



# CHESO NEWS

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[www.chesterhil-h.schools.nsw.edu.au](http://www.chesterhil-h.schools.nsw.edu.au)

## Term 4 Issue 1

### *Principal's Report*

There were many highlights during our open day, 50th anniversary celebrations which included the unveiling of our mural, the formal garden symbolising the partnership



between the school and the community, the displays, food stalls and performances. I would like to thank everybody who made the day such a great success but in particular, the work of our School Administration Staff and Community Liaison Officers was outstanding. On the Friday assembly for the students and staff to mark the occasion, there were a number of formal speeches including two inspirational speeches by two of our students. I would like to publish their speeches in the Cheso forum News as

exemplars of the types of citizens we are producing here at CHHS.

The first speech was from **Khoa Truong** who is currently one of our IEC students. **Khoa** arrived in Australia six months ago and could barely speak any English. On Friday 14th September he courageously addressed the 1,000 people on this assembly.

The second speech was made by one of our SRC representatives, **Hassan Raza** who spoke on behalf of the students.

### **Khoa's speech**

Good morning teachers and fellow students. I'm a student from Chester Hill IEC, who is your neighbour. Today I am pleased to represent the IEC and my name is **Khoa Truong**. I'm 15 years old and I have been to Australia for about 5 months and 10 days. You may have noticed that students from the IEC are very new to this place which is very different to my country of origin, Vietnam. We came here for different purposes and reasons but now, we all belong to this place, this big family, CHESO.

I came to Australia with little English, I knew nothing, I couldn't understand anything that people said to me. I felt like I do not belong

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to this place. It was very lonely but that was me 5 months ago. Now I can speak English a little and I feel I have improved a lot thanks to all the teachers and my friends at the IEC who care about me.

I am here not only to study a new language but also to learn about new cultures and learning from them and be a part of this big family, Australia. In the past, I would never have been able to speak in front of many people because I was very shy and very nervous. I used to think that I can never be able to stand here, in front of hundreds of people but the IEC, helped me to stand here to speak and that was supported by a lot of effort and passion. They helped me to gain confidence and now, here I am addressing you.

Learning a new language is not an easy thing. You might feel that learning in school, is hard but learning in the IEC is even harder. We have to start all over again, and it is like starting a new life, like a baby. It is learning how to say “never give up”.

We are not the same skin colour, language, culture but we study and have fun together and friends make me feel accepted and valued. I feel that I now belong to this community; my heart can feel it and the IEC, is like the ticket for me to fly towards my dream. Everyone has their own dream, I learn to strive to achieve my dream and so do you.

We are about to celebrate the 50th Anniversary of Chester Hill High School, and the current close connection between the IEC and the high school is undeniable and unbreakable. Many students from high school are our ex-IEC students and they are the ones who strengthen the relationship between the IEC and the high school.

We had the Gardening Day, Flag Day, our IEC's Graduation Days and the Oratory Contests when high school students came and supported us. That makes us feel close together. The sense of belonging to CHESO always exists in the school and I can feel it and everyone can feel it. After a few months living and studying in Australia, at Chester Hill IEC, I have found the country where I belong to; Australia and the school I belong to; Chester Hill.

### **Hassan's speech**

Good morning everyone. My name is **Hassan Raza** and today I come before you a member of the School Representative Council. Today I am proud and honoured to be able to represent my fellow students on this wonderful day that celebrates the 50th anniversary of Chester Hill High.

Before I go into much detail, I want you all to ask yourselves a question. What is a school? The dictionary says, that “it is an institute for educating children”, but I personally think that it is much more than just that. A school is mainly about preparing the young generation with the skills and knowledge for the adult world.

Let's be more specific and talk about how this school prepares us. First of all, this school provides with a lot of opportunities such as letting us work as a team, learn how to connect with people and teach us how to behave in different situations such as the formal interview day. It all benefits us in a way much more than just education, which you can get from home, library or practically everywhere with Internet. It gives us confidence in everyday life. Therefore education is about learning how to live and work with people.

Now, the question rises of how all of this will help the society. Well, it is no secret that the

older generation know that they cannot continue contributing to society in whatever way they are currently and that is why they look towards the younger generation because it is our responsibility to take over and maybe even do a better job. We, the students inherit what has gone before.

What I really admire about this school is the fact that it is brave enough to embrace multiculturalism. This really makes this school stand out to me as compared to the other schools and also gives us a chance to develop further than others as well because we get the opportunity to connect and work with people from different cultures, backgrounds, religions and etc. I remember one of my friends from the Intensive English Centre told me that he tried going to a certain selective school and they had told him that they do not accept students from the IEC. Now, I thought to myself, what's the point of that? My dad once told me that running a school with selected students is not half as challenging as welcoming almost everyone and he is right but yet, in my 2 years in this high school I have always felt supported and welcome. I have had the pleasure of being friends with some amazing people and I never thought I'd say it but even learning has been fun!

As a Hazara I have my own culture and tradition. This school urges us to never forget our identity because that makes us who we are but, at the same time, alongside multiculturalism, this school aims to teach us the Australian culture. The Australian culture of course has the strong British tradition. Australia has fought for democracy and has a strong scientific and economic tradition. In my time at this school, I have found out that being a part of this school has actually given me a whole new identity. Think of it as a metaphor Venn diagram. My English teachers would say that this is a simile but I speak

metaphorically! I get to keep my tradition and culture but at the same time, I embrace the Australian culture and traditions as well. In fact, we actually get to get bits and pieces of a lot of other cultures and traditions, thanks to the diversity here at Chester Hill High.

Now I am speaking for every student here and that includes the Aboriginal, the Arabic, the African, the Asian, the American, Pacific, Australians and so on.

To conclude, on behalf of the students, I just want to thank the school, the teaching staff and of course, the SASS staff for 50 years of making this possible. So Thank You.

Let's have a cheer for CHESO!

### **Yr 11 ABCN Excursion to Optus**

On Thursday, 18th October 17 students from the Business Services courses at school visited Optus at Macquarie Park. The idea of the excursion was to allow students who are studying the Business environment the opportunity to explore a range of careers available in a big business like Optus.

When they first entered the business park they were struck by the large buildings and the fact that Optus was so huge that it had its own childcare facility, basketball court, TV station, shops and cafes and learning spaces, enjoyed by over 6000 staff. Immediately, dreams of working in an environment like that flooded the minds of students and staff alike.

The day began with each student being issued a security pass and watching a video in the learning centre, which explained the history of Optus, their values and emphasising that Optus celebrates diversity in its workforce with over 67 different nationalities represented (a value Cheso celebrates also).

**James** and **Mohammed** spoke to the group about their start at Optus and gave students advice on career development based on their life experiences. The main message from this talk was to never give up, never stop learning and adapt to change.

Students were then split into groups for a tour to experience the many careers offered at this campus. Our group was led first to the retail area - an Optus store for Optus employees. **Cesar Al-Helou** had many questions about Optus products, but what was interesting was the talk given on customer service jobs and working directly with customers.

After this, the group was ushered to yet another building to experience the call centre which deals with Optus biggest mobile customers (those with 6 or more mobiles). Each student sat at a call operator's desk and asked as many questions as they could think of.

Immediately following this came lunch - an array of sandwiches, fruit and pastries. Yum! After lunch it was time for **Ray** and **Veli** the electricians to show us their service vans and traffic management systems. A few students got to don the gear, including overalls, harnesses, hard hats and tool belts to pose for a couple of photos. **Akshay Prasad** looked great in the gear, but found it heavy in the hot sun.

The final stop of the tour included a look at the multimedia studio and the green screen, in front of which commercials, online promotional and training videos are taped. We also saw the editing areas and the voice recording booth for the telephone systems and radio ads.

The day concluded with a talk from the Chief Information Officer for Optus and SingTel, **Andrew Buay** who explained that failure

was a normal part of learning and encouraged students to keep stretching themselves in their careers. He highlighted that passion, values and being keen and conscientious were the best





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## **A Day to the University of New South Wales**

The university was amazing I couldn't even imagine how it looked, the people were so friendly and they just wanted to talk to us and see what our interests are in life.

We saw lots of amazing places in the university, it was so big that we did not even have time to go and see every place. The divided us into groups, each school went to a different area in the university and discovered what it is and what it does to help students study.

The students who participated in this program are the students who are studying in the university. We went and saw the court and how they students practice different kinds of characters and places in the court.

The most amazing and interesting thing we saw was in the library it was 10 levels, wow! I couldn't even believe that but as soon as I saw it I believed it was true.

It was very nice to see students studying different interests in one place.

The second most interesting place was the camp living villages everyone had a wonderful time going and visiting the camp we saw the living room, the kitchen, the activity areas and more, but we weren't allowed to go and see the rooms which was very sad because there were students studying in there. I think it is a wonderful place to see.

This excursion made me and everyone learn and understand lots of things about university and what it means. The most important thing was what we want to be in the future, this excursion was a big help for everyone who

had the opportunity to go and understand the place well.

**Rusul Al-Sultani** Year 8

## **At Trip to Canberra**

On Wednesday the 12th of September my class 9o had the opportunity to go and visit the War Memorial museum in Canberra. **Mrs Watts** and **Mr Criniti** organized the excursion as we are studying about World War 2. It was amazing seeing the items in the museum but didn't get the chance to touch because there was a bossy guy telling us not to touch anything that belongs to the museum.

After we finished seeing and discovering information that we didn't know some of the students started saying to **Mrs Watts** "we are hungry" but the shops were too expensive in Canberra so we had to wait 3 hours until we reached McDonald's on the way back from Canberra. We had a wonderful day in Canberra with people singing on the way back the song "Baby" by Justin Bieber and the windows were ready to break because of the loud singing. Overall it was an amazing excursion and a wonderful day, with big thanks to **Mrs Watts** and **Mr Criniti** for organizing it.

**Suha 9O**

## **VISITING PITNEY BOWES**

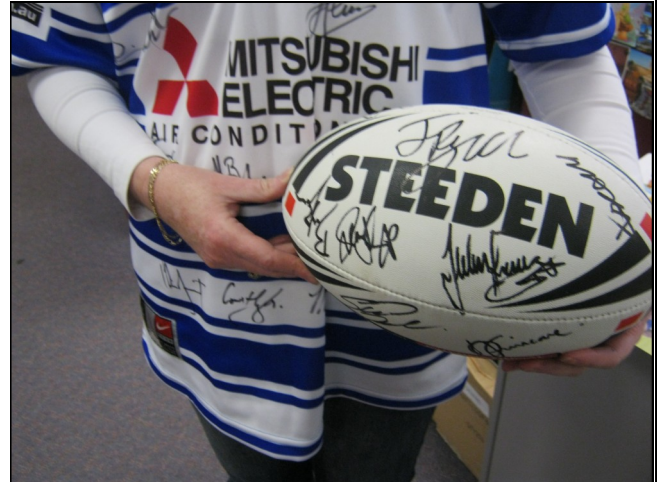
On Tuesday **Mrs Watts** took the iTrack students and a few extra students on an excursion to the Pitney Bowes company. The workers from different branches of Pitney Bowes company talked about who, how and what their role are. We were also went on a tour around Pitney Bowes' huge building, it was interesting! As a participant from the iTrack program, I was mentored by a lady who has experience in the real world 'after

school', and it was a privilege to me because I was given advice. My favourite advice "was to take as many opportunities that are given to you."

**Serena Tran**

**We are happy to announce the winners of our anniversary raffle draw.**

The two signed Bulldogs Footballs were won by:  
**Lucy Watts and Quinton Nunez**



and Chesobella Bear was won by: **Nadine El-Afshal**

**Congratulations to each of you!**

### **Chester Hill High School 1970 Alumni**

Were you in sixth year in 1970?

Were you a part of the group between 1968 and 1970 but didn't see 1970 out?

Would you like to catch up with old friends?

The 1970 year six group finished 42 years ago and now, after all this time, we are going to get together for a reunion and we would like you to join us.

The date is **Saturday, 17 November.**



We have alumni from all over the world and Australia coming together for the momentous occasion.

To find out more about the reunion:

Call: 02 9475 0543

Email: [chessol970@tennent.com.au](mailto:chessol970@tennent.com.au)

Or visit our Facebook pages by going to Chester Hill High School Alumni 1970.

**Do you know someone who was part of this group?  
Please let them know about the reunion.**

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# Photos from our 50th anniversary celebrations



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# Please take time to read this

## Do your block for Gonski

If you would like to assist in the campaign for better funding for public schools like ours, there is a great opportunity coming up. As part of the national I Give a Gonski campaign, parents, teachers, principals and education support staff from schools across Australia will be letterboxing in their local neighbourhoods between November 10 and 17.

They will be letting people know about the Gonski Review, which found there needs to be an urgent increase in funding for education and public schools in particular, across the nation and an overhaul of the way funding is delivered. Extra funding would make a real difference, allowing schools like ours to invest in ways that will benefit students like additional teachers and more support for students in the classroom.

Teachers, parents and support staff from our school will be taking part in this action. It would be great if you could assist to help keep the pressure on the politicians to deliver for our children.

The Gonski Review report was released in February this year. In September the Federal Government agreed to act on the findings of the Gonski Review. But all the state and territory governments are yet to come on board and agree to contribute at least part of the extra funding required.

Please support this activity if you can. You can distribute letters in your street, your block or even the whole neighbourhood if you have time.

The school contact for more information is **Ms Kate Mulheron**. You can learn more and download a copy of the letter to distribute at the campaign website: [www.igiveagonski.com.au](http://www.igiveagonski.com.au)