

Whitebridge High Ex-Students and Staff Association

MEETING MINUTES - Monday 7th April, 2008

AGENDA ITEM	OUTCOME
Attendees	<p>Present: Allan Searant, Karel Grezl, Peter Sievert, Janice Battle, Brian Goodwin, Julie Turnbull, David Podmore, Ian Wilson (part time)</p> <p>Apologies: Matthew Morris, Bradley Wilson, David Martin</p>
Minutes of last Meeting	<p>Accepted as a true and accurate recording – Moved: Karel Grezl Seconded: Julie Turnbull</p>
Business Arising from last meeting	<p>Action Items:</p> <p>Committee – Resignations & Forthcoming Elections</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Paul Jeffress & Lorraine McKewan-McKenzie have resigned from their positions on the committee. • The remaining committee members (Brian Goodwin, Karel Grezl, & Ron Aurelius) will stand down, after 2 years service, at the next meeting & are not available for re-election. • A protocol has been developed for the elections to be held at the next meeting on Friday 2nd May, 2008 – with an outgoing committee member conducting the election. • Positions to be filled include Secretary, Treasurer, & three committee members (one of whom will act as Chairperson). • A representative from the Ex Students & Staff Association will be required for the School Council, with Brian Goodwin unavailable to continue in this role. <p>Website</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apart from some minor changes to the committee & contact details, Karel Grezl advised that little progress has been made regarding the planned uploading of Span magazines, memorabilia, & re-union information. • Allan Searant has agreed to continue liaising with BlackKat Web Design, re the website upgrade, in the short term. Karel will forward a copy of the disc with details for uploading. • The effectiveness of the website is improving with some additional 200 'Hits' since our last meeting, & some entries on the 'Guestbook'. • The 'What's On' page about the 45th Anniversary Celebrations requires an update. • Janice Battle has agreed to act as the interim contact person for the website. <p>Teacher Profile – update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An interview has been held with Ken Dawes (retired science teacher of 30 years at Whitebridge High School) & an article prepared. • Bob Payne has agreed to prepare a contribution on his time at Whitebridge, and has been invited to do so by June, in readiness for the mid year newsletter edition. <p>Newsletter Status</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Sufficient articles are just about ready for the next edition, & it was agreed to keep this publication going. • Assistance in preparing the layout of the newsletter has been offered from Nicole Travis & Bob McKibbin, with Brian Goodwin also offering his assistance as required. <p>School Council Report– Brian Goodwin.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvements for wheel chair access around the school have been made. • Federal Gov't approval to apply for funding has been announced for

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	<p>additional computers.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The school is actively seeking additional fundraising opportunities. • Brian announced his resignation from the school council & that the 45th anniversary celebrations may be tapered back. <p>School Presentation Day Prizes</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Brian Goodwin offered to contact Margaret Holt on behalf of the Xers to confirm her continued interest in offering a music prize. • Possible prizes for the Science Department have been discussed & a decision will be put on hold until later in the year. • It was suggested that local businesses should be approached directly for sponsorship of prizes. <p>Membership Recruitment & Database</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The email database was effectively doubled (to about 140 addresses) for distribution of the February 22nd minutes, but there were some 20 rebounds, which need follow-up. • The entire contact database of about 450 names, addresses, & phone numbers requires more effort to determine the corresponding email addresses. • Once again the comment was made about securing the details of re-union organisers, or school representatives, for the various years (other than the initial intake years, of which the Xers are predominantly composed). The perception that the Xers are for the inaugural students only needs to be changed. • Advertisements in the Newcastle Herald, The Star, The Post, & on radio station 2HD were made leading up to this meeting – with minimal success. It is intended to promote the website details as much as possible in all advertising (including the use of the business cards recently printed) - & use it as the main vehicle for communicating. • More ongoing work will be required for the MySpace & FaceBook entries to be successful – i.e. need to be maintained. • An observation was made that graduates from the school do not appear to have an interest in, or time for, re-unions & the like until some 10 -15 years after leaving. Therefore the focus should possibly be on recruiting ex students who are 30 plus years of age. <p>45th Anniversary Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • For discussion in General Business.
Correspondence	Inwards: Resignations from Paul & Lorraine
Treasurers report	Current balance: \$670.18
Committee report	Nothing to report other than discussions above.
General Business	
School Projects	Possible projects that can be realised with community effort include improved seating around the quadrangle & on the sporting field embankment, as well as provision of more shaded areas were required.
Reunion Guidelines	Proposed that the website should include the following: (These items have yet to be followed up) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A list of suggestions/guidelines for reunions to ensure feedback and possible ongoing contacts in a central place • A list of willing reunion organisers for as many years as possible with list to grow in time

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Short term space to display reunion photos • Space to advertise upcoming reunions. • Regular 'plea' for involvement in Exers by more diverse crew
2008 45th Anniversary event –	<p>Dinner Dance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • With Paul Jeffress & Anne Morley unavailable for this committee, the remaining members are concerned whether sufficient support can be mustered from our small team of regular meeting attendees to make a success of this. • It was suggested a minimum attendance of at least 300 people will be required for this event to be successful & an indicative cost per person (excluding drinks) would be \$50. The immediate focus must be to generate interest & a commitment from people to attend. • Indications are that many Xers have children, family members, & friends who are also ex students, all of whom would be interested in just having a good night out & not necessarily from the nostalgia aspect! Before the next two meetings all are encouraged to recruit as many starters as possible from all age groups, so definite & detailed plans can be made. • It was stated that there were some 130 attendees at the recent 1963 to 1965 reunion at Charlestown Central Leagues. If all possible ex Whitebridge connections to this group (family & friends) could come along there would be no problem with getting numbers. • A suggestion was made that ticketing & payment could be done electronically, via credit cards & the like, to simplify matters. • The preparation of a multimedia display of memorabilia needs to be expedited from existing material, as well as material held at the school library, & individual contributions. Such a presentation can be used both at the school open day & in the evening at this function. <p>Daytime Activities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Once again the small group at the meeting were concerned about running the proposed fete. • The principal (Ian Wilson) dropped into the meeting & gave assurance that the school would do all it could to organise & participate in a number of activities to ensure the success of what could probably be called an 'open day' rather than a fete. • Brian Goodwin & Allan Searant agreed to meet with Ian & sort out suitable activities. • It was agreed that running a 45th anniversary celebration (as a trial run for the up & coming 50th) can only help to bolster awareness of & support for the Xers group.
Communicating with Membership	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Suggestion that emails to membership should be brief, with only pertinent points highlighted, & no attachments if at all possible (to save unnecessary downloads). • Meeting minutes to be uploaded directly to the website, which can be accessed by each member if required – this should encourage frequent use of the website. • Circulation lists to be kept private. • Option to opt out of receiving unwanted emails if required was suggested.
Other general business	None
NEXT MEETING:	Friday 2nd May, 2008 at 7:00 PM at School Library.