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Some of the new 'past students' in St George
A REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT



A past 'past student' - Quirky



Here I am, back from a brief southern sojourn to Brisbane, the west and Sydney just today and I find instructions from Helen that I have to do a report for the imminent Kinawah **immediately**. She's a slave driver that one - just as well we love her.

Our AGM and reunion in St. George was **MAGNIFICENT!** I was so pleased to meet past students I had never met before, catch up with a bloke I hadn't seen since the day we both left Slade in 1968 and also enjoy the company of the usual suspects who make these reunions such a pleasure.

The hospitality of the "locals" (basically we counted that as anyone who lives within a distance of 150 km of St. George) was marvellous and while I couldn't stay after the Sunday morning river cruise, I believe a good time was had by all with the bus tour, the winery visit and the Sunday night BBQ.

Straight to business.

All present unanimously endorsed the appointment of Bishop Rob Nolan as our new Patron of the Slade/St Catharine's Past Students' Association. We are thrilled that Rob accepted our offer to take up that position after the passing of Bishop Adrian, and I am sure he will continue the tradition of our Patron being both a spiritual sounding board and inspiration to us all. Welcome "Bishop Bob of the Bush"; there couldn't be a more worthy person to take the role.

We said goodbye and thank you to Paul Holland as he stood down from his position as Museum Curator. You would all be astounded at the massive amount of work Paul has done over the past decade or more to ensure the future of the museum as an historical yet living monument to our founders, all past students and teachers since the founding of the schools. I cannot praise his efforts anywhere near enough to give you an idea of his dedication to the position of curator. Somehow I don't think that Paul will be a blushing violet when it comes to helping, advising and badgering the committee on many matters in the future and, as always, we will welcome his advice, good humour and encouragement. We elected Bruce Mauch to replace Paul. Bruce, being a Warwick local, is well placed to oversee the preservation of our history and has worked closely with Paul in recent times so he is well aware of the task he is undertaking. Bruce wasn't able to attend the AGM, but we took Paul's word that he was happy to accept the appointment.

The only other change to the committee was to elect Steve Cook to the newly created position of Director in charge of Fellowship, Entertainment, New Members and whatever else we can load on his broad shoulders. Steve wasn't able to be with us at St. George but hopefully many of us will be able to catch up with him at the reunion in October where, with his role as fellowship and entertainment director he should be shouting us all drinks!

A very important proposal was moved by Peter Ramsay and Paul Holland to establish a Special Projects' Fund to assist the new school in renovating Slade House, especially the old "billiards room" which the Warwick Christian College would like to restore to its former glory and make available as a meeting and function room.

The meeting agreed to transfer \$10,000 from our general unallocated funds to kick start things. Our treasurer advises that this will not impact unduly on our financial situation.

However, we still need to raise a substantial amount from donations for this work to go ahead. I ask members to make a donation to the fund in accordance with what you are able to afford as this will vary from person to person. We feel that we have a wonderful opportunity here to indelibly cast the names of the founders of Slade and St. Catharine's into the very heart of the new college, Slade House, and at the same time acknowledge the input of our association in bringing all of this together. I ask you all to seriously consider this request. I have enough Scottish blood to hate it when people ask me for a donation, but in this case I will happily make an exception and forward a donation to the Fund. I ask you all to please give generously. Representatives of the committee will discuss with the WCC what we, as an association, can do to best ensure the funds raised are spent judiciously. The school has put forward some ideas and quotations so we have a starting point already.

Finally, if you know of any past students who are not members of the Association, please encourage them to join. At the AGM we talked of a future that just a few years ago was not possible. We will be encouraging the young students coming through the WCC to join when they graduate, but, as you know, it usually takes some time for the urge to join such a group emerges, so we think we will have a period of ten to fifteen years from now before we can happily hand over the running to the younger generation. To cover this period we need more members, especially from the 70s, so please keep your eyes out for possible members.

Ray Dickson
(President)

Report for Kinawah for St George Weekend 2013

Regardless of the year you attended St. Catharine's or Slade the camaraderie and friendship shared on the St George weekend was enjoyed by all who attended. But Where Were The Boys? The girls outnumbered the boys 3:1. Thank you so much to Jenny Schonfisch who organized quite a few girls from her year. I am sure it will change next year as Steve Cook was nominated at a Social Organiser. Each year the AGM takes the same format - meeting, dinner and bus trip. So come along next year and join in

whatever part of the weekend you wish. Do not worry if there is no one there from your year, it is great to share all your memories of your school days with whoever is attending. In 2014 the AGM and Reunion will be held in Warwick at the Slade campus where we'll be able to see what changes have been made. We would love to see more Past Students attending.

Margaret Stewart

Minutes of the Annual General Meeting of SSPSA

Merino Motor Inn, St George Saturday, 8 June 2013

President, Ray Dickson, welcomed those present, particularly the 'first timers' and thanked those who had travelled long distances to be there.

Present: Ray Dickson, Paul Holland, Peter Ramsay, Margaret Stewart, Helen Moloney, Joan Austin, Madeline Blyth, Jenny Schonfisch, Trish Spies, Pat Tite, Judy Stevens, Janet Billing, Robyn Schutt (Rayner), Helen Moloney, Kay Collier (Sutton), Bob Zeller, Paul Masson, Robyn Bowhay, Beryl Masson, Helen Spinks, Rhonda McKee (Codrington), Selwyn Price

Apologies: Gloria, Mogridge, Coolah Cassimatis (Malanas), John Bayliss, Gloria Coombe, Margaret Melton, Rob Nolan, Alan Donovan, Jocelyn Martin, Sara Bucher, John Nantes, Neville McPherson, Lin Cox, John and Estelle Drynan, Natalie Ferris, Jock McDonald, John Stibbard, Alan Meiklejohn, Chelmer Roots, John Henning, Joan and Bruce Campbell, Betty McKenzie, Beth Calcino, Alison Whitley, Dee Bucknell, Leon Billing, Nigel Faulkner, Steve Cook, Steve Rowan, Walter Robb,

Minutes of Previous Meeting:

Moved Ray Dickson, seconded Peter Ramsay that the minutes be accepted as read. *Carried*

Correspondence:

Inward – Margaret McKinnon re Slade Lives Again

Outward- Margaret McKinnon- thanking her for her hard work to save Slade

Ron Bellingham – thanking him for his support to save Slade.

Moved Peter Ramsay, seconded Paul Holland that the inward correspondence be received and the outward adopted. *Carried*

Reports:

Ray Dickson presented his President's report orally.

Museum Report:

Paul Holland has relinquished this position as his business is keeping him busy. He nominated Bruce Mauch for the position as it would be better if there was someone in Warwick who could take on the position. Paul was thanked for all the work he did with the museum.

Kinawah:

Helen Moloney reported that she is happy to continue with the Kinawah. However she really needs people to contribute. She is now publishing

4 Kinawahs a year as this is all the information that she can gather.

Financial Report: In Nigel's absence Paul Holland presented the financial statement showing a credit balance of \$29 821. Moved Paul seconded Peter Ramsay that the financial report be adopted. *Carried*

Election of Office Bearers: Ray vacated the chair to be replaced by Paul Holland for the election of Office Bearers.

Patron: Bishop Rob Nolan nominated by Ray Dickson, seconded Madeline Blyth. *Carried*

As the following people expressed a desire to continue in their roles a bulk nomination was moved by Paul Holland and seconded by Paul Masson that the following be appointed. *Carried*

President: Ray Dickson
Vice President: Peter Ramsay
Treasurer: Nigel Faulkner
Secretary: Margaret Stewart
Kinawah Editor: Helen Moloney
Web Site Editors: Walter Robb, Harry Haxton
Archivist: Ted Ross
Reg/Reps: John Bayliss, John Henning, Richard Cleal, John Farqhar, Jenny Schonfisch.

Museum Curator: Bruce Mauch nominated by Paul Holland, seconded Peter Ramsay. *Carried*

Social Organiser (Reunions): Steve Cook nominated by Paul Holland, seconded Peter Ramsay. *Carried*

General Business:

Restoration of Slade House:

A report of the positive happenings at Slade campus was presented to the meeting.

Peter Ramsay put forward a proposal (see below) outlining the establishment of a 'Special Projects Fund' that could be used to refurbish the old billiard room in Slade House. Any funds left over would be used for maintenance of the museum and other memorabilia around the grounds. After a donation of \$10 000 by the Association, as suggested by the Treasurer, it will mean that Past Students will still be required to make donations of whatever they feel they can offer.

Moved Peter Ramsay, seconded Paul Holland that the amount of \$10 000 be donated by the association and that the proposal be accepted. *Carried*

Air conditioning of museum: After a lengthy discussion it was moved by Helen Moloney, seconded by Paul Masson that an air conditioner be installed in the museum and that the WCC be approached to pay for the power, as it will be incorporated into their electricity account. *Carried*

Meeting Closed at 4:30

Next AGM: Warwick – 2014 June long weekend.

SLADE CAMPUS



Proposal for the establishment of a 'Special Projects Fund'

Proposed by Peter Ramsay and Paul Holland

Most of us are now aware, Slade, now called Warwick Christian College (Slade Campus) is once again a fully functional school offering a Christian Education to the people of Warwick and surrounding districts.

The SSPSA has for some time played an active role in promoting this outcome and we are pleased to see this finally become reality.

Our association has always maintained a presence at the school being active in the setting up of our museum, the installation of the stained glass windows in the old class room block (now chapel) and many other projects most of which were completed with your donations and volunteer labour.

The opportunity now presents for us to establish a lasting legacy to the founding fathers of both our schools and the involvement of the SSPSA.

With the restoration of Slade House now well under way we have been offered the 'old billiards room' as most of us knew it, to refurbish and convert into a board room for use by the college and community for meetings and small functions. Should we accept this project we can name the room in honour of our founders and display memorabilia, photographic and portrait likenesses of these men and women as well as acknowledging the involvement of SSPSA.

When considering this proposal we should not concern ourselves with the persuasion of present nor past administrations. We should remember that the very same bricks and mortar that provided for us as students still remain and most of the original buildings and surrounds retain the same names i.e. Slade Campus, Slade House etc.

Should we agree to go ahead with this proposal I move that we create a 'special projects fund' and establish this by moving an amount of \$10,000 from general unallocated funds. This would need to be supported with an equivalent amount from donations and would require about 100 of our members (approx. 1/3 of our membership) to give an **average** of \$100 towards the cause.

The setting up of this 'special projects' fund would see it not only be used to refurbish the proposed

board room but also maintain the museum, various plaques and other items.
I commend this motion to you as a worthy and worthwhile venture.

We have a wonderful opportunity to remain affiliated with the old school we all remember and that has once again a role to play as an educational facility in the Warwick Community. Please give this matter your sincere consideration.

Peter and Paul

MUSEUM REPORT



MEMORIAL SERVICE for (PAST STUDENTS OF SLADE and ST. CATHARINE'S)

Two verses from Laurence Binyon's poem,
For the Fallen

They went with songs to the battle, they
were young,
Straight of limb, true of eye, steady and
aglow.
They were staunch to the end against
odds uncounted,
They fell with their faces to the foe.

They shall not grow old, as we that are
left grow old;
Age shall not weary them, nor do the
years condemn.
At the going down of the sun and in the
morning
We will remember them.

The Fallen

Henry Chapman
Tom Clark
Cyril (Squirrel) Collas
Noel (Nobby) Flitcroft
Tom Freeman
Merv Gillman
Blanche Hempstead
Evered (Dad) McCasker
R.S McLeod
Ray Marstella
Ted (Snub) Pollard
J Rowe
Henry (Barry) Rowland
Bill (Rudder) Rudd
John Shaw

Peter Stephenson
Hec Wickham
Bob Withers
Tom Woolley
Wally Wynn

**Let us also remember these other
schoolmates who died in the service of their
country:**

Neil Boden
Michael Curtis
John Davies

CONGRATULATIONS!

Trevor Edward Gray was awarded a Medal (OAM) in the General Division for "Service to the Communities of Inglewood and Texas" in the latest Queensland Day Awards. Trevor's location was listed as Anstead, Qld. - a Brisbane suburb. Trevor attended Slade School from 1951-57 and was no. 886 on the school roll. He had an older brother, Kerry (deceased 2003 from cancer), who attended Slade from 1949-54. In 2001 he was the current chair of the Inglewood Shire Council.

LETTERS

The integrity of a newspaper is measured by its willing-ness to accept criticism, advice and input from its readers. Letters also reveal the insights of its readers who have been inspired by the newsletter to share their life experiences with other readers. If you become so inspired, I urge you to write to The Editor.

Dear Helen,
We said our sad farewells to Niel at Macquarie Park Crematorium last Tuesday, Niel having passed away on 15 May just short of his 86th birthday. The service was well attended and Glyn and Margaret Blackwood, John Casey, Richard Harvey, Nola Wilson (the late Geoff's wife) and Brian and Denise Self represented Past Students. Wife, Margaret, arranged a very meaningful service conducted by Father Keith Dalby (an interesting name knowing Niel's association with the town of Dalby), a high church Anglican Minister (very appropriate). The Eulogy was given by son, Peter, and daughter, Sonia, who gave us many insights into Niel's life, a number of which were new to me. Niel would have been very proud of them as he was of Margaret, youngest daughter, Diana, and the Grandchildren. Grandson, Ryan, read the lesson. When I started at Slade in a pre scholarship class in 1943, Niel would have been in his junior year. Niel was a very generous and loyal member of the school community, a believer in fair play and all that is right (qualities that he held during his live), a prefect, a good athlete especially anything that required lots of stamina and was a member of the 1st Football, Swimming and

Athletic teams. Tennis and cricket held no interest to him. He was always a character, at times exuberant and noisy, at other times very quiet and pensive. On completing his senior certificate, he went to the Teacher's Training College and taught in some country schools until he decided to apply for a Sale's Representative job at Nestles where he spent 44 happy years, many of which were in senior sales and marketing managerial roles along the East Coast of Australia. We met up again when I returned from overseas in 1972 and he and Margaret and family were living in Sydney. Since then we enjoyed many happy get togethers along with the Blackwoods, the Wilsons, the Ellises, the Harveys and the Rosses. He loved a party and he and Margaret were generous hosts. Our wives tended to switched off because they heard the same battles won and lost so many times. We had a strong bunch of past students in Sydney but now as we get older, it is sadly dwindling. Niel's passing will present a big void, not only in our group but for the Past Students Association for whom he worked so hard over many years. I think he was the No 1 Life Member? Niel leaves a loving wife and family and many friends. We will all miss him.
Brian Self

Dear Helen,

Niel was a most exuberant character who always led from the front and indeed he contributed much to Slade. He started as a representative for Nestles and was to end up being the Australian General Manager. A lover of Rugby Union he loved nothing more that to see Australia play and followed them to various parts of the world to see their matches

I personally was on his Committee whilst he was the Pres. and it was always full steam ahead. He will be missed

J. S. (Steve) Rowan

Dear Helen,

I will use the first paragraph to introduce myself and then you'll know where we all fit into the old school days. I, Bruce Trevethan, went to Slade from 1952 -55.

Now the reason for this short note is to mention that I attended a funeral at Cecil Plains for Gloria Elizabeth Fry, and during the service, which was held in the quaint Anglican Church, there was considerable mention of Gloria's attendance at St Catharine's where she learnt to play the piano. This allowed her to provide many, many years of playing the music for all the church services and, I believe in Millmerran as well as Cecil Plains.

I realise this name would not register on the roll of St Cath's so I thought this was a good time to pass on a small piece of information on old students.

She was Gloria Swan, and yes she was a relative to the Treasurer, Wayne Swan, their fathers were

brothers. Her sister, Gail, who also attended St Cath's, was also at the funeral.

The roll can be further updated by the addition of my two sisters who also went to school there.

Gloria Swan, married Des Fry (both deceased) at St Cath's 1958-59

Gail Swan married Ed Makowiecki, St Cath's 1960-61.

Fay Trevethan, married John Kraemer, St Cath's 1951-52

Beverly Trevethan, married Ron Fredericksen, St Cath's 1955-56

These four students lived at Amiens, a village town outside Stanthorpe, that was settled by a soldier's settlement after the First World War.

Yours faithfully,

Bruce

(Thank you for this information, Bruce, it's always great to hear about past students – although I'm not sure you supplied the correct dates for Gail as she was there some of the same years as me i.e. 1962-64. I didn't include the addresses in this communication but I'm guessing that if anyone wanted to contact any of the girls I could pass on their information)

WWW.SSPSA.COM.AU

Log on to view history, news, photos, coming events and much more.

If you aren't on the internet you could visit a library or a friend to see what has been happening. Beware of Bobby Fulton 'look-a-alikes' and a man wearing a kilt!

Enjoy!

IF YOU HAVE AN EMAIL ADDRESS WHICH WE DON'T HAVE, PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN ADVISE YOU WHEN THE NEXT KINAWAH IS AVAILABLE TO BE VIEWED ON THE WEBSITE.

You also receive little bulletins between Kinawahs.

Dear Helen,

I would like to thank you very much for the efforts that you put in to making the weekend such a great success.

We had a barbecue at the motel on Sunday night. David and I went shopping for sausages and some salad ingredients whilst the others had time at the big egg.

The bus driver was great in taking us to the shop and then back to the motel.

The lady at the motel arranged cutlery, plates and bowls for us.

I feel sure they all enjoyed the night and it was a great way to finish the weekend.

I hope you enjoy this message as I think it is so appropriate for the weekend.

Kindest Regards, *Jenny*

TO THE GIRLS

What's so poignant about this picture?
Well, it shows a line of little girls holding hands,
facing the immensity of ocean waves.
Alone they might be washed away, but together
they stand strong.
Thank you each for holding my hand somewhere
along the way when I was facing a wave of my
own.
I hope you will reach for my hand when your own
wave threatens.



All of us girls....Old and young....Near and far....
Hold special memories of good times we've
shared.
We've had our share of hard times when our
friends were there to make us feel better.
We've shared.....our hearts.....our time.....our
secrets.....our fears.....our hopes and our
dreams.
Let us never break the chain of friends!



Stranger Things Have Been Known to Happen

I had an inkling the weekend was going to be interesting and full of surprises. It started with us bumping into almost the entire executive when we called into Moonie on the way to the reunion for a comfort stop. No sooner had I walked into the all purpose store that served the little township for just about anything, than I spied our secretary, newsletter editor and their partners sitting at a table having refreshments. I had the Vice Pres

with me, so, except for Pres Ray Dickson, we almost had enough for a committee meeting. After many 'fancy seeing you here' comments, we, i.e., Pete Ramsay – driver; Maddy Blyth – one woman radio station, Joan Austin – gentle director of proceedings and myself - soon to be replaced Museum Curator, finished our coffees and set off for St George, with me regaling my company with local folklore tales.

As a young fella of 8 I came all the way out west from a little farm in Rochedale, near Brisbane with my family, Dad having drawn a block of land by ballot under the Returned Soldier Settlement program. There I was thrust into an alien and to me, strange environment. I was soon to learn what a wood combustion stove was, an outhouse consisting of a rabbit warren under a Wilga tree; thirty-two volt electricity driven by a noisy diesel generator; brackish bore water that had to be shared by the whole family in one bath sitting and stick fast fleas that hounded the hounds, chewed the chooks and any other animal territory they could attach themselves to in their thousands.

To cap it off, school was twenty miles one way and thirty miles the other. St George, the more distant township, was blessed with having a hostel run by the local C of E under the rule of a little bird-like bloke called Brother Bevan who was not only the hostel's manager, but also the local vicar. So there I was, sent with my two sisters to board during the week, at the end of which we were ferried back to our property, "Eurobodalla", a name the locals never pronounced correctly by refusing to place the stress on the second syllable. In usual western laid back style, they rolled the name off their tongues like a sleepy frog, lolling in a heated billabong - U-ribidalla, U-ribidalla

The hostel was to me a training ground for what was to come three years later when I was sent to boarding school at Slade. There were some interesting parallels. The food at the hostel was hostile as were the kids who used to confront me every time I headed back to the hostel after school. Invariably I was accosted by the Wilson kids, all four of them. They had a ritual of establishing the pecking order by bashing up any new boys, particularly if they were from the hostel. It was my first but not last time to be held down by a couple of boys and bashed. I was introduced to that by Barry B and Michael S in the first week of school at Highfields. However, it was the only time I had been held down by two boys by the arms and legs while their wiry sisters took turns in sitting on my chest and punching me repeatedly in the face. Strangely, in both instances, I suffered very little damage to my body, but my dignity was severely pulverized.

Of course, I was very much out of my element and kids can sense this instinctively, the less

sympathetic taking advantage of your insecurity and exploiting the opportunity to show others how tough they are. This was particularly true when I arrived at the school half way through my grade 4 year. No time to orient myself, no introductions like a new boy at the beginning of the year. I was to find out later, that my teacher was going through similar traumas. Fresh out of school herself, she was given the task of sorting out the “all-so-rans”, kids that were scholastically challenged, mal-behaved and generally left over from classes that had too many students for a teacher to handle. Then, just as unpredictably, she was given a Year 4 class half way through the year, the ASRs having been sorted out among the other teachers or sent off to Opportunity School.

Among her new class was the traumatised kid from Eurobodalla who, unlike the rest of the class had only just arrived from the east. Needless to say, the classroom was a safe haven. It was outside that was dangerous - not within the grounds, as big sister was there for me to hide behind, but on the footpath between the school and the hostel.

Fifty-five years later, members of the Slade-St Catharine’s Past Students are having dinner together at the Merino Motel in St George having just that day celebrated the first AGM after their old school had been purchased by the Warwick Christian College. New life has been breathed into the “school on the hill”. Many of those present came from the St George and surrounding areas and the one thing they all had in common was they attended sibling schools in Warwick, founded by the same people and within the same church. In no time at all, stories are told and connections from the past begin to emerge. This person was related distantly to that person. Friends are found to have been shared and many paths have crossed coincidentally.

I was having a lovely chat to a diminutive lady who taught in the area for many years. In fact, now in her early seventies, she revealed she was still doing some relief work locally, at St George State Primary School, in fact. Of course, I revealed I had attended the school in my primary years. Rhonda McKee, my new companion, was quick to reveal that her first teaching position at the age of 18 was the same school in 1958. This was the very year I arrived – half way through the year, a frightened little 8 year old city kid, and was thrust into the Grade 4 class that Rhonda had just been handed.

Now, five and half decades later, I had met my Grade 4 teacher, a St Catharine’s past student and someone who had even more in common as we were about to find out. Not only did she know of the property I came from, but she was a close friend of our next door neighbours, Betty and

Gordon McCosker, on a property named “Dundee”.

When our family arrived on Eurobodalla, there was nothing there other than trees, native animals and a few cleanskin cattle – no home – no shearing shed - no yards – not even a dunny. It was the McCoskers that held out a welcoming hand. They offered their yards and shearing shed and anything else we needed to get started. They were without doubt the most generous and warm people anyone would care to meet and Rhonda was their friend. Gordon passed away many years ago, caused by ill health due to years as a POW during WWII. He was taken much too early, but Betty, now in her nineties still lives on her own in the old homestead, unchanged from when we first arrived. The school teacher in Rhonda soon rose to the surface.

“Now you give her a call, do you hear? She will love hearing from you. Promise me you’ll call Betty.”

I promised and I did call. The last time I spoke to Betty McCosker was about fifteen years ago when I took my family out to Eurobodalla to show where I spent most of my young life. The property was so changed I could barely recognise it myself. It had been almost entirely denuded for cotton growing and so I took my daughters next door to Dundee to give them an idea of what it was like when I lived there. Memories flowed back to the days when I used to ride over to visit the McCosker family and to use their yards for drenching and jetting the sheep. There was always a cup of tea and lots of delicious cakes and scones. Their two boys, David and Terry were younger than me, but I always enjoyed their company. Two more sons, Phillip and Paul were to arrive later, but the two older boys would often share mustering and help each other during shearing and those times when sheep had to be yarded for maintenance, ear tagging, tail lopping, marking, etc. In particular, I remember thanking Betty for those early years when they helped a struggling family adjust to their new life.

Betty and I had the best of chats. There were lots of reminiscing and I am so glad I was able to reconnect with her and my past.

Thank you, Rhonda for being there at our reunion. You have made an old Slade boy very happy. Oh! And thank you for providing sanctuary for a scared little boy in your Grade 4 class. Though I have scant memories of that time, I know that classroom was friendly and warm as I have not a single bad memory of that school. It was the road to purgatory represented by that impoverished hostel that was hardest to travel.

Paul “Louie” Holland

PS To get a good feel for what it was like to arrive 'green' in the brown of the outback around mid-western Queensland, I recommend you read past student Joan 'Clothier' White's book "Brigalow, Billy Cans and Bottle Trees". Reading that beautifully written book was like travelling back home.



VALE



Helen Stewart (Fraser) St Catharine's 1947-48
passed away on the 28th March, 2013

Betty Bates (Deshon) St Catharine's 1937-43
passed away 2013.
(If anyone has more information re these entries could you send it in and I'll include it in the next edition)

Mrs Henning – mother of Ann, Barbara, John, Richard, Peter, Kathy and Stuart who attended Slade and St Catharine's over a period of 22 years. She passed away peacefully at the beginning of June, 2013.

Niel Arthur Quirk - Slade School 1942 - 1946;
No 358 on the school roll and our first Honorary Life Member. Junior 1943; Senior 1946; Colours in Football; Half Colours in Swimming; Athletic Team; Prefect; Cadet Lieut.
(Brian Self tells all about Niel in the 'Letters' section.)

PER VOLAR SONATA – PATRIBUS DIGNI ESTOTE
(Born to fly higher - be worthy of our Forebears)

Photo Wall

The photo on the first page depicts a few of our first timers – Kay Collier (Sutton), Jocelyn Martin (Wright) and Rhonda McKee (Codrington) at the Reunion Dinner.



Ray Dickson, Bruce Stewart, Beryl and Paul Masson, Helen Moloney, Robyn Bowhay (Schwennesen), Judy Stevens (Fletcher), Paul Holland, Madeline Blyth, Peter Ramsay, Joan Austin, Russell Spies, Jan Billing (Bell), Margaret Stewart, Jenny Schonfisch, Bob Zeller, Robyn Schutt (Rayner), Trish Spies (Marshall) and Graham Stevens about to board the Sandytown River Cruise on Sunday morning.



Some of the locals greeted us to St George.



'First Timers', or close to, included Robyn Schutt, Jan Billing, Bob Zeller and Judy Stevens



Pat Tite from Roma brought along her daughter, Helen Spinks, who showed off the school blazer they shared some 30 years apart.



A visit to the winery meant we didn't leave empty handed.



Soon the meeting will begin – when the chit chat's over!

The following articles were sent to the Balonne Beacon and Western Star for publication in the hope that some Past Students may read at least one of them and contact the association to renew acquaintances.

St George Welcomes Warwick Past Students.

Over the Queen's Birthday long weekend St George played host to the Past Students of Slade and St Catharine's Schools for their Annual General Meeting and Reunion Dinner. Students travelled from as far away as Townsville, Forster in NSW, Brisbane, Cooroy and Toowoomba to join 'local' past students from Roma, Yuleba, Goondiwindi and St George.

The members of the Slade and St Catharine's Past Student Association commenced the weekend with their AGM at the Merino Motor Inn where President Ray Dickson especially welcomed first time attendees and newcomers to St George. Election of office bearers saw most positions retained by the 'sitting members' except for Bishop Rob Nolan, bishop of the Western Region, who was elected as Patron after the passing of Bishop Adrian Charles. Glenmorgan farmer John Henning is this region's association representative.

After a walk along the landscaped Balonne River bank the visitors enjoyed a formal dinner hosted, once again, by the Merino Motor Inn.

Greeted by a mild Sunday morning the group set off on a Sandytown Cruise along the town stretch of the river viewing the myriad of wild life and admiring the scenes of the township along its banks. A bus tour of the town then showed the group the best St George has to offer which included a visit to the Riversands Winery where they enjoyed a Cream Tea sampling the locally made grape jam along with an assortment of wines. Visiting Steve Margaritis at the Unique Egg provided an entertaining half hour before they proceeded to the Nindigully Pub for lunch.

The past students meet every year over the long weekend at various towns throughout Queensland to conduct the AGM and catch up with old school mates. They thoroughly enjoyed their visit to St George and look forward to next year when they will meet in Warwick at the Slade campus once again. Anyone wishing to find out more about the Past Students Association and its activities can ring President Ray Dickson on 07 4775 3139.

Slade School is now owned by the Christian Community Ministries and is known as the Warwick Christian School, Slade Campus. St Catharine's School ceased classes in 1975 and joined Slade to form a co-educational school until it closed in 1997. It was used by Churchie and then purchased by the then Warwick City Council before the Christian Community Ministries acquired it in 2012.

Roma Locals Attend School Reunion.

Pat Tite and her daughter, Helen Spinks, along with Selwyn Price, attended the Slade and St Catharine's Past Students Association's AGM and Reunion Dinner in St George over the Queen's Birthday long weekend. Other students travelled from as far away as Townsville, Forster in NSW, Brisbane, Cooroy and Toowoomba to join 'local' past students from Yuleba, Goondiwindi and St George.

Helen, who attended St Catharine's Church of England Girl's School from 1972 to 1974, brought along her old school blazer which she had shared with her mother who had attended the school about 30 years before. The blazer shows the badges from both eras. She also wears her beret, school badge and the white detachable collar that adorned the navy school uniform.

(And then as above)