Although throughout the year we are in touch with our staff rep. James Clarke by email, it is always nice to meet him and the principal (now Donna Pearson) face to face when we gather at the school for our committee and annual meetings. We took the opportunity to raise a couple of ideas with them this year.

The first was a suggestion that the history of the school badge be included on their www. We have a neat history with images in the recently produced 2016 calendar and this has been provided. When it goes up it will be under OUR COMMUNITY - School History.

The second was to find out a bit more about the family scholarships modelled by the two on offer by the estate of the late Dr. Suresh, and the McPaul family in honour of Gordon McPaul's wife Lesley who did so much for schools through her outstanding work with the P&C. We wanted to know if there was scope for adding to those two scholarships, and how students are selected to receive them. This was an interesting conversation and details are elaborated on the next page.

The 2016 calendar sold out, but it was decided not to embark on a re-print. It was a worthwhile project and added to our capacity to support the Sports Person of the Year Award which was so well received by the school and the winner Brittany McDonald.

In fact both the calendar and the Sports Person of the Year Award were offered as highlights of our year when President Neville delivered his annual report. A summary of memberships showed an increase in voting members this year and of course, the Facebook group continues to grow, although disappointingly does not reflect any increase in support for the work of the Association.

Elections resulted in all positions being filled as follows: President Neville Marks, Secretary and Public Officer Robyn Gray (Harkness), Treasurer Chris Wakely Boyd, supported by committee members Keith Wood merchandise coordinator, Judy Hill (Mackney) membership coordinator and Nerida Dean (Siwicki). Nerida received a warm welcome to the committee and we look forward to sharing her experience with Facebook.

Thanks to those who have paid their subs and also those who provided postage for their snail mail newsletters. Voting members have until the end of February to sustain their membership at which time voting rights are lost. Associate members wanting to convert their memberships to voting status can do so any time by contacting the secretary. See details below for direct deposits of subs and donations.

Please note that the account number for merchandise is different from the one for subs and donations. If you are buying a badge, Keith Wood will alert you to those specific details.

Deposit your $10 at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank, in the MHS Ex-Students Assn Inc. account, BSB 062 578, A/N 1022 4915. Please note your name and add 'sub' so we can identify the payment. Post cheques to the Treasurer, 1/19 Cassidy Crescent, Bogangar, 2488. Chris can clarify your membership status if you are unsure.
MORE ON MHS SCHOLARSHIPS

As our Association matures, we become more aware of the numbers of current MHS students who have talents and gifts that need support in practical ways. We have seen how the school plans for its own needs through the Chrysalis program for vulnerable girls and the literacy and numeracy program preparing students for employment in the LANDE project. Last year, two scholarships became available thanks to the generosity and foresight of families with deceased estates.

When we adopt a project to support each year, we are guided by advice from the school, but there is scope for much more to be done, and generous members could lead the way. We were assured by Donna Pearson there are gifted and talented students who could benefit from the kinds of scholarships already on offer, but who miss out because there are so few available. There are numerous ways members could take part in this, offering, say, a one year bursary of $250 per term, a total of $1000 which could make a huge difference to some students. They could be offered by a school cohort, for example the Year of XX when a reunion is organised. They could be offered by a family whose numerous children, set up for life by MHS, combine to provide a sum for one year. For those who have done well in life and whose families were important or influential in the community, a scholarship in their name would be a wonderful memorial recognising that contribution. There is no preference about the field of endeavour in school life, academic or otherwise. Students must apply, the competition is keen and their commitment to their own education is essential. Staff assessors take particular note of this, ensuring donations are not squandered. Contact the president or the secretary if you would like to discuss this opportunity further.

BUSY MEMBERS

Thanks to members who had ideas for Robyn Gray (Harkness) calling for photos of mayors and engineers engaged on the Mullumbimby Municipal Council’s Electricity Undertaking. There are some rich veins of information to explore.

Kurt Brereton is an indefatigable member who has another book to be launched in perfect time for Christmas. Thanks to Kurt for the alert to his next:

Shock of The Ordinary  Photographs 1975 – 2015
Introduction by Munro Jones with commentaries by the author
Collectors Deluxe Edition – only 50 signed and numbered copies.
Published by Jellied Tongue Press
$100 cost price + $20 postage in Australia/$50 International. 200pp
26cm x 26cm 115 colour/68 b/w photos. Perfect bound.
Order now from Kurt Brereton – kurt@kurtbrereton.com
Launched at Shoalhaven City Art Centre, Nowra, Saturday December 19, 12 - 2pm.

COMMITTEE CONTACTS 2016

We hope all members have a safe and happy Christmas season. We'll be back in the new year. Take it easy till then.

President
Neville Marks
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Treasurer
Christine Wakely-Boyd
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Secretary
Robyn Gray (Harkness)
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Committee Members
Judy Hill (Mackney)
Keith Wood
Nerida Dean (Siwicki)

School Representative
James Clarke

Badges
Keith Wood keith.wood5@bigpond.com

Membership
Judy Hill (Mackney) j.m.hill@tpg.com.au

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 all the choices, contact the Secretary, or Judy Hill.