Staying in touch

As the regional volunteers are searching their memories and old address books to revive old contacts, it is good to see that the Facebook site is attracting some additional contributions. A recent string of exchanges involved some friends who may well be meeting up at the 20 year reunion for next year. Let’s hope some of these ex-students will sign on to the membership registers so that they can keep in touch through the Association when all else fails.

As well on the Facebook site, some of you will have seen examples of the pictures exhibited by Ed Wilson at his recent showing at the Artarmon Galleries in Sydney. For those who missed them, here is one that is sure to ring bells for old Mullum-ites.

Ed was also amongst the guests at the recent highly successful Byron Bay Writers Festival. He featured in two sessions with other poets and writers who are known for their writing about place. Ed gave Mullumbimby High a good mention and then answered a question from a woman in the audience: “Did you enjoy your time at Mullumbimby High?” Ed: “Yes, I did.” Reply: “My father was the headmaster, John Pearce.” It turned out to be his daughter, Judy, who lives at Lennox Head, so we had a little reunion there and then.

While on the subject of people and their various activities, some may remember one of our early member profiles was of Dr Ivan Reid, a Byron Bay boy who is now a scientist of high distinction. Ivan has published more than 100 scientific papers, and is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics.

In 2000 Ivan moved to UCL, London, for two years working on the MINOS neutrino project in the USA, before moving on to Brunel University and the CMS detector in the enormous LHC project at CERN, near Geneva.

Over exchanges of seasonal greetings at the end of last year, Ivan mentioned the UK government cuts to research budgets which looked like spelling the end of some of the work he and his team were engaged in.

We caught up with him recently, however, and things have turned out better than he expected. Here is his update: “Well, I’m still working on the Compact Muon Solenoid experiment at the Large Hadron Collider (at CERN) for Brunel University. The machine has now been ramped up to contain 1,380 bunches of protons in each counter-rotating beam and we are now raising the intensity of each bunch. Despite a number of delays due to equipment failure we have already collected more data this year than we expected for the whole of 2011. No exciting new discoveries yet, though!

“I am mainly working on computer support for the experiment, polishing and improving our analysis software, providing support for the large “grid” of computers analysing results around the world, and modelling improved detectors that we expect to put into the experiment in several years’ time.”

Ivan tells us that he will know by the end of next year if his team – or his competitor’s – are Nobel Prize winners.

Association Committee
2011

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

Committee:
Judy Hill (Mackney)
John Robinson
Gill Lomath (Archer)

School Representative:
Ben Williams

Membership Coordinator:
Judy Hill (Mackney)

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

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

The notice board, right, gives details of various opportunities for ex-students to gather in the coming twelve months or so.

The first of them is very soon – the long weekend in October this year. An interesting program is being planned for the weekend and no doubt there will be plenty of opportunity for people to catch up on news of decades past.

There are two reunions being set up for 20 and 40 year anniversaries next year, and the hunt is on for ex-students from those generations to find each other once again.

Finally, the Association AGM in November will also provide a chance for people to get together. When the business of the AGM is done, a dinner that evening will be held in a local restaurant, and this too, provides an opportunity for old acquaintances to be revived.

But it is nothing new. Secretary Robyn Gray was reading an old Northern Star recently, dated July 1, 1936, and came across a captioned family photo taken 35 years earlier, which reminds us that there is nothing new under the sun. Mr Anstey, was headmaster of the school from 1894 to 1908.

It’s unlikely that there would be anyone left now, who remembers Mr Anstey and his family, but his name does live on in school records and elsewhere. As the caption explains, he came back in 1936 to conduct the day for ex-students.

MEMBER CONTRIBUTIONS ARE WELCOME

If you are doing some interesting work or project, or if you have changed jobs, or found a bunch of old mates in your area, let us know. Pictures are welcome, too.

Contact the Secretary
mh.exassn@bigpond.com

For those wanting to make a donation or pay subs, you can make a direct deposit to the Mullumbimby High School Ex-Students Association through the Mullumbimby branch of the Commonwealth Bank, BSB 06 2578 A/N 1022 4915. Please identify yourself so we know the deposit was made by you.

40th anniversary reunion, 2011
years 1966 to 1971, this October
Saturday 1 - Monday 3
Contact Pete Dailhou,
Phone/ Fax 02 6551 7525,
mobile 0414 291 449 or
email: dailhou.pete@gmail.com

AGM
November 18, 2 p.m.
Dinner plans tba

20th anniversary reunion, 2012
Planning is advancing for this group’s reunion, so please contact Letitia Towers
letitiatowers@yahoo.com.au
or check Facebook

40th anniversary reunion 2012
now being organised.
Contact the Secretary
if you are interested
in knowing more.

mh.exassn@bigpond.com

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CONTACT DETAILS
Please keep us in mind if there are changes to your contact details. Call or email the Secretary
mh.exassn@bigpond.com

Have you checked the Facebook site? It’s a good place to post information you want to get out quickly. There are new links there, too.