

CLASS OF 1964 REUNION 22/11/2019

EASTS RUGBY LEAGUE CLUB, BRISBANE

It is no coincidence that each time we have picked up a newspaper or flicked on the TV this week, we have been confronted with the class of 2019 as they celebrate graduating from the classroom to the real world in their own way.

It is truly amazing that 55 years ago we were the “schoolies of 1964”.....experiencing this same excitement but obviously in a far more conservative way and certainly with far less freedom.

My Mum and Dad would certainly never have driven me to the coast, set me down at some Surfers Paradise Establishment with slabs of beer on my Dads shoulders, and called out, “Have fun, Sandra”.

I strongly suspect that your parents would not have done this either!

Times have certainly changed!

But now 55 years later we are, however, again celebrating our graduation. I actually don't expect you to see any of you climbing over the balconies or getting hopeless drunk....but we are celebrating never-the-less!

It never ceases to amaze me when we get together that our common background basically means we still have so much in common: that we can rekindle friendships so readily and share experiences and interests after so many years.

It has been a great catching up with everyone today.

But, catching up like this doesn't just happen . Someone or a group of some-ones, have to put in the time and effort to, organize a venue, get in touch with us all and make everything run smoothly . After 55 years that is not easy.

But we are fortunate to have a **great team** who have been prepared to give up their time and call on their skills to do this for all of us.

With due respect and appreciation, I will refer to them as “Team 55”...**and they are a great team.**

If the **students from Team 55** would please get to their feet so we can thank you properly.

First is Dan Penman

Dan is our school vice-captain and was the undisputed “heart throb” of the class of 1964... I was going to suggest that perhaps he still was.... but with Cathy sitting right beside him, I'll rethink that idea.

Dan has continued to monitor and update our website. He was the driving force behind today's event, organizing the venue and liaising with Easts re the food and service etc....all of which has made for a great day...

So, thanks to Dan and the staff of Easts as well.

Rob St Clair:

Rob is our most efficient treasurer, and M.C. today.

Rob is always smooth and charming. He never failed to bring a “Touch of class” to our school days and now to our gatherings. I have to be careful here too because Rob's wife, Carolyn, is listening and I don't want to start an “angry wives club”. So, I will simply say, “Many thanks Rob for your contribution as treasurer and your good work.”

Miriam (who we know as Miriam Ravenscroft)

Miriam is our lovely and gracious artistic director, being in charge of the precious email list used to contact us, the advertising and designing our great flyers for this event. Thank you, Miriam, and that heavens someone amongst us has artistic talent!

Laurie Palmer:

Our always reliable, always considerate secretary, Laurie, was a top sportsman in our school days, and a great sport as well. Laurie remains the “true gentleman” that we all respected and liked then and who we still respect and like... and I know that Nancy agrees whole heartedly with that! Thanks Laurie, for your top-class communication in getting us here today.

Kay (who was Kay Kingston in 64) :

Kay has provided our name tags today to ensure that we do recognize each other with just that little bit of help that we so need as we get older....and it has an added advantage..... if anyone really plays up today, we can so easily track them down!

After 55 years I still have vivid memories of being stunned by Kay's dramatic performance in the school musical.... That girl showed real talent. Thanks Kay.

So that is our Team 55 who have organized today's event.

However, before I close, we have one more person we must thank who is unfortunately not well today. We send Kerry our best wishes. Our “**Coffee King,**” **Kerry Neary**, who on a monthly basis, has gathered together any of us who are available to enjoy the “coffee experience” and the great company in many different locations around Brisbane since 2014..... and NO, Kerry, we will never be coffee-ed out..... so do keep up organizing our days out...we just love them!

Class of 64, please join me in sincerely thanking team 55 and Kerry for their efforts in keeping us in touch and preserving the friendships and the great memories that we have of our school days.

HOPEFULLY, WE WILL MEET AGAIN IN 2020!