

FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

97 Foot Street
Frankston Victoria 3199
Telephone (03) 9783 7955
Fax (03) 9783 7689
Email office@fhs.vic.edu.au
Website <http://www.fhs.vic.edu.au>

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PRINCIPAL'S REPORT



Andrew Batchelor, Principal

Dear Former Staff and Students

Outstanding Year 12 results

Towards the end of last year, we received the excellent VCE results of the Class of 2022. Despite many challenges placed in front of them, they demonstrated our school values (Empathy, Integrity, Optimism, Persistence, Respect and Responsibility) to a high level resulting in some great achievements. We can continue to be justifiably proud of Frankston High School's renowned reputation as a high performing academic school of excellence.

Highlights include:

- Frankston High School continuing to be the leading government school on the Peninsula and in fact obtaining results up with and ahead of many private schools
- Over 10% of subject scores over 40
- A median subject score of 31 and a mean subject score of 31.58 indicates that a typical Year 12 student at our school achieves significantly above average study scores compared to students in private and government schools across the state
- The many students who were able to reach their full potential as a result of their commitment to their studies and the outstanding teaching at Frankston High School
- 3 students scoring above 99
- 5 perfect study scores of 50
- School Dux - Charlotte Reddy - 99.2
- 40+ scores = 10% of students
- 18% of scores over 90 = top 10% of the state.
- 42% of scores over 80 = top 20% of the state.

New buildings update

Thank you to Mrs Carolyn Florance who is overseeing the works to modernise spaces on our 7-10 Campus. There has been good progress made more recently, following regular meetings between ourselves, the VSBSA, JLL and the builders: APM Group. We look forward to handover of these new spaces towards the end of the year, and will welcome all past students and staff into the school to see them.

2024 - Our Centenary

We are putting together a committee to plan for our 100-year celebration in 2024. This will consist of current and past staff, students, and parents. If you are interested in being part of this committee, please contact Ms Carolyn Florance at the school.

Thank you

I would like to thank each and every current and past member of the Former Staff and Students Association for your tireless efforts and commitment to our wonderful school. You have achieved much and continued to support our students and entire school community. A special thank you to the wonderful president of 18 years, Bill Underwood, along with the current committee members: Margaret Mace, Graeme Horsburgh, Bruce Petrie, Bruce Miller, Shirley Higgins, Ruth Marriott and Lesley Clapperton.

We have introduced a new Alumni role at the school this year who will continue to work with the vast number of fantastic alumni and former staff and students. Ms Jenny Hammond is leading this work and can be contacted at the following email: alumni@fhs.vic.edu.au.

Best wishes
Andrew Batchelor
Principal

PRESIDENT'S REPORT



Bill Underwood

33 Beluga Street Mt Eliza 3930

Tel: 9787 2981

We recently held our AGM carried over from November. It had been almost four years since our last AGM, mainly due to Covid.

The school has undergone a lot of changes in that time, particularly with all the building works occurring.

The committee has worked incredibly hard over the last 30 years and achieved so much.

Following the destructive fires in the early 1990's it was the committee and it's supporters who ensured the restoration and recovery of school photos, publications and memorabilia for those to enjoy in years to come.

The amazing work of Heather Murray, Mary Evans and Jenny Evans for the wonderful Optima Semper, the history of Frankston High School.

I would like to thank the Foundation members, Dawn Leicester, Tree Sayer, Lauren Howe, Jeff Northfield, Adrienne Craig, Fay Brandie and Brian Jennings.

I would like to also thank our current committee for all their time and support, Margaret Mace, Graeme Horsburgh, Bruce Petrie, Bruce Miller, Shirley Higgins, Ruth Marriott and Lesley Clapperton.

Thank you to our members who have made donations, it is greatly appreciated and has assisted the school in providing items that are not funded for by the government. Over many years your donations have made a real difference to the students at Frankston High School and supported their education.

In reflecting over the last 18 years or so as President of the Former Staff and Students Association, it fills me with great pride at all we have achieved. The Museum is a great testament to the work our association has accomplished. Bev Winfield, Vice President early 2000's was the initiator of sorting out the items which are now part of the Museum.

I cannot forget to mention the enormous role Georgia Newton had, who organised all the interstate reunions as well as the Annual Christmas reunion at the Baxter Tavern. She is dearly missed by us.

I have given many years, time and support to the association and it has been a joy and honour. Sadly, though it is time to retire. At the AGM all positions were declared vacant, sadly there were no nominations.

The committee unanimously agreed to dissolve the association. This was after lengthy discussions and knowing that the school now has an Alumni association, we know we are leaving with the school in a good position.

The Alumni association is for students who have left school in the last ten years, Alumni who are keen to come back to support or mentor students, to speak about study skills, their pathway after leaving school, further studies, and the job they are doing now.

For those who still want to share their stories, photos or host a reunion, the Frankston High School, Former Staff and Students Facebook page will become public, it will no longer continue to be monitored by the school.

This will also be the final edition of the Optima Semper, all donations received will be used to support student learning and the centenary celebrations. Please keep a close eye on the school's website for further information.

Hope you all have a healthy and safe year in 2023.

Warm regards

Bill



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.

JOHN ROBINSON 100TH BIRTHDAY

Frankston High School Teacher

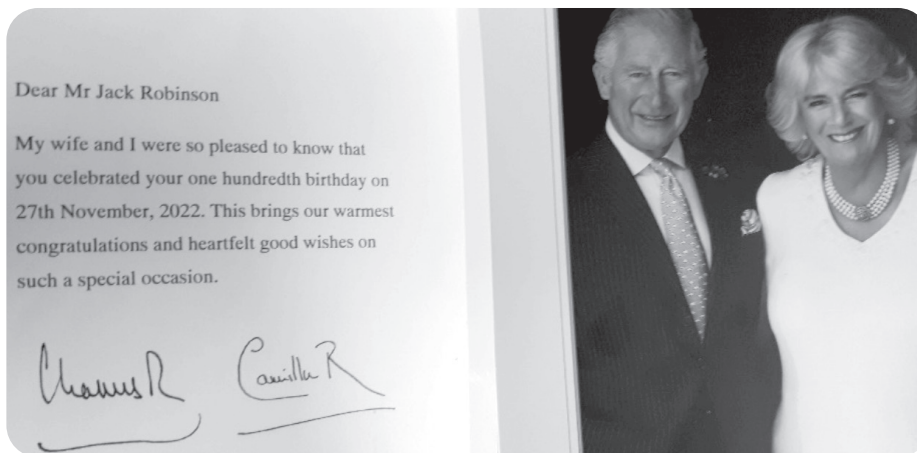
1959-1964

John celebrated his 100th birthday with family and friends at his Mt Eliza home 27 November 2022.

Quite an auspicious occasion as I doubt no other teacher in Frankston High School's history has ever reached this milestone.

John received a congratulatory letter from King Charles III and Camilla Queen Consort. A reproduced copy of the letter from The King and Queen is included in support of this article together with a photo taken at Johns party and a recent photo of John now 100 plus.

Bob Edward FHS 1955-59



FOND MEMORIES FOR KEITH CLARKE

Dear Members

I have fond memories of my time at Frankston high School under the leadership of Mr Langford 1942 -1944 inclusive, leaving school to take an apprenticeship in Fitting and Turning.

Miss Lloyd, English teacher wrote in the margin of an essay once - "Nice (in red) is something good to eat" always remember that when the word comes to mind, she was a good lady but couldn't teach me to write very well.

Much of our sport and PE time was spent digging slit trenches among the ti-trees behind the buildings for air raid shelters in the early days of the Japanese threat.

In woodwork we made walking sticks for the Repat Hospital at Heildleberg, with Mr Inchley's guidance.

Fond memories remain with me always.

Regards

Keith Clarke - now 94 years old



Frankston High School
Former Staff and Students

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

DIANE 'DEE DEE' DUNLEAVY - 3AW RADIO HOST



DEE DEE DUNLEAVY - Radio 3AW Afternoon Host

First Started listening to 3AW over 60 years ago. The station was among the first if not the first to introduce 'Talk Back Radio' in 1967. This new forum enabled listeners for the first time to phone the station and go live on radio to express their point of view. The very first compare was Barry Jones of 'Pick a Box' fame. Barry was followed by other compares such as Ormesby Wilkins, Norman Banks, Billy Karen, Vi Greenhalf, Derrin Hinch (sacked), Mary Hardy, Peter James, Phillip Brady, Ernie Sigley, John Blackman, Paul Nicholson, Rex Hunt, and Mark Day just to name a few. Today 3AW and its sister stations are predominately "Talk Back" formatted.

In recent times Diane Dunleavy (Dee Dee) took over as compare of 3AW's afternoon show (previously teamed with Peter "Grubby" Stubbs on 3AW weekends). Dee Dee has frequently made mention of her days as a former student at Frankston High School and when asked to relate her experiences as a former student and media personality for Optima Semper, she was only too happy to oblige. This is her story.

Bob Edward

Diane "Dee Dee" Dunleavy (nee Nichols) Afternoons Host at 3AW

I was born in Southall, outside London in the UK, in 1962. My mum and dad, Joan and Tony, brought my older brother Martin and I here in 1964 "for the adventure", according to mum. Dad was a technician, and within his first week in Australia - not knowing a soul here - he managed to get a job with a company called Fischer and Porter Laboratories in Clayton. My parents put a deposit on a block of land in Springvale and had plans to build a house there, but the builder ran off with their \$5000. Eventually they saved enough money to buy land in Baxter and built the home they still live in today.

My sister Zoe was born in 1966 and both she and Martin also went to Frankston High. They are both married and live with their partners in Queensland. Martin's first marriage was to a Frankston High School girl, Sandra Rohead, who sadly died young of breast cancer. He then married his current wife Karen, and they have a son, Daniel, and their younger son Alex died in 2021. Martin has now retired. Zoe lived and worked for a decade in Dubai and does not have children.

We all went to Baxter Primary School, which had less than 100 pupils when I started in 1968. Martin and I used to walk the two miles up Larnach Road to school. He'd go ahead of me and rile up the bulls in the paddocks we had to pass, so they were fully angry by the time I came along, which made the walk terrifying. The journey got quicker when we got bikes, and occasionally we'd catch the bus. When mum got a Kombi van it felt like half the neighbourhood would pile in the back for the trip to and from school.

I started at Frankston High School in 1974 and it was quite daunting for me. The Frankston kids seemed so much more worldly than a kid from Baxter, also I was a March baby, so I was always the youngest in the class. I made some wonderful friends - Anna Krohn, Bernadine Beable, Belinda Phillips, and Sharon Anderson, and we are friends to this day. Sadly, we lost Sharon to pancreatic cancer in early 2021. I was also good friends in the early days with Kerryn Piggott, who was a talented singer and guitarist.

I was in Bass House, although I don't think I contributed much to House sports. I have clear memories of watching Debbie Flintoff running races on the oval, and another student named Greta Galitis who broke record after record in sprinting. I often wonder what became of her, because, as we know, Debbie went on to win an Olympic medal. I played in the netball and softball teams and still have the P.H.S.S.A (Peninsula High School Sports Association) premiers' pennant we won in 1978.

The day that Elvis died in 1977 was a House Sports day and we all stood around in the school grounds that morning in shock at the news. It's odd the moments and things that stick in my mind: Debbie Blackham sewing over her finger in Needlework, the gingham curtains in the Home Economics room, and going "on strike" with other Form Two students. I can't remember why we all sat on the ground - angry about something - but we did.

There was one teacher who made a real impression on me: my HSC English teacher Heather Golden, who marked one of my essays "You write very well, Diane. You should consider a career in journalism." Up to that point I had been planning to be a pharmacist, but she completely shifted my thinking, and I am forever grateful that she saw something in me that I hadn't identified in myself.

After completing HSC in 1979 I was accepted into a Language and Literature course at Monash University, but deferred, and instead I wrote 20 letters to various newspapers asking for a cadetship. I got an interview at the Sun (now Herald Sun) newspaper, but missed out, then got a job as a cadet journalist at the Town Crier in Mornington. I was sent to RMIT to study journalism, but I hated it and only lasted 6 months before quitting and preferring to learn the skills of a reporter on the job. After several years at the 'Town Crier' I moved to the Frankston Standard, then I approached Fox FM and got a job in the newsroom in 1986, writing and reading the news. One of the first stories I covered was the production of the first CD pressed in Melbourne, at a factory called *Disctronics* in Braeside, in October 1986. The CD was John Farnham's *Whispering Jack*. John was there at the launch, and he was my teenage idol, so I was starry eyed, but did my job, reporting for our news bulletins. A few days later he came into the Fox Studios in Nunawading for

an interview. I'm a bit hazy on exactly how it happened, but I sort of drifted into the studio, and John let me sit next to him, and I joined in the conversation. From that day onward I was included in the program, as well as writing and presenting the news. It was around this time that people switched from calling me Diane to Dee Dee. In the newsroom we had to type our initials in the corner of our stories. As I was now married, my name was Diane Dunleavy, and my initials were DD. One of our announcers, Barry Bissell, called out "where's DD?" and I answered, as at home Mum and Dad had always called me Deeda. My colleagues all started calling me Dee Dee, and at some point, it just got easier to use the name that everyone was calling me by.

I did breakfast radio on Fox FM for 13 years, moved to Gold 104 with my long-time radio partner Peter "Grubby" Stubbs in 2000. We started at 3AW in 2012, initially hosting the weekends together, and now I host the afternoon program from 12.00-3.00pm weekdays. I love radio because it's immediate, intimate, and different every day. Although it brings privileges like invitations to great events, and interviewing some incredible people, I really enjoy getting a daily measure of how people are feeling. It never fails to surprise me, the details that people will share of their lives. The downside is the abuse and insults from trolls, which I'm learning to ignore.

I married a former Frankston High School boy Kieran Dunleavy in 1985. After leaving school, after Form 4 he trained as a solid plasterer with his (now late) father, Billy, and he still runs the successful plastering business they started together, Dunleavy & Son, doing specialist restoration work on some of Melbourne's finest historic buildings and National Trust properties. Our daughter Bonnie was born in 1995 and is a digital marketing specialist. Our son Bailey was born in 1998 and is studying computer programming. They both went to Carey Grammar - not Frankston High School - as we no longer live in the Frankston area. Kieran and I have been restoring our old home in Bulleen for the last 20-plus years and we love fossicking in antique shops and markets for things for the house, and to add to our many collections.

Despite being the world's sickest airline passenger, I've been to New York several times, Boston, New Orleans and San Francisco, and Malaysia. Kieran and I love driving around Tasmania, or regional Victoria. Daylesford and Ballarat and Castlemaine have great antique shops and historic buildings we love visiting.

I loved the school concerts, and made a memorable (well, for us it was!) appearance with Anna and Bernie dressed as bad old ladies in 1977. We stood up among the audience and started yelling and did an awful rendition of the old song 'A, You're Adorable, B, You're So Beautiful...'. I don't remember why we chose that song or why we dressed the way we did it. But I remember the thrill of making a fool of myself in front of all those people. Good training for my current job. Anna has reminded me that I tried to wear the same outfit a week later and got sent home. I remember I also played the evil stepmother in a German version of Snow White.

Champion boxer Johnny Famechon came to the school awards in 1978, which was the night I received a Citizenship Award for being editor of the school magazine. I also got an Academic Award that year for a high score in Biology. The school dance Epicurus hosted some pretty big names, and I remember seeing AC/DC, Hush, Skyhooks, and the Keystone Angels (later The Angels) play. I felt things came full circle when I would meet the artists from some of those bands at Fox. I remember my times at Frankston High School being full of fun and laughter. We threw balloon water bombs at each other, and smeared the butter from our Vita Wheats on our legs and sun baked in front of the shelter sheds not knowing the damage we were doing to our skin. I even babysat for one of our teachers, which probably wouldn't be allowed today, but they were different times.

Looking ahead, my aim is to continue in my current position until retirement, which I hope will be at least a decade away. The entertainment business is a fickle beast that tends to churn through people without sentiment. I'm very proud of the ratings success I've had so far, and I'm also proud to have forged new ground as the only full-time female presenter in a male line-up on 3AW. If it ends tomorrow, I hope that will be my legacy. I'd love to say that Kieran and I will finish restoring the house, but who am I kidding?! And I note that Frankston High School is turning 100 in 2024. It's a testament to the dedication of the teachers and students and the parents who have supported it and made it such an important part of the community. I hope I'll be able to join in the celebrations next year!



Above: Memorial Plaque -
Fleet Air Arm Museum, HMAS Albatross



by Tony Morton

Anthony (Ant) Hunter Hammond, Ian Robert McLean and **Kenneth (Ken) James Warner** were three mates from Frankston High School of the Form 6 (Year 12) Class of 1963 and were all killed in separate tragic accidents not long after leaving Frankston High School. Although I was in the year above, I knew all three from either school cadets (Ant and Ian), on the same bus from Seaford (Ian) and Ken, a well-known sportsman, representing the school in athletics and Australian Rules Football. Ant was the son of French and English teacher, Mrs Yvonne Hammond, and Ken the son of Geography teacher Mr Ken Warner. As the school celebrates its 100th year I feel it appropriate to write in memory of these wonderful young men, all graduates of our great school. My own military career background demands that I write their story.

Anthony (Ant) Hunter Hammond followed in his older brother's footsteps, the now late Rear Admiral Nicholas Hammond, and joined the Royal Australian Navy immediately on leaving school. Following his Commissioning as a Midshipman at HMAS Albatross, Nowra NSW, he joined the Fleet Air Arm and was sent to RAAF Pearce, WA, for training as a Vampire pilot. It was during a routine night training flight on 20th January 1966 that he was tragically killed. Official Navy Records record about the incident as reported in the Canberra Times:

"The CO of RAAF PEARCE for February 1966 states 'On 20th January 1966, a Vampire Aircraft crashed and caught fire four miles from RAAF PEARCE, whilst on a training flight. The pilot, Midshipman A.P. (sic) Hammond (RAN) was killed in the crash'. A medical (sic) attended the accident."

Memorial plaques exist on the Australian Aviation roll of Honour at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at HMAS Albatross and at Rosie O'Grady's Tavern, Northbridge WA. Rosie O'Grady's is the current "Headquarters" of the Fleet Air Arm Association (WA) and kindly allow the Association to meet in the back bar as the "Flight Deck Bar". Ant Hammond's name is amongst 81 Naval Aviators (Pilots, Observers and Crewmen) who have lost their lives in Naval aircraft accidents since 1930.

Roll of Honour Board Rosie O'Grady's Tavern and Memorial Plaque.

Ian Robert McLean entered the RAAF Academy, Point Cook, in 1964. After completing his Science degree and officer training, he graduated as a Flying Officer on 6 December 1967, the day after his father, Group Captain John McLean, had retired after 32 years RAAF service. Ian went on to be trained as a Helicopter pilot and it was during a helicopter training exercise near Canberra

on 2 April 1969 that he was tragically killed in an air crash. Frank Cranston, Aviation Correspondent for the Canberra Times reported on 3rd April 1969:

"Two RAAF pilots were killed when their Iroquois jet helicopter crashed and burned on a training mission about 14 miles south-east of Queanbeyan.

Those killed were Flying Officer Ian Robert McLean, 23, single, of Seaford Victoria and Pilot Officer Edward Charles Collett, 22, of Wellington Point, Brisbane.

The Crash occurred on 'Glenidle' station."

Helicopter Pilot Training

Kenneth James Warner ever a keen and competent sportsman, continued competing in a number of sports after leaving school, developed a love for extreme sport and in particular rock climbing. It was while living in Canberra and a member of the ANU Mountaineering Club that he was tragically killed in a rock-climbing fall on 16 October 1971. The Canberra Times newspaper reported:

"ACT climber dies.

A 25 year old climber, Mr Kenneth James Warner, of Hilder Street, Weston, died instantly when he fell 180ft from the Booroomba rockface, behind Honey Suckle Creek tracking station, on Saturday.

He was with 18 other members of the ANU Mountaineering Club, but one of them said he had been climbing alone when he fell about midday.

Mr Warner was married, with two children."

LEST WE FORGET



Above: Roll of Honour Board Rosie O'Grady's Tavern and Memorial Plaque



Above: Ken Warner - School Athletics 1961

Below: Frankston High School Football Team 1963



Footnote

The writer, Anthony (Tony) Morton attended FHS from 1958 to 1962.

He attended the Royal Military College, Duntroon, graduating in 1966, into the Royal Australian Engineers serving in the Australian Army for 27 years retiring in 1990 in the rank of Colonel.

FIRST ISSUE OF OPTIMA SEMPER 1995

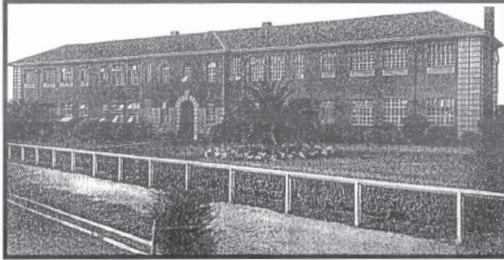


OPTIMA SEMPER



VOLUME 1 MAY 1995

THE FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL NEWSPAPER



The Original Frankston High School

Dear Friends of Frankston High School

Welcome to our first edition of "Optima Semper". We intend to produce two of these during the year to keep our wider school community more informed on what is happening.

Following the destructive fires during 1990 - 91, a wave of nostalgia swept our school. While we lost many records of our early years we now appreciate more than ever our wonderful past and its importance to us all. Through these publications and other activities we hope to all celebrate the rich history of our school which now extends for more than 70 years.

Our Former Students' Association has been revived - a GRAND REUNION is being held on Sunday May 28, 2pm - 6pm at which we are launching the book "A History of Frankston High School".

As you will see from this publication our school is flourishing. We continue to provide quality education for the residents of South Frankston and beyond.

While we are now a large (1275 students) self-managing school in the government's "Schools of the Future" program, we have jealously defended our name, our culture, our independence and our traditions.

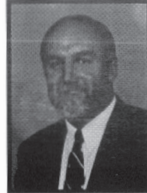
We are still Frankston High School.

Our school has a community focus and we would welcome hearing from you as we reunite our past and present in the interests of Frankston High School's future.


Kenneth J Rowe
Principal



Our new School entrance.



Frankston High Principal
Mr. Ken Rowe.

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The 1994 Victorian and Australian school Aerobics Champions.

First Impressions

by Cathy Hogg

Frankston High School is a very impressive school! I knew that even before I walked in the door. I learned it from the positive and enthusiastic comments I heard in the community by students and their parents. I saw it in the beautiful, well-cared for grounds and gardens. Once inside the school, all of my first impressions were reinforced by the vitality and commitment of the staff, the vision and energy of the administration and the interesting, stimulating programs offered to students.

There are not many schools with the exciting range of educational opportunities offered at Frankston High School. I was particularly impressed with the school's ability to maintain a 7 - 12 LOTE program in two languages. In many schools, LOTE has to be compulsory to even operate, yet at Frankston, it flourishes as an elective in Years 9 to 12. The music program is also amazing, discovering and fostering new talent in both vocal and instrumental music. The performances I have seen have been outstanding. The student exchange program to countries across the globe is another tremendous opportunity students have access to at FHS.

The success of Frankston High School does not rest on its special offerings, however. Visiting classes regularly has given me the opportunity to see many innovative and interesting lessons -- some even a little crazy -- but they all taught students that learning is not only important, it can also be fun.

I have now spent a term at Frankston High School and, if anything, I am even more enthusiastic about it. One of my greatest discoveries is that no one is happy to sit back and let the school "rest on its laurels". Everyone is committed to continued innovation and improvement. It is wonderful to be in a school that I know will be providing quality educational opportunities for students for years to come.

For all enquiries regarding Frankston High School and the Ex-Students Association Please contact the school Business Manager
Mr John Richards on 9783 7955

Calendar of School Events for 1995

- Wednesday 7th June** Open Night
on the 7-10 campus. Displays of student work.
- Saturday 29th July** Trivia Night.
Book a table and challenge the teachers.
- Sunday 13th August** Working Bee 8.30-12.00.
Spare a few hours.
- Tuesday 22nd August- 25th August** School production of *Grease* at the George Jenkins Theatre.
- Saturday 14th October** School Fete
on the V.C.E. campus.
- Wednesday 18th October** School Concert
at the new Frankston Cultural Centre
This annual concert is always fantastic
and should not be missed.
- Sunday 22nd October** Working Bee 8.30-12.00.
Did you miss the last one? Well come along
to this one.
- Saturday 11th November** Auction Night.
Book a table and bid for some super bargains.

Ex-Students Association

The idea of an "Ex-Student's Association" is obviously not new. I'm sure that at countless times over the history of the school someone has said "wouldn't it be good if we did...". Unfortunately we didn't do anything and fate took a hand and led to the destruction of the records. Last year, I, amongst others was rung by the school and asked if I would be interested in participating in the establishment of the Association. Naturally I said yes and then in February this year a group of us got together at the invitation of the school to form a steering committee to convert a concept to reality. The response so far has been tremendous, and I have every reason to believe that this will be a stunning success.

Dawn Leicester



Founding members of the Ex-Students Association.
Back row - Dawn Leicester, Iwan Noyce, Lauren Horne, Jeff Southfield
Front row - Adrienne Craig, Fay Franche, Brian Jennings.

OPTIMA SEMPER

Indoor Sports Centre



Musical Moments

Music is thriving at Frankston High School. More than 150 students participate in the choir or one of the many bands. Musical groups are in demand for local functions, school assemblies and performances in the Frankston malls. Students not only have the opportunity to develop their musical talents; they also gain confidence and self-esteem through performing publicly.

Students have access to tuition in Woodwind and Brass instruments, Guitar, Percussion and Voice. Band opportunities range from Ensembles to Concert bands to an exceptionally entertaining Big Band which takes us back to the days of Glen Miller and Tommy Dorsey.

Shortly Frankston High School will be celebrating the official opening of the Instrumental Music Centre which features sound proof practice rooms and a large rehearsal studio. This modern facility will further enhance the exciting music program at Frankston High School.



The New Stadium in action.

Special Programs

The Special Programs Department has developed an exciting and comprehensive Literacy and Numeracy program to provide support for teachers in developing mixed - ability teaching and learning strategies. This is to meet the needs of those students within the school community experiencing learning difficulties. An extension / enrichment program has also been established to provide programs for gifted and talented students.

Over twenty parent helpers have been trained in the "Towards Real Independence", program and they are currently providing a valuable service in all junior classrooms. Nearly fifty students from Years 9, 10 & 11, have been trained as peer tutors and have teamed up with junior school students requiring extra assistance. This, combined with nearly twenty hours of individual tuition to students with specific learning problems, by specially trained staff, has empowered a large number of students with the skills to succeed at school.

The more recent Extension / Enrichment program has been introduced a "high Flyers" club for interested students and a number of long-term programs recurrently being developed. Special Programs is currently maximising use of computer learning software and is soon to move into a larger centre, which will be better equipped for the increasing number of programs under development. With the generous assistance of many volunteers, Special Programs is successfully addressing the needs of many of our students in need, making the learning experience at Frankston High School, truly accessible.

OPTIMA SEMPER

The School History

After the fires of 1990 - 91 and the loss of all records, Ken Rowe was anxious to have the School History written. Several meetings of ex-staff and students were held and Mary Evans, Heather Murray and Jenny Evans found themselves in the throes of writing the history of FHS. After some initial panic they decided to write the school history in decades, from "Beginnings" in the 1920's to "Tribulation and Challenge" in the 1990's with a special chapter on the School Cadets "Boots and Bivouacs".

The history of the school has been set in the wider context of the local community and of world events such as the Great Depression, World War II and the unrest of the seventies. The school magazine "Kananook" has been used extensively with material from the Department of Education in the Public Record Office, the Frankston Standard, The Education Gazette and interviews with ex Students and Staff. The writers have tried to give an accurate and comprehensive account of the history of the school which has played an important role in the education of boys and girls of Frankston and the Peninsula. There is a general index and name index and over 160 photos.



The Authors of the School History
Heather Murray, Mary Evans, Jenny Evans.

An International School

Frankston High School is now considered an International School. Several teachers including our Principal have taught overseas on International Teaching Fellowships. As a consequence of these experiences the school has encouraged our students to exchange overseas and readily accepts students from around the world.

In the last 7 years FHS has accepted more than 50 overseas students from every continent in the world - from Zimbabwe and the Ivory Coast in Africa, Belgium, Norway and Sweden in Europe, Japan and Thailand in Asia, Brazil in South America and many students from Canada and the USA in North America. Frankston High students have also undertaken exchanges throughout the world but principally to North America and Japan.

To facilitate this student exchange we have registered the school as an exchange 'organisation' providing the most economical exchange possible. We believe that student and teacher exchanges are an important cultural and educational experience for both the school community and the person involved.

Frankston High Schools has developed a "sister school" relationship with Kawaguchi Kita High School in Japan. There is a very popular annual exchange of students and teachers with each school visiting on alternate years. This year the Japanese Wind Orchestra of 120 students will be visiting the school in August from Susono, which complements both our extensive music program and our language program.



JESSIE MARION FLOYD (married KING)

4 July 1923 - 16 October 2022
Frankston High School 1934 - 1939

Marion's early life was spent at Tyabb, on the Mornington Peninsula, Victoria, where her father had an orchard, perhaps a strange thing for an architect. He had emigrated to Australia in 1913 for the health benefits of a warmer climate. Her mother was one of the very early women to attend Newnham College, Cambridge, where she completed the Mathematical Tripos with Honours. Because of World War I, it wasn't until 1920 that she could come to Australia. They had two children, but sadly Marion's older brother, Charles, died while flying solo, early in World War II. At the time Tyabb was genuinely rural, and Marion has written - 'Although not considered pioneers many things were not easy in those days.' On the day of her birth my father had to harness the horse, put it in the cart and wrap up my two-year-old brother Charles and they then trotted the six miles to Somerville on a cold wet July night.

Following their primary education at Tyabb Railway Station State School, Marion and Charles attended Frankston High School, catching the Stony Point steam train. Because the evening train did not leave Frankston until 6 o'clock they were able to have about half an hour playing time after school (table tennis, golf, tennis, football, cricket) and they then went back inside to complete their homework, supervised by teachers rostered to remain after school. Marion was very active in school sport including hockey and tennis. Her love of tennis remained with her throughout her long life. She won many academic awards, all recorded at that time in the Frankston newspaper (and now in Trove).

Following school, she spent a period as a pupil teacher at Hastings, but soon decided that teaching was not a career for her. She then attended a Business School in Melbourne before taking a position at the engineering works of Marfleet and Weight where she was a Burroughs machine operator (the Burroughs machine was used in accounting and book-keeping and was superseded by computers). There she met our father (William Henry King, but always known as Bill) and they married in 1942. Only a few years later the catch cry of politicians who sought a vision of a secure and booming Australia was 'Populate or Perish' and she and Bill heeded the call: they had five children.

They built their house at South Warrandyte, and while Bill continued as an engineer, they had a cherry orchard on the side. Later they opened a small native plant nursery, 'Chalka'. Marion, was a quiet, contributing member of organisations, and was always actively involved with the local community, as the following attest.

In the mid-1950s she (and Bill) were foundation members of the Ringwood Colour Photography Club, meeting in Peter Payne's studio in Ringwood. In this Club they both explored natural history photography, Marion adding the aesthetic element. That interest in photography is reflected in the habits of all her children.

At South Warrandyte Marion (and Bill) were actively involved in the provision of sporting facilities, with the construction of the sportsground and particularly the building of the tennis courts. Marion was much involved with mid-week ladies' tennis playing in the then Eastern Metropolitan Regional Lawn Tennis Association (EMRLTA) competitions, and once 'filling in' for a team player who could not attend was reprimanded for playing below her level. At her 75th birthday party she asserted that she would no longer be playing singles with any of her children, part of the rationale for this being that one of her children had never beaten her in singles and she wasn't going to give him the opportunity.

From an early age Marion developed an interest in natural history and particularly Australian terrestrial orchids. On her walk to primary school (3.2km) and at weekends she and her friends would go orchiding. On the Mornington Peninsula they found a large variety of greenhoods, spider and donkey orchids. They ate gum from the wattle trees, mistletoe fruits and berries from the cranberry heath, honeypots and fruits of the wild cherry. Marion's knowledge of Australian plants was prodigious. It is reflected in her family through the interests of her children, grandchildren and great grandchildren, and in the community through her membership and contribution to the Maroondah Group of the Society for Growing Australian Plants (now the Australian Plant Society) of which she was a Foundation member for over 57 years, the Ringwood Field Naturalist Club, and with the Friends of the Warrandyte State Park. The Ringwood Field Naturalist Club holds a very special place in the life of her family, having been started with a letter in the Ringwood Mail from Bill (and Jack Hyett) inviting all interested to a meeting to be held at the Ringwood Methodist Church on the 2 August 1961. She was there all the way.

Another organisation in which Marion was a member was the Methodist Church, later to become part of the Uniting Church at North Ringwood. Her parents were very committed participants in the Methodist enterprise with her forebears hosting John Wesley on his journeys to northern England. When it was proposed to form a congregation of the Methodist Church in North Ringwood, Marion and her parents were very keen and involved, and she remained a member ever since.

Family and friends have been privileged to share a life well lived, a life in which Frankston High School played a key role in the formative years. She lived through an astonishing 99 years and 105 days.



Marion is front right



DAVID STEWART

1952-2022

David Stewart attended Frankston High School from 1964-1970. He was a member of cadets and enjoyed athletics, winning inter-school 100 and 200 metres running races. He broke the school record in high jump, played football, basketball and volleyball. David was Bass House Captain in 1970 and enjoyed the lunchtime volleyball competition involving teachers and students in fancy dress. His older brother Lindsay and younger sister Pamela also attended Frankston High School.

David was signed by the Hawthorn Football Club but found the commitment to training three times a week at Glenferrie Oval travelling by public transport, and studying 6th form was a rather tall order, so he decided to focus on study instead even though the club offered tutoring.

In 1971 David started a traineeship with Frankston City Council in the Rate Office, studying the Municipal Clerk course at RMIT where he excelled. After working as Assistant Town Clerk at the City of Mordialloc, David was appointed Deputy Town Clerk at the City of Mildura in 1979 and moved with his wife Glenys (née Steele FHS 1965-1970) and three-month old daughter, and later their son was born there. David was instrumental in organising the details for visits of the Governor General, Premiers, the American Ambassador and all the protocols involved with such visits. He also took on a huge job for coordinating the celebrations of the City's Golden Jubilee year in 1984.

In 1985, David was appointed Deputy Town Clerk at the City of Bendigo where he was looking forward to being involved in the future amalgamation of five municipalities.

In 1993, David embarked on a change from local government to running his own business in a motel. A lot of hard work brought the rewards he deserved. He was on the Board of Best Western Australia and President of the Bendigo Moteliers Association for a number of years achieving 100% participation of properties and attracting many events to Bendigo to benefit the local area. He was president of the kindergarten committee and his son's baseball club.

His entrepreneurial spirit shone through with the multiple business ventures he undertook, including swimming pool building and ownership of two Autobarn stores all running concurrently with the motel operation. He also had a passion for motorsports, from classic cars and events with the Austin Healey Club, to entering a Ford BA GT in the Bathurst 24-hour race and running a Ford XR6 in the last Round Australia Race.

David, Glenys and family continued to enjoy time with former Frankston High School classmates on a regular basis all through the years including weddings, baptisms and special birthdays, and attending the 25th and 40th class reunions. David remained lifelong friends with former student and sporting teammate Frank Boyd, and both are godfathers to each other's children.

David adored his family, children, their spouses and five grandchildren. Nothing was ever too much trouble for him. One of his favourite activities was organising surprises for the family and family gatherings, including a wonderful trip for his 70th last year. He is greatly missed and forever loved.

Glenys Stewart

APRIL 2023



Frankston High School
Towerhill Road
Frankston VIC 3199

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