

Mick Popp 1968 - 1972



Figure 1 2002. Age 46



Equation 1 Pi R Squared. 2016 Age 60

Full Name: Michael Peter (Mick) Popp AKA Mex

What years were you a student at Centenary Heights SHS? **I was a foundation student, 1968 - 1972**

How is it you came to study at Centenary Heights SHS? **It was the closest school to my home, which was 295 Alderley Street, and later Gold Street, beside Gold Park, where we held a lot of sports events while the oval was being prepared at CHSHS.**

What was your favourite subject/s at school? **I think I would have to say woodwork and GD&P. I really didn't have any favourites, though.**

How long has it been since you visited the school? **I was actually there in 2010 for a visit when we first returned from Japan. I met with the Deputy Principal, I believe it was. I also discovered at the time that Robert Dansie was still with us, so I popped out to see him at the home he was in.**

Was there a teacher/ staff member who made a difference to your time at school? **There were a couple. Robert Dansie was influential. I respected him. Mr. Yeo – He genuinely cared. Mr. Elkins (Beppo) – The man who asked me, "Are you going to be an idiot all your life, Popp?" Some things stay with you forever. That is one of those moments. I have never forgotten and probably never will. Miss Butcher – loved her. She was fun. A group of us picked up her Mini Moke, carried it and parked it between the pillars under one of the buildings. She took it all in good fun.**

What was your favourite memory of your time at the school? **I don't think I have just one. There are a few. Winning the 110m hurdles in grade 12 against faster runners, and then going on to fail beautifully in last place at the inter-school athletic carnival at Mount Lofty High. Lol. Playing on the soccer team and winning the 1972 premiership by default. The other team had players who were 18 or older. Having a crush on a girl, but I didn't have the courage to follow it up. Topping the class in a spelling bee. The walkathon where we circum-navigated Toowoomba. My first school dance. The trip to the Murray Valley, The Snowy Mountains & Sydney. I learned so much about relationships during that trip. I won the award for coping the most flack and taking it all in good taste & humour.**

How did attending Centenary Heights SHS assist you beyond school? **Academically, probably more than I realise. However, my time at CHSHS set me up with a goal in to enjoy life so much that when I get to the end, I'll be able to say, "That was fun! I want to do it again!"** lol. It has been my goal ever since and is still my major goal in life.

What are you doing now? **I have had so many jobs and so many experiences over the years.**

I am a student. I decided on a career change and have enrolled at Charles Darwin University, Palmerston Campus (Near Darwin), Studying for a Cert III in Travel and Tourism, and I am launching my own travel business while I am studying. Challenging to say the least.

I have visited a number of countries. Tasmania – is that a country? Lol. Vietnam, Philippines, Hong Kong, Japan, New Zealand, I did a major air and road trip through the USA, west coast to East and back again. I have seen Canada – across one of the great lakes... lol.

I have lived long term in 2 countries outside Australia's borders. The Philippines as a missionary for 2 years & loved every minute of that experience. And Japan. I lived there and taught English at my own Eikaiwa (conversational English) school for 8 years before getting sick (literally) of the incessant cold, which was, in a word, killing me. I brought 3 souvenirs back with me. A wife and 2 kids.

Back in Australia, I did tax for 4 years before being reincarnated to a former life – spare parts interpreting – I should have left well enough alone. I had walked away from it 15 years earlier. Hence the desire for a career change at the age of 62. Lol

I have had a life rich in experiences, and I am where I am today as a direct result of every decision I have made over the years. I am currently father to a 14YO girl and a 12YO boy, and husband to a wonderful Japanese woman. They keep me young. All of them. lol