

I'm not sure whether Peter worked elsewhere in Australia, or how long he lived here, but he taught at North Sydney Girls High School in 1968, a selective state girls' school, probably similar to your English grammar schools.

In one way it would have been quite a coveted position, there being only eight selective high schools in Sydney at the time, though presenting nothing like the magnificent challenge of Clapham County. It was – and still is – intensely academic, and music was a very small part of its activities, the performing and visual arts not particularly encouraged by its principal.

A musician of Peter's ilk would have found it suffocating, I venture to suggest. He would have been one (I think) of two male teachers on the staff at the time; the school catered for years 7-12, roughly ages 12-17, with about 600-700 students in attendance.

As mentioned, Peter taught my class of Elective Music when I was in Year 8. No doubt he taught some other elective classes as well; they were small - about 8 or so in each. Music was also a mandatory subject to all other students up to, and including, year 10. So there were two streams Peter would have catered for - the generalist music stream for all, and then the smaller elective groups. Usually, one studied these electives through to the externally assessed School Certificate (Year 10), and then on to the Higher School Certificate (Year 12).

I recall doing weekly assignments where I took extra pride in designing the formats as well as their content, which Peter loved and encouraged! I can certainly pinpoint my interest in design (such as it was) from this period of encouragement. After a music degree from the NSW Conservatorium of Music, I went on to study design in New Zealand, working as an exhibition designer there (Museum of New Zealand Te Papa Tongarewa), and now lecture in design at university in Australia.

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