



## *Liverpool Boys High School*

### **A brief History**

*Labor, Omnia Vincit  
Work Conquer All*



#### **A new modern school for Liverpool - 1955**

The 1950s was a decade of great change due to the rapid growth in population in Liverpool. The rich flatlands of the Cumberland Plains, once an agricultural hub of poultry farms and market gardens fell victim to urban sprawl and became a busy working class suburb and manufacturing centre. Liverpool became one of the largest Public Housing areas for low-income families. During the 1950s the number of Secondary Schools across NSW doubled in order to meet the demands of the population growth. Parent and Citizen Groups and local businesses worked tirelessly to advocate for a new school and modern facilities. Many of the original honour boards and resources the school received were the result of their efforts.

It appears that the school did take some time to build and there had been many delays due to the rapid population growth and demand for new school buildings across the state. The original foundation stone for the school had been laid many years earlier by Mr Heffron and the then Premier Mr McGirr on 12<sup>th</sup> April, 1947. Liverpool Boys High School as we know it today was officially opened on 12<sup>th</sup> August, 1955 at 11am "before a large gathering of pupils, teaching staff, parents and citizens". A guard of honour was formed by members of the school's detachment of the ATC and Prefects, and the official party entered the front doors of the school from Forbes Street. The Minister for Education Hon R J Heffron officially declared the school open on this day.

On the official opening the school was declared a

*"most imposing edifice, consisting of 13 classrooms, three science rooms, a manual training block of seven rooms and adjoining offices"*

The Head Master was Mr WE Clarke and Deputy Head Master Mr H W Brown, were responsible for 29 teachers and four casual staff. At the time, only the Agricultural School at Glenfield (Hurlstone), Fairfield Boys and Girls schools were open locally, with the idea that future schools in the Cabramatta and the Fairfield district would be needed due to overcrowding already being experienced at Liverpool Boys.

The flag pole was also erected at this opening in 1955, presented by the Hollywood Social Club on the day and a flag presented by Liverpool RSL.

*"the flag was run up to the roll of drums, breaking at the mast head amid three hearty cheers."*



## Liverpool Boys High School 60<sup>th</sup> Anniversary 2015

A school directory from 1950's lists the following Departments, which remained stable through out the decade:

Department of English and History  
Department of Mathematics  
Department of Science  
Department of Commerce  
Specialist Teachers  
Physical Education  
Careers' Advisor  
Treasurer

Department of Manual Arts  
Classics  
Modern Languages  
School Counsellor  
Sport  
Amy Cadets  
Class Secretary

During the 1950s the school was actively involved in drama, music, debating, Cadets, Air Training Corps, Flying Club, Model Aero Club, Prefect body, and was steadily gaining a name in the Combined High Schools sports completion in grade sports teams who played against, East Hills Boys, Balgowlah Boys, Sutherland, Macquarie Boys High, James Cook High, Hurlstone, Homebush and Parramatta. The grade sports included Cricket, Rugby Union, Soccer, Chess, Basketball, Athletics, Tennis, Softball, Swimming, Australian Rules, Water Polo and Judo. House sport included Athletics, Basketball, Soccer, Swimming and Tennis. In

Back then, students worked towards their Intermediate Certificate (end of Yr 9) or the Leaving Certificate (end of Yr 11) for students wishing to gain entry at University. Very few completed Yr11 in the early 1950s and the numbers continued to steadily grew towards the end of decade.

### *The school uniform*

The regular wearing of the school uniform has two outstanding virtues: it helps to develop a sense of pride and unity and in the school and it is economical.

The school uniform consisted of

Summer  
short sleeve grey shirt and trousers  
School tie  
Long Hose (socks)  
Black shoes

Winter  
Blue shirt with short or long grey trousers  
School tie  
Blazer or grey coat with pocket  
Long school hose or short trousers  
Black shoes  
Bullover may be worn without coat

### **A few thoughts from the Deputy from 1957**

*'A major problem in this school is the assimilation of students. There are a large number of migrant children from Europe with problems of language and adjustment. We have old Australians with problems of housing and adjustment. A shifting army population. But we also have a growing percentage of permanent residents. We have been described as a peripheral school of Sydney, a frontier school of a large turn over of student population.'*



## 1960s

Mr H L Jones, Headmaster in 1961 remarked that

*“ The school only has one aim, to produce decent citizens, REAL men who will face life squarely, give a pound of work for every pound of pay and become in their time responsible husbands, fathers and citizens.”*



Annual Fetes, passing out parades, presentation nights, school dances, Careers Nights, Manual Arts Displays, Road Safety evenings, Father and Son nights, Ex-Student Friday Night gatherings, and more were regularly on the school calendar during the 1960s.

The school dances with live bands featured formal dances such as the Pride of Erin and Debutants Balls were also held. Gough Whitlam and his wife Margaret were regularly called on to open fetes and attend presentation evenings.

Sporting Houses included Phillip, Hume, Flinders and Macquarie and the school continued to fill grade teams in a variety of sports competing successfully across the Sydney region. The school competed in the Lennox Zone and the swimming carnivals were held at Auburn Pool. Many local sporting groups regularly used the sporting facilities at the school including the gymnasium, tennis courts and oval. An annual Students Vs Staff Rugby Union was played.

Music and drama also flourished with major productions of Gilbert and Sullivan's *Mikado* in 1963 and *Ruddigore* in 1966. These musical operas were combined productions with the Girls' school. Drama festivals were also held annually. Visiting theatre groups came to the school, The Elizabethan Players, who performed *MacBeth* and *The Merchant of Venice* at the school. Students participated in excursions to the Sydney Town Hall to listen to the ABC Orchestral Concerts and other venues.

The Army Cadet Unit also grew and there was a high demand for positions. In 1961 the school Army Cadet Unit had grown to 98 positions, with many boys being turned away. Training included infantry and specialist training in administration, Quartermastering, Intelligence and Band. Students also participated in Army Cadet Field Days at Holsworthy that included concealment and camouflage, field signals and section formations. Weekend Bivouacs at Camden occurred for Air Training Corps which included rifle shooting, concealment, attacking techniques, night manoeuvres, parades and guard duty. Students also attended an excursion to the Rifle range at Long Bay. The Model Flying Club also continued to flourish with members reaching state championships. Anzac ceremonies were an important part on the school calendar with ex-servicemen and school buglers delivering a dignified ceremony each year. Passing Out Parades were held in the Main Quadrangle and on the back oval area.

The Careers Information evenings grew to become bigger and better than the year before with students and their families having access to many guest speakers from a variety of local businesses, manufacturers, Health Practitioners, Public Servants, Defence Force personnel, Bankers and more. Apprenticeship information included jobs in Cabinet Making, Fitting, Fitting and Turning, Radio trades, telephone mechanics and French Polishing. The information sessions

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stressed the importance of a well-balanced upbringing for your men, where school, hobbies and sport all contribute to creating a solid all rounded student. Regular excursions were also held taking students to local businesses including Borg Warner, the steel works and Port Kembla and the Abattoirs. The Ladies Auxiliary and the P & C were very active, having regular monthly meetings at the school and canteen volunteers first began in April 1961. A Certified St Johns Ambulance officer was appointed and a small fee was charged to cover costs of medicine and equipment.

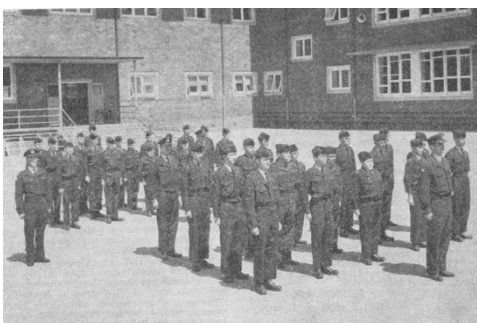
Debating in Cramp Cup and other debates and public speaker events continued with an interesting debate held in 1961 "Scientific progress seems to be leading to destruction". History and Geography excursions took students to the Blue Mountains, Kurrajong, Windsor, Richmond and Castlereagh.

Other extra curricula activities included the ISCF (Inter-School Christian Fellowship) camps and events, Prefects attended the first district school leadership conference at Auburn, the school raised funds for charities including Stewart House, Barnado Homes, Liverpool Hospital and more. Some students received assistance from Legacy and in 1967 5<sup>th</sup> Formers could apply for Commonwealth Scholarships. The end of year activities for Seniors included dress up days and a 'Drum and Toot' band where students dressed up in 'hoola garb'.

From 1962 the Wyndham Scheme was introduced in NSW Schools which brought about great change to Secondary education in NSW, aiming to provide a fully comprehensive education. This included the advent of the School Certificate for Fourth Year students (Year 10) and Higher School Certificate for 6<sup>th</sup> Year students (Year 12). This included the sitting of external exams and meant the leaving age for most students then became 16 years.

However, with an enrolment of 1029 students in 1963, Head Master Mr Jones had said that many parents were pushing their sons 'too far' with expectations that they should be completing their Leaving Certificate (or HSC) which for some students was going against the advice from the school. The school needed more teachers in Manual Arts and a new art room due to the increasing numbers of students enrolling and staying on in Senior Years. Mr Jones stressed that students should at least complete a minimum of their Fourth Year in order to have the skills needed to secure employment in the trades due to the academic requirement now needed in the technological world

In 1965-6 the first two Overseas Students attended the school. The students were staying with local families for two years in order to study and matriculate. The two boys were from Malaysia. In 1967 a school beautification program included the planting of trees including lemon scented gums, Norfolk Pine gums and red ironbarks, many of which still grace the playground today. In 1967 there was fear that a 'Student Underground' paper would disrupt the learning and effect the students who were preparing for their HSC on Oct 30 and SC on Nov 13. The Principal Mr L C Vousden did not want any staff or bodies discussing political issues including the Australia's involvement in Viet Nam War. By 1968 the school was bursting with students and tenders were called for additional buildings to be erected for both the boys and girls school.



### ***Liverpool Boys High School***

This school is dedicated to the advancement of learning,  
the development of character  
and the betterment of mankind.

1964



**1970s**

At a Principals conference, the need to address the rapidity of change in the modern world was a popular topic. The school set about to address yet again the changing needs of our students and society. But many aspects of the school that had now become traditions, remained.

School Cadet and Air Training parades complete with marching, military bands, banners and special guests from local Defence bases attended the school for pass out parades. Students were still actively involved and attended bivouacs at Camden and rifle shooting at Long Bay.

LBHS competed in the combined Swimming carnival at Liverpool Olympic Pool (now the Whitlam Centre) against Patrician Brothers Fairfield, Ashcroft HS, Lurnea HS and Miller HS with Liverpool Boys being the champion school in 1970. By the mid 1970s school sports included cricket, water polo, basketball, tennis, hockey, rugby league, squash, rugby union, Australian Rules, volley ball, golf and football (soccer), baseball, cycling, ice-skating and athletics. The Staff (Barbarians) vs student (Wombats) in Rugby Union continued and were very competitive affairs. Other extra curricular activities included a talent quest, drama club, choir, ISCF, a pond was constructed outside the science rooms. This was a grassed area (Science Quad) and included a Volley Ball court.

Corporal punishment (the cane) was still used to discipline students for a number of negative behaviours including water bombing, fighting, out-of-bounds, smoking in class, late for no reason, flicking elastic bands and bullying.

In 1972 there was a shortage of teachers and the school was struggling to staff a timetable. A new staffing scale had been instituted and the school was finally staffed with 51.5 teachers plus two support teachers for casual relief for a total of 1055 students. School fees were \$7.50 with an extra \$1.50 if taking Art. A new canteen has been opened and more parent volunteers were called for.

1976 Craig Knowles was School Captain and was named Youth of the Year in the Annual Liverpool regional competition. He went on to a successful career in politics, becoming Liverpool Mayor from 1986-88 and served as a Labour MP from 1990 to 2005. Former Parramatta great Eric Grothe, Snr. attended the school from 1973 to 1976.

A car was donated by McGrath Holden to the school for driving instruction, and staff took students to the recently disused car racing track at Warwick Farm race course. This naturally was very popular with students, keen to gain their drivers licence.







## 1980s

Numbers were down in the Cadets Unit and finance was an issue with the threat of funds being pulled from the program. Many staff, parents and students lobbied to retain this proud tradition in the school. In 1984, the Army Cadets program was restructured and Federal Government funding cut to most of the units across the country. Thanks to many letters written by the school to local MPs they survived another year. By then, students from Hosslworthy High were also part of our Cadets unit.

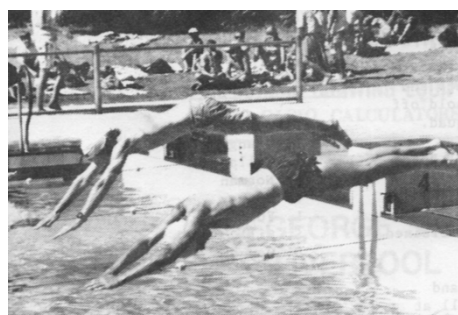
The combined library was opened for the first time in 1981 and one of the tech drawing rooms was converted into a modern state of the art lecture theatre complete with an overhead projector, slide projector, movie projector and TV connected to the library resource centre, along with fans and heaters (now the Theatrette). The school also converted one of the portable rooms into a gym that included a punching bag, rowing machine, weights bench and more. A number of mothers attended the school's reading room to assist students in improving their reading, and this program continued on well into the late 1990s. School charities include Red Cross, Stewart House, Red shield Appeal and the MS society.

In careers, students began attending the Liverpool and Miller Technical Colleges for 6-8 week programs in a variety of courses including Automotive Electrical, Metal Fabrication, Child Care and Accountancy and industry links were being created between the school and local businesses. Numerous excursions were taken to Stock Exchange, Port Kembla, Sydney Tech College, University of NSW, Jamberoo Valley, Minnamurra Falls, Royal National Park, Art Gallery of NSW, Luna Park, Supreme Court, Old Sydney Town, Australia Museum, Taronga Park Zoo, The Power House Museum, Fort Dennison and more.

In 1984 a Multicultural Day was held and consisted of food stalls from Vietnam, Yugoslavia, Mexico, Iraq, India, Australia, Chile, France, Germany, China, Greece and Italy. Multicultural Day continued to be popular annual event for many years. Medieval Days were held for Yr 8 students.

In 1985 the Open Cricket team won the state knockout, the Davison Shield, only to follow that up with winning it again in 1986 and 1987. This was the first time any school had won the Davison Shield in three consecutive years. In 1985 first SRC group was elected. Prefects assisted in the school canteen, library and helped with supervision of junior classes. Out of uniform days were very popular with the students and the School Dances became discos. Indoor soccer became a new addition to the already very dynamic sports program.

Yr 9 students could take a computer elective class for the first time ever and one computer room was equipped with VZ200 computers along with an additional ten Apple IIe computers that were purchased by funds raised by students in a Spellathon and a generous donation by the P & C. The school hoped to soon purchase printers, colour graphics and live connections to other systems such a Viatel through telephone hook-ups. In 1986 the inaugural LBHS Art Exhibition was held in the school hall, branded a success, became a regular part of the school calendar. The teachers Vs students games became touch football events, no doubt due to safety reasons for both students and staff.



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A new kiln for the art room in 1987. A very extensive careers program including work experience, by Mr Grant continued to thrive, teacher shortages in Industrial Arts, Science and Maths continued to be an issue for many years

Finally, a return to drama, with a production of 'Smithy' being performed by students and staff from the school and some students from the Girls school. The school band provided the music and it appears to be an outstanding success.

Tragically, a student Michael Huynh was killed in a shooting in his family home at Canley Vale in 1987, along with four other family members. His brother Steven, also a student at the school was injured. Michael was in Yr 12 and an exceptional Mathematician. To this day, The Michael Huynh Medal is awarded at presentation day each year.

In 1987 a young Mark Bosnich was farewelled, on his way to England, after being a wonderful goal keeper for our school and at state level. Multicultural Day continued to be an important date on the calendar that included a Liverpool Olympics. The day included a spaghetti eating competition and Mr Hatzis leading the Greek dancing.

In 1988 the school eagerly awaiting the opening of a new Home Science room, that would allow the school to offer food preparation courses to Yr 7 students.

Lawn Bowls becomes yet another sport offered at the school. A new kiln and a dark room were exciting additions for the Art Department, with new courses being made available in ceramics and photography.

Whole year group school camps were held for Yr 7s and Yr 11s. TAFE colleges offered courses for students in programming, typing, bricklaying and secretarial studies. Y9 and Yr 12 Band entered 'Battle of the Bands' competitions. In 1989 a Music Spectacular was held which included rock bands, Concert Band, Yr 7 Singers, Jazz Band, Piano Soloist and a surprise performance from a Les Girls dance troupe.

During 1989 the newly formed School Council developed a Statement of Aims for Liverpool Boys High School.

### *Liverpool Boys High School*

#### MISSION STATEMENT

Each boy will achieve his potential for his own and society's benefit by the provision of optimum learning experiences through excellence in teaching.





**1990s**

Kimberly Clark was an active industry partner that provided sponsorship of sporting teams and athletes, providing uniforms and equipment for teams and individuals, as well as providing industry training and support to our students. The South American Folk Ensemble gained state, national and international recognition for the school and performed at the School Spectacular at the Sydney Entertainment Centre in 1991. Mercedes, ANZ, Unisys and Lend Lease were also part of a new innovative educational experience for students.



Extra curricular activities included International Night, sports events, Festival of the Arts, visits to Government House, debating and public speaking. Prefects continued to perform duties such as monitoring late students, canteen duty and playground duty, raising the flag each day and general supervision of the school grounds.

The SRC was busy organising raising funds for charities, attending Leadership Camps, excursions to regional and state SRC meetings and catering for parent / teacher nights and more. Students participated in State Maths and Science competitions. The TAS department updated their equipment with a large amount of work work and metal work hand tools being replaced. Music continued to become more popular and the Arts nights and Talent Quests continued to be popular fixtures on the school calendar. Regular school excursions included the Power House Museum, Botany Bay, Sydney Harbour, theatres, local businesses, Art Gallery, NSW Law Society and more.

1991 saw the first group of students complete Home Science as an elective subject for their School Certificate (Year 10). A peer support program for incoming Yr 7s and a peer tutoring reading program began in the 90s, the later still continues today. Industry links and programs with primary schools also thrived. The school was accepted into the Disadvantaged School Program for the first time which provided money and support for students across the school with a focus on improving literacy across the school.

Yr 8 students continued to enjoy the annual Medieval Day, Junior debating and public speaking. An International Concert and Smorgasbord was held 1991 that included music, song, dance, drama and a talent quest. Yr 10 students tutored students at Les Powel Special School. Most outstanding in the history of the school was that Liverpool Boys High School was declared a Centre of Excellence for Educational Pathways Through Business Partnerships by the Department of School Education. In sport, LBHS first grade Rugby Union team beat Hurlstone, for the first time in 15 years, and was one of the highlights in 1992.

The outstanding Young Achievement Course in Yr 11 was the focus of the program and aired on the ABCs 'All in a Day's work' and staff, parents and students viewed the program eagerly to see their students on TV. An after school homework program was available in the library and many students took advantage of receiving additional tuition to complete assignments and seek support in a number of areas.

In 1994 new IBM computers were installed and Yr 11 students enrolled in the first Food Technology course to held at the school. During the 1990s the school was held in high regard as providing quality education to boys and many out of area students became disappointed when unable to enrol due to the high demand of places in the school. The school was at capacity.