



Class of '61 – Reunion

October 2022 – Bulletin 57



Hi Guys

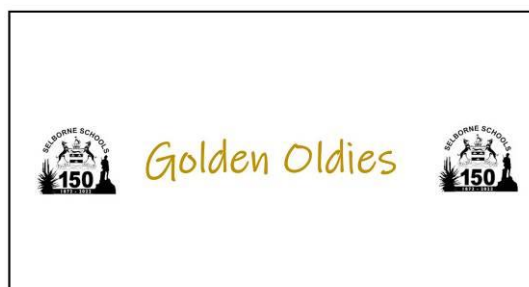
The Jubilee weekend has come and gone. Overall, it seems a good time was had by all who attended – they being: **Brian Bartlett, Hilton Dalbock, Charles Harris, Werner Illgner, Leslie Jamieson, Rodney Le Roux, Noel Levey, Michael McCullough, Harold Ryan, Errol Sapire, Brian Staples, Owen Thompson, David Tuck, Peter Turner, Nigel Webber and Leon Wood.**

The festivities started off with some gusto as our group were joined by members from the years of 1956, 1957, 1959, 1960, 1962 and 1964 for a get together of the "OLDIES" at the old Pub area at the Old Boys Club on the Thursday night - 20th October at 17:00.

We had exclusive use of that area of the Club and we printed name tags for all attendees and a small cover charge allowed for setup costs, chips and peanuts, plus a selection of Pizzas and Samooses. The drinks flowed and the Oldies chomped their way through most of the food on offer. A lucky draw was held and, together with a small surplus from the cover charge, we were able to donate R1029.86 to the Selborne Foundation.



The name tags worked very well as the Oldies kept forgetting each others names. We also thought it necessary to clearly demarcate the party area so we had banners made to assist the aged - see below:



It really was a good evening with much laughter and reminiscing. It was great to see schoolday friendships being revived and many a "remember when" moment being recollected.

The traditional Ceremony of the Key at the school on Friday the 21st of October 2022, followed the normal format. We had formally asked Alan Parsons of the OSA to seat us "OLDIES" together which he did most successfully, although some found it quite a challenge to haul themselves up onto the stands.

The picture below shows most members of our contingent who attended the ceremony. I don't know why but Owen Thompson isn't in the picture as he saw fit to seat himself with the over 80's (perhaps he forgot that he is only 79!!). Peter Turner eventually arrived and we all helped him up to join Maureen at the top of the stand. Don't know where Nigel Webber was hiding – maybe playing bowls.

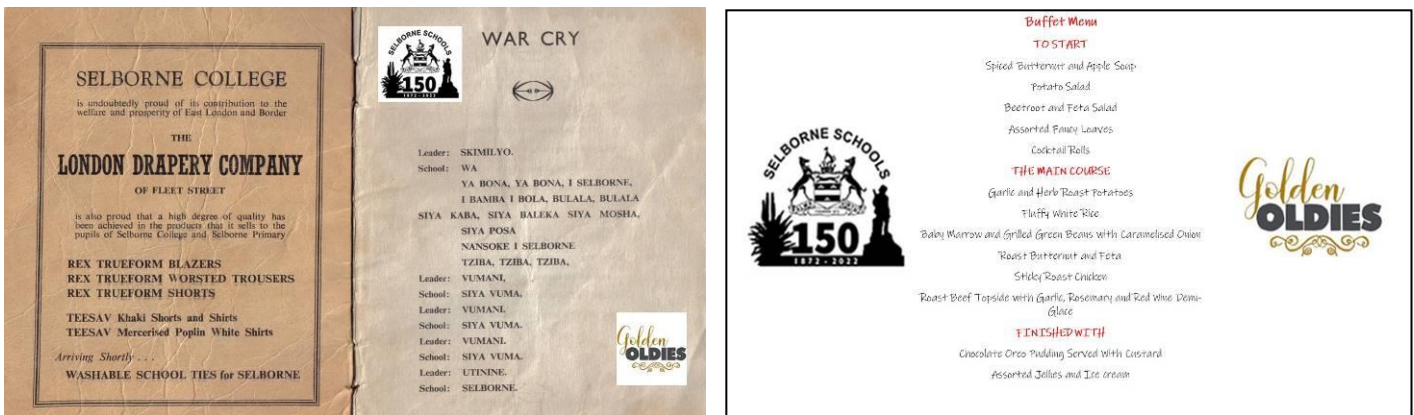


Of course, Leon Wood settled himself right in the front wearing, he assured me, a new pair of shorts. I later questioned him about his penchant to wear shorts at all occasions – his reply "even my breath comes in short pants".

After the Ceremony of the Key etc at the school, those members who wished to, retired to the Old Boys Club for steak egg and chips – washed down with a beer or two. Great food and plenty of magic fellowship.

There was an OSA Jubilee social spit braai in the Whippet & Emslie centre on the Friday night and members were encouraged to attend. I think many Oldies didn't attend as they were a little worn out from the day's activities. In fact, we all saw Clive Carr (Class of 1956 Coordinator) momentarily nod off at the Old Boys lunch on Friday.

We reserved the entire Dot Com restaurant in Berea for a lunch commencing at 13:30 on Saturday the 22nd. They offered us a great deal on a buffet meal with plenty of scope for choice. The placemat which displayed the Rugby Warcry and the menu was specially printed and laminated as a take away as a souvenir reminder of the occasion.



Members of the Class of 1956 joined us as well, as special guests, Trevor Webster and Beth Kingon.

Trevor had received a special award on Friday from the school in recognition of his contribution in documenting the story of the Selborne Schools – a prime example being his book "The Black and White".

Some of you might recall that Kingsley Kingon and his wife Beth joined us for our 55th Reunion. At the time it was his 65th. We subsequently invited them to our 60th Reunion last year. Tragically Kingsley died in a car accident the day before our 60th Reunion lunch. We decided to invite Beth to our lunch this year in memory of Kingsley – she was very grateful to join us and really enjoyed the occasion.

Clive Carr and myself said a few words and I read out some of the messages that our members who could not attend had sent to me. The attendees enjoyed the greetings and the humour in the messages.

The food was excellent, surpassed only by the fellowship enjoyed by the group.

Overall the weekend festivities went well. We were privileged to have Rod and Gill le Roux as well as Errol Sapire stay with us at our home at Cove Rock. It was good to see Rod again – the last time being 11 years ago at our 50th. Errol was at his energetic best – running around like the Duracell Bunny visiting friends and relations – what a great guy he is. It really was a delight to host them all.



Of course it was a pleasure to chat and laugh with all the attendees: thank you for making the effort to be there – the Class of 1961 was a special group.

A big thank you to our 2022 Reunion Committee members, plus Clive Carr, Trevor Webster and other year coordinators for their assistance in organising the events over the weekend. Also thank you to our overseas visitors for travelling so far to be with us – and of course, those members from far and wide in South Africa – specially Brian Bartlett who travelled all the way from the Western Cape on his motorcycle.

To get a flavour of the Jubilee weekend and the lunch event I recommend that you visit the facebook group at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/1258073018382430>

All who attended the Jubilee weekend said that they would make every effort to be at our 65th Reunion. I certainly hope we see as many as possible of our members at the event – remember – as Clint Eastwood says “Don’t let the old man in” – and he is 92.

Kind regards

Werner Illgner – On behalf of the 2022 Organising Committee

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