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Launch of the Alumni Association

In late March we celebrated the launch of the Blue and Gold Alumni Association at GIHS and from comments made, it was a great success. It was attended by approximately 170 old scholars from ATHS, GHS and GIHS. A good time was had by all, with festivities running well over the scheduled completion time.

From an organiser's viewpoint, the attendance was excellent because the mix of people indicated an endorsement of the new association by the older members and an interest from the younger group who have left school in the last ten years. We received mailing details from 46 people from this group. In addition, a number of last year's leavers who attended did not fill in the registration sheet. Their presence, plus the fact that a number joined the Alumni augers well for its long term viability.

There were three brilliant speakers. Wendy Johnson, the Principal welcomed us on behalf of the GIHS community and we would like to thank her again for allowing us to use the school's excellent facilities.

Mark Brindal, our President, welcomed everyone and the new association was formally launched by Professor David Lloyd, the Vice Chancellor of the University of South Australia. Symbolically his was an important speech as it underlined the continuity between the South Australian School of Mines and Industries, the Institute of Technology and now the University of South Australia with Adelaide Technical High School and now Glenunga High School and Glenunga International High School.

The long term success of the Blue and Gold Alumni Association is contingent upon its acceptance by old scholars from GIHS. Recognising this, the committee worked closely with students from the school to determine what they required of an old scholars association.

The value and goals, developed by this group, for the new association are to:

- develop a close working relationship between the school and the old scholars association
- establish good communications between all members
- organise special events, including reunions

- assist with establishing sporting and other groups; and to
- provide mentors for both current students and GIHS old scholars

These goals have been endorsed by the old scholars association committee and a working party has been established to develop strategies to successfully implement these goals. We think we are progressing well, with the first goal and those of you who have visited the website recently, will see a significant improvement over the old one. We encourage everyone to visit it and use it as a form of communication with friends from school—
www.blueandgoldalumni.com.au.

Our first social event will be held in September for last year's school leavers.

Our big challenge will be to organise mentors and life coaches for our new members. If you are interested in helping please contact us.



Membership is open to all persons who have attended or taught at ATHS, GHS or GIHS.

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President's Report

The launch of the Blue and Gold Alumni Association was a resounding success, as you will read elsewhere in this newsletter. This was in no small part due to the commitment and effort of all members of the committee and to key people amongst the staff and students of Glenunga International High School.

For fear of omitting anyone, I will not attempt to provide a detailed list. However, I would be remiss if I did not single out Peter Carter who enthusiastically played the leadership role of liaising between the committee and the school community to bring this project to fruition, I would like to thank all those involved, especially Peter, for their sterling efforts.

The launch was a new birth, with the preparation, anticipation, exertion, hopes and effort that always mark that very human activity and, just like a birth, while the event is climactic and marks an end, it, more importantly also heralds the beginning of a new life which must be protected, nurtured and raised until it has the independence to plunge into the future unaided.

Time Capsule Proposal

The first of the new objectives of the Alumni Association is to ensure that there is appropriate integration between old scholars of AHS, GHS and GIHS.

Robert Monterosso, one of this year's two Head Prefects at GIHS, has suggested the development of a time capsule designed to reinforce the connection between the current students and the Alumni members. He believes that it will provide added incentive for them to join the Alumni.

Like parents, we have committed to pass the torch along rather than sit back and watch while our declining membership forces our Association into oblivion.

The real task of breathing vibrancy into our new Association is really just beginning. The complexity of the challenge is daunting but we have the determination to see it through.

However, with so much to be done, we really need help.

Over the years, the committee has been served by many talented and dedicated old scholars whose contributions ensured that the organisation continued to flourish. But time has taken its toll and while our committee members remain of the same calibre, our numbers are diminished at a time when we can least afford it.

We desperately need some additional hands. If you are in a position to assist, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee. We'd be happy for you to join us and feel sure you'd enjoy the experience.

Robert's suggestion is that a time capsule be constructed to hold artefacts that identify with the current day GIHS environment. These may include items of the school uniform, attendance rates, how many different nationalities are currently represented at GIHS etc.

The capsule will be updated every year by that year's Year 12 students. After five years the contents will be locked away and a new capsule commenced.

Some members have ongoing commitments to their careers, other organisations or might be living interstate or overseas. However, that does not mean that you cannot assist.

At the last AGM, and since, it has been resolved to invest the bulk of our funds into an account for the ongoing provision of scholarships, which commemorate AHS. This will necessarily tighten the Association's cash flow. If you cannot help with the committee work, you may care to make a financial donation to the operation of the old scholar's association if you are in a position to do so. Any donation, no matter how small, will be gratefully appreciated.

AHS helped to mould us into who we are. The ongoing school continues to do that for our grandchildren. Let's honour what was done for us by assisting in what can be done for them.

I look forward to seeing as many of you as possible at the forthcoming luncheon. Please put the date in your diaries.

Mark Brindal

After a certain period (to be decided) each of the five year capsules will be opened. This will be a joint venture between the school and the Alumni.

It will provide encouragement for old scholars to join and maintain membership to ensure they are invited to the opening of the time capsule.

Robert hopes that the time capsule will be launched this year to coincide with the first year of operation of the Alumni.

2015 Annual General Meeting

The AGM was held on 12 April 2015 with 12 old scholars plus two visitors in attendance. There were 3 proxies.

After the minutes from the previous AGM had been approved, the President, Mark Brindal, presented his report. He gave details on the official launch of the re-named association on 20 March 2014 and thanked Peter Carter and his steering committee for the significant time and effort that they had put in to ensure the success of the launch.

He noted the death of honorary member Kath Harrison and praised the work done by Ross Taylor and Peter Kopli who have retired from the committee.

Tom Frossinakis presented his Treasurer's report and supplied copies of the financial reports for the year ended 31 December 2014 to those at the meeting. The association's finances are in good shape. He pointed out that the association had purchased a computer for committee use and the amount of \$1126 had been included under fixed assets.

Secretary, Phillippa Horsell, reported the 2014 Annual Luncheon was again held at the Arkaba Hotel and although the numbers were down, the general consensus was that

those attending enjoyed the function, with a great menu and reminiscing of good old school days with chums.

Mark Brindal declared all committee positions vacant and asked Graham Maguire to take the chair for the election of President for 2015. Graham announced that Mark Brindal had been nominated for President and called for any other nominations. As there were no other nominations Graham declared Mark elected and returned the chair to the newly elected President.

The following office bearers were then elected:

Vice President	David Stoba
Treasurer	Tom Frossinakis
Secretary	Phillippa Horsell
Committee	Peter Carter Sue Thomson

Appointment of Honorary Auditor – Don Stephens

The main item under Other Business was a motion proposed by Warren West regarding the setting aside of part of the accumulated funds of the association in a specific account called "The ATHS Award Fund" for the provision of the current scholarships and prizes. After considerable discussion, an amendment to the motion was agreed and the following motion was

proposed, seconded and carried:

Motion:

- (a) That a sum to be determined by the Blue and Gold Alumni Association Committee be set aside from the Association's accumulated reserves into a specific account called "The ATHS Award Fund" for the provision of the Moyle and Cannell Scholarships and the ATHS Commemoration Prizes awarded to students of the Glenunga International High School.
- (b) That all interest received from the investment of this sum be returned to the ATHS Award Fund together with all future donations from Association members that are specifically identified as being for the fund.

The other two items under Other Business were the problems with re-establishing the website and changes to the Association bank accounts. Motions to implement changes to both were proposed, seconded and carried.

A picnic lunch of chicken, salads and sweets followed the closure of the meeting.

Reunion of 2014 GIHS Old Scholars

Planning has commenced for a reunion of the students who left GIHS last year. It will be held during September and will present an opportunity for everyone to get together and discuss what has happened since they left school.

This will be the first function of this nature and, if successful, will be held annually. As soon as planning has been completed details will be posted on the old scholar's website and circulated by social media.

75th Birthday Reunion



Scott Davie, Richard Lawton, Peter Carter



Geoff Jansen, Ian Williams, Graham Hambling, Adrian Pearce



Michael Critchley



Graham Maskell

Each year the Class of 53 has an informal get together.

This year we decided to have a more formal event to celebrate the fact that most of us who started at the Tech on North Terrace in 1953 turn 75 this year. Accordingly, we celebrated at a 75th birthday reunion at the Arkaba Hotel on 26 May.

It was a wonderful lunch and afternoon with 35 attending with five coming from interstate. Many sent apologies for non-attendance—unfortunately the lunch was in the middle of the touring season and a number of those who normally attend were on the “wallaby”.



Faye Spence, Dean Eldridge, John Sickert, Jan Brabham, Warren West
Nola Shackelford, Peter Carter, Geoff Jansen



Elsa Booth, Barbara Armstrong, Brenton Taylor



Murray Morton, Ian Haddow



Warren West, Lorraine Phillips, Nola Shackelford



Margaret Prescott, Jan Rice, Faye Spence, Judith Spence, Getty Williams

Dynamic Duo : Kira and Robert

This year's GIHS Head Prefects, Kira Millikan and Robert Monterosso are more than half way through their tenure. During the last six months, I have met with them on several occasions to discuss the school's involvement with the Blue and Gold Alumni Association. Recently, I had the opportunity to get close and personal and find out what makes them tick. Both have very different personalities but work together well as a team.

Kira and Robert are quite different from last year's Head Prefects but they have one thing in common; they come from families where either or both parents were from overseas. This is probably not surprising for an international high school where so many students are from overseas. Kira's mother was German and after spending her first nine years in Australia her family went to live in Essen in Germany for 12 months. Robert's grandparents immigrated to Australia from Italy many years ago.

Both are exceptional students. Interestingly and possibly surprisingly, neither is interested in the IB programme. Kira expects to study law/arts at Adelaide University next year. Robert recognises that business is becoming increasingly internationalised and wants to study international business at Adelaide and would like to work in a number of different countries before settling down.

Kira is a high achiever. She has competed in rhythmic gymnastics since the age of nine.

Last year she finished second in the Australian rhythmic gymnastics competitions and was chosen to represent Australia in New Zealand. Kira said that it was an incredible experience wearing an Australian tracksuit. She believes that competing at international level has taught her how to handle enormous mental pressure. To cap off a successful and challenging year, she also completed two of her Year 12 subjects.

Life has not been easy for Robert. He was born with a hearing deficiency and has undergone 18 operations to correct his hearing and is very conscious of the support his mother has given him during this time. In spite of his problems he has played competitive soccer successfully since he was seven years old and has won a number of trophies. He plays with Adelaide Cobras in the State League. Robert's involvement in soccer has taught him the importance of team work and the ability to accept and benefit from constructive criticism and he believes that this has helped him to better perform his role as Head Prefect. He is the driving force behind the "Time Capsule" that is mentioned elsewhere in the newsletter.

When we talked about spare time activities Kira laughingly said, "what spare time?" She coaches rhythmic gymnastics and enjoys spending time with her parents and family at their shack on the river.

Music plays an important part in Robert's life and he has played guitar for a number of years. He has a well developed social conscience and his "hip hop" music talks about issues he is concerned about.

Both Kira and Robert share a great love for the school. Kira said that although Unley High School was her school of preference, coming to GIHS was the best thing that had happened to her and becoming Head Prefect was the pinnacle of her school journey. Her fondest memory of school life was the visit to Roxby in Year 9 and the bonding that occurred on the trip.

For Robert, being made Head Prefect has been the culmination of his life's journey. His leadership model is based on working with equals where he co-ordinates activities and provides help and support. Being Head Prefect at GIHS is quite different from what he imagined. The pair works in a constantly changing environment. They are the student face of the school and are expected to make public appearances and, when necessary, speeches at times with little notice.

I have enjoyed working with Kira and Robert this year and look forward to extending this involvement next year when they become active members of the Alumni Association.

Peter Carter

Old Scholars' Luncheon

This year's old scholars' luncheon will be held on 28 October 2015.
Further details will be available in the October newsletter. Please put this date in your diary.

Henry Thong



One of my great joys and privileges over the last two years has been my involvement with the young people from GIHS. They have challenged the thinking of a “grumpy old man”. Recently I had the pleasure of meeting Henry Thong who graduated from GIHS last year. The expression “knocks your socks off” was uppermost in my mind during our discussions.

We all know and are familiar with the expression “to have a gap year”. This year he is having a “Clayton’s” gap year. Henry is working to fund his international travel prior to going to the Victorian College of the Arts, a part of Melbourne University, next year. He is not working but has become an international film producer with a number of awards to his name.

The school, particularly Wendy Johnson, the Principal of GIHS, and one of its art teachers, Andy Mewett have had an enormous impact on Henry and his approach to life. When you visit GIHS you become conscious of the effect that at all stages of every day, students are encouraged to achieve their personal best. Henry is the walking embodiment of this.

He grew up with his parents in Kuala Lumpur. His mother is a librarian and his father is a mechanical engineer who works as a project manager with SA Water. Henry speaks beautiful English and he attributes this to his parents who insisted he spoke English at all times because they planned to eventually emigrate from Malaysia.

One very quickly gets the impression that Henry is not your typical nineteen year old taking a gap year. He comes across as urbane, sophisticated and friendly and is a very smart dresser. He attributes his approach and presentation to the fact that he has given many interviews.

At GIHS he studied for the SACE examinations in Year 12 rather than the IB which he opted out of because he thought it too prescriptive for his planned career. He chose four film subjects and English.

Next year, Henry will attend the Victorian College of Arts at Melbourne University where he will study a Bachelor of Fine Arts in Film and TV. When I asked him why he would even contemplate going to university when the world was his oyster, he responded that over the last three years his technical competence had improved significantly (have a look at his work on YouTube and you will appreciate this statement). However, he believes that the course at the College of Arts will improve the creative side of his work that will enable him to focus on story telling.

Henry has always had an interest in visual arts. He has over 1,000 comic books at home and was an avid visual artist as a child. In Year 10 he commenced media studies. According to Henry, GIHS and Concordia College have the best film making facilities in the State. We have come a long way since Adelaide Tech where the goal was to churn out young men capable of undertaking engineering and technical courses at the South Australian School of Mines and Industries.

Amongst Henry’s generation, there is an interest in all things old such as vinyl records and polaroid cameras. This interest in polaroid cameras inspired his first film “*The Girl in the*

Camera”, a three minute silent film set against a musical theme. However, rather than spoil a good story by trying to summarise it, visit Henry’s work on YouTube.

This film won a prize at the Adelaide regional competition of the International Youth Silent Film Festival. As a result, he was invited to the international awards night in Portland in Washington State in the USA where his film competed against other winners of the festival’s other regional competitions around the world, an event that his film won. In addition to the honour that went with winning an international award, Henry gained access to many important film producers. These included the Walt Disney producer, Don Hahn, of “*Lion King*” and “*Beauty and the Beast*” fame and Tom De Santo of “*Transformers*” and “*X-Men*” fame. Don has befriended and mentored Henry.

Last year Henry had to produce a short documentary for his SACE examinations. Many of his peers focussed on subjects such as the impact of technological change on teenager’s homework and workloads. This was not for Henry; he wanted something different—a little more challenging and interesting. His seven minute documentary was on “Urban Exploration”.

Henry Thong (continued)

Urban Exploration is an underground cult that focuses on locations that are difficult to access and, at times, where entry is illegal. Examples many of you may have seen on TV are sewer and unused underground railway line exploration. Because of the nature of their “escapades” it is difficult to establish contact with the people involved. However, Henry was able to establish contact with the group and filmed his seven minute documentary in a disused house, an abandoned railway yard and a disused outdoor fun park.

This type of filming is challenging and not without its dangers. At one stage Henry nearly fell through a damaged second story floor. Imagine having to front Wendy Johnson on Monday morning to explain that the school’s expensive equipment had been damaged while trespassing in a disused building.

On another occasion Henry found himself sharing a sand pit with three brown snakes that thought it was their home.

Henry has won several other awards including an:

- ATOM Award for Best Documentary in Melbourne; this is the second oldest award for TV and film in Australia; and a
- BUFTA Award for the Best Documentary from the Bond University in Queensland.

The BUFTA Award presentation night was quite an event for Henry because it was choreographed like an Oscar presentation night or, for the Philistines amongst us, like a Brownlow medal presentation. People were seated around tables and when Henry’s award was about to be announced a boom camera

descended over the table and he was suddenly surrounded by cameramen each wanting to capture his reaction to the announcement.

During his “gap” year Henry is working for Snapme Media. His current project that is backed by a number of investors is on the censorship in film, TV and the media and covers events such as North Korea’s lockdown of Sony’s IT systems and the terrorist attack on Charlie Hebdo in France. As part of the process, Henry is travelling around the world interviewing people who have a contribution to make.

When asked where his career will take him and what his goals are, he admits that he does not know and harks back to Wendy Johnson and the need to “achieve his personal best at all times”. His personal best is constantly improving and with it his goals.

Peter Carter

Barry Scott

Recently, John Sickert visited the Jervis Bay Naval Base where he took this photograph of the memorial to those who died in the *Voyager* disaster. Barry Scott, who died aboard was a good friend of John’s at school.

Barry commenced at the Tech in 1953 and was a member of a group that consisted of Jim Tamlin, Dean Trowbridge, Graham Chapman and John Sickert. After so many years, John’s memory is a little vague but he can remember that Barry played baseball.

After he had left school, John bumped into Barry at the Norwood dance on the corner of Norwood Parade and George Street. At the time, the latter had a 1948 Riley sports car.



Maurice de Rohan AO OBE



Maurice John de Rohan was born in Adelaide on 13 May 1936 and attended Adelaide Technical High School from 1949 to 1951. He graduated from the University of Adelaide in 1960 with a degree in civil engineering. Aged 23, he jointly founded Kinnaird Hill de Rohan and Young (later Kinhill Engineers Pty Ltd) as a Partner and then Director.

The company expanded to all other States of Australia and grew to become one of Australia's biggest engineering and planning consulting groups.

In 1976, after the firm's joint venture with Llewellyn-Davies Weeks International, Maurice became Deputy Chairman and Managing Director of the London based firm.

He became a founding member of Australian Business in Europe, a Director in 1978, and President in 1982-83. He also became a Fellow of the British Institute of Management.

The loss of his daughter, Alison, and son-in-law, Francis Gaillard, in the 1987 Zeebrugge ferry disaster was a turning point in his life.

With others of the bereaved, he set up the Herald Families' Association, with the aim of achieving justice and creating awareness of the need for higher standards of ferry safety. This led to the founding of the charity Disaster Action in 1991.

In 1998 he was appointed Agent-General in London for South Australia. He was widely regarded as the most outstanding Agent General South Australia has ever had.

He was actively involved with Anglo-Australian organisations and was the driving force behind the establishment of the Australia Day Foundation in 2003 and that body's responsibility for organising events around Australia Day, including honours for the achievements of Australians in Britain.

He received a distinguished Alumni Award from the University of

Adelaide for his involvement in helping the university build an alumni chapter in London. He became Patron of the Combined UK Chapters of South Australian University Alumni Associations.

The esteem in which he was held in his home State was underlined by his being chosen to succeed Marjorie Jackson-Nelson, as Governor of South Australia, a post he was to take up on his return to Adelaide. Unfortunately, soon after learning of the honour, he was found to be suffering from cancer. His condition worsened and just hours before his death, he was made an Officer of the Order of Australia at a special presentation conducted by the Australian High Commissioner witnessed by family and close friends.

Awards:

In 1992 he was appointed an Officer of the Most Excellent Order of the British Empire (OBE) for services to maritime safety and in 1998 was made a Freeman of the City of London.

He was appointed an Officer of the Order of Australia (AO) in 2006.

Maurice de Rohan died on 5 October 2006 – he was to have become Governor of South Australia in July 2007.

Committee for 2015

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