and believed in the power of schools to transform the lives of students. A Life Member of the ISSSA he was committed to students, coaching the Girls' Open Futsal State Champions in 1998. He promoted equity of opportunity for all staff and students.

### **GEORGE COLE**

Mathematics master at WHS, George was famous for his innovative approach to his subject. He led the way in girls' education in Mathematics, establishing all-girls classes. He appeared on ABC television voicing his opinions about Mathematics. He was also a notable cricketer and strong advocate for the liberal arts.

### **ANGELA PELLEGRINO**

A dedicated professional with a genuine concern for her students. She was an expert in her subject and achieved excellent results.

### **PAM COONERTY**

Mrs Coonerty was a committed and concerned teacher who believed in the power of public education. Her drive and concern for her subject and her students was legendary.

### **AMANDA POIDEVIN**

Passionate about English and Ancient History Poido was greatly admired and respected by her peers and her students. A Year Advisor she genuinely connected with teenagers. She was a great follower of St George and was always willing to discuss their success.

### **BRUCE FEW**

An enthusiastic Science teacher and ex-student of the school Mr Few quietly dealt with the many challenges of a High School.

### **IAN MORRISON**

Science teacher and keen diver, Mr Morrison made a difference in the lives of many.

### **PAUL PINAZZA**

Soccer enthusiast and Industrial Arts teacher, Mr Pinazza had a long and varied history in the school.

### **LINDA FULLER**

Linda Fuller began life as a PE teacher but went on to be the first Head Teacher Performing Arts. She was instrumental in the transformation of this school into WHSPA from 1993. An enthusiastic dancer she led performers through Rock Eisteddfod and Regional Dance festivals. She was energetic and dynamic person who left a legacy of excellence in the Performing Arts.

### **ANDREW MORGAN**

A Geography teacher, Morgo always knew where he was going. Captain Morgo led students on many an expedition/field trips which opened them up to the wonderful variety of the world. As relieving Head Teacher HSIE Mr Morgan maintained a sense of balance and direction. Rugby Union enthusiast, apiarist and environmentalist Mr Morgan changed school culture.

### **GRAEME BRADBURN**

Economist extraordinaire Mr Bradburn understood the Stock Market and understood children. A dedicated teacher he encouraged students to achieve at the highest level. With a wry sense of humour he was a constant commentator on life and education.

### **ANGELINA RODWELL**

Arriving at WHSPA in 1995 as Ms. Belsito, Angelina brought a new energy to the LOTE Faculty. With French and Italian she inspired her students to learn another language. For many years she was an active co-ordinator of the Certificate of Achievement.

### **GERRI JENKINS**

Mentor, teacher, committed Unionist, Gerri Jenkins was proud to have danced with Gough Whitlam. She was fully immersed in education and believed that teachers could change the world. Girls' education was a core value for her. She brought the school into a profound relationship with South Korea and developed a vital and valuable sister school exchange program. Her expertise in History and Society and Culture were legendary. She gave everyone with whom she came into contact, students and teachers, the opportunity to excel. She has been deeply missed since her retirement.

### **CATHY FILAN**

Cathy was a smiling face who connected with students in powerful and profound ways. A Geography teacher and Year Advisor she could calm children with a simple phrase "Settle petal."

### **VINCE COLUCCIO**

Mathematics teacher, football fanatic and organiser of table tennis competitions Vince was a quiet achiever. With a keen sense of humour he always made a difference in the classroom. His explanations were detailed and clear.

### **WINSTON WARNER**

A man with a clear sense of the yarn, who made anecdotes an essential part of every lesson, Winston Warner was a valued member of the Mathematics Faculty for many years. He was a bushie with a bushie's sensibility.

### **NADIA HAVERKAMP**

Nadia Haverkamp began at WHS in 1978. She was a valued and dedicated professional with a genuine love of literature. She saw the school leave behind selectivity, become comprehensive and then become performing arts. SRC co-ordinator for many years she helped develop student capacity for leadership. A person with a big heart Mrs Haverkamp acted as a Year Advisor and made a real connection with generations of students.

### **ROB KINLOCH**

Came to WHS in 1986 as an English/History teacher. A strong believer in Teachers' Federation he acted as Fed Rep for many years. Heavily involved in performing arts activities Kinny was the king of the backstage. He became Head Teacher History and then Head Teacher HSIE and brought his energy and enthusiasm to a

new world. A very talented and committed teacher he believed he was fortunate to work with so many talented colleagues. He retired in 2013.

### **RUTH ELLEVSEN**

Ruth Stutchbury started at WHSPA in 1994 as an English teacher. Energetic and passionate she soon became an integral part of the school. She changed names and roles becoming actively involved in the performing arts. From pantomimes through to a string of musicals she added verve to music and performance. As Head teacher Music she brought new ideas, perspectives and vision to the Faculty.

### **GEORGINA LEKKAS**

Arriving at WHSPA in 1995 as an English/History teacher. From the very beginning she was a Year Advisor to the Class of 2001 and connected with her students on a personal and educational level. She chose a new direction and joined the HSIE faculty becoming an expert in Society and Culture.



Georgina Lekkas and Emily Stratten  
Society and Culture PIP Awards 2012

In 2011 and 2012 two of her students were awarded High Distinctions for their Personal Interest Projects. A committed believer in public education led Georgie to act as Federation Representative and Women's Contact Officer.

### **BARRY REID**

Arriving in 1985 Barry Reid was a force in the school until 2015. As organiser of the Run -Tal -Mart days brought an element of fun to fundraising. He was State Hockey Convenor for many years. He was always innovative, introducing sports such as paddle boarding and surfing. Infectious and good humoured, Baz brought out the best in students.

### **TED CHEAL**

A stalwart of the Language Faculty, Mr Cheal was noted as an organiser and planner. Always calm and collected, Ted added a sense of purpose to everything he did.

### **MAGGIE CUMMINGS**

Maggie was a calm heart to the often chaotic world of Visual Arts. An artist herself she communicated her passion to her students, driving them to uncover and develop their talents.

### **STEVE COLEMAN**

Touch footballer, Boys' Mentor and computer buff, Steve was a valued teacher and Yobbo Yobbo organiser.

### **RITA JANSONS**

Rita was a committed and determined teacher who strove to drive her students towards achieving at their personal best. Concerned for her students she was dedicated to teaching the whole person.

### **MAX SMITH**

Max was a teacher of enthusiasm and energy. He brought a sense of humour to teaching Science. A surfer, he rode both the waves of education and the world.

### **CHRIS WADE**

Mr Wade came to WHSPA in 1997. He was actively involved as Indigenous Students' Co-ordinator and SRC Co-ordinator for 11 years. Helped improve school environment with his Construction students. Chris also enjoyed building props for school productions.

### **STEWART WILLIAMS**

Arriving in April 1992, Stewie has been a constant figure behind the scenes. His fondest recollections are of being a Judge on Run-Tal-Mart days, which allowed him to witness first-hand the many talented students in the school such as Shannon Brown and Natalie Bassingthwaite. Watching Richard Ruse drop Kevin Riolo's hat trick ball in Kevin's Retirement match still sticks in his memory.

### **LYDIA LUCKE**

A student at High from 1966 to 1969 Lydia has been an active and enthusiastic member of the SASS staff for over twenty years.



Staff Photograph 2016



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## PARENTS AND CITIZENS ASSOCIATION (P AND C)

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The P and C was first formed at a meeting at the school on 29 March 1922. The President was Mr. John Mars, the Secretary was the Reverend C. Oliver, while Dr. Palmer. W. Waters and the Principal, John Hedberg, were Vice Presidents. Two months later on 5 May, the South Coast Times reported that there were 135 members. In those days it was called the Wollongong and District High School Association and the membership fee was two shillings and six pence a year. Mr. Rudolph Krippner joined the committee in 1923 and was again a committee member in 1924. At the Annual Meeting on 15 April 1925, he was elected as a Vice President and then he became President on 19 March 1926. He served as President for almost 18 years until he resigned at the Annual Meeting on 8 March 1944. He became a Vice President until he passed away on 11 November 1944 aged 79. Born in Auckland New Zealand, Krippner moved to Bathurst around 1890 and came to Wollongong in 1898. He was an Alderman on Wollongong Council for more than 30 years from 1903 and lived at 27 Bligh Street. Very well known throughout the Illawarra district, he also worked for six years as supervising secretary for the Leaving and Intermediate Examinations. Other positions he held included the Superintendent of the Rosemont Street Union Church Sunday School and Trustee of the Methodist Church.

Mrs. HJ Brown took over as President from Mr. Krippner and held this position until 1950. Mr. Charles Langlands was elected as President in 1950 and held this position until the end of 1954.

Harry Peedom joined the P and C in 1955 and became President in 1956. He continued in this position for five years until 1961. Born at Taree in 1912, Harry came to Wollongong in early 1938 when he bought the Law Practice of Mr. B. MacDermott. He had begun his

career in Law in the office of Taree solicitor, Mr. Lewis Martin, who at the time was the local member for the seat of Oxley in the NSW Parliament. Martin went on to become the NSW Minister of Justice from 1932 to 1939. After working with Mr. Martin, Harry worked for legal firms in Casino and Murwillumbah before coming to Wollongong. He passed his final Law Examinations in November 1936. As a young man, Harry was a good local cricketer, golfer, and tennis player, as well as being an excellent beach sprinter with the Black Head Surf Life Saving Club. He soon established himself as one of Illawarra's best legal men and became engaged to his future wife, Ellie Rowsell in January 1939. In March 1944, one of Harry's brothers, Flight Sergeant Charles Peedom, was killed when his plane was shot down in Spain during a war time sortie. In a lengthy and successful legal career on the South Coast, Harry was the honorary solicitor for many local sporting bodies. His wife died in December 1976 and Harry passed away on 19 March 1982 aged 69, while living in retirement at Keiraville.

Following Harry as President, came Mr. B. Dickinson (1962-63), Mr. R. Hopkins (1964-65), Mr. D. Harrigan (1966-67), Mr. J. Currie (1968-69), Mr. R. Dobinson (1970-71), H. Kidd (1972), Mr. C. Hingley (1973), Bob Bultitude (1979-80), Noel Sykes (1991), Bob Bell (1992), Steve Sanders (1993), Stuart Wright (2010-13).

The Ladies Auxiliary was formed in the late 1940s and the Presidents of this body have included Mrs. V. Stuart (1954-55), Mrs. W. Bright (1956-60), Mrs. R. Gole (1961-63), Mrs. J. Currie (1964), Mrs. B. Bartrop (1965-66), Mrs. D. Carr (1967-68), Mrs. N. Lamerton (1969-70), Mrs. J. Kennedy (1971), Margaret Dobinson (1972), Ann Hanson (1973), Jean Brodie (1979), Norma Pesavento (1980).



Fear



The Girl Who Lived



Tabula Rasa



A Midsummer Night's Dream



Year 7 Excursion 2014



## SCHOOL CAPTAINS

In the first 10 years or so of the school there were no official school captains, but the class representatives of Class IV (fourth year), which was the highest class in those days, carried out official chores and were recognized as high-ranking students. The first edition of the school magazine, "The Gleam," in 1918, lists the class IV representatives as Jean Robertson and Allan

McInnes. These two were certainly prominent and well respected students of 1918 and McInnes particularly, performed many duties on behalf of his fellow students. In those days, often one student performed the majority of duties and he or she, although not an official captain, did that job.



Intermediate Class - 1917. The 2nd year (intermediate) Geography - ART CLASS.

Back Row: Harold Robinson, Walter Moss, Keith Whitfield, Wilfred Brown, George Johnson, Keith Robson, Les Jolliffe, John Horsey.  
 Middle Row: Frank Thomas, Maude Colville, Edith Waters, Fred Cook, Muriel Condon, Oswald Corrick, Irene Turner, Evvie McCoy, John Waters.  
 Front Row: Olive Moore, Frank Clark, Ruth Lindsay, Stewart Thompson, Imelda O'Brien, Douglas Farquaharson, Delia King.

1917

### MARY PUCKEY

Born on 17 February 1898, Mary was only enrolled at High for the school's first year. She was 19 years of age when she did the Leaving in 1917, scoring Honours in French, As in Maths I and Maths II, plus four Bs. As she was the oldest student and strong both academically and on the hockey field, she was regarded as the student leader. As a high school pupil at the Wollongong Superior School in 1916, Mary also did the Leaving that year, obtaining five Bs plus a lower level pass in History. She went on to complete a medical degree at Sydney University and after an impressive career, became the first woman in Australia, to be appointed as Medical Superintendent (or CEO) of a major hospital in early 1941. This was the Rachel Forster Hospital at Redfern. Mary never married and was awarded an MBE in 1963. She passed away on 25 March 1990, aged 92.

1918

### ARROL McINNES

Born on 21 November 1900, Arrol came from Wollongong Superior School and was at High for two years, 1917 and 1918, before moving to the GPS school, St. Ignatius in Sydney for the 1919 school year. He was the Class IV representative and his father was a prominent Wollongong Engineer. A good all-round sportsman, Arrol captained the school soccer team and was senior athletic champion. He failed the 1918 Leaving, but at St. Ignatius Riverview, he scored four Bs and an A in History in the 1919 Leaving and then began a Medical degree at Sydney University in 1920.

1919

### RUTH LINDSAY

Born on 21 October 1901, Ruth came from Unanderra, where her father, George, was Town Clerk of the Central Illawarra Council from 1891 to 1929. She came into second year in the school's first year of operation and passed the 1919 Leaving with three Bs and an A in Maths I. On 16 July 1919, Ruth was the student chosen to break the flag on the school's new flagpole. After the Leaving, she studied to be a nurse, specializing in eye treatment and worked for many years at the medical eye service at Commonwealth Street in Sydney. She

enlisted in the Australian Army Nursing Service (AANS) on 8 August 1941 at 39 years of age (Service Number NX77231). She served on hospital ships for four years and was promoted to Lieutenant in March 1943. After the end of the War, she continued in the Army, working as a sister at the Concord Military hospital.

1920

### ERNEST APPLGATE

Born in Wollongong on 7 October 1903, Ernie was a student of High in its first year, after winning a bursary. He was Dux of each of the four years he attended High and in the 1920 Leaving, finished with Honours in both Maths I and II, plus five As. He then completed a Teachers course at Blackfriars' College in Sydney and his first school was Boggabri Public. He was back on the South Coast around 1928 and taught at Fairy Meadow, Thirroul, West Wollongong, Warrawong and Kiama, where he was Principal in the 1950s. For most of the 1940s, he was President of the PSAAA (Public Schools Amateur Athletics Association). While a young man at Teachers College, he returned to Wollongong at weekends to play cricket and soccer with the OK Methodist club. He joined the Wollongong Motor Cycle Club in 1930 and won several club championships. Ern passed away on 21 November 1965 at Wollongong, aged 62.

1921

### RUTH DAVIDSON

Born in Woonona in January 1905, Ruth began at the school in 1917 and when she did the Leaving in 1921, she scored the school's best pass with first-class Honours in Latin (second in NSW), second-class Honours in History, four As and a B. After completing a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University with Honours, she began teaching Latin at the private school, Frensham at Mittagong for five years, before securing a government grant allowing her to teach and learn the latest educational techniques in England, France and Germany for two years. Back in Australia she taught for five years at PLC in Goulburn, becoming senior mistress in 1935. She then moved to Melbourne in 1937 where she enlisted in the Australian Army Medical Women's Services (AAMWS) on 1 May 1943. Promoted to Major, she served as the assistant controller at the Australian Military Headquarters in Melbourne before

being officially discharged on 21 November 1946. She married HS Hamilton-Williams on 21 December 1945 and was named in the 1971 Who's Who in Australia. She passed away in Bowral on 29 August 1992, aged 87.

1922

### GEORGE WOOD

Born on 10 March 1905, George came from Unanderra Primary and spent five years at Wollongong High. 1922 was probably the year that students went to fifth year, instead of fourth year being the top class. He was the school Dux in 1922 and at the end of year Speech Day, he was given a special P and C prize as the most efficient boy student in the school. In the Leaving, he scored Honours in Maths and Physics, two As and a B. He went on to complete an Engineering degree at Sydney University. A good all round sportsman, he was the 1922 senior athletic champion, while he was also an excellent cricket and tennis player. He died at Engadine on 13 February 1979, aged 73.

### LESLIE BRIDLE

Leslie came from Wollongong Primary and like George Wood, she was awarded a special P and C prize

as the most efficient girl student. She attended the school for five years and shared public duties with George. In the Leaving, she got Honours in History, an A in English and three Bs. She then became a primary school teacher, with her first school being Mittagong public.

1923

### ROBERT TORBETT

Robert was the son of Kiama Presbyterian Minister, George Torbett and he took the long train journey to WHS each day. Born on 9 July 1907, he began in first year in March 1919. A good athlete, he came third in the 1923 school one-mile championship. In the 1923 Leaving, he obtained two As and five Bs and then went on to Blackfriars' College to become a teacher. His first school was Kogarah followed by Cleveland Street, Cooks Hill, Maitland and Hurlstone where he taught until he enlisted in the AIF in 1940 (Service Number N207058). After the War, he taught at Narrabeen before moving to the Correspondence School in March 1967, from where he retired at the end of 1967. His father married him to Miss Constance Hughes on 11 July 1936 in Sydney. Robert passed away at Cremorne on 2 August 1977, aged 70.



A First Year Class 1923

### ELLEN "NELLIE" BENNING

Born on 20 October 1904, she came from Thirroul Primary and was awarded the special P and C prize as the 1923 best girl student. She was Dux of the school and obtained the best Leaving Certificate result with Honours in History, two As and five Bs. She went on to become a primary school teacher. Her two year Teachers College Scholarship was worth 50 pounds a year, plus a text book grant. In July 1923, Nellie and several other Wollongong girls joined a group of Fort Street Girls High students to spend a few days at the Hotel Kosciusko and do some skiing. They went to Cooma by overnight train from Sydney and were the ninth such student group to do this.

1924

### REGINALD "REX" CONNOR

Rex was born on 26 January 1907 and enrolled at High as a 13 year old in February 1920. He quickly established himself as one of the school's best academic students up to that time, while he was also an excellent pianist. His results in the 1919 Qualifying exams were outstanding while he topped his year in each of his first four years. Early in the 1924 school year, he performed several official duties such as he did at Anzac and Empire days, but in late June he was stricken with pneumonia and spent a couple of months in hospital. In August-September he was extremely ill and doctors were worried that he may not survive. He did not return to school that year nor did he sit for the Leaving Certificate. However at the 1924 Speech Day, the Headmaster, Mr. Hedberg, named him as Honorary Dux of the school and at this Speech Day, he was given a special prize of one guinea plus a special Latin prize. In 1925, Rex sat for the Leaving as a private student and scored four As and two Bs. He then became an articled clerk at a law firm. In 1940 he entered NSW Parliament as the Member for Wollongong-Kembla and remained in State politics until he became the Federal Member for Cunningham in 1963. He passed away on 22 August 1977, while still the Member for Cunningham.

**JOHN BENNIE** and **DORIS BIFFIN** did the official jobs in Rex's absence. Doris, whose father was the Police Sergeant at Scarborough, came to the school from Broken Hill at the beginning of 1923, when her father was transferred to the district. She turned 16 on 4 August 1924 and although one of the youngest in

fifth year, she was an excellent all round student. In the Leaving she scored an A and six Bs and won a scholarship to Teachers College. Her first school was Kogarah (1927) and then followed North Broken Hill (1928-29), Five Dock (1930-35), exchange teacher to Victoria (1936) and Summer Hill (1937). After marrying Henry Laity in September 1937, she resigned from teaching and began some casual work in July 1952 in the Canberra area where she was then living, firstly at Ainslie and then Canberra High. Born on 17 April 1906, John Bennie, from Berry Primary, was a good athlete and set a school record for the junior 220 yards in 1921. He was also awarded school Blues for cricket, rugby and athletics at the 1924 Speech Day. He obtained four Bs in the 1924 Leaving and also won a scholarship to Teachers College. Up until he enlisted for World War Two on 10 July 1940 (Service Number NX54052), he taught at Carlton, Kiama, Armidale, Coonabarabran, Broken Hill and Gordon. After the War, he taught for 22 years at Artarmon, retiring on 12 December 1968.

1925

### JOHN FERNIE

John attended Wollongong Primary while living with his family in Church Street. He was born at Cowdenbeath, Scotland on 26 September 1908 and the family came to Australia in 1913. He won a bursary to attend WHS, as did the girl captain Violet Day and this was worth 12 pounds a year to the Intermediate, then 18 pounds for the next year and 24 pounds for the final year. John was Dux of the school in 1925 and scored an excellent pass in the 1925 Leaving with Honours in both Maths, four As and a B in History. He then won a bursary to Sydney University worth 65 pounds a year, plus a text book allowance of 5 pounds a year. He was third in the State amongst the Bursary winners. After completing his Bachelor of Arts, he began teaching at Sutherland Intermediate (1930), Sydney Boys (1931), Grafton High (1932-37) and Cooks Hill in Newcastle (1938 -45) before becoming a Master at Cessnock High in 1946. He was then Maths Master at Sydney Tech (1951-54) before taking the same position at Katoomba High in 1955. His last day of teaching was 12 December 1968 and he passed away in Katoomba on 16 July 1998, aged 89. His sister, Isobel was an Army nurse in World War Two (Service Number 70424) from October 1940 until the end, serving mainly in Palestine and she finished as a captain. She was a student at WHS from 1924.

## VIOLET DAY

Born on 10 October 1908, Violet came from Coledale Primary and in her final year, finished a close second to the Dux, John Fernie. On the day the Leaving began, she suffered a nervous breakdown and so could not sit for the exam. Overcoming this problem, she sat for the exam two years later and did well enough to begin an Arts degree at Sydney University. After graduating, she began to teach Latin and her first school was Forbes High (1930-33) followed by Goulburn High in 1934. After 17 years at Goulburn, she moved back to her old school and taught Latin at Wollongong High for 12 years from 1951 to 1962. Violet never married and died in Coledale on 24 December 1978, aged 70.

1926

## MAGNUS GEORGE

An excellent tennis player, Magnus and his partner, Ellis Bridge, reached the 1926 Doubles Final at the CHS tennis championships at White City in Sydney and were narrowly beaten. Born on 18 April 1907, Magnus came from down south at Huskisson Primary, where his father was a teacher. He was 19 when he sat for the Leaving and won a Teachers College Scholarship, becoming a primary school teacher. He began teaching at Clovelly in 1929 and then followed Darlinghurst, Bourke, Rozelle, Pennant Hills, Woollahra, and Bondi (1962-69). He lived at North Bondi from the time of his marriage to Iris Bennett in December 1935 and died there on 6 September 1985, aged 78.

## JEAN HEDBERG

The older daughter of Headmaster, John Hedberg, Jean was an excellent all-round student. She was a good hockey player, involved herself in the school's drama activities and was in the top six students of her year. After gaining two As and four Bs in the Leaving, she won a Teachers College Scholarship, worth 80 pounds a year and began an Arts degree at Sydney University, graduating with Honours. She also won a special Methodist Church scholarship, topping the state in this exam. While at University, she represented NSW at women's hockey. On 16 January 1937, aged 27, she married Dr. Allan Gillies in Sydney. The couple moved north soon after their marriage. Born on 23 October 1909, Jean passed away at Mullumbimby on 16 November 1980, aged 71.

1927

## FRANK MILLS

Born at Armidale on 20 June 1910, Frank went on to become one of Australia's most outstanding surgeons and a pioneer in heart surgery. He also had a distinguished war record, saving the lives of many soldiers in the Japanese prison camps of Sandakan and Kuching in Borneo with his surgery and brilliant medical improvisations. As a captain with the 2/10AGH in the 8th division, he was captured when Singapore fell in February 1942 and spent three months in Changi prison camp before being moved to Sandakan. Back in Australia after the War, he worked as an assistant surgeon at Royal Prince Alfred hospital. Winning a Carnegie Grant in 1947, he studied in the USA and England for two years. Back in Australia he performed the first local mitral valvotomy in 1951 at Royal Prince Alfred. In 1952 he saved the life of talented Sydney actress Megan Edwards. In the first operation of its kind in Australia, he removed one of Miss Edwards' ribs and then held her heart in one hand while he widened the vital tricuspid valve with a small blade attached to the tip of the forefinger on his other hand.

Frank came to Wollongong High in first year at the beginning of 1923. He had won a scholarship from Moruya where the family had moved when he was just eight. He was captain of cricket in his last two years and in the 1927 Leaving, obtained first-class Honours in Maths I, Maths II and Physics, as well as four As. He began medicine at Sydney University in 1928 and graduated as a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery in 1933. He topped the year in his final exams and won two special prizes. His first position was as a junior resident at Prince Alfred in 1934, while in 1937, he was superintendent of Marrickville Hospital. Frank passed on 6 April 2008, aged 97.

## JESSIE McINNES

Born on 17 July 1910, Jessie came from Scarborough, where she was an outstanding young pianist. In December 1924, while in second year, she received an Honours pass in Piano Advanced at the Sydney College of Music exams. At the 1927 Speech Day, she won awards as the Best Girl in School and as captain of basketball (netball). In the Leaving, Jessie obtained three As plus four Bs and went on to become a teacher.

Her first appointment was to Rozelle (1930-31) and then followed Bankstown (1932-33), Mudgee (1934), Coniston (1935) and Scarborough (1936). Married to John Bate in January 1936, she resigned in April 1936 after just three months at Scarborough Primary. After an absence of nearly 26 years, she started some casual teaching in 1962 aged 51 and did this until 1975, at Woniora near Sutherland and then at Roseville, close to her home at Chatswood. She died on 15 December 1995, aged 85.

## 1928

### FRED YOUNG

Many pupils from 1925 to 1935 repeated their final year at high school because they could not find work due to the Great Depression. Fred did the Leaving three times. He came from Wollongong Primary and scored three As and two Bs in the 1928 Leaving Certificate, an A and five Bs in 1929 and six Bs in 1930. A good footballer, Fred was made a prefect in 1926, while in fourth year. Fred's father, also Fred, was a prominent Wollongong citizen from the first 30 years or so of the twentieth century. He was the owner/manager of the South Coast Times newspaper from its early days and also the best-known auctioneer on the South Coast. He could afford to keep his son at school for an extra two years. Although Fred was captain in 1928, new captains were chosen in 1929 and 1930. Born on 16 November 1910 in Vancouver Canada, Fred was around 20 years of age when he left school. He went on to become a teacher and in 1940, was the Science and Sports master at Sydney GPS school, Scots' College. After enlisting in the AIF in February 1943 (Service Number N452619), he was in charge of Army Education at the 113th AG Hospital at Concord as Captain Pierce-Young. Soon after World War Two ended, Fred and his wife Lulu, who he married at Wesley College, Sydney University on 12 January 1940, bought a property called Goonawarra at Cadia near Orange in central NSW.

### CONNIE VAUGHAN

Born on 15 August 1911, Connie came to WHS as a 12-year-old first year student in 1924 from Wollongong Primary. She was an excellent dressmaker from an early age and at the Wollongong Show in February 1923, she won the award for best nightdress for girls under 12 and came second in the fully dressed baby doll for schoolgirls of any age. In the 1928 Leaving Connie scored three As and two Bs and went on to become a teacher.

## 1929

### ERIC HEDBERG

The son of the then Headmaster, Mr. John Hedberg, Eric was born on 9 October 1912 and came to WHS as a first year student in 1924. He was a good student and an excellent sportsman, winning the under 14 school athletic championship in 1926 and the junior championship the next year. He did the Leaving twice, gaining four As in 1928 and three As, a B and Honours in English in 1929. He won a scholarship to study medicine at Sydney University through the Methodist Church and became a resident of Wesley College. Throughout his medical degree he was always near the top of his class and also excelled at rugby, cricket and rowing. He graduated at the end of 1935 and worked as a GP until he enlisted in the Australian Army (Service Number NX214) on 14 November 1939. He was sent to Egypt as Captain Hedberg in January 1940 and although an army doctor was involved in a lot of action. On 8 March 1941 he was wounded in action, suffering multiple grenade wounds and was transferred back to Australia. In March 1944 he went to New Guinea as a Army doctor and served around the Port Moresby region until the end of hostilities. After the War, he again practiced as a GP and a few years later, became a Macquarie Street surgeon. In May 1964, Eric and Diana were married. They left Sydney and lived at Bong Bong near Bowral. Eric died on 29 May 2001, aged 88, after 37 years of marriage to Diana.

### PEARL WELFORD

Pearl came to WHS in 1925 as a first year girl from Bulli primary, where her father was the manager of the Bulli Colliery. She obtained four Bs in the 1929 Leaving and began training at Wollongong Hospital, where she passed the Nurse's Registration exam in November 1935. After 15 years at Wollongong Hospital, she was appointed as Matron at Broken Hill hospital in late 1944. She returned to Wollongong in 1952 as Mrs. Sheppard and the couple lived at Wongawilli. They moved to Mt. Ousley around 1970, where Pearl died on 14 February 1996, aged 83.

## 1930

### LESLIE BURNETT

Born on 13 September 1914, Leslie came to WHS from Port Kembla Primary as a 1926 first year boy. He was always in the top dozen or so students academically, but although he scored three As and two Bs in the 1930 Leaving, he failed English and so repeated in 1931. This second time he topped the year in English and came

second in Physics and went on to obtain five As and two Bs in the Leaving. He became a teacher and was working at Wollongong Primary when he enlisted in the AIF (Service Number NX30606), in June 1940. He fought in the Middle East and Greece from March 1941 to the end of hostilities and was discharged on 14 September 1945. In January 1942, he was promoted to Sergeant. After returning home, he resumed his teaching career at Portland (1946-48), followed by Milton (1949-50) and Ulladulla (1951-52). Promoted to Headmaster of Bemboka in 1953, he remained at this school until the end of 1958. He finished his teaching career at the end of 1975 after being Headmaster at Goulburn (1959-64), Riverstone (1965-67) and Denistone (1968-75). While at Goulburn he did some part-time teaching at Goulburn Gaol. Leslie passed away on 16 November 2005, aged 91.

### MEGAN JONES

She grew up in Virginia Street, North Wollongong and attended Wollongong Primary School. In the Leaving, she managed three As and two Bs. A good singer, Megan often sang at Methodist church functions. In March 1934 she married the church organist, Alwyn Jones. An Illawarra hockey representative, she became the secretary of the Illawarra Hockey Association in early 1934.

1931

### ERNEST WHITELAW

Ernie was born on 9 October 1914 at Redfern and came to Wollongong with his family in 1917. He did the Leaving twice, scoring first-class Honours in Geology, plus two As and four Bs in 1930, while in 1931, he topped NSW in Geology, obtained first-class Honours in Geology and Chemistry, second-class Honours in Physics, two As and a B. Growing up in Bourke street, North Wollongong, Ernie attended Wollongong Primary. After completing a Teaching course at Sydney Teachers College, he taught Science around various parts of NSW, including Dalgetty and Moruya. In 1942, he enlisted in the Australian Army and became an AIF Lieutenant (Service Number NX87075) in the Signal Corps, fighting in Morotai Island and Dutch Borneo, during his service. After the war he married and became a Science teacher in the Wollongong area, before becoming Head of General Studies for the Wollongong Technical College in the early 1960s, retiring in 1971 as Head Teacher. He passed away on 27 October 1999, while living at Mt. Keira.

### KATHLEEN HEDBERG

Born in 1914, Kathleen was the third child and the second daughter of Headmaster, John Hedberg and his wife Ella. She came to WHS in 1927 as a first year girl from Wollongong Primary. An excellent all round student, she won the junior school athletic championship in 1929, was a prominent member of the school hockey team and played the piano in the school orchestra, as well as doing well at the Wollongong eisteddfod. In first year she came first in algebra. In the 1931 Leaving, she obtained two As and five Bs but she wanted to do medicine like her older brother Eric and this pass wasn't good enough so she repeated fifth year.

1932

### STANLEY WICK

Stan attended Corrimal Primary and finished top of his class in his last primary school year. A good athlete and a brilliant scholar, Stan finished first in NSW at French in the 1932 Leaving. He also got second-class Honours in Latin and five As. After graduating from Sydney University at the end of 1935 with a Bachelor of Arts with first class Honours, he completed a Diploma of Education at Sydney Teachers College. He began his language-teaching career in 1937 at Sydney Boys High and then followed Dubbo High in 1939. He enlisted (Service Number NX19826) in the AIF during the May 1940 school holidays. Stan was born in Durham in England on 2 February 1915 and migrated to Australia in 1920 with his family as a small boy. He carried a bullet in his thigh for life after being wounded in World War Two. After being shot, he was captured by the Germans in Crete around April 1941 and spent four years as a prisoner of war, mostly at Stalag VIII B, at Lamsdorf near the Polish border. During his four years as a German prisoner, he was bayoneted in his ribs, in late November 1941 for resisting the attempt of a German soldier to take one of his two blankets in the harsh winter conditions. The prisoners were moved from Crete by ship to Salonika in northern Greece and they had to endure an horrific 10 day journey as part of around 60 men crammed in the back of cattle trucks. In 1977, he wrote a book titled "Purple and Green", which is the History of the 2/2 Australian Infantry Battalion from 1939 to 1945. In this book, from page 173, there is an interesting account of Stan's personal experiences in the final days of the war. When the Russians were closing in around January 1945, the prisoners were moved from near the Polish border to Stalag VIII D, just south west of Munich. With the Americans coming, Stan and many others just walked out of their camp in April 1945.

He was demobbed in September 1945 and a three weeks later began teaching at Sydney Boys' High. After just a month, he was moved to Dubbo where he taught from November 1945 to the end of 1955. He became Deputy of Cleveland Street Boys' High in 1956 and moved to Richmond High as Deputy in 1963. Promoted to Principal of Richmond High in 1968, he did this job until moving to Katoomba High as Principal in 1973, from where he retired in early 1975. He passed away at Katoomba on 8 December 1978, aged 63.

#### **KATHLEEN HEDBERG**

As school captain in 1931, she continued in this position for 1932. Hoping to do medicine at University, she only scored six Bs and an A at her second attempt at the Leaving in 1932 and decided to repeat for a third attempt at the exam. At this stage she had probably gone cold on a medical career and also the Recession was making jobs hard to obtain, resulting in high school students throughout Australia, repeating their final high school year. Kathleen was prominent in school activities throughout the year, as she had been during her entire time at WHS. In the 1933 Leaving she finished with Honours in History, two As and three Bs and decided to study Arts at Sydney University to become a high school History teacher. She graduated with her BA in 1938 and became a teacher. After the War, she moved into the public service, working with a government department in Canberra. She died in 1978.

#### **1933**

#### **HAROLD PAGE**

Harold came from Mt. Kembla, where his father was the local Primary School Headmaster. His uncle was Earle Page who was a long term Federal politician from the NSW North coast and at one time, Prime Minister of Australia. A first-class all-round athlete, Harold was a key member of the WHS rugby league and cricket teams. He also played these sports in local grade competitions at weekends and was playing first grade cricket while still at school and first grade rugby league the year after he finished at WHS. He failed the 1933 Leaving and went on to become a local bricklayer.

#### **MARGARET HARKER**

Margaret, known as Peggy, came to the school in 1928 from Wollongong Primary. Born on 17 May 1917, she was popular with both her fellow students and the teaching staff and at the 1930 Speech day was given the Association

prize for best girl in 3A. This award was for combination of academic success plus voting from classmates and teachers. In the 1932 Leaving she obtained two As and three Bs and then repeated fifth year in 1933. This time she finished with three As and four Bs and went on to complete a Bachelor of Science at Sydney University, graduating on 14 May 1938. She became a high school Maths teacher. Her twin brother, Andrew Jennings Harker, also did the Leaving in 1932 (two As, five Bs) and 1933 (Honours in Physics, three As, two Bs) and graduated as a doctor at the end of 1939. Their younger sister, Janet Harker, completed a PhD at Manchester University and then lectured at Cambridge University. Married in 1942 to Chris Bennett Margaret died in Melbourne on 6 September 2007, aged 91.

#### **1934**

#### **EDWARD RING**

Born on 3 February 1915, Ted came from Corrimal Primary and was a good all-round sportsman, playing both tennis and grade rugby league outside school with the local Corrimal clubs. In the 1934 Leaving he received an A and four Bs, going on to Teachers College. His father was a miner at Corrimal Colliery, and after beginning at WHS in 1929, Ted did the Leaving twice, in 1933 and 1934. He passed away at Corrimal on 23 October 1989 aged 74.

#### **PATRICIA STANLEY**

A good scholar, athlete and pianist, Patricia came from Coniston and did the Leaving twice. The first time, in 1934, she obtained five As and two Bs, while the second time, it was first-class Honours in chemistry, second-class Honours in physics, four As and a B. This was good enough to earn her a bursary in medicine at Sydney University. She did her internship at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and graduated at the end of 1941.

#### **1935**

#### **WILLIAM FRASER**

He qualified for Wollongong High from Shellharbour Primary. William came third in the 1933 school junior athletic championship and in the 1935 Leaving obtained first-class Honours in history and five Bs. This allowed him to enrol in medicine at Sydney University in 1936. In his early career, he practised in Brisbane, where he married a local girl.

## LOLA DUNSTER

Just as Kathleen Hedberg did in 1931 and 1932, Lola captained the school for two successive years, but Lola was captain for the first time while in fourth year and is the only person in the 100-year history of the school to do this. The Illawarra Mercury dated 13 December 1935, confirms that Lola was captain in 1935 and also the edition dated 18 December 1936, says that Lola was captain in 1936. Her father was a Shellharbour dairy farmer and she came from the local primary school to WHS in 1932. In the 1936 Leaving she obtained the school's best pass with first-class Honours in English, second-class Honours in French and History, an A and two Bs. She went on to Sydney University where she completed an Arts degree and became an English teacher. At Shellharbour on 3 July 1940, she was named Belle of the local Patriotic Ball. She married Barry Wilson from North Sydney at Shellharbour on 26 June 1943. Lola was living at Kiama when she died on 13 September 1998, aged 79.

1936

## KEN CAMPBELL

Ken enrolled at High in third year after coming from Taree. His father George, was a school inspector and became Illawarra district inspector in January 1934. Ken was an excellent all round athlete and a first class scholar. In 1936, he was senior athletics and swimming champion, while as a member of North Wollongong Surf Club, he won the Illawarra junior surf race title in the Branch Championships at Stanwell Park on 6 March 1937. Ken was awarded school Blues in athletics and swimming. Academically, he finished second in fifth year and in the Leaving finished with an A and five Bs. He began a Bachelor of Dentistry at Sydney University in 1937 and completed this in December 1940.

## LOLA DUNSTER

In her second Leaving, Lola scored first-class Honours in English, second-class Honours in French and History, an A and two Bs. She finished second in fifth year behind the dux, Neville Lyons, and these two obtained the school's best two Leaving results. A good sportswoman, Lola was awarded a Blue in Basketball (which is what netball was called in those times). She won a bursary to study a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University and after completing this became a teacher. After marrying Barry Wilson from North Sydney in June 1943, the couple lived in the Shellharbour area. Along with their two children, they moved to the Far South Coast in 1947.



Lola Dunster

1937

## IVOR JONES

Ivor, born on 3 August 1920, and his older brother, Alwyn attended Corrimal Primary School and both sat for the Wollongong High entrance exam in 1931. They both qualified and so they started together in 1932. Alwyn left school before the Leaving to work in the family's successful retail business, but Ivor sat for the Leaving twice. In 1936 he scored three Bs and an A, while the next year, he received second-class Honours in chemistry, three As and two Bs. He was the senior athletics champion in 1937 and received Blues in athletics and rugby. In January 1936, in the summer vacation, he and a mate cycled around 1800 kms in a four-week period through the NSW mid west. After high school he enrolled at Melbourne University. In his third year, studying a special branch of technology in electrical and mechanical engineering, he and his brother Alwyn enlisted in the Air Force. Ivor (service number 429230), became a flight sergeant in late 1942, while serving in England. Sadly on 30 August 1944, he was killed in a flying accident at Norfolk, as a member of the RAF Conversion Unit. He is buried in England. Alwyn, (Service Number 413207), who was two years older than Ivor, saw out the War and won a Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM) in mid 1943, with the famous Lancaster Pathway Squadron.

## HELEN WELCH

A Shellharbour Primary School student, Helen was a High school prefect in 1936 and school captain in 1937. In the entrance exam for the high school she came seventh from the 190 who qualified. In the Leaving she scored five Bs and an A.

1938

## HAROLD CRAPP

Harold applied for an entrance certificate to Wollongong High while a student of Tilba Tilba primary, nearly 300 kms south of Wollongong. Madaline Jackson, also a student at Tilba Tilba, joined Harold in winning a place at WHS. Academically, Harold had an excellent record all through high school. He obtained the best pass in the school when he did the Intermediate, was the fourth year dux and secured the school's best Leaving pass in 1938 with first class honours in Chemistry, five As and a B. He went on to do an Engineering degree at Sydney University, graduating at the end of 1942. Born at Narooma on 26 January 1921, Harold enlisted in the AIF on 18 December 1942 at Wagga (Service Number NX143278). He fought in New Guinea for a couple of years and rose to the rank of Lieutenant. No doubt angered by years of torment over his surname, he changed it to Craig, soon after the end of the War. He met his future wife, Shirley, after enlisting, as Kapooka Army base. Shirley was also serving with the AIF and the couple married in 1946. Soon after their marriage, the couple moved to Melbourne where Harold worked for an Architectural company and a year later became the

Otway Shire Council Engineer. Moving to Tallangatta, 38 kms south east of Albury as Shire Engineer in 1951, he worked until he retired in 1985. Harold passed away on 19 July 2014, aged 93, while still living at Tallangatta.

## JOYCE FROST

Joyce attended Wollongong Primary and established herself as one of the best pianists on the South Coast at an early age. At the Illawarra Eisteddfod on 2 June 1934, she won the South Coast Times Cup for her piano solo. A talented sportswomen, Joyce was captain of the school hockey team, a member of the netball side and a member of the Wollongong High swimming team which won the champion country school title at the Domain baths in Sydney at the Combined High Schools carnival on 11 March 1938. In the Leaving, she obtained an A and four Bs. For many years, she enjoyed a great reputation as a high-quality piano teacher, working out of her home in Church Street Wollongong. She married RAAF Flying Officer, Norman Tonge, in January 1945.

1939

## FRED RING

Born on 16 June 1922, Fred is a member of the famous Illawarra cricketing Ring family in the mid-twentieth century. Fred attended Wollongong Primary and in his final year at high school he was awarded Blues in cricket and rugby league. After scoring five As and two Bs in the Leaving he won a Sydney Teachers College scholarship. Although in Sydney during the week, he continued to play cricket with the Wollongong club at weekends, and was



Prefects 1939

Back Row: Courtney Williams, Reg Cram, Jack Butler, Graeme Paton, Robert Wyber, Fred Ring (Captain), Ken Ausburn, John McAllister, Alwyn Webby, Robert Thompson.

Front Row: Alison Guy, Betty Marchant, Betty Bell, Helen Hotchkis, Nancy Wilson, G. Barr Esq., B.A., (Deputy-Headmaster), W.F. Hatfield Esq., B.A., B.Sc., (Headmaster), Miss F. Dunnicliff, B.A. (Girls' Supervisor), Joyce McGuffie (Captain), Diana Holland, Connie Evans, Margaret McAllister, Jean Lindsay.

named as Illawarra cricket's best colt for the 1940/41 season. On 6 October he and his younger brother, Ron, starred for Illawarra Colts in their easy victory over a Crookwell representative team. This match was played as the official opening of the then new turf wicket at Wollongong Showground number two. He took a hat trick for Wollongong firsts against Coniston on 14 December 1940. Fred played some Sydney first grade with Sydney University before moving out to the Wellington area in western NSW to teach. He retired from teaching as Bomaderry High Principal in the mid 1980s and passed away on 2 July 2010, aged 88, at Gerroa.

### JOYCE MCGUFFIE

Joyce came to Wollongong High from the Domestic Home Science primary division. She was an excellent musician and in January 1940, passed grade one piano for the NSW Conservatorium of Music. In the Leaving, she obtained two As plus five Bs and won a scholarship to become a teacher. Her first appointment was to Wollongong Home Science School and after three years, she was transferred to Grafton High. She met Dudley Pardoe while in Grafton but he served in World War Two in the Air Force (Service Number 131328). After the War, on 10 January 1948, she married Dudley and the couple settled in Grafton. They later moved back to the Wollongong area, where she taught Music at Wollongong High for three years from 1963 and then Smiths Hill High. Dudley died on 15 April 1993, aged 85, and Joyce passed away on 17 March 2006, aged 84.



Joyce McGuffie

1940

### KEN AUSBURN

Ken came from Wollongong Primary and did the Leaving twice. In 1939, he got five Bs and an A, while in 1940, he scored first-class Honours in Maths II, second-class Honours in Chemistry, an A and four Bs. He completed an Engineering Degree at Sydney and then in May 1948, he married Joan Rathgen, who was a 1942 Prefect. He lectured at Newcastle University in its early days and after completing a PhD at the Uni of NSW in 1963, became the first Head of Physics at the University of Wollongong. An excellent all-round sportsman, Ken was school diving champion in his senior years and represented Illawarra Colts at cricket from the Waratah

first grade team, while still at school. He studied and worked in England for couple of years in the early 1950s. The Ken Ausburn track from Wollongong University to Mt. Keira was designed by the ardent bush walker. Ken completed his B.Sc. at Sydney University, his M.Sc in London and his Ph.D at the University of NSW in 1963. He died on 30th June, aged 71.

### PEARL BROWN

A Thirroul Primary student, Pearl was a sound all-round student. She received school Blues in hockey and netball, while in the Leaving she obtained second-class Honours in History, an A and four Bs. In her final year, she won the Angus and Coote Cup for "best spirit and widest influence."

1941

### HARRY HARRISON

Harry passed the Entrance exam to Wollongong High while a student at Trundle Primary in mid-western NSW near Parkes. A popular and friendly boy, he was awarded the Angus and Coote Cup at the 1941 Speech Day for "the student with the best spirit and widest influence." In the Leaving he scored first-class Honours in Chemistry, three As and two Bs. He studied Electrical Engineering at Sydney University and, later in life, he designed new motors. After completing his degree with Honours at Sydney University, he did a post-graduate course in England.

### MARJORIE BROWN

An excellent student, Marjorie came to WHS from Gilgandra around October 1937 to enroll in first year. Her father, WA Brown, had been appointed as the manager of the Commercial Bank in Kiama and she made the long train trip each day from her home to school and back. In the 1939 Intermediate she obtained one of the school's best passes with eight As. A member of Flinders House, she was of the school's top tennis players. On 19 July 1939, she was a member of the WHS girls tennis team who defeated Neaves Business College by 41 games to 28. She finished first in NSW in Biology with first class honours at the 1941 Leaving and also obtained four As and a B. Her father was moved to Woodstock out near Cowra in April 1941 and so she moved in with a Kiama family to complete her studies at WHS. Although she had an excellent academic record, Marjorie decided to join the Commercial Bank after leaving school and she began her career at the Woodstock branch, where her father was the manager. However she only worked at the bank for a year before beginning a nursing career.

1942

### **BILL LACKENBY**

Bill's family owned the kiosk at Sublime Point and they lived at Thirroul, where he attended primary school. A good athlete, he won the school's senior 100 yards and 880 yards championships in his last year. He also played on the wing in High's nine stone seven pounds (61 kgs) rugby league team which were narrowly beaten 13-12 by CBC in the final of the local school's competition in September 1942. A good singer, Bill was a prominent member of the senior quartet, which performed at several school functions. At the 1942 Speech Day, he was awarded the Angus and Coote Cup for "the student with the best spirit and widest influence." He scored second-class Honours in French at the Leaving exam, plus three As and two Bs. After school, he completed the six year Metallurgy part-time Diploma course while working in heavy industry at Port Kembla's CRM.

### **BETTY BROWN**

Betty attended Bulli Primary School and was a talented musician from an early age. She could play the mouth organ, while accompanying herself on the piano. She passed high-level exams at the Conservatorium of Music and entertained well into her middle age at various local functions. In January 1943 she appeared on the "Amateur Hour" program, which was a national, high rating and very popular, radio show of those days. In her last year of school, she was senior swimming champion, and in the Leaving she obtained five Bs and an A. Just four months after leaving Wollongong High, she became engaged to local policeman, Sergeant Lewis Paterson from Grafton. She married soon after and had her first child in January 1945. Betty studied Physical Education at Sydney Teachers College and her first appointment was to Fort Street Girls High.

1943

### **DAVID DICKENSON**

Born in Western Australia on 25 October 1926, David was the top student in fifth and sixth classes at Port Kembla Primary. He was Dux in first, second and fourth year at High School and in the Leaving scored first-class Honours in Maths II, five As and a B. He went on to do Veterinary Science at Sydney University on a NSW Department of Agriculture traineeship. He was the Chief Government Veterinary Surgeon for the Department

from 1980 until his retirement in 1986. In the early 1950s, David was heavily involved in the eradication of the Contagious Bovine Pleuropneumonia from Australia. He conducted training courses to combat any future outbreak of Foot and Mouth Disease after observing an outbreak in the UK in 1966. He lives at Lane Cove in Sydney with his wife Joan.



David Dickenson

### **JOAN GREEN**

Joan attended Brighton-Le-Sands and Port Kembla Primary Schools and was probably the youngest captain in the school's history. Born on 19 May 1927, she was still just 15, when she was named as captain early in 1943. A good all-round student, she was an excellent piano player and was awarded a swimming Blue at the 1943 Speech Day. In the Leaving she finished with second-class Honours in Biology, three As and two Bs. She then attended Sydney Teachers College and after graduating, she taught at Port Kembla Primary for three years, followed by Armidale Dem School and Guyra Primary, where her fiancé, Bruce Collings, a former Wollongong High student, was practising as a doctor. After marrying Bruce in 1950, the couple moved to Sydney and then on to Goulburn. Over the years, Joan taught at Bellevue Hill and Goulburn Primary Schools, while the last seven years of her career, she was a fulltime secondary teacher.

1944

### **ROBERT MEADES**

Born on 24 February 1927, Robert was a member of the well-known Meades family from the northern suburbs of Wollongong. A good sportsman at an early age, Robert attended Thirroul Primary. At school he

did well in both athletics and swimming, while he won a rugby league Blue in 1944. He was also awarded the Angus and Coote Cup in 1944. In the Leaving he finished with three As and three Bs. He began a pharmacy course at Sydney Uni but dropped out of this course and returned to Wollongong, where he became a builder. In the mid 1950s, he moved to Wairoa in Sydney where he established a very successful building business. Robert lived a long and successful life, passing away aged 87, on 18 December 2014. He and his wife, Shirley, had three daughters, eight grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

**VALERIE TURNER**

Valerie attended Coniston primary and was an excellent public speaker. At nine years of age in 1937, she did well in the under 10 verse speaking at the Illawarra Eisteddfod. In May 1944, speaking as school captain at the Empire Day Celebrations, she gave an excellent speech on "Ourselves as Empire Builders." She represented Illawarra schools against Sydney schools at Netball in August 1943 and received a school blue for this sport. In the Leaving she scored four Bs and became a nurse.

1945

**ALAN WELLS**

Buck, as Alan was known during his senior years, was a good all-round pupil. One of the best batsmen in the School cricket team, he also played well for the open weight rugby league team at the Illawarra schools carnival when they reached the semi finals after defeating Manly High on the way. Alan was awarded Blues in cricket and rugby league. In the Leaving, he finished with three As and three Bs, and went on to do science at Sydney University.

**BERYL DAVIS**

Beryl came from Wollongong Primary, where she had been school captain and swimming champion. At High School, she was undefeated in any swimming race she entered throughout her five years and was senior champion in 1944 and 1945. She lived in Wollongong and was a good hockey player and musician, receiving a Conservatorium of music award for the piano in December 1940. In the Leaving, she obtained two As and four Bs and in December 1949, successfully completed a Bachelor of Science degree, with a Chemistry major, at Sydney University and then a Dip Ed. She became a high school science teacher and her first appointment was Katoomba High. She taught until the mid 1980s and has three children plus six grandchildren and lives at Kensington in Sydney. Beryl was the daughter of Edgar (EP) Davis, who taught at WHS for more than 32 years.

1946

**PETER GARGETT**

Peter attended Wollongong Primary and was an excellent student and all-round athlete. In his final year, he won Blues in athletics and rugby league. He captained the 10 stone (64 kgs) rugby league team, which won the local school's competition. In athletics he won the senior shot put title at the school and district carnivals. Peter was also a good swimmer, cricketer and debater, representing the school in the Hume Barbour Shield. At Speech day in Dec 1946, he was awarded the Angus and Coote Cup. In the Leaving, he obtained an A in French plus five Bs and then completed a Law degree at Sydney University. Outside school, Peter was very involved in the scouting movement and was a foundation member of the 4th Wollongong Troop on 7 July 1941. He became a King's Scout on 4 February 1944.



Prefects 1945

Back Row: K. Dawes, R. Trollope, R. Dyball, R. Piper, V. Puckeridge, G. Lisle, A. Wells (Capt.), J. Dixon, A. Evans, R. Gregory, M. Ewin, J. Bellamy.  
 Front Row: P. Degotardi, L. Geoghegan, E. McBroom, B. Stewart, M. Brown, D. Harvey, Mr. Wallace (Dep. Head), Mr Hatfield (Head), Miss Robertson, (Girls' Supervisor), B. Davis (Capt.), R. Lindsay, M. Graham, E. Gaskell, E. Bingham.

After working as a solicitor in Wollongong, he was admitted as a solicitor to the NSW Supreme Court in March 1952. During the 1950s, Peter was a prominent Illawarra athlete and Illawarra representative rugby union player. He set a new South Coast senior shot put record of 11.3 metres at Wollongong Showground while competing with the Illawarra Amateur Athletic club on 9 November 1952. He was also a NSW Country junior shot put champion. A Life Member of the NSW Law society and Corrimal Apex club, he and his wife live in Wollongong's northern suburbs. In May 2016, he still had the book, "The Wonders of the Great Barrier Reef", which was given to him on Speech Day 1946, for being school captain.

#### GLADYS FREW

Gladys came from Woonona Primary School and did well at most school activities. She was a good athlete, scholar and musician. In December 1943 she passed a Conservatorium of Music Award and in her first year of high school won the girls 12 years 50 yards sprint. In the Leaving, she obtained three As and three Bs, which won her a Sydney Teachers College scholarship.



School Captains 1947



School Captains 1948

1947

#### FRANK CHARKER

The 1947 school captains became good friends from their first few days at high school. This friendship blossomed into romance in their final year and they became engaged in November 1951 and married on 12 December 1952. Born in September 1930, Frank was an excellent student and a fine all round athlete. He captained the school rugby league team and won the senior long jump at the athletic carnival. A good swimmer, Frank came fourth in the senior championship and was in the school team for the CHS carnival. After attending Wollongong primary, Frank came to Wollongong High in 1943. In the Leaving he scored five As and a B. He completed a Science Degree at Sydney University in December 1950. Frank was a prominent member of North Wollongong Surf club for many years from around 1946.

#### OLWYN MILLER

Olwyn came from Dapto Primary after winning a bursary and a small scholarship from the Dapto School of Arts. A good basketball and hockey player, she donated a trophy for inter house competition at Wollongong High in 1948. She was also a fine athlete and in August 1944 was a member of the Wollongong High junior girls relay team which came third in the NSW CHS championships. After gaining six Bs in the Leaving she went to Sydney Teachers College and became a Physical Education teacher. Her first school was Corrimal Junior High in 1951 and in 1952 she captained the Wasps team to the Illawarra third grade hockey premiership. The Wasps were a combination of Wollongong and Corrimal High students. In 1951 Olwyn and Frank were keen members of the Illawarra square dancing club.

1948

#### DAVID PARSONS

Before coming to Wollongong High for his final two years of secondary schooling, he attended the Wollongong Junior Tech, where he passed a pre apprenticeship course for a Mechanical and Engineering certificate. An excellent swimmer and surfer, "Snipsy", as he was known, was the school senior swimming champion in 1948 and received a Blue in this sport. He won the junior belt race at the Illawarra Branch Surf Championships on 8 March 1947. He was also a tough forward in the school rugby league team and was a competent piano player. In the Leaving

he got five Bs and an A, which allowed him to complete a Diploma of Physical Education at Sydney Teachers College in December 1951. While at Teachers College on 14 December 1952 at the NSW Teachers' Swimming Titles, he clocked 26.8 seconds in winning the 50 yards sprint and this was just 0.1 seconds outside the NSW all comers record. In the early 1960s, he enrolled at the university of British Columbia in Vancouver, Canada where he completed his doctorate in Phys Ed. Back home he worked at Newcastle University in the late 1960s, Wollongong Teachers College in 1970 for few years and Wollongong University in 1975.

### DAPHNE DEGOTARDI

Daphne was the middle daughter of three who attended WHS. Her father Harry was a prominent local citizen and as well as owning a major Illawarra bakery, was President of Wollongong Rotary, President of the South Illawarra scouting movement and Chairman of the Illawarra Food for Britain Appeal after World War Two. Daphne attended Wollongong Primary and as a good swimmer, she did well at the WHS school carnivals each year. At Speech Day in December 1948 she and David Parsons shared the Angus and Cootie Cup award. In the Leaving she scored three As and three Bs. After completing a degree in Arts and Social work at Sydney University, she was employed by TAFE as a specialist in psychology and then by Sydney University as a Student Counsellor. She then went into private practice and in 2016 was living a full and active life in an inner Sydney suburb.

1949

### IAN DOCHERTY

Ian came from Austinmer Primary, where his father, Edward, was the under-manager at the nearby South Clifton Colliery. Each year at High School, Ian was one of the top students. He won a bursary to attend the school in first year and then after the Intermediate exam in November 1947, he won another bursary with a small monetary award. In the Leaving he collected the school's best result with first-class Honours in Maths I and Maths II, as well as five As. He was the School Dux in 1949 and was a Cadet-Lieutenant in the school cadet unit. An excellent debater, he was leader of the school team, which won the southern zone of the Hume-Barbour competition and then were narrowly beaten by eventual winners, Sydney High, in the quarterfinals. He studied Engineering at Sydney University after high school. In December

1953, Ian became engaged to Marjorie Campion, who was an Australian Modern Dancing champion. Later in life he lectured in the Electrical Engineering faculty at Sydney University and after retirement, moved to South Australia.

### VALMAI HASTINGS

She came from Wollongong primary as a good all-round student. She passed a Conservatorium of Music exam in January 1945 and from an early age was a fine public speaker. At Speech Day in December 1949, she won the Sanders Cup for Public Speaking. She was captain of the school hockey team and won a Blue for this sport in 1949. She scored five As and a B in the Leaving then went to Wollongong Tech where she completed a typewriting course in 1950. After this, she began working at Wollongong library. A couple of years later, she enrolled at Sydney University and completed a Bachelor of Arts in 1957 and then became a teacher. Valmai was the daughter of Jack Hastings who taught Maths at the school for many years.



School Captains 1949

1950

### GRAHAM RABEY

Graham arrived at the school in 1948 from Canberra where he had been captain of Ainslie Primary School. He was one of the best junior tennis players in the ACT and soon established himself as one of Illawarra's top players. A good all round student, he obtained three As and three Bs in the Leaving Certificate exam. While in fourth year, Graham was invited by the NSWLTA to come to Sydney on 7 May 1949 and play in the Age and School tennis championships at White City. He was the South Coast junior boys singles and doubles winner in 1949, 1950 and 1951, and in

1951, along with Brian Hudson, was beaten in the final of the NSW junior doubles title, by a young Lew Hoad and Ron Reid. Lew Hoad won five Grand Slam Singles titles, including Wimbledon championships in 1956 and 1957. In January 1951, Graham won the Under 19 NSW Country championship singles, doubles and teams titles. He completed a Bachelor of Dentistry at Sydney University in November 1954 and he was awarded a Tennis Blue by Sydney University in 1953. Soon after completing his degree, he went to England where he practised part-time as a dental surgeon to pay his way through a medical degree at the University of London. After successfully completing this degree, he became a specialist in Maxillofacial Surgery. While working as a senior registrar in his specialty at the Mount Vernon Centre for Plastic Surgery, he developed a new approach to the study of face and head abnormalities called Morphanalysis. To research the theoretical aspects of the new subject, Graham was appointed lecturer in human morphology at the Uni of Southampton and then senior lecturer in Anatomy at the Uni of Manchester, which he combined with a visiting professorship in plastic surgery (for research purposes), at the Uni of Pittsburgh. He completed a PhD in Morphanalytic Anatomy in 1983 and took his results 'back to bedside' in 1989 when he was appointed as a consultant in clinical morphanalysis at Stoke Mandeville hospital in England. In 1992-1993, he was elected President of the Craniofacial Society of Great Britain and Ireland. In the field of craniofacial morphanalysis, Graham has produced numerous print publications, various film productions (eg on the BBC's Tomorrow's World and Rough Justice Programmes), several patented inventions and registered designs (eg analytic morphograph and electronic cephalostat), plus previously unobtainable clinical data and diagnosis (eg mandibular condylitis) and surgical treatments (eg chin-tilt ostetomy). His attempts to understand the physical malformations and deformations suffered by his patients and to develop rational approaches to their surgical reformation, eventually led him from such specific form questions via general form questions to neural-philosophical views of form itself. These ideas are embodied in Graham's formal inversion theory of brain and mind, which is summarized in the books, "Suitable Heresies (2009)" and "The Formal Inversion Theory of Brain and Mind (2012)." Graham and his wife Helen married in 1961 and live in Cambridge.

#### MARION LAWSON

Marion was an exceptional scholar and was Dux of each of her five years at Wollongong High. She had come to the school from Wollongong Primary where she was

also sixth class dux in 1945. A prefect in fourth and fifth years, she was an impressive public speaker. At the Savoy Theatre in Church Street on 27 April 1950, the Sydney Symphony Orchestra put on a concert for around 1,100 students from 12 or so Illawarra schools. Marion was the student chosen to give thanks to the orchestra. In the Leaving, she gained first-class Honours in Latin, coming eighth in the state, second-class Honours in French, three As and a B. She then went on to complete a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University and became a teacher. She married the Reverend Donald Crowhurst, who was ordained at the Central Baptist Church in Sydney, on 30 September 1953. In 1968, having earned the additional degrees of master of Religious Education and Bachelor of Divinity and having taught in NSW High Schools for some years, Marion and her husband, plus their three children, went to Canada to live. She was hired by Brandon University as an assistant professor of Education, and worked there for 10 years, while completing a PhD in English Education at the University of Minnesota. After this, she began at the University of British Columbia in Vancouver where she served for 20 years as Professor and ultimately as Head of the Department of Language Education. Her publications include two books and numerous book chapters and articles. After her retirement in 1999, she studied Spanish and now speaks this language fluently. At the time of writing, Marion worked in various voluntary capacities, assisting Spanish-speaking refugees.

#### 1951

#### BILL MILLER

Bill came to High School from Wollongong Primary. He was an excellent all-round athlete and competent academic. In 1950 and 1951, he won both the mile and 880 yards races at the athletic carnival, as well as the Advance Cup for cross-country running. He was also captain of the school swimming team. He was awarded an all round Blue in both 1950 and 1951 for ability in many sports. In 1949 while in third year, he captained the school nine stone team (57 kgs) to a win in the Illawarra schools' carnival, with an excellent 5-2 win over Campbelltown Marist Brothers in the final. He played in the Open weight team in 1950 and 1951, mostly as a clever five eighth. In representative football over the years, Bill captained Illawarra schools openweight team at the SCG on 14 July 1951 against Sydney under 17s (combined Lennox Cup XIII), before NSW played France, represented Illawarra under 18s in



Bill Miller

1952 and Illawarra seconds against Manly in July 1954. He played a year of rugby union with the Wollongong club in his last year of school and had three or four seasons of first grade rugby league with Wollongong, playing alongside such big names as Harry Wells, Bob Bartlett and Keith Barnes. In 1951, he was the senior school swimming champion and also did well in the local combined swimming carnival at Port Kembla. After scoring two As and four Bs in the Leaving, he began his working life as an articled land surveyor at AIS, Port Kembla. In 1958 he began working in local government as an assistant engineer with the Wollongong council, then moved to Kiama in 1961 as deputy municipal engineer. From 1975 to the end of 1995, he was chief town planner and director of development and environment for the Shellharbour council. While at Shellharbour, he initiated and did the lead up to the development approval for the impressive Shell Cove development which was estimated to have incurred an infrastructure figure of \$1.5 billion. Outside school he was a member of two North Wollongong Surf Club R and R teams, who won NSW junior titles, at Freshwater on 3 March 1951 and at Byron Bay on 24 February 1952. On 11 January 1951, he made headlines when he and some other North Surf club members saved five men and a boy from a treacherous surf and about six weeks later, he made the papers again, when he saved two children who had been swept far out to sea. Born on 12 March 1934, Bill now lives at Tweed Heads.

#### **JOSETTE DEGOTARDI**

Josette came from Wollongong Primary where she had taken an active part in school life. On 22 November 1946, she played one of the major parts, that of Dame Whelk, in the Operetta, "Pearl and the Fishermaid." This was performed by Wollongong Primary at the High

School Hall and all tickers were sold for both nights. The two local papers praised the performances of the 11 and 12 year old actors. The younger sister of 1948 captain Daphne Degotardi, Josette obtained six Bs in the Leaving. Both sisters were involved in the many charitable ventures their father, Harry, organized. The Degotardi family lived in Warrawong from the mid 1930s to 1947, when they moved to Wollongong. Harold and Patricia Degotardi had four children and their three daughters, Patricia, Daphne and Josette all attended WHS. Patricia completed a Science degree and for many years she and her family lived in Papua/New Guinea, where she taught Mathematics. Their young child, a son William, went to Newington College in Sydney. Josette went to Wagga Teachers College after WHS and became a primary school teacher. She and her family moved to Vancouver Canada in the late 1960s, where she completed a Diploma in Theology at the University of British Columbia.

#### **1952**

#### **DON BROWN**

A student of Wollongong Primary school, Don was in the same first year class as future sporting personalities Keith Barnes (Australian Rugby League captain) and Brian Surtees (Illawarra media man). Athletics was his favourite sport and in the Leaving, he got four Bs.

#### **JUDITH SHAW**

Judith attended Coniston Primary and was the daughter of long-term Wollongong High Maths teacher, Bruce Shaw. A good dancer, she took lessons at Enid Hall's School of Dancing in Wollongong and in January 1949, gained a grade V pass with honours in a Conservatorium Theory of Music exam. She studied at Jurgens School of Music in Wollongong. While at WHS, Judith was a member of the school choir and travelled with them to Bowral and Sydney for Eisteddfods. She appeared in school plays and concerts and was a member of the social committee. In the Leaving, she obtained three As and three Bs, and then went to Wagga Teachers College. Her first appointment was teaching kindergarten at Keiraville Primary and then she moved to Junee where she married and lived in Wagga as a home mum. In 1970 the family moved to Tamworth where she taught in Catholic schools for 20 years. After retiring she completed an Honours degree in Fine Arts through Newcastle University. For the past three years or so, she has lived in the Lake Macquarie area.

**TASMAN 'Tassie' ARNELL**

An outstanding all-round athlete, Tassie came to High from Woonona Primary. He won an Athletics Blue at Speech Day in 1953 and that year was senior school champion. On 30 September 1953 at the Sydney Cricket Ground, Tassie came fourth in the CHS Senior Hop, Step and Jump, as well as reaching the 100 yards final. That same year he was also Illawarra senior schools champion athlete. A junior representative football (soccer) player, Tassie represented NSW schools in 1950 and played many years of first grade as a centre forward or striker with the Woonona club after starting in grade while still at school. In the Leaving he scored four Bs and an A, going on to become a mining engineer. He left for England in 1962 where he travelled through Scotland and Europe, then married his English wife, Margaret, in 1963. Living in London, he worked for the London County Council, mainly on tunnel building and also played some minor grade games with Queens Park Rangers. In 1964 the couple went to Zambia for 12 years where he worked as a mining engineer in a copper mine. He then completed an MBA at Cape Town University in 1976 and returned to Australia at the end of 1977. Living at Randwick, Tas was the project manager for the Sydney Business School. In 1991 he worked in marketing in Chicago and moved back to England in 1991, first to London and then Cornwall, where the couple bought a real estate property company. He returned to Australia regularly over the next few years, for school reunions and other things. Born on 7 November 1936, he died on 17 March 2013, aged 76.

**MARGARET MEIKLE**

Margaret came to WHS from Wollongong Primary where she had been school dux. As well as being a good student, she was an accomplished pianist who became WHS choir's accompanist at the Sydney Eisteddfod, winning second prize in its section. The choir also recorded a program for ABC radio during that time. After gaining four As and two Bs in the Leaving, she won a Commonwealth Scholarship which enabled her to study Pharmacy at Sydney University. After graduating, she worked in retail pharmacy, firstly in the Wollongong area, then in Sydney, England and New Zealand. In 1977, she joined the Commonwealth Public Service and was appointed to a pharmacist position in what is now known as the Therapeutic Goods Administration, Canberra, in the drug

evaluation area. She retired from the public service in 1999 and then worked in a voluntary capacity for 12 years, as a part-time Chaplain at the Canberra Hospital for the Presbyterian Church of St. Andrews, Canberra, where she is an Elder. Margaret and her husband Colin, currently divide their time between Wollongong and Canberra.

## 1954

**HAYDN SARGENT AM**

Hayden came from Warrawong Primary and gained five Bs in the Leaving. A religious person from an early age, he began a University law course after leaving school but entered the ministry in Sydney in the late 1950s. He moved to Brisbane as a young church pastor in 1962 and began doing on-camera television work in 1963 for the Christian Television Association. From 1972 to 1992 he was an announcer for radio station 4BC and was one of Australia's earliest talkback hosts. During this time he also did some more TV work and also wrote two books. In 1993 he was honoured with an AM and the next year, he was admitted to the Queensland Radio Hall of Fame. After retiring at the end of 1992, he did some fill in announcing work during the next 10 years or so. He died on 14 February 2013 aged 77. He was survived by his wife Norma, five children and nine grandchildren.

**MARGARET BUTTEL**

A fine all-round student, Margaret came from Corrimal Primary. She was a good debater, an excellent pianist, a district junior representative tennis player and represented the NSW schools softball team in Brisbane. The eyes of most Australians were focused on Margaret on 11 February 1954 at the Wollongong Showground, when she was chosen from all Illawarra students to give the welcome to the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh. Her speech was impressive and the Duke had a laugh with her, before she began, when he said, "You're going to have trouble with that hat in the wind." Although the hat did not come off, the wind did move it sideways, but Margaret moved it back without missing a word of her speech. Margaret and her husband live at Mt. Ousley.

## 1955

**RICHARD BROWN**

Richard was born on 17 February 1939 and grew up in Yallah, which is south of Wollongong, where his family had a highly rated jersey cow dairy farm. He attended

Dapto Primary and was a good all round sportsman. He was a member of the High's first XIII rugby League side and did well at the school athletic carnival. After gaining five Bs in the Leaving, he attended Hawkesbury Agricultural College at Richmond for three years from 1956, where he graduated with an HDA (Hawkesbury Diploma of Agriculture). His Graduation Day was at the College in the outer Sydney suburb of Richmond, on 14 May 1959. He passed away on 15 March 2010, aged 71.

### ROSALIND SHAW

The second of three daughters of long-term Wollongong High Maths teacher, Bruce Shaw, Rosalind attended Coniston Primary as her sister, Judith, had done. Judith was girls' captain in 1952. An excellent pianist, Rosalind was also a good all-round sports woman. At the 1955 school athletic carnival, she won the under 16 broad jump and was second in both the high jump and the 75 yards sprint. At the 1955 school swimming carnival she won the open diving event. With first-class Honours in Maths I, second-class Honours in Physics along with four As, Rosalind achieved the school's second best Leaving pass. She went on to complete a Bachelor of Science at Sydney University and became a teacher. Her first appointment was teaching Science at St. George Girls' High, followed by Cooma and Cowra Highs. After a year's leave because of ill health, she then moved to the correspondence school, where she taught Maths and Science. Following her marriage she became a home mother and later returned to some casual teaching in the Sydney area. Rosalind had a good voice and over the years, sang in church and city choirs. She passed away in March 2009, aged 70.

1956

### BARRY WALTERS

Barry came from Wollongong Primary in 1952 to first year and then had two years at Fort Street Boys' High when his family moved to Sydney. He returned to WHS in 1955 for fourth year at the old Smiths Hill site and fifth year in the brand new school at Fairy Meadow in 1956. At WHS, Barry was very involved in debating and was a member of the school's Karl Cramp team who reached the State final. Gaining four As and two Bs in the Leaving, he won a scholarship to Sydney University and graduated in 1961 with a BA. He then taught English at Wagga High, was English master at Lithgow High and Koorlingal High, then



School Captains 1955

Deputy Principal at Mount Austin High, followed by Principal at Maroubra Bay High, Jannali Girls' High and Chatswood High, from where he retired. Since retirement he has taught himself woodwork, beginning by constructing a medieval pole-lathe. Over the past few years, he has built furniture and craft objects from fine woods. Nowadays he lives in Sydney's eastern suburbs.

### WENDY THORNE

Wendy came from Austinmer Primary where she was a good scholar and swimmer with the local swimming club. She was 10 years champion of the Austinmer club in 1950. As a 13 year old in 1953, while in second year at High, she won an award from the Australian Broadcasting Commission, in the 11 to 15 years division, for an essay on the topic "What does the Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II mean to the British Commonwealth of Nations." She received a detention from her teacher for writing the essay in class but for winning, she was given the job of reporting on the Queen's visit to Wollongong in 1954, for the ABC radio's children's program. She watched proceedings from the press enclosure. Her report was also featured in the Sydney Morning Herald. At the 1956 school swimming carnival, Wendy was the 16 years girls champion. She did very well in the Leaving, gaining first-class Honours in Economics, second-class Honours in English, plus three As and a B. Wendy was first in English, History and Economics at Wollongong High. After finishing 62nd in NSW at

the Leaving, she won a Commonwealth Scholarship and then completed a Bachelor of Arts followed by a Masters Degree at Sydney University. After this she went to Canada where she began a PhD, but moved to London where she completed her Doctorate. While in London she met her husband, Stuart Brumley, who became an eye surgeon and the couple came back to Australia to be married at Darling Point in March 1969. They soon returned to London where they lived and worked until 1975, except for a brief period in Abu Dhabi in 1970. In 1975 Wendy and her family moved to Melbourne where she worked as a clinical psychologist and lectured at several universities. Over the years the family often came to Austinmer for holidays with Wendy's parents. Wendy's husband died in 2012 and Wendy passed away on 25 May 2015, aged 75.

1957

#### BOB WHEWAY

Born on 2 July 1940, Bob was the dux of Port Kembla Primary. He continued his academic excellence during his five years at High and was the School Dux in his final year. With a variety of interests, Bob was involved in many facets of school life. He was a member of the very successful 8 stone 7 pounds (55 kgs) Rugby League team, was on the school magazine committee, boys' captain of Flinders House and held the rank of sergeant in the school cadet unit. In the Leaving Certificate, he obtained first-class Honours in Maths I, second-class Honours in Physics, plus four As. After school he began at Wollongong Tech College and after six years part time study and one-year fulltime, had completed a Bachelor of Mechanical Engineering Degree. A scholarship from GJ Coles enabled Bob to complete a PhD at Wollongong University, which in those days was aligned to the University of NSW. After that, he began as a lecturer at Wollongong University, then a senior lecturer, finishing up as an Associate Professor. Although he retired from fulltime work in 1998, Bob still remains active with Wollongong in an honorary capacity, promoting Science-Technology-Engineering-Maths (STEM). At the time of writing, Bob was the University of Wollongong's senior STEM advisor.

#### PAT BRIGHT

Pat moved from Sydney to Wollongong when her bank manager father was given an appointment in Wollongong. In her first year at High, she joined class 3A and in the yearly examination topped this class. In

fourth year, she was third, while in fifth year, she finished second. She worked on the school magazine committee and was a first class debater. In 1956, Pat was a member of the undefeated girls' Rotary Shield debating competition winners. In the Leaving, Pat scored first-class Honours in French, second-class Honours in History, plus four As. She went on to Sydney University where she completed a Bachelor of Arts. Over the years, Pat worked as a teacher, computer trainer, database manager, university lecturer, lexicographer, administrator, communication and document consultant. She married Ross Kreuter, who was a prefect in the year above her, 1956, at High.



School Captains 1957

1958

#### GORDON DUFF

Gordon came from Fairy Meadow Primary and quickly established himself as a popular member of the school, both with his fellow students and with the teachers. As a sportsman, he captained the school's first



School Captains 1958

team in both Rugby League and cricket, while in the cadets; he rose to Cadet Under-Officer and Adjutant. In the Leaving, Gordon finished with second-class Honours in History, an A in English and three Bs. He began studying Law on a part-time basis with Wollongong solicitor, Mr. Peedom, who was a long-term supporter of the school as President of the P and C, as well being father of 1959 boys captain, John Peedom. In late 1961, Gordon moved to Canberra where he continued working in law for the 40 years or so. During this time he acted for and managed such prominent footballers as Senator Glenn Lazarus (21 Tests) and Bradley Clyde (19 Tests). As a young man, Gordon played first grade cricket and Rugby League, as well as being an excellent jazz drummer. He played representative cricket for both Illawarra and ACT and still lives in Canberra.

#### **PAM MOW**

A pupil at Wollongong Primary before coming to High, Pam participated across the spectrum of school activities. She was a soprano member of the choir, a member of the school debating team, a talented fullback in the school firsts hockey side, in the school athletic team and as a first-class pianist, she played the piano at several school functions. Pam was a prominent member of the school choir, which won the secondary schools' choral championship at the Wollongong Eisteddfod and was placed second in the NSW choral championship at the City of Sydney Eisteddfod. In the Leaving, Pam received an A in English, plus three Bs. She went on to Wagga Teachers College and became an Infants teacher.

#### **1959**

#### **JOHN PEEDOM**

John came to High from West Wollongong Primary. During the year John played some games with the school's great first XIII Rugby League team, who were NSW champion open weight team in 1959. He was also a basketballer and a member of the school's swimming team. In the Leaving, John scored second-class Honours in French and Physics, three As and a B. This pass allowed him to enroll in medicine at Sydney University where he studied for four years. However he decided to return to Wollongong where he became an articled clerk at his father's law firm. He was admitted as a solicitor in 1969 and retired after a successful and fulfilling law career in 2007. John still lives in Wollongong.

#### **ELAINE ETHERINGTON**

Elaine grew up in Fairy Meadow where she attended the local primary school. Always a good student, Elaine shared the Walter Lance prize at High in 1956, for proficiency in second year. In her final year, Elaine was girls' captain of Kembla House and an excellent first basewoman with the schools top softball team, receiving a Blue in this sport. In the Leaving, she scored first-class Honours in Maths II, second-class Honours in Maths I, three As and two Bs. She then attended Wagga Teachers College, becoming an Infants teacher. After completing a Diploma of Teaching in 1978, Elaine began teaching high school Maths to year 12 level. In 1992, she joined the NSW Country Women's Association and became their

State President from 2010 to 2013. Recently retired from farming at Oura, Elaine now lives in Wagga. Her father, George Etherington attended Wollongong High in its early years, while her two older brothers were students in the late 1940s. She has three sons and nine grandchildren.

1960

#### **GRAHAM THOMPSON**

A student at Port Kembla Primary, Graham was an excellent all-round student. Academically he was always top or near the top of his class, while he was also an outstanding sportsman. In his final year, he was Dux of the school and a key forward in the firsts Rugby League team which won the NSW openweight championship. In the Leaving, Graham finished with first-class Honours in Chemistry, second-class Honours in Maths I, three As and a B. He then began a metallurgy course at the University of NSW in Sydney

#### **LORRAINE WEINE**

An excellent public speaker, Lorraine came from Coniston Primary. She was captain of High's Rotary debating team for two years, as well as a prominent sporting person in basketball, tennis, athletics and swimming. In the Leaving, Lorraine got three As and three Bs and went on to study Arts at Sydney University. After completing her BA, she moved to Queensland to teach at a private school where she became a head teacher. Sadly she passed away in the 1990s.

1961

#### **ROSS JOHNSON**

Ross and his family had come to Wollongong from Sydney's North Shore, where he had completed first year at North Sydney Technical High. An excellent cricketer, Ross played with the school's top team and also grade in the local district competition. In his final year, he was manager of the school's Rugby League team. After scoring five Bs and an A in Accountancy, in which he topped the State, in the Leaving Certificate, Ross did accountancy at Wollongong Technical College, as well as some other postgraduate studies. In 1970, he won a Rotary Group Study Exchange scholarship to the USA. After returning his career at AIS/BHP changed and he worked in the senior management team until 1994. Next he worked as a BHP contractor until 2006 and although retiring at this time, he did some consultancy work in the steel industry for the next nine years. A director of

several companies, Ross has been on the Flagstaff Group Board for more than 30 years.

#### **GEMETTE REID**

From Wollongong Primary, Gemette was interested in drama, debating and public speaking from an early age. In August 1961, she finished second in the Sanders Cup public speaking event. At High, she involved herself in many activities, being superintendent of the school's banking service and assistant ISCF leader. Her favourite sports were squash and tennis. With first-class Honours in English, History and Economics, plus an A and a B, Gemette gained the school's best Leaving Certificate result. Because of her excellent effort, she won the Hoskin's Scholarship, which was given to the child of an AIS employee with the best Leaving pass. After school she did an Arts degree at Canberra University.

1962

#### **IAN FEVRE**

Ian was recognized as a leader early in his school life. He was school captain at Mt. St. Thomas Primary and at High, he rose to the rank of Adjutant CUO in the school cadet unit. A strong running second rower, Ian was a prominent member of the school's top Rugby League team. In the Leaving, he scored second-class Honours in Chemistry, plus four As and a B. He went on to do medicine at Sydney University, completing his degree in 1968. In 1975, Ian became a Fellow of the Royal Australian College of Physicians and won a Travelling Fellowship from the NSW Cancer Council. As a result he went to England where he worked at St. Mark's Hospital in London. Back in Australia in 1977, he became the consulting Gastroenterologist for the Royal North Shore and Mona Vale hospitals, working in this position until 2007. From 2008 up to the time of writing, he was the senior Medical Officer for the Australian Defence Force Recruiting.

#### **MARGARET GEORGE**

Born on 2 October 1945, Margaret was captain of Wollongong primary before coming to WHS. A member of the school's swimming team, Margaret won the CWA service prize at the end of fourth year. In the Leaving, she obtained first class honours in History, second class honours in French, an A and three Bs. She then completed a Bachelor of Arts Degree at ANU in Canberra with a major in Australian History. After graduation, she worked with the Australian Council of Educational Research in Melbourne and a few

years later returned to Canberra where she gained her PhD in International Relations. While completing the PhD, she went to The Hague to work in the Archives Of the Netherlands government. Moving to Sydney after finishing the PhD, she was appointed National Education Officer with the Australian Freedom From Hunger campaign. The National Archives of Australia began the Margaret George Scholarship from 2004. This is awarded to talented and emerging scholars for innovative and quality research. Sadly Margaret died much too young at just 28, on 7 March 1974.

1963

### GREG URWIN

Greg was born at Lithgow on 21 August 1946. The family relocated to the Illawarra district in 1956 and Greg enrolled at Fairy Meadow Primary. He was an excellent public speaker from an early age and also a strong soccer player with High's top team. In the Leaving, he obtained second-class Honours in French and History, plus two As and two Bs. He completed an Arts degree at Sydney University with a History major on a Commonwealth Scholarship and not long after, joined the Australian Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT). His first posting was to Ottawa in Canada. In 1977 he began to specialize in the Pacific region and was posted to Apia, Samoa to open Australia's first diplomatic mission in the Polynesian nation. He later served as the Australian High Commissioner to Fiji and Vanuatu, as well as becoming deputy head of the Australian mission to New Zealand. Around late 2000, he was instrumental in stabilizing the political situation in Fiji after George Speight had staged the coup d'etat, as well as calming the ethnic tensions in the Solomon Islands after problems on the island of Guadalcanal. In 2004, Greg became the first Australian Secretary-General of the Pacific Islands Forum and in 2006 he was reappointed to a second three year term in this office. In late 2008 health issues caused him to resign from the position as Secretary-General. He had continuing cancer and heart problems over the next few years and passed away at his home in Apia on 9 August 2008, aged 61. He was survived by his wife, Samoan, Penny Clark.

### JENNIFER SMITH

Coming to High from Wollongong Primary, Jennifer was a talented all-round student. She was senior athletic champion in her final year, setting new school records in

javelin, discus and shot putt, while she was also captain of the school's A basketball team. She received Blues for both athletics and basketball. In fourth year, she won the CWA service prize and was also a good debater and public speaker. In the Leaving, she finished with first-class Honours in History, second-class Honours in English, plus two As and two Bs. She then studied Arts at Canberra University, winning a Commonwealth Scholarship. She now lives in Evindale South Australia with her husband and family.



School Captains and Vice-Captains 1964

1964

### JOHN CURRIE

John was born in South Africa and arrived in Australia with his family at the beginning of 1962. An excellent sportsman, he was a key member and contributor to both the school's first grade Rugby League team and also the firsts cricket side. In the Leaving, he finished with first-class Honours in Physics, second-class Honours in Maths I, three As and a B. He then went on to complete a medical degree at Sydney University. In 2015, John was a leading gynaecologist, practising in Wagga.

### PAULINE DAY

Coming from Wollongong Primary, Pauline was involved in several aspects of school life. She was an important member of the Senior A basketball team and in fourth year, she won the CWA prize. In the Leaving,

she obtained first-class Honours in Geography, an A and four Bs. She went on to do an Arts degree at the Australian National University in Canberra (ANU), specialising in South East Asian Economics and Geography. With her qualifications, the Australian Defence Department was a perfect fit and she joined as an Intelligence Research Officer. During her time with the government, she worked for the Joint Intelligence Organisation during the Vietnam War. In the early 1970s, Pauline travelled to Asia and Europe where she met a young RAF officer. The two have been married around 45 years now and live near Cambridge England.

## 1965

### PETER HOGBEN

Peter came to High from West Wollongong Primary where he was school captain. At High, he quickly established himself as an outstanding athlete, winning cross-country championships at State, Illawarra and school levels. He was captain of the school athletic team in his final year and was also a good swimmer and surfer. In the Leaving, he collected an A in Maths I, plus five Bs. He then went on to do Architecture at the University of NSW in Sydney. Later he established his own successful Car Mechanic business in Wollongong. He passed away on 22 April 2010, after a long struggle with throat cancer.

### KIM SWINSON

Kim came from Gwynneville Primary, where she had began an interest in Drama. At High, she was a keen actor in several plays, while she also played netball and was a good debater. In the Leaving, she scored first-class Honours in Economics, three As and two Bs. Then she began an Arts course at Wollongong University, going on to become a teacher. While teaching she completed a Graduate Diploma in Educational Administration.

## 1966

In 1967, the fifth year students were not leaving school at the end of the year; as they were going on to complete the first ever sixth year. But school captains were needed and so the following students were elected.

### JUSTIN McCARTHY

A star footballer at West Wollongong Primary, Justin continued his outstanding play at High school. In his final year at school, Justin was a member of the firsts



School Captains and Vice-Captains 1965  
(L to R) Peter Hogben, Kim Swinson, Cheryl Ferguson, Chuck Owens.



School Captains and Vice-Captains 1966

Rugby League team and the school swimming team. He was also a leader and keen participant of the ISCF. In the first ever School Certificate, Justin scored six Advanced level passes. In the first ever Higher School Certificate, Justin picked up First Level passes in English, Science and Latin, along with a Second Level Full pass in Mathematics. He then began Medicine at the University of NSW, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Medicine with Honours class one in 1973, followed by a Bachelor of Surgery in 1975. After completing his residency in 1976 and 1977 at Sydney Hospital, he completed a PhD at Melvin University, while at the same time, working at the Walter and Eliza Institute of Medical Research. From 1980 to 1984, he completed his Internal Medicine training, becoming a Fellow of the Royal Australasian College of Physicians and then from 1984 to 1986 he did Gastroenterology training at Sir Charles Gardener Hospital in Western Australia, which enabled him to become a member of the Australian Society of Gastroenterology. In 1986 Justin was the visiting Professor of Medicine at the University of Wisconsin

and then around a year later became assistant Professor of Medicine at UT Southwestern Medicine School in Dallas. He remained in Dallas until 1992, when he was appointed as the visiting Professor of Medicine at the University of Hamburg. Following that he went into private practice in West Texas and did this until he retired in 2003. In 2006 he returned to solo practice in Lubbock West Texas and is currently doing this, working in Internal Medicine and Gastroenterology. He and his wife Patricia, live in Lubbock.

### JOY MOWBRAY

Joy came to Wollongong High in first year from Merewether Primary in the Newcastle area. A hard-working member of the social committee in her final year, Joy, was a member of the school basketball side and captain of the school athletic team. Joy collected six Advanced level passes in the first SC. In the first ever HSC, she obtained a First Level pass in German, a Second Level pass in English plus Second Level Full passes in Maths and Science. She then began Medicine at the University of NSW in Sydney. Since graduating with Honours, Joy has been in general practice in the St. George area and has been involved in the supervision of young doctors.

### 1967

Because the principal believed that the captains should only hold their position for one year, two new captains were elected for 1967, despite the 1966 captains still remaining as students. All four of the 1966 and 1967 school captains sat for the HSC at the end of 1967.

### MICHAEL CONDON

Michael came to High in first year after completing his primary schooling in Mt. Isa. He was active in many aspects of school life and was an excellent athlete, winning the Illawarra Schools senior championship and being awarded a school athletics Blue. As CUO in the Cadets Corps, he trained the 1967 AH and I Guard Mounting Shield winners, as well as the cadets who participated in the 1966 Governor's parade. In the first ever SC, he scored six Advanced level passes and in the first ever HSC, he finished with First Level passes in Maths, German and Science, a Second Level pass in English plus a General Studies pass. After school, Michael completed the Cadet Pilot scheme with Qantas and stayed with the Australian company for 46 years, retiring in 2014, at age 65. During his time with Qantas, Michael flew the Boeing 707, 747-2/300 and

B747-400. During a leave of absence from Qantas in the 1970s/80s, he also flew in Papua/New Guinea and Burma, along with a lengthy stint out of Albion Park and Sydney airports in light jet aircraft.

### ALYSON JONES

Alyson came to Wollongong High in first year from Ross Hill Primary at Inverell. She was involved in many school activities, including the Gavel club, the ISCF and the Drama club, while she was also a member of the girls' athletic and hockey teams. During her last three high school years, Alyson taught Sunday school and was keenly interested in social work. In the first SC, she scored three Advanced passes, one credit and two ordinary level passes. In the first HSC, she finished with a First Level pass in French, Second Level passes in English, History and German, plus a Second Level Short pass in Maths. After school, she joined the Commonwealth Bank.



School Captains and Vice Captains 1967  
(L to R) Michael Condon, Alyson Jones, Elizabeth Neilson, James Johnston.

### 1968

### IAN FULFORD

Ian came from Wollongong Primary where he had been school dux. He was interested in drama from his early school days and at High he played a major role in the melodrama, "My Proud Beauty", in 1965. He was a good athlete, and tennis player, while he also put a lot of hard work into Lifesaving. In the Higher School Certificate, he scored First Level passes in Maths and

Science, Second Level in English and German, plus a General Studies pass. He began a Medical Science Degree at Sydney University in 1969, while living at Wesley College. On Saturday afternoon 27 October 1973, while driving home from Sydney, he was killed in a head-on collision on Mt. Ousley road. He was just 22. At the time of his death, he was in a serious relationship with a young French woman, and so became involved in French culture and cuisine.

#### GLENDIA KIRK

From Fairy Meadow Demonstration School, Glenda was a top all round student. She was asked to enter the Quota Club's "Girl of the Year" competition. An Illawarra representative hockey player, she was also an outstanding athlete, holding the school record for the girls' 17 years hurdles. In the HSC, she passed Science and Economics at First Level, English at Second Level, Maths at Second Level Full and also passed General Studies. After High School, she enrolled in Law at Sydney University.



School Captains and Vice-Captains 1968  
(L to R) Jill Houghton, Glenda Kirk, Ian Fulford, Chris Duncombe.

1969

#### JOHN PARSONS

John came to High from Mt. St. Thomas Primary where he had been vice-captain. An excellent swimmer, John won several school age division championships, as well as Illawarra PSAAA and, as a member of North Wollongong Surf Club, he was a key part of the club's team which won the 1967 NSW junior R and R championship and finished second at the Australian

titles. At High, he was captain of the Open Rugby League team and a prominent member of the school cricket XI. During his last school year, John reached the district finals of the Lions Club Youth of the Year Quest, which earned him trips to Western Australia and the Snowy Mountains. In the Higher School Certificate, he obtained First Level passes in Maths and Economics, Second Level passes in English and Science, plus a General Studies pass. This won him a Commonwealth Scholarship and he studied Medicine at the University of NSW. After graduating he became a medical missionary in India and Pakistan until 1989. After returning home he has worked as a GP and lives on the Gold Coast.

#### SUE LAMERTON

Sue came to WHS from West Wollongong Primary where she had been school captain. At high school, she particularly enjoyed languages and in the HSC, she gained Second Level passes in French, German, English and Economics, a Second Level Short in Maths plus General Studies. At WHS she was a member of the senior A softball team and also the tennis team. After school, she worked in secretarial and administrative positions in the private sector and the Australian Public Service. In retirement, she enjoys involvement with family and travel, while she recently resumed an Arts degree at Wollongong University.

1970

#### ROGER COOMBS

An excellent all round student, Roger was strong both academically and on the sporting field. At Wollongong Primary he was an excellent Rugby League player and he continued that at High School, representing the school's first team for three successive years. In the HSC, he collected First Level passes in English and History, Second Level in Economics, Second Level short in Maths and Third Level Science. Soon after leaving school, he began as journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald and did this for more than a year. In 1972, he began a Bachelor of Arts at ANU and completed this and a Dip Ed in 1976, while in Canberra. He then taught at Queanbeyan High for the next six years and among his students was future Rugby Union legend, David Campese. In 1983, Roger returned to journalism, joining the Daily Telegraph, where he remained until 2010. Since then he and his wife have done some travelling, while he has also written two books, one on the Shoalhaven area of NSW and the other on former police commissioner, John Avery.



School Captains 1970  
(L to R) Roger Coombs, Jann Pollock, Danielle Olbreich, Mark Findlay.

### JANN POLLOCK

After finishing school, Jann completed a Bachelor of Arts with a double History major at the University of Wollongong. Following her Dip Ed, she began her teaching career at Manly Boys' High in 1975. In 1977, Jann and her husband went to England and when they returned, the couple entered full-time parish ministry with the Anglican Church. She began teaching again in 1989 and in 2005 was appointed Principal of St. Luke's Grammar School in Dee Why. In 2015 she continued as Principal and is also the Chair of HICES (Heads of Independent Co-Educational Schools) and is a Board Member of AHISA (Association of Independent Schools Australia).

1971

### CHRIS WHITELAW

A son of 1931 captain, Ernie Whitelaw, Chris came to High from Wollongong Primary and won the Wollongong Lions' Club Youth of the Year Award in 1971. Although he was a good hockey player as a boy, this sport caused him to miss nearly three months of schooling in his final year. As a goalie for the school's A side against Corrimal High, he suffered a badly shattered kneecap. After surgery and hospitalisation, he was still in recovery mode when he slipped on the Assembly Hall's polished floor, which resulted in a complete tearing of the lower thigh muscles from the knee. Vice-captain,

Kevin Howell, had plenty of work to do that year. In the HSC, Chris obtained First Level passes in English, Science and Economics (he came 14th in NSW) and a Second Level Full pass in Maths. This allowed him to study Law at ANU, where he graduated in 1978 with a Bachelor of Law and Economics. Over the next 28 years or so, Chris practised Law, first as a solicitor in the Wollongong area and later as a seasoned barrister of 16 years in the ACT and NSW Supreme Courts. In his mid fifties, he decided to begin a new career path and completed a Bachelor of Visual Arts Degree at ANU. With a grant from Arts ACT, he flew to East Timor with his camera, spending three weeks documenting the "Killing Fields". His portfolio, "The Shades of November" was first exhibited in October 2010. In 2015, Chris was semi-retired and living with Elizabeth, his wife of 37 years, on the Queensland Sunshine Coast and doing some freelance photography.

### ANNE AKITT

Anne is the daughter of Howard Akitt, who came to Wollongong in 1964 to join the staff of the Wollongong Teachers College in just its second year. He moved on to lecture at Wollongong University and in its first year of autonomy, 1975, where he was a Social Science Staff lecturer and Director of External Studies. After the HSC, Anne began a Bachelor of Secretarial Studies with a Law major at Canberra College of Advanced Education. She did not complete this course; instead she became an

Articled Clerk with a Canberra lawyer. After marrying another WHS ex-student, the couple moved to the NSW far south coast where they owned and operated a number of small businesses. For 30 years or so, Anne has worked in educational administration.

1972

### DAVID YATES

David arrived at High School, from Wollongong Primary, as a gifted student with a variety of hobbies and interests. An excellent hockey player, he represented Illawarra in many age groups, was selected in the NSWCHS Convenors' XI in 1971 and received a Hockey Blue in 1972. As well as this, he won a judo Black Belt during his University days, is an accomplished pianist and singer, plus a keen kayaker, often on Sydney Harbour. From an early age he was a chorister at St. Michael's Pro-Cathedral and later Head Chorister. At high school he was a member of the choir and the very successful Madrigal group, which won several exhibitions at State level. In 1970 he was awarded an Exhibition Medal for pianoforte by the AMEB. In the HSC, David gained First Level passes in English, History and Music, which he studied externally, plus Second Level full passes in Maths and Science. After graduating from the Sydney University Law School and completing his Practical Legal Training at the St.



School Captains and Vice-Captains 1972  
(L to R) David Yates, Cheryl Akhurst, Cheryl Brown, Phillip King.

Leonard's College of Law in 1977, David joined Sly and Russell as a solicitor and in 1982, went to the NSW Bar, becoming a barrister. While he practised in several fields, his main field was Intellectual Property Law. Between 1990 and 1992, he was a member of the Intellectual Property Committee of the Australian Law Council and in 1997 was appointed as Senior Counsel. On 2 December 2009, David became a judge of the Federal Court of Australia.

### CHERYL AKHURST

Cheryl came to High from West Wollongong Primary, where she had been school captain. A good all-round sportswoman, she represented the school at the NSWCHS at swimming and athletics. A talented singer, Cheryl was a member of the school choir and also the



Prefects 1972

Back Row: B. Musgrove, G. White, P. Watson, L. Laycock, T. Hutten, E. Petrov, N. Chesterfield-Evans, M. Dearberg, M. Talbot.  
Centre Row: A. Yeomans, A. Dean, G. Goulding, A. Boadle, D. Harris, B. Birney, L. Engel, S. Capp, A. Lim.  
Front Row: Mrs. J. Ramsay, E. Denley, C. Brown, C. Akhurst, Mr. T. Gardiner, D. Yates, P. King, G. Dawson, Mr. W. Freame.

very successful Madrigal group, which won several eisteddfods at State level. In the HSC, she obtained First Level passes in English and Modern History (in NSW top 10 students), Second Level Full passes in Maths and Science, plus General studies. After school she completed a Bachelor of Arts, with first-class Honours, plus a Dip Ed. Beginning at Sylvania High in 1977, Cheryl taught High School until retiring in 2012. After retirement she worked one day a week in a Year 12 mentor programme for Indigenous students.

1973

### IAN ANDREWS

A good all-round sportsman, Ian came from the Illawarra Grammar School to High in year 8. An excellent basketballer, he also did well at Rugby League. After finishing his HSC, Ian completed a medical degree at the University of NSW, becoming a Paediatrician. A few years later he went to the USA, where he studied for six years at Duke University. After returning to Australia, he began at the Sydney Children's Hospital as a Neurological Paediatrician. Highly respected, Ian has been at the Children's Hospital for more than 20 years.

### PAM DENT

Pam came to High as West Wollongong Primary School captain. She was a keen ballet dancer and pianist, while she also enjoyed tennis, netball and horse-riding. In the HSC, she scored Level One passes in English, History and Economics, Second Level Short passes in Maths and Science, plus a Second Level pass in music as an external subject. After completing a Diploma of Physiotherapy from the Cumberland College of Health Sciences, she practised in Newcastle for a year and then worked at Queenstown in New Zealand for seven years. Pam then returned home working in Wollongong for a couple of years, before she moved to Jindabyne where she has ran two successful businesses, one on the ski fields, for around 30 years.

1974

### RICHARD HEALY

Born on 20 July 1956, Richard came from West Wollongong Primary. A keen, all-round student, Richard actively participated in sport, art, debating, writing, acting and politics. He was an excellent soccer player and, after school, played this game professionally with Wollongong City and later Sydney Croatia in the

then version of the A-league. After completing a Bachelor of Arts, he found the theatre and began a career as an actor, working with Neil Armfield, Geoffrey Rush and other famous actors. For the past 20 years or so, Richard has mainly done TV work, on such program as Fast Lane, Water Rats, Grass Roots and Rake. In 2003, he completed a Dip Ed and has done some teaching in some Sydney inner-west high schools.

### WENDY STAMP

Wendy came to High from Fairy Meadow Primary where she had been vice-captain. She quickly became involved in many aspects of school life, becoming a member of the school choir and orchestra, as well as being an excellent pianist and a member of the girls' relay team which won a State athletic title. After school, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Asian Studies and Politics, with Honours, at Canberra University, followed by a Master of Administration at the University of Technology in Sydney. She also completed the Company Director's Diploma. Over the years she has worked at senior executive levels in a wide spectrum of fields including government, public affairs and communications, board governance and consulting. Included in her CV, are high level positions with several NSW government departments including Primary Industries and Fisheries, as well as Trade and Investment. She was also a senior executive with the Sydney Water Corporation. Early in her career, she worked with the Premier's Department. In 2015, Wendy was the Secretary for the National Catholic Education Commission, where she is responsible for advising the Commission on governance, public policy, and strategic planning advocacy.



Wendy Stamp

1975

This was an unusual year as far as the boy captain was concerned. Stuart Kettle was elected as captain in February but at the end of Term One, he went to France on a student exchange, for the remainder of 1975. Keith Hopkins was named as School Captain at the beginning of Term Two.

#### STUART KETTLE

Stuart was chosen as the school captain in early 1975, but took up an American Field Scholarship. After returning home, he graduated from the University of NSW with Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Laws degrees. In his early working life he was employed by the Sydney Morning Herald as a journalist and sub-editor and after completing his degrees he worked for nine years as a solicitor in London. He was admitted to the NSW Bar in 1995 and is currently practising law in Sydney with a major firm.

#### KEITH HOPKINS

Keith came from Keiraville Primary and was a talented soccer and hockey player in the Wales Cup team. He also was a founding player of AFL at Wollongong High and in summer did Beach Running. After school, he completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Dip Ed at Wollongong University, followed by a Masters Degree a few years later. For many years he taught at St. Mary Star of the Sea in Wollongong and currently teaches Geography at Loreto at Kirribilli.

#### SUE CRAM

Sue represented High in softball, netball and basketball, while she was also involved in the organisation of Play Day and Market Day. From her early teens, she had a passion for Early Childhood education, so after the HSC, she graduated from Sydney Kindergarten Teachers College. From that time in the late 1970s, she has worked as an early childhood educator in and around the Wollongong area. She has worked as a teacher, support worker and director in preschools, long daycare centres and mobile preschools. Currently she is a director of an Illawarra preschool.

1976

#### MARK CUTIFANI

Mark has had a stunning rise to CEO of one of the world's biggest companies. In 2015 he was living in

London and employed as the top man with the Anglo-American company which has world-wide interests and employs over 150,000 people. Born on 2 May 1958, Mark attended Fairy Meadow Primary before coming to High School. He was an excellent soccer player and after leaving school, began working at Coalcliff Colliery and also enrolled in a mining degree at Wollongong University. Graduating in 1982, Mark topped his class and won a global travelling scholarship through Europe as the top mining student in Australia. After various positions in the mining industry, Mark was appointed as Anglo-American CEO in January 2013. He was also elected to the position of President of the South African Chamber of Mines and is currently the Chairman of the world's leading mining association (International Council for Mining and Metallurgy). In December 2013, the University of Wollongong conferred on him, an Honorary Doctorate of Business Administration. He has also been advised of the award of an Honorary Doctorate from Canada's Laurentian University, as well as being recognised by the Royal Institute of Engineers in the UK. Mark has also been given a lifetime achievement award from the Kalgoorlie Diggers and Dealers organisation for his contribution to the Australian mining industry.

#### SUE MUDELL

Sue attended both Keiraville then Wollongong Primary Schools. At High School she did well in Cross Country, athletics and hockey. Along with the Headmasters' wife (Mrs. Cook), Sue started the girls' hockey team which played in the Saturday competition at Unanderra. After school, she completed a radiography course and now works as a radiographer/sonographer in Brisbane, where she and her husband live.

1977

#### STUART BROOKING

After school, Stuart worked with BHP in Wollongong in the HR department, and during this time he studied Psychology at the University of Wollongong. Next he studied Theology at Moore College in Sydney. He went on to study medieval history and management. In late 2015 he completed a PhD in International Education at Sydney University. These studies all supported his ministry in the Anglican Church in Australia, and more recently around the world. Currently Stuart is CEO of an interdenominational Christian organisation, Overseas Council Australia, which supports indigenous leadership training for the church and society for 70

countries globally. He has also published in this field. He and his wife, Marion, have been married for 33 years and in 2015, were living in the Blue Mountains.

#### **LISA SAKUN**

Lisa began her schooling at Gwynneville Primary but moved to the OC (Opportunity Class) at Wollongong Primary for fifth and sixth classes. At Wollongong High from 1972 to 1977, she was the Quota Club NSW female of the year for 1976. A high quality HSC pass which saw her finish in the top 10 percent of the State, including Level One passes in English, History and Geography, enabled her to complete a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology at Wollongong University followed by a Graduate Diploma of Applied Psychology (Counselling), at the University of Canberra. In 1977, she began two years as a cadet journalist at the Illawarra Mercury and then spent two years on a working holiday in the UK, Israel and the USA. On returning home, Lisa joined the Australian Federal Police in 1986 and in 2000 when she resigned to become a fulltime mother of two, she was a Sergeant. From 2002 to 2004, she did some part-time Personal Security Vetting from home for the Federal Police and then in 2005, rejoined the Federal Police as an unsworn appointee. In 2015, she was still working for the Federal Police as a writer/sub editor in the International Operations Communications Unit. From 2006 to 2008, Lisa and her family were deployed to Vanuatu and from 2010 to 2011, to the Kingdom of Tonga. Her husband, Peter, was an Advisor to both local Police Forces.

1978

#### **JOHN FERGUSON**

Always an excellent all-round student, John came from Keiraville Primary. At High he was a top 10 academic student, while he also represented the school in a number of sports including swimming, athletics, cross country, rugby league and rugby union. After completing an Education Degree he taught Phys Ed back at Wollongong High, but after two years he left teaching and moved into facility management. He then completed an MBA at the University of Wollongong and currently holds an executive management position with the NSW government, overseeing some of Australia's biggest sporting and entertainment events at Sydney Olympic Park. He still lives in Wollongong.

#### **DEBBIE BRODIE**

Debbie attended West Wollongong and Mt. Ousley Primary schools before coming to High. She was a good softball and netball player and after the HSC, she did a Bachelor of Arts, with a Psychology major at the University of Wollongong, followed by a Dip Ed. After teaching primary schools for 20 years, she retrained as a school counsellor. Then she completed a Graduate Diploma in Psychology, a Postgraduate Diploma of Psychology with Distinction and a Graduate Certificate of School Counselling. After starting as a school counsellor and gaining recognition as psychologist at Liverpool in 2004, she transferred to Wollongong in 2008, where she still works as a councillor in local schools. At World Teachers' Day in 2015, she was presented with a Recognition Award by the Illawarra/South Coast group of the Australian College of Educators, for dedicated and high quality service to students. Debbie and her family live in Wollongong.

1979

#### **KEVIN BODDEUS**

Kevin came from Mt. Pleasant Primary, (now called Pleasant Heights), where he had been among the first intake for the new school in the late 1960s. After leaving school, he studied Science at Sydney University for a year and then won a Chemical Engineering Scholarship with BHP, acquiring his degree in 1984. He remained with BHP until 1995 and during this period, completed a Masters and then a PhD in Mechanical Engineering, as a part-time student, at the University of Wollongong. Moving to the coal industry with BMCH in Sydney followed by the Fluor Company, Kevin was working at various assignments all around Australia. After four years in Perth, where he completed an MBA by correspondence, he moved to Brisbane. Having undertaken a number of coal consulting roles for various companies since 2004, he is now the principal metallurgist for A and B Mylec. His work has taken him to several international destinations including South Africa, China and Mozambique.

#### **JACQUELINE HALLIDAY**

Born in Glasgow, Jacqueline came to Wollongong with her family when she was three. She came to High from the OC class at Wollongong Primary. Editor of the 1978 Gleam, she did well in the HSC and then studied Metallurgy at the University of Wollongong. While working with BHP, she completed a Masters Degree followed by a PhD, both in Management. Over a 23-year period, her career morphed from Materials

Engineering into Executive Management. She was the first female and youngest Vice President of BHP. A few years ago, Jacqueline broadened her skills and knowledge to incorporate financial training at the Securities Institute of NSW, along with governance training at the Australian Institute of Company Directors. She and her family live in Melbourne.

1980

### SHAUN PYRAH

Shaun was born in Leeds, England on 20 September 1962 and migrated to Western Australia with his family as a young boy. After five years they moved to the Illawarra district in the early 1970s, where his father worked as a miner. A keen musician, soccer and AFL were his major sports and he did well at both of these games, becoming an AFL representative player. In the HSC he finished in the State's top three students for English and went into sales and marketing after leaving school. He worked for many years with the NSW TAB, TAB Limited and Tote Tasmania in senior positions. Currently he is a consultant in the wagering industry, living in Sydney.

### ELIZABETH JURMAN

Elizabeth came from Wollongong Primary where she had been school captain and in the last OC (Opportunity Class). Achieving an HSC mark in the top five percent of NSW, she was awarded the Hoskins Scholarship in 1981. She studied Arts/Law at Sydney University and since graduation, has travelled extensively and worked in law, as a journalist for the Sydney Morning Herald, an advisor to a NSW Attorney General, Jeff Shaw, and as a senior corporate executive. Elizabeth currently works as a writer and strategic communications consultant. She has written a high school text book on equal opportunity law, lives at Newtown in Sydney and in 2015, was writing a novel.

1981

### MICHAEL SAMARAS

A pupil at Keiraville Primary before coming to High, Michael worked as a political advisor, for Federal parliament Minister, Stewart West (Labor Party), after graduating from the University of Wollongong. After this, he was an Environment Advisor to the Carr Government in the NSW Parliament. He was elected as an Alderman on Wollongong City Council and then

moved to Sydney where he worked as a Corporate Affairs Manager for the Sydney Airport Corporation, Westlink M7 and Woolworths. He is also a trustee for the Royal Botanic Gardens Trust. In early 2016, he was working for NSW Opposition Leader, Luke Foley.

### BRENDA COLEMAN

Brenda was the dux of Fairy Meadow Dem School before moving to High in 1976. She was involved in athletics, softball, netball and debating and in 1980 was the Lions' Club Regional Youth of the Year. Following an excellent HSC result, she completed degrees in Science and Law at Sydney University, while living at the Women's College. Her first job was as a lawyer with the Australian Government Solicitor and after three years moved to London where she continued as a lawyer for the next five years. On returning to Sydney, she worked in family law and in 2015 was still working in this field at Wagga Wagga.

1982

### MALCOLM STANTON

From Keiraville Primary, Mal was a strong all-round sportsman, particularly at rugby league and AFL. After school, he began a traineeship with Kembla coal and coke, completing an Associate Diploma in Coal Mining. He then gained a Bachelor of Commerce from the University of Wollongong. Moving on to work with Unilever Mars and Electrolux, Mal started his own business, M3Logistics, in 2003 and continues as the Managing Director. He lives in Wollongong and still takes an active interest in local AFL.

### FRANCINE FELD

Francine came from West Wollongong Primary and after finishing at High, she spent time in Japan on a short cultural exchange. After returning home, she completed an Arts Degree in Philosophy and Economics, as a part-time student at Sydney University, while working for the NSW Attorney-General's department. She then completed a Law Degree, this time as a full-time student while working at various jobs to support herself, such as teaching trumpet for the Wollongong Conservatorium and driving trucks for the Sydney University regiment. She also did some part-time work in legal publishing and research with a law firm. After graduating, she was admitted to practise Law, but instead became a foundation lecturer in the new Law faculty at the University of Wollongong. Later she worked as an associate to a Justice of the Federal Court of Australia for two years before returning to academic life

as a lecturer in the Law school at the University of Western Sydney, where she was working in 2015. She is co-author of several law textbooks and lives in the southern highlands with her family.

1983

#### **RODNEY FOX**

A good sportsman as a young boy, Rod came from Keiraville Primary. He represented High and Illawarra in six sports-rugby league, rugby union, AFL, swimming, athletics and surf lifesaving. After doing well in the HSC, he studied commerce part-time at the University of NSW and later completed an MBA from AGSM (Australian Graduate School of Management). His professional career as an accountant saw him work in the insolvency field for many years, both in Australia and internationally, including two years in London. In recent years he specialised in the health sector, including five years as CFO/Company Secretary for St. Vincent's Health Australia and taking Monash IVF from a private company through to its listing on the Australian Stock Exchange. Outside work, Rod has served as President of Clovelly Junior Surf Club and as an SLSA official.

#### **JULIE BILBOE**

A competent all-round student, Julie came from Fairy Meadow Dem Primary School. After the HSC, she began at BHP as a trainee metallurgist and graduated from Wollongong University in 1988 with a Bachelor of Engineering Materials (Honours). After she and her husband were transferred to Perth for work, she continued her studies and completed a Graduate Diploma in Business (Marketing) at Edith Cowan University. In the early 1990s, the family were relocated to Sydney, where Julie continued her interest in marketing, both in a national office role and completing a Master of Business (Marketing) at the University of Technology, where she won the Dow Corning Prize. Next she worked as an Associate Lecturer in Marketing at the University of NSW. Around 2001, Julie and her husband, plus their three young sons, moved to Adelaide where she currently works at the Australian Bureau of Statistics. At 50 years of age, Julie completed the 2015 New York Marathon in three hours 32 minutes. This put her at 29th in her age group, 715th by gender and 4,478th overall, which is remarkable considering there were close to 50,000 starters.

1984

#### **DAVID BULL**

From Keiraville Primary, David edited the 1983 Gleam magazine, as well as being a member of the school choir and band. While working with Price Waterhouse after the HSC, he studied for a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of NSW and became a Chartered Accountant in 1991. Between 1993 and 1999, he worked for AMP Investments in Sydney and at the same time completed a Graduate Diploma of Investment and Applied Finance. In 1999, David and his wife Sharon (Thomas), who was the school captain in 1988 moved to London where he was employed by Henderson Global Investors as Director of Finance (Private Capital) and finally, Head of Private Equity for Europe. Back in Sydney, David joined Archer Capital in 2006, as Chief Financial Officer. The couple and their four daughters live in southern Sydney, where he is currently a warden at a nearby church.

#### **LISA WEINE**

No contact could be made with Lisa. It is believed she is teaching in Victoria.

1985

#### **MATTHEW TYNE**

Before coming to High, Matthew attended Berry then Gwynneville Primary Schools. Since leaving school he has studied theatre and international development. In 2015 he completed a PhD in Performance Studies at Sydney University. After discovering his Aboriginal ancestry in 1993 he has worked with Aboriginal Communities in Central Australia. Matthew has also worked in palliative care, as well as with people living with HIV and AIDS. This has resulted in plenty of travel to south-east Asia. Currently he is the Associate Director for Relief and Development at Uniting World, which is an agency of the Uniting Church in Australia.

#### **MARTEL DAVISON**

Martel came from Keiraville Primary where she was a strong student and a good sportsperson, particularly at tennis and swimming. From her early high school years, she wanted to become a dietician and her HSC pass enabled to achieve that goal, after completing a Masters Degree in Nutrition and Dietetics, following studies at both Wollongong and Sydney Universities. She then worked at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital for five years as a clinical dietician and then

moved into the private sector as a sales specialist with Nutricia. Next she managed the dietetics department at Westmead Hospital. Since 2005, Martel has worked for Baxter Healthcare in a number of roles and for the past few years, she has been a member of the company's senior management team in Australia and New Zealand, overseeing Baxter's pharmacy compounding business. She lives in Sydney.

1986

#### **MICHAEL AUBIN**

Michael came to High from St. Therese Primary in West Wollongong, where he had been school captain. An above average sportsman, Michael represented the school in cricket, hockey, AFL and rugby league. After graduating from Sydney University in Economics and Politics, he began working with a privately-owned company, servicing heavy industry. From 2007, Michael has been a Board member of Life Education and from 2012, he has been the Chairman.

#### **ALISON McCREA**

Alison was captain of West Wollongong Primary. A keen tennis player, Alison did well in the HSC and then completed an Occupational Therapy Degree at the Cumberland College of Health Science in Sydney. Moving to the USA with her American husband, she continued working in Occupational Health for 25 years and furthered her career by becoming a Certified Hand Therapist. She has lectured throughout the USA at four National Hand Therapy/ Surgery Conferences and had been published by the Kinesio Association and co-authored an International Lecture for the same company. She lives with her husband and two sons in Dallas Texas.

1987

#### **MARTIN NEWMAN**

Martin was involved in public speaking and debating while at High school and in Year Seven won a citywide writing contest. Over the years he worked on the Gleam's publishing staff and also a local youth newspaper. Captain of the school firsts cricket team in 1986, Martin was also a good cross-country runner. In the HSC, he was placed in the top one percent of NSW Modern History students and went on to study Art and Literature at Sydney University. He began with the Daily Telegraph as a copyboy in 1992 and co-founded an Indie music

magazine, "the Underworld". Travelling to London in 1997, he worked for several Fleet Street newspapers. He spent 12 years with the London Daily Mirror where he was News Editor and then the paper's first tablet editor. After returning to Australia in 2014, he returned to the Telegraph, where he is currently the Editor of Tablet and Mobile Apps and Emerging Platforms.

#### **SUE DAVISON**

A Keiraville Primary student, Sue studied Biomedical Science at UTS after school. In her final semester she began working part-time in the Wollongong laboratory of Southern Pathology and joined this company on a full-time basis when she had completed her studies. She has worked there for 25 years, in the Haematology department, where she is now the manager.

1988

#### **DAVID KLAGES**

A talented alpine skier, who won several junior downhill titles at Smiggin's Hole, David attended Wollongong then Keira Primary Schools. In 1986 he won the Illawarra Young Achiever of the Year Award. After his HSC, he took a gap year to begin flying training at Albion Park Aerodrome and then began a Bachelor of Aviation at the University of Newcastle, which he completed in 1992. During his degree, he won the Boeing Prize for Excellence in Aviation, which was awarded to the student with the highest results in study and pilot training. Then he did some work experience jobs in Cairns and Newcastle before returning to Sydney in 1995 where he started with TAFE NSW in Human Resources. Still flying at weekends, he worked in HR during the week. In 2001, he was nominated to attend the Foundation for Young Australian Leadership Forum in Launceston. During the next few years he worked at various HR roles in the Education, Energy, Finance and Professional sectors. He worked in Japan for three years with Price Waterhouse Coopers and was there during the 2011 earthquake and tsunami. Returning to Australia in 2013, he joined Dominos Pizza Enterprises and is currently the Group HR manager with responsibility for Australia, New Zealand, Japan, France, Holland and Belgium. David lives in Brisbane.

#### **SHARON THOMAS**

As a young girl, Sharon spent three years in Indonesia with her family before coming to Wollongong and attending Mount Ousley and Keiraville Primary Schools.

After the HSC, she was offered a scholarship for Textiles and Design at the UNSW, but instead completed a Bachelor of Applied Science (Physiotherapy) at the Cumberland Campus, University of Sydney, in 1992. After an internship at Sydney's St. Vincent's Hospital, which included three months in Broken Hill, she opened a private practice at Bondi Junction in 1993, focussing on pre and post-natal exercise, as well as childbirth education. With her husband, 1984 school captain David Bull, she spent more than six years in London from 1999. With four daughters, she is a busy woman, but still finds time to work on school, church and business projects.

1989

### JOHN STATHIS

From Lindsay Park Primary, John was a representative rugby league, cricket and basketball player. A talented debater, he was the second speaker in the 1987 Wollongong High team, which won the Commonwealth Bank Teasdale Cup. As Dux of the school in his HSC year, he won a NSW University Co-op scholarship and achieved first-class Honours and the University Medal for Business Information Technology. Following his graduation with a Bachelor of Science, he worked for Bain and Company in their Boston office. After Bain, John founded the Pacific Consulting Group in 1994, which currently advises the CEOs and Boards of Australia's largest public companies on Corporate Strategies and Profit Improvement, along with Mergers and Acquisitions. He lives in Sydney.

### GILLIAN HYND

Gillian came to Wollongong High in year 8, in 1985, from Casino where her father had worked with the NSW Forestry Commission. She was an excellent sportsperson, representing NSW Under 19s at Netball in her HSC year. After her high HSC mark, she won a Ben Lexcen Scholarship to the University of NSW and studied Medicine from 1990 to 1995. During her time at University, she won a national Netball club title and represented NSW at Under 21 and Open levels. After graduation, Gillian practised Medicine on the Central Coast and since 2001, has been working at her Newcastle practice.

1990

### STEPHEN TRUMAN

A good all-round student, Stephen came from West Wollongong Primary. While at WHS, he played baseball,

rugby league and softball. In year 10, he was selected in the NSW Under 19 softball team as a catcher and vice-captain. He was also selected in an Australian All-stars team in this same year, and captained the NSW Under 19s for the following two years. After leaving school, Stephen was selected in several Australian softball teams and train-on squads. Academically, he completed a BSc at Wollongong University in Human Movement, now known as Exercise Physiology. Moving to Sydney, he soon began working for one of Australia's earliest dedicated occupational medicine clinics, overseeing five medical centres, two private hospitals, along with more than 70 staff in two states. He then joined Suncorp GIO Workers' Compensation where he managed around 70 staff in the Sydney operations. Following this, he took up the role of National Workers' Compensation and Rehabilitation Manager for TNT Australia. After five years, he joined Linfox Armaguard in a similar role. This resulted in a move to Melbourne where, Stephen, his wife Sara and their two young sons currently live. During his career, he has held the position of President of the Safety, Rehabilitation and Compensation Licensees Association. Towards the end of 2015, Stephen and his wife purchased a café along Melbourne's inner west bay side area.

### SUSAN BULL

Susan was vice-captain of Keiraville Primary before coming to WHS. After the HSC, she went on to study Hospitality Management and her first position in this industry was at the Double Bay Ritz Carlton. After gaining experience in all aspects of hotel management, she took an interest in payroll management. For several years, she has worked in the payroll industry, initially for large organisations including Computershare, AMP and Serco, while more recently she has managed payrolls for manufacturing companies including Stramit Building Projects and Interface. Susan and her family live in the southern highlands.

1991

### MADURA WIJewardena

Born in Sri Lanka, Madura came to Australia with his family in 1987, when his father was appointed as a lecturer at Wollongong University. He began at Wollongong High in year 8 and after the HSC, he graduated from Sydney University with a Bachelor of Economics/Law. Following this, he started working for the NSW Police Force and then moved on to the Sydney based corporate law firm, Gilbert and Tobin. In 2006, he moved to the

USA where he completed a Masters Degree in Economics and Statistics at the University of Chicago. Next, he worked for a Consulting Company in Economics and Data Analysis, as well as being heavily involved in President Obama's Chicago campaign and working with the oldest African-American Civil Rights organisation in Washington DC. Since 2013, he has been living in Washington DC and working in competition issues for the Comcast Corporation, which is the largest American media company.

#### **CAROLYN FINDLAY**

Carolyn came to Wollongong High in year 8 from Narrabri, where both her parents were teachers. An excellent all-round student, she represented the school in regional band ensembles playing the flute, as well as in debating and hockey. After the HSC, she completed a Bachelor of Commerce at Wollongong University and then joined the National Bank. In a 19-year career with the National Bank, she worked in various roles in the Sydney and London offices and also finished a Masters in Finance at the University of Technology. Now living on Sydney's northern beaches with her family, Carolyn, works full time with an American financial institution.

1992

#### **ATTILA ERDELYI**

Born in Hungary, Attila and his family migrated to Australia in 1978. He came from West Wollongong Primary and represented Wollongong High in debating and tennis for the South Coast's rep team in Narrabri and Wagga. In 1990, he went to Japan for 11 months as an American Field exchange student, having won a scholarship from the ANZ bank. On returning to Australia after missing the whole school year, he repeated year 11 in 1991. After school he completed a Bachelor of Computer Science at the University of Wollongong, making a career with BHP (later CSC). He and his family live in Shellharbour.

#### **JOANNA STEWART**

Coming from Keiraville Primary, Jo gave a lot of her time at High School to various fund raising ventures. She also re-ignited membership of the school's Leo club, which is a junior version of the Lions' club. After school, she completed a Speech Pathology course at Cumberland College at Sydney University. Following this, she worked as a clinician on the South Coast, South East Sydney and the United Kingdom. She currently works as a co-

ordinator in brain injury rehabilitation. Along with her family, Jo lives in the Wollongong area.

1993

#### **ANTHONY WOOD**

A pupil of Gwynneville Primary, Anthony was a keen and active student from his early days at WHS. He established the school radio segment, which was broadcast throughout the playground on a weekly basis. After the HSC he studied broadcast journalism at Charles Sturt University for two years before changing his career path to construction, working for eight years with a family-based company at Unanderra. Following his marriage in 2006, Anthony and his wife travelled through South and Central America before settling in London for six years. In England, he worked as a senior Quality Surveyor with the rail division of a multinational construction company, joining their leadership programme and attaining his Chartered Institute of Building membership. Back home in 2012, Anthony started his own construction firm, which specialises in large-scale renovations.

#### **CAROLINE FELD**

Growing up in Mangerton, Caroline attended St. Therese Primary School. She was an active SRC member at High School and also a member of the swimming team. After leaving school, she studied Enrolled Nursing, which enables her to work in a wide range of healthcare facilities. For 19 years she worked at both Shellharbour and Wollongong hospitals, including time in most wards, including maternity, psychiatry, medical and renal. Next she began as a Recruitment Officer for Wollongong Hospital for junior medical doctors. This position involved recruiting doctors for shifts to cover the three hospitals in the region, as well as finding new doctors from Australia and overseas. Now living in Perth she is doing further study.

1994

#### **ANTHONY BOHM**

Anthony is an experienced executive and successful entrepreneur. He is currently the founding partner of Pangaea Impact Investments, which is a private investment company focussing on investments in innovative social enterprises. Prior to this, he was co-founder and joint CEO of Open Colleges Australia (2010-2015)- Australia's largest online learning

provider. He was also the co-founder and joint CEO of Think:Education Group (2006-2010). Think is one of Australia's leading campus-based education and training providers. Since finishing High School, Anthony has studied at the University of Wollongong, Uppsala University in Sweden and Stanford University in the USA. He has been a member of the NSW Vocational Education and Training Education Board and a member of the Ministerial Taskforce on Tertiary Pathways.

#### **ERINA MURPHY**

An active and involved student from an early age, Erina came from Keiraville Primary. She represented High in the Mock Trial competition, Public Speaking and Dance, while she also initiated the school's first Environmental club known as SEAG (Student Environmental Action Group). After leaving school, she began an environmental cadetship with Wollongong City Council, graduating from the University of Wollongong in Science (2002) and Law (2005). In 2002-2003, she worked in the Yunnan Province, People's Republic of China on a conservation project aimed at saving some of the world's most endangered species. After returning to Australia, Erina worked as an environmental consultant and lawyer, while more recently, she became a primary school teacher. Along with her family, she lives in the Illawarra district.



Erina Murphy and Sally Johnson

1995

#### **EUAN LAY**

Always a brilliant student, Euan came to High from Mt. St. Thomas Primary. In the HSC, he finished in the NSW top five per cent. After accepting a cadetship from BHP Billiton, he completed a Bachelor of Commerce, majoring in Economics, at the University of Wollongong, while working at BHP's Port Kembla site. During the company's progression from BHP to

Bluescope, he fulfilled progressively more senior roles in business development, in South East Asia, while living in the region, including Vice President Strategic Marketing and Business Development, expanding the operations of Bluescope throughout Asia. Upon his return to Australia, Euan completed a Masters of Business Administration, AGSM, which is Australia's top ranked MBA programme, at the University of NSW. He then moved into his current employment in the infrastructure sector, becoming a consultant with Advisian, which focuses on assisting clients develop and deliver large-scale capital projects. A keen sportsman, Euan played several seasons of first grade cricket in the Illawarra competition.

#### **EMILY CHRISTOFIDES**

A pupil at Mt. St. Thomas Primary, Emily was active in the school community, particularly in creative and performing arts activities and the SRC, from her first days in year 7. She represented the school at a number of art, dance, music and drama events, both at regional and state levels. After school she studied Creative Arts and Marketing at University, before travelling and working in the UK. She currently works as the Strategic Marketing and Communications Manager for the University of Wollongong.

1996

#### **MAX KAVANAGH**

Max was born in Staffordshire, England in 1978 and moved to Australia with his family when he was 10 years of age. He attended Mt. St. Thomas Primary for two years before starting at High in 1991. An active sportsman, he represented the school in soccer, cross-country and athletics. After leaving school, he travelled though Europe for several years before coming home and working in Wollongong. In 2001 he moved to Tamworth to pursue his interest in Agriculture. He managed a large land holding and attended Jackeroo School in the New England area and is now working in rural finance and studying for a Bachelor of Agribusiness.

#### **SANDY SILVESTER**

Sandy was born at Albury in 1979. She completed a Bachelor of Arts at Sydney University (2001), followed by a Post Graduate Certificate in English Literature at the University of New England in 2003. Next she finished a Masters of Teaching at Sydney University in 2006 and then did a Graduate Certificate in Gifted

and Talented Education at the University of NSW in 2008. A keen traveller, Sandy has worked overseas and visited around 40 countries, including the Middle East. Along with her family, she lives in Sydney and teaches in Sydney's inner west.

1997

#### **MURRAY DAVIS**

Murray came from Farmborough Road Primary to WHSPA in 1992. A good all-round student, he was a member of the SRC for five years, a member of the school's first XIII rugby league team and always achieved top class academic results, especially in Mathematics. Outside school, he was active in the 1st Unanderra and 2nd Figtree Scout Troops and won a Queen's Scout award in 1997. After completing a Civil Engineering Degree at the University of Wollongong, Murray began working in various engineering and asset management roles at Railcorp and Shellharbour Council, before moving to his current position with Wollongong Council.

#### **SONIA DIMOSKA**

Born in Wollongong, Sonia came to WHSPA from Gwynneville Primary in 1992. She participated in Drama and was a student council representative in 1994. After the HSC, she completed a combined Arts/Law Degree at the University of Wollongong, graduating in 2003. In early 2004 she qualified as a legal practitioner and then spent the next year or so lecturing and tutoring law at several universities. In 2005, she joined the Australian public service and spent over 10 years living in Canberra, where she worked for various Australian Government departments. In 2015, Sonia accepted a role with a NSW Government agency in Sydney. She is currently living and working in Sydney, where she is undertaking part-time, post-graduate studies at the University of Sydney.



Sonia Dimoska

1998

#### **BRADLEY HICKS**

Bradley attended Lakelands, West Wollongong and St. Therese Primary Schools before coming to High. He was very active in the performing arts, playing Miles Moreworthy in the 1992 school pantomime, "Race around the World", a vocalist in the Stage Band and was included in the DEC showcase for his HSC Drama. He also won the Rueben F Scarf Youth of the Year Award and represented NSW in the national gymnastics championships. After he completed a Bachelor of Science (Psychology) from the University of Wollongong he travelled overseas for several years. On returning, he worked as a case officer for the child support agency. Soon after, he finished a graduate diploma in primary teaching and in 2015, was teaching at Mt. Keira Dem School.

#### **LAUREN ROBERTS**

Lauren came from Hayes Park Primary in Dapto, where she was school captain in 1992. She had a passion for the performing arts and while at WHSPA, she had roles in the annual pantomime and was lead singer in the school stage band. Her HSC drama group devised performance was recognised in the "On Stage" showcase of the state's best. After the HSC, she studied Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong and then, relocated to Los Angeles to pursue a career in music. Lauren was signed to Motown records and spent the next eight years touring the United States as a recording artist, opening for acts such as INXS, Nickelback, Garbage and Billy Idol. Upon returning to Australia, she completed a Bachelor of Arts (Psychology) at the University of Wollongong and currently works as a specialist carer for adults with a disability.

1999

#### **ADAM RUSSONIELLO**

Adam was captain of St. Therese Primary at West Wollongong and as he was out of the feed area, had to sit for exams by himself in the Wollongong High office before being allowed to enrol. A good swimmer, he represented the school at Regional level and also was one of 10 NSW representatives at the Queen's Trust National Capital Seminar. In the HSC, he topped the State in 2 Unit Italian as well as finishing with a total score of 99.45, which allowed him to be admitted to the Sydney University Law School. In his final school year,

and Talented Education at the University of NSW in 2008. A keen traveller, Sandy has worked overseas and visited around 40 countries, including the Middle East. Along with her family, she lives in Sydney and teaches in Sydney's inner west.

1997

#### **MURRAY DAVIS**

Murray came from Farmborough Road Primary to WHSPA in 1992. A good all-round student, he was a member of the SRC for five years, a member of the school's first XIII rugby league team and always achieved top class academic results, especially in Mathematics. Outside school, he was active in the 1st Unanderra and 2nd Figtree Scout Troops and won a Queen's Scout award in 1997. After completing a Civil Engineering Degree at the University of Wollongong, Murray began working in various engineering and asset management roles at Railcorp and Shellharbour Council, before moving to his current position with Wollongong Council.

#### **SONIA DIMOSKA**

Born in Wollongong, Sonia came to WHSPA from Gwynneville Primary in 1992. She participated in Drama and was a student council representative in 1994. After the HSC, she completed a combined Arts/Law Degree at the University of Wollongong, graduating in 2003. In early 2004 she qualified as a legal practitioner and then spent the next year or so lecturing and tutoring law at several universities. In 2005, she joined the Australian public service and spent over 10 years living in Canberra, where she worked for various Australian Government departments. In 2015, Sonia accepted a role with a NSW Government agency in Sydney. She is currently living and working in Sydney, where she is undertaking part-time, post-graduate studies at the University of Sydney.



Sonia Dimoska

1998

#### **BRADLEY HICKS**

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Adam was Wollongong High Student of the Year and Wollongong Lions' Youth of the Year. After completing his studies with a Bachelor of Arts, a LLB (Hons), a LLM (Tax) and a BCL (Oxon), Adam was admitted to the legal profession in 2006 and as a Barrister in 2014. He works in Sydney.

#### **RENEE GARRAWAY**

When Wollongong High became a Performing Arts School in 1994, Renee was selected as a dance student. As well as representing the school in Netball and Basketball, she also took part in various performance events and showcases and was a SRC member. Since leaving school, she has completed a Bachelor of Commerce (Human Resources), Bachelor of Science (Psychology), a Masters of Strategic Human Resources Management and a MBA. She has worked in several Human Resource Management roles including Human Resource Director at David Brown Gear Industries (Australasia/South Africa) and more recently at Bluescope Steel. Renee and her family live in the Illawarra region and a PhD in Human Resource Management is not too far away.

2000

#### **LUKE BERMAN**

After studying Theatre Performance at the University of Wollongong, Luke has become a highly involved member of the Illawarra community theatre scene. By mid 2015 at the Wollongong Workshop Theatre, he has been involved in over 70 stage productions as actor, director, producer or lighting designer, as well as holding several committee positions such as technical director or Business Manager. He is also a popular member of the Sydney Independent Theatre scene, participating for 10 years in the Short and Sweet production, which is the world's largest short play festival, as director, actor and Head Stage and Production Manager. He has also played a major role in establishing Mind Blank Inc, an Illawarra Theatre company, which uses interactive theatre for Illawarra and Shoalhaven Secondary students, to promote awareness of mental health, homelessness, drug and alcohol abuse, domestic violence and depression. Currently, Luke is Artistic Director of Black Box Theatre Company, which is Illawarra's first established semi-professional independent theatre company. This company links Wollongong and Sydney and in 2014, Luke produced and directed the acclaimed Sydney and Illawarra Premiere of Irving Welsh's TRAINSPOTTING, while in 2015 he

celebrated 10 years of Producing Playmates Illawarra. He has developed an elite troupe of Illawarra actors under Black Box, which will provide a pathway for local artists to the Sydney professional theatre community.

#### **CROSBIE STEVENS**

A drama and singing student, Crosbie was actively involved in Drama, pantomimes and other productions throughout her time at WHSPA. After the HSC, she and fellow alumnus, Adam Loughlin, founded a community theatre and film company, Merlin Live Pty Ltd. This company produced several theatre and film performances in Wollongong, Sydney and Canberra. A keen student of Psychology, Crosbie completed a Bachelor of Science (Psychology), a Graduate Diploma in Psychology, a Master of Forensic Mental Health and a Master of Clinical Psychology. Between 2006 and 2010, she held multiple roles in NSW Community Services in the areas of child protection, out-of-home care and the specialist Joint Investigation Response Team (JIRT). During 2010, she moved to NSW Juvenile Justice, focussing on young offenders. In 2015, she became the Client Services Manager for incarcerated young people, from 16 to 21, in NSW's largest juvenile justice centre.

2001

#### **STEVEN KOUTSOUKOS**

Steve came from Mt. St. Thomas Primary and after completing the HSC in 2001, he began a course at West Wollongong TAFE. In 2003, he moved to Sydney to commence a career in the media and music industries. During the past 12 years or so, he has been employed by ACP magazines, Universal Music and more recently, News Limited, where he managed several key clients. Steven and his wife, Hannah, live in an inner Sydney suburb, while he now is the National Advertising Manager for Foxtel.

#### **BRINIE GREEN**

Brinie entered WHSPA as a dance student and during her time at the school, she constantly participated in various productions and dance ensembles. In 2000, she performed in the Sydney Olympic Games Opening Ceremony and that same year won the Wollongong Lions' Youth of the Year Award, while she was Wollongong High Student of the Year in 2001. After the HSC, she completed a LLB/B. Com (Marketing) at the University of Wollongong and in 2009 was admitted as a solicitor to the NSW Supreme Court. After working in corporate

law for three years, Brinie and her husband travelled around the world for 12 months. After returning home, the couple moved back to Wollongong, where she opened "Dragonfly Parties", which is a business that provides entertainment for children's parties.

## 2002

### NICHOLAS RUSSONIELLO

Nick entered the school's performing arts stream as a saxophonist. During his time at school he performed in the Concert, Stage, Jazz and Show Bands. In the HSC he obtained a UAI of 98.05 and was awarded the Year Advisors' Prize for Excellence and the Student of the Year Award. In 2003 he began a Bachelor of Music (Performance) at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music. During his time at the Conservatorium, he won several awards and scholarships, allowing him to attend the European Summer Saxophone University in France, as well as undertaking a study tour of England. After graduating with first class honours in 2006, Nick moved to Milan where he completed the Biennio (Masters) with full marks at the Conservatorio di Musica Giuseppe Verdi. Since then he has established himself as one of Australia's leading saxophonists with such achievements as the ABC Young Performer of the Year (2011) Fine Music 102.5 Kruger Scholarship (2014) and two nominations for the Australian Freedman Scholarship (2012 and 2015). He has performed as a soloist with the Adelaide, Queensland, Melbourne and Sydney Symphony Orchestras. He has also performed at the World Saxophone Congress in Scotland and for the Prime Minister and Australian Industry Chiefs at Parliament House. In 2014 he released an album, "Between Worlds".

### ALISON EWART

Born in Orange in 1984, Alison was school captain of West Wollongong Primary. She was accepted to High for dancing. After the HSC, she completed a LLB/BA (Politics) at the University of Wollongong, which included a session study at Utrecht in Holland. In 2008 she moved to Sydney to begin a graduate role at the DLA Piper law firm and soon after was admitted as a solicitor to the NSW Supreme Court. Since that time, Alison has completed a LLM (International Law and Human Rights) at UNSW, as well as working at the Australian Human Rights Commission and also as a Pro Bono Manager at DLA Piper in London. Returning home early in 2015, she was seconded to UNICEF Australia

where she advocates the rights of children. She and her husband live in Sydney.

## 2003

### BRENDAN WILLIS

Brendan grew up in Dapto and attended the local primary school. He was accepted to WHSPA after auditioning for the violin. After completing the HSC, he graduated from Sydney University in Physiotherapy and then worked in community development for two years from 2008 at Banda Aceh, Indonesia, following the Boxing Day Tsunami of 2004. On returning to Australia, Brendan decided to pursue Christian Ministry and he completed a Bachelor of Theology from the Moore Theological College at Newtown, in 2012. He and his wife live in Sydney's northern suburbs and, in 2015, he was working part-time as a physiotherapist at St. Vincent's Private Hospital and part time as a pastor at Sovereign Grace Church at Wahroonga.

### ERIN BUBB

Erin is one of five family members who attended Wollongong High. The other four are her father John Bubb (last year 1975), as well as aunties Judith Bubb, Carolyn Bubb and Susan-Gai Pittard. A drama student at WHSPA, Erin completed a Bachelor of Teaching at the University of Wollongong after the HSC and has taught at several Illawarra schools. She has also completed a Certificate in Voice and Communication (CVCA) and an Associate Diploma and Licentiate in Drama and Performance (ADPA, LDPA), with the Australian Music Examination Board. In addition to her primary school teaching, she has travelled to Philadelphia USA every year since 2008, to direct summer programmes for children and teens. Erin also owns and runs a speech and drama teaching business, "Acting Up Drama Academy", in Wollongong and through this business she supports and helps students for their auditions to WHSPA. Erin won the Illawarra Women in Business, 2015 Young Business Woman of the Year Award.

## 2004

### CHRISTOPHER HELLMUNDT

After the HSC, Chris accepted a scholarship with the NSW Commission for Children and Young People and then completed a Bachelor of Social Inquiry at UTS. After five years with the Commission, Chris began with the City of Ryde Council, working in Community Development, as well as studying for a Master of Policy and Applied Social

Research, for which he received the Vice-Chancellor's Award for Academic Excellence in 2014. During his time at Ryde, Chris managed a Gallery, supported the Cultural Sector, created a successful walk to school program and developed new models for the not-for-profit sector to work with the council and each other. After leaving the Ryde Council, Chris was invited to join the Board of the Ryde Family Services and in 2015, he became President of this body. Nowadays, he works for the Commonwealth Bank, supporting and helping Branch Staff to engage with their communities, as well as several other projects.

### **COURTNEY HURRY**

Graduating from NIDA with a Bachelor of Dramatic Art in Production in 2007, Courtney established herself in the world of stage management for theatre, music and events. During her several years with Bell Shakespeare, she worked on productions such as Andy Griffith's *Just Macbeth*, the national tours of *Taming of the Shrew* (2009) and *Twelfth Night* (2010), plus the capital city tours of *Much Ado About Nothing* (2011), the *Duchess of Malfi* (2012), *Henry IV* (2013) and *The Dream* (2013). Other highlights include touring *Belvoir's The Book of Everything* to Wollongong, Adelaide and New York (2011 and 2012), as well as *Stage Managing the development and tour of Legs on the Wall's My Bicycle Loves You* (2012). From early 2013 to the end of 2015, Courtney stage-managed over 100 concerts, including *Tristan and Isolde*, *Elektra*, *Romeo and Juliet* and the popular *Symphony in the Domain*. During this time she also found time to study for a Bachelor of Teaching.

### **2005**

### **MICHAEL KINLOCH**

Michael is the son of long-term WHSPA History teacher, Robert Kinloch. He came to the school from Farmborough Road Primary as a piano student, but moved on to drums soon after. In 2006, he began a Bachelor of Business Administration (BBA) in Events Management at the University of Wollongong. After graduating in 2009, he began working in the events field with such well-known companies as Coca Cola and Westpac. For the last couple of years, Michael has been involved in maverick marketing, working in IT sales and hotels. He and his wife Sarah live in Sydney's southern suburbs.

### **ALICE BURNS-McCLINTOCK**

Alice attended WHSPA as a drama and music student. After the HSC, she moved to Brasil during 2006

on a Rotary Scholarship, where she worked and lived in non-Government organisations and community Arts bodies at Campinas in Sao Paulo state. Back in Australia, she completed a Bachelor of Arts in Creative Arts and is currently finishing a Masters in Community Development, while working in Community Development. She is also currently a nominated student in the National Arrow Leadership programme.

### **2006**

### **WAYNE COLLYER**

During his time at WHSPA, Wayne was involved in music and student welfare. While a student at the University of Wollongong after the HSC, Wayne continued to work on the school staff in student welfare and also filling the role of Computer Administrator. In 2010, he was appointed to the Melbourne Staff Band, which is the Salvation Army's premier Australian brass band. This appointment led to fulltime employment with the Salvation Army at its Melbourne headquarters. As a musician, Wayne has toured the USA, UK, Switzerland, and the Philippines, with some of his many highlights being marching in the Rose Bowl Parade in Pasadena on a New Year's Day and down the Mall in London. As well as this, he has played in five Australian capital cities and many regional locations. He has performed in such venues as Buckingham Palace, Disneyland, the Royal Albert Hall, London's O2 Arena, the Australian War Memorial and Melbourne's Hamer Hall. *Neighbours* and *Hey Hey It's Saturday* are two of the TV shows on which he has featured. As a member of the Melbourne Staff Band, he has supported such personalities as James Morrison, Idea of North and Marina Prior, while he recently recorded an album with Silvie Paladino. During his time with the Salvation Army, Wayne has held various leadership positions and continued to be involved in welfare activities such as regular children's camps.

### **ALEXIS BEARD**

Alexis came to WHSPA from Mt. St. Thomas Primary School in 2001. Involved in school activities from the start, she took part in the musicals *Hello Dolly* and *Singin' in the Rain*, as well as being involved in the SRC, pantomimes and drama ensembles. After leaving school she completed a Diploma in Events Management and then she travelled to South-East Asia and the USA. Upon her return to Australia she commenced a Bachelor of Early Childhood Education and Care, while working

as an Early Childhood Educator at a Wollongong preschool. Alexis married her long-term boyfriend and fellow WHSPA student, Gerrit Langelaar and the couple are living in the Illawarra district. Working with young children is a very fulfilling facet of her life and she plans to pursue this line of work.

2007

#### **JUDE LUZURIAGA**

Jude moved to WHSPA in 2004 from Bulli High. After the HSC, he began a Bachelor of Biotechnology at the University of Wollongong, graduating with first-class Honours at the end of 2011 and being placed on the Dean's Merit List. During his degree, he undertook a research project at the Children's Medical Research Institute, examining methods for screening cancerous cells. After graduating, he worked for two years at the Garvan Institute of Medical Research, investigating the mechanisms responsible for Pancreatic Cell death in Diabetes. He then moved to Canberra to pursue a career in public health. At the beginning of 2016, Jude was working at the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare, where his efforts are focussed on improving outcomes in health and well being for children, youths and mothers.

#### **STELLA KTENAS**

Stella came to WHSPA through the local student system in 2002, not as a Performing Arts student. Despite this, she finished 10th in the State for HSC Drama. She completed a First Class Honours Degree at Sydney University in 2015 and also gained her undergraduate degree with a double major in Celtic Studies and English. Her aim is to complete her PhD in English Literature at Sydney University and she intends to begin this in the second half of 2016. During her studies, Stella has been privileged to edit, report, design, photograph, write, submit art, draw cartoons and contribute to numerous literary and student publications such as Hermes, ARNA, the Sydney Globalist, Honi Soit, Women's Honi edition and Growing Strong. She is also an emerging sculptor in both metal and paper, as well as an interactive installation, video and performance artist. She is one of the artists for Agar Dish, the Sydney Laboratory for experimental, performative, interactive and live art. She has exhibited at North Space, 107 Projects, Subsonic Musical Festival 2014, Verge Gallery, Tempe Jets-Brand X, Juanita Nielsen Centre and Project Contemporary Artspace. In her rare spare time, she

volunteers for WIRES, where she is a rescuer, carer and rehabilitator for brushtail and ringtail possums in the East Sydney branch.

2008

#### **TODOR MANOJLOVIC**

Todor came from Mt. St. Thomas Primary and was accepted into the WHSPA music class because of his excellent piano playing. In 2008, he completed the HSC, achieved a Professional Performance Diploma for piano and with his band, won first prize in the Mercury/Bluescope Band competition. While studying for a Creative Arts Degree in Sound, Composition and Music Production at the University of Wollongong, he continued to perform with several bands and musicians in the Sydney and Illawarra regions. Todor completed his degree at the University of Melbourne in 2012, returning to Wollongong in 2013 to graduate. He has lived in Melbourne for the past few years and continues to pursue a musical life.

#### **MICHELLE DAWSON**

Michelle came from Balarang Primary to attend WHSPA as a dance and drama student. After the HSC, she completed a Bachelor of Performing Arts-Performance and a Diploma of Education. She is a director, producer and performer of cabaret shows throughout Sydney and also is a High School English and Drama teacher. In 2016, Michelle began a Masters degree in a different field.

2009

#### **BLAIR McVICAR**

Blair came to WHSPA in 2004 as a drama student and during the next six years he also became interested in Humanities and Social Sciences. After the HSC, he completed a Bachelor of Political, Economic and Social Sciences from Sydney University, graduating in 2012. He also studied at the University of California in Los Angeles and this provided a firm background for his research on USA Politics and Culture. While at University, Blair developed an interest in management and then began working with the David Jones Department Store. He has held several management roles with the company and in early 2015, managed one of the Sydney stores. Recently he moved into a national management role in David Jones' Head Office.



Blair McVicar and the Mock Trial Team

### AYLIN BASOGLU

Aylin came to WHSPA from Gwynneville Primary where she had been school and sports captain. Initially she was a member of the dance discipline but soon changed to dramatic arts, which she studied for the HSC. Very interested in sports and leadership, she was a member of the SRC from year 7 to year 12. In year 9, she gained an elected position on the Illawarra Regional SRC and then gained a position on the State SRC for two years. As school President of the SRC in year 11, Aylin took a keen interest in humanities and global social justice issues. After the HSC, she was offered a scholarship at ANU in Canberra, but turned it down to study a double degree of Bachelor of Arts and Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Wollongong. In this period she spent one year studying at a Dutch University, followed by some extensive travelling in Europe. After graduating from the University of Wollongong with distinction in 2014, she landed her dream job, working for a not-for-profit organisation called the Australian Indigenous Mentoring Experience (AIME). This organisation seeks to close the educational gap between Indigenous and non-Indigenous high school students and the rate at which they complete school and move into positive pathways, such as university. Aylin works full-time for AIME and is the Programme Coordinator for the Shoalhaven region (South Coast). She is also studying towards gaining entry into a post-graduate medicine course.

2010

### MITCHELL HURRY

Mitchell came from Pleasant Heights Primary and was accepted to WHSPA through the performing arts system as a saxophonist. After the HSC, he began a

Bachelor of Electrical Engineering at Wollongong University and graduated in 2016. An active sportsman, Mitchell has played in the top grade of both the Sydney, with Moorebank-Liverpool club and Illawarra, for the University of Wollongong club, hockey competitions. A versatile player, he is at home at right half, centre half and inside forward. In 2015 he toured Malaysia and Singapore with the Australian Open Men's Country team, which played 12 matches in 15 days. He has a Hockey Blue from the University of Wollongong.

### NATASHA KANDILAS

Natasha has always had a passion for dance and in her final year at WHSPA, she coordinated a whole-year flash move for her year 12 peers. With a strong interest in languages, creativity and education, she completed a Bachelor of Arts with a major in Spanish and a Graduate Diploma in Primary Education after she did well in the HSC. She began her career in education in 2015, teaching casually and specifically worked with Indigenous and Special Needs students. In 2016, she began a permanent full-time teaching position at Wollongong West Public School.

2011

### ADAM NED

Adam came from Port Kembla Primary and auditioned as a drama student for WHSPA in 2006. Keen to be involved in school activities as soon as possible, he was a member of the Students Representative Council from year 7. During his time at high school, he assisted in numerous fund raising events for the Starlight Foundation and Para Meadow school, assisting children with disabilities. He also performed in various school productions over his six years. Outside school, Adam



Adam Ned



Casey Fahey and Jack Dawson in Jesus Christ Superstar



Justin Luzuriaga

has been a proactive member of Port Kembla Surf Life Saving Club and has served for more than 150 hours on patrol with this club. After completing the HSC, he travelled overseas for a couple of years and is currently working in corporate sales in the Wollongong area.

#### CASEY FAHEY

Casey grew up on Glenbernie Orchard at Darkes Forest and attended Helensburgh Primary School where she was vice-captain and involved in the SRC. She was accepted into WHSPA as a music student, being a good pianist and an excellent singer. Despite facing a two-hour journey to school, each way by bus and train, every day, she quickly adapted and became involved in a wide range of school activities. She was elected to represent the school in the Illawarra South-East (ISE) Regional SRC and further elected to represent the ISE in the NSW SRC. From this, she became the NSW SRC student delegate on the NSW Department of Education and Communities Director General's Community Participation Committee. She received the Long Tan Leadership award from the NSW Defence Force for three consecutive years, as well as the Principal's Award and Student of the Year. In her final year, Casey was awarded the NSW Department of Education's Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. Another one of Casey's achievements was to be selected in the Department of Education NSW State Choir from year 4 through to year 12. This entailed travelling to Sydney once a week for rehearsals, as well as performing at large scale events. After the HSC, she began a Primary Teaching degree at the University of Wollongong, but with a strong interest in community wellbeing, she switched to midwifery at Charles Darwin University. Outside school, she has been a very active member of the NSW Rural Fire Service since the age of 15. In this organisation she has held

several leadership roles, including training officer and in 2015, at age 21, she became the youngest person in the Illawarra area to be the elected President of a local RFS Brigade. Very involved in her family's fourth generation "Darkes Glenbernie Orchard," she plays an integral role in the marketing activity and product development. Casey was the inspiration behind the creation of the company's new cider brand, Darkes Cider and enjoys entertaining visitors to the farm and leading farm tour activities.

#### 2012

#### JUSTIN LUZURIAGA

Born in the Philippines, Justin and his family moved to Australia when he was nine months old. As soon as he entered WHSPA in 2007, he embraced his interest in leadership and working with people. For six years, he represented WHSPA on the Student Representative Council (SRC), becoming President in his final year. During this time, he was elected to the Illawarra and South East Region SRC and the NSW SRC, where his primary role was to provide a voice for all NSW secondary students. He is currently studying for a double degree at the University of Wollongong, completing a Bachelor of Commerce (Human Resource Management) and a Bachelor of Arts (Sociology and Cultural Studies). During his time at the UOW, Justin puts a lot of time into the Centre for Student Engagement.

#### JINI CHEOI

Born in South Korea, Jini and her family migrated to Australia in 2003. She attended Wollongong Primary as an OC student and was accepted to WHSPA as a pianist. During her high school years, she participated in Mock Trial teams and in the musicals, Thoroughly Modern Millie, Grease and Girls of the Garden Club. She also won the Andrew Thomas Memorial Shield and Principal's



Jini Cheoi



Nicholas Simoes Da Silva



Emily Jones In Grease

Award in 2012. After the HSC, she won a scholarship to the University of NSW where she studied for a Bachelor of Arts/Commerce. During her time at the UNSW, she became Vice-President of the Business Society, which is a body for UNSW Business students. Jini will graduate at the end of 2016 and recently began some part-time work as a junior consultant with global management consulting firm, Boston Consulting Group.

2013

**NICHOLAS SIMOES DA SILVA**

Born in Perth in 1995, Nicholas attended nine primary schools around the world before moving to Wollongong, shortly before he began at High School. He was accepted into the performing arts programme for the saxophone at WHS and while at the school, he was President of the SRC and a member of the Mock Trial team. He was also a delegate to the Australian School's Constitutional Convention on the recognition of Indigenous people in the Constitution. In 2015, he was studying an LLB/Bachelor of International Relations at the Australian National University, where he is Vice-President of the Volunteering Society. He also runs Fair Play for Canberra, which is an organisation that advocates for the rights of underpaid workers.

**EMILY JONES**

Emily attended Balarang Primary in the Oak Flats area and enrolled at WHSPA as a drama student in 2007. An active Performing Arts student, she received the Arcadians' Medallion, the Merrigong Theatre Award and the 2009 Drama Company Award. Academically she was one of the school's top achievers, gaining all band 6 passes in both the SC and the HSC. In her final year she

was the recipient of First Place Year 12, Student of the Year and the Principal's Award. During her gap year of 2014, she tutored HSC students at Lake Illawarra High and was also employed as a drama company teacher at WHSPA. In 2015 she began a double degree at ANU after winning a scholarship. These were a Bachelor of Politics, Philosophy and Economics and Bachelor of Science (Resource and Environmental Management). Currently she is women's officer for ANU Labor Left and a member of the ANU Women's department. She has undertaken an Internship at Parliament House with Federal Labor MP, Stephen Jones and towards the end of 2015, spent several weeks volunteering at an elephant rescue centre at Chiang Mai in Thailand.

2014

**SACHITH PALLIMULLA**

Born in Sri Lanka in 1996, Sachith was schooled in both Sri Lanka and the UK before moving to Australia in 2008, when he came into Year Seven at WHSPA. Although he was academically orientated during his high school years, he also represented the school in numerous sporting activities. After being appointed school captain, he pioneered the WHSPA Environmental Committee, which focussed on recycling, attitudes towards a cleaner environment, leadership and community involvement. Recently WHSPA has been labelled as a "clean school". In collaboration with his co-captain Georgia, the vice-captains, the SRC and staff, Sachith was instrumental in developing a social media platform for the SRC. After the HSC, Sachith began a Medical Science degree at the University of Wollongong and hopes to pursue a career in medicine, allied health and medical research.



Sachith Pallimulla



Georgia Nikolovski



Jesse Gameiro



Zoe Roser

### GEORGIA NIKOLOVSKI

Born in Wollongong, Georgia attended Mt. Keira Dem School, where she was school captain in 2008. At WHSPA, she pursued her passion for the performing arts, performing in many events over the years including the NSW State Drama camp and the Drama Eisteddfods. She also took part in academic competitions, the Mock Trial, the National School's Constitutional Convention and many extracurricular drama performances. As school captain, she worked closely with her peers to develop the social media platform for the school and improve the school environment. She was the school Dux in 2014 and in 2015 enrolled at Sydney University, where she was accepted into the prestigious St. Andrew's College, to study for a Bachelor of Commerce and a Bachelor of Advanced Science.

2015

### JESSE GAMEIRO

Jesse came from Oak Flats Primary to WHSPA to follow and develop his passion for the performing arts. He is a talented "Behind-the-Scenes" worker and during his six years at WHSPA, Jesse worked on numerous and varied productions, from dance shows and musicals, to the School Spectacular and Southern Stars. He topped his year in entertainment and was nominated for "Vet School Student of the Year". His ambition is to continue with his backstage work and, after finishing the HSC, he began doing this with the major companies in the Illawarra district.

### ZOE ROSER

Zoe came from the Illawarra Grammar School to WHSPA in Year Eight to pursue the performing arts. She became an auditioned music student for singing and later expanded her talents to include drama. During her time

at WHSPA, she performed in numerous music and drama showcases and productions including Cabaret, Grease, Pirates of Penzance and Hairspray. In her final year, she played the leading role of Katarina in a completely student-run production of Shakespeare's, "The Taming of the Shrew". An excellent student, Zoe won a school medallion for her studies and was one of the top achievers in the HSC. As school captain she campaigned against bullying as well as ensuring that no one was disadvantaged and everyone had equal opportunities. After school, she has continued her acting and singing career and is a member of the New Faces Talent Academy in 2016.

2016

### JEREMY BOULTON

Although a committed musician, Jeremy was involved in a wide variety of activities during his time at WHSPA. He was a long-term member of the SRC, holding the positions of Junior President, Regional Representative and President. Despite his duties as Captain, he made time in 2016 to compose a musical adaptation to the school's dramatic production of ASHGIRL, conducting an 11-piece orchestra, which he had arranged. He had played a similar role in co-writing and directing the music for Blood Wedding in 2015. Jeremy was also a featured artist in Regional and State level arts programmes such as the Schools Spectacular, the reputable Talent Development Project and Illawarra's own Southern Stars, in which he was also an orchestral arranger. He also featured as the male lead in the school production of the Broadway success, Legally Blonde and as well as this, he has played numerous other leading roles in school productions including Prince Chululongkorn in the King and I, Frederic in the Pirates of Penzance and Corny Collins in Hairspray. As a result of his ability in these productions, he was nominated for



Jeremy Boulton in Hairspray



School Captains and Vice-Captains 2016

several Canberra Area Theatre Awards. After the HSC, Jeremy plans to study Classical Voice at the Sydney Conservatorium of Music.

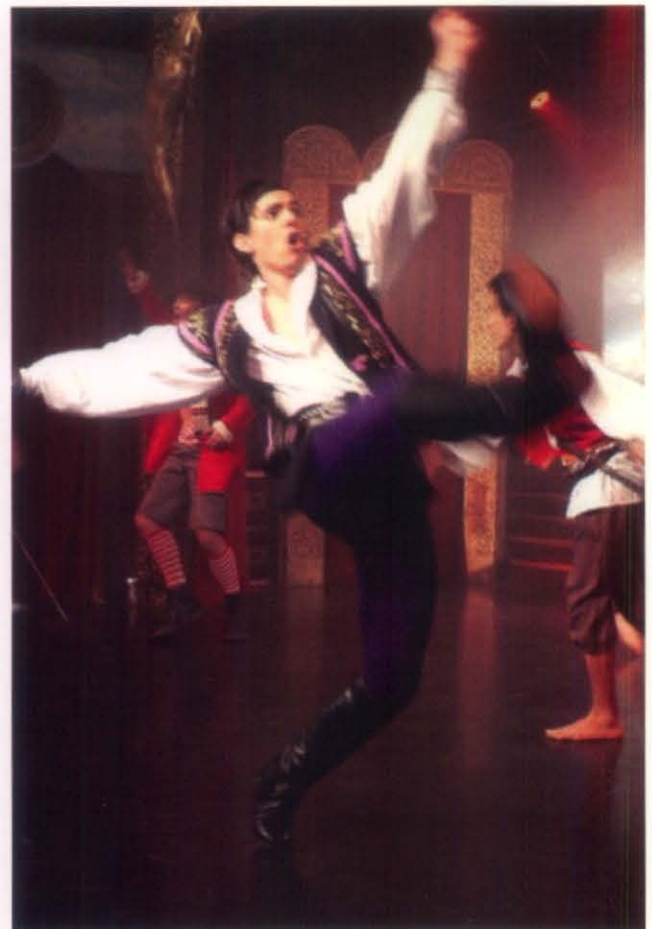
#### **OLIVIA BENIC**

Olivia came from Figtree Heights Primary School and has been involved in a wide range of activities since her first day at WHSPA. She has supported students through the Peer Support Programme, organised the year 11 Op Shop ball and represented the school in Basketball, Touch Football and the Mock Trial. She has

also won several academic awards, while in her position as school captain; she has participated in a conference with the Lord Mayor and a leadership forum with the Director of Public Schools, Ms. Debbie Lowe. Her diligent and caring nature has resulted in her being a friend and a leader to the school's student body. After the HSC, she intends to study Humanitarian Law at the University of Wollongong in 2017.



Hairspray 2015



The Pirates of Penzance 2014



The King and I 2012



Grease 2011



Away 2014



Pantomime 1999



Jesus Christ Superstar



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## NOTABLE STUDENTS

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Brackets indicate Last Year at school (if known)

### **DAVID ASPDEN (1950)**

David experienced an amazing career change. He went from a painter and signwriter at ERS Port Kembla to one of the world's best abstract painters. Born in the north of England on 1 May 1935, he came to Australia with his family in early 1950, when he enrolled at WHS. After just the one year at the school, he passed his Intermediate Examination in November 1950 and left to take up a painting apprenticeship in heavy industry at ERS Port Kembla. During his 12 years in this job, he dabbled in landscape painting and was recognized favourably in Sydney art circles during the early 1960s. He moved to Sydney in 1962 and did some signwriting work, before he had his first solo exhibition at Watters Gallery in 1965. Two more exhibitions quickly followed and David was soon in the vanguard of Australia's formal colour abstractionists. Two of his works were included in the National Gallery of Victoria exhibition in 1968 and as early as 1970, he was described as Australia's leading colour painter. In 1971 he was awarded a Gold Medal at the Sao Paulo biennale. He exhibited in 16 Wynne prizes between 1977 and 1998, winning in 1995. In 1971, he lived in Brazil and Mexico, while in 1971 and 1972 he was in France and the UK. He came back to Sydney in 1973, living at Rozelle until he died on 26 June 2005, aged 70. His collections are represented in the National Gallery of Australia, as well as every State Gallery and the Northern Territory. His work is also found in regional

galleries including the Gold Coast, Wollongong and the Southern Highlands and can also be found in the Australian Parliament House in Canberra, as well as the NSW State Parliament.

### **DREW BAILEY (1993)**

Born in February 1976, Drew began in the Australian Film Industry in 1994 as an assistant editor and soon after worked in London for the BBC as a camera assistant. He has worked as an assistant director on more than 30 feature films, including the Matrix II and III, X Men Origins, Wolverine, The Last Samurai, Blood Diamond and Charlotte's Web. Drew produced his first short feature film, Black Canvas, in 1995 and since then has produced several others, including Miracle Fish in 2010 which was nominated for an Academy Award and won an AACTA Award, and Purple Flowers and Flyboy. In 2014, he co-produced the Australian Sci-Fi feature Film, Terminus.

### **NATALIE BASSINGTHWAIGHTE (1993)**

Natalie was born on 1 September 1975 and is one of Australia's most versatile entertainers, achieving success as an actress, musician, presenter and author. As an actress, she is well known for her role as the dynamic Izzy Hoyland in the iconic television series, Neighbours (2003-2007). She also appeared in Neighbours' 30th Anniversary special early in 2016. Her other acting work includes the third installment of the hit series, Underbelly: The Golden Mile, The Lost World and in 2016 she appeared in Network Ten's biopic, Brock, alongside Matt Le Nevez.



Natalie Bassingthwaite and cast backstage at The Little Shop of Horrors 1993

Natalie is also known on television for her judging and presenting. She co-hosted the 2010 Aria Awards and won a Logie for her three year stint on "So You Think You Can Dance". She was also a judge and mentor on the Channel Seven series, "The X Factor" and led Beau Monga to victory on the X Factor New Zealand. After beginning her stage career in Australian productions of Grease, Rent, Footloose and Chicago, she returned to the stage for the very successful season of "Love, Loss and What I Wore", with Magda Szubanski, Amanda Muggleton, Mirrah Folkles and Judi Farr. She has received Logie nominations for Most Popular Actress and Most Popular Presenter, as well as two Gold Logie nominations. Her solo album,

"1000 Stars," released in 2009, debuted at number one on the Australian Charts. Natalie's musical career has seen her achieve acclaim as one of 10 women to ever chart an Aria Number One as a solo artist. She has also enjoyed international success as front woman of the Rogue Traders, achieving multi platinum sales across two albums, as well as two Aria nominations, an MTV award win and seven Aria nominations. In March 2015, Natalie launched "Chi Khi" children's clothing line.

#### LYNNE BELL (1964)

After gaining four As, a B and Honours in German, in the 1964 Leaving Certificate, Lynne trained to become a teacher. She taught in several NSW schools but changed to a performing arts career after being awarded a DSCM (Diploma of State Conservatorium of Music) and went on to perform as a professional singer, specialising in contemporary music and music theatre. She was instrumental in establishing a new music theatre company in Wollongong and a new Creative Arts faculty for the University of Wollongong. For five years at UOW, she lectured in Education and then Performing Arts, while continuing to perform, teach singing and direct and produce music theatre with the Conservatorium Theatre Company. She completed an MA (Honours) at UOW in 1986 and the same year moved to the UK where she held many arts and cultural leadership positions during her 21 year residency.



Teaching Staff 1947

Back Row: J. Sharpe, F. Funnell, E. P. Davis, C. R. Randall, G. Heery, F. Buckley, J. Bingham, R. Penfold, H. E. G. Atkins (Deputy Headmaster)  
 Middle Row: A. Day, J. Woods, E. Butler, R. Orkney, J. Hastings, S. Crumlin, B. Shaw, A. W. Smith, S. Macinante.  
 Front Row: Miss M. Finley, Miss M. Reedman, Miss D. French, Miss E. Richmond, Mr. J. Collins (Headmaster), Miss L. Smith, Miss N. Bayley, Miss M. Brown, Miss D. King.

Lynne led the development of the Culture Ceremonies and Education program for the 2012 London Olympics, following her contribution to London's 2012 successful Olympic Bid, as a Cultural Advisor/Creative Producer. She also expanded her own arts practice by writing opera libretti with a number of British composers. In 1997, she was awarded an honorary Master of Letters by De Montfort University and was elected as a Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts. On her return to Australia, Lynne Williams (nee Bell) was appointed as Director/CEO of the National Institute of Dramatic Art (NIDA), in May 2008, where she has led transformative change, including a reinvigorated teaching and learning environment, new creative industry and education partnerships, as well as construction of the new NIDA Graduate School. In 2014 she was honoured with a Doctor of Letters from the UOW.



Lynne Williams (nee Bell)

#### DAVID BLACK (1954)

BSc, MSc (Syd), PhD (Camb), AmusA, CChem, FRACI, AO - Born in 1938, David came to WHS in 1950 from Wollongong Primary, where he had been Dux. An excellent pianist from an early age, David finished in the top group of students in every year at high school. After gaining Honours in Maths I and Chemistry, plus three As and a B in the 1954 Leaving Certificate, he completed a BSc and a MSc at Sydney University. He was then awarded an Overseas Scholarship from the Royal Commission for the Exhibition of 1851 to undertake a PhD at Cambridge with Lord Todd. He then became a Postdoctoral Research Associate at Columbia University, before taking up an appointment at Monash University in 1965. He continued at Monash until 1982 and during his time there, he spent periods of study leave at ETH Zurich (1968-69), Wurzburg

University (1974) and Cambridge (1980). He also held Visiting Professorships at the Science University of Tokyo (1988), the University of Auckland (1992), Gottingen University (1994), Innsbruck University (1999) and Kobe Pharmaceutical University (2000). In 1983 he was appointed to the Chair of Organic Chemistry at the University of NSW and then became Head of the School of Chemistry from 1987 to 1990. He was acting Dean of the Science Faculty from January to July 1987 and Associate Dean (Research) for the Science and Technology Faculty and then the Faculty of Science from 2000-2003. During his successful career, he has won the Rennie Medal (1970), HG Smith Medal (1993), the AJ Birch Medal (2003) and the Leighton Medal (2004). In 1990 he was the Liversidge Lecturer of the Royal Society of NSW and also the Royal Society of Chemistry Lecturer. From 1993 to 2007, he was Leader of the Joint Selection Team for the Australian Development Scholarships for Indonesian Postgraduate students. He was President of the Royal Australian Chemical Institute (RACI) in 1998 and was Chair of the National Committee of Chemistry from 1999 to 2003. He was elected as a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Science in 2011 and in 2012 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO). In 2011 he was made Secretary General of the International Council for Science and will hold this position until 2017.

#### JOHN BOOKER (1959)

Regarded as one of the finest researchers of his generation, John worked in the field of Theoretical Geomechanics and throughout his career, produced an enormous body of important published research in over 250 technical papers. Over the years, he received many prestigious awards, including the Medal for Distinguished Contributions to Geomechanics from the International Association of Computer Methods in 1994 and an invitation to present the EH Davis Memorial Lecture to the Australian Geomechanics Society in 1995. After spending his early childhood at Chatswood, John and his family moved to Wollongong in 1952 and he began at WHS in 1955. While at WHS, his talent and flair for Mathematics, began to blossom and in the 1959 Leaving, he obtained firstclass Honours in Maths I and II, plus four As. He began a Civil Engineering Course at Sydney University in 1960, on a Main Roads scholarship, but he changed to a Science degree in second year, which he then completed with Honours. He then began a PhD in Civil Engineering and completed this in 1969. He moved quickly through the academic ranks and



Shannon Brown and Linda Fuller at the Opening of WHSPAC

was appointed to a personal chair in Engineering Mechanics at the University of Sydney in 1985. As well as appointments at Sydney University, he was a senior Fulbright Scholarship holder at the University of California at Berkeley (1970) and held Visiting Research Fellowships at Kings College London (1976), Cambridge University (1979) and the University of Western Ontario (1984). He was appointed Professor of Civil and Mining Engineering at the University of Sydney from 1989 to 1994 and from 1990 he was Pro-Dean for the Faculty of Engineering. Born on 24 July 1942, he died on 13 January 1998 aged just 55.

#### **SHANNON BROWN (2002)**

Shannon is a classically trained tenor, entertainer and one of Australia's leading musical directors. A former tenor and musical director of the internationally acclaimed group, "The Ten Tenors," he toured full-time with them for six years, performing an average of 250 shows a year across six continents. The Ten Tenors recorded a platinum selling record, "Here's to the Heroes" with composers John Barry and Don Black. This album was recorded at Abbey Road with the London Symphony Orchestra and performed at such venues as the Sydney Opera House, the Schauspielhaus in Germany, the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles and London's Royal Albert Hall. Over the years Shannon has worked with some of Australia's and the world's

leading music industry leaders like John Foreman, Ken Laing AM, Simon Franglen and Nicholas Dodd. He has toured Beijing with the John Morrison Big Band, appeared in the Sydney Vivid Festival Blade Runner Interpretation Concert and sang the National Anthem at a State of Origin match. He has also appeared in events for Sir John Gorton, Bob Hawke AC, Alan Jones AO and cricket legend, Steve Waugh AO. While touring with the Ten Tenors, he performed for the King and Queen of Jordan at the Nobel Prize Laureates Gala Ball at Petra. He completed a Bachelor of Music at the Australian Guild of Music and a Specialist Certificate in Music History from Berklee College of Music in Boston USA. He is now a full-time lecturer and assistant head of music at Sydney's JMC Academy. In 2015, he was nominated for Best Musical Director, by the Canberra Area Theatre Awards.

#### **STEVE BROWN (1964)**

Between 1978 and 1982, Dr. Steve Brown served in Canberra and Malaysia as Dental Officer with the RAAF. Then he established a private practice in the Illawarra area, while from 1987 to 1993, he was a visiting Dental Officer at Westmead Hospital Orthodontic Department and also worked with the paediatric post-graduate program. He is still a consultant for the RAAF and is a squadron leader in the RAAF Specialist Reserve.

### **HARRY BUSH (1926)**

One of the many great all-round sportsmen who came from Wollongong High, Harry and his wife, Hazel, died on 31 August 1978, aged 67, when their plane crashed into the Grand Canyon during a sightseeing flight. Harry was not only the school senior swimming champion in 1929, but he was also one of the best in NSW, winning a NSW Country 440 yards title. He was the school's best Rugby League player and began playing first grade as a centre in the Group 7 competition in his last school year. On 25 May 1935, he represented Country Firsts against NSW and was on the short list for Australian selection when a serious leg injury resulted in his retirement. He was also a local tennis champion, a low handicap golfer, a first grade cricketer, an athletic sprint champion and the first President of Shellharbour Surf Life Saving Club. At the time of his death, Harry was the owner of Shellharbour's Ocean Beach Hotel, which was still standing in 2015.

### **EMMA CIUFO (2003)**

Born in 1985 in Wollongong, Emma attended WHSPA as a clarinetist and actor. In the 2003 HSC, she topped the state in both Music and Drama and then enrolled at Sydney University on an Academic Scholarship to study for a Bachelor of Arts. She completed her BA (Media and Communications) in 2007 with Distinction. A professional writer, editor and digital strategist for fashion, beauty and lifestyle, she interned at Vogue UK and during the past few years, has held high-level positions for prestigious publications and brands such as Grazia Australia, InStyle Australia, Harpers Bazaar Australia and Michael Kors USA. Since early 2015, she has been Senior Content Editor for Harpers Bazaar, USA, which is America's oldest fashion magazine. Living in Brooklyn, New York, she continues to pursue acting when she is not working and was a featured extra in Baz Luhrmann's, *The Great Gatsby* (2013). She studies the Meisner technique at various schools in New York City. Two other members of Emma's family attended WHSPA. Her father, Philip (born in 1961) is an Associate Professor in the School of Electrical, Computer and Telecommunications Engineering at the University of Wollongong, while her younger sister Sophie (born in 1988), is a Legal Counsel at MTV Australia.

### **CHARMIAN CLIFT (1938)**

Born on 30 August 1923 at Kiama, Charmian finished 12th from 191 South Coast Primary students

who sat for the entrance exam to WHS on 26 October 1934. From an early age, she not only excelled in her academic work, but she was also an outstanding athlete and dancer. The local Kiama Independent newspaper on 14 January 1933, published an outstanding poem she had written about the Blowhole, and she was just nine at the time. She attended WHS from 1935 to the end of 1938 and in this period she was junior girls swimming and athletics champion and won several prizes for first place in various subjects. At the girls' combined high schools swimming carnival at Sydney's Domain baths on 11 March 1938, she and four other girls helped WHS to win the champion NSW Country school prize. In the 1938 Intermediate, she scored three As plus four Bs and this allowed her to complete a shorthand and typing course at the local Neaves' Business College in 1939. A very attractive young lady, she won the NSW title in Pix magazine's Beach girl quest in May 1941 and then soon moved to Sydney, where she worked as an usherette at the Minerva Theatre Kings Cross. In April 1943, she enlisted in the Australian Women's Army Service, serving with the 15th Australian Heavy Anti-Aircraft Battery in Sydney. She was promoted to Lieutenant in August 1944 and was moved to Land Headquarters in Melbourne. It was at this time, while editing an army magazine, she began to write and publish short stories. While working with the Melbourne Angus newspaper after the War, she met War Correspondent George Henry Johnston, whom she married at the Manly Courthouse on 7 August 1947. The couple combined to write "High Valley" and this won the Sydney Morning Herald's 2,000 pounds prize for 1948. In early 1951, George and Charmian, plus their son and daughter, moved to London where she was in charge of the Associated Newspaper Services. In late 1954 the family moved to the Greek island of Kalimnos and soon after to the island of Hydra. It was from this time she began writing novels, while her husband was doing the same. He wrote "My Brother Jack" in 1964 and this won the Miles Franklin Award. Among Charmian's very successful novels were "Mermaid Singing", "Peel Me a Lotus" and "Honour's Mimic". When the family returned to Australia in 1964, she was soon engaged to write regularly for the Herald and a Melbourne paper. She wrote essays on such topics as the Vietnam War conscription, the Greek Junta and world hunger. In 1965, 36 of these essays were collected into a book called "Images in Aspic". In late 1968 she received a six months Commonwealth Literary Fund Fellowship and used this to continue with a book called, "The End of the Morning".



Staff Photograph 1957

Back Row: Messrs: R. Aitkin, S. M. Laycock, T. Horner, J. Giles, J. Bingham, J. W. Dombroski, C. R. Randall, R. Devine, N. Pound, S. Macinante.  
 Middle Row: Mr P. Dempsey, Miss B. Thompson, Mrs N. Brissenden, Miss P. Andren, Mrs D. Johnson, Mrs Ferguson, Miss J. Giles, Mrs S. Riley, Miss N. Lea, Miss J. Moore, Mr B. Downes.  
 Front Row: Messrs: N. Quinlan, H. R. Stewart, J. Webster, R. V. Stewart, F. Buckley (Deputy-Headmaster), Mr J. E. Lenehan (Headmaster), Miss I. R. Whitford (Girls' Supervisor), Mr A. W. Smith, Mr. J. Huxley, Mr N. Neal.

However, ill health and alcohol-related issues affected her and on the 8 July 1969, she took a fatal overdose of sleeping tablets at her Mosman home, dying, aged just 45. The Coroner ruled the cause of death as suicide. After her death her husband and children published volumes of her work and since her death, her reputation has grown.

#### MOYA COLLETT (1999)

After the HSC, Moya enrolled at the University of Wollongong. She not only graduated with a BA (Hons I), she also won the University Medal and was awarded a Commonwealth Scholarship to complete an MSC in International Relations at the London School of Economics. In 2008, she graduated with a PhD in International Relations from the University of NSW and also won the Australian Political Science Association prize for the best Australian PhD in Political Science. Moya then joined the Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade (DFAT) and was posted to Bangkok as First Secretary in the Political Section of the Australian Embassy. Now living in Canberra, she runs DFAT's Timor-Leste Section, where she manages Australia's bilateral relationship with Timor-Leste, including our country's \$95 million development program in Timor-Leste. She speaks fluent French and Thai.

#### BRIAN COOPER

Brian came to Australia from England in 1925 and attended Austinmer Primary. He enrolled at WHS in 1930 and probably because of the Depression, did the Leaving twice, in 1934 and 1935. In 1934 he scored three Honours, while in 1935 he obtained four Honours and an A. That is a total of seven Honours which is a record for WHS and most likely any NSW high School. As well as this, he is the only student to become Dux of WHS twice. He graduated with a Bachelor of Science and a Bachelor of Engineering from Sydney University in 1939 and completed a Master of Science in 1962. While completing his engineering degree at Sydney University, he was recruited from the department of Electrical Engineering to the CSIRO radio physics laboratory in 1939, where he worked on radar development. He was very involved on a shore defence machine, which created a long-range air-warning system and this was commissioned in Darwin where it was used by the RAAF and the American Air Force on 22 March 1942, to intercept incoming Japanese bombers, 30 kilometres offshore. In 1946, Brian went to Ottawa where he worked with the Canadian National Research Council. This council was working on applying radar techniques to develop distance-measuring equipment for civil aircraft and this was later adopted throughout the world. While in Canada he married his Australian girlfriend, Pat Eade. When he came home he rejoined the radio physics lab, where he worked on Mk 1, which was the precursor to Australia's

first computer, CSIRAC. In the late 1950s, Brian was asked to head a group to develop receivers for the Parkes' 64-metre radio telescope. To gain experience in this field, he spent time at Harvard University in the USA, where he built a maser receiver for an 18-metre telescope. In the 1970s, he joined the team working on the development of an international microwave approach and landing guiding system and remained with this group until he retired as a senior principal research scientist in 1978. Born in 1917, Brian passed away on 20 June 1999, aged 81. He and Pat were married for 52 years and had two daughters and a son.



Jocette Coote

### JOCETTE COOTE (1993)

After the HSC, Jocette studied classical music at Macquarie University, playing the oboe. After receiving a modeling contract around 1995, she was scouted by the Storm agency (Kate Moss Agency) in London and her career took off. Since then she has worked all over the globe, including London, New York, Paris, Germany, Japan, Hong Kong, Brussels and Canada. Over the years, she has worked for many leading magazines such as Vogue, Harper's Bazaar, Marie Claire, Oyster, Frankie, Eve, Woman and Home, and Tatler. In 2015 she completed her 10th successive year as the International face of Nivea. As well as this, she has worked with many well known Beauty Houses such as Nivea Visage, Shiseido, Max Factor, Pantene, Nivea Sun and Nivea Hair. Jocette has also worked for Fashion Week in Australia, London and Hong Kong. She has been the face of Westfield, Seafolly, Berlei, Bendon, Katie's, Sussan, Peter Alexander, Gossard, David Jones, Myers, Goldmark, Virgin Airlines, Debnham's Department Store and Dorchester. Not only is she an extremely successful model, but she is also a talented actress, working in Water Rats, Shannon Noll's music video 'Drive' and a Delta Goodrem music video.

### NICHOLAS COWDERY (1960)

AM, QC, BA, LLB, Hon LLD, FAAL, Hon FACBS. Nicholas came from Fairy Meadow Primary to WHS in 1958 and after passing the Intermediate in 1960, enrolled at Sydney Grammar in 1961 for his final two years of high school. While at WHS, he played soccer, was a fair middle-distance runner and learnt to swim properly, as well as enjoying debating and acting. After completing the Leaving Certificate in 1962 he graduated in Arts/Law from Sydney University where he was a resident of St. Paul's College. He is now an Honorary Academic Fellow of St. Paul's and was awarded an Honorary Doctorate of Laws from the University of Wollongong in 2011. He is a past President of the Old Sydneians Union, which is the alumni association of Sydney Grammar. In 1971, Nicholas was admitted as a Barrister and began practising as a public defender in Papua/New Guinea, travelling on circuit throughout the country. Back in Sydney in 1975, he entered private practice as a Barrister where he remained until 1994, appearing in most Australian jurisdictions (and being admitted as a member of the Irish Bar). After becoming a Queen's Counsel in 1987, he served as an Associate Judge of the District Court for periods in 1988, 1989 and 1990. He was appointed as the NSW Director of Public Prosecutions in 1994 and ended his 16 plus year tenure in this high office in March 2011. In 2001 he published a book titled "Getting Justice Wrong: myths, media and crime," which is still used in Legal Studies. (Nicholas is the only non-teacher Life Member of the Legal Studies Association of NSW). He was founding Co-Chair of the Human Rights Institute of the International Bar Association from 1995 to 2000 and was elected President of the International Association of Prosecutors in 1999 and re-elected for a second three-year term in 2002. He teaches at Universities and holds a number of honorary academic positions, including Adjunct Professor of Law at the University of Sydney, Visiting Professorial Fellow at the University of NSW and the University of Wollongong's Law Faculties, plus Adjunct Professor at Charles Sturt University. He is a member of the NSW Sentencing Council and Board of the Rule of Law Institute of Australia. He is the Chair of White Ribbon Australia and a legal expert consultant to the Commonwealth Secretariat in London, as well as a consultant to Rule of Law projects in developing countries worldwide. He is an Ambassador and Campaign Champion of the Justice Reinvestment for Aboriginal Young People Campaign. He is also a Fellow of the Australian Academy of Law and a member of Australian Skeptics.



Staff Photograph 1970

He was appointed a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2003 for service to the development and practice of criminal law and for fostering international relations in the area of human rights. He has received many domestic and international awards, including the Medal of Honour of the International Association of Prosecutors, the Medal of the International Society for the Reform of Criminal Law (based In Vancouver, Canada) and a Rotary International Vocational Excellence Award. He is co-chair of the Tick-induced Allergies Research and Awareness Committee. He is a campaigner for drug law reform and voluntary assisted dying and a public commentator on criminal justice issues. Nicholas has been married to Joy for over 40 years and the couple have three children and eight grandchildren.

#### **ROBBIE CURTIS (2006)**

Robbie grew up in Armidale and after completing years 7 and 8 at the local high school, he moved to Albury where he enrolled at the Flying Fruit Fly Circus High School. He moved to Wollongong High in 2005 for year 11, and in that year played the lead roles in 'Singing in the Rain' and the pantomime, "Happily Never After", which were both directed by Janet Cunningham. He attended the Joanne Grace School of Dance and successfully auditioned for Opera Australia as a dancer, juggler and acrobat. He made his professional debut at Sydney Opera House appearing in three operas while he was still a student at WHSPA. After school he trained in contemporary and classical dance at the New Zealand

School of Dance in Wellington and after graduating, he worked for a year with the Footnote Dance Company in Wellington.

Among Robbie's many successes over the past few years, have been Legs on the Wall in Beautiful Noise in the Brisbane Festival, Voyage at the UK Cultural Olympiad for the 2012 London Olympics and the opening of the Sydney Festival. He has also worked with the Australian Ballet in their 50th Anniversary season, "Infinity" and in Gideon Obarzanek's, "There's Definitely a Prince Involved". Well-known choreographers Anton, Alice Lee Holland and Shaun Parker have used his talents, while he has also worked as a circus artist with Circus Monoxide. For three years from 2012, Robbie toured with the multiple Helpmann award winning and internationally acclaimed circus company, CIRCA.

#### **RUTH DAVIDSON (1921)**

Born at Woonona on 14 January 1905, where her father, James, was a well known storekeeper, Ruth scored the High's best pass in the 1921 Leaving, with First Class Honours in Latin (second in NSW), Second Class Honours in History, plus four As and a B. She completed a Bachelor of Arts from Sydney University in Latin and History with Honours. She then worked as a Classics teacher at the private school, Frensham, at Mittagong for five years from 1925, before spending two years in England, France and Germany, where she taught and studied the latest teaching methods. In 1932, she began at PLC (Presbyterian Ladies College) at Goulburn, where she became senior mistress



Staff Photograph 1972

in 1935. In 1937 she changed her career direction, joining the Australian Chemical Institute in Melbourne. She was promoted to the assistant secretary of the Institute in 1941 and did this job until enlisting in the Australian Army Medical Women's Service (AAMWS) on 1 May 1943 (Service Number VFX 138505). Major Davidson married HS Hamilton-Williams on 21 December 1945 and was officially discharged from the Army on 21 November 1946 after serving as the assistant controller of the Australian Military Forces Headquarters in Melbourne. Listed in *Who's Who in Australia, 1971*, Ruth died on 29 August 1992 at Bowral, aged 87. She is buried at Wollongong Memorial Gardens in Berkeley.

#### **PETER DENNISON (1959)**

Born on 18 August 1942, Peter came to WHS in 1955 from West Wollongong primary. In the 1959 Leaving, he scored three As and three Bs. He then began a Bachelor of Music degree at Sydney University and graduated at the end of 1963. He also won a scholarship to Oxford University, where he completed a Bachelor of Arts in music, followed by a DPhil on the English Restoration composer, Pelham Humfrey. While at Oxford, he was the organ scholar at Magdalen College. He then lectured at Glasgow University for three years, before moving to Cambridge University, where he was a Music Fellow and the Director of Music for the Choir of Clare College from 1971 to 1975. During his first year at Clare, he established the mixed voice choir, which is still a feature of Cambridge. He was also the Conductor for the Cambridge Philharmonic Society. In 1976, he

was appointed as the Ormond Professor of Music at the University of Melbourne, where he began a new and continuing choir, as well as inaugurating the annual Festival of Lessons and Carols. In 2002, the University of Melbourne established the "Trinity College Peter Dennison Choral Scholarship," to honour the memory of the talented musician. He was the first official Director of Music at the University of Melbourne and held this position from 1976 to 1985, as well as being the Chairman of the Melbourne Symphony Orchestra Board of Management and a contributor to *Musica Britannica*. He was also given the title of Deputy Organist for St. Andrews Cathedral in Sydney from 1970 to 1976, even though he was not often in Australia during this period. Peter died on 21 August 1989 aged 47.

#### **THOMAS DION (1918)**

Thomas, who was born on 16 June 1903 and attended Fairy Meadow Public School, was the first of six from the Dion family who attended Wollongong High. His father, also Thomas, was a market gardener and the family later established the Dions' Bus Company, which has served the Illawarra region for 92 years. In December 1923, the company began a Wollongong to Balgownie run, with a single Model T bus with wooden seats and canvas sides. Leslie (1932) and four of his children also attended WHS. They were Eileen (1965 to 1970), Edward (1975 to 1980), Rosemary (1977 to 1982) and Les (1979 to 1984). Edward is currently a Mathematics teacher at the school.

### **REAR ADMIRAL BILL DOVERS (1931)**

CBE, DSC, RAN. Bill was born at Eastwood on 12 February 1918 and when he came to Wollongong with his family, was a student at WHS for just the one year, 1931. He won a scholarship to the Royal Australian Naval College in Victoria and studied there for five years from 1932. He won the Governor-General's Cup for best all rounder at the College in 1933 and in 1937 was captain of the RAN and Victorian rugby teams. An early starter in World War Two, he served at first on HMAS Canberra and soon was promoted to First Lieutenant on the destroyer, Quickmatch. In 1941 he was on the destroyer Nestor, which was the first Australian ship to sink a German submarine- U127, west of Gibraltar. After the War, he served in the Korean campaign and in 1958 was in command of the RAN Naval College at Jervis Bay. In 1959, he was asked to take command of the fledgling Royal Malayan Navy and did an excellent job for two years in an extremely sensitive political and diplomatic situation. After being promoted to Rear Admiral in December 1967, he moved as the first Director of the Joint Staff for three years in February 1968. He was awarded a CBE in 1969 and as an Admiral, was Commander of the Australian Fleet from 1971 to 1972. Bill passed away on 4 October 2007 aged 89. Bill and his family lived in View Street near the northern entrance to the school when it was at Smiths Hill. His father, George (1887-1971) was a famous Antarctic explorer, while his younger brother Bob, was in command of Mawson, which was the first Australian Antarctic base, established in 1953. Bill's son, William Anthony George born 18 September 1951, also became an Admiral in the RAN.

### **BOB DOVERS (1934)**

Born on 6 May 1922, Bob came to WHS in 1934 from Wollongong Primary. He was a good athlete and in 1938, he won the Wiseman Prize for high jumping. In the 1938 Leaving he finished with three As and four Bs and began training as a surveyor. He enlisted in the AIF on 7 July 1941 (Service Number NX38115) and was sent to the Middle East for four months with the First Field Regiment on 1 November 1941, where he was first a gunner and then moved to the commando squadron. He was in New Guinea from January to November in 1943 and then the Solomon Islands from February 1945 until June 1946. At Rabaul in July 1943, he was wounded in action. After the War, he joined the Australian National Antarctic Research Expedition and from 1947 to 1949 he was surveyor and second in

command with the pioneer party to Heard Island. In 1950, he was on Macquarie Island for six months and from 1951 to 1952, was on Adelie Land, where he was on loan to the third French Antarctic Expedition. In 1953 to 1955, he was Leader and Surveyor of the party that established the new base, Mawson, for the Australian government. This was Australia's first permanent station in Antarctica. He and his wife Wilma and their family moved back to Wollongong in the mid 1960s and he worked locally as a surveyor. He died on 9 December 1981 at Shellharbour aged 59. Bob's father, George (1887-1971) was also a well-known Antarctic explorer, being on the 1911-1914 Australian expedition, which was led by Sir Douglas Mawson.

### **GEORGE EDGAR (1959)**

George did the Leaving in 1959, scoring an A and five Bs. He then began Metallurgy part-time at Wollongong Tech at the old Gladstone Avenue site while working with BHP. He was one of 308 students (all male), who moved to the current University of Wollongong campus when it opened in early March 1962 and completed his Bachelor of Metallurgy at the end of 1966. He finished the Advanced Management Program in Victoria in 1981 and at the European Institute of Business Administration in France in 1988. After 40 productive years with BHP, he retired in November 2000 and at the time, held the position of President of the Flat Products division at Wollongong. Over the years, George has been given several prestigious awards including the Medal of Honour from the South East Asia Iron and Steel Institute and the Illawarra Connections Award for Excellence in Community Service. George has also chaired several major boards such as the Illawarra Development Board (1996-2003) the Salvation Army Advisory Board (1996-2000) and BHP Rail Products (1991-96). He is a former member of the University of Wollongong's Council and was Deputy Chancellor from late 1998 to February 2006.

### **LORNA FEJO (1943)**

Lorna was one of the "Stolen Generation," being taken from her aboriginal mother as a four year old in 1932. She was sent to the Alice Springs bungalows and then on to Goulburn and Croker Islands, off the Northern Territory coast, in early 1940. When the Japanese bombed Darwin in February 1942, the children were evacuated to Sydney via Oenpelli and Pine Creek. While in Sydney, Lorna attended Haberfield Primary School and towards the end of 1942, the group was moved to Otford.

She then attended Wollongong High until the end of the War when she returned to Croker Island. Lorna's bush name was Minpirmngully, although she had a white father. Over the years she has worked tirelessly for her fellow Indigenous people and became a Health Educator. After developing the "Strong Women, Strong Babies and Strong Culture" program, she was awarded the 2000 Australian Achiever Award. In mid 2008 at Tennant Creek, Prime Minister, Kevin Rudd, handed Lorna "Nanna" Fejo a framed replica of his Stolen Generations Apology Speech, while the Charles Darwin Research and Innovation Award followed in 2009. Lorna had 11 children, of whom seven survived. In 2015, she had 23 grandchildren and 14 great grandchildren.



Lorna Fejo and Prime Minister Kevin Rudd

#### **JUSTIN FERMINO (2005)**

Justin began playing the saxophone at just 12 years of age and is now one of Australia's leading saxophonists and clarinetists. After gaining a Diploma of Jazz Performance while still at Wollongong High, he moved to Sydney and completed a Bachelor of Music (Jazz Performance) in 2010. That same year, he recorded his first album and since then he has recorded and released several albums under his own name or the names of his projects. In 2012/14, he was nominated as artistic director for the Jazzgroove Association, which is a not for profit organization promoting improvised Jazz music. In 2015, he worked as a composer and bandleader for seven different ensembles, including the Cope Street Parade, and Hi Tops Brass Band, as well as Jim Conway's Big Wheel, Ben Walsh's Crusty Suitcase Band, Dick and Christa Hughes, Vintage Quartestra, Danny G Felix Project, The Strides, Ben Panucci Septet, Cumbiamuffin and Kid Confucius. The performing highlights of Justin's career include playing alongside such artists as Leroy Jones, Lulo Reinhardt, Bob Barnard, James Morrison, Ian Date, Bernie McGann, Jim Conway, Geoff Bull, Jason Marshalls, Bobby Singh, Dan Barnett, James Greening and Judy Bailey.

#### **ASHLEY FISHER (1993)**

Born at Wollongong on 25 September 1975, Ashley played on the world professional tennis circuit from 1998 until retiring in October 2011. He was a doubles specialist and along with American, Tripp Phillips, reached the semi finals of the 2006 US titles. With Nikolay Davydenko as his partner, he played in the 2004 Wimbledon Quarter Finals. His highest world doubles ranking was 19th in June 2009 and as he didn't play too many singles matches, his best singles world ranking was 489th in July 2000. Ashley won three ATP Tour titles. These were at Amersfoort, Holland in July 2003 with Australian Devin Bowen, Beijing China in September 2007 with South African Rick de Voest and Indianapolis USA with Tripp Phillips in July 2008. Again with Tripp Phillips, he won an ATP International Series Gold Tournament at Tokyo Japan in October 2006. Ashley's total career prize money was US \$778,883.

#### **THOMAS FRAME (1978)**

Born in Sydney on 7 October 1962, Tom came to Wollongong High in 1975 as Dux of West Wollongong Primary. He left after the School Certificate and joined the Royal Australian Naval College, HMAS Creswell, as a 16-year-old junior cadet midshipman in January 1979. Graduating from the RAN College in December 1983, he completed his studies in Chinese History and Economics at UNSW with a Bachelor of Arts (Honours) and the inaugural WJ Liu Memorial Prize. He was then the inaugural Summer Vacation scholarship winner at the Australian War Memorial. After completing his naval training, he was appointed as research officer to the Chief of Navy Staff in 1988. Two years later he began a PhD, which he completed in October 1991. Resigning from the RAN in November 1992, Tom completed a Master of Theology degree and trained for the Priesthood in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn. He was ordained in December 1993 and appointed curate of St. John's Church in Wagga and a Visiting Scholar at Charles Sturt University. In 1996 he took two years leave in England where he completed a Master of Arts (Honours) in Applied Theology at the University of Kent. Over the next few years he served as the Rector at Bungendore in early 1999, part-time lecturer at St. Mark's National Theological Centre, as well as becoming a visiting fellow in the school of Astronomy and Astrophysics at ANU from 1999 to 2003. On 28 June 2001, he was consecrated Bishop and became the first full-time Anglican Bishop of the Australian Defence Force. He was the youngest Anglican Bishop in Australia and the fifth youngest in the nation's history.

Numerous high profile appointments and achievements followed during the next few years. He resigned as the Anglican Bishop for the Defence Force in November 2006, to become the Director of St. Mark's National Theological Centre at Barton in Canberra. In 2010, Tom and his wife Helen, whom he married in December 1983, relocated to a rural property in southern NSW where he engaged in small-scale beef production and sheep grazing. Tom is the author or editor of 28 books.

#### **JOHN GLASTONBURY (1949)**

BE, MEng Sc, PhD Syd, FI Chem E, FAIE, MAusIMM, CEng. John was born on 5 May 1933 at Sutherland and grew up in Austinmer. His father, Reg, was the Bulli Shire Engineer and, on amalgamation of Illawarra local governments in 1947, became the first Chief Engineer of Greater Wollongong. John attended WHS from 1945 to 1949. All the way through high school, he was academically strong and in the 1949 Leaving he obtained First-Class Honours in Chemistry, three As and two Bs. In 1950 he began his very successful academic career with a Bachelor of Engineering and a Master of Engineering Science at Sydney University. Following four years working in chemical engineering in England, John returned to Australia in 1960. In 1961 he was appointed as a chemical engineering lecturer at Sydney University. Having gained his PhD in 1967, Professor Glastonbury was appointed as Dean of Sydney University's Faculty of Engineering in 1982. He remained as Dean for 16 years, until 1998. Simultaneously for five years, he was Pro Vice-Chancellor, Professional Faculties Group at Sydney

University until 1998. He was a member of the University of Sydney Senate for eight years, the Academic Board, Finance Committee and many internal committees of the university. He was founding Chairman of the Committee of Deans within the University. In 1986 he was also the Executive Director of the Warren Centre and remained as a Board member for six more years. He was Chairman and Director of the Australian Centre for Innovation for 16 years. One of his hobbies is steam trains and he was involved in the restoration of Heritage train 3801, which goes from Sydney to Wollongong and on to Moss Vale. After retiring from Sydney University in 1998, John and his wife enjoy life in Country NSW.

#### **DR. SUZY GREEN (1981)**

Suzy grew up in Balgownie and attended the local primary school. She completed her Doctorate in Clinical Psychology at the University of Wollongong in 2003. After graduation, she designed and taught "Applied Positive Psychology" in the Coaching Psychology Unit at Sydney University as an Adjunct Senior Lecturer from 2004 to 2014. She founded The Positivity Institute and is an Honorary Research Fellow for the Black Dog Institute, an Adjunct Professor for the School of Business at Western Sydney University, an Honorary Fellow for the Melbourne Graduate School of Education at the University of Melbourne and an Honorary Research Fellow for the Institute for Positive Psychology and Education (IPPE) at the Australian Catholic University, while she is also an Affiliate of the Institute for Well-Being at Cambridge University in England. She lives and practises in Sydney.



Staff Photograph 1988

### **JOHN STEPHEN HALES (1935)**

JST became World Leader of the Exclusive Brethren Religious Order, from April 1987 until his death on 12 January 2002, aged 80. The Brethren refer to their leader as Man of God, or Elect Vessel or Minister of the Lord in the Recovery and identify him by his first three initials. Born at Thirroul on 14 January 1922, John grew up at McCauley's Hill, Thirroul where his father was the manager of the local ES and A bank. Unfortunately, his father, William Henry Hales, died at just 35 in May 1931. John attended WHS in 1934 and 1935, before his mother moved the family to Burwood in Sydney, where he completed the Leaving in 1937 at Canterbury Boys High School, scoring Honours in English and History, two As and three Bs. He enlisted in the Australia Army in late 1942 (Service Number N444018) and served in New Guinea for a total of 565 days as well as in Australia for 645 days. After the War he completed Economics and Accountancy studies at night, while working during the day, to make things easier for his mother, Grace. After becoming involved with his church soon after being discharged from the army in March 1946, he worked in several overseas countries, including New Zealand, South Africa, England, Ireland, Scotland, Canada, Barbados and the USA.

### **JANET HARKER (1939)**

BE, MSc, MA, PhD (MANCHESTER), ScD Born on 20 January 1927, Janet only attended WHS for two years before her family moved to Epping at the end of 1939. She was the younger sister of older twin siblings (born 18 May 1917), Margaret "Peggy" Harker, who was school captain in 1933 and Flight Lieutenant Andrew Harker (Service Number 261287), who became a doctor in 1939 and then served three years in Australia with the RAAF, followed by two years in England with the RAF. Janet completed a BSc (1945) and a MSc (1949), both at Sydney University, mastering in Zoology. She went to England at the end of 1949 and completed a PhD at Manchester University in 1951. She joined Cambridge University in 1952 as an assistant lecturer at Girton College in Zoology. While at Girton, she did a MA at Canterbury University. She then became a lecturer and Director of Studies in Biological Studies from 1954 to 1992, as well as Director of Veterinary Medicine until 1976. She was also a Demonstrator in Cambridge University's Department of Zoology from 1959 to 1964 and University Lecturer from 1964 to 1992. She also held two senior positions at Girton- acting bursar from 1967 to 1969 and vice mistress from 1969 to 1978.

She retired from the University in 1993 and a year later retired from her college posts. She was elected as a Life Fellow of Girton in 1992. She was well known throughout the world science community for her work on insects and in particular, Mayflies. She wrote several books on insects and was awarded a Scientific Gold Medal in 1964 by the Zoological Society. Janet passed away on 5 May 2016, aged 89.

### **SID HAYES (1921)**

Born on 23 August 1905, Sid attended Mt. Keira Primary. He came to Wollongong High in January 1919 as a second year student and that year, as a 41 kgs winger, was a member the Premiership winning Mt. Keira third grade team. At the old Sydney Sports Ground (now Sydney Football Stadium) on 6 August 1920, he starred at halfback for Wollongong High in their 16-3 defeat of the more favoured Sydney Technical High. After leaving school at the end of 1921, he went to Business College, but a couple of years later did some further study to become a primary teacher. Continuing in Rugby League until the early 1930s, Sid won two more minor grade Premierships with Mt. Keira and on 29 September 1930, was in the Wollongong side which defeated Port Kembla 13-6 in the Illawarra first grade grand final. After retiring, he went into administration and was President of the Illawarra Rugby League from 1931 to 1936, as well as Group 7 President. He was a Vice-President of the NSW Country Rugby League for 15 years and delegate to the NSWRL. But it was in radio where Sid really made his mark. After joining station 2WL (now Wave FM) in 1933 as a sportscaster, he became the biggest sporting name on the South Coast over a 40-year period. He made his last broadcast in January 1972 but continued to write articles for the Illawarra League News up to the late 1970s. He was made a life member of many sporting organisations and in 1945 was appointed as the first fulltime secretary of the Illawarra PSAAA. He resigned from teaching in 1946 to take the position of secretary for the Wollongong Showground Trust and in 1947 became secretary of the Kembla Grange Race Club. In 1976, he was given an AM for his service to sport and radio. Sid passed away on 6 February 1986, aged 80.

### **LUCY HEFFERNAN (2010)**

After graduating from Wollongong High in 2010, Lucy was one of three recipients of the Bell Shakespeare Regional Performance Scholarship. She then studied a

Bachelor of Performance in Acting at the University of Wollongong, graduating in 2013. While at University, Lucy performed in productions of Juliet and Romeo, Elektra, Bergman and Three Sisters, as well as her own work, "Only.Just.Not.Entirely.You." After moving to Sydney, she has performed in numerous theatre productions including Machine (Eelectric Productions), the role of Fiona Carter in the touring production of 'The Removalists' (Rock Surfers Company directed by Leland Keane), 'As I Lay Dreaming' (Shopfront Theastre), 'His Dark Materials' (Bakehouse Theatre Company), 'Coleridge Papers' play reading/script development (Belvoir Street) and for Sport for Jove, 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (directed by Susanna Dowling), 'The Crucible' (directed by Damian Ryan), playing the role of Abigail Williams in the Education Season Remount and Jessica in Richard Cottrell's 'The Merchant of Venice'. Recently she played the role of Iphegenia in the Australian premiere of Minus One Sister (Luke Rogers, Griffin Independent).



Lucy Heffernan as Mrs Potts in Beauty and the Beast

#### ALAN HICKS (2001)

Born on 27 July 1983, Al began surfing and playing drums at an early age in Wollongong. He was accepted in WHSPA for drums in 1996 and was a founding member of the school band, 'Cameltoe', which represented WHSPA at dozens of events and went on to be a successful Australian band. He was also a member of the Wollongong Conservatorium's first-ever Jazz band, 'Jazz'm'. His year 12 Design and Technology project, 'The Egg Chair', was chosen as one of Australia's best and toured around the country as part of Art Express. Soon after finishing high school, he moved to New York City and in 2002, received a full scholarship to study jazz/percussion at the prestigious William Paterson University in New Jersey. The next year, 2003, he joined the great Clark Terry's Band. Terry was the trumpeter for Count Basie and Duke Ellington and also taught Miles Davis. From 2003 to 2007, Al toured the world with Clark Terry, playing the drums. After graduating from William Paterson in 2007, he moved to Senegal in West Africa, where he studied African percussion. From 2010 to 2014, Al directed a documentary about Clark Terry, called 'Keep on Keepin' On'. The Director of Photography for this project was another former WHSPA alumnus, Adam Gene Hart. This documentary was an international success and won some awards and prizemoney, including Tribeca Audience Award, The National Board of Review Award and was short-listed for the 2015 Academy Awards. Al won the Tribeca's Best New Director Award. Towards the end of 2015, he began directing another documentary for Netflix about the great musician/composer/producer, Quincy Jones.



Alan Hicks, Adam Hart and Whoopi Goldberg at the Tribeca Film Festival



Staff Photograph 1996

### GREG HOLLAND (1965)

Greg was born in August 1948 and as a young boy developed a love of dancing, so much so that he became a professional dancer. Academically he was always a good student and after school, he obtained a Bachelor of Science with Honours from UNSW (1971), then a Dip of Met. Bureau of Meteorology, Melbourne (1972), followed by an MSc (1981) and a PhD (1983) in Atmospheric Sciences at Colorado State University. He returned to Australia for 20 years and became one of the world's foremost authorities on tropical cyclones and the influence of climate variability and change on severe weather and societal impacts. Along the way, he also established one of the first unmanned aircraft companies in the world and was chairman of the tropical meteorology program at the World Meteorological Organisation. He has lived in the USA for over a decade, working as a Director and Senior Scientist at National Centre for Atmospheric Research, as well as with NASA and National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration. He is a fellow of both the American and Australian Meteorological Societies and has published over 100 peer-reviewed research papers, as well as major contributions to six textbooks and forecast manuals.

### SCOTT HOY (1980)

Born in July 1966 at Coniston, Scott was a student at Illawarra Grammar School, before transferring to WHS in 1979 for years 7 and 8. He dominated his age group in swimming at school, district and even CHS level while at WHS. He moved to Sydney in 1981 and enrolled at Cranbrook School. During his school years, he was a national champion and set Australian Age Group records in the 100 metre and 200 metre

breaststroke each year from 1977 to 1982. He was also a member of Australian Age Group Swimming Teams, which competed in the USA and New Zealand, as well as captaining an Australian Age Group team on a tour of China in 1981. After completing the HSC at Cranbrook, Scott attended Harvard University in the USA where he was a prominent member of the University's Swim Team, was a recipient of the Elizabeth P. Kennedy Memorial Scholarship and was President of the Delphic Club, which is an undergraduate social club. Since graduating from Harvard with a Bachelor of Arts in Middle Eastern Studies, he has spent the bulk of his career in the finance industry, initially working with James D. Wolfensohn Inc in New York (a boutique corporate advisory firm) and subsequently Citibank/Citigroup in New York and Saudi Arabia, in various senior roles. In 2010, Scott returned to Australia to join the Australia and New Zealand Banking Group as Head of Strategic Mergers and Acquisitions, based in Melbourne. In this position, he is responsible for ANZ's strategic M and A activities, globally. Scott resides in Melbourne with his wife Fatima and daughter Tala.

### CAROLYN HUNT (1964)

Carolyn came from Keiraville Public and completed her first degree, a BA (Honours), at Wollongong University and then went on to study Civil Engineering at the University of Technology in Sydney. Following this, she did Project Management with a brief stint at the Harvard Kennedy School of Government. After working in Australia for a few years, she worked in Fiji, Kosovo, Afghanistan, Indonesia, Liberia, Sierra Leone, the Solomon Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia. Primarily, she worked with the United Nations, as well as the European Union and the Asian Development Bank, in post-conflict and post-disaster reconstruction. Amongst her many roles, she served as Chief Engineer with the United Nations Peacekeeping Mission in Liberia (UNMIL), where she looked after their 15,000 strong military, police and civilian personnel throughout the country. In recent years she has served as an Infrastructure Advisor to the governments of developing nations, allowing her to focus on the work she enjoys most- visiting local communities, liaising with tribal elders, governors, Afghan schoolgirls, prisoners and local villagers in the many countries to which she has been assigned. During her long career, she has survived rocket attacks, road blocks, IEDs death threats and minefields.

### **ALBERT FRANCIS JAMES (1936)**

Born on 21 April 1918 in Queenstown Tasmania, Francis created headlines around the world when the Chinese, imprisoned him in late 1969, for alleged spying. After four years in a Chinese gaol, he was released in 1973. The son of an Anglican minister, his early life was unsettled as his father moved between parishes. When his father moved to Marulan in 1933, he did his Intermediate Certificate at Goulburn High and in 1934 he moved to Canberra Grammar as a boarder, where he met his long term friend Gough Whitlam, who became Prime Minister in 1973. Francis only spent one year at WHS, where he completed the Leaving Certificate in 1936 with Honours in History, an A in English and three Bs. He joined the RAAF in 1937 for three years and at the outbreak of World War Two, he travelled to England and joined the RAF. When he was shot down over France on Anzac Day, 25 April 1942, he suffered severe burns to his face and eyes. He was captured but after some time in German hospitals and POW camps, was repatriated through the Cairo Red Cross because of his injuries. He was formally invalided out of the RAF in April 1945 and received a British pension for the rest of his life. After returning home he worked as a journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald and in 1952, managed a Church of England publication, the Anglican. He used this magazine as a platform for his anti-Vietnam views and became involved with anti-war groups. In 1967 he was involved in a controversy over sending money to North Vietnam. He made two visits to North Vietnam in the 1960s and after the second one in late 1968, went to China where he was arrested. His release from prison in late 1973 came after extensive negotiations between Prime Minister Whitlam and Chinese officials. He wrote some articles on his imprisonment for the Herald and in 1986, was rehabilitated by the Chinese Government. He died on 24 August 1992, aged 74. When delivering the Eulogy at his funeral, Sir Marcus Loane, the former Archbishop of Sydney, described him as a born entertainer, a complete extrovert and a real mischief-maker who reveled in controversy.

### **GORDON JERVIS (1942)**

Gordon came from Wollongong Primary in 1938 and in the 1942 Leaving, he obtained second class honours in both Maths I and Maths II, plus three Bs. While at WHS, his family moved from Wollongong to Balgownie. A very keen hockey player, Gordon was secretary of the

Illawarra Hockey Association during his final two years at WHS. In 1943 he enrolled at Sydney University and at the end of 1947, he completed a Bachelor of Aeronautical Engineering. He then worked at the Port Kembla Steelworks in the Combustion department before leaving for England, via the Panama Canal and New York, where he lived with his uncle, Dr. Walter Jervis of Bristol University, while completing a post graduate course in advanced Mathematics, as well as working in the designing section on the pressure cabin and de-icing equipment of the new Bristol Brabason. The Brabason was an aircraft bigger than a Boeing 767 but after the prototype was completed in 1949, it proved a commercial failure. Back in Australia, Gordon joined the Royal Australian Navy, where he soon became a Lieutenant in the Engineering section. In late September 1954, he became engaged in Copenhagen, to his future Danish wife, Grethe Madsen. The couple moved to Melbourne, where Gordon was promoted to Lieutenant Commander at Cerberus in November 1956. Next came a move to the Australian Navy's American detachment in Washington, where he spent a couple of years, as well as completing an International Naval Command course at the USA Naval War College, located at Newport, Rhode Island. On the 2 January 1976, he began two years as Commanding Officer of HMAS Albatross at Nowra. Albatross is the RAN's Air Station. After retiring in the early 1980s, Gordon lived at Mosman in Sydney, where he died on 10 November 2004, aged 79.

### **GLENN JOHNSON (1955)**

Born in October 1939 at Woonona, he came to WHS in 1951. In the 1955 Leaving, he obtained Honours in Maths I and Physics, two As and Two Bs at age 16. He then moved to the Young Men's Hostel in Petersham and completed a Bachelor of Science at Sydney University in 1958, followed by a Diploma of Education. After marrying his wife, Joy, in 1962, the couple moved to Narrabeen and he began his teaching career at Manly Boys High School. After nine years as a Maths teacher, he began a Masters degree at Macquarie University and completed this in 1970. He had joined the Maths staff at Macquarie University in its first year, 1967. In 1975, Glenn and his family moved to Chicago where he worked at the Argonne National Laboratory. He gained his PhD in 1980 and the subject for his Doctorate was 'Mathematical Modelling of the Dispersion of Air Pollutants over Urban Areas'. In 1981 he worked at the University of North Carolina, while in 1989, he spent three months at the University of British

Columbia in Canada, followed by three months at Ohio State University. His research led him to travel overseas to many countries including Canada, USA, UK, several Asian countries, Italy and Tonga. He became a Professor at Macquarie and Head of the School of Computing. On retirement, he worked as a volunteer guide at Sydney's Botanic Gardens, while he was a long-term member of local environment group, STEP, at Turramurra and also GETUP. He signed up to have his brain and spinal cord donated to Schizophrenia Research and this was done the day after his death on 23 August 2015, aged 75.

#### **SIR WILLIAM KILPATRICK (1921)**

CBE, KBE, AC- Bill was born at Surrey Hills on 27 December 1906, and after passing the Qualifying Examination at Corrimal Primary in 1917, came to WHS in 1918 and finished at the end of 1921. He began work as a clerk at Corrimal-Balgownie Colliery in 1921 and did this job for about five years before moving to Sydney to join Pincombe Ltd. Doing part-time study, he qualified in accounting, auditing and commercial law and this allowed him to rise quickly in the company, being appointed company secretary and assistant manager in 1927. After marrying Alice Strachan from Austinmer in October 1932, the couple moved to Melbourne in 1933 when he was appointed as director and manager of the Victorian branch of Pincombe Ltd. On 23 February he joined the RAAF (Service Number 254428) and was commissioned as a Flight/Lieutenant on 1 October 1943. He served as an Identification Officer in a number of fighter

sectors in the South Pacific. In January 1945, he was promoted to Squadron Leader. After the War, in 1946, Bill established his own import company, Business Equipment Holdings, which, when bought by the American company Litton in 1965, employed more than 1,000 people in 30 offices around Australia. He also had many investments in property, plastics and dairy companies. From the mid 1950s until his death on 25 May 1985, he campaigned endlessly on health issues. He was founder President of the Australian Cancer Society (1961) and World Chairman of the Finance Council for the International Union Against Cancer (1962). He was also a Vice-President of the Australian National Heart Foundation (1960) and Chairman of the National Drug Education Committee (1970). One of Australia's greatest Philanthropists, he was awarded a CBE (1958), a KBE (1965) and an AC (1981). In 1977, Melbourne University awarded him an honorary Doctorate of Laws. He and his wife had three daughters and a son. Bill had an uncle, also William John, who fought in the Middle East during World War One (Service Number 4302) and an older brother James, born on 19 January 1905, who died in a Japanese Prisoner of War Camp in Borneo on 3 April 1945, Service Number NX26125.

#### **ELEANOR KNAGGS (1952)**

Eleanor holds a unique place in Illawarra legal history. As Eleanor Pennay, she was the first Wollongong woman to be admitted as a solicitor of the NSW Supreme Court and the first local woman to establish her own practice. She came to WHS as Dux of Wollongong Primary in



Staff Photograph 2000

1948 and quickly established herself as an excellent public speaker, winning the Sanders Cup in 1951 and 1952. After gaining As in English and French along with four Bs in the 1952 Leaving Certificate, she studied law and undertook articles with a Wollongong law firm, before starting her own practice in 1961. Later she moved to Canberra where she again established her own practice before becoming, in the mid 1970s, the first Director of the ACT branch of the newly created Australian Legal Aid Office. In 1978 she moved to Hong Kong where, in 1979, she became the Group Legal Manager, (General Manager), for the Hong Kong Land Group. At that time the Hong Kong Land Company was in a joint venture with the Chinese government and this was the first joint venture the Chinese government had entered outside China. Many such international joint ventures followed with entities in other countries in which the Hong Kong Land Group and the Mandarin Hotel chain had a presence. In the 1990s, Eleanor assisted the Hong Kong government with the negotiation and documentation for the construction of the then new airport. During her 25 years in Hong Kong, she continued to work on international ventures and projects. In 2016, Eleanor still practiced with Pennay lawyers on a part-time basis, from her Canberra home.

#### MARY ROSE LAVERY (1956)

Born in Glasgow in 1939 as the oldest of seven children, Mary came to Australia with her family when she was 13 and began at WHS in 1952 as a first year student. As 10 pound Poms, the Lavery family lived at the Balgownie Migrant Hostel in Fairy Meadow. At WHS, Mary was an excellent student topping her third year class in 1954 and in 1955 was a member of a group of senior girls, who performed a ballet called "Fear" at the school play night. In the 1956 Leaving, she obtained Honours in Economics and English as well as As in French, History and Geography. She finished second in NSW for Economics and her overall Examination results placed her 86th in the State and she also won a Commonwealth Scholarship. After school she studied Arts-Economics at Sydney University. Married to a Florentine, she spent most of her working life as a feature writer in Sydney newspapers, magazines and law society journals. She wrote her first book, "The Winter Sparrows" in 1975 and it describes her life first as a child in the dockside slums of Glasgow and then as an outsider with an accent trying to be accepted in a different society. This book has been acclaimed as a landmark in Australian migrant literature. After her husband's death, she visited Sicily and this led

to her book, "Sicily, A Captive Land". Both books were published under her married name, Mary Rose Liverani. Nowadays she lives in Italy for several months of the year.

#### BERTHA LEE

At Bodes Oval, North Wollongong on 5 October 1923, Bertha equalled the world high jump record for girls under 16, when she cleared 146.1 cms (four feet nine and a half inches), at the sixth annual athletic carnival of WHS. This mark stood as the greatest height ever cleared by an Illawarra schoolgirl until Janice Birch, also an under 16 girl, jumped 147.3 cms (four feet 10 inches) in 1955. Bertha also won the open 100-yard sprint in 1923 and was senior girls champion, as she was again in 1924. At the Sailors' and Soldiers' Memorial Athletic Carnival at Port Kembla in February 1924, she won the South Coast Ladies 100 yards championship. In 1920, as a 12 year old she won three needlework awards at the Port Kembla Poultry, Pigeon and Industrial Show, while at the Wollongong Eisteddfods in 1923 and 1924, she was placed in the piano solo and piano duet competitions. She was also an excellent tennis player and swimmer, while from around 1926 to 1938, she was one of the best female golfers on the South Coast. On 30 October 1926, she won the Greenwood Cup at Port Kembla Golf Club, defeating her older sister Una in the final. The Greenwood Cup was the Ladies Club championship. In competition on 8 March 1930, she had a hole in one at the second at Port Kembla. She worked as a bookkeeper at the family business in Port Kembla and married



Bertha Antill Lee

her husband, John Thompson, on 13 April 1940. She had two sons and a daughter and passed away in Melbourne during 1989, aged 81. Bertha's father, Henry was a prominent Illawarra citizen and Bertha was one of his seven children. Five of these children attended Wollongong High, as did Bertha's two sons Graham (School Captain 1960) and David. Bertha's sister Una, was also a student at WHS and was an early member of the RAAFNS in New Guinea from 1942 to 1944. During the War, she cared for wounded airmen at makeshift hospitals at Port Moresby and Milne Bay. After the war, she was the Illawarra District Nurse for many years and was awarded an OAM in 1992 for services to nursing and the community. She died in 1994 aged 87 and at the time was still active in organising Meals on Wheels for citizens of Wollongong and northern Illawarra.

#### **BOB LEE (1956)**

Robert Lee came from an old Wollongong family of doctors. His great grandfather, Dr. Timothy Lee was born in Oxfordshire, England in 1847 and graduated from the Royal College of Physicians in 1867. He and his family came to Australia in 1883 and settled in Wollongong a couple of months later. He lived in Market Square Wollongong and practiced medicine for 35 years before he died in August 1919, aged 72. His son and Robert Lee's grandfather, Dr. Harry Lee, graduated from Sydney University medical school in 1901 and worked as a Wollongong doctor for more than 50 years before he died in June 1959, aged 83. Dr. Harry Lee was an excellent cricketer and served as President of the Illawarra District Cricket Association for 15 successive years from the 1918/19 season. Born in Wollongong on 24 April 1939, Robert Lee did the Leaving twice, in 1955 and 1956. He obtained five Bs in 1955 and two As and three Bs in 1956. Beginning a Medical degree in 1957 at Sydney University, while living at St. Paul's College, he graduated at the end of 1962. He then completed a year's residency at Royal North Shore Hospital and then took up a position in Darwin. In 1965, he and his family went to England, where he furthered his medical studies at Westminster Hospital. Coming back to Australia, Bob and his first wife, Meryl, again settled at Darwin in 1967, where he worked as a general practitioner. Over the next 10 years, he operated several medical clinics and also worked at Darwin Hospital. While in Darwin he was secretary and Commodore (1974) of the Cruising Yacht Association of the Northern Territory, as well as being on the Organising Committee of the first Darwin to Dili race

on 18 August 1973. He was the skipper of Nicolette in this first event of 425 nautical miles across the Timor Sea. As a doctor, Bob worked around the clock in the aftermath of Cyclone Tracy, which devastated Darwin on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day 1974. When the storm was at its fiercest, Bob and his family took shelter in the cellar, after their home was blown down. While his family was evacuated south before New Year's Eve, he was one of a handful of doctors who were in Darwin during the cyclone and on the first night went for about 24 hours without any sleep. He also had a close friend and fellow yachting, sleep in his surgery for 10 days or so, to ensure his large amount of drugs did not get into the wrong hands. He returned to Sydney in 1977 and established a medical practice at Newport on Sydney's northern beaches. In the 1980s, he spent six months working in a Saudi Arabian hospital, before coming home and marrying his second wife, Rowena in 1983. Bob died in Sydney on 12 June 2008, aged 69 and is buried at Berkeley Pioneer Cemetery.

#### **JACK LEONARD (1928)**

When he was ordained in 1938, he was the youngest Priest to ever be ordained. After studying at Manly College, a special dispensation had to be given by the Pope of that time, Pius XI. Father Leonard's first posting was to the Catholic University at Louvain in Belgium for further studies, but soon after World War Two began, he was transferred to London and then came home in mid 1940. The son of Hugh Leonard, who was the Headmaster of Unanderra Public School, Father Leonard gave a talk on bombings and air raids, at Wollongong Town Hall on Tuesday night, 17 December 1940.

#### **JIM LEWIS (1959)**

Jim grew up in Austinmer and in the 1959 Leaving Certificate, he obtained four As and Two Bs, which won him a Commonwealth Scholarship to ANU in Canberra where he studied Science and became a Chemical Engineer. He joined BHP in 1972 and retired from this company after 40 successful years. He held several top managerial positions and when he retired, he was the President of the Non-Ferrous and Industrial Materials department. In October 2002, Jim became the Foundation Chairman of the Australian Mathematical Science Institute and served in this role for 10 years. He was rewarded for his hard work with AMSI with a Distinguished Service Medal in 2012. In his early career, Jim was a University lecturer and in 1996, he was awarded the Chemeca Medal from the Australian Chemical Engineering Society.

### ADAM LOUGHLIN (2000)

At school, Adam participated in all of the productions, both on and off the stage. In his senior years, he gravitated towards the production side of things and soon after leaving school he started a production company, which has evolved into a theatrical and filmic production house. For the past 15 years or so, he has continued to work with the school on all of the major productions, as well as his own ventures. He has made several films, produced and directed musical and straight theatre shows and toured with productions in NSW and interstate. Since the construction of the WHSPAC theatre space in 2011, Adam has taken a larger role within the school, managing the show budgets and channeling the profits back into the building. This has provided state of the art lighting, video, audio and staging facilities, which serve the vast array of school in-house productions each year, as well as allowing the building to be hired for external shows.



Adam Loughlin, Ben Pfeiffer and Joel Elferink in *Bonnets, Boaters and Boots* 1996

### BONNIE McDOUGALL (1957)

Born in Sydney on 12 March 1941, Bonnie attended WHS in 1956 and 1957. In the 1957 Leaving, she obtained First Class Honours in English and Economics, Second Class Honours in French plus As in German and General Maths. Soon after finishing at WHS she left for China to study at Peking University. This was a courageous decision by a 17 year old, as China was closed to most westerners in those days. Returning to Australia, she completed a BA (Honours) in 1965, a MA (Honours), winning the University Medal in 1967 and gaining a PhD in 1970, all at Sydney University. She lectured in Oriental Studies at Sydney University from 1972 to 1976 and then moved to the USA, where she was a visiting lecturer in Chinese at Harvard University in 1977 and 1978. From 1980 to 1983, she

was editor/translator at the Foreign Languages Press in Peking and then still in Peking, was a teacher at the College of Foreign Affairs from 1984 to 1986. Her next appointment was as Professor of Modern Chinese at the University of Oslo in Norway from 1987 to 1990, followed by the Professor of Chinese at the University of Edinburgh from 1990 to 2005. She then moved to Hong Kong where she worked in several roles at the Chinese University of Hong Kong from 2006 to 2010. From 2010 to 2014, she was Visiting Professor for the Department of Chinese Studies at the University of Sydney. In 2015, she became a Fellow, Australian Academy of the Humanities and also an Honorary Associate, School of Languages and Cultures at the University of Sydney. Now living in Sydney, Bonnie has written books, book chapters and journals. She also is regarded as one of Australia's best Chinese translators.

### FLIGHT LIEUTENANT ROBERT STANLEY McFARLANE NIELSEN (1933).

Bob was awarded a DFM (Distinguished Flying Medal), in March 1943, while a member of the RAAF, flying in a Lancaster Bomber in bombing raids over Germany in World War Two. His Service Number is 411092 and he was a member of the 460 Pathfinder squadron. In early March 1943, Bob and his crew were detailed for a mission to bomb Berlin. Following the attack and while still over the target area, the plane was hit by anti-aircraft fire and severely damaged. The mid-upper turret frame was twisted, the perspex and two engine cowlings blown off, the aileron controls damaged and the plane was forced down to 4,000 feet. On the return journey, the plane was driven off the route and held in a cone of searchlights for 15 minutes and during this time a further loss of height down to 900 feet occurred. In the face of this perilous situation, the plane was flown back to base. The pilot, Peter Issacson, was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) and navigator, Bob Nielsen, received a Distinguished Flying Medal (DFM). The plane was named Q for Queenie and on 22 May 1943, the plane and crew flew to Australia from Scotland via Montreal, San Francisco, Hawaii and Canton Island, before landing in Brisbane on 4 June 1943. The plane was taken to various Australian cities and towns for promotional, morale and War Bond purposes. On 1 July 1943, Bob visited WHS and spoke to the students and this was three months before his marriage to sister Joyce Annetts of the RAAF Nursing Service. On 22 October 1943 pilot Peter Isaacson and his crew, including Bob, decided to fly Q for Queenie under the Harbour Bridge.

They did this successfully, although after the event they received an official reprimand. From October 1943 until the end of the War, Bob worked as a Navigation Instructor for the RAAF in Australia. Born at Kentucky NSW on 16 February 1921, Bob and his family moved to the Cordeaux River area in 1926, when his father, John, was put in charge of the Cordeaux Dam. After passing the qualifying exam to WHS, he enrolled as a first year boy in 1933 and changed to Sydney Boys High in third year. In the 1937 Leaving at Sydney Boys he obtained two As and four Bs. An excellent sportsman at school, he was one of the best Rugby League players on the South Coast in the late 1930s, winning a first grade Premiership with Mt. Kembla and representing Group 7 on several occasions. He also played first grade with Sydney club, Balmain, after the War and represented City Seconds in 1946. A good student, Bob resumed his studies part-time after the War, completing a Bachelor of Economics at Sydney University and then winning a Fulbright Scholarship to study in the USA. He completed his Masters and PhD at Berkeley University near San Francisco between 1954 and 1958. His PhD thesis was on Oil Tanker Economics. In early 1946, he became the Chief Ground Instructor for TAA (Trans Australia Airlines) based in Melbourne and in late 1949 he joined British Commonwealth Pacific Airlines as Chief Navigator, in Sydney. From 1959 to 1964 he was the Director of Market Research for the P and O shipping company, based in San Francisco, followed by the same role with Eastern Airlines in New York from 1965 to 1969. Back in Australia in early 1970, he became a NSW Public Transport Commissioner and then completed the job of Perth Regional Transport Study Director. Next came the position of Sydney Area Transport Study Director. The 1971 Gleam magazine reports that Dr. Robert Nielsen, the Director of the Sydney Area Transportation Study was guest of honour at the 1971 Speech night. The Sydney Morning Herald of 13 June 1974, described him as one of the world's foremost transport planners. He returned to the USA in 1976 and became the assistant secretary of transportation for the state of Washington and then around 1980, he was appointed to the position of Executive Director for the California Transportation Commission. He retired in 1985 and lived with his wife at Fair Oaks, near Sacramento, where he wrote two books- "With the Stars Above" in 1984 and "Which Land is My Land" in 1993. Bob passed away in the USA, on 26 May 2001, aged 80.

### **KIP McGRATH (1963)**

Born in November 1946, Kip came to WHS as a first year boy in 1959. An excellent all round sportsman, he was a member of the school's athletics, cricket and soccer teams in his final year, 1963. He also played first grade cricket with the Balgownie club in the Illawarra competition. In the Leaving, he obtained honours in Geography, an A and four Bs and went on to Wollongong Teachers College. His first appointment was a one-teacher school at Windeyer in central west NSW. He progressed rapidly through the promotion ranks but at age 32, he left to develop the business he had begun three years earlier. Located in Maitland, the Kip McGrath Education Centre taught children with reading difficulties and it was successful from the start. It soon expanded to teach reading, spelling, English and mathematics to children from six to sixteen years of age. Over 20 teachers were employed in the early days but Kip wrote all the programmes to ensure the quality.

His wife, Dagnija, saw one of Australia's first Apple computers and convinced him to use computers in his business. Programmers were scarce in those days so Kip learned to program and this transformed the business. While computers were expensive, the students enjoyed using them and this allowed the students to do the drill and practice work while the teachers concentrated on their teaching.

The first permanent centre was located at Maitland and five others quickly followed in the Hunter Valley. Kip then decided to franchise and this saw the business expand throughout Australia and also internationally. In 1991 there were more than 100 centres scattered throughout Australia and this was followed by expansion to New Zealand and then England. Today the company operates centres in 20 countries and in different cultures, from London to small communities in South Africa and wealthy Middle Eastern regions.

In 2002, Kip achieved another of his goals, which was to secure the company for the future by listing it on the Australian Stock Exchange (ASX). Today there are 543 centres in 20 countries with more than 50,000 students being taught to read or do mathematics each week.

After a long and happy marriage, Kip's wife Dagnija passed away on 15 October 2012.

Now basically retired, Kip leaves the running of the company to his son, Storm, who is CEO, although he remains the Chairman and still does some consulting work.

Over the past few years, Kip has pursued his hobbies of horse racing, painting, fine dining and travelling with his partner, Lillie. He lives on Newcastle beach in a modern and spacious penthouse with excellent views.

#### **FAITH MCKINNON (1992)**

Born at Melbourne in September 1974, Faith came to the Illawarra district with her family, as a young girl. She attended West Wollongong Primary and enrolled at WHS in 1987. After the HSC, she completed a Bachelor of Arts at Charles Sturt University in Bathurst, majoring in Communications and Media Studies. Her first role in television was as a production assistant for ABC TV's, 'The 7.30 Report' and after this she moved on to the position of Script Co-ordinator on the television serial drama, 'Breakers'. In 2002, she worked in England as script editor and story editor for several TV dramas. On returning to Australia, she began a position as script editor on the medical drama, 'All Saints', before being promoted to script producer on Australia's iconic and long running serial, 'Home and Away'. Over recent years, she has written for numerous Australian dramas, including 'Winners and Losers', 'Neighbours' and 'Tricky Business'. Faith currently works as a story consultant and scriptwriter for 'Home and Away' and most recently began a stint as a guest lecturer at the Australian Film Television and Radio School.

#### **KEN McMULLEN (1918)**

Ken was the son of the school's first Headmaster, Frank McMullen and like his father, was a good all-round sportsman. Coming from Wollongong Superior School, he was a pupil at WHS for just one year, 1918 in first form and then transferred to Maitland Boys High in 1919 when his father was moved there as Headmaster. Born on 7 April 1904, Ken did the Leaving at Maitland Boys in 1923, scoring four Bs. He worked on a farm at Maitland for a year before going to New Guinea in October 1925 as a Cadet Patrol Officer. He began working as a Patrol Officer from December 1928 and in late September 1930, he returned to Australia to marry Rita Schofield, his school sweetheart from Maitland, in Sydney on 1 October. The couple began living in Rabaul after their honeymoon and Ken moved into Government Administration. When World War

Two began, Ken enlisted at Milne Bay in New Guinea (Service Number NGX371) and was with the Australian New Guinea Administration unit (ANGAU). As Liaison Officer to the American Sixth Army, Lieutenant Colonel McMullen formed detachments which were organized as military units attached to task forces. He personally supervised training and established effective supply and administrative procedures. These detachments proved so useful they were accepted as a model for other units. At the end of the War, the Americans awarded him a Medal of Freedom with a Bronze Star. He also was given the Pacific Star, the British War Medal and the Australian Services Medal. Ken died at Glencoe, near Glen Innes on 20 March 1978, aged 73. Ken's younger brother, Colin Campbell McMullen, was too young to attend WHS while in Wollongong. He completed the Leaving in 1926 at Fort Street Boys high with Honours in Maths I, an A and five Bs and then graduated with a Bachelor of Veterinary Science from Sydney University where he had been a representative rugby union player. After training and completing a pilot's course with the NSW Citizens Air Force he went to England in February 1935 and joined the RAF soon after he arrived (Service Number 32118). He became a Flight Lieutenant in November 1936, a Squadron Leader in December 1938, a Test Pilot in May 1940 and a Wing Commander in 1943, in charge of number 109 Squadron. He was awarded an Air Force Cross in December 1942. Air Attache in Bangkok for two years from January 1947, he was put in charge of number 81 group on 30 January 1954. Just 18 days later, on 17 February 1954 he died in his car from a heart attack. Born on 22 August 1908, Colin was just 45.

#### **BARRY MCQUINN (1973)**

Barry left WHS in 1973, spent 1974 labouring at the Port Kembla steelworks and was accepted into the NIDA Production Course in 1975. On graduation he was employed as a stage manager by Melbourne Theatre Company, for 4 years before travelling to Europe. Here he worked as a stage and production manager for a few years before returning to Australia as production manager, company manager and occasionally director, in the commercial theatre world. Productions included *Noises Off*, *Catholic School Girls*, *The Rocky Horror Show*, *Gulls*, *The Adman* and *Steaming*.

In 1985 he returned to NIDA as lecturer in Stage Management, taking over as Head of the Production Course the following year. He remained for ten

years. He is still connected to NIDA through Board membership, with an unbroken relationship extending for almost 4 decades.

In 1994 he was Production Manager on the Australian premiere of *Beauty and the Beast*, followed by *Showboat*, *The Boy From Oz*, and *Sisterella*.

In 1996 he joined Back Row Productions to produce and manage a number of shows at the Adelaide Festival. Later that same year he returned to London with their production of *Tap Dogs*, and was appointed Managing Director of, and took a shareholding in, the company. In 1999 Back Row was acquired by Clear Channel, the largest entertainment company in the world. Barry was appointed Creative Director, Europe with the brief to nurture and expand markets for North American shows, and to find and develop European productions for North America. Productions such as *Fosse*, *Matthew Bourne's Swan Lake*, *Chicago*, *Beauty and the Beast* ... even *Cats!* After 5 years in the corporate world he established my own independent company - initially Back Row, now RGM Productions. Shows produced and managed by him through RGM include the world premiere of Ingmar Bergman's *Through A Glass Darkly* with the Almeida Theatre in London and the Atlantic theatre in New York, the UK tour and Canadian premiere of *THE TWO WORLDS OF CHARLIE F* and the iconic South African dance show *GUMBOOTS*.

He is an original (and lead) producer of *Priscilla Queen of the Desert*, the Musical and has overseen every international production - 23 until now. *Priscilla* launched in Australia in 2006 and played Sydney (two seasons), Melbourne and Auckland. The show ran for three years in London's West End and was seen by over 600,000 people on Broadway. There have been seasons in Milan and Rome, Sao Paulo, Stockholm, Athens, Buenos Aires, Seoul, Amsterdam, Manila, Madrid, Singapore and tours of North American, UK and Italy. New productions are planned for Tokyo, Copenhagen, Munich, Paris, Cape Town and Johannesburg, Bangkok and Hong Kong.

#### **PAMELA MILDENHALL (1965)**

Coming from Coniston Primary, Pamela studied piano and was very successful in local eisteddfods as a singer. At WHS, she sang in the choir, which she was given the opportunity to conduct in fifth year. One of the inaugural students at Wollongong Conservatorium,

she gained her Licentiate in Singing with Distinction. After school, she graduated from Wollongong Teachers College and then taught at several public schools, before working at Kincoppal at Rose Bay. In 1981, she graduated as the top student, both academically and performance, with a BA Music from the Canberra School of Music. During this period she taught at the Goulburn Teachers College.



Pamela Mildenhall

In 1982, she was won a scholarship, plus a travel grant from the Australian opera, to study in Europe. From 1983 to 2009, she was based in Vienna, Austria and performed widely in recital, oratorio and baroque opera, as well as directing the United Nations Choir. As the principal soprano in the vocal ensemble, 'La Cappella Vienna,' she toured extensively throughout Europe. As a soloist, Pamela worked with such well-known conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Sir Charles Mackerras, Nikolas Harnoncourt and Rene Clemencic, performing in many of Europe's major concert halls.

From 1991 to 2003, she was a vocal teacher at the prestigious University of Performing Arts 'Mozarteum' in Salzburg, as well as being a juror for both national and international competitions in Austria and Italy. She has also taught as a guest lecturer at both Canberra School of Music and Wollongong University. Since returning permanently to Australia, Pamela has been teaching at NIDA, as well as directing the Wollongong vocal ensemble, 'Con Voci', and maintaining a private teaching studio.

#### **HAROLD FRANCIS MOREY (1941)**

Frank, as he was called, came to WHS from Wollongong Primary and was an outstanding athlete. At the Combined High Schools (CHS) championships in Sydney on 27 September 1938, he won the juvenile 100 yards, 220 yards and high jump as a 13 year old. He did just as well in following years at CHS level. A school prefect, he was always near the top of the year, throughout his time at WHS. In the 1941 Leaving, he scored First Class Honours in French and Latin, plus four As. He finished second in the State in French and in Latin, he was sixth in the State. He then began a medical degree at Sydney University and graduated with a MBBS in 1947. After his internship at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1948, he worked and did further studies in Germany for two years in 1949. After returning to Australia, he worked as a GP and around 1975, was appointed as the Medical Superintendent of Marrickville Hospital. This hospital began in June 1899 and was closed in 1990. While at Marrickville, he lived at Summer Hill and then in the mid 1980s he moved to the South Coast to the Tathra region. He passed away on 4 September 2004 aged 79, at Mudgee.

#### **RACHELLE O'DONNELL (2005)**

Rachelle came from Balgownie primary to WHSPA in 2000. She was heavily involved with the dance programme during her early years and then moved towards drama, pantomimes and musicals in her latter years. After the HSC, she studied at 3Arts Make Up College at Chippendale in Sydney, where she completed her Diploma. Nowadays Rachelle works as a Prosthetics and Special Effects Make Up Artist for films and TV. During the past few years, Rachelle has had a lot of success and has worked on some of the world's most successful films. These include the *HOBBIT TRILOGY* in New Zealand, *MAD MAX FURY ROAD* in Namibia and South Africa, *PIRATES of the CARIBBEAN* in Queensland, *L'ODESSEY* in Paris, Cape Town, Croatia and the Antarctic, and *SLOW WEST* in New Zealand. In June 2016, she was working on the *ALIEN COVENANT* in Sydney. Although Rachelle lives in Sydney, she travels a great deal.

#### **SUE OSTERBERG (1965)**

Well known in Australian ballet circles, Sue has taught ballet and several other genres of dance. She has owned her own Dance School in both Wollongong and Melbourne, where she has lived since 1976. In 1990, she was invited to become an examiner for Ballet Australasia

Ltd and, today, she still enjoys travelling throughout Australia and New Zealand examining students. She holds a MBAL, BAL Teaching Ballet Certificate.

#### **LIEUTENANT EVERLYN ERNEST OWEN (1929)**

Born on 15 May 1915 at Wollongong, Evelyn was obsessed with guns from an early age. He made them, modified them and fired them. At just eight years of age he built his own shotgun, from which he would fire stones at rubbish heaps. He began bomb making at age 12 and in March 1929, the Mercury newspaper reported that he was wounded in the stomach by shrapnel from one of his productions. Not long after his 16th birthday, he turned his interest to sub-machine guns and made several prototypes, having learned metal and lathe work in the workshop of a family friend. The weapon for which he was named, the OWEN SUB-MACHINE GUN, surfaced in late 1931, but he did not perfect it until 1938. Constant testing showed little could jam or disturb its firing. But in July 1939, when he tried to interest the Australian Army, he was told that neither, the Australian or the British Armies, needed such a weapon. On 28 May 1940, he enlisted in the AIF and was posted to the 2/17 Battalion. While on leave in September 1940 before he was due to go to New Guinea, he discussed his gun with Vincent Wardell, who was the manager of Lysaghts at Port Kembla. Wardell contacted the Minister for the Army, Sir Percy Spender, who had Owen transferred to the Central Inventions Board in Melbourne. He was angry with this decision, as he wanted to serve in New Guinea with his brothers, Julien and Percy, who had also enlisted. At first the army did not approve production of the Owen Gun, but Wardell made several of the weapons at Lysaghts. In September 1941, it was tested against the American Thompson gun and the British Bren gun under many difficult conditions. When the guns were immersed in water, mud and sand, the Owen was almost impossible to jam while the other two guns faltered and jammed. Army officials at the test agreed that the Owen gun was the simplest, cheapest and toughest and Lysaghts soon began mass production. By August 1942, the Owen Gun was being used in jungle fighting against the Japanese in New Guinea. More than 45,000 Owen guns were produced and used by the Allies in World War Two and they continued to be used in the Korean War, the Malayan Emergency and the Vietnam conflict.

Evelyn came to WHS as a first year boy in 1927 and left after failing the Intermediate in 1929. He showed no

interest in academic success or his father, Ernest's, career in Law. After leaving school, he began a ready-mixed mortar business with his brother Julien, but the venture failed. He did make some royalty money (about 10,000 pounds, but this was taxed) after the success of his gun and he used this to buy and set up a sawmill at Tongarra near the bottom of Macquarie Pass in late 1945, after the War. Towards the end of the War, he began to have some alcohol issues, which affected his health. In late March 1949, he was rushed to Wollongong Hospital, but just a few days later, he died of cardiac syncope on 1 April 1949, aged just 33.

### THE PALMER FAMILY

Dr. Charles Palmer of Woonona, had two sons and two daughters with his first wife Edith and when she passed away in late 1929, had another son with his second wife, Jane, who he married in September 1931. The first four children all attended Wollongong High and all served in the Second World War, while the other son was too young to enlist. All four who enlisted, finished with distinguished records, with two of them winning major honours. The oldest, Edward Charles Palmer, was born in Coolgardie, Western Australia on 22 January 1909, while his father was practising medicine in the Goldfields. He began at Wollongong High in February 1921 from Woonona Public. He graduated in medicine from Sydney University in November 1933 and began a local practice at Scarborough. When War broke out he enlisted on 10 June 1940 (Service Number NX35096) and was soon serving at Rabaul in New Britain. When the Japanese invaded, he and few others from his garrison made their way through jungle country before being picked up by a friendly ship and taken to Port Moresby. General Sir Thomas Blamey commended him and the citation read, 'For services on the South Coast of New Britain from 23 January to 12 April 1942'. Soon after he was promoted to Lieutenant/Colonel and a year later in December 1943, received an OBE (Military Division) and the citation for this read, 'He was largely responsible for the success of the combined units of the US Army and Australian Medical Services in the Buna Area (160 kms east of Port Moresby near the village of Kokoda). He was instrumental in saving many lives and he evacuated casualties under difficult conditions where initiative and improvisation were required'. From 1942 until the War ended in 1945, Edward commanded the 2/10 Field Ambulance. After the War, Edward returned to the Illawarra region where he worked as a GP and also at Bulli Hospital. He passed away at Camden on 5 August 1982, aged 73.

Edward's younger brother, Alexander Allan, began at WHS in 1931 and also became a doctor. Allan was born at Bulli on 3 March 1919 and enlisted soon after his brother (Service Number NX144514). He also served in New Guinea as a captain in the medical corps. He passed away at St. Ives on 24 January 2012, aged 92.

The two sisters Ruth and Joan were students at WHS soon after brother Allan. They were both in England in 1939 when War broke out and enlisted in the British Army a few weeks later as nurses. Both served at the British War Hospital in Malta for two and a half years, then at the Number one British General hospital in Cairo for more than a year and finally on a British Hospital Ship, where they sailed more than 30,000 miles (close to 50,000 kms) in the Mediterranean Sea, plus the Atlantic and Indian Oceans. While they were in Malta, in October 1942, Ruth was awarded an Associate Royal Red Cross Medal. In the Times newspaper of Malta, dated 2 November 1942, it read, "ARRC Sister Miss E R Palmer- When bombs fell in the vicinity of her hospital, one exploded in a ward and killed one patient. Sister Palmer displayed great courage and presence of mind in protecting the helpless patients by covering them with mattresses and pillows, regardless of her own safety. Bombs continued to fall nearby but she still showed the same coolness, courage and command of the situation while awaiting the stretcher bearers to remove the patients."

She received her award from King George VI in London. The two sisters arrived home to Bulli on 18 April 1945 after five years of active service. To complete a magnificent family War Service record, the four children's father, Charles, who was born in Sydney on 17 April 1882, was a captain in France with the Australian Medical Corps in World War One. He was invalided home in May 1917 and worked as a doctor in the Bulli area from 1918 until he retired in 1955. He was the Government Medical Officer and the Commonwealth Medical referee for the Bulli district during most of that time. He also was a long term and hard working member of the WHS P and C. Charles and his older brother Henry graduated as doctors from Sydney University in 1906. In April 1909, Henry became the first medical superintendent of "the Home of Consumptives" at Waterfall, a position he held until the end of 1939.

### GRAEME PATON (1939)

Born at Thirroul on 8 November 1922, Flying Officer Graeme Paton (Service Number 422682), came to WHS in 1935 from Thirroul Primary. He

scored seven Bs in the 1939 Leaving and enlisted in the RAAF as a cadet soon after he finished school. After completing a year's training in Australia, he was sent to England in early 1943 and six months later was flying in bombing raids over Germany. He was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) in December 1944 and this was written in the Commonwealth of Australia Gazette on 1 March 1945. Towards the end of the War, he was awarded a Polish Cross of Merit (PCM) and in 1991, in the Australia Day Honours, he was given a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM). Back home after the War, Graeme completed a Bachelor of Arts and a Dip Ed at Sydney university and later an Education Administration Diploma at the University of New England. He taught English at High Schools for 10 years or so and then became an Inspector of Schools. He passed away at Inverell on 6 January 2009, aged 86.

#### **ROSS PARSONS (1937)**

Born on 12 April 1921, he came to WHS in 1932 from Wollongong primary. In the 1936 Leaving, he scored three As and four Bs, while in 1937, he obtained an outstanding pass with First Class Honours in History and Chemistry, Second Class Honours in English, plus four As. After completing his degrees, he was admitted to practise as a solicitor and subsequently to the Bar, but found himself more attracted to academic life. His first appointment in that field was as a lecturer at the University of Tasmania's Law school in 1945. In 1946 he became a senior lecturer at the University of Western Australia and remained there until 1957, when he came back to Sydney University as an Associate Professor.

Ross was the Professor of Law at Sydney University from 1961 to 1986. He graduated with a Bachelor of Arts (1941) and Bachelor of Law (1944), with First Class Honours and also won the University Medal that year. He was living at Turramurra when he died on 20 November 1999, aged 78. During his time at Sydney University, he established the Australia paradigms for postgraduate coursework legal education and continuing professional development, as well as being Australia's acknowledged leader in tax law research and a foremost scholar in commercial and corporate law.

#### **ALAN PEASCOD (1962)**

Alan was born at Workington on the west coast of the Lakes District, England on 15 June 1943. Along with his family, he migrated to Australia in 1952. After

the family moved to the Illawarra district, Alan began at WHS in 1958, as a second year student. In the 1962 Leaving, he obtained four Bs and an A in Geography. Due to the influence of his father, William, who was a well-known abstract landscape artist painter at the time, Alan was interested in art from an early age and he quickly became an expert in ceramics. In 1965 he completed his Ceramics Certificate at East Sydney Technical College and did further studies in this field at Mittagong as well as in London and in 1970 he began research into Islamic Art. During the 1970s and 1980s he was awarded several research scholarships- to Egypt (1972), to Iran, Turkey, Egypt and the Persian Gulf (1974), to Iran and West Germany (1977), to Europe and India (1979), to Spain and Europe (1982), to Spain (1984), to the UK (1985-86 and 1989), as well as Italy (2002). From around 1980, Alan was recognized as one of the world's leading ceramicists. He has work displayed in public collections throughout Australia as well as overseas, in places such as the Australian National Art Gallery, the Powerhouse Museum, the High Court in Canberra, the NSW Art Gallery, the Vice Presidential Collection in Washington, and the Dresden Art Gallery in Germany. From 1970 to 2000, he gave 77 solo exhibitions in Sydney, London, Italy, Switzerland and many other places, while he has also taken part in group exhibitions worldwide. His research and work in ceramics led to the completion of his doctoral studies at the University of Wollongong in 1994. Sadly Alan passed away on 11 January 2007, aged 63.

#### **ANDREW PIPER (1987)**

Andrew is a founding member of the multi ARIA Award winning vocal group, "The Idea of North." Formed in 1993 at the Australian National University's Canberra School of Music, the group is still Australia's most successful contemporary a cappella group.

The group has performed extensively overseas and in 2003 won the Harmony Sweepstakes, which is the world's largest Open a cappella competition. The Idea of North was the first non-US group to win this prestigious award in its then 20-year history. With over 10 recorded albums to their credit, The Idea of North have performed with such celebrated artists as The Manhattan Transfer (USA), The Real Group (Sweden), Rajaton (Finland), Naturally 7 (USA), along with Australian jazz icons, James Morrison and Don Burrows. As well as being a very successful performer and composer, Andrew is deeply committed to music education. Having previously worked as a

faculty member at the Canberra School of Music, he now conducts master classes with his group at schools, universities and festivals, both in Australia and overseas. His fondest memory from his time at WHSPA is playing the Tin Man in Heather Pulsford's 1986 production of the Wizard of Oz. His older brother, David, also attended WHS and has had a very successful career in Musical Theatre. David finished at WHSPA in 1985.



Andrew Piper, Julie-Anne Henry and Troy Keen in  
The Wizard of Oz 1986

#### **DANIEL POTTER (2004)**

WHSPA provided Daniel, a former student of Gwynneville Primary, with his first exposure to Performing Arts as a behind the scenes worker with technical crews. After beginning in the industry at just age 15, as a part-time lighting technician at IPAC, he quickly transitioned into event logistics and management after leaving school. This resulted in forming and leading a collective of young creative and event professionals, who were mostly WHSPA alumni, to manage production and events for clients in the Sydney and Wollongong regions. In late 2007, Daniel became the Production Coordinator for the Merrigong Theatre Company and in 2008 moved up to Production Services Manager with Merrigong. In 2010, he was a part of a Merrigong Executive team that won a Drovers Award for Excellence as a Theatre Presenter. In 2012, he was picked up by Belvoir to work as the Venue and Production Manager and soon after this, Belvoir named him as the company's Head of Production, which he held until 2015. In this role, he worked extensively with some of Australia's most renowned theatre makers and administrators, leading production and creative teams to numerous opening nights throughout Australia and also overseas. Currently, Daniel is the Executive Director/CEO of Shopfront Arts Co Op in Sydney. He

holds a Bachelor in Arts and Entertainment Management with Distinction from Deakin University.

#### **THE PUCKEY SISTERS**

The three sisters were the daughters of Courtney Puckey, who, in the early 1900s, bought the land, which is known today as the Puckey Estate. It is on the northern bank of Fairy Creek about one kilometre from North Wollongong Surf Club. He built a home on the property, known as Seafield, for his family and constructed a saltworks around 1905, to extract salt from seawater. Courtney was born in England and came to Australia in the early 1890s. He moved to Wollongong around 1897 and began working as a pharmacist in Crown Street. In 1897, he married his wife Grace Spence, who was born in Bega and was a teacher at Balgownie school. A few years later he bought the pharmacy in which he worked and it became known as Puckey's Pharmacy. Courtney and Grace had three daughters

#### **MARY PUCKEY (1917) MBE**

She was born on 17 February 1898 and attended Wollongong Central School. Around 1913, she was a secondary student but in those days, the high school pupils attended Wollongong Central along with the primary pupils. In 1916, she did the Leaving while at Wollongong Central and scored six Bs. She did the exam a second time the next year, while at WHS and this time, she obtained Honours in French, two As and four Bs. Mary began her medical studies at Sydney University in 1918 and by 1925, she had completed a Bachelor of Medicine, a Master of Surgery and a Graduate Diploma in Public Health. Soon after graduating, she moved to Adelaide, where she worked as a medical inspector of schools in the South Australian Education Department from 1925 until 1937. Then she was appointed as a bacteriologist and assistant medical officer at the Metropolitan Infectious Disease Hospital in Adelaide from 1937 to 1940 and acted as medical superintendent during this period. On 29 January 1941, she began as Chief Executive Officer, which was later renamed General Superintendent, for the Rachel Forster Hospital for Women and Children, at Redfern in Sydney. (Rachel Forster closed down around 2000, with the patients moving to nearby Royal Prince Alfred). Mary was the first woman in Australia to be in charge of a hospital. She established a sound medical records system at her hospital and was the driving force behind the creation of the NSW Association of Medical Records in 1949. In the late 1940s and early 1950s, she travelled overseas

to keep up with new medical methods and equipment. She was given an MBE in 1963 and was a life member of the NSW Women's Medical Society, and was very active in this and other medical bodies such as the British (BMA) and Australian (AMA) Medical associations. She never married and after retiring in 1963, she moved to Blackheath in the Blue Mountains where she shared a house with her sister, Selina. Mary died on 25 March 1990, aged 92.

#### **SELINA PUCKEY (1918)**

Selina was born in 1899 and like her older sister, did the Leaving twice, both times while a student at WHS. In 1917, she scored Honours in English, an A and five Bs, while in 1918, she improved, gaining Honours in Maths I, three As and three Bs. She began her medical studies at Sydney University in 1919 and in 1926, graduated with the same degrees as her sister, Mary. She completed a Bachelor of Medicine, a Master of Surgery and a Graduate Diploma in Public Health. After a six months residency at Renwick Hospital for Infants at Summer Hill, she became a ship's doctor for Burns, Philp and Co, on the ship *Montoro*, at the end of 1925. This ship travelled up and back to the mandated territory of New Guinea, where she met and married her husband William Marshall, who was a customs officer. The couple spent 15 years or so in New Guinea, living mostly at Rabaul, before they were evacuated to Australia in 1941 with all other civilians, because of World War Two. Back in Sydney, Selina became Medical Superintendent at the Renwick hospital for Infants, where she had done her residency. The hospital was mainly for children whose families could not afford to pay for their care. Selina retired not long after her older sister in late 1963, sharing a house with her in the Blue Mountains. She died on 19 June 1990, aged 91. Her husband Bill, had passed away in 1985, in Spain, after they had been to London to visit their grandchildren. The couple had a daughter, Margaret and a son also William or Bill. Born in April 1929, Bill junior was educated at Scots College in Sydney and graduated with a medical degree from Sydney University in 1954. He went to London for further studies in 1958 and remained in England. Like his mother, he specialized in working with children and became one of England's leading Paediatricians. He also had a strong interest in sports medicine and was the medical officer for Arsenal football club and later Chelsea football club. He died in October 1983, aged just 54.

#### **GRACE PUCKEY (1919)**

The youngest sister, Grace, was born in 1901 and completed the Leaving just once, in 1919, when she gained six Bs. She did not enroll in medicine like her two older sisters, instead she studied a Pharmacy degree and completed this at the end of 1923. After returning to Wollongong, she worked in her father's shop, which was on Crown Street near the intersection with Church Street and south of the Police station. While on a visit to her sister Selina, in New Guinea around 1928, she met a government head clerk named Keith Walker. She married him at Wollongong in September 1930 and they had two children. The marriage did not work out and they went through a messy divorce in May 1946. According to the divorce papers, Walker had deserted her in April 1936, returning to New Guinea and never sending her any financial support for their children. At the hearing, the judge ruled that Walker pay five pounds a week for his wife and 15 shillings a week for each child. From around the time of her marriage, Grace had taken over from her father at his pharmacy. She was well known in Wollongong social circles of the 1930s and 1940s. In the late 1950s, when her children had grown up, she moved to Victoria.

#### **FRANCIS ARCHIBALD RANDALL (1938)**

Archie, as he was known, was captain of a RAAF Lancaster bomber in England during World War Two. He was involved in many bombing raids over Berlin, Essen, Hamburg and Milan and was awarded a DFC in 1943 for bravery. A month after the award, he was killed when his damaged plane crashed, trying to land after returning from a raid in Germany. He was only 21 years of age and had just completed a BSc at Sydney University before going to war. The son of Mr and Mrs FG Randall of Mt. Ousley, his future plan was to become a teacher. In the 1938 Leaving, he obtained Second Class Honours in Maths I and Maths II, plus three As and two Bs. He was also a King's Scout. Ironically, on 14 October 1944, his parents and sister had a car accident on Maddens Plains on their way to Government House in Sydney to collect his DFC. Frank had a brother in the AIF and another brother in the Merchant Navy. The citation from the RAE, for his DFC reads as follows "Flying Officer Randall is a cool and resourceful pilot whose keenness and determination has set a very fine example. He has completed many sorties and has always endeavoured to press home his attacks with vigour. On one occasion in an operation against Berlin in September 1943 several fighters repeatedly attacked his aircraft. The bomber was extensively damaged but a superb

effort by Flying Officer Randall succeeded in flying it clear. In the face of an extremely harassing situation this officer displayed courage and skill of a high order."

#### **LEIGH SCOTT (2009)**

Leigh completed the HSC with a band six pass for his self-written Individual performance, "The Princess and the Penis", for which he was selected to perform on stage. Since then he has appeared in many Australian TV series including Home and Away, Project Schoolies and Double Take, as well as starring in numerous commercials. In 2015, he wrote, directed and produced the parody musical of Jurassic Park, 'Jurassic: That is One Big Pile of Musical.' This show sold-out its premiere season in Wollongong, while it was critically acclaimed for its debut on the Sydney Fringe Festival, where it won the People's Choice Award from more than 360 productions. Following this, Leigh gained representation in Los Angeles, where he now lives, pursuing his acting, writing and voice over career. In Los Angeles, he has been employed as head writer, where he writes and stars in original content.

#### **KEITH SHADWICK (1969)**

Keith was born in London on 24 July 1951 and migrated to Wollongong with his family in 1961. He came to WHS in 1964 in first year and completed the HSC in 1969 with three level one passes, two level threes and General Studies. In his final year, he topped English and completed a Bachelor of Arts with an English Literature major at Sydney University in 1972. An excellent saxophonist, he was involved in a band, named King Biscuit, while still at WHS and he continued this while at University. He and drummer Gary Norwell, also a former WHS student, later recorded for RCA as Sun Records, with Renee Geyer. After moving to Melbourne in the early 1970s, he landed a job as an announcer at a FM radio station, as well as becoming a member of the Bleeding Hearts Rock group, who recorded the Album, 'What Happened', in 1976. In 1978 he returned to London where he became the editor of the Music Trades International magazine and in 1984 he became the main classical music buyer for the WH Smith chain. In 1985 he was appointed Head of Marketing for RCA Classics, where he revitalized the company's back catalogue as well as promoting the careers of guitarist Julian Bream and cellist Julian Lloyd Webber. His growing experience in both classical and jazz marketing led to the position in 1989 of General Manager for Koch International. By 1992, with the support of his Art writer wife Alison Cole, he went freelance, becoming the jazz

section editor of Gramophone and presented the Classic Verdict CD review program on Classic FM. Further radio shows followed on Classic FM and the BBC World Service, as well as two editions of the Gramophone Jazz Good CD guide (1995 and 1997) and a number of reference books. Acclaimed biographies of Bill Evans (2002), Jimi Hendrix (2003) and Led Zeppelin (2005) were very successful. Around 2004 he began fighting a rare and aggressive form of asbestos-induced cancer, called Mesothelioma. He wrote about this in the English national press, addressed a House of Commons select committee and campaigned tirelessly to raise awareness of this disease. He passed away on 28 July 2008, aged 57 and in the last six months or so of his life, he completed his sixth and seventh books of poetry, called "Before I Left" and "Just Here", as well as finishing his solo album, "Free Time", which was released on Candid Records. His obituary in the London Independent Newspaper, described him as a Writer, Broadcaster, Musician and Poet.

#### **NIKKI SHIELS**

Since graduating from the Victorian College of Arts in 2009, Nikki has appeared on stage in various productions for Griffin Theatre, Melbourne Theatre Company, Malthouse Theatre, Bell Shakespeare, Black Sequin Productions, Arts House, The Daniel Schlusser Ensemble, Theatre Works, La Mama and



Nikki Shiels

the Melbourne International Arts Festival. Her film and television credits include Neighbours, House Husbands, Perfect Fair, Childhood's End, The Greatest Love of All, Little Acorns, Rush IV and Fred Scepisi's feature, 'The Eye of the Storm'. In 2015, she trained with Clown Master, Philippe Gaulier in Paris and was the recipient of the Martin Bequest Travelling Scholarship for acting. Her other awards include, the Mike Walsh Fellowship 2013, Green Room Award Nominations in 2011 and 2012 for Best Actress in the Independent Theatre Category for her work in Madeleine and the Unspoken Word's ' Joe, ' while in 2008, the prestigious Richard Pratt Memorial Scholarship (VCA). In 2016, Vikki performed in the world premiere of the stage adaptation of Picnic at Hanging Rock for Malthouse Theatre and as Viola in Twelfth Night for the Belvoir St. Theatre.

**ANTHONY SKILLEN (1958)**

Anthony Skillen was the instigator of one of the greatest student hoaxes ever performed. As well as this, he completed an excellent academic record and then went on to lecture at some of the best universities in England and America. After the 1958 school year had ended, Anthony plotted with several of his WHS fifth year mates to contact the local Illawarra Mercury newspaper to report the sighting of a Flying Saucer. This was brilliantly coordinated with the so-called 'sightings' beginning in the southern suburbs of Wollongong and then progressing northwards. The Mercury switchboard first received a call from Dapto, then Unanderra, followed by Figtree, West Wollongong, Wollongong, Fairy Meadow and Corrimal. This was in the era of the Russian Sputnik launch and on the front page of the Mercury dated 20 October 1958, was the headline 'Flying Saucer'. The story was also picked up by the Sydney Morning Herald and several Sydney radio stations. The WHS group had also composed a photograph, which supposedly showed the trail of a saucer

flying over Wollongong at night and this was delivered to the Mercury on the day the story appeared. On the day the story appeared the news spread quickly throughout WHS, that some of their fifth formers were responsible. The Headmaster, Mr. Lenehan, was told of the hoax and he immediately rang the Mercury to inform them. Two days after the front-page story, on the Saturday, the Mercury used the photograph, but now knowing of the hoax, criticised the WHS students for deceiving them.

In the 1958 Leaving at WHS, Anthony obtained Honours in English, four As plus a B and was a member of the second rugby league team. He completed a BA from Sydney University in 1963 in Psychology and Philosophy (Honours) and moved to Oxford in England, where he completed a B. Litt in 1966. He then began lecturing at Sheffield University and moved south to Kent University in 1986, where he was Reader in Philosophy. Over the next few years he held lecturing positions in Boulder, Colorado, Ann Arbor, Michigan and in NSW. In the 1970s he wrote a book called, 'Ruling Illusions', as well as giving many plenary papers and published articles on Mind, Truth in Literature, Freedom, Welfare Education and Beauty. Since retiring from academic life, he has taught in several Kent prisons, worked with the WEA and been Chairman of Canterbury's largest youth club. Over many years he has enjoyed playing cricket and bowls, although not at a high standard. Anthony has four children and he and his wife Janet, live in Oxford.



The Illawarra Mercury  
20th October, 1958

**DOUGLAS SMITH (1973)**

While a student at WHS from 1968 to 1973 he was a prefect and won the Student of the Year Award. He had a strong interest in music and was part of the school choir, madrigal group and school orchestra. After completing a BA, Dip Ed he became a High School teacher. For over 11 years he has run his own successful production company Douglas Fabian Productions (DFP) in Sydney. The business is diverse involving entertainment development and coordination, event design and management plus niche production solutions largely for the corporate sector.

Currently, DFP supply broad industry services to a large range of significant clients including The Star Casino, and, the Maritime Museum, The NSW Waratahs, the Australian Turf Club (Randwick & Rosehill), for whom they provided unique, post race performances during the Championships by Ronan Keating and Guy Sebastian watched by an estimated 10,000+ crowds, the

NSW Rugby League (The Blues), Canon Australia and Jupiter's Casino on the Gold Coast. They co-ordinated the launch of the Star Casino in Sydney with headlining acts Diana Ross, Tom Jones and Michael Crawford and designed and managed The Star Casino float in the annual Chinese New Year street parade which is the largest event of its kind outside of Mainland China with a crowd of 150,000 people, and was the Event designer and producer for the Australian Celebration of the 60th Anniversary of Chinese National Day on the Sydney Opera House Forecourt attended by 15,000+ with onstage performances by over 225 performers.

#### **LORRAINE SMITH (1978)**

Lorraine began playing the violin at seven years of age and over the years, her teachers included John Gould, Ernest Llewellyn and Dorel Tincu. After the HSC, she graduated from the NSW Conservatorium of Music with Merit in 1982.

She joined the Australian Chamber Orchestra and played with this group for 13 years. She has performed all over the world with elite musicians including Isaac Stern, Christopher Hogwood, Kiri te Kanawa, Franz Bruggen, Andreas Scholl, Sir Charles Mackerras and Oliver Messiaen. In addition, she was convenor and lead violinist of the ACO Education Program. A founding member of the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra, she is also the Concert Master of the Macquarie Philharmonia. She toured throughout Australia for Musica Viva, for many years giving concerts and master classes in schools. She also worked in commercial music, for Channel 9, recording and performing with groups such as INXS, Human Nature and Led Zeppelin, for films and jingle music. Lorraine has also taught at the NSW Conservatorium, Wollongong University and Conservatorium. Now married to singer William Moxey, the couple and their sons live in Orange where she is Head of a highly successful strings program at Kinross Wollaroi school encompassing students from pre-prep to Year 12. She continues to perform with the Australian Brandenburg Orchestra and in 2016, became a tutor for the Australia Youth Orchestra.

#### **JACK SOMERVILLE (1929)**

Jack attended Unanderra Primary where his father was the Headmaster. A brilliant scholar from an early age, Jack came first in NSW for Mathematics in the 1929 Leaving and was the first WHS student to gain a first place in NSW, in any subject. In the 1929 Leaving, he scored First Class Honours in Maths I and Physics plus four As and a B. He was the School Dux, finishing first in

each of his seven subjects. A good athlete, Jack was junior swimming champion in 1927. After high school, he completed a BSc at Sydney University and then in 1936 he finished at BA at Cambridge University in England. From 1938 to late 1940 and again from 1946 to 1953, he was a senior lecturer at New England University. During the War years, he was assistant director of the radio physics training school at Sydney University from 1941 to 1945. He was awarded a PhD in Science from Sydney University in 1953 and from late 1953 until he passed away on 15 October 1964, he was Professor of Physics at New England University. He returned to WHS in 1956 to speak to the senior students.

#### **TOM THOMPSON (1971)**

David John Tom Thompson was born on 21 October 1953 in Parkes. His father worked with the Main Roads Department and he spent his primary school days in Broken Hill. The family moved to Wollongong in 1966 and Tom enrolled at WHS as a second year boy. At high school, he was an active contributor to the Gleam, as well as forming a band named King Biscuit with Keith Shadwick, Gary Norwell and Allan Vander Linden. In 1969, he wrote the Wollongong column for Go-Set magazine. After gaining two Level One passes, two Level Twos, a Level Three and General Studies in the 1971 HSC, Tom began working as a freelance journalist. Over the years he has written 14 books including *Growing up in the Sixties* (1986), which was written for ABC radio, *Hors Texte* (1997) and *Hurstville Oval* (2002). Tom is a poet, editor and publisher and has worked in a wide variety of institutions. He was literary publisher for Angus and Robertson (1990-93), associate publisher with Imprint Collins Australia (1988-90), publisher for the Australian Bicentennial Authority (1984-88), publishing co-ordinator for 'Encyclopedia of the Australian people' (1984-88), producer Sydney Writers Week (1984-88), Book Editor of the National Times (1982-86), Journalist with the Sydney Morning Herald (1982-88), Editor of the Red Press (1978-82) and associate editor at Currency Press (1977-80). As well as editing periodical publications Dodo, Leatherjacket and the Australian Small Press Review, between 1976 and 1979, Tom has been involved in his own publishing ventures, including ETT Imprint, which represents close to 100 Australian authors and estates. He lives in Sydney.

#### **DON TINDALL (1953)**

Don came from Coniston Primary and in the 1953 Leaving; he obtained Honours in Chemistry, four As

and a B. He then completed a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBBS) at Sydney University in 1959. Following this, he spent two years at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital as an intern and then was appointed as an anatomy demonstrator at Sydney University in 1962, where he met his future wife Louise, who is also a doctor. In 1963-64 he worked at Sydney hospital as a surgical registrar. Moving to Ceduna in South Australia in 1965, he became a flying doctor for one year with the Bush Church Aid and during this time, he also acted as a Vet, an Exo-dentist, a government medical officer and occasionally a pharmacist, because there was a shortage of such professionals. In 1966, he moved back to Sydney where he worked at Concord Repat Hospital for two years and in this time, he successfully sat for the Australian Fellowship of Surgeons. In January 1968, he went to England for surgical training and passed the London Fellowship (FRCS). He returned home in December 1970 and began working as a general surgeon in the Illawarra district. He retired in 2000 and during this period, he worked principally at Port Kembla Hospital, while he had rooms at Warrawong and Fairy Meadow. In 1986, Don became a full-time colo-rectal surgeon and was the first of these doctors in Australia to practice outside a capital city. While practising on the South Coast, Don served as chairman of the Illawarra medical staff council (1997-2000), Chairman of Kiama hospital medical staff council (1974-87) and Chairman of Shellharbour private hospital medical staff council (1976-2000). At Shellharbour, he has an operating theatre named after him.

#### **RICHARD TOGNETTI AO (1980)**

Born at Canberra on 4 August 1965, Richard completed his School Certificate at WHS in 1980 and then enrolled at the Sydney Conservatorium. From an early age, he was an outstanding violinist, winning the National Youth Concerto at Brisbane in 1980. He began his violin studies with William Primrose in Wollongong and then with Alice Waten in Sydney. After graduating from the Sydney Conservatorium in 1986, he went to Switzerland to study at the Bern Conservatory, where he won the Eduard Tschumi prize as the top graduate soloist student in 1989. Later that year he led several performances of the Australian Chamber Orchestra (ACO) and that November was appointed as the Orchestra's lead violin. In 1990, he became the ACO's Artistic Director and is also the Artistic Director of the Festival Maribor in Slovenia. Richard plays period, modern and electric instruments

and his many arrangements and compositions, have expanded the chamber orchestra repertoire, as well as being performed throughout the world. He has worked with many of the world's leading orchestras such as the Handel and Haydn Society in Boston, the Hong Kong Philharmonic, Camerata Salzburg, Tapiola Sinfonietta, the Irish Chamber Orchestra and the Nordic Chamber Orchestra. He is also a well-known and successful composer and has worked on many film soundtracks, including the movie, MASTER and COMMANDER with Russell Crowe. His versatility was evident in the Opening Ceremony of the 2003 Rugby World Cup. The Universities of Wollongong and Western Australia awarded him Honorary Doctorates in 1998, while in 1999, he was made an Australian Living Treasure and in 2005, Sydney University gave him an Honorary Doctorate of Music. In 2010 he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia for service to music. A 1743 Guarneri del Gesu violin was loaned to him by an anonymous Australian private benefactor and he performs with this instrument. Married to Finnish violinist, Satu Vanska, the couple lives on Sydney's northern beaches where Richard enjoys surfboard riding whenever he can.

#### **JOHN TOWNSEND (1969)**

Born in 1951, John attended Keiraville Primary before coming to WHS in 1964. After doing well in the Leaving Examination, John graduated from the University of Wollongong with a Bachelor of Civil Engineering in 1973. He then worked with the NSW Department of Main Roads before taking up a position with Australian Volunteers Abroad in East Malaysia during 1978. After two years, he moved to Melbourne where he worked with consultants and the Federal government, while completing a Masters of Environmental Studies at the University of Melbourne. After locating to Perth in 1986, he spent the next four years on airport works across Western Australia. During this period, he began an MBA at the University of Western Australia and in late 1989, took up a position with the Australian Aid agency in Canberra, becoming the aid representative for Pakistan and Afghanistan at the Australian High Commission in Islamabad. In 1996, he became an Economic Infrastructure Advisor with the South Pacific Forum in Fiji and spent three years in this role. Back in Brisbane in 1999, he went to Kosovo in 2001 to head up the road administration within the United Nations Interim government. Returning to Brisbane he finished a graduate diploma in Project Management before spending 2005 with the UN in Afghanistan, followed by 18 months

with UNICEF as Head of Construction in Banda Aceh after the tsunami. Next came a position as an advisor to UNDP Iraq, based in Jordan. During the past few years, while still based in Brisbane, John has pursued short-term assignments in Indonesia, Pakistan, Micronesia and Marshall Island, as well as leading an Asian Development Bank project in Vanuatu for nine months.

#### **GRAHAM TOULMIN AM (1965)**

Born on 31 March 1948, Graham is a Blue Mountains dentist and musician, who is well-known for his fundraising and voluntary work in the Democratic Republic of the Congo. After training as a missionary in 1985, he and his family moved to the Congo with the Church Missionary Society. He established a small dental clinic in Butembo and travelled to outlying villages offering free dental work. He also began training nurses in dental procedures. After being evacuated twice because of problems in eastern Zaire, Graham and his family came home in 1991. Soon after returning, he and his wife Wendy, established an organization named, 'Brass for Africa'. Over the next 14 years, Brass for Africa built a maternity clinic, established another dental clinic, provided support and care for 34 Anglican clergy, helped build schools, supported AIDS orphans and provided food, care and medical supplies for the increasing number of refugees. An accomplished trumpet player, Graham was involved in concerts and selling more than 20,000 CDs with all profits going to help the Congo. Both Graham and Wendy were made members of the Order of Australia in 2009. In September 2015, the couple returned to the Congo.

#### **PETER VALK (1957)**

Peter was born in Estonia in 1940 and at the age of nine he and his family emigrated to Australia. They settled in the Illawarra district, living at Fairy Meadow close to the Balgownie Migrant Hostel. Quiet and shy, he began at WHS in 1953 as a first year student and in the 1957 Leaving, he scored Second Class Honours in Maths and Physics, plus four As. After leaving school he decided to go into Medicine and graduated in 1966 from Sydney University with a Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery. After a period as an intern in Sydney and Adelaide, he was appointed registrar in Nuclear Medicine at Sydney's Royal Prince Alfred Hospital in 1970. In 1972 he moved to California where he became a Research Fellow at the Lawrence Berkeley Laboratory. In 1975, Peter spent a year at the Universite Claude Bernard in Lyon France, where he met his future wife,

Carol. Back in Australia in 1977 and married to Carol, he was the director of medical imaging and ultrasound at Sydney Hospital. After a decade in Sydney, the couple returned to the USA in late 1986, where he returned to the Lawrence Berkeley Lab working as chief of medical imaging. Three years later, in 1989, he was appointed as an associate adjunct professor at the University of California in San Francisco. In 1992, he took the position of medical director of the Northern California PET ( Positron Emission Tomography) Imaging Centre in Sacramento. Mainly through Peter's hard work and sensitivity to health care issues, he established the Sacramento centre as one of the world's leading clinical PET centres. His unique ability to analyse the diagnostic process changed the way imaging was viewed by technology assessment groups and ultimately paved the way for reimbursement for PET treatment by insurance companies and later securing Medicare coverage. As the 1998 president of the Institute of Clinical PET (now called the Academy of Molecular Imaging), he lectured widely on PET imaging in colon cancer, lung cancer and many other cancers. In February 1997, he was invited by the International Atomic Energy Agency to visit Mendoza in Argentina, in the foothills of the Andes Mountains, to assist in setting up the Fuesman Clinical PET centre. Peter spent most of the latter part of 2002 editing a book on Positron Emission Tomography; Basic Science and Clinical Practice. The book was a bestseller and a second printing had to be made. Sadly in January 2003, he was diagnosed with one of the very diseases for which he had worked so tirelessly to ensure an early diagnosis. Despite his condition, he and Carol travelled extensively in Europe and the USA for the first six months or so of 2003, where he gave some lectures. He passed away on 16 December 2003, aged 63.

#### **GERARD WILLEMS AM (1964)**

He is probably best known for his recording of the complete Beethoven sonatas, which were released in 1999 on CD. Born at Tilburg in Holland on 19 August 1946, he received a scholarship from the Brabant's Conservatorium in Hungary, but the Soviet invasion of 1956, caused his parents to migrate to Australia in 1958. For their first six years in Australia, the family lived at the Fairy Meadow migrant hostel, where his father passed away. He enrolled at WHS in 1960, as a member of class 1A and it was soon evident what a talented musician he was. The 1964 Gleam magazine describes his performance at that year's school concert

as outstanding and the best individual act, "He held the audience spellbound during his magnificent piano playing". After completing the Leaving in 1964 with Honours in music, two As and four Bs he entered the Sydney Conservatorium of Music studying under Gordon Watson. Following his graduation, he was called up for national service, where he played the clarinet in army bands. After the army, he was employed as the touring pianist for the Australian ballet and travelled with such esteemed performers as Margot Fonteyn, Rudolf Nureyev and Mikhail Baryshnikov. He won the Queen Victoria Piano competition and later studied under Greville Rothorn in Munich. He made debuts in London (1974), Munich (1977) and Amsterdam (1978). Although he returned to Sydney in 1981, he toured extensively overseas as well as in Australia. He taught as a senior lecturer and later Chair of the keyboard unit at the Sydney Conservatorium from 1981 to 2008 and then became an Associate Professor at Sydney University. Among many honours, he was named the inaugural Queen Elizabeth II Music Scholar by the Australian Elizabethan Theatre Trust in 2001, awarded a Centenary Medal the same year and was appointed as a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 2006.

#### **ROBERT WYBER (1939)**

Born on 29 May 1923 at Ashfield in Sydney, Robert came to Wollongong with his family in 1930 and attended Wollongong Primary. He won a Bursary to WHS in October 1934 and enrolled as a first year student in 1935. In the 1939 Leaving Certificate, he scored

four As and three Bs, as well as gaining a rugby league Blue. Soon after leaving school, he enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy Reserves as an ordinary seaman. A couple of years later he was serving on a Corvette as a Sonar operator (Service Number S5990) in the Pacific Ocean. After the war, he completed an Engineering degree at Sydney University and then worked at the Rushcutters Bay Naval Reserve. He joined the Australian Navy Research Lab around 1958. From 1964 to 1968 he was the Principal Scientist at the Lab and from 1968 until his death on 21 May 1970, just days before his 47th birthday, he was the Lab Superintendent. The family was living at Caringbah when he passed away. His father William, who was a senior representative South Coast Soccer player, also died young at 46.

#### **PAUL BAROM "ROME" YU (2007)**

Although he was born at Wollongong on 6 September 1990, Barom established himself as top rated singer in Korea. At WHSPA, he was a drummer, played in a heavy metal band in his spare time, as well as being a keen breakdancer. After finishing at WHSPA, he began a Science degree at Sydney University but dropped out in his first year. At 18 years of age, he decided to go to South Korea and for his first few months in Seoul, he was a street dancer and part-time English teacher. Four months or so after arriving as an 18 year old, he signed with Yedang Entertainment to be the leader of its first boy band C-Clown and he hasn't looked back since.



Thirty Minutes in a Street 1947



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## SCHOLARS

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Wollongong High has had two students who won the prestigious Rhodes Scholarship. They both became eminent doctors. There are nine awarded each year in Australia and the scholarship is for study at Oxford University in England. The first Australian Rhodes scholar took up residence at Oxford in 1904.



Alan Davis

### ALAN DAVIS (Rhodes Scholar 1956)

Alan was the son of long term WHS Maths teacher, Edward "Tiny" Davis, who taught at the school from 1925 to 1956. The family lived in View Street, just a few hundred metres from the northern entrance to the school, when it was located at Smiths Hill. Alan was a student at WHS from 1945 until 1949, when he was vice-captain. He won the district 220 yards, 880 yards and 110 yards breaststroke open divisions in the district swimming championships at Port Kembla pool on 2 March 1949. As well as swimming he was also a prominent athlete and rugby league player, while outside school, he was a member of the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club's junior R and R team, which won the NSW title in 1951. That same year he captained the NSW junior R and R team in the Australian Championships. In the 1949 Leaving, he scored Honours in Physics and Chemistry, plus three As and a B, and this won him

a Commonwealth Scholarship to Sydney University. At University he had a brilliant career, completing a Bachelor of Medicine and a Bachelor of Surgery, as well as rowing in the 1955 University Eight. At Oxford, he lived at New College and studied Animal Physiology Honours in his first year and the Problem of Arresting the Effects of Age on Human Beings in his second year. After completing his two years at Oxford, Alan worked and studied at various hospitals in England for four more years before returning to Australia. He worked at the Radcliffe Infirmary at Oxford town, at Hammersmith Hospital, in West London and the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Back in Sydney in 1962, he was a research fellow at the University of NSW and later became an associate Professor and Head of Gastroenterology at the Prince of Wales Hospital. He retired in 1996 and he and his wife, Jean, now live in Canberra.



Roger Houghton

#### **ROGER HOUGHTON (Rhodes Scholar 1969)**

Roger was born on 20 February 1947 and grew up at Keira Street, North Wollongong. He attended WHS from 1959 until 1963 when he was vice-captain and academically, he was the top or near the top of students in each of his five years. In the 1963 Leaving, he obtained First Class Honours in Physics plus five As and this won him a Commonwealth Scholarship. An excellent athlete, Roger was a member of the school athletic team. He began medicine at Sydney University in 1964 and graduated in 1968 with a Bachelor of Science (Medicine) with First Class Honours. While at Oxford as a Rhodes Scholar, he was a student at Balliol College, working as a research fellow at the Metabolic Research Laboratory, Nuffield Department of Medicine. In January 1972 he graduated from Oxford as a DPhil. On returning to Australia he went back to Sydney University and completed a MB BS with Honours in January 1973. Soon after he was appointed as the Resident Medical Officer at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. Over the next 20 years or so, he established himself as one of Australia's leading Gynaecologists and Obstetricians. During this period, he worked at the John Radcliffe Hospital at Oxford (1980) and the Norwegian Radium Hospital at Oslo (1981). In February 1992, Roger was appointed Professor of Gynaecological Oncology at the University of Sydney and Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. After retiring at the end of 2007, Roger moved to Mittagong where he successfully breeds Angus cattle.

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## SIR ROBERT MENZIES' MEMORIAL SCHOLARSHIP

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John O'Neill

#### **JOHN HUGH O'NEILL (1971)**

John came from St. Paul's, Bellambi to complete his last two years of high school. He captained the Premiership winning WHS second grade rugby league team in 1971 and was an active member of the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club. He was a member of the Surf Club's Premiership winning second division rugby league teams in 1972, 1974 and 1975. After gaining entry into Medicine at the University of NSW (UNSW), John completed his degree with Honours in 1978. He then entered physician training (specialising in Neurology), first at St. Vincent's General Hospital and then abroad (1983-87) at the National Hospitals for Neurology and Neurosurgery, at Queens Square London. In 1984, John was awarded a Sir Robert Menzies' Memorial Scholarship in Medicine, which assisted with his studies for a Medical Doctorate, awarded by the UNSW in 1987. En route home from London, he gained further postgraduate experience at Massachusetts General Hospital Boston, courtesy of a travelling scholarship from the international journal, 'Brain'. Since 1987, John has been a Consultant Neurologist at St. Vincent's General and Private and the Mater Misericordiae Hospitals, Sydney. He has never forsaken his local roots, consulting at Wollongong each Thursday since 1987. He is a member of the Sir Robert Menzies' Alumni.



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## POLITICIANS

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(All members of the Australian Labor Party)

### REX CONNOR (1924)

Rex Connor was born in Wollongong on 26 January 1907 and entered WHS in 1920 in first year as a 13 year old. He was always at, or near the top of his class academically, but midway through 1924 he suffered from severe pneumonia resulting in more than two months in hospital and missing the Leaving Certificate exams. In 1925 he gained a good pass in the Leaving as a private student. After school, he worked as an Articled Clerk, then became a car dealer and finally, a farmer. From 1938 to 1945 he was an Alderman on the Wollongong Council. On 17 June 1950 he was elected to the NSW Parliament as the member for Wollongong-Kembla and he held this seat until 21 October 1963 when he resigned to stand for the seat of Cunningham in the Federal election. He won this election and represented Cunningham in the Australian Parliament from 30 November 1963 until his death on 22 August



Rex Connor

1977. Under Prime Minister Gough Whitlam, he was Minister for Minerals and Energy from 19 December 1972 to 14 October 1975. Rex married his wife Amelia in 1931 and the couple had three sons.

### LAWRENCE KELLY (1945)

Laurie was born at Thirroul on 5 November 1928. He entered WHS in 1941 and passed the Intermediate in 1943. After missing out on the Leaving in 1945, he left school and began work with a large Wollongong public transport company, where he studied accountancy at night school. In his last year at WHS, he captained the successful school 10 stone Rugby League team (64 kgs), who won the Westwood Cup as Illawarra premiers. He was also runner up in the senior swimming championship. An excellent Rugby League player and surfer, Laurie played many years of first grade with the Thirroul club as a hooker and swam most summer Saturdays in local surf carnivals. He joined the Labor Party soon after leaving school and held the seat of Corrimal for 20 years, from 24 February 1968 to 22 February 1988, in the NSW parliament. During this time he was the Speaker of the NSW Parliament for a record 11 years and 11 months from 25 May 1976 to 26 April 1988. He remained as speaker for a few weeks after he lost his seat until the new Parliament began. During his long political career, Laurie was President and Patron of the Illawarra SLSA, Patron of the Illawarra RL, Chairman of the Wollongong City Soccer Club and Deputy Chancellor and Fellow of the University of Wollongong. He married his wife Rhonda in October 1954 and they have a son and a daughter. At the beginning of 2016, Laurie was 87.

### STEWART WEST (1951)

Stewart was born in Forbes on 31 March 1934 and came to Wollongong with his family during World War Two to live at Windang. A few months after arriving and with fears that the Japanese might bomb the Steelworks, Stewart and his sister were sent back to live with their grandparents at Tubbel, 30 kms from Young until the War ended. He began at WHS in 1949 and passed the Intermediate in 1951. After leaving school, he worked at the Bank of NSW in Nowra, then did a few months as a trainee metallurgist at the Steelworks, before becoming a waterside worker with his father, John, at Port Kembla. A few years later, he became President of the South Coast Waterside Workers Federation. A member of the Australian Labor Party from his late teenage years, he was elected to the Australian Parliament for the seat of Cunningham in a by-election on 15 October 1977, following the sudden death of Rex Connor. Stewart had been the campaign director for Rex Connor. He held the seat for over 15 years until he resigned on 8 February 1993, after losing pre-selection to Stephen Martin. When Stewart first came into Parliament, the Liberal Party's Malcolm Fraser was the Prime Minister. When Bob Hawke took over the job on 11 March 1983, Stewart was appointed a Minister for three different portfolios. From 11 March 1983 to 13 December 1984, he was the Minister for Immigration and Ethnic Affairs, then from 13 December 1984 until 24 July 1987, he was the Minister for Housing and Construction, while from 24 July 1987 until 4 April 1990, he was the Minister for Administrative Services. Stewart and his wife Mary still live in the Illawarra district. They have three children, seven grandchildren and two great grandchildren.

### STEPHEN MARTIN

Born in Wollongong on 24 June 1948, Stephen came to WHS in 1961 from Wollongong Primary School. In his final year, 1965, he topped fifth year in Geography and was a member of the school's undefeated nine stone seven pounds (60kgs) rugby league team. In the Leaving, he scored Honours in Geography, an A in English and four Bs. This was the beginning of an excellent academic career. After completing a Bachelor of Arts at the Australian National University and a Dip Ed at the University of NSW, he worked as a teacher at Bulli High. Following this, he became a lecturer at the University of Wollongong and later a Town Planner with the NSW Government, during which he completed a Master of Arts degree at the University of Alberta, Canada and a Master of Town Planning at Sydney

University. From 1983 to 1985 he was an Alderman on the Wollongong City Council. Passionate about rugby league, Stephen became an Illawarra first-grade referee in the late 1970s and was graded by the NSWRL in 1982. He was secretary of the Illawarra Referees' Association in 1981-82, treasurer 1979-80 and is a Life Member of this body. He also served as a Director of the Illawarra Steelers after their entry into the big league. A long-term member of the Labor Party, Stephen held the seat of Macarthur in the Australian Federal Parliament from 1 December 1984 until 13 March 1993 and then after a redistribution of seats, became the member for Cunningham on 13 March 1993 until he resigned on 16 August 2002. With Paul Keating as Prime Minister, Stephen served as the 21st Speaker of the House of Representatives from 4 May 1993 to 30 April 1996. After politics, having completed a PhD at the University of Wollongong, Stephen was President/CEO of the Wollongong University campus in Dubai followed by the position of Pro Vice-Chancellor (International) at Victoria University in Melbourne from January 2005 to March 2008. Then he became Deputy Vice-Chancellor at Curtin University, but returned to Melbourne where he took up a number of consultancy roles. In January 2011, he was appointed as Chief Executive for the Committee for Economic Development of Australia (CEDA). He is also Chairman, Bank of China (Australia) Ltd and a Board Member of the Men of League Foundation.



Stephen Martin



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## AUSTRALIAN SPORTING REPRESENTATIVES

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### RICK ALBERT

Rick was born in Wollongong in 1950 and attended West Wollongong Primary School. Although he was named Garrick at birth, this changed to Rick at an early age. As a boy he was interested in several sports and when he was about 13 years of age, his father, Jack, introduced him to shotgun clay shooting. Coming from western NSW, Jack was a keen shooter and shared this interest with his son. In those days, they were members of the Illawarra Shooting club, which was located at West Dapto, not far from Wongawilli mine. The Australian Single Barrel Championship was held at Rick's home range around August 1968. Although he had only been shooting for three years or so, Rick won the National title when he was the only shooter from all of the contestants to shoot the entire 25 targets without a miss. The Championship event was arranged by the Sporting Shooters Association of Australia. There were around 50 entries for the championship and they came from all over Australia. The target is called a clay pigeon and they are black clay discs, which are just over 11 cms in diameter. These objects are hurled into the air by a target machine. When the machine releases the clay pigeon, it hurtles across the shooter's line of sight. Only one cartridge is allowed for each pigeon. Rick used a Japanese Miroku gun, which, in those days, cost \$200. The pellets were made in Australia and were encased in plastic. Their cost, in 1968, was 10 cents each and they were Number 7 in size. In the early days of the sport, live pigeons had been used but that stopped more than 80 years ago.

Although he was just 17 when he won the Australian Championship, Rick did not continue in the sport. In the *Higher School Certificate* he did well, gaining first level passes in Science and Economics, plus a second level full pass in Mathematics and passes in English and General Studies. He and his family are now living on the Sunshine

Coast and over the years he has worked as a teacher, a farmer and manager of a behavior management unit in Alice Springs and at a Kimberley Aboriginal School. He has also taught English in Japan for a year.

### KEITH BARNES AM

Keith was born at Port Talbot in Wales on 30 October 1934. Along with his family he migrated to Australia, arriving in late 1948. Keith attended Wollongong High in 1949 and 1950. When he completed his Intermediate Certificate in 1950, he left school and started working in a bank. During his early days at Wollongong High, Keith established himself as a top all round sportsman. He was playing first grade cricket with the Wollongong club at 17 and was a member of their Premiership winning team of 1951/52. At Stuart Park on 3 October 1953, he blasted 158 not out against Thirroul with 21 fours and two sixes. Early that year, on 15 February at Stuart Park, he represented Illawarra against the star studded Chegwyns



Keith Barnes - Kangaroo

XI, including Richie Benaud (63 Tests) and Jim Burke (24 Tests), plus six NSW players. Illawarra were well beaten but Keith was third top score for Illawarra and took a wicket. In his cricketing days, Keith represented NSW Country against Sydney, playing with teammates such as Jim de Courcy (3 Tests) and NSW representatives, Ossie Lambert, Ron Harvey and Hugh Marjoribanks.

At the same time as he was starring on the cricket field, he was also becoming one of the South Coast's best golfers. He played A grade pennant competition for the Wollongong Golf Club with a handicap of 3.

However, it was on the football field where he really made his mark. He did not begin playing Rugby League until at Wollongong High, but represented Illawarra at several junior levels. In 1952 he totaled 139 points for the champion Wollongong under 18s, who played on Sundays. On Saturdays he played some friendly representative Rugby Union games for Illawarra seniors against leading Sydney clubs. He came into first grade Rugby League with Wollongong in 1953, while still just 17 and joined the Balmain Tigers in 1955. In 14 seasons with the Tigers, Keith played 200 first grade games and scored 1,519 points, which today, is still in the top 15 all-time NRL point scorers. Known as Golden Boots during his career, Keith kicked 742 goals and one field goal, as well as collecting 11 tries. He played in three Grand Finals with Balmain, two as captain. Named as one of Australia's greatest ever one hundred players in late 2007, Keith played 17 Tests for Australia, scoring 118 points and 12 matches for NSW, with 124 points. He captained Australia in 14 of his 17 Tests and was also captain of the 1959/60 Kangaroo touring team to England and France, as well as the 1960 Australian World Cup team to England. With the 1959/60 Kangaroos, Keith scored 202 points from 101 goals in his 22 tour games, including all six Tests. Altogether he played 33 matches for Australia (tests and non-Test games), scoring 282 points. After retiring, he became CEO of Balmain RLFC and was co-manager of the 1990 Kangaroos to England and France. He was also made a Life Member of the NSWRL.

Keith was made a Member of the Order of Australia (AM) in 1996, inducted into the Australian Rugby League Hall of Fame in 2007 and awarded an Australian Sports Medal in 2000. He and his wife Robyn, still live in Sydney.

## TASSIE BARNETT



CHS Swimming Team 1947  
Tassie Barnett, standing extreme left

Tasman Barnett was born at Wollongong in December 1930. As a young primary schoolboy, he dominated swimming carnivals and although only 14 at the time, won the senior championship award at the Wollongong Junior Technical School Swimming Carnival at Wollongong Baths on 2 March 1945. Later that same year, he won the NSW junior 440 yards championship. On 27 March 1946, just three weeks after enrolling at Wollongong High, Tassie dominated the swimming carnival. He won the Intermediate Championship, winning all five events in this division and also won the open 440 yards title. In all six victories, he set new Wollongong High School records. In the early stages of 1946, Tassie proved he was the best junior middle distance swimmer in the State, again winning the junior NSW 440 yards on 12 January, as well as three titles in the NSW Country Championships at Young, winning the under 16 and open 220 yards titles at the All Schools Carnival and the 880 yards and 440 yards under 16 final at the Combined High Schools Carnival. In early April, he was named in the Australian squad to train for the 1948 Olympics. Unfortunately he did not become an Olympian because he could not fulfill many of the training commitments in Sydney plus he suffered an injury in late 1947.

On 1 March 1948, Tassie became Wollongong's first ever national swimming champion, when he won the Australian junior 440 yards championship at the national titles in Adelaide. He also repeated his successes of the previous year, winning titles at school, district, NSW Country, NSW CHS and NSW All Schools carnivals.

At 12 years of age, the champion swimmer joined North Wollongong Surf Life Saving club. His first surf race was at the Thirroul Carnival on 1 March 1947 where he won the junior surf race and just a week later at his home beach, collected two Branch titles with wins in the junior surf race and the junior surf teams event. Around a year later, in a big surf, he won the first of his five Gold Medals at the Australian Surf Life Saving Championships. It was at Manly beach on 27 March 1948 when at 17 years of age, he won the Australian junior surf race. For the next seven years, Tassie was regarded as one of the best surf swimmers in Australia. He won the Australian junior title again the next year at North Bondi on 13 March 1949, and picked up three Australian senior surf teams titles at Coolangatta (9 April 1950), Scarborough Western Australia (25 March 1951) and Newport (14 March 1953). At Coolangatta, Tassie finished first in the open surf teams race with his North Wollongong team-mates coming in second (Max Stringer), third (Neil Stringer) and fourth (Johnny Vaughan, who was also a Wollongong High ex-student). This is the only time in the history of this event, which began in 1920, that a team has finished first, second, third and fourth. As well as the five Australian Surf Gold Medals, Tassie gained a third place in the 1950 Australian Open Surf Race and another third at the Australian titles for the senior teams race in 1951.

At the first ever NSW Championships to be held outside of Sydney, at North Wollongong Beach in March 1950, Tassie won the State Open Surf race and was a member of the winning open teams surf race. He won his second NSW Open Surf title at Byron Bay on the 24th February 1952. He was also a member of North Wollongong's winning R and R team at the NSW titles at Freshwater on the 3rd March 1951.

The culmination of his great career came on 18 January 1954 when he was named in the Australian Surf Life Saving team to take on New Zealand at the Royal Surf Carnival at Bondi Beach on Saturday 6 February 1954. Australia won the contest 5-3 with Tassie competing in three of the eight events. Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Philip attended this carnival.

When he finished swimming at major surf carnivals, Tassie had five Australian titles, three NSW championships and around a dozen Illawarra Branch wins. He left Wollongong High at the end of 1947 and became a successful builder on the South Coast. Living in Wollongong all his life, he passed away in November 2011, aged 80.

## JOHN BLOOMFIELD AM

Born at Mittagong on 12 December 1932, John moved to Kiama with his family in 1939, when his father was appointed as Headmaster of Kiama Central School. After attending his father's school, where he obtained the Intermediate Certificate in 1947, he made the daily train trip from Kiama to attend Wollongong High from 1948 to 1950. He passed the Leaving Certificate in 1950. As a member of the Kiama club from 1944, John established himself as a quality swimmer and this continued at Wollongong High where he was school and district senior champion in 1949 and 1950. A versatile sportsman in rugby league, athletics, tennis as well as swimming, John received an all-round proficiency sports Blue at Speech Day, 1950. He obtained third place with a distance of 12.2 metres for the Open Shot Putt at the NSW CHS Athletic titles in Sydney at the Sydney Cricket Ground in June 1950. He was also a member of Wollongong High's open rugby league team and was chosen in the Illawarra Open Schools Rugby League team, which was set to play a curtain raiser to the NSW-England clash at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 15 July 1950. Unfortunately the early games were cancelled because of extreme wet weather. After completing the Leaving Certificate in 1950, John completed a three year Diploma of Physical Education course at Sydney Teachers college from 1951. His first teaching appointment was in the Hunter Valley. In 1957, while a swim coach, he became involved with Australian sports medicine pioneers, Professor Frank Cotton and Forbes Carlisle.



Boys' Swimming Team 1968

As a 12 year old, John joined Kiama Surf Life Saving Club and during the latter war years, he was often on patrol and made several rescues, as older males were scarce due to active service. He began competing at Surf Carnivals in December 1949 and his first win was the junior surf race at the Austinmer carnival on 24 December 1949. Just nine weeks later on 25 February 1950, he won the junior surf and junior belt double at the Illawarra Branch titles, held at North Wollongong.

The next year he won the Australian (Scarborough, Western Australia 25 March 1951), NSW (Freshwater 3 March 1951) and Illawarra branch (Thirroul 17 February), junior belt races. At the Illawarra branch titles in 1951, John showed his versatility by winning the junior surf race as well as well as the open single ski race.

On 24 February 1952 at Byron Bay, he became the youngest surfer ever to win the NSW open belt title, when he was just 18 years and 74 days of age. He won his second successive State open belt title the next year at Caves Beach on 14 February 1953. John also finished third in two Australian Open belt championships, at North Wollongong on 15 March 1952 and at North Steyne in March 1955. As one of Australia's best surfers from 1950 to 1956, John was selected in two Australian teams. On 10 January 1953, at age 20, he flew out of Sydney with the Australia team for a three-week visit to Hawaii. While in Hawaii, the team gave demonstrations of Australian surf rescue methods to such bodies as the Marines, the American Navy and Army, plus the Coastguards. The next year on 21 June 1954, John captained the Australian Surf Life Saving team which was invited to South Africa by the South African Life Saving Association and the Durban Centenary committee.

When the 16th Summer Olympic Games were held in Melbourne during November-December 1956, Surf Life Saving was a demonstration sport. In the Surf race, held at Torquay beach, John finished second. During these Olympics he was impressed with the many successes of Americans over a wide variety of sports. After discussing training techniques with some of the American athletes, John decided to apply for a Fulbright Scholarship to the USA. He won this prestigious award to study at the University of Oregon in Eugene and with his new bride Noeline, left for America in May 1960. Noeline had also won a scholarship to the same University to study foreign languages. During his eight years at Eugene, John successfully completed a Masters and a PhD in Sports Science. He also lectured in this field for four years at Oregon University, as well as making a tour of Eastern Europe to learn the latest sporting techniques in countries such as East Germany, Hungary, Poland and Czechoslovakia.

Returning to Australia in 1968, John became the head of the new Physical Education program at the University of Western Australia, while his wife was a French tutor. In 1971 he was appointed as President of

the Australian Sports Medicine Federation (now Sports Medicine Australia) and in 1973, he was invited by the Whitlam Federal Government to conduct a study and prepare a white paper into the development of sport and recreation in Australia. John became the foundation professor of the Department of Human Movement at the University of Western Australia in 1974. A major force behind the establishment of the Australian Institute of Sport in 1980, he was its founding deputy chair and, from 1985 to 1989, Chairman. From 1987 to 1989 he was co-chair of the Australian Sports commission. He was also Chairman of the Western Australia Institute of Sport Advisory Board (1980-1982), Western Australia Sports Centre Trust (1986-1989) and Australian Sports Science Council (1983-1986). In 1997 he was made Emeritus Professor of the University of Western Australia and since 2002 he has been an honorary Professor at the University of Notre Dame.

An author or co-author of well over 100 national or international scientific papers and book chapters, John has also written several books, the first of which, in 1958, is titled, "Knowhow in the Surf." He was given the sports award in 1979 during the Western Australian Citizens of the year awards, Member of the Order of Australia (AM) 1982, Centenary Medal (2001), John Graham Award for services to Western Australian Sport 2004, Surf Life Saving Australia Award of Excellence 2006 and Sport Australia Hall of Fame Inductee 2007.

At the time of writing, John, 82 and Noeline were still quite active and living in Perth.

#### MARION FOYE

Now Mrs. McCallum, Marion was born at North Wollongong in October 1944. She was an excellent swimmer from the time she took up the sport as a member of the Wollongong swimming club at nine years of age. A student at Wollongong High for four years from 1957, Marion left at the end of fourth year in 1960, to move to Sydney and be trained by Don Talbot at the Bankstown pool. At School, district and NSW CHS level, she set numerous records. At the CHS championships at Sydney in 1960, she set a new record in the senior butterfly, as well as in the under 16 freestyle. That same year, she was selected in the NSW team for the national championships and was unlucky not to make the Australian team for the Rome Olympics. In 1961 she won the Australia 110 yards butterfly title and set a new record, which stood for several years. In Melbourne on 28 October 1962 at the Commonwealth



Marion Foye

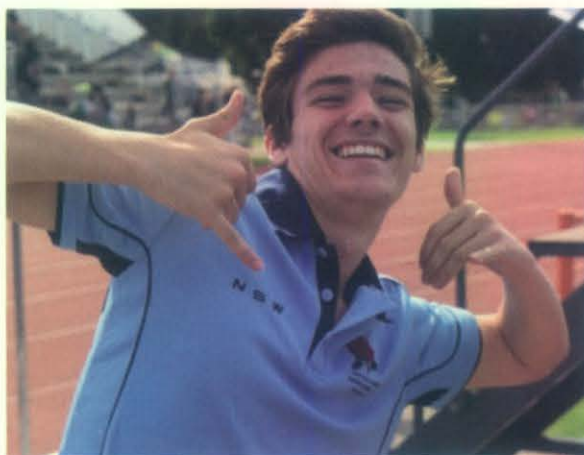
Games trials, she was beaten by a touch by Linda McGill, but both swimmers were chosen in Australia's team for the Games. At these Commonwealth Games at Perth in November 1962, Marion made the final of the 110 yards butterfly.

During her time in Sydney with Don Talbot, Marion worked for a legal firm and when she retired from competitive swimming in 1963, she returned to live and work in the Illawarra. Around 1998 she began working with noted swim coaches, Rod and Susie McKeon at their Unanderra swim centre, doing this for about 15 years. Marion's brothers, Ian and Bruce both played first grade Rugby League in Sydney, while her uncle, Kevin Schubert, was a 1948 Rugby League Kangaroo, who played 19 Test matches.

#### **MATTHEW HEARNE (2016)**

The WHSPA year 11 Student has Cerebral Palsy and is one of Australia's up and coming Para-Athletes. In 2015, he was selected in the Australian Under 19 Paralympic Football team, which is known as the Young Pararoos. This team competed at the World Cerebral Palsy Games in August 2015, at Nottingham in England. Matthew played in each of Australia's four matches, which were against Scotland, Russia, Japan and Holland. In the clash with Scotland, he won the award for Australia's most valuable player (MVP), while in the game against Japan; he scored four goals in the first 30 minutes. The Young Pararoos finished seventh in this tournament.

In the pool, Matthew has been swimming for some time with the Wests Illawarra Aquatic club and represented this club at the Australian Open Swimming Championships at Brisbane in 2013, at Sydney in 2014 and at Adelaide, for the Olympic trials, in 2015. In each of these three years he has been a top eight finalist. Last year, 2015, Matthew broke three Australian 16 years S10 records. These were in the 50-metre freestyle, the 50-metre butterfly and the 100-metre butterfly. In September of this year, he competed in seven individual and three relay events at the School Sport Australia Swimming Championships at Darwin. He was a member of the NSW team at Darwin, after winning the 50 and 100-metre freestyle, the 50-metre butterfly and the 4 by 50-metre freestyle relay, at the NSW All Schools Championships in May 2016. The Darwin results were not available at the time of writing.



Matthew Hearne

#### **DAVID JOHNSON**

Born at Marrickville on 8 December 1931, David was an outstanding schoolboy sprinter before he reached his teenage years. He attended Canterbury Boys High before moving to Wollongong with his family in the middle of 1946. He began at Wollongong High in July 1946 and he completed the Leaving Certificate in 1949. At the 1946 CHS championships in September, David won the under 15 long jump with a distance of 5.98 metres, while he finished fourth in both the 100 yards and 220 yards finals. The next year he won both the under 16, 100 yards and 220 yards finals. In his final year at High, he was Kembla House captain and the school athletic champion. At the NSW CHS championships in Sydney on 1 October 1949, he won the 100 yards in a time of 9.7 seconds. Less than a week later, on 7 October, David won the all schools' open 100



WHS Athletics and Basketball Representatives 1945

Back Row: B. Corso, J. Pola, N. Brown, D. Strickland, J. Wiffen, S. Taylor, J. Smith, M. Dunster, S. Warren, V. Mansfield, M. Cockburn, W. Piffero.  
 Front Row: P. McGarity, E. McBroom, R. Lindsay, B. Stewart, C. West, D. Harvey, O. Miller, V. James, D. Robinson.

yards and 220 yards events. That year, 1949, David was rated as the world's fastest schoolboy sprinter and the PIX magazine ran a story explaining that no schoolboy anywhere else had run 9.7 seconds for 100 yards as he did in the CHS championships.

During his final year at High School, David travelled up to Sydney during the winter months to compete with the Botany Harriers club on Saturday afternoons. His ability was recognised in January 1950 when he was selected as the baby of the Australian team for the Empire (now Commonwealth) Games at Auckland New Zealand in February. John Treloar, who made two Olympic 100 metres finals (London 1948 and Helsinki 1952), was the number one Australian sprinter and he had helped David with plenty of training advice in 1949. When Treloar moved to Wollongong for work in mid 1949, the two trained together on the Showground and the golf course.

Although he was an official Australian team member, the young athlete had to come up with 100 pounds in order to go to Auckland. After an appeal in a local newspaper, the Wollongong community made sure he was on the plane and they did this in less than a week.

At the Games on 9 February 1950, David, just 18 years and 63 days, won a Silver Medal with his second place in the 220 yards final, just 0.3 of a second behind Treloar. Then four days later, David, along with Bill

de Gruchy, Alastair Gordon and Treloar, won a Gold medal in the 440 yards relay final. Just a few days after returning home, at Hurstville Oval on 17 February, he finished second behind Treloar in both the 100 and 220 races in an Australia versus England meeting. The next week at the Sydney Cricket Ground on Saturday 25 February, he won the junior 100, 220 and relay, at the NSW championships.

In early March, David began working as a trainee with a large Sydney engineering company. But a less than three months into his working life, he was struck down by poliomyelitis which kept him off work for more than four months while he was being nursed by his mother at their Keira Street home in Wollongong. He did go back to work in October but the pain persisted for more than a year. Although he tried to make a comeback to athletics in mid 1951, he had lost his explosive speed and so retired from serious competition before he turned 21.

David married a Wollongong High School classmate in July 1954. She was Pat McGarity who was an excellent all-round athlete. Pat, who ran second in the NSW 220 yards final on 28 February 1953, did the Leaving with David at Wollongong High in 1949. She passed away in December 2014. Most of David's working life was in the fields of sales and marketing. From 1989 for several years, he had one of Australia's largest general agencies for AMP. Apart from a few years living and working in Wollongong, when Pat taught PE at Wollongong High from around 1953, David



David Johnson



Mark Kerry Olympian and teammates

lived for close to 40 years in Sydney. In 2002, he moved to the Gold Coast where he was living in 2015.

#### **MARK KERRY**

Born at Temora on 4 August 1959, Mark is a Gold Medal winning, three-time Olympian. He enrolled at Wollongong High in 1972 and completed the HSC in 1977. He did have a six-month break from Wollongong High when he was 14 and in Year Eight. During that time he went to live and train in Brisbane, where he lived with future Olympic teammate, Mark Tonelli and his family. During his time in the Queensland capital, he attended Kedron High. Back in Wollongong at the end of 1973, he dominated swimming at school, district and CHS levels for the next four years. An example of this came at Drummoyne pool on 1 April 1976 when he set a new CHS record for the open 200 metres freestyle. During his school days, Mark had a lot of success in Surf races as a member of the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving club. At Glenelg in March 1974, he won the Australian under 16 Malibu board race, while the next year he finished second in the Australian open surf race at Dee Why. He also won a couple of NSW surf race titles.

By November 1975, Mark was rated as number three in the world 200 metres backstroke and just a few months later at the 1976 Australian championships, won the 200 metres freestyle and the 200 metres backstroke. As a member of the NSW team, he also won

the 4 by 200 metres freestyle relay and the 4 by 100 metres medley relays. At 16 years of age he was then chosen in the Australian team for the 1976 Olympics at Montreal. In these Olympics he swam in four events, which were the 200 metres freestyle, the 4 by 100 metres medley relay, plus the 100 and 200 backstroke events. Although disappointed with his fifth in the 200 backstroke final and seventh in the 100 backstroke, he attracted the attention of famous American coach Doc Counsilman, who invited him to come to the USA and swim under him at Indiana State University. Mark arrived at Indiana in January 1978 and studied theatre, drama and telecommunications. After a couple of years he transferred to the University of Southern California.

In order to be selected for the 1980 Moscow Olympics, Mark had to fly home from America for the Australian Championships. He won both the 100 and 200 backstroke titles and was named in the Australian team. Before they left for Moscow, there was some drama with several sports withdrawing because of Russian involvement in Afghanistan. Swimming first in the 4 by 100 metres medley relay final, Mark and his teammates, Peter Evans, Mark Tonelli and Neil Brookes, picked up Gold Medals, narrowly defeating the Russians. Mark also won a Bronze Medal in the 200 metres backstroke final.

After a break of more than two years, he returned to competitive swimming and began serious training in October 1983 to qualify for his third Olympics,

at Los Angeles in 1984. Swimming in the 100 metres backstroke, Mark came in fifth in the final. But in the 4 by 100 metres medley relay he won his third Olympic medal when he, Peter Evans, Glen Buchanan and Mark Stockwell finished third, just 0.02 seconds behind second placed Canada.

After the Los Angeles Games, Mark retired from competitive swimming. Always a good style of a young man, Mark worked as a model in the USA, Paris and Milan and was soon hosting a fashion show on American cable television. Married to Lynda, who is an American, in 1983, the couple have a son and a daughter. Mark and his older brother Phil in the mid 1990s, founded the Dunhill Management company which was one of Australia's largest recruiting firms. With plenty of hard work the brothers turned their company into a very successful business and in 2001, they sold the company to an English company for more than \$22 million, with a large bonus incentive for ongoing success. A few years later, the brothers started another recruiting business, K2 Recruiting and Consulting.

Mark's brother Phil was an excellent sportsman in his own right. He was above average as a swimmer and surfer, while he played first grade Rugby League in the Illawarra area as a 17-year-old teenager. Phil began the first of his six years at Wollongong High in 1970 and passed the HSC in 1975.

#### CATHRYN LOCHHEAD

Born on 14 August 1964, Cathryn attended Mt. Ousley Primary where she was school captain and dux in 1976. She was a student at WHS from 1977 to 1982 and represented the school at athletics, cross-country and hockey. In 1982, along with Debbie Jones, Susan

Stoker and Judy Rose, she won the NSW open girls 4 by 100 metres senior relay title. At WHS, she was a prefect and won several sportswoman of the year awards. After beginning to play Touch Football soon after the HSC, Cathryn represented Australia in 14 national Touch Football mixed teams. She played seven of these at the 1988 World Cup in Australia, as well as three Tests against New Zealand (1986 and 1988), plus four Tests against Canada, in Canada, when she toured the USA and Canada with the Australian team (1987 and 1988). Her first Test was in Auckland on 14 December 1986 and the Australian Mixed team beat their New Zealand counterparts 7-2. She also played in the Australian Mixed team against New Zealand at Southport on the Gold Coast on 12 and 13 November 1988, winning these matches, 7-0 and 7-1. The first Touch Football World Cup was held at Carrara Oval on the Gold Coast in November 1988. Cathryn was a member of the winning Australian Mixed team who dominated their competition, scoring 93 tries to 11 in winning their seven games. There were four teams in the Mixed Division and each team played each other twice over two days. The teams were Australia, New Zealand, Canada and Papua/New Guinea. As leaders of the table after the round robin games, Australia moved straight to the final where they defeated New Zealand 12-0. Cathryn played in all of Australia's seven matches. After this first tournament, World Cups have been held in Auckland (1991), Hawaii (1995), Sydney (1999), Japan (2003), Scotland (2011) and Coffs Harbour (2015).

Cathryn began playing touch football at age 18 with the IMB (Illawarra Master Builders), at JJ Kelly Park. Over the years, she has played for the Sutherland, Cronulla, Sylvania and Canterbury clubs in Sydney competitions and from there, was selected to represent NSW at the national championships, firstly at Melbourne, then South Australia, Western Australia and Darwin. In these early



Cathryn Lochhead



WHS Swimming and Athletic Representatives 1948

days of her touch career, Cathryn would commute to Sydney a minimum of five days a week for matches and team training sessions. Injuries caused Cathryn to retire from Touch, earlier than she would have liked. She had her right knee reconstructed in 1992, followed by a similar operation to her left knee three years later.

At the University of Wollongong's Graduation Ceremony on 10 May 1988, she graduated with an Associate Diploma in Sport Sciences. Her first job was as a claims assistant with Coal Mines Insurance and after this, she continued in the financial sector of the IT industry. Over the years, she has been employed as senior business analyst with QBE (12 years) and NRMA (3 years), followed by business analyst manager with Pillar Administration (7 years). For the past six years, Cathryn and her family have lived in England, where their 17 year old son, Reagan, is a professional footballer with the Accrington Stanley club, who signed him from Australia at age 11. In England, Cathryn has continued working in the IT industry with a Motor Management provider. Her daughter, Morgan, plays touch football with the Manchester Chargers and has represented England in European tournaments at Dublin and Cardiff. Cathryn is now a part of the High Performance unit for the England Touch Association.

#### **GARY NELSON**

Gary represented Australia in Kayaking and Canoeing from 1973 to 1981. Born at Hobart in April 1955, he came to Wollongong with his family as a young boy and attended Keiraville Primary. He came to WHS in 1968 in Year 7. In 1970, his father introduced him to canoeing and at that time, Dapto High School had an active whitewater slalom canoeing programme. After becoming friendly with some of the Dapto students, he took up slalom paddling and quickly adapted to this sport. In 1972 and 1973, he won the Australian junior title and in early 1973, was selected in the first Australian senior team to compete in the World Championships. This was in the town of Muotathal, Switzerland, in July, during the northern hemisphere's summer. There were five members in the Australian team and they were away for around 10 weeks. In those days and even now, the sport is much bigger in Europe and as well as the World Championships, Gary and his team-mates gained a lot of valuable experience by competing in other countries before returning home. In his first World Championships, Gary finished 43rd from around 70 competitors which was not bad for an 18 year old, year 12 student. He was also selected for

the Australian team for the next World Championships, which was held at Skopje, in what was then, Yugoslavia. In both the 1973 and 1975 World Championships, Gary competed in the Kayak events, but for the next three World Championships, 1977 in Austria, 1979 Canada and 1981 Wales, he was a member of the Australian side as a C2 representative. This is a double canoe for two athletes. During his five World Championships over an eight year period, Gary competed in at least 50 races for Australia. In 1979 and 1981, Gary and his partner finished 10th in the World.

After retiring from competition at the top level of his sport in 1983, he still continued to be involved, managing the Australian Junior team to New Zealand on two occasions and doing well at Masters events. In 2000, he did two demonstration runs preceding the slalom canoeing at the Sydney 2000 Olympics. After doing well in the 1973 HSC, he trained to be a teacher but only did this for a couple of years before moving into his own business. Living south of Wollongong with his family, Gary intends to compete at the 2017 World Masters Games in New Zealand.

#### **BARRY SALISBURY**

Born in Woonona on 30 July 1937, he was a student at Wollongong High for five years from 1950 and completed the Leaving Certificate in 1954. His main sport was soccer or football and he represented Australia in three international matches. These were at Olympic Park Melbourne on 30 May 1959 against Hearts of Midlothian from Scotland, plus two in May 1964 with champion English club, Everton. In those days leading international teams such as England, Brasil and Italy would not consider bringing their best international side to countries such as Australia, so the local soccer bodies negotiated with the leading British club teams of the times. In 1959 Hearts were the second best team in Scotland, while in the 1963/64 English season, Everton had won the Charity Shield and finished third in the first division competition. Over 40,000 fans turned up to watch Barry and his Australian teammates play Everton at the Sydney Showground on 16 May 1964.

While still a student at Wollongong High, Barry began playing first grade football with the Woonona-Bulli club in the NSW State League competition. He was with Woonona-Bulli from 1954 to 1957, then Canterbury-Marrickville (1958 to 1962), South Coast United (1963 to 1967) and Balgownie in Division



Hockey Girls 1968

Two as captain/coach from 1968 to 1970. During his career, Barry was a member of three NSW first division Premiership winning teams. These were with Canterbury-Marickville in 1958 and 1960, as well as South Coast United in 1963. South Coast United's 4-0 win over Apia before a crowd of 30,158 at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 22 September 1963, was one of the major success stories in the history of football in the Illawarra and South Coast regions. Barry, in the midfield, played a key role in the impressive victory.

Barry was also a highly rated junior tennis player, representing the South Coast at Country week in Sydney. He won the South Coast under 17 singles title in November 1953. Two months earlier while playing for South Coast in Sydney against a Metropolitan team, Barry took on a 15 year old from Hornsby-Killara. This boy was Fred Stolle who went on to play at the top level for many years, winning the 1966 US open singles title and then moving on to become one of the world's top TV tennis commentators. Barry was also a top-ranked batsman in Woonona's strong first grade cricket team of the early 1950s and in his last year at high school, impressed in the school's first team Rugby League side in school sport, while playing soccer at the weekends. As a member of the Bulli Police Boys club, Barry had several amateur fights and as a seven year old, at the Corrimal School of Arts on 3 March 1945 received praise in the local Mercury newspaper for his boxing skills against a boy named Togo Sargeson. After the fight, the patrons showered the ring with coins.

After finishing high School, Barry trained at Sydney Teachers College, becoming a Principal. Around 2007, he and his wife, Thelma, moved to Canberra to be near their son and two grandchildren.

#### KEVIN SCHUBERT

Born in Wollongong on 18 September 1927, Kevin was an outstanding junior swimmer and rugby league player. After passing the Intermediate Certificate at Wollongong Junior Tech in 1942, he enrolled at Wollongong High in 1943 and completed his Leaving Certificate in 1944. In 1943 he was the school's Intermediate swimming champion, while in 1944 he dominated the school's swimming and after winning all seven events at the annual carnival on 23 February at the Wollongong Continental pool, became the senior school champion. Just three days after this, swimming against older and more experienced opponents, he finished third in the South Coast Open 220 yards final. At the school Speech Day in December 1944, Kevin was awarded Sporting Blues in rugby league and swimming. A member of North Wollongong Surf Life Saving club from age 12, Kevin won the junior surf race at eight district carnivals during the 1944/45 season. He was a member of the club's senior R and R team, which won the NSW title at Bondi Beach on 16 March 1947. Each year the R and R state champions were selected as the NSW representatives for the Australian titles and so Kevin was a NSW Surf Life Saving representative at the 1947 Australian titles, which were held at Southport on the Gold Coast on 6 April 1947.

While he was an above-average swimmer, he excelled at rugby league. As a member of the Tech Old Boys team he won the 1946 under 19 Illawarra Premiership. He also represented Illawarra under 19s in both 1945 and 1946 as a second rower. In 1947 he played with the Wollongong senior club and made his first grade debut in the first competition game. After a few weeks, the regular hooker was injured and Kevin was moved into this position. With Kevin dominating the scrums, Wollongong went on to win the first grade Premiership in 1947 when they beat Port Kembla 21-8 in the Grand Final on 21 September.

The next year things happened so fast for the tough hooker. He represented Illawarra, Group 7, Combined Groups 6 and 7, Southern Division, NSW and then the ultimate when he was selected to play for his country. He made his Test debut at the Sydney Cricket Ground on 29 May 1948 against New Zealand and the Australians lost a tight match 21-19. Later that season he was selected for the 1948/49 Kangaroos to tour England and France. The team left by ship on 4 August 1948 and did not return to Sydney until 11 March 1949, meaning they were away from home for more than 31 weeks. Kevin played 22 of the 37 tour matches, including all five Tests. He also toured with the 1952/53 Kangaroos to England and France and went to New Zealand with the 1949 Australian team. His second Kangaroo tour was even longer than his first and when the team left Sydney by ship on 18 July, they were away for more than 34 weeks. With his three tours, Kevin spent nearly a year and a half out of Australia. Including his 19 Tests, Kevin played 58 games for Australia. His last Test was at Swinton in England on 9 November 1952. He played eight Tests against Great Britain, seven with New Zealand and four against France. On 22 July 1950, he was a member of the Australian team who defeated Great Britain 5-2 at the SCG to win the series two Tests to one and claim the Ashes for the first time in 30 years. At the time and for many years after, this was said to be the greatest moment in Australian rugby league history.

After three seasons with Wollongong, Kevin signed with the Manly club in 1950 and captained the side in their first ever Grand Final. This was at the SCG on 23 September 1951 and Manly were well beaten by South Sydney. After four years with Manly, Kevin retired at the end of 1954. However he came back for one last season in 1956 and finished with 87 first grade games and two tries to his credit. He also scored two tries for Australia,



Kevin Schubert

both against overseas club teams.

Kevin played 12 games for NSW from 1948 to 1954, three matches for City Firsts and one for Country Firsts in 1948. In 2011, he was named in the Illawarra Team of the Century. For the last fifty years or so of his life, Kevin and his wife, Flois, lived at Narrabeen in the Manly area. He passed away on 23 January 2007, aged 79.

#### CLIFF SPROULE OBE

Cliff was born in Dubbo on 23 May 1905 where his father was a teacher. The family moved to Balgownie in 1917, when Mr. Sproule was appointed as the Headmaster of the local primary school. Cliff and his four brothers played several sports in their youth, including tennis. At the end of 1916, Cliff passed the qualifying exam to enter Wollongong High and so became part of the first intake when the new school began on Smiths Hill in February 1917. He quickly assimilated into school life and at the first annual athletic carnival on 21 August 1918 at Stuart Park, finished second in the under 14, 75 yards sprint. At the athletic carnival at Bodes' grounds two years later, on 10 September 1920, he won the junior broad jump with an impressive leap of 5.46 metres. On that same day Cliff also won the junior high jump (1.55 metres) and was second in the junior 440 yards race.

After passing the Intermediate Certificate at the end of 1920, he left school and joined the Wollongong branch of the Government Savings Bank. Cliff's father, Sam, was

a keen tennis man and he was elected as President of the South Coast Tennis Association. The five Sproule brothers had been regular tennis players from their early teens and Cliff began to show ability from age 17. In 1924, he was chosen to play for the South Coast at Country week from 21 to 25 January. At Country week, he won the junior singles title in a field of 58, when he defeated W. Lang 6-3, 6-2 in the final. Three months after this, on 5 April 1924, Cliff played R. Wynn at St. Michael's Tennis Club, in the first night match played on the South Coast. He beat Wynn 6-3 in one of six exhibition games that Saturday night. In June of that year, current Australasian champion, James Anderson, in an exhibition at the Wollongong district courts, beat him.

Cliff's reputation was increasing day by day and at the end of 1924, he was selected in a junior NSW squad to practise at Sydney at Rushcutters Bay, which later became White City. The NSW Banks held an annual tournament and this was open to any banking employee throughout NSW. In September 1925, at the Banks tournament, Cliff won the open and junior singles title, plus the open doubles with W. Carey. He won around eight more Banks titles during the next few years.

Cliff applied to the Government Bank for a transfer to the main office in Sydney and this was granted, with his last working day in Wollongong being 9 September 1927. During his time with the Wollongong branch, Cliff became the first secretary for Wollongong High's Old Students Union, which was formed in December 1923. He held the job of secretary for the first two years of the Old Students body and then he served on the general committee until he moved to Sydney. During his time with the Old Students, Cliff was prime mover in organising twice yearly dances and also took part in dramatic and musical nights. At the Wollongong Town Hall on Tuesday night 27 March 1927, Cliff had a major part in a one act play called "The Late Delivery".

After moving to Sydney, his tennis continued to improve and he was first chosen to represent NSW in January 1929 against Victoria and Queensland. A semi finalist in the 1931 Australian Open singles, he won the 1932 NSW doubles title with Jack Crawford as his partner. These 1932 NSW titles were played as part of an all sports gala week in Sydney from 19 to 26 March 1932, to celebrate the opening of the Harbour Bridge. He was a reserve for Australia's 1930 Davis Cup team and first played for Australia in February 1932 against Japan

at Sydney, in a three-man team including Jack Crawford and Harry Hopman, along with Cliff. In those days, Australia played tennis Tests, as well as Davis Cup ties. He also played for Australia against the USA at Brisbane in November 1932 and France at Paris in July 1937. Cliff achieved the ultimate for a tennis player of those days, when he was chosen along with Crawford and Hopman for Australia's 1932 Davis Cup campaign. The team was in the Northern American Zone and after a first round bye, met Cuba in Havana from 13th to 15th May. Australia won this zone semi final tie 5-0, with Cliff winning both his singles and also the doubles. They then had to play the USA in the North American final where the Americans won. After the Davis Cup, the Australians went on to compete in the French Open and Wimbledon. At Wimbledon, Cliff was beaten in the second round singles but reached the quarterfinals of the doubles.

Across the Tasman in Auckland in January 1934, Cliff won the New Zealand doubles title but was beaten in the singles final. In 1936 he was selected as Australia's non-playing Davis Cup captain and did the same job in 1937. In 1936, the Australians reached the Davis Cup final but were beaten by Great Britain, 3-2, at Wimbledon. From 1938 for 10 years or so, Cliff just played some club tennis, while at the same time working hard during the week at his executive banking job. He also took up umpiring and by the late 1940s was regarded as one of the world's best tennis umpires. From 1951 to 1968 he umpired all but one of the Davis Cup matches played in Australia. During this period he also became an Australian selector and in the mid 1960s was a senior vice president for seven years with the NSW LTA. He was elected as President of the NSW LTA for three years from 1975.

In 1976, Cliff was honoured with an OBE and in 1979 was made a Life Member of both the Australian (LTAA) and NSW LTA. He passed away on 25 April 1981 aged 75.

#### **BRIAN TABER**

He was born at Wagga on 29 April 1940 and moved to the Illawarra area with his family as a small boy. His first year at Wollongong High was 1953 and he completed the Leaving Certificate in 1957. At an early age, Brian excelled in several sports. In 1954, while in second year at Wollongong High, he represented NSW at both cricket and soccer in under 14 teams. Playing cricket at Adelaide in late March



Athletics Carnival 2015

1954, he took five catches and made two stumpings in the South Australian under 14's first innings. Four months later in Brisbane on 24 July 1954, he scored two goals for NSW under 14s in their 4-1 win over Queensland. On 13 November 1954, Brian made his first grade debut in the Illawarra cricket competition when he played for Balgownie in their win against Western Suburbs at Wollongong Showground. The day after his debut, at MacCabe Park, he top scored with 54 and made three stumpings, for Illawarra under 17s against the Moss Vale rep side. Tennis was another sport in which he enjoyed success. In under 13s, he won the doubles title with Richard Rowlings, at the near South Coast championship in 1953 and reached the singles semi finals. Athletics, particularly high jumping, was another area in which Brian excelled.

In his last year at High School, Brian decided to play Rugby League along with most of his mates. The Gleam



Brian Taber

magazine of that year, describes the 1957 Wollongong High team as one of the schools most successful first grade teams. With Brian playing five eighth, the side won three titles. His father, Charlie, at first, would not allow Brian to play Rugby League because he thought he may injure his wicket keeping hands. For the first month or so of the season, the author, who was teammate and neighbour, had to smuggle Brian's boots to school on match day. This scheme was exposed when he received a nasty cut in the mouth while making a tackle. The injury required several stitches and his father had to be notified. However, he was allowed to continue playing the game.

The Gordon club in the Sydney grade competition recognised Brian's cricketing ability and he began playing for them in the 1955/56 season. When he finished, he had played 20 seasons with Gordon, 19 of which were in first grade. The Sydney selectors were soon aware of his potential and, just three months after he had finished school, he was selected for the Sydney Metropolitan team to play NSW Country at the Sydney Cricket Ground in a two day match in February 1958. On 13 November 1964, he made his initial first class appearance, playing in the Sheffield Shield competition for NSW against Western Australia at the SCG. As NSW won this match easily by nine wickets, he was not needed to bat in either innings, but he did take a total of five catches. The last of his 129 first-class games was also at the SCG on 8 February 1974 in NSW's win over Queensland. In these matches Brian took 345 catches and made 50 stumpings, as well as scoring 2,648 runs at an average of 18. He finished with 73 games for NSW, 16 Tests for Australia, 39 touring games for Australia and one appearance for a combined XI at Launceston against the touring West Indians in January 1969. He scored a first class century against South Australia at Adelaide Oval on 11 November 1969, when he finished with 109.

Johannesburg, South Africa was the venue for Brian's first Test, on 23 December 1966. With five catches in the South African first innings, plus two and a stumping in the second innings, he made a great international debut. The last of his 16 Tests was also in South Africa, at Port Elizabeth on 5 February 1970. In this match, he took five catches and made 30 not out. Brian played nine Tests against South Africa, five against India and one each against England and the West Indies. Only one of his Tests was played in Australia and that was at the SCG on 14 February 1969 against the West Indies. He made two tours to South Africa, two to England and one to India with Australian teams. As a wicket

keeper in Test cricket, he took 56 catches and made four stumpings. His highest Test score of 48 came at the SCG in February 1969, when he made 48 against an attack which included Wesley Hall, Charlie Griffiths, Sir Garfield Sobers and Lance Gibbs.

After he finished his playing career, Brian worked as a NSW selector for 23 seasons, which is a record. He was chairman of selectors for seven of these years. He also served as NSW coach and National Director of Cricket Coaching, as well Australian under 19 coach and manager. As a former President of the Sydney branch of the Australian Cricket Society, Brian put in many hours, while a few years ago, the NSW PSSA introduced the Brian Taber Shield for cricket competition between NSW primary schools. Brian and his wife of 54 years, Fran, have lived in Sydney since their marriage.

### **BILL WILLIAMS**

Bill attended the school for three years from 1946. He finished after completing his Intermediate Certificate in 1948. He quickly established himself as an outstanding schoolboy soccer player, representing the Illawarra PSAAA in each of his three years at Wollongong High. In 1946 and 1947 he was a member of the Illawarra schools under 14 team, while in 1948 he represented at the under 15 level. He was also selected for the NSW schools under 15 team in 1948, which won all of the four games on the Queensland tour during early August. The side was scheduled to play a fifth match with Ipswich but this fixture was abandoned when the team bus collided with a Brisbane tram on the way to the game. Fortunately no-one was injured but there was a long delay.

After leaving school, Bill played in the district under 16 competition in 1949, with Woonona, who won the Premiership. Working as a bank clerk, he moved to the Bulli club in 1950, playing in the district first grade competition. Bill was selected in the strong Illawarra 1950 All Age team, who reached the State final. In the semi final at Canberra on 5 August 1950, he scored three goals from the inside right position in Illawarra's 4-3 victory. On 24 March 1951, Bill made his first grade debut with the Woonona-Bulli club in first grade State League football, in the tight 5-4 loss to Auburn. This match was on Easter Saturday and in his second Premiership game, just two days later on Easter Monday, he slotted two goals in the impressive 8-2 win over East Lakes. Just 17 when he began with Woonona-Bulli, Bill played eight successive seasons and more than 100

games with the club from 1951. He joined Corrimal United in 1959 for two seasons and when Corrimal United became South Coast United in 1961, played his last season at the top level. From 1953 to 1958 he represented South Coast against several overseas touring teams and 3 July 1957 at the Wollongong Showground, captained South Coast in their 3-all draw with Eastern Athletic from Hong Kong. In 1954 he played the first of his several games for NSW and in 1955 played two matches for Australia against South China as a defender. The first of these was at the Brisbane Cricket Ground on 6 August and the second was in Melbourne on 21 August. That same year, Bill also played for an Australian XI selection against South China in Melbourne on 16 July. Nowadays Bill lives in Queensland.

### **EDWIN "TED" WINTER**

Ted represented Australia at the 1938 Commonwealth Games in Sydney in the Pole Vault. Although he cleared the same height as the Bronze medalist, Ted was placed fifth on a countback. The Gold Medal was won by South African, Andries du Plessis with a height of 4.11 metres, Australian Les Fletcher took the Silver with a jump of 3.97 metres and Canadian Stuart Frid collected the Bronze with 3.88 metres. England's Fred Webster, fourth and Ted Winter fifth, also jumped 3.88 metres. But Fred cleared the height on his first attempt, Webster on his second and Ted on his third and last jump at that height.

Now called the Commonwealth Games, the third Empire Games were officially opened on 5 February 1938, by the then Governor of NSW, Lord Wakehurst before a crowd of 40,000 plus at the Sydney Cricket Ground. This was the 150th anniversary of white settlement in Australia and there were 507 athletes and officials from 15 countries in attendance. The athletic events were held at the Sydney Cricket Ground, swimming at North Sydney Olympic Pool, boxing and wrestling at Rushcutters Bay Stadium, cycling at Henson Park, Marrickville, lawn bowls at the Waverley club's green and rowing on the Nepean River at Penrith. The Pole Vault was held on 12 February.

While Ted was Australian Pole Vault champion in 1947 and 1948, the Second World War robbed him of his best years in the sport. His best ever jump was 3.93 metres in 1939 with the Randwick-Kensington club in Sydney interclub athletics. In 1939, the World Record was 4.54 metres. Ted also won seven NSW Titles in 1930, 1931, 1932, 1934, 1939, 1940 and 1945. The

New Zealand Athletic Association invited him to tour their country a couple of weeks before Christmas in 1935. In those days, the vaulters used solid timber (often ash) or bamboo poles and landed on their feet in a pile of sand (often the long jump pit) or sawdust. The crossbar was made of steel and, before 1930, poles were made of Oregon with a metal spike at one end, as there was no box at the end of the grass run-up.

Ted was born on 25 January 1909 in the gold mining town of Canbelego between Nyngan and Cobar. His father was an engine driver and when the little town burnt down, he worked on the Wilga Downs sheep station. The family lived in the shearers' huts and young Ted avoided school. The family moved to Port Kembla in 1920 and Ted attended the local primary school where he was one of the school's best athletes and drawers. He enrolled in first year at Wollongong High in 1923 and did the Leaving Certificate twice, in 1927 and 1928. He failed on his first attempt and in 1928, he scored three As and two Bs, although he failed English. Still this was enough to allow him to enter Teachers College and he did this at the beginning of 1929. After two years of study he was appointed to a one-teacher school at Goonumbla, near Parkes in 1931.

While at Wollongong High, Ted was a star athlete and rugby player. He won the senior mile, senior half-mile and senior broad jump in both 1927 and 1928, while he set the school pole vault record of 2.90 metres in 1928 and also set a record of 6.02 metres in the broad jump (now called the long jump). Both these records stood for many years. At the Combined High School carnivals in Sydney, he took several placings in 1927 and 1928. In June 1928, while playing as a breakaway for Wollongong High against Nowra High in a rugby union game, he scored two tries in the 23-9 win.

He left teaching around 1935 and worked on various jobs around NSW. Around 1938, he was one of four physical training assistants employed by the NSW government as a beginning to a national fitness program. He did this during the war years and helped plan the evacuation of children from Sydney over the Blue Mountains, if this became necessary. After the war, he taught physical education at Melbourne University, after completing a Bachelor of Economics from Sydney University in 1945, in just three years, studying at night, while working fulltime. After Melbourne University, he worked for the Melbourne accounting firm of Buckley

and Hughes, where he studied accountancy at night. He left this firm in 1953 to join the Australian Army Teaching Corps and became a captain. He was an athletic official at the 1956 Melbourne Olympics and then returned to Sydney where he taught Science at Manly Boys High until his retirement in 1968. He continued pole vaulting in Masters events till 80 years of age and also became an avid and good, cross country skier. Bushwalking and horse-riding in the Snowy mountains was another favourite pastime. In the 1970s, he restored many of the wooden huts in Kosciusko National Park which the old stockmen of the past had left behind. The famous outdoor adventurer, Paddy Palin, thought highly of him and said, " Ted Winter probably knows the Snowy Mountains better than any other man. "

Ted and his wife Edith had a son and daughter. He lived to 100 years of age, passing away on 2 June 2009, at his Springwood home.

#### **BOB YOUNG**

A member of the Australian team to South Africa in 1950, Bob was one of the trailblazers of Australian Football (soccer). Before this 17-man team sailed into Durban on 20 May 1950, for their 18 match, four Test tour, Australia had only made short tours to New Zealand (1922, 1936 and 1948), New Caledonia (1933) and the Dutch East Indies, now Indonesia (1931).

Bob was 22 at the time and he played in 16 of the 18 matches, including all four Tests. The Australians drew the series two Tests all and altogether won 10, drew three and lost five of their 18 games. A talented halfback, Bob was the only Illawarra representative in the touring side and was selected from the Corrimal State League team.

The Australians opened their tour with a 2-1 win over Western Province, before more than 10,000 fans, on 24 May just four days after arriving in South Africa. The first Test was at Durban on 24 June and the Aussies were beaten 3-2. The other Tests were at Johannesburg on 1 July (lost 2-1), at Port Elizabeth on 8 July (won 2-1) and at Cape Town on 23 July, (won 2-0). After flying from Sydney to Perth on 29 April, the team sailed out of Fremantle to South Africa. They were away from home for more than four months, or almost 18 weeks. When they arrived in Sydney on Friday 1 September, they played NSW the next day at the old Sports Ground. A jaded Australian team, who had played their last match in Cape Town on 29 July, were beaten 3-0. They

avenged this loss 24 hours later, at Newcastle, when they defeated NSW 2-1.

Born on 28 December 1927, Bob came from Corrimal Primary to Wollongong High in 1942. He spent three years at the School on the Hill and left to become an electrician's apprentice at Lysaghts in January 1945. During his time at Lysaghts, he completed a Stage V Electrical trades course at Wollongong Tech.

In 1942, Bob was awarded a school blue for soccer in his last year at High. That year he passed the Intermediate Certificate, gaining five Bs and an A in Maths II. From 3 December to 6 December 1942, there were several events such as a ball, a parade and an athletic carnival, to celebrate Wollongong being proclaimed a city. At Wollongong Showground on Friday 4 December 1942, Bob tied for first place in the Intermediate High jump. The boy he tied with was Ron Rowles from the CBC school, who went on to play 83 first grade matches and score 842 points in five seasons of first grade Rugby League with Manly from 1950. At the school athletic Carnival on 13 August 1941, Bob won the under 14 broad jump (4.38 metres) and high jump (1.25 metres) on the way to becoming

the school under 14 champion. At weekends, he played for the Tarrawanna soccer club, captaining the team at under 14, 16 and 18 levels. He also represented Illawarra on numerous occasions. Bob joined the Corrimal club in 1945, starting in the second team and making his top grade debut late in the season. He played 13 seasons with Corrimal and as well as playing four Tests against South Africa, he played seven more games for Australia against world class club teams, FK Austria (2 games), Eastern Athletic from Hong Kong (3) and Ferencvaros from Hungary (2). He also played for NSW and South Coast against visiting international sides.

Bob is the first of a three-generation Australian sporting representative family. One of his sons, Craig, played 20 Rugby League Tests for Australia, as well as touring England and France with the 1978 and 1982 Kangaroos, plus New Zealand in 1980. Craig's son and Bob's grandson, Dean, played one Rugby League Test for Australia against New Zealand in 2010. Bob passed away in September 2014, aged almost 87.



Ash Girl 2016



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## STUDENTS IN THE ARMED FORCES

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### EX-STUDENTS WHO DIED IN WORLD WAR TWO.

First year at WHS in brackets.

The 1945 GLEAM magazine went to a lot of trouble to publish the names of 27 ex-students who served in World War Two. On 7 November 1955, the Headmaster, Mr. Lenehan, established a School War Memorial with 32 names listed. Below is a brief bio of all 33 former pupils of Wollongong High who sadly gave their lives for our country.

#### **Brian Norman ADAMSON (1931)**

Service Number NX19455. Born at Mackay Queensland on 9 December 1917, Private Adamson was killed at sea, in the Middle East, on 5 December 1941. He was a member of the 2/13th Australian Infantry Battalion which was being transported to Greece. The ship was not far out of Egypt when it was attacked by German fighter planes. There is a commemoration for Brian Adamson at the Alamein Memorial at El Alamein, Marsa Matruh, Egypt. Brian and his family were living in Wollongong when he enlisted on 31 May 1940, after arriving from Queensland around 1925.

#### **John Burniston ARNETT (1929)**

Service Number NX403235. Born at Randwick on 7 February 1916, Sergeant Arnett was accidentally killed while training on 7 January 1943 with Number

14 Squadron in Perth. He was on a RAAF plane with four others when it crashed. His brother was also in the RAAF, stationed in Darwin. John is buried at Perth's Karrakatta War Cemetery.

#### **Ernest "Toby" ALEXANDER (1929)**

Service Number NX 80. Born at Kiama on 30 July 1916. Lieutenant Alexander sailed out of Sydney with the 2/3 Australian Infantry Battalion on 16 January 1940 and landed in Egypt six weeks later. He was wounded in action on 3 January 1941 in Libya and died the next day from his wounds in hospital. He is buried in the Halfaya Sollum Cemetery in Egypt.

#### **Sydney James ALLSEP (1937)**

Service Number 423033. Sid was born at Wollongong on 14 November 1923 and left WHS after the 1939 Intermediate Certificate to work as a Clerk in the Wollongong Branch of the Bank of Australasia. He enlisted in the RAAF in Sydney on 20 June 1942 and became a member of the Number 460 Squadron. The Squadron was stationed in England towards the end of 1943 and flew several missions over France and Germany. Flying Officer Sid Allsep and his crew were killed on 23 June 1944 in a Flying Battle over France and at first he was reported missing. A few weeks later, his death was confirmed and he is buried at the Poix de Picardie Churchyard, near Amiens in France. Sid's uncle, William Sydney Duchesne, was killed at Gallipoli on Anzac Day, 25 April 1915.

**John Henry BROWN (1925)**

Service Number 418915. John was born at Kalgoorlie on 4 August 1912. His father was a miner and the family moved to the South Coast in 1923. He enlisted in the RAAF at Melbourne and was placed in the Number 463 Squadron. The squadron was sent to England in early 1942 and John and his crew flew a number of missions throughout the European conflict area. On 10 May 1944, Flight Sergeant John Brown and his crew were killed in a Flying Battle over France. He is buried at the Hellemmes-Lille Communal Cemetery at Lille in France.

**Robert John "Bob" BROWNING (1932)**

Service Number 420533. Born at Woonona on 26 June 1920, Bob and his wife Kathleen lived at Port Kembla before he enlisted with the RAAF in mid 1941. He was based in Egypt with the 454 squadron and he was the Navigator in a crew of four when their plane took off at 4am on 2 April 1944 to do some reconnaissance flying over the Greek Island of Leros. The plane and the crew was never heard from again. It is thought they flew into the water before first light and disappeared. All four crew members are commemorated at the Alamein Memorial in Egypt.

**George Allen COMER (1935)**

Service Number NX432125. Allen, as he was known, was born in Wollongong on 5 June 1922. He enlisted at age 20 on 5 December 1942 in the RAAF and was attached to the RAF in England. When he enlisted, he was a second year Science Research student at Sydney University, after having scored Honours in English and Geography, an A and four Bs in the 1938 Leaving Certificate. He was a Flying Officer with the RAF's Number 138 squadron and lost his life along with all of his crew mates, when their plane was shot down during a flying battle over the North Sea on 31 December 1944. The bodies were not recovered and there is a memorial for Allen at Runnymede Memorial Cemetery in Surrey, England.

**Edmund Russell "Russ" CRITCHER (1930)**

Service Number 402319. Russ was born at Corrimal on 18 February 1918 and was Dux of Corrimal primary school in 1929. After winning a bursary to WHS he began in 1930 and in 1932, gained one of the best Intermediate passes on the South Coast with six As and a B. He left school at the end of 1932, aged 14, and sat for the NSW Public Works exam in January

1933, finishing 27th in the State against youths up to 19 years of age. He then began as a clerk in the Endowment office in the Social Service Department in early 1933, located in Macquarie Street Sydney. A part-time member of the 2nd Division Signal Corps in the AMF from August 1936 to October 1938, Russ married his wife, Lola, on 26 March 1940 and at that time had risen to an executive position with the Public Service. At that time, the couple were living in Homebush. At 185 cms tall and weighing 75 kgs Russ was a well built man. He enlisted in Sydney on 8 August 1940 and after 10 months of training in NSW, he was sent for some more training in Canada before moving to England in late 1941. He received his flying badge on 4 August 1941 and while in Canada he topped his graduation class with a mark of 96.3. A Flying Officer with the 461 squadron, his plane was shot down during a flying battle over the Bay of Biscay on 29 November 1943. He was presumed dead and his body was not recovered. There is a memorial for Russ at Runnymede Cemetery in Surrey, England.



Edmund Russell 'Russ' Critcher



James Herbert English



The last Cadet Passing Out parade at Smith's Hill

#### **James Herbert ENGLISH, DFC (1934)**

Service Number 413843. Born in Sydney on 8 July 1921, James and his family came to Thirroul around 1930. He began at WHS in 1934, obtaining four Bs in the 1938 Leaving Certificate, as well as finishing first in the WHS French class. An excellent rugby league player, he was a member of the WHS team (10 stone or 64 kg limit) who won the Westwood Cup final against Christian Brothers College at Wollongong Showground in August 1938, while he also played grade football with the Thirroul club. At the Wollongong Showground on 15 September 1940, he was fullback in the Premiership winning Thirroul first grade team, who beat Corrimal 4-3 in the Grand Final. He completed the necessary training to become a primary school teacher at the end of 1940, but only taught for seven months before enlisting in the RAAF at Sydney on 13 September 1941. A member of the 460 squadron, he was the pilot with a crew of seven plus War Correspondent, Norman Stockton from Australian Associated News and the Sydney Sun, when their plane, a Lancaster W4881, took off from Binbrook in Lincolnshire around 4.45pm on 2 December 1943. Their mission was a bombing raid over Berlin and the crew was an experienced one, with pilot, James English, a veteran of 28 previous missions. The plane was attacked by two night fighters 80 kms out from Berlin and they shot away the tail plane and killed two of the bomber crew.

The attack continued and the port wing was hit. According to Flight/Sergeant Arthur Catty, who was the bomb aimer in the plane, the escape hatch wouldn't open and the plane began to spin downwards. The petrol tank then exploded blowing the nose off and sending Catty and two other crew members into the air. They then pulled their parachutes, allowing the three men to land near a small village where they were soon captured and sent to prisoner of war camps. Catty made an official report of the mission when he returned to England after the War. Another crew member, who parachuted out, Navigator Jack Anderson, reported after the War that he was almost certain that James English was not wearing his parachute and was probably killed when the plane crashed. The plane came down in the early hours of 3 December 1943, near the small village of Goettin, 80 kms west of Berlin. According to exhumation reports after the War, a pilot's brevet and braid were found on one of the bodies in the Goettin cemetery and so this was recognized as the body of James English. He was re-buried in the Berlin/Heerestrasse War Cemetery. James English was awarded a Distinguished Flying Cross (DFC) posthumously, which was announced on 28 March 1944 and with effect from 28 November 1943. The Citation read, "For skill and courage in operations against the enemy." The medal was presented to his father by the Governor-General at Admiralty House, Sydney on 23 July 1945.

### **Frank Drury "Bush" HAMILTON (1927)**

Service Number NX403050. Born at Thirroul on 24 June 1915, Frank enlisted in Sydney on 9 December 1940. After some training as a spitfire pilot, he was posted to England where he served with the 131 squadron from November 1941. Six months later he was sent back home to join the famous Australian spitfire squadron 457. Frank was located to Darwin and on 6 July 1943, the Japanese sent 26 bombers and 21 fighters to attack Darwin's Fenton airfield. The Australians sent 33 planes to meet this force, shooting down nine of the raiders but losing seven spitfires, one of which Frank was flying. He crashed at Billabong Ridge, north of Litchfield station, off Anson Bay. Before the War, he was an assistant superintendent at MLC Insurance. He is buried in the Northern Territory Memorial Cemetery at Adelaide River.

### **George Stewart HOTCHKIS (1930)**

Service Number NX413386. Born at Thirroul on 26 February 1918, George and his wife Joan lived at Lindfield before he enlisted. He was a Flight Sergeant in the 149 RAF squadron and on 27 September 1943, he was the pilot with a crew of six others, when their plane took off from Lakenheath in Suffolk England on a mission to bomb the German industrial city of Hanover. The plane was lost without trace although a distress signal was picked up 57 minutes after midnight, informing the base that they were about to ditch over the North Sea. The plane was badly hit after the bombing and three of the crew parachuted out over Germany and were soon captured and sent to prisoner of war camps. According to reports after the War by the three who parachuted out of the plane, three crew members could have been shot by the attacking German planes and were dead in the plane, while pilot George Hotchkis was not wounded and continued to fly the plane. They believed he was trying to nurse the plane back to England. Despite an extensive search the plane, or George Hotchkis, was never found. There is a memorial for him in the Runnymede Memorial Cemetery at Surrey, England.

### **Lloyd HUGHES (1923)**

Service Number NX35079. Born at Chilton near Durham England, Lloyd migrated to the Illawarra area with his family as a young boy. He was 30 years of age when he enlisted in April 1940 at Paddington and married to Edna. The manager of a Wollongong business, he was a Major in the 2/19th Australian Infantry Battalion, fighting in Malaya when he was killed in action on 9 February 1942. He is buried in the Kranji War Cemetery, Singapore.

### **Gordon William HUTTON (1929)**

Service Number NX402856. Known as Peter while at WHS, Gordon did the Leaving twice in 1933 and 1934. He often worked in the family butcher business at Bulli, but when he enlisted on 11 November 1940 in Sydney, he was training as an accountant with a Sydney company. He joined the RAAF and left Sydney on 22 April 1941 for a three month training course in Saskatchewan Canada before going on to England. As a Flight Sergeant flying Tiger Moths, he was killed in an aircraft accident at Middleborough England on 5 December 1941 and is buried in the Catterick Cemetery Yorkshire.

### **Ivor Hawkins JONES (1933)**

Service Number NX429230. School captain of WHS in 1937, Ivor was born at Wollongong on 3 August 1920 and grew up in Corrimal. After enlisting in 1940, he was sent to England to join the RAF's 1660 Conversion Unit as a Flight Sergeant. He was killed when his plane crashed while landing after a training exercise on 30 August 1944. He is buried at Botley Cemetery near Oxford in England.

### **Rex Allan KEARNON (1938)**

Service Number 24294. Rex was born on 18 April 1923 at Sheffield Tasmania. When his family moved to Austinmer in 1938, he came to WHS in second year and passed the Intermediate in 1939. He enlisted in the Australian Navy on 7 May 1940 while just 17. He was engaged as an ordinary seaman on the HMAS Sydney, serving with the light cruiser in the Indian Ocean from the port of Fremantle. On 19 November 1941, the Sydney became engaged in a mutually destructive battle with the German auxiliary cruiser, the Kormoran, off the Western Australian coast, west of Carnarvon. Both ships sank with all of Sydney's total of 645 crew members lost. After more than 66 years, both ships were located in March 2008. Rex was just 18 when he lost his life. There is a Commemoration for Rex and all his crew-mates at the Plymouth Naval Memorial in England.

### **Allan Charles LORD (1928)**

Service Number 2216. Allan was born at Ulladulla on 27 January 1916. After he left school he began working at Waters and Sons in Wollongong. Along with his new wife, Sheila, he moved to Brisbane in 1940, where he enlisted and became a Sergeant in the RAAF 23 Squadron. He died accidentally while on flying training exercise from Archerfield in Brisbane on 13 February 1942.

Two RAAF Wirraways collided over the Thornlands area of Brisbane, while practising air fighting tactics. Alan was an observer in one of the planes and he and his pilot were killed, as were the two occupants of the other plane. He is buried in the Brisbane General Cemetery at Toowong and left his wife and six months old son.

#### **Nathaniel Neville LYONS (ROSKIN) (1932)**

Service Number NX201219. Neville was born on 6 September 1919 in Melbourne as Neville Roskin. His father died when he was a small boy and his mother later remarried to Les Lyons and moved to Wollongong. Neville was enrolled at Wollongong public school under the surname of Lyons. He was a brilliant scholar and won a bursary to WHS from 1932 onwards. In his final year, he was Dux of the school and runner-up in the Senior Athletic Championship. In the 1936 Leaving, he had the school's best pass with Honours in Physics and Chemistry, plus three As and two Bs. The next year he began a medical degree at Sydney University, graduating with first class honours. In 1942, he and his wife Marie, from Kiama, lived at Kirribilli, while he worked as the Resident Medical Officer at the Royal Prince Alfred Hospital. As soon as he finished at WHS, he returned to his birth father's surname of Roskin. On 6 November 1942, he enlisted in the AIF at Paddington and after some training was promoted to captain of the 36 Infantry Battalion on 24 May 1943, working as a doctor in the AAMC (Australian Army Medical Corp). In June 1943 he was sent to Papua/New Guinea where he was involved in heavy fighting for many months on the Hoskins Peninsula in West New Britain, 570 kms north east of Port Moresby. He saved many lives over the next 18 months but working in the difficult and unsanitary conditions caught up with him and he suffered from extreme Dysentery, followed by Peritonitis, from November 1944. With inadequate medical resources he could not be saved and he passed away on 7 January 1945. He died at the Megigi Plantation on the Hoskins Peninsula and was buried in a makeshift grave in this location. After the War, on 18 January 1946, his remains were dug up and reburied at the Lae War Cemetery.

#### **Kenneth Charles McNAMARA (1929)**

Service Number NX128039. Ken was born on 8 September 1917 at Wollongong and grew up in the Cordeaux River area. He was part of a big, cricket loving family and the Cordeaux River team in the 1935/36 Illawarra second grade competition contained six McNamaras. These were Jim, Jack, Bob, Eric, Ray and Ken.

After enlisting at Dapto in late 1940, Ken became a member of the 2/10th Australian Infantry Battalion and sent to Buna in New Guinea, 160 kms north east of Port Moresby via the Kokoda trail. He was wounded in action a couple of days before Christmas and put on a hospital ship. Sadly he died from his severe wounds on 29 December 1942 while sailing back to Australia. Ken is buried at the Northern Territory Memorial Cemetery, Adelaide River.

#### **Ivor Henry MEGGITT (1928)**

Service Number 40633 (in RAF). Born in England on 20 November 1916, Ivor and his family migrated to Australia when he was a small boy. They settled in Austinmer and Ivor attended WHS from 1928 until he completed the Leaving with two As and Four Bs in 1932. Always interested in flying, Ivor worked in several jobs until he was one of 12 young Australians selected for special flying training in England, in 1937. When the War began, he was still in the UK so he enlisted with the Royal Air Force, joining the 210 squadron as a Flying Officer. He served in the Reconnaissance Branch and in October 1940, was promoted to Flight Lieutenant and became the pilot of a Sunderland Flying Boat, working in the Inner Hebrides in north western Scotland. On Christmas Eve 1940, German planes attacked some British cargo ships near Ivor's base and on 27 December 1940, he was killed while making a routine night landing. His plane hit some of the debris from a ship, which was sunk by the Germans, causing the Sunderland to break up. All but one of the 11 man crew died in the freezing water. He is buried at the Pennyfuir cemetery, near Oban in Scotland. He is one of 146 Australian service personnel, who were killed in World War Two and are buried in 48 cemeteries across Scotland. Ivor's parents had a scare in February 1945 when his younger brother, John, who was a Flying Officer in the RAAF, was reported missing in action. However he was located a few days later and survived the War. John, Service Number 424599, was also a student of WHS.

#### **Maurice Raymond PERRY (1938)**

Service Number NX48930. Maurice was from a farming family near Kiama. He was born on 7 July 1920 and did the Intermediate Certificate as an older student, passing in 1940, aged 20, with four Bs and an A. He enlisted at Paddington on 8 October 1941 and was sent to New Guinea with the 7th Machine Gun Battalion. He died in mysterious circumstances on 12 May 1943.



The official presentation of the Memorial Table

A Court of Enquiry was held into his death just four days later, on 16 May. On Maurice's Service and Casualty Forms, the following three points are recorded without any comment. 1. He died in the field as a result of an extensive gunshot wound in the head, inflicted by his own hand. 2. He was on duty at the time of his decease. 3. He committed a breach of regulations and an act of disobedience in the loading and firing of his rifle. There is no doubt that many in wartime are affected by the horror of what is happening around them. Nowadays this is recognized much more readily than it was back in 1943. Did Maurice suffer a mental breakdown, was it an accident or was there some other cause for what is written in his records? We will probably never know. He is buried at the Bomana War Cemetery, Milne Bay, near Port Moresby.

#### **James Temple PHILPOT (1931)**

Service Number 403532. James was born at Lithgow on 24 November 1918 and came to Wollongong with his family around 1928. In the 1933 Intermediate, he scored four Bs. He was a Flight Sergeant in the RAF's number 50 Squadron. He died on 24 October 1942, when his plane crashed during a flying battle with

the Germans, over France. James is buried at Bayeux Cemetery in Normandy, France.

#### **Henry James PHIPPS (1927)**

Service Number 402879. Henry was born at Woonona on 3 December 1914 and attended WHS from 1927 to 1932, doing the Leaving twice, in 1931 and 1932. After marrying his wife Eileen in August 1940, the couple moved to Chatswood and he enlisted three months later, in Sydney. He was a Leading Aircraftman with the RAAF, serving at the Flying Training School at Wagga Wagga. He died on 20 June 1941, when he was flying a light aircraft, a Wirraway A20-172, carrying out instrument flying practice with a trainee pilot. The weather was extremely bad and both men were killed when the plane crashed into the Marraguldrrie State Pine Forest, which was obscured by heavy banks of clouds. Both were killed on impact and Henry's remains are at the NSW Cremation Memorial, Rookwood.

#### **Brian Wallis POLSON (1933)**

Service Number 411641. Brian was born at Marrickville on 1 July 1921 and did the Leaving at

WHS in 1937, scoring five Bs and an A. He enlisted in the RAAF in Sydney and after some training in England, was stationed with RAF Headquarters in Gibraltar as a Flying Officer. On 12 March 1943, he piloted Hudson FK 621, which was detailed to carry out an operational flight from Gibraltar to England. The plane crashed on take off at 1.32am in nearby Spanish territory and all four crew members were killed. The Gibraltar Cemetery had been severely damaged by German bombing, so there was a lack of burial grounds. Permission was given to bury the four men at sea on 14 March 1943. The four names are commemorated on a special Memorial at Gibraltar. This Memorial commemorates the names of 91 airmen and soldiers who died during World War Two and were buried at sea.

#### **Jack Ivan PRITCHARD (1927)**

Service Number 421047. Jack was born at Wollongong on 20 August 1914 and enlisted in the RAAF at Sydney on 7 December 1941. After school, he first became a teacher and then from 1937, worked for the NSW Education Department as a Research Officer. Flight Lieutenant Pritchard was a member of Number 467 Squadron and it was based in England from early 1942. Around 2.30pm on 3 January 1945, Jack, as Navigator and his crew took off from the Waddington Air Force Base in Lincolnshire. Around 4pm, while flying in heavy cloud cover, the plane crashed into the side of a hill, NNE of Leek in Staffordshire. All crew members were killed. Jack is buried at the Blacon Cemetery near Chester in England. He married his Canadian wife Catherine in London on 1 May 1943. Just a few weeks before Jack's death, his wife had moved back to Regina in Canada, where the couple intended to live after the War.

#### **Francis Archibald RANDALL DFC (1934)**

Service Number 413896. Archie, as he was known at school, grew up at Mt. Ousley and in the 1938 Leaving, he obtained Honours in Maths I and Maths II, plus three As and two Bs. He began a science degree at Sydney University, living at St. Andrews College. He joined the Air Force Reserve at Wollongong Showground on 27 August 1940 and a year later on 13 September 1941, enlisted for the RAAF in Sydney, when he had completed his Science Degree. Born on 13 June 1922, his flying badge was awarded on 24 September 1942. A couple of weeks later he was sent to England where he joined the 460 squadron. From November 1942, he piloted many bombers in raids over Berlin, Essen, Hamburg and

Milan. On 4 September 1943, he and his crew of six were ordered to bomb Berlin, but they were badly hit by flak and attacked by fighter planes as they reached their target. This meant an early release of the bombs and with damaged engines, a course was set for neutral Sweden. The plane was in trouble and so at various intervals Archie ordered his crew to bale out. They did this safely, but three were captured by the Germans and sent to prison camps, while the other three landed in Sweden. Archie was the last to parachute out and he landed in the North Sea, near Helsingborg, where he was picked up by a Swedish fishing vessel. As a neutral country the Swedish Army arrested the Australian and the three crewmen who made it to Sweden. They were treated well and soon returned to England. The three who were captured by the Germans were sent to prison camps but came home safely to England after the War. Archie was awarded a DFC (Distinguished Flying Cross) for his actions on the 4 September mission. The Citation in November 1943, reads as follows, "Flying Officer Randall is a cool and resourceful pilot whose keenness and determination has set a very fine example. He has completed many sorties and has always endeavoured to press home his attacks with vigour. On one occasion in an operation against Berlin in September 1943, his aircraft was repeatedly attacked by several fighters. The bomber was extensively damaged but a superb effort by Flying Officer Randall succeeded in flying it clear. In the face of an extremely harassing situation, this officer displayed courage and skill of the highest order." Before he could be presented with his DFC, Archie died on 16 December 1943, while trying to land his badly damaged plane after returning from a raid in Germany. He is buried at Cambridge City Cemetery in England. Ironically, on 14 October 1944, his parents and his sister were involved in a car accident on Maddens Plains while on the way to Government House in Sydney to collect Archie's DFC. No-one was seriously injured. Archie had two brothers - one served in the AIF and the other in the Merchant Navy.

#### **George William SAWBRIDGE (1931)**

Service Number 20640. George was born at Bulli on 6 September 1915. He grew up at Wombarra and was a good musician at an early age. In the Victoria College of Music Exams during December 1923, when he was eight years of age, he scored a honours pass in the Intermediate section for Violin playing. He passed the Intermediate in 1930 while a student at Wollongong Tech, but came across to WHS in 1931, where he sat for the Leaving twice. In 1932 he scored six Bs and in 1933 finished with Honours in Geology, an A and three Bs.

After enlisting in the Royal Australian Navy on 7 January 1935, he served on several ships over the next few years, including HMAS Sydney from 2 May 1939 to 26 March 1941. In May 1940, the Sydney was deployed for eight months to join the British Fleet in the Mediterranean Sea. In late March 1941, George was moved to work on a Sydney shore base but then he was sent back to HMAS Sydney on 3 July 1941, for service in the Indian Ocean. He was a Bandsman on the ship and was killed in action on 19 November 1941, when the Sydney was engaged in a mutually destructive battle with the German Auxiliary Cruiser, the Kormoran, off the Western Australian Coast. All 645 on board the Sydney were lost. Both ships were sunk and not located until March 2008. George is remembered at the Plymouth Naval Memorial in England.

#### **Frank Aubrey STUMBLES (1930)**

Born in Wollongong on 16 September 1916, Frank enlisted in the Australian Army at Paddington on 24 June 1940. Private Frank Stumbles was a driver with the 1 Corps Ammunition Park AASC and he was killed in action in Greece on 24 April 1941. His death was not confirmed until nearly two years after he was shot, in February 1943. Married to Gladys with two children. Frank was a very active member of the North Wollongong Surf Life Saving Club after joining the club at age 13. At the 1930 WHS Speech Day, he received a Merit Certificate for third place in Arithmetic in class 1C.

#### **Ronald Hastings SUTTON (1917)**

Service Number NG2031. Born in Wollongong on 27 October 1901, Ronald was a student in the first year of WHS when he came into year eight in late January 1917. In August 1918, he won the cycling race at the High School sports day. He spent three years at WHS, before moving to Newington College in Sydney for 1920. He did not pass the Leaving and after finishing school, he tried various jobs, before moving to Papua/New Guinea when gold started to be mined at the Bulolo Gold Mines in March 1932. Bulolo is located in the Morobe Province, 210 kms north west of Port Moresby. When the Second World War began, the white repatriates formed the New Guinea Rifles in 1939. Ronald joined this group at that time, as a Corporal and the group became an official part of the AIF in early 1941. Like a lot of servicemen serving in the tropics, Ronald suffered from Malaria and Dysentery. In early August 1942, he became very ill and was transferred to the Army Hospital at Charters Towers in Queensland.

He died on 10 September 1942 and is buried at the Charters Towers War Cemetery. Ronald's wife, Pauline, left New Guinea when the War began and moved to Mosman in Sydney.

#### **Vincent Kerr TANKO (1926)**

Service Number NX34186. Vincent was born at Wollongong on 9 November 1912 and passed the Intermediate at WHS in 1928. He then left school and began a nine year stint, working with local real estate firm, Frank Bevan and Sons. In the early 1930s, Vince became the secretary of the St. Michaels Church Parish Council and also the Superintendent of the Sunday School. On Monday 28 March 1938, he resigned from these positions to study as a Church of England Minister. However severe illness caused him to drop out of this course and he returned to Wollongong to recover. In mid 1939, he began working as a clerk at CRM and then enlisted in the AIF on 30 May 1940. After some training, he was sent to Singapore and on to Malaya with the 1 Company Australian Army Services Corps in late May 1941. He fought in Malaya (as it was called in those days) for several months but went missing in action on 11 April 1942. A few weeks later he was declared a Prisoner of War and was in the Changi camp. On 7 July 1942, he was one of 1,494 POWs on a tramp ship who were transported to the Sandakan camp in north Borneo. All prisoners of the Japanese suffered terribly and although he lasted in these poor conditions for two and a half years, Vince died on 7 February 1945, just a little more than six months before the War ended. Where he is buried is not known, but he is commemorated in the Labual Memorial at Labuan, Malaysia. Lance Corporal Tanko may have been forced to make the first of the infamous Sandakan death marches. He married his wife Ruth on 28 December 1940 and stained glass windows at St. Michaels Church were dedicated to him on 15 September 1946.

#### **Noel Francis THOMAS (1928)**

Service Number NX13517. Noel, was born on 16 November 1915 and came from Shellharbour. He studied at WHS from 1928 until he passed the Leaving Certificate in 1933 with an A in Maths I and five Bs. He had also scored five Bs in the 1932 Leaving. When he enlisted at Paddington in 1940, he had been working for several years as a surveyor. A member of the AIF's Royal Australian Engineers, he saw service in the Middle East at Syria where he was promoted to Lieutenant in July 1942.

Sent back home to Australia to serve with the 2nd Railway Construction Company in the Northern Territory, Noel was severely injured while working and died on 17 April 1944. He is buried at the Adelaide River War Cemetery in the Northern Territory. This was the second tragedy which his parents Henry and Elizabeth suffered within four months, as Noel's older brother Warwick had been accidentally killed at Goulburn while home on leave, on 30 December 1943. Warwick, (service Number NX4910), was born on 9 September 1912 and had also served in the Middle East with the AIF. Warwick went to Wollongong Tech and passed the Intermediate in 1927.

#### **Charles Reginald WARD (1940)**

Service Number S7795. Charles was born in Sydney on 10 April 1925 and did the Intermediate in 1942 in his last year at WHS. He was awarded a Rugby Blue that same year and enlisted in the Royal Australian Navy soon after leaving school, on 4 January 1943. His first ship was the *Bingera*, which was an Auxiliary anti-submarine vessel. On 1 November 1943, Able Seaman Ward was transferred to HMAS *Australia*. In January 1945, the ship was cruising in the Lingayen Gulf covering the Allied invasion of Luzon Island, which is the Philippines largest Island. The Japanese Kamikaze pilots were at their worst during this period and on 6 January Charles was one of 14 killed when around 5.30pm, a Kamikaze violently smashed into HMAS *Australia*, between the four inch (10cms) guns. As well as the 14 dead, there were 26 others injured and the casualties were mainly from the gun crews. A few days later, the Sydney Morning Herald said that Charles was missing, presumed dead. His body was never found. He was just 19 and is commemorated at the Plymouth Naval Memorial in England.

#### **Ronald WHEATLEY (1934)**

Service Number 412053. Born at Lemington, near Newcastle in England on 23 January 1922, Ronald and his family migrated to Australia in 1931. He passed the Intermediate at WHS in 1936 with four As and four Bs and then left school to begin work as a clerk with the Department of Works in Wollongong, while studying Bookkeeping at night. He enlisted in the RAAF at Sydney 21 June 1941 as a 19 year old and left Sydney three months later to San Francisco and on to Edmonton in Canada for a few months of training. After doing well at training, he was awarded a Target Finding Badge and then was commissioned as a Pilot Officer on 3 April 1942. On arrival in England, he

joined the Number 35 Squadron with the RAF, based at Graveley in Cambridgeshire. The 35 Squadron was a Pathfinder unit and in March 1943, Ronald and his crew were part of a mission, which inflicted severe damage on the German city of Essen. Just a few weeks later, on 15 April, in another raid over Germany, Ronald's plane was shot down in a Flying Battle. He and his crew mates were reported as presumed dead and this was confirmed after the War. He is buried in the Rheinberg War Cemetery at Rheinberg, Germany, which is about 70 kms north of Koln, near the Dutch border.

#### **Harry Conolly WISEMAN (1924)**

Service Number NX12458. Born at Cooma on 9 October 1911, Harry was the son of prominent Wollongong Pharmacist, WJ Wiseman. A good scholar and an excellent all-round sportsman, Harry spent three years at WHS, followed by two years at Newington College in Sydney. In 1926, he was the junior athletic champion at WHS, while in the 1928 Leaving, he obtained honours in Mechanics, two As and three Bs, as a Newington student. At Newington he was a member of the first XV Rugby team and an athletic champion, holding the NSW junior high jump record for two years. He began a Science degree, living at Wesley College, at Sydney University in 1929 and completed this at the end of 1931. He was given Athletic Blues in 1930 and 1931, after representing the University in Melbourne, Adelaide and Hobart. On 5 December 1931, he cleared 182 cms (nearly six feet), to win the Sydney Interclub High Jump event. He also toured New Zealand with the University Rugby team in 1931. In early 1932, he started at his father's Wollongong shop, playing local rugby league with Western Suburbs and cricket with Wollongong, and later first grade soccer. In 1934, he played soccer for the NSW Pharmacists against their Victorian rivals. He was also an excellent golfer and tennis player, while at the time of his enlistment at Paddington on 24 May 1940, he was an Alderman on the Wollongong Council. Serving with the 2/1st Australian Infantry Battalion in the Middle East, where he was stationed for more than a year, he met and married an Australian nurse, Maureen. The couple had twin daughters, who were born in mid 1942. After returning home from the Middle East, around October 1941, he was sent to Papua/New Guinea. On 21 November 1942, Captain Wiseman was killed in action and is buried at Port Moresby's Bomana War Cemetery.

Several WHS teachers also served in the Australian Forces during World War Two. These were;

Sergeant ORLANDO HUNT (English-History) Service Number NX99544. Born on 27 July 1906, he saw action in New Guinea and then was given the task of editing brochures for the Services on the political and economic organization of the Commonwealth. Orlando came to WHS as an English teacher in 1938 and went to War with the AIF in January 1943 until November 1945. After the War he taught at Goulburn High (1946-48) and was appointed as English Master of WHS in 1949, a position he held until the end of 1955. He then moved to Enmore (1956-57), James Cook (1958-60) and Blakehurst High in 1961, from where he retired on 4 October 1966. He died at Turramurra in Sydney in July 1979, aged 71.

Major JAMES FRANCIS WOODS was WHS sportsmaster and taught English in 1939. He enlisted at the end of 1941 and served in the Pacific from 1942 to 1945. He returned to the staff from 1946 to 1954 before moving to Leeton High as English master.

Born on 16 July 1905, Flight/Lieutenant ALBERT GEORGE NEIL (Maths) (Service Number 263087), taught at WHS from the beginning of 1937 to the 10 July 1939, when he went to England as an exchange teacher. Back teaching at Lismore High in 1940, he became a RAAF Administrative Officer from 1941 to 1946. Returning to the South Coast after the War, Albert was Deputy at Corrimal High (1954) and then Bulli High (1955). He was seconded for six months from July 1955 as a secondary school inspector.

Bombardier JOHN STEWART MONAGHAN (Service Number N45515) taught English at WHS in 1939 to 1941 before enlisting in the AIF on 12 February 1942 at Wollongong. He finished his service on 11 October 1944 and was then re-employed as a High School teacher. Born on 23 April 1906 at Nowra, John Monaghan completed his teaching career as Principal of Pendle Hill High School from 30 September 1964 to the end of 1968.

Born on 24 January 1913 at Five Dock, Sergeant GEORGE TURNBULL taught PE at WHS from 1938 to 1941 before enlisting. He was re-employed as a teacher after hostilities were finished and worked at a Sydney school.

On 13 August 1945, Sergeant Reg Rattey visited Wollongong and Wollongong High School to appeal for financial support for the ACE. Sergeant Rattey was born in West Wyalong on 28 March 1918 and won a VC (Victoria Cross) for his bravery at Bougainville New Guinea in late 1944. He was presented with his VC in London by King George VI in 1946 and died on 10 January 1986. Just a week after Sergeant Rattey's visit, on Tuesday 22 August 1945, all Wollongong High students were part of the 6,000 Illawarra students from High and primary schools who took part in the victory march down Crown Street to the Wollongong Showground.

NOTE- Four Students from the first year of WHS, 1917, enlisted for World War One, but none of the four saw action. This was because their age prevented them from enlisting in the early stages and when they did volunteer it was near the end of hostilities. By the time they had been trained, the War had ended. These four were Wilfred Brown, Richard "Dick" Healy, Jack Hooper and Charles Stubbin. Some details of these four are as follows.

Wilfred Aubrey BROWN, Service Number N93626- He was from a farming family at Yallah and was born at Bulli on 31 August 1899 He enlisted on 8 August 1918.

Richard Alban HEALEY, Service Number N95162- Richard was born at Milton on 6 December 1899 and grew up at Albion Park. He had passed the 1917 Leaving and was studying at Sydney University when he enlisted on 14 October 1918.

John James HOOPER, Service Number N97115- The son of a Wollongong lawyer, John was born at Redfern on 28 June 1901 and was only at WHS for the year 1917. He was working in his father's office when he enlisted, just weeks before the War ended at Wollongong. Because of the late stage, he did not enter training camp.

Charles William STUBBIN, Service Number N93747- He was born at Wyong on 28 May 1900. His father was the Reverend Charles Stubbin from the Wollongong Methodist Church and he was actively involved with WHS in support of his son. Charles was an engineering student, working at the Port Kembla Electrolytic Plant, when he enlisted on 28 October 1918. Charles also enlisted in the AIF (Service Number 277923), at Moss Vale in the AIF, at age 40, to serve in World War Two.

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## OVERSEAS CHILDREN'S SCHEME

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In the early days of World War Two, England was subjected to continual bombing raids by the Germans. Parents were concerned for the safety of their children and so the British government decided to evacuate children to the north of Scotland, western Wales and the USA, as well as to several countries of the British Empire including Australia, Canada, New Zealand and South Africa. The body in England, which organized the evacuation, was the Children's Overseas Reception Board (CORB).

English parents paid around six shillings a week, if they could afford it, but this was to defray the cost of the journeys to and from the respective countries. In Australia none of the guardian families, as they were called, received any fee for taking care of the British children. They did so on a voluntary basis, although there was a small allowance should the need arise for medical, dental and hospital expenses.

According to the Australian National Archives, 577 British children, some as young as five, came to Australia in 1940. Many of these went to relatives and friends of their British families and while the experience was generally a good thing for the visitors and families alike, there were a few problems with the children not liking their guardian, or vice versa. A boy placed in a family at Rose Bay ran away and then committed some robberies. Two other boys were placed in the Berry Boys Training Home. In NSW, the British children were placed far and wide, including the Tweed River, Yass, Dubbo, Wagga, Brewarrina, Kandos and Wollongong. Probably about 10 of these children attended WHS and many of these went on to very successful lives when they returned home after the War, although a few decided to stay in Australia. More than 80 percent of the students, who came to Australia, sailed from Liverpool on 4 August 1940 on the SS Batory. On 13 September 1940, a German U-boat torpedoed and sunk the SS City of Benares and 77 of the 90 children on board lost their lives. After this tragedy, the British government decided it was too dangerous to send the children by sea and so the practice stopped.

The 1945 Gleam writes about some of these students who attended WHS and these are:

### **JOHN GARSIDE FETHNEY and MICHAEL JAMES FETHNEY**

John was born on 2 January 1927 at Bradford in Yorkshire and his younger brother, Michael, was born in the same town on 23 April 1931. They both arrived in Australia during October 1940 on the SS Batory. For the first three months or so, the brothers lived with Australian Federal Senator Harry Foll at his home in 347 Sydney Road, Balgowlah. Born in London in 1890, Foll had been in the landing party of the Australian Army at Gallipoli on 25 April 1915 and was Minister for the Interior when the Fethney brothers were with him. John attended North Sydney High for about six weeks while he was with Senator Foll.

Just after Christmas, the brothers were moved to Wollongong and sent to live with Dr. Palmer and his family at Main Road, Bulli. Dr. Palmer was a strong supporter of WHS and was a Vice President of the P and C when it was first formed in 1922. John Fethney began at WHS in third year at the beginning of 1941, while Michael attended a private primary school, Wenlock, in Bulli. John was a good student and an excellent sportsman. In the 1943 Leaving, he scored second-class Honours in English, three As and two Bs. One of his As was for Greek and he was the first ever WHS student and only one to do this subject in 1943. Mr. Lundie prepared him for the Examination. John also won a Blue for rugby league and in July 1943, at the Combined Illawarra Athletic Carnival, finished second in the Senior 880 yards race and third in the senior mile. He was also a prefect and involved with the Scouts.

After WHS, he did two years at Sydney University before returning to England. In 1948 he enrolled at Oxford University in the Theology department at Lincoln College and completed his BA in 1952. Over the next few years, he became a Deacon, then a Priest in the Church of England and finally a Curate at West Hackney in 1955. In 1957 he went to Pakistan where he worked for the Church for the next 12 years and among other things was instrumental in building a new church. After coming back to England in October 1968, he worked for the Church in various educational roles around England including York, London, Guildford and

finally East Wittering at Chichester in 1996. He died on 9 March 2001 aged 74. Years after returning home, John was quoted in the book, "Stories of Overseas Evacuees in World War Two". He said, "There is no substitute for a loving family unit. Dr. Palmer and his family were very formal and we always had to use the words, doctor or missus. The doctor was quiet and nervous, while his wife was very moody and I often was made to feel I had offended her. But they were not bad people."

#### **MICHAEL FETHNEY**

Michael began in first year at WHS in 1943 and passed the Intermediate in 1945. After going home, he completed his schooling at Bradford Grammar School and then went on to Worcester College at Oxford University where he completed a MA followed by a Diploma in Theology at Queens College, Birmingham. He did his National Service in the British Navy and represented Combined Services at rugby. He then taught Religion at Bingley Secondary College, then moved to Ermysted's Grammar School in Skipton from 1959 to 1963. Next he went to Lord William's School in Oxfordshire, followed by Rishworth Grammar School in Halifax before returning to Ermysted's from 1968 to 1973. After that he became Deputy Head at St. Aiden's School Harrogate, and completed a PhD at York University. Nearly 50 years after leaving Wollongong, Michael wrote a successful book, titled, "The Absurd and the Brave- the true account of the British Government's World War Two evacuation of children overseas."

#### **RITA PATTERSON**

Rita was born at 12 Coburg Avenue, Blyth, Northumberland in 1934. She was only six years of age when she left England and came to live with her great uncle and aunt, Mr. and Mrs. Straker, at 13 Woodlawn Avenue, West Wollongong. She began at West Wollongong public school in the last few weeks of 1940 and was an excellent student at primary school, as well as a good all-round athlete, especially at vigoro. Towards the end of sixth class in late 1943, along with good friend, Elvie Rees, they became the first students from the school to win a bursary to Wollongong High. In 1944 she began at WHS in first year and was in second year when she returned home on the HMS Andes in November 1945. She became Mrs Jackson in the late 1950s and was employed for many years as a Social Worker. In 2016, she was still living close to Blyth. The Illawarra Historical Society Bulletins of July and August 1983, feature a great story on Rita, as well

as the letter sent by the Queen in 1943 (the late Queen mother), thanking the Strakers for hosting Rita.

#### **LUCY DOROTHY GRAHAM**

Lucy was born in 1926 and lived with the Carter family of 1 Beach Road, Bellambi when she came to Wollongong in late 1940. She passed the Intermediate at WHS in 1941, scoring an A and five Bs. In 1942, while in fourth year, she was Senior Girls' athletic champion and vice captain of Bass House. Towards the end of 1942, she left school and began working as an office assistant at the Woonona Co-Op, being paid 18 shillings and three pence a week. A year later, she started at Corrimal Post Office as a telephonist. She sailed for home on the HMS Andes in November 1945 and became Mrs. Smith after returning home.

#### **MARION AND ENID BURROWS**

Marion and Enid lived with the Hatfield family at 4 Corrimal Street Wollongong. Marion, whose married name is Ketteringham, began at WHS, aged 14 in first year, in 1942. She passed the Intermediate in 1944 with an A and three Bs. She was a member of the WHS special Commercial class in 1945. Enid, who became Mrs. Marshall after returning home, won a bursary to WHS at the end of 1944 from Wollongong Primary. She was a member of class 1A in 1945. Sadly their father died in May 1944, while the sisters were in Wollongong. They returned home in November, 1945.

#### **GEORGE DENIS STAFF AND GERTRUDE HEATHER STAFF**

George and Gertrude lived with the Ashford family at 9 Lawson Street, Port Kembla. Denis was born in 1930 and Heather in 1932. Both attended Port Kembla Primary after arriving in Australia, in October 1940. Denis began at WHS as a first year boy in 1944. He was very involved with the Port Kembla Sea Scouts and at the Whiteway Theatre, Port Kembla on 27 May 1945, spoke at a function to celebrate 21 years of South Coast Scouting. He gave the prayers and thanks for the British Empire, the Forces and the Scouting and Guide movement. Later that year at a Wollongong Rotary club dinner, he was a special guest and gave a very impressive speech. In this speech he told how he joined the cubs as a boy and England in 1937 and came to Australia as an Overseas Evacuee because of World War Two. Heather began as a first former in 1945. Both Heather and Denis returned to England in late November 1945. Denis passed away in his late fifties.



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## WOLLONGONG HIGH CADETS

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World War Two ended on 2 September 1945 and a few days later, a Cadet Unit was established at Wollongong High School. Deputy Principal, Lieutenant Edward Wallace, was the OC or Commanding Officer, while the total enrolment was 86. The first parade was held on 29 September and the detachment paraded every Monday afternoon. Warrant Officer Barr travelled down from Victoria Barracks in Sydney each Monday afternoon to give initial recruit instructions. Fifth form boys could not join in that first year, as it was too close to the Leaving Certificate. Because of this, fourth year boys were the officers and these included Robert Powys (A/CSM), Campbell Steele (A/CQMS), Jack Stoddart (Acting Cpl Storeman) and Robert Allen. Clothing and equipment arrived soon after the unit was formed and these were quickly issued to all cadets.

The next year, the Gleam magazine complained that there were disappointing attendances during 1946, but on a positive note, two cadets had done well in shooting competitions. In the King George V Imperial Challenge Shield, Cpl Campbell Steele gained the highest marks in NSW, while S/Sgt Jack Stoddart scored the second highest mark in the Illawarra Shield competition. Major Jack Woods returned to the English staff after serving with the AIF and towards the end of 1946, he became the OC of the cadet unit. The local show society donated a shield for competition between the four South Coast Schools who had cadet units. These Schools were Nowra Intermediate, Christian Brothers College, Wollongong Junior Technical School and Wollongong High. It was called the AH and I Shield and Nowra won the first competition with WHS second. The competition was in two parts and these were shooting, plus drill and ceremonial.

In April 1947, 116 NSW schools had Cadet Units with the WHS unit having a nominal roll of 146. Major Woods was the OC with ex-airman Lieutenant Orkney (English staff) as his second in charge. On 28 April 1947, a colour party from WHS cadets led an Anzac parade from Austinmer railway station to the War Memorial near the beach. Local identity, Roy Giles, donated two more trophies for competition from 1947 onwards, one for drill and the other for shooting. There were different rules for the Giles trophies, compared to the AH and I. WHS was second in the AH and I, and the same in the Giles Trophies.

In 1948, the Gleam again complained that the WHS Cadet Unit did not have the full-hearted support of the pupils, especially in the senior years. The unit did compete in the King George V Imperial Challenge Shield and the AH and I Shield but were not impressive in these competitions. The Unit also attended the annual camp at Ingleburn in May, as well as a bivouac at South Head in June on the Kings Birthday weekend.

More pupils were asked to join the unit in the 1949 Gleam report. In both the AH and I Shield and Giles Trophies competitions, WHS finished second to Nowra. WHS Cadet Lieutenant, Robert James, won the trophy for the highest score on the rifle range. During 1949, Major Woods began more practice sessions.

Things began to improve in 1950 with WHS winning the Drill section of the Giles Trophy. This was the school's first Cadet trophy. Nowra won their fifth successive AH and I Shield with WHS again second.

There was much rejoicing in late October 1951 when WHS won their first ever AH and I Shield. They also won the Giles shooting trophy, while finishing second in the Giles drill section. WHS cadets K. Jones won the individual shooting championship and B. Stevenson was the Minature Range champion. Lieutenant Brian Downes became the second in charge to Major Woods in 1951. Mal Purcell of WHS cadets was one of four Illawarra cadets chosen to march in the Jubilee celebrations in Canberra during June 1951.

The success continued in 1952 with WHS retaining the AH and I Shield and also winning both Giles trophies. Cadet Lieutenants Ian Waters and David O'Meley received the trophies.

Between 50,000 and 60,000 people crowded along Crown Street on Saturday afternoon, 6 June 1953, to see the largest and most spectacular parade in Illawarra history. People were on roofs, awnings, windows and construction sites to watch the Wollongong Coronation Celebration Procession and WHS cadets marched near the front of the parade. In 1953, WHS cadets won five trophies. They retained the AH and I Shield, took out the two Giles trophies and won the two new JJ Kelly trophies for best open range shooting and minature range shooting. Cadet Lieutenant David O'Meley was the Individual Shooting winner with a score of 115 from a possible 120. JJ Russell scored 88 out of 100 to win the minature shoot.

The success continued in 1954 in what was Major Woods last year before transferring to Leeton High. WHS retained the AH and I Shield plus the Giles trophies with NCO Tom Wallace, Sgt/Major Barry Finlayson and Sgt John Stanworth prominent in these competitions.

Major Ron Stewart took over as OC from John Woods in 1955 with Lieutenant Brian Downes remaining as second in charge. There were 72 officers and cadets in the 1955 unit and the school won their fifth successive and last, AH and I Shield. CUO Barry Finlayson, WO Frank Catt, and Cpl James Tobler were prominent in the competitions.

Major Ron Stewart continued as OC in 1956 with Lieutenant J. Giles replacing Brian Downes as second in charge. Wollongong Tech narrowly won the AH and I Shield from WHS, although WHS won the Open Range Shoot and the JJ Kelly Cup. CUO Roger Evans was the most outstanding cadet in 1956.

For the next three years, Major Ron Stewart was the OC with Lieutenant Giles his number two man. In all three of these years, WHS finished second to Wollongong Tech in the AH and I Shield. In 1957 there were 68 cadets and CUO Ron Stuart was the best cadet of the year. CUO Gordon Duff was the Adjutant in 1958 and also the best cadet. The CUOs during this time included Peter Valk, Gary Kemp, Ron Young, Mal Ritchie, Roy Powell, Graeme Ross, Michael Penrose, James Stewart and Ian Bannister. James Stewart was the best cadet in 1959.

Lieutenant AJ Day took over as OC in 1960 and held this position for four years. The CUOs this year were Kevin Delaney, Jeff Jones, while Peter Reid was CUO and Adjutant. Peter had been a Warrant Officer the previous year and was named best cadet in 1960. Peter was accepted into Duntroon for 1961. In both 1960 and 1961, WHS could only manage third place in the AH and I Shield, while in 1962 and 1963 they were second. CUOs in 1962 were Ian Fevre, Paul Jackson and Terry Gardiner, while the 1963 CUOs were Paul Jackson, Terry Gardiner and Murray Weir. Ian Fevre was the best cadet in 1962 and in 1964, Paul Jackson and Terry Gardiner, began at Duntroon.

Captain I. McLeod took over as OC for the next four years in 1964, after AJ Day was transferred to Port Kembla High. CUOs from 1964 to 1967 included Peter Sydlarczuk, Stephen Sainsbury, Rod Oxley, Lindsay May, John Abbott, James Johnston, Michael Condon, Chris Gadsden and Rod Hinks. WHS were second in the AH and I in 1964, but from then on, only competed in part of the competition. They won the Guard Mounting and Drill Squad competitions in 1966 and the Guard Mounting Competition in 1967.

Lieutenant M. O'Mullane took over as OC for 1968 and 1969. CUOs in this time included Bruce Williams, who received the cadet baton for 1968, Warren Bell, Ross McPhee and Paul Greer. The only competition WHS entered in 1968 was the Guard Mounting and they won this for the third successive year. In the 1969 Gleam, CUO Paul Greer uses his entire report to ask why the WHS cadet unit was on the decline. There is no mention of other officers or competition results.

The 1970 Gleam features a quarter page piece headed, "THE CULMINATION OF AN ERA." The author of this article is Ian Williams who describes himself as Ex CUO I. Williams. His opening sentence is "Wollongong High School Cadet Unit has been terminated." He completes his story by writing "Wollongong High School Cadet Unit will probably never again be a feature of school activities."



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## THE ROYAL MILITARY COLLEGE, DUNTROON

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Duntroon opened in June 1911 and during this time there have been several Wollongong High boys graduate from this prestigious establishment. How many Wollongong High boys have studied there is difficult to establish, but what is known is that PETER REID is the first member of the Wollongong High Cadet Unit to graduate from Duntroon. Born on 5 July 1942, he

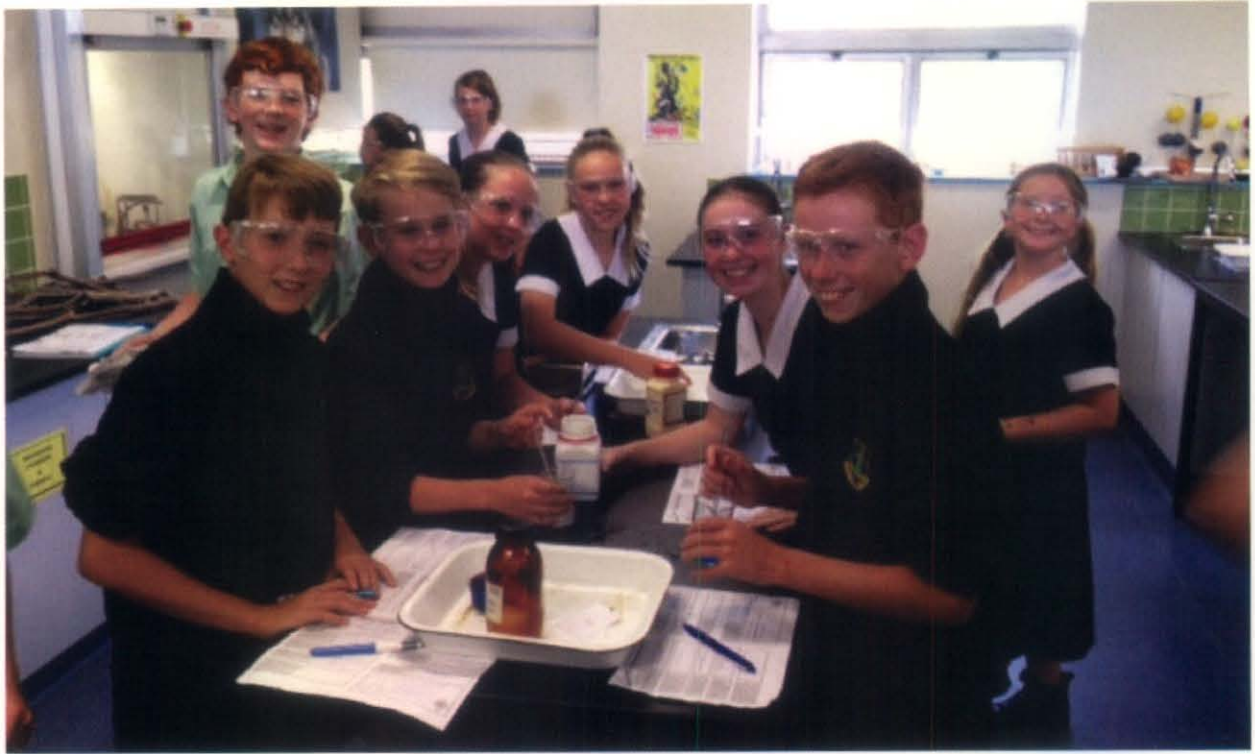
came to WHS from Wollongong primary in 1955. At WHS, he was an active student, a prefect and was a member of the school swimming team, along with the first grade rugby league side. He joined the cadets in 1957 and in his last year, 1960, he was the senior under officer. After obtaining an A and five Bs in the Leaving, he began at Duntroon in 1961 and graduated, as well as being commissioned as a Lieutenant in the Australian Army, in December 1964. His first appointment was as Platoon Commander 2nd Battalion Royal Australian Regiment at Enoggera in Queensland from 1965 to 1966. After that came a posting to the Australian Army Training Team in Vietnam for one year, followed by two years back at Holsworthy in NSW. In 1973 he was an instructor at the Goldie River Training Dept in New Guinea for three years and then returned to Sydney for two years of Regimental duties. Next he was reposted to IPIR at Port Moresby (1978-79).

From 1980 to 1982 Peter was Commander (Lieutenant Colonel) for school cadets NSW and then from 1983 to 1985, he was Senior Australian Observer and Operations Officer with the United Nations Military Observer Group in India and Pakistan (UNMOGIP), based mainly at Kashmir. In 1988, after 25 years, he resigned from the Australian Army, He then did some small scale farming on the outskirts of Sydney for a couple of years, followed by some work in various managerial and executive appointments for 18 years in the retirement industry.

Peter has a son and a daughter plus four grandchildren and lives on the north side of Sydney harbour. He enjoys golf, fly-fishing and yacht racing.



Anzac day 2016



Chemistry in the Classroom



Cutting the Jubilee Cake



Harmony Day



Science Field Excursion



Mock Trial Team in New York



Year Seven Camp



Claymation Incursion



Debating Teams 1955



Our Town 1964  
 (L to R) Doug Pope, Kim Swinson, David Collett, Kay Chapman, Richard Donnelly, Rodney Moore, Judy Whewey, Audrey Manning.



The Girls from the Garden Club 2012



Blood Wedding 2015



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## EX-STUDENTS' UNION

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The WHS Old Students Union was first formed at a meeting at the Queens Hall in Wollongong on Friday 13 February 1925. The Headmaster, Mr. Hedberg was elected as the first President with past Headmasters Wal Brown and Frank McMullen as Vice Presidents. About 30 persons attended this meeting.

The Union was re-started in 1942 and the first annual meeting of this new group was on 27 July 1943. Mr. WS Musgrave was the President, the Vice Presidents were Miss J. Moore and Mr. W. Beveridge, while Mr. Fred Sandell was the Secretary. Dances were held in 1942 and 1943 by the Ex Students and at Speech Day on 15 December 1943, the Headmaster said that the Ex Students Union was flourishing. But not much happened during the next few years and the Mercury newspaper ran an advertisement to say the Ex Students reunion was to be reformed at a

meeting at the School Hall on Monday 3 March 1947. A dance was held in the School Hall on 20 June 1947 with the Max Jones Quartette providing the music. Another dance was held a month later at the Margaret Wakehurst Club rooms. For the next five years the union continued with the following events- the annual meeting at the school on 31 March 1950, a meeting at the school on 6 July 1951 to arrange a well attended Ex Student reunion at the Golf Club on 19 December that year. A hike to Burning Palms was arranged for 2 November 1952 and a few weeks later, another reunion was held at the Golf Club in November 1952. In 1952, George Bestman was the President, Gladys Frew then Peter Tomlinson were the Secretaries and Malcolm Brown the Treasurer. After 1952 not much was heard of the Ex Students Union, but for most of the school's history up to the current time, various Final Years have held regular reunions.



Play Day 1945 - "The Knave of Hearts"

(L to R) John Nicol, Ruth Chie, Tom Meehan, John Larkin, Derek Musgrave, Enid Burrow, Susan Hunt, Lois Makin, Gladys Smith, Lawrence Hutton, Norman Robinson, Judith Connaughton, Owen Baker, Kevin Parsons, Geoff Stone, Ken Dyball.

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## MESSAGE FROM THE AUTHOR

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A school community is made up of people with a wide spectrum of responsibilities and interests. Of course there are students, teachers and principals, but there are also several behind the scenes groups such as canteen workers, parental groups and sporting, drama and arts coaches from outside the school staff. While it is difficult to access the exact number of students who have attended Wollongong High School during its one hundred year history, it is probable that the number would be over the 15,000 mark. Most, if not all, of these pupils have done, or will do, well in their lives. I cannot write about every student over the years, but I have tried to find something about certain groups from the school's long life. This book is about some of the people who have contributed to the school during their time as students, or others who served the community with their achievements. I have probably omitted many who should have been on my list and for this I apologise, but it wasn't deliberate. I have spent months on thorough and careful research, but no matter how cautious I was, no doubt some very worthy people have slipped through the cracks.

I began by researching the school captains from 1917. This wasn't always easy to do. For some captains, particularly those still alive, I found plenty of information, but for a small number I have only a brief summary. I found it easier to research the male captains because many of the females changed their names after marriage. I chose to start with the captains because they held a responsible and honoured place in school life over the years. The life and achievements of the captains reflected what happens in our general community- some did very well, while others had some difficulties over the years. I have to say that everyone I spoke to and/or researched for this book, seemed comfortable with their situation in life, although I cannot guarantee that this was always the case.

I obtained a great deal of pleasure from doing the research. I am a sports tragic and like everyone that attended our great school, I am very aware of the large number of talented sports people who wore the black and the green. But in my chapter on Wollongong High sports stars, I have limited this to those who gained full Australian representation for their sport. I may have missed someone and again I apologise if this is the case.

One group that has my complete respect and admiration, is those who lost their lives in World War Two. I obtained a list of 27 from the 1945 Gleam magazine, but when Headmaster, Jack Lenehan, had a school War Memorial dedicated 10 years later, on 7 November 1955, the number had increased to 32. This dedication was performed at the old School Assembly Hall on Smiths Hill, by the Rev. RT Knibb, who was representing the Wollongong Council of Churches. The address was read by ex student Bob Dovers, who had not long returned from the Antarctic where he had been leader of the Mawson Australian expedition.

Every student who attended our school and indeed every student world wide, will have some memories, good or bad, of several of their teachers. I have tried to encompass teachers from each of the ten decades of Wollongong High. There is no special criteria for my choices but one thing I did try to do was to include as many of the long serving educators as I could. If your favourite Chalky is not in my book, I am sorry.

When I began researching the community successes of some of our students throughout the one hundred years, I was astounded by the extreme variety of vocations that have been performed. We have had numerous high profile medical people, sporting greats, legal experts, entertainers of the highest quality, educators and academics, explorers, outstanding and brave military personnel, religious identities, media personalities, painters, sculptors, authors, models, the list goes on and on. The Face of Nivea is an ex student, so is the CEO of one of the world's biggest companies and one of the Northern Territory's hardest workers for her fellow Aboriginal people. We even have a former world leader of the Exclusive Brethren among our ranks. Most importantly of all we have thousands of successful parents who benefited from attending the first High School on the South Coast.

I have had a lot of help in writing this book and to these people I give my whole-hearted thanks. Firstly my wife Sue has put up with me commandeering our home computer for many months and also the members of the Centenary Committee, chaired by Kevin Riolo have always been very supportive. A special thanks goes

to our book sub-committee of Kevin Riolo, Diane Trist and Paul Quinn, who have spent hours checking my facts, grammar and punctuation. Paul Quinn has gone above and beyond the call by successfully sourcing the photos and then placing them on the correct pages. Many individuals have contacted me by phone, email or other ways with suggestions and ideas and I thank them for this input. Glenice Taylor gave me a USB with complete copies of 15 Gleams. This was invaluable.

The Trove website was very helpful, as were the State and Wollongong libraries, along with the State Records Centre at Kingswood, out near Penrith. The Storeroom at Wollongong High was another source of facts because of their box of Glean magazines.

Over the next few months I look forward to catching up with many of my old class-mates, as well as meeting people from older and younger cohorts. Our Centenary dinner will be a happy place, as stories from the past bring back numerous memories. No doubt on this special night, we will find out how long old romances lasted and who has the best-looking children and in some cases, grandchildren.

My book is mostly about people and I hope you enjoyed reading it as much as I enjoyed compiling it.

Barry Ross

#### **BARRY ROSS (1958)**

Barry was born in September 1941 and grew up at Fairy Meadow. After attending the local primary school, he won a place to Wollongong High School. In the 1958 Leaving Certificate, he obtained second class honours in Maths and Physics, an A and two Bs. He then completed the Junior Secondary Course at Sydney Teachers College and began teaching Maths and Science at Richmond High School in 1963. In 1968, he completed a Bachelor of Arts degree at Macquarie University, with majors in Maths and Physics. In 1971, he began some part-time work as a rugby league writer and since then, he has worked in all forms of the media. As Editor of the Big League magazine in 1977, he became very involved with rugby league and the next year, he joined Channel 7 as co-commentator with Rex Mossop in the Sunday night telecast of the match of the day. Alongside Rex, Barry worked on the first five State of Origin games, two Kangaroo Tours to England and France, six Grand Finals and numerous first grade matches.



Barry Ross

He also began covering rugby union matches for overseas newspapers and magazines and has worked as an accredited media man at every Rugby World Cup. At the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games, Barry had a paid position as Olympic News Supervisor at the Beach Volleyball, where he had 14 volunteers under his guidance. From the late 1970s, he has done regular work, for publications in New Zealand, South Africa, England and Japan with occasional articles for American and Canadian magazines. Although not doing as much as he once did, Barry still does some regular work for overseas companies as well as the Senior newspaper and the Men of League magazine in Australia. This 100 year history of Wollongong High is Barry's fifth book in the last four years. He and his wife Sue have two sons and live at Kangaroo Point in Sydney.



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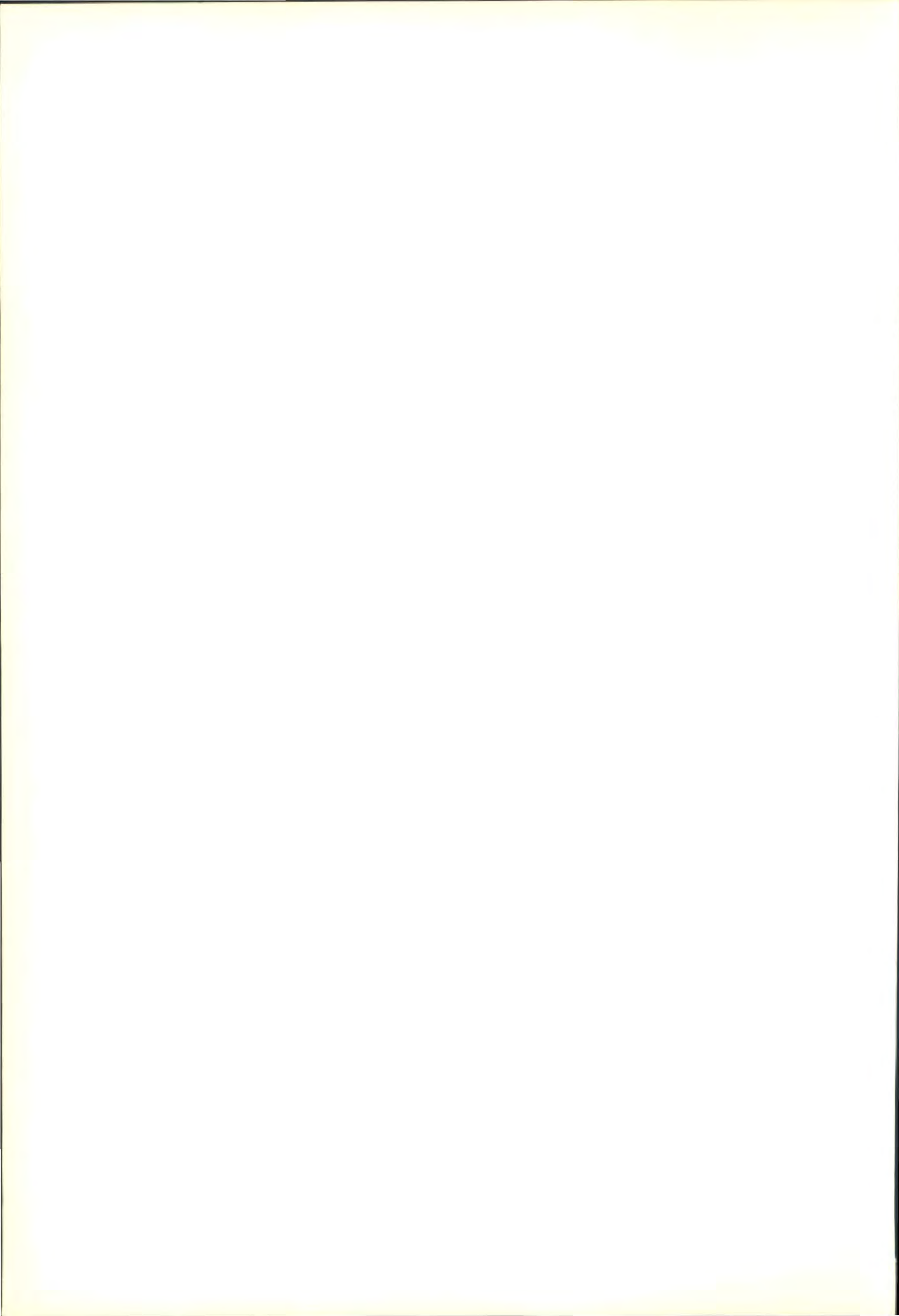
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