Excerpts from the Address to NBHSOBA, 8th August, 2015
by Warwick Beard, Son of the late Harold Beard.

(Warwick is presently a High School Principal)

1. Some pet sayings of Harold: "It's the five per cent! ", "See me in the Office afterwards! ", "Who was that who mis-spoke the words of the song? " (some five percenters delighted in mis-pronouncing some words from Harold's favourite sing-along numbers).

2. After retiring from NBHS, Harold sold World Book Encyclopaedias to most schools in the Hunter Valley.

3. For a time, Harold worked for Woolworths as a careers adviser for careers in retail.

4. After 8 years, Harold went casual teaching in the Gosford area. He spent many years teaching OA classes (those for the disadvantaged). He was particularly attached to a special Year 9 class.

5. Harold and family eventually moved to Bellingen, where he engaged in his love of local history. He co-wrote a book, History of the Bellingen Valley.

6. During Harold's time in Bellingen, the age of "hippie communes" arrived, and this caused considerable angst among some of the residents of the Bellingen area. So much so that a "public meeting" was announced to air prevailing views on the issue. When it became obvious that this so-called "public meeting" was likely to be invaded by the hippie community from far and wide, the title of the meeting was changed to a "rate-payers meeting". Harold was incensed at this tricky sophistry, and let his feelings be known. Among some in the Bellingen community he became known thereafter as "that Communist, Beard".

7. Harold was understandably disheartened when he returned to see NBHS after it was re-badged as Waratah High School. In deference to Harold, a later Head of Waratah High restored the portrait of Harold to its original place of honour in the school library.

8. Harold is buried at Urunga Cemetery, where one of his immortal sayings was uttered, or is preserved, "The character of the boy is paramount".

9. Epitaph on his grave : "Harold Beard, a Scholar and a Gentleman".