

## Historical Sub-committee report – June 2014 AGM

The sub -committee has continued to be very active on a number of fronts.

In an outstanding example of esprit de corps (and sheer persistence), Bill has completed an updated index of the 21000 ex students of NHS, NBHS and NGHS (info from registers), and this index has been placed on the web site (copies to Newcastle Regional Library, and University Archives). This index is proving to be very useful in verifying the names of students.

The NBHS corridor photos have been added to the web site, and we are now actively accumulating other photos relevant to NHS, NBHS and NGHS. Digital copies of photos held by the University Archives (but not in our collection) have also been obtained. Dick is progressively accumulating photos (mostly class, but some teams, etc), and adding a caption with names (a numerical identifier is given to each unknown student). It would be appreciated if members would check photos on the web site, and advise Dick of any missing names. This is a mammoth effort, but the activities of Year Reunion organisers are assisting with photos and names.

The Committee has approved funding for 10 oral histories, and these are now underway, with 6 completed, so far. The focus has been on older ex students, with a few from the early 1930s. These oral histories are being done by a trained journalist who performs this function for the Newcastle Museum. A number of NGHS ex students are included. These oral histories will be added to the Caesar Smith Collection at the Museum.

Using information from the registers and data from the Australian War Memorial, Bill has identified all Old Boys that served in Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam, as well as those who served in WW2. Those who died during their service have been identified, and a number of these are not commemorated on the existing plaques at the school. To remedy this, the Committee has approved funds to add supplementary plaques to those at the school (a request for a Government grant has also been submitted). Plans are progressing for an unveiling of the plaques in a formal ceremony at the school on Friday 19 September. The date was selected as a school day closest to the anniversary of the dedication of the Memorial Entrance in 1952. Students of Waratah Technology Campus Callaghan College will have a significant role in the service.

The cataloguing of the Caesar Smith Collection at the Museum is now close to completion, and is an important step in ensuring the future access, use and management of the collection. This has required funding from our Association.

While there are a number of matters outstanding from the previous year, eg digitising of the 1942 and 1943 corridor photos in the Regional Library, and finding the missing registers (NHS 1915-1926 incl, and Waratah High School registers that cover the transition period from 1973 to 1977; these will include some NBHS registrations), good progress is being made overall.

The web site continues to develop as a key resource to provide access to historical information, and this can only grow. The excellent work of the web master, Greg Kentish, is gratefully acknowledged.

Peter Scaife/ Bill Storer/ Dick Sanders  
23 June 2014