

# Cavendish Road High School - 50 year Reunion – Sunday 2<sup>nd</sup> Nov 2014

## Final Report

### Summary

*This reunion was held at the school assembly hall, and included a sit-down catered lunch. 130 past students, teachers, partners and friends attended. Judging by the happy and excited faces seen at the reunion, and by verbal and written feedback, the reunion was a resounding success. After all expenses were paid, \$3097 remained. It will be donated to the school's archival project, with a request that it is used to purchase items such as display cabinets that show a visible link to the class of 1964.*

### Program

The following comments from one past pupil summed up the feelings of the majority of attendees:

"I thought the reunion was absolutely wonderful! The program was carefully planned and worked so well. For me the speeches were passionate and heartfelt by all concerned and the school song brought a tear to my eye. Most of all I enjoyed seeing and talking to people who were important to me all those years ago."

### Roll call

130 people attended.

- 81 past students from "our years" (there were about 190 graduates in 1964)
- 10 teachers (eight from our years and two current teachers)
- 11 past students from adjacent years
- 28 partners and friends

### Venue

The school hall was chosen rather than an external venue such as Pacific Golf Club, mainly because of the nostalgic attraction of returning to the school, and a cost advantage. The hall is spacious and well illuminated. It has good ventilation backed up by huge fans, which provided a comfortable environment on a day when the maximum temperature was 31°C.

This decision resulted in a lot of extra work for committee and friends. Communications with the school about setting up the hall were not always ideal, and we had to wait until 10:30 pm on the eve of our reunion to start setting up tables and displays. The audio-visual equipment in the hall was disappointing, but the speech-makers coped well. Overall, however, the reunion was a very enjoyable function, and people enjoyed being back at the school.

### Money

Attendance price was \$60/person. Attendance exceeded expectations, so costs per person were less than anticipated. Additionally, the raffle raised \$710, and donations of \$180 were received. There was no charge for the hire of the hall. A donation of \$1300 was presented to a school representative on reunion day, and a further \$700 was donated in December 2014. We have requested that the donations be used for the history/archival project. Donation of the remaining \$1097 is likely in 2015.

### Food

The caterer Spits N Pieces contributed to the success of the reunion. The food was delicious, plentiful and well served by two staff. Morning tea was catered by the committee, and was well appreciated by guests.

### Photographs, audio-visual presentation and memorabilia displays

Our photographer (Ricky Cornwell, Goodtime Network Photography) was very easy to work with. He seemed to know how to get the best results for individuals or groups. He met his stated delivery timeframes, and was happy to post photos to people.

The AV presentation - running as a back-drop for the happy crowd - contained a wealth of interesting photos, and the memorabilia and in memoriam displays attracted a lot of interest. They were great enhancements for our reunion, as was the parting gift of a CD containing the photographs.

### Website and contacts database

The website made an enormous contribution to the success of the reunion. The collection of 1960s photographs grew as more people heard about the reunion and dug out their old photos. It was pivotal in providing past students with up-to-date information about attendees, missing students, memorabilia and pre-reunion events.

The database of contacts grew to 185 people. The CRHS 1961 Admission Register from State Archives was a very useful basis for the search. Searches of electoral rolls at John Oxley Library were also fruitful. This, together with cross-matching names with White Pages online enabled contacts to be made by telephone. Google and Facebook also yielded several contacts. In the end, word of mouth proved to be a most useful way of tracking past students, in particular the women whose surnames had changed through marriage. Broadcast emails provided an efficient way to distribute the invitation, and to draw attention to the website and to the reunion email address.

## **Publicity**

We kicked off in June with a photograph of Mrs Godfrey and the committee in the South-East Advertiser. We also used radio stations 4MBS, ABC 612 Community Announcements, Gold Coast 4CRB, Facebook, QTU Journal, and Seniors News. It's difficult to quantify how many people this added to the reunion roll call. After the reunion, we missed the opportunity to have reunion day photos published in the social pages of the South-East Advertiser.

## **Organizing committee**

An enthusiastic group of 14 people was easily established. Meetings were convivial and well attended. Committee members had wide experience and expertise in managing projects and they gelled quickly for the tasks. Small groups accepted responsibilities for major components of the event and this proved to be a very effective model. Actions from meetings were followed up swiftly, thanks to the highly efficient preparation of meeting materials, and this kept the momentum moving forward. Communications via email often led to consensus when prompt decisions were required.

Jointly prepared by the Reunion Committee

December 2014