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The Founders' Room is Open for Business



The first function held in the SSPSA's Founder's Room was most fittingly the birthday celebrations for Margaret McKinnon. An article and a letter from her are included in the following pages.

A REPORT FROM THE PRESIDENT



A lot has happened since my last report but I will try to summarise everything without going on for too long. My first visit to Slade in more than 12 months was on 11th October, the day prior to the 60's reunion. Peter Ramsay, Steve Cook and I travelled up from Brisbane and parked behind the dining room. As I walked around the corner towards the side of Slade House I was momentarily stunned; I saw kids...students...young people...whatever you wish to call them and they were laughing and talking and playing on the lawns.

I felt a sense of elation; this was the first time I had seen children in the school for many, many years. And it was so **right!**

I had the opportunity to meet both the Principal, Terrence McCorkell and the school administrator Sharron DeCourcy and we found out a lot more about Warwick Christian College, their Slade Campus and what the school's plan was for the future. They are absolutely delightful people and I must say I was very impressed with their vision for the future. We spoke about the Past Students' Association and how we can help the school and ensure that the legacy of our founders and all those that followed is not forgotten.

Terrence and Sharron assured us that the Association would always have a part to play in the school's future. This has already been seen with our involvement in the Anzac Day service. Then there was the inaugural presentation of "The Founder's House Trophy", a perpetual prize sponsored by the Past Students' Association and awarded to the winning school house each year. There will also be an Honour Board to have the winning school house's name permanently on display. Thank you to Peter Ramsay and Bruce Mauch who represented the Past Students' Association at the function. Peter was invited to address the school assembly about our vision for future involvement.

When I saw it, the Founders Room had been completed except for the addition of furniture. The end result is now a credit to the school and our assistance; it will be a great addition to the social activities of Warwick itself. It is available for hire and its proximity to the kitchen means meals or snacks can be provided. I can't wait to use it at next year's AGM.

None of this would have been possible without the generous donations made by many of our members. To date over \$9,000 has been received and we would love to take it up to the \$10,000 mark as there are still things we want to do in the room. For example we are looking at retrieving the large portrait of William Ball Slade (formerly in Slade House and currently at Glengallan) or having an exact copy made and suitably framed, so please consider a contribution; it's certainly not too late to help.

Special thanks to Eddy Prior for the restoration of the school bell to its previous pride of place. And of course the necessary repairs to the stained glass windows, with the final two windows to be completed in the near future. More news on that to come. Thanks also to Peter Ramsay for his work in these areas as well.

On Saturday 12th there was the 60's reunion at the Breakfast Creek Hotel. I seem to be able to make this event every second year, and I am always pleasantly surprised at how it is growing. It is fun, there are no speeches and you can see the joy of people who may only get to catch up with their friends at this event. The winner of the "longest distance travelled" was Sanyaluk Plikarnone, who travelled all the way from Bangkok. The students from my year saw him for the first time in 45 years! Thank you for making that trip Sanyaluk; it was great to catch up with you.

More recently we have had our North Queensland reunion (see elsewhere in this issue) which I always enjoy.

I trust that you all have a happy and peaceful Christmas and here's to a fantastic 2014. Until the next Kinawah, cheers.

Ray
(President)



REUNIONS

NORTH QUEENSLAND GROUP PRE-CHRISTMAS GET-TOGETHER

There were 13 of us, past students and partners, who met for dinner at Seagulls' Resort on 23rd November to catch up with what we had all been doing since last year.

Eddie Wickham ('64-'65) and Felice took the award for travelling the most miles to get to it, coming down from Cairns once again (I think that's every year now). It's always great to see them.

Ros (Fraser '61-'64) and Jim Warren came down from Forrest Beach (near Ingham) again. They were at the 60's reunion in Brisbane in October as well, but poor Jim ended up in Greenslopes' hospital the day after (no, not from something he drank; it was two bulging discs) and was in there for four days and is still feeling the pain. We kept a careful eye on him all evening but he got through this reunion with flying colours.

Jock ('55-'57) and Kaye Macdonald were there with their fascinating tales about Western Queensland of years ago. Barry ('48-'51) and Gaye Woodworth was our oldest (sorry, I mean earliest) student attending and while he may not get around as fast as he once did, he still managed to regale us with stories of his younger days.

Sandy (Humbly '67-'68) Mollenhagen came down from Tully and was the youngest student in attendance, (Damn, it would have been me if Sandy hadn't turned up!). Alan Meiklejohn ('55-'59) was there, not long after being recognised for his long-standing dedication to and work for Legacy. The others there were co-organiser Natalie (Budge '50-'52) Ferris and me, Ray Dickson ('66-'68) with my better half Jenny.

We had apologies from Ron & Anne Cover, Dallas Foster, Viva McAuley, John Andison and Ray Menkens. The end result was a great night for all and we look forward to another get-together next year.



SLADE CAMPUS



WHAT'S HAPPENING AT SLADE?

(Reporter - Peter Ramsay)

Hello again! Since my last report I can advise that we have reinstated the 'old school bell'. A big vote of thanks goes to Eddie Pryor who managed to make the Warwick Daily News with an interesting article about how he was able to rescue the bell when things were grim and now happy to return it to its position back on the chapel wall. ([Read the article on the next page.](#))

We are now focusing our attention on the adornment of the 'Founders Room'. Having been unable to locate the original portrait of W.B. Slade that hung in the Head's Study for all those years, we have with the assistance of Jane Morse (granddaughter) located a family portrait that was donated to the Toowoomba Show Society and are in the process of having this copied to take pride of place above the fireplace in our room. Other appropriate portraits and memorabilia including articles from the early years of the St. Catharine's Sisters of the Sacred Advent will complete our arrangements.

I was invited to attend the College Presentation Night held recently and can report that the old St. Catharine's Assembly Hall was packed with students, parents and guests including Directors of the College, the Warwick Mayor and number of local Councillors.

Our association has donated a perpetual trophy 'The Founders Award', which will be presented to the 'Winning House' at the college each year and the result of this recorded on an Honour Board in our room.

Don't forget that our next AGM will present an opportunity for many of us to visit the school again and inspect the results of the generosity afforded by our membership towards the restoration of Slade. It will also be 50 years since I finished at school and I expect there will be many like me who may wish to celebrate this milestone.

The following is a short report from Terrence McCorkell

Connecting with the Past

Warwick Christian College moved into Slade Campus at the end of 2012, and at the end of their first full year on the campus, they report that things are moving forward strongly. Throughout this year, the College has established connections with a number of past students of the original Slade School; particularly those who are members of the Slade St Catherine's Past Students Association (SSPSA).

During November, the SSPSA saw the fruit of their fund-raising effort to refurbish the old Slade House dining room. Now known as the Founders' room, this room has ornate pressed metal ceilings and was once the dining place for the very first ever Slade School students. Now decked out as a dining hall for small functions, the room seats 45 people and played host to its first function during November. The room can be booked for functions and will be a great place for next year's hospitality students to practice their skills. The room was refurbished through the efforts of the SSPSA who paid to have it carpeted, painted and furnished. Warwick Christian College would like to thank the SSPSA for their kind and ongoing support of the College.

As the College moves through to next year they are already seeing strong enrolment interest. The work of SSPSA and many other supporters of the College will ensure the buildings are ready for a great school year in 2014.

The following 2 articles appeared in the Warwick Daily News in October and November, 2013



SO APPROPRIATE: Margaret McKinnon (front, centre) celebrates her birthday with (front) Gloria and Don McKechnie, Neil McKinnon, and (back) Kathryn and Terrence McCorkell.

MARGARET McKinnon could not have imagined a better place to celebrate her birthday than in the hall she fought so hard to save.

Mrs McKinnon and her family and friends were the first to have an event in the fully refurbished function room at Slade House on Saturday night.

"The council wanted to knock Slade down and sell it off to a developer," Mrs McKinnon said.

"Why they wanted to do that, no one knows.

"There was a group of 20 of us who worked tirelessly for two years, doing everything we could to keep this school around."

The site is now occupied by the Warwick Christian College and Mrs McKinnon said it was great to see it being used again.

She was even more excited to be given the opportunity to have her birthday party in the new function room.

"A lot of work has gone into refurbishing Slade House after it was left derelict," Mrs McKinnon said.

"The building was actually condemned and the whole outside has been refurbished and the inside as well.

"This was the original dining room used by the students of Slade in 1926.

"I am absolutely thrilled to be able to use this room tonight."

Mrs McKinnon praised the past students association who funded the majority of the upgrades.

THANKS to a former student, a small but memorable historic item has been re-installed at Slade Campus, now home to Warwick Christian College.

Eddie Pryor, who attended Slade School from 1950-56, had kept the bell from outside the school's chapel safe in his shed on his Jimboomba property since the late 1990s.

"When I heard that Slade was closing down I decided to go for a visit," he said.

"The watchman told me that it was going to be 'dozed for a new development so I decided to take the bell as a keepsake.

"I have been the caretaker of the bell ever since."

When Mr. Pryor, a member of the Slade School Past Students Association, heard the campus was being reopened as a school again he decided it was time to return the bell to its former hanging spot.

During his time at Slade, the bell was used to signal the start and end of school, chapel and the change of school periods.

Warwick Christian College Terrence McCorkell said it was great to have the bell returned.

"When we moved out here it was our goal to get it back into working order," he said.

"We had actually been wondering where it had got to.

"There were a few people who did what Eddie did when the campus was scheduled for demolition and we have had a number of items returned to us - including a noticeboard and the stained glass window for the chapel," Mr. McCorkell said.

The students were equally excited about the bell's return, he said.

"The students know about the bell.

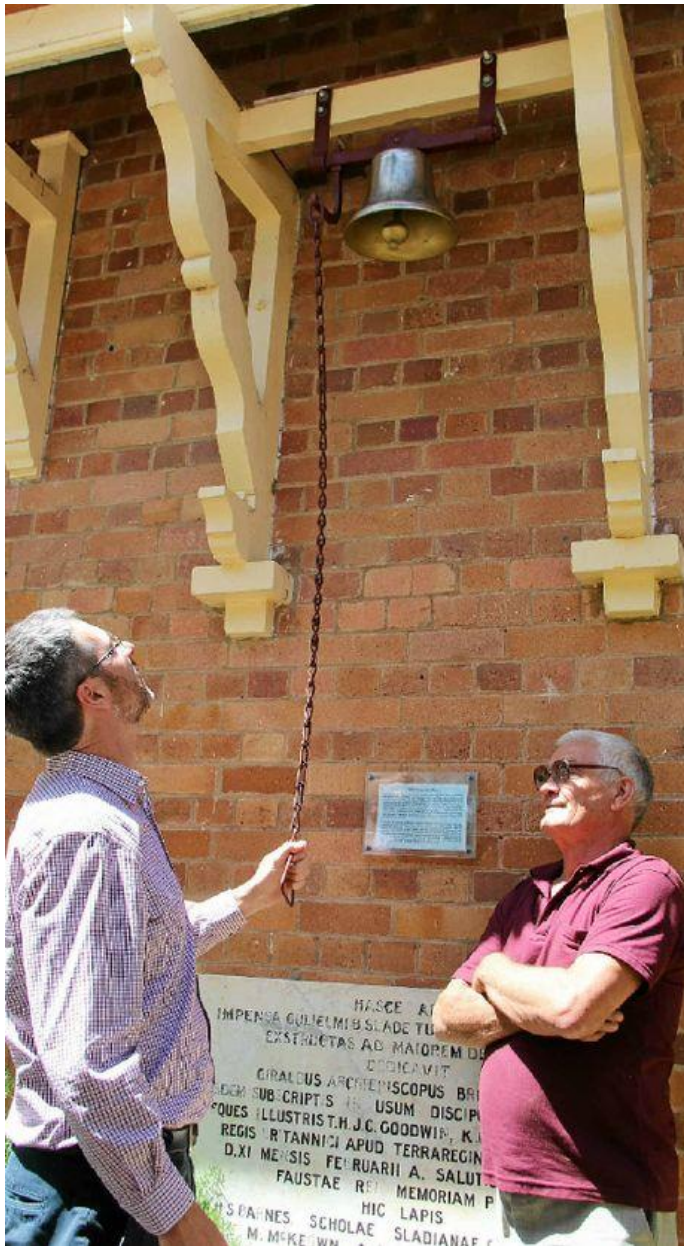
"As part of their curriculum the students have been studying the history of the campus."

The bell was still in the same condition it was in when Mr. Pryor backed up his ute and removed it.

Mr. Pryor said it was a great deal more difficult to hang it back up than it had been to take down.

"I was a lot more agile back then," he said, balanced on top of a ladder.

Mr. McCorkell said he planned to ring the bell to signal the start of chapel and a test ring of the bell yesterday proved students across the campus will not have the excuse of saying they hadn't heard it.



Dear Peter,
What a thrill it was to receive the Past Students' acknowledgement of my efforts to retain Slade, at my birthday Dinner recently. I had no idea what Terrence McCorkell was unwrapping! Thank you so much for the framed newspaper cutting of our original press release. It was simply a privilege to be involved in the campaign to retain such an historic school and property. I could not stand by and watch a purpose built school (a Church school), sold off to a developer!
In hindsight the whole exercise has proved to be such a worthwhile project. With the Christian College setting up school on this lovely property, what a wonderful compromise the outcome has been!
My original idea was to retain the property to alleviate the crowding at the Warwick High School. Although this was not meant to be, the use of the site by the Warwick

Christian College means it is still being used as a school (as planned), while the community has access to parts of the property not currently being used by the school – a very happy situation.

Again, many thanks to the members of your Association for this acknowledgement. The framed article sits on the mantelpiece in the Founders' Room – thank you so much for this recognition.

Yours sincerely,
Margaret McKinnon.



The Good Old Days
How often have we seen and heard
those of a certain age
refer with fondness and soft eyes
back to the good old days.

With wistful faces, distant gazes
they scorn the here and now
in favour of nostalgic things,
forget the worst somehow.

Those pleasant old time memories
oil the cogs of rusty minds and
screen the things not quite so kind
with sympathetic blinds.

But then one dry and waggish sort
with a twinkle in his eye said
'They talk about the good old days
like they want them back again
but let me tell you this my friend,
to go back to the good old days,
just forget to pay your bill
for phone and fuel and power
and you'll get them back,
the good old days, in record time,
and relive them once again.'

Author: Joan Clothier White

You can view Joan's works at
www.joanclothierwhite.com





LETTERS

The integrity of a newspaper is measured by its willingness 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

I am attaching a photo that was taken today at my place We got together for lunch to celebrate Diana Howcroft's (nee Cory) birthday.



From left to right of photo:

Jenny Schonfisch (nee Croft) Diana Howcroft (nee Cory) Judy Stevens (nee Fletcher) Patricia Spies (nee Marshall).

It was a great reunion at the Breakfast Creek Hotel.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank you very much for your efforts for the Association and in particular the great job you do with the Kinawah. Happy Christmas to you and your family. Kindest Regards Jenny

Helen....

Once again I remind you that you really are a dear girl to all of us out there. Would love to know more news of the Hornibrook girls, as I last saw Robyn on the Earl's Court tube station (London) in 71 or 72? We had some distant relations 'in common' so always knew about the family.....but the years have passed and so has the distant connection....where is the rest of the family? Take care, Love Jocelyn Martin

Hello girls,

I thought you all might be interested in reading this interview by the Redlands Times, and appearing in the Southern Bay News Magazine, with Jean (Gordon). Also while I am emailing you I would love you all to come to our Annual Meeting for 2014 on the 2nd weekend in June.

There will be a meeting, dinner at Slade School and a bus trip to Stanthorpe on the Sunday.

You do not have to attend all 3 things.

I am starting to round you all up now!!!!!!!

Let me know if you are coming so I can start a list.

Partners and husbands are welcome too.

Regards,

Margaret (Ree)

Carolann brings adoption story out of the shadows.

By Lyn Uhlmann

Redland's Bay's Carolann Dowding has written a detailed account of her search through adoption secrecy and bureaucracy for her biological family. Carolann, who was an infant adoptee, grew up in the Redlands during the 1950s and attended Redland Bay State School. She said despite having a happy and privileged upbringing in her adoptive family, an inner drive for identity compelled her to find her birth family. "I was determined and refused to be a victim of genetic ignorance," she said.

"I decided I would have a family history even if it took a lifetime, and it did take 20 years."

Through her search, Carolann discovered her birth mother was a station mistress at Ormiston station at the time of her birth.

She later enlisted the help of a private investigator to find her mysterious birth father, who was deceased by the time she discovered who he was.

She said she wrote her memoirs to give voice to an otherwise "marginalised and silenced population".

"Through my own experiences, I discovered there are so many people who don't understand adoption, adoptees or their feelings," she said. "When I went through this big search, I really wanted to tell other people what I went through and what other adoptees go through, although obviously everyone's story is different, and just let the people know."

Carolann said while community attitudes were more accepting of adoption in the present day, when she was a child she "lived in silence about it".

"The silence and secrecy made you feel ashamed, even though you didn't know what you were ashamed of,"

"You felt lower than other children because you knew your birth parents didn't want you."

She said she was shocked to discover from her adoptive parents shortly after starting school that she wasn't their biological child.

"I would have been happy to have been their child," she said. "It was finding out I wasn't that was hard."

Carolann said her search for identity included a name change from Jean Isobel, which her adoptive parents had given her, to her birth name of Carolann, DNA testing, which is still being finalised, and much more.

She said although meeting her birth mother had been challenging, "the journey was worth it". "I could never not have taken it," she said. "I've never been a person to not try. "I have great determination and I really wanted my own background for myself and also to pass on to my children."

She encouraged other adoptees who wanted to search for their birth family to "go in with an open mind".

"Keep in mind that not all reunions are happy," she said. "Remember that we have a deficit of background with our birth relatives, so take reunions slowly and cautiously."

For more information about Carolann's book, **Shadows in Paradise**, visit <http://ipoz.biz/Titles/SIP.htm>

It is available locally at Redland Bay News in Stradbroke Street, Redland Bay and at 'The Lucky Charm News' in High Street, Victoria Point.

The book is also available at Amazon.com and the eBook version is available at major eBook distributors, including eBooks.com, Goodreads and Kobo.

There was a lovely photo of Carolann (Jean as we knew her) with this article but I couldn't transfer it to this production.



THE KITCHEN STOVE

The fire in the kitchen stove,
the hub of hearth and home,
warmed my childhood through and through
too many years ago.

On freezing winter nights and days,
our collars round our ears,
the old wood stove lent warmth and cheer
to tender hearts and years.

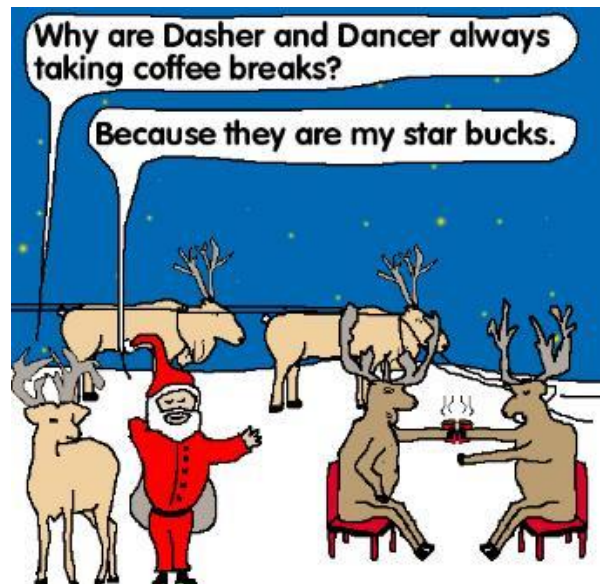
Standing close with hands stretched out
right up to the fire, we'd toast ourselves
both front and back, and say,
it's cold outside, and what's to eat?
it's warm here by the fire.

The kitchen stove burned just the same
through blazing, long, hot summers,
cooked our meals, made pots of tea,
accompanied family matters.

We'd speak of what we'd done that day
and what we'd do tomorrow,
hope for rain, bring in the wood and say
it's hot outside, and what's to eat?
a scorcher here today.

So many conversations
remembered round that fire
and even though it rusted out,
unused, unlit, these many years ago,
the kitchen stove is burning yet,
a warm nostalgic glow.

Author: Joan (Clothier) White



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-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.

mates from those young years remembered and asked after her.

After doing the overland trek to England in a Kombi from Calcutta, Rob found 'Interaction' in London which was an inner-city community which supported disadvantaged kids and which ran a theatre in the West End, the 'Almost Free' where people paid what they could to go, and innovative plays were performed. Robbie became stage manager there, loved the fringe theatre, and lived in London for more than ten years and made lifelong friends. Then with her girlfriend, Janice, they moved to South Africa where she found her real vocation in studying psychology at bachelor and masters level and ran her private practice from home.

Robin stayed in South Africa during turbulent years of apartheid and the transformation to democracy and loved the vibrancy of life there. She then found herself on her own again and ventured into buying a house which she renovated and became the first in the area to start a commune to rent to black students. She also built her own cottage which became her real home and a work of art, where she lived alone for many years. Rob also mentored many young black people, who respected her immensely and saw her as a real 'mother' to them. A quote I found in her diary said 'a living is what you get, a life is what you give.' Robbie was my oldest and dearest sister, and the oldest in our living family. Tempe is my other older sister and was also at St Catherine's in high school and Phoebe and our brother, Sam, are our younger twin sister and brother. Robbie and I were very best friends, as well as sisters – I loved her humour, creativity and ideas and her analytic and insightful mind. Rob was a wonderful aunt to my three daughters, Tempe's four daughters and my brother's daughter and though she was far away she always had a presence in their lives, they felt her love and she was passionately interested in all their challenges and wins.

I've been trying to convince Rob to come back to Australia to live for about 20 years! She loved South Africa but in recent times did make the decision to pack up and come home. We had many conversations about big ideas for the future and settling into retirement in Australia, but then she became ill with cancer and in less than two months, passed away. I was able to get to Rob's side for the last couple of days to be with her. As close family I could attend to her belongings and arrange a local funeral, with many flowers and love from people near and far. Rob had instructed me to bring her ashes back to Australia and scatter into the water in front of the Sydney Opera House, where there is family meaning for us as our grandfather's company built the wonderful white sails roof. The day that we got together, as a family to say our last goodbyes, turned out to be the 40th anniversary of the Opera House, perfect weather of a sunny day and full moon evening. I would much rather have been enjoying the moment and a laugh with Rob in person but we felt her in spirit and brought her home to her Australian roots in the way she wanted. I will miss her always.

Julie Hornibrook

(As we weren't able to attend Robin's funeral the Kinawah is giving those who want to, an opportunity to commemorate Robin's life by sending in little snippets about her to share in the next issue. Please send them to the editor as per the front page.)



Robin Hornibrook in South Africa, 2013

PER VOLAR SONATA - PATRIBUS DIGNI ESTOTE

(Born to fly upwards – be worthy of our forebears)



Founders' Room Restoration Project

How generous our members have been with donations to this cause! With the \$10 000 put up by the association, we have \$20 510 to put towards the restoration of the Founders' Room. It is particularly pleasing since you donated in blind faith, as many of you didn't really know the break up of funds. Below is a copy of what was sent to the Association by the Warwick Christian College.

I am chasing up a photo of W.B. Slade from the Toowoomba Show Society to take pride of place in the room. Other memorabilia and photos of the founders of both schools are needed, so if you have access to anything suitable please contact Peter Ramsay 07 32454706.

Proposal A

Restoration & painting of ceilings and walls.....	\$5 720
Restoration and polishing of floors	\$3 275
Folding round dining tables	\$1 700
Chairs	\$5 560
Total	\$16 225

Proposal B

As above plus	
Air conditioning	\$10 285
Electrical fittings and power pints	\$1 000
Chandeliers plus fitting	\$ 600
Curtains	\$1 000
Credenza	\$ 750
Total	\$26 890

Proposal C

As above plus	
Projector system	\$ 2 700
Restoration of fireplace	\$ 2 000
Restoration of adjoining kitchen	\$ 5 500
Total	\$40 090

Thank you very much to the kind and generous people who have made donations towards Slade House. A special mention goes to Lee Hartog for his fantastic donation of \$2000. Also Jacque Baxter and Jock Hoffland need to be thanked for each giving \$1000 and also to John Milton for \$600.

To all the others we really appreciated your help. These include David Jackson, Margaret Stewart, Brian Self, John Bayliss, Fred Nussey, Peter Ramsay, Nigel Faulkner, Richard Harvey, Jim Biggam, Helen Moloney, Ray Dickson, Michael McDade, Walter Robb, Peter Moore, Jenny Schonfisch, Joan Austin, Jeanette Chandler, Madeleine Blyth, John Casey, George Rivers, Steve Cook, Stuart hazel, David Herbert, Derek Burnett, Paul Holland, Richard Cleal, Tim Streton, Kathleen Clark, Ronald Cover, Judy Stevens, Graham McDonald, Jane Morse, Bruce Mauch, Gloria Mogridge, Kel Williams, Rod Kent, Ruth Lufkin, Don Batchelor, John Stibbard, Peter Slader, Bruce Trevethan, John Tomlinson, John Henning, Ted Ross. We now have \$10 510.

We would like to move on to the next stage with some furnishings as the room looks a little bare. To those who have not donated please consider giving a small amount- even \$10 is a help. The particulars as to where to donate the money are as follows.

Please make cheque payable to **SSPSA Inc** and post to:

**The Treasurer, SSPSA
PO Box 677
JIMBOOMBA, Qld 4280**

USING NET ACCESS:

BSB: 124-001

ACCOUNT NO: 90641027

ACCOUNT NAME: SLADE-ST CATHARINES PAST STUDENTS ASSOCIATION

REFERENCE: YOUR NAME

Margaret Stewart
(Secretary)



*to one
and all.
Best wishes
for a great
2014*