Wow!

Last month we told you something of Chrysalis, the program for girls we are supporting ($250) at Mullum High. This month on page 3, see the pictures and story about the LANDE program for boys, by co-ordinator Kelly Spinstead.

Our story about the Chrysalis program for girls drew positive responses from members who not only welcomed what they were reading, but also promised financial support which we will pass on. This month’s story about the program for (mostly) boys is equally appealing. The work the group has been doing was on display just outside the John Pearce Auditorium when we were represented at the SRC induction recently. The benches and table will get plenty of use, no doubt.

Thanks to members who have renewed their subs or Associate members who have provided funds for mailed copies of the newsletter. If you know of people who suddenly realise they are not getting their mailed copies and are wondering why, do us a favour and remind them that we have asked for a contribution to the postage.

We have been hearing on the grapevine of some get togethers in various parts of the country. If you are having coffee with old school mates or planning a more involved reunion, do let us know. News of these gatherings is interesting to more than just the participants.

One more reminder: if you are changing your contact details, please advise the Secretary. With snail mail we can ask the PO to forward letters, but with the electronic form we are using these days, undelivered mail does the boomerang trip and we have no idea of how to make it reach you.

Making a donation

Making a donation to the LANDE program for boys or the Chrysalis program for vulnerable girls is easy as making a direct deposit. They can be made to the account of MHS Ex-Students Association Inc. at the Mullumbimby branch of the Commonwealth Bank, BSB 062 578 A/N 1022 4915. Cheques can be posted to the Treasurer, PO Box 1121, Mullumbimby 2482. We’ll pass on donations for these projects.

Karen Falzon is one of many members concerned about the badge.

City and country meet in Sydney: Nev Marks, Sydney, Pam Morris (Dundas), Mullum, Edwin Wilson, Pam Hastie (Barnes), Sydney.
Preparing our submission for the meeting on the school badge policy has taken us into some dusty corners. It is interesting to see the first badge that some members remember. This one was from when the school was an Intermediate High School and most people finished after three years with their Intermediate Certificate. Small groups of able students did an extra two years to earn their Leaving Certificate and matriculation to tertiary study.

The simple round badge added a bar for school captains and prefects. Thanks to those who provided information and images of their badge along with their thoughts on the value of the badge to them.

Badge number 2 is also familiar to many members, and with the bottom tag, is used by the Association for its Voting Members.

It has many references to the school’s history and values, along with the motto and was introduced in 1955 when the school was reclassified as a full high school. None of these references appears in the Chincogan graphic which now features on the school website, the school uniform, school reports and free standing posters promoting the school.

Order Association badges from Keith Wood, ph – 0755244014 or 0417623008, email – keith.wood5@bigpond.com or post – 4 Oakland Parade Banora Point NSW 2486.

He will explain payment details.

We will keep you informed on the progress, and in the meantime, thank you to the many members who have given us their views on the Chincogan cartoon (inspired by the Mambo Design company) which is the de facto badge.
Successful efforts

Kelly Spinstead co-ordinates the LANDE project – Literacy and Numeracy Direction Employment – which aims to encourage (mostly) boys to see how relevant sums and sentences are, to jobs they might find when they finish school. Boys who are reluctant starters at school are finding out that even simple carpentry demands expertise with more than a saw and a hammer. They appreciated our donation of $250.

Kelly Spinstead

The LANDE project started about 2½ years ago as there was a growing need to engage some of our disengaged students as well as some of those who don’t fit into the traditional ‘school’ structure. The program is aimed at mostly boys in years 9-10 and into 11.

Students work together with their teacher Jason Morris (from Wollongbar TAFE) and have so far constructed several outdoor picnic tables and chairs, they have formed and laid the concrete slab in which the tables have been fixed and are currently building the shelter over the tables and BBQ area.

As well as the practical elements such as the construction, students also participate in TAFE try-a-trade sessions, excursions to local businesses, as well as work experience within the shire.

On the Job

The project has had some real success with three boys from the last Year 10 group securing apprenticeships, one student securing a school based traineeship and four others all completing their prelim. certificate with a combination of school and TAFE.

The program is continually looking for support including that of skills, mentorship or dollars to continue funding these projects.

Pictures at left and below are of the current project in its various stages at the end of 2013 and term 1 of 2014.
Our Aims
We aim to provide social opportunities for ex-students and staff, and to support the school with special projects.

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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.

NB Don't forget to update your contact details if they change