



The Cause Reborn?

Volume 1, Issue 1

January 2010

MORE THAN HALF A CENTURY

Who could have thought as we walked out of BCA in December 1956 that most of us would not set eyes on each other again for more than 50 years, if ever.

Year 11 external exams were behind us, and we had said goodbye to Mothers Stephanie and Dorothy who had mentored us through much or all of our secondary education.

Some of us had definite plans on where we were going in 1957, others still had to decide. Our futures took us in so many different directions, and the 2009 reunion gave some of us the opportunity to tell each other of where we had been and what we had been doing in the intervening years.



Leon, Mick, Kevin, Geno, Bill and Anne at the November 2008 Reunion



Geno tells his story to Stephanie, Leon, Margaret, Mick, Sue and Geno's wife Margaret at the Stockade.



Geno, Leon, Margaret, Bill and Mick at Zagame's Ballarat, November 2009

2009 REUNION

After last year's fantastic reunion of all Brigidine Convent and St Mary's School, Ararat past students organised by Kevin Beer, it was only natural that the year 11 BCA class of 1956 should get together again on a more personal basis. After a bit of "to-and-froing", a get-together on Sunday November 22, 2009 at the Eureka Stockade, Ballarat was organised.

The day was the wettest for a long time in Ballarat, and the temperature was not exactly warm, but eight intrepid souls managed to join in a BBQ.

After overnight rain which continued in the morning, there was a lot of doubt in my mind that anyone in their right mind would turn up. Margaret Taylor (nee Baker) rang to say that she would be there as she was only a short distance away at a friend's place. So Sue and I headed off thinking that the reunion could possibly see only 3 attendees. The rain was almost torrential. When we arrived at the stockade, Mick Nailon was already there so we knew there would be at least 4.

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2009 REUNIONCONTINUED

As arranged, Margaret T was found in the Information Centre car park and escorted to our BBQ site.

A short time later, the Gleeson BMW appeared on the scene with Stephanie and Leon on board and things were starting to look good.

Then we glanced across the park and who were approaching but Geno and Margaret Pinzone.

Except for Anne and Kevin who had been earlier apologies, and our departed colleagues, Ann Greene and Michael Long, the group was now complete.

The BBQ was soon alight and the cooking aroma of various cuts of meat warmed our spirits if not our bodies.

After all had eaten, Leon, in his true entrepreneurial fashion of 1956, suggested that each of us should tell the group of our lives between 1956 and 2009. After a little hesitation on some of our parts, we eventually got into the spirit of the occasion. Margaret, Mick and Bill led off, and told their stories in a relatively abbreviated manner.

Geno was next, and despite a few "hurry-ups" from wife Margaret, and to our continued enjoyment and much laughter, managed only to get to somewhere around 1961 in the first half hour. Eventually the freezing weather got the better of us and caused an adjournment.

The decision was made to re-gather at Zagame's, Ballarat, where the party continued.

Mick's Margaret joined us here, and it was a great relief to be finally warm.

Leon now took the floor and made Geno's saga seem like a brief news headline! His story continued into the late afternoon, much to our merriment.

Eventually we had to break up after a great day and head for home, looking forward to the 2010 reunion. Hopefully, Anne and Kevin will be able to add to the occasion.

2010 REUNION

The general consensus last November was that our next get-together should be an evening dinner. Venue wasn't decided nor was exactly when it should be.

If you have preferences, please let me know. Ballarat is probably the most convenient as it is reasonably central to where everyone resides, but options such as Bendigo (closer for Anne), or Ararat (closer for Mick), or Melbourne (closer for Leon, Geno and Kevin) are open. I will wait to hear from you.

You may be aware of other ex-students, perhaps your sisters or brothers, who would like to attend our reunions - they are most welcome. Also, quite a few finished their schooling at year 10 with us in 1955. It would be great to meet them again.

As you will note, the photos on page 1 are of quite poor resolution to limit the size of the emailed newsletter. I will put them on my website where they should be clearer. The website is <http://www.wtcasey.com>

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HAPPY NEW YEAR TO ALL MEMBERS (M & F) OF THE CAUSE!