

2005 AGM*President: Peter Scaife*

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 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 50th Anniversary Celebrations. 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 Quist
Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) – Junior (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 centred on this date (a Monday in 2006). Likely activities are a display and function in the Lovett 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).

Other matters

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

2004 AGM*President: Peter Scaife*

In the past year, the Association has been active in pursuing our objectives, and I would again like to record my appreciation for the willing support of Committee members. Our activities were focussed on 3 key areas: the Annual Dinner, receiving donations of memorabilia and artefacts (archived in the Newcastle Library, and used as part of the local historical resource), and providing prizes and scholarships to encourage excellence in the schools associated with the NHS and NBHS names.

Highlights of the year have been:

- **The Annual Dinner**, which continues as the major event of the year; the 2003 dinner was attended by 220 old boys. This is higher than in recent years, reflecting the organisation of the Class of 1953 (with an excellent turn out), as well as interest in the speaker, Peter Morris. Peter's talk on "From public school to Parliament and beyond" provided an insight into his experiences at NBHS in the mid to late 40s, as well as during his period in Federal Parliament, both as a backbencher and as a Minister. I would like to acknowledge the support of Newcastle City Council, in making the venue available to us at no charge; it is a wonderful old building and brings back many happy memories of school functions (as well as the Saturday night dances!). The donations at the dinner were again generous, providing a firm basis for our activities to encourage excellence in education.
- **The further development of our web site** (www.nbhsoba.org.au); while this was established in late 2002, the recent appointment of a "Web Master" on the Committee will enable the web site to reach its potential. I would like to acknowledge the support of Jamie Campbell, one of our members, who is hosting the web site on his server, www.bravo.com.au, as a donation to the Association.

One of the main objectives of the Association is to award prizes and scholarships to students of Newcastle High School and the Callaghan College, Waratah Technology Campus (the previous NBHS).

The following awards were made in 2003:

Callaghan College -Waratah Technology Campus

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|---|-------------------|
| - FH Beard Prize for School Community Achievement | Gavin Antoine |
| - Dr David Stewart Bursary | Megan Duff |
| - Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing) – Senior | Hannah Sunderland |
| - Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing)– Junior (1st) | Anastasia Quist |
| - Charles Goffet Prize (Creative Writing)– Junior (2nd) | Emmi Cross |

Newcastle High School

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| - Dr Alan Knott Scholarship | Melissa Prince |
| - Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement | AndreaFellas |
| - Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Senior (1st) | Emily McClusky |
| - Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Senior (2nd) | Matt Rolston |
| - Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Junior (1st) | Jessica Norgard |
| - Caesar Smith Prize (Creative Writing) - Junior (2nd) | Sarah Proust |
| - OBA President's Prize for legal studies | NathalieCrawford |

As noted in my previous President's report, a relationship is developing between the Association and Newcastle East Primary School (the original Newcastle High School), and our April 2004 Committee meeting was held at the school. It is a wonderful set of historic buildings on a magnificent site. At the request of the Principal (John Beech; an old boy), some funds (\$200) were provided in 2003 for the purchase of books for the senior section of the library. Further support at a higher level of funding is being discussed. John provided a very historic photo of the 1906 teachers and pupils, which we will use on our web site.

A Centenary working group (including Peter McNair, who has recently retired after 12 years as Principal of Newcastle High School) has been established to work towards celebrating one hundred years since the inception of the school. Any ideas you may have about how we should celebrate this would be greatly appreciated. There are 3 school sites involved, and the NGHS old girls association as well as our own.

As of May 2004, membership of the Association is 1041 active members (Life 903, Yearly 34 and Waivered 104). These figures are essentially the same as for 2003. We have been notified of only 4 deaths in the past year; Edward (Ted) Devon (1934), Brian Thomas (1938), Bruce Herrald (1943), and Anthony Smith (1952). If anyone is aware of any others, could they please contact our membership officer (contact details on web site).

Please don't forget the Annual Dinner to be held on Saturday, 14 August 2004 at the Newcastle Town Hall. This year our after dinner speaker will be Bruce Hobbs (Class of 54, the 50th year group) who will educate and entertain us with "Digging the Dirt – from school to profession". Bruce has had a distinguished career in CSIRO in mining and exploration, and is also in the Office of Science and Innovation in the WA Government (with the Premier as Minister).

Finally, your Association is always in need of Committee members, and in particular ones who will accept executive positions –they are not particularly onerous. The current committee has 3 members (including yours truly) from the one class, and a broader representation would be preferred. I encourage you to attend the AGM, whether or not you are willing to participate on the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you good health and an interesting 2003/4 with the minimum amount of paperwork.

Peter Scaife

16 May 2004

2003 AGM*President: Peter Scaife*

In the past year, the Association has continued to be active in pursuing our objectives, and I would like to record my appreciation for the willing support of Committee members.

It was with deep regret that I record in this report the loss of our Treasurer, Ray Patrick, in February from cancer. Ray was most meticulous, and his dedication is shown by the detailed financial report that he submitted in absentia at our February committee meeting. He was also a charming man.

Highlights of the year have been:

- **The presentation of a book on Captain Jeffries** (an old boy who won a posthumous Victoria Cross in WW1), at a ceremony held on Remembrance day (11 November) 2002, alongside the Honour Roll in what used to be the assembly hall at the Waratah school. This project owes its success to the dedication of John Delman. Copies of the book were made available to a number of organisations, including the War Memorial in Canberra.
- **The establishment of a web site** for the Association (www.nbhsoba.org.au); this has been successfully running since late last year. To take maximum advantage, there needs to be a position of "Web Master" on the Committee. As the Association moves forward, this will become of increasing importance, enabling ready access by members to minutes of meetings, news of members, etc. Contact details for all Committee members are included.
- **The Annual Dinner** continues as the major event of the year, and the 2002 dinner was attended by 192 old boys. The guest speaker was Ian Jones (from the year of 1944), who spoke on the facts and legends associated with Ned Kelly in a most knowledgeable and entertaining way. The dinner continues to be popular, but there is a slow decrease in numbers as the ravages of time take their toll. As usual, the event was well planned (with the exception of your President's ineptitude with the microphone) and produced a slight surplus (exclusive of donations/raffle).

One of the main objectives of the Association is to award prizes and scholarships to students of Newcastle High School and Waratah Technology High School. It is of note that there has been a change related to the latter school; this is now called Callaghan College, Waratah Technology Campus, and is a Year 7 – 10 school (the senior years for the Callaghan College are at Jesmond High Senior School). This has caused some confusion this year, and the details of our awards for 2003 and subsequent years will be agreed with the school in the near future.

The following awards were made in 2002:

Callaghan College -Waratah Technology Campus

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| - FH Beard Prize for School Community Achievement | Melissa Burns |
| - Dr David Stewart Bursary | Jessica Hill |
| - Trevor Dunne Prize for Legal Studies | Amanda Burns |

Newcastle High School

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| - Caesar Smith Prize (Senior) – creative writing | Tom Hunter-Leahy |
| - Caesar Smith Prize (Junior) – creative writing | Ashleigh O'Mara |
| - Dr Alan Knott Scholarship | Lyndal Wellard |
| - Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement | Kane Pfingst/Joanna Dyer |
| - OBA President's Prize for legal studies | Alana Ragan |

A relationship is developing between the Association and Newcastle East Primary School (the original Newcastle High School). At the request of the Principal (John Beech), we have provided some funds (\$200) for the purchase of books for the senior section of the library. Consideration is also being given to book prizes to be awarded annually.

As mentioned last year, a Centenary working group has been established to work towards celebrating one hundred years since the inception of the school. Any ideas you may have about how we should celebrate this would be greatly appreciated.

As of May 2003, membership of the Association is 1035 active members (Life 901, Yearly 30 and Waivered 104). We have been notified of 15 deaths in the past year (Allan Coates, Bruce Cobb, Allan Beatie, Ray Durie, Barry Elsley, Ray Gibbons, Matt Hayes, David Helmore, Ray Patrick, Allan Hogan, John Legoe, Ted Moran, Vic Rooney, Doug Sowerby, and Ian Williams).

Please don't forget the Annual Dinner to be held on Saturday, 9 August 2003 at the Newcastle Town Hall. This year our after dinner speaker will be Peter Morris (Class of 48) who will educate and entertain us with "From public school to Parliament and beyond". As most of you will be aware, Peter has been a Federal Minister, and continues to be active internationally on shipping issues.

Finally, your Association is always in need of Committee members, and is in particular need of a Treasurer. I encourage you to attend the AGM, whether or not you are willing to participate on the Committee.

On behalf of the Committee, I wish you good health and an interesting 2003/4.

Peter Scaife

20 May 2003

2002 AGM*President: Malcolm Withers*

Before I start this year's President's Report, it is my unfortunate duty to inform you that, due to personal reasons, this will be my last year as President. I have enjoyed this role immensely, and have also enjoyed the unswerving support of an extremely capable, and enthusiastic Committee. As I have said before, all members of the Association should feel justifiably proud of the achievements and commitment of this Committee, for without them, there would not be an Association.

This brings me to a point that no doubt you have heard before. Based on attendances at the Annual General Meeting in previous years, we will only have about 10 or 15 Old Boys in attendance at the meeting, mostly the existing Committee. Last year was no exception, where no new members attended, and we struggled to fill the key Committee positions. This poor attendance never fails to surprise me, as the time commitment is not great (approximately 12 hours per year at Committee meetings), and we have over **one thousand** active members.

If we cannot elect a Committee from the membership this year, then the clear message is that you as members do not wish the Association to continue. If this happens, our assets will be split between the two schools and there will be no more annual dinners. Surely there are some of you who have the time, and would enjoy Committee meetings and the friendship that ensues? If ten or twenty Old Boys from a membership of over one thousand will make the effort to be at the AGM, together with our current committee, and if some of them will stand for the key positions on Committee, then the OBA will be able to continue. *The choice gentlemen, is yours.*

On a lighter note, your Committee has once again worked extremely hard to achieve the objectives of the Association. Some of the highlights have been:

- The Annual Dinner was once again a great success, with 235 Old Boys enjoying the night. I am sure that everyone enjoyed the meal, an entertaining after – dinner speech by Professor Robert Beale, and renewing old acquaintances.
- One of the main objectives of the Association is to award prizes and scholarships to students of Newcastle High School and Waratah Technology High School. This year, Committee members attended presentation ceremonies at both schools, where the Association awarded its annual prizes for legal studies, creative writing and school community achievement. The recipients of awards this year were:

Waratah Technology High School

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| – The Junior Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing | Jessica Parker |
| – The Senior Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing | Chris Baird |
| – The FH Beard Prize for School Community Achievement | Erin Lewis |
| – The Dr David Stewart Bursary | Ben Whitehead |
| – The Trevor Dunne Prize for Legal Studies | Stephen Mudd |

Newcastle High School

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| – The Senior Caesar Smith Prize | Nick Milligan |
| – The Dr Alan Knott Scholarship | Wendy Leaver |
| – The Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement | Andrew Considine |
| – The OBA President's Prize | Jessica Willis |
- Work has commenced on a web site for the Association, which is intended to hold a wealth of information relating to the School, including current membership names.
 - A Centenary working Group has been established to work towards celebrating one hundred years since the inception of the school. Any ideas you may have about how we should celebrate this would be greatly appreciated.
 - At the year's end, membership of the Association was 1,142 active members (Life 904, Yearly 32 and Waivered 106).

Please don't forget the Annual Dinner to be held on Saturday, 10 August 2002 at the Newcastle Town Hall. The guest speaker this year is Ian Jones. Ian attended the school in 1944. He is a former scriptwriter, producer and director. His work included *Homicide* and *The Sullivans*. He also produced *The Last Outlaws* with his wife. On top of this, Ian has become Australia's foremost authority on the

facts and legends of Ned Kelly. I think he should be a most entertaining speaker and I am looking forward to what he has to say.

Best wishes to you all for a successful and healthy 2002.

2001 AGM*President: Malcolm Withers*

It hardly seems possible that 12 months have gone by since my last President's Report. Once again, your Committee has worked extremely hard to achieve the objectives of the Association. Some of the highlights have been:

- The Annual Dinner was once again a great success, with 231 Old Boys enjoying the night. I am sure that everyone enjoyed the meal, an entertaining after – dinner speech on the “Oh dear me” Syndrome by Paul Jessop, and renewing old acquaintances.
- One of the main objectives of the Association is to award prizes and scholarships to students of Newcastle High School and Waratah Technology High School. This year, Committee members attended presentation ceremonies at both schools, where the Association awarded its annual prizes for legal studies, creative writing and school community achievement, and the two \$1,000 scholarships (the Dr David Stewart Bursary and the Dr Alan Knott Scholarship). The scholarship prize winners this year were Sarah Andrews (Waratah Technology High School) and Amie Milthorpe (Newcastle High School) respectively.
- The Association donated \$500 worth of photographs copied from our unique photographic record to Waratah Technology High School for a “Heritage Walk”.
- A ceremonial sword presented to the Newcastle Boys High School Cadet Unit in 1969 by Chaplain Hughes was entrusted to the ‘Friends of the City of Newcastle Regiment’ at the official launch of Reserve Forces Day Newcastle 2001. This sword will now be used by Newcastle based Army Reserve and Cadet units at ceremonial occasions.
- John Delman (Historical Sub-Committee) produced an excellent book on one of our most famous Old Boys; Captain Jeffries VC. Copies of this book are to be presented to Waratah Technology High School, Newcastle High School, Dudley Primary School, Newcastle Cathedral, Newcastle Library, Newcastle Museum, The War Memorial, National Library and Mitchell Library.
- At the year's end, membership of the Association was 1,028 active members (Life 895, Yearly 29 and Waivered 104).

This year, as in last year, I have been most fortunate to have enjoyed the support of an extremely capable, hard working and enthusiastic Committee. All members of the Association should feel justifiably proud of the achievements of this Committee. They have my heartfelt thanks and gratitude, a sentiment I am sure you all share.

This year, I would like to take the opportunity to invite members to attend the Annual General Meeting and listen to the issues that have affected the Association throughout the year, and play a role in electing the office bearers and members of the Committee for the next year. You may also wish to attend future Committee meetings as an observer. Committee meetings are held on five occasions during the year, along with the AGM. Each meeting has a specific purpose, and different projects also arise throughout the year. Whilst as an observer, you have no responsibilities, you would be very welcome to become actively involved in one of these projects. Your support and interest in the functioning of the Committee would be greatly appreciated.

Please don't forget the Annual Dinner to be held on Saturday, 11 August 2001 at the Newcastle Town Hall. The guest speaker this year is Professor Robert Beal, one of Australia's leading haematologists. Robert has had a very interesting career since leaving the school, and I am sure his after – dinner speech will be the highlight of the night.

Best wishes to you all for a successful and healthy 2001.

2000 AGM*President: Malcolm Withers*

As most of you would be aware, this has been my first year as President of the Newcastle Boys' High School Old Boys Association. This has been an interesting responsibility to say the least, particularly as I have had a very hard act to follow in Dick Sanders. However, I have been fortunate to have enjoyed the support of an extremely capable, hard working and enthusiastic Committee throughout the year which has made my job a lot easier, and for which I thank them very much.

The Committee has worked extremely hard to achieve the objectives of the Association. The Annual Dinner was a great success, with 230 Old Boys enjoying the night and a highly entertaining and absorbing after – dinner speech by Dr. David Stewart. Presentation ceremonies were attended at both Waratah Technology High School and Newcastle High School, where the Association awarded its annual prizes for legal studies, creative writing and school community achievement, plus the two well received \$1,000 scholarships (the Dr David Stewart Bursary and the Dr Alan Knott Scholarship). The scholarship prize winners this year were Ugo Parente (Waratah Technology High School) and Joannah Burley (Newcastle High School) respectively.

Despite the fact that we have had a rewarding year, whether the Old Boys Association can continue is a moot point. Last year, in his report to the Annual General Meeting, Dick Sanders spoke about the crisis facing the Association, with a lack of representation on the Committee, and the possibility that the Association would be wound up. In response to Dick's pleas, the attendance at the Annual General Meeting was much improved. However, only a few of these Old Boys were prepared to nominate for key positions. Once again this year, a number of long standing Committee members will be standing down, so there is considerable doubt that all of the key Committee positions will be filled. As Dick pointed out last year, if this happens, the Association will have no choice but to wind up. **The crisis has not gone away.**

The commitment and responsibility of being a Committee member is not an onerous task, in fact you may even find it enjoyable one. Committee meetings are held on only five occasions during the year, along with the Annual General Meeting. Attending the meetings wont be inconvenient, as approximately 60% of the active members of the Association live within an hours drive of Newcastle. The Association will be able to continue if more Old Boys will make the effort to attend the AGM and to stand for the key positions on the Committee. At the year's end, membership of the Association was 1,028 active members (Life 895, Yearly 29 and Waivered 104). Gentlemen, we have achieved a lot over the past 13 years, meeting all of the objectives for which the Association was founded. We have persisted where past Associations have not. Let's work together to keep things going.

1999 AGM*President: Dick Sanders*

Gentlemen, my greetings and best wishes to you all, on behalf of your Committee. I am pleased to report to you that the year just past has been another successful one for your Association. We enjoyed another successful dinner, made special by Richard Owen's after-dinner speech, and also sad by his father George's absence. We have continued to build, with the assistance of the Newcastle Region Library, our archival collection, said to be the best in Newcastle. Once again worthy students from the Waratah Technology and Newcastle High Schools have benefited from the \$1000 bursary and the four \$100 special prizes given by your association to each school.

So the Association is going well? Wrong.

Your Association is at crisis point.

At the Annual General Meeting the President, Secretary and Treasurer will be standing down, after long service. Based on attendances in previous years, we will only have about 10 or 15 Old Boys in attendance at the meeting, mostly the existing Committee, and there is considerable doubt that all of the key Committee positions will be filled.

If we cannot elect a Committee from the membership, then the clear message from the membership will have been that the majority no longer sees a purpose for the OBA.

Without a Committee we will have to wind up, with our assets being split between the two schools. We will, like all the Old Boys associations and unions that have come before, fade into oblivion. With us will go all of the memories of the school, which we all so enthusiastically pledged to maintain, when this Association was first launched thirteen years ago.

The choice is simple. If ten or twenty Old Boys from a membership of over one thousand will make the effort to be at the AGM, together with our current committee, and if some of them will stand for the key positions on Committee, then the OBA will continue to prosper. The after-dinner speaker, our Rhodes scholar David Stewart, will have a dinner to speak after on 14 August next.

If we have the same attendance as last year, then the key positions on Committee will not be filled. The Association will have no choice but to wind up and waste all of the good work put in by so many over the last thirteen years. There will be no Dinner in 1999 or beyond.

The choice of those two options, gentlemen, is yours.

Whatever the outcome of this AGM, I thank you all for your membership. Especially though, I thank the hard working Committee, some of whom have been attending meetings for a decade or so. I thank them for all that they have done for your Association, and the personal support that they have shown to me over the last five years, and to my predecessors over thirteen years.

1998 AGM*President: Dick Sanders*

Gentlemen, my greetings and best wishes to you all, on behalf of your Committee. I am pleased to report to you that the year just past has been another successful one for your Association. Notable events included:

The eleventh annual dinner was another resounding success. Some of the arrangements could have been better (such as speed of service), and will be at the next dinner. However, the wonderful spirit of camaraderie, Harold Beard's 'esprit de corps', was again there in abundance. This is why our dinners will *never* fade away. What an innovative and spellbinding after dinner speech - with Matt Hayes unfolding the story of Ted Morrisby's exciting journalistic career in all corners of the world. Thanks Ted, for the memories.

Your Committee, through the considerable efforts of Col Standen, prepared and presented to both Waratah Technology High School and Newcastle High School display cases containing Captain Clarence Smith Jeffries memorabilia, including copies of his medals and citation, and a photo of his grave. Waratah High unveiled its case at a special Anzac Day ceremony.

In November, just a few days before he was to see his efforts in preparing the display cases culminate in the official renaming of the Newcastle High School library as the Captain Clarence Smith Jeffries Library, we lost Col Standen to a severe stroke. Colin worked diligently for your Association from the very first Steering Committee meeting right up to the day of his death. He was a former Secretary, an Immediate Past-President and, as Chairman of the Education Sub-Committee, a great link between the OBA and our schools. Col was a truly dedicated Old Boy who loved his school. We all miss him greatly.

Presentation ceremonies were attended at both Waratah Technology High and Newcastle High, where your Association gave its annual prizes for legal studies, creative writing and school community achievement, plus the two well received \$1000 scholarships. We are able to fund these much appreciated annual prizes from the interest on the invested Life Membership fees.

On Saturday night, 8 August, we will be holding our twelfth Annual Dinner, at which the guest speaker will be Richard Owens, an Old Boy and local business success story, who will talk to us on the theme "Once there was a corner store".

Membership of the Association, at year's end, was steady at 1025 Old Boys: Life 878, Yearly 48, Waivered 99.

Finally, I must give credit to our Committee, who give up their valuable time so that your Association will not merely endure but positively flourish. I sincerely thank them all for their support and hard work, especially in organising the annual dinner.

But they need your help. We need new faces, especially from the ranks of the "younger Old Boys". There is still much good work to be done, especially with our unique archival collection, and with our assistance to the schools.

Best wishes to you all for a successful and healthy 1998. See you at the AGM, and/or the dinner.

Please come to the AGM. Annual General Meetings usually attract less than 20 Old Boys, from a membership of over 1000. This is disappointing. If more do a little, less have to do a lot. Please do not leave it to the others. It is only once a year, and a small sacrifice to make to gain the satisfaction of contributing to our success.

1997 AGM*President: Dick Sanders*

A decade and a day ago 93 former students and teachers gathered at the Police & Citizens Boys' Club, Broadmeadow to launch the Newcastle Boys' High School Old Boys' Association. I was thrilled to be in the Chair then, as I am now. In the interim a succession of hard working Presidents and their Committees, supported by a large and faithful membership, have seen us achieve all that we set out to do, and more. The future holds great promise of more good things, as we build steadily on the solid base of our achievements. Notable events of the year just past include:

- The tenth annual dinner was another resounding success. There seemed to be a special good mood on the night, and many of the 302 attendees commented that it may have been the best yet. A large part of the success must go to our after dinner speaker, Charles Grahame, who had us all laughing nearly as heartily as we had earlier sung.
- In October we lost a stalwart of the Association, a much beloved teacher, an integral part of the Committee since inception, and a true "gentleman from the old school", Len McRae. We all miss him greatly.
- Our efforts to set up an NBHSOBA Scholarship Trust Fund from which to make awards to needy students with aspirations to succeed at University, prompted by a very generous offer for a significant donation by prominent Old Boy Jim Kirk, hit a snag when the Australian Taxation Office ruled that donations to the fund would not be tax deductible. Members who have had tax deductibility for a whole range of donations (including for chamber orchestras and stained glass windows) are amazed by the ATO's apparently inconsistent and uncaring attitude. Your Committee will continue to pursue this worthwhile cause.
- Progress, slow but rewarding, continued in our mammoth task of entering student enrolment records, from registers covering 1915 to 1968, onto computer. Did you know, for example, that the most common parental occupation around the time of the First World War was coal miner? Others included chair maker, dyer, horse trainer, lead burner, moulder, ostler, oysterman, sexton, tailor, telegraphist, timber getter and timekeeper. The most common first name (student and father) was William. Is there an enthusiastic old boy out there, with basic computer skills, who would like to help us?
- On 5 June 1996 we celebrated the 90th anniversary of the "School on the Hill" by presenting the current school with a fine sundial. The anniversary was also celebrated with a well presented, and well attended, historical photographic and memorabilia exhibition at the Newcastle Region Library, opened on 9 August by the Hon. Peter Morris.
- Presentation ceremonies were attended at both Waratah Technology High and Newcastle High, where your Association presented its annual prizes for legal studies, creative writing and school community achievement, plus the two well received \$1000 scholarships.
- A new computer, software and printer was purchased to assist our hard working Membership Sub-committee Chairman, Norm Harland, to maintain the membership records.
- To help to preserve our unique photographic record, the making of copies for display at functions such as the annual dinners has commenced. The record comprises 261 photographs, of which 106 have been scanned into the Hunter Photo Bank. There are also 359 negatives, collected for the preparation of the 75 year book, which have to be processed. Is there a retired old boy who would like to help us to preserve our historical record?
- Newcastle High School has agreed to name its library the "Captain C S Jeffries VC Memorial Library". This will be done in a ceremony this year to coincide with the 80th anniversary of his death in battle. At the ceremony the OBA will present the school with a special display case containing Jeffries memorabilia, including copies of his medals. A similar display case will be presented to Waratah Technology High School at an Anzac Day ceremony.

On Saturday night, 9 August, we will be holding our eleventh Annual Dinner, at which the guest speaker will be Ted Morrisby, much travelled author and documentary maker, who will entrance us with a mixed bag of tales from some of the wild and remote countries which he visited in his pursuit of journalistic adventure.

Membership of the Association, at year's end, was 1010 Old Boys: Life 849, Yearly 65, Waivered 96.

Please don't forget that we have set up a Mutual Support Group structure, should any Old Boy feel in need of help, advice or simply support in a time of crisis. This is in the care of the immediate Past President, Col Standen (phone 049 682833). Thanks again Col.

Finally, I will repeat what I wrote last year: "All members should feel justifiably proud of what has been achieved, with their support, by a succession of hard working committees, including my current team. My heartfelt thanks go to them all. These men keep giving up their time and contributing their enthusiasm and ideas so that the Association can do what it was set up for. We are not just a bunch of self interested old fellows. While enjoying the special fellowship that comes from sharing our school-days with one another, we are also giving significant financial support to today's students (and will increasingly do so), and are methodically putting together what the Regional Library claims will be one of the town's best historical collections. Through a succession of special Treasurers, we have been able to establish a financial position to ensure that our future commitments will be always met."

Best wishes to you all for a successful and healthy 1997. See you at the dinner.

1996 AGM*President: Dick Sanders*

It hardly seems possible that it is 12 months since I penned the last President's Report to you all. It is a truism that time flies as we get older. Once again your Committee was very busy furthering the aims of the Association. This year's report is a little longer, as there are many highlights, in particular:

- The annual dinner was once again a great success, with 266 Old Boys renewing old friendships, singing along, and being entertained by an after dinner speech by an amusing and modest Old Boy, an Australian sporting icon, the cricketer Arthur Morris.
- The Membership Sub-committee assisted with the 20 year reunion dinner for the 1975 year, attended by 40 old boys.
- An Operations Manual, for maintenance by and use of all future Committees, was substantially completed. This was also used as a set of guidelines to assist some ex-students in the formation of the Wickham and Home Science High School Ex-students' Association.
- The Committee started the mammoth job of entering student enrolment records, from registers covering 1915 to 1968, onto computer. This resource will be of great use not only to this Association but to all interested in the history of Newcastle. All volunteers from the general membership, to assist in this task, are welcome!
- The Newcastle Regional Library, which holds all of our school memorabilia, has started to scan all of the photos (staff, students, sports teams etc) so that they can be entered, as computer images, into the Hunter Photo Bank.
- The search continues for the NBHS Memorial Gates. Any clues?
- Some well preserved sporting trophies from the 30s have been received, replated, and added to the memorabilia collection.
- Your Association bid successfully at auction for some important memorabilia associated with Captain Jeffries VC. This comprised a signed copy of his personal military textbook "Solutions of Practical Problems" dated 1913, a letter to his mother listing the personal effects which were sent home after his death, and several pages of military records. Display of Jeffries' memorabilia, including medal replicas and a copy of his VC citation, are to be prepared for display at Waratah Technology High (WTHS) and/or the Regional Library. Early in the year we were pleased to receive, through a friend in Belgium, recent photos of Captain Jeffries' well tended grave.
- "Australia Remembers" plaques, suitably engraved to acknowledge those from the school who went to war, will be displayed at the Wall of Remembrance, Brisbane, and at WTHS.
- This year we awarded a new \$1000 bursary - the Dr Allan Knott Scholarship - at Newcastle High. The inaugural winner was Nicole Stephens. With the Dr David Stewart Scholarship at WTHS, this means we are now giving two annual awards of \$1000 each to assist worthy students in their further studies. We are, of course, also still awarding four prizes of \$100 each at each school, for creative writing, legal studies, and school community achievement.
- Jim Kirk, an eminent Old Boy who was also a very entertaining speaker at the 1991 Dinner, has kindly offered to make a significant donation towards the establishment of a general Trust Fund, to which tax-deductible contributions may be made by members. Further scholarships, to assist students of NHS and WTHS, will be awarded from interest earned by the Fund. We commend this Fund to members. All donations, large and small, will go to helping students who will become the "Old Boys" (and Girls!) of the future.

We are set for a big year in 1996. Firstly, on 5 June we will celebrate the 90th anniversary of Newcastle High School. On this day in 1906 Charles Rattray ('Caesar') Smith welcomed the first student's to the 'school on the hill'. We intend to mark this occasion in a special way, probably with a walk *down* the hill, and most likely in conjunction with our colleagues from the Girls' High Ex-students Union. A display of memorabilia will be arranged at the Regional Library. Then, on Saturday night, 10 August, we will be holding our *tenth* Annual Dinner, at which the guest speaker will be Charles Grahame, an old boy and son of a Mayor of Wickham, who retired from the ABC after a long and distinguished career.

Membership of the Association, at year's end, was 1007 Old Boys: Life 809, Yearly 108, Waivered 90.

All members should feel justifiably proud of what has been achieved, with their support, by a succession of hard working committees, including my current team. My heartfelt thanks go to them all. These men keep giving up their time up and contributing their enthusiasm and ideas so that the Association can do what it was set up for. We are not just a bunch of self interested old fellows. While

enjoying the special fellowship that comes from sharing our school-days with one another, we are also giving significant financial support to today's students (and will increasingly do so), and are methodically putting together what the Regional Library claims will be one of the town's best historical collections. Through a succession of special Treasurers, we have been able to establish a financial position to ensure that our future commitments will be always met.

Please don't forget that we have set up a Mutual Support Group structure, should any Old Boy feel in need of help, advice or simply support in a time of crisis. This is in the care of the immediate Past President, Col Standen (phone 049 682833). Thanks again Col.

Best wishes to you all for a successful and healthy 1996. See you at the dinner.

1995 AGM*President: Dick Sanders*

About eight years ago Dale Kemp and I were on the phone, bemoaning the lack of an Old Boys' Association. "Let's do it!" I said, and the chain of events was set in motion that created this great organisation, of which I am proud to be the current President.

In the intervening years we have held eight wonderful dinners, and bequeathed annual prizes to deserving and grateful students at Waratah Technology High and Newcastle High schools. The prizes are named to honour Charlie Goffet and Caesar Smith (Creative Writing), F H Beard and Roy Davis (School Community Achievement), and Trevor Dunn and the OBA President (Legal Studies). In 1993 we began an annual scholarship of \$1000 to a needy and worthy student at WTHS.

But wait, there's more! We have also recovered an enormous collection of irreplaceable and diverse memorabilia from the old school, which is now safely in the custody of the Regional Library. The school's heritage will now never be lost. The photos from the halls are to be scanned and included in the computer based Hunter Pictorial Record.

Our membership has continued to grow, currently standing at 1068, of which 775 are life members. We are in a financially sound position, which should ensure continuation well into the next century.

All of our success is entirely due to the unflagging energy of all eight committees, and the desire of our membership to continue to meet with mates to remember their school days.

This year's committee has been no exception, and they all have my thanks and gratitude for their efforts on your behalf. We are currently compiling a Procedures Manual, containing all the good things that we have learned over the last eight years, for the benefit of future committees. We also have set up a Mutual Support Group structure, should any Old Boy feel in need of help from the OBA. This is in the care of the immediate Past President, Col Standen (phone 049 682833). Thanks Col.

We have another Dinner to look forward to, on 12 August (speaker to be announced). It will be another grand night, as was the last dinner, when we were all privileged that Phil Hawthorne, so frail and sick, came to meet his mates again for one last time and introduce the much travelled speaker, Peter Cave.

Best wishes to you all for a successful and healthy 1995. I hope to see you at the dinner.

Dick Sanders

1994 AGM*President: Colin L Standen*

Following my extensive report last year to put you in the picture, I intend this year just to report on the year's progress, satisfactory except for the non-receipt of memorabilia.

The Annual Meeting was attended mainly by the same people as last year, so we had almost the same executive, committee and observers elected to office.

Membership now stands at 707 Life members (up 72), 233 Ordinary members (up 19), 68 waivers (70 years and over) (up 4), 18 'Lost Contact' (addresses unknown) and 153 Unfinancial members (down 25). All unfinancial members have been contacted twice and no further letters will be sent because of costs to the Association. Total membership is 1088.

Our Annual Dinner was a success. Mr Justice Jack Lee offered us a profitable and enlightened address, meant to be private to the Old Boys in attendance. Unfortunately a Newcastle Herald reporter was present. Extracts were published on the front page of the Monday's Herald. Typically of modern media reporting, the whole purpose of the speech was ignored with the result that there was quite a stir in the feminist movement in Newcastle with letters in the paper and radio stations having a bonanza. Jack was amused at the storm in a teacup he had created. The speaker for our next Annual Dinner on Saturday 13 August 1994 will be Mr Peter Cave, renowned and award winning ABC reporter. He reported the Tianamen Square uprising.

Financially we were well within our budget. We had a surplus of \$5756, down from \$7179 in 1992, but up on 1991. Both Life and Ordinary subscriptions were down. (See Treasurer's Report for full details). I must thank Stephen Box for the brilliant way he has handled our finances.

The \$1000 Bursary was presented to Stoyanka Drinic, at a special Old Boys' Presentation Day organised by the Principal of Waratah Technology High School, Mr Lyall Abell, who is also an active Old Boy member. With his permission we meet at the High School Library about 7-8 times a year. Lyall attends to offer advice and answer questions. The Bursary has been named the Dr David Stewart Bursary, the name agreed upon by the Principal and Committee. David was our only Rhodes Scholar to attend the School full time and is also an outstanding engineer.

The old Assembly Hall has been converted into a Drama Theatre. We have agreed to give suitable photos from our archives to decorate the walls. The theatre is to be named the Fred Smith Drama Theatre after a former teacher known to many of you.

Our missing cups have all been found. The Historical Committee is in the process of cleaning them for storage in the Newcastle Regional Library.

Our Vice-President, the Rev Dr Gareth Clayton, was one of the active participants in the ceremony of laying to rest the 'Unknown Soldier' in the Canberra War Memorial.

Her I should like to thank the members of the Committee, the Secretary and Treasurer and the Observers for their devoted participation during the year and the work they have put in.

Lastly I ask of you just three things:

- 1 Come to the Annual Dinner if you live within reach
- 2 Find new members from the 68 in 'Who's Who' and the 6000 odd others around and let us know.
- 3 Send in the memorabilia that many of you promised.

I thank you for the privilege of being your President.

1993 AGM*President: Colin L Standen*

This report is longer than usual as I wish tell members about some less well known aspects of the Association.

First 1992-93 has been a year of consolidation and progress, due I believe to the diligence of our Secretary, Treasurer, Vice-president, eight committeemen and our five "observers". The observers do not have the power to propose or vote, but they religiously attend meetings and help the committee. Their efforts are invaluable and appreciated as are those of the four sub-committees: Membership, Historical, Functions and Educational, made up of committeemen and observers.

Membership is 635 Life Members, 214 Ordinary Members, 68 Waivers (70 years and over), 30 "Lost Contact" Members (addresses unknown) and 178 unfinancial members. David Farmer, one of our observers, is reconciling the membership list with subscriptions paid so we shall soon have an accurate and up-to-date roll.

A Membership Committee membership drive with advertisements in the Newcastle Herald, the Star and the Post gained many new members, more than defraying the advertising costs of \$453.18. The number of Life Members increased by 126 to 635 during the year with many Ordinary Members changing to life Membership. This has important implications as the money from Life Memberships is invested to provide prizes for students of Waratah Technology High School which inherited our buildings and Newcastle High School which carries on our colours, motto and crest. (See Treasurer's Report for Life members' Subscription.)

These prizes are awarded to Newcastle High School students: OBA President's Prize for Excellence in Law Studies; the Roy Davis Prize for School Community Achievement and the Caesar Smith Prize for Creative Writing which is divided into senior and junior divisions. Prizes awarded to students of Waratah Technology High school are: The Trevor Dunn Prize For Excellence in Law Studies, The Harold Beard Prize For School Community Achievements and The Charles Goffet Memorial Prize For Creative Writing which is divided into senior and junior divisions. Each prize is a cheque for \$100 with a certificate, making \$400 a year for each school. Certificates are also awarded for commendable submissions. The Education Sub-Committee is also conferring with the Principal of Waratah Technology High School about a \$1000 bursary, probably to be called the Don Geddes Memorial Bursary. We hope to give further awards and bursaries to both schools.

We have drawn up a comprehensive budget for the years 1993-97 which will be used to monitor actual income and expenditure, but realising the budget will depend on a continuous flow of new members, especially Life Members. This is where all members can help the Association to grow. Send in names and addresses of ex-NBHS pupils to our Secretary (Box 1117 Newcastle 2300) or to any Committee member. I believe this to be the third Old Boys' Association in the School's history. The first two failed, this one **must** not - it is all we have of one of the State's finest schools and, after Sydney and Melbourne, the best State school in Australia. Please help us locate the missing.

Rising costs in stationery, printing, postage and the like, make it necessary to raise subscription rates this year, only the second rise in five years. The \$6.00 Ordinary Membership which barely covered costs has been raised to \$10.00. Life Membership will be raised correspondingly. Ordinary Members would be well advised to become Life Members. One payment is all you will ever have to make, you will not have to remember to pay your dues each year and, most important, Life membership money is invested to benefit present pupils.

We have had some substantial expenses this year like the replacement of our six year old computer. We hope to recover some money from the sale of parts from the old machine. All our income is from membership subscriptions, donations and interest from investments. The Annual Dinner is not a fundraising venture. Our aim is simply to cover costs. For budgeting we must guess the attendance because hall bookings and catering arrangements are made well in advance of responses. Profit and loss since 1988 have been: 1988 -\$563, 1989 -\$20, 1990 +\$464, 1991 -\$73, 1992 +\$356. Last year's attendance (387) was the second largest since the first dinner in 1987, hence the substantial profit. Thanks to the Function Committee's efficient management everything ran smoothly to make it a successful evening. We all enjoyed the address by our guest speaker, Gary Gilmour.

The 1993 Annual Dinner will be held on Saturday 21 August at the City Hall. The guest speaker will be Mr Justice Jack Lee, Captain in 1937. The change from Friday to Saturday night was so popular that it will be continued. We hope to welcome even more members this year and look forward to your attendance. The Fifty Year guests of honour will be the Year of 1943.

We should also like to welcome even more members to the Annual General meeting especially some enthusiastic and energetic recruits to help on the Committee or to join the observers. Committee Meetings are held about seven times a year, rarely last more than two hours (5.30 to 7.30 pm) and never more than two and a half. It is a friendly and cheerful group and with good men and true to share the load. The individual duties are not onerous and a small return for the start the school gave us. "Gentlemen, always remember that you are the four per cent cream of Newcastle" as one feared and revered Head, Norm Mearns, would say to us.

For those who have just joined here is an outline of the Association's history. On 9 December 1986 Dick Sanders and Dale Kemp decided that an Association could be formed. A notice in "Topics" in the Newcastle Herald called for interested people to meet on 7 January 1987 at Newcastle Police Centre. The ten who turned up became the Steering Committee and after two further meetings a General Meeting was advertised for and met on 20 March 1987. And so it began. Dick Sanders, Trevor Dunn and I, original Steering Committee members, are still on the Committee.

Our Historical Sub-committee has arranged to deposit the school's memorabilia in the Newcastle regional Library and the Newcastle Museum. Anyone with material to donate should send it to the Secretary, PO Box 1117, Newcastle 2300, to any Committeeman, or bring it to the Annual Dinner or Annual General Meeting. The collection will be available for research at the Library.

The Treasurer's Report tells its own story of Stephen Box's hard work and expertise in investing our money and looking after the accounts. I thank him for his efforts and his contribution to the Committee.

This year has given me great pleasure and you have honoured me by letting me be your President and I thank you for that privilege. It has been a successful one because of the talents of the Executive and committee members and those who have rendered selfless service as observers.

1992 AGM*President: Keith Murree Allen*

1991-92 has been a year of continued progress for the Association. All activities have functioned smoothly and the committee is looking at new ways to promote fellowship amongst old boys.

Membership has increased by another 100 to 1020 members, of whom 509 have paid a life subscription. We would like to make a special effort this year to contact Old Boys from years 1922, '32, '42, '52, '62, '72 who will be special guests at the Annual Dinner in August.

Unfortunately we have lost a few members including Oscar Anderberg & Hilton Beveridge, and our condolences go to their families. I sadly report to those who have not heard, that Charles Goffet died in November. He collapsed in the midst of old boys whilst addressing a year reunion at the Tattersalls Club. Members of the Committee attended the family funeral and afterwards at the Tattersalls Club there was a large gathering of friends and old boys. John Allen gave the eulogy which was followed by a prolonged "wake". All agreed that Charlie would not have wanted to have gone any other way.

The ANNUAL DINNER was a great success. Over 350 attended and the function ran very smoothly allowing ample time for fellowship. Our distinguished old boy, Jim Kirk, contributed greatly to the enjoyment of the evening. He was a very popular guest speaker and his address was light hearted and humorous, whilst delivering a very important message.

MEMORABILIA: We are very pleased that the long-term safe custody of memorabilia, previously held at Newcastle High School, has been taken over by Newcastle City Library. Items will be catalogued and available for viewing by the public. The Library displayed a selection of photographs at the Annual Dinner, and also arranged a display of the memorabilia in the Cultural Centre over a six week period beginning at the time of the Dinner. The Library will hold only photographs and printed material, so that we are investigating alternatives for the housing of other material. When the storage of items is finalised, we hope to make a concerted effort to obtain from members further material for storage or copying. We are awaiting the delivery of a replica of the School Flag so the original can be stored.

FINANCES: As can be seen from the financial statement, we are in a healthy position. We are very fortunate in having someone of the calibre of Stephen Box as Treasurer because of the great care and thought he puts into investment of our funds and preparation of financial statements. With the fall in interest rates, income from invested life subscriptions will be considerably reduced. A Business Subcommittee will be formed to develop a business plan for the Association and to project over three years the Association's activities, income & expenditure and proposed investment portfolio.

EDUCATION: Dick Sanders and Trevor Dunn have continued their important work in judging, allocating and presenting the various Association Prizes to students of the schools at Newcastle and Waratah.

QUESTIONNAIRE: The responses to the questionnaire with the annual dinner notice have been collated. The report in detail will be available at the Annual Meeting. There were many suggestions - one concerning table arrangements was successful at the last dinner, another for a Saturday Function will be tried this year. Other suggestions included mixed functions & occasional dinner dances in combination with Old Girls, venue changes (some of which had been considered previously but not possible because of permanent Fri/Sat bookings), entertainment changes and suggested speakers. 88 replies favoured the occasional paid outside speaker. The Committee will consider these suggestions for future functions. However, it is the unanimous view of the present committee that there is a great wealth of talent available from old boys to provide guest speakers for the foreseeable future.

I would like to thank all of you for the opportunity to be President of the Association for the second year. The Committee has worked well and this has made the task easy. I must particularly thank Stephen Box who spends an enormous amount of time as Treasurer and provides meticulous reports, and Secretary Col Standen.

Finally I would like to encourage you to come to the Annual Meeting where many of the above matters can be discussed. New members on the Committee or subcommittees would be most welcome. We meet approx. every 2 months.

1991 AGM*President: Keith Murree Allen*

1990-91 has been a year of continued progress for the Association. We have reached a stage where most of the activities function smoothly with a minimum of fuss. The Annual Dinner was again very successful and provided a great opportunity for fellowship.

Membership has grown to 918 members, of whom 456 have paid a life subscription. Enclosed is an application form for you to pass on to any Old Boys who are not yet members. If you are uncertain of your membership status, the address label on the envelope indicates with a "L" if you have paid a life subscription. For the Annual Dinner this year we will make an attempt to update years 1941, '51, '61, '71 so they may be special guests. If you would like a list of members from your year, please contact the Secretary.

Dr Jim Kirk AC DSc, a distinguished old boy has agreed to be Guest Speaker at the Annual Dinner which will be held at Newcastle City Hall on Friday 16th August 1991. Jim is a former Chairman of Esso, Chairman of the Australian Bicentennial Authority and Chairman of Landcare Australia as well as a member of many prestigious organisations and committees.

CHAPTERS of the Association in capital cities is still being investigated.

MEMORABILIA: At present looked after by Jack McLaughlin at Newcastle High School, the Newcastle, the Newcastle City Library has agreed to take over storage of these items. They will be catalogued and available for viewing by the public. The Committee is pleased that the long term safe custody of the memorabilia will be achieved. Those interested may obtain a list of items from the Secretary. There is almost nothing from 1963 onwards. Items for donation or copying can be sent to the Association, but contact us before sending any material.

FINANCES: As can be seen from the financial statement, we are in a healthy position. The Committee has adopted a policy of putting aside life subscriptions and to run activities from the interest and annual subs, with the Annual Dinner to break even.

I would like to thank you all for the opportunity to be President of the Association for this year. The task has been made very easy because of the great work done by members of the Committee who all contribute to the running of the Association. I must particularly thank Stephen Box who spends an enormous amount of time as Treasurer and provides meticulous reports, Secretary Col Standen, Norm Harland who looks after the membership details, Lyn Gray who has the organisation of the annual dinner down to a fine art, and to Dick Sanders and Trevor Dunn who take care of the awarding of Association Prizes and Certificates to the two Schools.

1990 AGM*President: Steven Busteed*

During the last two terms as President, I have been fortunate to witness the growth of the Association to a level where the goals set over three years ago (at inception) have been fully achieved. The achievements have not occurred by chance but only by the tireless efforts of the Committee.

During the last twelve months heavy consolidation of membership has taken place with an increase in Life Subscriptions from 228 to 352, with a total membership in excess of 700.

The Membership Sub-committee has fully computerised the membership data to a point where vital information can be rapidly processed and extracted. This practice is essential in generating new membership and servicing existing members with notices and information.

The Entertainment Sub-committee's major task is to organise the Annual Dinner. The Third Annual Dinner held in August proved a great success with 372 attendees. Despite the airline pilots' dispute, Kevan Gosper arrived from Melbourne by charter flight to deliver his speech (aptly introduced by Charles Goffet). The guest speaker for 1990 will be Justice Jeffrey Miles, Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of the A.C.T. (LC 1951).

An extraordinary effort by the Education Sub-committee finalised the conditions of the School Prizes for Newcastle High School and Waratah High School. The schools have now received the inaugural prizes in the areas of Legal Studies, Community Achievement and Creative Writing (Junior and Senior). The total annual value of prizes is \$750.

The Historical Sub-committee with the assistance of Jack McLaughlin provided a display of photographs at the Annual Dinner and has further advanced the task of cataloguing memorabilia stored at Newcastle High Library. Dick Sanders has put together many of the literary works of Charlie Goffet for the Association's records and with a view to making copies available to the membership of the Association.

Consideration of the above achievements leads me to the point of expressing the gratitude of the membership generally to all members of the Committee for their exceptional and loyal service to the Association.

Finally, as I step down, I wish to express my personal heartfelt honour in serving as President of the Association through two exciting years and offer my best wishes to the new President and incoming Committee.

1989 AGM*President: Steven Busteed*

In the second year the Association has built heavily upon its foundations by consolidating the enthusiasm and purpose of the previous year into further development of the Association. The goals of the Association have been heightened by healthy increase in membership and continuing fellowship.

The membership of the Association has increased from 400 in 1987 to 629 in February 1989 (including 228 Life Subscribers). In recognising the pre-eminent value of maintaining, servicing and expanding the Membership of the Association, the Committee authorised the acquisition of a personal computer for the membership Sub-committee. The staggering volume of membership data requiring continuous sorting and updating will soon be fully computerised much to the delight of Norm Harland and the Membership Sub-committee.

The efforts of the Entertainment Sub-committee were again rewarded with a full house at the Annual Dinner at the City Hall in August 1988. The dinner has become the highlight of the Association's calendar due in part to the performance of the excellent guest speakers. Vic Rooney "acted" his way through the Guest Speaker's role in 1988 and, in 1989, Kevan Gosper will undoubtedly rise to the occasion.

The Education Sub-committee has formalised three prizes for Waratah High School (the Charles Goffet Prize for Creative Writing - Junior and Senior, the F H Beard Prize, and the Inaugural O.B.A. President's Prize) and shortly will conclude arrangements for prizes for the Newcastle High School.

The Historical Sub-committee, with the continuing assistance of Jack McLaughlin, prepared a superb display of photographs and memorabilia for the Annual Dinner. Their efforts have focussed on the task of preparing a catalogue of memorabilia.

The issue of Incorporation has been included in the agenda of the Annual Meeting and in the interest of addressing the problem of Public Liability of members. I would commend support for the motion for Incorporation.

I would unfairly close my report without expressing my thanks to the Committee for their efforts and loyalty to the Association throughout the year and the Committee's acknowledgment of the exceptional efforts of the Secretary (Keith Murree Allen) and the Treasurer (Stephen Box).

Finally I would thank all members of the Association for granting me the privilege of acting as your President for the past and most rewarding year and offer my best wishes to the incoming Committee.

1988 AGM*President: Trevor Dunn*

A most eventful year has passed since the Association had its inaugural meeting at Newcastle Police & Citizens' Boys' Club at Broadmeadow on 20th March, 1987. Old Boys have rallied from all corners of the globe and it is apparent that the Association is serving as a vehicle for the expression of deep felt memories of the School and for the continuation of long-standing friendships.

Membership, which is open to all former students and teachers of the School on the Hill and the School at Waratah, stands at 380 of whom 120 have paid the once only subscription of \$50.00

The Committee embarked on the Inaugural Dinner with the thought that with 150 in attendance we would break even. Neither the Committee nor, apparently, any of the 465 who attended the dinner was disappointed. Our special guests were Charles Goffet, Len McRae, Lyall Abell (Principal of Waratah High School), Spencer Hazell (Principal of Newcastle High School) and John McKenzie who introduced our guest speaker. Charlie more than fulfilled every expectation. He held his audience in a state of delighted mirth with his incomparable mixture of wit and learning. George Owens (1923) was recognised as the oldest ex-student present. I will never forget the singing of the School Song (twice) and four of Harold Beard's old favourites. A special message of remembrance has been passed on to Mrs Beard. It was pleasing to have a number of former teachers with us including Mrs Daphne Shield. Our 1988 dinner will be held at Newcastle City Hall on Friday, 19th August. The guest speaker will be Vic Rooney. The Association is assisting contemporaries of the 1938 Leaving Certificate Year in their 50 years' re-union and they will be our special focus at the dinner.

The Association has an official tie which may be purchased from the Secretary.

Your Committee is in the process of endowing two prizes each on Waratah High School and Newcastle High School - the Harold Beard OBA Memorial Prize for citizenship and the Charles Goffet OBA Prize for creative writing. The Membership, Functions, Education and Historical Sub-Committees are all active and an inventory of memorabilia collected to date should soon be produced. Some very valued gifts of books, badges etc. have been given by ex-students. The Functions Sub-committee, led by Barry Isherwood, has done an excellent job especially in organising the dinner. My thanks also to Geoff Wilson, our Honorary Auditor.

You have been well served by a hard working and enthusiastic committee and I express to them your, and my, thanks. I look forward to the Association's continuing to grow and to assist in your re-unions and to its consolidating and highlighting the role of our School in the history of Newcastle.