



Winter 2010

Issue 48

DHSESA Newsletter

**THE PRINCIPAL, MARTIN
CULKIN, STAFF AND
STUDENTS, ENJOY THE COM-
PANY OF THE GOVERNOR-
GENERAL**

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From The Chair

Number 48

An outstanding matter was recently attended to when a presentation commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the School was made to the Principal, Martin Culkin, and the Associate Principal, Barry Wiggs. It was a large framed photo of the pupils attending DHS in 1930. This photo was sourced from a newspaper article that had been in the possession of 97-year-old Bob Glass-borow all these years. He appears in the back row as a slim and athletic young man. The photograph, with a suitable inscription, now hangs in the entrance hall of the School.

The ANZAC tradition continues to be commemorated at the School. Senior and junior assemblies were held on 27 April in the gymnasium, presided over by the student leadership team. It was a solemn occasion and most of the students behaved accordingly. Captains for the seven Houses laid wreaths in their house colours and the School Captains and Vice-Captains laid the school and ex-student wreaths. John Wells, from the Dandenong RSL, made a well-received speech, pointing out the relevance to young people of the sacrifices made so long ago. He suggested that they are the inheritors of rights and freedoms and it behoves them to make the most of life's opportunities.

On behalf of all ex-students, I paid tribute to the fallen alumni of World War II and reminded the students of the direct connection the School has to Gallipoli through its first Head Master, Percy Langford. It was a day to be proud of the school colours.

After disappointing attendances in recent years, the AGM held in May was a great success. It began by James Caulfield presenting a selection of the digitized form of "The Gate" magazines (from 1927 to 2009) he had been commissioned by the Committee to copy. He demonstrated how information could easily be accessed according to different categories. This will prove to be a great asset to the archives held at the School.

After the usual formal business was completed those assembled were treated to musical recitals by two current students. Year 10 soprano Jessica Peters impressed those present with her rendition of "Caro Mio Ben" by Giordani. It was particularly heartening to hear her in such fine voice as she was the recipient of a term's vocal tuition last year from the Edna Dawson Vukmirovic Music Scholarship funds. This was followed by Year 12 pianist Raushelle Ramesh-Kumar playing "L'Harmonie des Anges" by Berg-muller in a very accomplished manner.

Our guest speaker was Prem Brito, at present the longest serving teacher at DHS; her tenure being second only to that of Edna Dawson Vukmirovic's impressive record. She recounted the changing times and personalities encountered over nearly forty years and her love and devotion to the School was evident.

The afternoon concluded with a pleasant and sociable afternoon-tea during which some old acquaintances were rekindled.

One change of note to the composition of our Committee is the resignation of our Treasurer, Ruby Constable. For more than a decade Ruby has given tireless service. She has worked in her quietly competent and dependable way and been a great support to everyone on the Committee. We are very grateful to her and thank her for her wonderful contribution. Happily she is staying on as a member of the Committee and has organized a replacement. Russ Weber has now taken on the duties of Treasurer. He is a retired accountant and we welcome him to our little band of volunteers.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)

90TH ANNIVERSARY COMMEMORATION PRESENTATION



The presentation by the President of the Association, Greta Jungwirth (de Vries), commemorating the 90th Anniversary of the School, was made to the Principal, Martin Culkin, and the Associate Principal, Barry Wiggs.

It is a photo of the pupils attending DHS in 1930.

The photograph, with a suitable inscription, now hangs in the entrance hall of the School.

PREM BRITO SHARES HER THOUGHTS

Hi my name is Premila Brito and I have been teaching at Dandenong High School for over thirty nine years – a long time but a great journey! I started here as a first year out after completing my Bachelor's Degree in Education. I immediately liked it at Dandenong High School and I have never considered teaching at another school. I teach English and Humanities – History and Geography and I am also the History Co-ordinator. I am currently the longest serving member of Staff, and only the second- longest in the school's ninety year history (!) after my mentor, the late and lovely Edna Vukmirovic (nee Dawson). Naturally, I have seen several changes at the school over the years!

I was born in India and when we migrated to Australia, we fell in love with our new homeland and have never regretted our decision to relocate from India. My husband is an accountant and we have two daughters who are both married and have two daughters each. So we are the proud grand-parents of four beautiful and absolutely charming grand-daughters whom we adore and love to spoil. Their ages range from five years to three months. One of my cherished blessings is that both my daughters live in Melbourne and we can see their families often.

My younger daughter, Sonia, in particular, did us proud. She was an elite 400 metres and 400 metres hurdles athlete. She represented Australia at the Commonwealth Games in Melbourne and Manchester and at many other International Athletic Championships. She won gold at the National Australian Athletics Championships and still holds the Victorian record for under twenties in 400 metre hurdles. She has competed with athletes like Jana Pittman (now Jana Rawlinson), Cathy Freeman, Tamsyn Lewis and Lauren Hewitt.

I love teaching and Dandenong High School has been a great second home to me. I cherish the opportunity it has given me to touch the lives of hundreds of young people and develop strong friendships with many of my teacher friends whom I have taught with over the years.

Although I have been teaching for many years, my development process continues as the evolution in teaching never ends. I love to learn and share what I know through my teaching, while at the same time responding to students' needs. I welcome queries from my students as it helps me to know what they enjoy and what they find difficult. I feel happy when my students do their best to achieve their full potential and get the best possible results. I do not believe that I know everything, but I am there to help them. It gives me great pleasure to see my students mature and develop.

Besides my family and teaching, I enjoy being a mother and grandmother; socializing; painting landscapes and floral arrangements, as well as travelling. My husband and I have travelled widely both within Australia and overseas in America, Canada, England, Europe, Thailand, Malaysia, India, Vietnam, Cambodia, Hong Kong, New Zealand, etc. My most recent trip during the last holidays was to Bali which I thoroughly enjoyed.

I believe we are very fortunate at Dandenong High School to have an Ex- Students' Association with a wonderful and hard working Committee with Greta Jungwirth at its helm. Last year, the committee members again worked tirelessly over many months to ensure there was a very successful 90th Anniversary celebration over a few days, in September 2009. I have fond memories of teaching the editor Don Metcalfe's lovely children, Wendy and Michael, and also D.H.E.S.A Committee members Penny Meallin (nee Salmon) and Samantha Brown, among others.



Tributes to Christine Jolly (nee Bates)

A number of organizations acknowledged the selfless work that Christine brought to her career in guidance to young people. The Community of Caulfield Grammar School, in mourning her passing after a long illness, reflected that Christine had endeared herself to all who knew her – staff, students and families, and she was well respected for the support, guidance and encouragement which she gave so willingly.

Janine Evans in a note to Christine said, "The Careers Programme is your legacy to the school as you have been the architect of so much of it."

In 2009, she was awarded Life Membership of the Careers Education Association of Victoria in recognition of her outstanding commitment and service in the area of Careers Counselling.

At Lyndale Secondary College she was regarded in high esteem, and was described as "Being an Angel".

In husband and ex-student, Rob's eulogy, he addressed their marriage of nearly 40 years, their family joys with three beautiful daughters, and four grandsons together with the loss of their daughter, Kim.

He echoed the feelings of her work colleagues, describing her as 'Compassionate, Caring, Conscientious and Courageous'.

Her aim in life was to use her education and great personal skills to help others to live a better life.

Her passion to make the world a better place – began in her student days;

Christine began her teaching career at Doveton High School & taught for more than 40 years;

While Christine liked teaching, Careers Counselling was her great love

She committed more than 20 years to State and Private schools – Lyndale SC, Mt Scopus and Caulfield Grammar School;

She loved all the schools she served, being dedicated to provide guidance and advice to students to broaden their views and pathways to realize their ambitions.

Christine's Courage

Her courage in fighting MM over the final 4 yrs was beyond belief as she received all forms of treatment – radiotherapy, chemotherapy, stem cell transplant, Revlimid, Thalidomide, lung taps and many more. The disease and the treatments were extremely debilitating

Christine pushed through all of these dreadful invasions to her body and continued her positive approach to life and work.

The last 4 yrs of her life were physically overwhelming.

Despite her debilitated condition she managed to achieve "unfinished business" – a trip to Darwin, Kakadu, Litchfield National Park, Kathrine Gorge and Uluuru.

Christine had many endearing characteristics. However, most admired her courage in continuing to care for others during severe adversity, which was an inspiration to all who came in contact with her. In the words of the Principal of Caulfield Grammar School - Stephen Newton

"There are many special things about you Christine – your strength and determination, your ability to face the hardest of all challenges and yet remain the person you are, your determination never, at least outwardly, to be bitter but rather to face the particular circumstances as best you could."

Mentioned in Despatches...

The Dandenong Journal recently reported on an ex-student, **Andrea Edwards** who is heading back to Congo to help run a primate sanctuary.

Andrea spent time there as a volunteer, but is returning as a co-manager of the centre which houses 48 chimpanzees and 62 monkeys that have been victims of illegal trade.

It has 29 Congolese staff, including 4 women, who are trained in different skills to look after the animals. "It is very hard for women to get jobs in Congo", Andrea said. Her first stint in Congo was interrupted by the civil war.

Andrea holds a science degree in zoology and worked as a keeper at the Melbourne Zoo for 5 years.

You can help: Visit the sanctuary's blog at www.lwiro.blogspot.com and hit donate.

STAINED GLASS WINDOW APPEAL:

REGISTER OF CONTRIBUTORS TO BE IN- CLUDED 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.

Ex-student **Rob Wilson**, recently brought the world franchise owner of Gloria Jean's Coffee to his school, Hillcrest Christian College. Rob said that the kids were inspired, as having these high-flyers in business come and talk gives them something to look up to.

The 'Star' recently featured ex-student **Jamie Kenmure**, who in September is leading the chess team of the small Pacific nation, Palau to the 'Chess Olympics' in Russia. The event attracts more than 200 teams from around the world.

"Helping a small nation develop in chess is something that I want to achieve," Jamie said.

Jamie was introduced to chess while he was at DHS.

MORE FROM THE PAKENHAM 'STAR' (Pakenham Gazette)

Under the heading "It's all write for winners", the Star News Group director, and ex-student **Ian Thomas** was pictured with the four young winners of the Herb Thomas Memorial Trust, who were recognised for their potential in media and the printing industry.

The Chairman of the Trust is ex-student, **Roger Hall**.

Roger also made news in taking over the Presidency of the Narre Warren Rotary Club for the second time.

...and further dispatches

'The Age' education feature carries vignettes on the school background of notables. Tennis coach and ex-student **Bernhard Goerlitz** recalls:

Favourite subject—geography and the teacher Mrs Pearce who had good people skills and was well respected; DHS had a very good soccer team; he rode his bike to school from Mulgrave; he was ranked in the top 8 players in junior tennis in Australia.

'The Age' carried a story concurrently with the Federal election about an ex-teacher, **Mike Stuchbery**, now a Civics teacher at Caroline Chisholm Catholic College in Braybrook.

In teaching about the election, Mike decided to "try something a bit different", so he threw away the textbooks for the 5-week campaign and transformed his classroom into election HQ.

The class set up a blog to ask politicians questions so they could get a clearer understanding of the Australian political process. Youth Minister Kate Ellis and Greens candidate for Melbourne, Adam Brandt, have already agreed to respond—as has election analyst Antony Green.

Mike decided to harness the power of social media for good and design a project his class could get really excited about.

The Association will miss our good friend and supporter, Associate Principal, **Barry Wiggs**, who has received a promotion out of the school. We wish him every success in the future.



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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