

SHIPLAKE COLLEGE RUGBY TOUR 1998 AUSTRALIA



A Message from the Headmaster



In 1974 when I had just taken over the running of the Boat Club at the school where I was teaching, I took a squad of a dozen oarsmen and two coxes on a tour to Australia. I and my crews enjoyed one of the most exciting, rewarding and educational experiences of our lives. Friendships were made which have lasted for years.

History now repeats itself as the new master in charge of rugby at Shiplake leads boys and staff of the College on a similarly challenging trip. I am sure that none of them will underestimate the task facing them against highly competitive teams in the dry conditions and on the hard grounds of Queensland. Nor, of course, will they be unaware of the wonderful hospitality awaiting them.

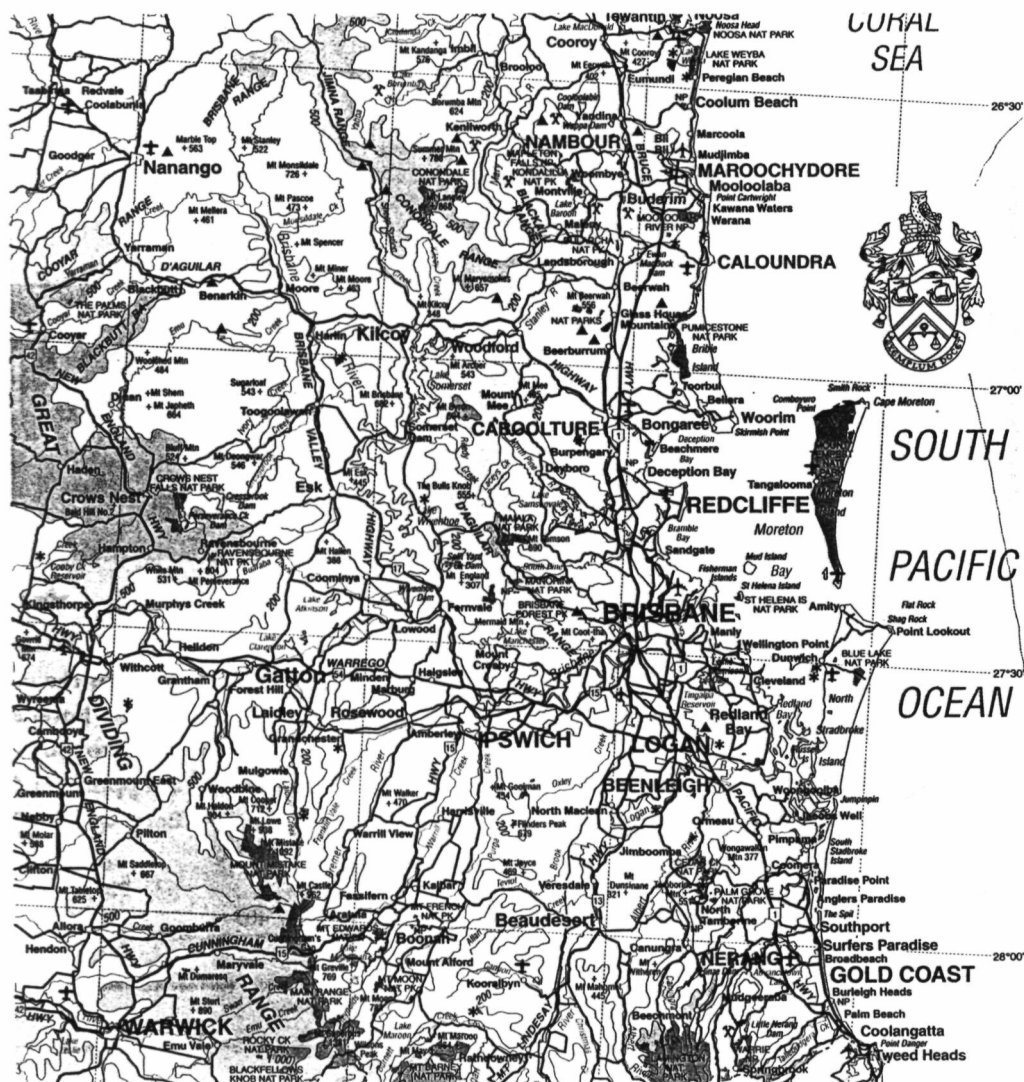
I am certain they will respond in a thoroughly sportsmanlike manner and be marvellous ambassadors for the College in Australia.

Many thanks to all who have helped to promote the tour, parents, sponsors and particularly our hosts in Australia – GOOD LUCK!

N.V. Bevan

ITINERARY

- Monday 6th** Departure from Heathrow (22:00)
- Tuesday 7th** Arrival in Hong Kong (17:05) Depart (23:00)
- Wednesday 8th** Arrival in Brisbane (09:35) and transfer to Broadbeach Surf Lifesaving Club on the Gold Coast a journey of approximately 1 hour
- Thursday 9th -
Monday 13th** Training Camp on the beach and using facilities provided by Palm Beach Rugby Club. Opportunities to visit Sea World, Burleigh Heads National Park, Point Danger, Tallebudgera Creek, Coolangatta.
- Monday 13th -
Thursday 16th** Transfer to host school – Brisbane Boys College where boys will be billeted with families for three days and will play a match against Brisbane Boys College.
- Thursday 16th -
Saturday 18th** Coach to Ipswich Grammar School – approximately 1 hour west of Brisbane. Boys will again be billeted with families for three days and will then play a match against Ipswich Grammar School.
- Saturday 18th -
Wednesday 22nd** Depart for Cairns (11:00) Arrive (13:30) The Oasis Resort, Cairns. Five days accommodation in the tropics – with a match against The Cairns School 1st XV. A full day excursion to the Outer Barrier Reef onto the pontoon with snorkelling and viewing from the Underwater Observatory. A half day White-water Rafting excursion and tours of the tropical rainforest aboard the skyrail.
- Wednesday 22nd** Depart for Hong Kong (14:55) Arrive (19:55)
- Thursday 23rd** Depart for London (00:10) Arrival at Heathrow (06:20)

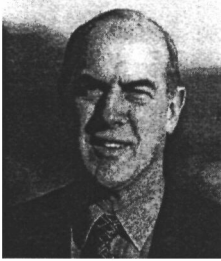


The Tourists

Twenty three boys and three coaches will form the squad. The players selected formed the nucleus of the 1st XV and U16A Teams from the successful 1997 season.

The Coaches

1) John Gayton



John Gayton is the Master in Charge of Rugby at the College and he will lead the tour to his previous school in Brisbane where he held the position of Senior Boarding Master.

John played representative rugby in his school years and he has vast experience in coaching the sport both in Australia and the UK.

2) Grant Lawson



Grant Lawson is entering his third year at the College as a rugby coach. He has played for Swansea University, Southampton University, Market Deeping and Baron Trinity RFC in Cairns Australia. He brings a wealth of knowledge and skills to the development of rugby at Shiplake and he maintains a good rapport with the players. Grant continues to play the game today.

3) Andrew Cheadle



Andrew Cheadle coaches the U14's. He is responsible for laying the foundations and the training of the juniors teams. Through his coaching the boys learn to understand the game and they learn to develop teamwork and basic skills. It is all about commitment, working together and enjoyment.

The Players

4) Matt Alfred



AGE:	16
HEIGHT:	5 feet 9 1/2 inches
POSITION:	Scrum half
RUGBY HISTORY:	Played in A team throughout school career, and 1stXV 1997, youth development squad for Surrey.
STRENGTHS:	He possesses the best pass in the College, long, flat and accurate. He tackles well and his cover defence is improving rapidly. Matt is a dynamic link between the forwards and the backs.
COMMENTS:	"I'm looking forward to the competitive games in Queensland. The games may be very close".

5) Robert Aslin



AGE: 16 years, 5 months
HEIGHT: 5 feet, 11 inches
PREF POSITION: Fly Half
RUGBY HISTORY: 'A' teams at the College, South East England representative at the age of 10. Henley Rugby Club.
STRENGTHS: A talented 'playmaker' possessing a fine kick. He is a level headed team player with an effective tackle.
COMMENTS: "The Australian Tour is a wonderful opportunity and a great idea. It will be good to see a different lifestyle and a country in the Southern Hemisphere".

6) Hamish Brown



AGE: 16 years, 4 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet
PREF POSITION: Flanker
RUGBY HISTORY: He has been playing since the age of seven. A-teams throughout the College. Captained the U15 & U16A's. He represented Somerset at the age of 13. Richmond RFC 'A-Squad'.
STRENGTHS: A highly skilled forward who inspires his team mates. He has the potential of making the 1st XV soon. He has had an excellent season.
COMMENTS: "I am really looking forward to training with the firsts and being in Australia with an opportunity to improve my rugby skills with much more experienced players".

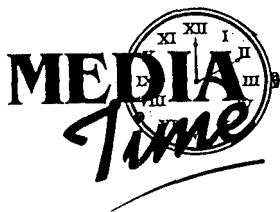
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7) James Burnett



AGE: 17 years 9 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet
PREF POSITION: Right wing or number 8
RUGBY HISTORY: Improved over his rugby years at the College. He has played some games in the 16A'S during 1996. In 1997 he gained valuable experience in the 1st XV.
STRENGTHS: Learning rapidly, a versatile, determined runner. Strong on his feet and he is bound to be a good asset in 1998.
COMMENTS: "Australia is one of the places that I really want to visit. I think that the tour is going to be a great success".

8) James Case



AGE: 16 years
HEIGHT: 6 feet, 1 inch
PREF POSITION: Wing, 2nd Row
RUGBY HISTORY: He played rugby at prep school from the age of 8, then at his local club and then finally at Shiplake, where he has been in both A and B teams.
STRENGTHS: He is a strong and dedicated team player who is prepared to listen to advice on how to improve his game. James is an asset to any side.
COMMENTS: "I think the whole tour will bring my rugby on a lot more, and the experience of touring Queensland is something to look forward to."



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9) Ollie Davison



AGE: 16 years, 5 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet, 2 inches
PREF. POSITION: Wing
RUGBY HISTORY: Recent years playing experience only. Injured in his first year at the school but he played in both the U15A's and U16A's last season.
STRENGTHS: Hard running player. He is still learning the game but with tons of potential. Prepared to run through the opposition.
COMMENTS: "This is a great opportunity to see another country on the other side of the world. I am really looking forward to it".

10) Toby Douglas



AGE: 16 years, 6 months
HEIGHT: 5 feet, 6 inches
PREF. POSITION: Hooker
RUGBY HISTORY: Played since the age of 7 represented Somerset at prep school. Played "A" teams at the College.
STRENGTHS: Pound for pound one of the best forwards in the school – determined, a fearless worker who has won the admiration of the players in his team. Prepared to dive into the action in every game.
COMMENTS: "This will be a great experience and will improve our rugby a lot. I think this a wonderful idea.

Oliver Davison Sponsored By:



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11) Ollie Gradden



AGE: 16 years, 6 months
HEIGHT: 5 feet, 8 inches
PREF. POSITION: Inside Centre
RUGBY HISTORY: Played for the last 8 years. All "A" teams at the College. Prep School tour of Scotland.
STRENGTHS: Not a tall player, but big in stature on the rugby field. Good hands, punishing tackler and a good link man. He has the potential to go a long way in the game and he is prepared to listen to advice.
COMMENTS: "Looking forward to the great attractions in Australia such as Seaworld. This is a good opportunity for us to see the culture of Australia first hand".

12) Alex Harris



AGE: 17 years, 2 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet, 3 inches
PREF POSITION: 2nd row
RUGBY HISTORY: He has been playing Rugby since the age of 8 and has always enjoyed it. Played all positions in the scrum. 2nd XV in 1997.
STRENGTHS: He is rapidly becoming a valuable team player . He wins more than his share in the line-out and his scrummaging skills are an asset. His height will be an advantage this season.
COMMENTS: "I hope to prove my rugby skills to ensure a place in the 1st XV this season. I also think it will be a great trip, and I am looking forward to the games"



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13) Paul Hickey



AGE: 16 years, 4 months
HEIGHT: 5 feet, 9 inches
PREF. POSITION: Prop
RUGBY HISTORY: He has been playing rugby since the age of 6. He has been in all of the "A" teams at the College and has played for Maidenhead RFC, Lincoln RFC, The RAF and 'Shape' U18.
STRENGTHS: He has wonderful skills in the tight and is a reliable lynch pin in the scrums. He is also a good team man, who helps greatly with continuity play. Another 'quiet achiever'.
COMMENTS: "The tour is a brilliant idea and will be a valuable experience. It will be good to see how they play rugby in Australia."

14) Scott Kent



AGE: 17 years, 7 months
HEIGHT: 5 feet 10 inches
PREF. POSITION: Flanker, second row
HISTORY: U16B's in 1996 but played in the Firsts and Seconds 1997
STRENGTHS: A strong forward who is good in the tight. He will appreciate his experience in the first XV last year.
COMMENTS: "It will be a great opportunity to see a different culture and meet people. Roll on July!"



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15) Charlie King



AGE: 16 years, 11 months
HEIGHT: 5 feet, 11 inches
PREF. POSITION: Hooker
RUGBY HISTORY: He has played in 'A' teams throughout his College rugby years and was in the 1st XV in 1997. Represented Oxfordshire County in 1996.
STRENGTHS: He is a highly respected forward. He is tough, durable and has a willingness to work hard in the tight and a strong determination to win.
COMMENTS: "I can see we are going to have wonderful experiences on our tour to Australia and it will be the highlight of the season."

16) Alex Lambert



AGE: 15 years, 11 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet, 2 inches
PREF. POSITION: Lock
RUGBY HISTORY: He has played rugby for 5 years representing Gillots 95/96, Henley RFC 94 and the College 95, 96, 97, 98.
STRENGTHS: A rapidly developing forward who is prepared to listen to advice and commit to training. A great deal of potential.
COMMENTS: "I think it will be a great challenge and I am sure that we will learn from the experience. I feel very lucky to have the chance to go on such a great tour."

David Boyle

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"We wish the rugby players and all those involved every success during the Australian tour.
Success on the field and a safe return to the UK to one and all".

17) Andrew Lane



AGE: 17 years, 3 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet, 1 inch
PREF POSITION: Fly half
RUGBY HISTORY: Captain of 14A and 15A teams at the College; 16A in 1996 and 1st XV; Has represented Surrey County
STRENGTHS: The playmaker with good perception. He possesses a good pass and a strong place and punt kick. He is a strong tackler. A most valuable player for the team.
COMMENTS: "Playing against Southern Hemisphere teams really enthuses me. I think that the other activities such as White Water Rafting and swimming at the Barrier Reef will really be great experiences"

18) Sam Laurie



AGE: 15 years, 11 months
HEIGHT: 5 feet, 9 inches
PREF POSITION: Flanker
RUGBY HISTORY: All "A" Teams at Shiplake. Oxfordshire County Selection 1997.
STRENGTHS: He is a consistently good loose forward prepared to "mix it" in the tight, and run wide when needed. Cover defence last year was quite outstanding!
COMMENTS: "I have never been to Australia before and this is a great opportunity to see another lifestyle on the other side of the world."



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Shiplake College 1st Team Squad
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19)

20) Will Midlane



AGE: 14 years, 1 months

HEIGHT: 6 feet

PREF POSITION: Fullback

RUGBY HISTORY: He has developed during his first three years of rugby at the College. He came of age in the 16A team. 1st XV 1997 at fullback and in the back line.

STRENGTHS: He found his position in the 16A team and he has never looked back. Will is a hard running back who can make numerous breaks. Fierce determination to win.

COMMENTS: " Australia has always attracted me because of its outdoor life and it will be very interesting to see how we fare against the Brisbane teams".

**We wish the Shiplake Tour Party the very best of luck
for your exciting Rugger Tour to Australia in 1998**

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21) Oli Murray



AGE: 17 years, 9 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet
PREF. POSITION: Outside Centre
RUGBY HISTORY: He has mostly been in 'A' teams at the College. He was in the 1st XV in 1997, as fullback, centre and wing.
STRENGTHS: He is a committed and punishing tackler who can inspire his team. He is a strong runner of the ball, with safe hands and a willingness to absorb and extend pressure.
COMMENTS: "This will be my first tour abroad, so I am really looking forward to it. It will be quite interesting to see the Australian culture first hand and play against a different style of rugby."

22) Nick Quirke



AGE: 16 years, 7 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet, 2 inches
PREF. POSITION: No 8
RUGBY HISTORY: Played since he was a Harrow junior aged 9. 'A' teams at the College. Oxfordshire County.
STRENGTHS: 'The Enforcer', a very strong runner who hands-off tackles with ease. He will gain valuable experience playing with older boys and he is expected to come on as a player this season.
COMMENTS: "The beaches attract me in Australia and I guess we will all enjoy our training on them".

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23) Alun Roselaar



AGE: 17 years, 3 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet
PREF. POSITION: Loose Head Prop
RUGBY HISTORY: Played since the age of 7. 'A' team standard at the College. Club rugby at Reading and Berkshire County Team 1997 – 1st XV.
STRENGTHS: Reliable forward leader. Good scrummaging skills as well as rucking and mauling experience. A sound defender and a good team man.
COMMENTS: " I will be eagerly awaiting the experience of the culture and rugby in Australia. I am particularly looking forward to our stay with BBC. The tour will give the squad the chance to learn and bond as a team".

24) Rory Smith



AGE: 17 years 5 months
HEIGHT: 6 feet
PREF. POSITION: Second Row
RUGBY HISTORY: Began playing at prep school, and fluctuated between A and B teams at the college for the first 3 years. 1997- played 1st XV
STRENGTHS: Most improved forward- versatile as he can play loose or tight. Intelligent quick learner, a quiet achiever!
COMMENTS: "This tour will set the whole rugby season off to the right start, and the journey to Australia is something to look forward to."

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25) Chris Thomas



AGE 17 years, 11 months

HEIGHT: 6 feet, 5 inches

PREF. POSITION: 2nd Row

RUGBY HISTORY: Played for 9 years. 'A' teams at the College 1997 – 1st XV

STRENGTHS: Determined runner, strong capable forward at peak fitness. This will be his year!

COMMENTS: " It will be good to play with the younger players coming through against the Australian sides. The sun, the beach and the surf are attractions, as is my 18th birthday towards the end of the tour".

26) Tom Wood



AGE: 16 years, 4 months

HEIGHT: 5 feet, 8 inches

PREF. POSITION: Outside Centre

RUGBY HISTORY: Played since the age of 8 and most positions on the field. 16A's in 1997 as centre.

STRENGTHS: Developing rapidly as a very skillful and thoughtful player. He tackles well and he is now looking to set team members up well. A great deal of potential.

COMMENTS: " I will enjoy playing with the best of my school and some of the finest young players that Australia has. I will also enjoy seeing all the attractions that Queensland has to offer".

Seventh Heaven

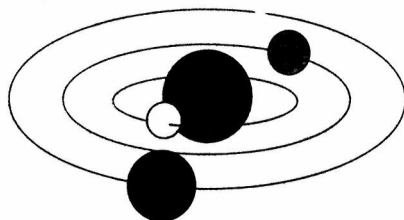
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Tom Wood

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The College

Shiplake College is situated in beautiful countryside on the north bank of the river Thames, two and a half miles upstream from Henley-on-Thames. We have a reputation for developing potential and confidence in our pupils and all teaching is directed towards this aim. Pupils at Shiplake are taken for what they are and we encourage them to make the very best of their talents whether in the classroom, the Art School, on the stage or on the sports field.

The College insists on sportsmanship and fairplay. Players are encouraged to respect their opponents and pupils are involved in the administration of their sport.



The Motto of the School is, 'EXEMPLEM DOCET' which means 'example teaches'.

MANY
THANKS

TO OUR PARENTS, THE FUND RAISING MANAGERS
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Charles King
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