



Adelaide Technical High School Old Scholars Association Inc

September 2012
Newsletter

Postal Address: PO Box 4041, Norwood South SA 5067
Email: athsos@hotmail.com
Website: www.athsos.com.au

Upcoming Luncheon

Members and non-members alike will be welcome so why not form a party among your former school friends and come as a group. Anyone wishing to do so should contact the Secretary for assistance in arranging table bookings.

This is a special year for former students who started in the years 1942, 1952, 1962 and 1972, being the anniversary of their commencement at Adelaide Tech. Those who are interested in organising groups to celebrate their anniversaries should also contact the Secretary for assistance.

Tables of ten will be provided and places will be allocated in accordance with the year of first attendance unless an alternative is nominated on the booking form.

All bookings are to be made using the booking form enclosed with this Newsletter.
The closing date for bookings will be 1 October 2012.

Wednesday 10 October 2012

at the Arkaba Hotel

150 Glen Osmond Road Fullarton

Car parking is available both on the hotel site and in the adjacent shopping centre multi-level park
(entrances from Fullarton Road)

Cost : \$38 per head : two courses

Menu **Mains:** Fillet steak on potato gratin, Portobello mushrooms and sticky red wine jus
or Oven baked breast of chicken with pumpkin fetta and basil on slow braised
Mediterranean vegetables
Desserts: Steamed banana pudding with butterscotch sauce/toffee
or Strawberry custard chocolate tart

Raffle prizes will be \$50 vouchers from Coles –Myer, Bunnings and Haighs.
Tickets may be purchased with the booking or will be on sale at the door—\$1 per ticket or a \$1 discount for 6.

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Editorial

Regrettably, it has to be said that the Association is currently in decline with membership for this year down by about 15% from that in 2011, continuing a trend that began in 2007. Obviously, some of the decline is due to members from the earlier years of the school suffering from health problems, some to people losing interest in maintaining contact with their school friends as they age and of course deaths of older members.

The question is what strategy is available to reverse this decline, or does it not matter?

Whether it matters depends to some extent on what people see as the main objective of the Association. While the Association's stated objectives in the Constitution include what might be termed social issues related to encouraging fellowship between old scholars, I firmly believe that its main purpose should be the perpetuation of the memory of the Adelaide Technical High School and all that it stood for.

Accepting that objective means the Association must continue with renewed strength into the future and to do that means we must attract new members. But from where?

In reviewing the current membership, it is immediately apparent that there is a remarkable disparity between membership rates for people from the North Terrace years and those from the Glenunga years. For the period from 1940 until the school relocated to Glenunga in 1963 the membership is about 11% of traced old scholars whereas the corresponding figure for the period from 1963 to 1974 when the school was renamed Glenunga High is about 3%. Thus, part of the solution to our problem is to connect with people from the Glenunga years and encourage them to become active members of the Association. The Committee is taking action to address this.

While that will help, it cannot be regarded as a complete solution.

At best, it would simply postpone the membership crisis for a few years. To guarantee the future of the Association a more radical solution is required.

This more radical solution has its genesis in the history of the school. Remember that the school went through a number of name changes between its establishment as The Preparatory School of the South Australian School of Mines and Industries through the Junior Technical School to The Technical High School to the Adelaide Technical High School. Should we not consider that the Glenunga International High School is just another name in a sequence of names for an organisation which has always represented excellence in education? If we accept that, then we should accept the right of old scholars from GIHS to join our Association.

Inevitably, this would require some changes to the Association, probably including a name change but it would mean that our school would still be remembered when we are all no longer able to carry the banner.

Whatever the strategy, all proposed changes will be discussed and agreed with the membership before they are implemented. Please make your feelings known to your elected representatives. Let us all work together so that the memory of a unique institution in the South Australian education system lives on.

Souvenirs Available : Special Prices

History book "ATHS—The Story"	\$ 20.00
plus postage (if applicable)	
Old Scholars' Badges	\$ 4.00
Cuff Links	\$ 10.00 pr
Special Price	
Old Scholars' Badge & Cuff Links	\$ 12.00

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

Where Are They Now? : Barry Lodge OAM

Barry Lodge attended ATHS from 1950 to 1953, completing Leaving Honours before joining the RAAF at Point Cook as a Junior Cadet. Following training, he graduated as a Pilot Officer before serving as a fighter pilot, an air trials pilot at Woomera seconded to the British Ministry of Defence, a senior flight instructor and a Commanding Officer until 1970 when he resigned while holding the rank of Squadron Leader. In 2008 he was awarded the Medal of the Order of Australia "for service to the community through the Royal Flying Doctor Service of Australia." This is his story



After leaving the RAAF I joined the Department of civil Aviation (DCA) as an Inspector. Resigning after 21 years, during which time I had risen to the position of Assistant General Manager SA/NT and Kimberley Region, I joined the Adelaide-based company National Jets as Chief Pilot and Director of Operations which was just starting up. The company grew rapidly from three to thirty aircraft, operating as a franchised service, badged as Qantas Link, plus operating fly in—fly out services for remote mining operations and coastal surveillance for the Federal Government. In 1999 I left National Jets to work as a consultant, helping to set up British Airways Italia which was a British Airways franchise, based in Rome, designed to operate in Europe. I finally retired in 2001.

It was when I was working for DCA in 1974 I was invited to join the Royal Flying Doctor Service (RFDS) SA/NT Section Board. At that time the RFDS was suffering a crisis due to technical problems with their aircraft and needed assistance to overcome the immediate problems as well as guidance for the future. That was the start of 36 years of continuous Board membership, including taking up the position of Chairman from 1978 to 1982. During my time as Chairman, the fleet size was increased to five aircraft, all new and larger models of the same type to effect economies of scale. It was also in the early 80's that I was elected to the Federal Board representing the SA/NT Section, continuing in this role until 1994. During this time I also held the position of Chairman of the RFDS National Aviation Committee for 11 years.

The national structure of the RFDS was revised in 1991 and I became the first Chairman of the RFDS of Australian Federal Council. My first action as Chairman was to implement a grass roots survey of the primary health care provided by the four operating sections of the RFDS to identify any deficiencies in the system and to promote best practice medical procedures throughout Australia. This program became known as "The Best for the Bush" and was fully funded by the Commonwealth. The program began in 1993 and is on-going as communities evolve and medical needs change.

During my 36 years as a member of the Central Operations board, I have been involved in the selection of three different aircraft types including the present fleet type, the Pilatus PC12. RFDS was the first fleet operator of this aircraft in the world and at the time, changing back from twin conventional engine aircraft to a single turbine engine aircraft was highly controversial. However, three out of the four RFDS operating sections made the change and these aircraft have proven themselves in terms of safety and reliability while providing significant benefits in terms of economy of operation.

During my time with the RFDS I have been inspired by the dedication shown by both the permanent employees and the volunteer staff. My experience with the organisation has shown how much the remote communities depend on RFDS health services. I have found it very rewarding to have been able to assist with the introduction of new aviation technology which has led to not only an improvement in the traditional clinic and evacuation services but also to make possible the regular transfer of patients from remote locations to the cities where more specialised services are available.

Barry's contribution to RFDS services has been recognized by the awarding of:

- *Honorary Life Membership—RFDS Central Operations in 1987*
- *OAM in 2008*
- *The Rev John Flynn Fellowship Award in 2010*

Barry also had a new PC12 aircraft named after him in 2011. We can only say thanks to Barry, not only on behalf of all RFDS users but also for his outstanding contribution to the community which has been in the best traditions of our school.

Report on Class of '53 Reunion

The Class of '53 gathered at the Sussex Hotel on 25 July for its 2012 Reunion.

A total of 27 people braved the cold weather to enjoy a lunch with their school friends.



Left:

Faye Spence (McInnes),
Judith Spence (Sharpe) and
Jan Noel (Bax)

Below:

Jim Tamlin and John Sickert

Thanks to Clive Hutton for the
photographs to remind us of the event.



Left:

Lorraine Phillips (Harris)
and Nola Shackelford (Tanner)

Below:

Barry Frost, Don Stephens
and Brenton Taylor

As always, there seemed to be a great deal of reminiscing about the good old days
as well as stories of travels and family.





Coming Events : 2013

50 Year Anniversary

2013 marks the 50th anniversary of the relocation of Adelaide Tech to the Glenunga Campus which opened in September 1963. To commemorate this anniversary it is planned to hold a function or functions at the new school which was renamed Glenunga High School in 1974 and later became the Glenunga International High School, the name it now carries. At this stage the Association is in discussion with GIHS about how best to celebrate the anniversary and the form of the celebration. One proposal is for a Memorabilia Display at the school, perhaps incorporating an inspection of the school "at work".

Further details of what is planned will be provided in future Newsletters and also on the Association website (www.athsos.com.au).

Class of 1953 : 60th Anniversary Reunion

The class of 1953 will celebrate its 60th Anniversary with a reunion lunch on Wednesday 29 May 2013. The event will be organised by the Gang of Ten, as before, at a venue yet to be determined. The change from a dinner to a lunch has been made to allow those members of the class living away from the metropolitan area a better chance of attending. Put the date in your diary now and take this opportunity to get together with your old schoolmates to share a few unlikely tales about your school days.

Anyone seeking more information should contact any member of the Gang:

Jan Brabham (Atkinson)	0411 037 435	Peter Kopli	8370 5499
Peter Carter	8272 3438	Jan Noel (Bax)	8337 3918
Deal Eldridge	8336 1607	Nola Shackleford (Tanner)	8356 3922
Clive Hutton	8267 4813	John Sickert	8235 0322
Geoff Jansen	8322 5594	Warren West	0417 816 603

Class of 1963 60th Anniversary Reunion

A 50th Anniversary Reunion for the Class of 1963 is being organised by Robin Coward with the assistance of Ian Johnke. It is to be held on a Friday or Saturday evening in June with the form of the event being determined by the number of people attending. The location would be close to the city and partners of old scholars would be welcome.

Robin and Ian would appreciate contact details for those who might wish to attend the function and also offers from any people prepared to assist with organising the function.

They may be contacted on:

Robin Coward	PO Box 812, Lyndoch SA 5351
	Email: prcoward6@bigpond.com
	Mobile: 0423 670 074
Ian Johnke	Email: Fuzzy1950@hotmail.com
	Mobile: 0438 826 622

Prominent Old Scholar : James Cyril Stobie

There are few, if any, old scholars who have left such a wide-ranging presence on the South Australian landscape as James Cyril Stobie. Loved as a reliable substitute for scarce timber or reviled as a destroyer of the vehicles of unwary drivers, the Stobie Pole has few peers in terms of its relatively low cost, fitness for purpose and reliability in service.

But what of the man behind its design and development? James Cyril Stobie, known generally as Cyril, was born in 1895, the eldest and only son of grocer, James Stobie and his wife, Alice. The family lived in the south-western suburbs of Adelaide and the young Cyril attended the Glenelg and Pulteney Street Schools. A brilliant student, he won a scholarship to the forerunner of the Adelaide Technical High School, the preparatory School of the South Australian School of Mines and Industries. However, with the untimely death of his father in 1912, Cyril had to take over the running of the family grocery shop at Mile End to help support his mother and three sisters.

Cyril went on to complete his education while involved with the grocery business, enrolling as an evening student at the School of Mines where he gained an Associate Diploma in Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in 1915. In 1916 he joined the Adelaide Electric Supply Company (AESCo) and continued his studies, achieving a Fellowship of the South Australian School of Mines in 1919, followed by a Bachelor of Engineering in 1923 at the University of Adelaide and in 1932 was awarded a Master of Engineering Degree, also by the University of Adelaide.

In his personal life, Cyril was a keen sportsman, being involved as a member of the Henley and Grange Amateur Swimming Club, winning the Grange to Henley Beach race in 1922. He was also an inaugural member of the Henley Golf Club.

In 1923 Cyril took up the appointment of Chief Draughtsman for AESCo which provided him with the financial security to marry Rita Muriel Maddern at the Church of Christ, Unley in 1924. There were four children of the marriage, one of whom took up a number of senior roles in the successor to AESCo, the Electricity Trust of South Australia. Early in his married life he suffered from a severe illness which confined him to his bed for three years. His recovery was a tribute to his great spirit, sustained by his faith and an optimism that meant this was simply another hurdle to overcome.

Recurring illnesses did follow but were met with great courage and fortitude and eventually his health improved markedly.



As Chief Draughtsman, Cyril soon became aware of the problem of the scarcity of timber in South Australia to use for poles for the transmission and distribution electricity network and the abundance of termites to attack those poles which had to be purchased mostly from the eastern States at considerable expense. The solution he devised in 1924 used two steel beams with a concrete infill which was impervious to termite attack and could hold its own against the depredations of motor vehicles.

*Photo:
Original 1924 Stobie Pole
next to a modern one at the
manufacturing plant.*

AESCo adopted the design and paid Cyril an amount of £500 for the patent rights. While the poles were used almost exclusively in South Australia, the hopes of selling them interstate and overseas were largely unfulfilled.

Cyril's career in AESCo continued to flourish with further appointments to ever more responsible positions. Despite his new responsibilities, he also found time to introduce the AESCo in-house magazine, *Adelect*, in which he conveyed his company's vision for the future as well as his interests in industry research and his concerns for the welfare of his fellow employees. He continued in his role as Editor of *Adelect* from its introduction in 1926 until 1940, drawing inspiration from Shakespeare's plays, particularly the historical ones, and the poetry of Milton. However, it was not all serious and he was also a subscriber to the magazine "Punch".

Prominent Old Scholar : James Cyril Stobie (contd)

In 1936 the Drawing Office became the Design Department and Cyril was promoted to the position of Chief Design Engineer.

Cyril also was active in the Adelaide Division of the Institution of Engineers, Australia, presenting technical papers on many subjects, ranging from Heat Pumps to the Rural Distribution of Electricity. He served on the Division Committee from 1938 to 1941, being elected Chairman in 1940. He was always interested in the development of young engineers and in his Retiring Chairman's address to the Division in 1941 he spoke of his view that the best engineers would be those who started with a liberal school education followed by engineering training but supplemented by industrial experience, participation in sports and social and professional training. (A path generally adopted by the ETSA in the training of its engineering staff.) Another technical interest came from his membership of the Adelaide Welding Society where he was involved in the administration of the Society as well as contributing to its technical discussions.

Following the Second World War the Government, under Premier Tom Playford, decided that to ensure the power industry in South Australia was able to support plans for post-war development and to reduce its dependence on Newcastle coal, AESCo would have to become a State-owned enterprise. Against some opposition, the required legislation was passed and the Electricity Trust of South Australia (ETSA) came into being.. With its ambitious plans for expansion, it was necessary for ETSA to take on a far more active role in the design and construction of new infrastructure. In 1950 he was further promoted to the position of Assistant Manager, Engineering and Research, a position he held until his death in 1953 from a coronary thrombosis.

Without doubt, James Cyril Stobie represents all that our school stood for. A man who, despite adverse circumstances, rose by sheer hard work to a position where he influenced the lives of countless South Australians, while retaining his sense of fun and Christian values.

The Tower : Contribution by Betty Pederick

Memories of the Tower continue

The stories in the recent magazine and newsletter reminded Betty Pederick of her association with the Tower.

She wrote:

During my time (1937-1939) the Tower Room was the home of the Leaving Commercial class. With 29 in the mixed class, the room was filled to capacity with desks, chairs and us, with not much room at the front for the class teacher, Miss Topperwein, or any of the subject teachers. Our lockers were housed in the seats in the gallery of Brookman Hall so first thing in the morning and at every break we had to load our cases and bags with all books etc for the lessons that were to follow.

Not surprisingly, as many of our lessons as possible were moved to any other classroom that happened to be vacant. However, a number were still taken in the Tower Room and each day started and finished there with Miss Topperwein. Inconvenient? No doubt. I expect the staff disliked it but for some reason I had a special affection for the old Tower and it remains special in my memories, as does the Tech itself.

Thank you Betty for putting pen to paper. Stories such as this remind us that it is not the facilities that set the standard for a school, it is the attitude of the staff. At Adelaide Tech, overcoming inconveniences like overcrowding and sometimes inappropriate accommodation were simply just additional challenges.

Retirement of Chas Grimes

It is with considerable sadness that we report the retirement from the Committee of long-standing Association stalwart, Chas Grimes. Chas has been involved with the Association from its rebirth in 1995, at various times filling the positions of Committee Member, Acting Secretary, Acting Treasurer, Vice President and President with distinction as well as filling the role of Chairman of the History Committee which was responsible for the publication of *“Adelaide Technical High School—The Story”*.

In July, Chas wrote that it was necessary for him to resign from the Committee of ATHSOSA, citing health concerns which required him to relinquish some of his commitments. He did so, with heavy heart, expressing his love for the school and for the friends he had made through the years.

On behalf of all members of the Adelaide Technical High School Old Scholars Association, the Committee expresses its appreciation of the unparalleled service Chas has provided to our organisation. It was his willingness to undertake whatever task needed doing for which Chas will be most remembered. He has been an inspiration to us all and his personal efforts to perpetuate the memory of our school cannot be overstated. We are sure that all members of the Association join us in passing on our best wishes for a speedy resolution to his health issues and our hope that we will continue to have the pleasure of his company at future Old Scholars functions.

Committee Members : Contact Details

President	Mark Brindal	0407 713 578	8373 5081	mark.brindal@bigpond.com
Vice President	Ross Taylor	0431 987 901	8388 9396	roscoet2910@bigpond.com
Vice President	Raelene Wilsdon	0400 651 327	8264 2477	murray@tearsinrain.com
Secretary	Warren West	0417 816 603	8376 0938	warren@gjc.com.au
Treasurer	Peter Kopli		8370 5499	kopli@bigpond.net.au
Magazine Editor/Asst Treasurer	David Stoba		8266 0007	djs0304@chariot.net.au
Membership Secretary	Jan Brabham	0411 037 435	8276 4025	janbrab@internode.on.net
Social Secretary	Sue Thomson	0402 356 010		
Minute Secretary	Charmaine Kitson	0419 032 539	8396 0845	ckitson@bigpond.net.au
Member	Tom Frossinakis	0459 475 164	8568 2188	tomarias777@aol.com

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