**Year 7-11 Presentation Evening 1994 – an ocean liner theme**

**Terry O’Brien**

**The ‘Good Ship Penshurst’**

Tonight we celebrate achievement for Year 7 to 11 in academic and sporting achievement, as well as service to the school. I am proud of all the students who are award winners tonight. In some schools it is not trendy to do your school work, but at this school this is not the case – students in this school are not ashamed of being seen to achieve.

Our school is like an ocean liner, such as you might see moored at Circular Quay. The Principal is the Captain of the ship and the teachers are the crew. The classrooms are the cabins and the students are the passengers. This ocean liner never ends it voyage. It continues the journey year after year, stopping annually to pick up new passengers and let some off, but the ship always continues on its educational journey – on and on and on. The trip for any individual passenger takes six years. Some of you here tonight have completed your first year on board. Others have only one year left to go before you walk the gangplank, otherwise known as the HSC, to the shore.

I would like to describe some of the ports of call that the Good Ship Penshurst has made this year.

Firstly we had some fitting out because the good ship Penshurst is a particularly fine ship, not as big as some, but a very friendly ship with a caring and well trained professional crew, and it has ever improving facilities.

*(List of refurbishments for that year)*

Passengers on our ship our girls. Everything we do focuses on their needs and what is best for them as learners and also as people.

*(List of initiatives for the year)*

Our local community is always welcome on board and some are represented here tonight.

*(Names of special guests*).

The parents are on board too, not sitting on a deck chair but in the bridge, helping the captain navigate and to steer the course of the ship.

*(Thank you to P&C, School Council)*

Many other exciting educational, cultural, sporting and social happenings took place on board this year. And this is indeed due to the fine crew. The crew of the Good Ship Penshurst has been working hard all year at their main jobs (teaching and learning) to give the passengers, our students, lots of luggage to take off with them when they go. This luggage is the knowledge and skills that you will need, not just for examinations but also for life, and it includes values, attitudes, ways of doing, ways of thinking, ways of negotiating and a belief that as young Australians you can do anything, you do not need to accept second-best, the future is yours. So I thank our wonderful and hardworking crew very much.

I wish to knowledge in front of everyone here tonight, two other sailors who support me and the ship all the time. One is onshore and the other is on board. On board there is our most wonderful navigator and Deputy Principal (name), and on shore we have the Manager of the Fleet and Director of Schools (name). Thank you to both of you.

This ship, the Good Ship Penshurst, is a very, very good ship. We are all glad to be on board. Long may she sail.

**Contributor details**

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Terry was Principal at Penshurst Girls High School then Oatley Senior Campus of Georges River College, as well as Policy Leader for the Digital Education Revolution one-to-one laptop program. ​ Since retiring, she and two other colleagues formed SPICE Educational Evaluations working directly with principals. She also volunteers teaching English as a second language in her local community.