

THE STORY OF 'THE SPORTS ACHIEVER PRESENTATION EVENING'

The Sports Achiever of the Year Presentation Evening began in 1975 in the school hall. Our first Guest of Honour was Australian Test Cricketer, Rick McCosker. Our first 'Sportsman of the Year' was Bruce Dengate, who won CHS Gold Medals in Shot and Discus. The first ever Silver Tray won by Bruce Dengate is encased in the 'Hall of Champions' at Camden High School.

In 1976, Bruce Dengate won the Silver Tray again, through further State Championship victories. Our Guest of Honour in 1976 was Terry Fearnley, who coached Parramatta to the Grand Finals of 1976 and 1977 – only to lose both years, to Manly and St George. Terry coached NSW in State of Origin and Australia to victory in World Cup and against New Zealand. But I'll wager he would swap these events for one lap of honour with his team after a Grand Final victory.

Quizzing Terry Fearnley in 1976 about tackle counts was up and coming local solicitor, John Fahey. Of course John made his way to Canberra, and I don't mean to the Raiders.

In 1977, a classmate of Bruce Dengate won the 'Sportsman of the Year' award. Denis Driscoll represented Australia in K2 (Kayak Pairs). The Guest of Honour was Australian Canoeing Coach, John Southwood. John Southwood coached John Sumegi to win a Bronze Medal at the Moscow Olympics. John Sumegi today coaches Trevor Hendy, the legendary Ironman competitor.

In 1978 Roy Masters visited the 'Sports Achiever Night'. He spoke about 'The Big League' and all the drama that submerged it that year. What an entertainer Roy was, and is. Today he writes sport for the Sydney Morning Herald and is a commentator for Channel 7 and Radio 2GB. Not bad for the Social Science Head Teacher in 1978 from Doonside High. The Silver Tray went to John Curtin, who represented Australia in 1978 at the World Junior Gymnastics Championships in Russia. We helped raise thousands and thousands to send our local hero to pursue his dream. John completed a Sports Science Degree at A.N.U. and is today Head Coach of the Queensland Institute of Sport (Gymnastics). John coached with brilliant success in the U.S.A.

1979, Jo Wood (today Jo Ryan) became the first female to win the 'Sportsman of the Year'. In doing so, as a result of her State (Under 19) representation in Hockey, Jo brought a change in the name of our function. Margaret List, a member of the English Staff, made Monty 'an offer he couldn't refuse'. Having seen 'The Godfather', Monty quickly accepted her advice, and the 'Sports Achiever of the Year' began. Our Guest of Honour in 1979 was World Cup Soccer Referee, Tony Boscovic. Tony insisted that another guest on that evening share the lectern for Question Time and so our own Socceroo, Gary Byrne was a Guest Speaker as well.

In 1980, Gregor MacKenzie won the first of his two Sports Achievers Trays. Gregor won CHS gold medals in the swimming pool and went on to play First Grade Rugby with Camden and Penrith. Our Guest Speaker in 1980 was Peter Spence, who went to Adelaide to head the Australian Cricket Academy that churns out Australia's cricket superstars. Rod Marsh heads the Cricket Academy in 1998.

1981, Michael Ford represented Australia in the World Cup for Junior golfers. Michael received his Silver Tray from Peter Hatfield, who was Australia's decathlon champion. Peter broadcasts Olympic Games athletics for ABC Radio.

1982, the dynamic yet graceful Track and Field champion, Jackie Meier (now Jackie Impey) won CHS gold, and went on to represent Australia in international competition. Tony Gresham, Australia's greatest Amateur golfer, was on hand to make the after-dinner address.

In 1983, Steve Streeter was our Guest of Honour. Steve played Rugby for NSW and Australia, but also played for NSW Country on 84 occasions. He told us many anecdotes about 'the game they play in heaven', including the memorable 'ball up the jumper' try plotted for Brian Mansfield to score against Sydney.

The innovative coach who planned this now outlawed play? The late, great Daryl Haberecht. History was created at the 1983 dinner when a pencil-slim Year 7 athlete won three CHS gold medals in a brilliant debut season at Track and Field. Belinda Godward seemed to have the world at her feet, with victory over a Narromine runner, Melinda Gainsford. However, knee reconstruction failed to save Bin's career and she faded into athletic oblivion. Belinda played top-class Hockey but her halcyon days were over.

1984 we ventured to the Camden Civic Centre for our 10th Anniversary. John Quayle was head of the ARL, and he told us of his grand plans for the game. Expansion to a National competition – new clubs, new parameters for Rugby League. Nowhere could Rupert or Kerry be seen as 'the Greatest Game of All' ventured into unchartered waters. Gregor MacKenzie won his second Silver Tray in his Year 12 – a sensational comeback to CHS gold for our superfish.

In 1985, we were delighted and honoured, to welcome the face of Australian Netball to the Sports Achiever. Anne Sargeant just charmed and charmed. She returned to Camden to conduct a Netball Clinic, and Joe Lahood and Monty took the Netball champion to lunch! Ah! those were the days! Scott Williams, who is now building many of Camden's new estates, won the 'Sports Achiever of the Year' through victory in the Australian Two-Day Event, an Equestrian competition. Scott and his horse 'Our Andamooka' were graceful in victory that year. My friend Allan Gainey was another guest in 1985 and his imported galloper 'So Vague' won its second Eclipse stakes in a row at Sandown.

In 1986, our Guest of Honour was John Stathers who was head of NSW Sport and Recreation. John had been a Rugby League star with St George before knee injury ended his Sydney career. Monty sparred with John Stathers as rival Captain Coaches in Group 5. Today John Stathers has Eastern Creek Raceway among his many responsibilities.

Nicole Rapley qualified for 6 CHS finals in Swimming in 1986, after sweeping the pool at the Metropolitan South West Carnival. She was a well-received Sports Achiever of the Year. Nicole is mother of two now, and living happily in Queensland.

1987 saw the brilliant Year 7 runner, Tim Bryden take out the Sports Achiever of the Year award. Tim went on to brilliant success as a middle-distance athlete, and achieved brilliant academic success as well. He is today a successful chartered accountant in Sydney. Tim received his award from Australian Softball pitcher, Heather McCann. Heather was a dynamic speaker and she told of her brilliant career, including her work in T.V. presentation with Channel 10, Channel 9 and SBS.

In 1988, super Squash Champion, Jeff Bond won the Silver Tray. Our Guest of Honour was famous Australian cricket umpire, Dick French. Dick told story after story about what really is being said during the heat of the battle. Dick was recently rewarded with Life Membership of the NSW Umpires Association.

In 1989 our school captain, Jillian Burns won every honour possible to her, including the Sports Achiever of the Year. Jillian was Australian Champion in Under 18 for 100m and 400m Hurdles. She was selected to represent Australia in the Junior World Track and Field championships in Yugoslavia. Our Guest of Honour in 1989 was Olympic Gold Medallist, Kevin Berry. Kevin was a wonderful guest – full of enthusiasm and charisma. He sat next to Kristina Matheson, our 1990 School Captain and they chatted non-stop throughout a special occasion.

The nineties began brilliantly with the visit of Athletics Coach, Jackie Byrnes. Jackie today coaches Melinda Gainsford-Taylor. Our Sports Achiever in 1990 was petite Judo Champion Louise Scott, who won the Australian 49kg Championship.

In 1991, Michael Davis won the first of a pair of championship trays. Michael was Australian Orienteering Champion, and David Woods (Water polo) and Pat Nilan (Hockey) were Olympic Champions who honoured us with their attendance.

In 1992, Helen Brownlee represented the White Water Canoeists as Guest of Honour at our function. 1992 was Jodie Malcolm's year of triumph. Jodie won at NSW level and was placed Nationally in Kayaking. Peter Mulholland was our Guest of Honour as he set off on a Rugby League Odyssey taking him to Perth and Paris. Peter is not finished his journey just yet.

1994-95 Shaun Martyn headed the Sports Council, and swimming champion Angus Kingsell won CHS Gold Medals and Australian Silver and Bronze medals to win consecutive Sports Achiever of the Year. Olympic champion John Devitt (Rome 1960) and golfer Ken Trimble were our special guests.

The 1996 dinner was moved to the autumn of 1997 and was a sensational night. Alan Campbell was our Guest of Honour, and Alan told of his work as Chairman of Selectors for the NSW Cricket Association. He is also Coaching Director for NSWCA and Coach of the Waugh's at Bankstown. Our Champion in 1996 was for "Rookie of the Year 1993" Mark Long. Mark was selected for the 1997 World Softball Championship as Pitcher for the Australian Under 19's.

To the author, 1997 was a vintage year for sport and one long to be remembered. The Open Rugby League team won the University Shield, the Boys Softball came within 1 run of being CHS Champions and other Knockout teams had 'best ever' finishes. Individual brilliance was in abundance – it was very hard to keep to our limit of 10 finalists. The Sport Achiever being Mark Long, the 4th double recipient of the award. The highlight of the evening being the presentation by Mark of his Australian Jersey which is now proudly in our Hall of Fame. Mr Brian Smith, Parramatta First Grade Rugby League coach, was our Guest Speaker, who 'touched base' with all groups in the audience.

The 1998 awards saw Lisa Keightley as our guest. Lisa is an opening batter for the Australian Women's Cricket Team and was the first woman to score a century at Lords. 1998 was a year of firsts for the school as well – Girls Rugby Union, Girls Knockout Cricket (the Marie Cornish Shield), 14yr girls Soccer and Futsal Indoor Soccer; as well as a host of established and up and coming sport achievers. The Sports Achiever of the Year was Bronwyn Eagles, SHE IS PART OF THE Athletics scene specialising in the Hammer Throw. Bronwyn is ranked No. 1 in U/20 age division for Australia and the Commonwealth and 5th in the Open Division for Australia. Bronwyn represented Australia in the World Junior Games placing 8th with a personal best throw.

1999- The 25th Annual Sports Achiever Presentation Dinner; The energy and enthusiasm of Mr Paul Montgomery and a host of helpers over the years has seen this function become a tradition of Camden High School. Long term sponsorship was provided firstly by Life-Member, Mr Frank Brooking and then Mr Joe Lahood. Charles Falanga was the Sports Achiever of the Year, he competed in the sport of Karate in the Under 55kg category. He was the NSW and Australian Champion, qualifying for the World Championships in Japan – winning 15 bouts to earn the Bronze Medal.

All of this combining to applaud success and to encourage students to pursue their potential in their chosen sport. The Sport Achiever of the Year, the nine other finalists and the winners of the other categories are the 'icing-on-the-cake' of sport at Camden High. This year we fielded over 20 knockout teams, placed 2nd in winter grade sport and 2nd in summer as well as entering very competitive zone athletics, cross country and swimming teams.

The years 2000 and 2001 were all talk of the move to the new school, especially 'WHEN?'. In regards to the Sports Achiever Presentation Dinner, it was already decided to move it to later in the year and managed to clash with the moving date. Over the two years all of the usual sports continued, swimming, athletics and cross country with students competing at State level in each; grade teams were competitive and successful. The most successful Knock out team was the Boys Open Softball who were State Runners-up in 2000 and State Champions in 2001. Our Guest speaker was Ms Heather Garriock – Women's Soccer Olympian.

Twenty eight years is a long time for a school function to urn and the sport Achiever Presentation Evening has justifiably become an important tradition of Camden High. Although a few changes have been introduced this year. Finally a date – the first week in September, we hope will become a permanent feature; new style shirts and caps; and no guest speaker. This year we have invited former students who have contributed to this tradition to be our speakers. The large number of junior students participating and succeeding in sport in 2002 is ushering in a new era, and will no doubt require more changes to the Sport Achiever tradition.

Once again the time is here to acknowledge our sporting community. It has been a long year for sport this year with a few new teachers coaching and of course the old hard heads still doing their thing. A lot of new sponsors and once again new shirts and caps. This year we are interviewing our living legend himself, Mr Paul Montgomery. This is number 29 and we are hoping we can go to 30 in style. In years to come we will try to get the winning University Shield 1997 Rugby League team to give us a visit.

The big 30 is here. Sport is still alive and well at Camden High School. This year we have three very different and special guests to be interviewed. James Darby, ex student now playing Baseball in America, Nick Duffy, dual international Rugby League and Rugby Union, and Shane Rose, Australian Equestrian and Olympian. This should be once again a great night to acknowledge our young sporting students.

Success comes from hard work and Mr Tim Darby has lead the Open Boys Knockout Softball to the top again. Congratulations on being the NSW STATE CHAMPIONS, 2005.

2005 also stands out for the number of Year 12's being involved in as many sports as possible. It may have been a final fling, a thank you to the school or, knowing the opportunities are not the same after school, either way a great effort Year 12, thank you.

The school motto of "Together We Achieve" ruled in 2006. The success of our sporting teams this year has been outstanding and unmatched in the history of the school. In the CHS knockout competition the boys softball were state champions for the second year in a row and for the third time in four years. Other brilliant results were achieved by the boys baseball, girls open soccer, boys U/15 and U/13 rugby league, boys tennis and girls junior soccer, while both the open boys and open girls cricket teams are still undefeated. All three zone teams (athletics, cross country and swimming) were outstanding as were many of our grade sport teams – more so from the girls. Team Camden Rulz!

2007 saw another awesome year for sport at Camden High School. Mr Darby and the Boys Open Knockout Softball Team again reached the state finals narrowly beaten by Westfield's Sports High. The Boys Open Knockout Tennis came 3rd in the state. Mr Reeves continued his success with the West's League Cup with the U13's claiming premierships titles again. We again claimed victory in the Macarthur Zone Cross Country Championships, the U14's Netball Girls travelled to the Gold Coast to compete in the Canterbury Netball Championships, a combined Camden / Elderslie Rugby Union Team toured England and more importantly Camden bringing home the Paul Montgomery Shield from Cowra.

The students and staff of Camden High continue to achieve great heights in the sporting area in 2008. For the third year running Camden claimed the Cross Country Macarthur Zone Championships, we absolutely demolished Cowra on home soil and we achieved the highest number of candidates for the Macarthur Zone Blue Awards, in addition to Peter Wards Regional Blue and Harrison Peters State Blue. Our Knockout Boys Softball continued their reign in the State Championships picking up Silver against Westfield's, the Girl's Knockout Soccer Team went all the way to the State Semi-Finals defeating a field of teams state wide, the West's Leagues Cup gained premierships in the U15's Division 2, Edward Pickering picked up his second individual NSWCHS Gold Medal for Discus in addition to the numerous students who gained NSWCHS medals in individual and team events. On a sadder note we lost one of our most dedicated sporting teachers to Crookwell High, many thanks and best wishes to Mr Perram who for years ran this Sports Achiever's Evening. Well done Camden High.

‘Rookie of the Year’

THE PAUL TEMPLEMAN SHIELD – Presented to the Year 7 student who has contributed the most to sport at Camden High School.

PAUL TEMPLEMAN created history by becoming Camden High’s first NSW Combined High School Representative. Paul was selected in the CHS Open Rugby League team in 1966, being coached in that team by the legendary Wollongong Coach, Sam Davey. Paul’s ability became the benchmark for Sports’ Achievers to match at Camden High. Paul became a member of the NSW Police Service. After leaving the service, Paul was tragically killed in a road accident.

‘The Gregg Charles Award’

For Effort and Participation in Sport

Presented to a student whose effort and participation in sport has been outstanding. It should be based on nominations in writing by fellow students or coaching staff.

GREG CHARLES was one of Camden High’s best all-round Sports Achievers. He was a Finalist in our first year (1975) and again in 1977. Gregg represented at NSW State Championship level in Track and Field competition, Swimming, Australian Rules Football, Tennis, Golf, Basketball, Rugby, Soccer and Cricket. Gregg gave sport at Camden High a great tradition which remains today. The Gregg Charles Award is given to a Sports Achiever at Camden High whose commitment to the team, the game and to the school is rated the best of the year.

“Service to Sport”

THE KEN NEWTON SHIELD

Principal 1988 to 1994

Presented to a member of staff or a student whose service to sport has been outstanding. This service may be in the form of development of facilities or programs, coaching, management, support or other areas deemed suitable by the panel.

“Coach of the Year”

THE SHAUN MARTYN PERPETUAL TROPHY

Presented to a member of staff or a student who has demonstrated the highest level of performance and attitude expected of a coach. This award should reflect a coach’s commitment to the development of the individual or the individual within the dynamics of a team. The role of the coach stated encompasses the concepts of nurturing and education.

“Captain of the Year”

THE BRUCE COSSAR TROPHY

Criteria for this award should include, eg. sportsmanship, a commitment to training and preparation. **Presented to the student whose leadership both on and off the field has been of the highest level.** It should reflect the qualities of discipline, caring and inspiration. Nominations in writing from fellow players/coaches.

Bruce Cossar taught at Camden High for over 30 years. His influence on life in this school cannot be accurately measured. Bruce had an enthusiasm that encouraged champions and non-champions alike. His presence at school Carnivals, Knockout games, or simple practice games was regular. Bruce coached boys’ teams, girls’ teams and mixed teams. He coached our seniors and our juniors. He captained our Staff teams. Teachers such as Bruce Cossar are born to teach. Bruce passed away in 1998, but not until we were able to announce that the Bruce Cossar Trophy would be presented to the outstanding “Captain of the Year” for Camden High. Bruce was so proud that his school would honour him in this way. He is missed by all.

“Team of the Year”

THE BRAD MEEK MEMORIAL TROPHY

Presented to the team that has performed at the highest level of competition in that year. This award is in honour of former pupil and sportsperson, who died in the service of his country in the Westralia Naval Accident in 1998.

“High Achiever of the Year Award”

Awarded to the student who has achieved at the highest level in their chosen sport.

“Camden High School Sports Person of the Year Award”

Awarded to the student who has contributed the most to sport at Camden High School and achieved at a high level in sport.

PAST WINNERS OF 'SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR'

1975	Bruce DENGATE	ATHLETICS
1976	Bruce DENGATE	ATHLETICS
1977	Denis DRISCOLL	CANOEING
1978	John CURTIN	GYMNASTICS
1979	Joanne WOOD	HOCKEY
1980	Gregor MACKENZIE	SWIMMING
1981	Michael FORD	GOLF
1982	Jackie MEIER	ATHLETICS
1983	Belinda GODWARD	ATHLETICS
1984	Gregor MACKENZIE	SWIMMING
1985	Scott WILLIAMS	EQUESTRIAN
1986	Nicole RAPLEY	SWIMMING
1987	Tim BRYDEN	ATHLETICS
1988	Jeff BOND	SQUASH
1989	Jillian BURNS	ATHLETICS
1990	Louise SCOTT	JUDO
1991	Michael DAVIS	ORIENTEERING
1992	Michael DAVIS	ORIENTEERING
1993	Jodie MALCOLM	CANOEING
1994	Angus KINGSELL	SWIMMING
1995	Angus KINGSELL	SWIMMING
1996	Mark LONG	SOFTBALL
1997	Mark LONG	SOFTBALL
1998	Bronwyn EAGLES	HAMMER THROW
1999	Charlie FALANGA	KARATE
2000	James DARBY	SOFTBALL
2001	James DARBY	SOFTBALL
2002	Thomas FARRELL	ROCK CLIMBING
2003	Thomas FARRELL	ROCK CLIMBING
2004	Thomas FARRELL	ROCK CLIMBING
2005	Ariel LEONARD	Highest contribution to school sport
2006	Jay MARLIN	Highest contribution to school sport
2007	Peter WARDS	SOFTBALL
2008		

PAST 'SPORT ACHIEVER' AWARD WINNERS

1997

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Natasha McKay
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Adam Wheeler
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Brett Smith
TEAM OF THE YEAR – University Shield Winners
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Greg Benson
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Adam Brazenall
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Mark Long

1998

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Michael Arraiza
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Mark Long
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Tim Darby
TEAM OF THE YEAR – 14 yr Girls Soccer
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Hannah Noakes
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Geoff Davis
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Bronwyn Eagles

1999

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Jason Blewitt
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Penny Smith
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mrs Anna-Lisa Reeves
TEAM OF THE YEAR – Futsal Junior Girls
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Ms Lyndall Batt
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Phillip Thomson
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Charles Falanga

2000

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Abbie Ditton & John Matheson
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Trent Sharpe
COACH OF THE YEAR – Ms Dale Hodges
TEAM OF THE YEAR – Boys K.O. Softball
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Emma Wards
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Rebecca O'Brien
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – James Darby

2001

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Ariel Leonard
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Tim Loudon & Ryan O'Hare
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Tim Darby
TEAM OF THE YEAR – Boys K.O. Softball
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Mr Norm Flegg
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Scott Faint
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – James Darby

2002

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Jessica Ferrington
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Shannon Bakarich
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Norm Flegg
TEAM OF THE YEAR – Davidson Shield Cricket
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Dean Long
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Samantha Raine
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Thomas Farrell

2003

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Brooke Ditton
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Adam Brett
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Norm Flegg
TEAM OF THE YEAR – Softball Open Boys
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Mr Jamie Cook
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Samantha Raine
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Thomas Farrell

2004

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Meagan Ferrington
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Andrew Skinner
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Jamie Cook
TEAM OF THE YEAR – Open Boys K.O. Softball
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Ms Carolyn James
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Caitlin Munday
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Thomas Farrell

2005

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Laura Donnelly
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Daniel Murphy & Joel Wards
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Cook & Mr Darby
TEAM OF THE YEAR – Open Boys K.O. Softball
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Mr Norm Flegg
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Tom Whitbread
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Ariel Leonard

2006

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Ben Marlin
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Melissa Gorman
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Brendon Reeves
TEAM OF THE YEAR – U/15 Rugby League
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Mr Greg Matheson
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Tara Proberts Roberts
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Jay Marlin

2007

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR – Edward Pickering
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR – Peter Wards
COACH OF THE YEAR – Mr Brendon Reeves
TEAM OF THE YEAR – Open Boys K.O. Softball
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE – Mrs Anna-Lisa Reeves
GREG CHARLES AWARD – Laura Donnelly
OUTSIDE SCHOOL HIGH ACHIEVER – Laurie Peters
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR – Peter Wards

2008

ROOKIE OF THE YEAR –
CAPTAIN OF THE YEAR –
COACH OF THE YEAR –
TEAM OF THE YEAR –
AWARD OF EXCELLENCE –
GREG CHARLES AWARD –
SPORTS ACHIEVER OF THE YEAR –