



XER'S NEWSLETTER

People and places

Vol 1 No 3 February 2007

Mrs Margaret Holt nee McTaggart

I taught at WHS from 1965 until 1973 as the first music teacher appointed to the school. When I arrived Mr Kearsley was the principal and I was amazed to see how strict the uniform policy was. The girls had to wear blazers, hats and gloves and the boys wore blazers. It was against the rules for school jumpers to be worn without the blazers. The students would have rivalled any school in the state when they were dressed in full regalia.

It was a lovely school and I felt really lucky to have been sent there. The music rooms were rather special as they were joined by the storeroom and everything was readily at hand.

Looking back, without a doubt, it was the calibre of the students and their extraordinary music ability that remain clear to me. I am sure there must have been something in the water there as we had the most wonderful choral music as well as full recorder ensembles and later bands and orchestras. The students would attempt anything presented to them, be it a madrigal, or any demanding works by Bach, Handel, Schubert and Mozart as well as works by more modern composers. Small ensembles were common including the famed Minnesingers!

After I left WHS I concentrated on child-rearing and worked part-time at several places, including Lambton High School, the College of Advanced Education and then at St Mary's, Maitland.

I had a complete change of direction when I went to work in Japan and on my return I began teaching migrants English. This has involved working with people from many different countries who have arrived here under greatly differing circumstances. I feel that it has been a privilege to share their experiences.

To all of you who have given me such fine memories - thank you.



Margaret Holt, whose profile appears in this newsletter, like so many teachers left her legacy with her students. Many still sing in choirs around Newcastle to this day because Margaret taught them not just music; but also the joy of music.

Newsletter Spotlight

This quarterly newsletter intends to keep you up date with who, what and why from ex-students and staff of Whitebridge High School.

If you have any news please feel free to contribute.

Please feel free to forward this newsletter to any ex-students or ex-teachers of WHS.

Reunions and forthcoming events

Year 12 from 1981 recently celebrated 25 years since leaving Whitebridge High!





L-R: John Whitbread, Kerrie Whitla, Kirsten Katz (nee Beck), Andrew Monahan, Margaret Moore (nee Holmes), Michelle Bryson Rigby, Steve Davies

The Brewery Hotel at Queens Wharf was the perfect venue for afternoon drinks – a stunning view, and a lovely sea breeze cooling us from down what had been an incredible “scorcher” for a spring day!

The afternoon was lots of fun with 25 of us catching up and sharing news of our lives since we last met. So much fun was had that 20 of us went on for dinner at Starfish restaurant nearby, followed by an evening nite-cap at Customs House hotel for the final 12 of us who were keen to continue partying on!!

This get-together followed our 20 year Reunion held back in 2001 where it was suggested that we have more “informal” and more regular get togethers (each 5 years).

The informal nature of getting together seems to work really well – and is much easier to organise than a full blown reunion event! Just select a date, time and venue (a pub is perfect) and everyone is welcome to turn up for a drink & a chat and stay as long (or short!) as they choose. We selected the foreshore so that we could stroll to a nearby café for dinner after drinks. No need for collecting money or deposits and the like!

A number of us are interested in get together *in 2009* to celebrate 30 years since Year 10...so anyone who was part of **Year 10 in 1979** and would like to help us with contacting old friends and organising an event, please contact Kerrie Whitla (Kerrie@inneredge.com.au or 0416090512).

From our raving reporter—Kerrie Whitla

P.S. Great turnout guys. What nostalgia. Even brought your own 1980's style wallpaper.



1984-1989 Reunion

A reunion is being organised by James Musgrave for 20 October 2007. Please contact James at jmusgrave@netperceptions.com.au or visit the site at www.whitebridgehighreunion.com

Lookin'lookin'

If anyone is aware of a reunion being organised for the graduating sixth form of 1977 Kerry Keady (nee Murray) would like to hear from you!

Principal's Report for Whitebridge High School Ex-Students and Staff Association Meeting

Friday 1 December 2006

Thank you for the opportunity to provide a brief report for this meeting.

When I asked for a few minutes on the meeting agenda my intention was to merely express my congratulations and general feelings around the progress that the group has made over the past 12 months or more correctly the first months of it's beginning.

I am extremely proud of the manner in which the group has developed to its current form and of the accomplishments that it has achieved since it's establishment.

I would like to place on record my congratulations to the group of enthusiastic Exers that have stuck to the task and brought the formalisation of the association from mere 'thoughts in a conversation' to fruition as an entity and the makings of a dynamic and robust extension of our school community.

Well done people.

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I had included in the school plan for 2006 the establishment of an Ex-students' Association as a means of developing and extending the school community and to enable ex-students to remain, in some way, connected with the organisation that played some part in their development as Australians.

I know that the interest will continue to grow in the Ex-students' Association and activities and functions around the decades of ex-students will be able to be held in a more co-ordinated and cohesive manner. The benefits to everyone will be enormous.

I have included in the 2007 draft management plan the continuation of the development of the Ex-students' Association and the participation of the association in more school activities

Can I suggest that the Ex-students' Association provide a member for representation on the School Council as recognition of the association as a constituency of our school community and as a further development in cementing the relationship between the Ex-students' Association and the school community. This position will also broaden the base the decision making of the council to be more inclusive of the total school community.

Further, I am keen to assist in some way of building the database of content for the website. By this I mean the scanning of school documents, Spans, student year photos, and other archival material that will add to the functionality of the website as a resource for ex-students.

On another dimension, I am aware that the school does not have a school song at least my digging and searching of the school records cannot locate one. This is another avenue for ex-student involvement or input.

In any case these matters can be discussed at future meetings and utilised when the leadership of the Ex-Students' Association is ready.

Best wishes for a safe and enjoyable Christmas and New Year. I look forward to working with you in 2007

2008 Back to School Event

Planning over the coming year will now focus on the 2008 event.

Two working teams will be required—one to plan the Saturday fete and the second team to organise the Saturday night dinner.

We need help!

If you have any ideas of would like to help arrange either event please get in touch with anyone on the XERs's committee. Names appear at the end of the Newsletter or check out the website: <http://www.whxers.org.au/>

Last meeting 1 December 2006

1. Karel reported on the launch of the website and ongoing monitoring of the site. Over time the website will be enhanced with one of the short term upgrades being the incorporation of membership application forms online.
2. First teacher profile of Mrs Holt (nee McTaggart). Forthcoming profiles will include Mr John Mingay and Mr Peter Imberger. Any student wishing to submit a teacher profile are warmly encouraged to do so.
3. Brian Goodwin (first boy school captain) has been invited onto the school council to represent the WHExers on that body.
4. Plans are proceeding with a major event to be held in 2008 as a back to school day.
5. For those wishing to contribute, members may make a small donation but membership of the association will remain free.

Next meeting

The next meeting is to be held 2 February 2007 . If you have any topic you would like brought up at the meeting please contact any member of the executive or come to the meeting.

Other meeting dates for 2007:

| | | | |
|-----------|------------|-------------|---------|
| 16 March | 27 April | 8 June | 20 July |
| 31 August | 12 October | 23 November | |

Questions or comments? Email us at jeffress@optusnet.com.au | lorlymc@bigpond.net.au

Whitebridge ` School Year 12 - Class of 1986 Reunion

Eighty seven students attended the Year 12, Class of 1986 reunion on Saturday 23 September 2006 at Central Charlestown Leagues Club. The night was a great success with a lot of reminiscing and catching up with old friends. Memories of the "flasher", the "pizza hut" and "Miss Jindabyne" came flooding back with the Whitebridge High Trivia quiz, hosted by none other than Miss Jindabyne himself, Craig Smailes, assisted by the lovely Cameron Jurd. The crowd enjoyed the dulcet tones of classic 1980s music whilst enjoying or cringing at the DVD photo display of old school classics. Thanks to Harry Kolatchew who bravely and single handedly represented the Whitebridge High teachers past and present. The reunion has sparked a frenzy of emails and will undoubtedly lead to the rekindling of old friendships.

The Charlestown Easters who went to Whitebridge High got together for a reunion photo.



From left back: Carolyn Raine, Leanne Bates, Bradley Smith, Jenny Rodgers, Stephen Cunningham, Justine Humphries, Jenny Davies, Craig Smailes, Leanne Lindsley, Michael Walsh, Sue Wilson, Paul Anlezark and Louise Cooper.

