

# JUST A COUNTRY BOY AT HEART

A foundation student in 1972, Michael Rennie (77) was Head Boy in 1976 before travelling to Switzerland on student exchange. Returning in 1977, he was School Dux and recognised on our Honour Board for his exemplary academic record and as an outstanding ambassador for our School community, state and nation. Michael received a Subject Exhibition in German, studied Law and Economics at UWA and was awarded a Rhodes scholarship to undertake a Masters degree in Arts at Oxford University.

High achievement is, however, only one facet of this remarkable former student. Surviving cancer in his early 30s was an experience that strongly influenced Michael's direction in life. His journey as a terminal cancer patient, his reconnection with his heart and soul, and his miraculous conscious healing process are integral to his story.

Now, after many years in Global Consultancy, helping CEOs of some of the world's biggest companies face challenges and crises, Michael is back in Australia as the Managing Partner of McKinsey and Company, Australia and New Zealand. Michael is at the leading edge of McKinsey's management innovation and the global leader of their Organisation Behaviour practice. Known for founding radical approaches to organisation performance by integrating openness, emotional honesty and meaningfulness into traditional business culture, Michael is said to clearly demonstrate the difference that one person can make in a 10,000 person organisation.

Michael is an extraordinarily busy man who believes that it is important to find a way to help others as a part of every day. He works this into his busy schedule by setting aside 10% of his time to giving back. He blocks that time out in his diary and in that time he gives the normal 100% commitment that he gives to all other aspects of his life.

Recently Michael returned for our School's 40th Anniversary celebrations. In addressing the Founders' Dinner he recalled fond memories of his time as a student and lavished great praise on our School.

*'In my life I have been fortunate enough to study and work alongside some of the world's best educated people and I am convinced that the education that I had here at the Grammar School was as good if not better than anyone has experienced. In those early days the School may have had little money and we may not have had grand facilities but a great education is not actually about those things. It is about the quality and care of the teachers and the School family.'*

Michael says, 'My life is good and work is fun. I may hobnob with CEOs and polities but I am really a family man and a country boy at heart. And I to love keep in touch with friends from my school days. It is now 40 years since we all lined up along that brick wall for the arrival of the governor - amazing to think how time has flown!'

**Mrs Margaret Paterson :: Archivist**

