

RH (Dick) Howard, 35 Golf St., Tamworth. NSW 2340 02 67662920.

The President, NBHS OBA Inc.,
PO Box 33,
ADAMSTOWN NSW 2289.

16th July, 2012

Dear Sir,

Thank you for your invitation to attend the 2012 Old Boys Annual Dinner. I regret that I must offer my apology due to recent occurrences beyond my control.

I note that you have lost some of the history of the school. The following may be of some interest. Both my uncle Capt. Richard Watson Howard M.C. and my father Col John Frederick Howard O.B.E were both Captains of the Newcastle boys High School.

My uncle, Richard, was the 2nd Captain of the school in 1913. He was a fighter pilot with the Australian Flying Corps and was killed in action whilst flying over France in 1918.

An extract from "The Newcastle High School -The First 75 Years" - page 21 reads

"A notice in the paper the other day read: Died of wounds - Capt. R. W. Howard, M.C. This is the heroic end to what would have undoubtedly been a brilliant career. Dick Howard was perhaps the best all-round boy the school has produced. A good scholar, a fine athlete, a leader and a gentleman, he was with all that quite free of any conceit or affectation. In the Australian Flying Corps he was one of the most notable flying men. Mr Keith Murdoch, (Rupert Murdoch's father), a special correspondent for the Sydney Sun, several times referred to his brilliance and daring in the air. Such sacrifice of fine young lives is saddening, but it is the price for the victory we have been recently celebrating."

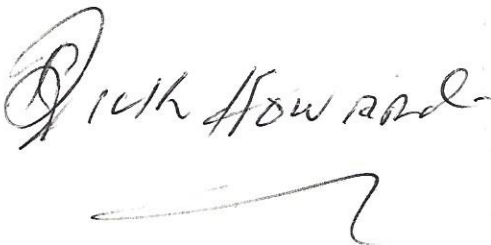
There were 2 pencil pine trees planted at the entrance of the school when the school moved to Waratah. One was in memory of Capt. Jeffries VC and the other to my uncle. Later they were moved to a garden on the left-hand side of the school close to the primary school.

My father, Jack Howard, became Captain of the school in 1922. He was a well-known Newcastle identity, known as "The Colonel" throughout the city. He followed in his brother's footsteps and the day the 2nd world war broke out enlisted as a Major. His service number was NX133 of which he was very proud.

I attended the school from 1944 -48 with little distinction. FH Beard was the Headmaster when I left. Charles (affectionately known as Goofy) Goffet was a French master. One of your committee members, Richard Wrightson, attended the school at the same time.

Once again, thank you for your invitation.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Dick Howard". Below the signature is a long, horizontal, slightly wavy line.