

GREENBANK HOUSE HISTORY

As such it has been the great goal of all members of the House ever since its formation to overcome those pre-conceived opinions, and establish ourselves as a widely respected member of the College community of Houses.



The moving of the Band Hall into the College grounds. This Band Hall would later be renovated into the present Greenbank House



At some point in 1788, the modern history of Australia began with the transport of British convicts to the continent. Similarly, in 1997, many of the founders of Greenbank were those unwanted and exiled from other Houses. Yet it is there that that comparison comes to an end: for as Australia would go on to be further settled by Scots, Irishmen, and the Lebanese, Greenbank would attract far more desirable settlers ranging from first XV members seeking to forge an all dominating Senior House Rugby team (a plan to fall just short of fruition), through to those fleeing Peart for greener pastures.

From the onset, Greenbank was a House that due to its size (both in population and in size of facilities) and youth, went both underappreciated, and underestimated, by the other Houses.

often marginal and almost avoided failure. As early as the House's second year it began its dominance in the less well publicized of school competitions, including the somewhat dubious distinction of Junior House Fencing Champions. In more pre-eminent matters, Tumai Edwards was the first Greenbankian to be awarded the ultimate recognition by the College in

Even though some might say our goal has not yet been achieved, from the very start we have fought long and hard to achieve it. Greenbank's first year marked a monumental challenge, and one that was most definitely met. The House pulled itself through to the Finals of a number of school competitions, most notably in Senior House Rugby, where the House's large First XV cohort made its presence known throughout the competition, falling only at the last hurdle. We did, however, win the Junior Fencing and Indoor Rowing title.

With the end of that year, the House had begun to lay the foundations of its future success.

The early formative period of the House was one of great success, and



The Inaugural Seniors with Mr Watts and Mr Beck

receiving the King's College Outstanding Sporting Performance Award. The second year also saw the integration of girls into the House, the final step along the road to our structural integration into the greater House system.

Under the premiership of Duncan Orr in 1999, the House achieved a level of dominance perhaps unparalleled in its ten years of existence. Starting right at the beginning of the year with Swimming Sports, the House showed its strength, with House member Bobby Lin taking the senior title. The strong showing in the upper echelons in the House was then continued with a victory in Senior Athletics. The House also maintained its strong showing in the more 'peripheral' of House sporting competitions. But undoubtedly the single greatest moment of the House that year was beating St Johns to take out the Senior House Rugby title. I'm sure that the later ventures of that team's Ali Williams and Dan Braid need no repeating here. Dan also replicated Tumai's success from 1998.



*The enemy has been spotted!
Watsy goes paintballing with the
6th Form Year Group in 2000.*



Senior Inter-House Rugby Champions - Greenbank 1999

Back Row: N Mitchell, P Villiger, J Halapua, D Lemanu, D Wilson
 Middle Row: R Wallace, D Meintjes, M Joyce, S Andrews, V Kinahoi, R Stuart
 Front Row: T Sharp, R Connoley, D Braid, A Williams, M Campbell, J Tu'ineau, D Orr

The fourth year of the House was to be one of its most important. For in that year the House saw the last group of voluntary Greenbankians, those who had chosen to join the House from other parts of the school, graduate. Thereafter the last vestiges of Greenbank's youth would disappear from its institutional framework. In that fourth year the House continued its success, storming to victory in Senior House Swimming, Intermediate Debating, Senior Basketball, and Intermediate Rugby. The

House also achieved an outstanding victory in the Small House section of House music, a feat which would be repeated many times in the years to come. The premiership of Robert Wallace also saw the growth of the House's academic strength, with five Greenbankians being members of the Scholar's Common Room, as well as a member of the House in the top five of each year's top class. These academic trends have largely continued to this day.



Greenbank New Boys Orientation Day 1999

Year five was the year of the Inaugurals. For the first time in its history, Greenbank was helmed by men who never been in other Houses. Under the leadership of Rob Connoley, this group achieved substantial success, with strong showings in all sporting codes. Perhaps more important however was the House's developing social strength and sense of community. The 7th formers ran a strong House tutorial program, helping to further strengthen the House's academic position. In that same year, Arul Thavarajah came close to top honours as Proxime Accessit. The first annual cultural night, and another strong House Music performance, displayed the cultural strength of the House.



2001: The year of the Inaugurals

Posing on the front deck...



... and posing on the side deck!

Year 2002, the first of this year's prefects, was one of consolidation and development. The House pushed forward with its House Music strength, reaching a higher overall place than ever before. Although sporting accomplishments may not have been as great as in years prior, events such as House Swimming showcased the strong and growing spirit of the House. We also saw the presence of the first truly prominent House band: Mercury, composed of Head of House Tom McCowan, Kumaran Thavarajah, and Nathan Speir.

The unique character of the House's seventh year was clear from its onset. A seventh form body led by the charismatic Dan Lemanu, and containing such personalities as the Domineering Sacristan Kris Hassall, and the ever-amusing Daniel Harema, showcased the varied and eventful year the House would have. The House won titles in Orienteering, Hockey, Fencing and Squash. The House also reclaimed the Small House title in House Music, though the less well scoring Big House is best left forgotten for reasons those involved will



Chilling out in the 7th Form Common Room. Back (L to R): Folco Faber and Tom McCowan Front (L to R): Tim Battersby, Rob Tudehope, Sam Tremewan, Chris Wallace and Jeremy Gin

remember all too well. The House also took out Intermediate Debating, as well as House Chess, with Dan Harema, widely considered by all who had ever met him to be the least likely person to ever be good at Chess, proved to be the school's most talented player. Greenbank bounced back with another receiver of the King's College Outstanding Sporting Performance Award, Rupert

Ralston. As the Greenbank community grew stronger, 2003 saw the introduction of the overnight shared by the Year 9s and the Year 13s, a tradition that continues prominently to this day.



House Music is always a great event, but in 2003...

Looking on the bright side: It's not every day that you get to cross-dress....

Summer Lovin' in the Great Hall.



The following year was a year defined as much by its scholastic, cultural, and sporting achievements, as it was by its colourful members, and the community of the House. Under the leadership of the supremely bizarre, yet universally respected, Harry Rogers, the House developed into a community whose members were more varied in character than ever before, and the House atmosphere was at an all-time high. This year also saw Taiki Yanagishima take out the title of the highest achieving scholar in the school, as Dux. The House won victories in Squash, Senior Hockey, Intermediate Orienteering, Volleyball and Chess. But perhaps most prominent was the House's hard-won victory in the Big House division of House Music, something we have strived to replicate, but never achieved, since.

In 2005, Head of House Adam Snowden led us to victories in Senior Cricket, Senior Hockey, Squash, and Orienteering. Individually House members and teams won victory in events in both Athletics and Swimming Sports. Special mention must be given to the extraordinary team effort shown by our Intermediate Swimming Relay team of Kieran Kingstone, Tim Brown, Laurie McCowan, Devon Manchester, Michael Rogers, Stephen Rogers, Harry Marquet and Kurt Dell, who broke the school record for this event. We also saw Simon Child become the fourth Greenbankian to be recognised as the top sportsman in the whole school.

Year Ten, the final year of Greenbank's "Second Generation" those who had never known the Inaugural year of the House, has served as a microcosm of the House's wider history. We achieved enormous success, and sometimes bitter defeats, across all key school activities. Academically the House held six of the positions of the Scholars Common Room, a feat mirroring previous achievements. In matters of Culture, the House

continued its traditional strong showing in House Music, regaining its lost Small House title after three years, as well as dominating Debating, in which the House won both grades (Senior for the first time), with the Senior team debating before the whole school and storming to victory under the leadership of Rohan, last of the Thavarajah dynasty. In Sport, the House continued to be an enthusiastic, third-placed participant in the Swimming Sports and sixth in Athletics, with a fourth place in Cross Country, and also succeeded in taking out a number of crucial competitions including an outstanding victory in Senior House Hockey.

But the most extraordinary decoration for the House, the one that makes even the most prestigious of other prizes seem insignificant, was Greenbank turning out to

be the winners of the newly reinstated Merritt Shield. The Merritt Shield recognises the overall top-performing House in all key areas - academic, sports and cultural - and has not been awarded since 1957 due to disputes between Housemasters over how it should be awarded. With flair and class, the youngest of the boy's Houses showed that they were in fact the best House in the College. With a surprise victory owing not to any one individual or team, but rather to the unity and overall strength of the House, Greenbank finally showed without a shadow of a doubt that it deserved its place in the pantheon of Houses.

In ten years of existence, the House has known many members, many tutors, many leaders. Aside from the single constant that is Mr Watts, Greenbank has

always been beholden to a revolving door of personalities. Tutors as diverse as Reverend Wilder and Mr Beck have graced our House with their presence. In our ten years of history we have achieved much, and though we may still have to fight hard for equal respect among other Houses, no one can deny the great strides that we have made.

Yet in the grander scheme of things, Greenbank's ten year history is but a drop in the bucket of a school that predates the 20th century. For all we have achieved in this small modicum of time, the reality is we have a thousand miles left to run. The true measure of Greenbank shall not be what we have done so far, but what our successors will do tomorrow; not where we have already been, but rather where those who come after us will go hereafter.

INTER-HOUSE TITLES AT A GLANCE



1997 Senior Athletics Relay

1997
Junior Fencing
Indoor Rowing

1998
Junior Fencing
Squash

1999
Senior Athletics
Senior Athletics Relay
Senior Rugby
Basketball
Netball

2000
Junior Debating
Intermediate Rugby
Senior Swimming
Basketball
Small House Music

2001
Small House Music

2002
Junior Orienteering
Junior Tug-o-War
Fencing

2003
Junior Debating
Junior Hockey
Intermediate Orienteering
Overall Orienteering
Chess
Small House Music

2004
Junior Volleyball
Intermediate Orienteering
Senior Hockey
Chess
Big House Music
Squash

2005

Junior Athletics Relay
Junior Debating
Junior Squash
Intermediate Swimming
Intermediate Swimming Relay (record)
Senior Cricket
Senior Hockey
Senior Squash
Overall Orienteering
Graham Bruce Relays

2006

Junior Debating
Senior Debating
Senior Hockey
Senior Orienteering
Small House Music
Merritt Challenge Shield



Swimming Sports 2003