



DR JOHN SKINNER

Class of 1952

Dr John Skinner, PhD, BSc (Hons) was a senior Australian government official and one-time Ambassador to Algeria.

John attended Sydney Technical High School from 1948 to 1952, where he was School Captain and Turner Prizeman in 1952. Additionally, John was the Wykeham Prizeman of 1950, a member of the first grade Cricket and the first grade Rugby Union teams (three years each) and a member of the CHS Swimming and Athletics squads. In 1950 he was selected as vice-captain of the NSW Schoolboys Cricket side.

Dr Skinner attended the University of NSW, graduating in science (with honours) then worked there as a teaching fellow, before completing his PhD. He then went on to do further study in England and Belgium.

In 1964 he joined the Australian Trade Commission and served as Australian Trade Commissioner at The Hague (1964-1966), Rome, and Paris (1967-1972), before travelling the world and eventually taking up a similar post in San Francisco (1973-1974).

He was then appointed to the Australian Embassy in Beijing, as Senior Trade Commissioner (1975-1978), followed by a comparable position in the Australian Embassy in Manilla. Then followed his most prestigious appointments, as Deputy Consul-General at the Australian Consulate in Houston, Texas, USA, and Australian Ambassador to Algeria (1987-1989).

Taken from 1985 School Journal.