Yes, we have a website! Thanks to two Dubbo College students, Cassie Slade-Potts and Jessica Stokoe, and their teacher, Stuart Walsh, the website is up and running. There are still things to do and we welcome any suggestions for improvement. It is to be linked to the College website and also to Facebook sites for ex-students.

A

lthough the number attending was smaller than usual and the presence of some of the earlier ex-students who had been regular attendees was missed, the gathering brought together some ‘first timers’ and it was especially pleasing to welcome Anna Bernasconi, 2009 Vice Captain from Dubbo College and now a student of the University of Sydney.

The Dubbo College Senior Campus was represented by the Principal, Richard Skinner and the Captains, Emma Kotzur and Lionel Wood. The South Campus Principal, Mel Johnston was represented by Wendy Morris and students John Marshall and Melissa McDonald. Peter Bray, Principal of Delroy Campus was accompanied by the Captains Rebecca Dunn and Daniel McDougall.

President, Jenny Gleeson welcomed those present and expressed the thanks of the Bindyi Club to Richard Skinner for his help and co-operation with the organisation of the Luncheon at the Senior Campus. Barbara Fewings from Sydney and a member of the Bindyi Club Committee graciously accepted the role of Master of Ceremony.

John Sergeant, Vice Principal of St Andrews College, University of Sydney, School Captain of 1982, addressed the group and proposed a toast to Dubbo High School and Dubbo College. His comments relating to the achievements of former students and the future focus of education in Dubbo aroused thoughtful reactions from those present.

Local Caterer, Laraine Mindham, provided a delicious buffet to satisfy all.

Following the lunch Richard Skinner opened the Library where the archives of Dubbo High School are held and invited those present to inspect the displays as well as the ‘Memory Garden’ of pavers showing names of ex-students.

The Dubbo Committee is planning to organise the next luncheon in 2012 - 95 years since Dubbo High School was opened, and will focus on establishing a planning Committee for the celebrations of the centenary in 2017.

– Ruby Riach.

Bindyi Club Lunch to be held 12 March 2011

Guest speaker for the next March luncheon will be Malcolm Brown, distinguished journalist on the Sydney Morning Herald. More details about the lunch in the February newsletter.

Happy 100th birthdays!

Two of the Intermediate Certificate Class of 1926 recently celebrated their 100th birthdays.

They are Jean Stevenson (nee Knight) of Chincilla (QLD) and Eunice Graham (nee Graham) of Dubbo. In an interview she gave to the Daily Liberal, Mrs Graham spoke of the changes she had seen in Dubbo including the coming of electricity.
Reunions 2010

50th Year Reunion Class of 1960 by Mickey Harrison

Our class celebrated our 50th year reunion at North Ryde RSL Club on 2nd October 2010.

What a wonderful night! As one classmate said, “Walking into the room felt like we had just been on a long summer holiday.” Looking around on the evening it was obvious that the old DHS spirit was alive and well and was being enjoyed by everyone. How amazing, that after 50 years we can relive so many memories and renew old friendships as if only yesterday. With such a bond between us all, I had the feeling that if we put a DHS team together for any type of event, we’d still be very competitive.

We had 26 out of 48 original class members present. Sadly, we know 2 have passed, 9 had sent apologies (many travelling with the grey nomads) so it was certainly a great roll call.

It was lovely to have seven teachers join us, Val (Jenkins) & Kevin Heferen, Max Griffin, Janet Rickwood, Beth (Patton) & Harry Thompson and Eleanor (Windsor) Filewood. We had apologies from Mary Batch, Ken Harris & Alan Stevenson.

Our special speakers from our year were Dr Bob Batey AM and Mary (Garling) Adams Dux of 1960. Both speakers reminded us of so many events, situations, stories, memories and of course the education and guidance given by our much loved teachers.

We had many awards for various categories which added to the fun. Barry Cant played the school song for us, which was sung with the usual passion and exuberance!

Our evening passed so quickly but with the hope that we will meet up again in less than another 50 years time! Many have shown interest in the Bindyi Club (especially now we can travel for $2.50) so hopefully we’ll meet up again soon but we will certainly look forward to another reunion maybe in 5 years time.


Captains 1960: Bruce McFarland, Mickey Mathews, Barry Cant, Helen Young

The class of 1990 also held a reunion this year – more in the next newsletter.
40th Year Reunion Class of 1970

The Class of 1970 reunion was organised for the long weekend 1 - 3 October 2010.

Elaine Rooney (Stroud) reports: “I was able to contact all but 3 ex students, (one of whom was a Smith) so that was an enormous challenge. Eleven (of 30) men and 20 (of 35) women attended. Former teacher Col Glasson also attended with his wife Barbara – Col was our fantastic hockey coach. Paul Bailey, our Captain, said I should get a job with Scotland Yard! People travelled from Broome, Brisbane, Wagga Wagga, Cobar, Sydney, Adelaide, Ilford, Victoria, Gympie, Forster, Newcastle. On the Friday 1st October we met at the Amaroo Hotel in the evening for a few drinks and then we moved onto The Commercial for dinner and a welcome to all. Some ex students had had their first taste of alcohol here so a trip down memory lane was appropriate.

“On Saturday evening we met at the old Science block (now part of Western Plains Cultural Centre) where our official function was held - minus the Bunsen burners and chemicals. The curator of W.P.C.C. took us for a tour around the school, which was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The room was beautifully decorated with red and black streamers, balloons and a fabulous sign, “Welcome Class of 1970”. We were treated to some delicious finger food by local chef Bob Lee followed by a cake and wonderful home made slices.

“Some awards were given out: the person who had travelled the furthest who was Carol Howe from Broome, the person with the most children and grandchildren was Margie Williams (nee Tink) with 15, including triplet grandchildren, and the person wearing the most red and black was Brian Abbott. Mrs Gleeson was unable to attend (she was at The Rock with Libby for her birthday) but she kindly donated some wine for these prizes and there was also a bottle of wine for me for organising the re-union. Everybody enjoyed catching up and the night went so fast. Sunday morning we met at the cafe at the Cultural Centre for breakfast before we made our way home. The feedback has been good with everybody enjoying themselves, and asking about the next one. It should be noted that we bought back the Astley Cup and Mulvey Cup in 1970, an accomplishment Mrs. Gleeson proudly told me as I was preparing for the reunion!”

Attendees would like to thank Elaine and the rest of the organising committee who organised such a great event. Everyone was keen to meet again regularly and many said they would come to the Bindyi Club lunch in 2011 as a starting point. Thanks to Mrs Gleeson for hosting a lunch (in her absence) with Sue Craig, Vicki Foxall, Karen Walsh, Rawdon Petersen, Paul Bailey, Steve Calder and John Gleeson. There was also a post function party at her house for 15 or so stayers.
Vale: Esse Quam Videri

Kotzur, Quentin Died 16 May 2010. Husband of Ruth and father of Linden and Ruthanne. Quentin taught in the Science department at Dubbo High School in the late 60s/early 70s and was an active Rotarian in his retirement. His granddaughter, Emma, is current Captain of Dubbo Senior College.

Strahorn, Kim Bayly Died 9 July 2010. Dubbo High School 1961-63. Late of ‘Ellersie’, Peak Hill. Dearly loved husband of Gai. Loving father of Conrad and Scott. Kim was an active member of the Peak Hill community, serving on local committees and the P & C of Peak Hill Central School where his wife works as a School Learning Support Officer.

Walters, Leona (nee Wall) Died 23 September, 2010. Dubbo High School 1957-1961. Wife of Garry (Vice-Capt 1961) and mother of ex-students Craig, Debbie, (capt. 1990) Ashley and Peter. Leona was a formidable member of both the netball and softball teams during her years at school. As a parent, she was a committed member of the P&C and the School Council in the late 80s/early 90s.

Whitely, Margaret (nee Wall) Died 7 May, 2010. Dubbo High School 1940-1945. Astley Cup hockey. Margaret attended Armidale Teachers’ College, then taught at South Dubbo Primary School and Geurie before marrying John Whitely. Margaret was a sister to Joan Walsh (formerly Richardson) of Dubbo.

The Committee of the Bindyi Club express their condolences to fellow member, Barbara Fewings (McLennan), whose husband, Trevor, died in September.

News from the College

Student Achievement Award:

We applaud Senior College Vice-Captain Graeme Andrews, who was our guest at the Sydney Luncheon in March. Graeme was recently awarded the Minister’s Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.

Amongst his other contributions to student life, Graeme was one of only two representatives form the Western Region to sit on the State Students’ Representative Council.

His plans for next year are typically selfless – he is going to England as a volunteer at Streetlife, a centre for homeless and troubled youth in Blackpool. He is participating as part of the Lattitude Global Volunteering Program which recruits volunteers from all over the world. While Streetlife will feed and house Graeme during his stay, he has been working hard to save enough to get there and to make a mandatory $2900 contribution to Lattitude.

Indigenous Youth Leadership Scholars gather in Cairns:

Five Dubbo College students have recently participated in “The Gathering”, an annual conference of Indigenous Youth Leadership Scholars held in Cairns, Qld. The conference, largely dominated by private schools, aims to enhance the students’ leadership skills and help them to become leaders of their communities.

The Dubbo students were Cassie Slade-Potts, Ben Costa, Gabi Knight, Chloe Wighton and Nyoka Boney, all Year 11 students.

While in Cairns, the students had a full program of activities which included visits to the Mossman Gorge Aboriginal Community, the Tjapukai Aboriginal Cultural Park and the Kuranda Community.

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