

Dear Headmaster

A couple of years ago there was an account distributed to Old Scholars about a bequest to the School from Richard Revell.

Danielle and I were living at Gundaroo NSW at the time but have recently moved into Canberra City. I provided some details as to Richard who was severely physically handicapped which affected his mobility, and speech capacity.

On leaving School in the early 1950's Richard was employed by Edments Jewellers in Elizabeth Street. I was working in Hobart Central at that time and used to call into Edments for a quick hello to Richard.

At a 50's Leavers Lunch a couple of years ago you read out a letter I had provided about Richard in which I gave some information as to what I saw as some brief background about his generous bequest.

Some time after the lunch some Old Scholars spoke to me and they seemed to be of the view that my actions relating to Richard had somehow prompted him to make the gift to the School.

This is not correct but I am now prompted to provide you with some information as to why he was moved to make the gift and who were the main participants with acts of kindness towards Richard.

I am putting forward just a few names of students who could have been responsible for prompting Richard's generosity. I stress that my observations would not necessarily complete the picture and some worthy participants may have been omitted for which I apologise.

While at School, Richard was unable to participate in any sports and any form of team membership was out of the question. There was an incident in around 1952 at the time of the inter - House Cross Country competition. I was a participant along with about 60 others and the competition between the Houses was very strong. We

started and finished on what was then called the Top Ground and the course took in a major part of the Domain.

Colin Campbell was a participant and I noted while lining up at the start that Colin was standing next to Richard and he, Colin, was wearing a dressing – gown which had the appearance of what footballers used to wear during the breaks in games as a means keeping the right temperature.

Just before the start, Colin handed the dressing gown to Richard. At the end of the race, when Colin finished, Richard handed back the dressing gown to Colin. When all the runners had completed the course the members of participating Houses lined up for Team photographs and at Colin's insistence Richard was included in the photograph.

It was a very proud moment for Richard to be included as a team member. Colin always took a protective attitude to him during School days.

Other students involved in individual acts of kindness towards Richard were David and Gordon Long who both took an interest in him at School and were involved in ensuring that he had satisfactory living arrangements when he first left School and started working at Edments. Both David and Gordon were outstanding at wide range of sports and Richard was very appreciative of their concerns towards him.

Ian Rumney was another excellent sporting figure at the School who I noted often went out of his way for a kind word to Richard.

From my observations, there was, in my view, no reason for Richard to make the bequest to the School apart from a personal feeling of gratitude from him which can be traced to individual acts of kindness from students along the lines that I have described above. There were many worthy Charities which would have benefited from any form of bequest and I agree that Richard's gift to the School would also have assisted worthy causes.

I believe that the student body would be in a position to identify students who, due to some form of disability, are behind their peer group and could do with a bit of a hand up.

We can never be sure of the outcome of some random acts of kindness to those who benefit from such interest.

Best regards

John Hyndes

Class of 1953