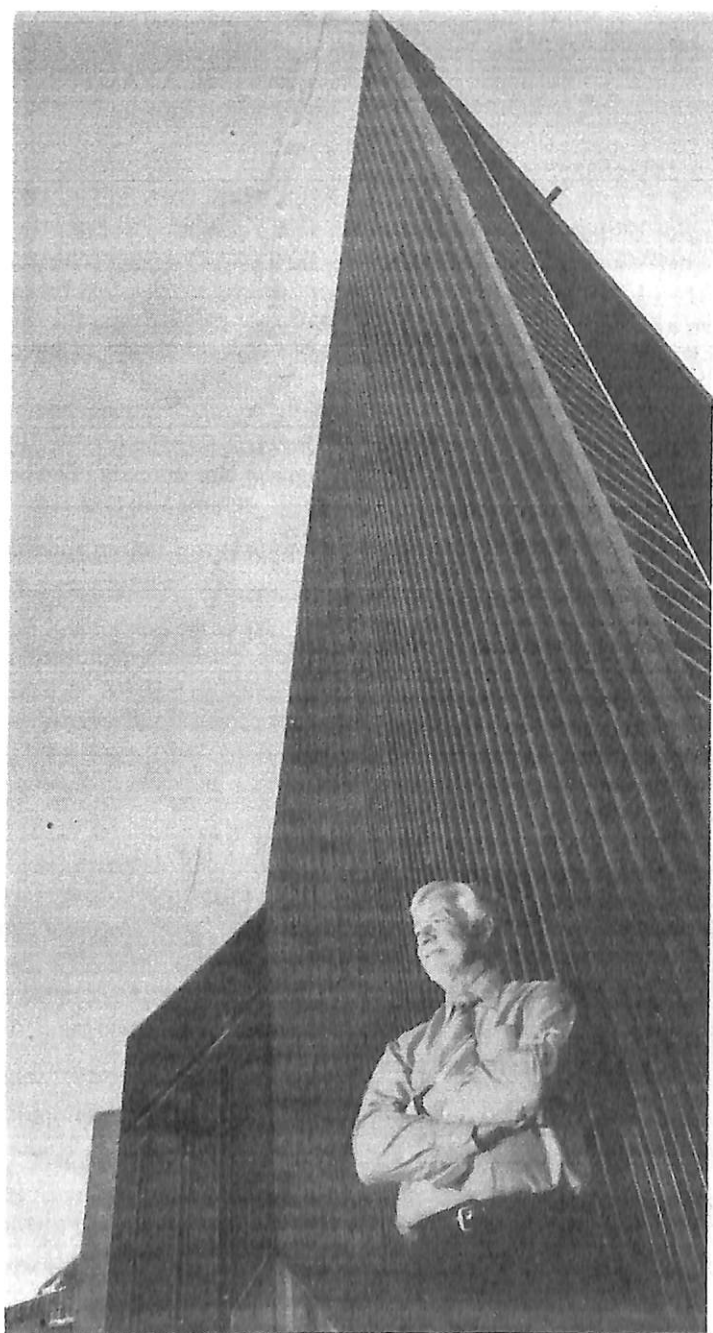




Autumn 2009

Issue 44

DHSESA Newsletter



BRAVE NEW WORLD !

**'THE AGE' RE-
PORTS ON THE
"... LOCAL
EDUCATION
REVOLUTION".**

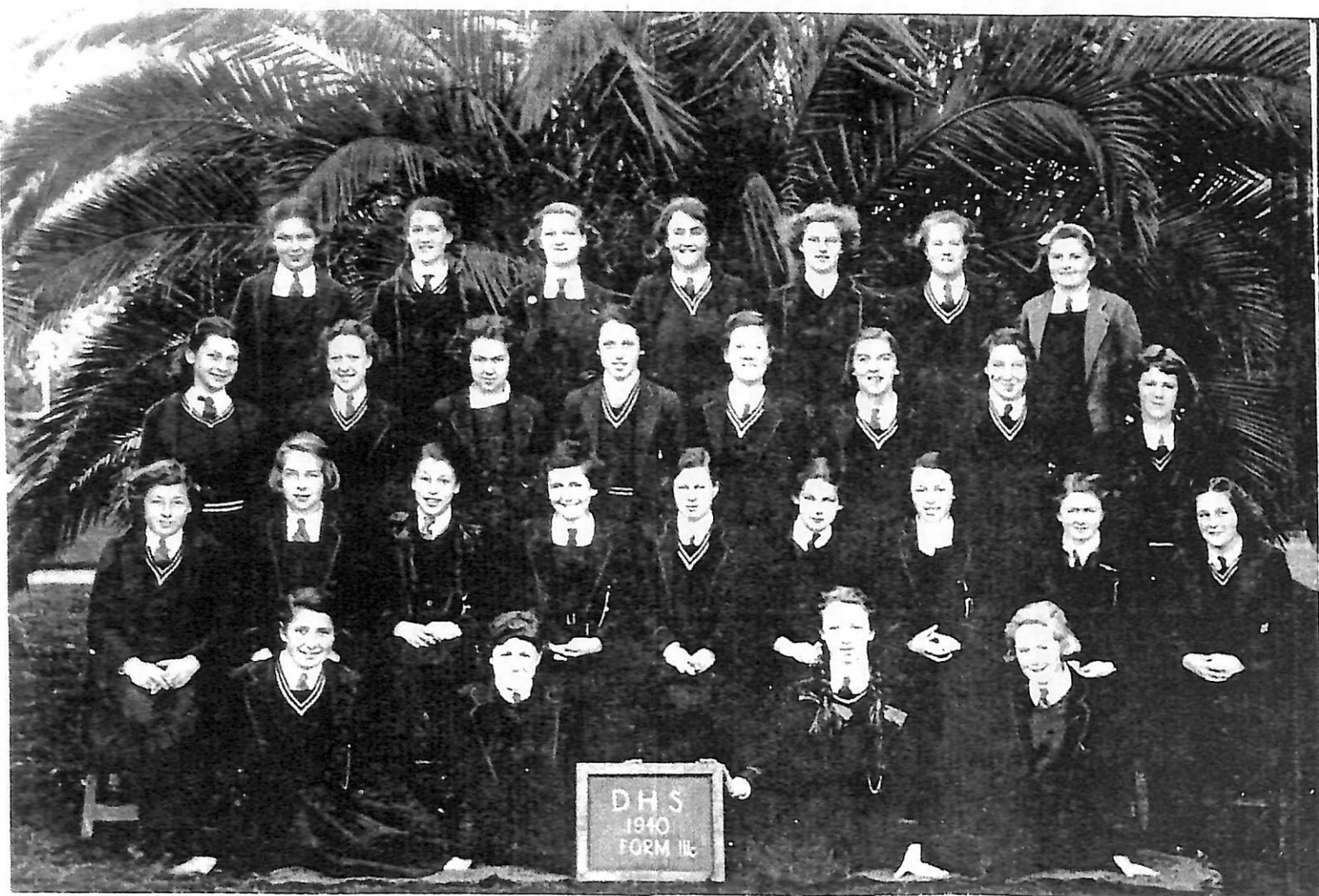
Page 3

Table of Contents:

From the Chair	2
Opening of the first new building.	3
'Black Saturday' report	
Photos from 1940	4/5
Mentioned in Des- patches	6
Old 'Journals' revisited	7
Mr Langford.	8
I. T.	9
Executive	10

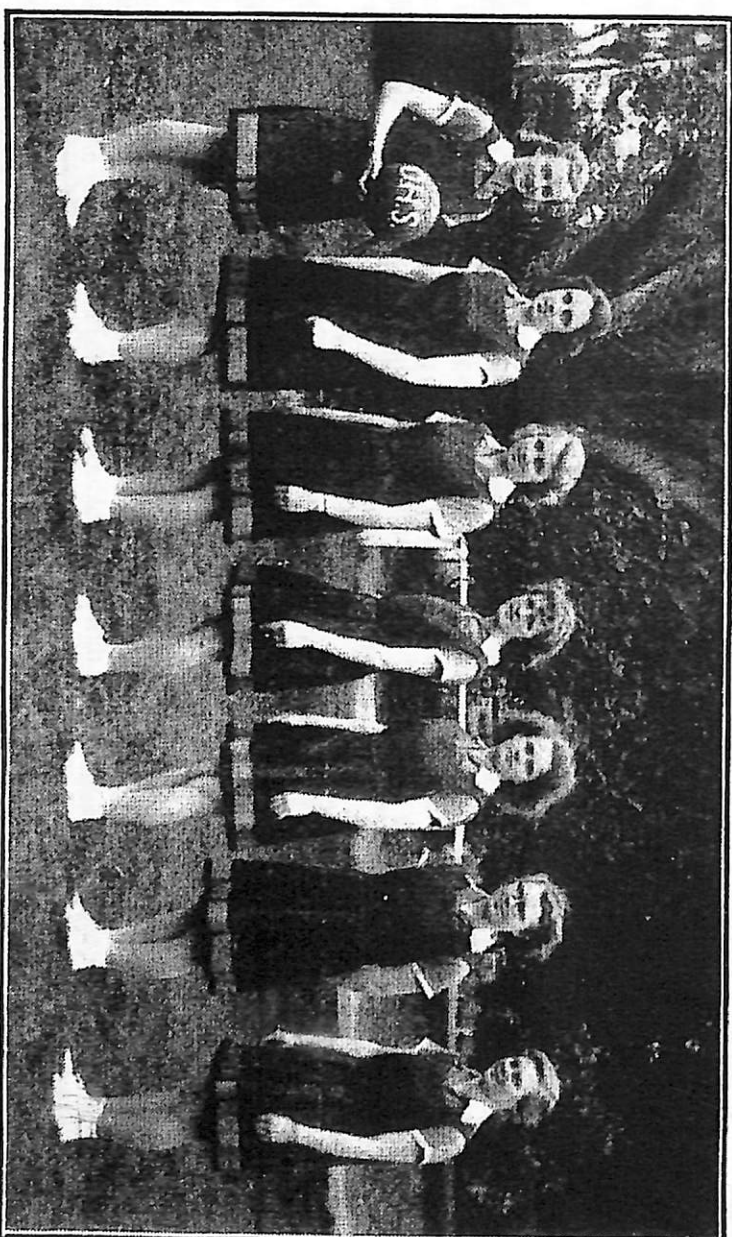
Page 2

Page 3



Back Row: Dawn McCabe, Norma Gearon, Shirley Gatta, Hazel Dennis, Winsome Hallett, Jean Horsborough, Margaret Hall
3rd Row: Betty O'Neill, Deanne Dennis, Dorothy Maye, Dulcie Smith, Lesley Gilbert, Beth Gardiner, Norma Foster, Pat Cline.
2nd Row: Loris Williams, Lesley McKay, Phyllis Wiffen, Janet Lynch, Joyce Badenhop, Jean Edwards, Valma Mabey, Lorna Christie, June Ford. **Front Row:** Kath Waddleton, Florence Honeychurch, Valma Gough, Elaine Hill.

SENIOR BASKETBALL TEAM, 1941



Left to Right: N. Young (Captain), D. Smith, L. Stephenson, P. Cline, I. Smart, T. Whitehead, J. Badenhop.

Secretary, Gary Mathews, has received the photo above, and that reproduced on the previous page, from Dulcie Lianson (nee Smith), now living in Queensland.

The following are some of her comments from her accompanying letter.

"Newsletter 43 has prompted me to hunt out a few pieces of memorabilia re DHS 1940-41. As some country primary schools in the 1930's had classes to year 8, some students came to DHS in year 9. However the all-girls Commercial classes (Forms 3C and 4C) were lucky enough to have Miss Thompson as both Form Mistress and Commercial subject teacher. I have remained in contact with two of my school friends over the years, being Lesley Hocking (McKay) and Elaine Gale (Hill).

I wish you all the best for the great Reunion in 2009. Also, I was so pleased to read that the school 'Motto' and 'Colours' had been retained. I still have my school badge and my hat-band!"

Mentioned in Despatches...

The Cranbourne Journal recently carried an obituary by Marg Stork for Gordon James Jarvie Aitken of Lyndhurst. The son of pioneering Lyndhurst farmers, he was described by his family and friends as "a gentle man" and a "gentleman".

He attended Lyndhurst Primary School (now a private residence), and was a student at Dandenong High School for a year before leaving to help on the family farm. He was a founder of the Lyndhurst Presbyterian Church.

Jan Tresize, (nee Mackay) continues her good work for East Timor, as part of Friends of Emera Education Committee, which is supporting teachers of English at 15 secondary schools in the District of Emera.

The ever-reliable **Judith Eckstein** (part of the 'Eckstein Dynasty' at DHS) recently passed on a copy of an obituary from the Dandenong Leader of February 2009 featuring the life and times of Ex-Student, Wes Eggleston, acknowledging a life spent in Springvale. Quotes from Paul Amy included the following. "Wes Eggleston was as kind-hearted as he was community minded". He "...saw only the good in people and for many years he extended a warm and guiding hand to the district's downheeled". "Springvale has lost a saint".

For many years Wes operated Eton's Furniture on Springvale Road. But he spent as much time at the store attending to Springvale Benevolent Society matters as shifting beds and cupboards.

"It was a lifeline to so many people", an emotional Greater Dandenong Councillor Roz Blades said.

He was honorary secretary of the Benevolent Society for 40 years, and more recently its President, a Lay Preacher and a Justice of the Peace. A Springvale citizen-of-the-year, he was also a "Living Treasure" of the City of Greater Dandenong, where he is in stellar company with other DHS ex-students.

The 1946 Form 6 Matriculation group has held yet another successful reunion, setting a very good example to other eras. Their expertise will certainly be sought when we grow nearer to our 90th.

It was decided at our February meeting that all ex-students over 80 years of age will be given honorary membership.

In a recent letter, **Ken Donnelly** (1977-1988), conveyed the following message about his time at DHS "...I loved every minute of the time I spent there".

The Star recently carried news about the good work being done by **Roger Hall** and the Rotary Club of Narre Warren in renovating a school in Tonga, an ongoing project.

Rob Wilson, who recently concluded 15 years in Local Government (10 as a City of Casey Councillor), was featured in The Star, decked out in his whites, with cricket bat in hand, to acknowledge his added achievement of 522 games over 50 years. His career began with High School-RSL. He was top player in the Oakleigh District Cricket Association in 1974-75.

News of our predecessors !

Gail Saddler (Jenkins), whose other family members, Ross and Verna, also attended DHS, provided us with a pile of old, yellowing copies of The Dandenong Journal. They had been in the roof of the Jenkins' family home, and were found out prior to sale.

The following snippets relate to news of school personalities and earlier versions of DHESA.

17/12/1952. 'An ex-student's tribute to High School Head'.

"When Mr. J. L. Griffiths, popular headmaster of the Dandenong High School, mounts the stairs to address students at morning assembly in the Quadrangle at the close of the last term for 1952, he will not only be bidding farewell to boys, girls and staff members present, but will be saying farewell also to a half a century of loyal and untiring service with the Education Department, 16 years of which has been spent in Dandenong.

A retiring, unassuming personality with a wealth of kindness and human understanding, Mr. Griffiths will be greatly missed by all who sought his advice and the benefit of his unbounding knowledge.

Deeply cultured, he was a keen reader, preferring the short stories of Australian and English authors, and it is to be hoped with a field of greater leisure opening up before him he may devote himself to his favourite pursuits—literature, and the garden of his home in Stud Rd.—for gardening is another of his real pleasures.

When Mr. Griffiths closes the door of his study, looks through the windows at the sweep of lawn and swaying palms for the last time, he will hold happy memories of years of service; of a task well done."

17/12/1952. High School Pre-fabs (four rooms of two units) Ready For New Year.

14/5/1952. Dandenong High School Ex-Students Assocn.

The monthly meeting of the ESA was held at the school on Friday, May 2nd. Unfortunately, we are unable to hold the Barn Dance which was planned for May 23rd, as the Education Department does not allow school buildings to be used during holidays. Don't forget that the Ball is to be held in the Town Hall on June 20th. Tickets are available from Graham Simon (Foster Street, Dandenong) or Len. Lloyd (Main Drain Road, Bangholme) or any committee member. The tickets will be 7/6 single, 15/- double. Come with a party, or a partner or come alone, but don't miss it. (Note: The Editor has explained to the grandchildren what a Barn Dance is/was, and the intricacies of pounds, shillings and pence—remember, contemporaries, when a 'quid' was a 'quid', and we didn't have one!)

24/11/1954. Dandenong High School Welfare Club.

At completing the business at the final meeting for 1954, the "...members cast care aside and settled back to enjoy the programme arranged by the Social Committee. With Mrs Buckland as the pianist, everyone joined in carol singing. Mr. Menadue then gave a real treat with his two pianoforte numbers. The school is most fortunate to have this talented young teacher on its staff".

Mrs. Lewis was President; Mrs. Turner was Immediate Past President and Mrs. Carroll was Secretary. The Christmas cake was made by the President's young daughter, Barbara.

1952. Oldmeadow (nee Pam Saunders)

On March 22nd, at D. & D. Hospital, to Pam and Max—a son. Playmate for Ian.

2/3/1952 High School Ex-students.

The new DHSESA held its annual meeting at the school on Friday, February 15th. President—Ken Lee; Vice-President—Len Lloyd; Graham Simon—Junior vice President; Richard Speed—Treasurer; Ian Russell—Assistant Treasurer; Secretary—Dorothy Griffiths; Assistant Secretary—Erica Tabor. The new committee consists of Dorothy Taffs, Fran O'Shea and Gordon Young.

24/11/1954. Amateur Hour Finalist to Play at Youth Concert.

Elaine Fenn, brilliant 17-year-old pianist of the Dandenong High School will be guest artist at the Combined Youth Concert to be held in the Dandenong Town Hall.

2/4/1952. Dandenong High School Sport.

Senior cricket: Mentioned were: Delmenico; Middleton; Noblet; Diggins; Kelson. Junior cricket: Bonar; Banks.

Percy C. W. Langford.

A Snapshot of Percy C. W. Langford, Dip. Ed., T.T.C., & his times at DHS.

My Aunt, Helene Sophia 'Nellie' Gill (as she was more affectionately known), was one of the first enrolled students at D.S.H. when it commenced in 1919.

She used to speak in glowing terms, with great affection, admiration and respect of the first Head Master (as they were called in those days) Percy Langford.

Aunt Nellie was the last surviving member of that original, illustrious group of students when she passed away peacefully on 19th December 2006, just 3 weeks short of her 103rd birthday.

Mr. Langford was a member of the 4th Light Horse Regiment during the 1914/1918 war (World War 1), and from where the school adopted the red and 2 blues of that Regiment for its colours.

He was the first Headmaster at D.H.S. from the opening in 1919 to 1934, before he was transferred to Mildura High School for a short stint in 1935/36. He then returned to reside in Frankston, and take up the position of Head Master at Frankston High School from 1937 until his retirement in 1948. In 1950/51 he returned to D.H.S in a temporary capacity and sadly passed away in 1964.

I attended D.H.S. 1947/51 and it was perhaps ironic and certainly my good fortune and sheer delight when he returned to D.H.S. It was a wonderful experience and opportunity to have been taught by him, and enthusiastically discuss various aspects of those earlier days with him.

Having had the experience in the Light Horse Regiment, he understood and related well to the difficulties people experienced in those early times when the main mode of transport was a horse and jinker or a spring-cart, as it was mainly a farming and market gardening district. His experience with horses in particular was invaluable.

He could certainly recall students riding their ponies to school and tethering them initially in the North-west corner of the grounds; but when trees were planted in 1921 arrangements were then made for them to be tethered and grazed in a fenced-off portion of Mr Hemmings paddock.

When my aunty Nellie attended D.H.S., my dad used to take her to school by horse and jinker from the family farm in Wellington Road, Rowville (opposite Taylor's Lane) on a Monday morning and sometimes on a Sunday evening, to where she used to board in Dandenong during the week, and he'd return by the same mode to collect her after school on a Friday afternoon, in all sorts of weather.

In those days also, and up to the 1960's (before retarding basins were constructed), it wasn't uncommon for the Dandenong Creek to flood in voluminous quantities across Stud Road, up to and around 4ft or 1200cms deep at times, particularly adjacent to the bridge and all that land where Tirhatuan Lakes Golf Course is now located.

No traffic could pass through during these times and so this meant no school until the floodwaters subsided (how sad?), which usually took a day or so.

Percy Langford had a genial personality and aura, with his kind and understanding nature and common-sense approach. He was held in the highest regard and esteem by his peers and all those who came into contact with him. He had a wondrous charm, affection, rapport and affinity with the students who would sit spellbound with interest and enthusiasm to his stories and delivery, making learning and understanding most pleasurable.

George Gill.

web news

EX STUDENTS OWN WEBSITE

Yes, now we have our very own website. For the last few months DHS have been giving us "free rent" on their website, together with all sorts of valuable help and advice in putting Ex Students news on the internet. With this experience behind us, the committee decided the time was right to branch out with our own internet identity.

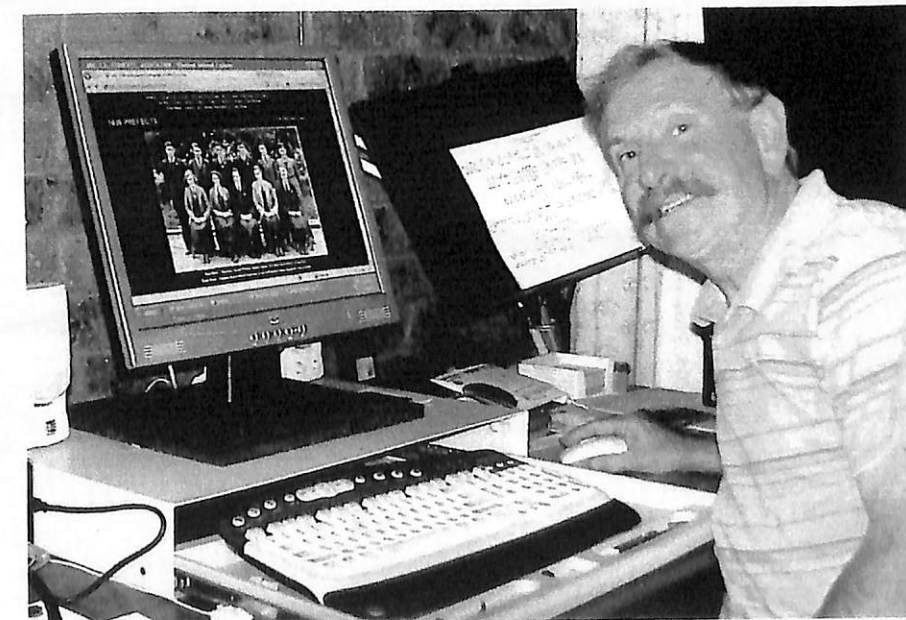
Our new website allows you to either e-mail or post copies of your old DHS photos, with names, where you can remember them. These can then be displayed for the enjoyment and kindling of memories of 'exies' far and wide. Another innovation enables you to *listen* and *sing* along with the words of some old school and house songs, recorded in 1996 by a group of ex students and teachers. There are also news updates, a guest book and a readily printable membership application form.

This excursion into the wonders of "cyber land" is being led by secretary Gary Matthews, who sees this as an increasingly important way of getting our news and views out to a fast growing computer savvy world, and also helping ex students and staff to link up with old friends. Gary says "with the School's 90th anniversary being celebrated this year, the website will also be a great way of letting a wider number of people know about the key events. Already it's proving popular, with a steady trickle of ex students making contact to get further information".

The picture below shows Gary eying one of the old school photos that can now be accessed on the new website.

The new 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 by email at gazzcazz@hotmail.com or phone him on 5122 2363.





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
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.

ALSO

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