



Autumn 2010

Issue 47

DHSESA Newsletter



Secretary of Ex-Students Association, Gary Matthews, (still fitting into his old uniform from 1960) greeting, on the left, United States residents Norma Rees (Campbell) DHS 1957-62, and on the right, Helen Loughman (Downes) DHS 1952-54)

FOLLOW-UP NEWS FROM HELEN LOUGHMAN (DOWNES)

I'm finally back in the US, thawing out after my weeks in Australia. I don't know how you folks take the cold, and that piercing wind!

As you can see, I've attached our pic - if you would like a larger version, I would be happy to send same.

I want to say a BIG Thank you to all of you who did the monumental job of organizing such a huge event. It was a blast, a hoot !!! What a wonderful time we all had, and what great memories we all carried back home with us. I'm so glad I made it across the pond, to meet with old friends and new. I can't tell you how much it meant to me. It was beyond my wildest expectations and I will remember this event as long as I live. Thank you again.

A short while ago, I made up an informal little video of some of the event, from my perspective, and posted it to FaceBook. It hasn't encoded yet but when it has, check it out. It's a bit too large to attach it in Hotmail even though I kept it to the required time of less than 2 minutes.

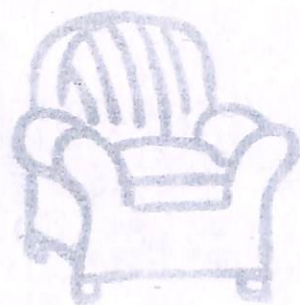
Best wishes, Helen Loughman (Downes)

***EMBRACE
DEMOCRACY!!***

***CHECK OUT THE
ANNUAL
MEETING.
Papers within.***

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From The Chair

Number 47

Over the years many stories have reached the Committee about the direction people's lives have taken after leaving the School. Among the more unusual has been a recent one.

A parcel of archival material was sent to the School by Annette Ellis, who was a member of the office administration staff from about 1967 to 1974. In her final year she had the opportunity to move to Canberra to a position with the then Department of Foreign Affairs. She says in the accompanying letter: "I have fond memories of the years at Dandenong High School, a very large and vibrant school community through those years. Since then my life has taken a few turns, and I have had the privilege of serving as a member of the Federal Parliament in the seat of Canberra since 1996."

Since moving to Canberra in 1974, Annette has had a long association with her local community. She is patron of numerous organizations, including the Tuggeranong Community Festival, the National Service and Combined Forces Association, the Tuggeranong United Women's Soccer Club and the ACT Down's Syndrome Association.

In her position as a Federal Member, Annette has had the opportunity to travel overseas to numerous countries. She has been part of official delegations to the United Nations in New York, Ethiopia, Thailand, Ireland, China, Nigeria, South Africa, Switzerland and Singapore.

Annette is currently Deputy Chair of the ALP Caucus Social Policy Committee, Chair of the Standing Committee on Family, Community, Housing and Youth, and a member of Joint Standing Committee on National Capital and External Territories since June 1996. She also became a member of the Joint Standing Committee Foreign Affairs, Defence and Trade since February 2008.

Congratulations to Annette on her glittering career!

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)



"Being part of Dandenong"

Excerpts from a presentation made recently by Ken Masters to the Dandenong Historical Society.
LAST YEAR KEN WAS PUBLICITY OFFICER FOR OUR 90TH ANNIVERSARY

I was born on the 4th March 1937 at Murray House on the Corner of Scott and Thomas Streets in Dandenong, and both working or living in close proximity to Dandenong I have witnessed changes that have effected this great City, both good and bad.

I attended the Dandenong East State School No. 1403.

Next I went to Dandenong High School and that too was a great learning place – not just the school work – a lot of the students in those days had to come down from the country areas so you met a wide group of students from different areas other than Dandenong.

When International Harvester Company commenced in Dandenong the first top American executive had a surname of Hunsicker and his son attended school at the same time as I did and he had what I consider to be the first crew cut hairstyle that I had seen – so the next haircut at Simon's I had to have a crew cut and I kept it for a number of years.

After I finished School I started work in the Commercial Bank of Australia and during my first years spent several years working in Dandenong.

Our long-term family association with the Dandenong Show Society is as follows: C. H. Masters - President 1956 and K. J. Masters - President 1979 - my active years from the age of 17 until about the age of 65. I was made a Life Member and I still help out at Show time.

A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE (A further selection from Ken's presentation)

I lived at 23 Thomas Street Dandenong.

My father was a butcher and conducted a business in Lonsdale Street in partnership with Leo Matthews (Matthews and Masters). Opposite our house in Thomas Street was the Mitchell Bakery. A laneway ran through the yard of the bakery, and down a small passageway which went past McCartney's Real Estate office and Alf Owen's hardware shop and past the entrance to Mr. Pike's dentistry. (Up the stairs and then the ordeal of the foot operated pedal drill).

My father's cousin - Amy Mitchell (mother of Keith, Joyce and Betty) lived in Langhorne Street opposite George Pigdon (Pigdon and Lardner); next door to Glad Caithness' Ford car dealership, Gippsland Gate Garage and the shoe man Figgins on the other side are all names that I associate with the old businesses in Dandenong - Other businesses that our family patronized were Sam Nissen's clothing shop in Foster St - Kingsburys in Foster Street - Ewart's Newsagents in Lonsdale Street - Ewart's Mens Wear in Lonsdale Street - Reg Stephens fruiterer in Vanity Court Arcade and Osbornes deli. also in Vanity Court Arcade - Francis Dry Cleaners had the shop and works opposite our house in Thomas Street - Croft's - Crooks and Moran & Cato's (where my brother John worked for some years.) Also the Royal Hotel where Pierce Beary was the licensee.

Editor's Note: McCartney's was where The Editor commenced his property career in 1959 after leaving DHS.

Mentioned in Despatches...

The local 'Star News' very recently carried an item featuring the Principal, **Martin Culkin** who was guest speaker at a local seminar.

The presentation was "... an insight into the school's recent journey from a traditional learning environment to open-plan learning which inspires thinking and creativity".

It affirmed that DHS is one of Australia's biggest public schools, whose students speak a total of 66 languages.

Mr Culkin said it's known for its connectivity with the needs of its high range of cultural and diverse students.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW APPEAL:

REGISTER OF CONTRIBUTORS TO BE INCLUDED IN OUR HISTORY ARCHIVE:

Since the Appeal for our "Window into the Past and Future" was launched in the last edition of the Newsletter, we've had a most encouraging response. So far, we've received just over \$2000, so well done to those who have made that possible.

As the window will not be able to be installed until scheduled major internal refurbishment of the Langford building is complete, it's difficult to assess its final cost. But clearly, we've made a good start, and our best estimate is that we're nearly half-way. So, while we're well on the way, more support is needed for the appeal to reach its goal.

In recognition of the importance of this project and those who will have made it possible, a Register of Contributors is to be established, for inclusion in the School's history archive. If you would like your name included in the Register, there's obviously still time, and, in so doing, leave a tangible reminder that you were part of this wonderful addition to the front entrance of our old school.

Donations at the beginning of March totalled in excess of \$2,100.

A nice update from 'Yarra Track Wines', owned by **Jim Viggers** advises that after good rains, the "...place looks great, new trees and plants growing and bringing new life and hope". The message contains an appreciation for the "...help, support, thoughts and messages..."

"GATE" PROJECT

Committing the previous 'Gate' magazines to electronic medium, which has been undertaken by the Association, is nearing completion.

The formal handover by the contractor is to be undertaken at the forthcoming Annual Meeting.

MORE FROM THE PAKENHAM 'STAR' (Pakenham Gazette) "100 years of Community News 1909—2009"

Under the heading 'Thomas empire', the paper recited its beginnings, publishing the 'Berwick Shire News and Pakenham and Cranbourne Gazette' on 8th September 1909 out of an office opposite St. Margaret's School in Berwick.

The business was founded by Albert Edward Thomas. Herb was the son of Albert and his son **Ian**, who attended DHS, with great support from his mother Florrie, and his wife Dorothy, produced the paper after Herb's sudden death, in 1979. **Ian** has made numerous, admirable community commitments.

CLEELAND SECONDARY COLLEGE NEWS

EDITOR'S NOTE

For the first time since the school amalgamation, it is with pleasure that I include a section dedicated to one of the worthy schools which has become a part of Dandenong High School. The Committee looks forward to incorporating further contemporaneous events, (and reveries), from Cleeland Secondary College and Doveton Secondary College personnel.

My contact data is located on the back page.

HEADMISTRESS CELEBRATES HER CENTENARY

The local 'Star' newspaper recently acknowledged the 100th birthday of Miss Bea Boardman, and the party which was being planned at Homewood Aged Care in Hallam.

Miss Boardman was described by her carer as a pleasant lady. "She's right into reading and likes science and technology books".

Miss Boardman was a keen hockey player, who played for Victoria and had a passion for music, in particular the cello. She retired more than 30 years ago and is a 'Lifetime Companion' of the Royal District Nursing Service. We wish her well.

Editor's Note. A close friend of Edna Vukmirovic (Miss Dawson), through her great support for the Dandenong Festival of Music and Art for Youth.

The Star also carried an obituary for former teacher, Pearl Milnes (Bickerton), who was fondly known as Elaine.

Elaine spent 19 years at the school, before moving on to Cranbourne Secondary College.

A long-time Hampton Park resident, she was a Life Member of the Hampton Park Progress Association, which she served for more than 40 years. Treasurer of the Association, Tony O'Hara said "Hampton Park is going to feel the loss of Elaine for many years and she will never be forgotten by those who knew, worked with, admired and loved her".

Elaine was instrumental in bringing basketball and later netball to the town.

COMING EVENTS

THE ANNUAL MEETING
and we will bring you all
THE ANNUAL MEETING NEWS
plus a report on

'DHS TOUR TO CENTRAL AUSTRALIA 1968 — THE FILM.'



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

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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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