Welcome
Welcome to two new Associates, Ruth Browning and Val Mye (Fraser). Ruth and Val are friends who have warm memories of their time at school in the 1950s. They live on the Tweed, and would love to be in touch with other old friends from that time. Thanks to Val Staff (Elliott) for spreading the word on the Association’s behalf.

For recruiting 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 – http://www.mullumbimby.schools.nsw.edu.au/our-community/ex-students-association

Good Feedback
Thanks to those who took the trouble to let us know they enjoyed the clippings from some old papers last month.

It has been very interesting perusing these old records. There are numerous stories of how the first Ex-Students Association connected with the school, something that today seems very hard to do. Here is the report of the first competitive exchange that took place in 1960. Is this an example of what could be done again? What do you think?

Ex-Students Won First Contest Against H. School

Ex-students of Mullumbimby High School won a narrow victory over school the first student/ex-student.

Final points scored were:

Ex-students 14
Students 12

Events covered a range of five team sports and one debate.

The events were followed by a supper dance at St. Andrew’s Presbyterian Hall night.

Many spectators, including parents and ex-students, watched the sporting events on the Recreation Ground.

A trophy donated by the Ex-students’ Union won event. The Ex-students’ Agent has brought the same interest and enthusiasm than previous years.

The high school team, Bob Ney, Pat Thirion and Gordon Hirt defeated the association against the Ex-Student team. Goodwishes, Ray Walsh and Peter Gordon.

The debate was chaired by Miss Margaret Rose, who proposed a vote of thanks to adjudicator Mrs. Cliff Conimayt.

The Ex-Students’ Union, formed only this year, is under the present chairmanship of Mr. David (Sp.Pending), of Mullumbimby.

Stories in Saturday’s Advocate were as follows:

Football: Ex-students 10
High 3

Girls’ hockey: Ex-students 1
High 2

Point to High 3

Girls’ softball: Ex-students 1
High 2

Basketball: Ex-students 1
High 2

Debate: Ex-students 1
High 2

And from the Star Advocate of October 11, 1960, right, an item about Ted Selwood’s athletic success, re-typed for easier reading.

Schoolgirls win Hockey Final

Mullumbimby High School No. 1 girls’ hockey team on Saturday won the reserve grade final of the Tweed competition.

They defeated Murwillumbah High No. 3 by 3 goals to 1.

In B grade, Mullumbimby High No. 2 entered the final by defeating Murwillumbah No. 3 by 3 goals to 1. The Mullumbimby team will meet Murwillumbah High No. 5 in the final.

Details: Reserve grade: Mullumb High (1) 3 N. Ludman, G. Myles, L. Eustis d Murwillumbah High (No. 3) 1

B grade Mullumb High (2)

Star Advocate, September 22, 1959

Schoolboy Athlete Third in Brisbane

Mullumbimby schoolboy athlete Ted Selwood finished third in the final of the under 16 years 440 yards Q.A.A.A. schoolboy championship in Brisbane on Saturday.

The race was seen on television at Mullumbimby.

Selwood was second in his heat of the championship and was close to the winner in the final.
Travelling Times

One of the ex-students attending the Reunion ‘92 will be coming from Hong Kong, a fair distance for a weekend gathering. It reminds us of how mobile we are. In the home town district, it is now not unusual for people to live at Suffolk Park, Mullumbimby or Murwillumbah and to commute to Brisbane to work. It makes the trek by train to school in the olden days, seem like a dream.

Apart from commuter travel, we are now all wandering far and wide for holidays, recording it all for posterity. Numerous members are enjoying their travels and Judy Hill, our Membership Co-ordinator, has recently been visiting Taiwan where her son lives and works. The full transcript of her travels can be read at the end of this newsletter, but here is a taste of her impressions. Thank you Judy for sharing them.

One of the most fascinating places to begin understanding parts of Taiwan’s colonial history is found in what remains of the old capital, in the southern city of TaiNan (台南), packed with old and new features of interest (right).

A worthwhile trip for anyone interested in Taiwan’s pre-Kuomingtang and Japanese past, TaiNan offers a lot of points of interest that can be explored in 1, 2 or even 3 days of quick taxi rides and easy footwork. You can get to TaiNan via the High-Speed Rail from Taipei, or catch a slow train from KaoHsiung. By car from KaoHsiung, the trip is less than an hour.

Staying in Taipei, you can easily forget that for over 200 years TaiNan was the capital of Taiwan and a hugely important trading port and military outpost. Today, TaiNan is Taiwan’s fifth largest city, the repository of Taiwan’s literary history, and renowned for Taiwan’s most authentic local snack foods. For many it represents the soul of all things “Taiwanese”.

There are all kinds of cultural and historical references to be found in downtown TaiNan. With the map of Taiwan resembling a tea leaf, it should not come as a surprise that tea is one of Taiwan’s oldest exports.

Updates

Reunion ’92
The year of ’92 might well get to learn how much effort Letitia Towers has put into their reunion at the end of September. Some might already know of the drama that has surrounded the organisation of a meal for 160 people, with chefs coming and going and bookings lost for one reason or another. However, Letitia summoned all her resources to nail down the Mullumbimby football club as the venue for a dinner that promises to be enjoyable, accompanied by the music of a DJ. There were only three people she was unable to contact. A great effort.

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 ’62
Malcolm Marks now has a full house for the reunion he is organising for November. The program includes a dinner dance at the Mullumbimby Bowling Club. For more information, please make contact with Malcolm asap.

59ers celebrate 70
With the majority of those whose school life ended in 1959 reaching the landmark birthday of 70 this year, plans for a group birthday party to follow the AGM on November 16 are well in hand. The dinner will be at the Mullumbimby Bowling Club and is open to anyone in the group beginning in 1955 and ending in 1959. Neville Marks is the contact.
Taipei Day Trips: Just Take the Bus or MRT  (Judy Hill)

Taipei’s integrated network of buses and subway system makes it extremely easy for English speakers to get around town. Just buy an Easy Card and go!

Compared to other major capital cities around the world, you just don’t see too many western tourists in and around Taipei. This is probably because Taiwan is not a major destination, nor a major stopover point such as Hong Kong, Singapore, or Bangkok. This is a pity, because Taipei (and Taiwan in general) is an interesting travel destination with plenty of things to see and do.

Over the past ten years Taiwan’s public transport and tourism infrastructure has matured to the point where getting around is no longer difficult for non-Chinese speakers. In Taipei, before the MRT (subway) extended across most of the city, you had to catch buses as the main form of public transport. In those days signage was only in Chinese and you had to make a guess where to get off. It was also a bit of a guess as to whether you paid as you got on or off.

The buses now include the names of each stop in English and Chinese, and most buses display the name of the next stop on an LED sign at the front near the driver. The bus stops themselves have the English names of each destination written on route maps. Buying tickets too is hugely simplified by the stored-value EasyCard or “Yo-Yo Ka” which is compatible with the MRT system. You can buy these at the office of each MRT station. Whether to pay when you get on or off the bus? Well, if you can’t read Chinese, just watch the locals.

In addition to these recent improvements, there are a huge number of places to visit just using the MRT rail system alone. What’s even better are the tourist information booths available at the bigger MRT stops, which contain all kinds of maps and brochures for things you can see and do around town. The availability of English versions is not always reliable but has improved significantly. See what you can find at the airport on your way in too.

The tourist information booth at Taipei’s main train station is staffed by English-speaking employees who will help you understand train schedules, ticket prices, and even write down the name of your destination in Chinese, which helps to buy tickets on the intercity train network.
One of the most fascinating places to begin understanding parts of Taiwan’s colonial history is found in what remains of the old capital, in the southern city of TaiNan (台南).

The streets of TaiNan are packed with both the old and the new.

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Temples, like the Confucius Temple, are everywhere in TaiNan.
Whereas modern Taiwan has been greatly affected by Japanese and Chinese rule over the last 120 years, TaiNan’s biggest influences reach back to the Dutch and Chinese in the late 17th Century. The city of the time was taken from the Dutch via what seems to have been a negotiated settlement, between the ‘treasonous’ Dutch governor and the famous Ming Dynasty ‘loyalist’ Koxinga, also known as Zheng ChengGong.

While Singapore and Hong Kong stand out as prime examples of Britain’s past maritime power, other centres of European economic influence in the nearby region are also found at Nagasaki, Shanghai, Manila and Macau. The competition that drove the European powers to scramble for prime real estate and resources throughout Asia meant that Taiwan's location in the East China Sea offered huge value along the major trading routes between Japan, China, South East Asia and beyond. In this context you can see why TaiNan, DanShui and parts of the PengHu Islands represented strategic locations of military and trading interest to colonial powers.

Evidence of their occupation and residency are found at DanShui in the north of Taiwan right to KaoHsiung, its most southernmost city.

With the map of Taiwan resembling a tea leaf, it should not come as a surprise that tea is one of Taiwan's oldest exports.

Taiwanese are lovers of all varieties of tea; most of them fall into the category of the ‘tea in a pot’ kind. That said, if you ask for ‘red’ tea (as in black tea), you might find yourself drinking from a Lipton's tea bag. However in coffee shops and tea houses that are more discerning, expect to get fruit and flower mixes, tea leaves and quality infusions. Some traditional traders of green tea also produce some of their better leaves in tea bags, ensuring their customers enjoy both quality and convenience.

As you’d expect from a country of tea growers, there are plenty of places to enjoy teas of all types. When in Taipei, a visit to the Tea House of Smith and Hsu provides the perfect experience for tea-drinking pleasure. When seated, you are offered a tray with around 30 sample jars of various straight or blended teas of many varieties. Using your nose, you are able to smell and select the tea you would like to drink by its aroma. Smith & Hsu’s scones aren’t half bad either.
Another wonderful tea drinking experience in Taiwan can be had at the Taiwan Folk Museum, which was formerly a Japanese Hotel, hot spring and entertainment centre located in BeiTou. This impressive example of Japanese architecture dates from the early 20th century. Guests sit at low tables in this exquisitely designed and furnished Japanese tea room and food is brought to the table. The day we visited, we were served by a waiter who surprisingly turned out to be neither Japanese nor Taiwanese: he was a foreign student who just loved tea.

Taiwan has a long history of the commercial growing, processing, and trading of tea, dating back to at least the 18th century with commercial trading between China and Taiwan. Today, there are still historical remnants of this industry even in downtown Taipei. You can visit one of the tea trading houses in the old western side of Taipei, down near the river.

One such business is Wang You Ji Ming Cha on ChongQing North Road. The back of their shop still has the old tea curing facilities where the leaves were dried. Over a sampling of their various Taiwanese teas, it is not hard to imagine the kind of exhausting, and at times unhealthy, conditions under which early tea workers laboured, for what must have provided fortunes for a few and pleasure to so many.

Judy Hill, August, 2012