

Historical Sub-committee report – June 2021 AGM

As noted in the past several years, the focus of activity for the sub-committee is the website (www.nbhsoba.net), with the continual addition of photos, obituaries and news of members. Note the report from the WebMaster (Greg Kentish) to this AGM.

Filemaker Pro (2 copies), a powerful database software, has been purchased for use by Bill Storer and Greg Kentish, enabling Bill to enrich the data related to individual students. Bill has used the available class rolls to provide information on who is in which class, when, and is adding further details against each student (eg, sports teams, prefects, etc) – basically any other relevant information can be added and searched. It has already proven useful in answering queries relating to Old Boys.

The NGHS ex Students Union (ESU) is now showing increased interest in becoming involved in collecting material for the Caesar Smith Collection, and there have been several meetings between representatives from both organisations. The ESU has a cabinet of memorabilia still at Newcastle High School, and will be assessing how this material can be incorporated into the Caesar Smith Collection.

For some time, we have been endeavouring to obtain a list of items in the Caesar Smith Collection at the Regional Library. The problem in doing this (not disclosed, but now obvious) has been that the Library did not have the human resources. This issue is now being addressed – in the Local History area, there is a system of volunteers who are inducted, and allowed to work on digitising and cataloguing the various collections.

There are currently 5 volunteers from the OBA (Beach, Scaife, Sanders, Wilson, Todhunter) and 1 from the ESU (Lindsay) working on the Caesar Smith Collection, and additional participants from the latter are expected. The supervisor from the Library is very supportive, and good progress is being made. The digitisation capabilities are excellent, with The Cobra book digitiser being particularly useful – one person digitised 10 years of Nobbys magazines, to a high standard, in less than 3 hours. It is interesting to note that there is a complete set of Nobbys at the Library, bound in 10 year increments. The goal is to have the complete Collection catalogued, with links to our website, and the Library supervisor is supportive of this. It is not likely that this work will be completed before the end of 2021.

We would like to encourage the various yearly cohorts to write down their anecdotes, so that they can be included on the website (only those from the year of 1957 are there so far). There are no doubt many, and these can put a human face on the School, and help show the “culture” (or lack thereof).

For anyone supplying photos by email, please digitise to at least 500kb to ensure a quality image (or just send the photos to Dick by mail, and they will be returned after digitisation). Dick’s job is made easier if names are given in row order, with any unnamed students clearly shown (please see the photos on the nbhsoba.net web site for examples). Some of the year reunions have supplied a comprehensive set of excellent photos with names – we would like to see more of this.

An NBHS Old Boys Facebook site is maintained by Greg Kentish, and this has become a useful communication medium for the Old Boys (with use increasing). Greg’s efforts in maintaining and enhancing the website and Facebook page are again gratefully acknowledged..

Peter Scaife/ Bill Storer/ Dick Sanders

23 June 2021