

President's Report ~ 2008

The first year following our centenary has been one of consolidation and increased support for our “descendant” schools. The Committee’s work has once again been characterised by dedicated efforts by a hard-core of productive members, and I take this opportunity to thank them for their steady support of our organisation.

2008 marks the 30th year since the last “old boys” passed through Newcastle Boys’ High School in their Higher School Certificate year. Much has changed since then on the educational landscape in Newcastle, but one wonders if any current school enjoys the same level of loyalty as does our old school. In an age when we hear a lot about “brand recognition”, after thirty years the terms “Boys’ High” and “the school on the Hill” still invoke a powerful meaning for many Novocastrians and this awareness is due in no small way to the work of our Committee.

Last year’s Annual Dinner was very successful, with 234 members attending. The amount of logistical preparation for the Dinner is enormous, and we are all indebted to Bob Aus and his hard-working committee for their efforts. Certainly, the Dinner is a much-anticipated event each year.

Our Annual Dinner speaker this year promises to be thought-provoking and enjoyable. Paul Cave, old boy of 1963, is perhaps best known as the founder of the extremely successful “Harbour Bridge Climb” business in Sydney, but his story goes well beyond that, to a series of successful businesses, awards for innovation, and a successful personal battle against cancer. I urge you to attend, and to encourage other old boys as well. Paul often speaks overseas, and we are very pleased that he has re-arranged his very busy schedule to fit us in.

Every year we are searching for new members for the Committee, to keep it energetic and alive, and to bring in new ideas from our broad membership. In my view, it is especially important to get younger members into committee roles, to represent the thoughts of those students who were at our school in the sixties and seventies. This is a practical consideration as well – none of us are becoming younger! Please give this some serious thought as we move towards our Annual General Meeting.

The Old Boys Association is in a strong financial position, and enjoys strong membership support. Our current membership is over 1500, with 908 Life Members. Sadly, however, each year some members pass away, and this year we have lost members:-

Peter Coleman (class of 1959), Bill Jones 54, Tim Mayo 35, Ron Parrott 56, Warren Patey 47, Bob Richardson 58, John Selby 55, Vincent Smith 36, David Stewart 39, David Williams 46.

Our Historical Committee reports that the Newcastle Regional Museum has undertaken to accept the memorabilia that forms the Newcastle High School 1906-1976 Caesar Smith Collection. Approximately Five Hundred artefacts representing the cultural heritage of Newcastle High School 1906-1929, Girls High 1930-1976 and Boys High 1930-1976. These items are additional to the admission registers and the photographic collection that are in the care of State Records Newcastle Repository and Newcastle Region Library Local Studies respectively.

The Regional Museum is in the process of re-locating exhibition spaces to the Railway Workshops at Civic and the store at the BHP Tool room at Mayfield. It is expected that the museum will be able to accept the Caesar Smith collection early in 2009. Exhibitions will continue to be shown in the library at the Callaghan College Waratah Technology Campus [the NBHS site].

We have continued to offer strong support for academic excellence in our descendant schools. Old Boy Professor Lewis Keys has bolstered our academic support for schools through a very generous donation, providing a perpetual bursary program for two current Year Eleven students. This kindness will allow us to support students who might otherwise leave school prematurely due to financial hardship. Another new award this year is the Brian Donegan Maths Prize, for most improved Year Ten Maths student at Waratah High School. Brian is remembered as an active Committee member, a teacher at Boys’ High, and as a champion of the “strugglers”.

Academic Prize winners were -

Newcastle High School were Tom Liolio (Keys Maths Prize), Holly Wright (Caesar Smith Prize), Leigh Medhurst (Keys Bursary) and Sophie Brown (Margaret Howard Bursary).

Waratah High School Shantelle Lindsay (Brian Donegan Award for maths), Miranda Hyland (Keys Family Maths Prize), Robbie Pollock (the Charlie Goffett Senior Prize for creative writing) and Ryan Cochrane (the Charlie Goffett Junior Prize for creative writing).

The David Stewart Scholarship was won by Elizabeth Lindus, and the F H Beard School Community Achievement award was won by Sammantha Mavin.

We have also maintained our support for the "school on the hill", by providing all academic prizes for Newcastle East Public School.

Visitors to Newcastle High School may have noticed our commemorative paving stone installed, besides the girls', re-stating our continuing strong links to the current generation of students. It has been my absolute privilege to lead this very worthy organisation for a third year, as we look forward to another year of strong membership support, active support for schools, and good company!

John R Beach
President
29th May 2008.

Newcastle Boys' High School, Old Boys' Association, Incorporated.

www.nbhsoba.org.au

Agenda for the 2008 Annual General Meeting.

To be held in a Staff Room of the Newcastle East Public School

Thursday 26th June 2008 at 6:00 pm.

1. In attendance.
2. Welcome from the President.
3. School Song.
4. Apologies.
5. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2007 Annual General Meeting.
6. Business arising from the minutes.
7. President's Report.
8. Treasurer's Report.
9. Subcommittee Reports.
 - a. Membership.
 - b. Historical.
 - c. Education.
 - d. Functions.
10. General Business.
11. Election of 2008 ~ 2009 Executive Committee and seven Committeemen.
12. Appointment of Honorary Solicitor.
13. Expression of interest in Subcommittee Membership.
 - a. Membership.
 - b. Historical.
 - c. Education.
 - d. Functions.
14. Date of next Annual General Meeting.
15. Close.

Greg Box
Secretary,
29th May 2008.