From The President

Welcome to the first Old Boys’ newsletter for 2014. The centenary celebrations for Coogee Prep have already commenced!

I hope by now you have all received a copy of the Centenary Event Calendar highlighting the many events we have planned to make Coogee Prep’s centenary Year one to remember.

The opening event, the Centenary Church Service & Morning Tea, was held at the school on 6th February with an attendance of over one hundred people which was pleasing to see.

Guest speakers included Mr Stuart Brown, son of our second Headmaster Mr Nick Brown, Mr James Hanscombe, great grandson of our founder and first Headmaster Mr William Nimmo, Mr Geoffrey Davison, Patron of CPS and myself.

Our guest speakers recounted memories of their time at CPS and what was clear was that whilst the physical structure of the school may have undergone an amazing transformation, the fundamental traditions and ethos of CPS has not changed since the School opened its doors in 1914.

We took the opportunity at this first event to honour those families who have had three or more generations attend CPS. Those families being the Brown, Heathwood, Wagstaff and Jowett families.

The Demos Family was also recognised for their support of the school and whilst there has only been two generations at CPS, there have been ten family members attend, which is more than any other family.

The highlight for me was our recognition of the remarkable achievements of two CPS Old Boys who have only just left High School.

We were pleased to welcome back Nicholas Koutsoukis (Alumni 2007 & grandson of Pat Demos) who, in 2013, captained the Waverley College 1XV Rugby Team. He went on to play for CAS 1XV, then on to NSW 2XV and capped off the year with selection in the Australia A Schoolboy Rugby Team.

We also welcomed back Monty Tait (Alumni 2008) who has had his sights set on a professional surfing career since he first entered the water. 2013 saw Monty’s dream come true when he won the U18 Years NSW Surfing Titles. From there he competed in the Australian Junior Surfing Titles where he finished second and gained selection in the Australian Team. 2014 will see him touring the world on the professional circuit. Keep your eyes out for these two boys!

I look forward to seeing some of the younger Old Boys at the Barefoot Bowls Day at Waverley Bowling Club on Sunday 6th April and many of you at the Old Boys’ Centenary luncheon on 24th July.

Brett Jowett
PRESIDENT
COOGEE PREP OLD BOYS’ UNION

Have we got your email address?
Can you please email office@coogeeprep.nsw.edu.au to confirm your email address
Headmaster’s Centenary Address

It is with great pleasure that I welcome our Old Boys to a most important time in the history of Coogee Boys’ Preparatory School – 2014, our centenary year. During this past hundred years, Australia has weathered global crises and conflict, seen the tragedy and human cost of the Great Depression, has witnessed incredible social and economic upheaval and survived countless natural disasters. Throughout these times of seemingly endless change, Coogee Prep has never wavered. It has remained a strong and unique institution, dedicated to providing an excellent ‘all-round’ education for young boys in their preparation for further advancing their life skills. And what is perhaps most inspiring, is that the principles on which Mr. Bill Nimmo founded the School – those of ‘gentleman, scholar and sportsman’ – still resonate strongly and continue to give a clear message to even the youngest Kindergarten student of what he, as a Coogee Prep boy, can aspire to.

As only the third Headmaster of Coogee Prep, a position I have held for now nineteen years, it is fitting that in the year of our Centenary, I give my sincere thanks and gratitude. I give thanks to those in our community, the staff, parents, Old Boys and the students who together have formed the family we call ‘The Coogee Prep Community’.

I have been privileged to work with exceptional teaching, administrative and support staff who have displayed dedication and passion to their vocation. The loyalty and dedication they have shown to the school throughout this time is testament to the many successes and achievements our students have gained as they have passed through the corridors of Coogee Prep. In particular, I extend my gratitude to my Deputy Head, Ms Kerry Gershon, whose support and commitment to Coogee Prep has never failed. It is through her exemplary leadership over the past 19 years that has assisted me in ensuring Coogee Prep’s bright future.

Nothing makes me prouder than watching our senior boys leave us as fine young gentlemen ready to take on the challenges of high school, whether it be in the classroom, on the sporting field, or in the wider community. This fills me with confidence that the scholastic, social, spiritual and leadership programs we have in place effectively prepare our boys to go out into the world knowing they have a strong foundation to build upon. Equally, when our Year 7 students return and eagerly speak of their achievements and exciting new challenges, I know we have done our job!

I can only admire and congratulate the strength and support of the Coogee Prep parent community. Over the years and under the leadership of the P&F, the parent body has worked tirelessly for the enrichment and benefit of their sons. I have valued the enthusiasm and energy they have brought to our school. I also thank the parent body for the confidence that has been bestowed upon me to fulfill my role as Headmaster.

It has been very encouraging to see the work we have done on reengaging with our Old Boys gain significant momentum over the past few years. It is so important that in our centenary year, we celebrate the successes of past students and encourage their ties with the School as it can only enrich our community spirit and strengthen our future.

I acknowledge the partnership of the RPC and Coogee Prep and thank Rev Stenhouse, the Committee of management and congregation for their ongoing support. I also acknowledge the support of various High Schools, in particular The Scots College and thank Dr. Ian Lambert and his staff for their ongoing support of Coogee Prep.

Finally, I am reminded of the adage ‘If you do something then do it well!’ There can be no doubt that Mr Bill Nimmo’s vision and philosophy became a reality in the classrooms of Coogee Prep back in 1914 and continued under the excellent stewardship of Mr. Nick Brown. Both men obviously shared a personal philosophy that reflected the notion of high ideals and hard work to achieve success. I had the great pleasure and fortune of having Mr. Nick Brown as my mentor and advisor throughout the early years of my Headship, which I recognise as the firm foundation I needed to continue and succeed as the third Headmaster of this unique school. I sincerely thank him for placing his trust in me and offering me the opportunity to embark on what is a remarkable adventure!

Our centenary is not a time for us to rest on our laurels. As education is ever evolving, so too must Coogee Prep in its endeavours to make a great school even greater! Our centenary year provides us with an opportunity to reflect on our past and learn from it, which in turn will strengthen us to face the next one hundred years and the ongoing challenges of the 21st Century.

I encourage all our Old Boys’ to study our Centenary Calendar enclosed in this newsletter and commit to attending one or more events during this special year for Coogee Prep. Be sure to pass the word on to all your ex-Coogee Prep mates and we look forward to sharing our celebrations with you.

Three cheers for the Black, Gold and Blue!

John T Dicks
HEADMASTER
Celebrating the start of Coogee Prep’s Centenary year

Coogee Prep’s centenary year celebrations began with a Church Service and morning tea on Thursday 6th February. There was a sense of pride and excitement as two pipers from The Scots College commenced proceedings and old boys, current and past parents, representatives from multi-generational families and representatives from Randwick Presbyterian Church gathered in the Church to celebrate this wonderful milestone.

The Centenary Church Service was the first event to showcase the senior boys (Years Five and Six) new winter uniform comprising of a black blazer featuring the school colours and crest, white shirt and new senior school tie. This uniform incorporates elements of the Coogee Prep uniform of yesteryear with a smart contemporary look. The launch of the uniform was met with resounding approval from past and present parents and Old Boys and certainly added an element of pride and maturity to the senior boys on this special day.
Coogee Prep has been a presence in my life long before I began here as a student in 1981. Hearing the stories of my great-grandfather, his kindness and generosity of spirit, his drive to impart values and traditions of fairness, respect and service and his devotion to the boys he taught and the examples he set as a scholar, sportsman and gentleman.

Sadly, I never met William Nimmo. He passed away five years before I was born. His daughter Mollie, my grandmother, was to teach kindergarten at Coogee Prep and her daughter Maureen is my mother.

Fast-forward to the summer of 1980 when, as a nervous eight year old, I walked up the grey front stairs with my mother to the office and classroom of Mr Nick Brown. I loved Mr Brown's classroom because of the model airplanes hanging from the ceiling. This was my first encounter with that versatile item of clothing known as the safari suit coupled with a crisp white shirt and a rugby club tie. Now, I have confession to make to you all. My mother was so taken with this bold choice that she was to get me a safari suit of my very own for Christmas that year. I wanted Luke Skywalker’s toy X-wing fighter from Star Wars but instead got a safari suit. I certainly came out on top with that deal!

The next four years were a blur of learning under Mr Ben Benade and Mr Brown, of cricket and rugby, of physical culture, boxing (with no head protection!), choir, drama and debating. Of tiny classrooms filled with desks that were so close together you could lose all of your pens and pencils in the course of a week.

It was here that I learnt the vital lesson that has supported me through my career as a teacher. The value of feedback: I still remember the morning in early 1983 where Nick Brown encouraged me to persist in my maths lesson which I was struggling with that day: I still remember the sense of reassurance that I was on track and doing well. It's a sobering thought for any teacher that what we do and what we choose to set as our focus can stay with our students long after they leave our classrooms.

I chose education as a profession because of William Nimmo’s example. An example that he built over 50 years of teaching. As a classroom practitioner he had a fundamental understanding of boys’ education before it became a mode of practice, before the data our schools were producing said that teaching of boys required a more directed skillset. He believed unreservedly in the capacity of students to achieve. When we talk about capacity building, Mr Nimmo believed in what you could do before you even started to try.

In early 1995 I was privileged to meet Mr. John Dicks at an Old Boys’ dinner. This was his first year as Headmaster. I am eternally grateful to him and Nick for appointing me to a teaching position in 1999 where for the next ten years I was to be associated with some of the most dedicated and caring professionals with whom any teacher could hope to work. As well as the most delightful, selfless and energetic students a teacher could have in his classroom. William Nimmo, Nick Brown and John Dicks understood that the success of their students is dependent on the quality of the teaching. The learning culture these three men embraced, fostered and nurtured is the reason why we have come together again one hundred years after Coogee prep first opened its doors.

William Nimmo was man of his time - traditional and conservative. Seeing what Coogee Prep has become with wonderful new facilities for 21st century learning would be tremendously rewarding for him I’m sure. He would be staggered at the enormity of the ‘Building the Education Revolution’ Project that has taken place here. He would marvel at the interactive whiteboards and IPads. But his greatest reassurance would come in the fact that his values of respect, care for others and a desire to be of service to your community are still core values of the education boys receive at Coogee Prep.

You all have a big job ahead of you now. It's time to start Coogee Prep’s next 100 years!
Through the archives - 50 Year Celebrations

Mrs Enid Ross (aged 90) visited Coogee Prep in late February. Mrs Ross’ two sons Ashley Ross (Alumni 1955) and Garth Ross (Alumni 1958) both attended Coogee Prep and then went on to The Scots College.

Mrs Ross was responsible for organising the lunch to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of the foundation of Coogee Prep. She gave us some wonderful photos and the lunch menu for the 50 year celebrations. Mrs Ross toured the School and was most impressed by the new building the the boys. It was a delight to meet her and she was a wealth of interesting stories and information about Coogee Prep’s history.

---

Headmaster Mr Bill Nimmo cutting the 50th anniversary cake

Headmaster Mr Bill Nimmo with Lady Ruby Storey. Lady Storey was a great friend of Bill Nimmo’s and generous benefactor to the school. Storey House is named in her honour.

Headmaster Mr John Dicks and Mrs Enid Ross, who was responsible for organising the 50th anniversary lunch

Menu for the 50th Anniversary Celebrations

---

50th ANNIVERSARY DINNER — FRIDAY, 20th JUNE, 1964
AT THE REX HOTEL.
Cnr. Glenmore Avenue and Beach Road, Bondi, 7.30 p.m.

On Arrival:

Cheese, Biscuits, Nuts, Saratoga Chips

Dinner:

Minestrone Soup
Grilled Fish
Roast Spring Chicken (3 birds)
or
Fried Fish with Sauce Tartare
Three Vegetables and French Fried Potatoes
or Baked Potatoes
Fruit Salad and Ice Cream
Coffee and Mints
Cheese, Biscuits, Nuts, Saratoga Chips, Salads
You are invited to attend the
Coogee Boys’ Preparatory School
Old Boys’ Luncheon
to celebrate
Coogee Prep’s Centenary Year

Thursday 24th July 2014

11.30am Welcome address in the school hall
followed by lunch
12.15pm at the Randwick Labor Club

Cost - $50 per person
(includes two course lunch and drink on arrival)

RSVP
Office@coogeeprep.nsw.edu.au or the school office on (02) 9398 6310
by Wednesday 16th July

Name: ___________________________  Year left CPS: ____________

I would like to attend the Old Boys’ lunch [ ]  I am unable to attend the lunch [ ]

Enclosed in a cheque (made out to Coogee Boys' Preparatory School) for $ ___________

I have transferred $ ___________ to Coogee Boys’ Preparatory School Pty Ltd
Westpac  BSB: 032056  Account: 270073
(Please put your name and ‘OBL’ in description field)

Send RSVP to Mrs Tessa Morris, PO Box 190, Randwick NSW 2031  office@coogeeprep.nsw.edu.au
Spotlight on Old Boy - Dr John Solomon (Alumni 1942)

In 2013, Coogee Prep began the process of honouring its Old Boys by producing ‘Honour Frames’ to celebrate the success and support of its Alumni. Honour Frames have been established for Old Boys who have excelled in their chosen field in life and who are fine examples of ‘Gentlemen, Scholars and Sportsmen’. Dr John Solomon was a recent recipient of a Coogee Prep Old Boy Honour Frame.

Herbert John Solomon (John) was born in Randwick in 1929 where he lived with his parents and two sisters. He started at Coogee Boys’ Preparatory School in 1936 aged six years old and finished mid year in 1942 as his family moved to Darling Point to be closer to grandparents while John’s father was at war. John’s father was taught by Bill Nimmo at Sydney Preparatory, Edgecliff and John was the first of Mr Nimmo’s former student’s children to also be taught by Mr Nimmo.

Coogee Prep was instrumental in instilling a lifelong love of sport for John. He went on to attend The Scots College where he excelled in cricket, rugby and athletics, being captain of each of these sports in his final year as well as being Head Prefect.

After graduating from The Scots College, John studied medicine at The University of Sydney where he specialised in Obstetrics and Gynecology. He won the Obstetrics prize upon his graduation in 1954. John then studied at Oxford University for a year on scholarship before working at King George V hospital in Sydney for forty-two years, where he delivered over 6000 babies. Later in his career he focused on Gynecology Oncology and was a founding member of the King George V Gynecology Oncology Unit.

During his time at Sydney University, John played rugby at the highest levels. He was selected in the University First XV in 1948 and made his state and national representative debuts at age nineteen in 1949. In 1952 John was appointed Wallaby Captain – this included two tours to New Zealand as well as a four-month tour of South Africa. The highlight of his career was beating the Springboks in the second test of the tour in Cape Town. The Springboks were the reigning world champions and this was the first time they had been beaten in fifteen years. In a surprise gesture, fitting the rarity of the result, the Springbok forwards chaired John from the field. During these tours John showed his versatility and leadership as both captain and coach of the team. John’s play has been described by former teammates as ‘quick enough to play centre or wing, equipped with a skillful swerve and sharp acceleration when a gap appeared and much admired for his astute captaincy’.

John continued playing until 1955 and was appointed the Australian Coach for the Springbok Series in 1956. After this time his medical career took precedence and he hung up his coaching boots – although he returned to coach Sydney University between 1964 and 1967 to Premiership success.

John married Marcia Blake, a nursing sister at RPA, in 1956. They have been married for 57 years and have four children and eleven grandchildren. John and Marcia reside in the eastern suburbs of Sydney.

GENTLEMAN - SCHOLAR - SPORTSMAN
Hi Mr Dicks, Ms Gershon, Mrs Morris and Teachers,

I can’t believe the year is almost over and I have almost finished my first year of High School. It feels like only yesterday I was in the park at recess and lunch playing footy and cricket at Coogee Prep. My time at Coogee Prep gave me a great head start at Waverley College, not only with sport but with my education.

At Waverley I am currently playing centre in Rugby for the 7As. We had a great season with minimal injuries. We won 10 out of 12 games and won the CAS premiership. My team also got the chance to play in a sevens tournament in Canberra. It was a great experience and we won every game, except the grand final, but it was still fun. Another one of my achievements was making the athletics team.

I was lucky enough to get selected in the U13s Junior Roosters Development squad. We trained once a week and played three games against St George, Balmain and North Sydney. We won two out of three games and it was an experience of a lifetime. It was great fun and I hope to make the team again in 2014.

What about the Grand Final!!! I was lucky enough to get to the grand final with my Dad. Did you get to the game Mr Dicks? It was close but in the end we took the game. That was a night I will never forget.

I have been doing well in my classes at Waverley. Also in my class is Lachlan Bell, Liam Jackson nad Felix Valentine. I did well in my NAPLAN and other tests. Coogee Prep prepared me well and I couldn’t thank you more.

I am looking forward to seeing everyone at the upcoming afternoon tea.

Best regards,
Jarrod MacAskill
Overview of Centenary Events in 2014 - save the dates!

30 March - Family Picnic and Gala day, Mutch Park
An event for current and recent past Coogee Prep families to come together and celebrate the Centenary. Bring a picnic or buy your lunch from the BBQ, there will be games and activities for the kids.

6 April - Old Boys Barefoot Bowls Day, Waverley Bowling Club
An opportunity for younger old boys to get together in a casual setting at Waverley Bowling club. Come along for bowls, BBQ and beers and catch up with your old Coogee Prep friends. Past parents are welcome to come along as well as they are an integral part of the Coogee Prep Community (see invitation in the newsletter for details). Please call Brett Jowett on 0414 567 245 if you have any questions. RSVP using trybooking on www.trybooking.com/EIRA or ring the School on 9398 6310.

7 May - Centenary Mothers' Day Luncheon
Lunch at Centennial Park Restaurant for current and past mothers, grandmothers and carers. Organise a table of friends to come along for a delicious lunch and entertaining speakers. Please contact Mrs Tessa Morris, (02) 9398 6310 for more details.

24 July - Centenary Founder’s Day Old Boys’ Luncheon, Randwick Labor Club
The event will commence with a welcome at the school, followed by lunch across the road at the Randwick Labor Club. The event will be a great opportunity to catch up with peers from school days. This is one of the primary event specifically for Old Boys during the centenary year. Please see invitation for details.

14 September - Coogee Prep Centenary Fete, Alison Park
We are resurrecting the Coogee Prep fete for our Centenary Year. Everyone is welcome to join the wider Coogee Prep community in Alison Park from 11am. We will be staging a traditional fete with all the favourites, white elephant stall, devonshire tea and cake stall, gourmet pantry, chocolate wheel, lucky dips and guessing competitions as well as rides and petting zoo for the kids.

25 October - Centenary Ball, Randwick Racecourse
Save the date for the highlight of the Centenary Year - a ball for past and present parents, friends and Old Boys of Coogee Prep to gather and celebrate the School's 100th birthday. The ball will be held at the recently redeveloped Royal Randwick ballroom and will be a night to remember. Start contacting your friends and organising a table, invitations will be sent out mid year.

18 November - Old Boys’ Golf Day, The Coast Golf Club
Finish the year with a day on the Golf Course with Coogee Prep class mates. All old boys and current and past parents are welcome to join in a day of golf at the beautiful Coast Golf Club.
**Old Boys Bulletin board**

**Did you know?**

Bill Nimmo had a cane patch in his back yard. He would carefully select, hand pick and craft his canes, paying particular attention to their flexibility!

There are a number of grandsons of Old boys and teachers currently at Coogee Prep. These include Nick Brown’s grandson Otto in Year Five and Patricia Furmage’s (Kindergarten teacher for over 25 years) great-grandson Jack Brandtman has just started in Kindergarten.

**Vale**

Gregory Aitkenhead (Alumni 1959) who passed away in July 2013. This photo (at right) of Greg in his Coogee Prep uniform was used as part of a pictorial history of his life at the funeral service.

**Congratulations**

Colin Pearce (Alumni 1927) who turned 100 years old in October 2013. Congratulations!

Trevor Danos, AM (Alumni 1969) was awarded The Member of the Order of Australia for significant service to the community through contributions to a range of scientific, education, government, legal and charitable associations at the Australia Day honours 2014.

**News and correspondence**

We recently received this note from Steven Smith (Alumni 1980) who now lives in Kempsey, NSW. *Coogee Prep lifted my education standard immensely! The memories of my sporting achievements and the one on one support in all fields of my education gave me the preparation I needed to fulfil my future outcomes in life...Thank you Nick Brown and Mr Benardi....*

**Any News?**

We’d love to hear from you - news on births, deaths and marriages as well as any memories or stories of your time at Coogee Prep. Please send information to Mrs Tessa Morris, School Secretary on office@coogeeprep.nsw.edu.au or PO Box 190 Randwick NSW 2031.

---

**BAREFOOT BOWLS**

**AS PART OF THE 2014 CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS**

**COOGEE PREP OLD BOYS’ UNION INVITES YOU TO BAREFOOT BOWLS AT WAVELEY BOWLING CLUB**

**SUNDAY 6TH APRIL, 1PM ONWARDS**

$25 INCLUDES BOWLS, MEAL VOUCHER & DRINK VOUCHER

RSVP: WWW.TRYBOOKING.COM/HEIRA OR CPS OFFICE 9398 6310

PARENTS OF OLD BOYS ARE INVITED TO ATTEND AND CATCH UP WITH OLD FRIENDS

BOYS UNDER 18 YEARS OF AGE MUST BE ACCOMPANIED BY AN ADULT
The Centenary Donor Wall is underway but we need your support to fill the wall by the end of 2014.

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.

We encourage everyone to be part of this unique opportunity as we approach the School’s centenary in 2014.

Line 1

Line 2

Line 3

Line 4

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
Have we got your email address?
Can you please email office@coogeeprep.nsw.edu.au
to confirm your email address

‘Educating boys to become
Gentlemen, Scholars and Sportsmen
for 100 years’