A great start to the new year

We begin this new year with some very good news from our members, and from our holiday get togethers. We are also delighted to welcome a swag of new members who have signed on in recent times.

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

Going back to our November reunions, as we reported in the December newsletter, a number of people who made contact at that time, have signed on as new members and we are very pleased to welcome them.

Joan Brown (Ludlow), Clare Foster (Williams) Ian Schweitzer, Peter Farrell, Elsie Cox (known at school as Lyrell McDonald), Helen Pinkerton (Newman), Anne Foster (Schweitzer), Yvonne Lavers (Schweitzer), Col Hadwell, Shirley Dunster (McLean), Lyn Small (Jones), Peter Cornelius, and Joe Thompson were all in that group.

Then came Matthew McPaul and Carolyn Weilly (De Maar). Welcome to you all, and we hope you enjoy staying in touch with friends from the past.

CONGRATULATIONS to the 2012 Year 12 class. They achieved great things in the HSC, and received a lot of public acclaim when the results came out before Christmas. For those of us who don’t quite grasp how the results are to be interpreted, we quote from the school newsletter. It sounds fantastic.

...big congratulations to 2012 Year 12 students, their teachers and their parents. A stunning set of HSC results elevates our school’s performance to among the best in the North Coast region. No less than three NSW Premier’s all rounder awards (a score of 90+ in at least five subjects) were bestowed on three of our highest performing students: Yindi Sutton, Bodhi Dun and Julia Riches. Jack Walsh, the Dux, achieved an ATAR (Australian Tertiary Admissions Rank) of 98.9 and six other students achieved ATARs over 90. Many of our subject performances were well above the state average including the Extension English, Extension Mathematics, Physics and Chemistry. Major Sydney media publications rate our school’s performance as the highest of all the public schools in the North Coast area. Once again, Mullum High shines!

REUNIONS PLUS

Not only were there two reunions on the weekend of the AGM in November, but this was followed up by the seasonal gathering at the Hotel Brunswick meeting point at the end of December. Gillian Lomath (Archer) and Pam Morris (Dundas) literally waved the flag and numerous people turned up to say hello. Amongst them were Nerida Dean (Siwicki) Keith and Jan Wood, Carol Erskine (Gilmour), John Harris, Dawn Standford, Ian Musgrave, Garry and Sue McDonald (Brisbane), Ray Musgrave and Kath, Malcolm Marks and Philip Batson.

Gillian’s assessment was that it was very nice to see this number of people turning up. “I think it will grow and it’s a very good venue,” she said.

Definitely worth the effort.

LYNE SMALL (JONES) has joined us. Welcome Lyne. Here she is with one of her four beautiful grandchildren.

WELCOME ALSO TO JOAN BROWN (LUDLOW), seen here with five generations of her family, including her mother, aged 103.

THANKS HÉLÈNE

Hélène Safajou has been our helpful contact in the Admin department of the High School since we started. Now, she has let us know that she is taking 12 months leave to engage in other adventures. We thank her for her help in getting this newsletter on to the school website and for other good advice and support from time to time.

We hope her year is enjoyable and look forward to her return.
Mullumbimby High scores well on community service

Citizenship is an illusive idea, but we know that it includes doing things for others without expectation of reward. It is valued even at school, and there will be many members who cherish a dictionary or perhaps some other book, given in recognition of the qualities of citizenship they displayed as students. Chances are, these qualities were developed as they matured and they continued as adults to contribute to their neighbourhoods, communities and organisations pursuing worthy aims.

Effie Bland (Aldenes) comes from a family well known to be good citizens. Her mother set the fine example she continues (with her sister Helen L’Orange who is a Member of the Order of Australia, given for her service to women and local government).

Effie received the Medal (OAM) of the Order of Australia in the General Division for service to the community through charitable organisations. It’s an impressive list:

- Board Member, SDN Children’s Services (formerly known as Sydney Day Nursery and Nursery Schools Association), since 1991; Member of several Sub-Committees including: Public Relations, Marketing, and Building; Chair, History Committee, 2001-2011, and Member, 1995-2011; Coordinator, Centenary Celebrations, 2005; established the History Room and Archive, 2001.
- President, Redfern/Waterloo Branch Committee, ca1990; Member, 1988-1991.
- Volunteer, St Vincent de Paul (Op Shop), Turramurra, for 15 years.
- Presenter/Speaker, Australian Research in Early Childhood Conference, Faculty of Education, Monash University, 2010.
- Director, S McN Bland since 1970; surveying services.

Asked about her award, Effie said, “I feel very honoured, humble...An Order of Australia honour is not something I would have ever expected to achieve.

“I’ve had great experiences, I’ve met great people, I’ve achieved things I would never have imagined...and it has been a great chapter in my life. How do I feel? A bit overwhelmed.”

Congratulations Effie.

CONGRATULATIONS X 2

Letitia Towers is our conscientious treasurer, and organiser of her class reunion last year (1992). We didn’t know it at the time, but she was also in the last stages of her accountancy studies. She gained an 87 grade point average which earned her a diploma with distinction. Congratulations Letitia, our funds are in good hands.


Her OAM was awarded for her lengthy community service.

Photo courtesy of Adam Ward of the Hornsby Advocate.

COMMITTEE MEMBERS AND CONTACTS 2013

We aim to provide social opportunities for ex-students and staff, and to support the school with special projects.

President: Neville Marks
Treasurer: Letitia Towers
Secretary: Robyn Gray (Harkness)

Membership:

- Judy Hill (Mackney)
- Keith Wood
- Gill Lomath (Archer)
- Ben Williams

Eligibility:
Voting membership is open to all ex-students and staff (teaching and non-teaching) who have spent one year or more at the Mullumbimby High School.

Membership opportunities are also available for others.
For more information about your choices, contact the Secretary, or Judy Hill, on email

j_m_hill@tpg.com.au

SUBS ARE DUE AND CHEQUES can be sent to Treasurer Letitia Towers at PO Box 1121, Mullumbimby 2482
Direct deposits of subs or donations can be made to the Association account at the Mullum branch of the Commonwealth Bank, BSB 06 2578 A/N 1022 4915.