



" THE EHS 69ER "

*The Quarterly Newsletter for the 1969 Matriculation Class of Elizabeth High School
Issue No 25, September 2021*

Editorial

Whatho!! After 54 days in Lockdown No 6, some greater freedom! Nighttime curfew remains, but given an extra 5 kms, having reached 80% first vax. Melburnians can now travel up to a whopping fifteen kms from their house, providing few additional opportunities for a joyous motorcycle ride, or drive, especially as socializing is still only permitted in parks and not supposed to be at homes. Although the six permitted reasons to leave home remain in force, with outdoor activities lifted to 4 hours daily, golfers and tennis players are now having a hit again. Whilst dogs have been groomed by "Click 'n Collect" throughout, people still cannot visit hairdressers for another four weeks. Nor can they have any treatment by an allied health provider without firstly being triaged by phone to establish its urgency. Any musculoskeletal treatment to maintain aging bodies by key reduction of conditions and pain, is still not permitted until 26 Oct 2021. Apart from food outlets, everything else is still only by online retail or takeaway. There are at least six, mostly retired, EHS "69ers" living under these constraints in Victoria. Fortunately all are living in areas which had not been popular with community groups with large households and did have low case numbers until today, but now results show a much wider spread throughout the metro area. Three 69ers are known to be living in NSW.

Opposed to the obvious economic, health and social benefits of opening up, is going to be the increased strain on hospitals and

more lives lost with greater transmission; especially as this lockdown has seen much greater levels of non-compliance since its start by Melburnians, due to fatigue from five previous lockdowns. People are tired and have become complacent, which has directly contributed to the recent surges in daily case numbers. Which is clearly being demonstrated by the high number of cars on the road this time, especially leading up to this past long weekend. So today's tragic news that daily numbers had dramatically spiked by 51% from 867 to 1438, comes as no shock and reflected in the change of dynamics that now show the greatest age range of those infected was between 20-40. At that age we were all bullet proof, or at least we thought so. The trouble is this time they are not just affecting themselves, but also families, work mates and those they don't even know. Let alone the long suffering Ambos and hospital medical staff.

Once voted "the most livable city in the world", in two days' time Melbourne will pass Buenos Aires (245) as the city with the most number of days in lockdown in the entire world. Dublin at 227 surpassed London at 207, Prague at 201 and 195 for Edinburgh. After possibly 265 days locked down, on 26 Oct 21 Melburnians may be released from lockdown, provided that an 80% second vax rate is achieved, which has now been put into question with this significant spike, with the hope that it is a "one off" following the long weekend and not a daily trend due to transmission rates of the "Delta" virus. So fingers crossed!

On a brighter note, at EHS from 1965-69, we had a number of exceptional Aussie Rules Footballers. The senior team won interschool competitions at state level in its grade and had at least two classmates playing for Central Districts in the SANFL. After 45 years, the AFL now has at least two teams playing from all states, except Tasmania. It was therefore appropriate that the AFL Grand Final was played in Brisbane in 2020 and in Perth this year; by the grace of COVID. Which now makes it a truly Australian game. Yet it's not known if the only EHS "69er" listed to be living in Perth, took the opportunity to attend this historic event. Also with the likelihood of COVID still impacting our lives in 2022, it would be fitting for next year's Grand Final to be played in Adelaide, to share around the honour and prestige. It was unfortunate that Port Adelaide lost to the Bulldogs. Had Port won, then only fans from one Melbourne team would have been gathering last weekend for the final. In an idyllic world, Port or the Crows may yet get the chance to compete in a home Grand Final, even possibly next year.

It was both poetic and tragic this year, to have the Grand Final contested by two Melbourne based teams. Great for the city's morale, but contact tracers have identified that over 500 of the 1438 cases reported today, had attended illegal social gatherings, both on Friday and Saturday to celebrate the Grand Final. If the final had been held in Melbourne, the outcome may have been far more serious. Anyway well done to the "Demons" after a 57 year drought. So St Kilda is now the team with the longest time since its last premiership way back in 1966.

Back in our Matric Year in 1969 we were confronted with the "6.30 News" and its graphic televised images from the war in Vietnam. Made famous by the Skyhooks'

song "*Horror Movies – The 6.30 News*". Some in 1970 enlisted, whilst others had their birthdays drawn out of the ballot for conscripted service, but later cancelled by the Whitlam Government's decision to pull out. This was one of many manmade and political events we have experienced in the 50 plus years of our past lives since being at EHS. Yet it seems that with the COVID-19 pandemic, excessive heatwaves causing huge bushfires in many countries, floods, earthquakes, hurricanes wreaking havoc and the recent volcanic eruptions on the Canary Island of La Palma, it is now Mother Nature appearing to be unhappy with mankind and seemingly trying to cull the population. Let's hope that all those in power throughout the world take heed for the sake of future school students.

Much appreciation again to Digby Shaw for providing his EHS related crossword. For those who may have attempted it, the solution is provided at the end of this issue. Thanks to those few who provided feedback for the last issue. Intriguingly, the least response came for SA, where the vast majority of 69ers are known to live. In fact, only two responses and one was a vote of gratitude from Lola's daughter. Gracias Stephanie! Which reconfirms that this newsletter has now reached its used by date. As such, Issue No 26 in December will be the last. After that, class news will be provided ad hoc by Stop Press updates, as was used to notify the health situation with Mrs Brown and classmates.

In 2016, the aim for this newsletter was to help locate as many of our 183 former Matric classmates as possible for the 50th Reunion in 2019, cover a period of 3-5 years and possibly publish up to twenty quarterly issues. An aim which has been exceeded and was successful, with over 120 classmates found to date. Sadly, 11 are known to have passed. You are reminded

that all past issues of the “*The EHS 69er*” are available courtesy of the Playford Library’s website. Some can also be found on the school’s PIC website.

Recently Found

In late September, after good sleuthing efforts by Phil Sears, Rodney Klimionok of Mrs Lola Brown’s class (5A) in 1969, has been found, added to the Class Listing and removed from the MIA List. Rod has been welcomed back into the EHS 69er group. Phil reported that Rod is still quite a busy person involved with the running of an international organization of churches. We wish him all the best for his efforts at these difficult times worldwide. Thanks, Phil, for finding Rod and passing on his contact details. Still 61 on the MIA list.

Reunions

Classmates are reminded that the next EHSOSA Reunion to celebrate the school’s 65th Anniversary, will be held in Feb 2026. A 60th Reunion for the EHS Matric Class of 1969 would be due in 2029, when most of us would have reached the age of only 77.

Snippets:

Sarah Olijnyk: - Appreciated the last issue and thought that it was a cracker. Sarah also corrected her birthday, which is in October, not August as mentioned. Sorry!

Colin George:- Wrote: “*Many thanks for this issue. Lola was a strong influence in my teenage life. Above all she taught me an appreciation for Shakespeare - I can still recite Richard the Third soliloquy and have a love of literature. Lola, a flame that burns brightly*”.

Loretta Marron:- Advised that their 1909 Economy Motor Buggy won the Best

Veteran category at the RACQ MotorFest on 30 Jun 21 and the Best Veteran Car category at the Concour D’Elegance (a Vintage Car Club-Qld) event, a week later.

Stephanie Thompson: - Wrote: “*Wow! Yet another heartwarming tribute to Mum from your pen. Thank you again for your commitment to maintaining a relationship with her, and for celebrating her so effusively and emphatically*”.

Anni Miers: - Really appreciated reading about Mrs Brown. At that time, she had just seen the movie ‘*Shakespeare Live*’ as a celebration of 400 years from his death. It was performed at Stratford-Upon-Avon incorporating both modern and classical ballet, multicultural representations, musicals, modern comedy, and featuring Judy Dench, Ian McLellan, Tim Minchin and others. Annie reported that even Prince Charles got into the act and said it was well worth seeing. Whilst watching it at the Nova Cinema in Carlton, Annie’s said that her mind so often drifted to Mrs Brown, who she felt had a great attitude, especially towards the end. With health reports on other classmates, Anne was grateful for her health and trying to maintain fitness in lockdown, whilst being careful and staying in touch with events.

Anne (Davies) Palmer: – After all her past trials and tribulations, had a very lucky visit to her father in Adelaide before SA border closure stopped inbound flights. Thankfully Anne managed to escape from lockdown in NSW and is now staying with her daughter in Canberra. She will stay here whilst she waits for the new house to be completed.

Linden Fairclough: - Linden has reported that his recovery from his total knee replacement surgery, under the public system, is going well and that the limited visits to the physio has confirmed that the

knee is healing well, due to his own self-motivated exercising at home. As his knee has strengthened, he is now able to walk without a noticeable limp and has also been able to start undertaking many of the daily work tasks around the farm.

Phil Sears – Phil has recovered well from his hospitalisation, as reported in the last issue. Has now completed his follow-up chemotherapy and regained some weight, which is great news, but still not returned to his previous weight. He returned to teaching, though online, and is in good spirits. He went for a PET scan on 15 Sep 21 to review treatment success before any further surgery. Phil had also sought if Rodney Klimionok was still listed as MIA. It seems that although Phil and Rodney were in different class in Matric, they were at Teachers' College together and that Rod had gone on to teach with Temple Christian College at one of their three campuses in SA, then had moved to Qld. As reported earlier, Phil has found Rod.

Andrew Jones: - Many thanks for the kind phone call to check on our well-being and for the chat. Much appreciated. Andrew advised that he thought the next social gathering of the ROC would be deferred until a time towards the end of the year.

Gordon McIntyre:- In late September, as part of trying out his new mobile phone, Gordon rang from Darwin to check on things, especially after the earthquake in Mansfield and the damage in Melbourne. With a daughter living in Melbourne, he was well aware of COVID developments. He reported that he was doing well in retirement, but had been approached yet again to return to work to utilize his info finding skills and past survey knowledge, which was apparently firmly rejected. The impromptu call was much appreciated.

Terry Beaton:- Sanity is being maintained by daily online Spanish sessions, cryptics, home projects, cemetery searches for lost veterans and daily walks with Max. A bout of ill-health caused by weather, plus pelvic issues, saw a reduction in activities. Now back up to speed. Motivation is a battle. Hence short newsletter. Rare motorbike rides help, even though far too short!



Max (Samoyed) with a balloon he found

Happy Birthday Wishes (Sep - Nov)

On behalf of the group, wishing a "Very Happy Birthday" to the following 69ers born during the months September to November.

September

John Benzie (5D) Marion Ferguson (5A)
 Sarah McKillop (MIA) (5A)
 John Quirke (5B)
 Diane (Sault) Lindsay (MIA) (5B)
 Libby (Streich) Phillips (MIA) (5D)

October

Michael Brace (5B) Sarah (Camp) Olijnyk (5B)
 John Cooper (5C) Eirwen Davies (MIA) (5B)
 Heather Dickson (MIA) (5E)
 Don Douglas (5D) Tim Hanna (5B)
 Ron Lucas (MIA) (5B) Ian Mallard (5D)
 Loretta Marron (5B)
 Elizabeth Parker (MIA)(5C)
 Carl Ramsden (5C)
 Graeme Rance (MIA) (5D)
 Helen Richards (MIA) (5C)
 Margaret (Robson) Wild (5C)
 Linda (Wright) Pearson (5A)
 Late Mrs Lola Brown (5A) *(see note below)

November

Terry Beaton (5D) John Graf (5A)
 Christina Shepherd (5C)

Note: On 26 Oct 2021 it would have been Mrs Lola's 87th birthday. Hopefully a double celebration for some.

Solution to Digby Shaw's EHS Crossword

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