



Victorian Principals Association (VPA)

for publication on an ongoing basis in their VPA Magazine.

We thank them sincerely.

It behooves all of us to inform current practicing Principal Class members about life after work and how the RVPA is able to meet some of their needs after retirement.



School Principals.....Contemplating Retirement?

So you are planning for “LIFE after WORK”!

You have worked hard and long and deserve the rewards that RETIREMENT brings.

Look forward with optimism!

But don't sever yourself entirely from the joys of past collegial friendships and the multitude of shared experiences.

The RETIRED VICTORIAN PRINCIPALS ASSOCIATION [RVPA] is an organization that is meeting the needs of many retired Principals in a most satisfying way.

Log onto www.rvpa.org.au to find out more and explore the BENEFITS membership will bring.

The RVPA Committee

Committee of Management 2008 ~ 09

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Chris Cairney	95607704	Secretary
Wilf Thorsen	9438 2081	Treasurer
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Margaret Reid	98081748	Past President, Life Member
John Solomon	0438054582	Member
Colin Crawford	96996050	Member
Ray Dennis	98036309	Member



John Ragas 95850334 or 0409525338 Editor / Web Co-ordinator

David Tydeman

On May 30th last year my wife Susan and I arrived at Heathrow airport London .We were met by my sister who lives in the U.K. who had to wait almost three hours for us to emerge from immigration and customs because of some police operation that particular afternoon at the airport. Not what we wanted either at the end of a twenty four hour flight!

As we drove to her home in Camberley in nearby Surrey we were immediately struck by the lushness of the countryside and the amount of growth at the sides of the roads. This was in such stark contrast to the dryness and brown condition of drought stricken Victoria. At this time of the year the days are so long that it was still sunny and warm at 9.30 pm. One of the advantages of going to this part of the world in June is the beautiful long days. After enjoying some days at Camberley visiting nearby places such as Windsor, Henley on Thames and Oxford we hired our own car for a week and headed off towards the south west of England.

We followed the M3 motorway for a short distance to get past the large dormitory towns such as Basingstoke that surround London. We then picked up the A303 heading to Winchester. On the way we spent a lovely hour or so in the small village of Stockbridge enjoying a coffee in a quaint tavern called “Three Cups Inn” in the main street.

From here we travelled a short distance to the beautiful city of Salisbury. As with many such cities in England parking is a pain. We finished up learning the hard way that it is easier to park the car on the edge of the city in a “park and ride” and then take the bus into the centre of the city. We enjoyed very much a visit to the glorious cathedral and the chancery that has an original copy of The Magna Carta. As we left Salisbury I experienced a bit of a shock as I filled the small Vauxhall Corsa we had hired with petrol at about AUD2.50 a litre. (like our petrol it has become cheaper in the U.K. since last June)

Later that afternoon we stopped at a small and picturesque village called Barford St. Martin where there were many lovely thatched cottages in perfect condition and these gave my camera quite a workout. We spent our first night at a B&B in Shaftsbury in Dorset. This is Thomas Hardy’s village and it is situated on a hill which overlooks the nearby beautiful Dorset countryside. Nearby the Kings Arms Hotel where we enjoyed a hearty meal there is a famous street called ‘Gold Hill’ or sometimes Hovis Hill as the scene was apparently made famous by a TV ad in the UK for Hovis brand bread.

Next morning we drove on to another delightful town, Sherbourne where we wandered around an interesting street market. Outside Sherbourne there is cut into the white chalk of a rather steep hillside the outline of a giant man. It has been there for centuries and no doubt caused considerable mirth to many visitors and locals because of the size of the chalk man’s appendages! Not far from here in the small village of Cern Abbas another unfortunate occurrence took place when my wife happened to take a photo of me under a street sign with the quaint name “Piddle Lane”!

Later that day we had a very different place to visit. We reached the coast at Lyme Regis which I believe to be a fairly typical English seaside resort. The beach at Lyme Regis was well worth a wander along even if it is composed a rather large pebbles! We had no problem obtaining accommodation at this time without prior bookings.

From Lyme Regis the next day we traversed the Dartmoor National Park It is very different country to Wiltshire and Dorset – very windswept and rather bleak but still beautiful on a sunny day. I especially remember the rather isolated village of Dunsford at the beginning of the Moors. It had a great typical English pub, very narrow streets, picturesque cottages with flower gardens in the front and back and a great



old church and churchyard with cemetery on the highest point of the village. I even wandered past an attractive small school at the end of the main street where the school kids were enjoying morning recess! There was no evidence of a teacher on yard duty!!

In the afternoon we stopped and enjoyed a walk along a very busy main street in Tavistock. We bypassed the large city of Plymouth where we had been some years ago and went through the village of Looe and stayed at Polperro.

Polperro we had been told was well worth a visit. With perfect weather and such a delightful Cornish fishing village it was a highlight of the trip. One would have to say it was picture postcard perfect. The village is built on fairly steep hills on either side of a protected harbour with just a small entrance from the sea. Car entry is restricted to people who live in the village or when you have a confirmed B&B or hotel booking. We had a great fish meal at a small restaurant overlooking the main part of the harbour. It was a truly enchanting place. We could have easily stayed another day.

The next morning to save some time we drove for six miles on the narrowest road I have ever driven. There was nowhere to pass an oncoming vehicle except there were inlets every so often. So when I encountered a van coming the other way I had to reverse for a few hundred metres so we could pass. We reached a car ferry at Polruan (think that is the spelling but I am having trouble reading my own writing in the diary I kept!). The ferry took us to another Cornish fishing town, Fowey. We spent time and had a wonderful lunch in this busy place.

That afternoon we visited a fairly new attraction called the “Lost Gardens of Heligan”. Well over a century ago an eccentric and wealthy Englishman had travelled the world and brought many exotic plants such as Rhododendrons, bananas and even pineapples for his private botanic garden. Some many years ago after his death the gardens fell into disuse and became completely overgrown and almost lost. But in recent times they are being brought to their original glory. They were well worth a visit.

From Heligan we turned back towards London and crossed Bodmin Moor passing Okehampton on the A30. We stopped at a tiny village of Belstone near Okehampton. It was a most attractive village with a delightful old pub, village green and even a set of stocks near the entrance of the village.

The following day we were in Wells which has what I think has one of the great cathedrals in England. The front of the cathedral is stunning in its masonry detail and the still working medieval clock inside is marvellous.



Another interesting town was Glastonbury the centre of the thriving witchcraft and occult industry in England. Quite a few refugees here from Nimbin! The next place that is worth spending time is the city of Bath. We took many photos of the Royal Crescent and Circus. Having seen the

historic roman baths on a previous trip we headed on minor roads from here across some beautiful Dorset countryside back towards Camberley.

Several days later we caught the Eurostar train from the newly refurbished Euston Station in London and two and a quarter hours later we were in Paris at the Gare du Nord station. Having been in Paris a number of times, on this occasion we did not rush around all the time trying to visit as many as possible of the famous tourist sights. We simply enjoyed some wonderful lunches, strolls along the riverbanks and gardens observing the people and taking in the ambiance of Paris.



Water Cool Water

.Don Hunt's story of a water cheat in our irrigation area north east of Shepparton brought to mind a small but amusing experience I had at Mt Clear, It has been said that cheats never prosper, but perhaps sometimes they just might.

1968 was a very severe drought year throughout the Ballarat district. Stock were being hand fed, and a stop beside the roadside usually brought a flock of hungry sheep to the fence. Watering of home gardens was restricted to a hand held hose, a half hour each day between 5.30 and 6.00 pm.

The residence at Mt Clear was quaint to say the least with so many odd features. My wife often declared that it had been designed by a committee. One of the spoilers we have these days is an inside toilet. At Mt Clear it was about 30 metres up the backyard. You can imagine an enforced visit on a bitterly cold winter night.

However on the occasion I refer to, it was quite a mellow autumn night when I was forced to pay a rather urgent call at about 2am. Opening the back door I was greeted by the sound of falling rain and on this occasion despite the threat of getting wet, I was glad. On stepping outside I found myself disappointed. With neighbouring taps all switched off, the water pressure must have been superb, and what I was hearing was the sound of a splendid sprinkler watering the large flat leaves of my neighbour's pumpkins. By the time I had completed my urgent business there was silence. The episode didn't worry me overmuch, and I don't know if it was a regular occurrence, but I do know that he finished up with a magnificent crop not only of pumpkins but of mushrooms as well which grew under the vines.

Yes I have to admit I was a trifle envious but then I have always liked to play by the rules.



Seeing is believing

Probably experiences with water are fairly common place. Like most people I've had my share, but the one I'm about to relate is a shade unusual. It occurred during my stretch at Murrayville. The town draws its main water supply from an artesian bore some 425 feet under ground. Although classified as hard water, after passing through a household softening plant it is quite suitable for general purpose use, but not for cooking, tea making, drinking etc. and each house has a fairly substantial rain water tank.

It was Sunday just after lunch. Margaret and I were relaxing and looking out of the kitchen window at a beautiful grey thrush. It had just gobbled up a "bird dropping" spider which I had discovered that morning. Its camouflage hadn't fooled the thrush's keen eye.

As was the case of most remote country towns Murrayville usually suffered from a shortage of vital personnel such as doctors, teachers, bakers and so on. The new baker had just settled in to the old house next door. Understandably he was a very welcome addition to the town and he had tried to make the old place, suffering years of neglect as comfortable as possible. Included in the general refurbishment was a new-2000 gallon water tank, placed on what must have been quite an ancient support.

As Margaret and I looked out of the window a sparrow alighted on the stand. Yes we have all heard of the straw that broke the camel's back, but this time it's the story of the sparrow that crashed an almost full 2000 gal. water tank. At the instant of the sparrows landing,, down came the tank with a mighty whoosh, rupturing the seams and sending water everywhere.

Losing your drinking water is certainly a spot of very bad luck but I couldn't help thinking how fortunate our neighbours might have been. It was rather hot outside and it was not unusual for small Mallee children to seek a cool spot under the water tank on very hot days.

The couple with their two small children had gone out for the day.



Submitted by Wal Baker

If you can start the day without caffeine or pills
 If you can be cheerful, ignoring aches and pains
 If you can resist complaining and telling all your troubles,
 If you can eat the same food every day and be grateful for it
 If you can understand when loved ones are too busy to give you time
 If you can overlook when people take things out on you
 If you can take criticism and blame without resentment
 If you can face the world without lies and deceit,
 If you can conquer tension without medical help or liquor
 If you can sleep without the aid of drugs,

then you are probably the family dog.

Glasshouse Country News

submitted by Margaret Reid

It doesn't mater if you can't spell!

Aoccdrnig to a rscheearch at an Elingsh uinervtisy, it deosn't mtaer in waht oredr the Itteers in a wrod are, the olny iprmoetnt tihng is taht frist and Isat Itteer is at the rghit pclae. The rset can be a toatl mses and you can sitll raed it wouthit a porbelm. Tihs is bcuseae we do not raed ervey Iteter by it slef but the wrod as a wlohe.

Ceehiro

Ian Cheeswright has some questions....

- ◆ Can you cry underwater?
- ◆ Why do you have to put in your 2 cents worth but only get a penny for your thoughts?
Where's the extra penny going to?

Glasshouse Country News

DARWIN'S MISTAKE



'Three monkeys sat on a coconut tree, discussing things as they're meant to be, Said one to the others "Now listen you two there's a certain rumour that can't be true That man descended from our noble race. The very idea is a big disgrace.



No monkey ever deserted his wife, starved her babies and ruined her life.

And you've never known a mother-monk

to leave her babies with others to bunk,
 Or pass them on from one to ' another
 till they scarcely know who was their mother;
 And another thing you'll never see is a monk
 build a fence round a coconut tree.
 Forbidding all other monks to taste;
 Why, if I'd put a fence round my tree
 Starvation would force you to steal from me;
 Here's another thing a monk won't do
 Go out at night and get on the stew,
 Or use a gun or club or knife
 To take some other monkey's life.

Yes man DESCENDED—with all his fuss,
 But brothers, he didn't descend from US!"

Signs in other lands

Doctor's Office in Rome:-
Specialist in women and other diseases

In a cemetery:
Persons are prohibited from picking flowers from any but their own graves.



**MINUTES OF THE GENERAL MEETING NO.20
HELD AT ANZAC HOUSE 4 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE
ON OCTOBER 16th, 2008 AT 11:00 A.M.**

1. Welcome:

President Helen Worlidge welcomed everyone and explained the situation regarding the catering for our luncheon. The cost of \$46.00 was extremely high and the committee had decided to subsidise the cost to reduce it to \$37.00. A buffet lunch of gourmet sandwiches and fruit platters at a cost of \$25.00 could be considered. Helen asked members if they would indicate their choice for future meetings. The \$25.00 Lunch was chosen.

We remembered John Kent (*Principal at Warrigal*) and Eileen Moss (*First Victorian Woman Inspector*) who have passed away.

2. Apologies:

B. Borchers, E. Beer, J. Chalmers, I. Cheesewright, D. Crickmore, J. Finnegan, A. Morris, B. Pollock, H. Potts, J. Romeril, M. Reid, L. Schultz, J. Solomon, H. White, B. Winzar

3. Minutes of the Last Meeting. The minutes of the meeting held on Thursday May 15th were confirmed on the motion of R. Dennis & H. Fletcher.

4. Financial Statement: Wilf Thorsen

Thank you to Chris Cairney for looking after the accounts while Wilf was overseas.

Wilf reported that the cash balance on 15/10/08 was \$3,882.09 and with accounts for printing and catering still outstanding we will need to withdraw money from our Investment Account to cover expenses.

5. Membership Report: Norm Denny

Financial Members for 2008.... **269** - 13 down on last year

Of the 52 Principals who retired in Dec 2007 only 2 replied.

6. Newsletter Report: John Ragas

John is at the 'bottom of the barrel' as regards articles for the magazine.

Please consider an article about your travel experiences. (*Ray Dennis, David Tydeman & Leon Wallis promised a travel story*)

John is also going to advertise in the VPA magazine for our association.

Colin Crawford says thank you to John Solomon who did the Mail Out in Colin's absence.

The Web Site has been updated and the link to the V.P.A. site will be adjusted.

7. Excursions: John Ragas (in John Solomon's absence)

Tour of Victoria Barracks on Wednesday, 19th November. 31 members have shown an interest in attending.

Closing Date for replies is the 23rd October.

8. Council of State Retirees' Association Report: Brian Williams

Brian was unable to attend the last meeting. Matters concerning indexation are still under review.

Guest Speaker: Brian and Margaret Allen "Teachers Across Borders"

Brian (*a member of our association*) and Margaret presented a most informative and interesting talk about their work in Cambodia.

They are 'teaching the teachers' as Cambodia has been bereft of teachers in the aftermath of the Pol Pot regime.

There are many orphan children on the streets and there are few resources in the schools that do exist there.

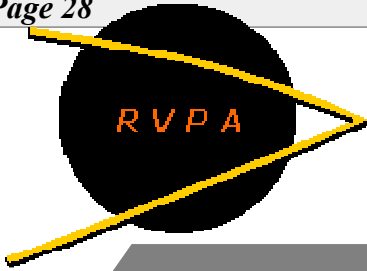
Helen suggested that we donate the proceeds of our raffle to Brian's cause. He was delighted to accept the \$230.00 raised.

Next Meeting: The A.G.M. will be held on Thursday 21st May, 2009 at Anzac House.



**ATTENDANCE AT THE R.V.P.A GENERAL MEETING
OCTOBER 16TH 2008**

1. Allen, Brian (<i>speaker</i>)	23. Hookey, Marj
2. Allen, Margaret (<i>speaker</i>)	24. James, Len
3. Baker, Clare	25. Landt, Murray
4. Baker, Wal	26. Landt, Noreen
5. Blackwood, Beryl	27. McDonald, June
6. Bone, John	28. McLeod, Eveline
7. Buckland, Harry	29. McLeod, Ken
8. Cairney, Chris	30. Melvin, John
9. Crawford, Colin	31. Orgill, Daryl
10. Daniel, John	32. O'Bree, Maureen
11. De Bortoli, Mary	33. Pierson, Brian
12. Dennis, Ray	34. Ragas, John
13. Dennis, Norm	35. Shiel, Park
14. Ebbels, Rowan	36. Taylor, Lloyd
15. Fletcher, Harold	37. Taylor, Joan
16. Fletcher, Joy	38. Thorsen, Wilf
17. Gatliff, Ian	39. Tydeman, David
18. Gordon, Don	40. Veitch, Margaret
19. Graham, Peter	41. Wallis, Leon
20. Hamilton, Joan	42. Wilkinson, Vern
21. Hill, Moira	43. Williams, Brian
22. Hill, Bryan	44. Worladge, Helen



Retired Victorian Principals Association
ANZAC HOUSE, 4- 6 COLLINS STREET, MELBOURNE

A.G.M. MEETING 42nd REUNION LUNCHEON

Thursday 21st May 2009
at 11.00am

All members are urged to attend this special occasion. It should NOT be missed!

Enjoy :

tea/coffee & biscuits on arrival (from 10.30am)

For Lunch:

Spread of gourmet sandwiches

Fresh fruit / slices

Tea, coffee and biscuits

Soft drink / juice

\$26 per person ~
Please return form below

During the Meeting there will be elections for positions on the Management Committee.

A Nomination Form is included for this purpose.

The Bar will be open for beer and wine at bar prices.

This is an opportunity for all to mix and share and have a memorable time with a minimum of formalities.

Please return form below.

We look forward to meeting up with you again.

Please return this AGM Meeting / Luncheon form by Friday 15th May 2009 to Treasurer Wilf Thorsen

I / We shall be attending the Meeting at 11.00am
the Luncheon



WILF THORSEN
12 EGAN ST
DIAMOND CREEK 3089

Name(s) _____

Contact Phone: _____

Moneys enclosed @ \$26each: \$ _____

Cheques made out to: ~

Retired Victorian Principals Association