

## Historical Sub-committee report – June 2022 AGM

The focus of activity for the sub-committee continues to be:

- The website ([www.nbhsoba.net](http://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.
- Cataloguing and digitising documents at the Library, as accredited volunteers

Our activities at the Library currently involve 4 volunteers from the OBA (Beach, Scaife, Sanders, Wilson) and 1 from the NGHS ESU (Lindsay) working on NHS, NBHS and NGHS items (the Caesar Smith Collection), and additional participants from the ESU are expected. Good progress is being made. Our activities have been constrained by Covid, resulting in not being able to access the Library for about 6 months of the past year. The goal is to have the complete Collection catalogued (both Library and Museum items), with links to our website, and the Library supervisor is supportive of this. This will take over a year to complete, and may require some new software being considered by Council. There is a link on our website for the Collection at the Museum (see “Caesar Smith Collection” under the History tab).

We have to be careful about items in our Collection that are kept at schools – over time, Principals and teachers change, and it is to be expected that there will be less interest in the dim, distant past (when we were at high school!). Earlier this year there was an issue at Newcastle High School: a display related to Clarence Jeffries in a cabinet, supplied by our organisation, was removed during some school renovations. While the items in the case were given to us, the case has disappeared, probably discarded. The NGHS ESU have since had meetings with the Principal regarding a cabinet of their memorabilia still at Newcastle High School, and have signed off an agreed list of the items. The ESU still has to determine how this material can be incorporated into the Caesar Smith Collection.

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 (with use continuing to increase) is maintained by Greg Kentish, and this has become a useful communication medium for the Old Boys and Senior Ladies, and is also useful to members of the public who have had relatives at the school. Greg’s efforts in maintaining and enhancing the website and Facebook page are again gratefully acknowledged.

Tempus is fugitting very rapidly, and we have a limited time to set up our legacy. We expect that this will be a web site capable of being continued in static form by the National Library, the NBHS/NGHS/ Caesar Smith Collection in the Hunter Photo Bank, and the items in the Caesar Smith Collection retained at the Newcastle Library and Museum.

If there are any photos, programs of school events, physical artefacts that you would like to contribute, now is the time.

Peter Scaife/ Bill Storer/ Dick Sanders

22 June 2022