



XER'S NEWSLETTER

People and places

Vol 1 No 4 March 2007

Mr John Mingay

When were you at WHS?

I taught at Whitebridge High School for six years between 1964 and 1969 while the school was in its formative years, and I still regard that period as one of the most memorable in a teaching career of some forty one years.

What did you teach?

I was a member of the Social Sciences staff along with Barry Stephens and Les Milne at this time and there was no doubt that staff from all faculty areas were anxious to see Whitebridge High School emerge as one of the top calibre secondary schools in the Newcastle area.

What are your fondest memories?

What had attracted me to Whitebridge High School was the appearance and behaviour of the schools' students, when they went into the wider community at events such as orchestral concerts and the like. The girls always looked elegant so and as they represented their school and community with such distinction then it wasn't hard to say to myself - "That's where I want to be".

Where did are you doing now?

In 1983 I transferred from the position of Head Teacher Social Sciences at Katoomba High School to Deputy Principal at Lithgow High. In 1986 I accepted a promotion as Principal at Blaxland High School in the lower Blue Mountains and remained in that position until I retired from the teaching service in 1996.

Do you have any pearls you would like to share?

With so many students passing through a school every year the disappointment is that in most cases you never really know what part you played, if any, in their preparation for life after school. If we as teachers left you with skills to be effective and involved in your working life and in community, then we can be well satisfied with our efforts.

After leaving Whitebridge, John Mingay continued his teaching career around NSW where he has left a trail of 'happy and contented' students. Now retired, John is peacefully enjoying his retirement in the lovely Blue Mountains.

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

We have received enquiries from people seeking information on reunions being organised for various years. Although the more planning time the better when it comes to organising a reunion, ten year anniversaries seem a natural interval for graduating classes.

What we would like to do is to use this newsletter for reunion organisers to air the lessons they learn during the process, so tips and tricks can be shared.

Next year will be ten-year anniversaries for graduating sixth form classes for 1978, 1988 and 1998. The only reason for saying sixth form classes is that the simplest way of expressing the basis of the reunion but each reunion organiser would like anyone who attended the school during with that graduating class.

Of course it will also be the twenty-fifth anniversary for the class of 1983 which would be a special reunion for that year.

special reunion for that year.

So if you are in the process of organising a reunion for any of those years or want to start please let us know and we will promote your reunion through the Xers. With good planning it might be possible to coordinate an event with the 45th anniversary of the school which is scheduled for 13th September 2008.

Classes starting 1963/64/65 Reunion

Janice Battles is coordinating a reunion for the first three years to be held on 10th November 2007. You can contact Janice at jlbattle@exemail.com.au or on 02 49436710.

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'

Vale Peter Imberger

It is with the deepest sadness that we note that Peter Imberger who taught at Whitebridge High from 1963 to 1968 passed away at Domayne Nursing Home at Kirra Beach in Queensland on 3rd July 2007.

Peter was an exceptional teacher who believed in developing each student to the best of their individual ability. Beyond his dedication to teaching, Peter was a friend, an example and a mentor.

Some of us who were privileged to have Peter as a teacher were also fortunate enough to visit him at Domayne where he resided after suffering a stroke several years ago. During these visits Peter became known as 'our Mr Chips' when we learned that the movie 'Goodbye Mr Chips' was what inspired him to become a teacher.

So Goodbye to Our Mr Chips. Farewell, dear friend.

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 enhancements to the website. Future improvements will include the inclusion of class lists and contact details for year reunion organizers.
2. Forthcoming profiles will be Mr Peter Imberger and Mrs Psaltis. Any student wishing to submit a teacher profile are warmly encouraged to do so.
3. Karel advised on the current status of bookmarks to be distributed in Year 12 folios. Jonathon Lindsay has provided some excellent artwork for this item.
4. Plans are proceeding with a major event to be held in 2008 as a back to school day which is tentatively scheduled for the June long weekend in 2008.
5. For those wishing to contribute, members may make a small donation but membership of the association will remain free.

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:

27 July 7 September 19 October 30 November

Questions or comments? Email us at jeffress@optusnet.com.au or 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.

