



Comment from the Team

Did you know by the end of April there will be only 11 weeks or 77 days until the big "Back to Poatina" event?!!! It is fast looming and in the past month we have added over 350 names to the database of former residents! Photographs are streaming in; TV advertisements are being created and will be aired soon across Tasmania (thanks to the generous support of Southern Cross TV); and the logistics of literally feeding the thousands is being worked through by Poatina's Chalet!

It has been a fascinating and enlightening time to be involved with the preparation of the event, particularly locating former residents and researching Poatina's history. Every meeting brings with it a new level of excitement, and every phone call brings a deeper understanding of the 'importance' of this event. Last month, I had the opportunity to walk the "singlemen's" quarters with Roger Nutting and a dozen others, and imagine how it all used to look. We even found the gum tree with the street lights!

As Rosa and I meet regularly with



Roger and Keith, we spend hours putting names to ageing yellowed photographs, and with each name there is a story - a history of a role which contributed to the town and power station, a house made into a family home, and some of the memorable antics in which people were involved.

Each time I make contact with a former resident and ask for their help in locating others who might not know of the event yet, I can't help but 'pick-up' the importance this day holds in the hearts and minds of those who are coming. Families are postponing their holidays to be here. Others have already booked their accommodation at Poatina's Best Western Chalet, and others are asking where they can park their motor home.

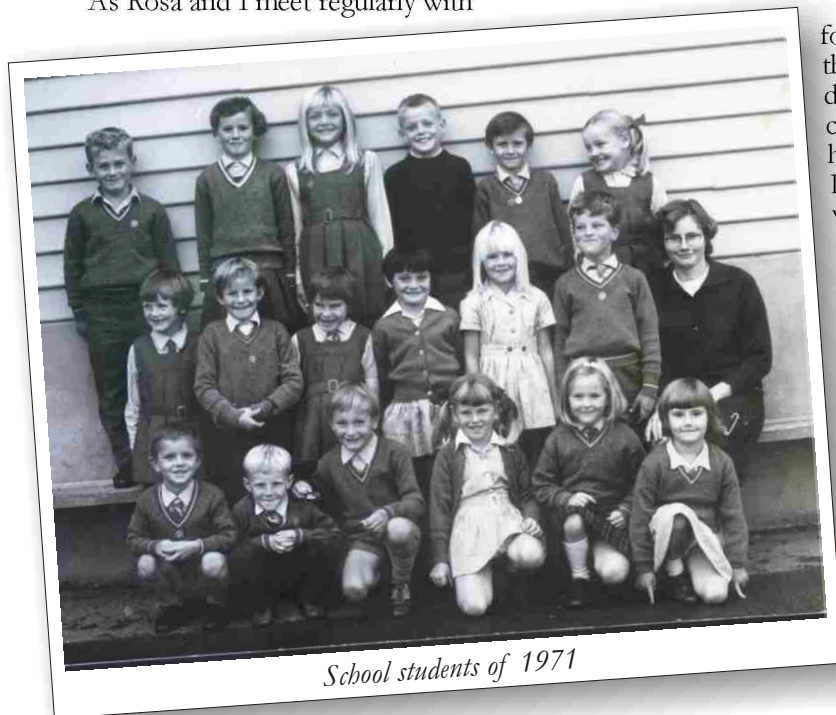
Over the page there are details of coaches that have given us special deals to shuttle folk from across the state to be at the event, and to take the burden out of travelling home after a long day.

As I listen to why people are coming I think I am affected more by their desire to remember what life was like. Stories just bubble out. It would seem there was a richness that came from living in a small community where everyone knew and shared in each others' lives. Is this what we still yearn for now and why we are keen to revisit it? As we remember the values we lived by in those years I wonder what I can do to bring those same values to my community now. It makes you think...

Look forward to see you on Saturday, July 17!

David McGuinn

Marketing & Research Coordinator



School students of 1971



Back to Poatina SAT. 17 JULY 2004

This event is proudly being sponsored by the above organisations, and being assisted by the State Government through the Tasmanian Bicentenary Grant Program.



Coaches Information

Walkers Coaches, Hobart

Departing Hobart approx 7am from The Maritime Museum, Argyle St
 7.45am stopping in at the Glenorchy Bus Mall
 Arriving at Poatina at 10am.
 Costs \$20/person, and the company requires a minimum of 25 people.

Kevin Burn Coach, Wynyard

Departing Wynyard approx 7.30am, and stopping in Burnie and Devonport
 Arriving at Poatina at 10am.
 Costs \$10/person

All departure times, collection spots and fares to be confirmed.

Payment can be made directly to the Coach company either prior to travel or before boarding on the day.

Call David on 6397 8280 for more up to date information.



1971(?) Cricket team



Recognise this Santa??



The Bugg children & Steven Fox

Snippets of stories

Over the past months, we have received numerous letters from former residents, sharing their special memories. Here are just a few...

Louis Parskles - "I came in 1962 from Greece, working in the tunnel. The Village was full of new Australians. I had to learn to talk Australian and we had classes in the Hall with Mrs Cameron."

Joyce Keep - "I remember Mrs McClelland was the Post Mistress. The original mail delivery was on foot with a big bag. One of the first major deliveries was that of electricity bills - not too popular! Peter McCoy took over the mail delivery on a permanent basis."

Alastair & Dorothy McWhirter wrote to us last week. They arrived at Poatina in September 1962, and spent their first night camping in 27 Wilmot Street, much to the delight of their children Andrew 9, Mary 7, Elizabeth 5 and Anne 2.

"We spent four happy years there, taking part in the many activities available. I suppose the highlight was the opening of the swimming pool - it made the town complete. It was a safe place for the children to explore and we loved being close to the Lakes and Launceston."

As we don't want anyone to miss out on receiving their own personal invitation to the "Back to Poatina" event, please phone, write, fax or email and let us know as many contact details as you have of former residents or people who you know had special connections with the Village.