

NEWCASTLE GIRLS HIGH SCHOOL EX-STUDENTS UNION



PRESIDENT REPORT NOVEMBER 2021

2021 has been another year of challenges, frustrations and uncertainty worldwide.

Lockdowns, hand sanitiser, social distancing, border closures and confusion about the constantly changing restrictions were all placed on us when the COVID 19 Delta Strain arrived in Sydney airport and quickly spread throughout Australia. Our slow to start vaccine rollout fortunately picked up pace and NSW is now 90% double vaccinated for those 16 years and over, with essential workers and aged care residents and workers able to have their 6 months booster.

We started 2021 feeling positive and by our May Committee Meeting we had our September 4th Reunion Luncheon well underway. South's Function Room was booked till 5.00pm. Tea / Coffee was to be available and a selection of NGHS Memorabilia would be on display for our Ex-students to enjoy while they spent time catching up with their school friends following the formal part of our function. The Menu was set, our Guest Speaker confirmed and invitations were ready to be sent out.

Janene Rosser, Principal of NHS was to attend as our guest, give a short account of her vision for NHS and receive a copy of " The Lost Poems " to be housed in the NGHS cabinets in her office.

Our wonderful Historians, Judy Lindsay and Judi Cooper did an excellent job with the conservation of the poetry projects culminating in the book - " The Lost Poems ".

Four of our committee members funded the production and printing of the Books. Two copies are retained by the Ex-students Union and one copy added to the NGHS Memorabilia housed at NHS. Judy Lindsay co-ordinated the linking of a digital copy with the Newcastle Library Site and the NBHSOBA Site.

Our Historians have also been cataloguing the NGHS Collection at the Newcastle Library. The Nobby's Magazines have been digitised and form part of the Caesar Smith Collection. Collaboration with the Museum Curator has resulted in the memorabilia in our school cabinet being able to be viewed on the Museum Website - search for "collections" plus the school name. Judy believes the Library will provide a link to the Museum Site as well as the NBHSOBA Site so all Memorabilia can accessed by anyone interested.

Thank you Judy and Judi forgiving so much of your time to our NGHS Memorabilia.

Robyn Traill and Carol Griffiths are reviewing the NGHS Ex-students Union Constitution to ensure it is still relevant.



Robin Gordon OAM, has not been able to complete her inventory of NGHS Historical Items house on the NHS Campus as access to the school grounds has not been possible during lockdown due to the Delta Strain. Thus no further progress has been made on developing our NGHS Heritage Policy this year.

Throughout June and July I stayed positive and kept hoping that September 4th would be our 2020/21 Celebration Luncheon of all things NGHS but it was not to be.

The first week of August became decision time.

With the health and welfare of our Ex-students and ourselves top priority we made the decision that even if the Lockdown was lifted we could not be sure of providing a safe environment for our luncheon. The problems we were facing in the Hunter and boarder closures forced us to cancel - 2 years in a row - it was very disappointing but we really had no other choice.

We have transferred our booking with South's to Saturday September 10th 2022 when we hope to be celebrating 2020, 2021 and 2022 - surely we will be third time lucky !!

Carolyn Rigby, our Vice President looked after all the Luncheon Bookings and then facilitated the Luncheon refunds. Thank you Carolyn for taking on this mammoth task on our behalf.

Following talks with South's we are back to square one for 2022. We will no longer have the Menu and Costing as planned for this year. Carolyn and I will meet with South's in the New Year as they are presently reviewing their Function Menu/Costs and Booking System.

Our Ex-students Union provided three engraved glass Awards for the NHS Year 12 Assembly to be held in December following the HSC Exams. One for each "School Captain" and one for " Outstanding Academic Achievement NHS 2021 ".

This Award CHANGE from Runner Up To Dux 2020 - to - Outstanding Academic Achievement 2021 was requested by NHS Principal Janene Rosser.

Sadly we lost our wonderful long standing committee member, Joan Cobb during this year.

Thank you all for being part of the NGHS Ex-students Union Committee and supporting me throughout another challenging year. A special thank you to our Executive Carolyn, Joy, Robyn and Dianne.

I wish you all a happy, healthy, family Christmas .

Colleen Potts OAM
President
NGHS Ex-students Union