



## Blue and Gold Alumni Association Inc. Newsletter July 2020

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### 1. In case you missed it in the 'Sunday Mail' on Sun June 28,2020

"Adelaide Technical High School 50 year reunion on November 27. A school tour and lunch are planned *for Matric students of 1970*. Expressions of interest to [athsclassof1970@gmail.com](mailto:athsclassof1970@gmail.com) "

**Please pass this on to anyone who matriculated in 1970** as they might not get 'The Sunday Mail'. Committee members Molde, Frossinakis, Thomson, Stoba -thought that we should offer our services to email all those on our membership lists (including those who have not renewed their membership. If you wish to re-join, see the form attached. (Hint hint)). We will also post this newsletter to those who are not on email.

This is the sort of thing that the committee should be involved in- promoting social occasions for such things as 50 year reunions- and they can go on for as long as the OS Association continues to run.

### 2.A Visit To The Archives In 'The Dungeons' At GIHS

It's not underground, so it can't be called the 'basement'. The Secretary, who has held the post for 2 years had never seen, but had heard about, these records. He jumped to offer his help in the stocktake so that he could at last see them.

To get a 'visitor's sticker' at GIHS with a passport-like photo, the receptionist pointed to a computer where intended visitors were to enter all the information required of them. They saw the school ethos etc, entered their reason for being there and stood in front of the computer camera to have a photo taken. As a retired High School teacher of more than 46 years the Secretary said that it was all 'High Tech' and reminded him that what was done in past years for the same thing, was 'cave-man like' by comparison.

On the way to the 'dungeons' our group passed so many ancillary staff offices with titles like 'School



Treasurer', 'Student Business', 'Principal's Personal Assistant', 'Office Assistant', 'Bursar', 'International Relations', 'Planning Coordinator', 'IB Counsellor', 'Publicity'. We thought of Sir Humphrey Applebey from 'Yes Minister' and thought that he had been a role model for setting up an administrative staff to rival the teaching staff.

The object of our visit was to tidy and reorganize the archives of Adelaide Tech, Glenunga High and anu Glenunga International School records.



We tallied up hundreds of books entitled 'Adelaide Technical High School the Story' by Bryce Kohler; many CDs of the same and around 50 paintings of the old 'School of Mines Building' on North Terrace with 3 magazines in a carrying bag. They were on sale or given to people as part of their membership at the last 100<sup>th</sup> Anniversary at GIHS of the naming of 'Adelaide Technical High School' in 1918. Prior to this, it had been called 'The School of Mines Preparatory School' and occupied two rooms at the top North-East corner of the Brookman Building. Classes were also held in the Exhibition Building next door, where the Napier Building now stands..



THE ROSE SERIES P. 9413 THE BONYTHON HALL & EXHIBITION BUILDINGS, NORTH TERRACE, ADELAIDE.

Some of you may remember this grand old building. I do in 1954-58. The Secretary had his 20 multiple choice driver's licence test there when he was 16, scoring 16/20. He had never had a driving lesson in his life and was then entitled to drive. Oh how things have changed ...and believe me, for the better!

After this stocktake, the Committee reviewed what they should charge for these. Should anyone want them, \$10 each.

2. **A quick and easy way of finding the names of the people** in each class it to refer to the relevant school year magazine with class photos and captions BUT... there are 14 missing from our archives.

They are ... 1924,28, 1930,31,32,33,34 1943 1968,69 1974,78,79 1980

Would anyone be able to give, lend for photocopying, or photocopy their own magazine of those listed (we would reimburse for photocopying or would do it and return the magazine to the owner)? Missing from the archive of clothing is the blue school cap – and a girl's hat. Wouldn't the High School kids of today 'howl' if they had to wear one? Many had 2 almost permanent creases in them, from keeping them in back pockets until the wearer got to North Terrace. They still do exist. .See the photo below as evidence. Has anyone got a mannequin or two to dress up in school uniform?



Bribing The Quizmaster!

3. **Having asked to take a few of the excess magazines from the archives**, the Secretary found all sorts of things he did not know. He came across a photo of our current President Tom Frossinakis giving an impression of Gordon Haskard, known affectionately as 'Darby Haskard'



Tom trying to impersonate Mr. Haskard



Legend has it that the nickname of 'Darby' came from a famous jockey named 'Les Darby', a person who rode his mounts hard. Legend also has it that 'Darby' took a group of students over to Melbourne and a mother addressed him as 'Mr Darby' at the Railway Station.. Apparently he 'never battered an eyelid'. That poor mother when she learnt of her mistake!

The Secretary met 'Darby' some years after he retired when he moved to the same district of 'Grange'. 'Darby' had spent some of his time researching things about Adelaide Tech. He imparted one piece of intelligence about the ATHS boys who had gone off to WW1. **The school had a mortality rate of 86%!! the highest of any High School in the Australian Commonwealth!**

Some 'bright spark' said that they must have been lousy soldiers...much to my extreme ire! But think of it. The top 8 or so in their Primary schools and sitting for a compulsory entrance exam just to get in. These were 'The cream of the crop'. Intelligent boys. When they 'joined up' they would quickly have risen through the ranks to be non-commissioned officers and where did they lead from? - THE FRONT and not behind the lines.

ANZAC Day ceremonies at Brookman Hall were very solemn affairs. The old teachers knew the boys and girls who had 'gone to war'. One student was 'bounced' for just blowing his nose during one of them.

#### 4. From the Past

##### James Cyril Stobie



*Erecting a Stobie Pole near Gawler c1928*  
Photo: ETSA Museum

J Cyril Stobie, second to PE Theel in 1911, received a Scholarship in 1912 to the School of Mines where he obtained his Diploma of Mechanical and Electrical Engineering in 1915. In 1916 he joined the Adelaide Electric Supply Company, gained a Master of Engineering Degree, was appointed Chief Draughtsman in 1923, and became Chief Design Engineer in 1936.

The name of Stobie is well-known in South Australia. In the book "Fifty Years of Progress: The Adelaide Electric Supply Company Limited," reference is made to electricity mains reaching Morgan to enable pumping

of water to Whyalla. It says, "A contributing factor to the success of these country lines is the use of the Stobie steel and concrete pole, an invention of the Company's Chief Draughtsman, Mr JC Stobie."

Before 1925, poles had come from New South Wales. Transport was costly and they were suspect to white ant attacks. After 1925 AESCo manufactured up to 6,000 poles annually, up to 5 or 6 tons in weight. By 1946 there were 55,000 Stobie poles in use throughout the State.

Apart from being a gifted engineer, he was Editor of the first ADELECT, the Magazine of the Company. His reputation was that of a humble man, with warm friendship and sincere concern for the welfare of his fellow workers. He was a highly respected person.



*James C Stobie*

#### How topical – Tuesday's Advertiser July 7, 2020

## Home of Stobie pole inventor now at risk

### CALEB BOND

THE former North Adelaide family home of James Stobie, inventor of the Stobie pole, could be demolished and turned into two townhouses.

The 1880s bluestone villa in Childers St has no heritage listing because, according to a heritage advocate, it was "overlooked" for decades.

CoreLogic RP Data shows plans for a hammerhead development on the site of the home and rear tennis court.

Heritage consultant and former Adelaide City Council member Sandy Wilkinson said the home was important both for its bluestone structure and association with the Stobie family

"The inventor of the Stobie pole, that was his house and,

ironically, that end of the street had the power lines undergrounded and the Stobie poles removed," Mr Wilkinson said.

"The bluestone Adelaide is known for is unique to SA and Iceland.

"In my view, everything bluestone in SA should be conserved."

Because land around the Childers St home – which was

renovated inside and out – had already been redeveloped, it was overlooked for listing during heritage surveys.

James Stobie invented the concrete and steel pole as an alternative to timber for the Adelaide Electric Supply Co. Ltd in 1924.

The proposal is expected to come before Adelaide City Council's development assessment panel this month.



5. Can the OS of North Terrace days in the 50s identify the teachers from the not-so-flattering caricatures?

Messrs Magor, Spinney Williams, Kohler, Dallwitz, Darby, Hahn(?). Mme Elershaw, then one's memory fades out



6. We are always looking for relevant and appropriate articles, anecdotes, news of students and their accomplishments, from our Old Scholars readers. In particular from the Glenunga and also International High School students and teachers. You must be tired of the old boys and girls revelling in their youth of 50 years or so ago.





## ODE TO OUR DEARLY LOVED MATHS

(With apologies to the author of  
"The Song of the Shirt.")

Maths, Maths, Maths,  
Morning, noon and night,  
Maths, Maths, Maths,  
An everlasting fight.  
We know the use of "x" and "y",  
Of alpha, beta, delta, phi,  
I think they'll haunt us till we die;  
Oh! Pity us our plight.

Maths, Maths, Maths,  
Of every shape and kind,  
Maths, Maths, Maths,  
An automatic mind.  
We try a dodge or spot the fact,  
(Of course a common Ford won't act),  
And after you have turned and tacked,  
A bigger muddle you will find,

Maths, Maths, Maths,  
Our weary way we wend,  
Maths, Maths, Maths,  
All of a perfect blend.  
The angles take up legs, and walk,  
The very circles seem to talk,  
And hurl abuse at board and chalk,  
Oh! Our weary souls defend.

Maths, Maths, Maths,  
O, who invented you;  
Maths, Maths, Maths,  
He was not kind and true.  
In one ear, and out the other;  
Then why, O why not save the bother,  
And not for ever, ever hover  
About us, bitter herbs of rue,

Maths, Maths, Maths,  
We'll bless you when you go,  
Maths, Maths, Maths  
Although we love you so,  
Our dreams disturbed by ghastly sights,  
A perfect purgat'ry our nights,  
In warding off your ceaseless fights,  
It can't be worse below.

—Greta Crane, *Leaving Commercial* She became a teacher at Adelaide Tech!

### A'ditty' off the wall in the Physics lecture 'theatre' North Terrace

"Physics is a dead subject  
As dead as dead can be  
First it killed Galileo  
And now its killing me!"

Anonymous. Seen by many