

# Reflections of Mr Suchy 1976 – 2005

*Hello everyone,*

Some of you may remember me well: I was the rather loud teacher who probably screamed at you across the playground at some stage during your 6 years here at Westfields. Times have changed, political correctness etc. and I only misbehave now on special occasions.

The year 2005 marks my 30th year at Westfields and even though I have a good 10-15 years to go before I retire, I have to say it has been a wonderful ride thus far. Things have certainly changed for the better. Westfields was always the best Government school in the Fairfield – Liverpool area even back in the 60's and 70's. Now it the best Government school in Australia and has surpassed many of the better private schools.

I remember my first Principal was Keith Hansen. He was followed by Norm Hinckman, then Peter Richmond and finally our current Principal, Phil Tucker PSM. Phil Tucker is the reason Westfields has been established as an international model school. Mr Tucker arrived in 1989 and within two years had begged, borrowed and cajoled the powers that be to allow us to become Australia's first Sports High School. We have been visited by ministers of countries from all over the world to find out how a public school could turn itself into the strongest Sports School in the World: and we are in fact just that...

Westfields Sports has produced 8 Olympians and several World Champions. There are 22 students currently playing in first grade soccer teams around the world, 12 students playing in the NRL, and some of the famous names include Test cricketer, Michael Clarke and soccer star, Harry Kewell.

While I still teach classes in Industrial Arts, I also have the role of Athletics Director at the school. We have a fully registered Athletics Club and this year were as the Champion Club of NSW. Our budding stars include five athletes capable of qualifying for the 2006 Commonwealth Games – and just a few weeks ago, Pathways student Dani Samuels won the World Championship for Discus and Bronze medal in Shot Put. Supporting our athletes are five professional coaches, while all athletes in the school have access to Weights, Sports Psychology and our own on site Surgery and Physiotherapy practices.

Most importantly, we are not just the best in sport, we are also leading most schools both private and public with our School Certificate and Higher School Certificate results.

Westfields Sports was my first ever school and it will be my last. I recently asked a new teacher of her opinion of the school and she replied with one word: "heaven". My sentiments exactly. This place is heaven on earth as far as education is concerned. All students and staff recognise this place as their second home and accept the fact we are all part of the Westfields Family.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future through this newsletter. Please don't hesitate to ring up and ask if you can drop in and say hello. I am more than happy to give you the Royal Tour.

*Dan Suchy  
Athletics Director*



## DUX 2004... Samantha Ennis

Sam Ennis receiving a The Australian Students Prize of \$2000 from Federal Member, Chris Bowen. Samantha was dux for the HSC class of 2004, achieving a UAI of 99.5 and the Premier's Award for distinguished achievers. Samantha also achieved first in PDHPE in the New South Wales HSC.



**WESTFIELDS  
SPORTS**  
First in Australia

Hamilton Road Fairfield West, NSW 2165  
Phone: 9604 3333 • Fax: 9725 4898  
E-mail: [info@westfieldsports.nsw.edu.au](mailto:info@westfieldsports.nsw.edu.au)  
Web: [www.westfieldsports.nsw.edu.au](http://www.westfieldsports.nsw.edu.au)

Medical Centre Phone: 9604 3122  
Gymnastics Hall Phone: 9604 3773  
Sports Stadium Phone: 9604 9361

## ALUMNI UPDATE

Register to receive the Alumni Journal, by logging on to the the school's website, then use the Alumni button. Send news, events, updates to: [alumni@westfieldsports.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@westfieldsports.nsw.edu.au)

# AlumniJournal

## Westfields Sports

Volume 1, Issue 1

## Principal's Message



Thank you for leaving a wonderful legacy upon which to build a school, which was described in 1996 by the Commonwealth Department of Education as a 'project of national significance'. The achievements of our students and staff in the areas of Academia, Performing Arts, Service and Sport are such as to make our school internationally significant. The Westfields Sports 'Family' has repeatedly demonstrated the capacity to achieve through an outstanding partnership of students, staff and parents.

Schools modelled on the successes of Westfields Sports are to be found all over Australia and the world including such countries as Denmark, England, New Zealand, Malaysia, Singapore and India.

Our school has an impressive record of success at University and TAFE and just to note 2004 saw seventy three students gain admission to Australian Universities and a further two students were awarded scholarships to American Universities, and 18 students gained a UAI of 90 or greater. Currently three graduates are at the Australian Institute of Sport while fourteen graduates are playing professional football in Europe and twelve are representing in NRL first teams.

The demand for places at our school continues to be very strong with over 1100 applications in each of the last eight years. A worrying feature of the last five years is the increasing number of parents who attempt to gain local entry for their children by using false addresses. Current student numbers are 1570 with 140 teaching, ancillary and coaching staff.

Westfields Sports is committed to our local community and it is a source of great pride to note that our piper and bugler perform at Smithfield RSL Anzac ceremonies and give the keynote addresses at the Canley Heights RSL ceremonies.

The building program is nearing completion with the Industrial Arts building currently being refurbished. 2006 will see the construction of the two-storey Social Sciences building behind the canteen block. Work will then be carried out on a two-lane entry/exit linking to Hamilton Road. It is worth the time to revisit our school and have a look at the changes. In total some \$17 million will have been spent but we are still \$70,000 short of the funds required to complete the program.

It is time to establish the Westfields Sports Alumni Association to support our journey through the 21st century. I hope that you will consider being part of this experience; there is so much more we can achieve with 'a little help from our friends.' "It will be very special to have our 'present' being assisted by our 'past' to ensure an even brighter future."

*Phil Tucker*

## 150 years at Westfields

On Wednesday June 28th at a special Year 7 assembly, Westfields students recognized the contribution of six staff members who collectively have given 150 years of service to our school.

Jim Smith 30 years, Dan Suchy 29 years  
David Russell 23 years, Marion Dumbrell 27 years,  
Alan Blevin 22 years, Joanne Kenny 20 years



## OUR WORLD CHAMPION

Dani Samuel has won a World title in Athletics. Competing at the 2005 World Youth Championships (under 18) in Marrakech Morocco, Dani won the gold medal in discus and the bronze medal in shot put. In the history of Australian Athletics no athlete has ever won more than one individual medal at a single Olympics or World Championships. Dani is now the first.

Earlier in the year Dani became the youngest ever Australian female to win the Australian Open Discus title; a history that spans three centuries. Dani was 16 when she won the Australian Open discus title in February this year and the silver medal in the shot put. A product of the Westfields Athletics Program, Dani is coached by Westfields coach Denis Knowles with strength and conditioning from Denis' son and former student Hayden Knowles.

Other Westfields athletes to recently succeed on the International stage are Fabrice Lapierre who last month won the American NCAA Track & Field Championships for Long Jump John Thornell won the Japanese Grand Prix for Long Jump Brett W, Candice M and Dani all won medals at the 2005 Youth Olympics. In 2004 Naomi Bligh and John Thornell were World Junior finalists with John winning the Bronze medal.

# WHERE ARE THEY NOW?

## NRL

Trent Cutler	Canterbury Bulldogs
Leon Bott	Brisbane Broncos
Pat Richards	West Tigers
Joven Clarke	South Sydney
Luke O'Donnell	North Qld Cowboys
Mark Minichiello	South Sydney
Corey Payne	St George Illawarra
Chris Armit	Canterbury Bulldogs
Reece Simmonds	St George Illawarra
Bryce Gibbs	Wests Tigers
Dean Halatau	Wests Tigers
Liam Fulton	Wests Tigers

## NATIONAL & INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL

A Cevenini	Geyland (Singapore)
J McMaster	Barnsley (UK) E
J Burns	Barnsley (UK) A
S Jamieson	Bolton Wanderers (UK) A
M Hardy	Olympic de Marseille (Fr)
G Edds	Milton Keynes (UK) A
T McLenahan	Milton Keynes (UK) A
J Wesolowski	Leicester City (UK) A
S Cansdell Sherriff	Aarhus (Denmark) A
H Kewell	Liverpool (UK) A
Webster	Arlington (UK) NZ
S Mitrovic	Ascoli (Italy)
J Culina	FC Twente (Neth) A
L Pogliacomi	Blackpool FC (UK) A
M Bridge	Newcastle Jets A
W Oostendorp	Sydney FC
D Carney	Sydney FC
M Beauchamp	Central Coast Mariners A
D Vukovic	Central Coast Mariners A
M Osman	Central Coast Mariners A
A Brosque	Queensland Roar A

A = Australia • E = England • NZ = New Zealand

## PROFILE OF AN EX STUDENT... JOE TRIPODI



Minister for Housing, MLA

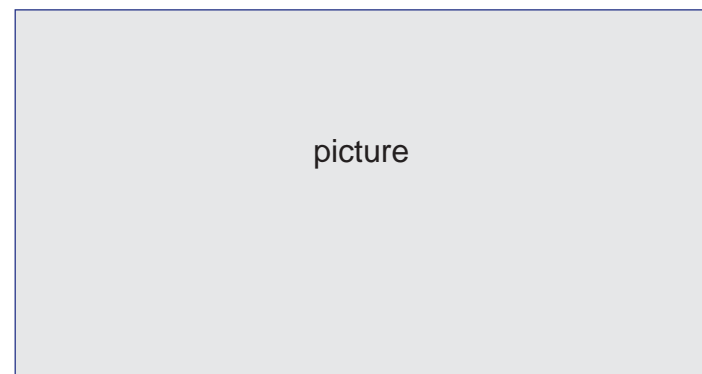
Westfields has a school motto which remains as appropriate now as it has been throughout our school's history - Fortitudo.

Fortitudo has been the essential character of the waves of immigrant kids, working class locals and aspiring sports champions that have blessed the corridors of Westfields High over its growing life.

The school motto remains central and relevant to the character of the school - Fortitudo is our cry.

# BUILDING PROGRAM

Commencing in 2003, the first stages of Westfields Sports refurbishment became a reality with the relocation of a dozen portable classrooms and the arrival of construction equipment. A new administration building and five classrooms fostered enthusiasm for the next phases of refurbishment. To date the old admin block, maths block and history/ home ec buildings have been transformed. All staff have moved into a 'super; staff room on top of the old C Block. Currently, the industrial arts block is undergoing a complete refit. Upon completion, portable classrooms will be removed and the refurbishment will be completed.



picture

## Trang Pham Class of 2004

During 2004, Trang was chosen from 350 applicants for a full time four year cadetship with one of Australia's biggest accounting firms, KPMG.

Trang returned to Westfields on 31st August 2005 to endow the school with a special scholarship.



Trang Pham (right) & Margaret Smylie (left) KPMG partner.

## International TRAVELLERS

In recent years students have:

- > Played soccer in the UK, Spain, Italy, Amsterdam, Japan, the USA
- > Played Rugby league in France
- > Played Netball in Malaysia, Indonesia, New Zealand
- > Basketball in the USA
- > Baseball in Japan
- > Played cricket in England, Scotland and New Zealand
- > Danced in the USA
- > Performed in gymnastics comps in Italy and China
- > Studied culture in Denmark and the UK

In 2005, trips are planned for the UK, New Zealand, Japan, the USA

# WESTFIELDS OLYMPIANS

- Kellie Golebiowski 2000
- Heather Garriock 2000, 2004
- Karyne Di Marco 2000
- Shane Cansdell-Sherriff 2004
- Alex Brosque 2004
- Jason Culina 2004
- Kylie Ledbrook 2004



STORY ON Richard Amery, MLA.  
WAITING ON TEXT

...Westfields dedicates itself to ensuring that kids, whatever their talents are able to realize their potential...  
Alan Jones, 2GB broadcaster

# ALUMNI REUNION

Foundation Year – 1963 Reunion October 23rd at Westfields Sports

Westfields Sports is committed to developing an Alumni Association and a regular journal. Ex students are invited to contribute news of students, events and reunions.

Email Alumni Director – Helen Wilson on [alumni@westfieldsports.nsw.edu.au](mailto:alumni@westfieldsports.nsw.edu.au)