



Autumn 2011

Issue 50

DHSESA Newsletter

REUNIONS BRING FORTH GEMS

The recent excellent 50th Anniversary of the 'Year of 1960' function, organised by our Treasurer Russ Weber, and brilliantly captured on film by Margaret Rogers, has brought out some tales of ex-students and their unique experiences

Two such stories are set out herein.

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The further contribution of Jeanette Gibson in relation to the Asylum Seekers will be included in the forthcoming Winter 2011 edition.

Also watch for the true story behind the 'Prefects/ Perfects' photo in 'The Gate' of 1961 ("Photogate"); who was Miss Showgirl at the Pakenham Show in 1958?; and Dawn Harris (Burhop) receives a Community Arts Award.

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**YOUR
ANNUAL
MEETING
NOTICE IS
ENCLOSED
AND WE
WOULD
LOVE
TO SEE YOU
THERE!**



SIXTIES STUDENTS

News from China

I was unable to attend our class' 50th reunion at Russ Weber's home, as I was on my 10th trip to China, so he suggested I write a little about China for the magazine.

I think of my work here in China as my fourth career. Number one was as a primary teacher. Second, my major one was working in ESL (English as a Second Language) with an organization called Ames. Third, preparing overseas students at Monash University for their degree courses. I now work for Vic. Uni. coordinating programs for their offshore commitments. I usually travel to China twice a year and this current location is by far my favorite.

I am in Kaifeng, in Henan province, at a truly beautiful campus. The campus was established about 100 years ago, with lovely traditional Chinese buildings which are beautifully set out. We teach English for Academic Purposes. From us, depending on which location, the students either come to Oz to enter Vic. Uni., or continue on to higher degrees in China. Vic. Uni. delivers programs in 6 different locations, including Beijing. My first stint was in Beijing, where I have lived twice, once for 11 weeks and the second time for 17 weeks.

Of course, if you come to China it is nearly mandatory to visit Beijing and Tiananmen Square and the Forbidden City, but for me Kaifeng is far more attractive. Beijing, though spectacular, is a city like many around the world; high rise buildings, too much traffic, huge commercial centers. However, Kaifeng is still very Chinese. They have had the sense to maintain streets of their buildings, so everything looks distinctly Chinese. I love the old buildings with their curled rooflines and no guttering to collect water. There are still large sections of the walls that once surrounded the city.

Kaifeng was once the capital of China in the Song Dynasty, but all that information would be easy to find via Google, so I'll concentrate on the people here. The students are lovely. Chinese education still pays much attention to Confucius principles; i.e. living in harmony, not only with people, but just as importantly with the environment. This is communicated to children, not only via schools and from the family, but also from the government. The government controlled CCTV English language news, where our Edwin Maher is employed, constantly highlights in its reporting that 'peace and harmony' have now been reinstated when reporting about some controversy. Another key element of Confucius' philosophy is to deny selfish wishes and concentrate on the good of the community. Students live in what we would consider to be appalling conditions; in dormitories which sometimes accommodate six students. To us, they seem more like prison cells; adequate, at a pinch, for maybe two. Before I understood this, I wanted the students to write a critical essay about the pros and cons of dormitory life, which was just beyond them. However, it is a skill they need to learn if they wish to have a western education

I've been here for more than 10 weeks and have just learnt I need to go to Jinan for 3 days to help with some testing, so it is over and out from Barbara Weeber, China.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Dear Member,

You are cordially invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Association, which is to be held at **2 pm on Saturday, 30 April 2011, at the School**. We do hope that you will be able to come along to hear of the year's activities, as well as meet your committee members and acknowledge the work they do.

There is a strong social emphasis to the afternoon, with entertainment, guest speakers and refreshments. This will of course be preceded by the normal business of the meeting, including presentation of financial statements, the President's address and the election/ratification of office-bearers.

If you cannot attend in person it would be useful if you would take the opportunity to complete and return the proxy form below **by 23 April**.

I look forward to seeing you there.

Yours faithfully,

Greta Jungwirth
President

DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION INC
Reg. No. A23096P

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30 APRIL 2011

APPOINTMENT OF PROXY

I
(print name)

Of
(address)

being a member of the Dandenong High School Ex-Students Association Inc,

HEREBY APPOINT:

.....
(print name)

of
(address)

as my **PROXY**, to vote on my behalf at the AGM to be held on 30 April, 2011, and at any adjournment of the meeting.

Signed: Date:



Dandenong High School Ex- Students Association Inc.

Reg No. A.23096P

P O Box 383, Dandenong 3175

**ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING
SATURDAY 30 APRIL 2011**

NOMINATIONS for the Election/Ratification of the following Committee Positions are called for:

- | | |
|---------------------------|--|
| 1. President | 7. Historian |
| 2. Secretary | 8. Regional Liaison Officer |
| 3. Treasurer | 9 Functions Officer/General Committee Member |
| 4. Editor | 10. General Committee member |
| 5. Membership Officer | 11.General Committee Member |
| 6. School Liaison Officer | |

Please send nomination forms to:

AGM NOMINATIONS
DHS EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION
P.O BOX 383
DANDENONG 3175

.....
DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL EX-STUDENTS ASSOCIATION INC
Reg. No. A.23096P

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 30 APRIL 2011

NOMINATION FORM

We nominate
(name in full)

for the position of

Nominator

Seconder

Name..... **Name**.....

Address..... **Address**.....

Phone..... **Phone**.....

Signed..... **Signed**.....

NOMINEE ACCEPTANCE

I accept nomination for the position of

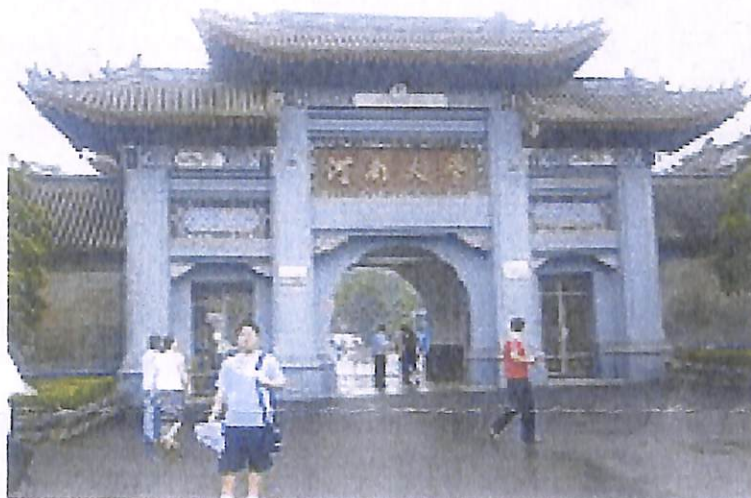
Signed: Date:

Address Phone

>> **COMPLETED FORM TO BE RETURNED BY 23 APRIL 2011**

SHARE THEIR STORIES

HENAN UNIVERSITY



Editor's note: Barbara Weeber was a student of the Class of 1960.

Jeanette Gibson

I exited Dande High In 1960 and went to Frankston Teachers' College. After 2 years I was declared to be a teacher and so off to Shepparton, then Ballarat on a steep learning curve, both in the classroom and outside. The shortage of secondary teachers allowed many of us to move to secondary. I taught at Myrtleford High and then back to Melbourne to Westall High. Loved teaching...well mostly! There were huge classes by today's standards; 40+ in grade one and other challenges such as the poor migrant kids with little English.

I married Roger Barlee in 1965, another D.H.S. graduate. He was working for T.A.A. in Lae, New Guinea. Life there for the next 5 years was fascinating, amazing and a time to question so much I had taken for granted. New Guinea was on its way to Independence but still a safe place. I taught at Lae High school, a multiracial school overseen by the United Nations. There were about 100 kids, a wonderful mixture of Aussies, Chinese descendants from the gold rush, so called Mixed race kids and of course the New Guineans.

Our first child Kaye was born there in '69 and we returned to Melbourne to old friends and family in '71. We had 2 sons, Dean and Chris. After 6 years in Melbourne we opted for a tree change and moved to Sale. We bought Mitre 10. I continued to teach English to migrants part time as I had in Melbourne. Sale's oil industry attracted about 20 nationalities. Gippsland is a great place to live and we enjoyed living on 10 acres which we shared with various beasts, sailing on the lakes and camping in the mountains.

As for most of us life was not without dramas. Ours came in 1984 when Dean, then 12, died suddenly from asthma. We all struggled. In '86 Roger and I went our separate ways. I returned to study and some years later qualified as a psychologist.

Since the early '90s I have been in private practice working with groups and individuals and spending some time in prison! A few of us set up the Bridge Foundation for ex-prisoners. I still work part time. This work is never dull! Sale is very much home for me. I have lived here longer than anywhere else. I am lucky that both my kids and grandkids are nearby.

In between I have travelled a fair bit; highlights have been Bhutan in 2005 and last year I took my 15 year old granddaughter to New York. A wonderful part of our trip was staying with Joan Newman (Mc Kenry in Dande High days) and Graeme in Albany, US.

As part of the celebration of 50 years post school I had lunch at Barbara Weeber's home in Officer. She is my very oldest mate! Roger and Russell Weber were there too. Russ is responsible for this story.



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

- | | <u>Mailing Address</u> |
|--|-------------------------------|
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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.

For further information, contact Gary Matthews by email at gazz-cazz@hotmail.com or phone him on 5941 2507