Congratulations Ivan

It would have been hard to miss the excitement in the scientific community at the recent announcement of a great scientific breakthrough – an explanation for the Higgs boson particle which explains the mass of elementary particles. Scientists have been working on this mystery for a long time, and one of the team is an ex-student of Mullumbimby High, and a member of our association. We have met him before in these newsletters: Dr Ivan Reid, son of Cicely, brother of Syl, of Byron Bay.

Here is a recap of some of the experience he has accumulated which sees him in this elite group of researchers: 1989, appointed Staff Scientist at the Paul Scherrer Institute in Switzerland, co-founding a User Facility for scientists to study muon physics and chemistry; 2000, UCL, London, two years on the MINOS neutrino project in the USA; Brunel University, where he still works on the CMS detector in LHC project at CERN, near Geneva.

His task has been to provide computer support for the project, improving the software for analysing the calculations and modelling that lie at the heart of understanding how these particles work.

Ivan is a Fellow of the Australian Institute of Physics and has published more than 100 scientific papers. He generously offered his name as a contact for budding scientists still at Mullumbimby High.

Congratulations Ivan. The achievement might not be within the comprehension of many of us, but we can sense the excitement of those who truly appreciate what it means for our understanding of how the universe works.

To other success in science, Year 12 student Yindi Sutton, has won a coveted invitation to the Asian Science Camp in Jerusalem next month. Good luck Yindi. Hopefully when he gets back, he might find time to make contact with Ivan Reid to talk science.

For new members, don't forget that membership forms are available from the school web site, so if you come across anyone who might be interested please pass it on

Newspapers on the wane?

There seems to be a debate going on about how much life there is left in newspapers as part of the now very diverse news media. Well, the future has as many options as consumers, but the old newspapers will surely persist while ever they are preserved in some digital format. And what a treasure trove they reveal of our history, some of it not so ancient, either.

Last month we saw something of the struggle to encourage the wearing of uniforms in the early days of the full high school (1955). At about that time too, there are numerous stories of teachers who had to fight hard for playing fields and other amenities now taken for granted. Wal Wardman will remember those campaigns well, no doubt. He, along with others on the staff took part in local sporting fixtures almost as a matter of course. Golf and cricket were favourites.

Here are some snippets that dip into that rich history, reminding us that there is nothing new under the sun, and that some of our members have illustrious records to recall from their school days.

**Reunion ’62**

Thanks to a response from Keith Wood last time, to a call for information about one missing member of the class of 62, Ray Clark, has been located, and Malcolm Marks now has a full house for the reunion he is organising. The program includes a dinner dance at the Mullumbimby Bowling Club. If you haven’t already done so, please make contact with Malcolm asap.

**Reunion ’72**

Nerida Dean (Siwicki) continues with the organisation of the reunion for her old classmates. For those wanting to make contact, there is a dedicated email address – mullumbimbyclass72@hotmail.com and there’s a Facebook page as well. Check out the MHS Ex-Students Association FB page and see what’s happening.

**Reunion ’92**

Letitia Towers has well organised for her reunion at the end of September.