

Secondary Schooling in Numurkah 1957 - 2007

Marking time in Toc Road



Saturday 24th March
Welcome to the 50 Year Reunion.

- Registrations in the Hall 10am onwards – collect a name tag
- Collect Dinner Dance Tickets - Hall
- Go for a tour of the school with current students (look for those in school uniform) – departs from the side doors of the hall – every 15 minutes.
- Era rooms – see map (Rooms closed during opening ceremony)
 - 1930's to 1950's (C1)
 - Current Year 7's (C5)
 - 1960's (C6)
 - 1970's (S3)
 - 1980's to 2000's (A1)
- Souvenir Wine - Monichino's stand – in front of the boys' prefects' room, oops, now the library! If you have pre-ordered wine please collect your name tag before collecting wine.
- Refreshments available in the Art Court Yard area:
 - Genovese Coffee, BBQ (Rotary), School Canteen, Devonshire Teas (next to Monichino's stall)
- First Aid? - See map – your helpful volunteer is Jenny Bennie.
- If you need assistance anytime throughout the day ask a Volunteer or Committee Member (in fluoro jackets).

Official Opening - 2pm

- The School Bell rings for everyone to gather in front of the Science Wing (inclement weather – Gymnasium).
- Memorabilia Display and classrooms closed during opening.
- Terry Brennan, Reunion President will begin the Official Opening at precisely 2pm.
- "Advance Australia Fair" will be played by the College's Instrumental Music Students.
- Guest Speakers: Introduction by Kathryn Atkin (Current Principal). Welcome by Cr Kevin Bourke representing Mayor Frank Malcolm (Moirā Shire), Comments by Ken Jasper MLA Murray Valley & Ernest Jones (Past Principal).
- Official Opening and unveiling of plaque by Kaye Darveniza, M.P. (Member for Northern Victoria Region and Parliamentary Secretary, Rural and Regional Development) & Ernest Jones.
- Conclusion "God Save the Queen" played by students.

Alumni Launch - 2.30pm: Short and sweet, in the Library.

Photographs - 2.40pm onwards– listen for your year levels to be called over the PA.
Photographer: Spielvogel. Phone number 03 5334 0246.
Dignitaries Photographs: Past Principals, School Council Presidents, School Captains, Dux of the School and Parent Club Presidents

Saturday Night Dinner Dance

- 7pm for a punctual 7.30 start (entrée), byo alcohol and glasses (cheap plastic ones supplied). Reunion wine available to purchase during night. Catering by "Michael on the Murray". Music by "A Bit on the Side" Masters of Ceremonies: Don and Rod Kilgour.

Sunday

- Golf - Numurkah Golf Club 9.30am. 9 holes - Tee-off 10am Shot Gun Start. Organiser: Leigh Robertson.
- Church timetable – see schedule on page 4
- Primary School Open: 10am to 12noon—Your host Jeff Blackley
- Come back to the College Grounds – open from 10am onwards – meet with friends
- Enjoy a BBQ (compliments of our friendly Lions Club), or BYO Picnic Lunch
- School open until 2pm.

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of the organizing committee of "The 50 Year Reunion" it is with much pleasure that I welcome past students, teachers, staff, their families and friends back to the Numurkah Secondary College to celebrate 50 years of education at this present site.

Little did we realize when we attended this school how our secondary education would play a major part in the way our lives would develop and that the friendships we made here would endure for a lifetime.

I hope this weekend will allow you to renew these friendships and enjoy yourselves.

I would sincerely like to thank my committee for their patience and persistence in making this event happen.

Terry Brennan

Chairman – 50 Year Reunion Committee.

MESSAGE FROM THE PRINCIPAL

Numurkah Secondary College has a strong tradition of providing quality educational opportunities to students through the provision of effective programs and appropriate services and facilities. This reunion brings together a large number of people who have used their educational experiences at Numurkah Secondary College to launch themselves into very successful careers. The past 50 years have seen the school undergo many changes as it has worked to maintain its position as an excellent provider of State Government Education for this area. In the past 8 years the school buildings and grounds have been transformed and what you see today is a very high quality educational facility surrounded by extensive recreational areas and pleasant gardens. Anyone who has had involvement in Numurkah Secondary College over the past 50 years can be proud of its achievements and their involvement in its development. This reunion is a fantastic opportunity to share stories, revisit old times and revitalise the history of the college. On behalf of the current school community, I welcome all visitors to the college and extend thanks to the Reunion Committee for their intensive and dedicated work over the past 18+ months to make this reunion possible.

Kathryn Atkin

Principal 2005 -



OPENING OF NUMURKAH HIGH SCHOOL 1957
Mr. Bloomfield, Barry Dourlay and Gwen Miller (Head Prefects)
Background Mrs. Baxter, Mrs Bloomfield, Mrs Ramsey, Mrs Hart.

The Jubilee publication of Secondary Education at Numurkah 1924-1974 stated:

"The Opening Ceremony of the New High School building on the fine sunny day of Friday, 10th May 1957 was a most memorable event. Mr Baxter as Advisory Council Chairman welcomed the distinguished visitors – The Hon. John Bloomfield (Minister for Education), the Hon. George C. Moss, M.L.A., Major General Alan H. Ramsay (Director of Education) and Mr Arch M. Rogers accompanying Mr Hart as School Principals. Most of the ceremony took place in front of the school following which it was Mr Bloomfield's honour to unveil the plaque in the school foyer commemorating the event in a permanent manner."*

ANECDOTES

1956 Stephens, Susan (Jenkinson)

Being town, non bicycle riding students, Pamela and I, plus Miss Hossack, would often be collected along the way, on the long walk to school, by Mr Gooding, woodwork teacher or Mr Corneliuson, maths teacher, to ensure we arrived on time. We were always grateful for this kindness, especially on wet days. It shows the friendly sense of community of more innocent times. Numurkah High School had top class teachers. It was an honour to be taught by teachers of the calibre of: Miss H Hossack (English); Mr I McKean (Commercial Prin and Prac, Shorthand/Typing); Mr HDG Burr (Geography); Mr R Fitzgerald (History and Form Teacher). Not forgetting from former years, Miss L Vincent (Needlework); Mr Tippett (Maths); Miss M Patten (French); Mr Erdelyi (Geography - after the Hungarian Uprising). Pamela and I enjoyed being in the cast of Gilbert and Sullivan's 'Gondoliers' presented on Speech Night, 1958. I was always proud of being Dux of Form 5 Leaving Certificate Year in 1959.

1958 Baker, Harry

I enjoyed science and metal work classes with Sid Gooding as the teacher

Prideaux, Betty (Higgs)

I was the school pianist from 1958 until 1963. Playing piano for the National Anthem every Monday morning.

1959 Donelan, Brenda

How many of us were in the class of one particular teacher, who would periodically slam the ruler down on the desk, for no reason, just because he could. Then of course, we had the headmaster, patrolling the corridors, strap in hand, and ready to swoop in on any poor student who happened to look sideways during a class.

Gread, Thelma (Wood)

I have very happy memories of flying down to the lawn tennis courts for tennis practice with Adrian Thomas at lunch-times, the lunch-time "talent quests" in the Assembly Hall and the School Assemblies with Fleur Cottam and Betty Prideaux playing the piano for everyone to sing many classic Australian songs.

Hanna, Peter

Fond Memories: Being Captain of the Cricket Team. Involvement with Don Moore and his Judo Club. Wood work with Sid Gooding Managing to scrape a pass in English in the final year.

1960 Dodd, Graeme

Just an average student but mostly enjoyed the years (except for the compulsory dance classes under the watchful eyes of Sid Gooding). Manufactured/painted backdrops for a few musical productions (and even appeared in two of them - "South Chicago" and "Guns of Ministrone" - musical parodies courtesy of Mad Magazine (still have the scripts somewhere). I held the high jump record for a time (until new technology jumpers)

Gilbert, Kay (Woodward)

School camp at Mirboo Nth in 1964 (Form 5).

Stanley, Graham

Don Moore throwing his keys across the floor on icy winter mornings in an attempt to connect with bare feet. Cramped little Prefects room beside the canteen. Leila Vincent and Sam Gooding's dancing classes.

1961 Littlejohn, Marion

Too many fond memories but I owe my life long love of history to the passion of Hank Nelson, teaching Ancient History & Don Moore firing our imaginations with war stories. Since leaving school.

Roberts, Allan (Butch)

Growing up with friends, learning, cross country runs, sports days, technical studies - w/ work, metal work with Mr Sammy Gooding. Wasn't keen on music lessons with Adrian Thomes.

1962 Dealy, Valerie (Brennan)

Loved my time at NHS especially the friends I made. Fond memories of the teachers we had. Yr 5 camp to Mirboo North was a highlight. RIP Miss Pascoe who later was killed in a car accident. The school bus was another good memory.

Kendall, Ruth (Kleehammer)

Alyson Hyde & myself dancing on cooking table. Miss Glover (Senior Mistress) caught us.

Reynoldson, Sandra (Malcolm)

I have many memories of my time at Numurkah High School and have kept school magazines which I've referred to over the years. I especially enjoyed the school fetes and talent quests. Another special memory was being able to attend several of the early Gilbert&Sullivan productions put on by the Numurkah Singers in the Town hall. On one such occasion, I still remember the humiliation of the seat I was sitting on giving way, and landing with it on the floor with a bang! One of the teachers assumed I had been misbehaving and hauled me out very promptly. The episode provided me with good material for an English essay which I think I might still have somewhere. The school library was my favourite room and both Mrs Reilly, and later Mrs Moore, encouraged my enjoyment of reading - probably leading me to fill my home almost to overflowing with books and, bookshops. My less favourite places were the sewing room and the gymnasium.

1965 Koning, Cathy

Generally loved Numurkah High School, looking back realise how small our class sizes were in HSC. Took the bus from Invergordon each day, had a great social life too. Went to Latrobe Uni after high school. Teachers who had an impact were Frank Peck (HSC history), Pam Florence (Art), Mr Harvey (Maths).

1967 Learmonth, Cheryl (Boase)

Met my husband at NSC in Biology classes. Teacher Rob Elliott was fresh out of uni!

1963 McPherson, John Charles

Don Moore, former PE teacher, locked me in a Pommel horse for a whole PE lesson. I guess I deserved it.

Numurkah Secondary College Alumni

What is an alumni?

Alumni is a term for a group of past students or members of a school or institution. Traditionally private schools and tertiary educational institutions in Australia have had 'old boy / girl' organisations. These are in fact an alumnus (common usage now uses the plural term alumni). Many long established public schools now also have an alumni of past students.

What does an alumni do?

An alumni is a vehicle whereby past students and staff are able to keep in contact with their past educational institution and fellow students. Well established alumni in some schools regularly have a social calendar of events and semi-regular newsletters that keep them up to date with what's happening at their 'old' school. The school is able to draw on the expertise and skills of past students.

(eg. See Melbourne High's Alumni page at: www.mhsoba.asn.au)

At the 50 years Reunion it is hoped to set up an alumni for the school. To make this possible it will require some past students or staff to 'put their hands up' and take on positions of responsibility to get the organisation up and running. Because most such organisations take up a yearly subscription to enable them to run, legal obligations for balance sheets etc, have to be met. Again at the initial meeting it is hoped that past students with some experience in the field would be able to guide the setting up of such an organisation.

For people who are interested in joining our proposed alumni there is a short meeting at 2: 30 in the library.

Leigh Robertson



Church Times

CHURCH

Anglican Church
 Numurkah Christian Church
 St John's Catholic Church
 Numurkah Church of Christ
 Freedom Fellowship Inc
 Gospel Fellowship
 St Andrews Presbyterian Church
 Seventh Day Adventist
 Uniting Church

ADDRESS

Brenion St
 Cnr McCaskill & Callander St
 Tocumwal Road
 86 Tocumwal Road
 26 Quinn Street
 60 Meiklejohn Street
 56 Saxton Street
 86 Tocumwal Road
 Melville Street

SERVICE

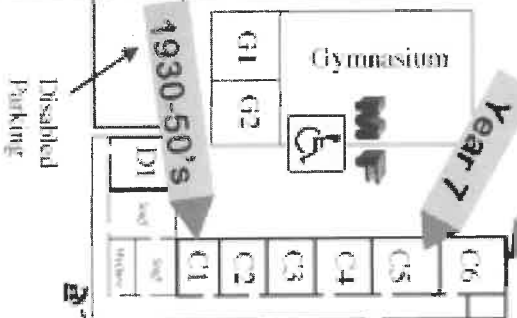
10.30am
 10.30am & 6.30pm
 10.30am
 10am
 10.30am
 10.45am
 11.15am
 SATURDAY 11.30am
 10am

CONTACT

Fr Brad Kemister—58612046
 Pstr John Everard—58623660
 58621041
 58623181
 Rev Brian Hole—58621213
 D Younger—58651377
 Frank Savage—58621621
 58622665
 Rev Max Woolcock—58621047

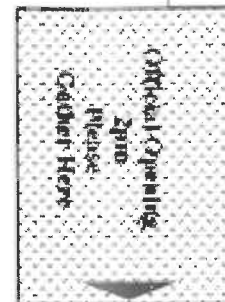
Bus Road

Tennis Courts

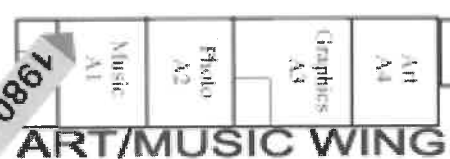
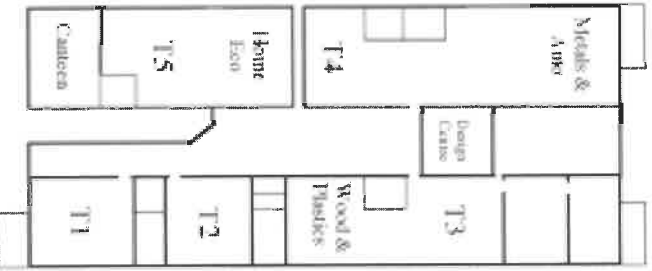
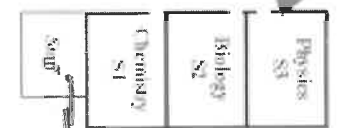
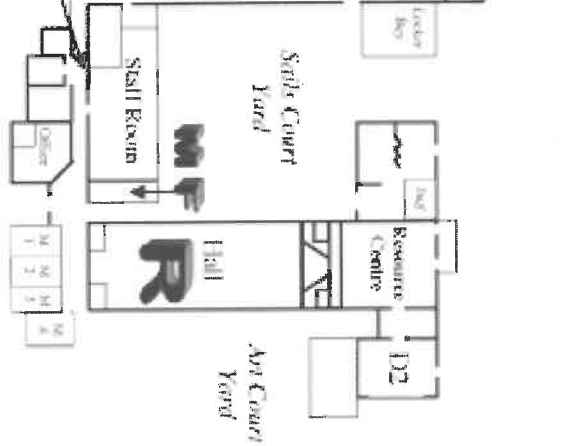


Year 7

1960's



1970's



1980s-2000s

Parking for
Committee Members
only

Pine Street

- mf** Toilets
- R** Registrations
- +** First Aid
- ♿** Toilets for Disabled

Reserved Parking
- 6 Bays

Tocumwal Road



PRINCIPALS



A M Rogers
1951-1955



A H Hart
1956-1958



A H McLeod
1959-1961



T G Lloyd
1970-1975



W C E Head
1962-1968



G W Robins
1976-1982



D E Jones
1984-1993



G A Durham
1994-1999



S McKinley
2000-2004



K M Atkin
2005



Christie House was named for John Scott Christie, a member of an established farming family with a strong connection to this school. Jack Christie enlisted in 1940 and fought with the AIF in the Middle East. He was wounded, promoted to Captain and mentioned in dispatches for exceptional service. He died of wounds in July 1942. He is remembered as energetic and enthusiastic. He was greatly respected for his care for others, his generosity and sense of responsibility.



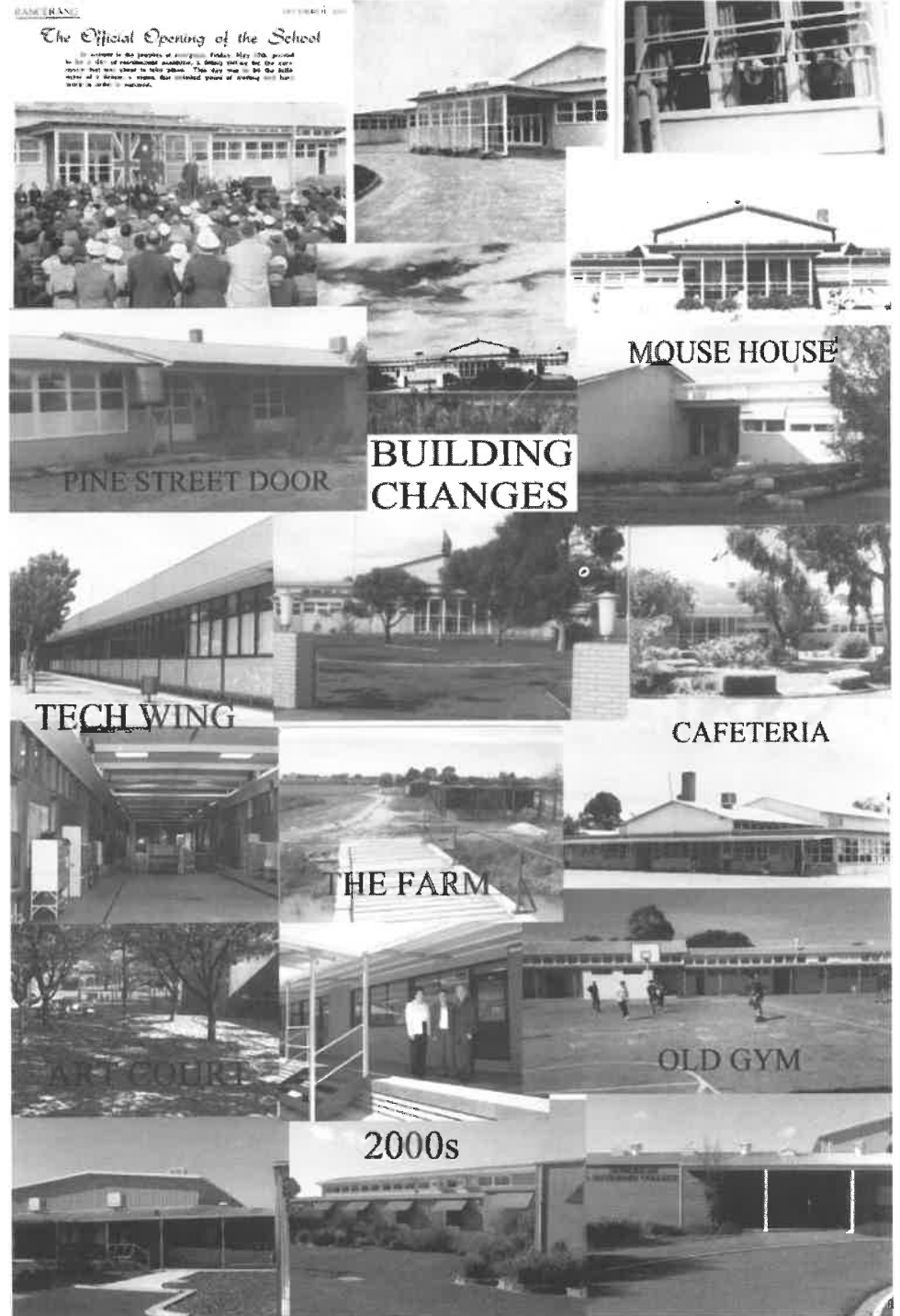
Gray House was named for John Adam Gray whose family farmed at Drumanure. He attended Numurkah Higher Elementary School. John was a great sportsman who enjoyed life and is remembered for his loyalty, courage and sense of humour. He joined the AIF in May 1940. As a member of the 4th Anti-Tank Regiment he was sent to Singapore and on 15th Feb. 1942 became a POW in Changi. After working on the Burma Railway he fell ill and died in January 1944.



Hunkin House is named for Gregory Herbert Hunkin. Greg attended primary and secondary school in Numurkah, where his father owned a variety store and his mother provided board for out of town students. Hunkin Senior was involved in the School Committee. Greg enlisted in the R.A.A.F. in 1942 and was sent to Britain where he served in Lancaster bomber squadrons. In June 1944 he was reported, "Missing in action, presumed dead." He is remembered as being conscientious, friendly, positive, realistic and always believed in doing his best.



Tweddle House was named for Charles Joseph Tweddle whose family farmed at Baulkamaugh and lived in Numurkah, where Charlie went to school. He enlisted in the 2nd/22nd Infantry, which embarked for Rabaul in April 1941. He was among the members of Lark Force taken prisoner in 1942. Charlie was listed as "lost at sea", having been one of the prisoners aboard the Montevideo Maru, which was sunk when transporting prisoners to Japan to be used as slave labour. Charlie was devoted to his family and the land and committed to service to all.





During the weekend you will be able to place an order for your own copy of a professionally produced DVD containing footage taken during the reunion, interviews and a selection of photographs



COST: \$25 inc p&h

VCAL Students have prepared a series of CD-ROMs, which will contain a decade of BANGERANGs. Cost will be \$10 each. If your attendance crosses over decades we can tailor a CD just for you. Place your order on Saturday and you can pick it up on Sunday

autographs

ANECDOTES

1939 Osborne, Bill

There were 8 of us in our Leaving Year (Year 11) and our form room was the Woodwork building. We went from being the irresponsible middle year 1941 to being the top form in 1942 and we were hardly ready for it. As most of my school time was during the war and there were no school buses, I was one of the Tyres Mob who boarded with Miss May Tyres in Saxton Street.

1949 Marshall, Beverley

I remember: friendly atmosphere between teachers & pupils, playing Vigoro, great sense of belonging, fund raising by Gray House with hot tomato soup at morning recess.

1951 Luke, William

Travelling on the school bus from Cobram through Katamatite over unmade roads and break downs. A great bunch of kids and our driver Jack Hocking from Andersons Cobram.

Mitchell, Marie

Miss Hossack(Harriet) was the French teacher and she used to take a group of senior kids home with her to her flat at lunchtime and talk about her travels, art, etc. She seemed so wise, but was a tough teacher. I can still remember what she looked like after all these years.(Would never happen now!)

Saxton, Robert (Bob)

Many fond memories, but the excursion to the Olympic Games is right up there.

1952 Bourke, Kevin

Just being there was great. Four very happy years. The leadership of Mr Rodgers. The inter school sporting events. Miss Gill reading "Wind in The Willows". The long lasting friendships formed and maintained. Travelling by bus from Cobram. Sport at play and lunch time - participation of teachers. Marching under instruction from Mr David.

1953 Cowan, David

I first went up to the new school in 1956 during the floods of that year. The school consisted only of one wing, the office and foyer and a start had been made on the east wing and the assembly hall. It was so wet we had walkways made of timber decking from the bus stop and there was only a very small area to the east of the completed building, originally known as Rooms 1 - 6 where we could gather at recess time. There was tons of mud, slush and water and many pranks involved tossing people off the ramps into the mud. The commencement of 1957 saw the school much more livable, Mr Arthur Hart was the Principal and Mr Tippet (better known as Casper the friendly ghost) the vice principal. This was to be my last year and with Max Spinks, Laurie Bernard and Robert Sloley I was elected Prefect.

Hooper, Glenda (Garner)

Winning Vigoro Team District Final. Egg appeals. Gray House victories. Citizenship award. School Captain. taught for years. Still play table tennis - a game I was taught at NHS by Mr Erdelyi (a teacher from Hungary).

Rome, Peter

Looking forward to catching up with Trevor Sutton and 'Mozzie' Graham. Big Time Bookies ! One year, a classmate and I decided to run a book on the Melbourne Cup. We convinced Mick Erdelyi the Geography teacher, into getting us a copy of the day's newspaper with the Cup field in it. Being from Hungary, I am sure he did not realise what we were up to. One boy bet 2/-, a fair bit in those days for a pair of impecunious kids, and that made us worried about the fortune we could lose. We were doing a roaring trade, but by lunchtime we panicked and gave everyone their threepences and sixpences back! As it turned out we would have made a nice profit if we hadn't chickened out.

1956 Caughy, Christine (Westh)

School buses: Drivers Tilly and Norm Eldridge were our drivers. Each day they would wash and polish the buses inside out making it a pleasure to travel in. I think it was Norm if driving on a Friday afternoon, would allow all the remaining students to embark from bus to purchase sweets, drinks, etc from the Strathmerton Milk Bar which was owned by my parents. Probably not quite the right protocol but the students loved him for it. Loved the concerts we had at lunch time on Fridays, where we voted for our favourite artists with penny votes. The final contestants performed the day of the fete. Great way to raise money. We never did vote for the real talented ones. I often wonder how many teachers suffered with indigestion after eating our culinary efforts. Last day of school we jumped into the small irrigation channel. Dripping wet we were severely reprimanded.

Rome, Graeme

Playing poker on the bus from Cobram.

Stephens, Pamela

The girls always had to wear our Numurkah High School uniform correctly with tie, beret and gloves. We had weekly inspections by Miss Hossack. On exceptionally hot days we were permitted to undo the top button of our summer dress.

1957 Sutherland, Grant

Being told by Headmaster WC Head in 4th year that if I did not stop wearing shorts to school my privileges would be cut off. Teacher Lee Hammer, on my arguing with him about a science fact expostulated "You don't have to believe it; you only have to know it." As I became a professional scientist and this has stood me in good stead.

1958 Newton, Lorraine

Travelling on the bus from Yarroweyah, stopping at the Katunga store for icecreams on the way home. Watching the boys who were thrown off the bus for being naughty,(Alan Ingram, Doug and Geoff Hendy, David McCracken and Co.,) trying to catch the bus on their bikes. Getting caught smoking on Social night behind the girls toilet block (by the appropriately named Headmaster Mr Head).

THANKS TO OUR SUPPORTERS

This program was generously sponsored by ex-student Wendy McAllister of Grizzly Engineering, Don Kilgour, Kevin Bourke and the Numurkah Development Committee.

We would like to thank the following businesses/people for their generous support:

Numurkah Leader
Monichino's Winery
Telegraph Hotel
Sue Duncan
Howlong Golf & Country Club
Maurice McNamara & Co
Flowers by Tara
Jill & Bill Masters – Masters Video Production
Stephen Holmes Bus Line
Bourke Hire
Australia Post Numurkah Branch
Retallicks Newsagency
Numurkah Discount Store
Numurkah Mensland
Janez Shooz
Numurkah Cycles and Sports

Hair Hut
Numurkah Bearing and Hydraulics
Numurkah Food Works
Thrifty Link Hardware
Numurkah Hotel
Numurkah Car Wash
Reapers Hairdressing
Louis Hamon Pharmacy
Wheelers Auto Electrical
Numurkah Plumbing Supplies
Brett McKeown Butchers
Common Thread
Genovese Coffee
Numurkah Golf & Bowls Club
Numurkah Hire & Sales
Ragg Denn & Unmentionables
Numurkah Agricultural Society
Numurkah Primary School P&F
Visser Family
Jenny Bennie – 1st Aid Van
Lions Club
Rotary Club
Numurkah Primary School
Sonia Strachan
The long suffering office staff at Numurkah Secondary College.
Various anonymous donors

Committee:

Terry Brennan (Chairman), Marie Dewhurst, Rhonda Geddes, Josie Geddes, Sonia Allert, Lyn Chandler, Heather McLauchlan, Jenny Burkitt, Elaine Cossens, Jan Stevens, Peter Dealy, Geoff Partington, Michael Newham, Kathryn Atkin, Liz Dell, Maggie Watts.
Special thanks to Fay Scadden.