



# Alumni News

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(formerly Network News)

The newsletter of the HVHS PPFA Inc. and the HVHS Alumni

Welcome again to our new-look newsletter which will be easy to access on the internet. Those who are PPFA and/or Alumni members will receive the news via the Database directly to their private email address and it will also be available on the school's website. The Alumni page on the website will also have photos and other interesting items. Please encourage other ex-pupils to add themselves to the school database and then they will also receive the newsletter. We have more than 1500 names so far and are continually adding names. Send anything interesting and HVHS anecdotes to Bob Fox (bob.fox@xtra.co.nz) and it will find its way into this newsletter.

## HVHS PPFA COMMITTEE

We still need a few more ex-pupils to come on to the committee. So if you feel you would like to contribute ring Christine 04 5701422. As a committee, we still have ongoing costs and so donations are still very gratefully welcomed. If you feel able to contribute please post us a cheque or make an internet payment. Thank you all so much for your kind contributions up until now, and in the future.

Committee:	Christine Barnett (nee Davis) Celia Andrews (nee Beckett) Graeme Marshall (former Principal HVHS) Katriona Macdonald (Staff Representative)
Newsletter Editor:	Bob Fox
Hon. Auditor:	Moira Gough (nee Black)
Archives:	Judith Gardiner Colleen Cresswell Jean Bowden
Tea & Chat Organisers:	Jean (nee Darnell) and Ivan Bowden

## Donations to the PPFA Inc.

Name : \_\_\_\_\_

Email / or Address : \_\_\_\_\_

Donation / Subscription of \$20 if you want the newsletters by post    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Cheques** made out to : HVHS PPFA Inc.

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Please return this form to :

**HVHS PPFA Inc**  
**Private Bag 31909**  
**LOWER HUTT 5040**

### Tea & Chat 2016

On Wednesday 28<sup>th</sup> September we held the annual Tea & Chat. This was held at the school and is for those who attended HVHS in the first four decades. Thanks to Jean Bowden and Betty Hennes for organizing this popular event. It is normally attended and enjoyed by a large group. There are a few ex-pupils in their 90s and we were pleased to see our oldest ex-pupil Eileen Smeaton at nearly 102 years old. Thank you to current Principal Ross Sinclair for speaking to the group about the current school.

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### HVHS PPFA Inc. - Annual General Meeting, March 2017

The AGM will be held at the school in March next year. Please attend if you would like to contribute any ideas about the way forward for the PPFA or would like to come on to the committee.

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### Movie Fundraiser – Light House Cinema Petone, May 2017

The PPFA film evening is a fundraiser for the three \$1000 Scholarships for Year 13 students leaving school and going on to University. Details about this year's recipients will be in the next newsletter.

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#### Ex-Pupil Catch Up

**Shona Laing** has been playing and singing around New Zealand as part of the Church Tour Concerts. Some of you may have attended this concert recently at Old St Paul's in Wellington. The most popular songs at the concert were 'Glad I'm not a Kennedy' and '1905'. Shona attended HVHS in the early 70s when only 17 she was runner-up in the 1972 TV show 'New Faces' with the song '1905'.



#### Ex-Pupil Catch Up

**Kerry Fox** is most well known for her role in 'Angel at my Table' in 1990. Kerry was at HVHS in the early 80s and more recently she had a lead role in the TV series 'The Crimson Field'.



#### Ex-Pupils at the Olympics

**Stephen Jenness (Hockey), Axel Dickinson (Rowing), Nick Willis (Running)**

Great to see ex-pupils representing NZ at the Rio Olympics. Here are 3 lads proud to be ex-HVHS and proud to be in Rio earlier this year.



#### Ex-Pupil at Junior World Squash Champs

**Scott Galloway** has only recently left HVHS and has just returned from Poland where he played in the NZ team at the Junior Squash Champs. The team came 8<sup>th</sup> in the world so a great effort by Scott. He then went on to win the Squash NZ under 19 Boys title this month.





## HUTT VALLEY HIGH SCHOOL

### PAST PUPILS & FRIENDS ASSOCIATION

### 90<sup>TH</sup> CELEBRATIONS 12<sup>TH</sup> – 13<sup>TH</sup> AUGUST 2016

In a lead up to the Centenary in 2026, it was decided to hold a small event to celebrate the 90<sup>th</sup> year of the school. The Friday night saw two groups meet. The 1978/79 group met at the Backbencher Pub and had a great time catching up. A second larger group met for drinks and nibbles at the Bellevue Pub. This was the 1965-1975 intake and included guests from overseas as well as many locals. Chris MacKay gave a humorous and interesting speech on his High School memories.

The Saturday programme started with a tour of the school and all attendees still remember the school hall, but not a lot else, as there have been many changes to the school buildings and layout. The student centre was transformed, with numerous displays of memorabilia from the years gone past. The school archivists



Judith Gardiner, Jean Bowden and Colleen Cresswell had done a fantastic job of displaying old school photos, trophies, uniforms and year books. Our guest of honour and expert cake-cutter was our oldest ex-pupil Eileen Smeaton at 101 years old. We then watched a recorded interview with Eileen about her life in Lower Hutt and at Hutt Valley High School. A sumptuous lunch was consumed,

thanks to Chalet Caterers, then by 2pm everyone was off to St James Church for the music concert. There were both music groups and singing from current and ex-pupils. An afternoon tea was enjoyed at interval and then off home to get ready for the four dinner functions.



## 1953 Intake Dinner at Angus Inn, Waterloo Rd, Lower Hutt

The evening was cold and wet but the atmosphere inside the Woburn Room at the Angus Inn was warm and inviting thanks to the staff and the 1953 intake dinner committee who added a few extras including a photographic display and music from the fabulous 50s.

Drinks from the cash-bar and platters of food were available from 6pm but some people arrived before then obviously eager to maximize the time to meet old school friends. Having not seen some people for over 60 years the name tags were appreciated.

Ian Mills, one of the 1957 school prefects, was MC and made everyone feel at ease. We were also fortunate in having Laurie Sinclair, who started teaching at the school in 1957, as the guest speaker. As a staff member he remembers Stan Ramson, who became principal in 1953, as caring and hospitable to staff, whereas in a time of sharing most of us confessed to being scared of Mr Ramson and the guys in particular of his cane!

A sit down buffet meal was enjoyed and the placemats from a drawing by Michael Fowler depicting the front façade of the school as it was when we were pupils were a talking point. With about 50 people present there was plenty of room for everyone to mingle. Unfortunately four people were not able to come at the last minute, but through their generosity of not wanting a refund we have been able to donate a reference book, suitably recognized, to the school library.

As people left, "see you in 10 years' time", seemed to have an optimistic ring, so the committee at a de-brief meeting decided we will have another dinner in 5 years' time!

### Committee

Pam Davis(Heggie), Judy Hardie(Oliver), Ian Mills, Alan Nicholls, Pam Stevenson(Enting)

*[Photographer for the evening, Arthur Davis]*



*Diane Sharpe(Barlow), Peti Transfield(Parata),  
Judy Hardie(Oliver)*



*Gary Burns, Tony Prowse,  
Roger Cooper*



## The Class of '56 celebrates HVHS's 90th Anniversary

The 90th anniversary of Hutt Valley High School's beginnings was an occasion worth celebrating. For our 1956 intake, we were also heralding 60 years since we gathered in the HVHS assembly hall as new 3rd formers and waited anxiously while Principal Stan Ransom read from the stage the name of every pupil and their allocated class.

When we discovered in June this year that HVHS had cancelled the 90th Reunion, some of us decided that the event should not go unmarked. Pauline Patchett (Heggie) and Robyn Cooper (Smallbone), both residents in Lower Hutt, contacted fellow pupils and at short notice twenty-one of us gathered on the 13th August for dinner at the Angus Inn. Neil Burns, our class genealogist responsible for keeping contact details current, flew in from Australia. Others arrived from Auckland, Blenheim, Palmerston North, Napier and the Wairarapa to join the locals.

We were greeted at the Angus by the sound of the bagpipes, a piece specially composed and recorded for the occasion by Neil Whitehead and suitably entitled 'HVHS 90th Anniversary'. As the music burst from Neil's cellphone in the hallway, comments were made of the advances in technology since our school days. Many thanks, Neil!

The buzz of conversation began immediately as people entered the dining room. Pauline had created flower arrangements for the table with a black and white theme, the photo board was displaying photos of innocent-looking teenagers, and a warm fire glowed beside the sofas. Pre-dinner drinks were followed by a delicious three course meal, interspersed with speeches from several classmates. Kevin Tate spoke of his work on climate change and environmental issues, Robyn Cooper about her children's novel, Pat Manning (Rae) of her long-time experiences in education, and Derek Wilshere of his community involvement and desire that we leave the world a better place for our children. We passed on greetings from those unable to come, and remembered those who are no longer with us.

At 11 pm, the Angus staff were ready for us to vacate the room. We'd been there five hours but somehow we were reluctant to leave. In all the excitement not a photo was taken. That wouldn't happen with the students of today, we're sure. Suffice to say that we all looked well and happy. The following day, the Angus Inn said that we got the 'Good Behaviour' prize. Presumably they weren't comparing us to the 1953 intake celebrating in the opposite room!

The HVHS Centennial is due in 2026. Hopefully we will all be around to enjoy it as much as we did our class reunion of 2016.

Robyn Cooper 3A, 1956

### 90<sup>th</sup> Celebration Dinner at Petone Workingmen's Club, Petone

Celia Andrews and Betty Hennes hosted one of the dinners on Saturday night. It was a mixed decade event with the oldest past pupil present being Norma McCarten (nee Wogan) who is in her 90's and attended HVHS in the 1930's. Friends and colleagues came from near and far – Peter Reed from Australia, and John Heenan with wife Sue came from Dunedin. Betty organized a quiz with questions ranging from what nicknames we gave the various teachers to naming a few famous and notable people at the dinner. A great night was had by all and lots of feedback received from people who thoroughly enjoyed meeting up with friends they hadn't seen for 50 years.



*Katriona Macdonald & Fred Harris*



*Jill Little & Marie Stratford*



*Bill & Bev Munro*

## 1967 - 1974 Events

Because there seemed to be a lot of interest from this age group and flights had been booked, a sub-committee was formed to co-ordinate their events. Hilary Keen, Phil Press and Jerina Corban-Banks set up a FaceBook page and rallied around searching out long lost class mates both from the Hutt Valley, NZ and abroad.



The Friday night saw the Bellevue Gardens packed with 130 ex-HVHS pupils wearing much needed nametags. Ex Head Boy and MC for the weekend, Chris MacKay gave a humorous and interesting speech on his time at High School. He mentioned how important the generation that went through school with him still impacts his life today.



The Saturday night was spent at the Cobar Restaurant in Days Bay with 50 guests enjoying their amazing food and great company. Jerina reiterated what the reunion was really about, "This reunion is about a celebration of our time at HVHS, the rekindling of old friendships, recapturing the fun days of our youth that have formed us in to the people we are today and to remember those friends who are no longer with us". HVHS was the catalyst in bringing people together and has produced many memorable success stories both nationally and internationally with All Blacks, writers, artists, actors, musicians, athletes and politicians as ex-students. Many more successful past students have left their mark on the Hutt Valley, the wider NZ community and the world.



*"Thank you to everyone who came to the reunion last month. There were around 130 on Friday night and 50 on Saturday for the dinner. It was a great success with many people catching up with their old school friends and having a lot of laughs. It may take a while to recoup on all those late nights and socialising but then it was all worth it; after all we aren't that much past 17!"*  
Hilary & Jerina

# HVHS Campus of the Future Project

Looking to 2026



*View looking south-west through a new student hub between the Old hall and a replaced C Block*

In 2015 the HVHS Board of Trustees (BoT) and Senior Management embarked on a long term **Campus of the Future** (CotF) project. This initiative stemmed from a growing awareness that many areas of the school campus are tired and not fit for purpose. The campus layout has become a dull patchwork quilt of add-ons, lacking cohesion and, sadly, the campus has no heart. We are looking to transform the campus environment to anchor the experience of being 'at HVHS' for students and staff fostering a heightened sense of pride and belonging. Additionally, there is a strong desire from the school community to proactively and professionally address the Campus revival.

The CotF initiative has been well supported by the current families of the school through an infrastructure donation in 2015/16. This has enabled the school to engage McIndoe Urban Ltd, who are a well-respected urban design organization and who recently completed in consultation with the school community, the *HVHS Campus Framework Plan*.

The Framework proposes four long-term major projects alongside a wide range of minor initiatives achievable in the short to medium term. The major projects include:

- the redevelopment of the centrally located C-Block and associated outdoor spaces,
- the creation of a school hall and performing arts facility along Woburn Road,
- the redevelopment of the old gymnasium, and
- the establishment of a quality entrance point at St Albans Grove.

Using the principles established in the consultation process the Framework will guide HVHS campus facilities and property decision-making and discussions with the Ministry of Education over the next 10 years to 2026.

HVHS will celebrate its 100<sup>th</sup> birthday in 2026, the perfect platform to showcase a new look campus - a modern revitalized campus that we can all be proud of.

The school is looking to cultivate relationships with the wider community, local businesses and both local and central government to ensure Campus initiatives are supported. HVHS Alumni are a key touch point for us and provide a fantastic opportunity to network in these areas.

The full McIndoe Urban *HVHS Campus Framework Plan* will be available in the near future via the HVHS website.

If you require further information or would like to offer any skills and/or resources to this project we would be thrilled to hear from you. Please contact Tim Fox, HVHS Deputy Principal ([tim.fox@hvhs.school.nz](mailto:tim.fox@hvhs.school.nz)) or a member of the Board of Trustees.



*View looking North-West along Woburn Road towards the proposed Hall and Performing Arts Centre.*