



Network News

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

14

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July 2006

HVHS 80th Anniversary year

COMING EVENTS for 2006

Dinner - Past Pupils 1946-1965

Saturday 12 August

Sit down dinner in the HVHS Assembly Hall with entertainment, archives and reminiscing. Registration forms included in this newsletter for all 3rd and 4th decades. Also email version from ppfa@hvhs.school.nz to send to friends or download copies from the website. Please return forms by **1 August**.

Lunch - Past Pupils 1926-1945

Saturday 16 September

Sit down lunch in the HVHS Assembly Hall with entertainment, archives and reminiscing. Registration forms included in this newsletter. Please return forms by **31 August**

A Day to Celebrate

The 1st April 2006 was a special day for a teacher that many past pupils will remember. It was Ailsa Carrad's 90th Birthday. Many past pupils who attended HVHS during 1954 – 1967 will remember her as a superb French teacher as well as Senior Mistress. She is also a past pupil of the school.

The lunchtime party planned by Ailsa herself and held at Fredrick Wallis House in Lower Hutt, was an opportunity for 65 of her family, close friends, former teaching and professional colleagues, past pupils and neighbours to celebrate this special day with a lady that so many love and respect. Following the sit down lunch, several of those present took the opportunity to speak about their association with her and the way that she had influenced them. The final word however, rested with Ailsa, who spoke with warmth about her long life, her gratitude for all that so many had done for her and her memories of good times spent with those who were gathered. She is a remarkable woman and as one colleague said – "we will look forward to the 100th Birthday Party!"

Judi Whitcher

Margorie Kinlock (Marryatt) will be 96 in August this year and is living in Christchurch. Marjorie is a foundation pupil and also taught at the school in the 1930s

Editor



Happy Birthday Ailsa

PRINCIPALS REPORT

It was great to have the PPFA involved in the Music Festival, with an excellent supper. This annual event is a great showcase of talent, but is also an opportunity for past pupils to come back and see for themselves how the current generation is doing. Thanks also to Colleen and her Archives team for the constantly changing displays on the stairwell noticeboard and in the display case outside the library. The new chairs almost outnumber the old in the hall, thanks to the efforts of the PPFA; I think it is a sign of a strong school where there is a mutually supportive relationship between past and present.

The Education Review Office came in March, and their report is now on the ERO website (www.ero.govt.nz). I am pleased that they acknowledge the work that is going on here to ensure that all students get the opportunities they deserve.

If any of you are film festival buffs, you may like to get along to Waves, which was made by a former teacher of Chinese here, and follows the experiences of four Chinese students at Hutt Valley High School. We knew Li Tao was making it for the home (Chinese) market, to counter the bad publicity that New Zealand was getting in the Chinese media, but never dreamed that it would end up as one of the most talked-about films of the festival!

Work on the new gymnasium space and changing rooms should be finished at the end of August, and we will have an excellent facility to complement the existing gyms. Work will then start on a new Art block, in front of D block on the western courts. When that is complete, the current Art block will be converted to Dance and Drama facilities.

Rolls in the valley are now trending down, so we should, with any luck, have a little more space next year. The real pressure comes when we have, as this year, a prolonged spell of wet weather, which puts the field out of action, leaving everyone cooped up on the hard surfaces. It was, after all, originally a swamp, and seems keen to revert to that state!

Roll on springtime!!

Sylvia Burch

HVHSPFA AGM HIGHLIGHTS

PPFA stalwarts, Pam and Ken Stevenson, announced their retirement from the committee after many long years of loyal service. Pam was a founder member of the revived committee in 1995 and was a key driver in establishing the Decade Reunions. Ken set up the PPFA database, and edited the network newsletter. Both will be sorely missed but we thank them for their fine service to the school.

Allan Hewson entertained the AGM with a series of anecdotes and observations from his experiences leading Willimont Tours. He spoke of the richness of the cultural experience, the perils of drink, the oddity of some tour party members, and the changing relationship between the All Blacks and their touring supporters – now a very important part of the "System".

Kevin Campbell made a plea for support from the Association for a photo display in the new gymnasium foyer. This caught the imagination of the group who saw it as complementary to its other activities.

The PPFA is in a healthy financial position with an asset balance of more than \$60,000 - including the special scholarship fund. It continues to make regular contributions to the school including equipment for the Student Centre, maintenance funds for the Music department and purchases for the Archives Department. In the coming year we are planning to assist the school with \$10,000 towards the purchase of chairs for the Assembly Hall, \$3,000 for a large display cabinet by the library depicting this year's school leaders and up to \$3,000 towards materials for the gymnasium photo display.

Graeme Marshall

Subs and Donations

The committee is heartened by the majority of PPFA members renewing their subscription. We view the generous donations as positive endorsement of our work. Thank you all.

The committee from the successful 1956 5L reunion generously donated the balance of their funds to the PPFA.

HVHS BRIDGE RUN & WALK

Susan Grant-Taylor's reply to being emailed an entry form:

"I forgot to say. I HATE that bridge run and you'll never entice me to even start the first step of one I did more than my share of those gut-wrenching dry-throat-gasping bridge runs during the years when I was in the hockey team. Funny, because at the time I didn't enjoy them but I don't think I hated them all that much. But NOTHING, not even friendships, would entuse me enough to do another. Nice try though. Thanks for the thought. I hope you enjoy it yourself. Susan"

Some will identify with Susans sentiments, however 207 people thought it was fun to run or walk, eat sausages and win spot prizes. Another 20 who entered stayed in bed as the weather looked dicey – but it didn't rain much. This Event keeps growing with people coming from Masterton, Paramata, Wellington and the Hutt Valley. This years profit provided \$2000 towards the new chairs for the Assembly Hall.

Our sincere thanks to the sponsors who are too numerous to list here but we are on the PPSFA web site under the Bridge Run/Walk results

HVHS past pupils In the news

Ross Carey has been appointed "composer in residence" for the International Society for contemporary music in Sweden

Monique Coleman won a bronze medal in the Womans Foil Individual at the Commonwealth Junior (under 20 years) Fencing held in Chennai, India earlier this year. She was also in the NZ Womans team who won Bronze blitzing her last opponent.

Did you see **Nick Willis** win a gold medal for the 1500 metres at the Commonwealth Games? That medal is now on display in the HVHS main foyer in a purpose built cabinet. He spoke at the year 11 (5th form) assembly in April and his key advice was not to worry about what other people think. "Deep down you know what's right and what's wrong and what path you should follow in terms of where your talents lie and what you enjoy doing."

Murray Calvert was conferred the status of honorary kaumatua at the opening of a new kohanga reo at Koroanui Marae, Stokes Valley in June and was presented with a carved walking stick. Murray led the marae's initial construction project standing aside once the Marae buildings were complete. He also gave a considerable donation from his business Calvert Plastics to help start the project.

Jenny Bornholdt was appointed Te Mata Estate New Zealand Poet Laureate last year and is half way through producing a book of poems. As Poet Laureate she is also required to promote poetry and be available for poetry readings. In 2002 Jenny was awarded the Meridian Energy Katherine Mansfield memorial fellowship and lived with her family in Menton, France for 6 months where she wrote her latest book *Summer*.

Lloyd Jones looks set to make his latest novel New Zealand's first home-grown \$1 million book. *Mr Pip* is a novel set in Bougainville during the 1990s blockade by Papua New Guinea – an event about which Lloyd wrote at the time as a journalist

ARCHIVES REPORT

Our new Noticeboard has been a very useful addition to our profile. Because it is at the top of the staff stairway, and it is the 80th year of Hutt Valley High, we are having a changing display of staff photos. This is resulting in laughs, and a lot of interest. Most staff who stop to look also come in when our door is open.

We now have four volunteers working on Thursdays – two in the morning and two in the afternoon. Two of them are named Trish. We are progressing well with the reorganisation and database of the photographs.

Colleen Cresswell

HVHSPPPFA Committee 2006

Chairperson: Rosemary Thompson

Vice Chairperson: Paul Giles

Secretary: Judi Witcher

Treasurer: Geoff Kiddle

Celia Andrews, Carol Barker, Pat Blades, Katriona MacDonald, Pat Manning, Graeme Marshall,
Pauline Patchett, John Stanton, Betty Hennes

Welcome to new committee member, Paul Logan

**If undelivered, please return to:
Past Pupils & Friends Assn, HVHS, PO Box 31 909, Lower Hutt**