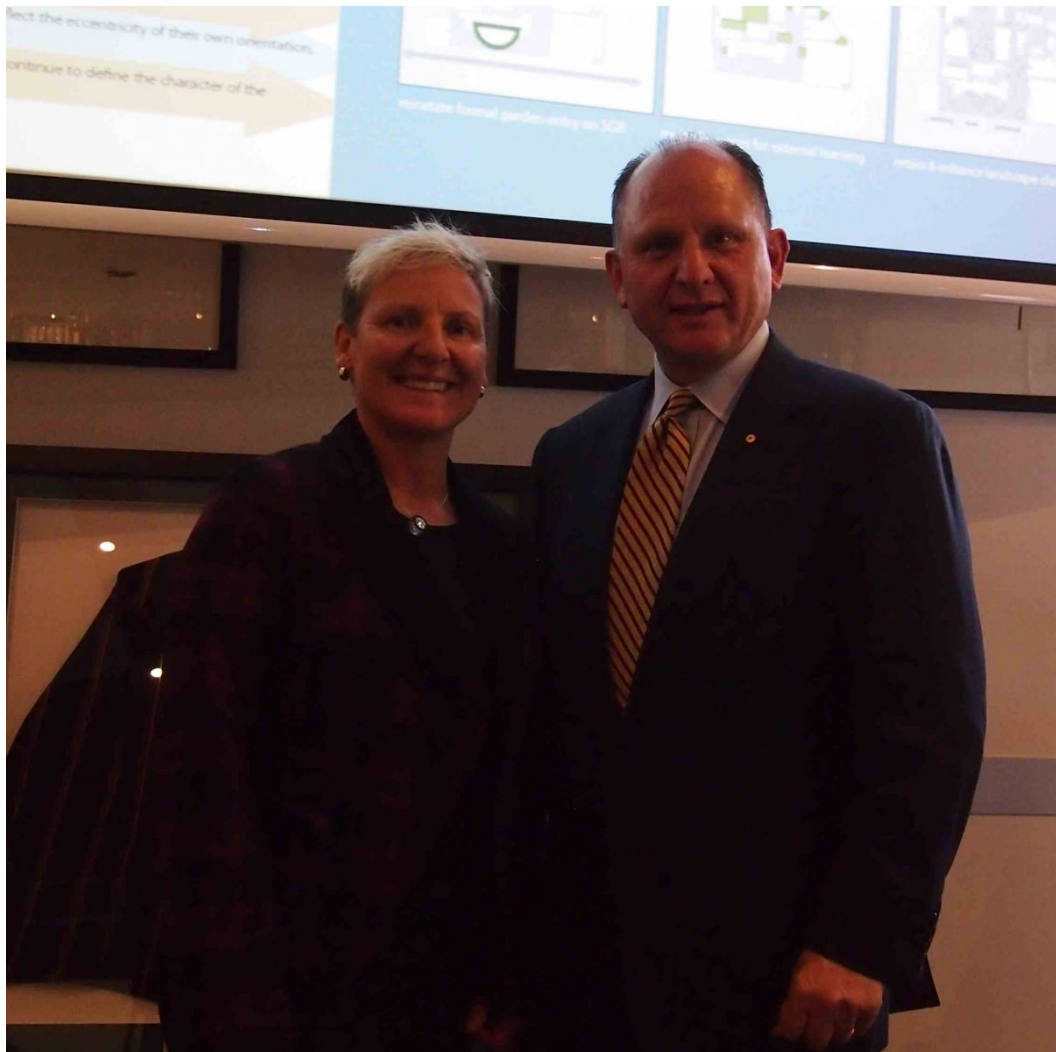


## Northcote High School Alumni News 2015

### October 2015 News



The Class of 1955 celebrated sixty years since graduation from NHS on October 7th. The day began with classmates and, in some instances, wives meeting at the School for a chat, morning tea and viewing of a selection of photographs from the archives. Several staff members joined in for the morning tea. Speeches were made by Principal Kate Morris, Gary Israel and Allan Wilcox, convenor of the celebrations and then it was time for a tour of the present day School with assistance from several student leaders. Allan pointed out that it was this group which achieved the School's best ever Year 12 results and Principal Morris stated that she had challenged the Class of 2015 to "beat" this record.

The Class later adjourned to the Peacock Hotel for a celebratory luncheon.

In attendance were Rex Brady, Arthur Coombs, Ken Cunningham, Doug Fraser, Alex Lopata, Kevin and Lyla Maguire, Bill Newell, Tony Shallcross, Andy and Jan Treadwell, Peter Tsitas and Allan and Mavis Wilcox

## July 2015 News

The Annual Back to Lunch in June was another great success with Mr. Chris Leptos AM, School Captain of 1976, presenting the address. Chris spoke about his School days in the 1970s and of his great admiration for his young Mathematics teacher, Mr Peter Kerwick. Peter passed away tragically a few years later. Chris proposed an annual teachers' award in Peter's name and offered to help set this in place. Chris also spoke of his outstanding career in the business world and in assisting Government at various times. He spoke too of the need to give back to his School and in the community to help the less fortunate. Chris was joined by a group of men from the 1970s which included Con Dinopoulos, School Captain 1977 and Jim Lambrineas School Captain 1978.

The Principal, Kate Morris, spoke of the approaching ninetieth anniversary of the School in 2016 and of the need to plan special celebrations. The following people, present at the meeting, volunteered to join a committee helping with plans for next year; Ian Rechtman, John Gowans, Stephan Brown, Greg and Kris Stamboulidis, Michael Loterzo and Con Dinopoulos. Any others interested in joining this group please contact Kate Challis at the School on 9488-2332. Ms Morris pointed out the phenomenal growth of student numbers at NHS and of the urgent need for major building works which has been a problem for the School, on and off, since its establishment in 1926. The present buildings were designed for 1200 pupils and the enrolment has risen to around 1600 putting huge pressure on facilities.

The Association thanks the School for its fine work in organizing the lunch and, in particular, Ms. Kate Challis of the administrative staff. Ms Kate Morris is thanked for her ongoing support of the NHS Ex-students' Association.

## May 2015 News



John Bold was a Prefect in 1930 and appears in the fine large photograph of the Prefects from that period with Headmaster F.W. Johnson now hanging in the School foyer. His son, also named John, recently connected with the School and provided details of John Senior's life. He attended the School from Thomastown where he lived on the family farm. He had to walk or run a considerable distance to the station, which his son thinks was the reason he was a very successful runner in the School athletic team. He trained as a primary school teacher and taught in the Wimmera and NE Victoria before service with the Army. During his early teaching years he completed a BA and Dip.Ed at Melbourne University. In the 1950s he taught in the Brunswick and Reservoir areas and lectured at Melbourne Teachers' College. He was Assistant Principal at Keon Park Primary and Principal of Lalor Primary until 1974. He was active with the Teachers' Union and served as a representative on the Teachers' Tribunal. He later became District Inspector at Coburg and then Broadmeadows but passed away in 1976. John's photograph appears in the School history on page 58.

The School is always very keen to gather biographical information on its ex-students.

Old Boys' Blazer returns in Glory . The School has been delighted to receive, as a donation, a beautifully framed Old Boys' Blazer from Geoff Allen. It belonged to his father Harold Matthew Baster Allen, a boy of the 1930s. Geoff has added a brass plaque as a memorial to his late father. This was presented to the Principal Kate Morris for hanging in the foyer and she plans to display it at the 'Back to' lunch on June 3rd. The School and Ex-student Association thank Geoff most sincerely for this caring thought.

The Association is saddened to learn of the passing of the wives of two of our esteemed members. Mrs. Amirah Inglis, wife of Professor Ken Inglis, passed away on the 2nd of May this year and Mrs Nan Gallagher, wife of Hec Gallagher, very recently. Nan was a highly respected teacher of Geography during her working years. Condolences are extended to both men and their families.

April 2015 News



The “Back To” Lunch for 2015 has been announced for Wednesday June 3rd at 12.30 pm. Again it will be held at St. Georges Restaurant, NMIT Preston Campus. \$25 per person for 3 course lunch with wine included. Contact Kate Challis at the School on 9488 2332 or [challis.kate.e1@edumail.vic.gov.au](mailto:challis.kate.e1@edumail.vic.gov.au) Guest speaker will be Mr. Chris Leptos, AM, B.Comm, MBA. Chris attended NHS from 1971-1976 and was School Captain of 1976. Chris is CEO and Managing Director of Southrock Corporation, Partner of KPMG. He was head of corporate development at Western Mining and Chief of Staff to Senator John Button when Minister for Industry. His AM was awarded for his work on sustainability of the global mining sector. He is also on the Faculty Board of the Commerce Faculty at the University of Melbourne. Chris is a major figure in the Australian business sector.

Passing of Sunny Cheng NHS 1953 -55. B.Eng. (Melb), Grad. Dip. Marketing. University Blue in Soccer and Half Blue in Table Tennis. The Association is saddened by Sunny’s passing. He was born to a Chinese family and forced to move around South East Asia to avoid the Japanese invasion during WWII but the family ended up interned by the Japanese and both his parents died during this period. He came to NHS in 1953 graduating in Mathematics and Science. As an industrial engineer graduating from Melbourne University he worked for Ford and, later ACI Glass. He became their industrial engineering manager responsible for Australia and SE Asia. He managed a Melbourne rubber company before setting up his own renovation company, retiring in 2004. We are grateful to Allan Wilcox for these notes and Allan fondly remembers Sunny undertaking a physics experiment with a wire attached to an odometer and accelerating on his motor bike along St. Georges Road back and forth across Merri Creek Bridge. Sunny is to right of teacher in the photograph of the ’53 Soccer team (shown below). Vale Sunny! Deepest sympathy is extended to Sunny’s wife Carol and the family.

## February News 2015



Norm McMurtrie has made the Association aware of Peter McMurtrie of the Class of 1959. Peter lives in Queensland and was made an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2013 for distinguished service to the Queensland community through leadership in the areas of emergency patient care and health service management and contributions to professional

organizations. He is also a Knight of St. John. He holds a Masters' degree in Business Administration from the University of Southern Queensland, amongst other Fellowships and qualifications. Well done Peter and congratulations.

Archives keep turning up and many thanks to those who keep the School in mind when "clearing out" occurs at home. We recently received a copy of the Speech Night program for 1939. It was held in Northcote Town Hall in the first year of World War II and the address was delivered by Mr. J.A. Seitz, MSc, MCE, Director of Education. Mr F.W. Johnson was Headmaster and the orchestra was directed by the famed Mr. Stuart Wilkie with Brahms and Offenbach on the program. A. Armstrong was the Head Prefect and Councillor Olver, Chairman of the Advisory Council. Keith Allen was Dux of Form V (senior class then) and Eric Ballantyne and Trevor Rowe equal Dux Year IV. Trevor is a regular at our "back to" days. This document was not in the Archives until now.

Dr. Max Lay AM, Class of 1954, was honoured late last year with the award of the Peter Nichol Russell Memorial Medal. This is a most prestigious annual award for a Fellow of the Institute of Engineers making a notable contribution to the science /practice of engineering in Australia. Max served as executive Director of the Australian Road Research Board, Director of Quality and Technical Services VicRoads and Major Projects Director in 1993. His career in engineering is a most distinguished one. The School and Association offer hearty congratulations on Max's latest award.

Charles Cornwallis, Class of 2010, was awarded the Rosemary Merlo Prize for second Year History at the University of Melbourne at the end of 2014 for the best essay "Were there common aspects of Statehood/Non Statehood that defined Muslim and Christian attitudes to outside groups and civilizations". He was also awarded the Felix Raab Prize for this work. Congratulations Charles!

Reunion Class of 2004 The November 2014 notes told of the reunion of this group.

Vale Dr. Max Kirwan, MB, BS (Melb), Class of 1944. Max practised medicine in Mandurah, Western Australia and passed away on Nov.6th 2014. We extend our sympathies to his family on the loss of Max, a highly regarded medico.