

A summary of the 50th Anniversary 1967 Reunion

*50th Anniversary
1967 Reunion*

Friday, 11 August 2017

*Held at the Union,
University and Schools Club*



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COMPILER’S NOTE (RODNEY HAMMETT)

On the morning after the Dinner I was reflecting on what had been said in the speeches and how much I remembered. Some details were crystal clear while others less so and the thought of collecting the typed speeches from the speakers rose to the surface... here they are for us all to recall.

Public speaking is primarily a regurgitation of thoughts that have previously been written down, sometimes just as notes and other times in coherent sentences. Delivery of these words doesn’t always go according to plan and such was the case on 11th August, nevertheless the words as prepared are here for all of us to see what was on the speaker’s minds.

This might even help you align those synapses to enable you to recall in detail what was said on the night.

15 August 2017

REUNION COMMITTEE

Basil Simmons, David Marsh, John Chancellor, Rodney Hammett (audio visual), Jean Khoudair (TKS OBU) and the House representatives – see Basil’s speech.

PROGRAM

Programme for the Evening

7:40pm

Sit down at the tables

7:50pm

Welcome & Apologies - David Simmons

Entrée

8:20pm

The Magazine - David Payne

Setting the scene - R Hammett

Readings by D Fisher, C Willcocks, S Bargwanna

Main meal

8:50pm

Main speech - David Marsh

Dessert

9:30pm

Magazine sales - David Payne

Tea/coffee petit fours

10.00pm

Bar closes

10.30pm

Function ends - Retire to The Flynn, 2a Bligh Street for a nightcap and to continue conversations

SPEECHES

WELCOME (BASIL SIMMONS)

Welcome to everyone here this evening. It is great to see so many of you, including some who have travelled from the country, interstate and overseas.

In particular, I'm very pleased to welcome our special guests – Jonathan Persse, Keith Asboe and Roy Horrocks. They played a significant role in our education and development at School and it is wonderful to reunite fifty years on.

Also, a warm welcome to the Year of 1966 who have joined us tonight – Dave Waugh (School Captain), Angus Bruxner, Pete Buzacott, Tom Atkins and Bob Pigott. We shared much in common in 1966 through sport and in Houses.

I'm very pleased that we can share in celebrating the 50th anniversary of the opening of the JS White Oval this weekend. Mike Rose, captain of the 1967 1st XV, has gathered the team, including Al Murray and Bomber Hudson (1968) here this evening, and they will be partaking in a special ceremony before tomorrow's match against Newington at 3:15 pm.



Let us remember those in the Year of 1967 who have died. There are fifteen in total, the most recent being Bert Owen Schwind, who died just a few weeks ago. Bert was a true friend to many of us and he will be sorely missed. Let us all stand for a moment to remember them..... Thank you.

This evening has been made possible with the assistance of a large number of people. In particular, I'd like to thank those who volunteered their time as House Representatives (Steve Bargwanna, Brian Bowman, Pip Britten, John Chancellor, Dave Fisher, Mac Gudgeon, Peter Hacon (The Prep), Malcolm Lamb (OGH), Dave Marsh, Wayne Rabjohns, Mike Rose, Jeff Stevens and Geoff Watt). We can thank them for the big turnout this evening, as they made contact with everyone in their Houses, providing encouragement to attend the dinner, contribute to the magazine and also track down those with whom we had lost contact.

Also making a major contribution to tonight are the Reunion Magazine Editorial Committee – ably lead by Editor-in-Chief Cyril Payne, and supported by editors Mac Gudgeon, Rod Hammett, Mal Lamb, Charles Jennings and myself. You will be hearing a lot more about the magazine during the evening but, suffice to say, it developed from a concept eight weeks ago into a fine record of our combined reflections on the past fifty years.

I'm pleased to report that there are seventy six of us here tonight. I attribute this big roll up to so many getting involved with magazine reports and also contacting colleagues.

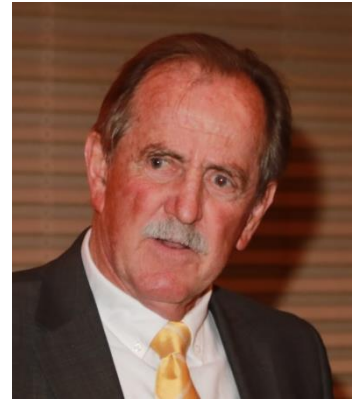
I'll now ask the House Reps to report on any apologies they have received.

APOLOGIES (BY HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES)



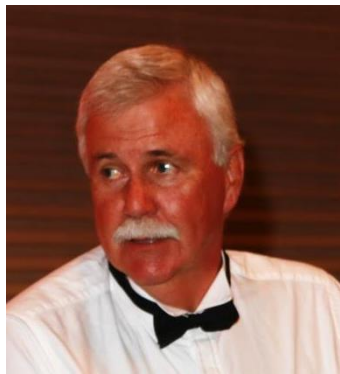
David Marsh (Forest) –
David Glasson, David Garnock, Andrew Henley,
Stephen Friend and David Walters

Mike Rose (Broughton) –
??



Mac Gudgeon (Waddy) –
??

Jeff Stevens (Macquarie) –
??



Steve
??

Bargwanna (Dalmas) –

Brian Bowman (Harris) –
??



Wayne Rabjohns (Hake) –
John Curtis, Michael Nekvapil and Les McMaster

David Fisher (Baker) –
Jock Shumack



Philip Britten (Britten) –
??



John Chancellor (Macarthur) –
Kym Monkton and Dave Newsom

Charles Jennings (pre-recorded video from England)

From his sunny backyard in Winchester, England, Charles reflected on his time at school but reported in detail how Basil had reached out to him in England resulting in their meeting at the Waldorf Hotel, Aldwych (London) in 2007. From this grew a friendship he never thought would have been possible based on his school experiences, including meeting up with Bob Buntine in Sydney on Charles' business trips to Australia, then Charles' wife having an ongoing exchange with Bob over books they were reading which lasted up to the time of Bob's death.

This Charles gave as an example of how Basil has kept us 67ers together in various ways and why tonight would not have been possible without Basil's continuous reaching-out to all the different boys we 67ers are.

Charles concluded by raising a glass of his favourite scotch to celebrate us at the dinnereven if it was only 11am when it was recorded.



Presentation to Basil (John Chancellor)

Basil, Thanks...

We have all been affected in some way by the TKS rubber stamp that moulded our thoughts and values. Even after 50 years we still have more than just a little in common, otherwise we probably wouldn't be here.

Over those years Basil has been the link to keep in touch with all of us.

In the early years Andrew Joseph and I organised a couple of reunions and Basil was always assisting. When Andrew died, Basil took on the responsibility and has run with it ever since.

It was Basil's idea to organise the regular lunches in Sydney every couple of months, which a lot of us have been to and enjoy.

Basil started talking about planning tonight over a year ago and the build up and talk has been constant since then. A broken jaw about a month ago, caused when he fell at 5:30am while jogging to the gym and having his mouth wired up hasn't stopped him. Many of us had calls and emails from his hospital bed to keep the show rolling.

A huge amount of time, thought and energy has gone into the planning and preparation for this reunion including the magazine, and Basil's enthusiasm and ability to organise and delegate, just a little, has brought us all together.

Basil, we all appreciate your commitment & energy, and thank you.

On behalf of everyone here we have a token of our appreciation for you.

The citation reads:

"At the 50th Year Reunion Dinner of the King's School Class of 1967, on August 11th 2017, in recognition of his outstanding dedication and organisational prowess for over fifty years on behalf of his fellow Old Boys"



MAIN SPEECH (DAVID MARSH)

.....introductory music from 1967....

Welcome, it's so good to see so many here and a special welcome to those present from the final year of the Leaving from 1966.

One of the disadvantages of speaking later in the evening is that some of the earlier speakers have already said some of what you will hear from me but here we go

Jonathan Persse, Keith Asboe and Roy Horrocks, we are honoured by your presence.

I want to extend to extend our sincere thanks to Jean Koudair, TKS Old Boys Administrative Assistant, your assistance has been of inestimable help.

I'd also like to thank Jenny Pearce the school archivist for her unfailing cheerfulness when we requested details about something obscure like who reviewed the Cadet Corps on the occasion of the Feu de Joie; who put up the money for the purchase of Gowan Brae. I emailed her to say thank you and below is her response.

No problems, your team are the most enthusiastic and well organised group I have ever worked with in nearly 20 years. I hope after all the hard work the reunion is well attended and a success- it deserves to be. Jenny.

We thought we were going alright in 1967, but now it official, 50 years later we are still kicking goals.

I'd like us to acknowledge and remember all those who have lost family members to old age, illness or accident, especially those of you who have had to bury a child; you have our sincere feelings of empathy and love.

Most of us have watched our parents get old and it's been sad to watch them die. We are grateful for the sacrifices they made to send us to The Kings School.

[David asked for a show of hands for those who still had their parents alive – Mike Howard was very proud to tell us all that both his were alive, his father 96 and mother 92]

We hold in our memories those members of staff who have died of recent times.

SW Kurrle died in 2016, Bob and Ivy Buntine in 2014 and 2016, and Rod West, who went on to be Headmaster of Trinity Grammar.

Tonight we remember Bert Owen Schwind who died so recently. [He so wanted to be at this dinner]

I especially want to thank Basil Simmons and his lieutenant John Chancellor not only for their efforts in organizing this reunion, but also the quarterly dinners and the previous reunions.

The editorial Committee of the reunion magazine, Cyril Payne, Basil Simmons, Charles Jennings, Malcolm Lamb, Mac Gudgeon and Rod Hammett. In the incredibly short time frame of seven weeks, to put together the stories and design the layout was a wonderful example of enthusiasm, organization and cooperation. We all thank you for this work.

We were on the crest of a wave of social change that had not been seen before. The Beatles, the contraceptive Pill, the referendum that gave the first Australians the vote, the assassination of JFK. The transistor that made it possible to take music and the news with us. The prospect of the Vietnam call-up.

All social conventions were being questioned.

Our parents were confused by our behaviour.

The stories you sent in for the Reunion magazine are full of fun, humour and incredibly interesting details of the lives you have led, and are an amazing and wonderful record of our lives and feelings at school and since.

As time has passed, the negative views some of us may have held of the actions of others, have been softened and replaced by feelings of respect. I commend those of you who found the courage to write about experiences of which most of us have little understanding. Your willingness to openly share your stories is a gift to all of us, so thank you.



I asked a couple of people if they remembered what I said the last time I leapt to my feet at a reunion. They couldn't remember anything. I however, remember taking a few cheap shots at hapless members of staff, whose foibles, school-boys immediately noticed.

There was Robert Parker's lace-up boots, , introduction of around the corner goal kicking, his prominent bottom lip, and prowess as an English teacher; Eric Drake's prominent veins and unusual expressions, such as 'brother animal'.

Mr Barnett's uncontrollable maths class, Mark Arnold's incredibly controlled Senior maths class,

Taking lessons from Johnno Grice, Charles McConnell and Robbo, who were on the staff when my father was here in 1930.

Fred Healy's advice about life, his willingness to talk about his journey with rehabilitation from alcoholism, with a bit of Maths thrown in for good measure.

The look of triumph on Bernie Cannon's face as he rubbed his ebony rod with the silken cloth, and applied it to the evacuated flask and made the spindle spin.

Colonel Buring demonstrating that water behaves like a solid, filling a two litre bottle and driving the cork in with a hammer. Result....broken glass.

Warwick Fisher explaining to the Rev Baker about who the Beatles were so he could try and get his head around the social revolution roaring into his formerly stable world.

Walking up through the Ironbarks for early morning Communion.

Afternoon leave at Ernie's hamburger joint in Parramatta.

Duty Master Ian Humphries' wonderful announcement after dinner one night. It was after the inter-house debating had finished the week before, and Ian was announcing a combined debate in the Library,

'R...i...g...h...t, there will be mass debating in the library tonight'!!!! Pandemonium followed by I. Humphries exiting stage right.

The opening of the J.S. White oval in 1967 was a big occasion.

Mike Rose, the [Rugby] Captain led the team out onto the pitch. There was a maximum crowd, introductions to Mr Jim White, a major benefactor whose generosity had made the oval possible, and whose son Jeremy was in the First XV; we met the great St Josephs past coaches, the match referee was the doyen of International Referees, Dr Roger Vanderfield.

St Josephs muffed the kick off. The ball dribbled along the ground to me, I passed it to Rob Willcocks who put up a towering Garry Owen punt which Clive Smoker, the St Josephs full back failed to gather cleanly. Willcocks following through toed the ball forward and the young turk, John Hudson, keen to elevate his status to immortal, picked up the ball and scored in under a minute. St Joseph's never recovered their composure and we won by 18-6. A great way to christen the new ground.

The school rowing eight were the physical manifestation of Bob Buntine's goal for them. I feel sure that like all who achieve fame they feel a little embarrassed about getting another round of adulation, while we never tire of basking in the reflected glow of their achievements. I found a short poem that summed it up.

A Racing Eight by [James L. Cuthbertson](#)

WHO knows it not, who loves it not,
The long and steady swing,
The instant dip, the iron grip,
The rowlocks' linked ring,
The arrowy sway of hands away,
The slider oiling aft,
The forward sweep, the backward leap
That speed the flying craft?

A racing eight of perfect mold,
True to the builder's law,
That takes the water's gleaming gold
Without a single flaw.

A ship deep, resonant within,
Harmonious to the core,
That vibrates to her polished skin
The tune of wave and oar.

A racing eight and no man late,
And all hearts in the boat;
The men who work and never shirk,
Who long to be afloat.
The crew who burn from stem to stern
To win the foremost place,
The crew to row, the boat to go
The eight to win the race.[end]

It's tempting to define a school by its performance on the cricket oval, the river, the track and the rugby pitch, the soccer pitch, the pool and the court, the basketball arena and the rifle range; and these arenas are important for the development of sound character; they teach us a lot about ourselves, how to win with grace and how to accept defeat. There are lessons about courage and endurance, and learning that results are tightly connected to effort.

But in sport, as in life, most people are in the middle. It's a mistake to think that the high achievers at school will continue at that level, in life. They might, but like us all, they have the same human failings. The same is true in reverse; many do their developing after they leave school.

The academic, musical and dramatic spheres are at least as important, perhaps more, as they can be indulged in, for life. We rightly remember the first eight and their astonishing win, but those who achieved their own, metaphorical Head of the River, in their chosen subject, or in life, are also memorable, though perhaps not so much in the public domain. All have value.

Conclusion

In some ways teachers are like the biblical sowers of seed.

Daily they cast the seeds of knowledge among their pupils, and like optimistic farmers they hope their sowing will yield a worthwhile harvest.

Some of the seed falls on barren ground. Sometimes the pay-off comes a long time after the sowing.

Will Kirkby, a self-confessed tone deaf student in 1967, was surprised when Basil Simmons asked him to write something about King's influence on his classical music awareness. In a wide-ranging story, touching respectively, on the dancing skills, and musical prowess of the late Mal Makim and Bruce Davey, he ended with the line that must surely have warmed Keith Asboe's heart.

Simon Kirkby, a year seven boy from Moree, in 1990 astounded Keith by not only knowing who Mozart was, but even how to pronounce his name! A payoff of the seed planted by Keith in Will Kirkby's mind 23 years earlier.

The friendships formed during those years that we were thrown together by circumstance are an enduring thread in our lives. Regardless of what we have done in life, the friendships remain and the values the school instilled in us still hold value, and in some ways have defined who we have become.

Thank you very much, have a great night.

THE REUNION MAGAZINE (CYRIL PAYNE)

An Editorial Committee was formed to produce a magazine to commemorate the 50th reunion of the Class of '67. I had suggested to the Reunion Committee that a magazine would be a suitable vehicle to record the event and, by rekindling memories of our time at school together, would garner enthusiasm for the reunion itself. When Basil and I were in Broughton together, Charles Jennings had been the editor of an internal House magazine called *The Thunderer*, to which I had often been a contributor, so Basil thought it would be a good idea if I were to be appointed editor of our Reunion Magazine.



I thought that Charles Jennings would be an ideal member of the Committee, due to his paternity of *The Thunderer* and his professional employment with Reuters. Mac Gudgeon is a professional script writer and Malcolm Lamb a former School Principal, so they also picked themselves. I thought that Rodney Hammett would be the source of archival material but in fact he became so much more important to the Committee, not just as Mr List. And Basil was to be our Liaison Officer with the Reunion Committee, but he in turn became an editorial co-ordinator and, like Rodney, a major contributor.

We swapped a few ideas around and settled on a layout that would be based on the school magazine from the '60s, leavened by a more extensive range of 'original contributions' and augmented by a section on how our lives have evolved since we left school. Basil took charge of the House Reports and some other sections, Malcolm would be responsible for reports on what we did at school, Mac was allocated reminiscences and assorted stories, and Charles had post-school activities. Rod was our main archivist, source of photographs and fact-checker. Each of the Editorial Committee was then responsible for obtaining copy in the area allocated and off they went with enthusiasm and verve.

The success of the Magazine would be dependent on the contributions received and here we met enthusiasm from some, reticence from others and refusal from a few. One thing that was common was the sense of achievement that all felt who contributed – and in some cases the authors mentioned a realisation that the writing process itself was cathartic. The upshot is that the Magazine comprises approximately 57,000 words, about 130 pages on each of which there are often two to three photographs. We think the finished product will provide you with an excellent reminder of the 50th Reunion activities, but more importantly will trigger long-forgotten memories of our times together over 50 years ago. There are many wonderful tales, some often very personal, but they will evoke remembrances of that time and will result in reminders of many shared experiences.

The Magazine will go on sale in an hour or so but the Editorial Committee has selected three of the articles to be read by the authors – we hope that the readings give you an idea of the breadth of the areas covered and act as a reminder of the opportunities we all had to experience a wonderful education. The readings are:

- *The Cadet Corps* by David Fisher.
- *The Academic Life of the School* by Charles Willcocks.
- *When the 15Cs Beat Joeys* by Stephen Bargwanna.

Setting the scene (Rodney Hammett)

I've been asked to put 1967 into context ... well it was just yesterday wasn't it? No in fact the Beatles' Yesterday was released in 1965 it was Sergeant Pepper's Lonely Heart Band that was released in June 1967.

There we were ensconced in school – many of us boarders not seeing or knowing what was really happening around us.

In Australian history 27 May 1967 is a day when a momentous event occurred. For those who could vote – and that didn't yet include us – it was the referendum to decide if Aboriginals could vote. Of course this was supported by a great majority.

In pop culture the inaugural San Francisco Summer of Love festival had been held in January, and it's still going today.

In sport I remember listening to the tennis where in 1967 John Newcombe won the first of his three Wimbledons and the first of his two US Opens.

In television, we saw the start of This Day Tonight with Bill Peach on the ABC in April 1967.

Later in December Australia's first satellite, WRESTAT, was launched on an American rocket from Woomera ...and finally

Does it make you feel an elder statesman when you realise that Nicole Kidman, James Packer and Tina Arena were all born in 1967?



The Cadet Corps (David Fisher)

Cadets have been in existence in Australia for over 150 years. The first unit was established in Australia in 1866, at St Mark's Collegiate School, NSW. This unit subsequently became the King's School Cadet Corps in 1869.

In 1966, our penultimate year at school, you may recall Kings hosted the 100 year centenary of cadets being established in Australia. The celebrations were marked by a large ceremonial parade held on the sports grounds at Gown Brae. There were representatives from many other cadet corps in NSW with over 400 cadets on parade. The parade was reviewed by the Governor of NSW [Sir Roden Cutler VC](#).

Fifty years on and the 150 year anniversary of TKSCC was held at the School in 2016. It was great to see several Vietnam veterans from our year attending the dinner including Peter Hacon, Brian Bowman and "Kicker" Gordon.

The first year of the HSC saw an increase in cadet numbers in 1967 to around 420 and the squeeze on resources (the School reports of the year describe shortages of equipment). Q Store CUO Rod Logan was under constant pressure and could be heard regularly telling disgruntled under-resourced, poorly equipped cadets ... You'se can all go and get rooted... or words to that effect. I don't believe Rod is here to dispute my recollection, so I may be exaggerating a wee bit.

The annual camp was always a highlight and the train trip to Whittington railway siding just short of Singleton was not without incident. Mac Gudgeon invariably entertained us and on one occasion as we passed through Cockle Creek near Newcastle he quipped towatch out or your cock'll creak. We were easily entertained then. Fifty years on, I fear his words were quite prophetic. Singleton army camp is now a shadow of its former self with much of the Hunter Valley dug up and exported to China and elsewhere.

As reported in the School magazine, at the end of 1966, the Corps spent three days in the bush in operations "Ramvere", "Pattern" and "Guerilla" organised by the regular army. I do recall being involved in a Guerilla exercise when a small party of us were given the task of recapturing the small railway siding of Belford several kilometres away and being held by an enemy contingent. A simple task except the planning omitted to take into account that there was no moon light that night and the country side was pitch black (no night goggles then!). We finally found said siding some 2-3 hours after the appointed time of attack. The enemy (some regular army



dudes) had obviously grown tired of the game and had departed some time earlier (according to their generously worded note left on the door).

I must admit my cadet experience has left me with a grumpy old man attitude. I can't help getting annoyed when watching an Anzac march of other military parade when firstly, there is always someone out of step, and the supposed straight lines of personnel marching in review formation past the inspecting officer with eyes right are more correctly categorised at best as curvi-linear. Kim Jong Un would deal with this sloppiness in a most efficient manner.

But most annoying of all is the salute – remember...the long way up and the short way down guys. And don't cock your wrist and splay the fingers. Phil Basche – are you still with me? Oh well, it gives me something to complain about.

So, in spite of the endless drill routines, the incessant polishing of brass buckles, sleeping on palliasse mattresses and senior cadets shouting at junior cadets, I do think the experience was character building for many (and I acknowledge not all) but can say that I have fond memories of the Kings School Cadet experience.

The Academic Life of the School (Charles Willcocks)

No doubt you were surprised to find a heading for academics hidden amongst a long list of sporting items for the magazine? But there was a large range of activities that could be classed as academically related and which involved many or most people from our year.

To give some context; two significant events occurred during our first year – the introduction of the six year Wyndham Scheme and the major shift of the school to the new teaching facilities at Gowan Brae. These presented challenges for both students and teachers and had a major influence over the development of school's overall culture and outlook and approach to education, as Jonathan Perse pointed out at the time in several of his magazine editorials. The former because it established a comprehensive approach to education and a new curriculum and the latter because it provided an ideal environment in which these changes could take shape. More of this later.



We had seven scholars in our year: Dave Fisher, Ross Horsley, Jock Schumack, Dave Marsh, Arch Morton, Peter Robinson, and Geoff Watt. All these featured prominently in the prize lists over the years, but there were many others too numerous to mention individually, except maybe for one, Andrew Watson who won the Orme prize for history in 1966 and 1967, '**all three in 1967**' – Andrew's emphasis.

We did pretty well. Of the 106 candidates that sat, 105 were awarded a Higher School Certificate. Several were mentioned for 'meritorious performance' in the State rankings; Peter Robinson in Latin, Maths and English; Arch Morton in Latin; Richard Hammond in Maths; Andrew Watson and Jack Curtis in History; Adam Johnson and Rob Willcocks in Geography; and, Mark Davison and Richard Kirkby in Economics. Many went on to join the crowds swelling the numbers entering universities and colleges, no doubt disappointing some parents hoping for some cheap labour back on the farm.

Masters, you could write a book on them. I have mentioned a number in the magazine version of these notes, but here are some standouts mainly from the classroom. At the top Herbert Denys Hake bestrode our world like a Colossus, the main architect of the move to the new school. How he managed to drive his large American car from the back seat was a mystery to us all. His successor, Stan Kurrle, created a more relaxed environment. Other masters included Tommy Cuff and Harry 'Who Fired that Shot' Read, Butch Baker (himself material for a whole book), Thumper Kent (if only he had taught us the Latin word for 'geese' – well, those who sat School Certificate Latin will know what I mean), Eric Sowerby Drake (a gem – I still remember a drowsy class, shocked awake by him yelling 'Friends, Romans, **countrymen, lend me your ears**' – Mark Anthony, he explained, would have had to yell – he was addressing a huge crowd). And dear old Robbo in the school bookshop, always welcoming, who seemed to know every boy by name.

Of course many will remember the rather depressing demand, ‘Willcocks, bring out your card’ – a detention did wonders for academic performance.

Other academic activities included clubs and societies. I counted nine, the Twelve, Cartesian and Faraday Clubs feature prominently, but also recorded was the interestingly named Plastic Embedding Club (perhaps Pete Waterhouse could explain this one).

Another section of the magazine deals with clubs and societies but papers given to the Twelve Club in our final year give a guide to the extent of the discussions, some to fascinate and some to alarm according to the Club notes – *Rhodesia – a Split Country* (Dave Walters), *The Life and Work of Mao Tse-Tung* (Malcolm Lamb), food and agricultural matters (James Baird), *Martin Boyd* (Rob Willcocks), *Polluted Air* (Peter Coggins), and *The Philosophy of History* (Dave Prescott). All powered by the suppers provided by Mrs Cuff.

Taking all this into account, to return to the opening theme – was anything achieved by the Wyndham Scheme and the new school surroundings? I think there was.

Take for example the pamphlet written in 1967 by Malcolm Lamb and edited by Richard Nicholas, *Vietnam – Past Present and Future*. This caused a stir when it came out as I recall – a palace crisis, at least. How could students at The King’s School be prepared to challenge authority and, in a public way, raise questions on a very politically sensitive matter? I doubt if there was any mention of it in the magazine or the headmaster’s annual report. This event represented a crack in the wall of the dam – our adherence to tradition at all costs, our acceptance of received orthodoxy and our tightly constrained discipline. Certainly it awakened the possibility of questioning such things.

Surely this reflects a small step on the road towards enlightenment, and subsequent changes in the school’s approach to both its cultural and sporting life have borne this out.

I couldn’t resist putting this final word in, with thanks to Peter Robinson. In writing to Jonathan Persse some years later in a letter published in the magazine, Peter recalled giving one of the first Cartesian Club talks, on existentialism. He goes on:

I do not remember much of this talk, and I think this at least partly because I did not know what I was talking about. However, I do recall that this talk showed me that it was possible to talk with great conviction out of happy ignorance. This has been a most useful lesson, and I have carried on talking nonsense with passion throughout my life in academia.

Who said we didn’t learn anything at school.

There is much more that could be said. For example, space did not permit me to cover the Original Contributions section of the school magazines, where there are many jottings by our group. But I do recommend that you look at other sections of the magazine on music, drama and debating.

Congratulations to the editorial committee on doing a terrific job producing the magazine.

Now, I hope you have all been paying attention. For homework you will have on my desk by tomorrow morning a 500 word essay on academics. A three hour detention awaits anyone who misses the deadline!

Thank you

When the 15Cs beat Joeys (Steven Bargwanna)

Keg Milne was an uninspiring math teacher. It was hard work understanding maths when thwarted by the bulwark of his dishevelled appearance - shirt untucked, keg like shape, profuse sweat and ashtray overflowing with cork tipped cigarettes.

Now Jimmy Mathers, he was a maths teacher, and with an appropriate name. Jimmy was tucked in everywhere. We loved Jimmy for his enthusiasm. He was like a grown-up boy, one of us. Most importantly when he was our rugby coach we won all the time. He had us furiously fit and believing in ourselves.

So when the 15Cs beat Joeys it didn't surprise us team members.

Our little group of supposedly 'average' footy players had done the same for the previous two years. At least that is what I remember. The 15Cs were a proud team. Jimmy fired us up. We put our foot on their throats from the kick off and never took it off till the final whistle blew. There were no fluke intercept tries, we had no Dan Carter kicker and field goals were unheard of. We just ground them down. We felt like our heroes in the First XV and when we graduated to the same unbeatable 5ths in 1967 we felt like our champion Head of the River rowers. Legends. We got the taste of winning and it was wonderful.

Our all-conquering, Joeys-beating cohort started in the 13Cs and went the whole way through together. Some twenty-odd King's teams battled the dreaded Joeys and we were one of the few teams with a W, not an L or D, against their names on the Monday morning footy results notice board. Most of the other GPS schools were easy beats. The trial games against CHS schools, the likes of Cranbrook - pieces of cake. On one outing we embarrassed the Cranbrook nancy boys by somewhere between 80 and 100 points to nil. It was pathetic. The poor boys shouldn't have been allowed on the paddock.

I only have the statistics for one of our teams made up of average blokes, the 6ths in 1965. Champions. Played 12 games undefeated. 240 points for, 20 against. Our line was crossed only twice. M. R. Buring Esq was the coach.

Was it the quality of the half time oranges, the coaches, the country boarders with tough fencing and livestock wrangling backgrounds, the unrelenting discipline, or revenge for the uniform? Sparta defeating the Athenians was us.

How blessed were we. What fun we had. Character building, maybe.



MAGAZINE QUESTIONS (CYRIL PAYNE)

Presentation to Cyril (Rodney Hammett)

As Cyril was about to talk, he was interrupted by Rodney Hammett who said

Excuse me Cyril I haven't had a chance to butt-in for a few months so now's the time.

It's about your attitude ... Cyril to this magazine thing.

When Mac, Malcolm, Charles and I were approached by Basil and yourself to produce a reunion magazine in 7 weeks, we all thought you were raving mad!

But we were wrong.

Squadron Leader Editor-in-Chief Mrs C and other things we called you amongst the hurly-burley of the gestation and finally birth of this masterpiece; your never-surrender attitude,iron discipline, sense of humour and your independent wealthy moustache.

You cajoled us kept us on the straight and narrow when we went off on tangents and encouraged us when the body was weak but the mind still strong enough to produce what was needed.

So as a small token from all of us 67ers, please accept this

The citation reads:

“On August 11th 2017, in recognition of his outstanding contribution as Editor-in-Chief of the TKS Class of 1967 50th Reunion Magazine. With thanks from The Men of ‘67”



Somewhat taken aback, Cyril gratefully accepted the plaque, said some words then continued:

The Magazine will be the source of many questions but also the fount of many answers:

- Who was it who got a large splinter up his fundament and what was he doing at the time?
- Just how many little blue cars were in circulation in 1967? Rabjohns owns up to one.
- Who was it who was caught teaching Cromedome's budgerigar to say 'r...i...g...h...t'?
- Who was Captain of Swimming in 1967 and was it true that he possessed all of the aquatic abilities of a brick?
- Why did Howard get six-of-the-best for smiling?
- What is the Plastic Embedding Club and is it true that Peter Waterhouse was the sole member? [Peter explained that
- Did Clem Foster really keep a dead snake in his tucker box?
- Which Master, more known for his intellect than his brawn, had champion rugby teams in both 1965 and 1966?
- To whom and for what was the *Guernica* awarded annually?
- Which Master said, 'For God's sake, if you go to a brothel you take your prick; if you go to a rifle range you bring your rifle!?' And to whom did he say it?
- Who were the major protagonists in the Great Broughton House Flatulation face-off in 1965? Was Mick Hewitt a strapper, and if so, of what?

The answers to these and many other questions are to be found in the Reunion Magazine, on sale now for the remarkable price of \$25 each. But wait, for the first 24 of you who buy multiple copies, I will throw in free, *gratis* and at no charge: a much sought-after carry bag, courtesy of Richard Kirkby.

Oh, by the way, I lied about one thing: the person caught teaching Cromedome's budgerigar is not named, but I will give you a clue in the following expostulation:

'R...i...g...h...t Reynolds, what are you doing with that budgerigar, boy?'

THANKS FROM 66ERS (DAVID WAUGH)

I was not formally asked to speak tonight but it felt that I could not leave without saying something. Firstly, on behalf of the 1966 leavers, thank you all very much inviting us to your 50-year reunion but also congratulations to you all on such an outstanding event.

I have now been to a few reunions and would have to say that this is up there with the very best in terms of organisation and high-quality presentations from so many people. To sit through over an hour of speeches can sometimes be difficult. However, on this occasion it was not enough. The quality, humour and content was exceptional. There were things I learnt tonight I wish I had known 51 years ago!

So, thank you again for inviting us and congratulations on such an outstanding event. We have thoroughly enjoyed ourselves and it has been great to listen, reminisce and catch up with so many of you after all this time. I am sure tonight will rekindle and nourish many friendships.

All the best to you all



DINNER ATTENDEES

50th Reunion Dinner, 11 August 2017

Attending - alphabetical

Preferred 1st name	Surname	Left Date	Last House	67er	66er	68er
Jamie	Alison	1967	MAC	1		
Ross	Alison	1966	MAC	1		
Scott	Alison	1967	BRO	1		
Robert	Allerdice	1967	DAL	1		
Peter	Ashton	1967	FOR	1		
Tom	Atkins	1966	BRO *		1	
James	Baird	1967	HAR	1		
Ken	Baldry	1965	BRO	1		
Stephen	Bargwanna	1967	DAL	1		
Philip	Basche	1967	MAC	1		
Andy	Bligh	1966	MAC	1		
Brian	Bowman	1967	HAR	1		
Philip	Britten	1967	BRI	1		
Gus	Bruxner	1966	BRO *		1	
James	Burns	1966	BRO	1		
Peter	Buzacott	1966	BRO *		1	
John	Chancellor	1967	MAC	1		
John	Cobb	1967	HAK	1		
Peter	Coggins	1967	FOR	1		
Phillip	Dobell-Brown	1967	DAL	1		
Tony	Emery	1966	FOR	1		
Gordon	Evans	1966	FOR	1		
David	Fisher	1967	BAK	1		
Warwick	Fisher	1967	FOR	1		
Clem	Foster	1967	FOR	1		
John	Gambrill	1967	DAL	1		
Clark	Goodwin	1965	MAQ	1		
Richard	Gordon	1967	MAC	1		
Mac	Gudgeon	1967	WAD	1		
Peter	Hacon	1967	MAC	1		
Rodney	Hammett	1967	MAC	1		
Richard	Hammond	1967	DAL	1		
Peter	Helm	1967	BRO	1		
David	Henley	1967	WAD	1		
Michael	Hewett	1967	BRO	1		
Bruce	Higgs	1966	HAR	1		
David	Holmes	1967	MAC	1		
Peter	Honeyman	1967	HAK	1		
Michael	Howard	1967	BRI	1		

John	Hudson	1968	BRO	**			1
Adam	Johnson	1967	MAC		1		
Rick	Johnson	1967	HAR		1		
Bob	Jordan	1967	BUR		1		
Richard	Kirkby	1967	BRO		1		
Malcolm	Lamb	1967	HAR		1		
John	Lord	1966	MAQ		1		
Robert	Lowe	1967	BRO		1		
David	Marsh	1967	FOR		1		
Brian	Meyer	1967	DAL		1		
Al	Murray	1967	MAC	**			1
Cyril	Payne	1967	BRO		1		
Jeff	Peake	1967	DAL		1		
Robert	Pearce	1966	HAR		1		
Bob	Pigott	1966	FOR	*		1	
Hugh	Poate	1967	BRO		1		
Wayne	Rabjohns	1967	HAK		1		
Andrew	Reynolds	1967	MAC		1		
Michael	Rose	1967	BRO		1		
David	Simmons	1967	BRO		1		
Toby	Stephen	1966	FOR		1		
Jeff	Stevens	1967	MAQ		1		
Jeff	Thatcher	1965	BRO		1		
Timothy	Throsby	1967	MAC		1		
Robert	Tonner	1967	BUR		1		
Tom	Vincent	1967	MAQ		1		
Peter	Waterhouse	1967	BAK		1		
David	Waugh	1966	FOR	*		1	
Chris	Wild	1968	HAK		1		
Robert	Willcocks	1967	FOR		1		
Charles	Willcocks	1967	WAD		1		
Max	Wilson	1967	BRO		1		
Geoff	Young	1967	MAQ		1		
					65	5	2

50th Reunion Dinner, 11 August 2017

Attending - according to houses

Preferred 1st name	Surname	Last House
David	Fisher	BAK
Peter	Waterhouse	BAK
Philip	Britten	BRI
Michael	Howard	BRI
Scott	Alison	BRO
Tom	Atkins	BRO *
Ken	Baldry	BRO
Gus	Bruxner	BRO *
James	Burns	BRO
Peter	Buzacott	BRO *
James	Fielder	BRO ***
Peter	Helm	BRO
Michael	Hewett	BRO
John	Hudson	BRO **
Richard	Kirkby	BRO
Robert	Lowe	BRO
Cyril	Payne	BRO
Hugh	Poate	BRO
Michael	Rose	BRO
David	Simmons	BRO
Jeff	Thatcher	BRO
Max	Wilson	BRO
Bob	Jordan	BUR
Robert	Tonner	BUR
Robert	Allerdice	DAL
Stephen	Bargwanna	DAL
Phillip	Dobell-Brown	DAL
John	Gambrill	DAL
Richard	Hammond	DAL
Brian	Meyer	DAL
Jeff	Peake	DAL
Peter	Ashton	FOR
Peter	Coggins	FOR
Tony	Emery	FOR
Gordon	Evans	FOR
Warwick	Fisher	FOR
Clem	Foster	FOR
David	Marsh	FOR
Bob	Pigott	FOR *

Numbers of 67ers:	
Baker	2
Britten	2
Broughton	13
Burkitt	2
Dalmas	7
Forest	9
Hake	4
Harris	6
Macarthur	12
Macquarie	5
Waddy	3
	<hr/>
	65

* 66ers

** 68er

*** 69er (had to cancel)

Toby	Stephen	FOR
David	Waugh	FOR *
Robert	Willcocks	FOR
John	Cobb	HAK
Peter	Honeyman	HAK
Wayne	Rabjohns	HAK
Chris	Wild	HAK
James	Baird	HAR
Brian	Bowman	HAR
Bruce	Higgs	HAR
Rick	Johnson	HAR
Malcolm	Lamb	HAR
Robert	Pearce	HAR
Jamie	Alison	MAC
Ross	Alison	MAC
Philip	Basche	MAC
Andy	Bligh	MAC
John	Chancellor	MAC
Richard	Gordon	MAC
Peter	Hacon	MAC
Rodney	Hammett	MAC
David	Holmes	MAC
Adam	Johnson	MAC
Al	Murray	MAC **
Andrew	Reynolds	MAC
Timothy	Throsby	MAC
Clark	Goodwin	MAQ
John	Lord	MAQ
Jeff	Stevens	MAQ
Tom	Vincent	MAQ
Geoff	Young	MAQ
Mac	Gudgeon	WAD
David	Henley	WAD
Charles	Willcocks	WAD

HOMECOMING SATURDAY AT KINGS

In 2017 the annual Homecoming Weekend at school also commemorated 50 years since the JS White Oval was officially opened by Mr JS White.

Back in 1967 TKS played St Joseph's College and the 1st XV won 18-6. Many of the 1st XV were 67ers which on the day comprised:

PJ Ashton	JW Gunn (68er)
CJ Carter (68er)	JB Hudson (68er)
JA Chancellor	DS Marsh
JK Cobb	AVC Murray (68er)
MR Davidson	JB Peake
MS Druce (68er)	MH Rose (c)
DB Fisher	JNJ White
MI Gudgeon	RM Willcocks



67ers on the oval in 2017.

L to R: Mike Rose, Dave Marsh, David Fisher, John Hudson (68er), John Chancellor, Mac Gudgeon, Rob Willcocks, Al Murray (68er), Basil Simmons, Adam Johnson, Peter Ashton, Philip Basche, Tom Atkins (66er)