## The AGM

It was good to see some members from out of town (from both north and south) at the AGM. Voting members have had the reports that were presented at the meeting, but a short recap will not go astray.

In his report the President, Neville Marks recalled the work that had gone into raising the funds for the lectern and the auditorium sound system upgrade, and mentioned the contribution of the Mullumbimby Ex-Services Club along with the many members who made it possible. He also flagged our priority for the coming year - the membership drive. We have a healthy membership for a young organisation, but we would like to develop it much more. Some suggestions about how this might be achieved have been put forward, and there will be more of that next year.

As well, he mentioned the newsletter and Facebook internet sites which allow members in all corners of the globe to stay in touch. The Facebook site has not had a lot of use, but we will maintain it for the future.

On matters of administration, changes to the constitution were adopted at the meeting, so we now conform to the requirements of the NSW Department of Fair Trading. As you would expect, the treasurer’s report showed the growth and depletion of the bank balance as we raised funds and spent them. What may not have been so expected was the tidy little sum that remains as the balance as we go forward.

Reports from both the secretary and the membership co-ordinator were also tabled, providing a summary and some observations on the months behind us.

The committee that was elected comprises Neville Marks (president), Letitia Towers (treasurer), Robyn (Harkness) Gray (secretary) and committee members Gillian (Archer) Lomath, John Robinson, Judy (Mackney) Hill. Ben Williams continues as the school representative providing a close liaison with the school.

Neville thanked John Robinson for his work as treasurer along with Letitia Towers who has taken up the abacus on our behalf.

The next AGM has been pencilled in for about the same time next year (18 November), so please mark it in your diary and see if you can come. It hardly hurts at all, is quite short, and the dinner at the Thai restaurant at the Golf Club (the choice this time) was an enjoyable wrap up after the slightly more formal AGM proceedings.
Thank you to Principal, Ian Graham for allowing the Association access to their website to air our newsletter and also for the use of the library for our meetings. Members Gillian Lomath, John Robinson and Robyn Gray also enjoyed the school’s hospitality at the annual community breakfast. This was a chance to chat with Ian and others (see below) about matters of mutual interest.

SUBS DUE
Thank you to those voting members who have paid their annual subs already. For those who haven’t got around to it yet, you can send a cheque to the Secretary, or 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 Account number 1022 4915. The amount remains the same, $10. And if you do this, don’t forget to let the Secretary know, or make sure you identify the deposit so we know it has come from you. mh.exassn@bigpond.com

COMMITTEE MEETING
The AGM was preceded by a committee meeting, the first around the table this year. The old rules and our new constitution provides for committee business to be conducted by electronic means, but it was good to have everyone together for some very beneficial discussion. For some of us it was the first time we had met the Principal’s delegate, teacher Ben Williams, although we have had many email exchanges through the year. We had a very good exchange of information and views throughout the year and what we have learned will be taken into account as we work through our ideas for the membership drive.

ONE MORE WORD ON THE PROJECT
The picture of the lectern shows how terrific it looks, and we think this is a first for a NSW high school. Not many have such hi-tec design and presentation. In fact it was imported from the USA especially by us, for Mullum High. Although we are disappointed not to have been able to install the equipment by now, the $100,000 refurbishment which will take place during the holidays will mean that the school starts the new year with not only a new look auditorium, but a whole new sound, as well.

Much effort and love was put into the building of the old wooden lectern. It too, is a lovely piece, and will be used in the library where small groups gather and meetings are sometimes held. It doesn’t need to be hooked into the sound system there and in this more intimate setting, it allows speakers to move from behind it so they are not obscured.
SOME HOLIDAY MEETING POINTS

Member Nerida Dean (Siwicki) who will be home during the Christmas holidays has suggested that an informal gathering be arranged. We liked this idea and have taken it a step further. Don’t be constrained by who you know, or don’t know, or what years you were at school, the link is sufficient. If you were there, you are welcome. Even those currently at the school might like to catch up with past students and teachers.

There will be three vantage points for anyone visiting Mullum, Brunswick Heads or Byron Bay between Christmas and the new year. It is very relaxed - just turn up and look for the golden banners being especially made to identify the meeting post for Mullum High exes and their companions. The one depicted is a prototype and the final version may be a bit different, but you’ll get the idea.

Here’s the plan:
December 28 - the Brunswick pub, 5.00 pm. Nerida Dean (Siwicki) is the contact person.
December 29 - the Mullum Bowling Club, 4.00 pm. Gillian Lomath (Archer) is the contact.
The Byron Bay time and venue is still being worked out, along with the day in that week between Christmas and New Year. We’ll let you know in plenty of time, and keep your eye on the local papers if you are around home.

If you like this idea, let us know. We could also do this for the Easter break and try other locations throughout the state and Queensland, as well.

FACEBOOK

Our experiment with the Facebook site was intended to allow people to use this form of contact to stay in touch with their friends, through the school page. It has not been over used by members, and various suggestions about why this might be, have been advanced. Some members have given us their unsolicited views, but more would be welcome. What do you think about this way of staying in touch? Newsletters are OK for information, but is a connection with friends through Facebook the way you would do it?
You may not know how to use the site, in which case, we can help you with that, perhaps by providing the 1.2.3. of the steps to take you through what’s required.
It would be helpful to know what members think about it because we will then have an idea of what information to put there.
For example, is it a place where we post coming events, rather than rely on the newsletter? Do you refer to it often enough for it to be useful as a notice board for things coming up that might not have a long lead time?
We look forward to your feedback.

The welcome mat is out for Ben Williams, who along with being the link between the Association and the School, has joined as a voting member in his own right. It’s good to have you on the list of members, Ben.
SOME GET TOGETHERS

Some of the ex Mullum Sydney siders are showing the way to keep the connections to each other and their home town, intact. The Uren/Alidenes/Mallam families enjoy each other’s company from time to time, and these are some of the pictures from a recent day out.

Not long after, Helen L’Orange (Alidenes) was hosting some of her cohorts who live in Sydney, taking the opportunity to catch up with a visitor from Mullum. These pictures of Helen, Ed Wilson, Pam Hastie (Barnes) and Pam Morris (Dundas) show that you don’t need a bus load to make a good party.

There should be more of these gatherings. Members have often told us about the Mullum exes who live in the same locality. While the holiday spirit inspires, see what you can do, and let us know.

mh.exassn@bigpond.com

Happy holidays to everyone, and best wishes for the new year from all of us on the committee - Nev, Rob, Gill, Letitia, John, Judy and Ben.

We’ll be back next term.