Lessons from a Greek Shepherd
At last Wednesday’s Years 7 to 12 Assembly I introduced to the students a small but important sample of the thoughts of three Greek philosophers.

Along with his mentor Socrates and his student Aristotle, Plato significantly helped lay the foundations of Western philosophy, science and thinking and their methodologies and philosophical positions still ring true today.

For example, Plato tells the story of a shepherd in Ancient Greece. One day there was a violent storm and the earth split open at the place where the shepherd was feeding his sheep. Amazed at the sight he descended into the opening where he found a golden ring. He took the ring with him as he journeyed to his usual meeting with fellow shepherds to discuss the monthly report they would send to the King.

Absent-mindedly the shepherd was twisting the ring on his finger as he sat listening to his fellow shepherds and, to his surprise, he noted they were talking about him and criticising him even though they knew he was there. He realised with a shock that he had become invisible! He made several trials of the ring, and always with the same result — when he turned the ring he became invisible. Being an ambitious man the shepherd turned the ring to his advantage and power and used his ability to become invisible to enter the palace, win favours of the Queen, kill the King and take control of the Kingdom.

Imagine if you possessed such a ring. You could come and go as you pleased, at home and at school. You could go to the shops, the cinema, and even other people’s houses, without being seen! You could listen to conversations.

Plato would put it that such power raises interesting ethical questions. Would you use the ring for good or bad? Do you behave well only if you know someone else is watching or because you are scared of being caught out? Are there some things you would do even if you knew they were not right? Do you do the right thing because you are frightened of being punished? Do you do the right thing because it makes you feel good? Some people believe the internet is like a modern golden ring, allowing us to do things we would never do if we could be found out.

We call our knowledge of right and wrong our conscience, the part of us that guides our decisions and behaviour. It is our conscience that tells us the right things to do. It is our conscience that hurts when we choose to do the wrong thing and feel guilty. The test of our conscience is how we would behave if we thought we could never be found out. How do we decide what is right or wrong? Here are some questions for you:

- Am I breaking a rule?
- What does my conscience tell me?
- Will anyone be hurt if I do this?
- Would I like someone to do this to me?
- Is it fair to everyone?
- What would my parents tell me to do?
- Will I feel proud of my decision?
- Am I happy to put my name to this?
- Could I tell someone I respect what I have done?
- Would I like to see it on the front page of the newspaper?

Like Socrates, Aristotle and Plato and like many right-minded and fair-minded persons I believe those who choose a pathway of wrong end up the unhappy ones. I would argue that the life lived seeking to do right and to live a virtuous life is best because doing wrong harms more than simply the victims of wrong. It hurts the wrongdoer too.

Especially I would urge all students not to grow weary of doing the right thing because, in the end, you will be happier. A good conscience brings you self respect and peace of mind.

And so the lesson from our Greek shepherd is that invisibility and anonymity cannot hide you from yourself. Even when no-one knows what you have done, you will have to answer to your own conscience. So, if you make the sum of your daily habits a series of good acts then you are defining the character you are and the character by which others will know you.

Warwick Dean
Headmaster
Parenting
The Hutchins School in collaboration with Parent’s Wisdom www.parentswisdom.com.au wish to find out what you think about parenting.

The School’s Strategic Plan has a strategy to enhance communication with our parent community. Research strongly backs this strategy with evidence telling us that with enhanced communication and links with our parents comes better outcomes for students.

We would like to ask you to participate in this very quick survey (it will take you 10 minutes to complete). Click on this link http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/S6VHKSX to get started and assist us to make informed decisions about how we are able to best facilitate families in our community by identifying areas of interest and need.

On completing the survey you can also enter our competition to win a meal at beautiful Peppermint Bay, Woodbridge. The information will give the School a better understanding of what our parents want and we can deliver better targeted information.

Warwick Dean
Headmaster

Communication, Contact Details and Family Information Update
Please assist us to achieve good communication practices by ensuring you supply to the School as soon as possible:

1. Your family’s contact details
2. Medical history and important additional personal information we may need to know about your son(s).

Please send your current email address to Rachel.Lucas@hutchins.tas.edu.au to facilitate this process and, if you use a business address, would you also include a home address so our messages reach your family as well. A quantity of hard copies will be available at Senior School Reception.

Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment
On the weekend of 17 and 18 April, Liam Palmer and Jacob Harris attended the Rotary Youth Program of Enrichment (RYPEN) held at Roches Beach.

The theme of the weekend seminar was “The Future Is In Your Hands”. The program included team building, goal setting, personal and leadership development and listening to and interacting with various facilitators. Mr Andrew Gray, Coordinator of RYPEN, wrote to the School commending the boys on their participation. “Jacob and Liam were a credit to their families, school and more importantly themselves”.

Congratulations Liam and Jacob on being fantastic ambassadors for Hutchins, but as Mr Gray writes being a credit for yourselves. This certainly endorses the words of the Headmaster from assembly,” How are you prepared to conduct yourself in a way that maintains your own credibility?” Both boys can certainly be proud for themselves.

National Youth Science Forum, January 2011
Eighteen places for Tasmanian students are on offer again for the January 2011 Forums. Year 11 students interested in Science should seriously consider applying for positions at next year’s forums in Canberra and Perth. There will be opportunities for students to learn first hand what university life is like and to meet like-minded individuals from all over Australia. Canberra and Perth both offer world class opportunities in Science and Engineering.

Further information is available on the NYSF website and as in past years Rotary clubs continue to sponsor students and assist them with fundraising activities to cover the $2240 registration fee. Applications by students must be made online at www.nysf.edu.au. The closing date is 30 May 2010. Students are then allocated a Rotary Club for interviewing, followed by the Tasmanian District selecting eighteen candidates.

Peter Crofts
Head of Science
Absence Contact Methods

Parents/Carers of Senior School students are requested to make use of the following three methods to submit absence notification:

**Telephone:**
6221 4200 (you are able to leave a voice message should your call be outside of office hours or if the operators are busy) Please **do not call** absentee messages to your son’s Head of House or Mentor’s direct numbers.

**Email:**
Please **only** use this email address absentees@hutchins.tas.edu.au to reach all appropriate staff. Please **do not email** absentee messages to your son’s Head of House or Mentor.

**SMS:**
0428 620 861. You **cannot call** this number – it will **only** receive SMS messages.

**Please Note:**
Absence notification must be submitted to the School **before 9.30 am**.

**As a reminder:**
When a student arrives late, he **must** swipe his card at the auto-sign-in machine or see Mrs Els (this will prevent you receiving unnecessary SMS messages).

To assist us in providing you with a better service, your cooperation and support are greatly appreciated.

Thank you.

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The Lyric Singers will celebrate its 40th Anniversary at its annual soiree on Saturday 8th May in The Hutchins School auditorium at 7.30pm.

The choir is under the direction of Robin Short and the accompanist is Elizabeth Rockcliffe.

Guest artists include the highly acclaimed barbershop quartet “Close Shave” led by Tim Begbie and featuring past Hutchins student Andrew Carolan; soprano Allison Farrow and flautist Rosemary Holloway.

The evening will be compered by ABC personality Peter Gee.

A gourmet supper and refreshments will be provided together with birthday cake.

Door sales available or call 62278949 or 62278123

Ticket prices are Adults $15, Concession $12 and Children $5
Magenta & Black Show

Thank you to all parents, grandparents, boys, staff members and friends of Hutchins who visited the recent MAGENTA & BLACK SHOW at the Long Gallery.

You were not alone in your attendance, the exhibition had over 1000 visitors in the six days it ran (plus the Gala Opening).

This is a very encouraging response by the School community, interested members of the general public and tourists visiting Salamanca Place. Many interstate visitors were amazed by the quality of work on display. Such people left Tasmania with an abiding memory of a school, in most cases, previously unknown to them. There is no doubt that the Magenta & Black Show has special impact promoting Hutchins as an independent boys’ school where cultural pursuits are valued as vital components of a rounded education.

The Winner of the $50 Road Runners People’s Choice Award is Jeremy Yung (33 votes).

‘Drawing with Words’ was the most popular exercise (27 votes).

Toby Martin’s untitled painting came third with 18 votes.

John Ancher
Hutchins Art Curator
The Australian Institute of Advanced Motorists is offering a “DriveSmart!” SafeDriver course during the upcoming holidays. The course is aimed at Year 11 and 12 students. The aim of the course is the emphasis on defensive driving, hazard management, risk reduction as well as how to cope with adverse driving conditions. The two day program will take place on Monday 7 June and Tuesday 8 June from 10.00am to 4.00pm each day. There are no tests to pass and the instructors will spend an hour in your car giving you personalised instruction on how to stay safe, drive defensively and become a better driver. This is an excellent opportunity for boys to enhance their driving skills and become safer on the roads.

Cost: $60 Provisional driver or concessions

Venue: Adult education Centre, 213 Cambridge Rd, Warrane

Contact: Jim Nicholson – Ph 6272 9610 or email: aiam_tas@ozemail.com.au

Please contact Mr Warlters if you have any other questions.

Duncan Warlters
Head of Senior School

Foundation Awards 2010

The Hutchins Foundation is pleased to announce the recipients of the 2010 “Follow Your Dreams” award for students. Congratulations go to Anton Roberts (music), Macaulay Hagan (language), Jeremy Yang (music), Harry Nichols (cricket), Tom Dobie (singing), Frank Burridge (rowing), Alex Hay (water polo), Alex Shea (audio design) and Govinda Roser-Finch (singing).

These awards provide a cash prize to assist the students to pursue an interest (not necessarily related to school activities). The Foundation looks in particular for projects where the student has been able to demonstrate a level of passion and commitment.

Magenta and Black Advertising

There is some space available in the next issue of Magenta and Black for advertising – either a business card size advert or a “bottom of page” strip. M&B is circulated to some 6000 families (current parents, grandparents, staff, old boys) and will be published in early July. This is a great way to advertise your business and support the School. Contact Tony Smithies on 03 6221 4206 or email tony.smithies@hutchins.com.au before 17 May for more information.
School Calendar

Fri 7  9.00 am    ELC / JS Mothers’ Day Stall    ELC
       7.00 pm    Mothers’ Dinner    BH
               Communiqué issued
Sat 8  10.00 am  Yrs 11/12 Drama Rehearsal    DS
       10.00 am  Yrs 11/12 Drama Rehearsal    DS

Week Thirteen
May
Mon 10  2.30 pm    Yrs 7/8 Science Morning with Collegiate
              JS Chapel    Chapel
              (FAH F/T Conf)    FAH
Tue 11  2.00 pm    Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9 NAPLAN Language
              ELC Chapel    Chapel
               Conventions & Writing
Wed 12  1.05 pm    Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9 NAPLAN Reading
              SS Assembly    BTR
              1.15 pm    Yrs 11/12 Mentor meeting with HoH
              1.45 pm    MS Academic Extension Afternoon
              7.30 pm    Yrs 11/12 Play    DS
              7.30 pm    Parents’ Association    BR
Thu 13  1.20 pm    Yrs 3, 5, 7 & 9 NAPLAN Numeracy
              MS Assembly    AUD
              7.30 pm    Yrs 11/12 Play    DS
Fri 14  12.45 pm  NAPLAN Catch-up Day (if required)
              MS Ham & Jam TBC    MQ
              7.30 pm    Yrs 11/12 Play    DS

Week Fourteen
May
Mon 17  2.30 pm    Gumley Calculations commence
              JS Chapel    Chapel
              Deadline for M&B articles & photos
Tue 18  8.45 am    ICAS Computer Skills competition
              Music Rehearsals    AUD
              2.00 pm    ELC Chapel    Chapel
              5.30 pm    HUT Foundation AGM    CC & BR
              7.00 pm    Ensemble Showcase    AUD
Wed 19  7.30 pm    MS/SS House Cross-Country    RPA
              2.30 pm    JS Assembly    AUD
              (FAH Cross Country P 3&4) TBC    FAH
Thu 20  7.30 pm    MS House Drama Comp    AUD
              (COL F/T Conf)    COL
Fri 21  11.40 am  Last Day Term 1
              Yr 7 End of Term Assembly    AUD
              Yr 8 End of Term Assembly    AUD
              SS Student-Led Assemblies    AUD
              2.45 pm    MS End of Term Chapel    Chapel
              Communiqué issued

Parenting Boys For Success At School
Joseph Driessen will be holding the above seminar at:

New Town High School
Midwood Street
NEW TOWN TAS

Time: 7.30—9.30 pm
Entry price: $15.00 per person
(Door Sales Only)
To reserve a seat please email
eaparents@xtra.co.nz
(Please write name of city in subject line)

School Shop Hours
The School shop will close for the holidays on 21 May at 4.00pm.

We will be open on Friday 11 June from 10.00am 3.00pm.

Closed Monday 14 June (Queen’s birthday holiday) but we will open Tuesday 15 June from 8.30am 3.00pm