



Boongarrunby

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(Boongarrunby was the name of the BBHS school magazine)

Newsletter of Blacktown High Alumni Association Inc

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Alumni Website a Successful Contact Point - www.blacktownhighalumni.org.au

It was clear from the outset that the Association would need a website as a focal point. We regularly receive emails from ex-students, and occasionally from ex-teachers, passing on information or photos. The website provides an accessible location for this information.

One of the most rewarding aspects of the Association is to see old friends reunited. A recent email highlights the re-connection possibilities of registering with the Alumni.

"Just letting you know the photos are in the mail for you and I've included names I remember. Maybe someone will see them and fill in more names for me. I would also like a copy of my third year at BGHS 1959 I was in 3Dd if anyone has one.

Also thanks to your site I have been able to re-unite with my best friend from those days and we are planning a reunion. We haven't seen each other for 40 years, so will be very emotional. This will happen when I come to Sydney in July. We are so excited and its thanks to your site we found each other. Now I have to make contact with my other friend from then. Look forward to seeing the photos on the site. Thanks again."

In other examples of link ups via the website, Phil Porter (BBHS) is working with Arthur Phillip High to create a similar association. The Committee has agreed to work with Phil and to assist where we can. Mrs Pesudovs (BGHS) has provided a large amount of teacher material for the 1964/65 years which is now on our website and accessible from the home page and President's Message page. This material gives an insight into life at BGHS in that period.

Our Facebook page has also proved popular with ex-students visiting regularly and many becoming 'fans' of the Association.

All ex-students are encouraged to make contact in one form or another. This activity identifies for the Committee where effort can be best placed to assist in finding old friends.



The Way Forward - Chris Bryett, President

The Association has grown steadily and the number of ex-students on our email list has grown substantially. The Association now has a Facebook page which is updated with the website with photos and news. If you have any school photos please send a copy to us electronically or to the PO Box.

One of the key tasks undertaken by the Committee was to broaden the membership base to include students from Blacktown Girls High School. The reunion in March gave the Association the means to contact over 3000 ex-students of the Schools by email through the Friends Reunited site. The Association website was hit over 800 times following these emails. Many ex-students requested to be added to our email list and/or became members.

The reunion was a success in that four key groups were represented - 1964 BBHS, 1970 BGHS, 1970 BBHS and 1981 BGHS. Photos of the reunion can be seen on our website and Facebook.

We now have an ever growing membership of girls and a large number are now on our email list. Growth for the Association will come from working with ex-students to bring together as many as possible from that year. This serves the dual purpose of bring old friends together and also bringing the Association to the attention of a larger audience.

As we grow and travel along our journey we will need to make adjustments to accommodate the changes we encounter. For example we have recently adjusted the Association rules to enlarge the Committee so that we can have a Vice President from each school and 3 committee members from each school. So if you are a former student of BGHS and feel you would like to contribute to our work by being on the Management Committee, make contact with us.

I have asked Peter Flowers, principal of BGHS, for information on how we can help BGHS. Members of the committee hope to meet with him soon to discuss how the Alumni can support BGHS.

Shaun Addy has provided a list of projects that we can assist BBHS with and to effect this we have applied for and received our Australian Business Number and Deductible Gift Recipient Status. This means that donations to the School Building Fund are now tax deductible.

Our fund raising program for the Sports Lab for BBHS was a success and I thank all donors small and large for their effort. We are now working with Shaun Addy on the implementation of this program to provide a better learning experience for future students.

Aims of Alumni Association

Our aim is to provide support for the students in several forms:

- Provide a network of mentoring for students, to enable them to achieve their potential goals and to assist them to step around any perceived barriers.
- Provide financial assistance to the schools through benevolence, wherever possible in an attempt to provide facilities that the schools may otherwise have difficulty providing.
- Provide a facility whereby ex-students can stay in contact with fellow students they grew up with as their life takes them wherever they go. This will be achievable through our website and Facebook.



Making a Level Playing Field

July Gathering

On 31 July, over 60 ex-students of Blacktown Boys and Girls High Schools enthusiastically met in Blacktown Workers Club as part of an Alumni get together – and took the opportunity to share memories of their school days. It was a low key event meant to provide an opportunity for class mates to get together. We were amazed that several attendees travelled from interstate to be part of the gathering. We hope that all the participants were able to reconnect with someone they knew. Some met up with school mates after 45 or more years apart...a great day for all!

Memories we heard discussed included:

- Prefects checking that hats, ties, gloves were worn by BGHS students as they departed each day and students hitching skirts when out of view;
- Students sneaking a smoke on the sporting fields;
- Watching the star performers in athletics, swimming and football competitions;
- Remembering who was dating who at different stages;
- Watching OI'55 perform at school dances and formals;
- Favourite teachers like Ivor F (Stowe) and his model aeroplanes flying on the playing field;

November Event

Following the success of the 31 July gathering and the call for further events the Committee will definitely go ahead with an event in November 2010. At this stage it is hoped to hold it at the schools on 20 November 2010. We will post details on both the Alumni website and Facebook as soon as they are determined.

If you have any great ideas for this event please email us at info@blacktownhighlumni.org.au .

Class reunions – Need help finding your class mates?

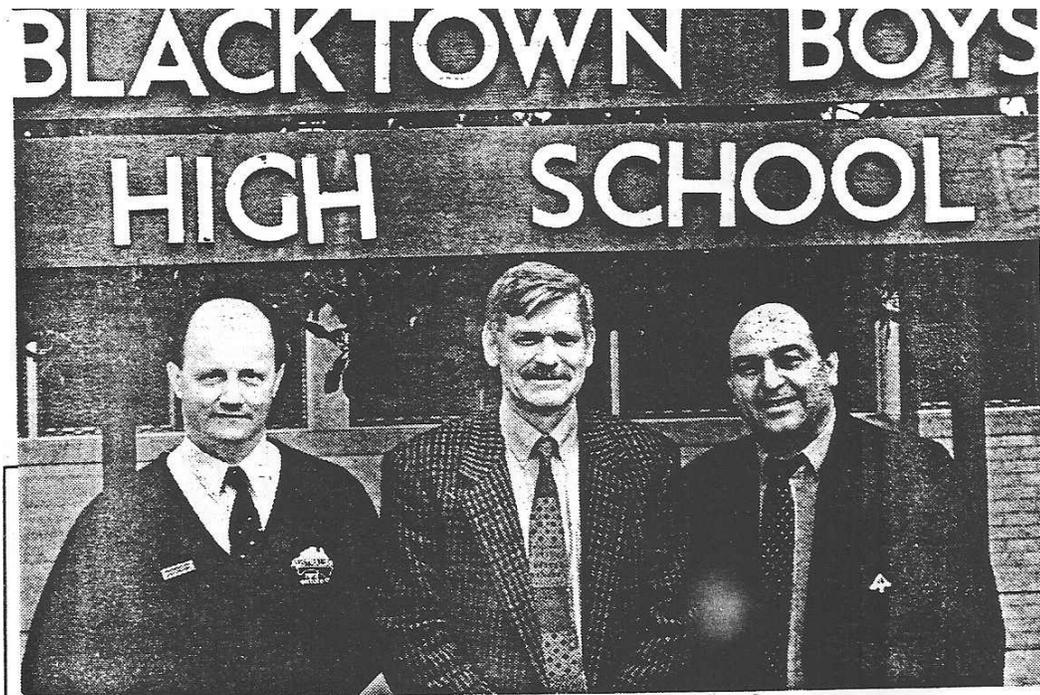
The Alumni may be able to assist particular cohorts to contact their classmates and arrange reunion activities.

We have developed some skills and capacity to contact ex-students. If you would like our assistance, please forward a list of students you are seeking and we will do our best to put you in touch with them.

Passing

Cosmo D'Urso a 1968 leaver, and one of the three organisers of the 1998 reunion for his year, passed away after a long fight with cancer. Cosmo was a director of Avant Contructions with his older brother Tony.

Anyone with a photo of him please send a copy to us for our Remembered Page to info@blacktownhighalumni.org.au.



Boys from the "wild west" ... (from left) John Faglioni, Peter McSeveny and Avant Contructions owner Cosmo D'Urso

Trio set to rope in lots for reunion