



Winter 2009

Issue 45

DHSESA Newsletter

**A CURRENT STUDENT MAKES THE NATIONAL
NEWSPAPERS AGAIN.**

Meet "Minty" Saberi on page 3



Table of Contents:

From the Chair	2
"Minty" Saberi	3
1946 Matriculation Class—Photos	4
1946 Matriculation Class	5
Mentioned in Despatches	6
The Cox Dynasty	7
Executive	8

From The Chair

Number 45



At the AGM earlier this year all members of our Committee were returned. Most of them have provided ten years or more of service to the Association and in some cases this has meant fifteen and twenty years. In the light of such dedication it was therefore disappointing to see so few members attend this meeting.

These annual occasions are always pleasant ones with mini reunions often taking place. The formal proceedings are usually brief and then a guest speaker from the school community gives an insight into what the legacy of attending DHS has been for them and the path his or her life has taken since leaving the School. Most years we are entertained by a musical performance from two or more student scholarship holders and this is followed by a sociable afternoon tea.

I would urge members to come along in future and support their Committee, acknowledging the work they do on behalf of all former students and teachers.

* * * * *

Planning for the 90th Anniversary has continued apace. Most arrangements are now in place and the count down has begun. Registration and booking forms will be sent out quite soon to everyone on our data base and be available for everyone else on our website. As our costs are mounting we would really appreciate donations to the Association. We have received two or three generous amounts already but more are needed.

Visitors to the School on Sunday 13 September, the revised Open Day, will be met with many physical changes to the site. The pine trees all have to go and many new buildings will be completed or under construction. Tours of the School will be included in the programme. We look forward to seeing you all there.

* * * * *

In June members of the Committee attended a luncheon at the School with the School Captains, John Ramos and Jack Taylor, and an SRC President, Shane Pacarada. This tradition was established over ten years ago. A lively discussion ensued over sandwiches and cake. Many details of times past were shared and the many changes in the present were considered. These student leaders were friendly, mature and spoke confidently. As expected, they were a credit to the School. This intergenerational exchange has always been a delightful and worthwhile occasion and this year was no exception.

* * * * *

The next stage of the school development is about to commence. The work will see the removal of all the portable buildings from the site and the demolition of C Block, the Light Timber Construction building. Older ex-students and teachers will remember the "new building" that was completed in 1958 and made such a difference to the severely overcrowded conditions at the time. Work on the final four House Buildings is expected to commence in late July. The old building will eventually be transformed into an administrative centre during the last stage. All this work will change the face of the School dramatically but hopefully the spirit and traditions will remain.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)

President

"TODAY'S SCHOOL"

The 'Herald Sun' carried the following story in April about a current student, Imtiyaz "Minty" Saberi, under the heading,

"Moments like this you need Minty."

Life Saving Victoria discovered a hidden talent when it reached out to immigrant communities to save lives.

Imtiyaz "Minty" Saberi, 16, is the state's first Afghan lifesaver and began patrolling the beach from Edithvale Life Saving Club just before Easter.

The Dandenong High School student couldn't swim or speak English when he and his family migrated from their landlocked home four years ago.

"I was kind of scared," Minty said. "There were no beaches there (Afghanistan), a lot of swimming pools but they are not deep".

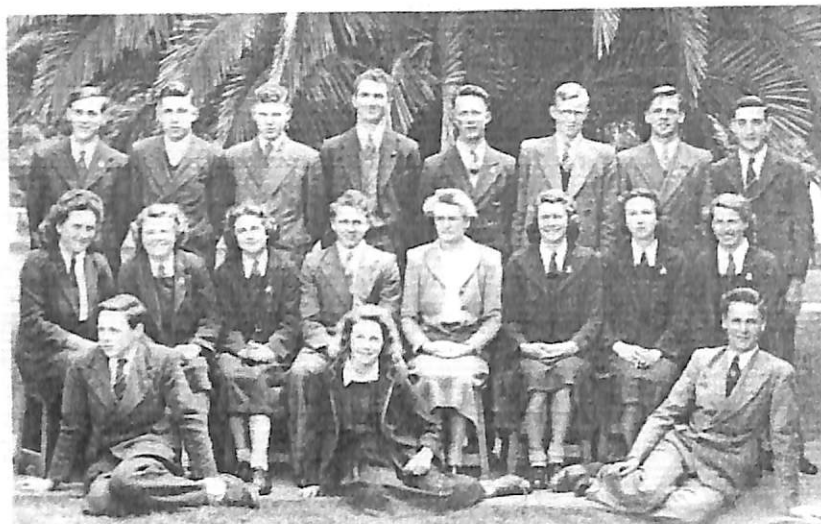
Two years ago Minty was among 700 other newcomers who completed beach programs with Life Saving Victoria and found his passion.

David Holland, manager of Life Saving Victoria's cultural and linguistic projects, said more than 20% of the state's coastal drowning victims since July last year were people from non-Anglo ethnic backgrounds.

REUNION NEWS

**A BOOKING FORM IS ENCLOSED
PLEASE READ AND RESPOND FORMALLY**

The 1946 Matriculation Group ... then and now.



BACK ROW

Bill Stanhope
Frank Walker
Don Jackson
Colin Barraclough
Len Lloyd
Ken Dickinson



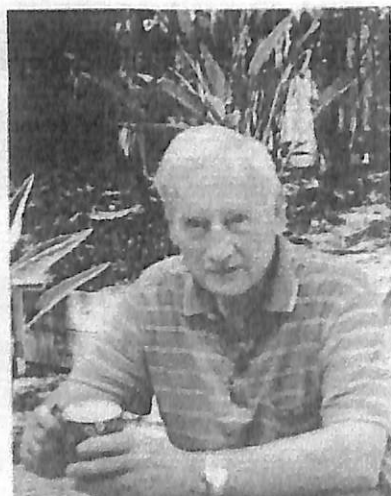
FRONT ROW

June Goldsworthy (Young)
Dorothy Lloyd (Griffiths)
Brian Logan
Frank O'Shea
Max Gregory
Absent
Noel Courtney

NOEL
COURTNEY



STEWART
JONES



The 1946 Matriculation Group ... then and now.

One of my serial correspondents, Bill Stanhope, has sent me a generous article plus photos, which I expect will soon be on the website.

The 1946 Matriculation Group met recently for their annual reunion luncheon. Most have now turned 80 years of age. Thanks to some fine detective work by Ken Dickinson, two long-lost members of the class have been found and have joined us.

They are June Goldsworthy (Young) and Colin Barraclough. This has brought the total membership up to twelve out of the original twenty in 1946.

Ken also produced photos of the original class members in 1946 and our recent luncheon group 63 years later. The amazing thing is—and I'm sure our readers will agree—except for Frank Walker's long beard, we don't seem to have changed much at all!

As we did in previous articles on the ever-growing group, pen-pictures of our two newest members are provided.

JUNE GOLDSWORTHY (YOUNG)

June was a prefect, a Wattle House Captain, and hockey team captain.

After High School, June did a business course and Accountancy at Stott's Business College in Melbourne. She stayed on as a teacher for 3 years, then joined the family business — the well-known Youngs Hardware Store in Oakleigh. Later she took over the running of Youngs branch store in Carnegie.

In 1952 June married Geoff Goldsworthy, an Oakleigh boy who had been in the same form at Dandy High, but who left in 1945. June had three children and now has six grand-children and three great-grandchildren.

Some years ago, she moved to Humpty-Doo, near Darwin. Only recently has she returned to live with her daughter in Pakenham. She was involved in the Uniting Church in Humpty-Doo, and has now joined that church in Pakenham.

COLIN BARRACLOUGH.

Colin came down from Dimboola to complete years 5 and 6 at DHS. After Matriculation, he worked for Kraft Foods in Port Melbourne as a chemist for 9 years. Whilst there he studied chemistry at the then Melbourne Technical College.

After leaving Kraft Foods he completed a Bachelor of Science at the University of Melbourne, followed by a Master's Degree. He then moved to England and gained a Ph. D. at University College in London.

On his return to Melbourne he rejoined the Chemistry School at Melbourne University as a Lecturer and Researcher. He retired as an Associate Professor of Chemistry.

In 1946 Colin was captain of the boys tennis team and now — 63 years later, he is still playing tennis. His other interest is bird-watching.

STEWART JONES.

Stewart, now retired in Surfers paradise, proudly claims to be a member, *in absentia*. Stewart recently completed his fully illustrated memoir—a monumental effort.

Included are his early days at Oakleigh including his time at Oakleigh State School, then a detailed account of his days at Dandenong High School.

The Dandy High chapter has already been published in the Newsletter.

The Memoir has recently been eagerly accepted by the Oakleigh Historical Society.

There are only three 1946 class members not accounted for. They are **Mary Findlay, Norma Murphy and Helen McCrae**. Norma and Helen are thought to have become teachers.

If any readers can help, please contact **Ken Dickinson** on 9544 2870.

Bill has expressed the anticipation among his group for the forthcoming 90th reunion, to which he has made a donation, and for which we thank him.

Editor's Note.— June's brother Bruce attended DHS in the 1950's.

Mentioned in Despatches...

A bittersweet experience for many of us recently at the funeral service at Springvale of ex-teacher **Eric Eckstein**, husband of another ex-teacher, **Judith**.

The bittersweet element arose from the role of their two sons, **David and Nick**, both ex-students, who conducted the service to unanimous acclamation.

Eric was one of the famed Dunera Boys, whose impact on Australian society is legendary.

Eric's autobiography is "The Last Train Out".

*The Star News Group (Pakenham) has carried a community winning story about the 100 top residents to celebrate its 100th Anniversary. Number 74 was **Ian Ridgeway** (and aged 74), whose family name is synonymous with the town of Cardinia, where he is still involved with the primary school, recreation reserve, Presbyterian Church and community hall. He played footy for Rythdale-Cardinia in their only premiership in 1955.*

Ian left DHS at age 14. to milk cows on his parents' farm.

'The Age' carried an obituary about **William 'Bill' Christensen**, who died recently aged 95. It reported he spent a large part of his life working in sawmills in the footsteps of his father who opened up virgin timber country in Gippsland. After his primary schooling in Erica, the family moved to Dandenong where he went to the high school, and then took night classes in carpentry and joinery at the Caulfield Technical College. Later he became an orchardist.

The Leader newspaper at Cranbourne recently carried another story about **Joan Reid**, whose late husband, **Len**, also attended DHS. At the opening of a new swimming facility in Cranbourne costing some \$37 million, Joan recalled the community galvanising project which led to the first pool.

Note: The Editor is stalking Joan for a serious interview.

*Thousands of 'Cancer News' supporters have chosen to get the magazine's updates by email, and a recent story carried a picture of **Jane Fletcher**, working on the Cancer Council internet. Jane finished her HSC in 1986.*

The Star News Group also carried a story about a scholarship tradition in print media, with a picture of Star News Group Director and ex-student **Ian Thomas** presenting awards for excellence at the 25th annual Herb Thomas Memorial Trust dinner. Another ex-student, **Roger Hall** was also in the picture, representing the trust Managers.

A FAMILY HISTORY AT DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL

By Elizabeth Spencer (Cox)

The Cox family of Clyde has a two-generation history of students attending DHS with three of these students serving as head prefects in their final years and one student as prefect.

My father, **Francis Conroy Cox** enrolled in 1921 (Form F, Year 7) along with his sister **Margery Cox** and a few years later his brother **Geoffrey Cox** began. Geoffrey was bell boy in one of his junior years and head prefect in his final years in the late 1920's/early 30's. This family lived at Carnegie and caught the suburban train to school.

My mother, **Annie Victoria Cox** (nee Manks) enrolled in 1924 in Form E, year 8. She began three weeks late as her parents had not intended for her to continue study after primary school. However, a friend from church urged her father to enrol her. Grandfather found Mr Langford, the principal, blackberrying in the Police paddocks at Springvale that Sunday and arranged for Annie to enrol the next day. Grandfather drove her each day in his jinker to catch the train from Clyde. He drove on to his Tooradin property and met her on the evening train. She attended from 1924 - 1927, serving as a prefect in 1927. The family have a book of poems presented to her with an inscription from the school thanking her for her prefect service. Two siblings of hers, Clyde and Evelyn Manks attended in later years.

Frank and Annie met at the DHS ex-students association. They eventually married and settled in Clyde on a family property following his war service in the army. They had six children. Their first child, **David Francis Cox**, attended from 1950 - 1955, going on to tertiary education at RMIT. He became a physicist at the Weather Bureau until his early death in 1964 from a car accident.

Margery Anne Barton (nee Cox) was next in 1952 - 1956. She became a secretary initially, then went into Primary teaching. After her marriage she combined this with dairy farming in Poowong where she still lives today. She has three children. **Janet Davies** (nee Cox) studied from 1954 - 1959. She was a prefect in 1958 and head prefect in 1959. She studied nursing, specialising in midwifery and has delivered many of the babies born in Esperance, WA in the past 40 years. After her marriage she added farming to her skills. She has three sons. Recently she retired from nursing to concentrate on her alpaca stud. **Elizabeth Alice Spencer** (nee Cox then Simpson) enrolled in 1955, continuing to 1960. She was a prefect in 1959 and head prefect in 1960. She trained as a Primary teacher and taught in Victoria and Queensland until recently, moving to Adelaide on retirement. She has three sons.

Geoffrey Charles Cox attended DHS from 1958 - 1963. He graduated from Melbourne University with a degree in Chemical Engineering and worked for the Victorian Departments of Agriculture and Industry. He eventually set up his own company to organise training in the food processing industry. He lives in Kensington and has a son and daughter.

Helen Christine Gnaden (nee Cox) attended Doveton High School 1965 - 1971 - now part of the DHS campus. She trained as a dental nurse, eventually marrying and moving to Canberra where she still works managing a dental practice. She has three children. It is with fond memories our family recalls their association with Dandenong High School.

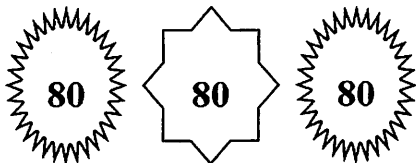
While none of the family live in the Clyde area now and no off-spring has attended in later years, we feel a strong bond with the school. For many of us the days spent there have been among the happiest of our lives. I know my mother when she was alive was disappointed that she was not recorded as a prefect at a previous reunion she attended.

It is with great affection that I remember **Miss Stainforth**. She taught me Latin for 5 years and was my form teacher in Form 6 as well as my English Expression and Latin teacher in that year. She wrote each of her Year 12 students a personal letter at the end of the year wishing us success for the future. Her dedication to us and her influence has had a profound effect on me. I would be interested to hear of where her career led her. I feel sorry not to have maintained some contact with her. The heady days of youth often made you thoughtless towards the older generation.



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.



Ex-Student's over 80 years old have free membership.

DHSESA Office Bearers:

- President
Greta Jungwirth
- Secretary — I. T.
Gary Matthews
- Treasurer
Ruby Constable
- Historian/Ordinary Member
Dawn Harris
- School Liaison Officer
Sally Ann Dowman
- Membership Co-ordinator
Samantha Brown
- Newsletter Editor
Don Metcalfe - 0418 343 995/03 9704 7938
valuerdm@bigpond.net.au
- Assistant Editor
Wendy Metcalfe
- Committee:
George Gill; Pia Farias-Hernandez;
Ratika Palat.
- Honorary Member
Philip Harris
- Regional Liaison Officer
Gary Matthews—5122 2363

Mailing Address

P.O Box 383
Dandenong 3175

OVERFLOW

The forthcoming 90th Reunion would benefit from some funding. If you have tapped into a rich philanthropy vein, can you please mine it on our behalf, or just point the Committee in the right direction. Several exciting donations have already been received.

ALSO

LET'S REMIND EVERYBODY THAT NEW MEMBERSHIPS ARE ENCOURAGED—NEWS IS ALWAYS WELCOME AND MEMORABILIA WILL BE PRESERVED IN OUR GROWING ARCHIVES.