

2019

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

In reviewing 2019, Greta briefly highlighted the fact that the Association was not only represented at all of the key occasions but actively participating in many, in the School year, namely: The Badges Assemblies, Anzac Day, House Chorals, and Awards Night: Much work was done in preparing display materials for the Centenary and related celebrations, beginning with the 10th anniversary since the amalgamation of three school campuses, which was observed on 7 August. Open Day featured comprehensive displays of photographs, uniforms and general memorabilia. These all proved to be of huge interest to the slightly disappointing, but enthusiastic numbers of ex-students who filed into the Archive Room and the Library. The day following, the Association had organised what was to be an outstandingly successful luncheon at the Mulgrave Country Club, where 320 attended, amidst a festooned throng spread over two floors of the building. Other events occurring during the year included a successful Fund raising Appeal for the upcoming Centenary celebrations; the announcement of further building works, which would include the demolition of the Edna Dawson Centre and adjacent Assembly Hall; major refurbishment of the former Griffiths Library, and the need for all committee members to obtain Working with Children accreditation.

HISTORY UNIT:

Dawn Harris presented a report of the establishment and the development of the History Unit, tracing the way the School's archival collection grew over 25 years. From two small drawers kept in the Library, the displayed and stored items now occupy the museum room, a store room, cupboards on the verandah, and separate rooms at the Ann Street campus. The latter house the Cleeland and Doveton archives. Responsibility for these was adopted in 2009, after they merged with DHS. From two volunteers meeting once a month, the weekly sessions have since been attended by more than a dozen volunteers. Apart from labelling and storing items donated by teachers and former students, and responding to queries from staff and members, much of the work has been directed at mounting displays for school anniversaries, the latest being the Centenary.

EDITOR:

Don commented that he feels privileged, through the pages of the Newsletter, to be able to give life to the various stories of members' memories and life experiences, and although having had over 60 years constant involvement, in one form or another, with DHS since leaving School in the late 1950s, his enthusiasm for the task is as strong as ever.

WEBSITE/EX-STUDENT OUTREACH:

In terms of outreach, Gary noted that the Association's publication of the DHS centenary booklet, "Snippets and Snapshots", was, for him, a special highlight for 2019. The last School history had been produced back in 1968, by Principal, K B Mitchell, and this revision, with the benefit of additional materials from online historical newspapers, together with the addition of a further 50 years of updating, was an arduous but worthwhile project. The colour publication was made possible by a generous donation from Ex-Student Margo Hartley (Corbin). The first 50 years revision has also been provided to the Dandenong Historical Society, who reproduced it in their most recent edition of "The Gippsland Gate".

MEMBERSHIP:

From information produced by our Membership Officer, Penny Meallin, it is noted that 27 new members had been added following the Centenary, bringing the total to 237, with 46 Seniors, and 3 Life members.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Russell commented that the centenary year had resulted in a satisfying increase in membership income, as well as a very healthy increase in general donations together with a good response to the special Anniversary Appeal. It was pleasing to note that the publication costs for the historical publication, "Snippets and Snapshots", were met with a combination of the special appeal, a significant donation, as well as sales.

2020

PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS:

Greta reported that due to the Covid 19 restrictions applying to public gatherings applying in one form or another, throughout 2020, it was only possible to hold one Committee meeting. ie, in February. Any work on the archives was of course also affected. One bright spot was the ability, thanks to our editor Don Metcalfe, for our membership to continue to receive the more than welcome Newsletter. Support for Student Scholarships continued in a restricted way, with the usual awards presented at the beginning of the year proceeding as normal. With recent easing of some restrictions, some class reunions may be able to be privately arranged, with the Class of 1980 hoping to hold their 40 year postponed event later this year.

One other positive item to report was the completion of the second bank of customised timber archive cabinets. These were able to be delivered during the period of the first lock-down, with the transfer of materials not able to proceed until 2021.

EDITOR: As mentioned above, the editor produced the usual number of editions of the Newsletter despite the restrictions, so this became an even more valuable link with the membership.

WEBSITE\EX-STUDENT OUTREACH: A small but very useful number of photos, as well as a personal reminiscence from a Queensland ex-student, found their way to the Secretary through the website information. As with other similar items over the years, this personal story was reproduced in the Newsletter.

MEMBERSHIP: There are 265 financial members, including 5 Complimentary, 3 Life Members and 59 Seniors.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS:

Russ noted a drop in membership revenue, but this needed to be seen in context with the much higher sum in the preceding (anniversary) year.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR 2021

PRESIDENT	Greta Jungwirth
SECRETARY	Gary Matthews
TREASURER	Russ Weber
(Hon) Asst TREASURER	Gill Weber
EDITOR	Don Metcalfe
SCHOOL LIAISON OFFICER	Evelyne Katsoulis
MEMBERSHIP OFFICER	Penny Meallin
HISTORIAN	Dawn Harris
Hon) GEN'L.COMMITTEE MEMBER	Philip Harris
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER	Ruby Constable
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER	Gail Saddler
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER	Margaret Haywood
GENERAL COMMITTEE MEMBER	Laurel Cox (Girls School/Cleeland Chapter)

PRESENTATIONS:

Greta presented a framed Certificate of **Life Membership** to Dawn Harris in recognition of her 25 years continuous service to the Association in the role of Historian. This was endorsed with generous applause. A further Life Member award has been prepared for Ruby, and will be presented when she is next able to attend. The meeting also officially conveyed its appreciation to Gail for her previous service as Membership Officer.

GUEST SPEAKER, (1961 & '62 Bluegum House Captain, Mr Tim Kupsch)

Tim began his address with an on-screen 1961 mock-up photo showing himself with Barry Jones and fellow Gate editor, Pam Kelly, at the front gate of DHS, where they are "behind bars". Tim credits the influence of Mr Jones with much of his later career success, beginning with appearances as a member of the DHS team of debaters in the Channel 7 TV show, "Parliament of Youth".

After initially training as a Primary Teacher, he acquired a tertiary degree in Sociology, later lecturing in the subject at Melbourne State College. It was while in this role, and resulting from field work with his students, that he put an audio-visual presentation together, for use with a class, which focussed on development versus environment issues at Mallacoota.

The video received wider attention, portion of it being aired by the ABC. When it attracted the attention of the then Premier, John Cain, he decided that media documentaries were where the future lay for him.

Projects concerning the early warning signs of the proliferation of plastics in the environment soon followed, including a feature on marathon runner, Robert DeCastella, who was at the height of his powers, as well as a champion in support of the environment. All of these issues, including a 5 part feature on successful women in unusual occupations (eg, pilots, jackarros) provided useful TV exposure, and led to opportunities to work with high-profile personalities, such as Dianne Cilento and Sean Connery.

Following this freelance work, Tim commenced working as a producer with the Channel 9 program, "60 Minutes", covering issues of the time, such as AIDS, 'Poverty in Penrith', and a broad range of other social issues, including suicide and paedophilia. One particular item which took him to Mozambique, involved a missionary who was in dire troubles with the authorities, and about which he enlisted the aid of celebrated Australian/international legal celebrity, Geoffrey Robertson.

In 1989, he "Completed the Circle", by interviewing Barry Jones, who was then Minister for Science in the Hawke government, for a show concerning criminals on death row, entitled "Drowning by Degrees" He concluded his informative, and amusing talk, with a short film depicting a speech by the much-loved staff member, Greg O'Loughlin, in which Greg credits Tim for influencing him to meet fellow staff member, and wife to be, Iris Brewer.