



Alumni News 2023

October 2023

John Gowans passed away on September 13th 2023 after a long battle with cancer. John was convenor of the ex-students of the late 1950s, who met regularly in Carlton for lunch. He took a keen interest in the School and his old class mates. He graduated in Science with further qualifications in education, management and careers education. As a teacher of Chemistry and Mathematics, he taught in Victoria and Toronto, Canada before becoming a computer programmer and systems analyst and ultimately establishing his own software services company. He returned to teaching as a careers teacher. His interests included the Scouting Movement, travel, reading and family history. At School he was a leader in School Cadets. He attended NHS 1956- 1959. Sincere sympathy is extended to his wife Roma and the family.

Gordon Duxbury, OAM, graduated Bachelor of Laws and was a barrister and solicitor practising in international law. He passed away in August 2023 being one of our oldest surviving ex-students, having attended the School from 1938 to 1942. He was a distinguished citizen serving as President of the former Prince Henry's Hospital Board, National President of Royal Guide Dogs, Rotarian and Governor of the Van Dieman's Land Company founded in 1826. At School he was very active in the SRC, Plenty House, 1st XVIII, the Athletics team and the Old Boys' Harriers of yesteryear, We offer our condolences to his wife Margaret and family.

Both ex-students certainly honoured the motto *Meliora Sequamur*

August 2023

Anthony Cianflone, recently elected Member of State Parliament for Pascoe Vale, made an impressive maiden speech in the Legislative Assembly with former teachers of Northcote High and his primary school in the gallery. Deputy School Captain of 2002 and Captain of Soccer, he made reference to his old high school as providing him with excellent foundations for his future career. He continues a long tradition of ex-students providing outstanding public service to their communities. The School wishes Anthony all the very best for his period in office with the challenging tasks ahead.

Dr. Michael Drake, AM, passed away on July 31st 2023. A very distinguished ex-student and medical scientist, he graduated in Medicine from the University of Melbourne and pursued a career as a pathologist and scientist in cell research to seek cures for cancer. He was a Fellow of the Royal Australian Colleges of Pathology and Physicians, the Royal College of Pathology and a Fellow of the



International Academy of Cytology. He held major posts in London, John Hopkins Hospital in the USA and Prince Henry's Hospital in Melbourne. He was Director of Cytopath Laboratories.. Until his recent passing he was one of our oldest ex-students from the 1930s. We extend our deepest sympathy to his wife and family. **Vale Michael. Meliora Sequamur**

April 2023

We are saddened to learn of the passing of two more of our valued alumni. **The Honourable Graeme Weideman** passed away on April 13th. A former pharmacist and National Serviceman, he represented the Liberal Party for Frankston in the Legislative Assembly from 1985 to 1992. He was Minister for Tourism and Assistant Minister for Health 1981 -1982 and served on many Government Boards and community committees. He addressed a General Assembly at NHS on one occasion. At School he was a Cadet Under Officer, member of the School band and orchestra and a member of the Swimming Team. He attended NHS from 1947 to 1952.

Les Comte passed away on March 20th. After School he became a teacher with the Education Department and finished his career as Assistant Regional Director in the Eastern Metropolitan Region. At School he demonstrated outstanding leadership qualities as Captain of the First XVIII and represented combined high schools in this sport. He was strong in Athletics and was Captain of Diamond House in 1959. He served as a Prefect 1958-1959 and was a member of the Magazine Committee. He served a period as a representative of the wider community on the NHS School Council in the 1980s and was a keen supporter of his year group reunions until his recent illness. He attended NHS 1954-1959.

Both "boys" were very fine representatives of the Old School and honoured the motto "*Meliora Sequamur*". We extended deepest sympathy to their wives and families.

February 2023

John Storen, Prefect of 1966, has let us know of the passing of **Professor Roger Boulton**, who passed away late in 2022. Roger graduated Bachelor of Chemical Engineering and Ph. D in the University of Melbourne and had been granted the status of "Distinguished Professor" of the University of California. His work in the Department of Viticulture and Enology was very highly regarded in providing expert knowledge of and research in winemaking, emphasising sustainability and other research.

It is sad to report that we have lost, in all, three of our alumni. Northcote solicitor, **Alan Gray**, Bachelor of Laws, passed away earlier this year. His father , Alex Gray, was a long serving member of the NHS Council and noted Northcote citizen who bequeathed funds to create the Gray citizenship Award, still allocated annually. Alan

continued his father's work in supporting the Northcote community and was a member of the Class of 1959.

Dr Barrie Dalgleish was a psychologist and academic who was Dux of Humanities in 1959 and became a very successful practitioner in his profession. He died in 2021 but it is now announced that \$15 million dollars of his considerable estate will create the Dalgleish Foundation at the Peter MacCallum Cancer Centre to enable research and treatment for Myeloma and rare blood cancers. A wonderful gesture in support of medical science. He was also a member of the Class of 1959.

All three men very much honoured the School motto, *Meliora Sequamur* and we offer sincere condolences to their loved ones.