

## Historical Sub-committee report – June 2016 AGM

As noted in the 2015 annual report, the registers for NHS, NBHS and NGHS, and major photos (staff, prefects, sporting teams) for NBHS, have been digitised and made available on our web site (nbhsoba.net.au), including the very useful database of all students (by Bill Storer). Note that to complete the student record, it is necessary to find the missing registers (NHS 1915-1926, and Waratah High School registers for the transition period from 1973 to 1977).

The ongoing activities of the sub -committee are:

- collection of class and other photos, and associated names
- adding to the growing web site (photos, newspaper articles, obituaries)
- oral histories (10 completed, a further 10 approved for funding by the Committee)

The collection of class and other photos for the three schools is progressing well, with Dick Sanders working diligently to ensure that the photos are prepared for the web site, with as many students identified as possible. 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.

The collection of these photos with names is an important contribution to the social history of Newcastle. The identification of the people in the photos sets this collection apart from others in the Region (such as the Snowball Collection).

Interaction with the Museum continues. While many of the items in the Caesar Smith Collection have been professionally catalogued, with details able to be accessed on the Museum web site, there are more items accumulating that require cataloguing – this will be an ongoing process over the years. A listing of the items and Museum address and pathway to the Collection will be included on the revised NBHSOBA web site (see below).

Work on the additional 10 Oral Histories mentioned in last year's report have not been undertaken because of a health issue for the oral historian. It is expected that collection of oral histories will start again later this year. These will be for students at NBHS and NGHS after 1950, so the time delay should not be a problem.

The web site continues to develop as a key resource to provide access to historical information, and this can only increase. A new structure is being planned to enable the NGHS registers to be added, and to add in information on the Collection etc. Basically the web site has some growing pains, and needs an overhaul.

As web master, Greg Kentish, continues his excellent support in maintaining and enhancing the web site, and his efforts are again gratefully acknowledged.

Peter Scaife/ Bill Storer/ Dick Sanders

20 June 2016