



NEW TOWN HIGH

NEWS

Big changes in 50 school years

By **BEN WATERWORTH, TRENT QUEEN and JAYDEN BEVIS**

NEW TOWN High School marked 50 years at the Midwood Street site on October 11 by opening its doors to the public for an evening of celebration and recollection.

More than 400 past and present students, parents and friends, joined in the festivities. Visitors were free to wander through interactive displays in Cookery, Materials, Design & Technology, Health & Physical Education, Music, Information Technology, Science and Drama where students showcased the many aspects of New Town High School in the 21st century.

Many former students were amazed at the changes that have taken place at the school while applauding the maintenance of the school's fine traditions.

A time tunnel of photos and

memorabilia of the past 50 years caused many an Old Boy to chuckle — or shudder at the dreaded Room One detention, complete with a blackboard of maths problems to solve under the stern eye of the legendary H.J. (Herbie) Whitton.

There were tours of the Tower and tales a-plenty about the "good old days" as former students, many wearing their blazers and caps, caught up with old schoolmates.

Students of the New Town Technical College also attended the reunion.

George Goodwin enjoyed his brief time at the college in 1932 and 1933: "I thought the school was great," he said.

"Of course, in those years you had to pass a qualifying exam to get in."

Acting Deputy Police Commissioner Luppo Prins, former head prefects Barry McNeil and Arthur Voss, Terry Moore and Guy Frank-

lin were guest speakers.

They revived memories of their time at school, conveying their conviction that yes, school days are among the best days of your life.

Bill Trousselot, a former student and current Grade 9 supervisor, enjoyed the reunion.

"It was fantastic to reminisce about the old days and the teachers we had, to remember what it was like then and how it has changed," Mr Trousselot said.

"It was also good to hear the sense of pride the old scholars still express and their approval of the direction the school is taking now."

Mr Trousselot recalled that when he was a student, the school was far more structured, with a greater emphasis on tradition.

"At every assembly the school would stand to sing *God Save the Queen* and the school song. A school war cry was chanted at the start of



SCHOOLBOYS: Trent Queen, Kane Hendy, Scott Smith, Mr Henry Gourlay, Mr Wayne Fletcher, Mr Arthur Voss, Daniel Simmons, Chris Tatnell and Mr Robert Drummond.

many sporting events." When Grade 8 supervisor Paul Clifford began high school in the early 1970s, he was one of about 1,200 students.

There were 13 Grade 7 classes of 30 students per class and Mr Trousselot was his grade supervisor. Uniform was very important.

"Everyone had to wear the

school tie," Mr Clifford said.

"In Physical Education you were required to wear house colours. Every Wednesday afternoon there would be scripture.

"Of course, there were no computers and no cooking for boys. Every Grade 7 student played the recorder in music. "Students would assemble on the hostel bank to eat their

lunch and they had no more than 20 minutes to do so.

"The cane was still in use. The school has changed a lot."

● **School page editorial team:** Brian Berwick, Jayden Bevis, Sam Clinch, Casey Farrell, Oliver Gouldthorpe, Alex Jenkins, Lewis Mathieson, Daniel Simmons, Tim Stewart, Ben Waterworth

Ned Kelly rides again in dramatic musical

By **ALEX JENKINS**

THE tradition of first-class musicals continued at New Town High with the staging of *Ned Kelly* to full houses on August 23, 24 and 25.

The musical, with lyrics by Reg Livermore and music by Patrick Flynn, uses flashbacks to tell the story of the events that led to the trial and hanging of Edward (Ned) Kelly at the Old Melbourne Gaol.

Grade 9 student Brodie White won the coveted lead role and played it with conviction and credibility.

James Fyffe, Ben Paine and Will Bowling played Kelly Gang members Joe Byrne, Steve Hart and Dan Kelly.

The story centres on the Kelly Gang's attempt

to defy the police. Tim Paige brought dramatic presence to his role of Superintendent Hare and Alex Jenkins was menacing as the dastardly Sergeant Fitzpatrick. Jack Swann played tormented Judas figure Aaron Sherritt.

New Town High enlisted the help of sister school Ogilvie to fill the key female role of Kate Kelly (Philippa Monk) and to bring realism to the chorus. Deb Maunder as the publican, Mrs Jones, presented comic incidents while Cameron Marshall played the materialistic bank manager, Mr Tarleton.

Special effects, including real gunshots and an exploding safe added to the drama.

Under the musical di-

rection of Sarah Atkinson, the lead singers and the chorus, made up of students, staff and parents, rose to great singing heights.

The stage direction of Ken Fyffe deserves particular mention.

Ned Kelly was Mr Fyffe's swan song at New Town High School, before retiring at the end of second term.

It is Mr Fyffe who has ensured the New Town High tradition of first-class musicals through his vision, creativity and dedication to engaging the many and varied talents of staff and students. We thank him for his service to the Arts.



GONNA ROB A BANK: The Kelly Gang, from left, James Fyffe, Will Bowling, Ben Paine and Brodie White as Ned.

Greener school

RECENT events have ensured a "greening" of New Town High.

On September 28, Grade 7 students planted 110 native trees around the grounds as part of a Landcare project initiated by teacher Judy Hunter.

On October 9, former school leaders Arthur Voss and Barry McNeil joined head prefect Hayden Bell in planting a tree to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the school.

Meanwhile, the Grade 8 council has launched a paper recycling scheme.

Next week's school page will feature South Hobart Primary School.

ROBERT GOYNE

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 Long may the school song be sung

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