

# **NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

## **PRESIDENT'S REPORT - 2006**

The year has been one of great and sustained activity, as we celebrate the Centenary of Newcastle High School. The Centenary Committee has been anxious to create a varied and inclusive event, which provides for all groups, ages, and mobility levels. This much-anticipated event will provide many happy memories, and ensure that the traditions of NBHS are carried on for many years to come. I must make special mention of the outstanding work performed by the Centenary Committee members, who have given of their time so freely and so creatively, and members of all sub-committees for their application and dedication. Another significant feature of this year was the degree of cooperation between the Old Boys and the Girls' Ex-students organisations.

### **Highlights of the year to date: -**

#### **The Annual Dinner**

The speaker was teacher of mathematics Brian Donegan, and he entertained us with humorous anecdotes of life at NBHS during the 60's and 70's, and during the transition to the comprehensive high school. The audience of 223 Old Boys was delighted with tales of staff-room relations and memorable "old boys" during their student days. Brian spoke very well, and received a great ovation.

The speaker for 2006 will be Trevor Dunn, Newcastle solicitor, who was instrumental in the establishment of the Old Boys Association.

#### **Centenary Committee**

The Committee has worked cooperatively with the Girls' High Ex-students and current members of staff at Newcastle High School, in planning a range of activities over three days in June, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. Guiding principles for the program have been broad participation, historical detail, and fun and entertainment.

The events are: -

- Display of memorabilia in the Lovett Gallery, arranged thematically and professionally, opened by Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle.
- Recreation of First School Assembly, to be held in City Hall, followed by afternoon tea and time for “catching up” with old friends.
- A Re-union Ball for staff and ex-students of the “modern” Newcastle High School.
- A Service at Christ Church Cathedral to mark the Centenary, featuring the Choir of ex-students.
- Inspections of the three school campuses which have been part of Newcastle Public High School, Newcastle Boys’ and Newcastle Girls’ High.
- Dedication of commemorative plaques, marking the original site at the current Newcastle East Public School, and featuring a jazz band consisting of ex-students.
- Luncheon and entertainment at Newcastle High School for ex-students.

The events were planned to allow for various ages and degrees of mobility, and to cater for different tastes and timetables. The committee worked extremely efficiently, and with exceptional diligence.

### **Education Report**

This report summarises all prizes and awards (and the names of the recipients) given by our Association to Newcastle High School and to Callaghan College, Waratah Technology Campus for 2005. The funds provided to Newcastle East Public School supported a large number of book awards, and it is not appropriate to include the individual names.

#### **Newcastle High School**

Dr Alan Knott Scholarship	Alexander Gounis
Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement	Alexander Thrift
Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Senior (1st)	Alison Smith
Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Junior (1st)	Luke Ison
OBA President’s Prize for legal studies	Jessica Norgard

## **Callaghan College -Waratah Technology Campus**

FH Beard Prize for School Community Achievement

Andrew Piper

Dr David Stewart Bursary

Dara Mitchell

Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) – Senior (1st)

Keira Ussher

Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) – Junior (1st)

Shinaai Hayes

An issue for the Committee was the confusion amongst the recipient schools, which were recognising the achievements of those who had done most to serve the community, rather than specifically the *school* community, as was our association's original intention. It was decided to draw this to the attention of the various Principals.

### **History Committee**

Under Bill Storer's leadership, this year the committee has made several very significant steps. The entire Caesar Smith collection has been centralised and placed in the curatorial care of Newcastle Regional Library, which has agreed to be responsible for the good condition of the exhibits, including documents and three-dimensional objects. This huge task has assisted the committee in preparation of the 100 Years Exhibition for the Lovatt Gallery, the opening event of the three days of Centenary Celebrations.

A Click Systems showcase was purchased and presented to Waratah Technology Campus on long-term loan, while the showcase itself has become part of the Caesar Smith Collection. Much restoration and re-polishing work has been completed on trophies and shields. Our collection of over one thousand unclaimed certificates has been scanned and catalogued. A major achievement precipitated by the preparation of the Centenary Exhibition has been the consolidation of our historical items and those belonging to the Newcastle Girls' High Ex-students Union, together now as the Caesar Smith Collection.

### **Membership Committee**

Currently we have 1037 active members, including 903 life members.

Deaths reported in the past year have included: -

Jim Hall	year of 1925	John Hill	year of 1948
Leslie Snape	year of 1927	Noel Pryde	year of 1948
Frank Drew	year of 1931	Eric Quinn	year of 1948
Peter Withycombe	year of 1933	Bob Jackson	year of 1952
Charles Hughes	year of 1936	Adrian Norris	year of 1953
Chas Thomas	year of 1938	John Thompson	year of 1954
Max Mullin	year of 1943	Carl Bisson	year of 1954
Allan Antcliff	year of 1946		

24<sup>th</sup> May 2006

John Beach (President)

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**NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**to be held at**

**NEWCASTLE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL ~ THURSDAY 29 JUNE 2006 AT 6:00 PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome from the President
2. School Song
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2005 Annual General Meeting
5. Business arising from the Minutes
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Sub-Committee Reports ( Membership, Historical, Education, Functions)
9. General Business
10. Election of Committee 2006 – 2007
11. Appointment of Honorary Solicitor
12. Expression of interest in Sub-Committee membership.

24<sup>th</sup> May 2006

Greg Box (Secretary)