

## Principal's Newsletter 13 October 2017

On Thursday 12 October 2017 the school community was made aware of the name by which the school on the current Glenfield site would be known as of 2023.

This information was delivered by myself, on behalf of the Minister for Education, at a special school assembly which was convened to recognise the endorsement of the name ROY WATTS HIGH SCHOOL, by the Minister for Education, the Hon. Robert Stokes.

Members of the Watts family were in attendance at the assembly and were overjoyed that the Department of Education has chosen to acknowledge Mr Roy Watts, A.O. with such an honour.

During the assembly I went into detail as to why this name was chosen and I think that it is important to share with the wider school community some of the compelling reasons for this choice.

They include the fact that:

- The school is on Roy Watts Road
- Both Mr Watts' and his wife Alison's ashes are buried in the Clarke House Rose Garden
- That Mr Watts is a notable alumnus of Hurlstone whose roots in Glenfield, agriculture and education run deep.

To understand the depth of his connection to this site you need to look no further than

- The story of his early years
- His educational journey
- Read his curriculum vitae

### The Early Years

Whilst being born in Leichhardt and living a few years in Wagga Wagga, Roy Watts moved to Glenfield at an early age.

Mr Watts' father, Mr H.H. Watts, was the Principal of Glenfield Primary School.

From these early connections Roy Watts and his family, (wife Alison (nee Dunn) and his children Christine, Dianne, David and James) remained connected to Glenfield throughout his life.

### His Educational Journey

Mr Watts attended Glenfield Public School and then Hurlstone Agricultural High School where he achieved his leaving certificate in 1932. He then went on to Sydney University and graduated in 1936 with a degree in Veterinary Science.

## Curriculum Vitae

The most effective way to explicate why Mr Watts' was chosen for this honour is to let his CV talk for itself:

### Career

- 1937: NSW Department of Agriculture - Veterinary Officer
  - Main foci were animal quarantine and NSW Milk Board scheme for tubercle-free raw milk supplies for Sydney and Newcastle.
- Acting District Veterinary Officer for Armidale, Grafton and Goulburn.
- 1948-51: District Veterinary Officer.
  - Main focus was the control of infectious and contagious diseases in Moss Vale Pastures Protection District.
- 1951-53: Principal Veterinary Officer
- 1953-55: Chairman, Board of Tick Control, Lismore
  - Associated with the control of cattle tick and quarantine for the far north coast of NSW. Supervised 500 staff and a \$2 million dollar budget.
- 1955-60: Deputy Chief, Division of Animal Industry
- 1960-65: Chief, Division of Animal Industry
- 1965-66: Deputy Director-General, Department of Agriculture
- 1966-80: Director General, Department of Agriculture

### Committees and Organisations

- Chief Quarantine Officer (Animals) 1960-65.
- Chairman, Stock Foods and Medicines Board, 1960-65
- President, NSW Veterinary Surgeons Board, 1960-65
- Chairman, Rabbit Control Advisory Committee, 1960-65
- Chairman, Stock Routes Advisory Committee, 1960-65
- Member, Cattle Tick Control Commission, 1960-65
- Member, Poisons Advisory Committee, 1960-65
- Member, Animal Production Committee, 1960-65
- Member, Agricultural Chemicals Committee, 1965-75
- Chairman, Co-ordinating Committee on Agricultural Chemicals, 1969-80.

- Commonwealth Representative to Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) meeting on Pesticide Residues in Rome 1963 and in Arnhem in 1969
- Chairman, Farrer Memorial Trust, 1966-80
- Member, Royal Botanic Gardens and Government Domain Trust, 1966-76
- Chairman, Australian Meat Research Committee, 1966-80
- Member, Standing Committee on Agriculture 1966-80
- Chairman, Standing Committee on Agriculture 1969, 1974 and 1980
- Member, CSIRO State Committee, 1968-75
- Member, CSIRO, Advisory Council, 1970-73
- Councillor Royal Agricultural Society of NSW, 1986-2001
- Member, Commonwealth Council for Rural Research and extension, 1979-80
- Member, Faculty of Veterinary Science, University of Sydney 1980-86
- President, Australian Registered Cattle Breeders' Association, 1981-84
- Member, Board of Trustees, McGarvie Smith Institute, 1976-2001

#### Overseas Visits

- 1963: Meeting of Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in Rome.
- 1969: Meeting of Codex Committee on Pesticide Residues in Arnhem, The Netherlands
- 1973: Member of Australian delegation to FAO
- 1974: Visit to Libya for discussions regarding aid program
- 1975: Visit to Washington D.C for discussions with European delegates and the US Department of Agriculture regarding pesticide residues.
- 1977: Deputy Leader of NSW trade mission to Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Hong Kong, China and Japan.
- 1977: Discussions with representatives of UK, US, Italy, Belgium and The Netherlands on use of agricultural chemicals.
- 1977: Member of Australian delegation to FAO.
- 1978: Visit to South Africa to assess the AMRC dung beetle program

#### Awards

- 1971: Fellow of the Australian College of Veterinary Scientists
- 1974: Imperial Service Order
- 1978: Gilruth Prize
- 1980: Officer, Order of Australia
- 1980: Life Member of Australian Veterinary Association

- 1992: Fellow of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science.
- 1997: Fellow of Australian Institute of Agricultural Science and Technology

There has been some consternation in the community about the transition of Hurlstone Agricultural High School to the WSU Hawkesbury campus, and there are some that wish that it wasn't happening. However, I have not heard one person, even those mounting the most ardent objections, deny that Mr Roy Mervyn Watts, A.O. is deserving of this honour.

I concluded my speech at the special assembly by saying:

“From looking at this CV we can see that, like many products of Hurlstone, he made the world beyond the school better.

There is no doubt that the most mentioned alumnus is John Edmondson VC, and he has already received the honour of a school in his name.

I put it to you that John Edmondson VC performed one heroic act that defined his life and his effect on others but Roy Watts had a life of acts which helped to define a career, an academic discipline, an entire industry and now his legacy will define a school community and that is why it is fitting and appropriate that as of 2023 this place is named after.....

Roy Mervyn Watts, A.O., I.S.O., B.V.Sc., F.A.C.V. Sc., F.A.I.A.S”



You may wish to read an article which appeared in the Macarthur Chronicle at:

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/macarthur/news-story/c2e7ad077798ee5d31b867c7ae669f80>

Daryl Currie

Principal