

Network News #2 - August 2002

The Newsletter of the HVHS Past Pupils & Friends Association Inc.

Email : ppfa@hvhs.school.nz

Website: <http://www.hvhs.school.nz>

FROM THE CHAIR

In the year following the success of a major reunion, you may wonder what the PPFA Committee have been doing? True, we have cut back on the frequency of meetings, but since completing the reunion wind-up, have used meetings to plan for a PPFA future that is both viable and sustainable.

The questionnaires returned following the reunion, indicated that the majority of members found the *newsletters* to be a valuable vehicle for keeping in touch and wished for these to continue, even if there were to be a cost. Others felt that the *website* could be utilised for communication. The third major area of interest was the *archive collection*, now considerably enhanced thanks to the contributions of so many and the work of the archive team.

Unfortunately, as the membership of the PPFA has grown, so too has the cost of producing and mailing newsletters to our past pupil network. Each newsletter also takes many hours of voluntary time in folding and collating. Generous donations from Past Pupils have enabled us to sustain this cost in the short term, but with no regular income we are unable to plan for future newsletters and other important work that we feel the Association should be involved in.

The committee has therefore decided to charge a \$20 *membership fee* to enable us to put the work of the Association on a viable footing. This fee will enable us to mail out a regular newsletter and to provide a website that is updated regularly, with opportunities for members to establish network links and view newsletters and school news online.

The fee will also enable us to assist the work of the archive team as they plan their move into the new administration building, where they will have a room and display space specifically for archives.

I hope you will agree that it is important for the PPFA to be able to sustain its operation in these areas and that the fee you pay is well utilised.

Warm regards

Judi Whitcher

PPFA Chairperson

P.S. Please complete the form at the end of this newsletter and return to the Secretary as soon as possible. We'd like to stay in touch.

FIRST AND SECOND DECADES AFTERNOON TEA

An Afternoon Tea for all 1st and 2nd decade past pupils living in the Greater Wellington area is being held on Thursday 12 September 2002

From 1:30 pm in the HVHS Hall.

The afternoon will commence with a musical performance from some of the school's very talented students. Chairperson of the PPFA, Judi Whitcher and Principal Sylvia Burch will also address the gathering.

If you are a 1st or 2nd decade past pupil and you do not receive an invitation to this event, or you live outside the Greater Wellington area and would like to attend, please phone Jean Bowden on (04) 567 2358

JUBILEE CENTRE

Since our last newsletter, the PPFA has received donations from the following past pupils, towards the Jubilee Student Centre: Peter Carruthers, Janet Lane, Val Williams, Margaret Beckett, Celia Andrews, Beth Hunter, Pat and Barbara Lee.

Thank you very much for your generous support for this project.

THE GREAT DEBATE - 'YOUTH IS WASTED ON THE YOUNG'

Is youth really wasted on the young? Well that's the subject for debate at The Great Debate to be held on Saturday 24 August 2002 at Lower Hutt's Little Theatre.

Former Wellington Mayor and entrepreneur, *Mark Blumsky* will be leading the team that argues youth is not wasted on the young, ably assisted by

Timothy O'Brien of Radio New Zealand fame and **Bernard Beckett**, the Mr B of Onslow College, who is also an author, playwright and who was described recently in the Evening Post as 'one of those teachers who students are likely to remember for helping make school a more fun place.'

On the affirmative side, former Race Relations Conciliator, **Gregory Fortuin** will lead former Member of Parliament, **Joy Quigley** and Head Boy of Hutt Valley High School, **Seb Tuohy**. Seb was recently selected to be on the Wellington representative debating team, which competed at the national competition in July.

Adjudicator for the event is **Neil Miller**, who brings with him a wealth of talent in debating and adjudicating, having represented NZ at school, university and senior levels. Neil is currently a political researcher at Parliament.

This event is being organised by the HVHS Parents' Association as a fundraising venture, with all proceeds to go towards the Jubilee Student Centre.

Tickets, which are priced at \$25 per person, are available from the main office at Hutt Valley High School, or phone (04) 566 4584.

The Great Debate, Lower Hutt Little Theatre, 8.00pm Saturday 24 August 2002. Enjoy wine, nibbles and live music from 7.00pm.

A WORD FROM THE PRINCIPAL...

We are all very excited about progress on the new library and administration building, which is on schedule for completion in late November. The weekend of August 24/25 will see the removal of everything from the existing administration building, so work can start on gutting and re-fashioning that. Logistically it is a huge exercise, and will mean we operate from temporary accommodation in the new building. It will be great when finished – look for news of a formal opening early in February 2003.

Along with other state schools we have been affected by the uncertainty over the teachers' contract settlement. Hutt Valley High School hit the headlines in various ways, and I think the profiles did us no harm – I am aware there may be a divergence of opinion on this!! I am hopeful that the arbitration process will bring a settlement that can lead to a resumption of normal activity.

We currently have 20 students visiting from Minoh Senior High School in Japan. Last year we signed a sister school agreement with Minoh, and this is the first result of that. Although they are finding it cold, coming from 30oC, the welcome has been very warm, and they are involved in a varied

programme, with English classes, trips, activities and classroom visits. A group of our students will visit Minoh next year.

We also had a visit from Bromsgrove School in England, who are on a rugby tour of New Zealand. Their 1st and 2nd XV's played ours at school on Monday 29th July, and it was great to have the whole school out to watch the 1st XV game, which started at 2.00 p.m. We won both games, but the English visitors really appreciated the experience and the hospitality.

There is, as always, a lot going on, but underneath it all lies the focus on the classroom and achieving the best results for everyone.

Sylvia Burch
Principal

WHAT SOME PAST PUPILS HAVE BEEN UP TO

Dr Gary Raumati Hook (known as Gary Raumati when at HVHS 1955-59), now a world-renowned environmental scientist has recently returned to New Zealand to join the fight against industrial contamination.

In September 2001, Dr Hook quit his job as US-based editor-in-chief of the world's leading journal on environmental health, to head the North Island's smallest public tertiary education centre, Te Whare Wananga o Awanuiarangi, in Whakatane.

An article which traces his extraordinary life and career was published in the New Zealand Herald on 30 March 2002 and can be found on their webpage www.nzherald.co.nz

Thanks to Michael Turner (HVHS 1956-61) for supplying this information.

~ooOoo~

Zoe Firth, Lisa Burroughs and Jill Spencer were selected for the New Zealand Women's Underwater Hockey team which competed in the World Championships in Calgary in July. They are all recent past pupils of HVHS.

~ooOoo~

Wayne Kent-Healey (known as Wayne Healey when at HVHS 1956-61) made headlines in the Sydney Morning Herald on June 3rd, when the painting he bought at an auction for \$14,000 was valued at around \$102,000.

The painting is a bleak seascape by Irish post-Impressionist Paul Henry (1876-1958). Mr Kent-Healey, a dealer and collector, who has a Picasso in his pantry and a Goya in his bedroom, planned to take the painting to Dublin to sell.

Thanks again to Michael Turner for supplying this information.

Pamela Beck (HVHS 1948-49) is interested in making contact with any of her contemporaries.

Her address is: 14 Cottonwood Drive, Don Mills, Toronto Ontario, CANADA, M3CZB4

CURRENT STUDENT HAPPENINGS

- ❖ The Hutt Valley High School Boy's Basketball team won the National Qualifying Tournament for Capital Basketball.
- ❖ Vallance Te Ratana was selected for the National Under 19 Basketball Team to play in Australia in August.
- ❖ A group of students (with adult help), are entering last year's 'solar car' in the 2004 Adelaide to Sydney electric car race. The students will be looking for an electric motor and suitable batteries plus a variety of other essentials to make a serious challenge.

ARE YOU TURNING 50 IN 2004?

A group of past pupils who attended HVHS from 1967-71 and who are turning 50 in 2004, are interested in some form of get together in two years time. No plans have been made as yet, but the possibility of a dinner and some other activities have been suggested.

Anyone interested should contact:

Margaret Roberts (Davis) mroberts@naturalhistory.co.nz

Bev Whitelaw (Balls) phone (04) 232 4316

bev.w@paradise.net.nz

or Merle Ramsay (Henderson)

HUTT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL COMMUNITY FUN RUN

20 October 2002

3km, 5km and 10km courses for walkers and runners

Start and finish at Hutt Valley High School

Loads of spot prizes

**Entry forms available soon from the school office, local sports shops
and on www.hvhs.school.nz**

All proceeds to go to the Jubilee Student Centre.

PPFA MEMBERSHIP

In order to ensure long-term viability for the PPFA, it has become necessary to charge a 'membership fee'. This fee will be used for the following:

- ❖ To maintain a PPFA website
- ❖ To produce regular PPFA newsletters
- ❖ To contribute to the important work of the school archive team.
- ❖ To fund other PPFA activities

The annual fee has been set at \$20, and can be paid by cheque or direct debited to the PPFA bank account. Details of the account are:

Account Name – HVHS PPFA
Bank – Westpac Trust, North End Branch
Account No. – 031537 0026803 00

We would appreciate it if past pupils using this option could still return the reply slip below.

No receipts will be issued (to save on costs!), but your December newsletter will be our acknowledgement of payment.

Yes I would like to be a member of the PPFA for the year 1 September 2002 to 31 August 2003.

Name:.....

Address:.....

.....

HVHS years: 19..... to 19.....

Enclosed please find my cheque, made out to HVHS, PPFA for \$20.
 I have made a direct debit to the PPFA bank account for \$20.
 I would also like to make a separate donation to the PPFA of \$..... as a contribution towards

Please return to: The Secretary, PPFA, Hutt Valley High School, Private Bag 31909, Lower Hutt

Or simply send us a message by email!

