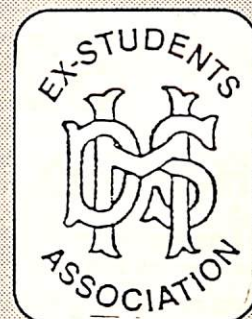


DHS Newsletter

Dandenong High School

Ex-Students Association

No. 4 1992



Reunions proving great success. (Refer inside pages)

From the Chair...

We have had three successful decade reunions this year and a fourth is on the way. It was quite clear from the reaction of the participants that their time at Dandenong High School was memorable and special. It was amazing how quickly the years fell away and old friendships were renewed. A number of follow-up reunions have already been arranged between country and city dwellers. Another positive result was the number of people who joined the Association on each occasion.

Our thanks go to John Leah for producing the last edition of the newsletter and introducing the new style. Some of you may remember that John was once an editor of "The Gate". There was more than a touch of irony in him coming full circle like that.

Don Metcalfe has graciously agreed to take up the mantle and be editor for the next year. He is well placed for the

position and his contact with the school has been almost continuous since his own school days and his local knowledge is legion.

On behalf of the committee, I wish you all a joyous festive season and hope that peace and goodwill prevail in the new year.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)
President



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.

Regrettably on that auspicious day, Ken Bennett (of Collingwood fame), was unavoidably detained in Canberra, and Don Metcalfe, Master of Ceremonies for the day, deputised.

The Late 1940's were the start of the post war migration and integration, and Dandenong, by its nature as an emerging industrial centre was host to that influx.

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DHS Ex-Students Association Office bearers and contact numbers

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"Faber quesque fortunae"

'52 Group Reunion

Reunion of '47-'52 Group - October 24th 1992

A very happy afternoon and evening were enjoyed by forty ex-students, plus some very brave partners who did a great job as photographers.

We were pleased to welcome five former teachers - Edna Dawson (Mrs. Vukmirovic), Evelyn Dee (Mrs. Bourke), Ruth Sharpe (Mrs. Whelan),

enjoyed a meal together, and much reminiscing at the Imperial Motor Inn, a few doors away from the school.

My own personal highlights to this day, as an organiser, would have to be answering the phone to people I had not spoken with for forty or more years, and hearing how pleased they were to be part

and Alex Scadden from Nathalia.

Marj Lampard (nee Harvey)

Four of the five Ex-Teachers who attended the reunion (from left) Miss Lilian Rofe, Mrs Edna Vukmirovic (nee Dawson), Mrs Evelyn Bourke (nee Dee) and Mrs Ruth Whelan (nee Sharpe).



Lilian Rofe and Dorothy Milne. Miss Milne would have been pleased to hear her efforts had not all been in vain, although it was as well George Gill told us in English what he had attempted in Latin!

We enjoyed a conducted tour of the school - many changes and additions have been made, but there were still familiar places to bring back memories - unfortunately, Frank Hicks couldn't get into Room 21 to look for his tie.

On reaching the music room, our two singing ladies, Mrs. Rofe and Miss Dawson, were happy to lead in our vocal renditions of "The Best School of All", "We are the School", and appropriately for us "Forty Years On" - all rung with gusto with the aid of reading glasses or good memories!

The happy and friendly atmosphere continued into the evening when we

of this reunion.

This positive feeling existed from first contact with the other organisers - Don Turner, George Gill and Mike Kinsella - and continued right through until our day was over.

I'm sure we all went away feeling "They were great days and jolly days at the Best School of All!"

The committee sent out 80 letters, received 60 responses and had 40 attendees - a great result after 40 years!

Many travelled long distances to be present - Nell Cussen (Dickard) from Sydney, Peter Bruce from Hobart, Merle Ackland (Morris) from Deniliquin, Mick Egan from Albury, Barrie Ellis from Wodonga, Frank Alderton from Camperdown, Pat Egan (Carr) from Bendigo, Beth Tonks (Scott) from Ballarat, Pam Brown (Dawson) from Inverloch, Frank Hicks from Geelong

Addendum to '52 Group Report

Ex-Students of Dandenong High School who would have completed Matriculation in 1952 (ie. they attended between 1947 and 1952) had a very successful reunion on Saturday, 24 October, 1992.

Afternoon tea was enjoyed at the High School and the highlight, apart from meeting one another after all those years, was a conducted tour of the school finishing in the music room where the old school songs were sung to the accompaniment of ex-singing teacher Mrs. Rofe. The current Acting Principal, Deputy Principal and Acting Deputy Principal conducted the tours, which was very greatly appreciated by the ex-students.

Impressions of Dandenong High

I first became aware of Dandenong High School when I was a student at Mildura. At the time there were not many High Schools or Technical Schools in Victoria. To experience inter-school sporting competition it was necessary for Mildura students to go as far as Swan Hill, Broken Hill (New South Wales), Renmark (South Australia) and Dandenong. It was an overnight train trip from Mildura to Melbourne, and the trip to Dandenong was one of the highlights of the year. Somehow I did not make the trip - by the time I was good enough to hold down a permanent position in the football team, the trips to Dandenong were replaced by visits to closer schools.

My first recollections of Dandenong visiting Mildura are very clear. Dandenong's uniform was very impressive and certainly made an impact on this rural lad from a vineyard across the border in New South Wales. The dominant navy blue gave the Dandenong students an authoritative bearing which I associated with the orderliness and discipline of my father's Royal Australian Air Force uniform - that was brought out on ANZAC day. They were most formidable opponents in a range of sports - football, tennis and netball, and debating. They also carried themselves with a natural confidence and maturity. A highlight of the visit was the social that was organised for our city visitors. Mrs.

Barbara Hook, a current member of the Dandenong High School Chaplaincy Committee, remembers hosting Mildura students when they visited Dandenong.

That initial contact with Dandenong gave me impressions of the school, which surprisingly, were confirmed when I attended a School Council meeting last year, and when I actually took up my appointment this year as Vice Principal. I remember feeling that strong sense of belonging to the school that many Council members showed openly, and the genuine affection and warmth that permeated the gathering. Tradition and commitment were apparent. My first school assembly was in a sense unnerving because of the sense of *deja vu* that it gave me - the tone of the assembly and the singing of the School Song reminded me of my own student days at Mildura High School. I had not previously worked in a government secondary school that still sang the school song at assembly and where the students were so orderly and well-disciplined.

Since then I have made further observations of the school. It is apparent that there is a substantial and on-going commitment to academic achievement - the curriculum offered places a strong emphasis on academic rigour. The staff in general are obviously dedicated to their students and the school. The culture of the school places high value on punctuality,

honesty, uniform, commitment to the school and citizenship, tradition and formality. Over the years, the school has been able to maintain and preserve all those good things that I remember from my school days. But that is not to say that the school has not changed. I am certain that many members of the Ex-Students' Association visiting the school today would see a vast change in the composition of the school population. Many students today come from outside the Dandenong High School zone, attracted by those features that I have already mentioned. These students are committed to academic achievement and learning, and are playing their part in continuing the traditions that have been established since the school's first days in 1919.

At the farewell dinner for departing Year 12 students, I told the gathering that Dandenong High School was an excellent school, worthy of the respect and affection of its students, especially those students who were leaving. The existence of an active Ex-Students' Association confirms this assertion. I am very pleased to be a member of its staff, and take very seriously my role in ensuring that in addressing the needs of its students in the last decade of the 20th century Dandenong High School continues to retain its ethos and traditions.

B. van den Berg (Acting Principal)
November, 1992

"The Sunraysia Daily" Report of 1957 visit by D.H.S. to Mildura.H.S.

Mildura had easy wins in girls' and boys' tennis matches, but lost heavily at baseball, girls' softball and basketball.

Mildura turned on its best football performance in three years to win 10.12 (72) to 6.2 (43) - a 29-point margin.

The football win was revenge for last year, when a Mildura team at Dandenong was well beaten.

Dandenong won the basketball 24-11. Mildura won the boys' and girls' tennis 6-nil and 5-nil respectively, Dandenong won the baseball 15-5, Mildura won the girls' hockey 4-nil, and the softball 14-6.

Eighty Dandenong pupils are on an annual exchange visit which will end tomorrow night.

The visitors were welcomed at a social on Thursday.

Sightseeing

Before leaving, they will be taken on sightseeing tours and to weekend sports fixtures.

One of the masters in charge of the party,

Mr F. Milne, is a former master of Mildura High School.

Mr T. Russell, Miss E. Dee and Miss R. Collins are other teachers making the trip.

Among the visiting teams are two former Mildura schoolgirls, Marianne and Orme Lind, daughters of Mr Allan Lind, who was MLA for Mildura before Cr Nat Barclay.

Mr Lind is now teaching at Dandenong West State School.

Best Players

Best players in the Mildura football team were: centre, P. Sherridan; J. Jessop, who scored five goals at full forward; K. Arney, the centre half back; and followers B. Holcombe and J. Broad.

Mildura had an edge on the visitors in the ruck and from goal to goal, but the Dandenong rovers were superior.

Their best players were: rover, K. Bennett, who is on the Collingwood training list; F. Noblet, centre half-forward; R. Ross, centre half back; and D. Metcalfe, second rover.

The girls' hockey match was fast and open.

Mildura kept well up the ground and continually forced the ball forward, and only a resolute defence, spearheaded by the Dandenong captain Xenia Dennett, kept them from breaking through more often.

For Mildura

Stars of the Mildura side were: Jean Moser, Mary Dean, Janice Voullaire and Barbara Bowring.

Best in the Dandenong side were: Marianne Lind, K. Olva and Xenia Dennett.

BOYS: Biesse d Lockwood 9/7; Blake d Ryan 9/3; Robinson d Gange 9/3; Randle d Edgar 9/6. Doubles: Biesse and Blake d Ryan and Lockwood 6/0, 6/0; Robinson and Randle d Edgar and Gange 6/3, 6/0.

GIRLS: Ngoulke d Gillies 9/7; Ryan d Murray 9/2; Biesse d Potter 9/8; Gier d Loveridge 9/7. Doubles: Ngoulke and Ryan d Murray and Gilles 6/0, 6/1; Biesse and Gier lost to Ross and Pidgon 4/6, 6/2, 3/6.

THE DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL
EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
WISHES YOU ALL A VERY

HAPPY CHRISTMAS

AND AN
EXTREMELY SUCCESSFUL,
PROSPEROUS
AND

HAPPY NEW YEAR

FOR 1993

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

'62 Group Reunion

'57-'62 Reunion Report - 14th November, 1992

The weather was almost perfect for the 1962 reunion. I arrived at the school in anticipation of seeing old friends that I hadn't seen for 30 years or more, and wondered who would be there. That was the exciting bit, wondering who would actually turn up.

Having got there early, I was assigned the task of putting the name tags on everyone and I found that I couldn't recognise quite a few and some didn't recognise me either. Had we changed that much? Though there were some you could recognise straight away and memories came flooding back of old school days. Everyone milled around talking, then after getting their name tags etc., they all assembled in the double classroom upstairs, making a nice jovial group.

Greta gave a welcome speech and Miss Dawson (Mrs. Vukmirovic) led everyone in singing the school song. It was sung very enthusiastically by everyone despite having no music to

accompany us. Afternoon tea followed in the library downstairs and was very well catered.

The Acting Principal took several groups for a tour around the school. There seemed to be a great deal of interest in seeing the school and how it had changed. The maps of the school were very helpful. It was hard to recognise the old school - it probably had more character with its old verandah and staircase, but certainly the new sections are a lot better equipped and comfortable. There are no more dilapidated old classrooms like some of ours in the 60's.

I felt that the afternoon was more supported and seemed to be successful and well run. I personally got to meet a few that I was happy to catch up with after all those years, but there were many there that I didn't remember at all. Everyone seemed to be enjoying themselves. We had two teachers, Miss Dawson and Miss Dee (Mrs. Bourke), attend.

The afternoon went by quickly and by

6.30pm we all headed off to the restaurant. The evening venue was excellent. The food was excellent and the decor appealing. Most people seemed to move around the tables and talk freely and there was a jovial atmosphere to the evening. There were a few, including myself, that didn't know too many there, and maybe there could have been a bit more interchange with the ones that seemed to be strange faces, but I guess it's not easy to approach someone you're supposed to know, but don't remember, as I found out from experience.

I guess Dandenong High School has to be credited with having such reunions which you don't see with many other schools around here and does show the bond that must have been there with old school mates.

Dagnija Brachmanis (nee Strazdins)

An Interview with David Byrne

David Byrne is an ex-student from the 1947-1962 class group, and an ex-teacher from the whole of the 1980's. He is currently the committee member in charge of Memberships and was a member of the reunion committee.

After numerous phone calls tracking down students from those years, the Committee meetings became 'mini reunions', and indicated a potential November success. Other committee members were Greta Jungwirth (nee de Vries), Dagnija Brachmanis (nee Strazdins), Jim Alexander, Judy Anstey (nee Heppell), Margaret Regan (nee Pocknee), and Eleanor Taylor (nee Hodgins).

In addition to the ex-student attendees, a number of spouses were in attendance. The group of music ex-teachers,



(referred to above) was accompanied by Peter Wellock and Ion Whykes. David reserved special thanks for assistance to Carol Porter (nee Gilbert), who "seemed to know everyone between Dandenong and Warragul". (A legacy of her admirable community work. Ed.)

Among those contacted were Paul Lewis, somewhere at sea in a 50' yacht, plus Sandra Duncan and Barbara Hamilton, both in Queensland, who knew each other but not their DHS connection!

... continued on Page 4.

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

70th Anniversary

... a continuing story ...

... continued from Page 1.

That decade saw the Olympic Games come to Melbourne, and of course, television.

Mr. Griffith retired as Headmaster after 15 years, to be replaced by Mr. Andrews, and at the end of 1957 when he resigned, the dynamic Mr. Cook was appointed. Other staff remembered were Mr. Higgs, and Barry Jones, (by now MHR), whose Pick-a-Box successes helped him to maintain DHS before the public. Ian Whykes' contribution has continued in notable State education circles.

Others recalled were Misses Dee, Dawson and Power and Mrs. Cowan, not for the wrath exhibited by some at earlier times, and referred to by Bishop Newell, but for their gentility and understanding.

Mr. Brumley retired in 1956 after 32 years of service.

A measure of the regard in which the school was held can be demonstrated by considering some of the speakers at speech nights, including Sir John Medley, Sir Ian Clunies Ross, the Hon. Mr. Justice Dean, the Hon. Mr. Justice Scholl, the Hon. Sir Edmund Herring, and Sir George Paton.

By the end of the decade, the successful ethnic blending saw DHS as Australia in microcosm, and the school prospered.

Addendum to '52 Group Report - continued

... continued from Page 2.

A dinner was also held that night at the Dandenong Imperial Motor Inn where the ex-students were able to reminisce about old times.

Five ex-teachers attended, Miss Rofe, Miss Dee (now Mrs. Bourke), Miss Dawson (now Mrs. Vukmirovic), Miss Whelan (now Mrs. Sharpe), and Miss

Milne.

Many of the ex-students travelled from far and wide to attend including some from Sydney, Hobart, Camperdown, Albury, Wodonga, Deniliquin, Bendigo and Ballarat.

Everyone enjoyed themselves thoroughly and decided to hold regular reunions in the future.

Don Turner

That famous Gate -

When did it really appear?

(Would Mr Brumley have said "That pair of Gates"?)

... continued from Issue 3.

The answer was found in 'A history of Dandenong High School 1919-1968' by Mr Mitchell, a former Principal.

The entry under 1930 states 'Entrance gates to the school were erected as a memorial to the late Cr. Tharle, who had done much to support and develop the work of the School in its early days'.

Coincidentally, the school magazine, 'The Gate' was first published in 1927, the name being suggested by Kathleen Brumley (Form E), who wrote - "The Gate is a good name, because Dandenong is the gate to Gippsland; our school is the gate to learning, and our magazine is the gate by which many of us hope to reach literary fame".

"THE BIG ONE"

The 75th Anniversary Reunion

Arrangements have commenced for this reunion over the long weekend in March 1994. We are collating computer lists from school records, but you can supply names and addresses to either :

David Byrne - 1544 Malvern Rd. Glen Iris, 3146
A/H 885-4402 B/H 866-2000 Fax 866-3002
or Martin Vink - 50 King George Pde. Dandenong, 3175
Phone 791-7029

An Interview with David Byrne.

... continued from Page 3.

During the event, more names and addresses were collected, and the file grows. There was considerable enthusiasm for a further reunion in 1994, when the 75th Anniversary is to be celebrated.

David acknowledged that there is something about people you grew up with that seems to stay the same. The log jam at the front door dispelled any

reservations about how people would get on. Conversations picked up where they had been interrupted 30 years ago, as addresses and phone numbers were exchanged and arrangements made to meet again in a few days, weeks, next year.

David's summary: looking forward to the next one, which YOU and your associates must attend.

Saying Goodbye! Saying Hello!

The committee would like to thank the contributors to Newsletter for the last twelve months.

Also, a goodbye to Tim Richardson, whom we thank for his contribution as Treasurer, and to Penny Meallin, who leaves us to have her first baby - good luck Pen.

Welcome to Helen Katsos, David Byrne and Robyn Stevenson as new committee members.