

Alumni Newsletter

Hurlstone Agricultural High School

Address: Roy Watts Road Glenfield NSW 2167
Email: hurlstone-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

Tel: 9829 9222 Fax: 9829 2026
Website: www.hurlstone.com.au



Issue 5

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Welcome to Issue 5 of the Alumni newsletter. First off I would like to thank everyone for supporting our Country Fair 2016. We experienced Hurlstone Rainstorm on the Friday before Country Fair and experienced Hurricane Hurlstone on the day of Country Fair. Numbers were a little down due to the bad weather but we still experienced a good turnout.

It has been pleasing this year that our Archive Group which meets once a week, has grown from strength to strength. We now have 36 members in our group and recently we went through elections and I am proud to announce the executive team: President Anna Dinh, Vice President Kristina Petkovich, Secretary Adeline Lam and Publicity Officer Nathan Ung. We also have Junior Secretary, Sylvia La; Junior Publicity Officer Teresa Nguyen, Junior OIC Amber Ahsan and the newsletter editor Kylin Lu.

The year 2016 has certainly been a busy one for us. We started the year with providing a report on the historical features and general history of Hurlstone. This included background information on trees, buildings, farm equipment displays, Clarke House and the Archive room. We were asked to provide this report for the Project Reference Group which is managing the build of the new school at Hawkesbury and the redevelopment of the school here at Glenfield.

In addition to this we have also been involved in the Debutante Ball, the school Musical "Wizard Of Oz", ANZAC Day and Remembrance Day Services. We also had a couple of school reunions here at Hurlstone and welcomed National Trust members for a tour and went on a school excursion to Dubbo. We went there to perform the "Wizard of Oz" to students of Dubbo and we photographed our 3 day journey.

The Archive students have learnt that archiving isn't always about preserving and cataloguing material from the past but also documenting current history in the making. We recently purchased a couple of new cameras and have been more active in documenting current day to day activities. While we were out at Dubbo we visited Old Dubbo Gaol and were privileged to meet their Archivist, Chris. It was interesting watching the students question Chris about the importance of Archiving. We thoroughly enjoyed meeting someone likeminded who understands the feeling when your "gut feeling" tells you to dig deeper into a story and experiencing that "Eureka" moment when you hit pay dirt. The archive students are coming to realise the importance of archiving not only historical documentation but also oral histories and also the importance of networking with other archivist to glean new ideas or new resources.

Archive students have also learnt about documenting oral histories when the Alumni come in to visit. They have a deeper understanding of the terminology "Living Libraries". The students have been listening to the many Alumni stories ranging from placing teachers cars sideways in the Hall of Honour or on the corner of the pool to praying to the "Bin Gods". It is these stories and the Hurlstone vibe that permeates out from the alumni and Hurlstone community that this is not only a school but a large extended family.

Lastly I would like to wish everyone a very festive Christmas and a Joyous New Year. I thank you all for sending in your supportive messages and ideas to me over the last year. This year certainly has been a massive year for Hurlstone. I look forward to catching up with the Hurlstone family next year.

Johanna Leglise (Archivist)

Ernest George Chudleigh

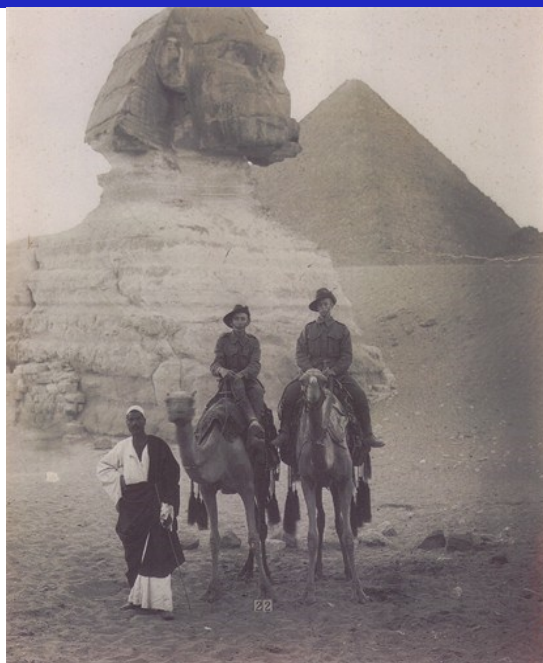
Born at Hailstones House in Bigga village well over a century ago, one has to ponder the relevance of this man to our current lives. The answer is simple; he shows us what true courage on the battlefield was, and continues to be. That is, risking your own life for that of another without personal gain in sight. He took this to the next level however.

As Chudleigh was a secondary student at Summer Hill's Hurlstone (current Trinity Grammar School) and then a tertiary student at Hawkesbury Agricultural College, he had great knowledge of animals and how to treat them with dignity. At Hawkesbury, he was also a part of the School Cadet Corps, a popular pastime. This however did not work out in his favour as World War I broke out when he was finishing up his last year. After graduating, he, without hesitation, joined the armed forces and after completing four weeks basic training, he said his farewells and left for Cairo on the 18th December 1914 as a member of the 21st Howitzer Brigade of the 102nd Battery.

In April of 1918, he received his first military medal. By this time, he was already transferred to the Veterinary Corps. He stood up and laughed right in the face of danger that was the shells flying into camp under the cover of night. He rescued the horses, walking calmly between them, unchaining those that could survive, and administering euthanasia to those too gruesomely injured. This is only one of many gallant deeds that he has performed.

After his discharge from the military, he was a successful agricultural businessman, loving husband and father, a damned good bowler and a dedicated man in all aspects of his life. He passed in the November of 1966, aged almost 70.

Written by Dean Mokrozhaev



Ernest George Chudleigh (middle) in Cairo

Project Reference Group Glenfield/Hawkesbury

The PRG Group looking at the redevelopment of the school here at Glenfield and the new school at Hawkesbury is now producing a monthly updated newsletter.

There is also a survey attached to the newsletter. Please feel free to provide any comments, feedback or concerns on the survey. I can also submit any surveys for any alumnus who isn't computer savvy. The URL is <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/HAHSG002>.

At Country Fair the PRG held an information stand. During the day we had a lots of people go and visit the stand. At the end of the day we realise the rumour that there will not be a school here is still floating around. This rumour hasn't been helped by people in the public eye not clarifying this information. This rumour is not true. The school at Glenfield will receive a new name soon and will be redeveloped. A new science and TAS/ART block will be built and the student population will increase to 1080 students. The school will still be selective. The school at Hawkesbury will also be a selective high school, specialising in the study of agriculture. It will also be a boarding school. Please feel free to contact the school for updated information.

Sir William Keys

On Friday 11th November four students, Anna Dinh, Adeline Lam, Ratan Venkatesan and Hubert Zhang along with School Principal Daryl Currie and School Archivist Johanna Leglise travelled down to Bombala the home place of Sir William Keys. Sir William Keys was an "Old Boy" from Hurlstone who attended here from 1935-1940. He served in the AIF in WW2 in New Guinea. He also served with the 3rd Battalion in the Korean War. He was awarded the Military Cross for courage at Chunchon in 1951. He was knighted in 1979 for his work in Veteran Affairs. We travelled to Bombala for the Remembrance Day Service to officially hand over the Miniature Medals of Sir William Keys to Bombala RSL. We were honoured to present the medals to the township of Bombala. We were also greatly honoured to meet Lady Keys and her family. The Remembrance Day Service on Maybe Street, Bombala was attended by over 300 people. Our cadets laid a wreath at the Cenotaph and Anna Dinh and Adeline Lam presented the medals to Mr Rob Letts Sub Branch President of Bombala RSL. We adjourned afterwards to the local café for refreshments and at the request of the Keys family, our students sang the school song and did the war cry. I love the fact that the children of Sir William were taught the War Cry at an early age and could still chant it after all of these years. It was heart-warming to see our students again being exposed to Hurlstone pride which showed the importance of community spirit.



For Alumni /reunion enquiries please contact Johanna Leglise on phone 9829 9222 or email Johanna.Leglise@det.nsw.edu.au

Mr Keith Wilson 1930-2016

We are sad to announce the passing of Keith Wilson. He passed away on the 27th November peacefully at home. He had been battling cancer for a short time. Mr Wilson was the 8th principal of Hurlstone. He commenced teaching in 1952 at Ashfield Junior Technical HS. He went onto Drummoyne and Tamworth HS to teach. At Camden HS he was promoted to Manual Arts Master in 1964. He then came to Hurlstone as a Deputy in 1973. He then became Principal of Cootamundra HS in 1978 and then transferred back to Hurlstone as principal. When I sent out the news of Mr Wilson's passing to the alumni the responses I heard back that he was a gentleman, kind and caring. Alumni who had Mr Wilson as their principal respected Mr Wilson greatly. This was evident last year when the class of 1985 came in for a school reunion at Hurlstone and invited Mr & Mrs Wilson to the reunion. The present day boarder students who came along for the tour (and the free cake) were surprised at how excited these alumni were to see their old principal. It was refreshing to see this ongoing healthy relationship between an old staff member and their students was still strong after 30 years of them leaving school. Keith was farewelled on Monday 5th December in a beautiful ceremony at Kiama Anglican Church. It was attended by several hundred people who obviously respected and loved Keith. His family spoke about him in a loving and caring manner and it was evident what a beautiful and close knit family they are. Keith was involved in his local community especially in his local church and always jumped in to give anyone a hand anytime and anyplace. There were quite a few Hurlstonians there to show their love and respect to Keith. Our deepest condolences go out to members of the Wilson family but also to the many students out there who was lucky to have Keith as their teacher and principal in all the schools he worked at over the years.



Bandana Day 2016

On Friday 28th October, Hurlstone was proud to again run Bandana Day 2016. Bandana Day supports children who are battling cancer during treatment and recovery. There is also ongoing support available for parents and siblings. This year we had Hurlstone students run Bandana Day and with the sales from students and staff and P&C honouring their pledge to match dollar for dollar we raised \$3000. Bandana day has been run here over the last 6 or more years. Our biggest supporter was Lachlan Delves. He was a student here from



Hurlstone Students, Hazel Delves, Steven So DP and Johanna Leglise

2009-2014. In 2011 Lachlan was diagnosed with cancer and underwent chemotherapy and radiation and due to this lost his hair which never grew back. Lachlan was always seen with a huge smile on his face selling bandanas or just stopping by for a chat. Lachlan was an inspiration to all of us with his optimism and bravery. I think personally I now own about 10 bandanas and believe every staff member here at Hurlstone has their own stash of Bandanas. Lachlan sold over \$16000 worth of bandanas which is an amazing tribute to this incredible young man. Sadly Lachlan last year had a relapse and passed away in January this year. Lachlan and his family were involved in Country Fair during and after he graduated from Hurlstone. It was quite common for him just to pop by and say Hello to staff members and tell us how university was going for him. I have met many inspirational Alumni in my journey as school archivist and would definitely say Lachlan has been and will always be in my top ten of inspirational "Old Boys". I encourage everyone to please donate or support this most worthwhile cause.

The website is www.canteen.org.au.

National Trust Visit

On Saturday 29th October we were honoured to have members of the National Trust come and visit us here at Hurlstone. We had approximately 20 people come to have a tour of Hurlstone. There was quite a few members of the group who were "Old Boys". The day included a presentation of the history of the school, followed by lunch in the dining room and finished off with a tour of the farm and the day school. We were able to show them the Museum, Archive Room, School Hall and walk around the school grounds. Special thanks goes to two of our boarder students who came along and helped with the farm side of the tour. These students, Grace Tassell and Luke Whale did an awesome job answering questions about the farm and school life in general.



Class of 1986 School Reunion

On Sunday 23rd October we had the Class of 1986 come in for a school reunion. They came in from all over NSW to join up for a 30 year school reunion at the Crossroads Pub on the Saturday night. The invite was sent out that everyone was welcomed to come and visit their old school on Sunday afternoon. We had over 20 people come in on the Sunday afternoon. We were able to do a tour of the Farm, Museum, Archive Room, School Hall and the grounds of Hurlstone. They stopped to pay reverence to the "Bin God" outside the Dining Room, laughed over the detention books (still the most popular books in Archives) and reminisced over the pranks they played on each other especially at Muck Up Day. Special thanks to our three boarder girls who came around and helped me with the tour, Grace Tassell, Elka Devney and Anastasia Baker.



Country Fair 2016

This year on the 3rd of September we held Country Fair. It was our 77th Anniversary of Country Fair and Open Farm day. Students, staff and members of the P&C came out to volunteer to support this important day. This event is our biggest fundraiser for the school. We unfortunately experienced heavy rain on the day before the event and Hurricane Hurlstone came to visit us on the day but we still had a good turnout. Our regular stalls made their appearance again like the white elephant, garden stall, alumni stall, boarder stall and international food stall. We also had all the student extra curricular groups run their own individual stalls and made over \$2000 between all of them. We also had Cow Pat Lotto and Kiss a Pig competition. Students nominate 5 staff members to be up for a vote on who gets to be a lucky person to "Kiss a Pig". The winner was our School Principal Daryl Currie. We had the school orchestra perform in the school hall. As a member of the P&C committee I thank all the alumni who came in to show their support for the school. It was great to catch up with everyone again and I loved watching all the spontaneous school reunions that happened around the alumni stand. Days like Country Fair Day can feel like a huge extended family reunion and I heard the terminology "Hurlstone family" used frequently by the alumni when they talk about their time at Hurlstone but also talking about their ongoing connections with their Hurlstone classmates that can last a life time.



"Old Boy" Mr Dick Thompson

Recently on 2GB our 93 year young "Old Boy" was interviewed by Ray Hadley. In the interview he talked about his time at Hurlstone and also his experiences in WW2. Mr Thompson whilst here at Hurlstone was a prefect, competed in Cricket, Athletics and Rugby. He was a "Bed Bug" during his time here and was friends with Billy Keys and David and Gordan Trist. He remembers sleeping on the veranda in A Block and getting the cane from Mr Cook and Mr Longmuir. Mr Thompson went on to serve in WW2 in the pacific. Please have a listen on:

<http://www.2gb.com/article/ray-hadley-wwii-veteran-dick-thompson#hpzUTz3rK3HOHBMf.01>.



School Musical 2016 :The Wizard of Oz

On June 20th we held our school musical "The Wizard of Oz" in the school hall. This event was a year in the making with lots and lots of rehearsals which happened during school, after school and on weekends. The students did an awesome production of this legendry movie. We had the Pops Orchestra perform all the music to it. Thankyou to all the Alumni who came to this event. I was there every night and caught up with a lot of alumni who came to support these talented students.



Debutante Ball 2016

We were honoured to hold the 2016 Debutante Ball here at Hurlstone. We had 10 young ladies present at this years Debutante Ball. It was an beautiful night celebrating these special young ladies. We had over 100 people attend this event and was fortunate to have Mrs Christine Castle to be our Matron of Honour and Mrs Michelle Tykvart as our VIP. We were privileged to have live music for the night courtesy of our talent musical students. We ended up having over 60 students volunteer to make this special night happen. This ranged from sound and lighting, music and waiters. We had a lot of staff also volunteer to help out on the night. The Archive students helped me with the set up and preparations for this event and three of my Archive students were Debutantes. In the end this was a fun night and I thoroughly enjoyed watching all the students just have good clean honest fun.



RIP Richard Joseph Chappel 1950 - 2016

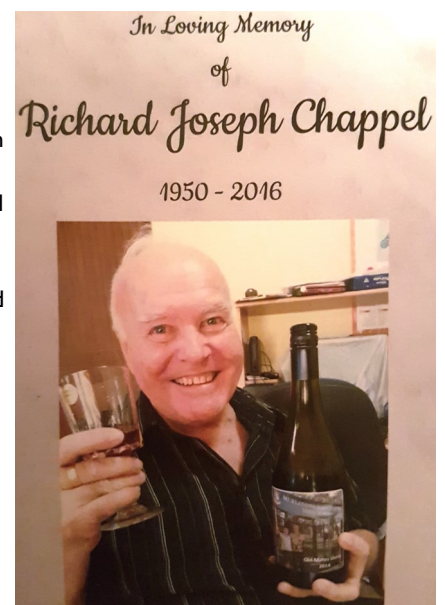
The sky overcast with a grey mist, one would think that this was a normal beginning to the Australian winter, the first of June. But we knew otherwise. We knew that this was a sign of respect, Mother Nature herself saying goodbye to one of our schools valued alumni. His name is Richard Joseph Chappel.

Richard Chappel grew up in Tamworth and signed up for Hurlstone originally as a boarding student coming from Brewarrina Public School. While in high school, Richard made many life-long friends some of whom boarded and others who were 'day-go's. He was a great student; in his school certificate of 1966 he achieved all credit level passes and he only missed one day of school in the entire first two terms of fourth form. He also loved sport, in 1967 he was part of the senior cross country, rugby and open athletics teams and in third form, his rugby coach commented on his competitive nature and being a great team player. His parents then moved to Ingleburn in the late 1960s while Richard was still enrolled at school and he became a "daygo". After graduating, Richard went into printing. He then got married. Richard and his wife have two children, an eighteen year old daughter, now in her first year of studying veterinary science at TAFE and a twenty-one year old son, now in his last years of university. Richard was a quirky character, always laughing and joking.

Then the day came. School passed slowly and the archive group meeting eventually began. It was quiet in the archives room as we planned everything out; three students to travel with Mrs. Leglise, two with Fiona. Then the bell rang signalling the end of lunch with the funeral looming closer. It was a highly emotional affair, the love almost tangible in the air as words of memories and respect vibrated through the air. Mrs Chappel came up to us all in floods of tears and each of us embraced her and tried to offer our deepest condolences through those three seconds. Richard's son gave the eulogy and then came the stories. Richard was so full of life, always trying his best to bring humour (or if that fails, alcohol) to a situation, that the funeral felt a bit suffocating, like a black hole had opened without Richard's presence. We were all awash in the tears of everyone in the hall.

After that gloomy day, the sun came up in another blaze of glory and a new day began. I felt though, that this was a façade brought upon by Mother Nature to try and cheer up those whose lives were touched by the events of the past day. It was a futile attempt. Even though I did not personally know Richard, I found it difficult to stay focused on the lesson and searched for refuge with Johanna Leglise, our school archivist. A talk ensued and by the end she received a phone call from one of the men who was present at the funeral, Tony Souter saying that he was currently at the front office of the school. He had two other men with him Stuart Cardwell and Andrew Frost, all three graduates of '68 same class as Richard. They also participated together in many of the same sporting activities. Ms. Leglise and I took them around on a tour of the school when Richard surfaced in our conversation. We spoke about planting a rose bush in his honour in the rose garden around the fountain in front of Clarke House, the current principal's residence. Then we went into the archives room, soon to be renamed the Chappel Room in honour of the man who helped our original archive group move from the library in 2013 to our new room in A Block. The joy on their faces as they felt the memories pour back in from the entire school and all of the shared experiences they had with Richard could not have been compared to anything that I have even seen nor felt. Then they went away to walk around the school but they left one thing with me. They left their love for Richard and the school in me. It made me feel proud to be a Hurlstonian and they showed me that there will always be life after death if there are people who love you, and Richard Chappel was and still is dearly loved.

Written by Dean Mokrozhaev



2016 Dubbo Orchestra Tour

One of the things you'll find about taking around 90 students into a city that is an eight-hour coach trip away from their school for three days, and then telling them to be at the school at 6 am is just how surprisingly good the majority would be at lugging timpanos (giant drums) around. Yes, this is a recount of just what occurred behind, (and in front) of the scenes of our fantabulous (if I do say so myself) performances at the Dubbo RSL on 29th June, and our travels to Dubbo and back again on 28th and 30th of June. It's one crazy ride, so put on your ruby slippers, kick back and relax, because Dorothy made her way home.

Day 1; The long coach ride: With our school performances being a smash hit and following the tradition of an annual orchestra tour we melded them together into a compilation of the best songs from the musical 'The Wizard of Oz'. Our school archive group, technical crew and of course the orchestra and musical cast were boarded onto two coaches after loading them up with musical instruments and luggage and off we went to the wonderful wizard of Dubbo RSL along our black asphalt road. We were stopped along the way by the rumbling in our stomachs at McDonald's for breakfast. 90 students, six teachers and two coach drivers all bought food and we went off again on our tour, somehow managing to arrive at the RSL at around 2pm, and again started unloading instruments.

Day 2; The wonderful performances : The archivists had it easy, taking photos, welcoming guests, but the cast and crew were worked to the bone. We made the cast sit in a line on the stage, and put a cloak of invisibility over them, making sure that the singers that weren't performing at that exact moment were unseen. After several hours of practice, and lunch, it was finally show-time. Performing for two schools wasn't as daunting as it sounds. Dubbo West and Dubbo South Public Schools were a great audience, and with Mr Armitage leading the orchestral group, the whole performance was made even better.

Day 3; The masterful retreat: Having had enough of camp and finishing our performances, we packed up and were sent to gaol. Well, Dubbo Gaol, a haunted museum with a history of convicts, both male and female. Since we went in winter, it was cold, even in comfortable clothing. The gaol itself was surprisingly pleasant, with cushy stones and soft century-old wood to sit on while the tour guide explained the history of each place. After we left the gaol, relieved to be back in the warmth of the coach, we rode all the way to the Dubbo Botanical Gardens where we explored the wonderful Japanese garden.

Finally, the wonderful wizards and witches who supervised us every step of the long walk to the Emerald Dubbo RSL, Mr. Payne, Mrs. Ross, Mrs. Wuhrer, Mr. Craig, Mr. Armitage and Mrs. Leglise, thank you so much for dealing with all of us Toto's, Dorothies, Scarecrows, Tin Men and Lions on the way.

Written by Dean Mokrozhaev



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