

8 July 2013, Tonga High School brightens the kingdom of Tonga with their joyous 4 days 65/66 Anniversary Celebration at the school ground attended by ex-students from all around the world.

Tonga High School was established in June 4, 1947 by the late King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV, founder of the school, with the motto "To The Best" and was known as the best school in Tonga, with only high-grades student to attend the school. This year, the school celebrates its 66th and 65th anniversary that delayed from last year due to taboo in state funeral.

The school's double anniversary celebration starts off with a special welcome reception at the school ground, salutation of ex-students traveling from different areas of the world to join the happy occasion. They even paint the city with their maroon, gold and grey, school colors on the next day's 4th July "Street Parade Event". Lady Tunakaimanu Fielakepa is one of the school's pioneer, pilots the march.

Following the event, was the unveiling of the Memorial Pledge by his Majesty King Tupou VI at the school grounds and to follow was a report from the Ex-student's Association, by current President, Tapuvakai Panuve. The memorial wall has ex-student's names and special dedications written on it worth \$1,000. Also, there were entertainments from Hahake, Hihifo and Vahekoloto Chapters each performing their own composed "Lakalaka". Later on the day, a "Masquerade Ball" held at Vuna Wharf to warm up the school's spirit.

The celebration continues on the next day with a walk for health from Vuna Wharf. An AGM in the afternoon and later in the evening was an awesome Harbour Cruise lead by Hon Lupepau'u Tuita, head prefect of 1988. The Prime Minister joined Hon Lupepau'u and ex-students of Tonga High School in cruising to Pangaimotu Island and back.

The Celebration closed on Sunday 7th July with a spiritual service led by the President of the Free Church of Tonga, Rev Lord Afu'alo Matoto. Their Majesties King Tupou VI and Queen Nanasipau'u, Queen Mother Halaevalu Mata'aho, HRH Princess Pilolevu Tuita and Royal family, diplomatic Corps joined the students and ex-students at the Church service to mark the school's 65/66 birthday.

Later in the evening was a great ending to the Tonga High School Double Celebration, a choral night hosted by Mafi ta e 'uluafi, (Boys Head Prefect) and students at the Faa'imata grounds. The Guest of Honour was the Hon. Minister of Education and Training - an ex-student.

ENDS

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