

70 Years On

Oakleigh High School



where are they now?



THIS IS THE TEAM

It takes lot of work and quite a few people to pull an event like this together.

We commenced planning in March 2025 and gradually pulled the threads together until the event took shape.

Ron Sheldon and **Cheryl Baird Toffolon** from the 2016 committee have underpinned the planning. Cheryl has the OHS archives (I suspect she is a bit of a collector) and the outline of what we were required to achieve.

Roger Joseph assumed the unofficial team leader role to establish the online booking system, email newsletter communications and preparation of the **Where Are They Now** booklet.

Lynette Wright, Merilyn Kelly, Gail Whiting and **Wayne Roffey** brought new ideas to the table and committed to being on the ground on the day to make it all happen.

Maria Grande kept an eye on us all and used her enormous expertise to solve problems from time to time.

Roger Dench compiled the myriad of photos into the slide show that is cycling through on the screen. This was a huge task and beautifully prepared for your enjoyment.

Sophie Sfikas is our photographer for the day. Sophie will capture the mood of the day and make the images available for us to enjoy (and bore our grandchildren for years).

Malcolm Coe designed our marketing poster and banners. Thanks Malcolm

Contributors: a huge thank you to those who have submitted stories and images.

I am really in awe of the great things achieved by former OHS students. Enjoy reading their stories.



70th Anniversary Reunion Oakleigh High School

Sunday 22 March 2026

Matthew Flinders Hotel

Programme

12 noon	arrive	
1230	official welcome	
	lunch orders by groups	coloured name tags are for ease of identifying people from your era
1300 - 1600	photographer	book group photos with the backdrop
1330	70th celebrations	
1500	raffle draw	
	Official Thanks	
	a guitar and ukulele will be available for use - sing songs of the era	please use discretion and be mindful of others

Oakleigh High School 1955 – 1992



Cover photo:

OHS Football team with Peter McCracken and David Meadows



Cover photo

Dr Robert Stephens (OHS '61-'66), Mr Keith Maughan (OHS Staff '63-'65), Mr David Meadows (OHS '61-'66), all of whom spent their careers in education. Photograph is of a catch-up in Highett on December 7, 2022.

Forward

Sometimes it takes a while to appreciate things from our past, things that grow to have a significance because they formed who we are today.

I arrived at Oakleigh High School direct from primary school in Adelaide. Without prior friends from surrounding primary schools I started from scratch in the friends race.

When I left OHS at the end of 1968 I didn't have much to help me remember those school days.

Fast forward to the 2016 reunion and the chance to see who might be there. Not many from my year as it turned out but a couple of significant conversations convinced me that reunions are a great social exercise.

Slide into 2026 and the 70th anniversary of the school.

Welcome to the Matthew Flinders Hotel and make the most of the atmosphere created for you by the organising team.

RJ

Lorraine C Curtis (Halligan) 1955

I started at OHS on the first day.

I caught the train from Hughesdale railway station to Springvale station. The school was not quite ready so we had separate classes in Springvale High School up until the school opened. It was quite an experience for me doing all this travel on my own at aged 12yrs. Eventually I caught a bus from Chadstone Road to Oakleigh Station and a second bus to the street leading up to the school. Quite a journey each day.

I did a commercial course- typing and shorthand - leaving at the end of year Intermediate.

I started working at the MLC Insurance Company at the cnr of Collins & Elizabeth Streets aged 16yrs and stayed there until I was 21yrs old when I got married. I couldn't return because they didn't employ 'Married Women'!

We built a home in Mount Waverley in 1965 and after I stayed at home to care for three daughters, I went to night school at Syndal Technical School to study for Matriculation.

I got a great position at Monash University and stayed there for 36 yrs. I travelled the world running Conferences in their Campuses in Malaysia, Italy and South Africa & also India. This whetted our appetite for travel & since then my husband Allan & I have visited more than 150 countries around the world 🌍 and still going at 83 & 86 yrs old 👍



Drawing on stories from OHS alumni created a sense of absolute wonder in me as I read what had been created out of the Oakleigh High campus.

As you peruse the small number of stories in this booklet you may reflect on what other stories are out there.

Yes, your story is interesting and if you like these offerings you may want to consider a more detailed publication featuring the stories of OHS alumni.

Our contact details are in this booklet.

Where are they now?

March 2026

Oakleigh High School 1955 - 1992



1970 1st Basketball Team



This is how Pauline Green traveled to school

Peter McCracken 1962- 1967

So pleased to see the photo of Keith Maughan being carried off in triumph after an OHS footy victory.

I don't recognise the venue/ground but - reference to the 1965 Veritas suggests very strongly that it follows very - ** shortly after the final bell of the Grand Grand Final vs Chadstone H S which foolishly challenged us for our Monash Division premiership and lost 20.20.140 to 5.6.36.

Players in the photo, L-R are: Lloyd Findlay, ?, Russell Tully,? Philip McGaw, David Meadows, (Keith Maughan) Russell McHenry, John Archer and Adrian Stephens.

It's worth noting that our 1965 Football team was very, very good and I'm certain that, even in Central Division, to which OHS was promoted in 1967, those lads would have been very hard to beat.



John Presser 1956

I came to Hobart in 1980. Why?

Left the forensic lab in Spring St Melbourne, as it was shifting to new greenfield site at McLeod (Latrobe Uni).

Not sure the new site would bring down the heavy workload of crime scenes and courts. Asked for more scientific staff but nope, we got police crime scene technicians instead in VIC.

In backwater Hobart a chance to get my own re a new forensic biology laboratory at RHH with 10 homicides a year.

It can come back to bite you - an old VIC 1970's cold case, Easey St is due to go to trial in 2026 - I may be called back

We got 10 more staff in Hobart after I retired in 2000.

As a sideline, I have acted as armourer for over 20 film TV productions here in Tassie such as Bay of Fires. Early ones for the ABC, Irish Film Board, IMDb etc mainly colonial convict past ones eg Pearce, Michael Howe,

I am interested in doing a production on an 1853 police murder at Avoca that is mentioned in the annual Taspol 'police died on service' events but have no backing to film this one.

I have also managed, and provided blanks, for 20 years for the 6 pounder field gun that signals the line honours Sydney Hobart Yacht race finish at Sandy Bay.

ED: John lives in Hobart and won't be able to attend the reunion. He submitted this so he can be with us in proxy. Thanks John



Phillip House - Green 1956
This is what school photos should be like. Uniforms and homogeneity so you couldn't tell one apart from another.

Oakleigh High School 1955 – 1992

Gail Whiting 1964

After Oakleigh High I went to Frankston Teachers College and taught prep to grade 6 for MANY years.
I married Noel in 1975 and we had 2 kids, Adam and Amy.
We have 4 granddaughters. I LOVE to travel, watch the Pies play and catch up with friends and family



Roger Dench 1958



Survived the 75% failure rate - yes 3/4 of the very bright 1963 Science class failed! - and went on to dual Mathematics & Physics majors at Monash.

Took up fencing at Monash and represented Australia at the 1967 World University Games in Tokyo.

Taught physics at Kew HS where I met my wife Janet.

*** 3 children, 7 grandchildren and married 54 years. ***

Then into the new-fangled computer industry and other high-techs and a Melbourne U MBA along the way.

The final decades spent as a consultant mathematician, where no two projects were ever the same. Please tell your kids and grandkids that those knowing some/ any/hard maths will survive AI and beyond.

I also have a rabid interest in non-sciences - music, painting, history etc.



Fencing at the 1967 World University Games in Tokyo.

Maria Grande (Musolino) 1980



During my OHS years, I mostly enjoyed school productions, and attending Drama & Dance classes after school. Following High School, I spent a lengthy period in the Health Industry, later returning to the Arts, whereby I started my own Production & Events Company hosting Australian TV Show Reunions (Sons and Daughters pic attached - in the Green Room). In 2025, I founded a Talent Agency with my Sydney Business Partner, and all is going well. I spend my leisure time travelling and cruising.



Sons and Daughters reunion



2025 Logies - with Tony Barber



1969 2nd Cricket Team

Oakleigh High School 1955 – 1992

John Gould 1959 -1964

Worked in the computer industry from 1965 to 1998 then as a chauffeur to 2012, including three years for Crown Casino driving all the celebrities and VIP's.

Worked as a Senior Driving instructor specialising in Defensive and anti-terrorist techniques for chauffeurs driving Politicians and VIP's.

More recently worked as Private Chauffeur for wealthy family.

Currently delivering flowers for large retailer.



Winning cross country team 1963

John Lorraine, Ivan Durant, John Gould and Allan Walker

Cheryl Baird Toffolon 1965



I attended EOSS from 1959 to 1964 inc. OHS in 1965 and 1966 Forms 1 and 2. After leaving Oakleigh, I attended Camperdown High School, Vic. for 2 further years, before returning to Melbourne to attend Stotts Business College.

After that I worked at Metalex in Huntingdale Road, as a Telex Operator. I married in 1972 and have been a Market Gardener in Werribee South for the past 53 years married to Silvio Toffolon. The greatest loves of my life have been with animals; cats, dogs and horses, which I still have.

I am self taught Cartonage, which is covering tins and boxes, which has been my hobby for the last 40 years.

Anne Grove 1968



Global career. Definitely broke the glass ceiling. 3 countries of residence Cuba, USA, Mauritius.

Jobs: Owner of PR company and advertising agency. Marketing Manager international companies.

Projects: Film for schools on Africa. Writing for production of PR and ads for all media. Speech writing in political spaces. Creative idea development for diverse companies including Hoyts, Nylex, (consultant) Keep Australia Beautiful, Royal Children's Hospital (Management)

Milestones:

- Creating the Telstra Small Business Awards.
- Producing the first Mobile phone for Philips, the Dutch Company
- Writing the Business Magazines for the State Government during the Kennett era. Working for a few
- Creating the Australian Open Tennis

Tournament as we see it in recent decades.

Favorite experiences:

- Managing a car race team
- Winning a scholarship to attend a month live-in course at Mt Eliza Business School
- Restructuring the Prison system and having insight into normally a no go zone
- Communications during the 2019 bushfires for rebuilding



Where are they now?

March 2026

Oakleigh High School 1955 – 1992

Roger Joseph 1963



After OHS I tried Monash University Engineering for a couple of years and then worked in Dampier, WA, for Hamersley Iron for six months before answering the National Service ballot.

Post National Service I drove taxis in Melbourne, cooked in a few pubs and restaurants before landing a job at the ABC in Elsternwick.

That was 1973 which was the time TV was changing to colour and work was frantic to meet deadlines.

Later I changed from technical to administrative work which took me to ABC Hobart. I was in personnel, got involved in the union and left ABC to work for the CPSU.

Nine years on I began working for a federal politician until he retired at the 2007 election, at which point I tried the self employed media consultant road. All that did was get me into the music business, promoting concerts, directing



two Cygnet Folk Festivals and then touring international folk bands. What a life!

Highlights: touring The Popes, hosting the Amazing Rhythm Aces and meeting wonderful and talented musicians from all over the world.

I smuggled a bottle of wine into the session bar at the National Folk Festival, which led to me signing Melisande (electrotrad) as a client. From Montreal, Melisande has a high energy electro approach to Quebec traditional ballads.

That's not the end of the story, but that is enough for now.

Postscript: Married 48 years, 3 children, 6 grandchildren.



2006 Christmas in Parl House

The Amazing Rhythm Aces 2010.

A farewell photo before they headed to the airport. (That's Roger at the back)

Merilyn Kelly 1970



Well I guess I still see quite a few from school which I'm lucky. I left school end year 10 as suggested by principal due to wagging too much and too talkative and disruptive in class. They thought perhaps work would have been a better option so I left and worked in CBA bank at Alfred Hospital for a year.

I quit there as my holidays which had been approved were later cancelled, as someone else had left the bank. I had holidays booked with a few school friends so I quit. I then got a job at Safeway head office where I worked until 1983 when I had my first son.

I was also working part time at nights at Safeway Mt Waverley in the cash office and continued that after my first child was born. I had 3 more sons.

In 1995 I built and opened a childcare centre with a girlfriend which we ran for 17 years.

I retired in 2012.

I married a Clayton tech boy, we were together 43 years and separated almost 10 years ago. I now have a caravan I tow on my own.

I also love traveling overseas.

I love live music and music festivals, am lucky I have lots of like minded friends and a good social life.

My motto is you only live once so give it a good crack.

I had two sisters: Janette passed away at 54 yo of cancer, she worked as a primary health nurse consulting to developing countries governments on their health care systems specialising in women and childrens' health.

My other sister Cheryl lives in Belgrave South and has 2 boys 2 girls.

My maiden name was O'Neill



cover photo: a view of FH Fliegner Hall, probably taken from Highland Avenue. In the early days, long before the Hall was built, Highland Avenue was unmade, full of potholes and a danger to cars when it had rained.

The boys, mostly, hovered by the fence when the bread van passed by, to push it out from the mud and catch the bread rolls thrown.

Oakleigh High School 1955 – 1992

Max Walker 1961



I was at Oakleigh High School 1961-1966, trained to become a secondary school classroom teacher and remained in that position for over four decades.

I taught Mathematics, Chemistry and Physics at schools in the Mallee, the South Eastern suburbs and on the Mornington Peninsula.

For many years, enjoyed a Friday afternoon farewell from students: "Ave a good weekend, Mr Walker".

Since retirement, a chorister in a Welsh Male Voice Choir which sing a variety of hymns and arias.

Beyond the choir, tastes turn to story songs such as "Me And Bobby McGee" and "I Still Miss Someone".

Yesterday, unsealed streets and brick quarries.

Three classroom blocks. Corridors lined with lockers.

To the north, a hockey field and tennis courts.

To the south, a football oval and cricket nets.

To the west, a canteen, shelter sheds, netball courts and bike racks.

To the east, an empty space.

A winding driveway from Macrina Street past "The Colosseum".

Veritas in black and white.

Friends found, loves lost.

Sunlight and shadows.

Blues and greys.

.. Oakleigh High School ..

Barely remembered now, but ..

I'm glad we had some time to spend together.

Max Walker



The bare field that became
Oakleigh High School

Ron Sheldon 1958

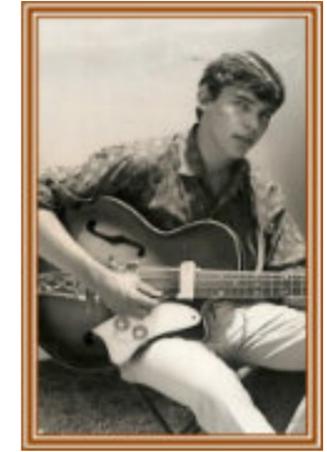


The Primitivs

In the early 1960s when I was at Oakleigh High School, I learned to play the piano, inspired by artists like Jerry Lee Lewis and Floyd Cramer. In 1962 I formed a group with classmates Charlie Anag and Kevin O'Brien who both played guitar and Malcolm Wrigley who played the drums. We began practising in a local church hall and at the end of that year we performed at the high school social. Charlie then left to form another group and I learned to play the guitar as well.

By the end of the following year, 1963 Evan Whelan had joined us to play bass guitar, and we were practising weekly, learning classic rock n roll songs. Evan also played acoustic guitar and sang folk songs. We again performed at the end-of-year social.

The next year I was asked by another schoolmate Stephen Smithett, to teach him to play guitar. He was a quick learner and was soon playing better than me. Steve joined us as lead guitarist and singer and we began playing at parties. It was 1964 and Steve



liked to imitate Billy Thorpe whilst I tried to copy John Lennon. That year we performed at both the mid-year and end-of-year school socials.

Early in the following year we appointed a manager, called ourselves "**The Primitivs**" and began playing at parties and dances around Melbourne, having learnt a number of songs by an emerging group called The Rolling Stones. In May of that year, John Morgan, a form 6 student, joined us as drummer and we continued to perform at school socials throughout 1965. In 1966 the group disbanded and we all went on to form other groups. Our last gig as the Primitivs was at a Murrumbena Footy Club Dance.

Throughout my high school years we didn't have i-pods, i-phones or i-pads. We didn't have Facebook friends, but we had real friends and we made our own music.

Oakleigh High School 1955 – 1992

Around 1969 the matric students advertised the principal Mr Guthrie's car for sale.

Mr Guthrie was not particularly liked and he was a pushover compared to Mr Fleigner (Ferdinand the bull) we used to call him.

I remember after assembly in the hall Mr Guthrie would dismiss the school and say leave quietly but we would all stand and slam the seat back onto the back of the chair to make a dreadful noise.



Kay de Longville Lopes
Miss Oakleigh High (year unknown)

In 1970 I organised a "Miss Oakleigh High School" pageant. This was a fund raiser for Guide Dogs association.

Three teachers were the judges & I was the compere,

I dont remember who won it and we raised several hundred dollars and a representative came to assembly and we presented him the cheque.

I also remember one day in 1970 a male student brought in a fake dog poo and put it under one of the seats. This caused quite a stir.

A new sportsmaster came whose name was Mr Donovan. Students gave him a hard time. Someone asked him one day for a left handed cricket bat.

Judy Camm Memories

I remember the day the men landed on the moon. We sat in the science room waiting to watch it but it was delayed so we had to go back to class.

My friend Gayle came back from lunch (she went home) a bit late and she told me it was on.

The teacher we had was a pushover (I don't remember his name but can still see his face) so I went up and told him I was feeling sick so he sent Gayle & I outside to get some fresh air so we ran back to her house and we saw the men walking on the moon.



I was very pleased to be the Oakleigh High School senior girls tennis champion in 1970. I still have the trophy. My maiden name was Judith Camm

Judy Camm (Macleod)



Attended OHS 1966-1970

I organised & compered Miss Oakleigh High School pageant in 1970 which raised money for Guide Dogs Association.

Upon leaving school I worked in an accountants office in Chadstone and was a bookkeeper in various offices until Dec 1976.

I married and had 3 children.

I was a private piano teacher for 50 years in my home studio and several primary schools.

Activities I have undertaken over the years include organising & hosting coach tours, christian conferences, entertainer & in 2011 I took on a multi national company to save a caravan park forming a co operative to take over the lease & manage Jubilee Lake Holiday Park Daylesford.

I am enjoying retirement despite being diagnosed with Parkinsons 8 years ago and have one granddaughter.

Pamela (Bradley) Christensen

OHS 1956-60



Reflecting on 45 years of teaching , life has been less than ordinary.

I married a fun loving adventurer, also a teacher, & our first of three boys was born in London while we were teaching in the UK & touring Europe.

At home the highlights of teaching, apart from a two year break, co-owning & operating a Caravan Park in Northern NSW, were those seasons living, teaching & skiing at Mt Buller, followed by an ITF to NovaScotia, Canada.

In "retirement" our around Aus caravanning trip, hiatus of ten years, found us living & teaching in Far North QLD, Cape York & NT Aboriginal Communities. The favourite being The Tiwi Islands .

In real retirement we caught the cruise bug and now, after losing my husband to MND in 2022, I'm continuing that adventure alone.

Pamela Williams (MacKenzie)

1956 -1960

After leaving OHS, I became a primary school teacher. I taught at various schools until 1984 before changing direction completely. First, I became a sales representative in the toy industry and later joined the Public Service using my education and marketing skills with WorkCover and later with Consumer Affairs Victoria targeting young consumers.

During this time, I married, had 3 children and enjoyed travelling to other countries and caravanning around outback Australia.

After retiring in 2005, my husband and I joined 'Volunteers for Isolated School Education' (VISE) helping students on remote Queensland properties with their 'School of the Air' lessons. We had great fun! Especially when mustering was thrown in the mix.

I still lunch regularly with former school friends and share many fond memories of our school days. AND we are all octogenarians!

These two photos show my Form V Biology excursion to Ricketts point at the end of 1960. No girls featured so I presume it was a girl that took the photo of the boys clowning around. Our Biology teacher shown here was Mr. Matson who we all respected and thought was great.

Robert Bumpstead 1968



After I left school, I joined the State Bank of Victoria in January 1973 where I worked for 17 years.

I left just before the bank was sold and commenced working for National Australia Financial Planning, MLC and AMP in a number of different position until I retired at age 65.



John Braddock 1969 - 1974



I completed form 6 in 1974 and thus concluded my time at OHS. I was excited about going to Monash Uni, and I couldn't wait. I was looking forward to growing my hair long, and coming and going as I pleased.

It started out OK, but motivation slumped, and I decided to leave for awhile to "find myself". Well one day I found myself working in a soft drink factory stacking boxes on a pallet on night shift. That was enough finding. My motivation suddenly rose to new heights and I returned to Monash.

I went on to graduate from my Honours year at Monash, and I got a job within weeks, working at the Institute of Marine Sciences. I was there for about two years, then left with sea legs, a reference, and some experience on CDC mainframe. The latter two of which got me a job at Melbourne Uni in the Admin Computer

John Braddock (cont)

I ran the University's four payrolls, programmed the student admin system, then rose to be a senior analyst for financial systems with my own room, a mainframe terminal and a PC.

I left and went to Coles Myer, where I had a variety of experiences resulting in my leaving after a few years for a one month contract at BP Australia. Well that one month contract turned into 25 years of hard work on BP's distributor systems.

Since then I have dabbled in community radio, worked as an extra, and did other odd jobs here and there.

I was married in 2002 and we had three lovely cats. I still live in East Oakleigh even after touring Tasmania, NSW, and Queensland.

I briefly considered becoming a resident gardener on Dunk Island at one stage, having the benefit of having worked for many years over the school holidays as a groundsman. Nowadays I'm basically retired, but still longing for the big time again, working as a software engineer on IBM mainframe. It's nice to still have a dream.

Oakleigh High School 1955 – 1992

Ian Sluiter 1969



Completed HSC at Oakleigh High School in 1973. After stuttered undergraduate studies whilst working as a nurseryman in Glen Waverley, I eventually completed a science degree in botany meeting my wife Heather (of 46 years) at that time at Monash.

I later completed doctorate in fossil botany which led to work in Singapore, China and the UK through 1984-86. I returned to Australia in late 1986 to work for a short while on post-doctoral studies at Monash, and subsequently as an ecologist for the Victorian Government in Mildura from 1989-1995. I started an ecological research company in 1995 and still work on arid and semi-arid zone botany publishing on this and my fossil work when I can, whilst also dabbling with plant propagation.

Heather and I still live in our original house next to our former walnut orchard at Birdwoodton (near Mildura) where we raised four children, sending them off to University (at great expense to the household).

Sport (cricket, baseball, softball and football) has been a constant for me as well as our now adult kids. Currently I manage a local AFL team in Mildura where two of my children still play (football and netball) and are on the Committee executive.



Kath Byers, owner of the **Notting Hill Hotel** for over 70 years.

'The Nott' was spiritual home for so many in the area, not the least students from OHS. One former student claims to have won a drinking competition at age 15! See image of Ann Grove below.

For those who moved on to Monash Uni it was a great place to relax away from the high pressure atmosphere of coffee in the Union cafe.



All photos taken at the reunion will be available after the event:

- * by direct access to a web based directory
- * by access to the photo gallery on www.arelmediaprojects.net (after they have been uploaded).

Details will be on both the FB pages or the [arelmediaprojects](http://arelmediaprojects.net) site.

Wayne Roffey 1972



When I attended Oakleigh High School I was in 1E 1972, 2C 1973, 3A 1974, 4A 1975, 5A 1976, and form 6 in 1977.

During form four I had my eyes tested and I needed glasses. By then I had slowed in my studies and scraped through to fail with only one subject (Biology) in HSC.

I went on to work at the University of Melbourne in the chemistry department and then very quickly on to an insurance company based on St Kilda road. In 1982 I sat for the mature age entry exams at Victoria College and was able to gain enrolment in the primary teaching course (Diploma of Teaching).

After several years as a casual replacement teacher in 1988 I gained ongoing employment as a teacher.

I had a stint as a head teacher (but never a principal!). I had five years teaching in remote northern Australia.

When COVID hit in 2020 I finished teaching and began the search for a new occupation, I'm still looking!

Graeme Searle 1955



Off to High School and what a change? No more walking to school but to Oakleigh station to ride with school mates in a Red Rattler train to Springvale.

Mr Scott gave me an early lesson when caught talking, after 2 warnings, I was picked up by the scruff of the neck and the seat of the pants to be thrown across the classroom and nearly through the glass door into the corridor.

Another memorable highlight was the Wednesday at the 1956 Olympic Games to see the athletics at the MCG.

After completing fourth form, I was enjoying a good social time at school but my parents told me to get a job. I was ill prepared but applied to a bank and the SEC. Considering that the SEC provided 4 weeks annual leave and no work on Saturdays whilst the bank has 3 weeks leave and did work Saturday mornings the possibility of a brilliant banking career was foregone.

I spent nearly 50! years with the SEC finishing up as their Customer Policy Manager. Various Customer Service Management and Consultant positions led to my retirement.

TIMELINE 1955-1992

1955	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oakleigh High School commences - Year 7 students attended at Springvale High and Year 8 students at East Oakleigh Primary School - 268 students • Dame Edna Everage makes her first stage appearance in Melbourne • Elvis Presley makes his first TV appearance in USA • East Oakleigh suburb renamed Huntingdale • Oakleigh Skyline/Hoyts Drive-In theatre opens • Melbourne's first parking meters are installed • ICI building given exception from CBD height limits - 20 storey • O.H.S. commences at new buildings in Highland Ave, Oakleigh • Australia accepts 10,000 refugees from Hungary • Free mass immunization against Polio • Australian troops take part in action in Malaysia against Communists • Two new savings banks open (Bank of NSW & ANZ Bank) breaking monopoly of the Commonwealth Bank • Oakleigh Motel, first motel in Victoria opens - official 'turning point' for 1956 Olympic Marathon • 22 November 1956 - Summer Olympic Games opens in Melbourne. • TV commences throughout Australia; 5% of Melbourne residents own TV set costing about 6-10 week's pay for average worker
1956	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Soviet Union successfully launches Sputnik 1 - first artificial satellite • Australian National Airways merges with Ansett - ANA • Slim Dusty wins his first gold record for <i>A Pub With No Beer</i> • Joern Utzon wins competition to design Sydney Opera House
1957	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First nuclear reactor in Aust. begins operation at Lucas Heights NSW • Monash University is founded
1958	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sidney Myer Music Bowl opened by Sir Robert Menzies PM • Exchange visits with Flindon High School (S.A.) commences
1959	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US troops sent to Vietnam
1960	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Oral contraceptive "The Pill" approved for distribution in Australia
1961	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Millionth Holden car - EJ Premier - produced at Dandenong
1962	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • US President John F Kennedy assassinated
1963	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reintroduction of National Service for 20 year olds - birth date lottery • <i>The Beatles</i> tour Australia
1964	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Rolling Stones</i> tour Australia
1965	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "In come the dollars, in come the cents". Decimal currency for Australia
1966	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Constitution Referendum changes recognition of Aboriginal people • Harold Holt, PM, disappears at Cheviot Beach near Portsea • Ronald Ryan, last person executed in Aust., hanged in Melbourne • Opening of F H Fliegner Hall at O.H.S.
1967	

1968	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Retirement of First O.H.S. Principal, Mr F H Fliegner
1969	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arbitration - equal pay for equal work, regardless of gender
1970	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Gate Bridge collapses, killing 35 workers • Tullamarine Airport opens
1971	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Queensland Senator Neville Bonner becomes first Aboriginal person in Federal Parliament
1972	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Last Australian troops leave Vietnam
1973	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Voting age in Federal Elections reduced from 21 to 18 • Sydney Opera House opens
1974	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First credit card, <i>Bankcard</i>, introduced into Australia • 'Mungo Man' 40,000 years old discovered at Lake Mungo, NSW • Cyclone Tracy devastates Darwin, Christmas Eve/Day, death toll 71
1975	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Colour television begins in Australia
1976	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Vietnamese 'boat people' arrive in Darwin seeking refuge
1977	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elvis Presley dies aged 42
1978	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Mardi Gras held in Sydney
1979	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sony releases the 'Walkman' personal stereo
1980	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia's first test-tube baby born in Melbourne
1981	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Melbourne's Underground Rail Loop - City Circle tunnel opens
1982	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Freedom of Information Act passed into Federal Law
1983	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ash Wednesday Bushfires - Vic & SA - 71 people die • Australia wins America's Cup Yacht Race - first time in 132 years • 25 years of exchange visits with Flindon High School celebrated with a civic reception by Mayor of Oadleigh.
1984	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Advance Australia Fair</i> proclaimed Australia's National Anthem • Medicare scheme begins • \$1 coin goes into circulation
1985	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Channel 7 launches TV soap-opera <i>Neighbours</i>
1986	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Russell Street Bombing - Constable Angela Taylor killed - first Australian policewoman to be killed in the line of duty
1987	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First mobile phone call made in Australia • Hoddle & Queen Street massacres - kills 15
1988	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Australia Day Bicentennial Conference and celebrations
1989	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • HECS - payment for tertiary education - introduced for first time
1990	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • "Southbank Promenade" opens in Melbourne
1991	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recession throughout Australia
1992	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High Court Mabo Judgement recognizes Native Title Rights • Oakleigh High School closed by Victorian Government

contacts/autographs

Thanks to all the contributors for this '**Where are they now**'

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PROUDLY SUPPORTING

Founded in 2001, the Asylum Seeker Resource Centre (ASRC) is Australia's largest human rights organisation providing support to people seeking asylum.

They deliver holistic programs that protect people seeking asylum from persecution and destitution, support well-being and dignity and empower people to advance their own future.

To stay independent they don't accept funding from the Federal Government. Donations and monies raised from fundraising activities are vital.

There are many different ways to get involved in the ASRC and their work to support people seeking safety in Australia.

To find out how visit asrc.org.au



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