From The President

Welcome to the second edition of the CPS Old Boys’ Newsletter.

The wheels have been set in motion for the planning of our Centenary Year in 2014. It may seem a long way off at the moment but it will be upon us before we know it. Therefore, we are putting out the call to all CPS Old Boys and their families to reconnect with the School so we can keep you informed of the events we have planned for our celebrations.

If you are in contact with Coogee Prep class mates please ask them to contact the School office to confirm their details. You may even want to act as a coordinator for your year - we will very much welcome any assistance offered!

The Scots College Old Boys’ Union included an advertisement on their website and in the recent edition of their newsletter, Lang Syne. The ad asks any Coogee Prep Old Boys who attended Scots College to contact Coogee Prep to ensure the School has their details. We appreciate the support from Scots College and would also like to thank Waverley College, Cranbrook and Sydney Grammar Old Boys’ Unions for supporting us in our request to reconnect with our Old Boys.

We recently held a luncheon for a group of Old Boys who we refer to as our ‘Vintage’ Old Boys. It has been many years since this group met and we took this opportunity not only to showcase the new school building and facilities, but also to honour two very special guests on the day.

Firstly, we honoured Mr Kenneth Godfrey who is both the oldest Coogee Prep and Scots College Old Boy. Secondly we presented Mr Nick Brown (Coogee Prep’s second Headmaster and part of a fourth generation family at Coogee Prep) with a plaque acknowledging his dedication and commitment to the School. Mr Brown’s influence during his time at Coogee Prep played a major role in keeping Mr William Nimmo’s legacy very much alive.

At Coogee Prep we are fortunate to have a number of ‘multi-generational’ families attend the School. One family that deserves special mention is the Demos Family. We have the pleasure of profiling Mr Patrick Demos - an Old Boy and continued supporter of the School, in this newsletter.

I hope you enjoy this edition!

Brett Jowett
PRESIDENT
COOGEE PREP OLD BOYS’ UNION

---

CPS ARCHIVE

We are looking for items to add to the Coogee Prep Archive for display in the glass cabinets in the school.

If you have any memorabilia to donate please call the School on (02) 9398 6310

---

1954 - Athletics at Coogee Oval

2012 Cross Country - Queens Park
Headmaster’s Welcome

It was wonderful to see many of our ‘vintage’ Old Boys return to Coogee Prep in August this year for a reunion. For some, this was their first visit to Coogee Prep since they left, and they were amazed at the changes that have taken place since. We were very honoured to have Mr Nick Brown (Headmaster of Coogee Prep from 1965 – 1997) come down from Queensland to attend as well as Mr Kenneth Godfrey – at 96 years of age, our oldest Old Boy.

The day started with a church service with the Years Four - Six boys in attendance. The School Captain, Vice-captain and House Captains spoke about various aspects of modern School life and what it means to them to be part of Coogee Prep. Everyone then sang the School song – it was a wonderful sight to see the older gentleman singly loudly and proudly along side our current boys.

Following the Church service the Year Six boys chaperoned the Old Boys around the new building, showing them the classrooms, trophy cabinet, library, Centenary Wall and the wonderful photos of old and new that now hang throughout the school. The Old Boys had a wonderful time, recounting stories of their time at Coogee Prep as they visited various classrooms and met the students. Following the tour, we then headed across to the Randwick Labor Club for lunch. All in all the day was very successful and was a great start to our reunion activities as we head towards the School’s Centenary in 2014.

Over lunch I spoke about how over the past eighteen months, in conjunction with the advent of our new school building and some changes in our administration, the School Community took the time to revisit and review the fundamental pillars that first established Coogee Prep - those being Mr Nimmo’s motto of ‘Gentleman, Scholar, Sportsman’. Feedback from existing and past parents made it abundantly clear that Mr Nimmo’s three pillars remain as important today as they did back in 1914. They have stood the test of time and continue to set Coogee Prep apart from many other schools.

Those three simple words – Gentleman, Scholar, Sportsman – encapsulate the ideal every Coogee Prep parent wants for their son. Those three words also give a clear guideline to even the youngest Kindergarten boy of what it is to be a Coogee Prep boy. I believe this has played a major role in our enrolments being at an all time high with parents submitting applications for enrolment as far out as 2020.

As always, I ask you to encourage any Coogee Prep Old Boy you know to register their details with the School on the School’s website (www.coogeeprep.nsw.edu.au) to ensure we can keep in contact with them and update them on the activities that will be happening in association with the School’s Centenary in 2014. Please feel free to contact the School with any feedback, information or memorabilia you may have and/or wish to donate or lend to the School Archive.

Kind regards

JT Dicks
HEADMASTER
‘Vintage’ Old Boys Reunion - August 2012

Left to Right: Mr Bill Whitby (1956), Mr Jack Lister (1953), Mr Ken Catchpole (1952), Mr Gerry Lister (1951), Mr Nick Brown (1951)

Presentation to Nick Brown honouring his commitment to Coogee Prep as Student, Teacher, and Headmaster. L-R: Brett Jowett, President of Coogee Prep Old Boys Association, Mr Nick Brown and Mr John Dicks, Headmaster

Gathered outside the Randwick Labor Club before lunch

Above: Tour of the classrooms to see the boys at work

Left: Presentation to Mr Kenneth Godfrey honouring him as the oldest Coogee Prep Old Boy
We recently caught up with Patrick Demos – a Coogee Prep Old Boy and grandfather of nine grandsons – all who have attended Coogee Prep over the last fifteen years. Patrick shared some of his memories of his time at Coogee Prep with us:

I was born on 15 April 1937 and lived in Kensington as a young boy. I was the second eldest in a family of two sons and three daughters. Originally my mother enrolled me at OLR primary school in Kensington as my older sister was attending school there. I went there from Kindergarten to Year Two. At the end of Year Two my mother wasn’t that happy with my education there and heard that a friend of mine was attending Coogee Prep. She decided to make a change and enrolled me at Coogee Prep from Year Three.

When I started at Coogee Prep I walked to and from school every day as my mother had five children and was always busy. I walked to school rain, hail or shine! At that time Mr Nimmo taught years Four, Five and Six. I remember Mr Nimmo as a short, bald fellow who very much liked discipline! He also paid a lot of attention to the students’ appearance. Mr Nimmo liked neatness and always talked to us about the importance of manners inside and outside the school. We studied algebra, French and geometry – all under the watchful eye of Mr Nimmo. In my first year at Coogee Prep you were made to stand in front of the class each week and read from a book. Mr Nimmo would then mark you on your presentation skills and your neatness – nothing ever slipped by him! Every week Mr Nimmo would give us a spelling test. If you got three or more wrong in the test you get ‘six of the best’ from him. I made sure I learnt my spelling words every week!

I played cricket and rugby for the school and had boxing lessons once a week. At Speech Night, Mr Nimmo would have two students give a boxing demonstration. One year I was asked to do it, however unfortunately the other student knocked me out with his first punch!

I loved my time at Coogee Prep and have many fond memories. People ask me why my son Nicholas didn’t go to Coogee Prep. I tell them that ‘women always get their way’. My wife’s brothers attended Sydney Grammar so it was decided that our son would go there too. However, as my wife Christine had listened to so many of my stories of my wonderful times at Coogee Prep over the years, when it came time for our children to think about their children’s education, she really encouraged them to send their sons to Coogee Prep and I’m very glad she did.

I have been more than happy with the education my grandsons have received (and two are currently receiving) at Coogee Prep. At one stage I had a grandson in every class from Years One – Six. ‘Grandparents Day’ was very challenging that year’s for sure! I have been on four New Zealand Football tours and enjoyed every one of them. I hope to make the 2013 Tour (even though I won’t have a grandson on that Tour) and of course the 2015 Tour! I have met many lovely parents and boys over the years I have been attending the numerous sporting and other events at Coogee Prep and hope to continue my association for many years to come. I look forward to the next vintage Old Boys reunion next year and the Centenary in 2014 – that will be a marvelous occasion for the whole Coogee Prep community to celebrate.
School Concert - Olympicked

In September this year, Coogee Prep hosted its annual school concert/musical. The interesting, funny and clever script was written by our Year Two teacher Miss Revell and the music was composed by our Year Six teacher Mr Metliss - a very clever combination indeed!

The play was based on a live game show that took seven lucky travelers to seven different countries, in search of the next host to hold the Olympics. We saw a range of lifestyles in every country with a great array of amazing costumes. Each country was presented with a song that was written by Mr Metliss. He also organised a band to play the music and the performance was filmed.

Some of the destinations visited included Athens, Greece, USA, Barcelona, Spain, Russia, Beijing, China, Sydney, Australia and London, England. All of the songs were accompanied by dancing choreographed by Miss Annette Ginis.

The show finished when the seven travelers returned to the studio. The voice-over man was about to announce the next host of the Olympic Games when the show was interrupted by loud noises and shakes. To everyone’s surprise it was the aliens who had invaded the studio to find out who was to be the next host of the Intergalactic Games. They chose Planet Earth with Tommy Dazzle to be the host. The major lessons from the concert were discovering different cultures with everyone being a winner in the end!

We all really enjoyed preparing the concert and performing it for our audience.

By Tom Vaughan and Harris Christofa (Year Six Drama and Music Captains)
Focus on Sporting Excellence

Coogee Prep is proud to have some high-achieving ‘Gentlemen, Scholars and Sportsmen’ amongst its Old Boys. Some recent Old Boys who have been very successful in their athletics, rugby and swimming are brothers Kurt (CPS 2009) and Drew Fryer (CPS 2012) and cousin Cameron Mee (CPS 2006).

Since leaving CPS in 2009, Kurt continued competing in swimming and athletics at Cranbrook. From Year Seven he has been part of the Cranbrook teams for swimming, athletics and cross-country competing in the intra-school competitions.

Cross-country has been Kurt’s main focus as he made the CAS Open cross-country team this year and received CAS Colours. Since leaving CPS Kurt has reached National level in both cross-country and on the track specialising in 1500m and 3000m.

Kurt has been enjoying his school swimming representing Cranbrook in the Cole Classic Ocean swim at Manly and the Sydney Harbour Swim as well as playing in the Under 16’s water polo team.

Drew is currently in Year Six at Coogee Prep and has represented the School in swimming, athletics and cross-country. He has reached both State and National level for his cross-country running. For the last two years Drew has won both the age swimming and athletics cups, 1500m cup and Open cross-country cup at the Coogee Prep Speech Night awards. During the 2012 winter season this year Drew participated in the Senior School CAS/GPS cross country races representing CPS in the U14 race.

When Drew starts high school at Cranbrook in 2013 he hopes to continue with his sport, concentrating on cross-country.

Both Kurt and Drew train in the same running squad three times per week. They both enjoy their running immensely.

Cameron Mee left Coogee Prep in 2006 and also went on to high school at Cranbrook. He has had a very successful sporting and leadership career at school being part of the Swimming and Athletics teams, as well as Water Polo, Basketball and Rowing teams. He played in the 1st XV Rugby team for Cranbrook and was selected as part of the CAS 1st XV in Year 12. He was a prefect, Vice-Captain of his house as well as Vice-Captain of Swimming.

Congratulations Kurt, Drew and Cameron on your outstanding achievements!

Look out for the next issue of the Old Boys’ Newsletter in March 2013. We would love to hear your stories about Coogee Prep and memories of your time at school as well as any current news. We look forward to your contributions and feedback at office@coogeeprep.nsw.edu.au
The Centenary Donor Wall is being created to celebrate people’s involvement with Coogee Prep over the last one hundred years. Purchasing a tile is a visual recognition of your involvement with the school and your support for the on-going provision of an all-round education for future generations of Coogee Prep boys.

There is a maximum of four lines of text for each tile, each with a maximum of 23 character spaces per line. Each character space represents either a letter, number, space or punctuation mark. Please print your inscription in the spaces below using capital letters. Each tile is available at a tax deductible amount of $300.

There are a limited number of tiles available for purchase and we encourage everyone to be part of this unique initiative as we approach the School’s centenary in 2014.

Payment can be made by:
Cheque made payable to CPS Millennium Building Fund (for $300) and posted to The Headmaster, Coogee Boys’ Preparatory School, PO Box 190 Randwick 2031.

Credit Card Please debit my VISA ☐ MasterCard ☐

Card Number: ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐ ☐☐☐☐
Expiry Date: ☐☐ / ☐☐ Amount: $_________

Name:___________________________________ Email:___________________________________
Telephone:______________________________ Mobile:_________________________________

☐ If you do not wish to purchase a tile but would like to contribute to the Coogee Prep Building Fund please tick this box and complete the payment details above.
Alternatively you can contact Mr John Dicks on 9398 6310 to discuss a donation.
Any enquiries can be directed to Mrs Tessa Morris in the School Office on (02) 9398 6310

Each tile measures 150mm x 80mm