

Meet the mud bankers who want their school to be remembered

THE LEGACY of Meadowbank Boys High School will live on at the new Meadowbank education precinct thanks to an initiative from two former students.

Peter Raptis and Jim Biniare were among the last students to attend the school when it closed in 1983 and have been collecting school memorabilia to be displayed in one of the new precinct classrooms.

They have won the enthusiastic support of Education Minister Rob Stokes and hope the old school's Roll of Honour, school uniforms, kit bags, magazines, ties and sports equipment will find a prominent display.

Meadowbank Boys High School is located within the Meadowbank TAFE site and opened in 1956.

It soon gained a reputation as a school for working class heroes who proudly adopted the moniker "the mud bankers".

"Our school badge was a factory with a smoking chimney and our school motto was Work With Pride," Peter Raptis said.

"We are proud of our working class heritage and we want to recognise the school with a prominent display of what we've collected from other former students."

Peter Raptis met Jim Biniare on their first day at school and the duo have gone on to be best mates.

"I've never known mate-

ship and tenacity like we had at Meadowbank Boys High School," Mr Biniare said.

"All the boys and all the teachers were on the same side, which was amazing because at primary school the teachers were strict and there was strict discipline but Meadowbank Boys High was really different, we were united and we all worked together as a team."

"We are proud to be known as mud bankers and I reckon you can still spot a former mud banker today!"

Appropriately for a school located in an area known for automotive industry, the school's most famous student is racing driver Colin Bond and the school bell was an air raid siren which could be heard over the din of local heavy industry.

"We have many wonderful memories but the memory that probably stands out the most is when we had heavy metal band Cold Chisel perform live at the school in 1977," Mr Raptis said.

"We are also proud that we were a multi-cultural school which produced great soccer players and we won the Tasman Cup in 1971 after we thumped

all the elite schools from across the state."

Like other schools, Meadowbank Boys High School had tragic moments which includes death of a student who was killed crossing the road outside the school.

"We also had a teacher, Mr Bradley, who got speared with a javelin," Mr Biniare said.

It is no surprise that the school also did well in social sciences that include history and debating.

"We were never an elite school but we stood up for each other and our teachers stood up for us, we had mateship and we had a sense of equality you would not find at other schools," Mr Raptis said.

"We do not want to see our legacy forgotten and we hope the community will get behind our project to have this incredible school remembered."

"To find out more simply go the the internet and type in the words Meadowbank Boys High School."

It is hoped that Meadowbank Public School and Marsden High School – both recently earmarked for closure by Ryde MP Victor Dominello – might also have memorials in the new education precinct.



Best mates and former Meadowbank Boys High School students Jim Biniare and Peter Biniare are pictured at the former Meadowbank Boys High School building. TWT on-the-spot PHOTO



Top Achievers Awards for Marsden High students

MARSDEN High School had a successful 2018 Higher School Certificate result and was the top performing non-selective, comprehensive high school in the Ryde group of schools.

Its school ranking jumped from 256 in 2017 to 201 in 2018, with Band 6 results well above the state median in many subjects.

The Dux was Hannah Kim with an ATAR of 98.6.

She received a 'Top Achiever Award' from NESA (NSW Education Standards Authority) for placing first in the state

for both Chinese Beginners and Korean and Literature, along with third in Japanese Beginners.

A number of other Marsden High School students received the NESA 'Top Achievers Award' and/or the 'Distinguished Achievers Award' – Sean Kim, Zane Mestousis, Anisah Rajabi, Erica Salonga, Nastaran Khakzad, Azar

Yaser, Hai Rong Chen, Angelina Min, Zoe Zhang, Yvann Sinson, Victoria Xu, Jimmy Choi, Cathy Liu, Sepehr Shafazand, Tianna Rotunno, Jack Wu, Grace Yang and Jerry Liu.

The subjects achieving the highest results for Marsden High School were Maths Extension 1 & 2, History Extension, Visual Arts, Chinese Background Speakers, Ancient History and Legal Studies.

Marsden High School congratulates all of its Year 12 students who sat the 2018 Higher School Certificate.

They celebrate their wonderful achievements and are appreciative of the efforts of all teachers who have supported this cohort.

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