

Newcastle Boys' High School Old Boys' Association Incorporated

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2014

It is heartening that those to whom I refer as *The Usual Suspects* – those valued members who, every year, accept re-election to the Committee – have maintained their enthusiasm to ensure that your Association has enjoyed another year of achievement.

The Historical Subcommittee consisting of Bill Storer, Peter Scaife and Dick Sanders has worked with admirable dedication resulting in the admission registers for both Newcastle Girls' and Newcastle Boys' High Schools being restored and indexed with links to photographs. Copies of the index, together with all photos and register pages (at full definition) have been transferred to the Newcastle Regional Library, NGHS Ex Students, Newcastle High School, Waratah Campus of Callaghan College and the University Archives. Over 23,000 names have been transcribed from the admission registers.

Bill Storer has also identified all Old Boys who served in Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam as well as all those who served in World War II. Those who died in service have been identified and it is proposed to add supplementary plaques to those at the school. The Principal of Waratah Campus of Callaghan College is keen to see this done and approval has been given by various armed services to use insignias relating to World War II.

We have also entered into an arrangement with the Newcastle Museum to remunerate a qualified person to catalogue the Caesar Smith Collection which continues to grow as more items of memorabilia are located.

In addition to thanking the gents named above, special thanks must go to Web Master Greg Kentish who has established a website that is informative and concise. I commend the website to you as a valuable tool for you to learn more about your Association and its ongoing achievements. The index page is at <http://www.nbhsoba.net/index.html>. Should you like to contribute class or sports/activities photos that are not on the website, please contact Dick Sanders at dicksanders@optusnet.com.au.

Given the very nature of your Association, it is surprising and very gratifying that Active Membership has maintained a steady level over recent years. In fact, Active Membership increased from 1,028 in 2005 to 1,054 at the end of 2013.

During the latter part of 2013 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
Colin Keys Dux of the School

Beth Grant
Bradley Berryman
Lachlan Smith
Grace Jamieson
Rhianna O'Regan
Jerissa McLachlan
Rena Burgess
Keira-Lee Sarapik
Grace Jamieson

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

Samantha Tuli
Kristiana Gorgievski
Kerrily Munro-Murphy
Erin Wanless
Asher Pearce
Kirsten Cullen

Additionally, numerous students at Newcastle East Public School were awarded books courtesy of your Association.

A Futures Subcommittee is in the formative stages and is intended to investigate new and innovative ways of funding school students in the pursuit of science experiments and mathematics. To that end, your Association has already disbursed significant funding to Newcastle High School and Waratah Campus of Callaghan College thanks to the generosity of Old Boy Professor Lewis Keys.

As always, we are anxious to welcome newcomers to the Committee. Not only does it alleviate the responsibility on those who have served for many years but it allows for new ideas to be introduced. May I ask that you seriously consider putting your name forward.

Our after-dinner speaker at last year's Annual Dinner was a 'top-shelf' attraction who had his audience enthralled and highly amused. Perhaps I should have referred to 'him' as 'them'. We knew we were getting Jonathon Biggins; we didn't know we were getting Paul Keating as well! Thanks to Jonathon for a thoroughly entertaining evening.

This year's after-dinner speaker is veteran Newcastle radio personality Paul Bevan. As he always approaches his radio program with light-hearted enthusiasm, there is every reason to expect that his after-dinner speech will be a highlight of the evening.

The Committee extends its sincere condolences to the family and friends of Old Boys who have passed away in the past twelve months.

I wish all of our members good health and look forward to greeting you at the Annual General Meeting as well as the Annual Dinner.

David R. Gubbay (President)

May 2, 2014