Alumni Newsletter

Hurlstone Agricultural High School
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Hurlstone Celebration Dinner
On Saturday the 17th of May 2014 we celebrated the 140th Anniversary of the Hurlstone Name. We were fortunate to have 190 people attend. The dinner was held in the Dining Room at Hurlstone. The Hurlstone name started on the 25th April 1874 when John Kinloch signed the deed to the land at Summer Hill. He named the school after his beloved mother Helen Hurlstone who greatly encouraged John to further his education. He attend Sydney University and was one of the first 22 graduates. The school remained open for only two years before closing down. The school then became the Hurlstone Women’s Teaching College for the next 25 years. After this point the Women’s Teaching College moved to Sydney University and the school then became Hurlstone Agricultural High School. We opened our doors in 1907 and have grown to become a very successful co-ed selective boarding agricultural high school.

We were honoured to have Allan McClelland, Clinton Mead and Jordan Kerr speak on behalf of our Alumni. We also had Michael Kidd talk about his time here as principal and Johanna Leglise spoke about the history of the school. Dr Peter Benson who turns 90 this year and Diane Tran from year 7 cut the cake for us. The war cry was performed passionately by the students and it brought an emotional response from the Alumni.

Anzac Service 2014
On the 11th April we held our annual Anzac Service which was held under the Cola at Hurlstone. We were privileged to have Corporal Lo as our guest speaker, Alan is an Alumni from 2009. We were also honoured to have Allan Osmond attend our Anzac Service. Allan kindly donated $2,800 for the restoration of our Anzac Cairn as it was slowly being eroded away by the weather, and was covered with lichen and moss. The Cairn was cleaned and a new stone was commissioned from a local stone mason. Allan Osmond was immensely pleased with how the cairn turned out and also enjoyed the fuss that was showered on him on the day as it coincided with his 84th birthday. Sadly Allan passed away suddenly but peacefully in his sleep on the 26th April. Hurlstone will greatly miss this Alumnus who attended every alumni event at Hurlstone.
Class of 1969 School Reunion

On the 7th June 2014 the Class of 1969 paid a visit to Hurlstone. The school archivist Johanna Leglise was privileged to escort them through Clarke House and around the school grounds and enjoyed listening to them reminisce about their time at Hurlstone. They then adjourned to Panthers Leagues Club to enjoy the rest of the night catching up with old school friends and teachers.

Reg Burnham, 1922-2014

Reginald James Burnham was born on January 2, 1922 in Sydney’s Eastern Suburbs. He went to Hurlstone Agricultural High School and, after graduating with his Intermediate Certificate, set off jackerooing.

He served in the AIF from 1941 to 1946 both in Australia and overseas, attaining the rank of lieutenant, and married Betty Chidgey in 1943.

On leaving the army, Burnham enrolled in the JV Hall Academy of Advertising. He worked for Fosters Shoes, then at some small Australian agencies before – after some ups and downs – landing a job with the big American agency McCann Erickson.

His responsibilities were to manage the Creative Department, which at the time included a young writer, Bryce Courtney, who became a prolific novelist.

Burnham then moved to high profile creative agency, Pritchard Wood, as General Manager. His reputation as a man who would always get things done - with an iron fist - was becoming very well known. So it was no surprise when he was head-hunted to run the BIG W account at Fortune. The rest is now advertising history. He retired in 1978.

Reg Burnham is survived by children Stephen, Ross and Rae Anne, eight grandchildren and 10 great-grandchildren. Betty died in 2008.