



## XER'S NEWSLETTER

### People and places



#### Mr David Renton

After his family migrated from England in 1949, David was educated at Newcastle Boys High & was destined to become a teacher, initially in the primary school system for a short period, followed by his first secondary school posting at Gloucester High in 1958 in the social sciences department.

A transfer to the Newcastle area in 1962, initially at Junior High, & then for an extended & very satisfying period at Newcastle Girls High, allowed David & his family settle into their new home at Merewether.

A transfer & promotion to Commerce Master at Whitebridge High School in 1969 was accepted with some apprehension, but this appointment "was to prove so significant to me for the rest of my career", David remarked.

During the 12 years in this role David had the support of a team of very experienced, & some of whom were to become very long serving (25 years plus!), teachers at the school. Some ex students (for example Irene Black & Bruce Locker) returned to the school as teachers to commence a life long & very successful association with Whitebridge.

David was appointed as Deputy Principal at Wyong High from the beginning of 1980, for a period of three years, followed by a transfer back to Whitebridge as Deputy Principal for a further three years working with Principal Allyn Hunt.

Several appointment offers as Principal of Dungog, Swansea, & Gateshead were declined & with the latter offer, changed at the last minute. The final outcome was that David achieved his overwhelming preference of being appointed as Principal of Whitebridge from the beginning of 1986.

"The eleven years as Principal at Whitebridge have been the most satisfying and challenging of my whole career", David said.

Highlights during this period include:

- Eight Minister's Awards for Excellence in Student Achievement in successive years – an achievement unequalled by any other school
- Introduction of much wider curriculum, new electives, & more subjects
- Outstanding successes & achievements academically, in the arts, & with various sporting teams
- The building renovations, ground improvements, & the new music block.

David retired at the end of 1996, & still lives at their pleasantly located home in Merewether with his wife Lavinia (who was also a teacher). They have three daughters & three grandchildren.

David is actively involved with his church, enjoys walking, tennis & golf. Retirement has included some overseas travel, with forward plans to visit Canada & Alaska, & visit their daughter in Los Angeles next year.

In honour of his outstanding service to the Whitebridge High School community, there are several awards presented each year appropriately named the 'Renton Award for Student Excellence' & David still continues to be actively involved in the presentation ceremonies.

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May you all have a merry, healthy and safe Christmas and may the new year be wonderful and prosperous for you.

At this time of rejoicing may we take the time to remember those who are less fortunate; for whom so little is so much.

#### In this edition

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**Reunions—Classes of '87 and '63/'64/'65**

**Peter Imberger Memorial Award**

**2008 Back to School event**

**Last meeting summary & next meeting details**

#### 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.

Thank you to Allan Searant for his contributions in this newsletter.

## Reunions and forthcoming events

### 20 year anniversary

The 20 year anniversary of the year 10 (1987) was held on 20th October at Club Panthers in Newcastle with a great attendance of some 80 former students. It was reported to be a hugely successful evening, so much so that planning for the 25th anniversary is already underway.

Further feedback and photographs can be accessed on the dedicated website at:

[www.whitebridgehighreunion.com](http://www.whitebridgehighreunion.com)



L-R: Caroline Dando, Julie Field, Nicole Searant, Leanne Weaver



L-R: Justine Bryden, Kimberley Ramplin, Jody Morris

### Classes starting 1963/64/65 Reunion



The trailblazers—the class of '63-68

The Class of '64-69—enough said





**‘Twas a very good year—Class of ‘65-70**

More photos can be found at:  
<http://www.happymediumphoto.com.au/eshop>

Next year will be the 10th, 20th, 30th, 40th and 25th year anniversary for the years of 1998, 1988, 1978, 1968 and 1983 respectively. If you were in one of these years you may wish to coordinate an event with the 45th

## Acknowledgements

The Whitebridge Xers would like to express our sincere gratitude to the organisers of the ‘63, 64 & 65 reunion for organising a raffle to raise funds for us. The proceeds of that raffle and together with generosity of Central Charlestown Leagues club which only charged for food consumed on the evening enabled Janice Battles, Leonie Franks, Loris Hope, Leonie Stobbart and Julie Turnbull to contribute \$1000 to the Xers. Thank you too to all the ex-students who attended on the evening and made the event such a wonderful experience.



The Sydney Olympic Games relay torch which the late Peter Imberger was privileged to carry through Lismore on 23rd August 2000 has been donated to the school in Peter’s memory by Allan Searant on behalf of the Whitebridge High Ex Students and Staff Association . It has been transformed into a perpetual trophy in his honour and will be called the ‘Peter Imberger Memorial Award for Sportsperson of the Year’.

The initial award has gone to Year 9 trampolining champion Shaun Swadling.



## 2008 Back to School Event

Coordinating activities for the Back to School event will start in earnest at the first meeting on 1 February 2008. Brian Goodwin and Lorraine McEwan will be liaising with the School Council as arrangements progress.

Originally the event was to be called a School Fete, but many feel this is too old fashioned. Any ideas? What do you think the event should be called?

A dinner committee Anne Morley, Julie Kennedy, David Podmore and Paul Jeffress are organising the dinner to be held at Western Suburbs Leagues Club in the evening. Tickets will be available early in 2008 and details will be advised on the website at: <http://www.whxers.org.au/>

## New Business cards

**Whitebridge High School  
Ex Students and Staff Association**

- Attend reunions and renew old acquaintances
- Assist your school to maintain a community identity
- Contribute to the welfare and profile of your old school

Attached are business cards which are now available for circulation at reunions and other functions. The cards can be used to alert potential members to the existence of the Xers and the goals and objectives it sets out to

- Assist your school to maintain a community identity
- Contribute to the welfare and profile of your old school
- Celebrate school anniversaries and special events
- Promote your business to your old school friends
- Check out our website to see what's happening

For more info visit our website on [www.whxers.org.au](http://www.whxers.org.au)



potential members to the existence of the Xers and the goals and objectives it sets out to achieve.

Thanks to Lorraine McEwan and Brian Goodwin for coordinating the design and to Ian Wilson for the printing of the cards.

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## Last meeting 30th November 2007

1. Keep your eye on the Xers website—a major upgrade is in the wings.
2. Brian Goodwin will carry the planning details for the 2008 Back to School Event to the next School Council meeting.
3. Committees are now being formed for the 2008 event and dinner. Please volunteer—we need your help.
4. Janice and Allan are expanding the database of potential Xer members. If you know of anyone who might like to hear of the Xers please advise Janice, Allan or Lorraine.

## Next meeting

The next meeting is to be held 1 February 2008. 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.

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Questions or comments? Email us at [jeffress@optusnet.com.au](mailto:jeffress@optusnet.com.au)   [nik\\_trav@hotmail.com](mailto:nik_trav@hotmail.com)