

Historical Committee report – June 2013 AGM

Continuing our work in the previous year, we have focussed on the admission registers, and the corridor photos for NBHS. The highlights of the period have been the discovery of the 2 missing NBHS admission registers (1952 – 1958), and the ongoing development of the index to the registers and links to the photos by Bill using the Filemaker Pro database (now over 20,000 names).

The 2 “new” registers have been photographed, as well as the register that includes admission entries up to 1972, basically completing all of the admissions for NBHS. These registers have now had conservative restoration, and have been added to the Caesar Smith Collection at the Regional Library with a suitable covering letter (copy to State Records). There is one register from the late 1930s that needs restoration, but we need a quote from Sydney for this (more complicated than can be handled locally). We are still seeking the NHS register for 1915 to 1922, that was in the Collection in the 1990s, and the register for 1923-1926.

There are some corridor photos that have not been located, and these may be in the Regional Library. The University Archives have a number of photos that we do not have, and a discussion has been held with the University. This has provided us with a list of their acquisitions relating to NHS, NBHS and NGHS. This collection is minor compared to ours (and lacks names), but is being managed professionally, and digital copies of photos, not currently in the Caesar Smith Collection, will be a worthwhile addition.

The NGHS Ex Students have recently agreed to collect their “non class” photos – when around 100 are available, a photography session will be arranged.

The new web site set up by Greg Kentish will make available all of the admission registers and corridor photos (and perhaps class photos at a later date, if they can be collected). At this stage the corridor photos are on the site. It is anticipated that making these photos widely available will encourage other photos to be obtained from members.

The physical items in the Collection (such as sporting trophies, etc) are held in the Newcastle Museum. The Committee has recently committed funding (\$4500), to enable the 300+ items to be professionally catalogued (being arranged by Bill).

We would like to acknowledge the contribution of Greg Wilson to the digitisation of registers and corridor photographs during the year.

Peter Scaife/Bill Storer

25 June 2013