

Historical Sub-committee report – June 2015 AGM

The activities of the sub -committee have continued to be:

- oral histories
- collection of class and other photos , and obtaining names
- adding to the growing web site (photos, newspaper articles, obituaries)

In addition, there is ongoing interaction with the Museum re the Caesar Smith Collection; the cataloguing of the collection (in its current form) is basically complete, with most of the items available on the Museum web site (put in “Caesar Smith Collection”).

Bill’s index of the ex students of NHS, NBHS and NGHS (info from registers), is proving to be a key component of the historical collection. This index is very useful in verifying the names of students (often, sadly, for ensuring that the eulogy is for “one of ours”). To complete the student record, it is necessary to find the missing registers (NHS 1915-1926 incl, and Waratah High School registers that cover the transition period from 1973 to 1977).

The 10 oral histories originally approved by the Committee have now been completed (names and year commenced at school were given in the March 2015 report). Work will now commence on the further 10 oral histories approved by the Committee. We have tried to cover the various periods/headmasters for NBHS, and will look for candidates from the late 1940s to the end of the school (suggestions welcome). Copies of the oral histories will be obtained from the oral historian on an external hard drive, to enable Committee members to access if required. The original CDs and documentation (eg approvals from the participants for use of material) will then be placed in the Caesar Smith Collection at the Museum, with a covering letter.

A highlight of the year was the unveiling of the additional plaques at Waratah Technology Campus Callaghan College (our old school) to commemorate Old Boys who died in WW2, Korea, Malaysia and Vietnam, but whose names are not commemorated on the existing plaques at the school (either side of the main entrance). A government grant defrayed the associated costs, with the school providing refreshments. A formal ceremony was held at the school on Friday 19 September. The background research and organisation of this event (including applying for the grant) is a credit to Bill Storer AM.

All of the 1942 and 1943 corridor photos in the Regional Library collection have now been digitised and added to the web site. We continue to acquire photos relevant to NHS, NBHS and NGHS. 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.

As stated in the previous year, the web site continues to develop as a key resource to provide access to historical information, and this can only grow. Although the web master, Greg Kentish, fled from Lambton to a sunnier clime in Queensland, his excellent support in maintaining and enhancing the web site has continued, and is again gratefully acknowledged.

Peter Scaife/ Bill Storer/ Dick Sanders

25 June 2015