Staying in Touch

The last newsletter provoked an inquiry from new Associate Merv Richens, about why there was no news from older members. The answer was simple: because we didn’t have any. Newsletter content reflects what members tell us, so if your group is not represented in the newsletter, it’s because nobody told us.

Spurred by this revelation, Merv put pen to paper, and provided this account of a recent gathering of his old mates, students when the school was an Intermediate High, held at his Brisbane home. He also provided the photo.

Before the days of Mullumbimby High School, there was a school known as “Mullumbimby Intermediate High School”.

On 18th August 2012, there was a gathering of ex pupils and partners at the home of Merv and Margaret Richens, in a suburb called Tanah Merah, City of Logan, on Brisbane Southside.

While attending the funeral of one of Merv’s classmates, Dale Schuhmacher, in Ballina last March, Merv and Coral (Richens) caught up with Lorna Virgo (Dixon) and Dulcie Goodwin (Boyle) and discussed the possibility of a gathering in Brisbane and also inviting others they knew of from their years together at Mullum who may be living in or around Brisbane. Over the next few months they made contact with Les and Vera Black, June Pidgeon (Cartner), Jack & Colleen O’Leary.

Word then spread as it does, and Trish Nove (Uren) from Sydney said she’d like to join us, along with Noel and Jenny Bottrell (Harrison) from Coledale on the NSW South Coast. Pat Fordyce (Davies) from Deniliquin heard about the gathering from her friend June – and said she’d be in Brisbane for her granddaughter’s wedding, and asked if she could come. Eric Watson (Watto) and Tony (Maclean) from Yamba said they’d like to join us and could they also bring Marie (Maclean), who was a friend, still, of Vera Black. Finally Mavis Kerrigan (Holly) asked if she could join us, and collect Trish from her daughter’s place at Ocean Shores and Lorna from Burringbar on the way through. This worked out well as Lorna was also busy moving house and could leave her daughters packing while she had a well earned break.

Nineteen of us gathered for a late lunch, which then led on into the night for a few, with a sing-song around the Pianola – Les Black and June (Cartner) still in fine voice after over leaving Mullumbimby 58 years ago.

We all agreed that there was something very special about growing up in and around Mullumbimby and attending school together and although we had all gone our separate ways, we were still family who had shared special moments together.

Thanks Merv, for telling the story and supplying the photo.

Memberships forms are available from the school web site, so if you come across anyone who might be interested please pass it on –

70th birthday  
1955-1959  
Neville Marks

50th anniversary  
Year of 1962  
Malcolm Marks  
bigmal@activ8.net.au

AGM  
Friday November 16,  
School Library 3 p.m.

Should you know of anyone who might be interested in any of these dates, please pass the message on.

Reunions

1992
Our treasurer Letitia Towers managed to contact all but a few of her year, and arranged an enjoyable night at the Mullumbimby Football Club for the reunion of 86 people, not as many as expected, but at least she now has a fairly complete mailing list. Let’s hope we can stay in touch.

1972
Nerida Dean wrote: We had a fabulous 40th reunion of the Mullum class of 72 .... Most impressive was the $500 donated by the attendees for the Chrystalis Program at the school for young girls. It would be good if the association gave some thought about supporting this very worthwhile program that is very needed and not funded by the department.

Still to Come

1962
Malcolm Marks has everything in order for his group, with a dinner dance to be held at the Mullumbimby Bowling Club on Saturday November 17. He’s expecting a full house, having made contact with everyone in his group.

1959 or thereabouts
The group’s 70th birthday party organised by Neville Marks for those who were in the first batch of students to pass through the newly declared High School, will follow the AGM on November 16. The venue is the Mullumbimby Bowling Club, and drinks will be on from 5.30 p.m., with sit down at 6.30 p.m......

And more

AGM
With so many ex-students gathering over the weekend of November 16-17, we hope to see a number of our members at the AGM, at the school library at 3 p.m. This meeting will follow a committee meeting, so there might be some interesting matters arising for general discussion. We may be able to take a walk around the school if you let Neville know you are coming. All visitors need to register at the front office in the Admin. block

Finally
Christine Frewer made contact through our Facebook page recently. She has been in Cambodia for three years, and is principal of a Khmer school near the Angkor Wat temple. She was inquiring after Tony Perin (at Kyogle) and Howard Brockington.

Memory Lane

Reminiscing with his friends in Brisbane, Merv Richens came across this photo of the prefects of 1952. You would have to be an oldie to know them and their teachers, but it may stir memories for some members.

Contributions to the newsletter are invited. Please send your stories and pictures to the Secretary. Follow Association news on Facebook – www.facebook.com/search/