

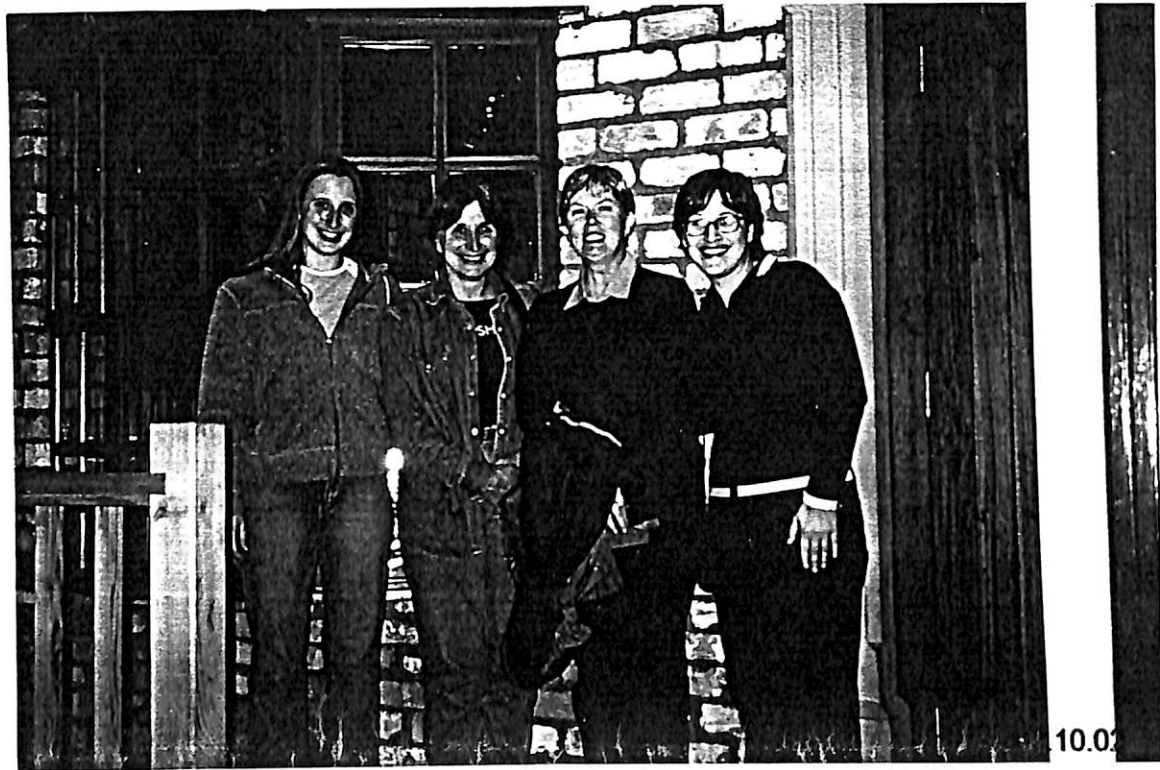


Autumn 2003

Issue 29

DHSESA Newsletter

REUNION GOES INTERNATIONAL



ROSEMARY BROWN (nee Facey), second from right, reconnects with **Angelica Reibnegger** (second from left) and Angelica's two daughters in Ireland.

Rosemary, who was home recently for son Matthew's wedding, has temporary residence in China.

We can look forward to a story soon from Rosemary about life in China, where she is still teaching.

Angelica's brother, Peter, who also attended DHS, now lives in Berwick.

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From The Chair



Our Annual General meeting was held on 30 November last year. As usual the formal proceedings were brief, although this time there was some Special Business. From now on all AGMs will be held in March, thus avoiding the end-of-year rush and hopefully making it possible for more people to attend. Our financial year will now end in December rather than September.

Gizelle Hernandez, a Year 7 student, attended to perform for those present. She was the 2002 Edna Dawson Vukmirovic Music Scholarship holder, being the beneficiary of vocal coaching for one year. She sang for the group and as a bonus her vocal teacher, Sonia Sibley, also entertained us. The Association is pleased to be supporting such talent.

Our guest speaker for the occasion was Dr Margaret McDowell. She spoke of her early life in Ireland and how she came to Australia in 1958 with her mother and siblings. She attended DHS from that year, when she was placed in 2A, to 1960 when she was in Form 4A, riding her bike from Springvale every day.

Margaret spoke highly of the Principal, Mr LA Cooke, and the DHS teachers, who seemed to take a special interest in her. In spite of this she felt anything but special. She felt awkward and out of place but did make some firm friends. Her mother then moved the family and during 1961 and 1962 Margaret attended another school to finish her secondary education.

From 1963-68 she studied for her medical degree at Melbourne University and then worked in New Guinea for a time, under very primitive conditions. She then returned to Australia for further study before entering general practice. From there she moved to the community health field which she has found challenging and rewarding. She continues to work in that field, helping families control their health and lives.

Margaret regretted not having returned to DHS until the 40 Years On Reunion of her class the previous month. She felt that the example and strength of her mother, and the excellent grounding she received at the School, were the main inspirations in her life.

Margaret was modest about her achievements and doubted her significance as a past pupil of DHS. Similar feelings are expressed in Sandra Duncan's letter on page 7. Yet everyone has a story to tell and every story is interesting. We can be equally proud of the exceptionally talented students who go on to forge brilliant careers and those "ordinary" students who go on to become decent, solid citizens. All can be faithful to the school spirit and exemplify the words:

"Worthy sons and daughter we shall remain".

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)

Mentioned In Despatches

MAX OLDMEADOW O.A.M. and wife **PAM (nee SAUNDERS)** have been recently honored by the Governor, John Landy. They were awarded certificates for their work with SHARE Community Appeal, a Statewide appeal for the Uniting Church Community service organisations.

Max has been associated with the organisation for 17 years. Max and Pam were married in 1948.

Our Hon. Secretary, **MARTA LOPEZ** has given birth to a son **JAMES**. He attended two Association meetings in 2003, and demonstrated admirable decorum.

In the recent First Test in women's cricket, between Australia and England, the win to Australia owed much to ex-student, **CATHRYN FITZPATRICK**. Cathryn was named player of the match for her 8-wicket haul, including 4-28 in England's second innings.

The Editor had the pleasure of re-acquaintance with **BILL HEPPEL**, a student of the late 1950's, together with his younger sister, Judith and Jeanette. Bill is still involved in a family market garden in Macclesfield on land which has been in the family (Tschampion) for several generations. After working 30 years with the S.E.C (remember them?), fulfilling a successful passion as a runner and trainer in professional running, the loquacious Bill now hosts a Friday evening sports show on his local radio station, and calls the football over the weekend.

The 'Herald Sun' recently ran a zoo story about "popular crooner" **Frankie J Holden**.

Frankie was appearing at a concert at that venue, accompanied by his singer/wife **Michelle Pettigrove**. Michelle, who is the daughter of ex-students **GRAHAM** and **GAY PETTIGROVE (nee Keam)**, also presents the Foxtel Children's Program 'Funhouse'

Pakenham Gazette Acknowledgment

This wonderful newspaper, owned by the Thomas Family, of whom recently retired Editor Ian was an ex-student, provides much copy, and we thought that we should again proudly acknowledge it.

It has just reported on a most successful Art and Textiles Exhibition convened by our own ELEANOR TAYLOR.

Ex-students will recall that Eleanor organised our Art Exhibition for the 1998 reunion. As well as a selection of Eleanor's own textiles, SUE JARVIS also exhibited.

The grand exhibition complemented the newly completed Cardinia Cultural Centre in Pakenham.

Elsewhere the Gazette featured Sue Jarvis in several roles, firstly as Art Demonstrator at the 'Old Cheese Factory' in Berwick, and also celebrated the multicultural elements which appear frequently in her work.

'The Age' recently carried an obituary for BERTHA 'BETTY' CRAWFORD (MORAN). Betty was the granddaughter of two of Narre Warren's pioneers, Sydney Webb and Henry Moran, who settle in the area in 1850's. Betty was an outstanding student at D.H.S, who won a scholarship to Melbourne Girls' Grammar and in her final year, she was awarded a scholarship to Melbourne University. To complete her studies there during the Depression, she travelled from the Pound Road, Narre Warren farm each day by pony, steam train and electric tram to Flinders Street, then by 'shank's pony' to the university. She gained an M.A. in 1936, majoring in history. She taught at Tintern and Firbank and after wartime duty in the decoding section of the Naval War Office, she resumed teaching at Mentone Boy's Grammar for 16 years.

Betty was a keen local historian and gardener, and she started a library in Parkdale. Later in her Christian commitment, she was one of the founders of an interchurch council in the City of Mordialloc.

"Betty was an extraordinary model of self-effacing service that achieved its aim of producing social change through individual transformation."

Were You There?

The Dandenong Historical Society is calling for responses from people who lived in housing commission houses/units, which were erected between August 1954 and November 1955.

THE INTENTION IS TO ORGANISE A REUNION.
Phone 03 9794 8967 or email dandhist@yahoo.com.au

Respected Clyde identity, CLYDE MANKS has died, having lived a life which reflected greatly on himself, and those organisations he touched, including D.H.S.

Again the 'Pakenham-Berwick Gazette' has carried a warm tribute, referring to Clyde as "one of the most decorated members of the Clyde Fire Brigade."

After his year at D.H.S he took technical subjects. The Depression coloured his early adult life.

After joining the 'Bush Fire Brigade' in the Clyde and Cardinia area, which later became the C.F.A.. Clyde was one of the founding members and was awarded numerous medals of appreciation, including one recognising his 50 years of service.

He also received Life Membership of Clyde Fire Brigade, was on the Region 8 Championship Committee, and Honorary Life Membership of the C.F.A. Clyde was also presented with the Diamond and Silver Star for Distinguished Service and Good Conduct and the Queens Medal for Exemplary Fire Service.

After taking piano lessons, Clyde took up the piano accordion, and after joining a local band, he was a fixture in the social scene of Clyde for more than 62 years, a talent which can be vouched for by the Editor.

FREDERICK JOHN ALLAN, died recently, aged 80.

Prior to leaving school at 14, he attended D.H.S, and thereafter, due to a slight speech impediment, he took elocution lessons, which led his subsequent drama and theatrical interests.

He was Secretary of the Melbourne Drama Club, and a member of the Arrow Theatre Group with such a notable as Frank Thring.

Overseas, he joined the International Scout Club at Baden-Powell House, later becoming a committee member. In Scouting, he later received a Medal of Merit and Long Service awards.

A loyal Anglican, he served as a Warden, Vestryman and Secretary. He was a Guide at the National Gallery, and an active member of Wilson Park (Berwick), as well as a contributor to the creative writing group of the University of the Third Age.

LEN REID DFC, MLA for Dandenong 1958 to 1969 and Federal Member for Holt 1969 to 1972, has died in Cranbourne, where he spent most of his life. In addition to a distinguished flying record in the Mediterranean during the Second World War, Len later followed his farming instincts with forays into the Indian sub-continent providing huge donations of livestock, and farming methodology. Thousands of children and families benefitted from the organisations he founded, "For Those Who Have Less", and "Human Rights—First for the Child". His fund-raising treks through foreign countries, inspired by his passionate Christian faith, brought great credit to his country, his community, his family, and his school.

How Goes the School

Principal, MR. MARTIN CULKIN, at the start of his fourth year, reports a smooth commencement to the school year, and we wish the school community well for year 2003.

'The Age' Education section (12/3/03), re-carried the following article, headed, "Taking the Dandenong High Fast Track"

"While most schools are actively trying to do something completely different for year nines, others have decided to scrap year nine altogether where students are psychologically and intellectually ready for VCE.

These highly successful "acceleration programs" have been running in a select number of state secondary schools for some years. With enormous numbers of students and a kaleidoscope of individual needs, acceleration is the best way of maintaining the interest of very able students.

Dandenong High School has over 1200 students and is one of the most culturally diverse schools in the state. They have E.S.L. classes running throughout the school.

Some of these students are also among the most able. To cater equally for all, Dandenong has a particular group selected from grade 6 entrance testing. These will usually complete their secondary schooling in five years.

"They are a delightful group of kids!" says principal Martin Culkin.

We will soon bring you some news from 'The Gate' of 2002. However, we have just got our hands on a copy of 2001, so 'here is the news!'

PAT McCURDY, library assistant, who came to the school in 1965, retired at the end of 2001, making her one of the longest serving staff members in the school's history.

PETER WARD, an assistant principal, also retired at the end of 2001. Peter was a very versatile Deputy Principal at D.H.S.

In a recent issue of the school newsletter, it was reported that Peter had returned to the school to help his son Mark put the finishing touches to the fantastic new paved entrance to DHS.

Very recently retired, this time from the School Council were Christine Ware, parent member and president for the last 9 years, Del Wright, a teacher member for many years, and Faye Rendell, parent member and President for many years of the Parents and Friends Association.

We applaud these outstanding contributors to our school, and we wish them well.

We were not surprised to hear that George Gill, a member and a great reunion stalwart, returned to school, to represent the Association at the 2003 Anzac Day ceremony. We thank you George for your ongoing support.

"Scourge of the fruit fly won a Farrer Medal"

Thus 'The Age' recently introduced its obituary for **MIKE KINSELLA M.Sc.**, describing him as a potato grower's son from Cora Lynn, who never lost his empathy with the farming community. Colleagues Bob Taylor and Peter Hyland informed us that after graduating from Melbourne University in agricultural science in 1960, Mike joined the Victorian Department of Agriculture, and shortly thereafter he was selected to travel to the University of California, where he obtained his Masters. In addition, he had formed a network of international contacts that grew with the years and was to be of great importance to Australian horticulture.

He became Chairman of the tomato processing industry negotiating committee from 1976 to 1981. From 1982 to 1998 Mike directed the department's plant regulatory services.

As chief quarantine officer (plants) Victoria, and state supervising officer (exports), Mike was the interface between the Commonwealth and Victoria. "His management of the fire blight issue will forever be a model of how to implement quarantine policy with major trade implications, in an atmosphere of extreme public interest."

He was chairman of the Victorian Dried Fruits Board 1966 to 1998, and served as a member and deputy chairman of the Melbourne Fruit and Vegetable Market Trust 1982 to 1993.

In 1998 he was awarded the Farrer Memorial Medal for "distinguished services to agricultural science in Australia.

An outstanding member of the Australian Institute of Agricultural Science at state, national and international levels, he was Victorian branch president in 1974-75 and in 1978 was awarded Life Membership for his work as honorary general secretary and editor of the council newsletter. He was awarded a fellowship of the institute in 1986 for "eminent and dedicated service to the institute and the profession."

Leaving the Department after 38 years, he was chairman of the Victorian Seed Potato Authority at the time of his death.

"Mike was a kindly, compassionate family man, active in scouting and his local church".

IN PRAISE OF THE 40 YEAR REUNION

The President's current report makes reference to Sandra Duncan. Here is her letter. "Thank you very much for the effort you and your team put into the reunion. I enjoyed it immensely.

I was a very average student and hopeless at sport, so I didn't have anything special about me to be remembered. That made me a little nervous about attending, thinking maybe only the high achievers would attend.

I shouldn't have worried, as these things were not an issue.

I learned that in our own way we all have our special achievements. Mine is a very happy marriage and a common sense brain that helped to build a successful business. I would like to think that I will be around for the 50 year reunion."

FABER QUISQUE FORTUNAE ADDRESS
AUGUST 2002

Martin Hallet M. Ag. Sci

Having invited the Association members and friends to the Melbourne Museum, where he was acting C.E.O., Martin led us through his fascinating career, and reflected on his D.H.S education.

Martin's formal training was as an Agricultural Scientist.

After completing a Masters degree studying capeweed, an important weed of pastures and crops, he earned a Diploma of Education and completed further studies at the Australian School of Pacific Administration. This led to travel to the tropical islands in the Pacific, then to Port Moresby and ultimately to the highlands of Papua New Guinea. There he taught vocational agriculture, establishing pond systems and gardens, to groups with 500 languages. The system required innovative activities – treatment of effluent from pigs and chickens to produce methane. He recalled the natural musicianship of the people, and dance, the dressing-up and the ceremonies at the amazing feasts, and of course, the Garoka Show.

Martin returned in 1975 and commenced at the State Museum of Victoria (S.M.V.), later to become Museum Victoria (MV). He laid out the history of MV (and its extraordinary complexity), its origins in 1854 in the assay office, under Professor McCoy, and then in 1856, when National Museum of Victoria (N.M.V) moved to Melbourne University. N.M.V specimens include a Darwin finch from Galapagos, and Wallace specimens are also represented in the collection. We were informed that the N.M.V also has Indigenous collections, which are now part of the social history of Australia. Mining technology was also a feature of the institution. The strong educational focus led to the founding of R.M.I.T.

In the 20th century the dinosaur exhibition opened, then, in 1992 M.V. opened Scienceworks, which features interactive engagement. This institution has experienced a most positive response, and in August 1999 the new Planetarium was opened.

National Museum of Victoria — Recent History

August 1989 – Minister Evan Walker supported proposals for a new \$125 million museum at Southbank on the Yarra. Daryl Jackson developed the design. Scheduled to open in 1993/94, construction proceeded. In May 1993, following the defeat of the Kirner Government, Jeff Kennett terminated the Southbank project and announced that a new museum was to be built in Carlton, on the Royal Exhibition Building reserve, adjacent to the very significant building constructed for Melbourne's 1880 International Exhibition.

The Old Customs House, a significant heritage building, was transferred to M.V. in 1996 by Jeff Kennett, and the Immigration Museum opened in October 1998.

After the resignation of C.E.O. Graham Morris in March 1998, closely followed by three other Directors, Martin assumed responsibility for managing the Museum's interests in the building projects at Immigration Museum and Melbourne Museum. He was appointed Deputy C.E.O in February 2000.

After the resignation of Dr. George MacDonald in September 2001, Martin became Acting C.E.O. and brought the project to fruition. Now the home of 16,000,000 items, with \$300 million spent, it is four times larger than its predecessor at Swanston Street.

Impact of DHS on Martin

"Robert Fulghum has written a book entitled 'Everything I Need to Know I Learned in Kindergarten...' I never had the privilege of going to kindergarten...perhaps I learned the basic relationship skills he's referring to in primary school in Frankston... But I think I honed them in DHS.

I recollect the passion of key teachers. Paul Gardner and especially Ion Whykes led me to choose a career in the biological sciences.

Barry Jones helped me to maintain a lively interest in current affairs. John Menadue, Molly Cowan and Edna Dawson (Vukmirovic) nurtured my love of music.

Facts weren't important. Respect for, and a love of learning were. These have remained important throughout my life. I am glad I gained my secondary education in a school that regarded education as the right of every person in our community, not a privilege for an elite. As a result, I learned self-respect and respect for others. Both insights have stood me in good stead since then. The education I gained through DHS equipped me to be successful at the highest level of my profession. It also equipped me to meaningfully contribute to the community in which I live and the wider global community.

I'm immensely grateful for what I gained from DHS and am glad to see it continuing to positively influence the lives of so many people."

Martin then led us into a great afternoon tea, where a 'mini-reunion' took place, nevertheless leaving time for all to further explore this invaluable Victorian asset, for which our thanks go to Martin for his outstanding leadership.

POST SCRIPT

At the afternoon tea, the Editor met ex-student, **BILL STANHOPE** (matriculated 1946). He affirmed that **MIKE KINSELLA**, for whom 'The Age' recently carried a substantial obituary, (detailed elsewhere), was indeed an ex-student, and I think he included **FERGUS BLACK** as also having a leading role in the orchard industry.



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**UNIFORMS
WANTED;**

Donations of articles of uniforms, especially the winter navy tunic, straw hats would be appreciated.

**VOLUNTEERS
WANTED;**

Come and join us for a pleasant 2 hours on a Wednesday cataloguing archives.

Contact our historian, Dawn Harris for further information.