LENDING A HELPING HAND

At the end of their tour of South America (see main article page 24-25), the Grammar Footbalers donated $200 plus footballs, bibs, cones and SGS T-shirts to a struggling club in one of the poorest areas in Argentina. Ignacio (or ‘iggy’) Alsogray, the group’s tour operator, wrote to Director of Coaching, Charlie Davidson: ‘As I promised you, I gave the money and the balls to people who really needed it. It was hard to decide, but I finally decided to give it to a poor club in the province of Mendoza. The little town is called Colonia Elena... 1000 km from Buenos Aires. The Colonia Elena Football Club doesn’t have an owner; it is owned by the people. They have 70 kids between 4 and 18 years old. The money Sydney Grammar left for them was like a blessing from God: food, 500 pesos, 4 balls, bibs, cones – and hope. The president of the Club was almost in tears when I told him what I had.’

CONCERTO, ARIA AND JAZZ COMPETITIONS

Six Form V boys made it to the finals of this year’s Concerto Competition playing concerto movements for instruments ranging from the double bass to the marimba. Chair of Keyboard at the Sydney Conservatorium, Gerard Willems, judged the competition and awarded 1st place to Robert Hansen (Arutunian, Concerto for Trumpet in Bb), Mark Yeow (Rosaura, Concerto for Marimba) was placed second and John Wu (Ravel, Concerto in G major) third. Well-known Sydney jazz pianist Kevin Hunt awarded first prize in the Jazz Competition to Lachlan Pearse (saxophone) whilst Harrison Jones was judged the winner of the Vocal Competition by Sydney mezzo-soprano Jenny Duck-Chong, with his rendition of the Adagio from Puccini’s Crucifixus.

LAUNCH OF JOHN HUGHES’ ‘SOMEONE ELSE’

They are now so enigmatic and familiar to me that it seems they have been mental possessions of mine from the moment when I began to accommodate human beings entirely in my mind.

John Hughes, 2006

Someone Else by Dr John Hughes (School Librarian) was launched on 5 September, a rainy spring evening, in the Edmund Barton Room with some 85 guests: masters, boys, members of the wider School community and the public. The guests were abundantly catered for gastronomically and intellectually, the latter gloriously supplied by Dr Ivor Indyk (Giramondo Press), the Headmaster, Dr John Vallance, landscape explorer and 2002 artist-in-residence, Mr John Wolseley. John Hughes himself responded with readings of passages from three of his ‘fictional essays’ (Osip Mandelstam, Giorgio Morandi and Paul Celan). The essays are literary inventions on famous writers, artists and musicians; and, beneath the surface, John Hughes and his world.

Left to right: Lachlan Pearse, Rob Hansen and Harrison Jones
MR REG BILLING

On 9 August, Mr Reg Billing, Edgecliff's first Headmaster, passed away aged 87. Mr Billing served as the School's Headmaster for twenty-five years. He was a much-loved teacher and educator who was passionate about teaching Science and imparting his love of rugby. He was a long-time supporter of Randwick Rugby Club.

Many of the Old Boys will fondly remember his wonderful storytelling in Assembly where he shared tales of his adventures as a squadron leader in the RAF in World War II and his extravagant science experiments involving steam engines, vacuums and magnets.

Even though Mr Billing retired in 1980, he always kept close links with the School. He read the Newsletter carefully every fortnight.

At last year's 50th Anniversary Dinner at Parliament House, Mr Billing was unable to attend due to poor health. His son, Howard, and his daughter, Jane, represented the family. Jane spoke of his love for the School and of how important Grammar was to him.

Only a few weeks beforehand, Mr Billing and his wife, Joyce, received a copy of Inside Sydney Grammar School. They enjoyed looking at the remarkable photographs and reminisced affectionately of their time in Alma Street. Mr Billing made a significant impact on Edgecliff and has left a lasting legacy. The School extends its deepest sympathy to Mrs Joyce Billing and her family.

VISIT OF AUTHOR

ALEXIS WRIGHT

Winner of this year's Miles Franklin Award and author of the highly acclaimed new novel Carpentaria, Alexis Wright visited the School on 1/ September. Ms Wright was 'in conversation' with boys and staff and also read from Carpentaria. The event was organised by the Library in conjunction with the Headmaster's Advisory Council and the proceeds went in support of Indigenous Literacy Day, a project to support libraries and schools in remote Aboriginal communities in New South Wales and the Northern Territory.

DEBATERS WIN TRIFECTA

In what was the most successful debating season for many years, Grammar has shared the premiership in both the GPS Firsts and Seconds competition, won the ISDA Senior A and Senior B competitions outright, and won the Eastside Senior A and B competitions.

In the GPS competition, the Firsts (Paul Karp, Haydon Letcher and David Maher, coached by Steve Hindi) shared the premiership with Riverview and the Seconds (Jarrah Sastrawan, Harry Cameron, George Smyrnios and Mark Yeow, coached by Julia Fetherston) were co-premiers with Riverview and Shore. Paul Karp was selected in the GPS representative team and the Australian team which competed at the World Championships.

The ISDA Senior A team, consisting of Ronald Fung, Paul Karp, Haydon Letcher and David Maher (also coached by Steve Hindi) had an incredibly successful season, winning eleven of twelve debates, and bagging a premiership in the process. The Senior B team (Harry Cameron, Dhiru Nayyar, Jarrah Sastrawan and George Smyrnios, also coached by Julia Fetherston) also won its competition.

GPS REPRESENTATIVES

Three members of our 1st XV were selected to play GPS Representative Rugby: Peter Smith (Vice-Captain, GPS 1st XV, Callum Fryer (GPS 2nd XV) and Mark Sproule (Selected in GPS 3rd XV but played mostly in 2nd XV).

Two 1st XI players were selected for the GPS Representative Football teams: Alex Wells (Captain, GPS 2nd XI) and Misha Hardwick (GPS 3rd XI).

Two boys were selected for the GPS Representative Rifle team: Edward Cartwright (Captain) and Ben Pepe.

MUSIC MEDAL

In the last edition of Foundations it was noted that, for the last two years, the winners of the Sydney University Medal in Music have been Old Sydneysians: Alex Pozniak (2005) and Chris May and Zubin Kanga (shared in 2006). We were unaware and therefore neglected to mention that Joseph Toltz (OS 1987) was also the recipient of the same medal in 2004. Our apologies, Joseph.

Far left: Mark Sproule, Peter Smith and Callum Fryer
Centre left: Ben Pope and Edward Cartwright
Left: Misha Hardwick and Alex Wells
MR JOHN MADDOCK
The School community was shocked to learn of the sudden death of John Maddock on 30 July 2007. John was a master in the Mathematics Department for 26 years and gave dedicated service to that department both as an effective classroom teacher and as a supportive and considerate colleague.

The contribution John made to other aspects of School life cannot be underestimated. He was a dedicated and caring Lower School Form Master for many years. In sport he was not only a long-serving and successful cricket coach, but also an extremely effective administrator in both cricket and swimming. His stewardship as master-in-charge of Swimming between 1991 and 1996 typified his professionalism, organisational abilities and attention to detail.

He was a modest and unassuming man who did a lot and gave a lot without seeking any particular notoriety. He enjoyed the classroom and was effective in it. He enjoyed the comradeship of the Common Room and gave much to it including service as its Chairman. He appreciated the schoolmaster’s role outside the classroom and thrived in it.

For John Maddock, of course, there was much more to life than SGS. He was a devoted husband to Kay and father to their children. We mourn the passing of a man we admired, liked and rootoped. We extend to his wife and family our deepest sympathy.

Bill Leslie

DUPAIN BOOK LAUNCH
Big School was the venue for a gathering of the Grammar community on Thursday 13 September for the launch of the publication Inside Sydney Grammar School – photographs by Max and Rex Dupain.

The book contains images by two of our most famous old boys. Max Dupain left Grammar in 1930 and went on to become one of Australia’s most admired photographers. Rex Dupain, who left Grammar in 1972, has built a career as one of the leading photographers at work in Australia. Last year Rex completed a project to compile a photographic portrait of everyday life at Grammar as part of our sesquicentenary celebrations.

The Headmaster welcomed guests who toasted the success of the publication against a backdrop of images from the book which were projected on the large screen.

Special guest Rex Dupain spoke warmly of his own experiences in documenting a year in the life of the three schools. The highlight of the evening came when he presented three framed prints from the book destined for display at College Street and the two Preparatory Schools.

2nds RIFLES WIN GPS PREMIERSHIP
The Second Rifle team overcame a shortened training season to take away the GPS Premiership this season. The eight man squad consisting of Michael Blanden (V), Nick Joyce (V), Douglas Dunn (IV), Jonathan Nielsen (V), Ian Craig (IV), Scott Jeffries (IV), Alex Dunn (IV) and Alex Prosser Baffsky (IV) had very little match experience with only the captain, Michael Blanden, having competed before.

The Seconds’ Match is shot over 500 and 300 metres, for a total out of 500. After a rocky start at 500m, the boys pulled together very well at 300, taking out the Premiership with a score of 494, three points clear of rivals Shore and TAS. This was a good performance from a very promising group of boys. Alex Dunn finished as top scorer in the Seconds match, one point clear of runner-up Nick Joyce.

The Firsts struggled to find their best form, ending the competition in second place behind winners Shore.

Stop Press! Congratulations are due to members of the Firsts team Edward Cartwright and Hunter Smith who have both just been selected for the Australian U21 Rifle team.
INTERNATIONAL MATHEMATICAL OLYMPIAD

The Australian team at the International Mathematical Olympiad in Hanoi, Vietnam won a Silver Medal, four Bronze Medals and an Honourable Mention.

The Silver Medal was won by Max Menzies (V) who missed a Gold Medal by just one point and was placed equal 40th out of the 520 pupils participating.

Australia was placed 22nd out of 93 teams, four places higher than in 2006. Russia had the highest score, followed by China. South Korea and hosts Vietnam were tied for 3rd.

Max Menzies with his silver medal after the closing ceremony.

COMPOSER-IN-RESIDENCE

Grammar has been fortunate this year to have as composer in residence Mr Daniel Rojas. Throughout the course of the year he has been working with our top elective composition students and writing works specifically for Grammar’s performing ensembles. Already the Grammaphones and the School Brass Quintet have performed his music and the major commission will be Jubilate for large choir, orchestra and organ, which will be featured at the Town Hall Sesquicentenary Concert in November. The student compositions will be included in the MS Composition Concert on 28 November.

SPORTSMASTER’S AWARDS 2007

At the final assembly for Term III the Sportsmaster’s Awards were presented to the following boys who have distinguished themselves in sport this year:

The Kenny Cup (best overall sportsman in the Upper School): Michael Fenton
The Alan Keith Walker Memorial Cup (notable achievement in a summer and winter sport by a boy in Form V): Peter Smith
TR McGill Cup for Sportsmanship (for contribution to sport by a boy in Form V): Mark Sproule
The Walker Cup (best all round sportsman in the Middle School): Jack McCullan
The Spofforth Cup (best sportsman in Form II): Philip Jameson
The TR McGill Shield (best sportsman in the Lower School): Nicolas Vogel

Left to right: Michael Fenton, Philip Jameson, Nic Vogel, Peter Smith, Mark Sproule and Jack McCullan.

JUNIOR WORLD ROWING CHAMPIONSHIPS

Matt Dignan (V) was a member of the Australian coxed IV that competed at the Junior World Rowing Championships held on the 2008 Olympic rowing course in Beijing. All competitors had to be under 19 and 49 countries were represented. The course itself was magnificent and the conditions were fair throughout the four days of racing. The crew, comprising four GPS rowers and a South Australian, came second in their heat and repêchage and was the only Australian crew to qualify for the A Final. After a close race for the first 1200 metres Australia fell behind the three northern hemisphere crews, finishing a creditable 5th.

ANOTHER CLEAN SWEEP AT DA VINCI DECATHLON

For the second year in a row, St Ives Prep has made a clean sweep at the Knox da Vinci decathlon winning both the Years 5 and 6 divisions. This annual meeting of young minds was held at Knox, where over 40 schools competed for the prestigious shiny silver cups which are once again displayed in the St Ives Preparatory School Office. With over 500 students attending from schools across NSW and the ACT, our two teams of eight competed in ten challenging academic events. Year 6 were placed first in Maths, English and General Knowledge, 2nd in Science and Creative Producers and 3rd in Games of Strategy and Code Breaking. Year 5 were placed 1st in English, Games of Strategy and Mathematics, 2nd in General Knowledge and 1st in Code Breaking.

TAEKWONDO: WIN AT ALL SCHOOLS

Taekwondo has had an excellent debut at Grammar since its inception in late 2005. The benefits of the sport are clear, not only with practitioners needing a high level of health and fitness, but also requiring keen concentration. Training sessions tend to be gruelling with exercise drills, work learning fixed patterns and sparring sessions where boys get to put together what they have learnt practically. All this hard work paid dividends when a squad representing Grammar under the leadership of Taveet Sinanjan and Thomas Wright won the 2007 All Schools Taekwondo Tournament.
INAUGURAL ‘GRAMMAR GIFT’
This year’s House Sports carnival was held on a balmy autumn day in May. The Championship events were strongly contested and there were plenty of participation points (and ribbons) up for grabs in the many divisions. The Form I boys, allocated to Houses for the day, enjoyed displaying their colours in tribal fashion. The highlight of the day was the inaugural ‘Grammar Gift’. The whole School stopped and lined the straight as four old boys, three Grammar masters, a PE student-teacher and two current pupils competed in a handicapped sprint over 100m. Line honours went to Antony Serventi (OS 2003) pictured left, with Michael Gates (OS 1998) and David Lai-Kwon (VI) placing second and third respectively. Thanks to all the competitors for their courage and good humour, particularly after a rather shaky false start! The winner graciously donated the money raised to Canteen, the Prefects’ charity for 2007. The race continued throughout the afternoon; the House Relay and chocolate frogs a fitting end to our sesquicentenary celebrations. TCW was the winning House on the day.

FOGR DINNER
The 8th Annual Friends of Grammar Rugby Dinner, attended by over two hundred guests, was held on 22 June at the Royal Sydney Golf Club. A highlight of the evening was a conversation between three former international players: David Kirk (Grammar parent and former captain of the All Blacks); Rob Egerton (current Science master at the School, former Wallaby and co-coach of the 1st XV); and Richard Harry (former Wallaby and son of Old Sydnician and former Wallaby, Phil Harry). Asking the questions was veteran rugby commentator, Gordon Bray, AM, the only commentator to have attended every World Cup!

TOP GEOGRAPHER
14 year-old David Vassik (III) competed in the team representing Australia at the National Geographic Channel World Geography Championships (Under 16 division) held in San Diego, California in August. David had previously been chosen to represent New South Wales in the under-16 Australian Geography Competition on 29 May after finishing in first place in the State competition. The oral quiz final, which took place at Taronga Zoo, was compereb by journalist, George Negus. David then went on to finish second in the national competition which attracted 86,000 entries from schools around Australia. This performance secured his position in the Australian team.

GRAMMARPALOOZA
Now in its fourth year, Grammarpalooza has become something of an institution in the Music Department. This year’s rock concert was organised by a team led by Angus Gardiner (V), and featured seven of the School’s top rock bands. The music ranged far and wide, with covers from such disparate bands as AC/DC, Red Hot Chili Peppers and Tenacious D. The AMT was full for the concert, which raised $5000 to support CanTeen, an organisation that aids teenagers who are living with cancer. One of the most anticipated performances was from the last band of the evening, The Heave, who are already gaining real prominence in the Sydney musical scene.

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ONE FOR THE ALBUM

Patrick Andriesen (Third Class, Edgecliff Prep) writes: On Thursday 6 September I met the President of the United States of America, George W Bush. It was an amazing experience that I won't forget...The President told us how happy he was to be in Australia and said that this was the longest time he had been out of America since becoming President on 15 January 2000. When he had finished speaking, my sister Emily and I were lucky enough to have a close-up photo with the President.

INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD

Three Form VI boys, Kartik Ramesh, Nicholas Malouf and Jim Ge, were selected in the Australian Chemistry Olympiad team of four to compete in the International Chemistry Olympiad in Moscow in July. The Australian team won two Silver and two Bronze medals; Kartik won a Silver and Nicholas and Jim the Bronze.

Next year the competition will be held in Budapest.

TOP SPEAKERS AT ST IVES

The finals of the Senior Spoken English Awards took place on Monday 3 September in front of an enthusiastic and very supportive audience of 6th and 5th Class boys and parents. After an extremely close contest Mr Philip Barr, Master of the Lower School at College Street, congratulated all boys on the extraordinarily high standard achieved and made the following awards:

Verse Recitation: Andrew Brown and Nathan Crabtree
Verse Reading: Gareth Crouch
Prose Recitation: Gabriel Gregory
Prose Reading: Kevin Lee
Original Talk: Elijah Swift, Harry Godber (Highly Commended)

Front row (left to right): Andrew Brown, Elijah Swift, Gareth Crouch and Harry Godber
Back row (left to right): Gabriel Gregory, Nathan Crabtree, Mr Philip Barr (adjudicator) and Kevin Lee

DEPARTING MUSICIANS CELEBRATE

Recently the Music Department and the Music Association had the opportunity to celebrate with the Sixth Form boys who maintained their commitment to music at the School through their final year and to acknowledge their contribution. It was a joyous occasion for parents, boys and masters which was made particularly enjoyable through specially prepared musical items, serious and not-so-serious awards, ceremonies and speeches recalling the highlights of their six or more years as Grammar musicians. During the evening the boys were reminded that their pursuit of musical excellence and enjoyment is a lifelong journey and that they are always welcome to join one of the Old Sydneian music ensembles at the School.

For left: Kartik Ramcooh is congratulated by the Prime Minister

Back row left to right:
Mr Trent Walls (Science Department; OS 1988), Kartik Ramesh, Nick Malouf and Jim Ge with other members of the team.
TOUCHÉ!
Sydney Grammar sent two fencers to the Under 17 National Championships. Matthew Lee and Jason Qian faced off against an assortment of fencers from all around Australia and performed well. In the individual competition, out of a total of 68 serious fencers, Matt was placed 25th and Jason finished 11th. In the team competition, both Matt and Jason were short-listed for a position on the New South Wales B-team. Jason was selected and the team went on to take the silver, second only to the NSW A-team.

The School fielded five teams in the NSW Schools Leagues finals. The Under 15B team was undefeated and received gold medals and a shield. The members of that team were James Baker (IV) (also a medal for individual performance); Ming Yang (II) (also a medal for individual performance); Kevin Wan (II) and Alexei Brown (II).

HSC ART EXHIBITION
The Art Department has entered the technological world of digital cameras. Our recent HSC boys’ Art Exhibition included many of the traditional disciplines of art making as well as some quite serious photographic studies of high resolution. There was enormous depth in this candidature; beautifully executed drawings in charcoal, aggressive and quite expressive visual statements of intent and well as imaginative responses to a young man’s world of studying the HSC. A six minute film and several digital media works confirm our boys’ interest in ‘expensive toys’. Dr Valiance opened the exhibition, offering valuable insight into each boy’s exhibition piece.

SESQUICENTENARY CONCERT
The Music Department will celebrate the School’s 150th anniversary with the Sesquicentenary Concert on Thursday, 22 November at 6:30pm at the Sydney Town Hall. The concert will feature the combined preparatory school orchestra, the Sesquicentenary Concert Band and School Orchestra, which will perform the celebrated finale from Saint-Saëns’ Organ Symphony and the Old Sydney’s Symphony Orchestra. The focus of the concert is Jubilate, a large-scale choral-orchestral work written by composer-in-residence Daniel Rojas for choir, orchestra, organ and a large percussion section. The prep school and College Street choirs will be joined by the Sydney Festival Choir, to make a massed choir of some four hundred voices. Tickets are $20/10 and can be purchased through the Music Department, 9332 5895 or by email mbb@sydgram.nsw.edu.au.

Pictured (left to right) Jason Qian and Michael Lee
Weigall 4 – The bulldozers move in!

The first sod has been turned on Weigall 4. Erica Aronsten, Director of Development, was amongst the large crowd who witnessed this important moment in the history of the School.

On Saturday 11 August the Grammar community gathered to celebrate the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first boys at College Street in 1857.

The event coincided with the last game of the winter season against Sydney High and attracted a large crowd of both Grammar and High supporters. The unseasonably warm weather, together with specially decorated stalls, added to the festive atmosphere of the day.

The usual attractions, the Fathers' Association barbecue and the Women's Association tuckshop, were in great demand. In addition, there were stalls selling Asian food and Grammar memorabilia. All boys attending were treated to a free barbecue lunch and drink which proved to be a popular decision.

It was a double celebration for the School as the event also saw the 'turning of the first sod' on the newly acquired land at Weigall. The presence of earth moving equipment was evidence that work had now commenced on the land which will provide a much needed additional playing field for the School.

At midday, framed by a marquee bearing the Grammar crest, the Headmaster and Chairman addressed the crowd making reference to the significance of the occasion. They were joined by Trustees Ms Louise Herron, Professor Gus Lehrer and the Hon. Justice Emmett. The Headmaster noted that the day coincided with another anniversary: 100 years since the purchase of the original land at Weigall.

We are hopeful that Weigall 4 will be ready early in 2008.

1. The crowd assembles on Weigall 4
2. Trustees Lehrer, Emmett, Gonski and Herron with the Headmaster
3. Dr Vallance turns the first sod
4. "Great job! Enjoy it"
5. Dr Vallance welcomes the crowd
6. Food, glorious food!
7. The plan on display
The Men of Grammar

To mark the 150th anniversary of the arrival of the first boys in 1857, the School commissioned the creation of three panels which pay tribute to some notable Old Sydneians. The thirty-three ‘Men of Grammar’ depicted made their mark in areas as diverse as the arts, academia, medicine, the law and sport.
Panel 1

Sir Harry Chauvel
The first Australian to attain the rank of Lieutenant General and the first to command a corps – the Desert Mounted Corps. Chauvel is perhaps best known for his successful attack on Beersheba on October 31, 1917 which proved to be a turning point in the war.

Sydney Piddington
A celebrated radio star from the 1940s. He and his wife, the actress Leslie Pope, made up a stage team that attracted an audience of more than 20 million listeners a week in Britain with their show ‘The Piddlins’.

Max Dupain
One of our most admired photographers. Many of his images have become symbols of Australian and its lifestyle. Over the years he was commissioned by the School to take photos of its buildings, boys and masters.

Sir George Rich
He had a long association with the University of Sydney, helping to establish the Women’s College. He was made a full judge of the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1912. In 1913, Rich was appointed to the bench of the High Court of Australia.

Andrew ‘Boy’ Charlton
He showed promise as a swimmer at an early age and went on to achieve national status as an Olympic champion. Competing in three Olympic Games, he won a total of five medals.

Gustavus Athol Waterhouse
A noted scientist and entomologist. While a pupil at College Street, he spent hours browsing in the Australian Museum next door. His lifelong interest in butterflies led to the publication What Butterfly Is That?

Sydney Ure Smith
Artist and publisher. In 1906, in partnership with cartoonist Harry Julius, he founded Smith & Julius which became the first advertising agency to feature outstanding artwork and colour printing. This provided work for artists such as Lloyd Rees and Roland Wakelin.

Arthur (Johnny) Cooper Wallace
He excelled at rowing and rugby at School and in 1922 was awarded a Rhodes Scholarship. This led to a successful career in the law. He is remembered for his outstanding contribution to the game of rugby as a player, captain and coach.

Panel 2

Sir Edmund Barton
At 23, Edmund Barton was the youngest man to be admitted to the Sydney Bar. At the age of 33 he was appointed as Speaker of the Legislative Assembly. In 1901, the Commonwealth of Australia was proclaimed and Edmund Barton was sworn in as our first Prime Minister.

Alastair Mackerras
The first ‘old boy’ Headmaster of Sydney Grammar School from 1969-1989. A culturally rich childhood led to a love of music and the arts which stayed with him all his life.

Sir Victor Coppeloson
Having served as a Medical Officer in World War I, he set up practice as a general surgeon in Macquarie Street in 1922. He remained on the surgical staff at St Vincent’s Hospital for 30 years. He championed the cause of postgraduate medical education.

Lionel Cecil Sherwood
An acclaimed opera singer, he made his concert debut in 1912. As Cecil Lionello, he went on to establish an international reputation. He made history singing the tenor lead in the first ever recording of La Traviata.

Sir William McMahon
Orphaned at the age of 4, he was brought up by his aunt, Lady Walden. At school he was a keen debater and rowed in the School Eight in 1926. A degree in Economics led to politics. In 1949, he won the seat of Lowe for the Liberal Party. In 1971 he became Prime Minister.

Clive ‘Killer’ Caldwell
In 1941, he joined the RAAF and was sent to the Middle East. His flying and gunnery skill established Caldwell as a leading ‘ace’ in the Western Desert. An outstanding airman, he became a popular national hero.

John Le Gay Brereton
In 1921, as Professor of English at the University of Sydney, he had a strong influence on his students and championed the cause of the education of women. As a poet, his verse made a distinctive contribution to the development of Australian literature.

continued overleaf
Men of Grammar continued

Sir Leslie Herron
A prominent judge, he was devoted to the Supreme Court of New South Wales in 1941. In 1962 he was appointed Chief Justice. A strong supporter of the School, he served as President of the Old Sydneyans’ Union from 1948-1950.

Albert ‘Tibby’ Cotter
In 1915, he was considered to be the most exciting bowler Australia had ever produced. His powerful swinging action led to him being dubbed ‘Terror Cotter’. Fearless by nature, he served in World War I as a stretcher-bearer. In 1917, he was killed during the battle of Beersheba.

Bruce Gyngell
He made history by being the first man to appear on Australian television in 1956. A pioneer in the early years of Australian television, he remained committed to the medium and some 24 years later, presented the first multicultural broadcast by SBS.

Leslie Cowlishaw
An eminent physician, medical historian and bibliophile. He served in World War I and was attached to the 12th Light Horse Regiment. His library, rich in medical and surgical classics, now forms the Cowlishaw Collection in the library of the Royal Australasian College of Surgeons.

Hugh Collis Barry
He studied medicine at the University of Sydney and later attended New College, Oxford. He went on to specialise in orthopaedic surgery. In 1950, he was awarded an Order of Australia for his contribution to medicine. The Belvedere at Weigall is named in his honour.

Sir Samuel Hordern
He began work in the family’s department store, Anthony Hordern & Sons in 1895. As President of the Royal Agricultural Society of NSW from 1915-41, he is credited with the growth of the Royal Easter Show from a small fair into one of the world’s great agricultural shows.

Donald Friend
A gifted figure drawer, he worked as a painter, printer, drafter and war artist. His passion for travel and the exotic led him to locations as diverse as Africa, Sri Lanka and Indonesia.

Panel 3

AB ‘Banjo’ Paterson
Ballad writer, journalist, war correspondent, horseman and bush poet. His ‘Waltzing Matilda’ became Australia’s best known folk song, and his first book, The Man from Snowy River and Other Verses, established his reputation as a writer.

Robert Klippel
Klippel is arguably our greatest sculptor and one of the most significant of his generation. An exponent of ‘collage sculpture’ he incorporated machine parts, pieces of wood and industrial piping into the now famous ‘junk assemblages’.

Sir James Oswald Fairfax
Pioneer newspaper proprietor. In 1889 he entered John Fairfax & Co after graduating in law in London. A director of John Fairfax & Sons, he also served as a director of other leading companies. He was an early President of the Old Sydneyans’ Union.

Sir John Loewenthal
School Captain in 1931, he went on to a brilliant medical career as a surgeon, learning his craft in the demanding conditions of World War II.

Alan Keith Walker
He had the distinction of representing Australia in both cricket and rugby. As a rugby centre on tour with the 1947-48 Wallabies, he scored one of the finest tries ever seen at Twickenham. He is remembered at the School with a cup in his name.

Joseph Jacobs
At school he proved to be a brilliant scholar, being twice awarded the Knox Prize. He was Captain of the School in 1871. Children have him to thank for preserving fairy tales such as ‘Jack and the Beanstalk’ and ‘The Three Little Pigs’.

Sir Victor Windeyer
Achieved eminence in the army and the law. A judge of the High Court of Australia, he also had a strong interest in education and served as a Trustee of the School for 27 years.

Alan McGilvary
A talented all-rounder at school, he went on to become the doyen of cricket commentators in Australia. Known as ‘the voice of cricket’, his career spanned 50 years.

John Wardell Power
He began by studying medicine at the University of Sydney. On inheriting a fortune on the death of his father, he abandoned medicine to study art in Paris. His bequests to the University of Sydney formed one of the most significant collections of modern art in Australia.

Charles S Mein
His name appears on the honour board in Big School as the first Captain of the School in 1857. He later became a Major. In 1867, he settled in Queensland where he entered Parliament and became Minister for Education. He was later appointed to the Supreme Court in that state.

Sir Robert Garran
Admitted to the NSW Bar in 1891, he was active in the Federation Movement, assisting Sir Edmund Barton. He was appointed Secretary to the Attorney General, becoming the first Commonwealth Public Servant on January 1, 1901.
Fossicking for fossils

Between 17 and 25 million years old, the Riversleigh area of Queensland offers a rich supply of fossils and much else besides, as Tim Illes (IV) discovered.

During the Easter holidays, Science Beyond the Curriculum organised a trip around the Riversleigh dig. Australia's most significant ancient marsupial site. We were fortunate to have Dr Michael Archer and Dr Ian Graham from the University of NSW and our own Ms Disney to answer all of our persistent questions.

When we arrived at our starting point, Mt Isa, about 600km SSW of the Gulf of Carpentaria, instead of seeing the usual parched red earth, we saw clouds in the sky and greenery popping out everywhere. It had rained in the dry for the first time in 52 years and because of this, the roads were thick with black mud.

When we finally reached our destination in Adels Grove, we were pleasantly surprised by a camping ground with permanent tents and beds to sleep on. We awoke the next day to the sound of rain hammering on the tent and knowing we were only able to reach Riversleigh when it was dry, due to the black mud, were a bit disappointed. But Dr Graham had many other sites to visit and fossick amongst and, after two days, we were finally on our way to Riversleigh.

Soon after arriving at the excavation site, the real excitement came... it was time for the explosion! Expecting a Hollywood explosion with a fireball and debris flying everywhere, we were surprised when little more than a 'pop' was produced in the distance, leaving no aftermath except a few cracks in the rock. However, the rocks which had been loosened were thick with well preserved fossils of all different kinds. As we explored the fossils we managed to uncover the entire remains of the Demon Duck of Doom's foot, which was around 80cm long.

After another night in Mt Isa we journeyed to Beetle Creek, where we sat on the riverbed happily cracking open rocks and finding amazingly preserved trilobites in a fine silstone. At another site we dug up some interesting black schorl tourmaline crystals up to 8cms long and had fun getting filthy in the dirt. We also fossicked for minerals in the surrounding countryside and came home with about 30kg of specimens each!
‘The Venetian Twins’
Daniel Nicholson (III) tells how Play School became compulsory television viewing for the cast of this year’s major dramatic production.

On the 15th, 16th and 17th of August this year Sydney Grammar put on the musical comedy The Venetian Twins by Nick Enright and Terence Clarke. Those who saw it were quick to tell us how much fun they had, but no-one had as much fun as the performers who brought the show to life.

It was when we met our choreographer, Joshua Consandine, that our private comedy began. For myself and others, this was our first experience of dancing on stage and it led to many hilarious and uncoordinated moments as we tried to master the difficult, suggestive and sometimes uncomfortable steps. In my own case, any self-consciousness was magnified by the demands of character and costume: yes, that was me wearing a bright purple ‘unitard’, a cod-piece and an enormous fake nose.

We worked hard through Term II, but in truth we returned from the mid-year break thinking it impossible that we would be performing in a mere five weeks’ time. Dancers danced well but were informed that well wasn’t perfect. Dancers practised and practised and danced slightly better. Songs were sung in various keys, then in the correct key, sung with the band then fought over with the band, with the band steadfast in playing their way and the singers insisting on theirs, until Mr Weir put his foot down and came up with a compromise which the band was happy with but the singers continued to complain about right up until the last minute. Lines were learnt, forgotten, whined about, fought over, debated, mis-pronounced, corrected and mis-pronounced yet again. In the end it came down to Matthew Coe’s fear of messing up the inserted line, ‘Sydney Grammar School Women’s Association’, which invariably led to him saying ‘Sydneys Grammars Schools Womens Associations’ instead. We gave him a hard time about it, of course, but finally, just narrowly, he got it right.

Indeed, much of what happened in our rehearsal period made it possible
to understand what our director meant when he referred to 'a leap of faith'. Out of frustration Dr Wilson had had to resort to showing us footage of – of all things – *Play School*, to demonstrate the acting style he wanted, and later, at the first dress rehearsal, someone who never owned up to it (but we have our suspicions) decided that it would be a good idea to cover up the false bottom in Zanetto's coffin, thus successfully preventing Lachlan Pearse from re-appearing at the crucial moment with the other twin. After a long and very uncomfortable pause a fateful voice emerged from the coffin: 'Sir – I can't get out!' Needless to say, it was an unnerving mishap.

So it seemed a miracle that by the time the 15th of August rolled around we were ready. Sitting backstage we were all on edge as the show began, panicking and praying that the audience would find us entertaining. This feeling wasn't helped by Krista Robinson-Vidal who, as Rosina, had the job of commencing the dialogue. Overcome with nerves like the rest of us, she fudged the very first line. We almost died backstage. Everything might have gone horribly wrong, but thankfully we recovered, the audience laughed, and we survived.

The whole process felt very chaotic, but happily so, and in reality we were always being guided by the sure hands of the staff involved. In particular, our thanks go out to our directors, Dr Wilson and Mr Wite: we will never forget their dedication to the show – nor their ability to consume vast quantities of chocolate.
History in the making
Artefacts, photographs and other memorabilia relating to the School’s first 150 years formed a dazzling and absorbing exhibition, as Director of Development, Erica Aronsten, reports.

On Friday, 17 August, the Edmund Barton Room was the perfect setting for the opening of Sydney Grammar School - history in the making, an exhibition celebrating 150 years since the arrival of the first boys in 1857.

The exhibition was put together by Archivist Ily Benedek and Dr Steve Szirmai with very valuable assistance from conservators Jill and James Finlay together with Alf Pickard, Pat Lyndon, Ian Walker, Fay Cochran, Ray Wittenberg, Rita Fin, Wendy Scotter, Erica Aronsten and Steve Miller. Drawing on the rich resources of the School’s Archives, the exhibition looked at the life of the School, highlighting some of the events, personalities and achievements over its long history.

The Headmaster welcomed guests to the exhibition which was opened by Paul Brunton, Head Curator at the Mitchell Library.

Taking centre stage among the many historic objects on display was the first Liber Nominum – the book containing the names of the boys who enrolled at the School on that first day, 3 August 1857. Also creating interest was the School bell dating from 1858 and the trowel used by Sir Francis Forbes to lay the foundation stone in 1854. Archaeological finds discovered during the excavation for the portico in 2002 were included in the display. Amongst these artefacts were some mimbles, no doubt belonging to schoolboys in the mid 19th century.

Complementing the historic objects were three specially prepared panels designed by Steve Miller which pay tribute to Old Sydneysians from the past including two Prime Ministers, famous artists, war heroes and sporting greats together with distinguished men from the professions and the business world.

Some ninety guests attended the opening including Chairman of Trustees, David Gonski, Sir Anthony and Lady Mason, Alec Hill and Mrs Patsy Hill, Professor Malcolm Coppeloson, Lady Loewenthal, Tony and Rosie Crawford and Mrs Sue Crawford, Mrs Mary Barry with her sons, John and Robert, The Hon. Barry Cohen and Mrs Cohen, Mrs Elizabeth Briger and Michael Dillon.

Guests with a direct link to the origins of the School including Mr David Stevens and Dr Geoffrey Davis were also present.

Boys were encouraged to view the exhibition with their history classes and tutor groups and a special viewing was arranged for school archivists.

Archivist Ily Benedek has expressed her thanks to all who contributed to the success of the exhibition including staff, volunteers, designers and professional consultants.

1 Exhibition venue, the Edmund Barton Room
2 Medals and badges
3 ‘York clock’; it controlled the automatic bell times
4 Presentation silver
5 19th century mimbles found under Big School
6 School bell, c.1858
Kokoda 2007 – a mother’s perspective

‘Each day I was the mother of boys thinking of all those mothers and boys’. Mary Straton shares her reflections as she walked the Kokoda track for the second time.

Having walked the track in 2005 I had confidence in my ability to handle the difficult terrain. This allowed me to be excited at the prospect of being ‘back on the track’. However, I was also a little anxious. How will I cope if it rains a lot? What if I get sick or injured? ‘Don’t forget the earplugs ...’ my doctor reminded me, (well, the snoring was a problem last time, I thought to myself) ‘...to keep the leeches out of your ears’ she finished. I wish she hadn’t mentioned leeches.

We flew to Kokoda and spent the next eight days walking 96 kilometres back over the Owen Stanley Ranges to Owers Corner. It was hot and wet. The track was muddy. The steepness was incomparable to anything encountered in training. There were blisters, headaches, sore knees and aching hips. At times ropes were necessary. Luckily, there were few leeches. All this was forgotten at the end of the day as we swam and washed our clothes in a beautiful stream or waterhole.

The tranquility of the jungle, the beauty of the villages we camped in each night, the hospitality of the local people, delicious mandarins and paw paws, the camaraderie within the group, the sense of achievement felt upon reaching Owers Corner; these are some of my best memories.

There is something almost therapeutic about walking up to ten hours every day for just over a week. At times the track was so narrow and slippery that my only concern was putting one foot safely in front of the other. Then while walking the easier sections, there was plenty of time to think and reflect. And always in my thoughts: the young men killed and injured on the track during the Kokoda campaign of World War Two. Each day I was a mother of boys thinking of all those mothers and boys.

Walking the Kokoda Track is an opportunity to learn about a significant time in our history and a chance to push physically and emotionally beyond one’s usual boundaries.

The trip was an outstanding success due to the hard work and skilled leadership of Craig Johnston and Peter Dignan. It is a huge undertaking to prepare and lead a group of students and parents through the jungle of Papua New Guinea. I felt extremely fortunate to be part of such a worthwhile adventure again.

1. Journey ended, Owers Corner
2. Keith (OS 1974) and son Aidan Bryant (IV)
3. Ross McQuinn (IV) and father Garry
4. Bomana War Cemetery
Speaking out at St Ives

Teacher/Librarian, Jenny Barnsley, tells how St Ives boys are not just learning how to talk confidently in front of their peers, but how to be a good audience, too.

Boys at St Ives have plenty of opportunity to speak out. Beginning in our K-2 classes, the boys share stories with their classmates in morning news sessions. The boys begin learning not only to speak clearly, but to listen and respond with interesting questions. Our Year Two boys enjoy taking part each term in SWEET – Speaking With Expression, Enthusiasm and Thought. The boys learn a poem and present it at assembly to boys, staff and parents.

In Years Three and Four the boys participate in the Julian Gold Junior Oral Reading Competition. Often, after boys have mastered basic reading skills, they only read silently to themselves. This event reminds us that reading aloud is a wonderful shared activity and the boys continue to develop their presentation skills.

Boys in Years Five and Six all take part in our annual Senior Spoken English Competition during Term Three. There is scope in this competition for reading and recitation of prose and poetry as well as writing and presenting an original talk. The winners in each of five categories are presented with an award on Presentation Day. This year’s competition was very tightly contested with some clever and amusing original talks being presented.

Debating is an optional activity for Year Six boys. The squad takes part in many interschool debates during the year before contesting the House Debating Competition in Term Four. These boys develop skills in preparing a logical argument, being part of a team and learning that listening is a very important part of being a good debater.

In addition to these structured activities, there are many opportunities for the boys to practise their speaking skills when presenting reports and research projects to their peers, staff and parents in class, at assemblies and at Topic Presentations.
Edgecliff boys: The new inventors!

Boys at Edgecliff Prep have been coming up with inventions of their own under the watchful eye of Ian Champion and Stuart Ferguson.

During Term III, Fourth Class boys at Edgecliff Prep became budding inventors.

As a tuning-in exercise the boys were introduced to an old ‘candlestick’ telephone; they compared its weight, size and shape with a modern mobile phone. All were surprised by how far the telephone had developed over one hundred years and were even more astonished to find that an operator in the old days listened to your conversation!

The boys researched the development of other inventions and sorted them into chronological order, displaying their findings on a huge timeline. Information about all sorts of inventions was located from the marshmallow of Ancient Egypt to the present-day iPod.

The boys were interested in how some of these inventions worked and the steam engine was a perfect starting point. A model steam engine was exhibited in the School Hall and the boys learnt about the workings of the engine.

It was now time for the boys to become inventors. The task was to design a toy for a young child, using the principle of pneumatics. Once the prototype was made, the boys visited Transition to gain some valuable market appraisal.

Finally, the boys were asked to design and construct a major invention. Along with their completed research displaying their findings on a huge timeline, these inventions were exhibited at a School Inventions Expo. Parents and family members were invited to the Expo. The boys took great delight in showing how their inventions worked and which ones had affected their lives the most.

1 Steam Engine – JJ Klug, Sam Mitch, Ethan Fabite and Alex Jacob
2 Hello, Operator? – JJ Klug
3 It goes in here – Isaac Crawford with Transition Luugo
4 Andy Downie – it sounds like this!
5 Connor Mathies at the inventions Expo
6 Zac Michael and Justin Mohay
Rugby (and song) in Japan

John Warr, Director of Rugby, tells how the common languages of Rugby and song brought Grammar boys and their Japanese hosts together.

In the April vacation a group of twenty-four boys and four masters left Sydney for a ten day tour of Japan. The group of boys invited were thought to be the basis for the 1st and 2nd XVs for the upcoming GPS season. It was seen as an opportunity to develop team spirit and playing patterns which would be vital in both schools being competitive against the larger schools. The tour was to include three matches against equivalent standard Japanese high schools and to take advantage of visiting a totally different culture to that known by the boys.

On arrival in Tokyo the group was met by an enthusiastic and very well organised band of officials. With a minimum of fuss we were out of the airport and on our way to our accommodation. The next morning we were greeted by our Japanese guide who was at our disposal for the day. After a quick explanation of how the subway system worked, we were soon in the centre of Tokyo. A walking tour took in some of the sights, the highlight being a visit to a traditional Japanese street market which also incorporated a Buddhist temple. After a good night’s sleep the boys prepared for their first game against Falaya High School. The game was to be a curtain-raiser to the final of the Japanese High Schools’ championship. After a period of rustiness the team clicked into gear and ran out comfortable winners 47 to 10. The after-match function by the hosts was an excellent way for the two teams to get to know each other and the language barrier proved not to be a problem as the local navies were very keen to test their knowledge of English.

A day at Tokyo Disneyland followed before we headed to the second fixture against Kashiwa High School. This proved to be a very physical encounter with two teams demonstrating contrasting styles. The forward-dominated Japanese team against the Grammar running game proved to be a great spectacle with Grammar running out close winners 33 to 31. Once again the hosts were magnificent in their reception of our boys post match, a highlight being the singing by both teams. The team moved by Bullet train down to Kyoto where we were to spend the rest of the tour. Sightseeing in this historic area included the Nishiki Food Market, Kinkakui Temple (Golden Pavilion), Nijo Castle and the Todaiji Temple, home of the Great Buddha.

Our last game against Hotoku Gakuin High School was played on a ground where ten years earlier the city had been destroyed by a vicious
earthquake. The entire area had been re-built and the playing surface was first class. The boys played a very open, fast running game and ran out winners by 47 to 12. The high standard of after match functions was at its peak here and again the singing by both teams was enjoyed by those privileged to be present. A final day of sightseeing took in the Himeji Castle.

This tour proved to be a great experience for all concerned. Success on the field was balanced by the opportunity to see many cultural sights and to experience some facets of Japanese custom and culture. A return visit with an Under-15 year group is planned for 2008.

1. Exchanging gifts at Kyoto
2. First match vs Fukaya High School
3. Golden Pavilion, Kyoto
4. Group photo, Kashiba High School
5. Todaiji Temple, Kyoto
6. Zen Garden, Tokyo
7. On the bench at Kyoto
8. Nijo Castle, Emperor’s Palace, Tokyo
9. Nick Manetlas and Ned Purcell find a friend
Winter sport round up
Sharon Ditmarsch, Sportsmaster, looks back on a winter season full of surprises.

Throughout the winter season Grammar boys continued to perform beyond our expectations. If a successful season can be measured by growth in character, then 2007 has been a great year.

Football continues to attract the most participants with 20 teams or around 335 boys taking the field each Saturday. The First XI had a strong year, finishing third (the same result as 2006) winning the last four GPS games in closely contested, exciting matches. On paper, our Second XI looked strong but were out-played by some very skilled sides. Thirty-two boys were fortunate enough to participate in a football tour of Argentina and Brazil in April. All the teams down through the age groups competed strongly and were rewarded with some good wins throughout the season.

Grammar fielded 18 rugby teams this year. An Open squad toured Japan in April. They won all three games whilst on tour and this provided good preparation for the GPS season. A camp was held in April for the U13 and U14 age groups. Some teams also competed in a fixture against Cranbrook in the July break. Throughout the GPS season the 1st and 2nd XV provided the Weigall crowds with some entertaining rugby. We all felt for the 1st XV when they lost to Newington 13-14 and we were immensely proud when they held the eventual premiers St Joseph’s to 9-5 at half time, only going down 6-20. The 2nd XV had a close but convincing victory over Newington in very wet conditions.

In cross country it was pleasing to
see a big intake from Forms I and II. Half of all runners were in the U14 age group which came close to taking out the junior premiership. Only the unfortunate injury of a key runner prevented us from getting points early in the season.

Many of the Cross Country runners also participated in the Athletics team, playing an integral part in the middle distance events at the 112th AAGPS Championships held at Homebush. We always seem to do well in the 800m and this season we achieved places in five of the twelve races on offer. Again, the younger age groups impressed with their level of involvement. We were placed in thirteen events and three school records were broken. Zac Kea broke the SGS and the GPS record in the U14 1500m whilst Nic Vogel broke the SGS U13 200m and equalled the U13 100m records. The U13 4 x 100m relay team broke the school record in a breathtaking photo finish, beating the powerful King’s School team by two one-hundredths of a second. The difference between fourth and sixth place in the senior point score came down to one event and after some very competitive racing, we finished sixth in both the senior and junior point scores.

The 2007 rifle season was one of our best. We finished 2nd and 3rd in the All Schools’ Cup and our 2nd team was successful in winning the Seconds premiership in the GPS championship. Ed Cartwright (Captain of Rifles) was crowned ‘King of the Range’ in both competitions and he and Hunter Smith were recently selected in the Australian U21 squad.

Other sports continue to grow in popularity. We offer four competition teams in volleyball. The 1st CAS team finished third and the 1st GPS team clinched 2nd place. We also had a surprise win in the U16 division of the NSW All Schools Championships. The number of boys choosing to do competitive Taekwondo is impressive. This year Grammar was the recipient of the All Schools’ Cup in a tournament held in August. We entered a record number of teams in the NSW Fencing League Competition this year and whilst our 1st team were unlucky to miss out on a place, our 15B team secured a premiership.
Vive la pasion del futbol!

Alex Wells (V) reports on the Football Club’s first tour of South America, where football is a religion with Pele and Maradona its gods.

In the June/July holidays, the Football Club embarked on its latest international expedition – a two-week tour of South America, primarily based in Buenos Aires, Argentina, but with a brief foray into Brazil to visit Rio de Janeiro. It was to be an incredible journey, an adventure whose value surpassed football by providing a truly international cultural experience and an opportunity for us to bond as a mixed-age group.

For football purposes, the tour was split into a junior squad (Forms III-IV) and a senior squad (Form VI). Both teams played with spirit and discipline for which they were eventually rewarded. The juniors’ moment came with a spectacular 2-2 draw under lights against Mayling Country Club. The seniors’ reward came in the final match of a triangular tournament when we came from a goal behind to snatch a good draw against quality opposition.

Crucial to the success we enjoyed was a pair of training sessions we had with Zanona, an ex-Argentina international player, and his wonderfully eccentric coaching team. These sessions greatly boosted the boys’ football technique, as well as exposing us to a quintessentially South American love of the game.

Similarly memorable was watching a Brazilian league match between Flamengo and Botafogo in the newly opened (and completely packed) National Stadium – a thrilling display of Brazilian football fanaticism.

While football was necessarily the focus of the trip, there was plenty of time for sightseeing. In Argentina, we spent a day at Estancia Santa Susana, a ranch dedicated to perpetuating the Argentine Gaucho cowboy tradition, and watched a tango show in the historical Boca region of Buenos Aires. In Brazil, we took cable cars up to the peak of Sugar Loaf Mountain, viewed the magnificent statue of Christ on top of Corcovado Mountain and played football on Copacabana Beach. The visit to Iguaçu Falls, a place of spectacular natural beauty, was a great way to finish the trip.

For a perhaps more authentic cultural experience, the squad spent a few nights with students from Colegio Los Robles, just outside Buenos Aires – a priceless opportunity to get a genuine feel for Argentine teenage life. And since this seemed to consist largely of playing football, watching football and playing football on PlayStation, the boys managed to have a terrific time. The sense of internationalism that emerged from these homestays was valuable, as we discovered how much we all have in common across wide cultural and political divides.

Immersion in another cultural and natural environment was deeply enriching for all involved, opening our eyes to a completely different way of living. In particular, viewing the kind of confronting poverty we saw in
Brazil gave the team a healthy sense of perspective about our place in the world, and a healthy reminder of the pressing humanitarian issues still on the international agenda. We donated our travelling football equipment and spare cash to a local, impoverished boys’ team who were struggling to stay afloat (see paragraph in ‘Jottings’).

1. Mr. Townley with Fluminense fans, Rio de Janeiro
2. River Plate Stadium, Buenos Aires
3. River Plate Stadium, Buenos Aires
4. Outside Maracanã Stadium, Rio de Janeiro
5. Post-match huddle, Los Robles College
6. From cable car, Sugar Loaf Mountain, Rio
7. Near Presidentia Palace, Buenos Aires
8. Iguazu National Park
9. Signing shirts for tour guides
10. At Estancia Santa Susana, outside Buenos Aires
11. Devil’s Throat, Iguazu Falls
12. Barbecue at Estancia Santa Susana
13. Jetboat ride, Iguazu Falls
Looking from the outside in

Three exchange pupils from the Berthold-Gymnasium, Freiburg, Germany, Lukas Schmidt Weirich, Max Imbery and Alexander Dzionara, share their impressions of Grammar gained during their visit in Term III.

Arriving at the gates of Sydney Grammar School you can already feel a very different atmosphere compared with our public school in Germany. The moderate breeze of severity strikes down on everyone who enters the impressive buildings. Mr Wheatley (one of the School Sergeants) stops you in a very friendly but strict way from entering the school until he recognises you as one of the German exchange pupils.

The uniformed students all seem to be kind but also very ambitious. Grammar’s system of education is aimed at competition which you can feel especially during classes. There, in contrast to German ones, it’s more quiet and stiff, although the teachers interact with the pupils in a very friendly way. Besides that, there are not just competitions between pupils, but also with other private schools, for example the GPS competition. This is not at all common in Germany. Extracurricular activities such as sport, debating and music are covered by clubs. Another difference is that performances achieved in the name of the School are more appreciated than in Germany as the Headmaster congratulates the competitors in the weekly assembly.

The pupils also earn badges for their achievements.

These aspects, and the fact that the parents have to pay for the education, are some of the reasons why the pupils of Grammar have a completely different attitude to school compared with us.

As a result of the friendly way the Sydney Grammar pupils act, all the German exchange pupils enjoyed their stay with the host families. On the other hand, because of the short duration of our stay it was not possible for all the teachers to include us fully in their classes. But, all in all, it was a great experience to visit Sydney Grammar School and everyone enjoyed their time ‘Down Under’!
2007 Bach Festival

Chris Shepard, Director of Music, revisits the highlights of this year's Festival: Bach and Mendelssohn.

Big School resonated with the music of JS Bach this June as the Music Department presented its fourth biennial Bach Festival. The subject of this year's festival was Bach and Mendelssohn, examining the relationship between Felix Mendelssohn and the music of JS Bach, a topic that was explored by Mr Tod Piekos in his opening lecture.

In addition to the many concerts featuring Grammar boys, we welcomed several local and international guests to the Festival. Bach and Mendelssohn concerti were presented by Nova Camerata Sydney and the Old Sydneysians' String Orchestra, including Mendelssohn's rarely heard Concerto for Violin, Piano and String Orchestra, featuring Old Sydneysians Jye Hong and James Herrington.

Two American guest musicians returned for a second visit to Big School: Paul Jacobs, head of the Organ Department at the Juilliard School and Charles Castelman, chair of the string program at the prestigious Eastman School of Music. Grammar boys were also well-represented in the Festival, particularly in the Orchestral and Choral Concerts. The School Orchestra performed movements from Mendelssohn's attractive Italian Symphony, while the combined choirs sang several excerpts from Mendelssohn's celebrated oratorio Elijah. Old Sydneysian (and Sydney University medallist) Christopher May arranged the choral music for the specific needs of changing boys' voices. Perhaps the most imaginative programme in this year's Festival was the Cello Suites concert, masterminded by Miss Rita Fin. Dozens of cellists from Grammar and the Sydney community performed a marathon concert of all six of Bach's cello suites, closing with a performance of the sixth suite by Daniel Yeaton.

The traditional culmination of each Bach Festival is the major Bach oratorio performance. Having already performed the St John Passion, Mass in B Minor and Christmas Oratorio, we completed the cycle with the St Matthew Passion, one of the greatest works of art in the western world. The Sydney Bach Choir and Orchestra were joined by trebles and a slate of soloists, including Gregory Massingham as the Evangelist, for two sold-out performances.

1. Ronnie Ho (vi)
2. Frank Dorian (fl)
3. Wayne Kwon (SIPS)
4. Rita Fin introduces the Cello Suites
5. Bravol St Matthew Passion
AUSTRALIAN INDEPENDENT SCHOOLS’ USA FOUNDATION
Supporters of the School resident in the USA, will be pleased to learn that the School is now an affiliate member of the Australian Independent Schools’ Foundation. This new initiative allows donors in the USA to give to the School and receive tax deductible status. Through the scheme, donors are able to direct their gifts to Sydney Grammar School. For further information, contact the Director of Development on (02) 9332 5708 or email: esa@sydgram.nsw.edu.au

CELEBRATING THE SESQUICENTENARY IN STYLE
At the time of going to press, we are looking forward to the highlight of the OSU calendar – the Annual Dinner to be held this year on Thursday, October 25 in the Strangers’ Dining Room at Parliament House in Sydney.

The dinner is to be hosted by the Hon. John Aquilina MP.

The event is in fact a double celebration. Firstly, it marks an historic anniversary in the history of the School – the arrival of the first boys in 1857. Secondly, it provides an opportunity to toast the success of the publication Inside Sydney Grammar School – photographs by Max Dupain and Rex Dupain. This fine book, which showcases the talents of two of our most famous old boys was generously funded by the OSU.

It is planned to show images from the book on two large screens covering the decades from the 1950s to the 2006.

With speakers such as Guest of Honour, The Hon Malcolm Turnbull (OS 1972) and Rex Dupain (OS 1972), the event promises to deliver a record attendance.

INAUGURAL QUEENSLAND GOLF DAY TEES OFF
The historic Virginia Golf Club was the venue for a most successful golf day on Tuesday, 19 June. Twenty two Old Sydneians participated in a single stableford event, followed by a barbecue dinner which attracted 34 guests.

Jeremy White (OS 1966) was the perfect host, also organising the event which attracted players from Ballina, Gold and Sunshine Coasts, Brisbane and one from as far afield as Sydney, Ian Plater (OS 1969).

Sean Chapman (OS 1960) played excellent golf in the ideal conditions to score 44 stableford points, followed by Jeremy White with 39 points (aided by some local knowledge) and Mike Smithers (OS 1987) with 35 points.

The idea of combining the golf day with a casual dinner proved to be a great success reuniting many old school friends. Another special guest giving his support to the function, Bill Service (OS 1959), a member of the OSU committee, proposed a toast to the School.

It was agreed that regular functions in the form of dinners, golf days and other events be held in Queensland to promote greater contact among Old Sydneians with the School.
WARMING UP WITH WINTER DRINKS

A warm welcome was awaiting members of the Victorian branch of the OSU when they gathered on 19 July for a most successful winter drinks function hosted by Jonathan Isaacs (OS 1984).

The Victorian Branch is keen to offer members a number of opportunities to maintain their connection with the School (and with each other) and this informal function provided the perfect opportunity to drop in after work.

The event proved to be a great success and attracted some Old Sydneians who had not previously attended a function in Melbourne. They included Bill Quodling (OS 1950), Gillaad Katzir (OS 1995), John Savage (OS 1971), Marc Skolnik (OS 1974) and Rick Reid (OS 1972).

The sesquicentenary celebrations have created a great deal of interest among members of the Victorian branch, with members supporting the Victorian Branch’s Annual Dinner on 17 October and the OSU Sesquicentenary Dinner at Parliament House on 25 October.

SUPPORT GROWS IN THE SUNSHINE STATE

There has been a flurry of activity this year in the Queensland branch of the OSU, which has led to a number of successful events. This is due to the leadership of Chairman Robert Johnson (OS 1958) and an enthusiastic band of supporters including Steve Barc (OS 1986), Jeremy White (OS 1965) and James MacQueen (OS 1988).

The most recent event was a dinner on August 16 held at Eve’s on the River, hosted by the owner and Old Sydneian, James MacQueen. The superb setting on the river added to the atmosphere of the night which attracted some 40 guests.

The occasion gave guest speaker Tony Crawford the opportunity to update members on events taking place in the sesquicentenary year and to encourage support for future Queensland functions, including golf days.

Among those attending were Frank Buckley (OS 1942) and his son Andrew (OS 1974), Georg Prince (OS 1940) and his son Sam (OS 1980) and Bruce Ritchie (OS 1946) and his son Malcolm (1978).

Those attending voted that this dinner be an annual event and those interested in the activities of the Queensland Branch are encouraged to contact Robert Johnson at rjohnson11@bigpond.com.

YEAR OF ’48 GET BEHIND MEANS-TESTED SCHOLARSHIPS

A group of Old Sydneians from the year of 1948 have come up with an important new initiative to ensure that talented boys in the future are not denied the opportunity to attend the School. An open letter from the group explains:

‘As we all know, the advantages of a private school education speak for themselves. This makes it even more important that talented boys, whose parents have limited resources, have the opportunity to reach their scholastic potential at a school such as Grammar.’

The group plans to generate funds by encouraging others from their era to consider a contribution to The Old Sydneians’ Scholarship Fund, either through a testamentary gift or a donation. (It should be noted that donations to the School’s scholarship fund are now tax deductible.) Advice regarding bequests can be sought by writing in confidence to the Headmaster.

The proposa has the strong support of the Trustees, the Headmaster and the Foundation.

Other year groups interested in lending their support to the scheme are encouraged to contact the Development Office on (02) 9332 5877.

OSU VICTORIAN BRANCH

The Annual Dinner of the Victorian Branch of the OSU took place this year in the historic Athenaeum Club in Melbourne on Wednesday 17 October, an event which celebrated the sesquicentenary of the School.

Chairman, Tim Healey, was pleased with attendance and reports that the dinner was a great success.

Guest speaker on this special occasion was the Headmaster, Dr John Vaillance, who brought guests up to date on news and events taking place in a year that marks 150 years since the arrival of the first boys in 1857.

OSU President Tony Crawford with Robert Johnson

The Headmaster with oldest and youngest members, Fred Hooton (OS 1938) and Ramsay Wright (OS 2001)
The London Branch held its 82nd Annual Dinner on 20th October, 2003 at the Oxford and Cambridge Club. Twenty-two Old Sydneysians attended, including eight new faces, and the branch’s new OSU flag was displayed in pride of place. The grapevine appears to be working with more Old Sydneysians both transitory and permanent increasingly aware of this our main event for the year. For the first time, Old Boys from the 90s now outnumber those from the 80s.

Ken Deane, (1941) our president, gave a short address of welcome and called upon Warwick Manconi (1990) to say the grace. A splendid dinner followed before H. Eldon Able (1981) proposed the loyal toast and our secretary Ian Wyness (1954) stood to give his annual “commercial”.

It was announced that both Ken Deane (1941) and Ian Wyness (1954) will be standing down as President and Honorary Secretary after 16 and 12 years’ wonderful service respectively. Their places will be taken by Adrian Jack (1960) and James Atkin (1988).

Nick Steiner (1994), deemed the youngest member present, gave the toast to ‘The School and the Union’ and a short reflection on his time at the School. The undoubted highlight of the evening was the third DVD postcard sent by the Headmaster. This was exceptionally well received by those present: Justin Able (1990), James Atkin (1988), Frieda Cheung (1990), Ken Deane (1941), Laurence Emmett (1990), Adrian Jack (1980), Chris Jack (1982), Peter Jacobson (1990), Anthony Kaufmann (1994), Daniel Klineberg (1993), Stephen Land (1990), Matthew Logan (1985), Nigel Lowry (1990), Warwick Manconi (1990), David Reid (1990), Stuart Snowden (1990), Nick Steiner (1994), Llewellyn Thomas (1989), Peter Tsoulos (1990), Michael Tomlinson (1990), Daniel Vizel (1994) and Ian Wyness (1954). There were 22 apologies.

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