

President's Report ~ 2009

Since the excitement of our last Annual Dinner, your Association has moved to consolidate its financial position in difficult times, continued to recognise excellence in our sponsored schools, and organised another exciting speaker for the 2009 Dinner.

As you recall, last year's evening function was well attended, and we were entertained by a lively presentation by Paul Cave, Old Boy of 1962, prominent businessman, and founder of the Sydney Harbour Bridge Climb. Paul reflected on his somewhat amusing times at the old school and then moved on to a fascinating account of the long struggle he had to establish the Bridge Climb as a viable business. After 1.5 million walks, it seems that his hunch was correct – people do want the experience of walking the bridge! Paul devotes much of his time now to fund-raising for his cancer charity, and we were able to help, by contributing \$1500 in members' donations, raised on the night. Few will forget the sight of the de Groot sword brandished high, as it passed around the room in the careful hands of its personal guard!

Over the recent years, I have worked to promote our Dinner by including some high-profile Old Boys, and for 2009 I have asked Ross Gittins, class of 1963, Economics Editor for the Sydney Morning Herald, as the after-dinner speaker. Ross is well known for his concise explanations of economics, most recently the Federal Budget. He is often featured on television, with his sense of humour to the fore. His book *Gittinomics* is a best-seller. He is both informative and entertaining. Ross' talk is entitled "Give My Regrets to Waratah High".

Recently a group of Old Boys has examined future directions of our Association. We are conscious that as we "mature", there is a need for younger members to take on leadership roles on our committee. With the school's last year 1978, and current members from the late 1920's, our membership spans over a very impressive five decades. I issue a special plea for Old Boys from the 1970's in particular to get involved. As members that are more senior move on, it will be the involvement of our 70's group, which will lead us, and keep our Association fresh. Since one of our key objectives is the on-going recognition and support of excellent students in today's schools, a strong committee is essential! Contact me through our website www.nbhsoba.org.au if you have inquiries about ways you can help, or phone 49292911.

Financially, our Association has been subject to the same pressures as the broader economy. Our investment accounts, which provide the interest from which we pay for our many academic prizes, have suffered significant drops in interest rates, and earnings have been reduced. Your donations to the Association are a big help in keeping our support for students strong.

A growing number of Old Boys have taken the step of leaving money to the Association in their wills. They see this as a way to provide financial support for future generations of students. This is a major decision, taken in consultation with family, but does ensure that the work of the Association will continue for many years.

Our extensive collection of two-dimensional archival materials (documents, photographs, etc) remains in the hands of Newcastle City Council, and can be accessed by visiting the Local Studies Centre in Newcastle City Library. Our extensive collection of artefacts, including many sporting trophies, shields, and objects, is in the hands of our wonderful Historical Committee, pending transfer to Newcastle's new museum, when it is finished.

Membership has remained steady over the past year, with 1025 active members, fourteen down on last year. There are 1560 members on our list. We are actively seeking new members, and you might alert other Old Boys of the benefits of membership, and keeping in touch with others through the Association.

Education Awards and Bursaries

Newcastle High School Senior School David Gubbay presented Awards in the assembly hall of Newcastle High School on Thursday September 25, 2008. The recipients:

Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement	Callan Nickerson
Margaret Howard Bursary	Kate Carroll
Margaret Howard Bursary	Nicole Tang
Lewis Keys Bursary	Brock Fenwick
Lewis Keys Bursary	Tom Liolio
Dr Alan Knott Scholarship	Sophie Brown
Caesar Smith Prize for Creative Writing (Senior)	Sophie Hinds
OBA President's Prize for Legal Studies	Georgina Garlick

The awards presentation for **Newcastle High School Years 7 to 11** was held on Friday December 12, 2008 and was attended by David Gubbay. The recipients:

Caesar Smith Prize for Creative Writing (Junior)	Terrence McHugh
--	-----------------

Keys Family Prize for Best Science Student
Callaghan College – Waratah Technology Campus Year 10 Formal Presentation Ceremony was held in the Great Hall of The University of Newcastle on Thursday December 4, 2008 and was attended by David Gubbay. The recipients:
 Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing (Senior)
 Dr David Stewart Scholarship
 F.H. Beard Prize for School Community Achievement
 Keys Family Prize for Best Mathematics Student
 Brian Donegan Prize for Most Improved Mathematics Student

Emily Cox
 Jade Kadel
 Shinaai Leach-Hayes
 Jessanie Hodgins
 Mason Campbell
 Georgia Lowen

Callaghan College – Waratah Technology Campus Years 7, 8 and 9 Presentation Day was held on Tuesday December 9, 2008 in the School Hall and was attended by Peter Scaife. The recipient:
 Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing (Junior)

Newcastle East Public School The awards function was held on Tuesday December 16, 2008 in the Horbury Hunt Hall. A large number of books were presented by David Gubbay on behalf of the Association.

With my term as President coming to an end, I commend to you most highly the work carried out on your behalf by our Committee members. Serene on the surface, Committee members are constantly active in advancing the objectives of our Association:- facilitating reunions through events such as the Annual Dinner; collecting and maintaining memorabilia of the school; and awarding prizes and benefits to current students. I thank them sincerely for their outstanding efforts.

Finally, I urge you to demonstrate your own school spirit, by coming to the dinner, by supporting the Association financially, and by becoming part of our Committee. The effort required is small, but the rewards are great!

Remis velisque
 John R Beach
 President
 28th May 2009.

Newcastle Boys' High School, Old Boys' Association, Incorporated.
www.nbhsoba.org.au
Agenda for the 2009 Annual General Meeting.
To be held in a Staff Room of the Newcastle East Public School
Thursday 25th June 2009 at 6:00 pm.

1. Attendance.
2. Welcome from the President.
3. School Song.
4. Apologies.
5. Confirmation of the minutes of the 2008 Annual General Meeting.
6. Business arising from the minutes.
7. President's Report.
8. Treasurer's Report.
9. Subcommittee Reports.
 - a. Membership.
 - b. Historical.
 - c. Education.
 - d. Functions.
10. General Business.
11. Election of 2009 ~ 2010 Executive Committee and seven Committeemen.
12. Appointment of Honorary Solicitor.
13. Expression of interest in Subcommittee Membership.
 - a. Membership.
 - b. Historical.
 - c. Education.
 - d. Functions.
14. Date of next Annual General Meeting.
15. Close.

Greg Box
 Secretary,

28th May 2009.