



CLASS of December 1973

50th ANNIVERSARY of GRADUATION REUNION

A record of the Dec 1973 OCS Class
Reunion held at Portsea in Dec 2023.



14 Dec 1973

Introduction

Where did 50 years go?

These were my thoughts in 2022 when consideration turned to the 50th Anniversary of our graduation from OCS Portsea on 14 December 1973

The Plan

Given our increasing age it was decided to keep things simple and have a low-key two-day event at Portsea reliving the memories of the day, our youth and our year at Portsea.

Portsea Hotel – Meet and Greet

On the evening of Wednesday, 13 Dec 2023 we rendezvoused at the Portsea Hotel the scene of many a weekend session and many beers. Rest assured the Beer Garden is still there and the Kiwi contingent of Ian Healey, Mike Madden, and Graeme Todd were found at their usual table in the Beer Gardenn shortly after our arrival.



A pre catch up catch up (L-R) Paula and Dave Moon and Mark Gallagher at the Portsea Golf Club
Mercure Hotel

photo by: Chris Grigsby

At the Portsea Hotel the staff were great, and we were well looked after as we reconnected and remembered old times.



The Beer Garden has changed but the Kiwi Contingent were found near their old table.



Chris Grigsby, Phil and Elena Mouncey



Phil Mouncey, Paula Moon, Elena Mouncey, Chris Grigsby, Dave Moon



L-R Ian Healey, Chris Luz Raymond, Bruce Cook, Chris Grigsby, Phil and Elena Mouncey, Paula and Dave Moon, Jinghua McConnell, Mike Madden, Graeme Todd



Ian Healey and Bruce Cook

Visit to Portsea

Thursday 14 December 2023

50th Anniversary of our Graduation

The plan confirmed over multiple drinks at the Portsea Hotel on Wednesday night was to move independently and rendezvous at the old HQ Building at 0930. At 0935 ED were awarded for geographic confusion and being late for a place of parade.

Parks Victoria had gone above and beyond to facilitate our visit and the OCS flag was flying from the flagpole.



We then moved in a gaggle to the Cadet Statue which now stands where the Honour Wall was and had a period of reflection.

1973 and Portsea represents only a year in our lives.

But that year has shaped and influenced our lives in so many ways over the past 50 years.

I suspect we would all agree that our time hereat Portsea continues to influence our lives today.

In Jan 1973 a disparate group of men from many nations, some young and some older met here at Portsea.

And now 50 years later we gather at the Cadet Statue to commemorate the anniversary of our Graduation on 14 Dec 1973.

We are those that are able to be here.

Let's not forget those who have left us:

Burhanuddin	Alimin	RMR
Tim	Bakker	RAA
Eustaquio	Granadillos	AFP Inf
Klaus	Hahn	RACMP
Ken	Stevenson	RAAOC

Maino	Taeni	PNGDF
Mark (Marcus)	Walker	RAAC
Ray	Dousset	RAEME AAAvn
Kev	Riley	RAEME
Peter	Raue	RASvy

There are those whose health has not allowed them to attend:

Phil	Blundell	Max	Moran
Rod	Chisholm	Willem (Buddy)	Portier (wife)
Norm	Cognet	Peter	Roberts
Rod	Green	Brendan	Sforcina
Colin	Hodkinson (wife)	Lex	Shuttlewood

Those who sent their best wishes and apologies:

Mike	Alcock	Bob	Huby
Heinz	Bohn	John	Hunt
Peter	Bryar	Vinh Quang	Le (Vinnie)
Michael	Buck	Bruce	Mackie
Richard	Bungey	Andrew F	Marks
James	Coubrough	Tom	Moylan
John	Duff	Brent	Olsen
Bob	Elworthy	Ken	Powell
Peter	Feeney	Gordon	Smilie

Stuart	Gray	Richard	Taylor
Lou	Hatton	Doug	Webb
Tony	Hinchon	David	Wells
		Peter	White

The period of reflection concluded with reciting:

The Ode

They went with songs to the battle, they were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and aglow.
They were staunch to the end against odds uncounted;
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall grow not old, as we that are left grow old:
Age shall not weary them, nor the years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the morning.

We will remember them.



(L-R) John McConnell, Phil Mouncey, Bruce Cook, Chris Grigsby, Dave Moon, Peter Kennedy (class of 1985), Mark Gallagher, Ian Healey, Chris Luz Raymond, Graeme Todd, Mike Madden, John Platt.

We then moved up to the Cadet Lines which unfortunately are in a state of disrepair due to lack of funding and vandalism. The BSM Lawn is unrecognisable due to the growth of the New Zealand Christmas Trees presented by the NZ CGS many years ago.

Parks Victoria kindly opened A and B Coy accommodation blocks and the Mess and Dining Room for viewing.



The Ante Room Bar

After walking around the accommodation, we headed back to Badcoe Hall via the RSM Hut.



The Kiwi Contingent

Badcoe Hall then and now



Photo probably taken by Buckie



<https://www.ocsdec73.com/photo-gallery/1973-2/portsea/>



Visit Conclusion

Our visit concluded outside the Headquarters where, we presented to Parks Victoria for their OCS collection a previous reunion cap, and a coffee table pictorial record of our Class 45th Reunion. If you would like a copy of the 45th pictorial record, please contact Buckie at mike@ralphbuckagencies.com.



L-R Jinghua McConnell, Elena Mouncey, John McConnell, John Platt, Chris Grigsby, Phil Mouncey, Mike Madden, Ian Healey, Graeme Todd, Dave Moon, Paula Moon, Chris Luz Raymond, Bruce Cook, Mark Gallagher.

Anniversary Lunch

The Sorrento Sailing and Couta Boat Club was the location for our Anniversary Luncheon. An apt location with views from on the water at Sorrento looking back towards Portsea. The Club was most accommodating and hospitable providing a decorated table. Lunch was laid back as Mike Madden's and Ian Healey's photo album and mementos were shared around. Ian Healey passed on greetings from Kiwi classmates and a blessing from Stan Pilbrow our Senior Class and now an ordained Anglican Priest.

On behalf of our class Ian offered a toast to the health of all and remembering those who had passed.

A good time was being had by all and photos were not a priority.

Most of us slipped away for a quiet afternoon but I am reliably informed that the Kiwi Contingent did a pub crawl via the Sorrento Hotel back to their accommodation at the Portsea Hotel.



Sorrento Sailing and Couta Boat Club looking towards Portsea

The Last Supper

Those who were up to it regrouped at the Portsea Hotel for dinner and a final catch up. Somehow in the camaraderie of the moment no photos were taken, however, I am pleased to report that a good time was had by all.

Postscript

Thank you to those who attended, it only seemed like yesterday we had been fresh faced Portsea. Cadets.

Thank you to Pamela Fellows from Parks Victoria for making us welcome, flying the OCS Flag and opening buildings. Parks Victoria are keen to record the OCS story and are collecting stories and memories of OCS. If you wish to contribute, please contact:

Pamela Fellows

Visitor and Community Engagement

Point Nepean National Park

T (03) 8427 2463 | E pamela.fellows@parks.vic.gov.au

PO Box 485, Sorrento Victoria 3943

www.parks.vic.gov.au

Finally, a thank you to the Portsea Hotel and Sorrento Sailing and Couta Boat Club who made us welcome.



CLASS OF DECEMBER 1973 - GRADUATES

MIKE ALCOCK
 TIM BAKKER
 PHIL BLUNDELL
 HEINZ BOHN
 PETER BRYAR
 MIKE BUCK
 RICHARD BUNGEY
 BURHANUDDIN
 ALIMIN
 PHIL BYRNE
 STEVE CAIRNS
 ROD CHISHOLM
 ANDREW CHRISTIE
 GRAEME CLARE
 NORM COGNET
 BRUCE COOK
 JIM COUBROUGH
 IAN COUTTS
 RICK DOBBIE
 RAY DOUSSET
 JOHN DUFF
 BOB ELWORTHY
 PETER FEENEY
 PETER FRANKLIN
 MARK GALLAGHER
 CHRIS GEHRMANN
 EUSTAQUIO
 GRANADILLOS
 STUART GRAY
 ROD GREEN
 JOHN GREGS
 CHRIS GRIGSBY
 KLAUS HAHN

ROSS HALLIDAY
 JOHN HARDING
 JOHN HARRISON
 LOU HATTON
 IAN HEALY
 TONY HINCHON
 COLIN HODKINSON
 BOB HUBY
 JOHN HUNT
 BRUCE HUTCHINSON
 ROB JUBBER
 SOL KARPUSKA
 PETER KIESEKER
 PETER KUWOH
 ERIC LANHAM
 LE QUANG VINH
 KEL LONGHURST
 ALLAN LOWE
 BRUCE MACKIE
 MIKE MADDEN
 ANDY F. MARKS
 ANDY G. MARKS
 ALAN MARR
 DOUG MCCLELLAND
 JOHN MCCONNELL
 GARY MCMAHON
 DAVE MOON
 MAX MORAN
 FRANK MORIPI
 PHIL MOUNCEY
 TOM MOYLAN
 NUGYN TRI DUNG

BRENT OLSEN
 GAVIN O'NEILL
 KAS PAULIUKEVICIUS
 MICK PHILLIPS
 JOHN PLATT
 BUDDY PORTIER
 KEN POWELL
 PETER RANKIN
 RASIDI BIN NAIM
 PETER RAUE
 CHRIS LUZ-RAYMOND
 DARYLE RICHARDS
 KEV RILEY
 PETER ROBERTS
 WALTER SALAMAS
 NICK SANDERS
 MATT SARASAU
 BRENDAN SFORCINA
 LEX SHUTTLEWOOD
 GORDON SMILLIE
 TIM SMITH
 PAUL SOUTHWELL
 KEN STEVENSON
 MAINO TAENI
 RICHARD TAYLOR
 GRAEME TODD
 MARCUS WALKER
 DOUG WEBB
 DAVE WELLS
 PETER WHITE
 GEOFF WIRI
 MARK WISCHNOWSKY