

# Adelaide Technical High School

## Old Scholars Association Inc

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## Newsletter

September 2010

### EDITORIAL

It seems that one of the life principles we should adopt without question is never to become complacent about anything!

In the last Newsletter I commented on the strength of the Association with membership levels during the previous two years of just over 400, only to find that the total membership has since fallen by about 20% according to the June review, mainly because many members have not renewed their subscriptions. This may be the result of simple forgetfulness or more worryingly, it may result from general dissatisfaction with the Association. Whatever the reason, it is a significant reduction and while it does not put the Association's immediate future in jeopardy, if the downward trend continues at the same rate one has to question our long-term viability.

The question has to be asked, DOES THIS MATTER? which in turn, raises the question of why we joined the Association in the first place.

Speaking for myself (and I certainly cannot claim to speak for anyone else) my reasons are best summed up by something said to me by a good friend, "Reliving the joys of youth in the company of those with whom you shared them must be one of the great pleasures of aging". (In my view it may in fact be the only pleasure!) Certainly, the Association provides both means and opportunities for meeting old friends and acquaintances which might not otherwise be available, so to me, its continuation does matter. Hopefully most of you will be of the same opinion, although your reasons for wishing it to continue may be different.

Whatever your reason for wanting the Association to continue, it must be assumed that to survive, it must meet the needs of its members. However, the ability of the organisation to meet the needs of its members is highly dependent on the members making their needs known. We need your help. It is important for the Committee to understand what motivates people to join and what they expect from their membership. Please help us by contacting any member of the Committee and making known what you believe the Association is doing well and what needs to be changed.

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## CLASS OF '53 : 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY REUNION 2010



The members of the Class of '53 celebrated their 70<sup>th</sup> birthdays with a dinner in the Gil Langley Room at Adelaide Oval on 27 May 2010. The event was organised by the same Gang of Ten which had organised the previous reunion in 2008. A total of 49 class members and two husbands of class members (Kevin Heinrich who also attended AHS and Brian Olney) attended. As with previous reunions, many people were unable to attend because of prior commitments, almost always related to birthday celebrations with their families.



Above L to R:  
Judith Chadwick (Dowsett)  
Fay Duncan (Harrison)  
Raldene Olney (Krollig)  
Brian Olney

L to R:  
Margaret Richardson  
(Bradey)  
Jan Noel (Bax)  
Faye Spence (McInnes)



*These photos may be seen on the ATHSOSA website.*

CLASS OF '53 : 70<sup>TH</sup> BIRTHDAY REUNION 2010



Above L to R:  
Ray Carn, Murray Morton, Joan Jones (Faunt), Brenton Taylor

Those who were able to be present included people who had travelled from NSW, Canberra, Western Australia and Northern Territory. The longest journey was made by Ian Williams who fortunately was home in Western Australia from working in Angola at the time of the event.

As always, the evening passed all too quickly but Clive Hutton managed to capture the displayed pictures. Thanks to Clive for his expert camera work which while it did not necessarily make us all look young again, certainly minimised the effects of the aging process.

Foreground L to R:  
Jim Tamlin  
Ian Haddow  
Geoff Tully  
Background L to R:  
Ross Lorenz  
Adrian Vladcoff



L to R:  
Richard Lawton  
Jan Brabham (Atkinson)  
Trevor Bail  
Graham Maskell

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? : BETTY LAING (Lane)

Betty Laing (nee Lane) attended the East Adelaide Primary School where she received sufficient marks in the QC examination to qualify for entry to Adelaide Tech. Betty lived at Evandale with her family which was strongly musical. Both of her parents played instruments and sang while her brother played clarinet with friend and neighbour Bobby Limb. Betty's interest in the arts tended towards drama, singing and dancing. After leaving ATHS she worked in the Commonwealth Bank in Adelaide then after the war, in Sydney. In Sydney she joined the ABC briefly in the Programming Department before visiting the offices of Burns Philp and finding they had an urgent need for someone having her skills to work in Fiji she applied on the spot and a few short weeks later found herself in Suva embarking on a life away from Australia which lasted for nearly 50 years. What follows is Betty's story:

I started at Adelaide Tech. in 1936 and with 93 others, entered the Intermediate class in 1937. There were two Intermediate Commercial classes of 47, one made up of all girls and the other made up of 35 boys and 12 girls. Luckily, I was in the mixed class. I continued on to the Leaving in 1938 in a class of 15 boys and 15 girls.

After three years with dedicated teachers in my favourite subjects – English, Geography and Book-keeping – I felt ready to tackle the world. The war years were spent in the Commonwealth Bank, but in 1947 I gained a two-year secretarial contract in Fiji with the Burns Philp South Seas Company, based in Suva. These two years extended to fifteen years living in Fiji. After the first two years I moved to accountancy (always a preference). In one instance I managed several small accounts including one for a Chinese gentleman who described his occupation as "Professional Gambler".

I loved the friendliness of the Fijian people, the work was most interesting and there were plenty of opportunities at weekends to go yachting to nearby islands as well as discovering other parts of our own island of Viti Levu.

I soon became involved in the music and drama sections of the Fiji Arts Club. Expatriates brought with them a wealth of talent – we had a Suva Light Orchestra of twelve players, twenty-five Playhouse Singers and a Ballet group as well as a Drama Group.

In 1952 we survived the worst ever hurricane in Fiji – winds of up to 300 kph. With the eye of the storm passing directly over Suva there was massive structural damage and some flooding but surprisingly, few deaths.

That same year a Warner Brothers film unit, with Burt Lancaster, came to film "His Majesty's O'Keefe". Fiji Arts Club Members were called on for costume and small speaking parts. I had my ten seconds of fame with Burt Lancaster in a hotel scene and our hurricane-stained office was the location for a seedy Hong Kong shipping office.

In 1956 I met and married my husband. John was a Sunderland flying boat Captain with the RNZAF on posting to Fiji. Their role was mainly search and rescue, including the search for the ill-fated "Joyita" and bringing acute medical cases from outlying islands to the hospital in Suva. In fact No. 5 Maritime Squadron became known as No. 5 Maternity Squadron! John was awarded a Queen's Commendation in the New Year Honours for his work. Both of our daughters were born in Suva.

In 1965 the Air Force Base at Laucala Bay closed and we were transferred to Auckland where I spent the next thirty years with occasional trips back to Adelaide to visit family and friends. We became involved with School committees, I did some volunteer work with the local Primary School and also attended night classes to learn spinning and weaving. During school holidays we travelled extensively around New Zealand. I found a position with a firm of accountants and stayed with them for thirteen years.

In time I became a solo parent, the girls grew up and married, between them producing five lovely grandchildren. At age sixty I retired and did the first big overseas trip with a wish list of "must see" places, staying in Youth Hostels and meeting many people from other countries and cultures. After three months away I ended

## WHERE ARE THEY NOW? : BETTY LAING (Lane)

up unintentionally back at my office desk for another three years before retiring again and doing a second, longer world trip. Those geography lessons at Adelaide Tech. certainly paid dividends.

In 1995 I decided to come home and now live in a retirement village with annual trips to catch up with family and friends. As an eighty-fifth birthday treat I did the usual New Zealand trip but on a round-the-world ticket travelling westward until I reached New Zealand, revisiting favourite places in Europe and Canada and discovering new ones – Passau in Bavaria on the River Danube was a total delight.

Life is still busy with gardening, music and volunteer visits to a nearby Residential Care complex. My eldest granddaughter decided to move to Australia and now lives and works in the Barossa.

One of my neighbours at the Village is June McLachlan (Ashton), also an Old Scholar. Thanks to Mr Moyle we share a love of English so are fairly evenly matched for our Scrabble games!

I feel indebted to those dedicated teachers – Miss Clarke, Miss Topperwein and of course Mr. Moyle for such a full life. Nevertheless, there is still a fair way to go before I hang up the passport!

After a near lifetime of living overseas and extensive travel Betty has obviously not lost her taste for new experiences. We wish her well with whatever she undertakes in the future and thank her for sharing something of her life with us.

## FOLLOW UP STORY : BETTY PAHL (Richards)

You may remember that in the June Newsletter there was a copy of a letter from Betty Pahl of Pinnaroo expressing her appreciation of the article in the 2009 Magazine about the classes of 1939. Following receipt of the letter, we contacted Betty to see if she would share something of her story of life in the Mallee after the war with us. The following article is a summary of Betty's recollections plus extracts from the local newspaper, "The Border Times".



Betty Lorraine Richards was born at Henley Beach and educated at Grange Primary School and following the death of her father when she was 10, at Thebarton Primary School. After completing her Qualifying Certificate she enrolled at Adelaide Tech. where she completed the Intermediate in 1939. Following further study at Peacocks Comptometer School, Betty worked as a comptometrist for Charles Birks in Rundle Street and then for the S.A. Railways Pay Office, first at Islington and later at Adelaide.

When war broke out in 1939 Betty was still at school. Many of the boys in her year changed their age in order to join the services while others were later called up for military service. By then Betty herself was working in a restricted occupation from which she had to obtain a clearance before she was able to marry at the end of the war. During the war most entertainment revolved around activities connected with the church and fund-raising for the Red Cross.

As a child Betty used to visit her Aunt in Pinnaroo and later she stayed on a farm with her married cousin where she first met her husband to be, Clarence Pahl. Betty and Clarence were married in the Henley Beach Congregational Church in March 1945 and moved to his farm 7 miles over the Victorian border from Pinnaroo. They celebrated their Golden Wedding Anniversary in 1995.

## BETTY PAHL (Richards) : contd

Life on the farm was very different from what Betty had been used to in the city – no electric light or appliances, outside toilet and no local shops. However, they did have a 1927 Studebaker car which allowed them to visit Pinnaroo once a week for shopping. For farm work they had one of the first tractors in the district where horse teams were still in common use. They purchased their first refrigerator, a kero type, in 1947 and then later installed a "windlight" system that allowed them to use 32V. lighting and appliances.

On the farm Betty and her husband milked cows, kept pigs, ducks and fowls and sheep. They milked 15 – 23 cows by hand initially before purchasing a milking machine in about 1950. Their regular income came from cream sent by train to Ballarat and eggs also sent by train which ran through the property. Another task during the shearing season was the preparation of meals (morning tea, hot lunch and afternoon tea and sometimes board at night).

Betty and Clarence had two children, a daughter Joyce and a son Bob both of whom attended the Murrayville (Victoria) Consolidated School, travelling each day on the school bus. Betty joined the School Mothers Club and later spent eight years as President before being awarded life membership.

As in most country towns, community life revolved around sport. In summer Betty and Clarence played tennis with the Ngallo tennis club while in winter Clarence played football for Ngallo. (Keeping up the family tradition, children Joyce and Bob also played tennis for Ngallo while son Bob played football for Ngallo.) Later Betty and Clarence joined the Murrayville Golf Club and both became life members in 1965. When a bowling club was formed in Murrayville they both joined it and Betty became its Treasurer for 28 years, being awarded life membership there also.

Away from sport their social life was dominated by dancing. They attended all of the local balls travelling as far as Loxton and Walpeup, where they were judges for Best Couple at the Walpeup Old Time Ball. When the local dances faded, they used to attend the dance clubs in Murrayville and Parilla right up until the time Clarence passed away in 1997.

Betty also was heavily involved with the Women's Agricultural Bureau, filling the role of President on a number of occasions, for a total of 64 years prior to the closure of the Branch. During her time with the Bureau she was awarded life memberships at 20, 30, 40, 50 and 60 years. She was also a member of the CWA for 37 years.

Despite this very busy community life Betty also found time for handicrafts such as fancy work, knitting, crochet and tatting, winning many prizes in the Pinnaroo Agricultural Show over the years. She later became a judge at Pinnaroo and also spent many years as a judge at the Ouyen Farmers Festival, the Northwest Mallee Regional Conferences and other places. She still enjoys knitting, concentrating on rugs for overseas and local community charities.

After the death of Clarence, Betty remained on the farm, which is now being operated by son Bob, until about twelve months ago when ill health forced her to move into Pinnaroo. At the age of 85 she has maintained an interest in her former school, being a life member of the original Old Scholar's Association and is still a member of the current Association. We can only admire Betty's long and varied contribution to her community and congratulate her on her achievements. Her attitude is best summed up in her own words: "Country life can be very fulfilling if you want to be involved."



## ANNUAL LUNCHEON INVITATION : 20 OCTOBER 2010

Date: Wednesday, 20th October 2010  
Time: 12 pm for 12:30 pm  
Venue: Rex Hotel, Richmond Road, Marleston  
(dining room entrance from car park at rear)  
Cost: \$35 per head  
(2 courses, including self-serve tea/coffee)  
includes door prizes (no separate raffle)

## MENU

## 4 Mains Choices:

Oven Baked Chicken Breast filled with asparagus and cheese topped with a light champagne cream sauce served with vegetables

Roast Pork and baked apple served with brown gravy and vegetables

Grilled Barramundi served with lime mayonnaise, chunky fries and salad

Crumbed Beef Schnitzel served with rich brown gravy, fries and vegetables

## 3 Sweets Choices:

Hot Apple Crumble with vanilla custard and cream

Fresh Fruit Salad with cream and ice cream

Chocolate Mousse

## Self-serve Tea/Coffee

- ◆ Food to be ordered on the day (no pre-orders)
- ◆ Bookings will only be accepted on the order form enclosed which can also be accessed on the ATHSOS website.
- ◆ Close off date for bookings and payment to be received— **Friday, 8th October 2010.**  
The maximum number of places available at the luncheon is about 100.  
Bookings will be accepted on a "first come, first served" basis so please book early to ensure a place.

## SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2011

Members are reminded that the Subscription Year for the Association runs from 1 January to 31 December and that to be eligible to stand for office, vote at the Annual General Meeting or at any special general meeting or even appoint a proxy to vote on your behalf, you must be a Financial Member of the Association.

In the past, subscription renewal notices have been included with both the September and the February Newsletters. This has caused some confusion, resulting in some members paying twice.

To avoid this situation, the Committee has agreed that subscription renewal notices will only be sent with the February Newsletter. All members and non-members alike will still be able to access the subscription form from the ATHSOSA website, should it be necessary.

## 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 2005-2008)	\$ 2.00 ea
Prints of Brookman Building	Free
Old Scholars' Magazines	
(1996-2008)	\$ 5.00 ea
or 5 for	\$ 20.00
(2009)	\$ 15.00 ea

Please contact Warren West on 0417 816 603 or email [warren@gjc.com.au](mailto:warren@gjc.com.au) if you wish to purchase merchandise. (Ross Taylor is currently travelling).

## 2010 COMMITTEE MEMBERS

President	Mark Brindal	0407 713 578	8373 5081	<a href="mailto:mark.brindal@bigpond.com">mark.brindal@bigpond.com</a>
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Official Newsletter of the Adelaide Technical High School Old Scholars' Association Inc.  
Correspondence should be forwarded to our postal or email addresses  
(details on front page).

# Adelaide Technical High School

## Old Scholars Association Inc

### ANNUAL LUNCHEON : 20 OCTOBER 2010 : BOOKING FORM

➔ Please reserve ..... place/s @ \$35 per head = \$..... Total  
 Cost includes door prizes (no separate raffle)

➔ Contact name: .....

➔ Telephone number: .....

➔ Attendee details covering the booking:

Surname	First Name	Surname at School (if relevant)	Years	Special Dietary Requirements

➔ Payment options:

Please note that receipts will be issued only if requested and may be picked up at the luncheon.  
 Anyone requiring a receipt prior to the event should supply a stamped self-addressed envelope with their booking.

\*\*\* Cheque / Money Order / Cash (please make cheque or money order payable to ATHSOSA Inc.)

\*\*\* Visa / Mastercard (please circle card type)

Amount \$.....

Card number ..... / ..... / ..... / ..... Expiry date ..... / .....

Name on card (please print) ..... Signature .....

\*\*\* Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT)

BSB: 105 125      Account No: 461 744 540

(When processing please include your name as a reference and attach a copy of the deposit receipt to this form so that we know who made the deposit).

For Office Use Only	Amount Received \$	Date Recorded
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Please post completed form and cheque/money order or EFT deposit slip  
 to ATHS Old Scholars Association Inc, PO Box 4041, Norwood South SA 5067