

Handover of the Reunion Donation to the School

Hello everyone – I have the pleasant task of handing over some of your money as a donation to the school.

It must be six months ago that the reunion committee was making a decision on whether to use the school hall as the reunion venue, or to use a function venue such as Pacific Golf Club.

We decided on the school hall, and I hope you agree that it's good to be back at the school again after five decades.

Also influencing that decision was the Principal's offer for us the use of the hall free of charge. Furthermore, we were told that as alumni, we would be welcomed as part of the school community. Public liability insurance immediately became simpler, as the reunion would be simply another school function. To be considered part of the school community after 50 years absence – I like that.

So your reunion committee factored in a donation of \$10 per person in recognition of the school's generosity. We have about 130 guests today, so today's donation is \$1300.

There will be a further substantial donation once all expenses have been paid.

Why are we are in such a favorable financial situation? One reason is that the cost per head for the catering went down as the number of attendees went up. Several generous donations have also been received.

Other reasons? One possibility – your reunion committee is a conservative mob - not overly skilled in the art of budgeting. I'm sorry committee people, but that's about the best I could think of.

Now you may not be aware that the School has recently initiated a project to archive the school's history. A leader of that project is Ashley Dickson who is with us today. He's here for obvious reasons – there's a lot of history in the hall today!

In our accompanying letter to the Principal, we have asked that our donation be applied to a specific segment of the School History Project. Perhaps purchase of cabinets to display items of historical significance. This will hopefully ensure that our donation is identifiable when we reconvene for our 60 year reunion. And hopefully it will show a connection to the class of 1964 well beyond 2024.

Representing the school today for this presentation is Michelle Janik-Sands. I hope you're not offended Ashley, but Michelle is our favorite. Some of us recall the effort she put into the school's 60th Anniversary celebration two years ago. She has been very supportive of our reunion, and is, I think, a wonderful ambassador for the school.

Just a quiet word of advice Michelle - I recommend that the school should bank this cheque without delay. At our most recent committee meeting, I detected cross talk about schemes to double or even triple our donation to the school. The Melbourne Cup was mentioned, and I think it was Sonja who mentioned the gambling machines at East's Rugby Leagues Club.

Enough nonsense from me. Michele – I have great pleasure in handing you this donation on behalf of the class of 1964, our teachers, our partners and our friends.

Laurie Palmer

2 November 2014