



RHS Newsletter

Grapevine

April 2016



Editorial Note: In this issue I have added two historical articles as a reminder of what Ringwood High School was like when we started in 1954

or soon after. I have taken a couple of relevant extracts from school magazines as memory joggers of those days. This year, the Rio Olympic Games are being held in Brazil and this year also marks 60 years since the 1956 Melbourne Olympic Games. Mr Bennett wrote his Head Master's Report for the magazine for the end of 1956, setting us a challenge which I feel we have all met over the years. At the beginning of 1957 there were also changes in staff numbers; new teachers arriving at RHS and some original teachers leaving for other schools, giving a net result of 35 staff. The names are on the photograph on Page 2. You may remember them. Welcome to the 'new' folk who are receiving this newsletter for the first time. Maybe we will see you at lunch soon. [BWR]

Report on the First Lunch for 2016.

Our February lunch saw 30 members attending, which I think is the largest number for the first lunch of the year. The RSL management split the two tables with a space for two smaller tables between, but for those who attended it didn't make any difference, we all had a great time. If numbers continue to increase we will need to seek a larger venue. We now have more ex-students listed and it is pleasing to receive requests from others to be included on the mailing list. **See Page 3 for next lunch.**

RSC Heritage and Alumni Group.

At a recent meeting on 7th March where a new committee was chosen, not elected, due to only two nominees for two positions. Geoff Asher agreed to stay on as Secretary for the 2016 year and I nominated as the Chairman, in lieu of Terry Kane who held the position for two years. Terry has also been our archivist for almost 12 years and was seeking some-one else to take on that role, however, he has told the committee that he will stay for another year or so to complete some work in developing the archives to a simple functioning arrangement where information is stored and can be easily retrieved when required. When he has satisfied his long-term goal for the archives he will retire from that position. We are now seeking an interested person to continue his work by managing the archives into the future. Maybe you know some-one who has some spare time to assist.

I did a rough calculation and found that the average age of the committee members is around 65 years, with a couple of us at 75 years old this year. The group also has 3 ex-teachers who offer valuable assistance. The question is how much longer will our health allow us to continue doing this job? Then a second question needs to be addressed, how do we get others interested enough to want to be a part of this group made up mostly of ex-students? We need others to follow on and maintain the assistance we offer Ringwood Secondary College. Do you know of anyone who may be interested? Perhaps they could just come to a meeting at 7.30PM and see what useful things we do for Ringwood Secondary College. My phone number is 9725 7535, or contact Geoff Asher on 9571 3833 if you require information. We really want to see this committee continue as it is worthwhile and of great benefit to the college. [Barry Ring]

New Heritage Project.

The Heritage and Alumni Group is planning a new, long-term project for the college, to provide an electronic signboard to advertise events and special dates relating to College activities for the public. Although in its infancy, the project has been supported by the College Facilities Manager, so we will undertake a feasibility study to see if we can get the support necessary to bring it to fruition. How and when we proceed from here will be the subject of much discussion to come. [Barry Ring]

An unusual Hobby.

Earlier this year I was asked by one of the original students if I would mention her hobby that is not so common these days. She is a swap card collector. She is Jeannette Cowland, but you knew her as Jeannette Martin of Form 1E in 1954. This is a hobby that followed on from her primary school days and she would like to know if any other ex-students had a swap card collection, or just a few swap cards they no longer need to keep. Jeannette has come to a few lunches recently and not only has she enjoyed the company, but it started her thinking that maybe some of you may have swap cards in a shoe box, or lying in a drawer and didn't know what to do with them. If you have some that have a value to you she is prepared to negotiate or swap. She said she isn't interested in selling them on, or trading them, she just wants to add them to her collection.

Did you know that playing cards were made in two sizes at the start of the 20th Century? They were simply described as 'wide' or 'narrow' cards due to a slight variation in their widths. Some 19th Century cards had square corners before curved corners became fashionable much later.

***WIDE** cards (6.5 x 9cm), were designed to fit a gentleman's hand and manufactured prior to 1918). **NARROW** cards started production around 1920's due to the increased popularity of new card games for women. The newer cards were 6 x 9cm and were better suited to a lady's hand.*

Now they have been categorised by date and style, such as "Art Nouveau" (1890-1914), "Post War" (1940's-1950's) and "Modern or Retro" (1960's-1970's) to illustrate a few examples.

If you have swap cards that need a new home you can contact me on 9725 7535 or barry.ring@bigpond.com until June when Jeannette will have her new phone number. [Barry Ring]

Sixty Years Ago. From 1956 to 2016. From 756 students to more than 1500.

Mr Bennett wrote this report for the December 1956 school magazine. It seems it had been written before the Olympic Games started, but didn't get published until the magazine was printed in December of that year. [Source: 1956 School Magazine.]

VICTORIA'S GREAT YEAR

The year 1956 will become known to all Victorians as the "Olympic Year". In November the World's best athletes will assemble in Melbourne to compete in the 1956 Olympiad. To succeed and have the flag of one's Country raised to signify victory will be the ambition of every competitor.

Have you ever thought of the demands made of the individual competitor before he or she is selected in a National team? Such selection requires months of well directed training. This training demands the strict adherence to a wholesome way of life, the sacrifice of much pleasure, hard work and a determination to succeed. An individual with natural ability in a particular sport who gives of his best in training may become an Olympic competitor.

Later this year many young Australians will compete in these contests. Some, we hope, will succeed in winning gold medals. Whatever the result, our competitors will be rewarded in the knowledge that they have represented their Country and given of their best.

The splendid example displayed by our National champions should convey to us that we can succeed as future Citizens providing we adopt the same determination to live wholesome lives, pay strict attention to training and be prepared to make sacrifices.

YOUR HEAD-MASTER

An Extract from the School Magazine December 1957

1957 started with many new teachers as RHS grew into Forms 5 and 6 (Years 11 & 12). By 1957 there was 35 staff.

This year, 2016, RSC has a staff of more than 200 teachers. There are also more than 1500 students enrolled this year.

STAFF NOTES

This year we extended a welcome to many new teachers—Messrs. Armstrong, Miller, Holloway, Moritz, Walsh, Saunders, Stent, Broadley and Hudson; Misses Carpenter, Bullen and Allen, Mrs. Bird and Mrs. Townshend. During First Term we said goodbye regretfully to Mrs. Moorhouse, and later to Mr. Walsh, who returned to England, and to Miss Allen. Our best wishes go to all three. We also offer our congratulations to Mr. Ginane, who was with us for a short time before taking up a research scholarship.

The end of this year will ring a sad parting when we lose Miss Samson, who has done so much for Ringwood, but we offer our sincere congratulations on her promotion to Balwyn H.S., where Miss Bearlin will accompany her. Our good wishes go with both.

Mr. Stuchberry, another "foundation member" who has helped to make the school what it is, takes up the position of Headmaster at the new Maribyrnong High School and our congratulations and good wishes go with him also. Perhaps we should forewarn students about his prowess at basketball.

Early in the new year we shall face another parting when our Headmaster, Mr. Bennett, retires, but in the meantime let us offer our sincere congratulations on his promotion to Special Class, and our grateful thanks for his untiring labour in the interests of Ringwood High School.



BACK ROW:—Mr. Moritz, Mrs. Cooke, Mr. Robb, Mr. Davis, Miss Bearlin, Mrs. Jenkins, Miss Billiald, Miss Thomas, Messrs Cavill, Ingwersen, Chamberlain.

CENTRE:—Messrs Holloway, Stent, Hudson, Miss Ramsay, Mrs. Binns, Mrs. Head, Mrs. Mentz, Miss Bullen, Miss Barrowman, Mr. Jamieson, Mr. Cock.

SEATED:—Mr. Saunders, Mrs. Ward, Mr. Shannon, Mrs. Townshend, Mr. Beaver, Miss Samson, Mr. Bennett, Miss Monk, Mr. Stuchbery Mr. Miller, Mrs. Bird, Mr. Armstrong, Mr. Meikle.

These articles were reproduced from the archive records now on DVD in PDF format. Terry Kane has details if you wish to purchase a DVD.

Decimal Currency — 50 Years On.

In the last issue I had some fun with Valentine's Day, but on that same day in 1966 we were introduced to decimal currency, so let's relive some of the fun at its introduction. It was introduced with great fanfare by a little guy called *Dollar Bill* who sang his way through the coin and note changes in a catchy ditty. You can hear him again by using this link and clicking the video>>

<http://blog.perthmint.com.au/2012/02/14/on-this-day-australia-goes-decimal/>. It's the blue section as I have shown below.

Perhaps the most difficult thing for us to understand was the "carving up" of the shilling (12 pence) into 10 cents —going from 12 parts to 10 parts. "What, one *and* two pennies are only worth one cent now?" "Sixpence is only worth 5 cents? Where did the extra penny go?" Yes, there was confusion, but we had to adjust and we did. Where I worked there was some mirth about staff asking each other questions like, "If I had 3/6½, how much would I have in NEW money?" "Was it 35 cents or 36 cents?"

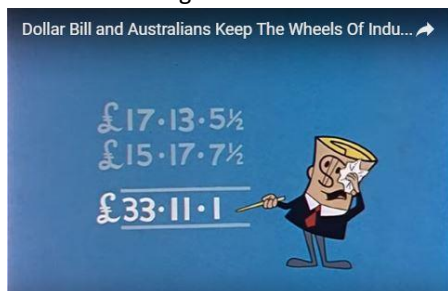
We all learnt it and have lived with it for 50 years. Along the way \$1 and \$2 changed from notes to coins in 1984.

At the same time we lost the *Dozen Rule* for pennies and the *Score Rule* for shillings.

If we buy 12 gumballs at one penny each we will pay one shilling.

If we buy 20 meat pies for a shilling each we will pay one pound.

Here are two screen grabs of Dollar Bill showing the simple calculation comparisons from OLD to NEW money.



<<<<< From this to this >>>>>



1969. The silver 50 cent coin was replaced by a cupro-nickel, 12-sided coin.

1984. The \$1 note was replaced by a \$1 coin.

1984. The \$2 note was replaced by a \$2 coin.

1992. The 1c and 2c coins were withdrawn from circulation.

So, why do we still have products costed with 98 and 99 cents after the decimal point? It's a marketing trick!

Next School Lunch.

I have called our May luncheon our **pre-winter lunch**. We will have it before the weather gets too cold to go out. It will be on **Thursday 12th May**. Some of our members travel long distances to join in, so we need to consider weather conditions for them too. Don't forget to book in; I need to inform the RSL management ahead of time. Booking details below.

Watch Timing. (A 50 year old Joke)

John: Look Tom, my new watch will go for 8 days without winding.

Tom: That's good John, so how long will it go if you wind it?

~~~~~cut out and stick to your fridge door~~~~~

## PRE-WINTER EX-STUDENTS' LUNCHEON

### Second lunch for 2016

**\*\*Enter the new RSL building from Kendall St car park\*\***

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> May 2016. We start around midday**

**At the Ringwood RSL in Station St Ringwood.**

**Enter Bistro from the larger car park off James Street or Kendall Street.**

**\*\* GF Seniors' meals are available on request. \*\***

**Email to [barry.ring@bigpond.com](mailto:barry.ring@bigpond.com) or phone 9725 7535**

**Please Note: Bookings close on Monday 9<sup>th</sup> May 2016.**

**Playing with words.** Day breaks but never falls and night falls but never breaks.

## Buying Insurance.

**Caller to insurance company:** I'd like to buy some life insurance.

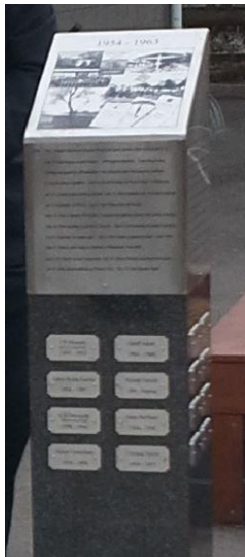
**Insurance company staff member:** What type of life insurance would you like to buy?

**Caller:** I don't know, but I believe it is necessary as I get older.

**Staff member:** How do you know you need insurance?

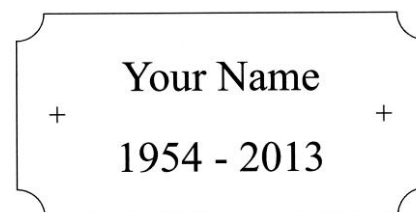
**Caller:** A meerkat on TV told me to call.

### The First Bollard is filling up. Our bollard!



As an ex-student of RHS or RSC you can be remembered by adding a plaque with your name or family name to the bollard which represents the years you were at school. For people who started at RHS between 1954 and 1963: the space on the first bollard is now half full — only 40 positions left. See photo at left, which is now more than 2 years old and more plaques have been added since then. Don't miss out!

There are application forms available from the school or from [Barry Ring](#) who will email one to you. [CTRL-Click his name in the line above]. These plaques can be purchased at any time after leaving school, so if you have family or friends who attended RHS in those early years, or who have recently left RSC, or who may not be aware of this opportunity then perhaps you could show this article to them. The purchase price is \$80 per plaque. Of course, space is limited on all bollards but later years (1964 – 2013) have plenty of space at this time.



We believe that we have the only college that has recorded its history in this way. For those who haven't seen the row of bollards and the lighting effect at night it certainly exhibits a pleasant sight as you walk along the path at the approach to the theatre. The three raised, wooden garden boxes give a pleasant background with the ornamental pear trees and double as additional seating for students.

Application forms can be mailed or emailed to you upon request from the college or directly from Barry Ring.

### Gambling Advertising on TV.

Over the holidays I saw more TV programs that I normally would; I chilled out for a while. I found something quite disturbing about the number and frequency of gambling companies' advertisements promoting their products. During televised sporting events these advertisements are displayed and a convincing voice gives odds about on-screen events. Every Australian knows how addictive gambling is and how it has ruined lives. I don't believe it should be promoted on commercial television. Those who gamble already know how and where to gamble, so why encourage "newcomers" to get involved in what looks like an easy way to win money. Money back offers make gambling look more attractive if certain outcomes take place. For example, you get your money back if the horse you backed came last. In other sports there were money back offers if some player you bet on did not achieve what was stated in the bet, such as a cricketer making 100 runs.

I have never been a gambler, but I have seen what happens to people who start with a few dollars and how quickly it can become a pay packet, or the family home. It also annoys me that after a series of these gambling promotions the TV channel runs a short announcement about problem gambling, as if that justifies their decision to accept gambling advertising. At the end of each gambling advertisement there is a brief note which states, "Gamble responsibly". I cannot see that there is any responsible level of gambling. A similar comment follows alcoholic beverages advertisements, "Drink responsibly". Help-lines are sometimes included for those who need help. There would be LESS people needing help on addiction if that advertising were NOT on TV.

Even more recently, some gambling businesses have made access easier to gambling by setting up on-line accounts with an 'app' on mobile phones. Temptation to use such apps may be the start of a gambling habit for those who now find the opportunity to be involved much simpler than it was a few years ago. During televised AFL matches the boundary fences are covered in advertisements for gambling, as well as other products, which does not convey the true dangers of gambling to young people, it reinforces it as part of the sport. This is my opinion after watching many advertisements for many organisations promoting gambling as a great idea. [BWR]

### Scamming by telephone.

Over recent weeks I have received unsolicited phone calls from people who have some dodgy deals to sell. They vary in content, to "fix" your computer from a mysterious fault "they" claim to have found.. These unidentified people do not care that your telephone service is registered with the Government's DO NOT CALL register, because being overseas, they cannot be prosecuted. If you have *Calling Line Identification (CLI)\** on your service you see the calling numbers displayed, some calls will display "Private Number" which you may choose not to answer, but be aware, some of your friends may also have unlisted phone numbers. More recently these scammers have been using "local" numbers, Melbourne (03) or Sydney (02), which seem to be allocated to these callers from foreign lands. The Sydney numbers I have seen start with 02 4349 XXXX where the last 4 digits vary. The Melbourne numbers I found start with 03 9006 XXXX where the last 4 digits vary. This suggests to me that these overseas callers are using local numbers giving the impression they are local calls and not "scammers" but they are scammers!

A member of our own group had a call from a scammer saying she owed money to the *Australian Tax Office*, which alarmed her causing her to seek professional advice. Many scams that were on the internet that now seems to be coming by phone, that one was an example. The call she received was from 02 8599 4423, which appears as a local number as mentioned above.

*Call Filtering* is one way to check these calls, by letting your answering machine take the call and you decide if you want to talk to the caller or not. It is a safe way to deal with unwanted calls giving you the choice of whether to answer or not answer.

**\*CLI is a service provided by telcos which allows you to see the number calling you. Available on most new phone units on the market.**