



XER'S NEWSLETTER

People and places

Spring 2007 Vol 1 No 5

Mr Peter Barry Imberger

Peter Imberger was a much loved teacher, and one of nine staff members who were appointed for the initial intake of 200 first form (now known as Year 7) students, at the newly opened Whitebridge High School in 1963.

Peter had first trained as a physical education teacher, had taught at several NSW high schools, and had completed a previous posting to Tulse Hill Comprehensive School (London UK) in 1960.

Peter started as sports-master for the first two years, and was acting supervisor for the Mathematics Department for the first three years. During this time he completed his B.A. (Mathematics), which allowed him to teach his students as they progressed into Years 11 and 12. Peter's devotion to the inaugural students was made evident when he declined a promotion to allow him to guide them through their final (HSC) year in 1968. His influence and teaching reached beyond academic results.

Staff and students at Whitebridge were surprised to learn that Peter was an acclaimed actor, director and producer.

Peter was an active member of local repertory clubs wherever he went – initially in dramatic roles, but later his acting and producing roles were exclusively in musicals.

In the 1970s while teaching at Manly Boys High School, Peter produced musical productions that involved staff, students, and the community. These were a huge success, and in 1973 the school won the Arts Council of NSW award for the Best Musical Production for 'South Pacific'. During this time he was also the driving force behind the successful MacKellar Theatrical Society of Manly Warringah. Peter's many productions included 'Paint Your Wagon', 'West Side Story', 'Oliver', 'Oklahoma', 'Bye Bye Birdie', South Pacific, 'Fiddler on the Roof' and 'My Fair Lady'.

Peter's final appointment was in 1981 as Deputy Principal at Woolgoolga High School in Coffs Harbour but health issues forced his early retirement from his much loved career.

Despite his delicate health Peter travelled extensively around the globe recording all of his travels on a world map that held pride of place in his living room. When his health continued to deteriorate leading to a stroke in 2002, he spent his remaining years confined to nursing home – which for a man of his energy and creative drive, became his eternal frustration.

Many of his friends including ex-students and colleagues supported him through this time until he died unexpectedly on July 3, 2007.

Peter often reflected that he had a 'wonderful life' and those who knew him well can attest to the positive influence this



Nicole Travis has joined me to co-edit the Xers newsletter. Nicole was active with the Xers before she was transferred to country NSW. Despite distance modern technology enables Nicole to continue her association with the Xers.

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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.

Peter often reflected that he had a 'wonderful life' and those who knew him well can attest to the positive influence this remarkable man had on their lives.

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Reunions and forthcoming events

Classes starting 1963/64/65 Reunion

Looming in just one month's time is a reunion for the first three years to be held on 10th November 2007. If you want to know more or wish to attend, you can contact Janice Battle at jbattle@exemail.com.au or on 02 49436710.

1984-1989 Reunion

This reunion is only a few days away on 20 October 2007. Please contact James at jmusgrave@netperceptions.com.au or visit the site at www.whitebridgehighreunion.com

Lookin' and lookin' for help

Linda Kolevski (nee Soldas) is keen to organise a reunion for the year of 1997. She would like to hear from anyone who would like to get together with her to organise the reunion. Is that you?

As yet we have not heard of any other forthcoming reunions but should you have one or wish to organise one please let us know and we advertise your reunion for you through the newsletter and via the website.

Acknowledgements

Following a request from the school, Allan Searant & Brian Goodwin embarked on the task of procuring an Industrial Arts Award for the outstanding student graduating from Year 12 in this field. Thanks to their effort and funding, the school now has a perpetual award in this field with the inaugural award going to Johnny Grujovski.



The Xers would also like to thank the principal, Ian Wilson, and the school for the contribution of bookmarks for the Year 12 graduation pack which is handed to all students on completing their final year. WHS is also funding the upgrade of the Xers website which should be online shortly.

2008 Back to School Event

While planning is now well underway for the Back to School fete, volunteers are in short supply. The fete will only be a reality if more people put up their hand to help. How about you? Will you volunteer to lend a hand?

All it takes is a short email and we will provide you with the planning outline so far, and you can offer your assistance in any way you feel appropriate.

A dinner will be held at Wester Suburbs Leagues Club in the evening backed up by multimedia presentations of the school's history. Tickets will be available early in 2008 and details will be advised on the website at: <http://www.whxers.org.au/>



Last meeting 7 September 2007

1. The school is currently printing bookmarks for inclusion in the graduating students' departure kits.
2. Funding for upgrading the website will also be provided by the school
3. Memorial for Peter Imberger approved by School Council to be mounted in the foyer.

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4. While planning continued 2008 'Back to School' event the committee acknowledged more volunteers were needed to organize the event. Anyone wishing to help organize the 45th anniversary event may contact any member of the Xers to volunteer their services. Alternatively you may contact the people listed at the end of the newsletter.

Next meeting

The next meeting is to be held 30 November 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.



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