

Burke Family Achievements

Two Old Boys from the same NBHS family have received recognition for their outstanding achievements in sport and in law.

Bruce Burke

Bruce Burke, of the 1969 class, has just been awarded the Australian Press Freedom Award for 2022, from the Australian Press Council, for his extraordinary service to the cause of press freedom. From the citation for Bruce, written by Press Council Chairman Neville Stephens AO, “his manner, dedication, energy, and insight into the dilemmas faced by publishers have been critical to their ability to publish their stories, even in the face of powerful opponents.”

In Bruce’s own words, “I have had the privilege of a long and rewarding legal career, often representing media clients who are fighting to expose uncomfortable truths.”



Cyril Burke

We’ve been remiss in not noting earlier that Bruce’s father, Old Boy **Cyril Burke**, regarded by many as Australia’s greatest post-War rugby half-back, was admitted into the Rugby Hall of Fame in 2015. A proud member of the local Waratahs Rugby Club, Cyril made twenty-six Test appearances for the Wallabies between 1946 and 1956, and continued his engagement with rugby in various coaching and administration roles long after.



Wallabies Captain Sir [Nicholas Shehadie](#) described him as follows: "Size was no handicap for this master half-back, certainly the best I ever played with in my career."

Awarded the British Empire Medal in 1974, Cyril passed away in 2010, but his qualities of application, diligence, and detailed preparation, can be seen in his son’s successful legal career.