

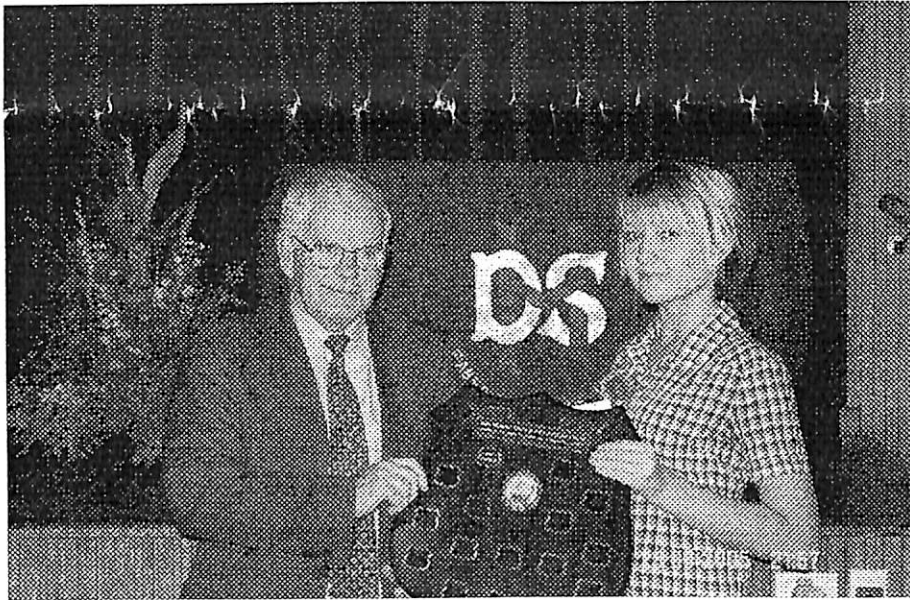


Autumn 2005

Issue 35

DHSESA Newsletter

MAESTRO JOHN MENADUE CELEBRATED.



The Editor presents the 'John Menadue House Spirit Shield' to The Conductor of Orchid House, Anja Barasic. (See story below)

HOUSE CHORAL NIGHT

On the evening of March 23rd, the student-led choirs took to the stage at the school for the Choral competition.

During a fast-moving musical evening, the choirs performed, and were adjudicated, batons were presented to the Music Captains, and a smorgasbord of musical items was presented. In addition to the John Menadue award, the Molly Cowen Perpetual House Chorals Trophy was presented, together with the People's Choice Award. Mrs. Caroline Servadei is the Music Coordinator, and ex-student Dawn Harris adjudicated.

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“I Remember” by Ross Bramley....

After reading the last issue of DHESA newsletter I noted that Don Metcalfe invited ex-students to write about their time at DHS. As I started thinking back many memories flooded through my mind and I decided to share some of them.

I remember exactly 54 years ago today I walked through the gates at DHS for the first time. I was only 10 years old and turned 11 at the end of February 1951. I finished my primary school days in 1950 after 6 years at Dandenong West Primary School.

I remember standing in the quadrangle for my first school assembly with approximately 800 students, all of them older than myself. The Headmaster, Mr. Griffiths, climbed the steps with the help of his walking stick to address the students. He was about 63 years of age but to a 10 year old he seemed so old. However, now that I am turning 65 in February, maybe 63 was not really so old after all! He held an air of authority as he welcomed the new students. I will always be thankful to Mr Griffiths for the positive influence he had in my life.

As we lined up for assembly on that first day in 1951, I was rather pleased to see there were almost twice as many girls as boys at the school. To this day I can still remember the words of our school song, Faber Quisque Fortunae, as 800 students sang together each Monday morning, the flag was raised and allegiance given.

I remember crossing the highway for classes in the Army huts near the Scout Hall and classes in the detached room, ‘Siberia’, on the western boundary near the shop. It was in ‘Siberia’ that we were caught hoisting a desk up into the rafters then putting green gum leaves in the pot belly stove until it smoked the room out. Unfortunately for me I did not see Mr. Brumley coming, however, everyone else did and quietly disappeared leaving me alone in the room to suffer the cuts and detention!

In 1952 four prefabricated classrooms were added near the gymnasium next to the oval. I remember the tennis court, hockey oval, the sports oval, all the huge pine trees around the boundary of the school (what a cosy spot to meet our girlfriends!), basketball courts and so

much more. I still have all the Gate magazines from my years along with my school cap and badge, honours certificates, school photos etc.

I remember the school socials at the Scout Hall, picking out the prettiest girl and then taking her home after the dances. Then there was the bi-yearly school sporting trip to Mildura where I played on the basketball team one year, we went on trips down the river on the Paddle Steamer and were billeted with local families. There were inter-house sports days, sports carnivals, exams, music classes, gym days, the woodwork room, Latin classes! Art classes, Mr Brumley’s little office, the Headmaster’s office - I seem to remember it well!! The cooking room, making rotten egg gas in the science room and so on.

What was that substance we put into the ink wells to make the ink bubble over? Remember the upstairs assembly room that was divided into two classrooms (were they rooms 21 and 22?) with sliding glass doors between. I was sitting in the last row of the front room with a book standing up around my inkwell absorbed in the bubbling ink when loud tapping on the glass behind me reminded me too late that the teacher in the second room could see everything I was doing—another visit to Mr. Griffiths office!!

After leaving school I spent some years employed with the Crown Law Department. I then moved to the North NSW Coast followed by the last 20 years in Real Estate in Sydney. I am happily married and have 3 children and 5 grandchildren. I have now retired and enjoy playing tennis, keeping fit, walking, reading, spending time with my grandchildren and generally loving life.

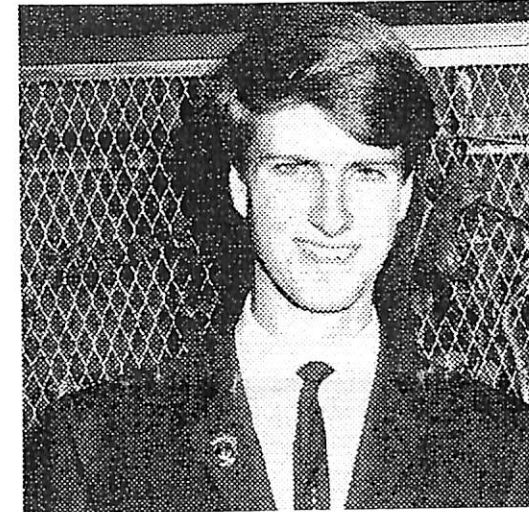
Thank you to my teachers and fellow students for the impact you had on my life. I count it as a real privilege to have spent my High School years at DHS and I treasure those memories.

I would love to hear from anyone who remembers me so that we can share some of our memories of DHS.

Ross Bramley 02 9484 4405

Vale Robert Walsh....

Robert Walsh
10th December 1948 – 7th March 2005



Robert Walsh commenced his secondary education at Dandenong High School in 1961 and matriculated in 1966. In his senior year he was the Editor of “The Gate” and during his school career was involved in many of the activities and events at the school.

Graduates of 1966 may remember Robert for his part in the end of year “muck up” performance which was a parody on the “All the Way with LBJ” theme of the then Holt Federal Government.

Following secondary school, Robert attended Frankston Teachers College and later obtained his Bachelor of Special Education at Monash University.

Robert married Helen Kirkham of Harkaway in 1974 and they had one son – James. Robert and Helen had been living on a 5 acre property in Devon Meadows for some years prior to Robert’s death. Helen continues to teach at Cranbourne West Primary School.

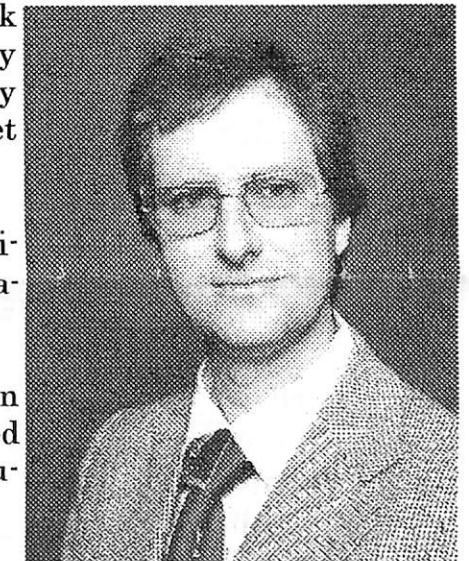
Robert taught in a number of Primary Schools including Toolangie Primary School, Cranbourne Primary school, Officer Primary School, Rangebank Primary School (Cranbourne), Cranbourne West Primary School and he was the Principal of Noble Park Primary School at the time of his forced retirement due to the onset of his illness.

Robert passed away at the age of 56 at South Eastern Private Hospital on 7th March, 2005 after a long and courageous battle against cancer.

A Celebration of his Life was held at the Berwick Anglican Church on 11th March and his funeral service was attended by more than 300 people including a number of ex DHS students.

The eulogies presented at his funeral described Robert as a deeply caring and compassionate man whose positive influence on the lives of so many individuals, students and adults alike, will be his epitaph that will live on for many years to come.

(Editor’s thanks to John Tucker)



Mentioned in Despatches.....

Really exciting is the enrolment of PIA FARIAS-FERNANDEZ, an ex-student of 2002 who has responded to our granting honorary membership status to recent graduates.
The Editor looks forward to contributions from Pia as she commences her journalism studies.

Also sad to report the death of JESSIE MITCHELL, senior mistress in 1959-1960. Her niece is providing an epitaph, which we will bring to you later.

Drifting through a 1950 copy of 'The Gate', supplied by member Elaine Houston, there were 5 matriculants from 1949, being GEOFFERY HAYES, KENNETH LEE, COLIN PIERRE HUMBERT, FRANCIS SMITH and JOHN COOK.

It is sad news to report the passing of HEATHER MENGLER (nee Collison). Heather grew up in Cranbourne and Murrumbidgee. She was married to Carl (John) who was also an ex-student, and he went on to become a nationally respected Police Officer.

'The Age' recent headline "Fitzpatrick Key to Cup Challenge", was expanded to "Fast bowler CATHRYN FITZPATRICK has been nominated ahead of McGrath as crickets's most dependable bowler". Cathryn is about to embark on her fourth World Cup campaign.

From the Chair

Greta Jungwirth

Good news from the School is that plans are in train to celebrate the 85th Anniversary of DHS during History Week in May.

Most activities will be held at the School. There will be a commemorative plaque and tree-planting ceremony and the Student Council will organize student celebrations. The staff will mark the milestone with an anniversary cake and an afternoon-tea.

Our Association's Historian, Dawn Harris, will supervise the mounting of a display from the School Archives in the Assembly Hall. This will be open for viewing on Thursday 19 May from 1pm - 6pm.

There will also be an opportunity for interaction between past students and teachers, and present students, during that week. The idea is for former students to talk to History classes about how things were when they were educated at DHS. To make this a success, volunteers are needed for half or full days from Monday 16 May to Thursday 19 May.

Please consider returning to "the best school of all" and being part of the celebrations. You can ring me on 9754 2440 or Don on 9704 7938 or email valuerdm@bigpond.net.au and leave your details.

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This piece from a N.S.W. regional newspaper, acknowledges another member of the Bramley family, Pam.

Most teachers use textbooks (and a computer, too, these days) in the classroom. But Pam Bramley, who is a master stone teacher, uses a chisel and hammer at the Hawkesbury Community College. For six years, Ms. Bramley has been on the road teaching the fine art of stone carving. She's been to group workshops throughout Sydney and also in Dubbo, Wagga Wagga and Orange. She's also given private lessons to students in Canberra and Batemans Bay, "I taught the boys in the Juvenile Justice System Educational Unit at Dubbo", Ms. Bramley said. "They really enjoyed the art of creating and they were proud once they finished a piece of work." Ms Bramley was 32 when she started stone carving and has made many monuments in her 25 years as a creative artist. "In a group of five, we created a bicentenary depicting all the different areas of the mountains at Glenbrook", she said. "It took us about four to five months to complete. We also made a 150th birthday monument in Liverpool near the old courthouse." Ms Bramley went to Scotland in 1991. What was originally intended as a holiday extended to a two-year workshop in which she developed her work. "I had a couple of exhibitions in Scotland and England and the response from people was fantastic," she said. "They were really interested". "I have a goddess type style these days. I create a lot of three-dimensional pieces and like creating Islamic works, which don't depict animals or humans. "I teach my students to make an Egyptian eye and they really enjoy it. They finish with it in two workshops." Pam recommends stone carving as a therapy.

Roland Hough

Roland Hough (attended DHS from 1951 to 1955).

"50 Years On"

I commenced at DHS in February 1951, one week later than the rest of my class as we had been away on a rare family holiday. I had just turned 11 years old and all the other kids in my class seemed to already know the ropes. This made the transition from a small State School (Heatherton) to what I considered a huge High School even more daunting. I remember entering the school front door and waiting outside the Headmaster's office with great trepidation.

My older brother Noel and sister Gwen had been pupils of DHS in the late 40's and my younger brother Alan also attended from 1957 to 1959.

Mrs Nicholson was my first form teacher (1A). I have very happy memories of my early days at DHS and the teachers who first made an impression on me. DHS was very strong academically but also encouraged a very competitive attitude to all sports and physical training. Looking back I believe they had the mix between the two exactly right, which is why the school has over the years produced a disproportionate number of high achievers. There was always a great attitude at the school and hopefully it's still the same today.

Early influences included Miss Stainforth (Bessie) who taught me Latin with a smattering of life thrown in. She stayed interested in my progress right through my time at DHS. Clive Worrall taught geography and also as Sports Master took PT which took place in the boy's locker room for two periods per week. I doubt that PT is included in today's curricula which is a great pity as this in its own way was as valuable to the physical and mental development of young boys as their academic studies.

Mr Brumley (W. Leslie) taught Science and must have then been 80 years old (or so he seemed). I found him quite frightening and he seemed to have eyes in the back of his head. He was severely handicapped and walked painfully slowly with a walking stick. Each lunch time he made a ritualistic walk from the teacher's staff room diagonally across the quadrangle to the toilets. It took him about 10 minutes to cross the quadrangle and if he saw any child running in the same area he would wave his walking stick at them, and command them to slow down.

Mr Griffiths was the Headmaster for my first two years and although he was in reality a kindly person he also had a very gruff exterior. Roy Andrews followed Mr. Griffiths into the role.

Also in my first year my maths master was Percy (Poddy) Langford. He had served in the first world war and had subsequently been appointed as the first Headmaster when DHS opened its doors in 1919. He had already retired but had returned to teaching, just taking Maths. He told us that the red and two blues that are on the DHS badge were taken from the colours of his Light Horse division in the Great War.

Edna Dawson took us for music and she of course was a delightful and inspiring person.

We had to take woodwork in the first two years (Mr. Randall) which was the only bit of training I've ever had in this area and has been surprisingly useful over the years.

From my first year I played house football (Orchid) and in my first year represented my House and subsequently the school at the inter-school athletics held at Essendon Football Ground. My race was the 75 yard sprint. I was also a member of the successful 12 year old circular relay that year which we won. Athletics was a big deal at DHS, as was swimming.

I remember my first cross-country which I think all first year forms jointly competed in. We started near where the teaching staff parked their cars and ran up the driveway and left into Princes Highway. None of us had any idea of the distance we had to cover (5 kms) so we all started off running flat out and very soon kids were dropping off or looking for short cuts to try to beat the system. I remember always completing the course honestly

Roland Hough ... continued

but with aching legs for days afterwards. The "smart" kids hid behind a fence near the school oval and then ran in with the tail end of the field.

Going over to the "huts" was always a bit of extra fun although they did get very hot in the summer.

The end of year socials in the army hall were a lot of fun and not to be missed.

In my second year I was 2A Form Captain. Our form teacher was Mr McCarthy who also took us for History.

In third year our form teacher was Evelyn Dee. Also in that year I was successful at the house sports in winning the long jump in my age group. The prevailing system was that the second place getter could challenge the winner at lunch time at a chosen day after the sports day. My challenger was Tony Evans but fortunately I was successful and represented the school again at Essendon.

In fourth year our form teacher was Reg Everett whose wife was also on the teaching staff. In that year I was still young enough to play junior football and Barry Shade, Ken Bennett (later to play for Collingwood) and myself were elected as selectors for the junior team. To me, wearing the DHS football jumper was like wearing the baggy green cap for cricket. We had a very successful year. In those days the Dandenong Journal used to give good coverage of DHS inter-school matches and my mother kept many cuttings from the paper which I still have.

In 1955, my final year, my form teacher was Tom Russell (Major). He had taken our classes for several years, I think for geography. He had served in WW2 as a genuine major and would always regale us with stories (it was easy to get him going) with no regard to his teaching timetable until a couple of weeks before the exams. Then he would realise he was way behind the curriculum and ram it through (us) over the last few weeks. He often talked about setting up army cadetships at DHS and it sounded pretty exciting to me at the time but it didn't happen while I was there.

Our Sportsmaster that year was Max Oldmeadow and one of his friends was Thorold Merrett a famous Collingwood footballer. Thorold came out to the school on one occasion and coached us at a training night after school. It was a real buzz to meet him. He also arranged for our team to visit the Collingwood rooms one Saturday prior to a league match and meet all of the players. I still have an autograph book with all the signatures. Some really famous names - including Lou Richards.

Characters I remember

A few others apart from those that I've already mentioned:

Mrs Harvey (Helen) was an art teacher who you treated with great respect (or else).

Mr. Robertson (who I met again at the school in 1999 and who looked exactly the same as I remembered him). He was without peer as a left handed missile thrower - mostly sizeable chunks of chalk.

Hec Randell the long suffering gentleman who would mark out the white lines on the oval for the athletic events.

Mr. Rich our math teacher who almost became a cult figure.

Mr. Trainor who took Latin for one of my years. He would walk into a classroom where we all had to stand and he would immediately survey the rows of students, gesticulating with a ruler, and saying "straight lines please". He ran a close second to Mr. Robertson in the chalk-throwing stakes.

In closing

I've recently retired after a lifetime of involvement in the printing/publishing industry. In 1970 I moved with my family to Sydney and we're all still in Sydney. I married Marlene Morris, who attended DHS from 1954-1957 and we were married for 20 years. We have three beautiful daughters who are all very successful in life.

My time at DHS was a magic period, one of the happiest times of my life. I made many friends, too numerous to mention but hopefully they'll receive this newsletter and enjoy some of the memories. It was great to go back to the school for the 1999 celebration, where I did catch up with a couple of my old classmates.

Hopefully I can catch up with some of you at the school's 90th anniversary.



Membership of the Association

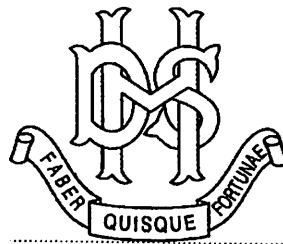
Membership of the Association is taken to be for a calendar year, regardless of which month the payment is made. Some people choose the option to pay for 2 or 3 calendar years. If a new member joins in the last 3 or 4 months of the year, their membership is usually carried into the next year. These practices have been adopted to be in line with the rules of the Association and to create the least work for the committee.

DHSESA Office Bearers

- **President**
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- **Treasurer**
Ruby Constable
- **Historian/Ordinary Member**
Dawn Harris
- **School Liaison Officer**
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In response to requests over the last few years the Association placed an order for a smaller version of the DHS badge. They are stickpin badges that can be worn on jacket lapels and other apparel. The badges are now available to members for \$10 each and can be ordered by mail. Surprise a friend or relative and send them one as a present!

FROM THE EDITOR

The response for 'infoterials' has been just great, and I would never want to complain, but the sources are mostly those known to yours truly. So come on, ex students and teachers from 1919-1949 and 1960 to 2004. Hit me!

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