



*"I am going to open my own  
school and make it interesting.  
make it fun!"*

*David Black - Founder, 1948*

# Dear Chapps...

Welcome to our August 2020 edition of the CHAPPS Newsletter.

It was wonderful to hear from so many of our Alumni following the last CHAPPS Newsletter, many of whom had not heard from Cowan House for years!

We trust that this is the beginning of a reignited love and passion for your Preparatory alma mater and we welcome you to get in touch, share your memories and sentiments, and (eventually - post Covid) come and visit us again.

Our CHAPPS office has been busy with a number of exciting developments including: the virtual hosting of the upcoming SA Schools Alumni Association National Conference; planning to launch our brand new Foundation Website; as well as beginning to prepare for our newest CHAPPS Members in the 4th Quarter

Work on the Alumni Database continues and we would ask that any past pupils who are in contact with their respective year groups, please pop us an email so we can update details.

We hope that you enjoy the read!

Warm regards

Robyn

# Alumni News...

*"I have many good and happy memories of Cowan House (1950-51), then run by David Black and his wife, Joy, at Mountain Rise. Amongst them: Anthony Harvey-Williams and I at the back of the classroom which combined standards 4, 5 and 6.*

*For half of my final year (1951) I was with my dad in Europe: which David Black had agreed to provided that I wrote weekly to the class; which I did. I like telling people that, at the end of the year I came second in the class despite my long absence; neglecting to add there were only two of us in it."*



## Dr Arthur Conacher - Class of 1951

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*"I was a pupil under the late David Black from 1952-1958 when the school was still situated in Mountain Rise. When I started in Class 1, I think we only had 3 of us in the class. In fact from memory Class 1, Class 2 and standard 1 were all in one classroom. Our teacher was a Mrs Morley who used to drum our X tables into us. These she had written out on brown paper and stuck on the wall above the pelmets. First thing every morning we had to recite these until we knew them in our sleep. Chris Black joined us in Class 2, although I think he was a year younger than us, but a lot cleverer than most. I correspond with him in Scotland.*

*I was a boarder for a number of years, the boarding establishment formed part of the main house that the Blacks lived in. Initially we had no hall and a mound covered in grass in the garden formed an outside stage. It also served as a venue for many play productions under the stars. A hall, swimming pool, rugby and cricket fields and an additional classroom block were added over the years I was there."*

## Mr Glen Ross - Class of 1958

# Academics...

A number of Michaelhouse boys recently wrote tests to benchmark themselves against their peers internationally in Maths and English. The following of our Cowan House Old Boys did very well:

## **CERTIFICATES OF HIGH DISTINCTION**

MATHS Aeden Turner, Jack Walters

## **CERTIFICATES OF DISTINCTION:**

MATHS David Nienaber | ENGLISH Aeden Turner, Jack Walters



# Diamond Anniversaries...



*Congratulations to Robin Allison and his wife (Robin) who celebrated 60 years of marriage last week. Robin was one of the original seven boys enrolled at Cowan House, when it was based in Mountain Rise, and left in 1953.*

*Robin's mother, Mrs Conacher, was headmistress of Bairnswood Kindergarten. Bairnswood went from Nursery class to Standard One but boys always left after Class Two and so Standard One at Bairnswood was for girls only. However, in 1948 she made an exception by allowing her own son to stay for Standard One. She soon realised that this was a mistake as the girls all began to spoil Robin and he thoroughly enjoyed being carried around, so she dispatched him off to Cowan House as a late enrolment!*

*Robin, who now lives in New Zealand and has many fond memories of Cowan House, proudly claims to have been the only pupil ever to have been expelled from Bairnswood.*



# CHAPPS hits YouTube!

YouTube memories flooded our inbox during the past few weeks and for those who may not have seen them on Facebook, the links can be found below!

## 1985: Joseph

The first production which took place in the Cowan House Theatre was 'Joseph' in 1985. Click the below links to take a trip back in time.

Act ONE

Act TWO

## 1985: Final morning of the school year

Final morning of school

## 1987: Cowan House - Jeremy Hexham

Jeremy Hexham attended Cowan House in 1987 for a period of 3 months whilst in South Africa with his parents. The clip below captures some of his time here.

Jeremy Hexham 1987



# SA Schools' Alumni Association

Cowan House are proud to be hosting the SA Schools' Alumni Association National Conference which will be going VIRTUAL for the first time this year! Amongst the speakers are a number of Cowan House past pupils who will be sharing and no doubt, flying the flag for us.

More information will be made available in due course for any past pupils who may wish to join virtually.



SASAA Conference 2020

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