

## Historical Committee report – June 2012 AGM

The main activity for the year was the transfer of the available admission registers, and photos of every page of the registers (over 1600) to the Newcastle Regional Library to hold on behalf of NSW State Records. These records now form part of the Caesar Smith Collection.

To formalise this transfer, a meeting was organised by Bill Storer, attended by David Gubbay, Bill Storer and Peter Scaife from the OBA, Carolyn Rigby and Robin Gordon from the NGHS Ex Students Association, as well as representatives from the Regional Library and State Records, in Newcastle Council Chambers on 25 October 2011, to transfer all original admission registers, and photos of the registers. The registers transferred were all of the NGHS registers (from 1930-1975), the Newcastle High School register from 1906-1914 and 1927-1929, and the Newcastle Boys High School registers from 1930-51, 1958-1971. A DVD of all photos was provided to the Library and State Records, with copies also held by NBHS and NGHS Associations. The Library will make the photos available on their web site.

It should also be recorded that Bill organised conservative restoration of all of the registers, so that they are in good condition. The availability and quality of the photos will reduce the need to access the registers, thereby assisting their conservation.

State Records were very impressed with the NGHS registers – a complete record for one high school. The Newcastle Herald attended the meeting, and the article in the Herald the next day was very appropriate.

Recently, Bill Storer has produced an index for all of the NHS, NGHS and NBHS registers, enabling easy location of names. Three books given as prizes at NHS during Caesar Smith's reign as headmaster have been obtained by the NGHS Ex Students Association, and will be included in the Caesar Smith collection, after professional restoration. These books are signed by Caesar Smith, and are an important addition.

While much has been done, more remains to be done. Unfortunately the Newcastle High School registers 1915-23 and 1924-26 have not been located, nor have NBHS registers for the period 1952-57. There will also be one more register for NBHS after 1971 to locate.

There is still the issue of the original photographs (around 260) held by the Library, some of which have been digitised. However, it has been agreed by the Regional Library, Dick Sanders and ourselves that the quality of the digitisation was not satisfactory. If the Committee approves funding (probably around \$300), arrangements will be made for professional digitisation, to the same high quality as the registers.

Class photos and associated names, and photos of sporting teams, prefects and staff from the mid 1960s to the end of the school, would be particularly welcome additions. Memorabilia and paper records continue to be received from time to time and these are evaluated, and, if appropriate, included in the Caesar Smith Collection.

Peter Scaife/Bill Storer

24 June 2012