



Network News

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

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Nov 2006

80th Anniversary Lunch

I wish to express thanks (endorsed I'm sure by all present) to the many people who gave of their time to organise and make the reunion of the 1st and 2nd decade pupils such a happy success recently in HVHS's 80th year

Reminiscing chatter filled the air mid-day Saturday 16 September when the senior citizens gathered at "Hutt High" as we used to call it. We enjoyed listening to interesting, informative speeches and to letters from ex-pupils unable to attend. Some hilarious episodes were recalled as we ate a delicious meal. I (1928+) felt honoured to be asked to cut the cake along with Norman Carter (1929+)



Norman Carter & Eileen Smeaton (Pearce)

In fine weather in days gone by pupils stood outdoors on gravel at 9am where the Principal, Mr Kidson addressed assembly. I remember all my teachers. Miss Palmer instilled in me the love of Pitmans Shorthand and Touch Typing and I was able to enjoy a secretarial career.

Also Miss Mather encouraged my love of the English language which was formed at Eastern Hutt School. I can still recite the many poems we learnt – mostly to myself!

Once a week we walked up Woburn Road to the ex Hutt District High School building on the same side of the road, girls to cooking and boys to woodwork. Some of the boys tried to push the girls into the tall wild fennel growing there with its strong unpleasant smell.

In Spring during lessons we used to hear a horse and cart trundling along the road and the driver calling out "Whitebait - Whitebait" – he had buckets of it for sale.

The progress of the school has been phenomenal – like an acorn into a huge oak tree – what an achievement – congratulations to all. Ad Alta

Eileen Smeaton (nee Pearce)

Many who attended the lunch remembered Mrs Lilian Hanton (nee Mitchell) M.A., Dip Ed who taught at HVHS from 1929-1943. Her attorney, Dr G Marshall wrote that Mrs Hanton passed away at Cambridge in August at the age of 103. He said that Mrs Hanton looked back on her years at HVHS as amongst the most rewarding and satisfying of her life. You may have met her again at the 50th reunion

Anniversary Dinner

About 80 Past Pupils from 1946-65 enjoyed good food, wine, lots of laughter and stories of school days, at the HVHS Student Centre. Betty Hennes (Corson) group of 13 school friends made the loudest noise. The PowerPoint slide show of scanned photos from archives was very popular. There were also display boards of photos for those who wanted a longer look. Les Nation's barbershop quartet sang songs we all knew – a great night.

FROM THE PRINCIPAL

I write in haste, with Rosemary breathing down my neck to get this in before the deadline! There has been a lot of activity, as ever, over a range of areas, with some notable successes.

HVHS is currently the number one school nation-wide in both girls' and open table tennis, the first school to achieve this double. Gary Murphy, HOD Physical Education, has guided our teams to success at a local and regional level for years, and it is wonderful to have his work, and that of the students, recognised in this way.

We also have a group of Year 12 (sixth form) students who won one of 10 national Excellence awards, for their Young Enterprise business, Mana Reo. They developed, trialed and marketed an interactive CD for primary school learners of Maori, which gives them not only vocabulary but also the pronunciation.

Our first group of 12 Year 10 (fourth form) students are actively engaged in Project K. They have completed a three week Wilderness Adventure, and are currently engaged in a Community Challenge. For the next 12 months or so they will each work with a mentor, to set goals and gain insights into what is available and possible in the world of study and work. If any of you would like to be a mentor, do look on the Project K website for details of what is involved.

Trevor Mallard opens the new Physical Education facilities on November 3, at 9.45; Senior Prizegiving is on November 14 at 7.00 in the Town Hall; the Carol Service is on December 10 at 8.00. You are welcome to attend any or all of these functions.

Sylvia Burch

1957 Prefects Reunion 8-9 July

Over this weekend 18 of the original 25 prefects met for a time of catch-up and reminiscence. Quite a number brought their partners and the weekend started with a tour of the school by Katriona Macdonald and Fred Harris, followed by a lunch at the home of Ian Mills. Many people had not seen each other for nearly fifty years, but it was amazing how easy it was to pick up where we had left off.

On the Saturday evening a dinner was held at Frederick Wallis House and during the course of the evening each 'prefect' gave a brief account of their lives since leaving school. It was very interesting to hear of the different directions people had taken and of the huge diversity of their activities during their adult lives.

On Sunday some early birds attended a service at the cathedral chapel conducted by Ven. Canon Judy Hardie (Oliver) then toured parts of the cathedral. At 10a.m Dr. Janet Davidson showed a large group 'behind the scenes at Te Papa', then lunch at Ian Mills' home again.

Unfortunately, only a few days previously Roger Gain had died. We all remembered Roger with great affection. Those who had maintained contact with him over the years felt his absence at this reunion, keenly.

Our thanks to those who organised this event. Such was the success of the weekend, a pledge has been made to meet again in a few years time.

Pam Stevenson (nee Enting)

Present - (Maiden names) Diane Barlow, Jeanette Buckland, Janet Davidson, Pam Enting, Pam Heggie, Mary Jennings, Betty Luey, Heather MacOnie, Mary Oliver, Judy Oliver, Ruth Stevenson. Gary Burns, Miles Cooper, Roger Cooper, Ian Mills, David Lawrence, Tony Prowse, Steven Thompson

Messages were received from Marie Buchler, Paul Gray, Ian Therkelson Geoff Stewart (Head Boy) & Brian Travers.

HVHS PAST PUPILS

Ivor Jones (1945-48) writes from Los Angeles:

It sometimes comes as a shock to find that past occasions that you have always taken for granted are no longer remembered by anybody!

Who remembers that someone set up a bar in the bay, the night of the 1948 school-leaving dance? Who remembers that there was such a thing as "the bay" and that that there was a hockey field in the bay? Also that a bunch of guys carried "Joe" Coe's car up the steps and put it in the school corridor? Who remembers, on that 1948 dance night, that one of the boys had made a bomb, and blew up a bench on the Western end tennis courts? Did anyone actually see these things happen?

Does anyone remember that someone threw an ink well across the (1945) 3-Boys classroom and knocked out Leo Astil? Then the lovely young teacher, Nancy Langford, hung over him imploring him to wake up, sent someone next door to bring Stan Ransom, who just gave Leo a kick and said, "Get back to your seat Astil!" Which he quickly did.

Leo Astil remembers -I've recently seen the dent in his head - Editor

Some of you who were paying attention during the English classes, and are somewhat slick with your English, need to produce some full-bodied memoirs of your Hutt High days (sticking to the truth), then send them to the school. Why should our days just slide into the past as if they never existed? *Yes please - Editor*

Claude England (1968-1972) currently Director at Chestnut Ridge Tennis Club, has been involved with the Baltimore (USA) tennis community for the past 30 years teaching, playing and promoting the sport. As a player he has been ranked #1 in the U.S. for Men's 40 singles. In 2000, Claude won the U.S. Clay Court Championships, continuing on to represent the U.S. International Team, where it won the Dubler Cup. Claude's father Ivan England and late mother Dawn (nee Jarvis) also attended HVHS - in the mid 1930s

Dr John Money (1935-40) passed away in Maryland USA in July. Dr Money was recognised as a Pioneer Sex Researcher and was the co-founder of the Johns Hopkins Gender Identity Clinic. He earned his doctorate at Harvard University after writing a thesis paper on hermaphroditism. In earlier years he was Janet Frame's psychologist and friend.

Kerry Fox (1979-83 - Head Girl) was back in Wellington from her London base, acting at Downstage in *The Blonde, The Brunette and the Vengeful Redhead* in which she plays seven very different and emotionally charged characters, including a boy and a man. Kerry is best known for her breakthrough role as Janet Frame in Jane Campion's *An Angel at My Table*. and will feature in the NZ horror movie *The Ferryman* due to be released this summer.

Holly Walker (1996-2000) received a Rhodes Scholarship recently at Government House. Holly holds a BA in political science and English with first class honours. She has been heavily involved in debating, representing NZ in Malaysia in 2005 and gaining a debating blue in 2004. At Oxford, Holly intends undertaking an MPhil in development studies and then return to NZ to a career in journalism, academia or politics.

PRESENT PUPILS

HVHS Sports Captain **Nichola Trudgen** was selected to represent NZ in a world class yachting event in the Canary Islands in July, sailing in the 420 yacht class.

Tessa Halcrow Webb has been selected to represent NZ at the 2007 Oceania Roller Skating Championships in Australia

HVHS team **Alex Gordon, David Bullock, Michael Clarke, Sam Turner and Paul Vinnell** came third in the national finals of the Monetary Policy Challenge. This is the second year in a row that HVHS has had a team in the finals.

HVHSPFA 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, Paul Logan

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