



Rotary Club of Woden

CANBERRA COLLEGE ANNUAL AWARDS

These two awards are presented to year 12 Canberra College students selected by the teaching staff. Both are currently \$300 each and are accompanied by certificates prepared by Des Pain of our Club. The awards are intended for the purchase of books and they are currently presented at the speech night of the College. The criteria for each award have been modified slightly over the years.

The Rotary Club of Woden Stuart Garnsey Award was inaugurated in 1972. It commemorates the late Stuart Garnsey (1913-1971), who was Principal of the now-closed Woden Valley High School and a founding member of our Rotary Club in 1969. Originally it was to students at the Woden Valley High School, then the Alfred Deakin High School, followed by Phillip College and now the Canberra College. Currently it is presented to a year 12 student for service to the College community and academic achievement beyond expectations.

The Rotary Club of Woden Arthur Holder Award was inaugurated in 1976. It commemorates the late Arthur Holder (1923-1976), an Anglican Church Minister, in recognition of the close relationship Arthur shared with young people. He was a member of our Club. Originally it was to students of Phillip College and now the Canberra College. Currently it is presented to a year 12 student who has demonstrated obvious personal development during their time at the College and who has in addition made a major contribution to College life. This award encompasses citizenship, leadership and sporting achievement.

ATTACHMENTS

- 1. Background information on Stuart Garnsey**
- 2. Background information on Arthur Holder**

Attachment 1. Background information on Stuart Garnsey (1913–1971)

In the Club's weekly bulletin, *The Raven*, Volume 4, Number 7, 24 February 1971 the sudden death of Stuart Garnsey was reported (copies held in the National Library of Australia). Stuart Garnsey was not only a founding member of the Club but also a founding member of the Club's Board, being Director of Vocational Service. Further information about him can be found in the issues of the Woden Valley High School's annual magazine also called *The Raven*. (Also held in the National Library of Australia). It is believed that Stuart Garnsey influenced the naming of our weekly bulletin *The Raven* and the adoption of the Club's crest which is still used by our Club.

Additional information is below:

A short biography of Stuart Kinglake Garnsey - a founding member of the Woden Rotary Club by Alison Garnsey (daughter)

Stuart Kinglake Garnsey was born in Forbes on 18 July 1913, the eldest of 8 children. When he was about 5 years old the family moved to Albury where he completed his education at Albury High School. Obtaining a Commonwealth Scholarship, he attended Sydney University and graduated with a degree in Science in 1934.



He was an officer in the School Cadets, but his attempt to enlist in the Defence Forces at the outbreak of World War II was rejected as Science teachers were required at home.

He commenced his teaching career at Homebush, then moved to Katoomba where he met and married his wife, Marion Baillie. Both daughters, Ruth and Alison, were born in Katoomba. The family moved to Orange and then, having been promoted to Science Master Stuart and family moved to Lithgow. A further promotion as Deputy Principal took him to Narrandera and from there he moved to Broken Hill as Principal of Broken Hill High School (at that time the largest Government school in NSW). A move to Goulburn High School followed in 1964 and finally in 1968 he moved to Canberra to open the Woden Valley High School. He was a born teacher and liked nothing more than to get "back into the classroom" whenever he had the

opportunity and whenever his administrative duties allowed him. His plan was to retire early and take up tutoring. However, he never realised that dream due to his sudden and untimely death in February 1971 at the age of 57. He was loved and respected by his students and the teachers who served under him, a fact which was evidenced by the flood of tributes which the family received on his death.

He was a man of great faith, being an elder, lay preacher and youth leader in the Presbyterian Church for many years and he carried his Christian principles into all aspects of his life, whether it be at school, at home or his involvement in the community, or sports.

He was an active sportsman, playing Rugby (in his youth) and tennis and, in his latter years, lawn bowls. However his passion was cricket both as a player and spectator, a passion which he was never able to pass on to his daughters and which, I suspect, was a great disappointment to him.

However, he did instill in his daughters a love of theatre and music. He had a fine baritone voice, and was involved with many choirs and theatre groups throughout his life. He had a keen sense of humour and his distinctive laugh could often be heard in the school corridors.

During his lifetime he maintained a keen interest and involvement in community activities and organisations such as Scouts, the Flying Doctor and School of the Air, and of course, Rotary, to name just a few. In his early days at University, he worked briefly with John Flynn's Australian Inland Mission, an organisation very close to his heart and one which he supported all his adult life.

Lastly, and most importantly, he was a great family man and was loved not only by his own family but by his extended family of siblings and many nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts and uncles.

Attachment 2. Background information on Arthur Holder (1923–1976)

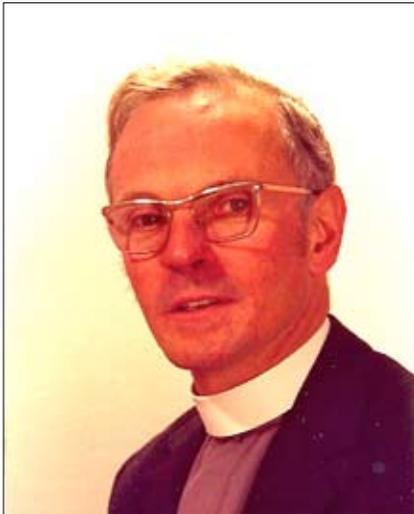
In the Club's weekly bulletin, *The Raven*, in July 1976 President Jim Grainger, announced with sadness the sudden death of Arthur Holder, a member of the Club. Jim had just commenced his term as President for the 1976/77 Rotary year. In his report at the end of his Rotary year in June 1977 President Jim reported that "The Club has established the Arthur Holder Award at Phillip College in recognition of the close relationship Arthur shared with young people." The award was set up for "citizenship" and was to be presented annually.

In the *The Raven* for 15 January 1977 it was reported that the first recipient was Ruth Elvin and the award was books selected by the awardee.

Additional information is below:

A short biography of Arthur William Holder - a member of the Woden Rotary Club by Beryl Holder (wife)

Arthur William Holder was born on 2 March 1923 in the south-east London suburb of Brockley. After leaving school he worked for the Telecommunications Authority. When he was called up for service in the 2nd World War, he went into the Royal Corp of Signals and served in the Middle East, Italy and Greece. When the war ended he went back to his work in telecommunications.



However whilst in the army, he had been much in touch with the Army Chaplain and as a result of this he decided to become a priest in the Anglican Church. He studied Theology in London University and was made a Deacon in 1952 and was Priested in 1953. He married Beryl Finke in September 1953 and they had three children - Margaret, Richard and John.

In 1974 he was invited to become a minister in Canberra, Australia and arrived in January 1975 at the Parish of the Good Shepherd, Curtin in the Woden Valley.

Arthur Holder had a considerable impact on the community in the valley. He had a wonderful ministry with children and teenagers. Often in the evening service at Good Shepherd, if there was a group of young people who were new to the congregation, he would make contact with them in a special way. He introduced having Religious Education in local schools and many other parishes adopted this. He also had contact with community organisations and he became a member of the Rotary Club of Canberra-Woden (now known as the Rotary Club of Woden). Most people found Arthur easy to get on with. He was bright and cheery, but sensitive to the opinion of others.

In July 1976, Arthur died suddenly from a coronary occlusion, which left a gap in various activities in the Woden area and in the Diocese of Canberra and Goulburn.

There were three memorial services: for his family; for the Diocese; and for his contacts in the community. Arthur William Holder's remains were cremated and his ashes returned to England to be buried in the grave of his Mother's family in the town of Ottery St. Mary, Devonshire.