



Network News

The Newsletter of the HVHS Past Pupils & Friends Association Inc.

17

June 2007

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NEW ART CENTRE

Hutt Valley High School has at last got a new Art Block. After years in the thinking and planning, we finally moved in on June 9th with the help of Freear Philip Ltd. Removals. Weekends and evenings were spent sorting, packing, and throwing out 25 years of accumulated junk. We filled several hundred crates and cartons with books, resources and art materials. It brought back a lot of fond memories uncovering photos, old art works by pupils long since left school, old technology, slides and files. By comparison the new block is a palace although pupils have been heard to say that it is much too clean for Art rooms. We are enjoying the lovely spaces, especially the large amount of storage and a superb staff office. There are three art rooms, art staffroom and the ESOL room downstairs. Upstairs are the Design/computer suite, the Photography room, darkroom, film processing, two offices and two teaching classrooms. Although it is not without its teething problems we are very happy to be in at last. There will be an official opening early in Term 3.

Shirley Kauter, HOD Art

JAMES (Jim) COE

The renovated Dowse Art Centre, which was reopened on 17 February, has honoured James Coe. The plaque on the wall reads "James Coe Wing. Visionary educator, designer, ergonomics pioneer and mentor. HOD Art HVHS 1945-58."

When Jim returned from WWII, Dr Clarence Beeby, Director of Education directed him to devise a "real" art scheme for Secondary

schools which he did, revolutionising the curriculum. He inspired many HVHS students.



1953 Jim Coe. HOD Art

"TEA & CHAT"

WEDNESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER

PAST PUPILS 1926-1955

INCLUDES FIRST THREE DECADES

**VENUE: HVHS STUDENT CENTRE
1.30PM**

TOUR OF NEW ART CENTRE

**INVITATIONS WILL BE POSTED
END JULY**

**PLEASE LET US KNOW OF ANY ADDITIONS OR
ALTERATIONS TO OUR MAILING LIST**

Searching for excellence. Back soon

Mrs Sylvia Burch has left HVHS for one year and joined the *Ministry of Education* leading a project called Extending High Standards in Schools. It involves clusters of schools throughout the country sharing their best practice and working on better and more exciting ways of delivering really effective teaching and learning.

Mrs Burch said "I didn't want to move to a permanent job at the ministry because this is a great job here. I will get a very clear idea of the very best that's going on all around New Zealand which will benefit HVHS."

FROM THE ACTING PRINCIPAL

We held our annual open evening for prospective students on June 12th. The event was well attended and is a great opportunity for us to showcase our school to the local community. The positive feedback from prospective parents is in my view a reflection of the hard work put into this evening by HODs and staff.

The new Art and Media block has been completed and is in use. This addition to the school is not only a great teaching space but has been designed to allow for exhibitions of student work.

I would like to acknowledge the two Board of Trustees' members who stepped down at the last election. John Strahl, who for many years chaired the BOT, was instrumental in the building works over the last decade. Holona Lui was a dedicated board member and offered us his experience and expertise to work with staff with regards to Maori and Pacific Island students. Congratulations to Susan Pilbrow, Ron Soper, Mary Bruce, Karen Baker and Paul Rolton on their election to the board. Nigel Mitchell was elected as the staff representative.

Steve Chapman

SARAH WILCOX, Archivist

My son, James, in year 13 at HVHS, produced a school newsletter (for once!) and poked the advertisement for an archivist under my nose. He thought it sounded just right for me, and having read the job description, I had to agree.

I have embarked on a Masters programme in Heritage Materials Science at Victoria University this year, which seeks to enable conservation and preservation of all kinds of museum objects - paper, fabric, paintings etc by understanding the scientific processes of ageing and degradation which affect them. This was the connection with the archivist job - a chance to try out the theory I was learning at university and see in a 'real life' situation what is practical in archiving and storage of heritage items and what is not.

I am an old girl of the school (1978-1982) and studied science at Canterbury University, then worked at Industrial Research Ltd (formerly DSIR) in Gracefield for many years, studying NewZealand seaweeds and using synthetic chemistry to prepare materials for pharmaceutical drug trials.

I plan to carry on the great work Colleen has done with the archives and use my science background and computer skills to ensure the storage and display practices of the school's treasures are as good as they can be.

FIDDLER ON THE ROOF

HVHS has a proud tradition with its productions, which you may remember. The 2007 production of Fiddler on the Roof that involved a cast of 50, a production team of 40 and an orchestra of 27 were equally superb. Our talented students were assisted by the expertise of David Skinner as Tevye, a very demanding and crucial part that David has played several times before. David's wife Shirley Kauter HOD Art, was the production director and musical direction was under the baton of Stephen Lange, HOD Music. We had nearly full houses every night in the Lower Hutt Little Theatre with very appreciative audiences.

Katriona Macdonald

Past Pupils AGM report

Judi Witcher was thanked for the enormous amount of work she put into the Past Pupils activities since 1996. She helped resurrect the Past Pupils Association, was chairperson for 2 years, secretary for 4 years, administered the scholarships and selection of recipients and also assisted with setting up the David Kaye Scholarships. She was always willing and very capable.

Kevin Campbell thanked the Past Pupils for their contribution towards the NZ sports representatives photo display in the Gym foyer then conducted a tour of the new Gym. He had also included as many sports honours boards as could be found in the school. The display is worth a visit and the new gym is a great asset to the school. The 2007 Bridge Run & Walk raised \$1000 towards completing the project.

Bruce Murray entertained the Past Pupils with anecdotes of his school days and growing up in the Eponi area. He also shared his experiences in the NZ Cricket team and as a teacher and headmaster.

HVHS PAST PUPILS NEWS

Gerda McGechan, nee Bulchler, (1955-58) In response to Kevin Campbell's article in our last newsletter, Gerda emailed photos and details of her sports career representing New Zealand in Fencing at World and Commonwealth events from 1968 – 1979. Gerda was also the first female in the world to sit and pass the International Referee qualifications and refereed Fencing for all weapons at both male and female events. *Susan Grant-Taylor has promised info on her sports career too. Any others? Ed*

Ross Falipo (1992-96) has been selected for the All Blacks. Watch this name.

Valerie Fear, nee Coker, (1938-40) sent the archives her Pitman shorthand textbooks and a note. "Even though shorthand is no longer valued I can look back on my time at school, learning the process from a lovely lady, Miss Palmer (who doubled as the Principal's secretary), as a wonderful experience – it made complete sense to me". Val's skills were put to good use as a legal secretary and judicial stenographer for the local racing clubs.

Stephen Irecki (1997-2001) is one of Telstra Clear's bright sparks. He developed his natural aptitude for mathematics and computer sciences while at HVHS. Stephen gained a Bachelor of Engineering with first class honours and the title of Massey Scholar (top 5 per cent). He was also one of four students selected worldwide to win a trip to Scotland and attend the Institutional Engineering and Technology Younger Members Conference. He was runner up with the paper he presented.

Two of the writers announced as finalists in the 2007 Montana New Zealand Book Awards are HVHS Past Pupils. **Lloyd Jones'** *Mr Pip*, which also won the Commonwealth Writers Prize recently and *The Cowboy Dog*, the final novel by the late **Nigel Cox** have been nominated in the fiction category.

Present Pupils

HVHS has 13 students representing Wellington in hockey this season in age group teams, more than any other school in the region.

Hayden Gray, Nicole Kennan and Stephanie Lamborn beat 20 other teams to win the Wellington Region Maatangi Whenua Year 11 Geography Competition.

HVHS Premier 1 rugby team won 10-3 against St Bernards and now hold the Challenge Shield for 2007. Don Griffiths, chairman of the Ken Gray Academy chose **Tau Nanai** and **Sam Teisi** as the most valuable players,

Ryan McCauley, year 13, and **Penny Hooson**, Year 12, won the Regional Brass Band Championships playing a cornet duet "In Shining Armour". Penny also had a lead role in *Fiddler on the Roof* along with **Sally Andrews** who delivered a phenomenal performance as *Golde*. **Andrew Bruce** has a growing list of awards under his musical belt including "Best Keyboardist" at the Montana NZ Jazz Festival

Eleven HVHS French language students turned their virtual trip to France into reality in April this year. The students aged 15-17 years had to plan an imaginary trip to Provence as part of their French studies last year. The trip took 6 months to plan and was paid for by the students themselves.

Most students are eager to continue learning French after speaking to the locals and getting a real sense of history in France.

HVHSPPFA Committee 2007

Chairperson: Vacant

Vice Chairperson: Paul Giles

Secretary: Patricia Blades

Treasurer: Brian Clarke

Celia Andrews, Katriona Macdonald, Graeme Marshall, Pauline Patchett, John Stanton,
Betty Hennes, Paul Logan, Geoff Kiddle, Rosemary Thompson

HVHS MUSIC FESTIVAL

Monday 20th August
7 – 9.30 p.m. in School Hall
Supper provided at interval

Amazing talent
Tickets available from the HVHS School Office

**If undelivered, please return to:
Past Pupils & Friends Assn, HVHS, PO Box 31 909, Lower Hutt**