

Senior School

HOUSE NEWS:

new beginnings and fond farewells



ROBERT (BOB) LOCK

Robert Lock has been Housemaster of Chelmsford for the past 28 years, taking over from David Ingham in 1995. Bob says his greatest memories as Housemaster are not just the six Pitt Cup Triumphs but the privilege of watching students evolve as they grow through adolescence, supported by their parents.

“I have had a long history with many families: The Pooles, Rathie and Marshalls to name some. Having those families entrusting me to their sons is special,” he says. “Joining Cranbrook from Kenya, East Africa, I use the Masai village doctrine to explain how the House system works. The Masai believe the village brings up the boy and I adopt the same principles, saying my House is like a Masai village. You get good days and bad days but, in the end, all my boys come out as good people – who are hopefully self-sufficient.”

Bob is credited with starting the Cranbrook Explorers and Travellers Overseas Partnerships (CETOP), a social service programme and an opportunity for Cranbrook boys, teachers and parents to experience life in less privileged parts of the world. Initially small groups of students went to the Himalayas, however the project soon expanded to Africa, Asia and South America, focusing on community development.

CETOP soon incorporated fundraising, and helped to build classrooms in Nepal, as well as constructing the Jeremy Madin Centre of Learning for underprivileged children in Ladakh, India. CETOP also funded the Shara Nursery School and funds for a School Bus (so that three and four-year-olds wouldn't have to walk 16kms to school each day), a medical camp in Jhip Jhipe, Nepal and funds for a new factory for women in Chamshen, India.

Bob says at the heart of CETOP's success is an energetic and dedicated committee and a generous and loyal group of members: “CETOP offers students, their parents and teachers an opportunity to become involved in projects which will substantially improve the living conditions of families in very poor communities.”

We wish Bob every success in his future. The Cranbrook community, CETOP and the Social Sciences Department will miss him greatly.



DR DAVID THOMAS

David Thomas has worked at Cranbrook for more than half a century. The decision to name a new House after him is a move he finds “both fabulous and humbling.” While he is retiring as Housemaster of Hone, David will continue as a mentor in Hone, will teach in the History Department and work for the Cranbrook Foundation. He says he can't retire because he will miss all the students. “I can't walk away. I love what I do,” he says.

Thomas has two pieces of advice for students. “When I see a new family walking in with their son, I tell them two things – the first is that we aim for excellence. If your excellence is a C grade that is fine but aim for that. Be excellent in your own head, and know you have done your best,” he says. “The second thing is to participate. Don't tell me you can't debate. Don't tell me you can't sing. Don't tell me you can't do maths. Get up and give it a go. School is the one place where you can try everything – so go for it. Just do it. Put yourself out there,” he says.

David credits some of his happiest memories of his time at Cranbrook as part of his professional development on exchange in Andover, Massachusetts, and returning to Cranbrook full of new information which he used as Head of the History department and as a Housemaster. David ran things differently as Hone Housemaster. Hone has vertical House mentor groups rather than straight year groups, which were inherited by teacher Hugh Playfair, as well as special ties to wear on Fridays, and specific Hone awards such as Scholar, Music and Drama awards handed out each year.

David has been involved in myriad parts of the School since he started working in the Senior School more than 52 years ago. He has been a dedicated member of the History Department and is the official Historian of Cranbrook. Together with former Cranbrook staff member Mark McAndrew he has written *Born in the Hour of Victory*, a history of Cranbrook from 1918-1993. He is currently working on the next issue in Cranbrook's history, which will be released soon.

We farewell David as Hone Housemaster, but we are extremely happy to have him continue working at the School for years to come.

Senior School



The Goanna is the totem of the Wiradjuri People.

The Wollemi Pine is representative of the Wolgan Valley area.

Book of Knowledge represents academia and also comes from the Hone Crest, symbolising the connection and relationship between Thomas and Hone Houses.

THOMAS HOUSE

We talk to Robert Bell (OC 2004) about his exciting new role as Housemaster of Thomas House, named after Dr David Thomas. In a serendipitous twist, Robert was mentored by David when he was at the Senior School.

What is the motto of Thomas House?

Thomas House's motto will be an indigenous saying from the Wiradjuri People, the traditional owners of the land that Cranbrook's Wolgan Valley campus is on. The motto is 'Yindyamarra murrumurri guwal' which translates to "respect each other".

Can you explain the symbols of the Thomas crest?

The Goanna is the totem of the Wiradjuri People. The Wollemi Pine is representative of the Wolgan Valley area and the Book of Knowledge represents academia and also comes from the Hone Crest, symbolising the connection and relationship between Thomas and Hone Houses.

Can you describe what it is like to have been a member of Hone House under David Thomas when you were at School?

It is a huge honour to be the first Housemaster of Thomas House and I am excited to start building a culture that is reflective of the huge value David has left on the whole Cranbrook community. David was my Housemaster when I was a student at Cranbrook but has since become a colleague and great friend. David is a true Housemaster! His mentorship certainly didn't end on the final day of Year 12. Choosing to go into Education has meant I have also been able to tap into his expertise in pastoral care – one which I will continue to tap into in the years to come!

What are your hopes for Thomas House members?

I would like the boys, parents and staff in Thomas House to confidently represent the values of being a Cranbrookian. We will be building a community within a community where the village supports the individual.



HEWAN HOUSE

We talk to Dean Papandreas about his exciting new role as Housemaster of Hewan House. The new House is named after Cranbrook's Headmaster from 1951-1963: Gethyn Hewan.

Social Sciences Teacher, Dean Papandreas has worked as a Resident Mentor for our Boarders for the past seven years, after moving to Cranbrook from The King's School, where he was a Boarding Housemaster and the Director of Service Learning. Dean is also a Rugby and Basketball Coach, has also been on many Duke of Edinburgh trips and is involved in Snowsports.

How do you feel about being the new Hewan Housemaster?

I am both excited and privileged to be able to lead the creation of a new community at Cranbrook. The challenge of building a culture that will support the growth of the tremendous young people we have here at Cranbrook is a prospect I look forward to.

Where do you get your inspiration from?

It is of great reward to support the growth of young people through their senior years of schooling. It is a transformational time of life and being there to encourage them in their ambitious endeavours, guide their growth of character and support them in tough times has proven itself to be an endless source of energy and inspiration for me.

What are your plans for Hewan?

Hewan House is named after previous Headmaster Gethyn Hewan. As we establish the Hewan House community we plan to pay respect to his legacy by building a culture founded on community, Co-Curricular involvement and the pursuit of academic excellence. I have been working closely with Head of House Edward Proctor and his leadership team to create a set of values that will support each of these areas.

Firstly we will focus on Community. We want the House to be a place that feels like a family. Students in younger years will know the boys in

the older years well whilst those older students take an active interest in the growth and achievements of younger students. A safe and homely space that students enjoy spending their time making School a place where they love to be.

Next is a focus on Co-Curricular. The House motto 'Be Brave' is a call for students to make themselves vulnerable to failure by taking advantage of all the wonderful opportunities that exist here at Cranbrook. Students will be challenged to be as involved in the Co-Curricular life of the School as possible. The fear of public speaking can be overcome by joining the Debating Team. Or in pursuit of being a 1st XI Cricketer or 1st XV Rugby player one is made vulnerable to the disappointment of missing out after much hard work. In the process of striving to improve themselves through the Co-Curricular space, students are able to grow their character and learn valuable lessons.

Finally, Academic Excellence: Education is the core of what we do and Hewan will be a community that values students pursuing their best academically. Respect will be earned by those students who challenge themselves to be focused in class and disciplined in their studies. Performance is individual and Hewan will be a place that encourages all students to strive to do their best – whatever that may be.

What do the symbols in the Hewan crest represent?

The first symbol is the book that appears on the School crest. This has been chosen to represent knowledge and learning aligning with focus on academic pursuits, and connecting the House to something bigger than itself – the entire School. The second symbol is two crossed cricket bats and a ball. This is a connection with Gethyn Hewan who played first Grade Cricket for Cambridge University. It symbolises the role of Co-Curricular opportunities in personal development. Whilst it is a sports related symbol, it is important for students to understand that there are many other Co-Curricular activities such as Music and Drama that are available for them to facilitate their growth and contribution to the School. The third image selected for the crest is a tree which symbolises student growth and community. Hewan House will be a safe and homely meeting place for students as they grow over their Senior School years. In many cultures, trees play an important and even sacred role is meeting places - this symbol has community at its heart. ■



The book represents knowledge and learning aligning with focus on academic pursuits, and connecting the House to something bigger than itself - the school community.

The two crossed cricket bats and a ball is a connection with Gethwyn Hewan who was an excellent Golfer and Cricketer who played first Grade Cricket for Cambridge University.

The tree symbolises student growth and community.

CRANBROOK'S HOUSES: A SHORT HISTORY

Cranbrook's first Headmaster Rev. Perkins introduced Chelmsford, Strickland and Rawson Houses in 1929, enabling students to participate in inter-House sporting competitions. In the 1940s, under the leadership of Brian Hone, the House system became more closely aligned to the system that exists today, incorporating academic, pastoral and administrative matters into the inter-House sporting competitions. Dr David Thomas writes in Born in the Hour of Victory: "The House system became the centre of the School's life, the Housemaster became the focal point of the for parents and teachers; and the student's mentor as well as his monitor." House rooms were also established, in which all members of the house met with the Housemaster each week, providing the Senior School with a new focus and direction.

In 1941 Davidson House was added to the House system, followed by Hone in 1970, with Street added to Rawson as Houses exclusively for Boarders. Northcott and Wakehurst were also added under Headmaster Gethyn Hewan, who believed Cranbrook's unique House system was ideally suited to "promote and care for the needs of the individual." Hewan referred to Housemasters as the "pillars on which the School stands" and added the new houses to ensure the School could provide the same level of care to children as numbers at the School increased.

Cutler, Harvey, Hone, Perkins and Woodward houses were added subsequently. Houses are carefully monitored to ensure sizes remain small enough for pastoral care to be uncompromised.

In this vein, as the School grows into its new facilities, two new Houses, Thomas and Hewan have been created to ensure the House system continues to provide individual support to students and their parents.

Boys can volunteer to move to one of the new Houses or will be chosen by Director of Students Peter Young to populate the new Houses.



1ST HOUSE FOOTBALL (RUGBY) MATCH, RED V. WHITE HOUSE MATCH, 22 JULY 1930