LET’S MEET

Since our last newsletter, the committee has continued to work on the Facebook plan, and is also advancing the main project - the lectern and audio upgrade of the school auditorium. This has moved along rapidly, with the lectern on its way from the U.S. supplier, the sound system elements chosen by the principal and plans being discussed for a concert to launch the new equipment. One of the spin-offs from upgrading the facilities in the auditorium is the thought (by the school) that it might become a venue for a wider range of users, thereby adding not only to the school’s income streams, but to the facilities of the town.

This is very exciting stuff, but we still have to raise the cash and install it all. We need around $2,500. (Have you added to the fund? Direct deposit to the Mullumbimby High School Ex-Students Association account at the Mullumbimby Branch of the Commonwealth Bank (BSB 062 578, a/n 1022 4915)

Also on the committee agenda have been plans for our first social get together for the year which will be a fund raiser for the project. It’s to be a lawn bowls fun day at the Mullumbimby Bowling Club on Sunday May 16, from 9.00 am. This is a mufti or bare foot bowls competition planned for bowlers and non-bowlers alike, so everyone is welcome and all you need is provided. You can enjoy the chance to catch up with ex-students and ex-staff, and to continue the fund raising for the project.

Cost: entry fee is $10 which includes tea or coffee on arrival, green fees and a BBQ lunch. Please let the Secretary know of any special dietary requirements.

Registration and entry: please register with our Secretary, Robyn, by 16 April, and send your $10 fee to confirm the registration not later than 30 April to Robyn at - 2 Whian Road, Eureka, NSW 2480. Get in early as we expect the day to be very popular. Even if you are not into the bowling, come along and join the social side (lunch only is $5). There will be a number of very worthwhile raffle prizes.

President of the Club, ex-teacher John McKay is adept at devising entertaining programs for the unlikely mix of bowlers and non-bowlers, and his accomplice has been member Keith Wood, who is hardly biased at all about the pleasures of lawn bowls.

A word from the Principal:

“We are extremely grateful to the Mullumbimby High School Ex-Students Association for providing us with the upgrade of sound and speaking facilities in our hall. This will be of enormous benefit to the school. It will improve the quality of our formal assemblies and public meetings, greatly enhance the performances of our talented students and provide the school and community with a quality venue for fundraising.”

It is hoped that this bowls day will be the first of other social games days. Golf has also been suggested, so we will investigate that possibility.

HAVE YOU SEEN THIS?

The new school web site gives us prominence on the home page, with links to the newsletter and the Secretary’s email address. It looks very good. Some members have had some difficulties with the links, but Sam Askew, our staff contact is working on it. If you have a problem, contact us on mh.exassn@bigpond.com.
Profile - Nerida Dean (Siwicki) 1969-1972

After completing Year 12 in 1972, I enrolled for an economics degree at UNE with the aim of becoming a Social Science teacher. Life had other plans. According to a man in the scholarship office there was a word in the title the same as my degree and I was a female so I spent my first two years teaching Home Economics. I retrained as a Careers Adviser, got married, had children, moved to Queanbeyan and spent the next eight years working as a casual teacher. Sam Greenland, my former Geography teacher from Mullumbimby became my head teacher at Queanbeyan High. As Sam had been a motivating reason behind my choice of careers it was ironic to now be working beside him.

I have not been a high school teacher now for 10 years. In that time I have worked as a training manager for a recruitment agency, for a pharmaceutical guild, as well as working for the government initially in training and more recently in OHS.

Whilst my career has been interesting and I have worked in a variety of places it is my community service work that brings me most satisfaction. While the children were young I was involved with Pre-school Boards, P&C, junior rugby and senior rugby committees. In 1995 I joined the Rotary Club of Queanbeyan and from my work with this group I was able to become involved in other community groups.

Today I am on the boards of Snowy Southcare Helicopter, ACT Crimestoppers and Home In Queanbeyan (we are building a facility so people with mental illness can live independently with support).

I have been involved for 12 years with our local health committee that advocates for patients who are using the health facilities of Queanbeyan and I am involved with our local Anglican church.

In 1972 the school awarded me the Caltex Medallion for community service. At the time I didn’t understand why I received this award, but it now seems my teachers knew better.

Current Membership = 90; Aiming for 500 by the AGM 2010. Tell someone about us, or tell us about someone mh.exassn@bigpond.com

NOTICE BOARD

Don’t forget the Bowls Day. Register by 16 April and pay by 30 April.

mh.exassn@bigpond.com

Stay tuned to the newsletter for emerging information about the concert being planned to inaugurate the sound system in the John Pearce Auditorium.

mh.exassn@bigpond.com

Is that so?

At the start of the school year in 1973, the year after Nerida Dean left school, Mullumbimby had an overall school population of 1226 students attending the high school, the primary school, St John’s Convent, and the Seventh-day Adventist primary school. Mullumbimby High School had an enrolment of 702 and Mr. C. Kerr was the new Principal. St. John’s Convent High had 77.

Source: Brunswick Byron Advocate February 21, 1973
When people tidy up, they often come across treasures from the past that have been put away for safe keeping. Years later, sometimes when they are re-discovered, they wonder why they did that. At other times, the find is newly appreciated, and so it is with this beautiful souvenir of an “Ex-Student Banquet”, seen below. It’s a small card with a deckle edge, produced to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of the Mullumbimby School, in June, 1936, and was passed on by member Reg Byrnes, who is having a tidy up.

True, this is not the high school, but without the sturdy contributions of the Headmasters (including one woman, Miss McGettigan who started the school off in 1886), the school we now know would not exist. Thank you Reg, for sharing this memento.

Old newspapers can also be a source of pleasure, as they document past events, struggles, campaigns and the doings of people of the district. These two pieces, a year apart, are full of names of ex-students and staff. Where are they now?

**Brunswick Byron Advocate October 21, 1970**

**CADET UNIT JUDGED TOP IN STATE**

Mullumbimby High School Cadet Unit has won the A.M.P. Shield for efficiency. The shield is competed for by more than 120 cadet units throughout the State.

It is awarded annually for the amount and quality of training done by the unit, the standard of the boys who are cadets, and the number of boys who belong to the unit.

Although one of the smallest high schools with a cadet unit, Mullumbimby is one of the largest units in 6 Cadet Battalion and attracts more cadets than many large city schools. The shield will be presented at the unit's annual ceremonial parade on October 25.

The cadets have been training for the parade since early September.

Reviewing officer for the parade will be Major L.V. Boswell, support company commander from 41 R.N.S.W.R.

The parade will be commanded by C.U.O. G. Graham, of Byron Bay.

At the parade, which is to begin at 2 p.m. on the School Oval, senior cadets who are leaving the unit will be presented with certificates of efficiency, and prizes for outstanding service to the unit.

**Brunswick Byron Advocate October 13, 1971**

**PASSING OUT PARADE AT HIGH SCHOOL**

Mullumbimby High School Cadet Unit held its annual passing out parade on Friday with Lt.-Col. Tom Harwood, Commander 41st Battalion, as reviewing officer.

The cadets were led by Parade Commander Paul Sheaffe, C.U. Officers Warwick Graham and Terry Timms.

C.U.O. Paul Sheaffe received the Sword of Honour and the R.S.L. trophy for the most outstanding cadet of the year went to Derek Vanderbeyl.

Amongst official guests were Mrs Harwood, Capt. Bill Walsh (C.O. 6th Cadet Battalion) and Mrs Walsh, R.S.M. Jim Carruthers (6th Cadet Battalion training officer), W.O. N. Stockwell, Mullumbimby High School Principal Mr. N. Madsen and Mrs Madsen, R.S.L. president Mr W. Bopf and Mrs Bopf, Mullumbimby P. and C. Association president Mr E. Flowers and Mrs Flowers.

The Cadet Band was led by S/Sgt. Michael Deane.

The cadets were trained by Lt. J. Mackay, P. O’Neill, K. Tunks and R. Kennedy.

After the parade guests and officers were entertained at the home of the Principal, Mr. N. Madsen.