

Mullumbimby High School Ex-Students Association Inc.

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Membership matters

AGM - get directions from the Admin Office facing Jubilee Ave.

How the committee works.

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THE LECTERN PROJECT UPDATE
We are doing the homework,
but there's more to do

CERTIFICATES

Associate members have until the AGM to purchase a souvenir founding membership certificate. Contact the Secretary with \$10 and it's on its way.

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Notice Board page 3 WHAT'S BEEN ON

Coming up: November, 50th anniversary for 1959 ers.

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WHO CAN BECOME A MEMBER?

Anyone who has attended or worked at the school (at secondary level) for one year is eligible to join as a voting or as an associate member. Voting members pay an annual subscription of \$10 and need to be proposed by a voting member and accepted by the committee. Associate Members pay no subscription, have no voting entitlements and cannot hold office.

The Secretary can provide application forms and assistance.

Social members are friends or supporters of the school who do not qualify for the memberships described above but have the same entitlements as Associate Members.

The aims of the Association are to promote social gatherings amongst members and to raise funds for projects helpful to students and the school.

WHY JOIN? By joining the Association you will be able to reflect on the formative years you shared with others and acknowledge the part played by Mullum High in launching you into the wider world.

BECOME A BENEFACTOR

Benefactors can make direct deposits to projects supported by the Association. All donations will be acknowledged on the Mullumbimby High School web site. The current project is to purchase an electronic lectern for the John Pearce Auditorium. The target is \$2500 and we still have a long way to go.

AGM The structure of the Association is now in place and an elected committee comes next. The AGM will be held at the High School on Friday 20 November, at 2.00 p.m in the Library. If you don't already have them, voting papers including nomination forms, should be with you very soon. Members are urged to consider their ability to contribute as voting members.

Deirdre Sparrius (McLean) and Meryllyn Newman (Mackney) are welcome new Associates.

HOW THE COMMITTEE WORKS

The Department of Fair Trading provided the model rules for the Association's constitution. However, much experience was brought to bear when modifications were made to suit the needs of this group. One of the features that we wanted to avoid was the thought that taking office would turn into a life sentence. Consequently, according to the rules, there is a limit to the consecutive years that committee members can be in office - up to three, no more than five. This means that members should feel free both to vacate a position when their interests or circumstances change, and conversely, to accept nomination for a position to bring your own capacities and ideas to the group.

The interim committee consists of people who live locally and far away, so distance is no barrier to being a committee member. An internet connection however, is essential. There has been one face to face meeting this year and there will be another before the AGM. We are in frequent contact with each other and business is dealt with by emailed circular resolutions which are confirmed as decisions when the committee meets. Our interim president, Neville Marks is an experienced administrator and manager and he leads us in these manoeuvres, setting a pattern that should be easy to follow in the future.

Current Membership = 83; Aiming for 500 by the AGM 2010. Tell someone about us, or tell us about someone mh.exassn@bigpond.com

That Great Tree The end of an era

Many members will remember the great camphor laurel tree in the middle of the playground which stirred memories in the group reunion reported in the story opposite. It was central to our playtimes. For those who have not visited the school in recent years, the memory of it will remain intact. It had great roots for clambering over and provided the darkest shade, with berries to crunch or make pince-nez from. In the last years of its life, it struggled, see picture above. It was partly old age, and partly the impact of having the ground around the drip line covered with bitumen. On a number of occasions, experts were called in to provide remedial treatment. Everyone loved that tree, and there were serious efforts made to keep it healthy. However, when the campus re-build was planned, there was no escaping that the tree would have to be removed. It's end was inevitably inglorious as the pictures below show. But Trevor Richens, a talented wood worker, made some keepsakes from it for the school reunion in 2005. So it does live on, in memory and in some special artefacts.



Kindergarten 1947 Reunion report by Pam Morris (Dundas)

Committee member Pam Morris took the opportunity to do some recruiting when she got together with her classmates from the Kindergarten class of 1947, recently. For those old enough to remember, the school was an early version of a K-12 type, and you could spend all your school days in one place, like Pam did. Most of the class went on to the secondary level, so Pam hopes that some may choose to join the Association. According to Pam, after 62 years, some memories and faces needed considerable recall but a number remembered the names of primary school teachers, the ballroom dancing lessons, the Maypole dance, the un-sewered toilets and the snake in the tree near the girl's toilet. The old camphor laurel (see story left) was mentioned, as well as the horse paddock and river boundary.

Hosted by Chris Garrard and organised by Desley Creighton (Smith), the group of 39 and partners enjoyed a time of fun and nostalgia at the Fig Tree Restaurant at Ewingsdale. Guests had travelled from Townsville, Brisbane, Goondooindi, Sydney, Penrith, Glen Innes and the Central coast as well as some who still live or have returned to live, in this special part of the world. The roll call will be familiar to some of us: Lyne Bourne, Marcia East, Margaret Plater, Lola Doyle, Joyce Williams, Jennifer Roberts, Marlene Clout, Edith Graham, Penny Alidenes, Fay Porter, George (Sandy) Laverty, Kevin Bower, Ray Smith, Les Lake, Ken McGowan, Alex Griffith, Chris Garrard, Roy Williams and David Harrison. We look forward to welcoming these old school mates to the Ex-Students Association. And congratulations to Desley Creighton for tracking so many people down.

Have you made a contribution to the lectern fund yet? Tell the Secretary when you do, so your name can be added to the donor list. mh.exassn@bigpond.com

All members with access to the internet are encouraged to check the school web page from time to time. Currently available is the latest school newsletter. It presents a dazzling snapshot of the wonderful achievements of students (and staff) at the school. It shows that our old school is up there in a diverse field of endeavours, both academic and non academic, within the school world and outside it. Who would believe that one student has earned the title of Queensland and national champion in the recent Off Road motorcycle championships in which he won the E1 (amateur) championship. Next year, he will compete with the professionals.

This is just one of the great accounts of student success.

A number of members were able to go to the school's annual community breakfast, hosted by the school to thank the business community for support each year. This year it was perhaps more important than in the past because of the traumatic events which have recently occurred. The Principal Ian Graham was forthright in his comments, and a P & C representative also addressed in an open way the financial problems which have been confronted by the P&C and the canteen. Business houses affected by these problems appreciated the reassurances. Members also appreciated the candour of the staff and felt pleased that the school is able to tackle such problems head on. The Association continues to support the Principal and his staff.

CONTACT CHANGES As members upgrade or change their email contact details, some emails are being returned as undeliverable. Please contact the Secretary if you have made changes to your email address, so that you don't miss a single word of the newsletters
mh.exassn@bigpond.com.

MEMBER PROFILES It's fun to read about what members have been doing since they left school. Contributions are invited - 200-250 words and a head shot photo is all that we need.
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NOTICE BOARD

Changing your email address or other contact details? Don't forget to include the Secretary in your update lists - mh.exassn@bigpond.com

Ex-students from 1959 are commemorating their 50th anniversary 20-22 November. Contact Nev Marks - nmarks@optusnet.com.au

Julien Byrne (Ross) still asks if there is to be a reunion for 1969 ers.

David Harrison got to his reunion, thanks to information supplied by a member.

AGM - Friday 20 November at the High School Library. Get directions from the Admin. staff in the office on Jubilee Avenue. All voting members are welcome. Contact the Secretary if you want to move from Associate to Voting membership.

Associates wanting a souvenir founding member certificate can order one from the Secretary, for \$10. Offer valid until the AGM.

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