



Summer 2003/4

Issue 31

DHSESA Newsletter

NELLIE GILL CELEBRATES HER 100TH BIRTHDAY

In 1919, Nellie Gill was among the first intake of students, and is possibly the only surviving member from that unique group. The Principal, Martin Culkin, ex-student and Deputy Principal Robyn Stevenson and Mr Wiggs joined George and Elaine Gill and other family members at the celebration. We are pleased to report that Nellie is fit and well.



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From The Chair

On 15 December last year, Dandenong High School launched a revitalized Awards Night. The previous format had been held at the School for many years and had become disappointing in its attendance and atmosphere. The Principal, Martin Culkin, resolved to upgrade the occasion and to make it a "celebration event for all members of the school community". The result was impressive.

The chosen venue was the Robert Blackwood Hall at Monash University and this time the entire school was invited rather than just those receiving awards. Parents were also encouraged to attend. When the students arrived they were abuzz with anticipation and clearly conscious of the importance of the event.

The evening's program was tightly packed with academic, music, special category and sports awards. These were interlaced with addresses by the Principal, School Council President Alan Collier, Senior Staff and the School Captains Mubin Rahimi and Mirijana Markovic. The guest speaker was Mr Anthony Byrne MP, Federal Member for Holt, who struck just the right chord for the evening.

The program commenced with an inspiring performance by the Melbourne International Voices, a male vocal group led by Phillip Smith. Their songs filled the hall to wonderful effect. Mid program came a video presentation of school life prepared by Anne Kennedy's Media studies students. This showcased the modern capabilities of IT equipment and learning. The finale was a parade of the Year 12 students who were all heralded onto the stage and farewelled in a rousing manner.

Ex-students' involvement was as supportive as ever. Special guests included former students and teachers Max and Pam Oldmeadow, Eric and Judith Eckstein, and John Robertson. The Committee was represented by Don and Lorraine Metcalfe, Ruby Constable and Dawn Harris. Robyn Browne presented the Class of 1964 Encouragement Award to Fahim Ahmad with her usual enthusiasm.

I presented the Bruce Rayment Music Award to Paulina Truong. She is a worthy recipient, described by her teachers as an accomplished pianist and an outstanding leader. Her musical skills resulted in a High Distinction for her Australian Music Examinations Board Third Grade Theory test. As Band Captain, Paulina has worked tirelessly to assist and organize the School Band's music library. She has been an outstanding role model for the junior music students in the School and was recently re-elected Band Captain for 2004. She is held in esteem by both her peers and her teachers.

All staff members and students are to be congratulated on their efforts, especially the Co-ordinator, Sue Ewin. We look forward to further successful Awards Nights in the future.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)
President



ADRIAN MAGU.....

Good evening!

Firstly I'd like to thank Pat and Christine for inviting me as the Guest speaker and Opener of the Exhibition it's a great privilege to be here.

Secondly, I'd like to thank you all for coming to acknowledge the hard work and incredible talents of the students here.

When I was invited to come here tonight and talk to you for a few minutes, my first reaction was..... What on earth do I say? And what do I talk about?

It seemed that only yesterday I was here as a student looking up to those in the industry and here I am doing my own speech.

Tonight I'd like to briefly share with you a few of my background experiences from high school through to university and then the industry I work in today. I hope that by doing that it will show you that although there are some challenges and disappointment ahead, there is always success and opportunity.

As some of you may know, I'm an industrial designer at Ford Motor Company where I design automotive interiors and exteriors and accessories.

But I have to say that during my junior high school years I could probably admit to being an average student. But I knew I had a talent for art and design and decided I wanted to pursue and excel in these subjects.

I think that it is important to be passionate about the subjects you choose, especially during year 11 and 12 as they pretty much dictate the direction of your career to come.

During V.C.E I realised that design was what I wanted to do as a career and with the help and encouragement of both Christine and Pat I was able to build a strong portfolio and complete my V.B.C.E with a good T.E.R.

And I must add that I guess that once you're in the industry you realise how harmless Christine and Pat really are.

Despite my strong portfolio and good T.E.R my application at a university graphic design course was unsuccessful. That was my first disappointment and at the time I felt like a bit of a failure.

Nevertheless, I *was* accepted at Chisholm TAFE and completed a two-year Graphic Arts/and Design Diploma. At TAFE, I was introduced to the technological side of design with computer design programs such as Adobe Photoshop and Illustrator.

The skills I developed enabled me to get freelance work for various graphic design studios around Melbourne for 6 months followed by an overseas trip to North America and Europe.

The following year I returned back to studying, but this time I was successfully accepted into an industrial Design degree program at Monash University.

My first two years at university were a little challenging, and I spent a lot of time developing experience in 3D design. I learnt manual model making skills and 3D computer programs such as Autocad and Alias.

My first two years were focussed on product and furniture design, followed by my final two years specialising in transportation design.

During my 3rd year I was approached by Ford Motor Company for an interview where I was selected from 12 other ID students to complete a one year internship training program at Ford during my honours year at uni.

School Year 2003

'The Journal' stalwart MARG STORK, presented an admiring story of the Dux of the school, CHRISTIAN ROTARU, reflecting on his bright future.

When he came to Dandenong 3 years ago from Romania, he could hardly speak English.

He won a prestigious University of Melbourne prize for being the best student in the school over all subjects. Christian said that he read his bible and prayed to God, and he commended the encouragement of his family.

Awards night was transferred in 2003 to Robert Blackwood Hall at Monash. A report of this successful occasion is carried in the President's Report. Exies present (by invitation, which is great), included MAX AND PAM OLDEMADOW (Saunders), GRETA JUNGWIRTH (Devries), ROBYN BROWNE, RUBY CONSTABLE, (Waterhouse), DAWN HARRIS (Burhop), JOHN ROBERTSON, JUDITH AND ERIC ECKSTEIN and DON and LORRAINE METCALFE (Vincent).

A special presentation during the year was the "Excellence in the Making; Art and Technology Show", which showcased the talents of successful V.C.E classes in the areas of Visual Art and Technology.

The special guest was ADRIAN MAGU, a reasonably recent graduate of the school who is now one of the leading designers of Ford Australia. (His speech is included in this newsletter). He proved an inspiration, and talented characters from the Drama and Music Departments entertained the guests.

Staff who were acknowledged with long service awards were as follows;

- Graeme Hoult 10 years
- David Hensahw 15 years
- Christine Oliphant
- Mandy Rowlands
- Henrietta Filippou 20 years
- Stephen Kennedy
- Anna Nois
- Paul Simmonds
- Oto Sitnai
- Sue Moorhouse
- Yvonne Spitteler 25 years
- Christine Elliot 30 years
- Neil and Lorna Vague Chaplaincy
- Sharon Harris
- Greta Jungwirth Ex-students Association

We are sure that these names bring back many memories to ex-students.

Sad news with the passing of Dr. Ken Griffiths, who represented an important link in a DHS dynasty. Ken's father J. L.I. Griffiths B.A., Dip.Ed., was Headmaster from 1937 to 1952. Ken's 3 boys, Ross, Andrew and Robert, all attended the school.

ADRIAN MAGU (cont'd)

Working in such a large studio with successful designers I had heard and read about before was quite a nerve wracking experience. I shortly realised that this was one of the best opportunities or career break at such a young age so I took full advantage of the opportunity to soak up all the skills and processes available to me through work.

With the completion of my honours degree I applied for a job at Ford after my internship had finished and was selected as part of the design team there.

Working at Ford has been a blessed experience. It has opened up doors for future work overseas in countries such as the UK, Germany, the USA and Japan.

One of the most satisfying things about working as a designer is the satisfaction of seeing your design out there and knowing all the hard work that has gone into it has paid off.

So what do I hope you get out of me telling you all of this? I just want to give the students a bit of advice and encouragement before I finish. I know how much I needed to hear it from people in the industry when I was a student. So I hope I can be of help to them.

Firstly I'm very happy to see such great work and talent here. The design process and use of technology has certainly changed for the better since my time here almost 8 years ago.

I'd encourage you never to sell yourselves short if you believe in your work and are passionate about it.

After completing V.C.E you may find that many doors will be closed and although you may be discouraged and disappointed, know that many other doors will be open too. There is always opportunity for people who work hard and are passionate about what they do.

But it is up to you to get out there and create new opportunities and open new doors. A good way of doing this is by enrolling in short courses such as a basic design course.

It is important to be enthusiastic about what you do. During your tertiary years get involved in any extra curricular activities and network your way around. Basically start getting your name out there even if it means doing 2 weeks of unpaid work experiences for a studio during your holidays. This will be of great benefit later on.

As technology advances you'll find that the design principles will interlink so it's important to do your own research and find out more about what processes and programmes are being used out there.

Lastly I'd like to say that design can be very subjective so never take it to heart or get discouraged by negative feedback. Use it as a learning curve. A designer never stops learning, and making mistakes is part of building design skills so never give up or think you're a failure.

You're all talented artists and designers—the works on display tonight prove that—and I wish you all the best in your future career.

With that said I'd like to officially open the D.H.S Exhibition.

Thank you!

Faber Quisque Fortunae.....

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