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 exhalation 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 students listening quietly and honestly acknowledging the respect evident in Assembly and Chapel each week as students present themselves at school and in town by wearing their uniform as it should be.
- It looks like students giving their best in the class room, evidential in the success of others.
- It looks like students who are enrolling their children at Scots and pride and gratitude in thanking their parents by the Year 12 students at the Valedictory Weekend Chapel Services where the whole community comes together to celebrate Scots!
- 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 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 outstanding success at the Highland Jazz Night. 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 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 part of important school events like the Highland Gathering and our Parent Weekend Chapel Services where the whole community comes together to celebrate Scots!

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 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.

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.

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.

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 BBQ Ball.

Years due for Reunions:
• 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

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!
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’s other great achievements revolve around his 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.

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

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