Gallery of Achievement Inductees 2012
James Kenneth (Ken) Atock, VX-5403 of the 2/7th Infantry Battalion, 6th Division AIF was awarded with “Mentioned-in-Despatches” approved by King George VI in recognition of his gallant and distinguished service in the field during the Second World War.

Ken was the first CGS student to enlist for service in WWII aged only 18 years. He registered on the first day the newly formed 2nd AIF was established at Puckapunyal. Ken's academic ability was quickly recognised by the Army and he was assigned to the intelligence section of the 2/7th Battalion. He performed intelligence activities and training in Egypt and Palestine and then went on to fight in active service in Libya, mainland Greece and Crete.

Ken was taken as a prisoner-of-war during the chaotic evacuation of the allied forces from Crete. During his incarceration in the POW camp, he secretly compiled intelligence information on the enemy. His notes recorded the military tactics, arms used, numbers of aircraft and troop movements in minute detail - everything of military value about the enemies’ invasion of Crete. Ken knew it was important to get this information to the AIF high command in Alexandria. He attempted to escape from the POW camp but was killed by machine gun fire on the fence wire by prison guards.

At CGS in Form V in 1936, aged 15, Ken designed, built and launched an experimental rocket at Fisherman’s Bend for the purpose of transporting mail. Ken’s achievements in rocketry were reported around Australia and recorded in the Crome collection of the National Library of Australia as the “Rarest of all Australian Rocket Firings”. The Australian War Memorial in Canberra has preserved Ken’s rockets as important historical and war related artefacts. The “Kenneth Atock Memorial Scholarship” was established in 1976, by bequest, to support CGS students’ academic performance in scientific education with the emphasis on space and rocketry.

Charles Barber completed a Bachelor of Mining Engineering at the University of Melbourne. While at University in 1910, he joined the Melbourne University Rifles and reached the rank of 2nd Lieutenant.

When WWI started, Charles was working in Broken Hill as a mining engineer where he enlisted on 29 August 1914 and was commissioned as a 2nd Lieutenant in the 3rd Field Company Engineers of the AIF. On 22 September 1914 he embarked from Melbourne for Alexandria with the 3rd Field Company. He trained in Mesopotamia and his company built and maintained a pontoon bridge over the Suez Canal until embarking for Gallipoli from Alexandria on 5 April 1915.

Charles arrived at Anzac Cove about 10.30am on 25 April 1915, about five hours after the first troops landed to attack Turkish positions. On 27 July 1915 he transferred to 4th Field Company Engineers and was promoted to Captain. By 12 September 1915 he was leading the 4th Field Company at Lone Pine.

On 29 January 1916 he was awarded the Military Cross.

At the outbreak of WWII Charles was involved with the training of the 4th Infantry Brigade and in 1941 was promoted to Brigadier and later served in Papua New Guinea.

Phillip entered the Royal Military College, Duntroon on scholarship in 1977, completing a Science degree. He graduated in 1981 into the Royal Australian Armoured Corps.

Phillip served as a troop leader in both the 2nd Cavalry Regiment and 1st Armoured Regiment before being promoted to Captain. He was a Tank Squadron Second-in-Command, Regimental Technical Adjutant and Regimental Liaison Officer at 1st Armoured Regiment before transferring to the Army Reserve in 1987 whereupon he remained at the Regiment as a Squadron Second-in-Command.

On promotion to Major in 1990, Phillip served as an Officer Commanding in 4th/19th Prince of Wales’s Light Horse. This was followed by time at 3rd Reserve Command and Staff College both as a student on the Intermediate Staff Course, for which he was awarded a Blamey Award, and as a tactics instructor on Junior and Intermediate Staff Courses. He then was posted to Headquarters 4th Brigade. On relocating to Sydney for work in early 1996 he was posted to Headquarters 5th Brigade.

On promotion to Lieutenant-Colonel in 1998, Phillip had the honour of Commanding 1st/15th Royal New South Wales Lancers, a Reserve reconnaissance regiment, for three years. After two years at Land Headquarters as the Projects Staff Officer in Training Branch, he moved to Army Personnel Agency - Sydney (APA-S) as Staff Officer Grade One Officer Career Management. In 2004, Phillip was promoted to Colonel and served as Colonel Projects Land Headquarters before taking up the posting of Director APA-S in 2005. In 2006 he participated in the Senior Officer Development Program travelling to England and Israel to study complex military operations.
Ronald Parker was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia in 2012 for services to the community through a range of volunteer roles. His voluntary work spans over 47 years within a wide range of organisations. He served as a volunteer counsellor and support worker in the Emergency Department of the Austin Hospital for 12 years, has been a Guide and Education Officer at the Victorian Supreme Court for 10 years; has been a Zone Leader for Neighbourhood Watch for 25 years, and has guided tours at the MCG for 10 years.

His other roles have included Committee memberships, and Executive roles in Lord Somers Camp, Royal Flying Doctor Service, Collingwood Cricket Club, World Ship Society and the Maritime Heritage Association.

In 2012 Michael Letch was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia for services to people with a disability through the Disabled Divers Association, an association which he founded in 2007 and of which he is still President. He was awarded a Churchill Fellowship in 2006 to study programs in Europe and the USA that had successfully trained people with disabilities to snorkel and scuba dive.

As well as his work Michael has been active on a range of committees and councils including the Sports Federation Council, the Disability Action Centre; and the Ministerial Advisory Committee on Sexuality and Disability Policy.

He has worked as a Consultant and Case Manager with Acquired Brain and Spinal Injury as Co-ordinator of the Major Accident Division of the TAC, and as Director of Wheelchair Sports Victoria.

Michael has represented Australia in road races and marathons in his custom-made wheelchair in competitions in Europe, USA and Japan. He is a three time winner of the Melbourne Marathon. He is currently a scuba diving instructor and Marine Environmentalist – Australia’s first paraplegic dive professional.

In 2011 Peter was awarded the Newcombe Medal for Coaching Excellence from Tennis Australia. In the same year he was named Victorian Club Coach of the year by Tennis Victoria and the Tennis Coaches Association of Victoria.

These awards complement Peter’s history of excellence in tennis coaching, and his commitment to encouraging participation in sport by young people. Peter has also contributed to the development of tennis in Australia, through his participation on the Boards of the TCAV and the Tennis Australia National Coach Advisory Group.

In 2007 Phillip was promoted to Brigadier and posted to Headquarters Training Command – Army as Brigadier Projects. There followed the personally most rewarding posting of his career to date, being command of the 8th Brigade for three years from 2009 to 2011. The Brigade consists of seven Army Reserve units and operates in the northern half of NSW from Northern and North – Western Sydney to the NSW – Queensland Border. Whilst there were many highlights, he is most proud of the operational focus of the Brigade which culminated in the operational generation of Timor Leste Task Group 3.

For his service as Commander 8th Brigade, Phillip was made a Member of the Order of Australia in the Australia Day 2012 Honours List.

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As a player Peter has enjoyed State, National and International success including a Gold Medal at the 2002 World Masters Tournament and being named Victorian Tennis Series Pennant Player of the Year in 2004.

Mr Michael D LETCH OAM (1967)

Mr Kenneth Jacob LYONS OAM (1942)

Mr Ronald John PARKER OAM (1939)
Stewart Thomson began kayaking at school when he became involved in the Murray River Marathon. His school days’ success encouraged him to continue with the sport and he has built on that success in recent years. Australian canoeing is strong and competitive and Stewart has continued to excel in his chosen sport.

In 2004 he was selected to represent Australia in the Junior Men K1 Marathon team in Portugal, and followed this with selection for the World Cup Championships in France in the K1 event, and the K2 event in Norway. In 2005 he again represented Australia in the World Championships in Perth in the K2 event.

Alan Wilson started Austral Hardware in 1961, managing and growing the business until 1970. It was during this decade Alan learnt his trading and management skills. On the strength of this experience he was appointed to the Board of Directors of H J Reece (Holdings) Limited in 1969. At that time Reece was a small ASX listed hardware and plumbing supply merchant with an outlet in Caulfield and Clayton.

From 1970 until 1974 Alan was General Manager of the company, and was Managing Director from 1974 until 2008. In this role Alan oversaw the expansion and development of the company, which now operates as Reece Australia Limited and is the largest plumbing supplier to the trade and retail in Australia, having over 450 outlets and operating in all Australian States and New Zealand.

Throughout the 70s and 80s Alan contributed to his industry as a member of the Executive Committee of the PBMA (Plumbers Builders Merchants Association) and as President in 1977-1978.

In 2001 Alan was appointed Executive Chairman of Reece Australia Limited - now regarded as one of Australia’s highest performing companies which has been consistently listed in the ASX top 100 in recent years.

The Wilson family took a controlling interest in H J Reece (Holdings) Limited in 1969. At that time the company was a small ASX listed hardware and plumbing supply merchant with an outlet in Caulfield and Clayton.

After completing a Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Melbourne, Bruce joined the family business in the areas of finance and administration, leading to roles of Company Secretary and Finance Director.

The holding company now operates as Reece Australia Ltd and is the largest plumbing supplier to the trade and retail in Australia, having 440 outlets and operating in all Australian States and New Zealand.

Reece Australia Ltd is now regarded as one of Australia’s highest performing companies and has been consistently listed in the ASX top 100 in recent years.