

Cav Rd 64 Seniors Reunion: a Thanks to our Teachers

Good afternoon and welcome to this great reunion. It's my privilege to thank on your behalf our teachers whose hard work and dedication set us on the path to our futures all those years ago.

Privilege is an apposite word. That's how it was in our classrooms. You see, things were different back then; students and teachers were on the same side. We worked together to defeat a common enemy – the external examiners. It was foolish not to engage with the teachers and gain from their knowledge and expertise, which was delivered, in my experience and I'm sure it was the same for others, with such authority and enthusiasm. Classrooms are not like that now – we were privileged.

Classrooms were not the only places where our teachers provided great example. At that time Cav Rd was possibly the only government school that hosted three types of cadet units for its students – Army, Air Force and Navy – male only as it was. Nevertheless this was a huge commitment of time and effort by those teachers, providing opportunities for those students to learn about leadership and mateship and having common responsibility.

Then there was the spirit of our sporting teams for which we were renowned. All that enthusiasm that bubbled within diverse primary schools and local clubs had to be gathered together to create the inspiring team spirit we shared. That was achieved by our teachers with their dedication not only to sporting achievement but also to character development. That team spirit built into house spirit and school spirit as the level of competition increased.

Let's not forget that our hobbies and interests were catered for on a wide scale, with opportunities to develop other aspects of our talents if we chose. There were so many lunch-time clubs and activities that it was possible to be a very busy person at school – debating, choir, photography, library monitors to mention just a few.

All of these had to be sponsored by teachers giving of their time and effort and showing interest in our development as good citizens.

It is my great pleasure to ask you to join in thanking our teachers of 1964 and before, for their dedication and commitment, and providing us with the solid foundation on which we have built our lives to today.

[Kerry Neary, 2 Nov 2014]