

Conclusions and further research

Despite its recent neglect, power structure research and the study of elites remain important and valid areas of academic research. Two recently developed pieces of software – *CleanUp* and *VNABuilder* - considerably expand the scope for power structure research through automating the extraction of information and the building of social network data from large databases. Preliminary analysis of the directors networks of the largest 10,000 companies in Australia, the club networks of the 33,000 persons listed in *Who's Who in Australia* and *Who's Who in Australian Business*, and an examination of the patterns of school attendance of Federal parliamentarians demonstrate the technical viability and analytical value of both these new techniques and the general approach of power structure research.

The next stages in this research project will involve: (i) detailed profiling/background research on the schooling, career paths and club memberships of a range of elites, including: federal and selected state parliamentarians, political party officials and executives, corporate directors, directors of think tanks, directors of business associations, members of government advisory committees, leading public servants, ministerial advisors, boards of lobby groups, executives of trade unions and the governing bodies of non-government organisations; (ii) network analysis of the interaction of the company directors network with the network of directors of think tanks, directors of private schools, directors of business associations, government advisory committees and also owners and providers of capital (iii) an analysis of party funding data to the major parties (iv) the targeted use of both primary sources (such as interviews) and secondary sources to develop a more complete understanding of the operations those networks and institutions which are identified as of critical importance by the network analysis and/or the profiling/background research.

Appendix: A Classification System for Australian Schools

For the purposes of this study a classification system for Australian Schools was developed. Note that some of the categories overlap. The purpose of this classification system is to be able to define clear demarcations within the three traditional statistical categories of schools (State, Catholic and Independent/Private), and in doing so capture many of the important hierarchies in the Australian schooling system. In particular, this system is designed to be able to isolate:

- state school students who attended the top state (generally selective state) schools, which have, in many Australian states, provided a substantial proportion of elites (see Peel and McCalman 1992).
- Catholic school students who attended Catholic congregational schools. In terms of class and socio-economic background of students, many of these congregational schools (also called Catholic independent or Catholic private schools) have demographic profile which is closer to that of the top protestant private schools than the Catholic systemic schools.
- independent school students who attended the most exclusive independent schools (which generally have higher fees and more exclusive selection criteria) from the growing number of lower-fee independent schools which cater to students from a broader range of socio-economic and class backgrounds.

The author has compiled a list of virtually all secondary school in Australia (approximately 3000 schools) and has classified them according to this system.

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1. **State/government:** All government owned high schools, including selective and other special schools. Approximately 60-65 percent of all students in Australia attended government schools (this figure includes state primary enrolments, which are higher with respect to non-government schools than secondary school enrolments) (Burke and Spaul, 2002; Ryan and Watson 2004).

A further two sub categories of state schools are:

- **Top state boys high schools:** To account for the importance of a selective schools in particular states, and also the prominent recruitment of a section of the elites in all states from the top state high schools a selection of top state boys and to state girls schools was chosen. The top state boys schools were chosen from the list of most prominent government schools from each state and the ACT in Peel and McCalman's lists of graduates in *Who Went Where in Who's Who 1988* (1992). The top state boys list included 2 schools from Victoria, 3 from NSW (to take account of the important role of state selective schools in NSW. See Peel and McCalman (1992:

12-23), 2 from SA, 1 from Queensland, 1 from Tasmania, 1 from WA, 1 from the ACT.¹⁰

- **Top state girls high schools:** These were selected from Peel and McCalman (1992) and included: 2 schools from Victoria, 3 from NSW, 2 from WA, 1 from South Australia, 1 from Queensland, 1 from Tasmania and 1 from the ACT.¹¹
2. **Catholic:** Catholic schools were subdivided into three categories. Together these Catholic schools accounted for approximately 22 percent of all secondary school enrolments in recent years (Burke and Spaul, 2002; Ryan and Watson 2004):
- **Catholic systemic:** Catholic schools which are governed by the Catholic Education Office. These tend to be low fee schools that cater for students from a wide range of socio-economic backgrounds. Systemic schools make up the majority the majority of Catholic enrolments.
 - **Catholic congregational/Catholic independent:** Catholic schools which are governed by an school boards. These tend to be higher fee schools and tend to be more exclusive.
 - **Catholic (system not specified):** They are Catholic schools which did not specify whether they were systemic or independent.
3. **Other non-government:** These are all non-government schools which are not Catholic schools. Their enrolments accounted for approximately 16 percent of secondary students in recent years (Burke and Spaul, 2002; Ryan and Watson 2004). Other non-government schools were further subdivided into a number of categories:
- **All Private:** This is all other non-government schools plus Catholic congregational schools. The primary classification for this category is inclusion in the online *Independent Schools Directory* (2005). It also includes all AHISA schools (see below) and all Catholic congregational/independent schools.
 - **Member of the Association of Heads of Independent Schools Australia (AHISA):** This is an association of independent schools, and includes more than 320 private schools, including many Catholic congregational schools.
 - **Encel's Top 9 Private Schools:** This is based on the list of the most exclusive private (boys) schools in Australia suggested by Sol Encel (1970: 156). This is the most exclusive category of schools in this classification system.

¹⁰ The top state boys schools list is: Melbourne Boys' High (Vic); University High (Vic); Perth Modern (WA); Sydney Boys' High (NSW); Fort Street Boys' High (NSW); North Sydney Boys' High (NSW); Adelaide Boys' High (SA); Unley High (SA); Brisbane State High (Qld); Hobart High (Tas); Canberra High School (ACT)

¹¹ The top state girls school list is: MacRobertson Girls' High (Vic); University High (Vic); North Sydney Girls' High (NSW); Sydney Girls' High (NSW); Fort Street Girls' High (NSW); Perth Modern (WA); Perth Girls (WA); Canberra High (ACT); Hobart High (Tas); Commercial High (Qld); Adelaide Girls' High (SA)

- **GPS (private):** The Great Public Schools of New South Wales (private). This is supposed to be the eight most exclusive private boys schools in NSW. Because of the desire to differentiate between state and private schools, the one state member of the GPS, Sydney High, was excluded from this category.¹²
- **APS:** The Associated Public Schools of Victoria. These are the 11 most exclusive private boys schools in Victoria. The list includes 2 Catholic congregational schools.¹³
- **Top Girls private Schools:** This category is comprised of most prominent private girls schools in each state. It was constructed based on the rankings in Peel and McCalman (1992). This list includes 4 Victorian schools, 4 from NSW (including 1 Catholic), 3 from SA(including 1 Catholic), 3 from WA (including 1 Catholic), 2 from Tasmania, and 1 from ACT¹⁴
- **Top Boys Private:** This is composed of GPS (private) and APS schools, as well as a list of top private boys schools from states outside of NSW and Victoria. This provides a list of exclusive private boys schools which is broader than Encel's 9 schools, but narrower than the 340 or more in AHISA. The schools from other states include 3 schools from SA, Tasmania, Queensland and WA and 1 from the ACT.¹⁵

¹² Schools in the GPS (private) category are: Sydney Grammar School; St Joseph's College; The Kings School; Newington College; St Ignatius' College Riverview; Scots College; Shore; The Armidale School.

¹³ Schools in the APS are: Brighton Grammar School (Vic); Carey Baptist Grammar School (Vic); Caulfield Grammar School (Vic); Geelong Grammar School (Vic); Haileybury College (Vic); Melbourne Grammar School (Vic); Scotch College (Vic); St Kevin's College (Vic) (Catholic); The Geelong College (Vic); Wesley College (Vic); Xavier College (Vic) (Catholic).

¹⁴ The schools in the list of Top Girls Private Schools is: Presbyterian Ladies' College (Vic); Melbourne Girls' Grammar (Vic); Firbank CEGGS (Vic); Methodist Ladies' College (Vic); Sydney CEGGS (NSW); Methodist Ladies' College (NSW); Brigidine Convent (NSW) (Catholic); Ascham School (NSW); Brisbane Girls' Grammar (Qld); Somerville House (Qld); All Hallows Convent (Qld) (Catholic); Presbyterian Girls' College (SA); St Peter's Girls' College (SA); Methodist Ladies' college (SA); Loreto Convent School (WA) (Catholic); Perth College (WA); Presbyterian Ladies' College (WA); Fahan Presbyterian Girls' College (Tas); St Michael's College (Tas); Canberra Church of England Girls' Grammar (ACT).

¹⁵ Top Boys Private Schools is composed of the GPS (private) schools, APS schools as well as: Prince Alfred College (SA); Scotch College (SA); St Peter's College (SA); Hale School (WA); Wesley College (WA); Guildford Grammar (WA); Brisbane CEGS (Qld); Brisbane Grammar (Qld); St Joseph's College, Brisbane (Catholic) (Qld); Launceston Grammar (Tas); Hutchins School (Tas); St Virgils (Tas) (Catholic); Canberra Grammar (ACT).

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Australian Government Education Portal
<http://www.education.gov.au/>

Catholic Education Commission, NSW: Directory of Schools
<http://www.cecnsw.catholic.edu.au/lisa.asp>

Catholic Education Commission Victoria - Catholic Schools
<http://www.cecv.melb.catholic.edu.au/schools/default.asp>

Catholic Education Office Western Australia - Schools
http://web1.ceo.wa.edu.au/pls/portal30/PORTAL30.RPT_SRCHRES_SCHOOLS1_ALL.show

Catholic Education South Australia: Catholic Schools
<http://web.ceo.adl.catholic.edu.au/Schools/Schools.asp>

Catholic Education Tasmania - Schools by Region
<http://www.ceo.hobart.catholic.edu.au/schools.htm>

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<http://www.decs.act.gov.au/schools/high.htm>
<http://www.decs.act.gov.au/schools/nongovschools.htm>

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http://www2.eddept.wa.edu.au/pls/spsweb/sps_Nav.home_Page

Education Queensland Schools Directory
<http://education.qld.gov.au/schools/directory/>

Independent Schools Directory
<http://www.isd.com.au>

Northern Territory Schools
<http://www.schools.nt.edu.au>

NSW Board of Studies
<http://www.boardofstudies.nsw.edu.au/>

NSW School Locator
<http://www.schools.nsw.edu.au/schoolfind/locator/index.php>

Schools Online: Victorian Government and Non-Government Schools
<http://www.education.vic.gov.au/schoolsonline/>

South Australia Central: Education and Training
<http://www.sacentral.sa.gov.au/site/page.cfm?u=48&cat=4250>

Tasmanian Government Schools - A to Z listing
<http://www.education.tas.gov.au/main/findus/browse/schoolaz.htm>