The panel depicting athletic achievements on the MHS badge is well chosen; the school has a long history of sporting excellence and includes amongst its ex-students Commonwealth and Olympic Games medalists. Not to mention top performers at school sporting competitions at state, national and international level.

Not everyone goes on to devote their lives to competitive sport, but those with talent and ambition are now to get some extra help in managing the pathway to success that seems so fraught in today’s competitive world.

It is no longer enough to have talent and ambition. Successful athletes have to know how to win, how to lose, how to eat, how to look after their bodies....

A new MHS program seeks to attend to these facets of sporting life, developed for students who have a passion for sport and who aim high. The program involves fortnightly training sessions on sports injuries, nutrition, psychology, media presentations and fitness training. Inclusion in the program is by application.

Our committee is considering this as a worthwhile initiative to support on behalf of members. It’s hard these days to get ahead on talent alone. A bit of savvy acquired with our help might make the difference to some talented student at MHS.
REUNION 1969-1974, December 2014

Thanks to class reporter Gordon Foyster and the group photographer for this interesting account of a highly successful reunion. Do other members recognise any of these faces? It’s great to see the pleasure of people re-connecting.

The dinner at Ocean Shores Country Club was attended by approximately 60 old school friends and some partners.

The welcome address given by Jenny Watson reminded us of some of the highlights and memories of our first year at High School in 1969. As well as a visual presentation of old school memories there were individual student photos for everyone to identify and name. The ‘fun fact’ questionnaire sheets completed by many of those attending were collated and summarised by Jenny Bashforth (Hughes). Some interesting and humorous information was revealed to all. Following this everyone was given the opportunity to talk about what they have achieved in their lives over the past 40 years and especially what is most important to them, a very interesting part of the night.

Following the dinner there was ceremonial cake cutting and a thank you speech from Janelle Barram (Harkness).

There was a further gathering the following afternoon starting in Banner Park with a few who could not make the dinner event, but the wet weather forced us over to the Brunswick Hotel.

It was a successful reunion, thoroughly enjoyed by all; many had not seen one and other since leaving school. Old friendships were rekindled, with promises of keeping in touch, our school years being such a highly influential time in our lives shared with such a great group of people.

We hope to remain in contact and look forward to the next reunion.

Gordon Foyster

Something else to think about

Despite the numbers of ex-students getting together again during the summer, it is disappointing that so few turned their thoughts to the organisation bearing the old school name – the MHS Ex-Students Association, or to ask ‘how can I help?’. Instead, the question of membership seems to come down to a couple of points. One is in various forms of ‘I don’t know anyone ever mentioned in newsletter’, and the other conveys the idea ‘There’s nothing in it for me’. Socially, that’s no doubt true. If we connect at all, it’s with our school cohort and that can be done quite independent of any organisation. There is another, very important Association aim – to support students or special school projects, so consider this:

If a kid is coaxed to stay at school, or has his basic skills elevated to make job prospects more likely, if a girl looking after her parents and being mother to her siblings is helped through those dark duties, if a raw talent is brought to glow, if a special need is met to give an equal chance...if any of these real life scenarios could benefit from a $10 sub, would there be anything in it for you?

Remembering how things were, or might have been for you at school, would it ignite a feel good spark?

Getting together to re-connect and remember is great. Getting together to re-connect and remember, tagged with a purpose, has to be even better.

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It is 32 years since Ed Raskall was the Deputy Principal at MHS, so there are many members who will remember him. Principal at the time was Ed Gaskell.

Ed had been unwell for a number of years before his recent death. He was 87.

Some of his children were here during his incumbency – Lance, Adam and Alan – and might also be remembered.

Thanks to Gabriel Burns for this information.

Anyone seen or heard of…..?

It creates a puzzle when emails are returned, and last month three newsletters came back.

Did those members change their email addresses?
Did they want to unsubscribe?
What happened?

Any news of Wendy Johnson, Ian Macdonald, Mark Howland would be appreciated.

If you know them, please ask if they want to be off the mailing list, and let the Secretary know.