

Newcastle Boys' High School Old Boys' Association Incorporated

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2010

At the outset I must extend my heartfelt appreciation to our immediate past President, John Beach, for his tireless dedication to the position that he held for some four years. John set a standard that it will be challenge to maintain in the future.

It is pleasing to report that, despite the nature of this Association which cannot expect to attract new young members to prolong its existence, the number of financial members has increased for the first time since our centenary year. This is a consequence of last year's Annual General Meeting and Annual Dinner advices being sent to all unfinancial members, some of whom we had had no contact with for many years. Several paid their membership fees and attended the Annual Dinner and we were able to update contact details for many more which means some of our 'lost' members have now been 'found'. To those people who have shown their support for our Association for the first time in a number of years I say 'Welcome back' and I hope you will find your involvement satisfying.

Last year's Annual Dinner attracted 252 people; a very gratifying response. The choice of Ross Gittins as our after-dinner speaker was inspired. For forty-five minutes he had us constantly chuckling as he recalled his scholastic achievements and the teachers who made the biggest impact on his three years at Newcastle Boys' High School. His observations were insightful, accurate and hilarious and we are honoured to have had the pleasure of listening to such an accomplished orator.

There is every reason to believe that, with the credentials detailed in the attached Dinner Advice, this year's after-dinner speaker, Russell Cheek, will be just as entertaining.

I should like to record my appreciation to all the members of the Committee who continue to ensure that the Association runs smoothly. In particular, I acknowledge the tireless efforts of Greg Box who has vacated the position of Honorary Secretary after many years owing to challenges in his family life. As always, we extend our appreciation to Bob Aus who heads the Functions Committee and ensures that the Annual Dinner is properly organised so that there are few, if any, obstacles. Thanks, too, to Jamie Campbell for his donation of website hosting. We would warmly welcome anybody who wishes to serve on the Committee or contribute in any other way towards the advancement of this entity.

Our Association's historical collection is awaiting acceptance by the recently-relocated Newcastle Regional Museum which is presently preoccupied with the BHP Collection. Meanwhile, with the location of several admission registers relating to the school, it is hoped that we will be able to establish a comprehensive database of students of the school from 1915 to 1968.

In keeping with our past involvement in community events, I represented our Association at the 69th Anniversary Commemoration service for The Battle of Britain in Civic Park on September 11. 'Old boy' John Dallas Grossman, who was killed on the last day of the battle, was honoured at that ceremony.

Our support of students at Newcastle High School, Waratah Campus of Callaghan College and Newcastle East Public School is an important activity and much appreciated by the schools and their prize recipients. During the latter part of 2009 John Beach and I individually attended a total of six awards ceremonies. Academic prize winners were:

Newcastle High School -

Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement
Lewis Keys Bursary
Keys Family Prize for Best Science Student
Dr Alan Knott Scholarship
Margaret Howard Bursary
Caesar Smith Prize for Creative Writing (Junior)
Caesar Smith Prize for Creative Writing (Senior)
OBA President's Prize for Legal Studies

Georgia Hallett
Zachary Artist Keys
Paula Yu
Nicole Tang
Tina Piermarini
Abby Mackaway
Andrew Terry
Molly Hilton

Waratah Campus of Callaghan College -

F.H. Beard Prize for School Community Achievement

Kimberley Blake

Brian Donegan Prize for Most Improved Mathematics Student
Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing (Junior)
Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing (Senior)
Keys Family Prize for Best Mathematics Student
Dr David Stewart Scholarship

Lee Taylor
Mitchell Waller
Jackson Bennetts
Tiffany Lindus
Hayley Ford

There are numerous students at Newcastle East Public School who were awarded books courtesy of our Association.

Those awards, which are made annually, are the hallmark of our esteemed Association and financing them is the reason for our membership fees. To that end, I would appeal to all members to give consideration to a bequest to the Association when preparing their wills. It would be a worthy gesture aimed at extending the life of our proud organisation.

I am privileged to be President of this Association; it is a position that I do not take lightly. I trust we can continue to count on your continued support, wish you good health and look forward to greeting you at the Annual Dinner.

David R. Gubbay
President
May 9, 2010