

Newsletter no 2

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

Sent: Monday, 22 November 2010 10:27 AM

Subject: Progress report.

I apologise for the delay in the sending of this follow up email. Part of the reason is that I have been away a fair bit. Also, I have spoken to many people and so many people have corresponded, adding to my list of people and addresses. As a result this email will be long, but hopefully you will find something that interests you. Here we go.

1. The list.

I started with 122 people from the Higher School Certificate results in the 1969 year book. Then I added the names of the people whose School Certificate results were in the 1967 year book. I met with Patrick Britten who organised a reunion of some of the people who attended TPHS in 1963 – 1965. He gave me lots of people who had left before I arrived in 1966. There are also people who were in our year at some stage but left due to a change of schools or parents moving out of town. Ruth Ingram and I decided at the beginning that anyone who wanted to be part of this should be included. If you know of anyone who I have missed please send me their names and any contact details you can find. There are some names where all I have is initials – can you give me the first names?

2. Deaths.

Sadly, I have learnt that at least eight of our fellow students have died. I would like to publish details – who can help me with this? I know that two, Bridget Whitelaw (art historian NGV) and Meredith Borthwick (DFAT) had illustrious careers cut short.

3. Email addresses.

I now have 118 email addresses and I know there are more to come. The list I am attaching doesn't show the addresses due to a caution regarding privacy. People will need to approach me if they wish to contact you and I will clear it with you before passing it on. You will also see whether I have a phone number for you (I put YES in the column). Finally, I have shown where people are now (to the best of my knowledge). Additions and corrections will be gratefully received.

There are four people who don't have email access, I will deal with them by mail.

I have had one request that I not include her in the emails – of course I will respect any such wishes.

4. Telopea links.

Just by googling and with some help from others I have found stories/ biographies on 22 people. Click on the attachment for these links. Some interesting and surprising news.

5. A template for your story.

Attached to this newsletter is a [biography](#) that Ruth has provided. Those of you who knew Ruth at school will be interested to read what she has done since 1968 and I'm sure that others will be curious. I would like as many people as possible to send me

whatever you would like to tell us about your journey. It is not compulsory, it can be as brief or as long as you like. If you would like to send a current photo that would also be terrific.

6. Telopea today.

I went to the recent fete and took some photos. I returned a few days later and took more photos when I met Esther Davies, a senior ex teacher there over quite a long period. She is employed to work on Telopea's history. She generously showed me around, and I saw some of the records that she has.

<http://picasaweb.google.com/Brett.Yeats/Telopea?feat=directlink>

7. Committee meeting.

Our first committee meeting will happen in the next fortnight. I am suggesting Thursday evening on 2 December at my house in Yarralumla. I have some volunteers but there is room for more. If you would like to come please let me know.

Some people are asking when we will have the real reunion. It will happen next year, I will leave when to a committee decision. I can imagine many events. The school will enable us to go into the old classrooms, even to see your old school records if you want. In the meantime I would love to share news, photos, etc. in a virtual reunion using the wonders of the internet. I've received suggestions of using Facebook and Google groups to try to replicate the good work that Jim Gillespie did for the Telopea 67 and 69 years but I don't have those skills – I'm looking for someone with the time and the expertise. I have joined Friends Reunited (free, have a look) which might have some promise.

I can tell you that I had a lovely conversation with Mr March yesterday. He sounds terrific, and is 81 now. He is going to try to find which teachers are still around. He was particularly interested to hear about Steve Bisset and Richard Swan. The other teacher who I am in contact with is Mrs Bergin. I would also like to thank Pat Britten for all the material he has given me and Henry Kark who has given me a CD with hundreds of photographs which we can share. Henry is a whiz at digitising photographs and has offered to help further in this way.

Already things are moving and people are reminiscing. I had coffee with Rob Nicholls and his wife Jenny in Melbourne last weekend, great to reconnect. Subsequently he caught up with Ian Kerr in Sydney on Monday and is planning to sing with Ian's choir next visit. I'm hoping to catch up with Rob, Ian and Michael Cassin when they each next visit parents who still live in Canberra. And I'd like to catch up with any of you who would like to catch up with me.