

DHSESA Newsletter

Spring

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**DHS HOSTS A
DIAMOND
JUBILEE
(and others
follow, including
the Royals)**

From The Chair

Number 54



A recent article in "The Age" reported on the philosophy behind the way education is being delivered at a primary school in Noble Park North. There are similarities between what is driving the changes at that school and at DHS.

Underpinning everything is the use of technology. Sound recording studios, a TV studio, an X box on an outside wall are all used on a daily basis, as is access to the internet. The open-plan classroom has been revived and is becoming fashionable again after failing and being rejected in the early 1970s. Large learning centres contain many students engaged in a variety of activities.

The stated reasons for the changes are that the old model of one teacher dispensing lessons to a class is no longer appropriate, that learning now needs to be student-driven rather than teacher-driven, leading to enquiry-based learning. Pursuing a course of study leading to exams, it is argued, will not equip students for the rapidly changing requirements of the future.

It may well be the case that such changes are the way forward but the total rejection of the old "chalk and talk" methods, where teachers designed the curriculum, has to be questioned. It has been said that excessive reliance on the internet can result in children having access to all information and knowing nothing. How are they to judge, at such a young age, what is useful, what is relevant, what is authentic, what is true?

The article emphasises the importance of problem-solving and critical thinking in the modern world but when were they ever not important? For decades Clear Thinking was a compulsory component of Senior English but as a greater proportion of students was encouraged to complete six years of secondary education it became an option and then was abandoned altogether as too difficult. This was a time when, in response to the broader range of abilities being catered for, academic elements were leached out of the curriculum in favour of vocational training.

The implication that the "old model" did not allow individual talents to be fostered, or individual passions "to be ignited", is not borne out by history. If the education model of the past had been so stultifyingly uniform how would one explain the plethora of scientific and medical advances, the continuing creativity in the Arts, and the numerous inventions designed to improve everyday life?

What has prompted this response to the article were the disparaging comments and tone of disdain used to dismiss the model of education of which most of us have been the beneficiaries. After all, it was the old style of education that gave rise to the invention of the much-lauded new technologies, and indeed for centuries advanced all aspects of Western Civilization. It could not have been all that bad.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)
President

Oath Of Allegiance

**I love God and My Country, I honour the Flag, I will Serve the Queen, And cheerfully obey
My Parents, Teachers and the Law**

Our Archive Section has been searching the Archives to try to establish:

When did Dandenong High School cease to recite the Oath at Assembly?

Which year? Why? If you know please contact our Historian Dawn Harris—9787 5136

DIAMOND JUBILEE

"On Sat. 27th Oct. 2012 there was an outstanding number at the reunion at the school, when some 85 ex-students of the 1947/52 era (generally) attended to celebrate their 60th. or 'Diamond Jubilee' Anniversary since they left the school.

Several had travelled long distances from the country & interstate to be there & the conviviality, good will, laughter & much-loved embracing when old friends met was an absolute delight to see.



School Principal Susan Ogden (above) enthralled the attendees with her address, projections for the future & dissertation of events since this group had long left the school. Susan then conducted them on a general tour & inspection of the grounds & one of the new buildings, at which they were completely 'blown-away' with the facilities now provided to the students & staff.

The happy & joyous day concluded at the school at 4pm. & then a group of 24 continued on to a pleasant dinner at nearby Comfort Inn Restaurant. Further old school memories & recollections were recalled, most with considerable extension of the true facts of the actual event with much laughter & frivolity after some convivial drinks were consumed."

As George has since been hospitalised, his mate Don Turner also contributed the following: "This group had also organized similar reunions at the 40 and 50 year anniversaries. 85 ex-students attended, with many apologies. Some travelled from Tasmania, NSW, ACT and regional locations.

Anecdotes of activities at the school, sporting feats and reminiscing about various students and teachers led the agenda. The facilities provided for the students and teachers are excellent - a far cry from 60 years ago"

P.S.

We have all heard about 'collateral damage' this century, but as a result of this reunion, the Edna Dawson Vukmirovic Music Scholarship experienced 'collateral advantage'. George advises that a sum of \$250.00, being excess funds over expenses, was donated to that worthy cause. The organisers were; Marj.(Harvey) & Kieth Lampard, Marg. (Bedwell) & Don Turner, Elaine (Waters) & George Gill. Congratulations.

OTHER DIAMOND JUBILEES IN 2012

#1

All of Her Majesty's loyal subjects will recall that Elizabeth II celebrated her Golden Jubilee recently.

#2

The Finning Real Estate Family of Cranbourne also celebrated its Diamond Jubilee this year. **John Finning**, son of the co-founders, attended DHS as did his brother-in-law, **John Tucker**, who today is a director of the company with Lorraine (Finning).

#3

Joy Reedy (St. Clair—DHS 1944-1948), and her husband Ken, stalwarts of Hampton Park, have received congratulations from the Mayor of Casey for celebrating their diamond wedding anniversary. He described them as a notable couple who had worked tirelessly for the Hampton Park community — Progress Association, football club and the fire brigade.

BRENDA JONES (now CARR) - DHS 1953

*Brenda Jones is DHS's only Olympic medallist, having been narrowly beaten into second place, in the womens' 800 metres, in Rome, in 1960.
These are Brenda's recollections of her days at DHS.*

Our father was a State School Teacher in Moe in 1952 and I attended Yallourn H.S. Year 4. My father had the opportunity to swap Schools and was transferred back to Melbourne. I boarded in Moe and finished my school year. On the wall of Yallourn H.S. there was a photo of Champion and Olympic Sprinter Winsome Cripps. I had always dreamed of being a good athlete. This gave me encouragement as I thought Marjorie Jackson and Winsome Cripps, both country girls, had made it in the Champions League.

In September of 1953, Miss Betty Stainforth suggested that I should join an Athletic Club and she offered to meet me on a Saturday and take me to a Women's Athletic Meeting at Royal Park. We went there and Miss Stainforth introduced me to her friend Winsome Cripps.

I was delighted to meet her and told her that I had seen her photo at Yallourn H.S. Winsome suggested that I join Glenhantly Athletic Club and that was the beginning of my long career in Athletics. Another friend from school joined the Club with



GIRLS' SWIMMING TEAM

Front: J. McKenry, P. Turner, B. Lewis, Y. Kennedy, E. Sherry, G. Mackay, B. Dainty, K. Lovell, M. Pickering, J. Midgley.
Middle: P. Fleming, A. Muskens, L. Winchcombe, B. Jones, E. Cuckson, L. Bregozzi, M. Bates,
Back: L. Rowe, H. Matthews, B. Gowty, G. Troinor, B. Thomas, A. Neville, A. Pettigrove, K. Gillespie, E. Carroll.

Brenda Jones, pictured 4th from left, in the middle row of the 1953 girls' swimming team

In 1953 my sister Beryl and I were enrolled at Dandenong High School. Beryl was in Year 1, myself in Year 5, Leaving Certificate. We enjoyed being in the School and travelling on the bus from Clayton North. The Tuck Shop was new to us. I had lots of friends, and some have visited me in Queensland.

During my year at Dandy High I took part in most sporting events. I always practiced and spent extra time trying to improve my performances in swimming, athletics and Clematis House competitions. I was finishing school and going to get a job during the Christmas Holidays

me, Betty Owens now Tainton, and Betty and I have been in the G.A.C for 59 years, and are now Life Members.

When I joined the Glenhantly Athletic Club I was amazed that they trained on the Caulfield Race Course, on the Glenhantly side. Being older than most of the girls I was helped by Mrs Doris Davis to be a leader in the Club and to learn how to conduct a meeting, to be a selector for competitions. I was very eager to learn as I was going to be looking for a job as soon as school finished.

...Brenda Jones (continued)

I rode my bike to Glen Huntley on Sunday mornings to train with the Club.

After school finished I was fortunate to be employed with The Myer Emporium, as a trainee Buyer. I was put in the Better Suits Department and it was like a finishing School. I was taught how to wrap expensive suits, how to approach customers, and to remember the Customer is always right. I worked from 9am - 5pm then caught a train to Caulfield Station and then walked across the Racecourse to the Club Room. The coach and others arrived at 6pm and we began our training.



Brenda on the dais during the presentation of her Olympic Silver medal at Rome, in 1960.

I was not a sprinter so I competed in B Grade sprints, but I noticed that the men ran around the Racecourse many times without stopping, so I asked if the girls would run around the Race Track? I was told no one had and it would be too far for girls. So I decided to join in with the boys on their next lap and try to get right around without stopping which I did and so the Coach, Mr Don Carr said "I Think you should train for the 880yds".

Women were not encouraged to run distance and the 880yds was not an interclub event. The rule was if you ran 880yds you could not run for the Club in other events. To overcome this, I competed with the Club on the Afternoon in events for points. Then when the final whistle went I ran the 880yds and Don timed me on his stopwatch. This was to prove that distance runs would not hurt women.

I joined another girl and we were delegates to the Victorian Women's Amateur Athletic Association for our club. They meet once a month in VRI building Flinders St. I was able to bring ideas to meetings and over time the 880yd was a regular event. In the winter of 1956 the Ladies ran Cross Country Handicaps Races.

(After the Rome Olympics, Brenda competed again in Amsterdam, where she won the 800 metres.)

On returning to London, my Coach Don Carr proposed and bought me a beautiful emerald engagement ring, before the team flew out for Australia. We were married in 1964. I gave birth to our son Brendon in 1970. I continued to compete in Athletic Competitions winning State and National Titles. I won my last title in the Victorian State Cross Country Championships in 1975. I continued to Coach until 1986.

My days at Dandenong High School were very important in my life and helped to launch me into the world with confidence.



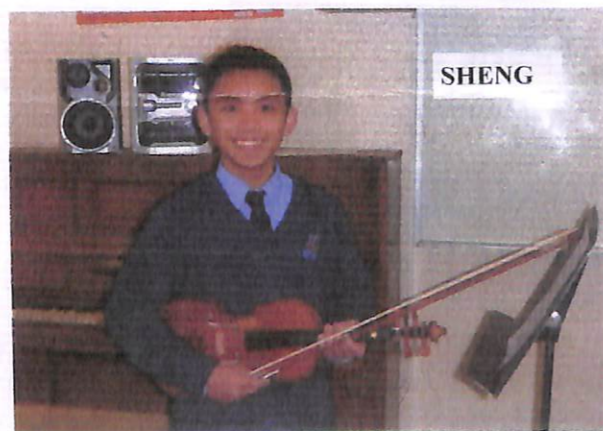
Brenda pictured in 2011

Edna Dawson Vukmirovic Music Scholarship

On 1st August, auditions were conducted for the Dandenong High School Ex Students Association Edna Dawson Vukmirovic Music Scholarship. These scholarships are offered annually to students of outstanding musical ability and commitment to the Music Department at DHS.

The students nominated for 2012 were Shem Salamanes for violin, Qing Yang and Ama Kapuge for flute, and Wendy Shao for the piano. These students demonstrated musical excellence, participation and commitment in the DHS Music Program, and display leadership potential. The audition was judged by the President of the Ex-Students Association, Greta Jungwirth, historian Dawn Harris and Music Coordinator Sheridan Ford.

A presentation for these students, including announcement of the winner, will be included in the DHS 2012 Gala Performance. Congratulations to the students, and best of luck in each of your musical journeys.



EXECUTIVE FAREWELLS MARTIN CULKIN



The Executive recently gathered at a restaurant in the Dandenongs, to express their appreciation of the time that Martin spent at Dandenong High School.

It represented surely the most dramatic change in the history of the school, embracing amalgamations, (with Doveton High School and Cleeland Secondary College), a mammoth infrastructure/building program, and the implementation of leading-edge educational changes.

On behalf of the DHS school community, of whom he was singularly proud, and the name of which he fought successfully to maintain, we wished him well.

The President and all members of the Executive, wish all of our readers a happy and safe festive season, and good fortune for 2013.





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.

SCHOOL BADGES

Available from our memorabilia collection, and can be purchased through the Association. Price is \$10, which includes postage within Australia.

- A. **Replica school badge;**
- B. **Stick pin;**
- C. **Special 90th Anniv. Badge.**

DHSESA Office Bearers

- President
Greta Jungwirth
- Secretary — I. T.
Gary Matthews
- Treasurer
Russell Weber
- Historian/Ordinary Member
Dawn Harris
- School Liaison Officer
Sally Ann Dowman
- Membership Co-ordinator
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Ruby Constable
- Honorary Member
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WEBSITE/INTERNET

The web address is www.dhs-exstudents.synthasite.com A further option for finding us is to do a "google search", and simply type **dhs ex students** , without clicking Australian sites, and you will see our site at the top of the list.

For further information, contact Gary Matthews by email at gazzcazz@hotmail.com or phone him on 5941 2507

If you would like to receive the Newsletter by email, please notify the Secretary, as we are considering this option. Also for those over 80 years, there are no annual fees. Please advise.