# Anthony Edwin Melville

**28th April 1929 – 3rd February 2024**

Tony Melville was born on 28th April 1929 in Adelaide. He had one older brother. When he was two years old, the family moved back to Sydney. He read both History and English at Sydney University and was awarded the English medal and a first-class degree. He then taught for two terms at the Junior School of Geelong Grammar School before going to King’s College, Cambridge in October 1950 where he read an undergraduate degree, gaining a starred first. He then continued there for a year’s research. In September 1953 he joined the staff of Haileybury to teach A level History and the scholarship level. At Haileybury he impressed everyone with his excoriating wit and humour. While he was no avid games player, he did enjoy the occasional game of tennis and round of bridge. Outside academic pursuits, he caught the eye of the then headmaster (William Stewart)’s secretary, Pauline Simpson. They married and had 2 children, Elizabeth, now in Australia, and Alice, a doctor. He became housemaster of Colvin in 1962, living in Clock House. When living at Southfield Pauline Melville was secretary to both Masters Christopher Smith and Bill Stewart.

In 1969 he was appointed to the headmastership of The Perse in Cambridge, retiring in 1987, whereupon he was succeeded by fellow Haileybury master, Dr Martin Stephen. He lived on in retirement in Cambridge until February 2024, dying peacefully at the fine age of 94.

Richard and Rachel Rhodes-James attended the Melvilles’ wedding in North Norfolk in 1967. RR-J described it as the coldest and briefest service he had ever attended. Jonathan Harvey was best man. The reception was in Holkam. They lived together in the upper part of Clock House when the lower part was initially occupied by the Bartle Frere housemaster, before expanding into the whole house. His headmastership was revealed to Haileybury Staff with 2 others at a drinks party in Dan Hearn’s flat in Red House: Tony to the Perse, Peter Harris to St Lawrence, Ramsgate and John Cook (Head of Science) to Christ College, Brecon.

D H Smith (Former Staff 1957-93, HM Edmonstone, Head of Classics)

with comments from Pauline Melville and Rachel Rhodes-James