

# Newcastle Boys' High School Old Boys' Association Incorporated

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2012

In the 25<sup>th</sup> year of its existence, your Association has been as active as ever, if not more so.

It has certainly been a year of some accomplishment – particularly on the part of the Historical Committee. Thanks to the dedicated efforts of Bill Storer and Peter Scaife, in October, 2011 we met in Newcastle Council chambers with representatives of the Regional Library to formally transfer into the Caesar Smith Collection all of the admission registers of Newcastle Girls' High School (covering the years from 1930 to 1975) together with those for Newcastle Boys' High School covering the years from 1930 to 1935. The registers had been missing since 1978 when the Department of Education directed that memorabilia and records of the girls' high school be removed from the school site. A recently discovered register for Boys' High covering the years from 1969 to 1971 was also included in the historic handover, which adds to those already in possession of the Regional Library.

The Newcastle High registers from 1915 to 1927 and the Boys' High registers from 1952 to 1957 are yet to be located to complete the picture. Congratulations to Bill and Peter for their perseverance and commitment.

That the number of active members of your Association has increased during the past twelve months is a remarkable achievement for a body that cannot attract young members. Head of the Membership Committee, Greg Wilson, recently reported active members totalling 1,075 which is an increase of more than 20 over last year. Such positive movement ensures the longevity of the Association.

Last year's after-dinner speaker, being the previous year's 'Australian of the Year' as well as an 'old boy', was a significant coup for the Association. I should like to record my appreciation to Professor Patrick McGorry for giving up his valuable time to inform and entertain us. No doubt this year's speaker, Lauchlan McIntosh, Year of '63, will uphold the standards set by speakers at the past 25 Annual Dinners.

Once again, in keeping with our past involvement in community events, I represented our Association at the 71<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Commemoration service for The Battle of Britain in Civic Park on September 16.

We are enormously grateful to our greatest financial supporter, Dr Lewis Keys, whose generosity enables the Association to make gifts to high achievers at the former Newcastle Girls' and Newcastle Boys' High Schools and Newcastle East Public School. Some years ago Dr Keys gave the Association \$25,000 which has been invested in our name. The interest earned on that investment contributes significantly towards the cost of those school awards, one of which is a bursary carrying the name of Dr Keys, another of which is a bursary carrying the name of his wife and the third of which is named 'The Keys Family Prize'. Sadly, Dr Keys wife of over 60 years, Margaret Howard, passed away towards the end of last year and, while I have already written to Dr Keys to express our sympathies, I should like to formally express it in this report.

As a further acknowledgment of their long, loving relationship, Dr Keys then gave the Association another \$25,000 which has been similarly invested. This has enabled your Committee to take the decision to double, in the future, all those monetary prizes under \$1,000. At a visit made by Vice President Beach to Dr Keys, a further \$25,000 was bequeathed to the Association. Discussions are being held to determine the best way to apply these generous gifts, to the benefit of students of the High schools supported by the Association.

Those awards are highly appreciated and respected by the respective schools. After an awards ceremony at Newcastle High School last year, it was gratifying to have Prefect Co-ordinator, Mrs Margaret Rennie, speak to me privately to express her appreciation for our financial support for the prize winners. Mrs Rennie was genuinely grateful and described our contribution as 'fantastic'.

During the latter part of 2011 Peter Scaife attended one and I attended a total of five awards ceremonies at Newcastle High School, Waratah Campus of Callaghan College and Newcastle East Public School. Prizes for academic achievement were presented to:

### *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

Phoebe Liolio

Alistair Woodcock

Grace Jamieson

Marguerite Simmons

Madeline Hiscox

Renae Burgess

Kate Neilson

Kassandra Bangle

*Waratah Campus of Callaghan College*

F.H. Beard Prize for School Community Achievement  
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

Jarrold Smith  
Luke Farrarwell  
Jedidiah Curry  
Jack Malone  
Hayden McShane  
Bronwyn Thomson

In addition, numerous students at Newcastle East Public School were awarded books courtesy of our Association.

On March 20 this year your Committee held a dinner to celebrate 25 years of the Association. I acknowledge the foresight of the inaugural President Trevor Dunn, Vice President Dick Sanders, Secretary Keith Murree Allen, Treasurer John McLennan and all those who served on the first Committee in being instrumental in the establishment of such a prestigious organisation of which I have been proud to be President for the past three years.

My sincere thanks to all who have served on the Committee during the past year. I wish all of our members good health and look forward to greeting you at the Annual Dinner.

David R. Gubbay  
President  
May 6, 2012

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

([www.nbhsoba.org.au](http://www.nbhsoba.org.au))

(PO Box 33, ADAMSTOWN, 2289)

### **Notice of Annual General Meeting**

**To be Held in the Staff Room of the Newcastle East Public School.**

**Thursday, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2012, at 5:30 p.m.**

You are invited to attend the Annual General Meeting of the Old Boys Association at the time, date and place shown above. It will be followed by an ordinary meeting of the elected committee.

All Committee positions will be declared vacant on the night. The positions to be filled are:

President	Vice President	Treasurer	Secretary
Public Officer	Publicity Officer	Web Master	Committee (7 positions)

Should you wish to nominate for a position please complete your name, contact details and the position you are nominating for in the space below and return this form to the Post Office box above by 23 June 2012.

Name:

Address:

Home Phone	Mobile Phone	Email address
Position nominated for:		Years of Attendance at the School:

### **AGM Agenda**

- 1 Present
- 2 Welcome from the President
- 3 School Song
- 4 Apologies
- 5 Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2011 Annual General Meeting
- 6 Business arising from the Minutes
- 7 President's Report
- 8 Treasurer's Report
- 9 Sub-Committee Reports
- 10 Election of Committee 2012 – 2013
- 11 Appointment of Honorary Solicitor
- 12 The next Annual General Meeting will be held in the Staff room of the Newcastle East Public School at 5:30 pm on Thursday, 27 June 2013 prior to the normal Committee Meeting.

D Gubbay, President.