

Newcastle Boys' High School Old Boys' Association Incorporated

PRESIDENT'S REPORT – 2013

In keeping with its proud tradition, your Association has been very active; not only in its routine functions but also in establishing new initiatives.

Thanks to the enormous financial generosity of 'Old Boy' Dr Lewis Keys, we have been able (as I reported last year) to double in value the monetary prizes under \$1,000 that are awarded to students at Newcastle High School and Waratah Campus of Callaghan College. Prizes for academic achievement were presented to:

Newcastle High School -

Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement
Lewis Keys Bursary
Keys Family Prize for Best Science Student
Dr Alan Knott Scholarship
Margaret Howard Bursary
Caesar Smith Prize for Creative Writing (Junior)
Caesar Smith Prize for Creative Writing (Senior)
OBA President's Prize for Legal Studies
Colin Keys Dux of the School

Merryana Salem
Shaun Murray
Claire Bertholli
Alissa Lucas
Grace Jamieson
Maike Strichow
Tori Bedingfield
Merryana Salem
Martha Hector

Waratah Campus of Callaghan College -

F.H. Beard Prize for School Community Achievement
Brian Donegan Prize for Most Improved Mathematics Student
Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing (Junior)
Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing (Senior)
Keys Family Prize for Best Mathematics Student
Dr David Stewart Scholarship

Luke Baker
Leeana Peterson
Kaitlen Britton
Jedidiah Curry
Emily Schimann
Jayme Tomlinson

In Addition, numerous students at Newcastle East Public School were awarded books courtesy of your Association.

Dr Keys, who has always maintained a keen interest in science as well as mathematics, further extended his generosity by advancing to the Association \$12,000 specifically for the purpose of purchasing science equipment for each of those schools. We were able to obtain a 'wish list' in science equipment from each school and have them approved by Dr Keys. That program has been completed to the delight of both schools and the satisfaction of your Association.

It has also been agreed that the Association will fund up to \$2,000 each year for students from Newcastle High and Waratah Campus of Callaghan College to participate in science experiments and activities. The first of those events is an Electric Vehicle Challenge organised by Newcastle High School and The Tom Farrell Institute which is to be held on August 18 this year.

We have been working with local Members of Parliament to access *Centenary of ANZAC* funding for restoration of the site of the death at Paschendaal in 1917 of Captain Clarence Jeffries VC. 'Old Boy' Captain Jeffries' company was pinned down by enemy machine gun fire inflicting heavy losses while he alone charged and seized the enemy's 'pill-box' position. His body rests in northern France and we seek to have the surviving German installation preserved as a war-grave site.

The person directly involved in negotiating the foregoing initiatives is Vice-President John Beach to whom I am sincerely grateful for his expertise and dedication.

John has also been instrumental in procuring the talented Jonathon Biggins as this year's after-dinner speaker. With his illustrious career in the entertainment industry, Jonathon is sure to be a highlight of after-dinner speakers and a fine follow-up to last year's speaker, Lauchlan McIntosh, who was most entertaining and proved himself to be much more than a leader in Community Singing.

Your Association has given financial support to the purchase of two display cabinets at Newcastle High School. The cabinets feature a Famous Faces panel on which the faces of a number of our 'old boys' who have gone on to achieve fame or fortune appear.

The dedication and perseverance of Bill Storer and Peter Scaife from the Historical Committee has reaped remarkable results. Since my last report, the missing Newcastle Boys' High admission registers from 1952 to 1957 have been located which means we now have a complete record of school admissions from 1923 to 1972. Congratulations to Bill, Peter and all of their associates. Greg Kentish is setting up a new website which will make available all of the admission registers and corridor photos.

Total active membership of your Association has decreased slightly during the past twelve months and stands at 1,058.

After last year's President's Report was sent to the printer, our long-standing oldest 'old boy' passed away. He was Norm Rodgers Snr – father of our esteemed Honorary Secretary, Norm Rodgers. Mr Rodgers was 93. I should like to record condolences on behalf of the entire membership of the Association to the family of our oldest 'old boy'.

My sincere thanks to all those Committee members whose devotion to this organisation enables it to function so well. Their dedication is highly appreciated. In particular, I wish to thank Bob Aus who, after 19 years of organising the Annual Dinner has decided to pass the baton on. Bob's expertise in ensuring that everything goes like clockwork on the night has been exemplary. We are truly indebted to him.

I wish all of our members good health and look forward to greeting you at the Annual Dinner.

David R. Gubbay
President
May 5, 2013