

FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

JOHN ALBISTON, PRINCIPAL

Dear Former Staff and Students

I am sure you will all agree that we are living in a time which will become a significant part of our history to be studied and remembered in centuries to come. It is clear that we now live in a global village where our behaviour as individuals and groups can have a profound effect across the world. The two obvious examples are climate change which has produced rampant bushfires across Australia and of course the current coronavirus pandemic.

We have been thinking of those many fellow Australians who have lost their lives, homes and livelihoods during the catastrophic fires over summer. We are also most grateful to our fearless firefighters, emergency services and volunteers who have worked tirelessly to support fire threatened communities. My family and I were going to travel through these devastated areas to give back to those suffering communities because we couldn't offer help directly, but now we are all caught up with working together to face the challenges that we are facing with the worldwide impact of the coronavirus.

As I write this report schools are still open and my team of wonderful staff are working together to ensure we keep our community safe and well. Currently I receive daily updates from the Department of Education and Training, who are being advised by Victoria's Chief Health Medical Officer. Strategies we have implemented include:

- Informing staff, students and families about hygienic hand and respiratory practices.
- Posters are displayed at all sinks about safe hygienic hand and respiratory practices.
- Providing and checking soap dispensers and paper towels are available at all sinks in our school. Soap dispensers and hand sanitiser is also available at all coordination offices and reception areas.
- All excursions, group events such as assemblies, the Debutante Ball etc and international, & interstate trips, and camps have been postponed.
- Schools are exempt from social distancing requirements as I write, however where possible we try and encourage the 1.5m rule: ie group work has ceased.
- Teachers are working very hard about learning and planning how to teach remotely because even though the Prime Minister is encouraging schools to stay open, there may have to be a time when we close.

Attendance is down across the school but our attendance of VCE students is still very impressive because they know that quality of learning in a classroom with a teacher is far more effective than any type of remote learning. I am so proud of our community because for the most part everyone is being sensible in terms of good respiratory and hand hygienic practices and remaining calm. In particular my staff keep smiling and keep on keeping on which helps our students to remain calm and focused on their studies.

As I document this historical moment I am sure you will agree that we are absolutely indebted to those who devote their lives to serving and helping others. Just to mention a few I think of those in the health sector, emergency services,

PRINCIPAL'S REPORT (continued)



NEWSLETTER ONLINE

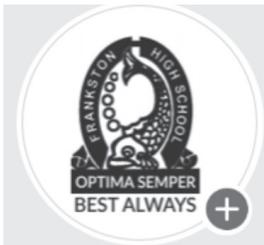
Did you know that you can access the school's newsletter on our website?

Try it on:
www.fhs.vic.edu.au/newsletters
and catch up on what's happening at Frankston High School.

scientists and our incredible teachers and support staff who are selflessly addressing this issue at the battlefield. These are the people who enable us get back on track in times of crisis. My daughter has just begun her career as a nurse and I couldn't be more proud of her preparedness to work in a high risk situation to help others when they are at their most vulnerable. Also we thank those scientists who are working around the clock to find a way of effectively stopping the onslaught of this virus. At this time of crisis we need to take a moment to reflect upon and celebrate all the great people Frankston High School has produced who are working in these careers as well as the many more we will produce in the future. The quality of education Frankston High School provides and has provided is certainly helping our world to be a better place. Thanks to these great people we will survive the challenges of climate change and this pandemic.

Please stay safe and well. It will be all over I am sure when I catch up with many of you at our Reunion in November.

Kind regards
John Albiston
Principal



Frankston High School Former Staff and Students



<https://www.facebook.com/FHSFormerStaffAndStudents/>

FORMER STAFF & STUDENTS MEETING DATES 2020

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:
Monday 20th July 2020
19th October 2020
9th November 2020

FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL EX STUDENTS AND STAFF COMMITTEE NOTES

Regular readers of Optima Semper will notice the dates published of when the Committee meetings are held. If you have ever wondered who the current members are then the following photos will identify them for you.

This collection of photos was taken at the Frankston South Community and Recreation Centre, Towerhill Road, Frankston, 22 July 2019.

The meetings are conducted under the chairmanship of Bill Underwood assisted by secretary Lesley Clapperton as well as a representative of the school staff, Kylie Grech. On the occasion when these photos were taken Bill was on holidays and committee member Graeme Hornsbrough (founding President) was absent due to health issues.

The committee is keen to hear from anyone who like to join them and to that end should contact Bill Underwood on 03 9787 2981.

Bob Edward (1955) photographer

COMMITTEE MEMBERS



PRESIDENT'S REPORT



BILL UNDERWOOD

33 BELUGA STREET MT ELIZA 3930
TEL: 9787 2981

Welcome to our new members of the Former Students & Staff Association and our continuing members. If you are not a member yet all payments will be accepted until 30 June 2020.

At our AGM in 2019 the following Office Bearers were elected:

- President – Bill Underwood
- Vice President – Graeme Horsburgh
- Secretary – Lesley Clapperton
- Treasurer – Carolyn Florance
- Reunion Coordinator – Kylie Grech (Frankston High School)

I would like to thank our members who have made donations it is greatly appreciated and assists the school in providing items that are not funded for by the government.

Any former staff students and staff who would like to attend any of our committee meetings are more than welcome.

We have set up a Former Staff and Students Facebook page. Please like this page <https://www.facebook.com/FHSFormerStaffAndStudents/> We would like to hear from you if you have any ideas about events, activities or reunions that you may be of interest. This page has been set up in with the idea of reconnecting Former Staff and Students.

When making payments for the Optima Semper please ensure your credit card details are correct or if paying by cheque that you have sufficient funds to cover the payment. The school receives a number of cheques that are returned by the bank as dishonoured, the school then incurs a fee as a result.

Unfortunately our Christmas reunion for 2020 at Baxter Tavern has been put on hold for the time being.

I would be happy to take your calls after 5pm any weekday if you would like any further information or just to have a chat! Perhaps you know of a former student celebrating a milestone or achievement that we could promote in our magazine! I'd be happy to help providing any additional information on any aspect of the association.

Hope you all have a healthy and safe year in 2020.

Regards
Bill



FHS EX STUDENTS AND TEACHERS REUNION 2019

Once again, the Baxter Tavern was the venue for the 2019 reunion of ex-students and teacher's reunion. Although attendance was down from the record-breaking attendance last year, 90 plus attendees this year was still a good number.

By far the greatest number of attendees were ex students however three ex teachers were present, they were:

Lew Jenkins, Margaret Mace and Bob James.

Speeches were kept to a minimum as most attendees were happy to be reunited with former class mates and catch up on evens both past and present.

President of the ex-students and teacher's association Bill Underwood thanked attendees for coming and asked those present if they wished to continue having an annual reunion. The response was an overwhelming "yes".

Principal, John Albiston, also gave an address and spoke of the schools continued academic success as well as current building programmes. John omitted to tell is how his recent caravanning experience went, perhaps he will enlighten us next year with more recent trips!

Thanks to the Peggy Curd and Robyn Bohn who manned the check in desk and thanks also to Margaret Mace who made the opportunity available for attendees to renew their annual subscription to Optima Semper.

A few people could not attend this years reunion but most notable among them was the absence of David Bilton who has travelled down each year from Townsville . Apart from when David had an accident when alighting from the train at Baxter in 2017 he has attended all the previous reunions. David has health issues which precluded his attendance this year but he is determined that he will not miss the 2020 reunion.

This year (2019) marks the 95th anniversary of Frankston High School, 2024 will be our centenary year. You are all under notice to stay fit and healthy so we can all join in the celebrations.

If anyone would like a copy of the photos that were taken please send your name and email address to bobedw8@bigpond.com A complete set of all the photos taken (on DVD) can be obtained by following the above instructions but also add a mailing address.

Bob Edward (1955)





FHS EX STUDENTS AND TEACHERS REUNION 2019 (CONT)





CLASS OF 1979 - 40 YEAR REUNION



Photo

Top row from left-standing:
Robert Astone, Rod Glenn-Smith,
Sally Smedile-nee Clayton,
Gary Richards, Perry O'Brien,
Barbara Fisher, Sandy Buntine-
nee Mair, Otto Leenstra,
Bernadine Wilde-nee Beable,
Colin Wood, Scott Universita,
Anna Krohn, Steven Smith and
Leigh Vial with Jill Vial-nee
Radnell in the background.

Bottom row from left-seated:
Eric Prentice, Michelle Douglas-
nee Ames, Leanne Wood-nee
Hawke and Kayleen Morton
Chappell- nee Morton

A small group of ex students caught up on Sunday 1 December at the Dainton Brewery in Carrum Downs for our school reunion. 40 Years WOW, "are we really that old?" we kept asking ourselves! Our 30 Year reunion was not that long ago and come to think of it neither was the 20 Year reunion.

It was a great afternoon with old school friends and many photos, Kananook magazines and stories were passed around. Every time a photo came out so did the reading glasses.

Facebook addresses were shared including one for both of the bands that Leigh Vial plays in called "A Touch Of Soul" and "Bagful o' Boogie" and I'm sure we will catchup for a drink and some music next time. It was great to see everyone. Next big one - 50 YEARS.

VALE: RODNEY ORSINO COVEY 20.07.1939 – 23.06.2019

Rod was born at Hastings and grew up at Flinders where his parents were farmers.

After attending Red Hill Consolidated Primary School, Rod continues his education at Frankston High School completing Year 11. During his time at Frankston High School Rod excelled in both football and athletics where he showed his prowess at middle distance running. As well as playing in the senior school football team Rod also played for the Flinders Football Club. Although it was thought that Rod would continue the family farming tradition his heart was set on joining the Victorian Police Force. He successfully applied in October 1958 he commenced his training at the Victoria Police Depot which was then in St Kilda Road.

At the completion of his training Rod was directed to commence duty at Fitzroy Police Station as a probationary constable. Fitzroy in those days was a pretty rough area and he quickly found that life in this area was vastly different from the quiet country life of Flinders. Rod was involved for a number of years at Fitzroy and it was here that he met his future wife, Eve, who was employed at one of the local businesses.

In 1936 Rod transferred to the Mobile Traffic Section where after successfully completing the stringent motor cycle and pursuit driving courses he took up patrol duties from St Kilda. While at St Kilda, Rod was promoted to Senior Constable. He later moved to Frankston after building his home in Mt Eliza.

Rod eventually transferred to Clunes as Station Commander and it was here that he became involved in restoring old engines. Some of those he restored became his pride and joy and were often displayed at country shows. As well as his engines Rod was a keen fisherman and liked nothing better than sitting on the river bank and casting a line or two.

After service of 37 years Rod retired in 1995. During his career Rod was awarded the Australian National Police Medal, the National Medal as well as the Police Ethical and Diligent Service Medal. He was held in high esteem by his fellow Police members as well as the community of the Clunes district where he was a popular figure.

Rod survived his wife Eve and son Paul who is also a member of the Victorian Police Force.
Bob Bodycomb



YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WANTED

We welcome any submissions/stories/photos regarding former staff and students for publication in Optima Semper. Please keep articles to no more than 500 words and can be emailed to:

optimasemper@fhs.vic.edu.au

or by post to:
Optima Semper
Frankston High School
97 Foot St
Frankston Vic 3199



VALE: JOAN COVEY

Joan Covey and my sister, Helen Turner, were lifelong close friends. She and Helen attended Frankston High School from the mid forties ('46-'47 I think), as did my brother Murray, some years later. Joan did excellently at school and with Helen, commenced a career in nursing upon matriculating. Joan was a successful career nurse in every sense, and by retirement had become Deputy Matron of Prince Henrys Hospital, Melbourne. Joan never married, but was a special and much-loved aunt to my sister's four children for all of their youth and beyond. She was a parishioner and keen supporter of St Clements Anglican church in Elsternwick for many years. She had lived in a supported care facility for some years recently, and passed away peacefully on 5 February 2020. Joan held, and still holds, a special place in the hearts of all who were close to her.

Bruce W. Turner





**DON'T MISS
OUT ON
YOUR COPIES
(APRIL, AUGUST
AND DECEMBER)
OF OPTIMA
SEMPER**

Please urge your friends to become 'paid up' members of our association. By paying the annual membership of \$15.00 you ensure you don't miss out on future events and hearing what has been happening. You also guarantee your 2020 copies of Optima Semper with lots of news and photos.

VALE – ERNEST JOHN JENNINGS 22.11.1935 – 14.06.2019

Ernest John Jennings was born at Dromana on 22 November 1935 to Claude and Ann (nee Hall), the eldest of five children. He attended Rye State School 1967 and then Frankston High School.

Ern spent his entire life living in Rye and being a huge part of the Rye Community. He was a member of the Rye Fire Brigade. He played 208 games of footy for Rye, including a couple of premierships. He played cricket for Rye for 35 years. He coached junior footballers and cricketers and is a Life Member of the Rye Cricket Club. Ern was instrumental in forming the Rye Historical Society in 2000 and was a Life Member. He has been a Rotarian for 60 years and holds the Paul Harris Fellowship, the highest award in Rotary. He was key in setting up the Rotary Warehouse and Op Shop in Rosebud, which brings in thousands of dollars annually for charity. In 2002 Ern was recognised in the Australia Day celebrations as Rye's Citizen of the Year, a position he was unbelievably stocked with because it came from the community he loved. He carried the torch for the Commonwealth Games on its journey through Rye back in 2006. He served as a school council representative at Rye Primary where he was the second generation of Jennings family to attend. In December 1965 he married Dromana girl Betty Bennett and had four children, Linda, Kathryn, Susan and Andrew.

Ern's working life took him very briefly to the city to work for the SEC, however he hated Melbourne and returned to Rye where he worked alongside his dad and brother in the diary at Rye. After the sale of the diary he worked for a number of local business doing their accounts before transitioning into security. He was the first employee at Kmart Rosebud where he was supervisor of security. Ern retired in 1996 and he and Betty enjoyed travelling and spent time overseas and within Australia travelling the grey nomad paths. Their first adventure together as a married couple was to Lord Howe Island and their last adventure together to celebrate their 50 Anniversary, was also on Lord Howe Island. Ern loved spending time with his children and grandchildren, attending family, sporting and school events. He was at his happiest with his family close by.

Ern loved reading, particularly sports books, and the newspaper was always open first at the sport pages. He loved to write and do woodwork. His memory, right to the end was phenomenal, he was able to recall events and dates from his childhood with ease and loved to share stories of his childhood and school days.

One of Ern's great loves was the South Melbourne and later, Sydney Football Clubs. He was a one-eyed supporter who knew all the statics, and club facts going back donkey's years!

Over the past two or three years Ern battled a number of health complications and fought them all the way. He passed away peacefully at Japara, Rye Sands on 14 June 2019. He is survived by wife of 53 years Betty, four children and 13 grandchildren and three of his siblings, Margaret, Brian and John.

Linda Berndt

"Ernie's 3 siblings Margaret, Brian and John all attended FHS in the 1950's. Brian attended the inaugural meeting of the FHS ex-students association in the mid 1990's and Ernie attended, with his wife Betty, some of our associations functions during the past 20 years. "

'OPTIMA SEMPER' MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership renewals for 2020 are due by the 31st of December 2019.

Payments will be accepted until the 30th of June 2020

Please remember that if you do not pay membership, you will only receive the April 'Optima Semper'.

Please attach your payment of \$15 to this slip and return to Frankston High School, Foot Street, Frankston.

Cheques should be made payable to 'Frankston High School'.

If you are not yet a financial member and would like to be, please fill in the details below.

Name: _____ FHS Years: _____

Address: _____

_____ Post Code: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

I am happy to have my name and contact details distributed to reunion organisers: YES / NO

My email address is: _____

Donations from readers are greatly appreciated and help support the continuation of 'Optima Semper'.

Cheque payment attached Please make cheques payable to Frankston High School. **Or**

Credit Card Details:

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Expiry Date: ____/____ Mastercard Visa CVC No. _____

Donation Amount to be included: _____

Total Amount Paid: _____

Cardholders Name: _____ Signature: _____

You can cut this slip out and mail it directly to the school.
Thank you.

APRIL 2020



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