Mullumbimby High School Ex-Students Association Inc.
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AGM
As usual, the AGM last month gave us an opportunity to meet and review the past year, which saw us finish off the JPA lectern/sound system project (thanks again to Nicolas Van Horton for all his time and effort), provide information and support to the school on a matter of horticulture – what to do with an ailing jacaranda tree – and most importantly, we have initiated a membership drive.

In his report to the meeting the President said:
“Our main focus over the past year has been to increase our membership. One of our plans was to set up guidelines for getting new members by making and using local contact lists in different parts of Australia.

“Judy Hill, our membership co-ordinator, developed the plan for the membership drive with a diagrammatic representation of how it would work.

“We have a good cover of local contacts with many thanks going to our current volunteers. They are Sunshine Coast – Ian Vagg, Toowoomba – Lyle Robb, NSW Far North Coast – Carol Erskine and Canberra – Nerida Dean. Membership Co-ordinator Judy Hill, is overseeing the process. Thanks Judy.

“... our membership drive and publicity campaign are now amongst our most important tasks. We need to get the message out to as many ex-students as we can, especially to those who have organised past reunions for their respective groups, as well as to family and friends. It is our intention that the Association becomes a great avenue to promote social gatherings amongst past students and members of staff.

“I would like to express thanks to Robyn for all her work in making the Newsletters happen and the work associated with the running of the Committee through our effective email approval system.

“Thanks to all the Committee, especially Letitia for her help in keeping us in the black.

“I look forward to the Association developing its membership and becoming a strong organisation and one that is very successful in achieving its aims.”

In her report to the meeting, the Secretary noted that we had 34 members on the Voting Register and 56 members who are Associates, an improvement of one on last year. Some Voting members did not renew, so have been moved on to the Associate Register, a couple unsubscribed and another died. The total on all registers is 96.
SUBS ARE NOW DUE
Voting members are reminded that the annual sub of $10 is now due. Many thanks to those who have already made their deposits or sent their cheques. Thank you also to those who have added to their sub to provide a donation to the funds. For direct deposits, the account is the Mullumbimby High School Ex-Students Assn., Mullumbimby branch of the Commonwealth Bank, BSB 06 2578 A/N 1022 4915.

Welcome to a new member, Sam Alidenes. We were pleased to chat over drinks after the AGM.

The school website now has a link to membership forms – http://www.mullumbimby.schools.nsw.edu.au/

BRIGHT IDEAS
Steps have been taken to test the feasibility of a number of new ideas.
1. Through the year our attention was drawn to the need by some students for unexpected financial support to carry through a plan or project. An example was when the group taking part in the national school science competition made it to the finals which generated travelling expenses. We would like to set up a contingency fund for these occasions and have contacted the Principal about how to do this.
2. Another idea which needs guidance from the Principal is to encourage a mentoring link between our members and students. In the case at hand, a gifted Year 12 science student wanting to make a career in science might well benefit from contact with two of our members who have both agreed to take part. In the new year, we hope to advance on this.
3. At the AGM, Keith Wood, offered to design an Association badge. This offer was taken up with pleasure by the committee, so a merchandising sub-committee of three has been formalised, and Keith is now its co-ordinator. We expect interesting things from him, and ideas are welcome.

With the year behind us and some good projects to work on in the months to come, the President and committee wish all members a happy Christmas and a peaceful and productive 2012.