

Back in class for ex-students

FRIENDSHIPS were renewed as more than 600 former students took a stroll down memory lane at a Cleeland Secondary College reunion on Saturday 13 September.

The reunion encompassed the school's many incarnations from Dandenong Girls' High School at its founding in 1957, Dandenong North High School, Cleeland High School and, finally, Cleeland Secondary College.

President of the Dandenong High School Ex-students' Association Greta Jungwirth, who also taught at Cleeland High School, said the turnout far exceeded organisers' expectations with ex-students coming from all over Victoria and interstate.

She said many people were drawn back to their old school because they were curious to catch up with former peers and teachers.

In her address Ms Jungwirth said secondary school was a formative experience for most people "tied to a time of expanding consciousness, of intense emotional experiences and growing awareness of the world and our place in it. And everything is still possible".

"Friendships and relationships formed can have a lifelong impact and with luck can last a lifetime. I guess that is why you are here today."

Cleeland Secondary College ceased to exist when it merged with Dandenong High School and Doveton Secondary College in 2007.

Ex-student association volunteers have been painstakingly sorting and cataloguing archival material from Cleeland and Doveton secondary colleges.

"This reunion has resulted in great part from that activity, and next month

Doveton Technical School will have its reunion," Ms Jungwirth said.

"Ralf Halder and his team have been responsible for much of the organisation and all of the enthusiasm.

"When you walk around the buildings you will notice areas of sad neglect.

"That is because everything will be demolished as soon as the renovations are finished at the Dandenong Campus.

"The buildings may go, but your memories will remain."

A DVD documenting the reunion will be available soon with all proceeds donated to the archives committee.

For more pictures from the event go to the Cleeland High Facebook site or the Dandenong Girls High School Facebook site.

A Doveton Secondary College reunion will be held next month.



Lynne Jones, Dores Pittigala, Mary Bishop, Michelle Tomazin, Collette Barlow and Tania Hammond-Ayres all started year 7 in 1981.



More than 600 former students attended the reunion.



Carolyn Dean, Shirley Brookes, Lynne Williams, Dawn Grey, Jenny Sonnemans, Margo Allan, Colleen Duggan, Kaye Oakenful, Sharon Campbell, Linda Chadwick, Jane Biffen and Gillian Steed.



Friends reunited Caroline Farah, Leanne Macdonald and Nicole Botriell.



Susan Smith, Marco Bragagnolo, Debbie Newton, Jenny Seprenji and Nicholas Raftopoulos.



Sally Chandler and Lyn Morrow.



Caroline Farah with Elaine Kimonides. Caroline was Elaine's French class in 1981.

Turning back the clocks

MOST people enjoy an occasional "wallow in nostalgia" and turning back the clock recently were five former students of Cleeland Secondary College.

Now mothers themselves, the women donned old school dresses and blazers, proving they are still slim enough to fit into them, to enjoy an impromptu dress rehearsal and "do you remember" session at the school.

Taking part was Mrs Colleen Duggan (nee Bailey), 41; Mrs Sharon Start (Gealer); Mrs Vicki Robson (Cowan) 35; and Mrs Kristine Jackson (Cowan) 32.

The dress rehearsal was for the 40th anniversary reunion of former college students, teachers, parents and friends.

The reunion will be



BACK to school: former students from Cleeland Secondary College donned their old uniforms for a trip back to school. From left, Kristine Jackson, Vicki Robson, Sharon Start and Colleen Bailey. Picture: JOHN EDWARDS

held in the school hall on October 24 from 7 pm to midnight.

All attending are asked to bring their own drinks and admission tickets will be \$10. This will include supper.

Dress is smart and

casual and entertainment will be by Upbeat Mobile Music with hits from the 1960s, '70s, and '80s.

Memorabilia will be on display, including class photographs and uniforms. Mementos can be

purchased on the night.

Tours of the present school buildings will be held. For tickets send a cheque made payable to Cleeland Secondary College Reunion Committee, 23 Ann Street, Dandenong, 3175.

13th SEPT 2014

13th SEPT 2014 AFTER MEET WITH D'ANGE AND DOVETON SECONDARY SCHOOLS CLEELAND BUILDINGS WILL BE DEMOLISHED - STUDENTS ENJOY A LAST LOOK
SCHOOLS - REUNION
1957 DANDENONG GIRLS HIGH CLEELAND SECONDARY
BACK IN CLASS FOR EX STUDENTS