

The Friends' School, Hobart is an independent co-educational Quaker day and boarding school located in North Hobart, a suburb of Hobart, Tasmania, Australia.

Founded in 1887 by Quakers, the school currently caters for approximately 1330 students from pre-kindergarten to Year 12, including 47 boarders from Years 7 to 12.[2] It is the largest Quaker school in the world.[4]

Friends' is affiliated with the Association of Independent Schools of Tasmania (AIST),[5] the Junior School Heads Association of Australia (JSHAA),[6] the Association of Heads of Independent Schools of Australia (AHISA),[7] the Australian Boarding Schools' Association (ABSA),[2] and is a member of the Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools (SATIS).[8]

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History[edit]

The Friends' School opened at 60–62 Warwick Street, Hobart (the building still stands) on 31 January 1887 under the control of the Religious Society of Friends (Quakers). It was opened by Samuel Clemes. The initial enrolment of 33 expanded so rapidly that the School moved to its present site in Commercial Road on 28 January 1889, a move made possible by the generous loan of A\$4,000 from Hobart Baptists. The first headmaster was Samuel Clemes, considered to be a remarkable reformer in education for his belief in co-education. In 1900 he resigned and set up his own family school, Leslie House, (later renamed Clemes College) in Pirie Street and then at Boa Vista, Argyle Street, where Morris Friends' Primary Years (Junior School) and Clemes (Years 11–12) are now located. Clemes College and The Friends' School came together in 1946.

1923 marked the beginning of a new era in the School's history. On 28 September, the control of the school passed from London Quakers to a committee in Hobart and a week later Ernest Unwin arrived, under whose leadership the School made remarkable progress. In this period the distinctive appearance of the School changed - with the addition of the front portico, the Hodgkin Hall, the original science and art block and the boys' boarding wing. No further building programmes were undertaken until 1955 when the second period of expansion began with the opening of the Preparatory School in 1955 followed by the Sports Ground in 1958. Building on the Commercial Road site began in 1962 with the opening of the Unwin Memorial Science and Art block, continued in the 70s with the

Library, the Asten Theatre, additional science facilities and in the 80s with the W.N. Oats Sports Centre. The Clemes Memorial Library in the Junior School was erected from the old Clemes Assembly Hall in 1986. The addition of the multipurpose Farrall Centre to the Junior School was completed in late 2011.

Despite being a Quaker school, there are no more than 10 Quaker staff at the school, and few of the students are actually Quakers. However Quaker activities, such as meeting for worship (Gathering), form an integral part of school life for students, and take up one hour per week.

Sherwood[edit]

Following the Tasman Bridge disaster of 1975 many students of the school who lived on the eastern shore of the Derwent River became isolated, and were unable to attend.

Whilst older students were trusted to make the ferry crossing from Bellerive to Hobart, for younger students it was not deemed safe to do so unsupervised. Appeals were made to the school from concerned parents, and eventually, it was decided to build a temporary campus within the City of Clarence. A site was located in bushland above Lindisfarne and a small area was set aside for the campus.

The Sherwood campus consisted of two main inter-linked buildings, a playground, a crude gravel oval and a large area of undeveloped bushland. The school only catered for pupils from kindergarten to grade 2, as it was considered older pupils were old enough to catch transport to the main campus.

One of the features of the education system at Sherwood was the regular "nature walks" in which students from every year group would participate in regular excursions into the nearby sclerophyll bushland and learn to understand, appreciate, and get in better touch with nature.

It closed just a few years after opening.

Principals[edit]

Complete list of School Principals:

Period Details

1887 – 1900 Samuel Clemes

1901 – 1903 Edmund Gower

1903 – 1907 J.Edgar Smith

July 1907 – July 1908 Godfrey Williams

July 1908 – 1915 Edmund Gower

1915 – 1922 Charles Annells

1923 – 1944 Ernest Unwin

Sep. 1944 – May 1945 Stuart Hickman (Actg.)

1945 – 1973 William Oats

1974 – 1980 Roderic Grosvenor

1980 – 1988 Michael Bailey, Joint Principal with Margaret Bailey

1980 – 1988 Margaret Bailey, Joint Principal with Michael Bailey

1989 – 2000 Stephanie Farrall, Co-Principal with Lyndsay Farrall

1989 – 2000 Lyndsay Farrall, Co-Principal with Stephanie Farrall

2000 – 2002 Lyndsay Farrall

2003 – 2012 John Green

2013 – Nelson File

Structure[edit]

The Friends' School consists of three main parts: Morris Friends' Primary Years, High School and Clemes. Morris has approximately 430 students from Kindergarten to Year 6 and is situated in the Argyle Street Campus. The High School has 550 students from Year 7 to 10 and is in the Commercial Road campus. Clemes has approximately 300 students in Years 11 and 12 and is in the Argyle Street campus.[9]

The school owns a sports complex at Bell Street, with facilities for cricket, hockey, softball, and soccer; Friends' Health and Fitness off Elizabeth Street; and Friends' Early Years on Argyle Street. The school has a state-of-the-art rowing facility in Lutana, near the main campuses.

For class allocation and internal competition, all students at Friends' are assigned to "Houses". The primary school houses are Benson, Cadbury, and Cooper. In the secondary, Mather, Ransome, Unwin, and Hodgkin make up the houses.

All students in the high school are members of tutor groups, each of which consists of approximately four people from each grade. The school tries to place two girls and two boys per grade per tutor group, but there are exceptions. All members of a tutor group are from the same house, and each house has eight tutor groups.

Sport[edit]

The Friends' School is a member of the Sports Association of Tasmanian Independent Schools (SATIS).

SATIS premierships[edit]

The Friends' School has won the following SATIS premierships.[10]

Combined:

Athletics (3) - 2003, 2004, 2005

Boys:

Athletics - 1971

Cricket (3) - 1956, 1965, 1971

Hockey (15) - 1965, 1968, 1969, 1970, 1971, 1975, 1996, 2000, 2006, 2007, 2008, 2010, 2011, 2012, 2013

Rowing (6) - 1999, 2000, 2001, 2002, 2009, 2019

Rowing Eight (14) - 1932, 1933, 1939, 1949, 1950, 1958, 1959, 1960, 1961, 1962, 1968, 1975, 2001, 2003

Soccer (2) - 2004, 2010

Swimming - 2004

Tennis (2) - 2014, 2018

Girls:

Hockey (7) - 1996, 2000, 2005, 2009, 2010, 2012, 2013

Rowing (13) - 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2012, 2015, 2017, 2018, 2019

Rowing Eight (11) - 1998, 1999, 2001, 2002, 2003, 2004, 2007, 2015, 2016, 2017, 2018

Soccer (4) - 1999, 2002, 2003, 2008

Softball (8) - 1971, 1972, 1973, 1974, 1976, 1979, 1981, 1998

Swimming (5) - 1998, 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006

Tennis (3) - 2013, 2014, 2015

Notable alumni[edit]

Edmund Leolin Piesse - Director of Military Intelligence 1916–1919 and Head of the Pacific Branch of the Prime Minister's Department 1919–1923[11]

Elizabeth Robyn Mason – Director of the Australasian Medical Publishing Company Pty Ltd (also attended the Presbyterian Ladies' College, Melbourne)[12]

Kim Santow – New South Wales Supreme Court judge and Chancellor of the University of Sydney[13]

[14]

Paul Calvert - Politician

Oliver O'Halloran - The youngest person to fly around Australia solo and unassisted. (2017)

Entertainment and the arts[edit]

Errol Flynn – Hollywood actor

Amali Ward – Australian Idol contestant/singer[15]

Freya Stafford – Actress

Christopher Koch - Writer

Dennis Altman - Academic and writer

Andrew Kelley - Actor (The Badger, The Thwarting of Baron Bolligrew (2000))

Sport[edit]

Samuel Beltz - Olympic & world champion rower

Caryn Davies - Olympic rower & two-time Olympic Champion

Kerry Hore - Olympic & world champion rower

Kate Hornsey - Olympic rower

Meaghan Volker - Olympic rower

Eddie Ockenden - National Hockey Player

Max Walker – Cricketer and Australian footballer

Hanny Allston - World Champion Orienteer

Rob Wilkinson - UFC Fighter

See also[edit]

List of schools in Tasmania

List of boarding schools

Education in Tasmania