



# the thistle

Edition 1, 2012

A newsletter for past students of THE SCOTS SCHOOL

## Headmasters Report

I am pleased to introduce the first edition of the Thistle for 2012 to highlight recent developments at Scots and to invite alumni to maintain a strong connection with their school. Two editions of *The Thistle* will be published each year in March and September to enable us to keep in contact with our past students and to let you know what is happening at Scots.

I encourage you all to take the time to visit and connect with Scots so you can reminisce on your time here but also to gain a sense of what Scots has become – a vibrant, rich community where students have the opportunity to develop their talents in a caring school with excellent staff.

In order to build strong relationships with past students and to allow students to reconnect with their school, I am hosting a dinner on Saturday 21 April with the aim of resurrecting the Past Students' Association. If you would like to be part of this special dinner, please contact Megan Johnstone to receive a special invite.

I am at the start of my second year as Headmaster of Scots and can honestly speak with great pride about The Scots School, not just for the rich history and culture of the school but also for its excellent achievements over the last year. In my Speech Day address last year I attempted to capture just some examples of this type of school pride as represented in the achievements of our students. I asked the rhetorical question – what does this school pride look like?

My reflection chose these ideas:

It looks like the outstanding Ceremonial Parade we witnessed yesterday afternoon with students immaculately attired, disciplined and under strong leadership from fellow students who value the Cadet program. It looks like the overwhelming exhilaration and delight, including screams, tears, laughter and stunned shock at the outstanding success at the Sydney Royal with our cattle and sheep teams. It looks like knowing that you are sending your child to a school that has just completed a very rigorous Board of Studies Accreditation process with outstanding success. It looks like the outstanding recognition achieved by our Netballers on the Gold Coast Tour when they were presented with the Spirit of Netball Cup for outstanding sportsmanship; an honour bestowed on them by the other competing teams. It looks like the pride on display in pulling on a First XV Rugby jumper to run on the field and

the amazing feeling of winning the last game of the season after some tough encounters. It looks like our Pipes & Drums leading the ANZAC March each year or focusing fiercely for perfection at the Highland Jazz Night. It looks like being a part of important school events like the Highland Gathering and our Parent Weekend Chapel Services where the whole community comes together to celebrate Scots! It looks like the outstanding gratitude displayed by the Year 12 students at the Valedictory Assembly when students spoke with enormous pride and gratitude in thanking their parents for their decision to send them to Scots and the gratefulness expressed to their teachers for their dedication and interest in them. It looks like students giving their best in the class room, engaged in learning and completing set tasks to the best of their ability. It looks like the respect evident in Assembly and Chapel each week as students listen quietly and honestly acknowledge the success of others. It looks like the way students present themselves at school and in town by wearing their uniform as it should be – always a challenge but something that is instilled daily at school.

Pride in your school means giving your best in everything you do; to live a life of "Trouthe, Honour, Freedom, Curteisie".

I thoroughly enjoy meeting past students and listening to their reflections on their time at school. In January I attended the 30 year reunion of the Year 12 of 1981. We had a wonderful dinner together in the School Dining Hall and everyone spoke briefly of their experiences and memories of their time at school including Mr Tim Richards who taught this group of students in Years 11 and 12 in his first two years at the school. Mr Richards has just retired at the end of 2011 after 31 years of distinguished service at the school as a Science teacher, Rugby Coach, Director of Boarding, Deputy Headmaster and more recently as Headmaster from 2008 to 2010. He stayed on for one more year teaching Year 11 and 12 Chemistry in my first year as Headmaster before retiring at the end of the year.

It is always a great pleasure to meet past students who are enrolling their children at Scots and at present I am conducting scholarship interviews with many prospective students some



of whom are children of Scots alumni. The number of children of past students at the school has increased significantly over the last few years and they bring a special connection to the school through their father's connection. Of course it won't be long at all until the first children of Scots girls are coming to Scots on a regular basis with Scots becoming co-educational in 1998. This year we have welcomed the children of the following alumni to the school: John Miller (Madeline, Year 11), David Flude, (Georgia, Year 7), Michael Inwood (Emelia, Year 7), John Larkings (Kate, Year 7), Nick Powell (Alice, Year 7) and Neil Towart (Gwenllian, Year 7).

Students who are sons and daughters of Scots alumni receive a 10% discount for children or grandchildren of past students and many of them are on scholarships in addition to this. If you are interested in finding out more about what is available, please contact Megan Johnstone.

The old school pool, built by students in the early 1960's, has just been replaced with a 25 metre indoor heated pool and this has proved a great facility for the school with boarders using it regularly for recreation and swim squads providing excellent training opportunities. The first House Swimming Carnival was able to go ahead in quite poor weather conditions with every one spared the vagaries of the changing weather of the day.

I hope you enjoy this edition of *The Thistle*, one which heralds many fine achievements from our students this year, and feel a part of the Scots community by doing so. Please visit the School's website [www.scots.nsw.edu.au](http://www.scots.nsw.edu.au) to find out more about what we are doing.

Kind regards,

Mr David Gates  
Headmaster

## Year 12 2011 graduates success stories

The fields of Science and Engineering are hugely popular career choices for graduating Year 12 students from The Scots School Bathurst.

Horace (Rui Hang) Hou, a boarder and School Prefect from China, has attained excellent results in Extension 1 Mathematics, Extension 2 Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. Horace is aiming for a place in the Biomedical Engineering Degree at UNSW. Deputy Headmistress Mrs Lynne Fleming states that "Horace has done a wonderful job, working tremendously hard at his studies not in his home language."

Hannah Schulz, a boarder from Molong, similarly has achieved excellent results in Biology and Chemistry. She is passionate in her desire to enter Veterinary Science. Hannah has been successful in reaching the interview stage of entry for the degree at CSU Wagga.

Alayne White, a boarder from Cowra, is interested in a career in Dentistry, one of a number of students at Scots interested in this field.

Alexandra Bird, a day girl from Blayney, is keen to pursue a career in Medicine.

Ellen McKenzie, a day girl from Bathurst, has learnt sign language in anticipation of her career as a Speech Pathologist. Ellen was also The Scots School Pipe Major for 2011.

Sarah McKay and Saranne Weekes have set their sights on careers in Diagnostic Radiography and Physiotherapy respectively.

Lachlan Perry, Hamish Fisher And Christopher Squire of Bathurst, Narromine and Dunedoo, are determined to be engineers. Day boys Jack Saunders and Elliot Chew share a passion for Computer Science.

Kyle Skinner, a boarder from Yass, plans to study in the fields of Criminology and/or Psychology.



▲ Hannah Schulz and Alayne White.

◀ Horace (Rui Hang) Hou. Both these photos were taken during the Year 12 2011 Chemistry class taught by Mr Tim Richards, past Headmaster, who delayed full retirement to see the year group through their HSC.

### Upcoming Reunions

All year groups are invited to celebrate their reunions at the School. Please contact Megan Johnstone to register your event or your interest to attend. Many options are available, formal or casual lunches and dinners, tours of the school or a table or two at the BBG Ball.

#### Years due for Reunion:

- 5 Years, The Class of 2007
- 10 Years, The Class of 2007
- 15 Years, The Class of 1997
- 20 Years, The Class of 1992
- 25 Years, The Class of 1987
- 30 Years, The Class of 1982
- 40 Years, The Class of 1972
- 50 Years, The Class of 1962
- All Early Years 1942 to 1960

For more information email: [mjohnstone@scots.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mjohnstone@scots.nsw.edu.au)

The girls School Captain, Kaitlin Wright, is a conscientious science student and plans to complete tertiary study in Architecture.

The school is proud of Year 11 student Kalyan Manning who has accelerated beyond his year cohort to complete his HSC Mathematics Extension 2 course in 2011.

The new Headmaster of Scots has been pleased with the responses of the graduating students. Mr Gates states that "every student has fondly reminisced about their time at Scots and has commented on the positive attitude to learning in the school".

At Scots there is a consistent and significant enrolment in all science subjects. The Scots School Bathurst offers Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Agriculture each year.



Action in the new pool.

### First events held in our new pool

History was made with the first events held in the new indoor swimming pool in 2012. The first events were the 200m Freestyle on Monday the 6th of February after school followed by the House Swimming Carnival on Friday the 10th of February. The weather on Friday would have resulted in the cancellation of the carnival under normal circumstances but it was good to be able to proceed without a problem thanks to new indoor facility. Special thanks must go to Sports Master, Mr Justin Adams, for his preparation for the event, the staff for all their hard work on the day to ensure its success and Mrs Anna Micalos, the School Assistant with responsibility for the pool, in working hard to have the pool ready for use for the carnival. It was also good to see quite a few parents attend on the day to support their children.



Isabella Retallack, Morgan Bennett, Amber Rosin and Genevieve Gates.

Congratulations also to the House Captains and Housemasters for encouraging strong participation on the day. The outstanding achievement for the day was Zach Telfer who broke four school records!



▲ Parents: Kristina Powell (Narromine), Matt Woods & Helen Woods (Narromine), Kath Harley (Tottenham) and Donna George (Nevertire).

### RE-LAUNCH OF PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

Any past students who are interested in the re-launch of the past students Association are invited to attend a meeting and dinner at the School.

**April 21st, 2012**

For a formal invitation and meeting agenda, please register your interest with Megan Johnstone on 02 6331 2766 or email: [mjohnstone@scots.nsw.edu.au](mailto:mjohnstone@scots.nsw.edu.au)

### KARRALEE RESTORATION

Buy a paver with your name and the years you attended The Scots School to help landscape the new garden at the back of Karralee.  
Single pavers: \$35 Double: \$75



The first round of pavers have been laid with the next order arriving soon. Buy your paver or pavers today!



For a paver application form contact Enrolments & Promotions Officer Megan Johnstone on (02) 6331 2766

## Mr Farrington's visit to Scots

It was with great honour that Mr John Farrington, distinguished Scots Old Boy, was welcomed as the Chieftain for the Highland Gathering in 2012 and as a guest speaker at the School assembly prior. John began his schooling at The Scots School in 1948 aged 5 and left in 1958 at the age of 16. John completed six Leaving Certificate subjects and attained Colours for Athletics and Swimming and was a School Prefect.

John then continued his schooling at Cheltenham College in England, where he completed his 'A' Levels and also achieved Colours in Athletics and Cross-Country along with being a School Prefect. Following this he attended London University graduating with an honours degree in Economics before returning to Australia where he spent most of his working life in university management at Sydney, Flinders, Macquarie and Adelaide Universities. He also spent three years in Canberra during the Whitlam Years as Director of Sport in the Federal Government, where he was part of initiating plans for the formation of the Australian Institute of Sport and the government funding of Australian Sports organisations generally.

John Farrington's other great achievements revolve around an outstanding running career which began at Scots. In fact, the J R Farrington Cup for Open Cross Country Champion is named in his honour. During his years in England he won the Junior Cross

Country Championships and the World Junior Cross Country Championship in Spain. He represented both England in Cross Country at the Senior level and Great Britain at the Senior level athletics on the track at 3 miles. He was able to do this due to his dual citizenship through his English mother.

After finishing his degree he returned to Australia where he quickly became a highly accomplished distance runner on the world stage, winning the Australian Marathon Championships four times along with being the 10,000 metre track champion twice and Australian Cross Country Champion. He represented Australia at the Mexico Olympics in 1968 and was ranked first in the world for the Marathon in 1973. He represented the 'Rest of the World' Track and Field Team against the USA and the Soviet Union and was selected for the Munich Olympics in 1972 but was unable to compete due to injury. He won the Sydney 'City to Surf' race, now the World's biggest fun run, for three consecutive years from 1972 to 1974.



▲ John and Sue Farrington.

## Class of 1981 Reunion – 30 Years

A large group from The Class of 1981 enjoyed their 30 Year reunion at The Scots School on January 21st. This was the first full reunion of the Class of 1981 since leaving Scots, and many travelled from interstate to be part of an outstanding weekend.

Attending the reunion were: James Hunter, Alastair Smith, Andrew Kennett, Lachlan Partridge, Norm Olsen, Toby Warne, Robert Keen, Carl Braden, John Kirkness, Robert Champion, Ian Cameron, Anthony Stavely-Alexander, Angus Rolle, Colin Hamilton, Andrew Stevenson, Kent Boyd, Ian McLachlan, Warwick Herbert, Paul Scifleet. Apologies from: Peter Garfield, Andrew Hore, Fergus Stewart.

A special visitor Mr Stuart Partis travelled from Adelaide and played some black and white movies from the time that the boys were at Scots in the 1970's.

Mr David Gates, current headmaster, and Mr Tim Richards, previous

Headmaster, were both in attendance and talked to the reunion about how the School is progressing.

Each Old Boy had the opportunity to share what they are up to now and reflect on their time at Scots which was interesting, hilarious, nostalgic and bittersweet.

"Suffice to say that while our paths have diverged in so many different directions, we all came from a common experience which I believe defines who we are to this day," said Alastair Smith.

James Hunter added "On behalf of all of us who attended the weekend, thank you! It was a tremendous success and some excellent feedback from everyone involved."

Anyone from the Class of 1981, who would like to be in touch and attend the next reunion dinner planned for later this year, should contact James: [jhunter@kpmg.com.au](mailto:jhunter@kpmg.com.au)



▲ Before and after! See the Scots website 'Past Students' page for more photos from 1981.

Visit our website at [www.scots.nsw.edu.au](http://www.scots.nsw.edu.au)