

Newsletter no 1

From: Brett Yeats [<mailto:yeatsb@inet.net.au>]

Sent: Sunday, 17 October 2010 10:31 PM

Subject: Telopea 1968 reunion

A brief introduction.

Some of you will remember me, I remember most of you especially with the aid of a number of school yearbooks that my mother saved over the years. After school I studied at the ANU, married Jenny Hendy while doing a Dip. Ed. in Perth and we returned to Canberra in 1977. We have been here since then. We both gave up teaching at the end of 1977 (Jenny was at Telopea, I was at Canberra High) and are now retired after many years running the Garran newsagency and the ACT franchise of OZ Design Furniture. We see a lot of old Telopeans around still and hear of others.

Earlier this year I had contact with Ruth Ingram for the first time since we left school at the end of 1968. That's almost 42 years ago. It is a long story, the details are at the end of this email for anyone who is curious.

The consequences are that we have met in Canberra, had many phone calls, and are currently working towards holding a reunion next year. Many schools celebrate ten / twenty year reunions. We could wait until 2018 for our fiftieth but Ruth and I thought we would see who was interested in celebrating reaching our sixtieth birthday.

Between us and some of the people we are in contact with we have compiled the attached list of names, phone numbers, addresses and email addresses. There are 189 names on the list – obviously there weren't that many at the end of 1968. Ruth suggested that we should include anyone who was part of our year for any of the high school years. I support that so if there is anyone else who might like to be part of this let me know of their details. I have not deliberately left anyone off the list so again if you know of someone who should be there please tell me. I am sending the list to the email addresses we have so far to test the ones we have and to get help in adding more. If you see any errors please let me know, I imagine many might not be up to date.

There are a number of things to be considered:

1. There are some people who don't want their privacy invaded. If you don't want your details circulated please let us know. We can communicate in a sensitive way.
2. Some people are not interested in reunions and want no part of them. A message to that effect and I promise that we will not contact you again.
3. Should we form a committee?
4. Would you like to be involved in organising? Anyone with web skills would be particularly useful.

Then there is the issue of what sort of reunion, where and when.

This link (www.telopea67.org/index.php) will take you to work done by Jim Gillespie for the year ahead of us. It shows you some of the possibilities. I certainly like the idea of people providing any summary they wish to share with or without a recent photo. I think we can start with a 'virtual' reunion but I'm convinced there is enough interest for many of us to meet somewhere in Canberra next year. A single event is not enough so we would hope to have a program of barbecues, coffees, golf, walks – the possibilities are exciting.

Over to you,

Best wishes,

Brett Yeats

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Six years ago I became a volunteer guide at Old Parliament House. About a year ago OPH became the Museum of Australian Democracy at Old Parliament House and many things changed. In my opinion, not all for the better, but it is a terrific place to visit especially if you have any interest in Australian politics. The fellow in charge of the oral history area there was looking for volunteers to help him by finding past interviewees (or their next of kin) to sign consent forms to allow access to the interviews. One of the people I was allocated was Ken Ingram, Ruth's father. As advised, Mr Ingram was dead and my letter to Mrs Ingram was responded to by Ruth's older sister Margaret. As I had mentioned my Telopea background Margaret passed on my letter to Ruth and now this effort is under way. Not such a long story after all.