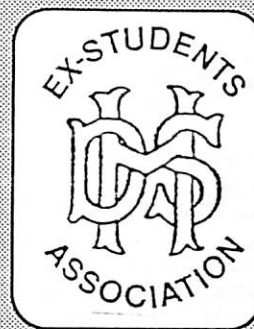


DHS Newsletter

Dandenong High School

Ex-Students Association

No. 3 1992



Big reunions planned for classes of '52, '62, '72, '82.

A date has been fixed for a 1982 Class gathering as the Reunion Committee gears up for a stronger Association than ever, with 'rolling' reunions for Class groups.

A stronger-than-ever DHS Ex-students' Association is emerging as the Reunions Sub-Committee gears up for action.

Following its new action plan the Association will progressively hold reunions for class groups ten, twenty and thirty years after their "graduation" years. The target group will 'roll over' to different class groups each year.

This means that class groups will have specific opportunities to meet again every ten years. It also means that in 1992, classes which left in 1982, 1972, 1962 and 1952 will meet.

Next year, the 1983, 1973, 1963 and 1953 classes will have reunions.

Other special reunions will also be planned, but this new approach will ensure that every class gets a call at least every ten years.

Already, the Sub-Committee has plans for reunions of 'exies' who were with class groups who went through The Gate in 1982, 1972, 1962 and 1952.

Class contact lists have been obtained for these groups and ex-students are being invited.

President and Reunion Sub-Committee member, Greta Jungwirth, said it was not necessary to be an ex-student who actually finished in those years or who went right through from the beginning with the respective classes.

"Some people joined the classes in later years and some left earlier for various reasons," she said.

"But if you were involved at any time with any of the class groups which



Greta Jungwirth

finished in '52, '62, '72 or '82, then you are part of those class groups.

"They will remember you, and you'll remember them," Greta said.

The Reunion Sub-Committee is pleased to report that the 'Class of '82' group has surged ahead and formed its own '82 Re-union Sub-Committee. First on the agenda for the group was a meeting which has already resulted in an early date being set for their reunion.

The big day will be 3 October 1992.

Other groups are organised, too. Watch for further information in the media - and get in touch with your old classmates if you'd like to be involved.

Not all current addresses are known, so Class of '82, '72, '62 and '52 ex-students should contact Penny Meallin, ph. 670 6766 for information.

Class of '52 prepares for big get-together

"Forty years on" - that rollicking yet sentimental song many of us recall thundering out at good old DHS, has a special ring for Marjorie Lampard (nee Harvey).

For 1992 is the fortieth anniversary of the graduation of the "Class of 1952" group of students of which she was a member.

Now, retired at 55 years of age, Marjorie is organising the 1952 Group reunion.

But it's not just a reunion for those who went through to 1952. In those days, many chose - or were forced by family needs - to leave earlier. So Marjorie wants everyone connected with the group to contact her - even if they left earlier.

So far, the response has been encouraging. A lively committee has gathered together, a date has been set and invitations are already out. Although the invitations had only just been mailed at the time we went to press, replies had already been received.

Committee members are Don Turner, George Gill and Michael Kinsella.

The fateful date is 24 October, 1992.

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"Faber quesque fortunae"

From the Chair...

This is our first newsletter in a new format which we expect will reach out to more ex-students than ever.

Our numbers have increased tenfold since our first meeting in February last year and we wish the membership drive to continue at that rate. To help us achieve this, I ask every member to sign up three ex-students or ex-staff members. A membership form is enclosed for you to photocopy.

On the topic of membership, I would like to extend a special welcome to Robert Schubert (1971-1976) who has joined us. Robert is living in Japan where he works as a clarinetist. His membership will keep him in touch with the school and the fellowship for which it was famous.

As we continue our journey from The Gate through 1992, I hope these difficult times turn out better for all of us.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)
President,
DHS Ex-Students Association.

'Class of '62'

The 'Class of 62' group thinks of itself as very special, according to reunion coordinator Greta Jungwirth.

"You only have to read the Geoffrey Bryce letter in this issue to see what kind of group we were," Greta said.

"We were very close - so I know there will be a good turnout for the reunion we have planned for 14 November.

The group plans a reunion at the school, followed by a 7pm dinner at the Imperial Motor Inn, within walking distance from the school.

"We'll have an assembly at the school with any teachers who can be found," Greta said.

"There will be a roll call of course.

"And a few words from teachers present."

The group also plans a tour of the school and afternoon tea.

Marjorie said the plan was for a 3.30pm rendezvous at the school for a roll call. After much chatter and laughter the group will gather at the Imperial Motor Inn, on the highway just near the school, for dinner at 6.30pm.

Nobody is sure just how many students there were in the group, but by poring over old class photos, 58 names and addresses have been tracked down and invitations sent.

Many of these were from the "A" stream as several committee members were in this group - and, unfortunately, they all had the same class

photos. So anyone with further knowledge of the "B" and "C" stream students should contact Marjorie.

Marjorie thinks the committee has discovered "most of the Form V class and practically everyone in Form IV."

But perhaps you can help complete the picture.

Marjorie herself has had a long association with DHS.

Her father was in the 1919 founding group of students who studied at DHS which was then in the old Temperance Hall. He went on to study at the present site when the school was built.

70th Anniversary

... a continuing story...

In 1989, DHS ex-students gathered from all over Australia to meet each other once more - and to meet survivors of other decades who shared their common heritage. We continue this series of articles based on the highlights of tales told by notable ex-students.

Digging World War II air-raid trenches among the pine trees was one of the vivid memories of DHS in the 1940's treasured by ex-student Phillip Newell who is now the Anglican Bishop of Tasmania. The trenches were never required for shelter from enemy aircraft and although the teachers seemed to take it seriously, to his student friends it was all just a bit of a lark, Phillip recalled.

US troops based in the Scout Hall and iron huts added a touch of drama to the wartime atmosphere. The worst thing he could remember about the war years was the short supply of ice cream.

Worse than the war by far was the treatment dealt out by some of the teachers. Corporal punishment was routine for even the most trivial offences. But the effect of the brutal teachers - some of whom seemed to enjoy being cruel - was outweighed by far by the influence of the good teachers.

Teachers' names came back to Phillip as he reminisced. Some of those he recalled were Mr Randall, Max Oldmeadow, Roy Barnes the Chemistry teacher ("We used to blow out his bunsen burner."), Tom McAutory teaching Latin, Keith Robinson holding forth in room 33, and Miss Carpenter with English Expression, including essays, precis-writing and logic.

Forty years on, Phillip thinks school was not so much about learning as about relationships. Looking back, he thought it all seemed like yesterday - and the memories have improved with the years.

"Each is the architect of his or her own fortune"

Geoffrey Bryce letter reveals a soft spot for his students

This letter to Greta Jungwirth, written in 1989, by an ex-teacher, the late Geoffrey Bryce reveals a touching fondness for his time at Dandenong High School, a sentiment his students in the 50's perhaps never realised existed. It is never too late for such insights. We thank his widow, Lena, for permission to publish the letter and offer it as a dedication to his memory..

Dear Greta,

Many thanks for your kind invitation to the Reunion. It was great that you remembered me after all these years.

Unfortunately, I can't accept the invitation as I do not know how my health will be on a given day. Sometimes, my energy deserts me and I can't do much at all.

I would dearly love to see you all again. I have never forgotten the famous 3A. The Form assemblies with you all were the only time in my career that I did not dread them. I used to enjoy your enthusiasm and sense of humour.

I will never forget the way you all organised the break-up party on my last day at Dandenong. I went out of the room for about ten minutes and came back and found the room transformed from a school room into a party room and you were all jigging round to some form of music.

It was good to see the list of students in those years. Some I remembered, others I had forgotten. I wonder what you are all doing now.

Did Scotty ever learn to speak English? I thought John Fowler had a sister in the Form and I thought Don Reid had a brother.

Of course, I remember Jim Alexander and Alan Conobie because they had holidays down with us at the beach. And Jane Bongers family had a holiday near us one summer.

It would be good to meet up with some of the staff also, because Dandenong High was the one place where everyone seemed so friendly. I was very sad when I left there.

I would appreciate some photos of those attending and any information about what each is doing now. That would compensate a little for not being able to attend the function.

Yours sincerely,
Geoff Bryce.



Geoffrey Bryce early in his career, wearing his academic robes. The back of the photograph is inscribed: "To Lena with love, Geoff. 6th September 1955." Mr Bryce graduated as a Bachelor of Arts in 1953, completed a Diploma of Education in 1952 or 1953 and served at Dandenong High School from 1954 to 1959.



The "famous 3A" class of 1959 that George Bryce never forgot - pictured at their second reunion celebrations in March 1989. Form Teacher Edna Dawson (seated, front) was there to take the roll call and muse over familiar (?) faces.

"And when through The Gate we enter on our journey..."

It's all happening as the Class of '82 gear up for a fun reunion.

Moving to Mont Morency has not stopped Kim Clarkson (nee Douglas) from maintaining a keen interest in DHS and all it stands for.

A member of the "Class of '82", Kim remembers the faces and personalities in her group vividly.

"It's only been ten years, but that's a long time in some ways," she said.

"People change a lot in ten years. They start work, marry, have children, their faces begin to change."

Souvenir DHS tumblers and a photo board planned

It was the thought of seeing everyone again after ten years that attracted her to reunion committee work.

Tracking people down has not been so difficult for the "Class of '82". Many of them apparently became teachers and stayed in the general district, or moved just a little way - to Berwick for example.

A few have moved further afield and were harder to locate.

"We've discovered that several have gone overseas," Kim said.

Helping Kim with the detective work on the "Class of '82" reunion committee are Lavelle and Diane Fernand (nee Small), both of whom are ex-students and Susan Fergeus (nee Hitchman). There has also been help from Michael Florenti, Goranka Pavlic and Cengiz Hulusi.

Plans are in place for a reunion on Saturday, 3 October, in the school hall. There will be a carvery-style meal, with caterers to keep everyone free to enjoy the company.

"It won't be expensive," Kim said.

"We want to keep it down to a reasonable cost in these hard times."

To commemorate the occasion, the group is organising the printing of souvenir tumblers with the school

emblem and an inscription reading: "Class of '82 Reunion".

There will be enough tumblers for everyone to have one, Kim said. She thinks they will make prized mementos on everyone's mantelpieces.

"We're digging up all the old records of the time too, and we'll play 'our music' through the night," Kim said.

"I wouldn't be surprised if there was a bit of spontaneous dancing.

"But it won't be anything formal.

"We're not sure whether people will bring their partners.

"Some will want to, others will not. It's really up to each person."

One of the features of the evening will be a photo board for the display of photos from The Gate, snapshots taken then and since, newspaper clippings, memorabilia and other mementos.

"Anyone can bring photos along for the display," Kim said.

"I'm sure we'll all have a good laugh."

That famous Gate - when did it really appear?

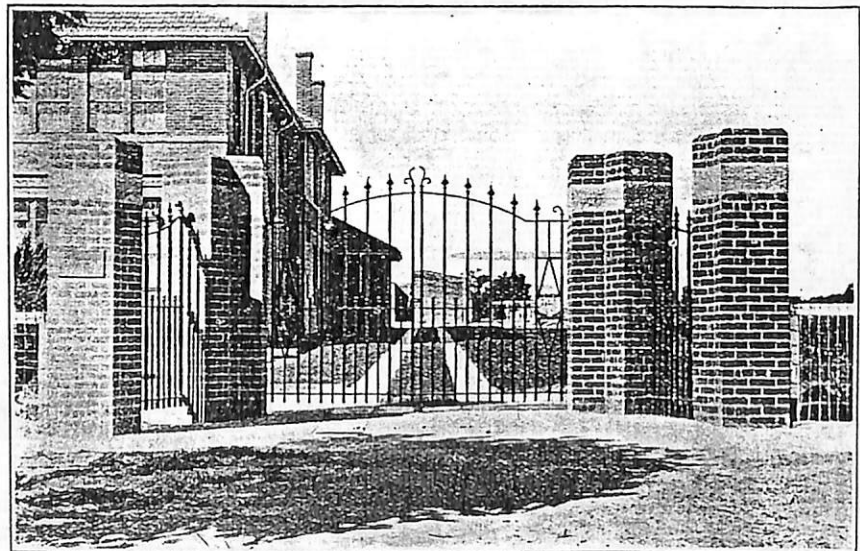
Ex-students may be able to shed some light on the origins of the legendary DHS Gate. The 1929 title page of *The Gate* school magazine shows a photo of the school with a simple wooden fence in front. The exact position where the gate would be is actually out of sight at the right of the photo. But it looks as though there was no "Gate".

Then, in 1930, the title leaf shows a

large close-up of The Gate in all its glory - along with a fragment of a fence that looks different from that in the 1929 photo.

Was The Gate built sometime in 1929 or 1930?

Does any older ex-student remember or have any information? Perhaps your grandpa, dad or uncle - or a family friend - worked on the job?



The Gate as it appeared in the 1930 school magazine - apparently for the first time.