

Historical Sub-committee report – July 2020 AGM

The focus of activity for the sub-committee continues to be the website (www.nbhsoba.net), with the continual addition of photos, obituaries and news of members. It is becoming an excellent resource for our members, and will be a worthwhile legacy of the OBA. As mentioned in the previous annual report, post the OBA, this will be achieved through Trove, at the National Library.

An NBHS Oldboys Facebook site is maintained by Greg Kentish, and this has become a useful communication medium for the Oldboys (with use increasing).

The digitisation of all Novocastrian magazines in our collection (almost all) has been completed by Dick, and are now available on the website. This has been a major undertaking, and provides an excellent insight into the life of the schools (NHS from 1912 – 1929, and NBHS from 1930 – 1976; note that there was no publication between 1935 and 1947, when it was revived by Spot Burrows). The full version of Charlie's Letters has now been added, enabling les bon mots of one of the most interesting characters that many of us have ever met to be studied in detail.

NGHS Ex Students are becoming more involved, and are contributing photos and documents. They are collecting Nobby magazines (their equivalent of the Novocastrian), so that they can be digitised and added to the website. The Regional Library is purchasing a scanning unit which should enable rapid automatic digitisation.

We would like to encourage the various yearly cohorts to write down their anecdotes, so that they can be included on the website (only those from the year of 1957 are there so far). There are no doubt many, and these can put a human face on the School, and help show the "culture" (or lack thereof).

For anyone supplying photos by email, please digitise to at least 500kb to ensure a quality image (or just send the photos to Dick by mail, and they will be returned after digitisation). Dick's job is made easier if names are given in row order, with any unnamed students clearly shown (please see the photos on the nbhsoba.net web site for examples). Some of the year reunions have supplied a comprehensive set of excellent photos with names – we would like to see more of this.

Waratah High School has had a clean out of NBHS artifacts (returned to the Museum) and class rolls. The latter (while not complete) have been used by Bill to add details of who was in which class, and when, to his major database. These class rolls are not important to retain in our collection.

The efforts of Greg Kentish in maintaining and enhancing the website and Facebook page are again gratefully acknowledged..

Peter Scaife/ Bill Storer/ Dick Sanders

15 July 2020