It was an honour to be invited to the induction of Captains and the School Representative Council at MHS’s John Pearce Auditorium this month.

This induction of school leaders is a far cry from the early days of MHS, when Captains and Prefects gathered under the camphor laurel trees at the front fence near what is now the staff wing of the campus. The local dignitary conducting the ceremony was Mayor F.M. Uren, whose four children were Captains, Prefects, and academic leaders of the school. There were no student musicians, few speeches and apart from the essential formalities, little student participation.

Younger Association members know what it’s like today. The Auditorium (named for the Principal) was packed, there were musical renditions by students, including a Year 7 student who sang the national anthem, another who offered the Welcome to Country, presentations to sports achievers, a brief talk by guest Tony Barry, and then badge presentations.

Our secretary Robyn Gray, with Nerida Dean (also a member but representing Rotary) began the badge presentations with Captains and senior SRC. As each representative received a badge, they signed the record book, something Nerida was pleased to look at again after so long.

Finally, they made their pledge:
I solemnly and sincerely pledge myself to carry out the duties as SRC representative for our school to the best of my ability.
I pledge to represent the interests of all students in our school for the benefit of the whole school community.
I pledge to set an example to my fellow students and to uphold at all times the honour, traditions and good name of Mullumbimby High School.

What do you remember of your induction?

Well Played
One of the most revealing segments of the SRC Induction agenda was the recognition of sporting achievements by MHS students. The range of high achievers is extraordinary, so it’s no wonder there is a support program being introduced this year to help those performing at elite levels.

Both girls and boys were in the spotlight, for swimming, rugby league, girls football (one player will go to the State Championships as a North Coast rep.), netball, basketball, softball and baseball. Two girls made it to the FNC Netball team.

The committee has been considering how we can help these promising athletes and details are on page 2.

SCR Induction 2015

DONATIONS

If you want to help us in the project we are supporting this year (likely to be for sporting excellence), direct deposits can be made to the MHS Ex-Students Association Inc. account at any branch of the Commonwealth Bank, BSB 062 578, A/N 1022 4915. Please note your name.

Post cheques to the Treasurer, 1/19 Cassidy Crescent, Bogangar, 2488.

Chrysalis, the program for vulnerable girls continues to need financial support, as does the literacy and numeracy program LANDE. Help if you can, identifying your choice if you make a DD.
EXCELLENCE IN SPORT PROGRAM

Last month we previewed the excellence in sport program that is one of numerous special efforts taking centre stage this year at MHS. We have been considering how we might contribute to it and some fresh ideas have come into play.

The range of sports being played at top competitive levels was well demonstrated at the induction our secretary attended recently. The tradition of excellence in sport continues at MHS, and we are now considering if there might be some other way of rewarding one or more of the high achievers we have seen glimpses of. There are numerous self evident categories – girls, boys, juniors and seniors – in every field of competition.

The excellence program for these top young performers is designed to deal with some of the extra dimensions leading to success – nutrition, public communications, motivation, time management. They will have guidance from experts in all these areas. This is on top of their physical and sport training. They will visit coaches and institutes and have their techniques forensically examined and analysed.

From this it’s clear the program is for those most likely to get to the top and participants had to apply for consideration for the limited places over the four term scheme.

The plan has a major sponsor so the routine expenses of those taking part have now been covered.

SPORTS PERSON of the YEAR AWARD

The Committee has considered the possibilities of awards around sporting achievement, and have agreed to establish two Sports Person of the Year Awards, for a Senior Boy and a Senior Girl. They are valued at $150 each and we understand from MHS staff that this would be a good prize to a promising athlete. These awards would be end of year presentations, chosen by the school and made by a representative of the Association. There is a possibility they could become annual awards.

There have been remarkable changes and opportunities in the school environment, in all facets of school life, including sport. Some of us remember the days when athletes were bare footed, fed on Vegemite sandwiches with Mum on the side lines the only motivator.

Play the game!

An Intergenerational Report...MHS exes don’t surprise

The recent intergenerational report which had us all so glad we don't face the prospect of working to the biblical age of 70, also threw up some interesting insights into how some old MHS students deal with retirement.

From what was reported and discussed, it seems that those of us over a certain age are a burden on society, we cost too much to maintain, and should have the good grace to die quickly once we are no longer useful economic units in the grand scheme of things. Oh yeah? Who sez?

When the Sydney Morning Herald (it’s a big city daily newspaper) examined some of the assertions made about the burdensome elderly, who did they find to refute the claims but a Mullumbimby High School ex-student, Helen L’Orange (Alidenes). Helen also thinks the report is a bit grim, and her retired life is hardly retiring or inactive, incorporating many voluntary and other creative and useful activities. Well done Helen, for articulating so finely what many of us are doing in our dotage. It’s not all bad.

Ed Wilson is frequently mentioned in our newsletters, as a scientist, poet, author, and now well into his retirement, an artist. It is his skill with the brush that is encapsulated in an art book called Mullumbimby Dreaming that will soon be on its way to Italy with a group of MHS students on an exchange visit to Padua. What a wonderfully original way to depict the town and the impressions of a boy growing up there. These pictures were exhibited at the Tweed gallery last year and now Ed is cataloguing them, artworks over a lifetime, including work from his early life, the middle period, and his late flowering. It’s the late flowering that so inspires those of us who had put things off until we had time....

If members have interesting retirement lives, let us know. It's not all bad or burdensome, for sure.
Our Aims
We aim to provide social opportunities for ex-students and staff, and to support the school with special projects.

President
Neville Marks
nmarks@optusnet.com.au

Treasurer
Christine Wakely-Boyd
c.wakely.boyd@gmail.com

Secretary
Robyn Gray (Harkness)
mh.exassn@bigpond.com

Committee Members
Judy Hill (Mackney)
Keith Wood
Gill Lomath (Archer)

School Representative
James Clarke

Badges
Keith Wood keith.wood5@bigpond.com

Membership
Judy Hill (Mackney) j.m.hill@tpg.com.au

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.

More from the reunion 1969-1974, December 2014

Alan Neatherway, Yvonne Porter
Steve Nicholls
Jo Chittick, Rosemary Graham
Kaylene Hutchinson, Carole Baxter, Kathy Stanford
Jenny Summers, Robert McQuilty