



RHS Newsletter

Grapevine

October 2016



In This Issue: Results of BBQ fundraiser. Update on our Facebook page.

Next lunch details, and look back at those old classrooms. Do we have

Digital Amnesia? Sporting efforts being rewarded on the sports fields. A possible difficulty some of you may have making your health records available to medical service providers in a national scheme. Ford Factory Closure. Gambling advertising. [BWR]

A Fun Gathering at August Luncheon.

Again, there were 24 at our lunch which was set out similarly to the May lunch, which saw us seated all together on a long table, separate from the smaller groups of diners, just as it was in May. We were looked after well by the staff, with two people serving each side of the table. It seemed to be more efficient than for the previous lunch. Now, with the Royal Melbourne Show and Melbourne Cup Day over, we rush, head long towards Christmas /New Year with holidays and all that encompasses for each of us, it seems a good time to have our end of year luncheon ... read on.

Last Ex-students' Lunch for 2016.

This is the last luncheon before the end of the year. It will be held on **Thursday, 10th November 2016**. Don't forget to book in; I must confirm our booking with the RSL management, so please let me know if you will be there by **no later than Tuesday 8th November 2016**. See more details on last page of this issue. [BWR]

Successful Fund-raising Barbecue in August.

The barbecue was conducted under less than ideal weather conditions at the rear of the new *Bunnings* store in Ringwood. The bleak weather kept shoppers home and it wasn't until the sun made an appearance in the afternoon that sales started to improve. In the final count we had raised \$660 to go to the *Heritage Perpetual Scholarship Fund*, and a thank you to those who did offer some of their time on the day. The BBQ was to increase the invested capital of the fund created in 2015 by the Heritage and Alumni Group committee, to assist students commencing Years 11 and 12 in 2017 where they are finding financial difficulties completing Years 11 and 12 at *Ringwood Secondary College*. Students are selected by an interview process.



This year, one student was assisted from the fund. A few of the committee members met that lass recently who was most grateful for our assistance; she told us it would have been very difficult for her parents to meet the costs of her proposed course of study at RSC without this assistance. Application forms are going out now for the 2017 year to select students who may need some assistance from this fund.

We had hoped that ex-students would contribute to this worthwhile cause but so far the responses have been few. The money raised at this BBQ has been added to the fund towards achieving our goal of increasing the fund's capital to a self-sustainable

level. We do need help to raise funds to assist more than one student each year in future years. You can make your contribution of any amount by contacting a Heritage committee member or contact the school direct on (03) 9870 2002. All contributions will be most welcome and to those who have already contributed, thank you from the *Heritage and Alumni Group* and RSC. [Photo: Some of those who helped at the BBQ] [BWR]

Activity has increased on our RSC Chat Site.



Already, some new photos have shown up on this site and many names of those in them have been identified. Membership is gradually increasing, bringing with it many new photos and memories of older students. "Gosh, did we really look like that?", "I know her, I wonder where she is now?", "He was our Form Captain, wasn't he?"

Perhaps you have comments to add about your classmates. Join in, be part of the old school gathering. The *RSC Heritage and Alumni Group* has created this *Facebook* chat site for anyone wishing to be a member of the *Ringwood Secondary College (RSC) Alumni*. The site

is called **Yakkity Hi RSC Alumni Chat Site**. "Yakkity Hi" is an aboriginal for "chatter" and appeared on RHS magazine covers. If you would like to join you will need to have your own *Facebook* page. If you have not joined *Facebook*, you will need to do so. It only takes about 20 minutes to set up and it is well worth the effort. Google **Yakkity Hi RSC Alumni Chat Site** and join in.

Best of Both Worlds.

When we were young, we were told that old adage that eating "an apple a day keeps the doctor away." We were also told that eating an apple is like cleaning your teeth. Put together, those reasons make eating toffee apples a good choice for fruit.

Life is sexually transmitted.

I'd like to grow my own food ... as soon as I find out where to buy bacon seeds.

Do you remember these desks?



These were the desks we had in the “olden” days. Two people sitting side by side, sharing one inkwell in the centre. This image was at RHS in 1954. This room has seating for 46 students. Classrooms look a lot different now. Were you ever an ink monitor? It seemed like a simple job — just put your finger over the little hole in the rubber bottle top to stop the ink flow into the inkwell and fill the inkwell by removing your finger from the hole. We were not told we would end up with ink on our fingers doing it! Worse still, were you ever asked to put the ink powder into the empty bottle, fill it with water and shake it vigorously until all the powder dissolved? I was! Not sure if it was RHS, or a primary school, but I did it. To shake the bottle you needed your thumb over the top of the bottle, which was easier said than done when you were 10 or 11 years old. That is when you got ink on your fingers — and hands. [BWR]
Photo taken from early school records, now digitised.

Long Awaited Victories.

I will make it clear from the start that I am not a football fan, nor a follower of any club, but I was among the many that adopted *Western Bulldogs (Footscray)* on Grand Final Day and wished them a victory over the favourites, and more prominent, *Sydney Swans* team. Repeated news items in the last week told us the club had all young players who had never played in a final and came to the fore late in the season. Why wouldn't you support their efforts for getting that far near the end of the season? A chance meeting of a person I knew opened a conversation with me by saying, “Who do you think will win on Saturday?” He was not the only person to do so that day. It grabbed the attention of many people like me, I am sure, and like me, they wanted to see the underdogs win (no pun intended).

It was not my intention to watch the match on TV, but just to peek in every so often to see how they were going, but when I saw how close the scores were, I succumbed and stayed for longer than I expected — for all of the second half. The result was great. I, like many others, was pleased to see them win a Grand Final for the first time in 62 years.

The following Monday night I heard that the Cronulla Sharks had won the NRL Grand Final for the first time in their club's 50 year history. So it was a weekend for new starts for these clubs. I am guessing both clubs will have enjoyed the festivities (so I am told) that followed these great events and have great hopes of continuing their winning streaks in the 2017 season. [BWR]

Do we have Digital Amnesia?

An article in *Reader's Digest*, September 2016, suggests we have ‘outsourced’ our memories to hard drives, telephone and computer memories, just clicking a name or a telephone number, or digital storage of people we need to contact. All too easy, but does it come at a cost? The author of the article suggests it does by asking a question. Can you remember as many names, phone numbers and addresses of friends that you could some years ago? If the answer is ‘no’, then you may have digital amnesia. Many will argue that by storing information ‘digitally’, we can use our limited brain capacity for more important things. On the other hand, those around the ages of 16 to 24 would probably tell you that losing data on their *smartphones* or computers would be a far greater loss of memory information to them. I know that I cannot remember as many phone numbers as I used to do, but a few favourites are still quite prominent in my memory. The full article delves into other brain functions.

Running in Corridors.

Do you remember being told not to run in the corridors at school? Of course, many of us would answer ‘yes’, it seemed to happen every day. Well, here's an interesting aside about the word ‘corridor’ which evolved from the Latin *currere* ‘to run’ and actually means ‘running place’. The modern sense of ‘a long passage in a building’ dates from the early 19th century. [Photo from college archives]
[Source: blog.oxforddictionaries.com via *Reader's Digest*].



My Health Record.

At a recent visit to my GP, I was presented with an application form to complete if I wanted my health records made available to other medical clinics and hospitals nationwide. I thought it was a good idea, because we intend travelling now we have more time, so I completed all the details required, which consisted of boxes labelled ‘yes’ and ‘no’. I did all that and signed it. The receptionist told me that when I saw the doctor I was to make a longer appointment next time, so the doctor could go through my records with me and make sure all the details of previous services were there. It seemed easy, so when I saw the doctor that day I told him that I had completed the application for my next visit.

He offered to do it then as he “had a few moments” before the next patient. He ‘pulled up’ (computer speak for looking at my records on his computer) and checked a few dates of significant procedures — there are quite a few of them on my records. When it was completed he told me to log onto the *My Health Record* website when I went home and verify the details he submitted and make notes of items missing or in need of amendment. It sounded easy.

Later, I 'logged on' to the site I had to create a password (another password!) and press 'continue' — there were many pages with 'continues' and at the end I had to provide my mobile phone number. Why? Because if I wanted to see my records just loaded, I had to request them by computer and have my mobile phone nearby so I could see the code that would be sent to me by SMS, and insert that code where it said 'insert code' on my computer screen. I was able to see the list after all that, but my question is, what about the many people who don't have computers, or mobile phones? This system requires both a computer AND a mobile phone to make it all work. That process of getting an access code by SMS applies every time you want to see *My Health Record*. I know it is a security thing to ensure my privacy, but it is tedious and impossible without the tools.

Many of our members don't have computers, so it appeared that they cannot use this system, but surely, if they intend to travel, wouldn't it be handy to have access to all your medical records to prevent doctors wasting time if you needed medical assistance; checking for allergies and medical specific conditions before they treat you? I don't have an answer, but I would be interested in hearing from anyone who has set up their *My Health Record* without a computer or a mobile phone. [BWR]

TV Topics.

While watching more TV programs that I normally would do, I found something quite disturbing and that was the number and frequency of advertisements for gambling, and the number of companies promoting gambling. I think every Australian knows how addictive gambling ruins lives and I don't believe it needs to be promoted as heavily as it is on commercial television. Those who gamble already know where to gamble, so why alert others to the availability of easy gambling from their armchair, or for those who may see it as a way to win easy money? As a "come on" some companies offer money back teasers if certain events take place or don't take place outside of the original bet. For example, in the Melbourne Cup you may get your money back if the horse you backed ran last. In other sports there was some money back if some player you bet on did not achieve what was stated in the bet, such as a cricketer not making 100 runs or a nominated footballer not kicking the first goal of the match.

I am not a gambler and never have been, but I have seen what happens to people who start with a few dollars and how quickly it becomes a pay packet — the family home. It also annoys me that after a series of these gambling company promotions the TV channel runs a short announcement on dangers of problem gambling and who to call for help, as if that justifies their decision to accept gambling advertisements. At the end of each gambling advertisement there is a disclaimer which states, "Gamble responsibly". A similar comment follows alcohol advertisements, "Drink responsibly". They wouldn't need those disclaimers if they didn't advertise these harmful products. In my opinion, no level of gambling can be considered responsible. [BWR]

The End of an Era.

We saw the last Ford roll out of the Ford Factory in Broadmeadows on 7 October. What a pity! I never owned a Ford car but I was given one to drive during a part of my career in 1961, it was an XK Station Wagon, but mostly I remember the large white steering wheel and its five turns from lock-to-lock. It was also the first new car I drove, albeit in PMG Grey finish.

Ford has been part of Australia's history, and Victoria's history, for 91 years. It was the home of the first utility built in this country. Along with Holden they became icons of the Australian automotive industry and together they created the ongoing rivalry on racetracks of BLUE versus RED, a friendly rivalry that had car owners taking sides at V8 Supercar raced around Australia. This closure is a foretaste of the future as Holden and Toyota go the same way next year. It spells the end of the automotive industry and motor engineering expertise in Australia. No more, sadly, will we be able to say we have an Australian-built car. Read more about the Ford Falcon history at <http://www.motoring.com.au/falcon-friday-fast-facts-104165/> [BWR]

~~~~~cut out and stick to your fridge door – magnet not included~~~~~

### **Final EX-STUDENTS' LUNCHEON for 2016**

#### ***This is our End of Year luncheon***

**\*\*The RSL entry is from the Kendall St car park\*\***

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 2016. We start around midday**

**Location: Ringwood RSL in Station St Ringwood.**

**Enter the RSL car parks from either 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 Tuesday, 8<sup>th</sup> November 2016.**

Why doesn't glue stick to the inside of the bottle?

Do illiterate people get the full effect of Alphabet Soup?

At our fund-raising BBQ in August one customer told me her children consider tomato sauce as a separate food group.

"They have it on everything," she told me.

Why is it that Terms and Conditions, Disclaimers and special conditions for companies that advertise on TV always appear so small no matter what size TV screen you have? Additional charges often appear there too.