

Alba *50* News

Years Edition
1956-2006

The Journey



The Alba Newsletter

50th Anniversary Edition June 3rd, 2006

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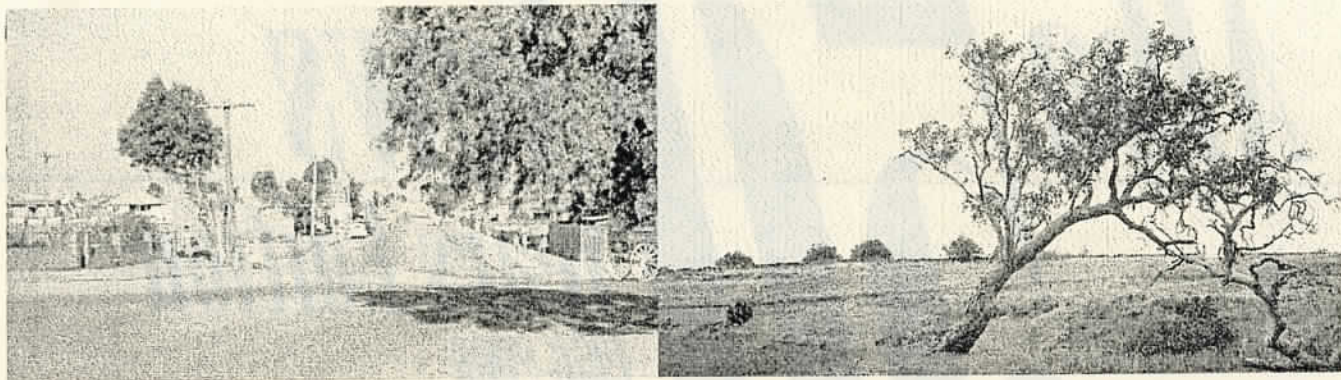
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ST ALBANS
SECONDARY COLLEGE

50s The Wild West

Main Road East was a very dusty place in the 50s. When the initial school building was complete, it was surrounded by paddocks and farms



60s Rebels & Growth

The 60s were characterised by rebels and St Albans was one of the most ethnically diverse populations in Melbourne



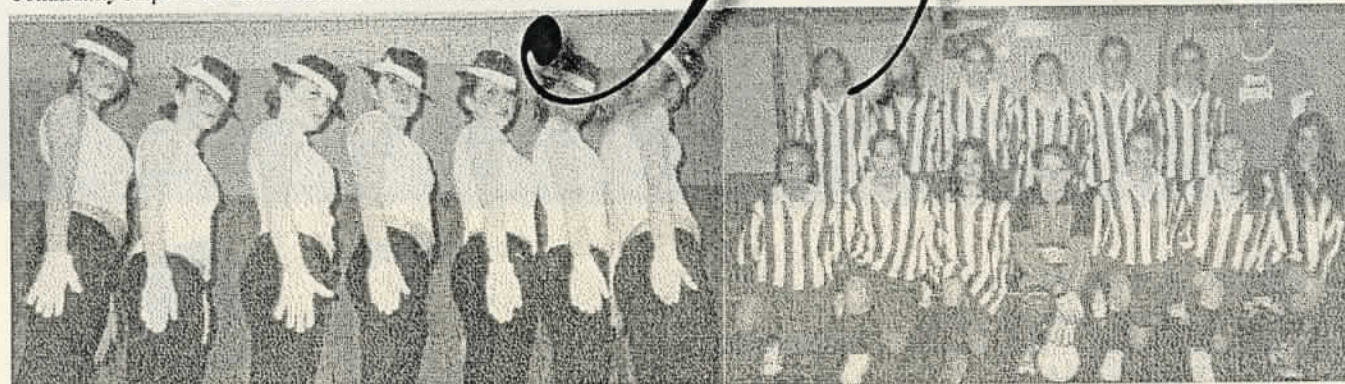
70s Change & Rethink

Uniform is abandoned and MAC established



90s Over 50 Nationalities

Community respect for the school increases as it achieves



Sifty
Our Exciting History

The first staff group and the first school assembly



St Albans Secondary College was the High School in the region with the Technical College at Jamieson , now Brimbank College



80s Infrastructure

Infrastructure and Welfare developed in the school. The school has a gymnasium, canteen and performing arts centre



Beyond 2000

The three wise ones, new learning strategies, facilities and promoting St Albans Secondary School Overseas



50th Anniversary Celebrations

The 50th Anniversary Celebrations at our school celebrated the wonderful history of our school, diversity, and how our school has developed into its current form. The many talents of students past and present were on show. Here is a photo summary of that special day.

Open Day



The 1960's room (or was it the 1970's?) The thoughts of Andrew Webster.

I was apprehensive as I made the trip from Clifton Hill to St. Albans on Sunday. I thought that if we got more than a hundred people through the room we could consider it a success. Some things I was looking forward to, like meeting Genevieve (Genevieve then) Kalkbrenner, one of my best students from my first year in 1967. She had called at the school the previous week and asked if I was going to be there so I knew that we would meet again. I was also looking forward to the surprises of seeing how some of my ex students had coped with the vicissitudes of life. What I wasn't looking forward to was the possibility that insufficient people would visit.

I need not have worried. By the time I arrived at about 10.35, there were already ex students visiting the room. By 11.00 o'clock, the official starting time, the room was crowded and it stayed that way until 3.45 when at last things started to slow down. Talking to Genevieve was the highlight of the day. She had married late, like me, and had had one daughter who was there with her. Her life had turned out well. Mostly I couldn't remember the names of the students who came along; I remembered their faces but

I had to look at their names to see who they were. Sometimes this was a bit of an embarrassment as I should have remembered them, people like Val Pop (who later became Vanessa Pope I think) who I used to see around the traps long after she left the school. Some I did remember

like the Hunter boys, one of whom is married to Stella!

One of the most amazing things I found out is that I used to be late for school a lot in my youth. I have no recollection of this but so many people told me, it must be so.

This was surprising because for the last twenty years or so I always made sure that I never missed a day at school and was never late for anything. I became known as the attendance and punctuality Nazi. I suppose we change over time. A lot of people said that I looked just the same but a bit thinner; these people are now my good friends for life as the process usually goes the other way; Australian men on average gain 14 kilograms between 20 and 50. Others were pleased that my hair was greyer than theirs.

Teachers often don't know if they have done anything; it's very hard to measure whether the time we spend at school with students has any effect. It's not like being a builder where at the end of each day you can look at your work and physically see what you have done. Last Sunday was very satisfying because I could see some of the results of something I had a hand in, the development of people.

I have always maintained that all behaviours at school should be forgiven and forgotten because in most cases even the biggest ratbag at school will turn out well. I often see students I used to have in my classes (I can't claim to have taught them anything) ten or twenty years on and invariably they have a family, a business and are making a positive contribution to the country, and yet they were dismissed at school as having little hope of amounting to anything much.

I'm looking forward to the dinner dance and meeting more people and having a longer chat to them as well as to the sixtieth celebrations of the school.

Letters

Going Back Elizabeth Powell

It was the event that opened like the pages of a book...St Albans High School's "Open Day," 21st May 2006. Time stood still for one day so we could go back and recapture the people, the faces, the old corridors, classrooms, offices and pathways we once knew so well. It was as it should have been. Familiar and welcoming. Like going back home after a long time away.

I felt like a young girl again...scurrying down the lengthy locker filled hallways in my green summer uniform and clutching my books searching for my next class. It was memorable and fulfilling, and like the St Albans of old, everyone mingled and embraced.

The school hall seemed so much smaller. That once frightful stage now became a stepping stone where I returned to sing. There was Mrs Westcott our headmistress looking on as if the school assembly was in progress. Mr Alcorn who strolled down the passageways greeting past students. What had changed?

Jenni Livingstone who looked as if she were heading back to the Biology room to start class. Andrew Webster who monitored the the 70's memorabilia room just as he once supervised our form 2 geography class some 34 years ago. Only thing he forgot was his dark polo neck sweater and his customary leather jacket.

Graham Twist who kidded around just as he used to... always with heaps of students gathering. Mr Torki, Mr Smith and Mrs Marshall were there, but I didn't see them. Simply knowing they were around seemed like a new day at school. I heard someone shout "there's my locker.!" I peeped into the once HSC Economics room and for a moment saw myself sitting at the back day-dreaming over Mr Powell again.

The original cookery room was now a makeshift cafe. I recall the spot where Mrs Johnson once stood...where Helen created her "fountain of glasses." The metalwork and woodwork rooms where Mr Naish used to hide. What was truly lovely was the feel of the gentle wind that brushed against you as you stood at the end of the memorabilia corridor. I didn't want to leave. It was my school. A big part of who I am today. To "Go Back"...you don't even have to ask.

Back to the 80s Brian Mundy

What a great day! Throughout the day students and staff who had attended the school during the 1980s visited to share their memories and catch a glimpse of times past. It was great to see so many familiar and not so familiar faces. Past staff members such as Stephen Blackwell, Bruce Alcorn, Doug Smith and Bruce Taylor visited along with many students. Some people were so engrossed, they stayed for hours to catch up with a friend they had not seen for many years or check out the class photos, finding their face each year for 6 years and sharing them with their children. (I think David and Stewart Crossley are still here!) Children were heard to say "hey mum look at you or Auntie or uncle."

It was a great day as memories flooded back. I caught up with students from my first science class in 78 (Michael

Dugina and Dominic Borg) and my second Integrated Studies Class of 83 (David Crossley and Michelle Kalwig) and heard stories of tragedy and success. Many smiles were seen, tales were told and disbelief that so many teachers were there who were remembered fondly, still worked at the school and had spent there working lives in this school community. Stories from MAC and Strathbogie surfaced as people shared their memories and tried to work out if they really did remember that face and the person behind it!

It was a great day, I came for 2 hours and stayed for 6 catching up, remembering and sharing. I think that more than 70 past students from the 80s signed the guest book too many to mention. Thanks to Stella Hunter, David Crossley and all the other members of the planning committee for putting together the day and the exhibitions.

E-mail

Thank you Lisa M Walton

I would just like to say "Thank You" for such a fabulous day on the open day. It was just amazing. Both my mother and I attended the school and we both came to the open day. I think my mum had as good a time as I did catching up with old friends and teachers. My mum was not sure on coming at the start, but I think she is glad that she did...

50th Jeff Pay

I would like to pass on my congratulations to the organising committee of the back to. I totally enjoyed meeting up again with some of the original students and Bruce Alcorn after 25 years when I attended the 25th year celebrations.

Might I suggest that students from 1956 be invited to submit their email addresses to enable contact by other original students. If others are interested, I am quite happy for my email address jpa87584@bigpond.net.au to be communicated to fellow ex students.

Please also congratulate Andy Kratsis. He did a wonderful job on the day. I am sorry that I am unable to attend the dinner dance, but another trip to Melbourne, it would be my third in three weeks, is not possible due to staffing shortages. Once again, thanks for a very enjoyable day.



Congratulations

Celebrations Organizing Committee
Congratulations and thank you to everyone who came to the St Albans Secondary College 50th Anniversary Open Day last weekend - Sunday May 21st. What a fantastic event it was! Over 800 people attended throughout the day exceeding our best expectations by far. It was a great show of the deep affection that people hold for the school. If you weren't able to be there, here are just a couple of highlights from the day:

Undeniably the most popular display was in the 50's and 60's room, where people got together, standing shoulder to shoulder for much of the day; School council president, Andy Kratsis, relating some memories from his student days, before he, and half a dozen other students from the 60's and 70's, belted out a number of hits from that era; "Let the sun shine...", "I need a little help from my friends..." and "Hit the road Jack..." amongst them; A rousing rendition of the national anthem, which was led by two current senior students, Laura Vongkham and Vanessa McGee; and of course, The banter and open delight as friends who hadn't seen each other in ages caught up, chatted and reminisced.

Keep an eye on the School's website over the coming weeks, as we hope to put up some photographs and stories of the day. Our only disappointment was that school principal, Karen Moore, who has been unwell, was not able to be there. Everyone who attended wished Karen well for a speedy recovery. To everyone who's bought tickets to the dinner dance on June 3, we look forward to seeing you there and carrying on the celebrations. To those who haven't yet, our deepest apologies, all 500 tickets have now sold out!

Don't despair though as there are still a couple of ways to be part of the celebration activities. A few of the CD's which were produced for the event are still available. Check the website for more information about the CD and contact the School on 9366 2555 if you wish to purchase a copy. Secondly, as the response to the 50th anniversary has been so huge, the school is keener than ever to establish an alumni association. Further information will be sent in the coming weeks, but if you want to be part of the association, phone the school or send an email to let us know that you're keen to be involved.

In the meantime, thanks again. You've all helped make these celebrations a great success.

Kind regards,

St Albans 50 Years
Celebrations Organising Committee

Reminisce George Petrides (1981)

It was a privilege to be part of the organising committee for the 50th anniversary celebrations of St Albans Secondary College. More particularly it was great to see the success that was Open Day.

When planning such a large event there is always the pressure to try and find a mix of activities that will appeal to everyone. The committee held many discussions about how the program should look and what activities it should contain.

In the end it almost always comes down to one thing - to provide an opportunity for old friends to get together, have a laugh and a chat and reminisce about the old times.

And that's exactly what happened on Sunday May 21 at Open Day.

For all the deliberation about how many speakers to have, whether or not people will want music and entertainment, what sort of food to cater, and so on, it was the chatter and good humoured banter that proved the day had been a success.

Just to walk passed the display rooms - 50's & 60's, 70's, 80's and so on, and to see them crammed with people, standing shoulder to shoulder, chatting, laughing and enjoying each other's company made the anxiety of the past 18 months disappear.

Everywhere you went throughout the school, the scene was the same - people talking, laughter and every now and then an excited voice would be heard above the general din, "Oh my God. I haven't seen you in ages!" or "Look at you, you haven't changed a bit."

The fact that some people had arrived at 11:00 am, and were still there at closing time, proved that the committee had indeed produced a successful program, even if that meant just giving people the chance to catch up with some old friends.

Thanks Anna Neal (Nemec)

To the Committee

I attended the Open Day last Sunday. I really enjoyed myself, meeting "old" school friends and viewing the slides and walking around the classrooms.

I would like to congratulate everyone for their effort in making the day possible. Although only a few of my school years attended, we spent ages catching up and asking "what happened to."

If you wanted to find the happiest loudest and friendliest group, you had no further to look than the 1950s 1960s rooms. Thank you and once again, congratulations.



Roger Martin Science Wing

One of the major events of the back to school 50th Anniversary Celebration was the dedication of one the College's science wings to the memory of respected former Assistant Principal, Roger Martin.

Roger Martin provided nearly 40 years of service to the students of Victoria after starting his employment with the Department of Education in 1959 as a teacher in training. He taught at schools across the state that included: Manangatang, Footscray, Maribyrnong, Essendon, Braybrook and St. Albans. He was a senior biology teacher of distinction who had an enormous interest in current science issues. He was appointed to St. Albans High School as Deputy Principal in 1978 and went on to be the schools longest serving principal class officer, retiring in 1998.

Roger became a mentor to many staff always offering support and a listening ear. He became a father figure to the many young staff who joined him at St. Albans during tumultuous years of the mid and late 70's at the school.

Roger Martin died after a battle with cancer.

The science wing was dedicated to his memory by the Regional Director of Education for the Western Metropolitan Region, Mr Rob Blachford. Speaking to a large audience of Roger's family, friends, colleagues and former students, Mr Blachford spoke of Roger's dedication to students, the education system and his support and leadership for teachers.

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A Wonderful Day Sam David

To Whom It May Concern,

Thank you so much for putting on a wonderful day at the fiftieth anniversary open day. It's been almost twenty years since I left St Albans High back in 1987 and I must say, I had no idea how much I was going to miss the place until I walked back into the old buildings and the memories just washed over me like a nostalgic tsunami. I was so surprised to see the old poster still hanging on the old computer room door on B floor (the one with the hand drawn Apple logo). That poster was there in 1983 when I started (If memory serves me well) and it was there when I finished year 11 in 1987. How joyfully surprised I was to see it there now in 2006! I spent quite a bit of time in the 80's room going through the class photos of yesteryear and reconnecting names to faces of people who had slipped my memory as the years have rolled by. What really impressed me was the number of people who attended from earlier years. The 80's room was almost barren by comparison to the 70's and 60's room.

I was so thrilled to catch up with Mr. Hawksworth, Mr. Mundy, and of course it would not have been the same without Mr. Twist. I wish some more of the old teachers could have been there, but oh well, you can't win 'em all. It is with St. Albans High that most, if not all, my fondest memories of teenage life lie. I pray that the 'old lady' sees another fifty years, and God willing, I'm around to witness her one hundred year anniversary. Once again, thank you so much for a wonderful day.

Yours Sincerely,

Sam David

Alumni

The school would like to set up an ex-student association. Expressions of interest can be registered at the school on 9366 2555 any time during office hours. Please check out the school website. Please fill out the Alumni questionnaire at the dinner so that we can keep in touch.

Commemorative CD

Commemorative CD will be on sale tonight for \$20.

This can also be purchased by contacting the school on 9366 2555 anytime during business hours.



Signatures & Addresses

Friends

