

90th YEAR ANNIVERSARY



Saturday morning, 21st September 2019 heralded in a bright, sunny day as large crowds descended on the school for the celebration of 90 years since the first official opening in 1929. There were many ex-students in attendance, present students and teachers and members from the local community along with visitors.

The flags were flying, the grounds were looking impeccably clean and tidy and balloons and colourful signs adorned the buildings and walk ways.

First port of call was a “signing on” area near the hall, arranged in year groups where we were able to mix and mingle with long lost friends. There was a buzz in the air as we reconnected with students from the past and attempted to put a “name” to a “face”! (not always successful)

The official Opening Ceremony was held at 10.00 AM in the School Hall next to the Golf Club and it was “full house”. It commenced with “Acknowledgement to Country” This was then followed by speakers and presenters from all walks of life, past and present including the school captains, community members, past students and the current Principal. The presentations were interspersed with musical items. You could hear a penny drop when the young Japanese pianist, an ex-student, hit the ivories. It was quite breathtaking. The Alfred (known as Fred) Chapman family & others involved with the Chapman Trust were notably represented. (G.H.S. is just one of the many schools which are beneficiaries from this Trust.)

At the conclusion of the Opening Ceremony we were then free to wander the grounds and visit classrooms and corridors and absorb the tradition and history of Gosford High School. Our student guides were excellent, displaying confidence, understanding and patience as we set off anxious to rediscover our old haunts and relive tales from the 1950s/60s. It wasn't an easy task keeping us “oldies” all together and on the straight and narrow.

The new up to date learning areas were particularly interesting with demonstrations in progress.

To keep us sustained throughout the day with all the excitement there were plenty of food & drink stalls strategically spaced around the school grounds.

A very special part of the school is the entry foyer known as the vestibule (as we well know!) and the long corridor running through the centre of the original building displaying archives from the past in the form of Honour Boards, historical photographs and other memorabilia. We spent time exploring these areas.

Adorning the entrance to the school is a photo of A. (Fred) Chapman on one side and Grace Wheeler on the other. Grace Wheeler (Roslyn Wheeler's grandmother) was a visionary, an activist who early on saw the impending need for a new High School in the Gosford area and fought valiantly to get action. Eureka! She finally won. Grace Wheeler also made a magnificent contribution to the P & C over a 27 year period as Secretary and held other positions. She did not seek recognition for her achievements over the years but did agree to have a Sport's House named after her.....”Wheeler House” We salute you!

We marvelled at the magnificent changes to our school over the past 60 years. This is called PROGRESS. Some of our group then escaped to the peace and serenity of the Golf Club for a quiet drink, a bite to eat and some further reminiscing. (See photo taken by Colin Langlois)

P.S. I counted 18 people from our 1956-1960 cohort but could have missed a few. Ros.Mort