



Adelaide Technical High School Old Scholars Association Inc

May 2012
Newsletter

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Report on Annual General Meeting 2012

The 2012 Annual General Meeting of the Association was held on 25 March 2012 in the Grounds of Glenunga International High School. A total of 26 members and guests were present when the President opened the meeting. In addition 15 proxies had been registered from members unable to attend on the day.

The attendance was disappointing on a day when the weather was perfect, but as the President pointed out, it could be taken as a vote of confidence by the members in the Committee in that no one felt a need to challenge the operation of the Association in 2011.

Minutes of the 2011 meeting were confirmed as a true record of the proceedings and reports on the activities of the Association during 2011 were presented by the President, Treasurer and Secretary.

The President extended his thanks on behalf of the Association to retiring Committee Member Brenda Kitto for her contributions over the past three years and to Webmaster Peter Keen, Archivist Judy McKeough, Membership Researcher Graham Maguire, Photographer Clive Hutton and Honorary Auditor Don Stephens.

All Committee positions were then declared vacant and Graham Maguire took the Chair for the election of the Committee for 2012.

Below: Dana Stoba,
Kath Harrison (West)
and Graham Maguire



Above: Lynne Pigram,
Raelene Wilsdon (Roocke)
and Judith Whitehorn

The election resulted in the following appointments:

President	Mark Brindal
Vice Presidents	Ross Taylor Raelene Wilsdon
Treasurer	Peter Kopli
Secretary	Warren West
Membership Secretary	Jan Brabham
Members	Tom Frossinakis Chas Grimes Charmaine Kitson David Stoba Sue Thomson

Following the election, the President outlined some of the objectives for 2012 and announced that the Annual luncheon would be held on Wednesday 10 October 2012.

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Left: Members listening to the presentation and enjoying the sunshine



Right: Mark Brindal speaking, Dana Stoba, Jan Brabham (Atkinson), Kath Harrison (West) and Chas Grimes in the background



Above: Mark Brindal, Lyle Baldock, Peter Bennett, Bill McKeough and Chas Grimes

It was proposed by D. Stoba and seconded by R. Taylor that the Association continue with sponsorship of the Moyle and Cannell Scholarships in 2012. This proposal was approved by the meeting. The President then moved that Secretary, Warren West be appointed an Honorary Member of the Association. The proposal was seconded by Chas Grimes and approved by the meeting.

Thanks to Jan Brabham and Bill McKeough for photographs of the event.

More of the Heather Smith Story

In the ATHSOSA Magazine for 2011 we published a story by Old Scholar Heather Smith (1961 – 1965) who, on leaving school, qualified as an Art Teacher and taught art in the South Australian public school system for four years before resigning and travelling to Europe. While in Italy she met and married her Italian husband and has lived and taught in Italy ever since. In a summary such as this it all sounds pretty simple but the reality is somewhat different. Heather found that like most countries, Italy has its own special idiosyncrasies for the unwary prospective settler. The following notes outline her experiences when she entered the Italian education system to qualify for a teaching position:

Matriculation

Just a note about matriculation. When I was at ATHS (1961 – 1965) girls were still limited to the commercial course, but I think the change from being under the control of the Institute of Technology to that of the SA Education Department brought in some novelties so when we went to Glenunga it became possible for girls to undertake the Leaving Honours year, which I did, as I was too young to go to teachers' college. In these days primary and secondary art and craft teachers did not necessarily have to have matriculation qualifications, which for me would have meant a foreign language so I didn't matriculate in the SA sense of the word.

However, things are different in Italy. So to enrol in university here you need to have completed 13 years of education. That means 5 years of primary school (starting at age 6) 3 of which is known as 'middle school' and 5 of secondary school. There were and still are no prerequisites to enrol in a given course so an extreme example would be that someone who has come from a secondary vocational school could enrol in medicine or classics, although many faculties now have entrance tests. Perhaps this helps to explain the high dropout rate in Italian universities. Only 1 in 7 students graduate as so many of them enrol in courses for which they have no background preparation at all, but which they think they would like to do, and then find that they are out of their depth.

In my case, the bureaucrats in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs plus the Ministry of Education decided that my 12 years of secondary education plus 3 years of teachers' college were acceptable for university entry. When I finally got the authorisation to enrol in a – any – university course, I made the mistake of applying to the Arts faculty of the University of Perugia for a partial recognition of my tertiary qualifications. After a year – because the faculty Council meets once a year, which I didn't know – I got a reply. They decided to recognise History of Art I, English Literature I and II, which I had never done at teachers' college but being a native speaker they gave me the benefit of the doubt, Education I, Educational Psychology, and Applied Psychology I. I had to pick up all the other subjects – English III and IV Spanish I and II,

Linguistics I which I chose to extend to Linguistics II and III and then do my thesis in that field, Anglo-American Literature I and II, The History of Italian Literature I Sociology I, Germanic Philology I and II, The Philosophy of Language I and Geography I. This was because I was classified as an Italian citizen who had studied abroad. Paradoxically, I would have had an easier time if I had been a foreigner applying for University entry! But these days are long gone.

University – Italian Style

All university exams are oral, and public, which means that anyone can go along and listen, although some faculties have a written paper which you must pass before you do the orals. Oral exams are not a 'conversation' as you might expect. You are supposed to declaim, like an ancient orator, or a modern speechmaker, and say **everything** you know about a topic. It took me a while to realise this. In the first oral exam I did I tended to summarise and give what I thought were the most important points of the topic the examiners gave me, but I soon saw this wasn't what they expected. You really need to dilate what you have to say, starting when Italy rose out of the primordial seas to talk about, say, the Second World War or EU Agricultural Policy.

Writing – Italian Style

Italians are generally unable to write a succinct essay. They want to write everything they know and so don't finish their essays in the allotted time. They are good at analysing, but not at summarising. Nor are they capable of sticking to a word limit – a 1000 word essay or a 100 or a 50 word abstract in a research paper.

I have done a lot of translating for university professors who want to publish in English-language international scientific journals and I have always had to fight with them over the word limits for the abstracts. They insist they cannot summarise their works in 50, 100 or 500 words, but they have to otherwise they get their articles back with a reviewer's note stating that the word limits were not respected or that the text was too 'wordy' with too much irrelevant content. The same goes for interventions at international conferences. These days the most important researchers may be given 20 minutes while the lesser ones 10 minutes. When their time is up the adjudicator rings a bell and they have to sit down and make way for the next speaker.

On a lower level, the same goes for sentence length. Generally speaking, formal written Italian is verbose, magniloquent and bombastic, with long, long sentences and commas all over the place. This is 'culture'. Shorter sentences are considered to be lacking in style. I have often had to argue in support of my translations where I have made two or three sentences out of one Italian one and try to convince the writer that scientific English has its own style, where clarity is important and a little repetition is not a mortal sin. However, when the articles are submitted they have always been accepted first time round and so I have made a name for myself as a reliable translator but it takes such an effort to convince a head of faculty that English is English and Italian is Italian and never the twain shall meet.

You learn a lot of things that you would never dream existed when you live on the fence between two languages.

Heather Smith

Souvenirs Available

History book "ATHS—The Story"	
On Sale : includes postage	\$ 35.00
Old Scholars' Badges	\$ 5.00
Cuff Links	\$ 15.00 pr
Special Price	
Old Scholars' Badge & Cuff Links	\$ 17.50
Key Rings	\$ 1.00

Placemats limited numbers (from luncheons 2005-2011)	\$ 2.00 ea
Prints of Brookman Building	Free
Old Scholars' Magazines	
(1996-2010)	\$ 5.00 ea
or 5 for	\$ 20.00
(2011)	\$ 15.00 ea

Please contact Warren West on 0417 816 603
or email : warren@gjc.com.au
if you wish to purchase merchandise.

Brookman Building Open Day



As part of "About Time", South Australia's 2012 history festival, the UniSA has announced that the Brookman Building will be opened to the public on Saturday, 19 May from 10.00am to 4.00pm. Their brochure describes the building as "one of South Australia's iconic education buildings", but fails to mention it was the home of the Adelaide Technical High School for the first 60 years of its life, beginning with its opening in 1903. It goes on to list the key points of interest as Brookman Hall and the historic stain glass windows and advises that 'behind the scenes' guided tours of the building will be conducted by University Librarian, Helen Livingston at 11am and 3pm.

As was the case when the building was featured in last year's History Week, the Committee has again been disappointed at the lack of acknowledgement by UniSA of ATHS in its history. However, this time we were able to do something about it and will now be providing a small display of ATHS memorabilia in the foyer of the building.

To those old scholars who have not seen the building since its extensive renovations in 2009, especially those who attended the school at North Terrace, a visit to see the building in all its glory would be well worthwhile.

Editorial

Another year over, another AGM held, a new Committee elected, ready to guide the Association into 2012. Same old, same old, or not? Perhaps this is a good time to reflect on the past year to see where we were to provide a guide to what we need to do in 2012.

As an Association, our most important asset is our membership. Without sufficient members the Association dies so that our first concern must be our membership.

In 2011 our total membership was 340, 5% down from the previous year, continuing a trend that has become established in the last few years. Over the 15-year life of the Association the average membership has been about 380, ranging from a high of 546 in the School Centenary year of 1998 to 280 in 2002 so that there appears little immediate cause for concern. However, what needs to be borne in mind is that our membership base is dominated by people who attended the school at North Terrace, of whom the youngest members are now in their 60's when grandchildren and travel issues may limit their ability to participate in the Association's activities. This contributes to the falling membership trend and taking account of the effects of health issues on members from earlier years, there is a potential for the trend to be maintained or even exacerbated.

While it can be argued that falling membership is something for the Committee to rectify, its importance demands the involvement of all members.

Subscriptions for 2012

Members from 2011 are reminded that subscriptions for 2012 are now overdue.

This Newsletter will be the last publication received by those who have not paid for 2012. People who are no longer financial will not receive copies of Newsletters or Magazines in the future.

What can we as members do to help arrest, or preferably reverse, the trend?

Sometimes it is sufficient for members to encourage their school friends to join the Association by pointing out the advantages of membership as a way of finding out what has happened to their contemporaries through the Newsletters and Magazine. However, experience shows that the most effective way of attracting new members is to actually get potential members to attend old scholar functions. This could be through making up parties of friends to attend functions such as the Annual Luncheon, or by organising special reunions of classes or groups. The Classes of 1953 and 1958 have been holding reunions in past years and these have had a beneficial effect on membership. Last year the Class of 1954 held its first reunion with hopefully similar beneficial effects to flow. This year, thanks to Archivist and former Secretary, Judy McKeough, there is to be a reunion for old scholars from the Western Suburbs. The Committee will be only too pleased to assist where it can with the arrangements for any special functions.

Let us challenge ourselves. Let us set a target of returning our membership level in 2012 to the average of 380 set over the fifteen-year life of the current Association.

Good luck to us all!

Those who have not paid their 2012 subscription will receive a subscription form with this Newsletter, while those who have already joined will not.

Subscriptions remain at \$30.00 per annum, the same as last year and may be paid by cash, cheque, credit card or EFT.

Reunion : Class of '53

Just a reminder that there will be an informal reunion for members of the Class of '53 on Wednesday, 25 July 2012. While the venue has yet to be decided, the event will take the form of a lunch similar to the one held last year at the Sussex Hotel.

To help with finalising the arrangements, would all those interested in receiving further details please contact Warren West

Phone 8376 0938 (h)

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or 69 College Road, Somerton Park SA 5044.

50 Year Reunion : Class of '63

It is proposed to organise a reunion in 2013 for those old scholars who started at The Tech in 1963. Details of the form of the function and its date are still to be finalised.

At this stage, Rob Coward would be pleased to hear from potential guests and also from anyone who is prepared to assist with the organisation of the event.

Please contact him on:

Mobile 0423 670 074

Email prcoward6@bigpond.com

or PO Box 812 Lyndoch SA 5351

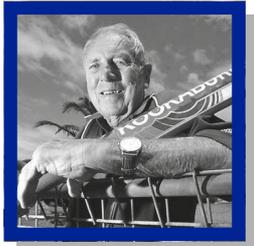
2012 Luncheon Preliminary Notice

The Luncheon for 2012 will be held on Wednesday, 10 October 2012 at a venue yet to be decided. Members and non-members alike will be welcome. Write this date into your diary (or electronic gizmo for the modernists among us), add a post-it note to the collection on the fridge door or apply it to whatever reminder system you use but do not miss this chance to enjoy a meal in the company of your former school friends.

Why not organise a party of your friends to attend as a group and book a table? Anyone wishing to do so should contact the Secretary for assistance.

Australian Honours : Barry Fry OAM

Last year old scholar Barry Fry was awarded a Medal of the Order of Australia (OAM) for services to cricket on Australia Day. We congratulate Barry on this recognition of his achievements and thank our unofficial historian Bryce Kohler for the following details of the background to the award.



Barry was awarded the Order of Australia Medal in 2011, his Citation reading:

“for service to cricket”

Barry attended *The Tech* from 1946-48, completing the Leaving Commercial course. He was immediately employed in the family butcher shop which is now run by his son, the third generation Fry in the business. He was also involved in cricket by way of the Grange Cricket Club, and then played nine seasons of District Cricket with the West Torrens Club.

However, Barry's outstanding contribution to cricket was to be with the Grange Club. His record of achievement there is probably unsurpassed in the history of any other sporting club in South Australia. His work has also been recognised by the major Australian cricket body, Cricket Australia.

Barry served as a player and official with the Grange Club and the Adelaide Turf Cricket Association for a total of 50 years. He has been tireless in promoting cricket in the Grange area and in metropolitan Adelaide.

At the Grange Club he has been Player, President, Patron, Sponsor, Supervisor, and Advisor to one of ATCA's great clubs. He was also responsible for hosting representative matches between the ATCA and the Victorian sub-Districts Association.

At the Grange Club Barry has overseen the growth of the teams from two in 1960 to its present six senior and seven junior teams. During that period Grange has been a leader in the cricket community, and has recorded 41 senior and 23 junior premierships.

Some of the highlights of Barry's career include:

- Played for Grange in 1949 and again from 1960 to 1992 Captained the A team from 1960 until 1974, playing a record 352 games.
- In 1963 organized the Junior Cricket competition in the Adelaide and Suburban Association, and was instrumental in establishing junior cricket in the ATCA.
- Member of the Grange CC Management Committee from 1960-1984.
- Elected President in 1985 after serving for seven years as Club Chairman.
- Club Sponsor from 1970 until retirement from business in 2000.
- Voluntarily acted as turf wicket curator for 37 years.
- Delegate to the Grange Oval Board for 14 years.
- Editor of the Grange CC magazine for 18 years.
- Served as President or Vice President of ATCA for 15 years, the last seven as President.

In recognition of this vast amount of work Barry has received a number of awards, including:

- ◆ From Cricket Australia – Volunteer of the Year in South Australia in 2007, which included attendance at the Alan Border presentation night.
- ◆ Australian Sports Medal for Australian Sporting Achievement in 2000.
- ◆ Australian Lions Foundation James D Richardson Honour Award for service to the Grange Community in 1999.
- ◆ International cricket council centenary medal 2009.

His awards have been richly deserved.

Memories of Sable Grivell : Contribution from Judy McKeough, Archivist

While listening to a radio programme on the ABC one morning, where the guest was discussing the benefits of school students learning to appreciate music, my mind turned to Sable Grivell (or 'Spit and Dribble' as many remember him) and his influence on students at ATHS (North Terrace). I must admit I don't recall very many of the songs we learnt, but in later years some of those from the Gilbert and Sullivan operettas stirred the memory and I believe did awaken my appreciation of more classical music. I certainly did not know much about him while we were at the school, but thought it may be of interest to try to find out a little more about the man himself.

He was born Ainsly Sabel (or Ainslie Sable?) Grivell on 26 September 1893 at Uraidla, the 6th of 8 children. He appears to have had some musical talent at an early age, having entered the Strathalbyn competitions in September 1910 in the Pianoforte Solo section (under 18 yrs) – **Master** Sable Grivell is mentioned as having gained third place. From the early 1920's he also appears in the concert programmes at Elder Conservatorium as one of the soloists. He had rooms in the Masonic Chambers on North Terrace where he was listed as a music teacher, and presumably gave lessons there. Under his direction, his own students also held regular concerts in various halls around Adelaide. A quote from *'The Register'* on 23 November 1922 states *"The entire performance reflected much credit upon their pupils' tutor"*. His sisters, Ivy and Charlotte, were also talented singers and usually appeared with him at these concerts.

In November 1924, he was listed under *'Motorists in Court'* as having driven his car at 28 miles an hour on Fourth Rd. Black Forest and accordingly fined £1.10s.0!

Many old scholars would also remember Elsie Woolley, who usually accompanied Sable at the school. They were married in December, 1924, but Elsie kept her maiden name as she was a professional singer in her own right – she won the Australian vocal championship in Melbourne in February 1933, accompanied by Sable, with the prize being a tour of Great Britain travelling with an Australian choir. She also won the championship events at the Ballarat musical competitions in 1924 and 1930, the *'Sun'* Aria at Bendigo in 1931 and the Geelong Aria Competition in November 1935. In May 1935 two gold medals which Elsie had won for singing were stolen with other jewellery from their home.

Elsie first appears on one of our Speech Day Programmes (on records I have available in our archives) in 1929, but Sable does not appear until 1940 and may have replaced Norman Chinner as the school musical director.

Sable and Elsie were instrumental in organising or appearing as guests in many charity concerts, church concerts and other musical programmes around Adelaide, and obviously were very prominent in the music scene around SA from the 1920's. In December 1944 the *'Burra Record'* states that Sable and his concert party travelled from Adelaide to assist the local Red Cross by performing at Black Springs and ...*"Sable Grivell was in excellent form. This versatile artist's phenomenal talent was displayed at the piano, singing and elocutionary items and in several humorous plays."*

It appears Sable had a group called the 'Ainslie Singers', and they were often an integral part of his concerts. Sable was also an elocutionist, and entered a number of competitions, particularly at Stawell (Victoria) and Ballarat (Victoria) - in August 1939 he gained 7 first places and in October 1940 he gained mentions in Recitation, Oratorical Display and Character Recital in Costume. He was also in demand as a judge at various competitions, including country areas such as Spalding.

Some old scholars who were at ATHS in July 1950 may remember being part of a radio programme on 5AN called "Youth Sings" – 'The Advertiser' reports *"The voices of 450 Adelaide Technical High School students will be heard ...They will give five items under the direction of Mr Sable Grivell, including two well known hymns and the anthem "Star of Bethlehem"*.

When Sable's father (Caleb Grivell) died, there were two streets named in his honour in Marden (Caleb Street and Grivell Road) which still appear in the current street directory. This seems to indicate that the family were well respected in the area.

Unfortunately I have been unable to access the Biographical Cuttings on Sable Grivell available in the National Library of Australia (Canberra) to date, so if any old scholars have further information about Sable, I would appreciate hearing from you, particularly if you know anyone from the school who was encouraged by him to follow a musical career.

The Tower : Contribution by Betty Laing (dated 25 February 2012)

In the 2011 Magazine we published an article from the 1961 School Magazine by Wendy Averay about the closure of the Tower. That triggered the memory of Betty Laing (Lane) who wrote:

I remember the Tower Room well – in 1938 it was the official classroom for the Leaving Commercial Class of 15 girls and 15 boys.

That was the year of the polio epidemic and classes did not start until towards the end of the first term. Until then, as all families were quarantined within their own homes, we had to rely on correspondence lessons. A large envelope would arrive on Monday morning with the week's lessons- to be posted back by the following weekend. No exams were held that term, class positions being based on our correspondence results.

Although the Tower Room was our official classroom once we returned to school, we also used any other room which happened to be vacant – all in all a very unsettling year.

To help make up for lost time, it became the practice for the class to spend an extra half hour in the Tower Room on whichever subject or subjects we, as a class, had shown weakness that day. Our dedicated teachers were determined to give us every chance to succeed.

Also that year I remember the voluntary Saturday morning shorthand speed sessions with (I think) Miss Topperwein, taking down dictation which we read back as a class – from 80 to 160 words per minute. Then out would come the Balfours cream sponges and bottles of lemonade. No wonder we were such an enthusiastic class!

Thanks to Betty for putting pen to paper. It is a story such as this that reminds us how privileged we were to have attended Adelaide Tech. Anyone like to hazard a guess about the number of teachers who would carry on teaching for additional time each day or front up on a Saturday for the benefit of their students in these days of “pupil-free days”?

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Correspondence should be forwarded to our postal or email addresses
(details on front page).*