

Newsletter September 2017



Blue and Gold Alumni Association Inc.

Incorporating Adelaide Technical High School, Glenunga High School and Glenunga International High School

Welcome to the September Newsletter of the Blue and Gold Alumni Association for 2017. The year is passing quickly with only the October Luncheon remaining to round out the year's activities. However, this doesn't mean an end to the activities of the Association as there is the Magazine to prepare and distribute and the planning of next year's Centenary celebrations to continue. Contributions from members towards these activities would be welcome. Please contact the Secretary for further information.

Please note that subscriptions for 2017 are now well overdue. Subscription Forms will be available at the Luncheon for those former members who have not renewed their subscriptions for this year or can be obtained from any member of the Committee.

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Committee Corner

Contrary to popular opinion your Committee has been busy since the AGM on many matters related to the operation of the Association. The following notes summarise some of them:

- **Centenary Celebrations**
The name Adelaide Technical High School was adopted in 1918 so that 2018 marks the centenary of the name. It is proposed to celebrate the centenary during the State's History Festival in May 2018. More information is provided in the President's Page about the development of a programme for the event.
- **New Logo**
After examination of a number of alternatives, a new association logo based on the original logo of the three schools has been developed and is now shown on all Association documents. A banner similar to the one for the ATHSOSA incorporating the new logo will be prepared for use at Association functions.
- **Website**
The present unsatisfactory website is to be replaced. The Committee is now examining two offers for a new site from professional website developers. The new site will have links to a Facebook page and to the GHS website.
In the meantime, David Stoba will act as webmaster for the existing site to ensure that details of notices and other current matters are available.
- **Membership**
As always the Committee is concerned about the fall in membership over the past few years. Attempts to recruit younger members from recent graduates of GHS and GIHS have not proven successful to date. We will now concentrate our efforts on recruiting people from the earlier years of GHS and GIHS, but we need contact details as a starting point. Some contact information is available from a Facebook page developed by a former GHS student and also from school records. GIHS is providing assistance with the preparation of a comprehensive database covering former students of all three schools. More details of this work are available in the President's Page.
- **Copyright Over Archival Material**
There have been no issues raised by members over the issue of copyright in respect of the Association's archives now held by the State Library. That being so the Deed of Deposit has been signed and sealed which means that the Association holds copyright over its archives that are stored in the State Library.
- **Luncheon**
With the significant increase in the cost of the Annual Luncheon over the past three years the Committee has undertaken an extensive review of alternative venues. Details of this year's luncheon are outlined elsewhere in this Newsletter.

President's Page

The committee has been busy on several projects foreshadowed in my last report.

Dulcie Browning, Student Services at GIHS, has been working on the database and has set up a Facebook page to communicate with those old scholars that have indicated an interest in "maintaining the link".

Dulcie also developed a simple data collecting survey. Copies have been sent to the past students that she has contacted to date. With the approval of our association committee, we have also sent a copy of that survey to our members for whom we have email addresses. For those that do not have access to email we have attached a copy of the survey to this newsletter and ask you to complete it and return either direct to Dulcie or to the association.

In my last newsletter, I mentioned that a GHS old scholar, Lara Quinn, had developed a Facebook page which has over 1100 members now. She has agreed to post the survey on her Facebook page. We are hopeful of getting meaningful data on more GIHS, GHS and ATHS past scholars.

Tom Frossinakis, the Alumni Association Treasurer, is the convener of the working party set up to plan the celebrations next year to commemorate the centenary of the naming of Adelaide Technical High School. The tentative plans are to have functions based around Brookman Hall and the Glenunga campus. The principal of GIHS, Ms Wendy Johnson, is most supportive and has suggested that it could be a major project for their history students. We intend to include memorabilia displays and a notice, regarding our quest for suitable articles, appears in this newsletter. I have also been in contact with Lara Quinn and she has indicated that her group would also like to be involved and has some ideas on the sort of functions to attract them.

Arrangements are also being made with the State Library to borrow some of the photograph albums which we hold on deposit there. We hope that there will be something to interest everyone and any suggestions as to the type of activity that you would like to attend will be most welcome.

Another working party, made up of Tom Frossinakis, Warren West and Sue Thomson, have been researching alternative venues for our annual luncheon. As you are aware, recent functions have been held in the upstairs function room at the Arkaba Hotel, Fullarton. The major factors considered were location, menu, price and availability of a separate dining area. It is appreciated that cost is a major consideration for many of our members. Hotels that have bistro meals are generally reasonably priced but do not have a separate area suitable for 80/100 diners. Venues with private dining areas normally charge a room hire fee which in some cases can be several hundred dollars. The outcome of their extensive enquiries is given in the notice of the luncheon in this newsletter.

I also mentioned in the last newsletter that we were planning to change the awards given for the top GIHS academic students. In the past we have presented cash prizes to the Duxes of the International Baccalaureate and the SACE courses based on the final exam results, with the prizes being presented at a Celebration Assembly held at GIHS in February. To gain more exposure for the association, we proposed to replace these School Dux prizes with prizes given for the top student in each course, based on the school results, and to present them at the Graduation Ceremony held at the Adelaide Town Hall in October. I am currently negotiating with Wendy Johnson regarding the criteria and naming of these awards.

Last year, with the assistance of GIHS, we produced and distributed Blue and Gold Alumni Association brochures to the graduating students and their parents and friends attending the graduation ceremony. Wendy has agreed to do the same this year.

Both initiatives are aimed at increasing student awareness of the association and of course encouraging their involvement.

Thank you

David Stoba.

Know Your Committee

Career summaries of some of the Committee were provided in the May Newsletter. The following notes cover the careers of the remaining Committee members.

Tom Frossinakis - Treasurer

I migrated to Australia from Rhodes Island (Greece) in 1949 with my father and two brothers. My sister stayed in our village. My mother died of double pneumonia when I was 15 months old.

My primary education started in Biloela, Queensland and ended at Thebarton Primary School where I held the record for the number of canings received by any student. The majority were for belting up bullies who picked on my mates. My secondary education was at ATHS where I finished Leaving Honours, having missed a whole term in second year having run away from home for almost four months, until the cops found me in Jericho, Queensland where I was working as a navvy on a new railway to Longreach. At ATHS I was deeply involved in a range of extra-curricular activities and was fortunate to receive a Commonwealth Scholarship and Bursary of some kind.

I left Teachers College after almost three months, being disgusted at how we were being trained and became a quite successful encyclopedia salesman for six months to pay back my College fees. Then followed a succession of University studies in architecture, mathematics, economics, education and law. I worked for 4 years 21 days and 6 hours for the Commonwealth Bank and began teaching mathematics and economics in 1970 and have been teaching ever since.

I was honoured to be awarded the National Excellence in Teaching Award for South Australia in 1995. I then had a year-long teaching exchange in Toronto, Canada and another in Clitheroe, Lancashire (England) in 1997. From 2003 I worked for ten years as a mathematics consultant for the New York City Board of Education, specializing in teacher training in mostly underperforming Middle and High schools in the Bronx, Queens, Brooklyn and Staten Island as well as in Florida. I am currently a rather busy Temporary Relieving teacher in the Birdwood, Oakbank area and love every minute of my teaching.

I love trekking and climbing mountains: The Himalayas, Macchu Pichu, Mount Washington, Kilimanjaro, Larapinta Trail and the Kokoda Trail to name a few. I also love reading, sport and gardening on our eleven-hectare farm at Birdwood with my wonderful wife Maria. Our two daughters are both teachers, one at Birdwood High school and the other has been in Indigenous education in the Northern territory for over twenty-two years. I had nothing to do with their choice of vocation, but am very proud of their commitment to the best job in the world.

I have a great deal to thank AHS for, not only my formal education, but also for the life skills and values the school provided for me and many others who have gone on and achieved so much in their lives.

Neil Merkel – Vice President

I was born and raised in St Peters, attended East Adelaide Primary School before commencing, at AHS at North Terrace in 1963, the fourth member of my family to do so. I transferred from North Terrace to Glenunga at the beginning of Term 3 in 1963 and completed Leaving Honours (Year 12) at the end of 1968.

While at school, I led a baseball team to a School Sports exchange with Newlands High School in Coburg, Melbourne. I was also involved in the School Camps and Tours and later during my time at AHS, I undertook the challenge of the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. Subsequently I was presented with my Gold Award personally by HRH the Duke of Edinburgh on board the RY Britannia in Melbourne in April 1970.

In 1969, I returned to the Nth Tce Campus, commencing employment as a Trainee Laboratory Technician in the School of Physics at The South Australian Institute of Technology (SAIT). In the period following, I also separately trained to obtain my Private Pilot's Licence. I Studied Lab Practice Management, and after 2 ½ years, transferred to the Audio Visual Production Dept of the SAIT. There, I undertook further studies, to qualify as a Professional Photographer, and Multi-Media (Film & Television Production) Producer.

During this period, I met and married my wife Julia, with whom we have 2 daughters, and now 3 Grandchildren. Later I was promoted to Head of the AV Services Unit at SAIT, (subsequently UniSA). After about 15 years, moved to a Support Manager role in the Services Unit of UniSA followed by a position within IT as Manager of Telecommunications for 11 years. Finally, after a total of 34 years with SAIT and UniSA combined, I accepted a redundancy package on 4th July (Independence Day!).

Next, followed a variety of employment beginning as a home sales consultant, a delivery driver and workshop assistant with an upholstery company, General Manager of a cab company and taxi driver, chauffeur and bus driver. Following these positions, I became Strata and Community Titles Manager for a small real estate firm in Hindmarsh and after study of the relevant "Strata Titles Acts" and "Community Titles Acts", along with other relevant studies including "The Fences Act", I obtained an AFS License. I then resigned to take the role of Practice Manager for my wife Julia's business as a clinical psychologist.

In my recreational pursuits, I have done a great deal of fishing and especially boating. I have in my past also done bushwalking, camping, hunting, sailing, motor vehicle maintenance, flying aircraft, rock climbing, canoeing, touring Australia, and house maintenance. I have more recently engaged in more relaxed sailing in larger vessels, and played Golf as a Member at Grange Golf Club. As a spectator, I am a Member of the SA Cricket Association. Julia and I increasingly enjoy travel locally and abroad. We are both actively involved in the Rotary Club of Henley Beach.

Many of the skills I obtained at "Adelaide Tech" have been remarkably useful and helpful, in both my professional and recreational pursuits, and I am grateful to be an Alumnus.

Forthcoming Events

Queensland Reunion Lunch

Unfortunately, the lunch for former students of ATHS, GHS and GIHS now living in Queensland which was to be held at the Royal Queensland Golf Club on Friday, September 8 has had to be cancelled. This would have been the fourth such reunion organised by Ian Saunders for Queensland old scholars but through a combination of circumstances the event was unable to attract sufficient interest this year to justify its continuance. Ian is now looking at the possibility of arranging a similar reunion in April 2018 and would be pleased to hear from anyone who has any suggestions about the form and/or location for it.

Annual Luncheon

The 2017 Annual Luncheon will be held on 11 October in the Tiros Restaurant at the Regency Park TAFE, 137 Days Road Regency Park. The change in venue this year is in response to what the Committee has considered to be unreasonable increases in the charges for food and room hire from our more traditional venues which we consider has largely resulted in poor attendances at the last two luncheons. This change has enabled the cost of the luncheon to be reduced from the \$45 (\$50 for non-members) we were forced to charge last year to \$30, a substantial saving.

As usual there will be a raffle drawn at the luncheon with prizes of gift baskets and bottles of wine. Tickets may be purchased with your bookings at \$1 each or 6 for \$5 and will also be available at the lunch.

Please think about arranging a table for you and a group of your former classmates. If you need help to contact your school-friends the Secretary will be pleased to assist.

Details of the venue, where to find it and the arrangements for the day together with the booking form are enclosed with this newsletter. Anyone requiring further information should contact the Secretary.

Centenary Celebrations

Next year will mark the centenary of the adoption of the name “Adelaide Technical High School” and the association is planning to mark the occasion with some events which are to coincide with South Australia’s History Week celebrations.

While the final details of the events are still to be determined it is intended that the major functions will be based in Brookman Hall and will include memorabilia display plus class reunions spread over three days in about mid-May depending on the availability of Brookman Hall:

Friday	7.00pm – 9.00pm	Opening Cocktail Party
Saturday	2.00pm – 5.00pm	High Tea
Sunday	2.00pm – 5.00pm	Tea, coffee and biscuits

It is intended that there will also be tours of the Brookman Building available to those former scholars who would like to see the changes that have occurred since we first climbed those stairs to begin our secondary education.

Discussions are being held with the successor to Adelaide Tech, Glenunga International High School, about the possibility of holding reunions and an open day function similar to that held to launch the Blue and Gold Alumni Association in 2015.

Memorabilia

While the Association already has a great deal of memorabilia it is seeking further examples of school uniforms and other materials for the commemorative display in Brookman Hall in May 2018. Anyone who has such items and is prepared to either donate or loan them to the Association is asked to contact Mrs. Judy McKeough (nee Downie – 1958 – 1961) on 08 8353 3910 or jandbmckeough@bigpond.com.

West Coast Wilderness Railway

Just to show that our logo is not exclusive, Lesley Moir sent us the photograph below taken during a visit to Tasmania. It shows the logo of the West Coast Wilderness Railway, originally the Mt Lyell Railway which provided the only means of transport between the mining town of Queenstown and the port of Struan in the early days. Note that the shield is the same shape as our Adelaide Tech shield and the wording “Labour Omnia Vincit” (“Labour conquers all”) is used on both. The other words on the shield “we find a way or make it” is reflective of the attitude not only of the original line builders but also of the people who operate the railway now.

The photo is of a billboard taken on the “Lower Landing” station and refers to the difficult terrain the railway builders had to overcome virtually by hand when the line was built in the 1890s. The line is the only Abt rack and pinion railway in Australia and the story of its construction is one of perseverance in the face of adversity that is hard to top. “Mud and Madness up ahead” is probably the best overall description of what the builders faced for the whole of the 34.5 km. length of the line.



The railway continued in operation from 1897 to 1963 when it closed due to high maintenance costs and better road access between Queenstown and Struan. In the 1990’s after the demise of the Mt Lyell company’s mining operations there was a move to re-open the line as a tourist facility. The restored railway commenced operations on 27 December 2002 as the Abt Wilderness Railway and was officially re-opened by Prime Minister John Howard and the State Premier Jim Bacon in 2003. In 2013 the private operator announced that it would be terminating its lease of the railway, citing a downturn in business and a need for investment in infrastructure had caused the railway to no longer be viable. Following track rehabilitation work, the railway resumed operation along its full length in December 2014 and is now operated by the Abt Railway Ministerial Corporation, a State Government corporation.

Our thanks to Lesley for the information used in this article.

Committee Contact Details

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