

## **President's Report to the 2005 Annual General Meeting**

The past year has been one of continued activity, associated with the normal educational support to schools, and receipt of memorabilia, as well as with a higher level of activity relating to the collection, and planning for the Centenary next year. I would like to acknowledge the excellent, and willing, support of all members of the Committee. I record with sadness the loss in late 2004 of one of our keenest committee members, John Delman. John led our Historical sub-committee for some years, and was the driving force behind the book on Captain Jeffries, our VC winner. Bill Storer, our Treasurer, has taken over John's activities, until the AGM.

Highlights of the year have been:

### **The Annual Dinner**

This continues as the major event of the year, and was attended by 255 old boys. This is the highest number for some time, and is partly due to the efforts of the 1954 year group's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebrations, and the 1964 group's 40<sup>th</sup> reunion. The donations at the dinner were again generous, providing a firm basis for our activities to encourage excellence in education. I would also like to acknowledge the support of Newcastle City Council, in making the Annual Dinner venue available to us at no charge – this is very much appreciated. This venue has always been part of our tradition, and brings back many memories.

The speaker was changed at short notice, and Lew MacLeod's presentation, "Waratah to Kigali - A Journey of Learning, Comradeship and Enlightenment" was exceptionally well received. His work in Cambodia and Rwanda, leading military nursing teams, was a first class example of the many diverse, and fascinating, careers pursued by old boys.

I have to admit that some underhand activities were planned at the function – no doubt by the 5% ers. When Norm Letcher received the bottle of port as the oldest old boy present, some of his colleagues at the table conspired to smuggle the bottle into his nursing home, in direct contradiction of the policy of no alcohol – shame!

### **The Historical Collection**

There have been developments related to the collection which are very significant, particularly in view of the Centenary celebrations planned for next year. Without going through the details, the likely result is that the historical records (both paper, and 3D objects) for the original NHS (school on the hill), NGHS and NBHS will be combined to form the Caesar Smith Collection (named after the first headmaster), under the care of the Newcastle City Council. The collection will be properly catalogued, with paper records and photos held by the Regional Library, and the other artefacts held by the Regional Museum. Some of the paper records held have been classified by State Records as being of state significance, and have a higher level of "protection".

### **Presentation of Awards and Scholarships.**

One of the main objectives of the Association is to award prizes and scholarships to students of Newcastle High School (Principal is Neil Mierendorff, an Old Boy) and the Callaghan College, Waratah Technology Campus (the previous NBHS). As noted last year, we have also agreed to extend our activities in this area, to include the original school, now Newcastle East Public School (the Principal is John Beach, an Old Boy) – the Committee meets at this school on occasion, and the sense of our connection is strong.

The following awards were made in 2004:

*Callaghan College - Waratah Technology Campus*

–FH Beard Prize for School Community Achievement	Jamie McDonald
–Dr David Stewart Bursary	Adam Brewer
–Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) – Senior (1st)	Adam Brewer
–Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) – Senior (2nd)	Heidi Hutchinson
–Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) – Junior (1st)	Anastasia Qvist
–Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) – Senior (2nd)	Emily Conway

*Newcastle High School*

–Dr Alan Knott Scholarship	David Woods
–Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement	Luke Johnson
–Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Senior (1st)	Marina Salas
–Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Senior (2nd)	Ashleigh O'Mara Michelle Harrison
–Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Junior (1st)	Jemima Manton
–Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Junior (2nd)	Hannah Chalker
–OBA President's Prize for legal studies	Katie Kelso

*Newcastle East Public School*

- The OBA provided about \$800 for the purchase of books for the library. The books matched prizes given to individual students, and the individual prize winner's name was inscribed on each, as an ongoing record of their achievement.

**Centenary**

Planning for the Centenary is progressing. The actual date of the first class was 5 June 1906, and it is planned to have several activities around this date (a Monday in 2006). Likely activities are a display and function in the Lovatt Gallery of the Regional Library, a major luncheon at City Hall, and a time capsule placed under the foundation stone at the original "school on the hill". NHS was the first high school in Newcastle, and it may have been the first co-educational high school in NSW. There is a lot to remember and celebrate.

**Membership**

As of May 2005, membership of the Association is 1053 active members (Life 901, Yearly 56 and Waivered 96). These figures are essentially the same as for 2004 (1041).

We have been notified of 20 deaths, some of which occurred earlier than the last year. These are: David Bowden (year of 53), John Hill (48), Graham (Carter) Brown (57), John Delman (58), Gordon Goffet (58), David Griffiths (74), David Harland (56), Harold Paterson (48), Bill Rich (38), Gordon Sutherland (34), John Truscott (34), Steve Bull (71), Alick McLeod (39), Brian Thomas (38), Anthony Smith (52), Ted Hewit (35), Ross Richardson (36), Syd Jackson (33), Gordon Griffith (38), Bill Burges (33) and Ed Devon (34) – RIP. If anyone is aware of any others, could they please contact our membership officer (contact details on web site, [www.nbhsoba.org.au](http://www.nbhsoba.org.au)).

The Annual Dinner is to be held on Saturday, 13 August 2005 at the Newcastle Town Hall. This year our after dinner speaker will be Brian Donegan, a maths teacher and maths master at the school from the 60s until 1985; he saw the transition. Brian's topic is "A teacher's perspective", and since Brian is a born story teller, it should prove to be very informative and entertaining.

Please come along to the forthcoming AGM and give us your views. While new members are always welcome on the committee, we would particularly like someone to take over our Historical Sub-committee – it is not overly time consuming and is very interesting for someone with such interests. The Centenary Celebrations require a strong and active committee, and the involvement of more members through participation on the committee would ensure that we do our best ("with oars and sails").

Finally, the web site is functional, and will be of increasing importance in the functioning of the Association, eg forms for the dinner are available on the web site. I would like to acknowledge the support of Jamie Campbell, one of our members, who is hosting the web site on his commercial server, www.bravo.com.au, as a donation to the Association.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you good health and an interesting 2005/6.

Peter Scaife

10 May 2005

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**NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL, OLD BOYS' ASSOCIATION INCORPORATED**

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**NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

to be held at

**NEWCASTLE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL THURSDAY 30 JUNE 2005 AT 6:00 PM**

**AGENDA**

1. Welcome from the President
2. School Song
3. Apologies
4. Confirmation of the Minutes of the 2004 Annual General Meeting
5. Business arising from the Minutes
6. President's Report
7. Treasurer's Report
8. Sub-Committee Reports ( Membership, Historical, Education, Functions)
9. General Business
10. Election of Committee 2005 – 2006
11. Appointment of Honorary Solicitor
12. Expression of interest in Sub-Committee membership.

Greg Box

10 May 05

**AGENDA OF COMMITTEE MEETING**

to be held immediately after the Annual General Meeting at

**NEWCASTLE EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL ON THURSDAY 30<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2005 AT 7:00 PM.**

- |   |                    |             |
|---|--------------------|-------------|
| <b>01. Present.</b>                         |                    | <b>7:00</b> |
| <b>02. Apologies.</b>                       |                    | <b>7:05</b> |
| <b>03. Minutes of the previous meeting.</b> |                    | <b>7:10</b> |
| <b>04. Matters arising from minutes.</b>    | <b>Report From</b> |             |
| a. Centenary Celebrations.                  | Duffell            | <b>7:15</b> |
| b. Election of Sub-Committee membership     |                    | <b>7:20</b> |
| <b>05. Correspondence</b>                   | Secretary          |             |
| a. Outwards: -                              |                    | <b>7:25</b> |
| b. Inwards: -                               |                    | <b>7:30</b> |
| <b>06. Hon Treasures report</b>             |                    | <b>7:35</b> |
| <b>07. Subcommittee reports</b>             |                    |             |
| a. Membership                               | Bevan              | <b>7:40</b> |
| b. Education                                | Wrightson          | <b>7:45</b> |
| c. Historical                               | Storer             | <b>7:50</b> |
| d. Functions                                | Aus                | <b>7:55</b> |
| <b>08. General Business</b>                 |                    | <b>8:00</b> |
| <b>09. Next Meetings</b>                    |                    |             |

**Wednesday 10<sup>th</sup> August 5:30 pm in the Staff room of the NHS Pre-Dinner**

**Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> August as advertised at the Newcastle Town Hall Dinner**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> September 5:30 pm in the Library of the CCWTC Committee**

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> November 5:30 pm in the Library of the CCWTC Committee**

Greg Box

10 May 05