

Means-tested scholarships – a worthy cause

A group of Old Boys from the Year of 1948 writes:

The Headmaster has recently written to Old Sydneians of more mature years encouraging them to support an initiative taken by a small group of Old Boys from the year of 1948. The undersigned men have established an Old Sydneians Scholarship Fund to provide for means-tested scholarships at College Street, based primarily on bequests.

The group writes *'the stimulus to take this action is the awareness of the need to expand the existing scholarship scheme at a time when the basic fees and attendant costs of private education Australia-wide have increased to a point where it is now all but beyond the resources of the average family. Ever since the inception of private schools it has been wisely*

recognised that for them to flourish they need a steady enrolment of talented boys. Grammar is no exception to this compelling case.'

Writing to the (UK) Daily Telegraph on 7 May last year, the High Master of Manchester Grammar School, Dr Christopher Ray, made a relevant and eloquent contribution to the current world-wide education debate when he wrote to the Daily Telegraph (UK):

Sir – For almost 500 years, Manchester Grammar School has educated bright young men, many of whom have come from relatively modest financial backgrounds. Selection enables us to bring together boys with immense academic potential. Working together, they are able to develop their potential to the full. Through our bursary funds, raised largely by the old boys, parents and friends, we are able to provide finance for more than 200 boys whose circumstances are certainly all the richer for their time with us. MGS is independent of the state, is open to all on merit and

is transforming the life chances of bright children of all backgrounds...'

It was ever thus.

The 1948 group concurs with Dr Ray's comments: *'It is a welcome privilege to take part in this project which each of us does perhaps for slightly different reasons. We ask that Old Boys dwell on the undeniable fact that the only way that the future of Grammar can be assured is through programmes such as this one.'*

**Stan Edwards
Maurice Green
Allistair Hazard
Alan Hislop
Jim McLeod
Tom Taylor**

Those interested in supporting this important initiative are encouraged to complete this form and return to: The Director of Development, Sydney Grammar School Foundation, College Street, Darlinghurst NSW 2010. For further information, phone 9332 5708.



I am pleased to make a donation to the Sydney Grammar School Foundation in support of the School's means-tested scholarship program through the Old Sydneians' Scholarship Fund by means of:

- A testamentary bequest
- A donation of \$ _____
- A pledge of \$ _____ per year for _____ years

I understand that gifts and pledges to this fund are tax-deductible

Name _____

Address _____

Postcode _____

Telephone: (B) _____

(H) _____

OS Year _____

Scholarships – *a great start in life*

In the first of a series of articles on prominent Old Sydneians who came to Grammar on a scholarship, Professor Tom Taylor (OS 1948) recalls the brilliant careers of Dr Eric Fisher (OS 1907) and Dr Hugh Barry (OS 1928).

Hugh Collis Barry (1912-1994)

Boys from five generations of the Barry family have attended Sydney Grammar School. The first was Caleb Robertson Barry, Hugh's grandfather, who was at the School from 1868 to 1870.

Hugh Barry won his way to Grammar in 1925 with an Entrance Scholarship. When he left as Senior Prefect with rugby colours, his name was on four of the School's honour boards. Hugh also won an Exhibition to Sydney University to study medicine. Halfway through his course (during which he earned a rugby blue) he won a Rhodes Scholarship. This took him to Oxford where he worked with Howard Florey, the co-discoverer of penicillin, and obtained a BSc War service in the Middle East and in the Pacific theatre followed. After the war, Hugh rose to the top of his profession as an orthopaedic surgeon. Many honours came his way and his achievements were recognised in 1992 with an award of the Order of Australia. Perhaps Barry's most important contribution to his profession was the enduring legacy of his notable accomplishments as a surgeon/diplomat nationally and on the international stage.

Both Hugh's sons are Old Sydneians: Robert (OS 1963) and John (OS 1969). In 1997, Hugh's grandson Nicholas (OS 1996) unveiled a plaque in the new 'Barry Pavilion' at Weigall in honour of his grandfather.

It has been stated, and correctly so, that those who win their way with scholarships 'have importance beyond their numbers'.



Eric Mortley Fisher (1889-1967)

A scholarship to Grammar a little more than a century ago was the first step for Eric Fisher on a truly stellar career. He captained the 1st XV and the 1st XI and also represented the School in tennis and athletics. His scholarship achievement led to an Exhibition to the University of Sydney. Eric graduated with first-class honours in medicine in 1913; he was top of his year and was awarded the University Medal. He obtained his blue in cricket and rugby and captained the 1st XV in his final year. Eric Fisher also played for the State 2nd XI.

In 1915, Eric Fisher enlisted as a

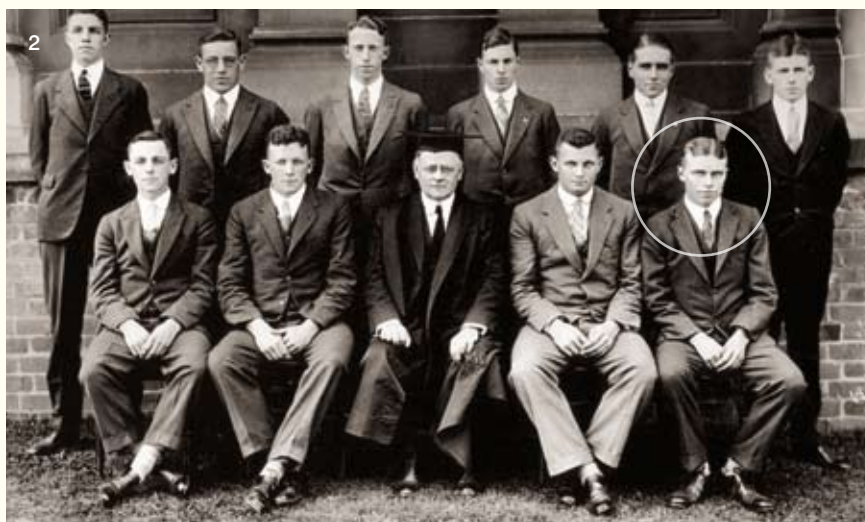


surgeon and served at Gallipoli and later in France.

He was awarded the Military Cross in 1916 for gallantry at Pozières. After the war, he had a no less distinguished career in surgery at Royal Prince Alfred Hospital and on the national surgical scene.

There can be few Old Sydneians who achieved as much as this remarkable man did in work and play. When he left Grammar in 1908, AB Weigall wrote of him, 'he is full of public spirit and has shown the greatest interest in every department of school life'.

Both of Eric Fisher's sons are Old Sydneians: Dr John Watt Fisher (OS 1948) and William (Bill) Richard Fisher (OS 1949).



- 1 1st XI Premiers – Eric Mortley Fisher (Captain) circled
2 Prefects 1928 – Hugh Collis Barry circled