Botany-Zoology Reunion: Class of 1974

What’s the Plan?
- A reunion for students and staff, from the University of Adelaide, 3rd year Botany & Zoology classes of 1974.
- To be held sometime in 2014, to mark 40 years.
- It will be informal – something like a ‘bring your own’ picnic in Belair National Park.
- Come, mingle and go as you please.

Looking forward to seeing you in 2014.

What’s the Story?
The following extracts from an email covers the early background:

Some time ago John Burley, from his safe haven in Victoria, suggested there should be a reunion of the old Botany-Zoology crew. I made a feeble attempt then and promptly forgot about it.

As fate would have it, I was just accosted in the supermarket and accused (rightly) of possibly being Peter Day. Being less than attractive helps people to remember you and some things (like ‘distinctive’ looks) never change.

The accuser claimed to be one Herald Ehmann – and after peering intently for a few seconds I concluded he could well be telling the truth.

Suitably chastened by circumstance, I am compelled to make another feeble effort to rally some troops for a reunion.

Peter Day

Since then, the list of contacts has been steadily growing – and we’d like to ensure it continues to do so. For information, the ‘Contacts Tree’ diagram on the final page charts progress.

This being 2013, there is a Facebook page – in its infancy.
- See http://www.facebook.com/groups/324950530967696/ and ‘Join’ the group.

For more information, or to register your contact details, please get in touch with Peter Day who is managing the mailing list: prday@resourcestrats.com.au.
Why a Reunion?

R is for:

- **Reunion.** Yes please. It will be nice to catch-up with characters, great mates, friends and faces long forgotten and see what they’re up to now. Expect the full range of life’s surprises as we re-meet and update on how we’ve fared through the snakes and ladders of living.

- **Reminisce.** Yeah. Memories to be rekindled and no doubt romanticised as bigger than the original. There were plenty of good times – full of innocence, exploration, daring and fun – mostly before shouldering too many rigours of responsibility.

- **Relive.** Nah – not so much thanks. That was then – we’ll have moved on - this is now. There’ll be things about us that haven’t changed a bit, but there’ll be much that has – circumstances for one. No regrets, but no real interest in living in the past either.

- **Respect.** I think so. A chance to pay respect to the institution, lecturers, tutors and fellow students that helped us learn so much. We learnt about the subjects we studied, but more importantly we learnt how to learn – and it was a time when we learnt a lot about life and about ourselves. Always grateful for that education.

- **Research - experimentation and ‘learning by doing’.** Not only an approach for the laboratory (and didn’t we do some great pracs back then) but also an approach applied to life. Sometimes too literally. Times when things were done which, through the analysis of hindsight, became lessons on what not to do again.

- **Reflect and reconcile** – look I’m doing now! A chance to acknowledge, understand, accept and be comfortable with the past and be happy with where we’ve come from.

- **Rejoice.** Yes, that is what a reunion is really all about. Rejoice wrapped in fond memories and rejoice that those university days helped shape the lives we’ve had and the aspirations we still harbor.

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**Snippets from the Web**

40th reunion: As retirement nears, people's lives start to resemble each other's. There's less drinking and more talking, with conversations focusing on "remember when." People find value in being around others they knew when they were younger because it makes them feel younger.

At the 40th reunion, I'm looking forward to having even deeper conversations with my classmates -- not about who we were and what we did back then, but about how we are dealing with the challenge of making the most out of our lives now and in the years ahead.

Attending a high-school reunion brings up so many feelings, both positive and negative, because of the intense and unique time of adolescence that high school represents. What you're doing at reunions is, you're melding the past and the present.

At reunions, people experience the excitement and anticipation of seeing old friends and classmates - possibly for the first time in decades - and the joy of rekindling lost friendships, and possibly starting new ones with people who were just acquaintances. People have curiosity and surprise about how much some people have changed. Reunions also can bring emotional closure to years-old situations.

If you have doubts or insecurities, go anyway. It's only a couple of hours, and you're bound to get something out of it. This is an opportunity to revisit a time in your life. It's the only group in your life that you have this thing in common with. It happened at such a pivotal point in your life.