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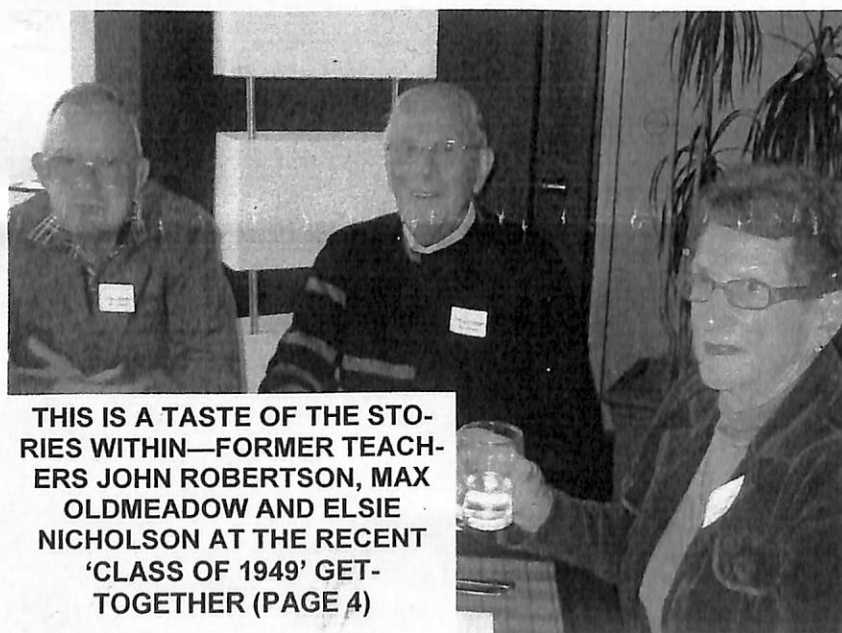
DHSESA Newsletter

REUNIONS

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This edition is substantially dedicated to the issue of reunions—now that a steering committee for 2009, 'THE BIG '90', has been formed.



THIS IS A TASTE OF THE STORIES WITHIN—FORMER TEACHERS JOHN ROBERTSON, MAX OLDMEADOW AND ELSIE NICHOLSON AT THE RECENT 'CLASS OF 1949' GET-TOGETHER (PAGE 4)

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From The Chair

Number 43



The AGM was held on 19th April at the School and some important business was conducted. The revised Constitution (Statement of Purposes) was put and unanimously carried by the meeting. This was after months of discussion and consultation and preparation by the members of the Committee. The Rules now reflect current practice and the changes at the School.

A pleasing number of ten Committee members was declared elected to serve for another year. Carmen Powell, as guest speaker, took us on a fascinating journey of her life, recalling growing up in Dandenong, her time at DHS, and her growth as a person. She then showed a selection of photos from the newly-completed Historical Society CD, including early ones of Dandenong and the School. The School and our Association now have copies.

A month later Consumer Affairs Victoria confirmed that the changes to the Constitution had been approved with the inclusion of a grievance procedure from the Model Rules.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Edna Dawson Vukmirovic Music Scholarship. It was established to honour the memory of Edna and her unparalleled service and devotion to the School as student, teacher, Senior Mistress, School Council Member and Life Member of the Association. Thousands of dollars have been granted to develop the musical talents of students by providing expert tuition, purchase of equipment, the hiring of musical instruments and the attendance at master classes and concerts. Thanks must go to the many generous donations made by former students and staff to the scholarship fund.

Five students are about to receive grants to further their musical education. We know Edna would have been pleased to see all this done in her name.

Attendance at Dandenong High School has resulted in many life-long friendships and associations being formed, and in a good number of marriages. I am aware of numerous groups from different decades that meet on a regular or irregular basis, including my own form. I was recently invited to attend a reunion of such a group in Cranbourne. Val Slade and others had organized a gathering of the 1949-1954 cohort on 28 May. I was pleased to attend the lunch and present an update of the changes happening at the School. It was particularly gratifying to see a handful of staff members of the era present. It says a great deal about the spirit of the School that such groups exist and continue to meet.

Because work has begun on the Library extensions, the DHS archives have been moved to the Doveton Campus until the end of the year. The collection of important records and photos from the Cleeland and Doveton Campuses has also commenced, which means a great increase in the work required from the small group in the History Unit. We badly need more volunteers to help in the task, especially as we are gearing up to mount displays for next year. **2009 marks the 90th Anniversary of DHS. An organizing committee has been formed and its first meeting has been held. Both staff members and Association Committee members are represented. They are considering the best way to celebrate this important milestone in the history of the School. As plans firm, members will be kept informed.**

From the Chair (cont'd)

The merging of the three schools is progressing. A single new uniform has been chosen for next year when Doveton Campus will be closed and all students will be attending the Dandenong sites.

Already joint sports teams, art exhibitions, drama groups, and the cast for the musical, have been formed. The School Newsletter, which has covered three campuses since last year, now has a single format. The construction of the first three SWISS buildings has commenced and the Griffiths Library is being extended. The oval has been turned into a construction site with future extensive playing fields planned for the Ann Street site.

The Minister of Education, Bronwyn Pike MP, visited the School on 15 July to view the progress of the building programme, hosted by the Chairman of the School Council, Mr. Alan Collier. She was accompanied by the local member, Mr John Pandazopoulos, and a retinue of staffers. She toured the construction site and later viewed the plans for the next stages. After she was presented with a school badge, I took the opportunity to recount its history. I told her that the colours and motto were chosen by the first Head Master. Mr Langford, who had been at Gallipoli with the Fourth Light Horse, had chosen three of his regimental colours for the School. The Minister commented that "Faber Quisque Fortunae" was a worthy motto and that both that and the colours should be retained. We agreed.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)



Bronwyn Pike M.P.

Greta Jungwirth

John Pandazopoulos MLA

Alan Collier

VAL SLADE (FINK) DOES IT AGAIN!

Our Cranbourne stalwart, Val Slade (Fink) has organised another super get together of her "Class of 1949 and Friends", this time at the Amstel Golf Club in Cranbourne.

Val writes:

Many ex-students gathered to exchange memories of the happy times at DHS, 1949-1954. Over 50 years had passed since most last met. Present on the day were Ex-Students Assoc. President, Greta Jungwirth (de Vries), who gave an excellent talk re the combining of the 3 Dandenong area secondary schools. With her was her husband Raymond. Also present were Treasurer Ruby Constable (Waterhouse) and her husband Bob, together with the Editor of the Newsletter, Don Metcalfe.

Ken Begley organised the printing and Ron Townley acted as MC on the day.

One of the highlights of the day was the presence of three former teachers; Elsie Nicholson from Bayles, teacher of Physical Education and English from 1949-1951, and an excellent trainer of performers for High School revues and speech nights. Elsie later taught at a local High School, and is still a keen golfer and farmer.



LEFT TO RIGHT: Charlie Masters; Mary Masters; Ken Masters; Carol Masters (Waterhouse); Ruby Constable (Waterhouse); Bob Constable; Rodney Tharle; Joan Talbot (Allen); Heather Smith (Robertson); Lindsay Green.

VAL SLADE (cont'd)

John Robertson taught English, History and Physical Education from 1951-1956. All could recall John arriving at school on his motor bike. A passion for veteran bikes has remained with him over the years, travelling over various parts of Australia. John very recently visited John and Geraldine Menadue in Hobart. John was accompanied on the day by his wife Joyce.

Max Oldmeadow: 1951-1957, and 1961-1966. Sports-Master, History and Latin. Max is a Dandenong 'Gem', with his decades of community service in the area, being a member of the well-known Oldmeadow family; an Ex-Councillor and former Member of the Federal Parliament. DHS has featured strongly in the Oldmeadow family, as Max was also a student in the 1930's; he married ex-student Pam Saunders, and they sent three sons, Ian, Russell and Graeme to the school.

Ex-students and ex-teachers alike agreed that catching up with one another again, and recalling their days at DHS, was indeed a great pleasure.

Editor's Note.

Ex-Students who travelled from interstate were Neil and Pat Corrigan from South Australia, Margaret Parker from Canberra and Graham Ellis from New South Wales.

The luncheon began with Ron Townley calling everyone to order, and leading in a spirited rendition of 'We are the School'.

Graeme Ellis, who has lived in Sydney since 1962, and who lived in London for some 10 years, spoke for a few minutes about the pride in the school, its continued recognition, and the importance of the text in the school song "...work conquers all". Graeme's mother had also been a student. He is still involved in the mining business.

Memories overheard included the Musicals - (Bill McCubbin, Lillian Rofe and Mike Kinsella); missing friends (Joan Reid); great teachers; and finally Percy Langford offering special tutoring during lunch-time to Ken Begley, for which he expressed eternal gratitude.

CONGRATULATIONS TO VAL SLADE.

A Tiny Reunion

John King, mentioned elsewhere in this edition, arranged a little get-together recently at the Dandenong Club, where he is a Board Member. Also present were students from the 1950's including John Andrews, Russell Weber, Roger Barlee, Jim Young and The Editor. Three memberships resulted!

Mentioned in Despatches...

'The Age' recently carried an article about the outstanding renovation of an 1883 house, carried out in Geelong within a siren sound of Kardinia Park. Described as a "small miracle" by its part-owner, ex-student **Jennifer Bantow**, (nee Cummings), as the property had not been compromised by a poor restoration or renovation, and that 39 out of 40 potential purchasers wanted to demolish the structure. Jennifer, who is a Life Member of the National Trust, and her husband Ray, painstakingly restored the asset. Encouraged by the heritage adviser to the Geelong City Council, David Rowe, the Bantows were shown similar properties in Geelong by the same architect, enabling them to recreate the original cast-iron verandah decoration and timber picket fencing. The Editor has toured the magnificent result, including the preservation of original wallpapers, now enshrined as wall-features. Further proof of the enlightenment of Ray and Jennifer is that they are ardent Geelong supporters!

George Gill chased down this recent obituary notice for us, again from "The Age". **Dr. Rod Esdaile**, who gained an international reputation for his expertise in titanium and fibre optics, died at home in North Carlton after a long struggle with cancer which had shadowed, but not taken over his life until his last months. He also played a leading role in die-casting in the automotive industry, which included a three-year posting as technical director with the Australian Trade Commission in Detroit in the US, where he worked tirelessly to assist Australian colleagues doing business in the US. When his father retired in 1950, the family moved to Upper Beaconsfield, and he attended Dandenong High School. He did his National Service in the RAN. Rod's groundbreaking research on fibre optics with the late Dr. Graeme Ogilvy placed them at the forefront of this field internationally".

Another ex-student recently venerated, again in 'The Age', was **Ken Bennett**, Head Prefect in 1957. Writing of the 50th Anniversary reunion of Collingwood's 1958 Premiership team, Tim Lane identified Ken as "...perhaps the most interesting in terms of life after football", as follows:
"He is the pint-sized, crew-cut blond apparently standing up to Big Bob Johnson in a famous photo from the game that portrays the intensity of the day. Then only 18, Bennett drily says that his assertiveness in that moment came from the fact that the "Weed" (Murray Weideman) was standing nearby. After football, Bennett became involved in politics and rose to the position of assistant national secretary of the ALP. He now lives in the Aboriginal community of Wad-eye, south-west of Darwin, and has committed himself to improving the circumstances of indigenous people in the desperately under-resourced, under-privileged part of Australia. He does this in honour of his late wife—the Elaine Bennett Scholarship fund is her legacy".
Editor's Note — Once a hero, always a hero.

Justice Donnell Ryan of the Federal Court, a student in the 1950's, has been appointed to the current preliminary hearings in a criminal case against Richard Pratt of Visy.

Whilst recently 'Travelling North', with his wife **Carole**, Executive Member **Gary Matthews**, ever the conscientious 'Regional Liaison Officer', discovered **Julia Hinds (nee Roberts)** of Robert's Bakery). Julia attended DHS 1957-1961. With her husband David, they run 'Possum Park' caravan park, out from Miles in southern Queensland.

REUNION AT INVERLOCH

Encouraged by John King, an ex-student of the 1950's, a group has consistently gathered to celebrate their attendance at DHS and to maintain the pride.

The nucleus of this group was joined recently at the house at Inverloch of John and his wife Glynis, by Bill Noblet. This followed the recent celebration of the valued role of the Noblet family, including Bill and his brother Fred, who was a contemporary of the gathered group.

(From left to right): Jim Young; John King; Tim Rogers; Lorraine Metcalfe (Vincent), The Editor (note—paper in hand); and Bill Noblet.



Local History

This story of the Kingsbury family was compiled from a talk by ex-student **Gil Kingsbury**, and appeared recently in the 'Gipps-Land Gate', that admired production of the Dandenong and District Historical Society, of which ex-student, **Carmen Powell** is the President. The following vignettes are from the same source.

"It is appropriate that I am giving this talk here today, at the Dandenong Town Hall, because the first Kingsbury business was started by my Uncle Arthur right outside in 1886. My father joined him in 1890, just as this Town Hall was being built".

Gil was born only 4 years before the opening of Dandenong High School on its present site, at which time the Kingsbury family business was thriving. Over the following years the family businesses incorporated timber, well-boring, Malvern Star bicycles, motor-bikes and a motor-garage.

After the Second World War, Kingsbury's became the first business in Dandenong to stock white goods; and it thrived, followed by 'Kingsburys Babycraft'.

After attending Dandenong Primary school, **Gil** attended Dandenong High School, before moving on to Wesley College. As well as running the iconic business, he was President of the Dandenong Chamber of Commerce and Industry, a member of both the Dandenong Rotary Club and the Dandenong Central Rotary Club, having been President of the latter club. Having served in Britain with the RAAF, he was the foundation President of the Dandenong RSL and a life member of the League.

Brother **Alan** also attended Dandenong High School, and for a time was Hon. Secretary of the Old Pupil's Association. He retired from the RAAF in 1945 as a squadron leader. He later wrote a detailed history of the Kingsbury family, and another of the Kingswood Golf Club for its 50th Anniversary.

5th January 1933
Dandenong High School

"...ex-pupils who have proceeded to other schools have done remarkably well this year, and we record their successes with pleasure. Nancy Lee, who obtained her Leaving Certificate with us, transferred under the new arrangement to Melbourne Girls' High School, and finished the year as Dux of the school. Kathleen Brumley, who went to University High School, obtained a Trinity Scholarship of 50 pounds, entitling her to residence at the Janet Clark Hall. Betty Tymms who is attending St. Michael's also won a Trinity Scholarship valued at 50 pounds.

Dulcie Oliver, who went to Geelong, obtained a 10 pound scholarship. Doreen McCahon was dux of her form at M.L.C. She was also awarded a prize of one guinea by the Shell Company at the beginning of the year".

A later snippet advises of further success for Kathleen Brumley, who, together with Agnes Baird, was awarded the Government senior scholarship of forty pounds.

Finally, it is recorded that ex-student **Ray Lawless**, now retired from his successful building business, recently called on Carmen to update his membership, and made a surprise donation to the Historical Society. After Carmen protested (not too strenuously) that there were "too many noughts". Ray reassured her that the \$4,000 figure was correct.

The 1946 Form 6 Matriculation Group

Bill Stanhope has been good enough to provide us earlier with advice about the existence of this group, and he writes again, this time of the 2007 gathering as follows:

"One of our members—Ken Dickinson organized the function, and followed up with a very professional card and group photo".

This is reproduced below.

"Since my last contribution a couple of years ago, we have attracted two new members.

Don Jackson is from Pakenham, and he was both a town-planner and city engineer for the Pakenham Council. Frank Walker — his career was in teaching, and he later became a Pastor with the Uniting Church and he lives in Coleraine, where he still preaches on an occasional basis.

Absent from the Luncheon — and from the photograph — were Lou Wright and Dorothy Lloyd (nee Griffiths), so the group now numbers 10 out of the original 20 Form 6 students from 1946 — not too bad after 62 years! One other, Stewart James, now retired in Surfers Paradise, proudly claims to be a member, *in absentia*.

(Editors Note — We have already published an article by Stewart, from whom, Bill tells us, we can soon expect an enlarged, fully illustrated memoir).

Bill continues— "Ken Dickinson is making enquiries as to the whereabouts of some of the 'girls' from the 1946 Form 6. I have contact with 2 of them but they live in the Northern Territory and Queensland respectively".



Back Row:

Bill Stanhope Noel Courtney Don Jackson Ken Dickinson Frank Walker Max Gregory

Front Row:

Frank O'Shea Brian Logan (Shirley Logan) (Jean Dickinson) nee Falloon



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.

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Gary Matthews
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Ruby Constable
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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.

ALSO

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