

## FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL

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

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## PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

### JOHN ALBISTON, PRINCIPAL

Dear Former Staff and Students



I hope everyone enjoyed some special times with family and friends over Christmas. We are back in full swing

at Frankston High School, having begun the year in celebration of some outstanding VCE results thanks to the brilliant Class of 2017.

This year top performing boys blitzed in leading our school's results. Dux: Albin Joy with an ATAR of 99.55, with Abram Poznanski and Callan McCrimmon also achieving scores over 99. In addition an incredible 31 students achieved ATARS over 90 placing them in the top 10% of the population. Furthermore two of our Year 11 students (Jack Higgins and Josh Gardiner) achieved perfect study scores of 50 in Mathematics. Over half of our students were ranked in the top 30% of the state with our school continuing to be the leading government school on the Peninsula and ranked within the top 10 of Metropolitan Government Co-educational and Non-select Entry schools in the state. Such results were evaluated by the Department to be well above those achieved in similar schools, therefore we can continue to be justifiably proud of our reputation as a high performing school of academic excellence.

As you are most are probably aware we are embarking on some exciting ambitious building projects this year. However, even before we are underway with buildings, we have returned to school to find we have a lush carpet of green grass on the oval rather than the usual dry dust bowl. This is thanks to the hard work of our Finance Manager **Mr Glenn Davey** (aka: Official Groundsman) who has ensured the oval was fertilised, reseeded and watered over summer. The students are greatly appreciating playing sport on such a wonderful rejuvenated ground with new goal posts. Also, we will be opening our new multisport artificial turf complex which will provide a footsill pitch, tennis and netball courts for students and community clubs to enjoy. Our students continue in your footsteps with their passion for sport and it is terrific to be able to provide them with such state of the art facilities. In April we are hoping to begin works on completing our Senior Campus followed by constructing a new stadium, commercial gym, theatre and STEM (Science Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) centre.

We are very proud of **Gerard Felipe (Year 12)** and **Jackson Ramage (Year 11)** who have been selected in a group of 120 top students from across Australia to participate in the 22nd National Schools Constitutional Convention, in Canberra from 15 - 17 March 2017. In becoming national delegates, Jackson and Gerarde were selected from around 4,000 students from government, independent and Catholic schools, most of whom took part in feeder conventions in their home state or territory. Also accolades to Gerarde for being elected as the VicSRC chairperson. The VicSRC is a student leadership body which Gerarde is leading that represents students from all Victorian government and private schools. This team of young leaders regularly meet with the Education Minister : Hon James Merlino. I am hoping Gerarde can put in a good word for Frankston High. Our student leadership program is certainly equipping students with amazing leadership skills which I believe could lead to a former student becoming a Premier or Prime Minister of the future.

To all former staff and students who are reading this edition of 'Optima Semper' I hope this rekindles fond memories of your time at Frankston High School and I wish everyone a wonderful 2017.

# PRESIDENT'S REPORT



## BILL UNDERWOOD

33 BELUGA STREET MT ELIZA 3930

TEL: 9787 2981

Welcome to our new members of the Former Students & Staff Association and our continuing members. If you are not a member yet all payments will be accepted until the 30th of June, 2017.

At our AGM in 2016 the following Office Bearers were elected:

President – Bill Underwood

Vice President – Georgia Newton

Secretary – Lesley Clapperton

Treasurer – Carolyn Florance

Reunion Co-ordinator – Georgia Newton

## FORMER STAFF AND STUDENTS ASSOCIATION COMMITTEE MEETING DATES FOR 2017

All meetings are held at 2pm in the Conference Room on the Year 7-10 Campus.

All members are welcome to attend whenever they wish. Afternoon tea is provided.

### 2017 MEETING DATES

22nd May -

August Optima Semper due date 30th June for articles

16th Oct

13th Nov (AGM) - December Optima Semper due date for articles

A reminder that you must be a current financial member to sit on the committee.

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

Any former staff students and staff who would like to attend any of our committee meetings are more than welcome. All meetings are held at 2pm in the Conference Room on the year 7-10 Campus. We would like to hear from you if you have any ideas about events, activities or reunions that you may be interested

We will have another Brisbane reunion for anyone who is 'flying north for the winter'! (See articles further on in this edition) All former students who would like to attend these reunions are more than welcome. I look forward to catching up with you all at the Brisbane reunion on Friday 7th July. You will need to arrange your own accommodation, so please contact your travel agent or Queensland Tourism.

Our Christmas reunion will be held on Saturday 25th November, 2017 so please don't forget to come and enjoy the day.

Last year on December 14th I had the pleasure in representing the Former Staff and Students Association by presenting the Former Staff and Students awards at the Frankston Arts Centre to Jack Paydon Year 9 and Anna Metsatunian Year 10

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

Hope you all have a healthy and safe year in 2017

Regards

Bill

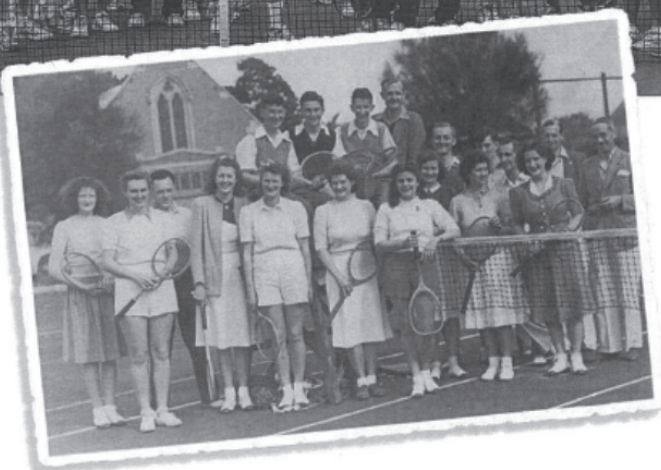
## FRANKSTON HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS GOLF CLUB

The FHSOBGC was formed a couple of years ago by Laurie Pertusch 040 842 3134 (laurienjoan@bigpond.com and Bob Smith 041 734 2422 (greengeo@bigpond.net.au) and they would welcome some new participants to their golf day, even a chat about the golf or suggestions on other venues would be most welcome. Past games have been played at Cowes and Leongatha. Your views are important to them!!"

## A SMASHING GOOD TIME

# *A smashing good time*

History of Mornington Tennis Club  
1891–2016



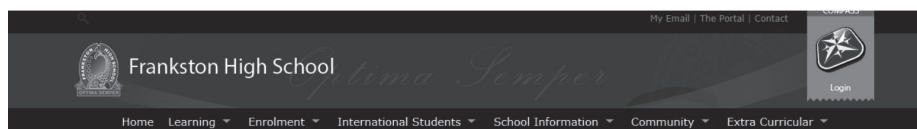
SARAH PINGIARO  
WITH MICHAEL HAST

My secondary education started in 1940 at Frankston High School in Quality St where Mr Percy Langford was the Head Master. I travelled from Mornington to the school on the Portsea bus. Last year was a fantastic year for me in many ways but the publishing of "A Smashing Good Time" a history of the Mornington Tennis Club 1891-2016. The book is A4 in size and 131 pages of not only events at tennis but a lot of history of Mornington. If you are interested in a copy of the book please email me: [Sylvia.pingiario@bigpond.com](mailto:Sylvia.pingiario@bigpond.com)

## OPTIMA SEMPER ONLINE

The Optima Semper April issue which is available free of charge to all those registered on the database, will now be available on the Frankston High School website. You can find it by clicking on the "Community" tab and go to the "Former Staff and Students" page. The August and December issues will continue to only be made available by post to paid members.

In the past we have been restricted in our ability to publish articles that contain over 500 words in the Optima Semper magazine. Once the school website has been updated in the next coming months, all articles that are over 500 words and strictly relate to the history of Frankston High School only will be published on the Former Staff and Students page of the Frankston High School website. We would appreciate your contributions by email to: [optimasemper@fhs.vic.edu.au](mailto:optimasemper@fhs.vic.edu.au) or saved to a USB or CD and posted to: Optima Semper c/o Frankston High School 97 Foot St, Frankston Vic 3199



### Former Students and Staff

The Frankston High School Former Students and Staff Association was formed in 1995 to establish important links with staff and students who attended Frankston High School in previous years.

As all of our records were lost in the fires which occurred in 1990 – 1991, we had a mammoth task of reaching people and restoring this important part of our history.

# SOME RECOLLECTIONS OF FELLOW STUDENTS AND RELATED EVENTS FROM 1955



## 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.

## 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

## BOB EDWARD (1955 – 1959)

I was in the same first form (1E) as Russell Le Cren (1955) and recollect how Russell demonstrated his brilliant ability to draw cartoons and caricatures of people. Does anyone know if he developed his gift into a career?

Anyone who knew John Sheeran would remember his passion for cards and motor bikes. I remember John recovering several motor bikes from the local tip (it was OK in those days to bring stuff home) and rebuilding them. One that he rebuilt and got going was an old Matchless but he could not find an exhaust for it. In the absence of an exhaust the engine belched flame and extruded a fierce noise. It was quite a monster of a thing to ride. We took it to "The Pines" to ride, I am sure it would have been heard all over Frankston.

A poignant reminder of how dangerous snakes can be came one morning at assembly at Towerhill Road when it was announced that one of the junior students, Owen Burke had been bitten and died. Owen was only 14.

As an example of effective teaching Bob Metcalfe our 4th Form (1958) Science teacher invited us to make up a mnemonic so that we could remember the order of the planets from the sun. It went like this; Men very excellent marry and enjoy some unholy naughty parties. The planets are: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Uranus, Neptune and Pluto. That was 57 years and I still remember it, anyone else?

During my time at FHS the school produced a number of candidates for the Victorian Police Force, these included Ron Smith, Ken McKenzie, Bob Schmidt and Bill Devine. I was reacquainted with Ron in rather unusual circumstances, he was the prosecuting sergeant when I was being tried at the Alexander Magistrates Court for paraflaying at Lake Eildon. Won't go into the whole story, suffice to say that I instigated the reintroduction of paraflaying at Lake Eildon and after my case was finished had lunch with Ron in the Police Station.

Ex Cadet Warrant Officer David Harris went onto to serve in the Australian Army after leaving school and I think finished up as a Commissioned Officer fighting in Vietnam (he was featured in a documentary about the war). David was in charge of the FHS Cadet Guard while at Scrub Hill (Seymour) where apart from competing in the guard competition we actually carried out guard duties. We were assembled in the guard tent one evening (a large bell tent) practising our drill with fixed bayonets. When the order came to slope arms no one thought about the roof of the tent, as a result the tent sustained a series of holes from our bayonets. We were never held to account but someone would have not been happy particularly if it had rained!



## VALE

**ROBERT D'ALTON - 1944 Intake**

**ANNETTE MILLER - 1945 intake**

**RAY NUTTALL 7.5.1938 – 17.10.2016**

The Nuttall family migrated from England to Australia in 1951 and initially took up residence in Maryborough before moving to Mornington. Ray attended Frankston High School for three years until 1954; travelling to and from school with the Mornington contingent in the semi-trailer bus. He was a member of the School Soccer and Swimming teams and a catalyst for the introduction of golf as a School sport.

Ray was very much part of our Mornington group, sharing many happy experiences in sporting, social and camping activities.

As school boys, Ray and I caddied at Mornington Country Golf Club, which led to Ray's fascination with and commitment to the game of golf. He became a scratch golfer, later winning the Mornington Club Championship and representing Woodlands Golf Club in Senior Pennant for many years.

We began our banking careers together on 10th January 1955 in Mornington, Ray with ANZ and I with the National. Ray and his fiancé Carolyn Cumming moved to London where they married in 1966 and for four years travelled extensively, for six sometimes nine months of the year. My family and I were transferred to London in 1967 and were able to reacquaint ourselves with Ray and Carolyn.

During Ray's time in London he was employed as an Accountant by Constructors John Brown. While there, he was responsible for the financial management of several projects including one to construct an oil pipeline in Algeria. His visits to Algeria were challenging as hostility continued in the aftermath of the bitter Franco-Algerian War.

Returning to Australia in 1970 after a nine month, 53,000 kilometre overland trip by Landrover, Ray joined the Australian Taxation Office. In 1972 Ray was transferred to Canberra where he and his wife, Carolyn, raised their family of three children and established their home in Forrest. During his career with the Taxation Office Ray's role included writing papers for the Federal Treasurer of the day. Together with Carolyn, a qualified Pharmacist, they acquired a pharmacy, followed by another. At that time, Ray left the Taxation Office to support Carolyn in the pharmacy business. In 1985, while still running the two pharmacies, Ray purchased the Dickson Newsagency. Apart from managing the newsagency, Ray was renowned for his cooking, gardening and as a long-term member of Royal Canberra Golf Club.

Ray became ill several years ago and whilst his activities were restricted, he continued to manage the newsagency and his devotion and care for his family never waned. He very much regretted his inability to attend our Class of 1955 Reunion lunches in Tyabb.

Ray was hospitalized for seven months before passing away peacefully on 17th October last year.

He is survived by Carolyn, their children Filipa, Andrew and Meg and grandchildren Tiger, Austin, Millie, Abbey, Logan and Levi.

He was a true friend, a wonderful family man and brave until the end. Rest in Peace, Ray.

Kevin Williamson



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

Please urge your friends to become 'paid up' members of our association. By paying the annual membership of \$15.00 you ensure you don't miss out on future events and hearing what has been happening. You also guarantee your 2017 copies of Optima Semper with lots of news and photos.

# BAXTER TAVERN CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2016

Another great reunion was had, lots of new faces from all years. Our earliest former student being Arthur Charlwood who started in 1931. It was a very disappointing turnout for the 60th anniversary of the 1956 intake with so many bookings and yet failed to turn up on the day, a great day was missed by those.

The Neville Drummond Trophy Award went to David Bilton. David lives in Townsville and has attended 16 reunions since 2003, a great effort indeed! David's parents owned "Bills" café which most of you will remember in Bay Street Frankston. There were some great stories to be told and lots of people that hadn't seen each other in 60, 70 or 80 years. Many thanks to Jan Durrant, Annie Charlston, Bob Edwards and Bill Underwood for all their help in making it a great day.

Also for those wondering about the 4 ladies who were in a car accident on the day, great news they are all ok. After spending the night for observation in Frankston and Dandenong Hospital they were discharged the next day. They are shaken but doing well.

Hope that you all keep safe and well, see you next year.

Regards  
Georgia



Freddy Heesh,  
leading us into the  
singing of the  
school song.



Angela Georgiou, Pam Mackie, Robin Briggs,  
David McKenzie, Greta Kurlinle



Marion & John Coulson, Ron Wood



Ian Swanson, June Beckman



Betty Broomfield, Sylvia Fyffe



Back: Betty Chick, Masie  
Unthank, Val Collins





Gwendra Peverill, Joyce Grant



Shirley Higgins, Elvie Dinnis



Masie Unthank, Betty North



Maria & Richard Prestt



Willeen White, Arthur Ingram



Max Muller,  
Laurie Petrusch



Geoff Oates, George & Susan Wahr



Pandy Crawley, Agnes Lord

## BAXTER TAVERN CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2016 (Continued)



Vito Inserra, Bev Moore, Ian Swanson



Sheila Webster, Claire Watterson



L-R: Helen Goding, Jeanette Richardson,  
Coral Wheeler, Glynis Williams, Sue Hunter,  
Lov Jenkins (Former Teacher)



L-R: Maie Lauks, Bob James, Jim Ware,  
Norm Sherlock



Bob Edwards, Ruth Marriott



Graeme & Jenny Horsburgh



Arthur Charlwood, Phyllis James





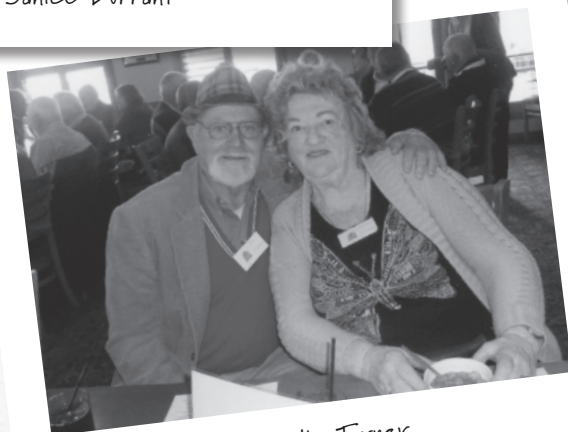
Maie Lauks, Jim Ware



David Bilton, Janice Durrant



Colin Bragg, Judith Morris



Sam De Gregorio, Melba Turner



Arthur Charlwood, Marion Floyd



Doug Le Bas, Beverly Hocking, Patricia Phillips



Gwendal McLeod, John Stubbington,  
Blair Feenaghty

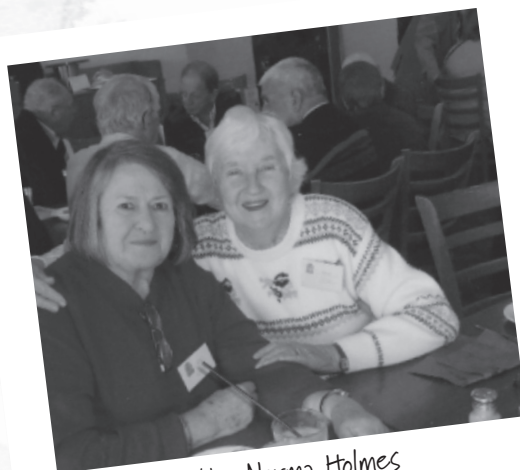


Pauline Savage, Fay Young

## BAXTER TAVERN CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2016 (Continued)



Betty Harvey, Peter Lewis



Carol White, Norma Holmes



Andrea Humpfries, Agnes Lord



Laurie Petrusch, Bob Smith



Blair Feenaghty, Rewa McLean, Joy Bohn



Mavis Pentland, Bev Laurisson

### REUNIONS

**Brisbane Reunion** Friday 7th July 11.30am onwards at New Farm Park Brisbane. All Queenslanders will be notified by mail closer to the date. This will be the FINAL Queensland reunion so please make the time to come along and enjoy a lovely get together.

**Christmas lunch** Saturday 25th November at Baxter Tavern- Years 1950-1956 All states will be notified closer to the date by mail with further details. Bookings are essential for this reunion. Inquiries can be made: Georgia M: 0438 053 333

# 'OPTIMA SEMPER' MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL NOTICE

Membership renewals for 2017 are due by the 31st of December 2016.

Payments will be accepted until the 30th of June 2017

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

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

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

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

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ FHS Years: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

Contact Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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

Credit Card Details: 

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☐ Mastercard

☐ Visa

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

Donation Amount to be included: \_\_\_\_\_ Total Amount Paid: \_\_\_\_\_

Cardholders Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

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



APRIL 2017



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Foot Street  
Frankston VIC 3199

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