



Summer 2009/10

Issue 46

DHSESA Newsletter

From 'The Age' - December 2009

"...Melbourne's most inspirational,
influential, powerful and creative
people..." - Our Principal

MARTIN CULKIN

See story Page 3

THE

REUNION

*News and
photos inside.*



Left to right
Brian Horan

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Twelve months of planning by a dedicated group culminated in the celebrations that took place over the weekend of the 12 and 13 September. Many hundreds of former students and staff came from far and wide to return to their old school. This included many who had travelled from interstate and overseas.

The next day was Open Day at the School. People started streaming in at 11am to visit the original building and inspect the many changes that had occurred. As half the ground was fenced off as a demolition site it was clear that more changes were in progress. It was the last opportunity to see the LTC Building, the old Army Hut, the four-roomed prefab, many portables - and the pine trees. All these classrooms held memories of lessons learned and friendships forged.

After the decade groups had met in the allocated rooms it was time to head to the hall for the assembly. After the School Song was enthusiastically sung, the Principal, Mr Martin Culkin, welcomed everyone. The audience was addressed in turn by the School Captains, John Ramos and Jack Taylor, and by the Association President, Greta Jungwirth. The undoubted highlight, however, occurred when two students from the 1920s, Bob Glassborow and Irene Marriott, enthralled the crowd with their tales of their time at "the best school of all". This was followed by a spontaneous rendition of "Happy Birthday" as Irene had turned ninety-six on that very day.

Tours of the new Learning Centres were then conducted to interested and appreciative groups by Mr Culkin, Mrs Laughlin and Mr Wiggs, who explained the modern architectural features of these impressive buildings. The day was then coming to an end and the throng said their reluctant farewells and vowed to meet again in ten year's time, when the the School would reach the marvellous milestone of one hundred years.

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'THE AGE' - 'MELBOURNE MAGAZINE' -SPECIAL FEATURE

"When Dandenong High School merged with two local schools and received \$45 million in funding, Principal Martin Culkin seized the opportunity to "have a red-hot go at doing things differently and better". Culin hired Hayball architects and designer Mary Featherston (of Featherston chair fame) to create 3 buildings for the 2100 students where the curriculum determines how the spaces are used: classes of 50 students have 3 teachers, who can lead break-away groups working on computers, reading in nooks, doing experiments or making presentations on mini stages. With 66 language groups at the school, English as a second language is widely taught and Culin opted to retain Latin too. Philosophy is offered from year 10.

The Age' reported in November that The Council of Educational Facility Planners International gave its 2009 Victorian award for outstanding school facility to Mary Featherston Interior Design and Hayball for the first stage of Dandenong High School.

A group of five people, four men and one woman, standing outdoors in front of a red brick building. They are all wearing blue jackets or suits, suggesting a formal or official event. The man on the far left is looking down, while the others are looking towards the right. The woman in the foreground is smiling.

Summer 2009/10

REUNION

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS TO 90TH ANNIVERSARY ASSEMBLY

This school is special. It has always been special. Since its inception it has encouraged academic excellence and fostered talents in many other fields. As a result it has produced leaders in the Arts, in Science, in the Law, in Politics, and in sport. But just as important it produced generations of decent, solid citizens who took to heart the school motto: *Faber Quisque Fortunae* - Each is the architect of his own destiny.

But more important still is that unique quality that bestowed upon its students a sense of belonging. From its earliest days children came from the wilds of Koo-ee-rup, the farms of Rowville, the suburbs of Murrumbeena, Pakenham and beyond and they knew they belonged. After the dislocation and strife of the Second World War, migrants and refugees streamed in from the countries of Western Europe and they were welcomed and they belonged. In recent years the influx has been from Africa, Asia and the Middle East. There are now more than sixty nationalities at the School and they belong.

This is a triumph that few institutions can achieve. We can all feel justly proud of our school and its ninety years.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)



REUNION LUNCHEON AT THE DANDENONG CLUB
Ian Campbell—Ken Begley—John (Carl) Mengler—Ron Townley

ABSENT FRIENDS

JOHN AND GERALDINE MENADUE.

Now living in Tasmania. Wishing to be present, wishing everybody well, and wants to see photographs. John about to complete his latest composition, "Freedoms Passions" which he hopes to record in coming months. Geraldine continued expanding her intellect with a vast commitment to the 'University of the Third Age'.

AUSTIN BAINBRIDGE

Rang from Adelaide, where he is recuperating from a skiing accident, accompanying a grandchild in the peaks. Wants details of attendees.

JEAN SPEARS

Still lecturing at the University. Keen to catch-up.

JUDITH MIDGELY

Regrets not being able to be at the luncheon.

REV. NOEL WHALE

Anglican Priest – Vicar of St. Peters Anglican Church in Grimshaw Street, Bundoora. His church is having a special 'Back to Church' this weekend. Wishes us all well. Noel's sister Jeanette also attended DHS.



The Mackay family members at the Reunion lunch. Barbara (Parker), Robert Wills (Uncle), Jan (Tresize) and Ian.

Mentioned in Despatches...

A special thanks to **Russell Weber** for his principal donation of seeding funds for the reunion. Russell was also present at another informal reunion last week at the Dandenong Club with **John Andrews, The Editor, Tim Rogers, Roger Barlee, Jim Young** and a 'new/oldie' **Ken Harris**. Lots of discussion about cricket from this lot! After, we were joined by **Carmen Powell (Cruickshank)**, who has just moved into central Berwick.

'The Journal' has carried an obituary for ex-student **Peter Wagstaff**. Peter was a Councillor of the City of Dandenong from 1963 to 1973, and Mayor from 1967-1968. Peter served during World War as a signalman. He ran a successful signwriting business in Dandenong, and was a versatile sportsman.

The Star, formerly the Pakenham Gazette, in a Centenary edition, featured a number of ex-students. The Proprietor, **Ian Thomas** (more next edition); a picture of the then Mayor of the City of Berwick, **Barry Simon** with the Governor, Sir Rohan Delacombe; **Carol Porter** accepting a cheque for one of her charities, the Make-a Wish Foundation; and a letter of congratulations from **Ray Canobbie**, former Shire Secretary of the Shire of Pakenham, and later, CEO of Windermere.

In another edition, the rural stock sales report featured ex-students **Bernard and Lyle Seebeck** achieving top market price for vealers, and **Laurie McNab** topping the steers and heifer markets. Laurie's mother and two sisters also attended DHS.

A high-profile criminal case ended recently before County Court Judge, ex-student **Lance Pilgrim**. His Honour was appointed in April 1999.

Roger, Peter and Heather (Wildes), Ross were a significant family presence at DHS in the 1950's and 1960's. Their father Neil has died recently and 'The Age' carried an obituary. The following are selections. "Neil Ross, a man from the bush with a lifetime of achievement that included creating his own hydro-electric plant that supplied electricity to a cluster of properties at Woods Point. His other inventions included an electric car that he drove to work each day after he opened his own business in Dandenong. It was no surprise when, in 2002, he was honoured by the Governor of Victoria, John Landy, as a Senior Achiever of the Year in acknowledgement of a lifetime of community contribution and of his many technical innovations". The Editor remembers his Dynamometer, imported for vehicle testing, which was the first commercial dynamometer in Australia at Dynalectric, which he ran with his son **Peter**.



Prem Britto, Reunion Committee Member, the longest serving staff member currently at DHS

REUNION SNAPS



Lorraine Metcalfe (Vincent); Janet Davies (Cox) and Gail Saddler (Jenkins)



The 'Boys' gathering

SPECIAL APPEAL - COMMEMORATIVE STAINED GLASS WINDOW:

The Association has suggested, and the School has agreed, that the enlargement of the School, resulting from the recent merging of the former Cleeland and Doveton Secondary Colleges with DHS, be marked with the installation of a stained glass leadlight window in the "fanlight" above the main entrance of the original red brick building. This window will represent a link between the school's earliest beginnings and, by its position, the first glimpse through to its future. It will of course also be a handsome addition to the front entrance.

The design will depict the retained school crest and motto, (which your Association has campaigned hard for) together with a stylized representation of the AIF badge, symbolising the origin and linkage of the School colours with the Lighthorse regiment of our pioneering Headmaster, Mr Percy Langford. Mr Langford, who introduced the school motto "Faber Quisque Fortunae", and also encouraged the formation of the first "Old Pupils Association", was Headmaster from 1919 to 1934. Commencement of the leadlight window project, to be funded by the Association, will be deferred until planned internal building refurbishment has been completed. A generous grant has already been received from the Department of Veterans' Affairs, part of which funded a plaque, dedicating the original building as the "Langford Building", with the remainder to be set aside for the window project.

This gives us a good start; however, we are still about \$4000 short of the sum needed. In raising this amount, our Committee felt that this was something our membership might like to be part of. Accordingly, we are officially launching the "Window into our Past and Future" Appeal. Donations large or small are welcome, and should be forwarded by cheque to the Dandenong High School Ex-Students Association, P O Box 383 Dandenong, 3175, with a note directing it to the appeal. We hope that this special appeal will catch the imagination of our members and that it won't be too long before we can report that we will be able to proceed with the project.

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Thanks from The Editor: Firstly to the Association, huge appreciation for the award of a Life Membership. My wife Lorraine (Vincent) and daughter Wendy have been great support; and to Val Slade (Finck) for a number of the enclosed photos and many other contributions.

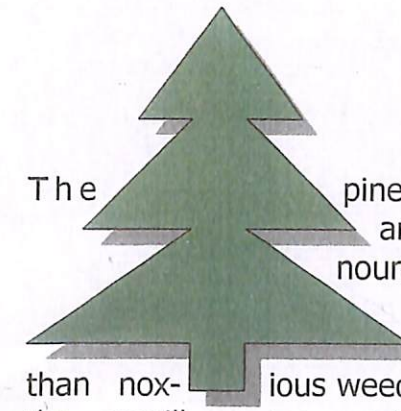
REUNION HELPERS

Gary Matthews; Rev. Rosalind Terry; Dawn Harris (Burhop); Penny Meallin (Salmon); President Greta Jungwirth (de Vries) and Ferenc Udvary



Publicity Co-Ordinator and ex-banker, Ken Matthews, assists Treasurer Ruby Constable (Waterhouse) to 'make ends meet'.

RETROSPECT



THE PINE TREES ARE GONE

The pine trees are gone. We have known for some time that it would happen and now it has. Once the words "a danger to students" were pronounced they were doomed, forming their own death rows.

Modern wisdom deems the species "Pinus Radiata" to be no better than noxious weeds and many councils are eradicating them from public property. Being the unwilling recipient of thousands of pine needles from next door whenever a hot north wind blows, I am not exactly enamoured of them. I would never plant one.

And yet...our trees have been there almost from the beginning. They have stood as sentinels, silent witnesses to the life of the School, defining the physical boundaries. Early on, horses and buggies were left in their shade until the final bell. Decades of sporting contests were conducted within their perimeters, and all the while more and more buildings were added, gradually changing the configuration of the internal space. With time, social changes also occurred, as evidenced in the style of uniforms and informal behaviour.

When I came to Dandenong, aged seven, the trees formed my daily horizon from Olive Street and then from Ann Street. In my child's mind they represented my future, the place where I would grow and start life's journey. And so it was. For me, the trees are not gone; they will always be missing.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)



ANNIVERSARY LUNCHEON AT THE DANDENONG CLUB
Noel Dawson - Margaret Orr (Marshall) - Jeanette Obst (Orr)



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.**

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WEBSITE

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.

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