

## **President's Report - 2007**

The year past, our Centenary Year, has seen a number of significant events for the history of the school, and our association. The year was one of frantic activity, with thorough and effective planning contributing to the memorable round of celebratory functions in June 2006. Membership has remained strong, but our association has lost some prominent members, notably Brian Donegan, our only ex-teacher member, who passed away early this year. Brian's participation in our events was joyful, for him and us, and he is sadly missed. Members will remember his hilarious reflections on school life, as our Dinner speaker in 2005, and his near-photographic memory of past students and teaching colleagues. Vale Brian.

### **Some highlights of the year included: -**

#### **The Annual Dinner**

Trevor Dunn entertained 186 students with his tales of school life in the fifties, an era marked by some very strong sporting achievements, and excellent academic effort. Trevor related some of his experiences in the law, including his time consulting to Newcastle Council on a range of sometimes contentious matters. We remember Trevor as one of the founding members of our Association, and as a former president. Trevor's speech was very entertaining, but a remarkable feature of it was his ability to memorise the full forty minutes perfectly, and deliver it with warm humour and clarity. As usual, community singing was a wonderful feature of the night. The view later was that this was one of our best dinners, despite a couple of minor but amusing mishaps on the way home.

#### **The Centenary of Newcastle High School**

The Centenary Committee worked cooperatively with the Girls' High Ex-students and current members of staff at Newcastle High School, in planning a range of activities over three days in June, the 3<sup>rd</sup>, 4<sup>th</sup>, and 5<sup>th</sup>. Guiding principles for the program were broad participation, historical detail, and fun and entertainment. The events were: -

- 1 Display of memorabilia in the Lovett Gallery, arranged thematically and professionally, opened by Sharon Grierson, Member for Newcastle.
- 2 Recreation of First School Assembly, held in City Hall, followed by afternoon tea and time for "catching up" with old friends.
- 3 A Re-union Ball for staff and ex-students of the "modern" Newcastle High School.
- 4 Service at Christ Church Cathedral marked the Centenary, with a Choir of ex-students.
- 5 Inspections of the three school campuses which have been part of Newcastle Public High School, Newcastle Boys' and Newcastle Girls' High.
- 6 Dedication of commemorative plaques, marking the original site at the current Newcastle East Public School, and featuring a jazz band consisting of ex-students.
- 7 Luncheon and entertainment at Newcastle High School for ex-students.

The events were planned to allow for various ages and degrees of mobility, and to cater for different tastes and timetables. The committee worked utmost efficiency, and with exceptional diligence and good will. All events were extremely well-attended, and the Centenary was held to be a great success, with many travelling long distances to attend.

#### **The Historical Collection**

Under the spirited guidance of Bill Storer, the Historical Committee worked to bring together the combined collections of NBHS and NGHS, now known as the Caesar Smith Collection, to be placed under the care of Newcastle City Council curators. Extensive restoration work was carried out on some of our shields and trophies, and the Historical Committee completed wide research in choosing and displaying elements of the collection for the Centenary display.

#### **Educational Awards and Scholarships**

##### **Newcastle High School**

Senior School Awards were presented by John Beach on September 28, 2006. The recipients are given below.

Dr Alan Knott Scholarship	Jessica Prince
Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement	Tom Warner
Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Senior (1st)	Sarah Proust
OBA President's Prize for Legal Studies	Jessica Prince

The Awards function for Years 7-11 was held on Wednesday 13 December, and was attended by John Beach.

Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Junior	Libby Randall (Year 9)
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## Callaghan College, Waratah Technology Campus

There were 2 presentation functions for 2006:

- 1 Year 10 - Formal Presentation Ceremony, held at the Great Hall, The University of Newcastle, on Thursday, 7 December 2006 at 6 pm (attended by Brian Donegan).  
Dr David Stewart Bursary  
FH Beard Prize for School Community Achievement  
Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) - Senior
- 2 Years 7, 8 & 9 - Presentation Day on Tuesday, 12 December 2006 at 9.30 am in the School Hall (attended by Peter Scaife).  
Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) - Junior

Andrew Webb  
Ana Qvist  
Mitchell Lowth  
Alana Malone

## Newcastle East Public School

The awards function was held on Monday 18 December in the Grammar School Hall in Church St (attended by Peter Scaife).

## In Conclusion

A remarkable year for our Association has seen it on a sound financial footing, its archives refurbished and under curatorial care, and its Centenary marked in a fitting manner. We are indeed indebted to those outstanding committee members who worked so hard at making the Centenary such an outstanding success, their enthusiasm and energy reflecting their life-long commitment to our "remis velisque" credo.

Sadly, the year also saw the passing of several Old Boys, including Egan Krastins ('62), Jack Lee AO QC ('37), Steve Pearce ('68), Theo Tyndall ('43) Archdeacon Peter Rushton ('57), Greg Gilmour ('67), and our oldest member, Walter "Wal" Beattie, who passed away at the age of 96, still singing the school song in the shower to the last!

John Beach  
President,  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2007.

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## Newcastle Boys' High School, Old Boys' Association, Incorporated.

[www.nbhsoba.org.au](http://www.nbhsoba.org.au)

### Notice of Annual General Meeting.

To be held in a Staff Room of the Newcastle East Public School

Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> June 2007 at 6:00 pm.

### Agenda

1. Welcome from the President.
2. School Song.
3. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2006 Annual General Meeting.
4. Business arising from the minutes.
5. President's Report.
6. Treasurer's Report.
7. Subcommittee Reports.
  - a. Membership.
  - b. Historical.
  - c. Education.
  - d. Functions.
8. General Business.
9. Election of 2007 ~ 2008 Committee.
10. Appointment of Honorary Solicitor.
11. Expression of interest in Subcommittee Membership.
12. Date of next Annual General Meeting.
13. Close.

Greg Box  
Secretary,  
27<sup>th</sup> May 2007.