

Cosgrove Primary School

1959 – 2009

Reunion newsletter issue 3

November 2009

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We've done it! What a great time we all had over Labour weekend. After the months of preparation and organisation the committee were thrilled with how the weekend events went. We had some 120 registered reunion visitors, but also many of our parents, families and members of our community, and of course our lovely students and staff, joined us over the weekend. Everyone seemed to have a good time meeting up with old friends and colleagues, and that was one of our ultimate aims. If we have reopened the doors to rekindle old friendships we will have been rewarded for all our hard work and efforts.

The Friday Meet & Greet was a lovely evening allowing our visitors to catch up with others, and to also experience some of what school is about in 2009. There were performances from our Kapa Haka, Indian, and Samoan groups, and our Choir and Orchestra. The children did us proud and their performances were enjoyed by all.



Saturday dawned clear and sunny – a perfect day for our family 'Festival of Fun' atmosphere – we couldn't have asked for a better day. Our Principal Gus Klein, and our Board of Trustees chairman Iain Ogilvie, welcomed everyone to this special birthday celebration. Our lovely reunion cake was cut by one of our current 5 year old students, Brody, and twins Gillian Blade and Judith Towers (nee Colson) who were some of our first pupils in 1959.

The Papakura RSA was a great venue for our Saturday evening. principal and Ray Freeman, a past Board of Trustees chairman, were very entertaining, allowing people to reminisce with a special game of "It's in the Bag". They tried very hard to give away the "school gold", but contestants were very persistent in wanting the bag – the contestant who skulled their "bag prize" of a bottle of school milk was a great sport!

Colin Cartwright (past principal), Brian Cronin (past student) and Glenys Reid (past teacher) all spoke of some of their memories of Cosgrove School. There was also time for others to tell a few stories as well. We shared a delicious meal and there was time for a bit of dancing amongst the story swapping.

MC's Peter Rout, deputy



The weekend was wrapped up nicely with a church service in our school hall on Sunday morning, taken by Warrick Baty, a staff member of our school, with readings from past students, and piano

played by John Smythe, a past parent of the school, who has a long association with the Year 6 (Std 4) dinner, playing music.

Our Kaumatua, Allen Kukutai then lead us all out to plant and bless our reunion totara tree, ably assisted by Norman Rainger and Brian Cronin. Norm and Brian have been fantastic and enthusiastic members of our reunion committee and we thank them for their involvement. As this tree grows it will keep reminding us of this great milestone for Cosgrove School.

Excerpts from Glenys Reid's memories

It was great to see Glenys back at Cosgrove after being a long serving teacher from 1966 to 1996. At her farewell I recall her being referred to as the 'mother of Cosgrove School' – an apt title because of her obvious love of the school and its students. For many years after her departure we had the 'Reid Caring Trophy', an award presented to the school by Glenys, for children 'caught with a caring attitude'.



Glenys reminisced about school trips, "before the necessity of seatbelts. I remember not having enough parental support for transport – so the caretaker obliged by packing 16 kids into his wee Suzuki van! On another trip, a parent's offer to transport five children was gratefully accepted. It wasn't till sometime after the trip that we found out that she had never obtained a driver's license.

I remember when the whole school walked into Papakura to the cinema to see 'Storm Boy' – an Australian film about a boy on the South Australian coast who saved pelicans. There were two cinemas in Papakura at that time.

One year I had 47 new entrants with no help whatsoever! Come swimming time and it was impossible to assist 47 children to change, swim and get dressed again in 30 minutes.

Another year when teaching older children (Year 5 & 6) I had an arrangement with Mr Hawkins, the Mayor, who provided several 44 gallon drums and tins of paint for children to make attractive bins for local parks. We kept a check on the parks, writing to the Mayor when we observed damage or broken play equipment. Mr Hawkins took the time to reply individually to every child who wrote to him and he always actioned our concerns and suggestions. That same year he arranged to have trees delivered, council men digging holes, and I had enthusiastic children planting trees down the length of Cosgrove Road.

Spring Flower Day – what an exciting day! What a hive of activity as children worked outside the classroom assembling fresh flower exhibits - sand saucers, button-holes, miniature gardens, petal pictures on ice-cream lids, vegetable creatures – and more. I loved those days. Every classroom looked magnificent with the displays all set up ready for parent viewing mid-morning. And there were the stalls and fun activities.

For a period of time, when I had a preschooler – I held a part-time position. However, I was quite often asked to fill in for the rest of the day. The Principal, the late Bob Surgeoner, and the office secretary, Anne Junge, would go up to Park Estate Kindergarten and bring back my young daughter from morning kindy – to spend the rest of the day with me. I was always very grateful for that kindness.

I remember a child having difficulty reading the word 'Headmaster'. At the time Colin Cartwright was the principal. So I said to the child "Mr Cartwright is our principal. What is another name we could call him?" The child immediately smiled and said "Grandad!" Colin was far from being a grandad – he still had his own children at school.

A small child I remember always had 12 sandwiches for lunch – which he normally ate. One day he hadn't begun to eat his lunch, so I asked him what was wrong. He said ever so politely, "Mrs Reid, I just don't have an appetite for tomato sandwiches!"

Thank you Glenys for your memories and stories.

My School Memories

Attendees of the reunion were given the opportunity to write down some of their memories and stories while they were here. Thank you to those of you who took up this opportunity.



Claire Owens (nee Couch) remembers "Mental arithmetic in 'young' Mr Rae's class. I came to Cosgrove School from Orewa District High School. I had never done mental arithmetic – I remember bawling my eyes out cause I couldn't do it so quick. I took me two weeks and I was up to speed. Have never forgotten my times tables since.

I was a road patroller – it was an important job – we had to put on a jacket and carry the signs and a cone.

I recall the bus ride out to Ardmore Training College to go to swimming lessons in a freezing pool. No excuses taken, you had to get in.

The milk drinking races at the end of the day with the left over warm milk - Billy Tia, Roger Tauranga, Doug Rollerson and myself, and probably others.

The crackly speakers in the classroom – and I notice they are still there – requests for students or teachers, and notices used to come through on these."

In all I have very warm memories of Cosgrove School, and it did give me a great start to my life and what I later went on to do – become a teacher!"

Brian Cronin recalls "walking to school from our home in Hamlin Road, and collecting tadpoles and frogs in jars – "Where have all the frogs gone?".

Playing pater tennis, such a fierce competition for supremacy on the pater tennis court.

Playing the part of the 'Captain of the Guard' in the play 'The Highwayman' - Mr Barrie Rae was director. I was entrusted with the part of stopping the 'highwayman' (Dawson King) from taking 'Black Bess' (Emily Charlton) from the Inn.

Angela Muir finding a slug in her lunch pie caused a bit of concern. For a few days the lifting of the pie lid became force of habit. The health department wasn't quite so influential in those days, so I don't think pie delivery was stopped."

Class Photo Archives

The hall held displays of class and other photos from each decade, plus our Principal gallery, and a display called 'Reflecting on 1959' detailed the happenings of that year, and people and icons who are also 50 years old. Each display had a border of interesting facts, people and events from that decade – something of interest for everyone.

We had also made up booklets with all the class photos that we have in our archives, with a blank grid for each, for our visitors to fill in names. These were available each day and were enjoyed by everyone, proving to be a great catalyst for conversation. We are very appreciative of all the efforts from our visitors to fill in the 'blanks' in these photo books.



We know we are still missing some photos, particularly 1975, 1976, 1995 and 2001, so if you have class photos (or other photos) from your time at Cosgrove School please feel free to email or phone us with the year and room or class number and we can check to see if that is one we are missing.

If you would like a copy of an old school photo, we are happy to print off a copy for the cost of \$2.00 (A4 sheet), plus \$2.00 postage. Please contact the school with your request.

Reunion Photo CD

We are putting together a CD of photos from the weekend's events. This will include a selection of photos depicting the people and the various events – a great record of our weekend. (NB: This will not include the formal decade photographs.) Our Reunion Photo CD is available for purchase at the cost of \$15.00, including postage. If you would like to order one, please contact the school or send us an email. These will be available shortly.

Formal Decade Photographs

Our formal decade photographs were taken by Photo Life Studios. You can still order these formal decade photographs directly by phoning 262 1040 (Auck) or 0800 501 040. The photos taken were: 1959, 1960 – 1969, 1970 – 1979, 1980 – 1989, 1990 – 1999, 2000 – 2009. Please quote the decade you are interested in. The cost is \$15.00 per photo.

Reunion Mementoes

We trust you enjoyed receiving your reunion mementoes in your registration bag. We were pleased with how the items we selected looked when they were printed with our reunion details. We still have extras of these for sale if you would like to purchase any for yourself or your family. Please drop by the school or contact us by phone or email.

Pen	\$1.50
Printed bag	\$2.00
Lanyard	\$2.00
Mint card	\$2.00
Wristband	\$2.00
(Postage	\$2.00)

Reunion magazine

We are planning to put together a magazine to record the history of Cosgrove School. We know this is a longer term project, and we will be working on this over the next few months. We thank all those who have sent us their stories and memories, or wrote them down for us while at the reunion. We appreciate you taking the time to help us build up a picture of Cosgrove School's history.

However, it is not too late for you to put pen to paper. We would love to hear more of your stories and memories of Cosgrove School. Or perhaps something of what you have accomplished in your life – after those great foundations at Cosgrove!

We cannot be definite about the cost of this magazine until we know how much material we have to work with, but it is likely to be in the range of \$20 - \$30. If you would like to put your name down for one, please let us know and we will keep you updated. Meanwhile please keep the stories coming in! We would love to hear from you.

Thank you

There are a number of companies we would like to thank for their special support of our reunion:

- **Haven Licensing Pty Ltd** for donating our Baby Pack Prize for a raffle
- **Griffins** for donating biscuits for our morning and afternoon teas
- **Fonterra** for donating CalciYum milk drinks for our students – the modern day school milk
- **NZ Hot House** for donating tomatoes, cucumbers and capsicums
- **ASB** for the use of their gazebos and tents
- **Papakura Maori Wardens** who provided security and community assistance

And of course thank you to all of you who made the effort to come and join us – we had one lovely lady who came all the way from Australia, especially for the event. Without everyone's participation we couldn't have had the weekend we did.

It is clear that Cosgrove School holds a special place in the memories and hearts of many people, and we trust it will continue to do so for its students and staff in the future.

Here's to the next 50 years!

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If you would like to receive the school's fortnightly newsletter, to just keep in touch with the happenings at the school, let us know and we can add you to our email list.