

October 2015
Newsletter

Blue and Gold Alumni Association



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Change of Date for Annual Luncheon

You may have recently received a notice advising a change of date for our Annual Luncheon which will now be held on Thursday, 22 October 2015 at the same venue—the Arkaba Hotel. We hope you are able to join us. RSVP 15 October.

If you would like further information please contact : Peter J Carter
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President's Comments

As I come into contact with old scholars, some still occasionally ask why the Old Scholars' Association has rebadged itself and is seeking stronger ties with Glenunga International High School. Typically they remark "We are Adelaide Tech Old Scholars, Glenunga is nothing to do with us."

I ask you to recall how the world is littered with the ruins of once great civilisations. Some are remembered but many are simply lost in the mists of time. Remember those lines from that poem we all learned in our school days:

*"My name is Ozymandias,
King of Kings,
Look on my works,
ye mighty, and despair"*

Two trunkless stone legs, a shattered head and the inscribed plinth are all that remain. Like so many others all he did has been forgotten.

Schools can be like that too. Those who come after remember the legacy on which their education is built only if they have reason to do so. While time is a continuum, the past gets forgotten unless it actively entwines itself with the present. So it is not to forget Adelaide Tech but rather, to celebrate and enshrine it, that we are seeking to do what we are.

Time is, however, eroding our numbers, especially since the youngest who attended the North Terrace School are approaching their seventies. And with declining

membership the quest to involve more active members in the work of the committee becomes harder.

Since our last Annual General Meeting a number have volunteered. However, the number of tasks that we have set ourselves has also multiplied. Consequently, we have a desperate need for even more volunteers.

If you are skilled in secretarial work, accounting or web design and maintenance—any time which you could spare would be gratefully accepted.

We come from a tradition which embodied the motto "*Labor Omnia Vincit*". It would be anathema were the bridge we are building to fail because we lack the commitment to see it to its conclusion.

Mark Brindal, President

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

21st Century Teaching and Learning at Glenunga

Secondary schools in the second decade of the 21st century need to look very different from the schools we all experienced in the 20th century. This change needs to happen if we want to equip our children and grandchildren to thrive in a world where the future is uncertain, where global problems need creative solutions, where more people run their own small businesses, where robotics are common place, and where jobs look very different.

When we remember that fifteen years ago no-one had heard of Google and that i-phones were still a luxury item then we can see how the pace of change is accelerating and bringing with it new jobs that previous generations had never dreamed of existing. Did anyone we know at school think they were going to have a successful career as a web designer or game developer?

Our students also face the challenge of the level of wages in Australia being maintained at a time when employers are searching the world for the people who can do the job for the cheapest rate often in order to satisfy their shareholders' expectations. Many industries are declining or moving offshore and robotics are replacing many routine tasks even in professions such as medicine.

At Glenunga we don't see this situation as cause for doom and gloom but it does mean that we have to equip our students to thrive in a different world.

We want to maintain the important aspects of 20th century teaching like strong positive relationships between people and deep subject knowledge. However we need to use class time differently so that we can find space in a crowded curriculum to develop 21st century skills. Employers tell us that they value sound problem solving skills, effective communication, collaboration and resiliency as well as the ability to

critique information and to apply knowledge in different situations.

Some of our students are already reaping significant financial rewards from their creative ideas. We also know that students who want to become successful entrepreneurs and small business leaders will need to have well-developed creativity and innovation skills. Unfortunately many of these skills are not the skills that schools have focused on developing in the past.

Class time and homework need to be used very differently if students are to develop 21st century skills. The teacher talk that would have taken up a chunk of class time needs to be captured online so that students can listen to this information prior to classes (in old speak 'for homework') but because it is online they can 'rewind' and go over it as many times as needed to achieve the level of understanding required. Teachers can then use the freed up class time for students to tackle challenging tasks both independently and collaboratively that require students to practice 21st century skills. This approach to learning means that teachers can see their students putting their learning into practice in real time and they can intervene to correct misunderstandings before they become entrenched and to stretch students' thinking.

Two community events occurred at Glenunga this year designed to help students and families understand the changes that are taking place in our classrooms.

Over 80 student leaders from Year 8 – 11 supported by the Year 12 Prefects spent a morning developing an understanding of why a change is needed and what the change looks like. Student leaders spoke eloquently about 21st century learning and the need for change. Students then worked on what they can do to support teachers to make this change and what they need to do to support themselves to be successful learners.

At the end of the workshop student leaders took on the task of sharing their learnings with all other students. The Student Forum will now take on the responsibility for equipping all students with the understanding of how and why school is changing and their roles in the change.



The second event occurred when all families in the school community were invited to attend a series of mini lessons conducted by 30 volunteer teachers showing the difference between 20th and 21st century learning. The Governing Council facilitated this evening as part of their commitment to sharing this change with the community. On the night 250 family members enthusiastically participated in the lessons and then attended a Q&A session facilitated by Governing Council. It was great to see so many families at the evening and we received lots of positive feedback from participants.

While we are working with our students and families to help them understand the changes we are also working with our teachers to articulate what 21st century teaching and learning looks like at Glenunga based on the current practices of our best practitioners. We are ensuring that all teacher have the skills to be able to use technology to challenge learning and that their pedagogical practices deliver on our moral purpose which is to ensure all our students thrive at school and in the world beyond school.

Wendy Johnson
Principal

Frank Seeley AM : Super Salesman/International Innovator



Over the years I have been involved with Seeley International as a consultant but had never had the pleasure of meeting Frank Seeley, the executive chairman of the company which he founded back in the 1970's. At a recent Class of '53 reunion, Murray Morton, an old class mate of mine said that he worked at Seeley's and that he could organize a meeting with Frank, an old scholar, to research an article for the old scholars' newsletter. That was too good an opportunity to miss and Murray organized the meeting.

In the past, I have met many chairmen, CEO's and their ilk. However, this was a meeting like no other. Rather, it was like two old mates meeting over lunch because Frank reminisced about school, family and his life and business career. Our meeting was scheduled to last an hour but ran for nearly two. During this time he had to move a meeting he had scheduled.

I left with the impression of a compassionate Christian gentleman, dedicated to his family (he has been married for 52 years) and also of someone with a sense of humour. He comes across as a tough but fair minded business man whose success has been based on being innovative and having an ability to recognize opportunities and to make incisive decisions.

School days at ATHS were fun. Although he played around a lot, Frank had the good sense to know that he had to knuckle down and

work hard in the third term to ensure that he was promoted at the end of the year—he inevitably finished in the top two or three in the class, so he is highly intelligent.

Frank had Gordon 'Darby' Haskard for his leaving teacher, as did I. He still does a brilliant impersonation that brings out Darby's characteristic way of speaking and his mannerisms. He remembers the day they took a flash photograph of Darby writing on the blackboard and the round of "cuts" that followed. On yet another day, they smuggled a large reel to reel tape recorder into the classroom and recorded one of Darby's lessons.

Those of us who attended North Terrace in the 50's remember fondly the end of term concerts. Bravely, Frank and his classmates put on a play that lampooned the many mannerisms of their teachers—it was very obvious who they were. Fortunately they had had the foresight to get Clifford 'Mo' Magor's approval first.

Frank's brother was a brilliant salesman who inspired him "He never sold anything, he only helped people to buy". During the school holidays, Frank would hitchhike to the Riverland with samples of pencils, calendars and balloons to sell. In a good week he could make "350 quid" in commission. This was the start of a brilliant sales career.

During his leaving year, Frank was seduced into becoming a teacher on the basis that he would have a job for life, retain the same number of holidays and would be paid during his training. He went to Wattle Park Teachers' Training College where he trained as a primary teacher. On graduation, he started teaching Grade Five at Port Adelaide Primary School, an easy distance from his home at Largs Bay. Frank was a tough task master who believed in corporal punishment—no doubt inspired by his year in Darby's class. He was taught that if you did not get on top of the kids in the first 30

minutes and establish your authority you would never be able to control the class.

After three years, Frank tired of teaching and decided to join his brother in his sales and printing business. Unfortunately, his brother died a few years later and at age 27 Frank found himself responsible for "two women and ten children". He decided to wind up the printing/marketing company and move into air conditioning. In 1972 he was managing a company with a turnover of about \$1 million selling air conditioners. The principals advised Frank that they were going to reduce his commission to a level where he thought his business would be unprofitable and decided to establish his own air conditioning company. Frank likes to talk through his problems with his wife and seek her advice and so discussed with her the potential problems in establishing the business. Her response was "I will live in a tin shed as long as I have you".

Although Frank is not an engineer, he believes his technical education at the Tech was important to his success as it has helped develop his innovativeness. He cites the time when he suggested solutions to solve drainage problems on one of the early air conditioning models and discussions with a tool designer seeking ways to improve the company's products. As a result of this, he progressively made the transition from a sales/administration role into one where he became more involved with the technical and production aspects of the business.

At one stage of its growth, Seeley International purchased approximately 70,000 electric motors from a monopolistic Australian supplier whose performance in terms of quality and delivery were poor. During a meeting Frank had with its chairman, he requested that the delivery and quality issues be overcome and at the same time asked for a price reduction to reflect

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Frank Seeley AM : Super Salesman/International Innovator (cont'd)

The volume of motors being purchased. The company promised to address the quality and delivery problems but refused to reduce the price. Frank promised the chairman that he would start manufacturing his own motors within 12 months and at that stage would cease purchasing its products. This goal was achieved and the promise enacted.

A major problem with early evaporative coolers was they corroded badly because they were made of metal. In 1973 Seeley International overcame this problem when it commenced making injection moulded plastic components. It was the first company in the world to make an all plastic air conditioner.

Frank commissioned the CSIRO to evaluate how the noise level of his conditioner could be reduced. The number of parts in each unit was reduced from 389 to 56 by using value analysis. As a result of this work and other developments, the Seeley evaporative cooler is now the most energy efficient in the world, while having the highest level of cooling efficiency.

Seeley's big breakthrough came when it received an order for 20,000 units from the Iraqi Trading Company. This was subsequently increased to 40,000. In the following year the company received an order that was valued at \$US 15.5 million for 100,000 units.

Frank remains involved in the day to day running of the company he established, as executive chairman. It has grown to the stage where it employs over 400 people, with a turnover approaching \$200 million.

As you can imagine with his background, Frank has a very positive outlook for manufacturing in South Australia. Unsurprisingly, he believes that if manufacturers adopt an innovative approach to product and process development, with the appropriate level of automation, the State can make products that will be competitive anywhere in the world.

Peter J Carter

Queensland Reunion

Background: Graham (50-54) and Jeannette Davey
Carolyn Burrows and Kym Mayes (60-64)

Foreground: Di (59-62) and Bob Millar and
Mark Thornthwaite (61-65)



L to R:
Kym Mayes and Carolyn Burrows, Mary Saunders,
Mark Thornthwaite, Wayne and Margaret Bradley,
Charles and Margaret Dale, Warren West, Jeannette
and Graham Davey (back)



The third Queensland reunion of former scholars of AHS and Glenunga High School was held at the Royal Queensland Golf Club on Friday, 17 July 2015. Interest in the event continues to grow and this time there were fifteen former scholars and partners in attendance but, interestingly, there were eleven apologies from former scholars which could auger well for the 2016 luncheon.

After lunch it was anecdote after anecdote about life within the confines of AHS and some from Glenunga High School where the walls were far less constraining and mingling freer between the sexes. The stories were jolly good and our dear staff did not suffer in jest (much). Erring on the side of caution, however, has meant nothing is printed as we remember with fondness the value of the cane.

Other photographs from the lunch have been posted on the website.

The event will be repeated next year so if you plan to be travelling in Queensland around the middle of the year and would like to attend, please contact one of the committee who will put you in touch with the convenor.

Paul Mildren : Major League Baseballer

Those of you who attended ATHS will remember that baseball was one of the three winter sports. The school produced many good A grade players even though the school teams were not competitive against the very strong Adelaide and Unley High School teams.

Without doubt, Jimmy Tamlin was the best baseballer produced by ATHS. Jimmy played interstate baseball but, importantly, he won the Capp's medallion, baseball's equivalent to the Magarey Medal.

It is interesting that GIHS, which has no formal baseball structure, has been able to produce someone who pitched major league baseball in the United States. Paul lived at Myrtle Bank and attended GIHS from 1997 until 2001. From an early age he played T ball and graduated into baseball where he showed outstanding potential playing in every State side from the U14 to U18. His ability was recognised by a major league talent scout and at age 16 he signed a contract with the Florida Marlins which plays in the Eastern Division of the National League. He successfully completed Year 12 and at age 17 set off to the US of A. To get this into perspective the AFL is not able to recruit players until they are 18 and those who go to interstate clubs are probably no more than a four hour flight from home.

It is interesting to contrast Paul's career with that of Jarryd Hayne who was recently signed by the American football club the San Francisco 49ers. Jarryd went to America in his late twenties with an international rugby career behind him.

For ten years, Paul left Adelaide in February to attend summer camp and returned in September at the end of the baseball season. Pre-season involved competing with 300 other players for a place on the roster of one of the teams. At the end of the pre-season, Paul found himself in a team with 30 other players moving from city to city to play. Not like AFL, where you are home every other week.

Paul believes that professional baseball is different from most other major sports around the world because players are required to work their way up through the minor leagues before breaking into the "majors". Below the major league, players are paid minimal wages—Paul was paid \$350 per week as a teenager and travelled around the country in "rough" conditions. He played every day of the week, lived on fast food and often had 12 hour bus trips between games. Paul said that the film "*Bull Durham*" accurately reflects the life of a minor league professional baseballer as he struggles to break into the majors. The incentive is high to make the transition to the higher leagues. However, this requires an extremely high work ethic and personal motivation. For Paul, who



successfully made the transition, this was an "amazing character building and learning experience". Along the way he formed many close friendships with people from around the world.

During his ten year career in the States, Paul played seven seasons with the Florida Marlins, two with the Kansas City Royals and one with the Pittsburgh Pirates. In 2005 he was chosen in the "All Star A Ball" team and in 2006 he was selected as the "Double A MVP" and was placed on the major league roster. During this time he pitched two major league games. Paul played for Australia in the 2005 World Cup and in the 2006 World Baseball Classic where he pitched against the Dominican Republic.

Obviously, Paul has many memories of the time he spent playing baseball in the United States. His favourite is pitching batting practice for Kevin Costner who was the star in "*The Field of Dreams*", another iconic baseball film. For his efforts he received an autographed baseball, a gift he cherishes.

Paul left Pittsburgh when he was 26 and came back to Adelaide to seek a new life. He decided to gain a degree and completed a double degree course at the University of South Australia and has a degree in Education and also one in Applied Science. He is in his first year at GIHS working as a physical education teacher.

Paul's career as a professional baseballer is worthy of comment. However, we believe the life lessons he has learned are equally worthy of comment. At last year's GIHS graduation Paul spoke very eloquently on the life lessons that can be drawn from sport.

Paul spoke about the opportunities that awaited the students after they graduated. He said that they were unknown, undefined and endless and would come in different shapes and sizes and that sometimes you may not even know that they are there. He quoted his old PE teacher, Mr Trevor Hall, who had told him prior to graduating from Glenunga "Success doesn't just happen to anyone, it happens to people who are prepared when the opportunity arises."

In his speech to last year's graduating class Paul said that he recognised that the chance to train with the Miami Marlins at age 17 was his opportunity and he grasped the challenge to achieve his dream. After seven long years and persevering through the reserve leagues, battling over 6,000 other professional baseball players, he ended up reaching his goal of making it to the major leagues with the Florida Marlins.

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Paul Mildren : Major League Baseballer (cont'd)

He further stated that during this time he was able to use the qualities that he had obtained from his previous experiences and these had allowed him to achieve so much in baseball. As a result, over time he encountered more and more opportunities that allowed him to display confidence in himself and his abilities.

Paul's final message to the graduates was to never waste an opportunity as there is no guaranteed path because you never know what an opportunity is going to look like. He said that it may come in the form of hard work or it may come from one of your biggest failures but all you can do is be

prepared by having confidence in your ability and building on your strengths through every experience.

In conclusion, Paul said "So just remember that you can fail at what you don't want so you might as well take a chance at doing what you love".

Peter J Carter

Payment of Annual Subscriptions



A reminder that you must be a financial member of the association to receive the annual Blue and Gold Alumni Association magazine. If you have not already renewed your membership, then please do so by the end of October to ensure that you receive a copy.

Membership renewal forms are available on the website—www.blueandgoldalumni.com.au or from the committee.

Contributions to the magazine and the newsletters are always welcomed.

Location, Timing and Format of the Annual General Meeting

Good organisations periodically undergo a change to ensure that they are focussed on the needs of their customers and clientele. For a number of years the Annual General Meeting has been held at Glenunga International High School at mid-day on a Sunday in early autumn and has featured a free barbecue and/or chicken and salad for those who attend. There has been a significant decline in the numbers attending and we are seeking feedback from the members of the association.

The committee would appreciate it if you would let us know your preferred:

- time and day
- location and
- nature

of the Annual General Meeting.



Membership of the Alumni Committee



The alumni committee is grossly undermanned to handle the current challenges and is seeking new members. If you have just retired and are looking for a new challenge, please contact the president. Our urgent need is for a minutes secretary and a secretary.

Class of '61 Reunions

The class of '61 had a busy 12 months and their activities should be an inspiration for other years.

These have included:

- a luncheon at Ayers House which started in Brookman Hall
- a Sunday BBQ at the Broadview Football Club and
- a ladies' luncheon at the Hackney Hotel

Luncheon at Ayers House



The reunion of 1961 classmates was an unqualified success and began with a meet 'n greet in Brookman Hall where many of us met up for the first time since leaving school. It was attended by 29 old scholars. A number of these flew in from interstate especially for the event.

Brookman Hall buzzed with spirited laughter and joyous recollections of well spent youth and people wandered about, finding old classrooms updated, sub-divided and ultra modern but still recognisable. The grand staircase is even grander now and the combination of traditional and modern décor works very well.

When someone blew a bosun's whistle, it broke through the hubbub and 'in a bunch' we headed out and across the Terrace to lunch in the ballroom of Ayers House.

Those attending were expected to give a short presentation which began with "I remember the day" Many of us took to the podium and related our recollections of certain incidents of long ago. These were recalled amidst hoots of laughter and interjections of those 'who were there'.

The day was just too short. A few stayers released blue and gold balloons into the heavens in remembrance of classmates of '61 who have gone before us.



Barbecue at Broadview Football Club

The barbecue was a casual, relaxed event hosted by Bob Johninke, classmates and partners—Liz and John Rose, Barbara and Ian Larcombe, Paul Klose, Christine Howard, Geoff Davies, Lee and Ian Clark, Irena and John Terlet, Dorothy Hall, Wendy and Ian Burman and Mark Brindal—all agreed it was a great way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Paul Klose took charge of sizzling a wonderful variety of meats and snags, the girls turned out the clubroom kitchen for platters and cutlery and we spread the table with a sumptuous array of salads, fruits, cheese platters and a fantastic chocolate mud cake.

Class of '61 Reunions (cont'd)

Commercial A & B Girls' Luncheon at the Hackney Hotel Bistro

It was the group's first get-together for lunch and school-day memories of detentions, Miss Gregor and clackety typewriters, Misses Crane and Balchin, Betty Donaldson and "now girls, shorthand is pho-net-ic!". They laughed at the school day agonies of straw hat struggles, eurythmic shorts and suspender belts, 60 denier stockings on summer days and the boys we never knew because of strict codes of separation outside the classroom.

The bonds within the group are still strong. Some are living interstate and overseas but they plan to remain in touch again through email and internet and look forward to more gatherings.

This article is based on information provided by Christine Howard and we thank her for her contribution.



Using maiden names—from L to R:

Charmaine Roocke, Beverly Baker, Christine Howard, Nola Rhodes
Margaret Paynter, Julie Angove, Raeleen Purdie, Lynette Burgan
Lee Branford

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