



# DHSESA Newsletter

## ANOTHER NOTABLE 'FABER QUISQUE FORTUNAE ADDRESS'

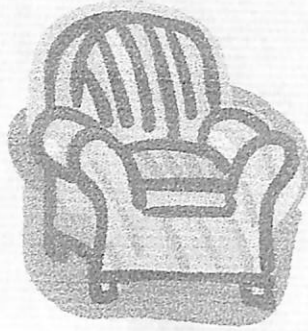


**Pictured at Federation Hall at the  
Victorian College of the Arts, from left  
to right:  
Association Treasurer Ruby Constable,  
Guest Speaker Jan Trezise, and  
Dr. Jean Allison.**

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# From The Chair



Since our last newsletter, a great deal of discussion and investigation has taken place regarding the form the proposed changes to the School should take. Last year the Principals of the three schools undertook an overseas study tour to observe education precincts in Britain and New Zealand. After the Principal of Dandenong High School, Martin Culkin, reported back to the School Council, the following motion was carried unanimously at its meeting in August:

Motion 34/05

*"That Dandenong High School Council believes that the new entity should be known as 'Dandenong High School' and the school uniform to be substantially the same. The approach to student management should be substantially the same as Dandenong High School currently uses. The focus of the new entity should be 'academic excellence' with the capacity to increase vocational education and multiple pathways. School Council wishes to retain the ceremonies and celebrations currently practised at Dandenong High School. The current School Council also believes that A, G and L blocks should be retained. Dandenong High School supports the closing of the junction of Ann and Herbert Streets."*

It was heartening to learn that all the Council Members wanted to retain these important features of the School, however, it should be noted that they only form one third of the voting block in the enlarged entity.

Some ex-students have already been moved to write to the Principal and School Council about their concerns, listing the aspects of the School that they valued and wish to see retained. It would not hurt if more of these letters and emails were sent to the School so that the Council members could see the extent of support for the motion.

Since the August meeting, work has been commissioned to provide a detailed costing of the provision of new facilities on such a large scale. More recently, senior members of the staff have continued to gather ideas about curriculum delivery and school design through visits to Tasmania and South Australia. The cost of this work is covered by a grant from the Department of Education and Training. At present, an architectural company has been engaged to undertake Master Planning work.

This is our information to date. It is our intention to keep ex-students and staff informed of developments in the future.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)  
President



# Mentioned in Despatches.....

## TIFFANY NISH & MICHELLE CARRERA

Two Year 12, 2005 students, Tiffany and Michelle, were admired for their attendance at the Faber Quisque Fortunae Address, joining Principal Martin Culkin and Musical Director, Caroline Servadei.

## LES NETHERCOTT

The name of La Trobe University Professor Les Nethercott (student of the 1950's and 1960's), bobbed up in 'The Age' recently, questioning the debutant Tax Commissioner Michael D'Ascenzo about the complexity of the tax law.

## JOHN BOOTHROYD

John, a student in 1952 returned to present a Masonic Scholarship at the recent investiture ceremony of Student Leaders at DHS

## CARMA WOIDE (KEAST)

Caught up with Carma at the Faber Quisque Fortunae address. Her two girls, Pauline and Rhonda also attended DHS.

## MICHAEL MORRIS (MICK)

While focussing on Cranbourne, Michael, a student in the 1950's was visiting recently for his mother's birthday. Michael now lives in Canberra and whilst down here visited Graeme and Margaret Facey (Smith).

## ARTHUR STEVENSON

Arthur left DHS in 1945 and is still running a successful local building company. He warmly remembers John Loveridge and Keith Cadd, Brian Hill and Noel Courteney, Frank O'Shea and the Russel brothers of Keysborough.

## JOHN WHITE

Although not an ex-student, John, who was Principal of Cleeland High School during the 1980's, was admired by the Editor for his professionalism. John has become highly regarded as a silversmith and goldsmith. He recently exhibited in the City of Casey Civic Centre art space

## More Ex-Student News

Whilst attending the City of Casey Arts Dinner, the Editor was welcomed by Councillors **ROB WILSON** and **WAYNE SMITH**, and enjoyed meeting **KAY RANKIN (NEE LOVELL)**, who is now an active supporter of St John of God Hospital, Berwick.

The magazine for that hospital 'Pomegranate', recently featured **LORRAINE METCALFE (VINCENT)**, a student of the 1950's under the heading "Nurse, Pilot and Long Serving Care-giver". Lorraine is now the Infection Control Coordinator, and has been serving the Community Hospital since 1984. The Pakenham Gazette then followed up with an expanded story.

## My Perfect Day (continued..)

On the landing, I watch in awe as the pendulum of the stately grandfather clock swings back and forth, then into that hallowed quiet place, the *Dandenong Library* with its shelves and shelves of exciting books waiting to be discovered. A small white-headed genteel lady greets me. *Miss Macafee* wears a white, high-necked blouse with a cameo at her throat and round old-fashioned glasses perched delicately on the bridge of her nose. Once out of the inner sanctum with my books, we go into the old *Post Office*. The post boxes are set apart from the main building. I feel important as I post my mail and then weigh myself on the ancient green scales.

Back across the road again we head towards *Gunther's* fruit shop. Mother has a favourite butcher near this vicinity. He whistles a lot, walks with a jaunty air up the street, or around behind the counter and thinks he is God's gift to all women and they love him. *Keith Miller* was a handsome man with his wavy black hair and cheekiness, even to a five year old.

I move along to *Titcher's Pharmacy* and remember dear old *Mr Titcher* senior. He made up a potion called 'Gregory's Powder'. It was our clean-out medicine. Mrs Titcher, a Jewess, was a very 'handsome lady' with lustrous black hair, which she wore in a bun. She had long manicured red fingernails.

A visit to the *Dandenong Market* was 'the treat of the day' for a girl from the country. Believe it or not the country for us at that time was Doveton Avenue, Grassmere, via Dandenong. That was our postal address in the 1940's. Thinking of the market brings back memories of the cobble stones, toy umbrellas on sticks that spun around in the breeze when you ran, hot jam donuts, marshmallow wafers and I remember a very young chinaman on the cobblestones with a portable steamer selling his wares. I never did taste his dim sims, as Dad assured me they were manufactured from the 'local stray cats'. Another enclosed section of stalls ran along Clow Street and directly opposite, across the corner, was *Gippsland Timber and Hardware*.

Familiar faces come to mind, like dear *Mr Singleton*, the local Rechabite and Methodist lay preacher, who regularly sat on the seats outside *Ewatts Newsagents* or *Coles* chatting to the locals. Legend has it that he obligingly minded a parcel for someone whilst they made a purchase, not realizing he was holding four bottles of beer! Old identities like *Mr Judd* from *Judd's Menswear*, over the other side of Lonsdale Street was *Mick Hamilton*, from the Sports Shop up near *Macperhson and Kelleys Solicitors*, *Mr Boyd*, from *Boyd's General Store*, *Mr Gatley* another Newsagent. He became a councillor and the Mayor of Dandenong. Everyone recognised *Bluey Bumpstead* the sandy haired local who walked around talking to himself. Then there was *Wal Werret*. Wal was a real dasher, gorgeous, another favourite of the ladies. He ran a delicatessen shop for many years near *Steve De George's* and later went into real estate with *Frank Facey's* son Angus.

There was *Trevor Swan the dentist* tucked away deep in the labyrinth of the *Cadles Arcade*, that felt like a rabbit warren to me. Mr Swan was on the first floor, opposite *Mrs Davies Wool Shop*, and he was typical of the 1940 professional scene.

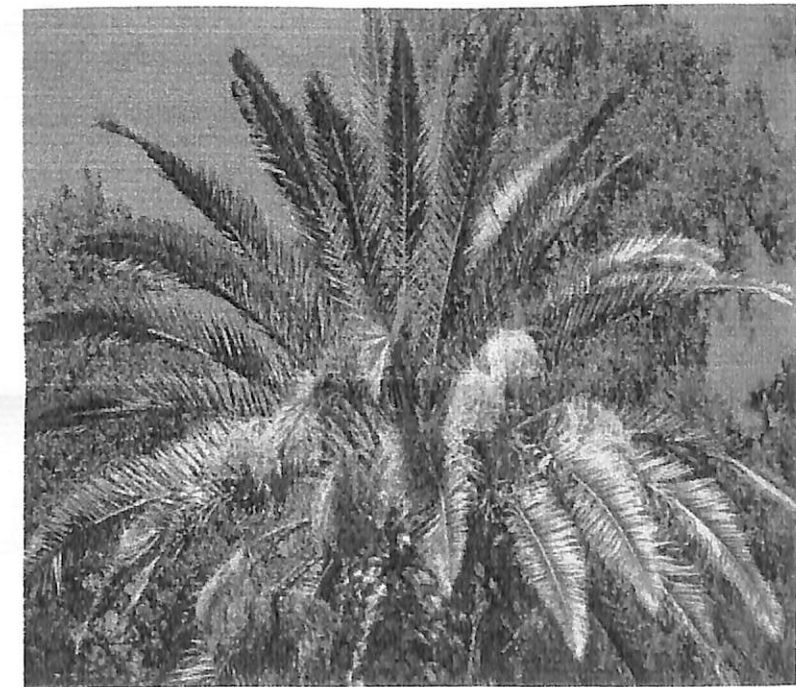
## My Perfect Day (continued..)

To a small child having bravely walked into his surgery, it was positively alarming to view a huge archaic monster looming over you head. That dreaded drill was terrifying. In those days there was not much small talk. It was a—let's get it over with—attitude and definitely no 'mood music' playing in the background.

Of course memories of Dandenong would not be complete without the *Mayfair Theatre* capably managed by *Mr John Bellett*. And as youngsters we had a healthy respect for him. He was a short man, but he had authority and commanded respect. As a special treat we were allowed to catch the Saturday bus into town and go to the Mayfair to see the matinee performance. How we cried when we saw *Lassie Come Home*, *My Friend Flicka* and *How Green is My Valley*. We laughed with glee at the *Three Stooges*, marvelled at *Superman* and urged the cowboys onward as they tried to escape from the blood-curdling cries of the Red Indians. *Tom Mix*, *Hopalong Cassidy*, *Gene Autrey* and *Roy Rogers* were our heroes. One half penny would buy us some licorice blocks and before anything started we stood for the playing of the national anthem, God Save the Queen. Later, disobeying our parents, we would walk around to Lonsdale Street and brave *Steve De George's* fish and chip shop where we were banned from going in but that only made it twice as exciting entering that forbidden zone. We would then catch our bus either at the station or in the centre of Lonsdale Street under the palm trees.

Completely lost in my reverie, I have forgotten to visit *Evans Grocery* store, where you buy tasty biscuit scraps for two pennies. Mrs Vin Evans had marvellous tins of biscuits on her top shelves; *Swallows & Aerials*, *Brockhoff* and *Arnotts* to name a few. *Jim Gells* music shop on the corner opposite the market, where you could be taught the guitar, Market Motors just around the corner in the service road. *Miss McNamara's Corsetry*—she was a dear little lady who would fuss over mother when she needed a fitting. *Mr Keith Terry* had a fruit shop and later ran the *Tourist Bureau* and of course *Mr Osborne* from *Osbornes Delicatessen*.

Editor's Note—Ah, Old Dandenong, you still inspire.



## Nellie Gill Remembers.....

Taken from "Rowville-Lysterfield Community News, 1995"

Nellie Gill is the granddaughter of George and Mary Ann Gill who settled in Rowville on a 155 acre property south of Wellington Road in 1857. George called the property 'Somerset Farm' after the county of his birth in England. The property was to remain in the hands of the family for well over 100 years and it was not until the 1980's that the last of the Gills moved away from Rowville. Gill Court off Dandelion Drive is named in honour of this Rowville Pioneering Family.

### "Sweet Nell of Drury"

Nellie Gill was born in the old Gill homestead that stood between the oak trees at the foot of Taylor's Lane on 5th February 1904. She was baptised Helene Sophie Gill but when Mrs Ted Row of Stamford Park came to see the baby, she exclaimed "She's Sweet Nell of Old Drury", a reference to the famous actress and singer of the time, Nellie Stewart, who had married her husband's brother Richard Row. When Nellie Gill was a small child she was given a plain gold bangle (known as a Nellie Stewart bangle) which were very fashionable at the time.

### School Days

Nellie first went to school in a one-roomed weather-board building located near the present Major Crescent on a property named Hynan Park owned by the Sealy Family. The teacher was Miss Hales and the school was known as Lysterfield State School No 3573. It ran from 1907 until it burnt down in 1912.

Apart from herself and her sister Mollie and brother Reg, Nellie remembered some of the other pupils.

These included Daisy and Hugh Clyne, Daisy Roberts and her brother, and the three Sealy children with the unusual names of Vosper, Honor and Deli.

After she left Mulgrave, Nellie was one of the first students to attend in 1919, the newly opened Dandenong High School. The first classes were actually held in the Temperance Hall and the Fire Brigade building in Robinson Street and at recess and lunch time the kids had to play in the streets. On Dandenong market day on Tuesdays, the boys playing football or cricket would have to scatter when the drovers moved their herds of cattle between the railway station and the market. (Nellie was one of only four of the inaugural students who attended DHS's 75th Anniversary celebrations in 1994).

During the week Nellie boarded with a Mrs Abury opposite the State School in Foster Street. The girls went to the State School for cookery classes until the new High School buildings were finished. She went home to Rowville for the weekends in the jinker with her mother who drove into Dandenong on Friday afternoons to do her shopping.

Nellie recalled a dramatic time during that year was the arrival in Australia of the world wide epidemic of Spanish flu. Everybody lined up at the Town Hall for vaccinations and then had to wear masks in public, The school was closed for six weeks; many people became sick and there were several deaths.

After finishing Intermediate at DHS, Nellie was appointed as a supplementary teacher back at her old school in Mulgrave at a salary of 19 shillings and two pence per week. Nellie's older sister Mollie also taught at the school. Nellie later became a hospital-based carer, and it was not until 1981 and at the age of 77 that she finally retired.

*Excerpts taken from Bryan Powers interview.*

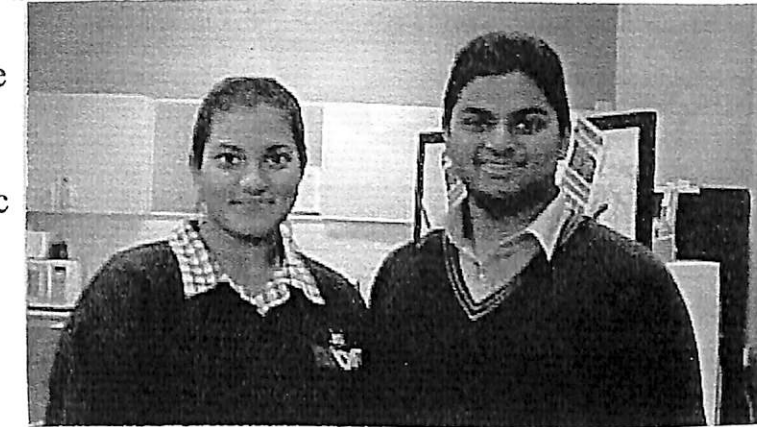
Some further family advice through stalwart George Gill. His cousin, Nellie's daughter Nell, also an Exie, says that attending DHS was one of the best things that could have happened to her mother, as Nellie's sister Gwen followed her there. They both returned to teach under Percy Langford, who became a great friend.

## 2006 ANNUAL MEETING

### Two new executive Members appointed

The 2006 Annual Meeting was held at the School on Saturday April 9th.

Those present were again treated to music from talented students and a number of Membership renewals were confirmed



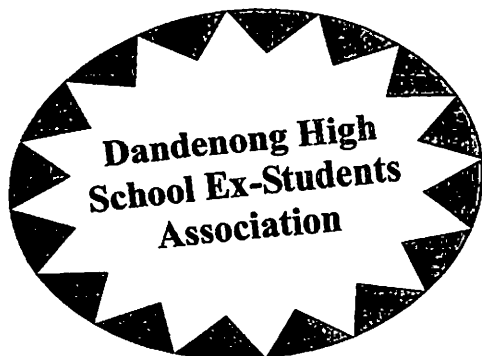
Students Ratika Palat (School Captain) & Rochana Kuruppa-Arachchi presented Musical items for the attending members

### Guest Speaker

Invited at short notice, Henri Licht, a student from the 1960's spoke passionately about his time at, and warm regard for, Dandenong High School. He later chose a teaching career. Henri recalled many aspects of the school, and his insights will be developed in a more detailed report in the next Newsletter



New Committee members Gary Matthews and Pia Farias-Fernandez with Guest Speaker Henri Licht



#### **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 two or three 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**  
Greta Jungwirth
- **Secretary**  
Pia Farias-Fernandez
- **Treasurer**  
Ruby Constable
- **Historian/Ordinary Member**  
Dawn Harris
- **School Liaison Officer**  
Robyn Stevenson
- **Membership Co-ordinator**  
Samantha Brown
- **Newsletter Editor**  
Don Metcalfe - 0418 343 995  
9704 7938
- **Assistant Editor**  
Wendy Metcalfe—0408 358 067
- **Regional Liaison Officer**  
Gary Matthews

#### **Mailing Address**

**P.O Box 383  
Dandenong 3175**

During 2006, the group which completed HSC in 1986, will celebrate their 20 year anniversary.

If you began year 7 in 1981, and wish catch up with old buddies on  
**October 21st 2006,**  
please contact **WENDY METCALFE** in one of the following ways;

- **wendy\_met@hotmail.com**
- **0407 05 75 89.**

A database of current contacts from this era has been started and we hope to add lots more!

Hope to hear from you!