



Our expertly crafted stained glass window, installed above the historic front door in 2012, with Ex-student Association funds.

DHSESA NEWSLETTER

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DUX OF THE SCHOOL

2020

ABDUL BASIT

Another remarkable story of resilience, pride and application.

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ISSUE 89



FROM THE CHAIR

It is a new year and better days seem to be on the way. The school term has begun and students are all attending DHS in person. Things are almost back to normal, Covid normal that is, with current precautions in place. It is hoped that the yearly calendar of events can proceed with any necessary adjustments. The Badges Assembly is due in a few weeks, where the student leaders are recognized and various academic awards are presented.

After an absence of nearly a year the work in our archives room has recommenced and we are sorting through the backlog of donations and requests. A marvellous array of items was given to us on Open Day in 2019 and the arrival of our new cabinets last year means the transferring of archival material can now be done.

Plans for the delayed AGM have been made and it will be held on Saturday 13 March at the School. Tim Kupsch has agreed to be our guest speaker. He was a student from 1956 to 1962 and went on to have great success in multiple careers. He initially trained as a teacher then taught at various schools before becoming a lecturer at Melbourne Teachers College. A number of chance events saw him enter television as a producer and presenter of programmes such as **60 Minutes**, **Statewide**, and **The Great Outdoors**. He travelled the world in that capacity where he met people from all walks of life, from the humble to the famous and infamous. Something not to miss.

Greta Jungwirth (de Vries)

President

WORD FROM THE SECRETARY

GARY MATTHEWS

As the Association has decided that the Annual Meeting will be held at the school on March 13th 2021 at 2PM, strict registration, masks and social distancing will be in place.



PLANNED REUNION

Class of 1975-1980 planned a 40 Year reunion for November 14. Due to COVID19, this has had to be postponed to 2021. In the meantime, the organisers are still tracking students down. If you are in this cohort, or know of students from this time, please go to:

Dandenonghigh40yearreunion@gmail.com

Facebook page: Dandenong High School Class of 1975-1980, 40 Year Reunion



COMING NEWSLETTERS

- The story of **An Tran-Doan**—followed the familiar path from Dandenong North Primary School.
- The life of Koo Wee Rup Veterinarian, artist and 'old masters' admirer, **Noel Courtney** who died at 90, one year ago.
- The **Lind** family connection to East Gippsland/Mildura/Dandenong. It follows from a very recent visit to the fire-ravaged East Gippsland area by the Editor. The restorative power of nature is also observed.

Continued... Abdul Basit

In a January 12th piece, the Herald Sun also carried a substantial report of this success story, but went further in laying out arguments about the inequality of educational opportunities. It is worth reading.

Finally, the local Berwick Star News, on January 28th, carried an updated story. The further great news was that Abdul "...will take up a scholarship at Melbourne University to study a Bachelor of Science and pursue his passion for physics."

His philosophy: "For me science is just the idea of understanding how things around you work. Unravelling what questions are there, the joy of problem-solving."

The Star News finished thus: 'And his advice to the class of 2021? "Just do what you love. Follow your passion, have the best time and have fun. Life is not just about school, it's about doing what you love. Love it and you will get the results eventually."



DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL
AN ENVIRONMENT IN WHICH EVERY
STUDENT CAN ACHIEVE SUCCESS



THE STUDENT LEADERSHIP TEAM OF 2020

Principal, Susan Ogden (pictured centre) expressed her admiration: "Our Leadership team of 2020 has been exceptional."

CLEELAND CONNECTIVITY



This new heading announces the space for stories which come from one of the amalgamated campuses which was, at the time of consolidation, known as Cleeland Secondary College. When founded, it was The Dandenong Girls High School, later Dandenong North High School, and Cleeland High School. It opened in 1957.

MORE CONTRIBUTIONS WELCOME FROM ALL THE CONSOLIDATING SCHOOLS

With the sympathetic co-operation of the West Gippsland Arts Centre at Warragul, the painting below, was commissioned as a tribute to the lasting memory of ex-student from 1960-1964, **Carole Matthews (Marsh)**. It was dedicated at a small family gathering on Saturday, 21 November 2020. It is located in the foyer, very close to where she so suddenly left us on the 7th of November 2019. Our picture (right) shows Association Secretary Gary Matthews and daughters Lynda and Kathryn.



The commissioned artwork with the title 'The Changing Moods of Gippsland', was painted by Gippsland artist Graeme Myrteza — graeme.myrteza@gmail.com. It is now part of the Baw Baw Shire Collection.

The gold inscription is titled: *'Dedicated to the Cherished Memory of CAROLE MATTHEWS 7/1/1948—7/11/2019. Lovingly donated by her family.'*

THE LIFE OF NOEL DAWSON

Noel Dawson (7/12/1932 – 22/6/2020)

Ex-Student *Noel James Charles Dawson* passed away at the age of 87.

Noel was the son of Frank and Helen (Ellie) Dawson, the youngest of 5 children (Edna, Ronald, Marion and Phyllis), and father of ex-students Linda, Kerrie and Ashley Dawson.

He was born in Wonga Park and when oldest sister Edna was ready to start Secondary School, Frank and Ellie considered Box Hill or Dandenong High Schools as more responsive to education of girls at that time.

They chose Dandenong and so began a long Dawson family association with the school, as students and staff.

Noel attended *Dandenong (East) Primary School* and then High School, leaving to join the SEC as an Office Boy. He became a cadet, completed his accounting qualifications at night school, with a successful career as a CPA. He married Philomena Davis, and with 3 young children, spent some years living in Perth. On return to Dandenong in the 1970s, Noel worked for Mr Magid at *Overland Development*, firstly at Brandon Park and later from the commencement of what is now *Westfield Fountain Gate Shopping Centre*. There was a close working relationship with Mr Magid, and Noel worked there until his retirement.

From an early age, Noel showed an interest and natural talent with music. The household had a piano, and Noel also branched into other instruments, learning basics and then self-teaching, 'playing by ear'. His older brother Ron was serving in the Air Force in Darwin, and on leave in 1941, he brought Noel a ukulele and a set of drum sticks. Noel remembered his Hillbilly Style at this time - in his first year of High School he won a school talent quest with a rendition of 'The Martins and The Coys', and prize money of '2 and 6'.

Readers may remember Dance Bands at The Dandenong Town Hall. In 1954, sister Marion and Noel formed their first band 'The Arcadians' with Marion on piano and Noel on guitar. Two years later he formed the 'Night Owls', deciding to add saxophone to his musical repertoire. After 3 lessons and within 6 weeks he was playing the saxophone live with the band. Then until late 1960s, Noel's band was *Goldtones*. Music was important at home too, with Linda, Kerrie and Ashley encouraged in piano, singing, drums, vibraphone and guitar. The extended family have fond memories of music and singalongs events, including Marion (Dawson) Trigg's 90th birthday in 2014.

In later years Noel gained great enjoyment playing the electronic organ.



He was a member of the *Theatre Organ Society of Australia*, perfecting sound mixes and recording songs in a range of styles. His recordings were included in his Funeral Service in Maryborough, with his sense of humour seen in his recording title: *Wartsanall* (recorded live on Yamaha 950, Metropolitan Maryborough, 2020).

Dandenong Journal, April 21, 1948

Peter Harris And Noel Dawson Head Jr. Premiers' Averages:

DON GUNTHER TAKES MOST WICKETS FOR METHODISTS

STAR performers for the Methodist Junior Club, premiers of the Dandenong Junior Cricket competition, this year for the second time in succession, were Peter Harris, who scored 225 runs for the excellent average of 20.5, Noel Dawson who topped the bowling averages by taking 28 wickets for the low average cost of 3.89 and Don Gunther, whose 52 wickets for 4.25 was an outstanding performance.

THE AVERAGES — BATTING :

Player :	I.	N.O.	H.S.	T.	Av.
P. Harris	12	1	63	225	20.5
J. Harris	11	1	56	139	13.9
W. Myers	9	1	40	88	11.0
D. Gunther	12	2	32	106	10.6
N. Dennis	6	1	23	53	10.6
G. Simon	9	2	27	72	10.3
N. Dawson	12	1	34	106	9.6
T. French	9	1	19	60	7.5
G. Haw	4	3	7	7	7.0
G. Wheelhouse	7	2	4	15	3.0
T. Cadwallader	7	1	3*	10	1.6
C. Tharle	5	—	2	4	0.8
K. Edgoose	1	—	1	1	1.0

BOWLING :

Player :	O.	M.	W.	R.	Av.
N. Dawson	48.1	8	28	109	3.89
D. Gunther	118.4	36	52	221	4.25
J. French	24.2	8	13	72	5.46
P. Harris	81.2	21	31	202	6.52
N. Dennis	1	—	1	1	1.00

...continued NOEL DAWSON

Noel had a number of interests and hobbies continuing throughout his life.

As a sportsman, Noel is described as a 'gun cricketer', remembered as a kind mentor to other players.

At 13, he was a member of the first ever team (an Under 18 team) entered by the *Methodist Cricket Club*. It started a lifetime legendary connection with the 'Methos'.

He is remembered as a textbook correct opening batsman who broke a number of batting records.

Notable was batting for 3 days in a Grand Final, being caught out on 293!

He played lots of representative cricket and was Captain of the Country Week representative teams in the 1960s.

He played competitive cricket till around age 70 in Veteran's teams.

Noel's hobbies tended to spill into each other.

He met Arthur Shimmen via cricket, and together they enjoyed many wood work projects – big and small.

Over his lifetime, Noel was involved in a number of house building projects, including an estimate of 17 sheds, and a re-location of a house from Boronia to Maryborough (to see how it could be done).

As treasurer for the *Knox District Woodwork Club*, there was a fun Family Day co-incidence when the father of long time woodwork pal Gary Pope, turned out to be Bill Pope fellow Organ Society musician!

Due to declining health, Noel was very disappointed that he could not attend the DHS 100th Year Anniversary last year. However, he was able to listen to the formal speeches and ceremony, as daughter Kerrie attended and recorded the proceedings for him.

At his Thanksgiving Service, Noel was remembered as a kind and thoughtful man with a strong sense of responsibility to family and others. As a parent, his discipline word was 'consequences'. Also his personal writings include his *Lesson in Humility*. "In my second year at DHS I was very confident of winning the Under 12 hundred yards because it was my second year in that division. I must have told my dad several times that this was a certainty. After coming an embarrassing second, I then always said *"I hope to do well– and best to wait for results."*



Dawson siblings 1991: L-R— Phyllis, Noel, Edna, Marion. (Ronald deceased).

Ed. Note: Our thanks (again) go to Stana Sargood (Vukmirovic), daughter of Edna, and niece to all.



Ion Whykes, OAM, a past senior teacher at DHS during the 1950's and 1960's, and a then active Dandenong community member, having donated funds to the school refugee students' support program, and our Association, was invited to enter an advertisement as an expression of our appreciation. Ion has now retired, so as we farewell him, we say thanks, and wish him and Wilma well.

MEMBERSHIP RULES

This 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.

FEES:

ALL MEMBERSHIPS are now \$20 annually. (Refer website)

MEMORABILIA

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. Badges

NEW @ 2020

*Available by mail:

One Hundred Years History booklet .

Author: Gary Matthews

"Snippets and Snapshots" \$15 including postage.

ALSO

Just prior to the 100th Anniversary weekend a film of a 1989 class reunion was donated to the archives. A thirty minute segment was extracted for screening in the Library on Open Day. It showed Edna Dawson explaining to the group the nature of the bond that develops amongst classmates and the value and importance of reunions. It was an inspiring address. What followed, in complete contrast, was Greg O'Loughlin relating incidents from his time at DHS, in his inimitable fashion. It is completely hilarious. As few people saw the video, and there were problems with the sound that day, we are making DVD copies available for purchase. It can be ordered at \$20, which includes postage.

*Available from the archives room on Tuesday afternoons — post pandemic:
100th Anniversary mugs \$10

DHSESA OFFICE BEARERS

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Assistant Treasurer

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Margaret Haywood (Banfield)

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Girls School/Cleeland Chapter of the Association

Honorary Member—Phillip Harris

CONTACT POINTS

The web address is www.dhs-exstudents.synthasite.com An easier option for finding us is to do a 'google search', and simply type in dhs ex students, and you will see our site at the top of the list.

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