

Mr Tony Goninan: Manual Arts, Telopea Park High 1967

I guess very few staff or students will remember me as I was assigned to Telopea Park High as a young itinerant manual arts teacher from Braidwood Central School where I taught the other 3 days of the week.

I spent my first year of teaching 1966, as itinerant Braidwood/Campbell High , **1967, itinerant Braidwood/Telopea**, 1968, itinerant Braidwood/Narrabundah.

In 1966 I married Toni Derwin from Newcastle where we met at Teachers College in 1964 and she was appointed to Braidwood in 1967 as infants, later converting to secondary mathematics.

I was appointed permanently to Braidwood Central in 1969 which was a relief from all the travelling over a 3 yr period. (would the young teachers do it now?)

Toni and I remained in Braidwood til I was seconded by the Dept. of Defence to teach in Penang Malaysia for 3 years. This was of course an amazing experience for us both. We suffered a tragic event in our lives when we lost our 14 yr old son Jason, just after returning to Australia to both teach at Toormina High School near Coffs Harbour.

We currently live in the most idyllic setting, Sawtell village, not 50 metres to the beach. It's fantastic. On return we wonder why we even bother to travel.

I resigned from teaching in 1989 to pursue a successful career in my own real estate business in Coffs Harbour, from which I retired in 2006. I took up a position as Chief Riding Instructor contracted to the RTA for approximately 6 years as I still had a keen interest in motorcycling.

My interest has always been in cars & motorbikes (red Bellet in Telopea)and this has only grown over the years whereby I now have a stable of 8 motor vehicles, mostly Classic Cars of the 60's, a Harley Davidson and Toni's Yamaha 650. My latest acquisition being a restored original **1967 Corvette Sting Ray 427 Big block.** (Is that date a co-incidence?)

Toni & I have been lucky enough to do a lot of travelling both overseas and in Australia and we have just returned from a Malaysia reunion, Vietnam and Cambodia.

It saddened me to hear that my original manual arts staff members at Telopea are now deceased and this included Geoff Sutherland and Don Gamble. Both these men had an influence on my life.

My time now is largely spent being actively involved with the instigation and running of the Coffs Harbour Mens Shed.

I look forward to reading more news on staff and ex students of Telopea Park High .

