



BLACKTOWN HIGH ALUMNI ASSOCIATION INC
INC9892430

PO Box 413 Winston Hills NSW 2153

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

11December 2010

When the schools decided to have a 50th Birthday Celebration many former students were unaware of the events that would follow.

Many former students (Mates) put in motion a giant hunt for former classmates. On the morning of 5 September 2009 many mates assembled on the quadrangle for the first time in 40 or more years.

The memories of days at school came flooding back with stories retold. 384 former students and partners reassembled for dinner at the RSL. In all a great day was had by all.

From this event and a general feeling of not wanting to wait another 40 years to see each other the BBHS class of 1970 decided to create the Blacktown High Alumni Association Inc with the aim of keeping in touch, helping members and the schools. The Association was incorporated on 20 November 2009.

A Committee was formally elected at our extra ordinary general meeting on 31 January 2010. My thanks go to those early members and our committee without their help there would be no Association. Special thanks go to Graham Blackman and Sue Gurling who have helped me in my role immeasurably and also to Charlie Behrens our Treasurer for his work and making his boardroom available for meetings.

In June 2010 we obtained our Deductible Gift Recipient Status which allowed us to not only operate our general and non tax deduction donation account but also to open a School Building Fund account where donations are tax deductible.

We have received a number of generous donations both before and after receiving our DGR status which have assisted with set up costs and funding the gym/sports laboratory at BBHS.

Members will be aware that this ambitious project of the sports lab for BBHS is now fully funded but delayed due to an onsite injury to the handyman working on the gym and a fire. The lab should be up and running early in 2011. My thanks to all who have donated to achieve this end.

Early in the year our website was launched and has improved with large amounts of information being uploaded and reasonably regular updates posted. It is a central feature of our contact with former students. The website can now be googled and so can be found by former students enquiring about the schools. We have had 3855 hits since launch. We have posted a lot of photos from many years at BGHS and BBHS and the photo gallery grows.

BBHS has placed a link on its site linking to ours. We have links to both schools on our site.

We have recently been receiving requests about the location of former students and have included a new page on our website for this purpose as well as a dedicated page to Alumni event photos which will build as time goes on.

We have also launched and maintained a Facebook page and have 110 friends including former students and teachers. This site has allowed us to post larger school photos which became the go in the 80s or 90s. This exposure was considered important due in part to its appeal to younger former students.

Our first event was a bbq at Prospect Reservoir which was a success in that we were able to attract former students from many years and increase our membership base. Photos of that event are on our website and facebook. This allowed us to reach out to over 3000 former students via the Friends Reunited site which resulted in hundreds of hits on our website and thereby increased our exposure to former students.

We held our second event at the Blacktown Workers Club which attracted the usual suspects and many new faces from both BBHS and BGHS with some from the BBHS 1964 year not having met each other for about 46 years. I believe participants get a lot out of these events.

We are now represented at both BGHS and BBHS graduations and presentation nights. Graham Blackman spoke at this year's BBHS graduation emphasizing the feelings the boys would feel as they left the school for the last time. Sue Gurling attended the BGHS graduation.

It's pleasing to see that both schools are recognizing the Association and can see the benefits that can be obtained from an association with us. No doubt this will blossom into the future. I thank both principals for their involvement with the Association.

We encouraged leaving students from the schools to sign up with the Association free of joining fee and first year membership fee. This offer resulted in an amazing number of applications from BGHS being over 60 applications.

At our general meeting we have been refining our rules so that we can make life easier for Committee members to do their work by email.

Again today we are further refining the rules.

I thank members for their support of your association and I especially thank Committee members for their voluntary work for the Association.

We have put out a number of Newsletters providing members and other former students who want to stay in touch with ongoing information. We have now approximately 250 former students able to be contacted by email.

Looking to the future we look forward to continuing to make contact with former students and helping to be in contact with their mates, helping our members network both for social and mentoring purpose and to working closely with the schools on projects that improve the educational experience of current and future students of the schools.

Lastly and very importantly I thank those members who have attended this AGM today for their time and Charlie Behrens for the use of his boardroom.

Yours sincerely

Chris Bryett
President.