Reunions

There have been a lot of people staying in touch in recent weeks. What great reunions we have had, with around 100 ex-students and their partners gathering over the AGM weekend in November. Add the previous two reunions a couple of months ago, plus other gatherings like the one Merv Richens told us about last month, and there have been scores of people connected through Mullumbimby High getting together to renew friendships, and probably sometimes to remember school days.

The oldest of the groups getting together – the 59ers who are not the oldest members by a long shot – dined at the Mullumbimby Bowling Club and judging from the volume of voices in the dining room, had plenty to talk about. People had come from north of Cairns, Sydney, Narrabri, various parts of SE Queensland and all points between. A photo slideshow had been prepared by Judy Hill, using photos supplied in response to the request: photos from each decade. As most of these members were celebrating their 70th year in 2012, there was a good selection. Some anecdotes were shared to the amusement of the group. As Ed Wilson was able to demonstrate, scientific principles can be used to incite some weird behaviour in kids desperate for extra pocket money. (The story linked to a science master in the 1950s involved the collection of gases from a bodily human orifice...but you don’t need to know that.)

Neville Marks has been the address book keeper for the Year of 1959, and he still keeps track of the remaining members of the group. He was thrilled recently to visit Fae Buchan (as she was in 1959) in Brisbane, who although unable to attend, added her good wishes to the many shared sentiments.

The Year of 1962 group was celebrating 50 years since the end of school days, and they too, came from all over the country. The party began with dinner at the Mullumbimby Bowling Club which included a celebration cake, and for those who still had things to talk about, continued at the Hotel Brunswick (where else?) on the following day. They contributed to a book of updates about themselves since that time, so have a very nice souvenir of their get together produced by Vince Kean. See page two for more.

The opportunity was not lost to sign on some new members, and Membership Coordinator Judy Hill is delighted that we have added nine full members and one associate to the registers. Cheques can be sent to Treasurer Letitia Towers at PO Box 1121, Mullumbimby 2482.

We aim to provide social opportunities for ex-students and staff, and to support the school with special projects.
Interesting Times by Vince Kean 1962

We have certainly lived in “interesting times”; some would say the most exciting and even revolutionary times that man has ever seen. Just think:-

Brian Walker’s (naval) career bridged the gap between steam power and diesel engines.

Ted Selwood and Ian Haime (PMG/Telstra) went from a world where telegrams sent by Morse code were important methods of communication to a world where you can pick up a computer tablet or mobile phone and be immediately connected to the whole world with moving pictures.

Yvonne Lonsdale (Rodda) makes light of her forty years nursing but she has had to cope with, and adjust to, a rolling tide of new drugs, new techniques (keyhole surgery etc.) new diseases, and the associated new and revised treatment regimes.

Harry Wiltshire has been at the cutting edge of new computer systems with world wide applications.

Marcia Eagleston (Leonard) (teaching) has gone from Jelly pads and fordigraph stencils to Gestetners, overhead projectors, white boards, and projected computer images. The many teachers amongst us know well the impact of technology but also have seen huge changes in community values. The authority we rebelled against because it was out of touch with reality is now commonly challenged by the young for no better reason than that it exists.

We have people here who have not just coped with change but have excelled in the business world, the academic world and the military. We have creators, builders, and craftsmen. We have volunteers and carers and social workers.

I think that if Jack Pearce were here he would be quietly pleased with the people his school produced. Good solid people who have worked hard for their families and made a valuable contribution to their community.

Congratulations on your achievement.

Thanks to Vince for permission to use this overview and commentary on the group from 1962. Expect some more profiles from this booklet during 2013.

Interesting People

Getting together and reading about the lives ex-students have lived shows what an interesting and talented lot we are. And there are many more stories that could be told about the hundreds of graduates from the school over the years. But from this small selection, and others we have put into the spotlight in this newsletter, what is evident is that

Mullum High has turned out conscientious citizens and dedicated family members.

Community work in all its colours and varieties is prominent in how we describe our private lives. And we have some fascinating diversions.

At random, here are the interesting things some of these people are doing, besides looking after grand children and travelling.

Gillian Lomath (Archer) is tireless in her community social work. This year she adds the organising of the Relay for Life in Byron Shire to her other many commitments, a task that co-ordinates fund raising throughout the shire.

Ed Wilson – has consolidated his life’s work of poetry in a beautiful new volume “New Collected Poems” and continues to paint and exhibit.

Meg Thomas (Margaret Boileau) runs a B&B, regenerates rainforest and makes tiffany lamps.

Malcolm Marks – combines his farming life with a host of heavy duty community work and local government.

Robyn Gray (Harkness) has completed the reading stage of her research into the history of the Mullumbimby electricity undertaking and will write the book next year.

Tricia Allen (Bailey) is a respected bird watcher and field naturalist and her weaving finds a ready market.

At the AGM we said goodbye to John Robinson, foundation treasurer and committee member, and thanked him for the work he has done for us. John’s seat was filled by Keith Wood who is pursuing the development of the badge for members. The committee for the coming year is:

President Neville Marks, Treasurer Letitia Towers, Secretary Robyn Gray (Harkness), Membership Co-ordinator Judy Hill (Mackney), Committee members Gillian Lomath (Archer) and Keith Wood. School representative is Ben Williams.
STAY IN TOUCH

In keeping with the theme of staying in touch, we will again this summer be offering an opportunity to meet up if you happen to be touching the home base between Christmas and new year.

Gillian Lomath (Archer) and Pam Morris (Dundas) will be at the Hotel Brunswick on December 28 from 6:00 p.m. to meet and greet you. Look out for the meeting point banner and say “Hi”, you never know who you might come across.