



# Adelaide Technical High School

Old Scholars Association Inc.

Newsletter: SEPTEMBER, 2007

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## *From the President:*

With another year in full swing, the Committee has met regularly to ensure the smooth running of the Association and to plan the year's events.

Unfortunately, long serving committee stalwart, Kath Harrison has reluctantly decided it is time to hang up her Committee shoes. Kath has made a valuable contribution to our Association as Treasurer from 1997-2002 and as either Vice President or Committee Member from 2004-2007. A kindly encouraging friend, her valiant attempts to keep us on the straight and narrow (!!!) together with her great experience and an eye for attention to detail, especially to the Association's books of account, endears her to us all. In so far as age and health will allow, I'm sure we will still see her cheerful face at future functions.

Last year's Secretary and current Committee Member, Sue Thomson, is in recovery mode following recent surgery. We wish you good health and hope to see you back on deck soon, Sue.

Following on from a good roll-up at the AGM it is worth remarking that, as a school whose continuity was disrupted, our youngest members are now well into their middle years.

Since its inception, the running of this Association has largely been supported by Old Scholars who were retired and, in consequence, had more time. However, like Kath, many of these stalwarts are getting to the stage where, age, health, family or other commitments start to curtail their involvement. In the meantime another generation of Old Scholars approach and reach retirement. If you are one of them, I hope that you will consider "involving" yourself.

Notwithstanding this, there will come a time when all of us who were associated with the "Tech" will not be around any more. One of the tasks being undertaken by the Committee is to consider a "legacy" as an enduring reminder of what a "Tech" education gave to us all. If any of you have suggestions, the Committee would like to hear them.

Our next function is the luncheon at "The Feathers". With a guest speaker confirmed, it promises to be a great get-together. I hope that as many as possible of you will make an effort to attend.

Mark Brindal  
President

## *Membership:*

The issue of receipts and Membership Cards has been reintroduced because many Members are unsure of their financial status. Your membership receipt should be found with **this** Newsletter. It is anticipated that Membership cards will be issued as from next financial year.

Note:

The Association's Financial and Membership Years run concurrently from 1<sup>st</sup> January to 31<sup>st</sup> December, and the annual fee of \$25-00 includes Newsletters and the annual Magazine. Please ensure a completed Membership Form is enclosed with payment. Forms are sent with the first Newsletter of the year, or can be obtained from the Website or the Secretary.

David Swift  
Membership Secretary

## Reminders

### Raffle:

Books to be returned, sold or unsold, by **1<sup>st</sup> October.**

### Luncheon RSVP:

Bookings and payment **MUST** be received by **5<sup>th</sup> October.**

### Membership:

2007 Subscriptions are now over due.

**One payment is sufficient to cover any, or all, of the above. (Separate payments are not necessary)**

Beryl Aylen  
Treasurer

## Articles for Newsletters & Magazines

Due to Sue Thomson's recent surgery and possible extended recuperation, would you please forward all articles for Newsletters and Magazines to the Secretary.

## POSITIONS VACANT

### Web Master

We **urgently** need someone with expert knowledge to keep our Web Site up to date.

### 1 (One) Committee Position.

(Due to Kath Harrison's retirement.)

**If you can fill either or both of these positions please contact the Secretary.**

## Editorial

Have you noticed that the Newsletter is now delivered in an envelope? This is due to new postal regulations. Staples are definitely out and sticky tape also, especially if it leaves a gap of more than 88mm, which would allow the "entrapment of other postal articles"!!!!!!

This now allows us to use all 4 pages for information. Hence we have started a new column "Tech Tales". So please send your amusing school stories to keep this column rolling. Jeffrey Tapping starts us off with a story about the "Student Strike".

## Tech Tales

Tall tales, strange but true, of the mysterious goings-on of Teachers and Students within those hallowed walls.

THE STRIKE! Jeffrey Tapping 1954-58

An incident occurred in the Leaving Honours class of 1958 which was reminiscent of an industrial dispute. The students in that class were just 25 remaining of the 70 or so who started together in 1954. At that time the Leaving Certificate (Year 11), was the normal entry point to university. Some elite schools, like The Tech, offered the Leaving Honours course which was at a level very close to first year University, and it was becoming increasingly recommended for those serious about advanced education. So all the students in L/Honours were serious and competent with ambitions for their future education.

Spencer Williams was the class teacher and also the maths master, known to us as "Spinny". He was a meticulous man, wearing a well-tailored suit with waistcoat, which he protected from chalk dust with a grey laboratory coat during classes. He had a high voice, which modulated up and down by about an octave, particularly when he was delivering one of his homilies, or waxing lyrical about the genius of William Shakespeare. He had quite a few annoying traits, but the one that got to us on this occasion was his drive to fill every second of our time with work.

“THE STRIKE” cont’d.

We would usually wander into the classroom at the start of our day with hopes of a little time to socialise, prepare, relax and begin to get our minds up to speed. But Spinny would have none of this. As soon as we were in he was off, lecturing to us about something, sometimes simultaneously writing equations at enormous speed on the blackboard. Our tolerance was pushed to the limit and the whole class conspired, in future, to wait outside the classroom until the official starting time. On the first day of our action we all gathered, every last student, in the corridor. Spinny grew impatient in the room, waiting to get his usual flying start to the day’s lessons. He came out of the door and in a tremulous tone demanded to know what was going on. One brave student explained and the poor man almost had a fit. He herded us into the room, lectured us on the evils of our attitude for a few minutes, then declared that he was not going to teach the lesson to such an ungrateful crowd. So we all sat silently in our place, teacher and students, for the whole lesson time.

One of our number, Peter Sandery, spent the time revealing a talent new to us, verse writing. He penned a nine-stanza poem on the incident, and by chance I still have the original, yellowed and creased, but showing that it was run off in a single pass without alteration.

(Ed.’s note: Don’t miss the 2007 ATHOS Magazine for the whole nine stanzas.)

## CORRECTIONS TO 2006 MAGAZINE:

Page 28: **Exceptional Performers of 1956**

Inadvertently the Academic and Sports winners from the 1955 Prize Night List were published.

### Mis-spelt Names:

P.3: Committee: Lesley Moir (nee Averay)

P.31: Boy Prefects: Neville Morcombe

P.34: Sir Isaac Newton

P.46: Poem “The Lake” by C. Grimes

Corrections cont’d.

### Page 20: *Recollections of Reg Sprigg:*

We have received correspondence regarding some inaccuracies in the story and have checked these details with the Sprigg family. The following corrections are quotations from, Marg Sprigg’s written reply. (Reg’s daughter):

The name of the property is “**Arkaroola**”

Para.11

Ref: *Reg became the Head Geologist at Rio Tinto*

“Reg and his company quite probably did work for Rio Tinto but he would not have been employed directly by them, it would more likely have been in the role as a consultant.”

Para.15

Ref: *Professor of Geology at Oxford University*

“Dad never held a Professorship at any university, though I can remember him being offered a Chair at one stage at, I think, New England University in its early days. He turned down the offer as he was so immersed in his Australia wide geological work. However, he was always keen on assisting and encouraging students, but he did not have a Professorial Chair.”

Marg also thanked Max Grosser for writing the article and, even though there were some inaccuracies, she was quite impressed with his memory. She sent copies of 2 books written by Reg, “*Geology is Fun*” and “*A Geologist Strikes Out*”, for our Archives and also provided more personal information on her father’s life, which we will use in future publications.



*“Why do you want my autograph, young Sprigg? Are you planning to copy it to forge cheques, and to rob me of my money?”*

Caption: “Why do you want my autograph young Sprigg? Are you planning to copy it to forge cheques and to rob me of my money?”

### SPORTING HISTORY:

Mr Tas Tasef, Maths teacher at GIHS, has expressed an interest in the sporting history of ATHS. New sports uniform are being designed and a competition is currently running with the students to come up with a sports nickname and mascot, all with the emphasis on links with the old school.

### JOKE CORNER:

A lady was quietly having a drink at a bar. The "gentleman" next to her asks, "Hey, Beautiful. Can I buy you a drink?" The lady replies. "Forget the drink. How'd you like to go back to your place?" The fella just about falls off his chair and chokes on his drink and stammers. "Huh?..Uh...Sure, I'd love to." To which the lady coolly replies. "Great. Then get going."

### FOR SALE:

ATHOSA Inc. Magazines 1995 –2005

Prints of Brookman Building, from a painting by John Ford. (45cm x 35cm)

Limited number of: Key rings and Magnets from past Reunions.

Souvenir Placemats from the 2004, 5 & 6 Luncheons.

Please contact The Secretary for prices and delivery.

### *2007 Committee:*

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CHECK THE WEBSITE FOR INFORMATION ON FUTURE EVENTS & THE STUDENT DATABASE.

[www.athsos.com.au](http://www.athsos.com.au)