

Message to those who haven't decided to come - it's not too late. But please hurry, tell us today (Thursday).

We have 84 signed up for Friday, 109 for Saturday and 81 for Sunday.

Other messages.

Our first gathering is at school on **Friday** between 3.30 and 4.30. We will meet at the main office at the front.

We have at least nine teachers coming (Mick March, Jan Aitkin, Sandra Whichelo, Chris Bergin, Nigel Murray-Harvey, Barry Northam, Neville Street, Bob Edwards, John Rooney). I'm hoping to base them in the staff room when they aren't reacquainting themselves with the old school.

I'm not sure how much access we will have (due to school holidays and security) and how we will do the classroom entries but there is always the staff room and the quadrangle and the front of the school to explore.

From 4.30 till 6.30 we have the old Methodist Hall with a variety of drinks and nibbles. Entry from the school, follow the crowd, or through the main entrance from the car park on the corner of Fitzroy Street and National Circuit.

On **Saturday**, all is organised for a great night in the Forrest Bowling Club. We have a small team setting up at 5.30. Lots of class photos to look at, with nearly all people named. We have an official photographer, Charlie Chan (Roslyn Woodyer's husband) but others are encouraged to bring a camera and record the event. We have an accomplished Master of Ceremonies in Bill Williams. The band idea was romantic but eventually too difficult. A selection of 60s music will be available as background music, a poor substitute I know (sorry).

Please arrive asap after 6.30.

Food. A lovely lady named Jenny Delaney is in charge of the food in the kitchen and she will have an assistant. It is not a sit down, plates and cutlery meal. We decided to go with finger food mainly to allow people to circulate and meet as many people as possible. Also, space is limited and a more formal arrangement would be difficult. There will be plenty of chairs and tables spread around the club for you. We will have some food ready when you arrive (sandwiches, nibbles, nuts, etc) and hot food will be available from 7.00. While the format is finger food, it will be substantial and there should be plenty. For those with allergies and dietary restrictions please see Jenny about the content (gluten free, vegetarian options, etc.). Fruit to follow and a special cake and tea/ coffee available throughout the night. There will be a bar tab operating with a limit which should keep us going for a lot longer than if we were 40 years younger.

Sunday at Manuka Pool from 11.00 to 3.00. Some of us checked it out yesterday. What a special slice of Canberra history it is. The Taverner family have been looking after it for over 80 years now. Tav (John) was two years behind us at Telopea and he is looking forward to our exclusive visit and would love to show you the workings of the place and talk about the history. He is preparing the pool for the season opening on the following Saturday. No swimming yet, and please, no glass anywhere near the pool. Wine and beer around the barbecue and in the grounds is fine. Gunther and his team are offering egg and bacon rolls early then a barbecue after that. We will supply food and some drinks, and paper plates and plastic cups and forks but Canberra people (and their guests) might like to bring their own picnic eating/ drinking equipment.

Plan B in case of rain some are asking Well, there really isn't a firm plan B yet and it will be difficult to come up with one. The good news is that as each day passes the weather is improving and, more importantly, so is the forecast. We will know more on Saturday night so an announcement will be made then if necessary. At the moment this is what the Bureau of Meteorology is saying:

Sunday 16 October

Summary



Min **5**

Max **20**

Mostly sunny.

Canberra area Mostly sunny. Winds west to northwesterly averaging up to 30 km/h tending westerly and light later in the evening.

So, bring an extra jumper just in case.

Finally, welcome back to all you out of towners, especially those who have travelled such large distances. I hope you have enjoyed the online trip so far and that the weekend lives up to all your expectations. Enjoy this wonderful city that I'm pleased to call home.

See you soon,

Brett