

## FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### Andrew Batchelor, Principal

Dear Former Staff and Students

Welcome back to the 2022 school year. I am extremely excited for the year ahead and am feeling very positive about the learning opportunities we will share together in our school community. Frankston High School is a high performing school supporting students in achieving their best in their learning and through a range of pursuits whether they be sporting, music, the Arts, or student leadership. Such exceptional student achievement across many areas is due to the leadership shown by our Principal and Leadership Team, together with the outstanding teaching and support provided by our extremely dedicated teachers and support staff. We also have such a supportive parent/carer community who continually encourage their children to value the learning opportunities offered by our school. Frankston High School has developed a learning culture where all community members (students, staff and parents) value learning and demonstrate our best always – Optima Semper. I feel very privileged to be the Principal of Frankston High School.

### OUTSTANDING YEAR 12 RESULTS

At the end (16 December) of last year we received the excellent VCE results of the Class of 2021. Despite all of the 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.
- 10% of subject scores over 40
- A median subject score of 31 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.
- School Dux: Charlotte Thompson – 99.6



### **FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL - AUSTRALIA DAY**

I am thrilled to report that **Bethany Yeung (Year 12)** has been recognised as Frankston's Young Citizen of the Year. Thank you to **Mrs Helen Wilson, Mrs Sharon Bourne, Mr Brendan McKinnon** and **Mr Jon Christie** for their leadership and support of Bethany. This is a fantastic achievement for Bethany and would not be possible without the support of her family and the staff at Frankston High School.

### **STUDENTS ARE TOP IN THEIR STUDIES IN THE STATE**

Congratulations to **Tess Rogers (Class of 2021)** on being selected into "Top Designs" for her work in Media Studies. Congratulations to **Nissy Cai (Class of 2021), Sicheng Liu (Class of 2021)** and **Finnian McTaggart (Class of 2021)** who have been invited to audition for "Top Class Music 2022". Congratulations to **Darcy Halliday (Year 12)** who was invited to audition for "Top Arts Drama". More evidence that Frankston High School has teachers who are up there with the best of the world being able to nurture the talents of our students to be regarded as equivalent to the best of those students in the state.

### **VISIT FROM THE PREMIER**

On Wednesday 2 March, Frankston High School welcomed the Premier of Victoria, Mr Daniel Andrews MP, along with State Member for Frankston, Mr Paul Edbrooke MP. The Premier and our local member had the opportunity to see some of the great spaces at our school and discuss plans for the further modernisation of the 7-10 Campus in line with last year's \$15.129 million commitment from the State Government. The Premier also met with our School Captains and members of the Chill Out Look About team, along with some of our Year 7 PE classes. We look forward to hosting the Premier and Mr Edbrooke in the near future as we continue to improve our wonderful school.



### **CHILL OUT LOOK ABOUT**

On Friday 4 February we had 'A Current Affair' visit to record some of our wonderful students involved in the Chill Out Look About team who continue to work tirelessly in the community to raise awareness about road safety. Thank you to **Mrs Sarah Bahramis** for her efforts organising this and making this happen. It is great to acknowledge the leadership of our students and also timely to reflect on the role we all play in road safety.

### **NEW BUILDINGS - UPDATE**

**Carolyn Florance** and **Glenn Davey** and myself, continue to meet with our architects (B2 Architecture), the Victorian School Building Authority and DET, South Eastern Victoria Region, regarding planning around funding for the modernisations of learning spaces on the 7-10 Campus. We are now in the Design and Development stage, having completed the schematic design. This stage involves a lot of planning and discussions around what the spaces will actually look and feel like. We look forward to keeping you updated with progress.

Kind regards

Andrew Batchelor  
**Principal**

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## Bill Underwood

33 Beluga Street Mt Eliza 3930

Tel: 9787 2981

What another year it has been! We were finally able to meet as a committee in person after last year's COVID-19 lockdowns. We were also able to return our meetings back on school grounds in the new STEM centre (old school hall). At our meeting we discussed the 2024 Centenary and how we can celebrate that. Firstly we need a committee of volunteers to assist with the planning and organising. If you are able to assist please fill out the form in this issue.

I would also like to thank all our members who paid their subscriptions this year, particularly those who made generous donations (some of whom have requested anonymity). A reminder that the due date for 2022 subscriptions is 31 December 2022 with payment being accepted until next 30 June 2023. Be assured that your donations will be put to good use.

With your generous donations we have been able to raise over \$11,000 to support the school.

We had requests from the maths Department for online learning and calculators for the class. Numeracy Support also requested Texas calculators and the Visual Communication and Design department requested specialised drawing boards for the Year 12 students. All requests were greatly received and appreciated.

Also a reminder not to submit lengthy articles which take up a lot of pages, to avoid running over two editions of the Optima Semper. Could you please limit your article to 500 words, due to the volume of articles and the amount of photos that need to be published, we are unable to publish articles over 500 words.

This year we will be having our Christmas lunch at the Baxter Tavern and we will be opening it to all years that attended Frankston High School. With a limit of 140 people please be quick to RSVP according to the flyer included in this issue.

We are hoping to continue to hold our committee meetings and functions in 2022. Those with a Working with Children card and triple vaccinated are welcome to attend the meetings at the school.

I look forward to representing you again this year, so please keep the articles coming in. Also look up our Facebook page: FHS Former Staff and Students.

## FORMER STAFF & STUDENTS MEETING DATES 2022

NEXT COMMITTEE MEETING:

- 18 July
- 17 October
- 7 November AGM

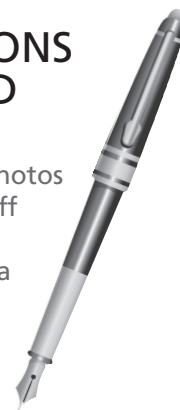
## YOUR CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WANTED

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](mailto:optimasemper@fhs.vic.edu.au)

or by post to:

Optima Semper  
Frankston High School  
97 Foot St  
Frankston Vic 3199



## ORRY LACK: SCHOOL CAPTAIN – CLASS OF 2005

My time at Frankston High was a really memorable and enjoyable experience. The friendships I made during my time at Frankston High School have stayed strong throughout my adult life, with a few of my classmates remaining some of my closest friends today.

Frankston High School allowed me to pursue my love of sports whilst providing a great all-round education - allowing me to achieve the ATAR I needed to get into my Journalism Degree.

I am currently the Head of Partnerships & Fundraising at my beloved Melbourne Football Club.

Along with other classmates Mitch Coulson, Shenae Bews and Georgia Tyas, Frankston High School has a strong presence across the AFL industry.

Whilst I have loved my six years involved at the Dees, one of my fondest moments was standing on the MCG with former Principal and Past Player Ken Rowe and Georgia in front of 30,000 fans. A special way to celebrate the 2021 AFL Premiership.



Above: Orry Lack, Ken Rowe and Georgia Tyas

# ROBERT WOOD



Above: Robert (on the left) weighing in a Blue Fin Tuna he caught in the ocean off Merimbula.



Above: Photo taken at Pt Leo 1963 when about to go surfing – from left Geoff Hanton, Brian Witheridge, Robert Wood and Trevor Lowe.



Above: Wood family portrait photo taken 1986, from left Robert, Melanie, Nicole and Sandra



Above: Photo taken at Pt Leo 1963 when about to go surfing – from left Geoff Hanton, Brian Witheridge, Robert Wood and Trevor Lowe.



Left: Accommodation at Nui Dat Vietnam after a base had been established

**Robert was born January 1945 at Richmond – Victoria. Robert was the only child of Bill and Edna. Bill was a builder by trade and Edna was a home provider. Roberts family moved to Frankston in 1950 to 20 Plummer Avenue and lived there most of their life.**



Above: Robert sharing a beer with fellow Vietnam vet (John Warbrick) at a 50 year reunion.

Robert attended Frankston Primary School from 1951 until 1956 and Frankston High School from 1957 until 1961. While at Frankston High School Robert represented Bass house in football, cricket and swimming, he gained colour awards in football and athletics.

After leaving school Robert commenced an accounting career and then opted for a career in real estate but that was cut short when in 1965, he was drafted into the Army to be among the first Australians that were conscripted. Robert's induction commenced by being ordered to report to Victoria Barracks for a medical examination. After being declared fit Robert commenced training with 7th Battalion and then later transferred to 6th Battalion at Enoggera, Enoggera Barracks is an Australian Army base in north west Brisbane. Training at Enoggera was very intense as members of the Battalion were being trained for service in Vietnam. When training was complete the Battalion embarked on a commercial aircraft to Saigon- Vietnam. From Saigon the Battalion flew via a Carabao aircraft to Vung tau to spend five days acclimatizing. Then it was onto Nui Dat. Nui Dat was where Robert was based for his entire Vietnam deployment (apart for short rest and relaxation breaks in Bangkok). Conditions in the field and at Nui Dat were very primitive with no facilities whatsoever apart from re supply of water. Robert was among the first National Serviceman to be deployed and with limited training had to adapt to the rigors of a tropical climate, cope with living in jungle type conditions which included snakes, lizards, leaches, spiders etc and harmful health conditions that included ulcers, prickly heat rash and malaria. All this on top of engaging the enemy via patrols armed with an Owen (Australian designed) sub machine gun or armalite rifle. Robert was also expected to carry ammunition for a M16 (a heavier machine gun). Robert survived the war having sustained a leg wound caused by shrapnel but the emotional scars still remain. In recognition of his service in Vietnam Robert was awarded a number of service medals. Robert's service lasted two years from 1965 until 1967, he spent the final 4 months back in Australia before finally being ordered to Watsonia Army Barracks to be discharged.

Robert maintains it took him over five years to finally settle down however in 1969 he married Sandra whom he had known prior to joining the army. They were married for 52 years but had



known each other for 62 years Robert has two adult children (and five grandchildren), Nicole and Melanie both of whom live in the Rye area.

After discharge from the army Robert resumed his career in real estate selling through various agencies in a number of locations but also including a stint running his own real estate business in the Seaford area known as Robert Wood Real Estate. He spent 25 years selling for L.J. Hooker in the Frankston area, this was the agency he was at before he finally retired.

During the course of his career Robert and Sandra travelled to a number of overseas countries, these includes China, Thailand, Italy and Greece. In 2015 Robert took Sandra to Vietnam to give her some idea of the conditions under which he fought while completing his National Service obligation. They both found it a challenging experience particularly when being in areas where battles had been fought and members of Roberts battalion had been lost.

After retiring Robert and Sandra moved to Merimbula. For Robert being a keen golfer and fisherman Merimbula was the ideal location. Robert sustained a boating injury that finally brought his golfing career to an end but he has a 20-foot Haines Hunter and a "Tinnie" and still enjoys bringing in some fine big game specimens.

After Sandra passed Robert's health took a turn for the worse, post operation he was faced with the predicament of being told he needed care and attention but due to COVID was isolated from his family living in Victoria. I had lost contact with Robert who I knew from Frankston High School days but one day heard his name mentioned on 3AW by Neil Mitchell. Although only scant details were revealed about his past, I heard enough to know it was the Robert I had known. Robert's daughters had been in contact with Neil to see if he could help in their quest to have him enter Victoria and be with them while he convalesced. Under the severe lock down rules that applied at the time and the government making no exceptions the chances of Robert getting into Victoria were minimal. With a lot of pressure by Neil Mitchell and public opinion strongly on Roberts side he was eventually allowed to board a flight to Melbourne. Even when he had landed there was some doubt that he would be able to leave the airport but eventually permission was granted and Robert was driven to Rye to be with his family.

That's all in the past now and Robert has returned to Merimbula, he has had to adjust to a life without his partner but life goes on and he still returns to Victoria periodically to be with his family. At the conclusion of the interview with Robert he painted a word picture of the view of the ocean he enjoys from his home. Migrating whales and other sea creatures being a particular feature.

Bob Edward  
1955-1959



Above:  
Reproduction of  
an article published by the Australian  
War Memorial; Robert is the person  
on the far right.

*Footnote*  
from Bob Edward

I was able to make contact with Robert when I saw his name appear several times on Frankston History Facebook Page. By sending a message via "personal message" I was able to verify his identity as Robert Wood formerly of Frankston and an ex-Frankston High School student.

Robert did mention the animosity that he experienced upon his return to Australia after serving in Vietnam but did not wish to expand on it other than to say that it did not help with his adjustment back to normality.

## MEMORY OF MR DAVENPORT

I remember Mr Davenport in the 1960's as my maths teacher and geography teacher. Unfortunately, he was not very good on discipline, especially in geography, as he spent most of the time facing the blackboard writing notes for the class to copy in their text books. Unfortunately, this allowed many of his students, especially the boys, and I was no exception, to play up. There was a phase for a short while, before they got banned from having sling shots at school and for some reason I took my homemade sling shot into Mr Davenports geography class, as usual, I was sitting in a back seat and noticing a pot plant on top of a filing cabinet I wondered if I could hit it with a missile from my sling shot. I lifted the lid of my desk, took out my sling shot, placed a small metal ball bearing into its pouch and, while the other students had their heads down busy copying what Mr Davenport was writing on the blackboard, I aimed at the pot-plant, pulled the rubber on the sling shot to its full capacity and let go. Bingo! Bulls eye! There was an almighty crash as the pot-plant shattered

into little pieces with fragments of dirt and a poor unfortunate plant scattered all over the floor. While everyone was wondering what had happened, I quickly hid my slingshot back into my desk. One or two boys who had witnessed me carrying out this amazing feat fortunately did not dob me into the teacher and as far as I can remember, the whole incident was thought to be an unusual phenomenon and I did not suffer six of the best as the strap was called, or worse still suspension for having a lethal weapon at the school. One thing I do remember of Mr Davenport is that he was a very good chess player and, at the end of the year when the exams had all finished, he taught me how to checkmate my opponent in seven moves. So, if nothing else, I did learn one thing under Mr Davenports tuition.

Peter Ewers - Years 1959 to 1964

**In 1971 Frankston High School was considered to have the largest enrolment of any co-educational school in the State. This could surely have never been envisaged back in the 1920's when local people had a real battle to convince the authorities of the need for such a school in Frankston.**

In 1921 Frankston Shire Council decided to ask for a secondary school on the Peninsula. Mr M Hansen, the Assistant Director of Education, visited Frankston and met a committee. This committee comprised shire councillors, representatives of the Peninsula Schools Committee, the Head Teacher of Frankston State School and three Frankston residents, Dr C M Maxwell, Mrs Ada Rogerson and Mrs E C Hanton. These three were to lead the district in working for the school for many years (see December 2012 Optima Semper issue).

The party inspected sites that were available for a secondary school. Mr Hansen, the Assistant Director of Education, rejected a site in Hastings Road but was very satisfied with the site in Cranbourne Road near the railway station (now Quality Street). Some of the land was a reserve and several residents objected to the Education Department having control over this reserve. The other opposition to this site was on the grounds that the children would have to cross the railway line. Some people wanted the school sited where Pentland Park is situated.

Deputations to the Minister and wrangling over the site continued on until February 1924. The Minister for Lands, Mr Oman, refused to allow the Cranbourne Road land to be handed over while there was any opposition. A referendum was held by the Shire of Frankston and Hastings and a majority of 560 voted for the land to be handed over to the Education Department. The new Minister of Education, Sir Alexander Peacock, visiting Frankston in 1924 agreed to the Education Department accepting full control of part of the site and joint control of the reserve. Sir Alexander had to be ambushed on his way to Melbourne after a holiday at Portsea, to hear firsthand of Frankston's travails over the high school site (see December 2012 Optima Semper).

The Masonic Hall was at the time in Young Street Frankston and was one of the buildings removed from the Langwarrin Military Reserve after the hospital was closed. The hall was rented (156 pounds), a staff appointed and the new high school started there on Tuesday 12 February 1924. Without desks, blackboards, ink wells or any equipment 64 pupils assembled under the direction of Mr Robert Chapman BA, acting headmaster. Also, on the staff were Miss Alice Broughton and Miss C Lynch. A Mr Morrison arrived later in the year. The children sat on rough benches until furniture arrived. There were three forms – D (Form 3) E (Form 2) and F (Form 1). The teachers had a busy time. By the years end the enrolment had increased to 80.

Working bees organised by the school, gradually cleared the tea-tree from the Cranbourne Road site until by the end of the year when the site was almost ready. The advisory council was formed early in 1924 under a Mr Wheeler's (Oliver's Hill resident) chairmanship. Mr H J McCulloch was treasurer, Cr Gray was the shire council's representative, Crs J Bradbury and W J Oates, Mrs Hanton, Dr Maxwell, A Corlett and I J Ward. Under the advisory council guidance and even before the school was built two asphalt courts were erected at a cost of 300 pounds, basketball courts were made and grassed and the whole site ploughed and made ready.

In 1925, Mr W J Bishop, BA Dip Ed, was replaced by Mr Chapman as headmaster, he had a staff of five teachers, 130 pupils and four forms. The school was still conducted at the Masonic Hall.

The next years enrolment was 150 pupils and several students took their Leaving Certificate. A new advisory council was elected in July that year, with Dr Maxwell as chairman and Mr Legge as treasurer. The council secured the use of the Shire councils gravel pit for a forestry plot. The 10-acre site in Heatherhill Road was fenced and in 1927 680 young trees were ordered from the State Schools Nursery. People living in the district were invited to come and plant a pine tree. By 1935 the whole area was planted. Although I cannot find what happened to the mature trees, I assume at some point they were harvested and the funds from the sale of the timber used by the school.

The foundation stone of the new building was laid on 10 September 1926 by Mr Downward the local MLA and Minister of Lands in the presence of Sir Alexander Peacock, Minister of Education. Mr Wrigley, MA Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools and other distinguished guests (Chisholm have arranged for the stone to be restored by a stone mason and will be incorporated into the new building that is due for completion mid 2023).

The new school "1926 model" high school at the time was considered a magnificent building. The building cost 18,880 pounds and provided classrooms for academic subjects, and rooms for science, type writing, carpentry, black smithing, sheetmetal work, dressmaking, laundry work and cookery. Boys and girls were taught together, boys sitting on one side of the classroom and girls on the opposite side. Locker rooms and cloak rooms were provided. Three classrooms were divided by folding doors giving a concert hall 67ft long. Pupils over 14 years of age were expected to pay six pounds a year tuition fees and a composite fee of 10 shillings per year for sport and the like.

The students eventually left the Masonic Hall for the new school in the middle of July 1927. The original Masonic Hall, probably the last building relocated to Frankston from the Langwarrin Army Hospital complex, must have been demolished at some time as a new Masonic Hall was built in the 1950's in Davey Street near Baxter Street (new hall now at Baxter).

The new school was officially opened by Mr J Lemmon, Minister of Education on Monday 3 October 1927, in the presence of Mr Downward MLA, Mr W Tyner MLC, Mr Hansen, Assistant Director of Education and the presidents of the shires of Frankston and Hastings, Dandenong, Cranbourne and Flinders.

In 1942 the State Government sought to enlarge the opportunity for higher education and introduced free bus travel for secondary students. Frankston was one of the first areas where the scheme was operated. Relieved of the burden of transport costs and/or costs of board parents throughout the Peninsula began to think more seriously about secondary education. The result was that by 1947, the school built to accommodate 350 pupils was trying to cope with 600. In 1946, Mr R Holway, Minister of Education approved the addition of a technical wing to the school.

From 1947 – 1951 converted army huts and pre-fab units increased accommodation for the expanding population but the promised technical wing was never built. In 1952 the advisory council advised the Education Department that it would be in the interest of secondary education on the Peninsula if the High School was moved to a new site and a technical school established in Quality Street. Department officials visited Frankston and agreed.

By 1953 the present Towerhill Road site was selected and the director promised to have the change-over completed and the Technical School established in four years.

In 1954 Rosebud High School was built and helped a little to reduce numbers at Frankston High School. The Public Works Department was asked to prepare for the new school in 1954 but it was not until late 1956 that any work was done on the new site.

The opening of Mornington High School in 1956 and Bonbeach High School in 1957 kept enrolments at the 800 mark. The new building was ready by 1958 and in February of that year Frankston High School assembled in the new school at Towerhill Road with an enrolment of 862 pupils. Mr J Bloomfield, Minister of Education officially opened the new school on Thursday 15 May, in the presence of Chief Inspector of Secondary Schools, Mr A McDonnell.

In 1969 the Education Department decided to extend the school by building a Commonwealth Library and four blocks of the new 691/900 type school on the vacant land diagonally opposite the present school. This was to cater for a greatly increased enrolment. The library was completed in 1970 and occupied in February that year. Other blocks were completed in August and occupied by the senior pupils in September. Subsequent to moving to Towerhill Road and the addition of the Senior Campus other additions to the school include an assembly hall, tennis courts, an indoor swimming pool, study centre, a Japanese Garden etc.

Taking us right up to the present the school now has an enrolment of 2,000 supported by a staff of 190. The school continues to expand and improve, the Principal Mr Andrew Batchelor announced in the December issue of Optima Semper a grant of \$15.129 million to upgrade and modernise the 7-10 Campus.

For this article I have drawn on the Frankston Standard '100 UP' issue dated 19 November 1971, the Optima Semper Book and some of my own knowledge. I have chosen now to highlight Frankston High Schools origins due to a certain feeling of loss now that the original school has been demolished and the fact that by the time that this article is published it will be less than two years before the school reaches its 100th anniversary (12 February 2024).

As a reminder of the origins of the school I arranged to collect some bricks from our former school (thanks are due to Andrew Batchelor who helped unload and bricks and store them in a safe place) which I am hoping can be used in a suitable display somewhere at the school. Also, thanks to Kate Glanz from Chisholm who arranged for some bricks to set aside and cleaned for the benefit of ex Frankston Technical School members as well as Frankston High School. Danny Neale ex Frankston Technical School was instrumental in coordinating the collection.

Bob Edward 1955-59



## DON'T MISS OUT ON YOUR COPIES (April, August and December) OF OPTIMA SEMPER

Please encourage 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 2022 copies of Optima Semper with lots of news and photos.

# ERMINIO (MINIO) ROSSETTO

## 2022 Frankston Senior Citizen of the Year Award



ABOVE: Frankston High School 1962 – Form 3B (Minio is Centre Front Row)

This year in the Annual Citizenship Award on Australia Day, presided over by Mayor Nathan Conroy, ex Frankston High School student, Erminio (Minio) Rossetto was awarded the honour of being named Frankston Senior Citizen 2022

**ERMINIO (Minio) ROSSETTO** was born in Northern Italy in the then small village of Pordenone which is at the foot of the northern Dolomite Mountains and just north of Venice. Young Minio was four years old in 1950 when the family were sponsored by a relative who had previously settled in Frankston. After a mandatory stay at Bonegilla Migrant Camp, his father accepted a position with Frankston City Council and a home was established in Frankston. Shortly after, the family became naturalized Australians.



Minio attended primary school at St Francis Xavier's Catholic School (which was then where the Frankston Arts Centre is located now). He found himself in crowded classes overflowing with other non-English speaking migrants from all parts of Europe. The common denominator was their athleticism and young Minio was soon introduced to Aussie Rules Football which became his favourite sport.



Above: Costa visited Minio's vegetable garden and Kananook Creek Reserve.

During his secondary school education at **Frankston High School**, Minio made lifelong friendships including current neighbour, and previous Frankston Senior Citizen, Rob Thurley. At Frankston High School (1961-1964), Minio joined the **Frankston High School Cadets** and participated in the various activities for three years. Training the cadets included camping at the army base at Puckapunyal to practise target shooting, arms awareness and general army protocol. Minio relished the physical challenges and the camaraderie it provided. He made his mark in school with football and athletics. He went on to join Frankston Y.C.W. "Stonecats" and became a valuable asset in the ruck as well as volunteering as a coach of the junior teams. During his playing years, he often had the role of Captain and Vice-Captain - eventually representing Victoria in the YCW National League.

Due to his interest in woodworking, Minio transferred to Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology to pursue an apprenticeship and became indentured to a furniture making company. During his studies at RMIT, he was awarded the major annual prize for Cabinetmaking in every year of his attendance (1964, 1965 and 1966).

In 1968 he married and over the next decade, established a family of four children and 13 grandchildren. His interest and passion for bespoke cabinetmaking and antique restoration saw him establish his own business in Carrum Downs. Always in demand, Minio confined his skills to several high profile clients. He retired at 72 but still enjoys occasional projects in his workshop. For years on weekends and evenings, he supported his growing children in their various sporting clubs, particularly soccer, netball and tennis, acting as trainer and volunteer in any role that was needed.

Minio's Annual Citizenship Award was received for his long time environmental work as an active member Kananook Creek Association. It is in recognition of



40 years of dedication to organising and recruiting for monthly working bees. He liaises with the reserve rangers during the week to improve the creek and surrounding parklands. He has overseen the planting of thousands of indigenous trees and the removal of countless noxious weeds in the reserves and trails. During Covid restrictions, he spent his daily "exercise allowance" working in the reserves to ensure walking paths were clear and accessible for the many who "discovered" Kananook Creek. He was made "Legend of the Creek" in 2009.

Twenty years ago, he discovered that the Long Island Tennis Club was being neglected so, with his family and friends, mounted a campaign to restore the facility and save it from being a designated car park. He has continued as honorary groundsman ever since. Due to his tireless contribution, he was made a life member of the club.

Since retirement, he decided to take up running, tennis and cycling for exercise. Not doing things by halves, he has managed several marathons for the Royal Children's Hospital and completed the "virtual London Marathon" last year. A daily bike ride of 20kms or so is always followed by a beach swim or kayak. Fishing is a passion and occasionally he will take a break at his 90 Mile Beach getaway.

With his wife Claire (retired Deputy/Principal of Frankston Primary School), he has travelled to many parts of Europe (Italy several times), the Middle East, China and Asia. A keen camper, there have been several exploratory trips around Australia as well. Apart from travel, Minio is famous for his amazing vegetable garden (especially tomatoes) and the bountiful produce feeds his family and neighbours. A closely guarded secret, appreciated by many, is his recipe for "limencello" which he shares liberally. He is a much admired personality in his community of Long Island.

*Bob Edward 1955 - 1959*



## 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](http://www.fhs.vic.edu.au/newsletters)  
 and catch up on what's happening at Frankston High School.

## JOHN ROBINSON'S 99TH BIRTHDAY

The last issue of Optima Semper featured an article about former teacher John Robinson.

Two points:

First - there was a typo with regard to the time that he taught at Frankston High School, it was in fact from 1959 to 1964.

Second - Robert Thurthley, Peter Jupp and myself (all ex-students) invited John and Elaine out to lunch (last December) at Mt Eliza to celebrate Johns 99th birthday. These are some of the photos taken to capture the occasion.

Bob Edward



*Above: John Robinson*



*Above (left to right): John Robinson, Robert Thurley, Peter Jupp and Elaine Robinson.*



*Above (left to right): Elaine Robinson, Robert Thurley and Peter Jupp*

# ELLIE COLE

## Australian Paralympics Gold Medallist



### EX-STUDENT OF FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL 2004 – 2009

Ellie's career in Para-Swimming was decades in the making. Her success did not come overnight; it was the culmination of years of hard work that began as a three-year-old; just eight weeks after her right leg was amputated, she began swimming as a form of rehabilitation.

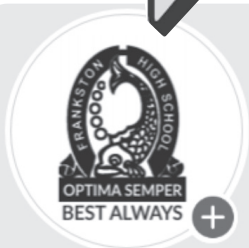
In her teenage years at Frankston High School she was popular and much admired by both staff and students. She walked with pride with her 'technology-brilliant' prosthetic leg and once was Guest Speaker at the Ex-students Reunion held at Baxter Tavern. In front of 140 "Oldies" she spoke with confidence, even showing us certain ways her 'leg' coped with "upstairs" and "downstairs" movement, all by touching a button on its key pad. Her courage and willingness to impart such knowledge and share with us was impressive and much appreciated by her audience.

When Ellie left her room at the Australian Institute of Sport and, at age 21, made her way to the airport for the **London 2012 Paralympics**, she told herself "she would return home a gold medallist." Not only did she win Gold, she did it four times over. So naturally, when Ellie returned to the pool for the **Rio 2016 Paralympic Games**, she was a hot favourite to win gold. She did not disappoint. Ellie won medals in all six of her events, sharing the title of Australia's top medallist from these Games alongside Dolphins teammate Lakeisha Patterson. She waited until her final race on the final night to win individual gold but it was a race worth waiting for, with Ellie putting everything she had into the women's 100m backstroke, touching the wall just 0.39 seconds ahead of her nearest rival, Nuria Marques from Spain.

Her success certainly did not come "overnight". To continue to reach new heights, Ellie had relocated to Sydney, NSW, from the Sunshine Coast, QLD, to train under Simon Cusack and alongside Olympic champions Cate and Bronte Campbell.

At her final Paralympics at **Tokyo 2020**, she became Australia's most decorated female Para-Swimming-Olympian when she won her 17th Paralympic medal at these Games. She was named as Australia's flagbearer for the Tokyo 2020 Closing Ceremony to finish her Paralympic career. Ellie said: "It honestly is a fairy-tale ending to such a wonderful career that I will treasure for the rest of my life."

(Past Paralympic Games: Beijing 2008, London 2012, Rio 2016, Tokyo 2020 Australian Paralympics website is excellent for details.)



## Frankston High School Former Staff and Students

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



## ARTHUR MARKS

**1937 – 2021 aged Eighty four**

Arthur Marks was born on 8 January 1937, in Aspendale Victoria to William and Louisa Marks.

Arthur attended Frankston High School from 1949 to 1953 along with his late brother William and sister Pat. As a student, Arthur had a passion for writing and was a champion tennis player. His local club was the Long Island Tennis Club and whilst a student at Frankston High School, he won the 1954 Victorian U17 Singles State Championship.

After high school graduation, he worked at the accounting firm of Kennedy and Courtney in the Melbourne CBD, before commencing his national service onboard HMAS Sydney. Whilst undertaking his national service, he applied for and was accepted into the Australian School of Pacific Administration in Sydney. This would enable him to serve as a Patrol Officer ("Kiap") in Papua New Guinea ("PNG"), then a Territory of Australia. Arthur would spend over 14 years in PNG and always considered his work a privilege. Whilst there, he also represented PNG in tennis, at the first South Pacific Games in Fiji in 1963.

In 1969, he was front page news in Australia. Border tensions with Indonesia were extremely high and West Papuan refugees were constantly at risk. In the highest profile incident, he led over 250 West Papuan refugees to the safety of an Australian refugee camp, without any Australian military support.

Arthur married an expatriate schoolteacher, Pamela Besier, and moved to Darwin in 1973, where his eldest son Matthew was born. His second son Benjamin was born in 1975.

Arthur spent the remainder of his career in Australia, working in Indigenous affairs. His passion for improving the lives of Indigenous Australians, saw him live in remote parts of Australia from Melville Island to Ceduna, before moving to Adelaide in 1985.

Arthur divorced and relocated to Toowoomba in 1998, where he spent the next 23 years as an active member of the Toowoomba community, with his partner Lois Jackman. Lois had attended Frankston High School with Arthur. Lois was the first Frankston High School student to make an Olympic team and did so in 1956. One of Arthur's favourite activities in Toowoomba was tap dancing.

Arthur is survived by his two sons Matthew and Benjamin.



Above: Arthur age 11



Above: Arthur age 21 with Lois Jackman

## School friend's *thoughts*

**Laurie Petrusch (exit year 1955) from Cowes:** was very saddened to hear of Arthur Marks passing. Will always remember his talent on the tennis court with Marty Lowe, but more importantly in his final year at Frankston High School he was the Senior Cadet Under Officer, the position I held the following year. Arthur handed me his Officers' cap on leaving, something I will never forget, and that cap was one of my most valued treasures. Unfortunately, while living in the bush in NSW, the rats took a liking to it as well and sadly I no longer have that wonderful cap, but the memory will remain for ever.

**Elizabeth Fraser (Liz) –Amor (exit year 1957) from Canada:** sad time for us all. We lived close and played many games of tennis together with other Frankston High School students like Jim Saleeba, Martin Lowe and others at the Long Island Tennis Club. He was an excellent tennis player and to us girls very handsome as well. Very fond memories.



## VALE

### IAN JAMES ROGERSON

22 January 1939 – 15 January 2022

*Frankston High School 1951 – 1956.*

*School Prefect, Matriculated with Honours.*

Ian passed away peacefully on 15 January after suffering with Dementia since 2017. A celebration of Ian's life was held at the Cumulus Chapel, Bunurong Memorial Park on Thursday 27 January.

Ian's connection with Frankston High School dates back to the 1920's and 1930's when his grandmother Ada Rogerson attended the Quality Street Campus. Ada was a purposeful and assertive woman – maybe before her time – and the school respectfully acknowledged her outstanding contribution by naming "The Ada Rogerson Hall." The Hall has been recently refurbished and set up as the school's STEM Centre – Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths, ironically subjects dear to Ian's learning and career life.

Fittingly three of Ian's grandchildren, Harry, Jessica and Ben Dalglish, attend Frankston High School today. Ian is survived by wife of 54 years, Lauris, children John, Jenny and Michelle and grandchildren Kaycie, Brooke, Molly, Hayley, Tom, Harry, Jess, Ella, Ben and Max.

After attending Davey Street State School Ian went on to Frankston High School. Gifted academically, Ian was also a talented sportsman excelling at Australian Rules, baseball, golf and cricket. Some of his clubs included, Long Island Golf Club, Frankston Football Club and Cricket Club, Baxter Cricket Club, Cranbourne Cricket Club and Amstel Golf Club. Ian was inducted into the Baxter Cricket Club Hall of Fame and later became President of Cranbourne Cricket Club.

Along with dad, Henry they were avid fans of the Essendon VFL Club.

Ian was a Construction Engineer at the Shire of Cranbourne, a position he successfully held for some 33 years. Ian and Lauris' family home was on 5.5 acres in Grassmere Road, Langwarrin. Primarily bush, farming and market gardens in the early days. The family loved and thrived in the bush setting and the open fields encouraged physical activity, sports and fun of all sorts. The Rogerson family travelled extensively, caravanning and holidaying in beautiful Victorian countryside and towns, for example, Loch Sport, Rosebud, Sorrento, Point Leo, Valencia Creek, Torrumbarry Loch, Dunolly and Wilson's Promontory.

Ian's love of golf led to him managing the Amstel Golf Club Junior Pennant Team. He found his golfing tribe when he joined the Lefthanded Golfer's Association which led to extensive travel to such places as South Africa, Zimbabwe, Kenya and England; eventually fulfilling a lifelong dream playing at St Andrews Golf Club in Scotland. Ian won the Lefthanded Golfing Veteran's Section at Peninsula Golf Club and came third in the World Championships at Coolangatta in 1988. Locally, Ian and Lauris enjoyed travel to New Zealand, Western Australia and the Northern Territory.

A fine life, well lived and summed up best by his family "you gave us a love of learning and by your example, to actively pursue our dreams and goals!"

Rest in Peace Ian James Rogerson, a life well played by a well-grounded Frankston High School graduate.

Alan Wickes OAM



*Frankston High School reunion at Baxter 2019*



FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

## CENTENARY CELEBRATION 1924 - 2024

Frankston High School will celebrate in 2024, its 100<sup>th</sup> year since opening in 1924. We are seeking volunteers to form a committee to assist in organising the celebrations.

Later this year we will see the commencement of our most recent capital works project and we are seeking financial support.

In our centenary year we aim to see our buildings and grounds reflect the high standards and pride we share with our community.

Please indicate your interest below in forming a committee and if you would like to make a donation.

**(You must be triple vaccinated and have a Working with Children Card to participate on the committee)**

\_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

I would like to join the committee my contact phone number is \_\_\_\_\_

My email address is: \_\_\_\_\_

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



### Cheque Payment

Make cheques payable to: Frankston High School  
Post to: 97 Foot Street, Frankston VIC 3199



### Credit Card Payment

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Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Donation Amount: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form directly to the school  
Thank you

# 'OPTIMA SEMPER' MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership renewals for 2023 are due by 31 December 2022

Payments will be accepted until 30 June 2023

Please Note: If you do not pay membership, you will only receive the April 'Optima Semper'.  
If you are not yet a financial member and would like to be, please fill in the details below.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Surname: \_\_\_\_\_

Frankston High School Years: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Suburb: \_\_\_\_\_ Post Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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



## Cheque Payment

Make cheques payable to: Frankston High School  
Post to: 97 Foot Street, Frankston VIC 3199



## Credit Card Payment

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Name on Card: \_\_\_\_\_

Expiry Date: \_\_\_\_/\_\_\_\_ CVC: \_\_\_\_\_

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Membership Fee: \$15

Donation Amount: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total Amount Paid: \$\_\_\_\_\_

Please return completed form directly to the school  
Thank you



Frankston High School  
Former Staff & Students Committee

*Present the*  
**ANNUAL  
CHRISTMAS  
LUNCH**

*All welcome (limited spaces)*

**Saturday  
26 November 2022  
at 11:30am  
Baxter Tavern**  
(Melways 457 R2)

**RSVP: 8th NOVEMBER**

Go to this website to book

<https://www.trybooking.com/BXXCS>

or phone School Office Ph: 9783 7955

*Come & meet old friends.  
We look forward to seeing you there!*

APRIL 2022



Frankston High School  
Foot Street  
Frankston VIC 3199

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