



Principal: Terry Griffiths

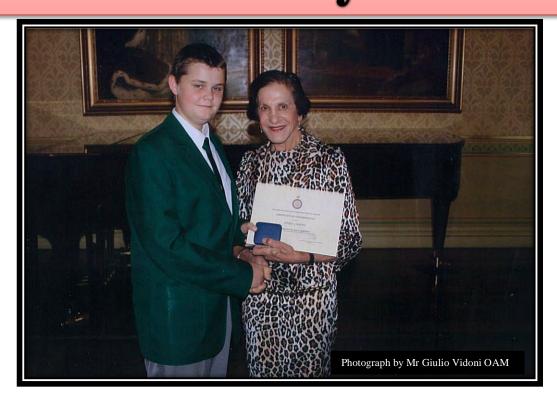
Deputy Principal: Andrew Skehan

Phone: 9477 3508 Fax: 9482 2546

www.asquithboy-h.schools.nsw.edu.au asquithboy-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au

December 2013

ORDER OF AUSTRALIA Certificate of Commendation for Community Service



One of our outstanding young Leaders, Harry Gibbons was duly honoured recently by the Governor of New South Wales, Her Excellency Professor Marie Bashir AC CVO, for his extensive Community Service, particularly in the areas of Legacy and the Scout Movement. Harry's citation was emphatic in praising him for the amount of time and effort he has given over the years and recognised his achievements in helping others. Harry has personally raised close to \$4000 over the last three years for Sydney Legacy and is a trailblazer in our School's "\$10,000 Club", an achievement which has made the School the leading contributor in New South Wales two years running.

HIGH SCHOOL EXPERIENCE DAY 2013

Once again, in great weather, over 150 Year 5 boys from surrounding Primary Schools visited Asquith at the end of November for the eagerly anticipated and rewarding High School Experience Day.

Always a fantastic day, the boys were divided into 8 groups under the supervision of two Year 10 Prefects per group. After an initial welcome in the Hall the boys went off to experience four periods of High School tuition.



All classes sampled Food Technology/Cooking and Practical Science. The making of Chocolate Chip Cookies was a highlight! Some then did TAS, PDHPE, History, English, Maths, Visual Arts, Geography and Japanese.

Interestingly, in the evaluations completed at the end of the day, the Lunch Barbie was the most enjoyed – funny that?!

The vast majority enjoyed the day and realised that High School would not be a dreaded place but one of Learning, Safety and Fun.

I would like to thank Mrs Inez Beckerleg for her hard work in constructing the day and on the day itself, taking some great photos – as always a great pleasure to work with.

To the Prefects for an outstanding performance on the day – well done, I am proud of you!

On to 2014 - Cheers!

Mr G Moscos, High School Experience Day Co-ordinator













PRINCIPAL'S MESSAGE

Leadership Opportunities at ABHS

Our recent formal assembly highlighted the numerous leadership roles that exist at ABHS for our students. This assembly saw the induction of the SRC year members and executive, the induction of House Captains and presentations to Peer Leaders (Peer Tutors, Quick Smart Tutors and Transition Leaders) and Peer Mediators. At an earlier assembly we saw the induction of Prefects and Sports Captains. Of course there are many other formal or informal leadership roles in the school, such as School Council Student Representatives and the Duke of Edinburgh scheme. In addition it was very pleasing to see the number of students receiving Principal's Awards and Medallions. **Asquith Boys High is an established leader in the promotion of student leadership. No other school I am aware of has such a high proportion of boys involved in leadership responsibilities**.

The very pinnacle of student leadership was achieved by Harry Gibbons of Year 11 a few weeks ago when he was awarded the Order of Australia Certificate of Commendation for Service to the Community by the Governor of NSW at Government House (see front page article).



End of Year/ Presentation Night

The last school day for all students is Wednesday 18th December. The last two days of the school calendar (Thursday 19th and Friday 20th December) will be Staff Development Days. Presentation Night is on Monday 16th December. I look forward to celebrating the 2013 achievements of our students with you on this night.

School Council/P&C

I would like to thank all members of the ABHS School Council led by President, Dr Kim Pinnock, for their leadership of our school community for this year. Our hard working P&C, led by Mr John Koellner, had their last meeting on 26 November. I would like to thank Mr Koellner and all members of the P&C for their tremendous commitment to our school community. A Merry Christmas and Happy New Year to all and I look forward to 2014 with great anticipation.

Terry Griffiths, Principal

Some of our Term 4 Bronze & Silver Principal Medallion recipients

























FOUND and looking for the owner....

A ring was found on the oval a couple of months ago. If you think it may be yours please make contact with the school on 9477 3508.

DEPUTY PRINCIPAL'S REPORT

As we enter the final stages of 2013 I feel it is important to emphasise to the entire Asquith Boys High community how truly outstanding many of the achievements have been. This issue of *Backchat* details some of the major ones, but Asquith Boys continue to impress on a daily basis, whether it be in classroom activities, sport, the arts, public speaking or the many other fields of endeavour.

In the remaining weeks of the year, it is essential that students maintain their good behaviour and focus in class. Our expectations at school remain high, as always. Classes will run as normal up until the last day of the year and students should be prepared for each lesson. Parents and students are asked to ensure that any school resources or property is returned so that stocktaking and planning can take place with greater ease and certainty.

I would like to thank the students, staff and parents of Asquith Boys High School for making my first year as Deputy Principal a thoroughly rewarding one. I have enjoyed getting to know a large number of the boys and their families. I would also like to acknowledge the particularly dedicated work of our P&C and School Council. Thanks also to the fantastic staff of the school for their tireless commitment.

I look forward to 2014 with much anticipation.

Mr Andrew Skehan Deputy Principal

BBM AND SYDNEY FC HAVE A GREAT START TO THE SEASON

This year's Sydney FC line-up features three BBM (Big Brother Movement) Youth Support awardees in Brett Emerton, Joel Chianese and Pedj Bojic.

Other exciting news is that a BBM Youth Support Awardee Paul Reid has been appointed as Sydney FC's Community Football Officer. Paul has played professional football in England and Australia for many years and there are many other BBM Youth Support players currently competing



around the world or in the A League. Harry Kewell, Luke Wilkshire, Nigel Boogaard, Nikolai Topor-Stanley and Iain Ramsay to name a few!

The latest BBM Youth Support Football Awardee is George Blackwood (current ABHS) who trained in England for a month with Colchester United. Hopefully he has impressed as much as last year's awardee Patrick O'Shea who has been offered a contract with Colchester United and is heading back to the UK to follow his dream of becoming a professional footballer.

WALKATHON UPDATE

The annual Spring Walkathon for Asquith Boys High School was held on Friday 30th August. The boys showed up in their brightest and happiest gear for the renowned event. The day was bright & sunny, perfect conditions for walking the distance to Apple Tree Bay. The walkathon is a charity event where the boys raise money for the school and the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

The final amount raised by the boys came to \$9891.25, with Jack Hanscombe raising the most at \$529. Other students of notable mention include Riley Hoole, Jordan Smylie, Ayden McKendrick, Chris Robinson, Lachlan Grant, Patrick O'Donnell, Marc Gleisner, Adam West, Lachlan Banton, Arran Halkhoree, Liam Iverson and Tanaka Jokomo who all raised \$200 or more.

Well done to all involved and thank you very much to all people involved in running a very successful Walkathon. Have a happy and safe holiday season!

Mr Lappas, Walkathon Coordinator

HSIE NEWS ...

LUNA PARK EXCURSION

Fifty boys from Year 12 Business Studies and Year 9/10 Commerce met at Hornsby station eager for the fun ahead. As we assembled under the teeth of the Luna Park Moon Face many boys expressed their desires to skip the business lecture and go straight to the rides. The lecture discussed Luna Park as a business case study. This is particularly relevant to the Year 12 Business Studies students as they must use case studies as examples when writing essays in exams and assessments.



The boys were very well behaved and dutifully took notes during the lecture. Though, they required a break for a few minutes while their attention was stolen by a young female model having a photo shoot just outside the lecture room.



After the lecture, the students enjoyed an unlimited pass on the rides within the park. Motion sickness got the better of one student on his second ride of the Pirate Ship. Luckily, a good mate came to the rescue with a spare pair of shorts.

The students enjoyed the Mouse roller coaster while Ms Foster and Ms Woolley screamed as their life flashed before their eyes. The teachers got their revenge when



they laughed with the boys as they were given uncomfortable wedgies on the Rotor.

Ms R Woolley, HSIE teacher

Year 9 History Excursion

On the 5th of November, Year 9 embarked on a journey to the city to visit the Hyde Park Barracks and the Museum of Sydney for an educational and enjoyable excursion. We caught a train down to Town Hall before we walked to Hyde Park to split up into two groups and then travel to the Hyde Park Barracks or the Museum of Sydney. The Hyde Park Barracks was very interesting because of its



past. We travelled around the different rooms, upstairs and through creaky looking hallways learning about primary and secondary sources, then testing our sources with theories various historians had hypothesized. We also got to rest in hammocks to experience how our convict ancestors might have slept in the barracks. Finally, we got to see a really cool panorama painting. The original print had been sent back to England to show how well the convicts had settled in. It depicted a happy scene which demonstrated the convicts happily working, the Aboriginals interacting with the white people and a town quickly growing from the harbour.

The Sydney Museum was the second place we visited and we had fun utilising the museum's facilities and completing different activities. We learnt about the museums history and how it is standing on the foundations of the first government house. We also got to see models of the First Fleet and see the different resources that were available in Sydney Harbour to buy. These included rice, oysters, wheat and many other different products from countries such as China,

Singapore, India, England and of course Australia. I really enjoyed comparing two pictures which both depicted the First Fleet arriving. One perspective was very bright and happy whereas the other was very dark and miserable showing that the Aboriginals did not like the convicts arriving in Australia, let alone taking it over. Finally, we were able to compare different stories of Aboriginals and how the First Fleet had affected their lives. Overall it was a really enjoyable day and I was glad the entire year got to have this great day out.



By Joel Winch (Year 9)

ABHS SOCIAL PAGE

The paparazzi certainly knew how to compete with Japanese tourists at the recent Year 12 Formal. The social event of the year left no doubt to onlookers that the graduating class of 2013 were dashing young men who certainly knew how to "scrub up". The formal was held at Curzon Hall, a beautiful historic building and venue centre in Marsfield. The students organised a bus to ferry them from Asquith to Marsfield. A small group of staff were privileged to attend and were exceptionally proud of the boys. They conducted themselves with maturity and aplomb. Congratulations!

Parents who wish to order photos can view a proof sheet at the front office. Prints are \$5 and monies raised go the school.













MISS MASHMAN & MACHU PICCHU INCA **TRAIL**

Some photos and reflections from her amazing trip:

Here are pictures of the campsites and the surrounding views, with Mount Veronica in the background. From memory we were about 4000m up. Maximum altitude reached was just under 5000m. Can I say, it was difficult that high up but I persisted and made it (with lots of rest breaks every 30-50m).

Cusco City - the main square the Plaza de Armas. There are 2 main squares - the square of tears and the square of smiles. This one is the Square of Tears as this is where the Spanish massacred many of the Inka people. The city itself is so rich in history and culture. They love the colour blue and it can be seen as a highlight to their buildings.

A snapshot of some local things on the grill – Alpaca Tupac Turin and Roasted Guinea Pig! I personally did NOT try the guinea pig, but other Youngcare hikers did and said it tasted like tough, salty meat. The alpaca on the other hand was similar to lamb.

Token shot from Machu Picchu from the top, looking down at the sacred city. Over 5000 people visit the site daily! Future visits may be seen via cable car to help preserve the ruins. This place is magical, and 60% is underground! And many of the terraces are still covered with trees and bush. There are 5 entrances into the sacred site - the Inka Trail and Moonstone Trail being 2 of the 5 entrances. Tickets are booked up to a year in advance!



Max Sharkey and myself posing in some traditional ponchos and traditional head gear that some of the other hikers bought. They generously let everyone pose in the Peruvian attire for the Machu Picchu

photos. It was very cool and so much fun, that we were drawing a crowd. Max was a great representative for the school and definitely made Asquith proud.

Skulls and bones - yes they are real mummy bones. Their shawls and cloths were stolen and sold on the black market. Very Indiana Jones! (except no crystal skulls, as that is Mayan not Inka).

Walking with the clouds - the weather was ever changing. In one day we experienced 4 seasons. First, it was stinking hot and all our layers of clothes needed to be adjusted, and within minutes it was raining so all our clothes needed to be

adjusted again. Then there was the

humidity - our hair looking stunning! When we thought we were safe and on the home stretch to camp it started snowing! However being that high up with the clouds felt magical.

The trek and trip itself was indescribable! There was blood, sweat and tears - stubbed toes, sweat from the hiking and tears because it was definitely a challenge, but so worth

Such an amazing experience and so glad to be doing it for such a great cause - Youngcare.

I wanted to thank everyone who supported me in this journey!

Miss Mashman

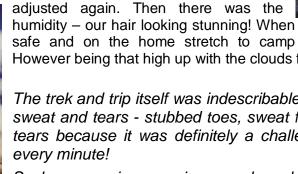














THE DAVIDSON SHIELD 2012/13

THE RESI MORTGAGE CORPORATION CRICKET TROPHY

In the Alan Davidson Shield a state wide cricket knock out competition the Asquith Boys School Cricket 1st XI made it to the series finals in Bathurst in early April. In a competition that stretched back over a year for the school and in which they have played 10 state high schools, they made it to the last 8 out of all schools in NSW that made up the Resi series finalists. After beating De la Salle College who won the Catholic State Competition convincingly, Asquith qualified for the semi finals. Unfortunately the semis were washed out and with no alternative date the competition ended there.



It was a fantastic achievement for the boys, who not only won the North West Met Zone Grade Comp for the third year in a row, but also made it to third place in the State wide Davidson Shield.

After winning the Regional Competition of the Davidson Shield, Asquith beat Blaxland High and Maitland High to earn an away tie against Wauchope High School where they won by 6 wickets to qualify to Bathurst. At Bathurst after losing to Kirrawee on a poorly prepared pitch they came back with a win against the highly rated Westfields Sports in a game that showed Asquith's great character and resolve.

It has been a fantastic year. Out of 11 knock out games the boys lost just one!

Asquith's batting has been consistent and they possess some wicket taking bowlers who bowl stump to stump. Their fielding has also improved and they also possess a terrific team spirit. The team has some outstanding individuals but as a team they work hard for each other and at all times bring an excellent attitude and sportsmanship to the game. At no time do they get ahead of themselves and they were without doubt the best behaved boys in all the games. Ably led by Ed Hollis THEY SHOULD ALL BE PROUD OF THEIR EFFORTS! Thanks also to Mr Lappas for his support throughout the campaign.

Mr Blackwood

THANKS MR KROSS



The U/14 Cricket side gave Mr Kross a parting gift as a thank you for all his efforts in coaching them to a semi final birth in the grade sport comp this summer season. Unfortunately Mr Kross is leaving and the boys will miss his excellent umpiring and coaching. They all wish him the very best for the future.

GOOD LUCK KROSSY!!!!

BREAKFAST CLUB needs volunteers in 2014

Parents We Need You!

Can you give up 1/2 hour each week to help supervise Breakfast Club? Breakfast Club runs everyday from 8.10am - 8.35am and is supervised by staff and parents. All boys are welcome to come along and have a nutritious breakfast. As a Breakfast Club helper you will assist in setting up for Breakfast Club, serving toast and cereal and packing the dishes into the dishwasher at the end. You will also have the opportunity to get to know the boys, their teachers and other volunteers.

If you can help please E-mail Colleen Sweeney our Student Welfare Officer at Colleen.Sweeney2@det.nsw.edu.au

STUDENT REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL

Leadership is an opportunity to serve

There are many boys at Asquith Boys High School who happily serve their school for a common purpose – to listen, to inspire and to improve.



The secret to success is good leadership, and good leadership is all about making the lives of your team members better. It is practiced not so much in words as in attitude and in actions. Leadership is about taking responsibility, not making excuses.

If your actions inspire others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, you are a leader. The SRC and Prefects are these kind of leaders.

On Monday the 25th and 26th of November a group of Asquith Leaders attended a 2 day leadership camp, at the Crusades in Galston. During these 2 days, the boys developed and demonstrated their leadership skills through organising games, event planning and running meetings.

I would like to introduce you to the new members of the Executive and SRC for 2014:



Year 12

- Ben Cant
- Harry Gibbons Treasurer and Student Council Representative
- Liam Szabo
- Josh Wiercinski
- Mark Wilson
- William van Egmond-Jones President



Vear 11

- Max Darwin Vice President
- Matt Evans Secretary
- Jacob Hamilton
- Harry Tuynman-Senior District Representative and Student Council Representative
 - Brandon Lukich-Yang Senior District Representative



Year 10

- Harry Clarke
- Callum Fenech
- John Martin Student Council Representative
- Luke Purcell
- Joel Winch



Year 9

- Saber Attar Motlagh Junior District Representative
- Konrad Morton-Stroud
- Benjamin Parnell Junior District Representative
- Maxwell Webster
- Wilford Zhang



Vear 8

- Jack Argent
- Robert Campbell Student Council Representative
- Jack Cotton
- Wesley Ridges
- Ryan Watt

On behalf of the school I would like to thank them and congratulate them. Ms Mashman, SRC



Blazing In The Green Asquith Boys Prefects

LEADERSHIP CAMP 2013

On the 25th and 26th of November Asquith Boys held their yearly leadership camp for the newly elected SRC and prefect groups for 2014. The camp was held at the Galston Crusaders camp site where we took part in numerous activities that helped build our understanding of leadership and our skills in being leaders of ABHS. We arrived to a warm welcome from the site manager David who directed us to our cabins where we settled down and then got started with the activities planned for us.



Thanks to the teachers Mr Broome, Miss Mashman, Mr Moscos and the greatly appreciated help of Ms Aime Liiband we were able to improve and gain a better understanding of what it is to be a leader.



The activities during the camp included a mock leadership day run by the Year 12 prefects where pairs of prefects ran different games and activities which help in team building and taking initiative. Other activities included working together to make mind maps and diagrams which show our understanding of leadership, writing short speeches about a certain topic and presenting it to our peers, and designing new emblems and shields that we think resemble us as leaders. As well as these leadership based activities, we also had the pleasure of enjoying a movie after dinner, having some free time to play with the sports equipment and to use the pool - of course the meals provided on the camp were delicious. Although the camp was only an overnight camp, the new leaders of ABHS made great friendships and had a fantastic two days.

Thank you to all who helped organise this camp and who made it possible.

Michael Sheldon - Year 10 Prefect













Recent Excursions of Cultural Enlightenment

The recently promoted Year 12 Visual Arts class has been out and about building resources for their case study on Exhibition Experience. It is an important element in their artistic development that they get out and about to a variety of exhibitions to gain *cultural enlightenment*. It was disappointing that we couldn't coordinate a date to visit Sculpture by the Sea during its short run in Bondi however I would highly recommend it becoming a family outing or for the older boys, an excursion with mates that can incorporate a visit to the beach. It truly is a highlight of the Sydney events calendar. We compromised by reviewing video footage and articles, not quite the same but at least the boys are now enlightened for future independent visits.

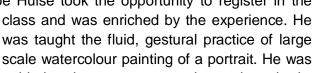




We had a bumper filled day at the MCA where we viewed the general collection and Primavera. Primavera is an exhibition that highlights the work of up and coming artists. Part of the criteria is that the artists must be under 35 years of age. There were several works that inspired the boys in the way in which they were presented. Food for thought for the Body of Work! The exhibition was complemented with a video editing

workshop that related to the practice of one of the exhibiting artists. The boys also inspected the general collection which provides a variety of contemporary practice.

A new gallery has opened in Wahroonga that is an excellent resource for many local schools. The Grace Cossington Smith Gallery is on the Pacific Hwy in the Abbotsleigh school grounds. The exhibition; Mentors: Inspirational Women showed the work of ten women artists representing contemporary artmaking practice in Australia. The class was able to catch the train from Asquith at the end of Period 4 and spend their timetabled VA lesson at the gallery. We were exceptionally privileged to have one of the artists, Lisa Jones informally talk about her practice. The gallery also had several workshops that complemented the exhibition including a watercolour master class with Cherry Hood, an Archibald Prize winning watercolour artist.. Joe Hulse took the opportunity to register in the



guided on how to prepare colours, draw the image and apply the paint with large brushes and pour it onto the paper. Visual Arts students should take advantage of these types of opportunities as it challenges and extends their learning. Personally I was in "7th Heaven" as one of my personal favourites was also exhibited, Elisabeth Cummings.





During the summer break it would be beneficial for Year 12 to visit at least two exhibitions. I recommend that they go and see Yoko Ono at the MCA and America: Painting a Nation at the AGNSW. Also look into workshop opportunities that will complement their art making practice.

Ms Cooke Visual Arts

THE ABHS WALL — A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE....

Thirty-three years ago, School Prefects from the 1980 HSC group decided to paint the Australian Flag on part of the School as part of their 'Muck up Day celebration'.

Normally those in authority would have considered with such an idea in trepidation, if it were known at the time. It is unlikely it would have been approved had it been widely known in advance. Prefects discussed the idea with Prefect Master, Mr Bob Henderson, at the time, who gave permission for the proposal, on his own volition. The small group 'in the know' completed final planning. On the eve of Muck up Day a group of

18 School Prefects and Year 12 supporters met on site to draw up and paint the Flag on what was



Photo supplied by Iain Gorry.

previously a pristine brick wall. Under arranged lighting that included that provided by the car headlights of Prefects and borrowed vehicles, this project was completed in the early hours of the groups last school day. One Prefect, Iain Gorry made an impromptu photo of some of the mural team the following morning. Ian has recently supplied his photo. I find the clarity and precision of the Flag image in this photo in remarkable contrast to the tired, somewhat bedraggled appearance of these young men.

As was hoped, school students and staff at the time were surprised by the Flag's appearance at that time. It is reported that initially the School Principal was not happy with this 'prank'. Numerous phone calls and expressions of appreciation from the community were received at school in the days following. Soon this new landmark was being extolled by one and all.

Last Friday's ceremony was held to advise the Asquith Boys community of the need to remove the wall and to outline planning of the redevelopment proposal. Those present included former students, including a representative of the Flag painting team, former teachers, including the afore mentioned 1980 Prefect Head Teacher, current School Prefects and School Staff and representative of the P&C, Deputy Principal Andrew Skehan and Principal Terry Griffiths. Former student, now Hornsby Councillor, Nathan Tilbury was also present. Two representatives from the local press were present throughout, taking notes and photos. Meeting on site this group exchanged recollections and viewed a photo display of photos of school events from that era. Andrew Palmisano, of the original Flag painting team enjoyed finding photos of himself and his mates enjoying school excursions and Duke of Edinburgh hikes in the late 1970s. Andrew was invaluable in providing names to faces in the photo taken of Flag painting participants.

Following the initial meeting the group convened to Science Lab 5 where Grounds Redevelopment Coordinator, Craig Philip had prepared an informative presentation. Terry Griffiths welcomed participants and thanked the P & C and Old Boys Organisation for their participation in this project. Other speakers included Chris Kent, on behalf of former students and former staff. Chris read a couple of many emails received in response to news of this event and sent their apologies for not being able to attend in person. Bob Henderson narrated his first hand recollections. Mr Philip outlined planning to date; which includes removal of the concrete and bitumen basketball base due to hazardous surface. When that occurs the Flag wall will be divested of its original function for student handball and for hitting tennis balls against. In place a more expansive grassed area for diverse student use is planned. Also an outdoor tiered space for student drama and music rehearsals and for student meetings. This space will be further enhanced by further development of the existing sculpture garden. The whole proposal will provision a more welcoming aspect for pedestrian visitors who enter through this main gateway, including students arriving at the School by train each day. The proposed redevelopment will more satisfactorily link the School to the high standard of recent upgrading on the Pacific Highway street front.

Following Craig's informative visual presentation visitors enjoyed refreshment provided by staff of the TAS Faculty

Again thanks to you staff and prefects for hosting this significant, reflective and enjoyable event.

Chris Kent. ABHS Old Boys President

EXITING NEW DESIGN FOR THE NORTHERN PLAYGROUND

Background

In the 1960's, when the school was less than ten years old, a new basketball court and tennis "hit up wall" were built near the new 'G' block (Art and Science). This area had a basketball court and a tennis court. Recently, Tempe Beavan, a landscape architect and a parent in the school community did some research and found out the following;

"It was interesting to see that the school grew in area c1967 to absorb land to the north of the hit up wall which would originally have been close to the school boundary at what appears was planned as the 'back' of the school".

As a result of this extension, an existing electrical easement was incorporated into the school grounds and the wires that run through the school along this easement still supply power to the houses between the school and BP on Jersey St. Interestingly, these lines supply no electricity to the school itself.

In 1980, a group of year 12's did a nocturnal paint job on the wall, which was the original painting of the Australian flag as part of the muck-up activities that were common at the time. Close examination shows that since then it has been repainted on many occasions. The Aboriginal flag was painted on the other side of the wall in 2011.

Today

Many of you will already be aware through the local press and other media that we are looking at better utilising the area at the Northern (or BP) end of the school. Currently the area is a mixture of grass and an asphalt basketball court. Unfortunately, the asphalt area is a WHS hazard due to multiple trip hazards as a result of the individual slabs of concrete that it is made from moving around and leaving an uneven surface. The students are not allowed to run around on it, and to rip it up and replace it with a new court will cost tens of thousands of dollars. The court is also no longer needed due to the new courts near the Jersey St Entrance.



Proposal

As a result, we are looking at redesigning the area to make it more useable by the students and to also improve the look and feel of the main pedestrian access. On the right, you can see part of the early ideas for the redesign of the area. As you can see, the asphalt will be removed and turfed and new cement paths laid. This leaves the flag wall, such a well-known icon of the school, in a position that reduces the usability of the larger grass play area that will be created with the removal of the asphalt.



As part of the development we are also looking at incorporating an outdoor

learning area, possibly covered, in the triangle between G block, the car park and the new path. The area to the right of the new paths could become a passive area with tables and chairs and the oval shaped area in the centre of the new path could be used as a sculpture garden.

Where to From Here?

We have obtained quotes for the removal of the wall and the asphalt area and are examining the availability of various grants to fund the project. To a certain extent, the grants will shape the project as many have requirements such as roofed areas or water tanks, etc. We will be starting fundraising for the redevelopments next year with the timetable for the redevelopments being largely dictated by the availability of funds. Fundraising ideas in place so far include more commemorative pavers to be incorporated into the new path, family portrait photographs on the 6th April, Trivia Night on the 17th May and maybe more Bunnings barbecues. Other ideas are welcome.

What we will be doing this year, however, is removing the wall. Bricks will be available to purchase as a memoir of the wall with all proceeds going towards the redevelopment. These are \$10 each.

How can You Help

Keep an eye on future Backchats for work updates and fundraising initiatives. There will be other ways in which you may be able to offer your services depending on what you can do. If you think you can help please contact Jenny Williams from the School Council. jw863881@bigpond.net.au

Wall Memory Ceremony

On Friday 8th of November we had a ceremony where some Old Boys and other former members of the school community gathered to share memories and reminisce about the flag wall. You can read the article on the Advocate web site http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/the-hills/asquith-boys-high-school-to-say-goodbye-to-iconic-flag-wall/story-fngr8i1f-1226765880532

SCIENCE HSC

HSC Biology, Chemistry, Physics and Senior Science have now completed their first core topic area and the boys will have done their first assessment for each subject. It is important to understand every assessment counts towards the final score the boys will receive in their HSC. Physics has just started the Motors and Generators topic which will continue into next year. This topic covers not just electric motors and generators but transformers and large scale electrical distribution. This is a very hands-on topic which most boys enjoy because they can see the relevance in it.

Year 10

Many of our Year 10 boys have chosen a Science subject for their HSC course which is positive considering the decline of students studying science worldwide. There is a huge demand for quality scientists in areas such as Biotechnology (Biology), Material Science and **Polymers** (Chemistry), Telecommunications (Physics) and Mining (Earth and Environmental Science) to name a few. I encourage all our boys to work hard as many of the topic areas are intellectually demanding and require extra study to master some of the concepts.

Year 8

Year 8 boys completed the annual ESSA Science Assessment last month. This is an on-line logic style assessment that allows us to see how the boys are thinking about science and their misconceptions about certain concepts. You will receive the results early next year. Unlike NAPLAN, these results are not published and used by the media to build school rankings. We use the results to adjust our teaching strategies so the boys are getting the most benefit from their results.

Mr S. Robertson Head Teacher Science

THE WORD FROM ENGLISH

As we approach the conclusion of 2013 we should reflect on the year that has passed. For so many students in our English classes this has been a fantastic year. It is often worthwhile for students to consider how much they have achieved this year and the considerable knowledge and skills they have gained through their studies. As a faculty it is our hope that all the boys in all the classes have enjoyed their learning in English as much as we have enjoyed our teaching.

In particular, I would like to congratulate the high academic achievement of the following students who have showcased their sophistication of expression, creativity and dedication to all areas of the English course.

Year 7

Aidan Martin

Year 8

Brendan McSweeney Andrew Morrison

Year 9

Zac Duretto Griffin Sleigh Joel Winch

Year 10

Harry Tuynman

Year 11 English Studies

Matt Witchard Gordon Astley

Year 11 Standard

Kevin Pascua Callum Johnston

Year 11 Advanced

Adhish Panta Oscar Duretto

I would like to thank the teaching team in English for their incredible hard work, dedication and passion this year. Specifically, I congratulate permanent Kennedy for gaining Nicholas employment at Asquith Boys High School as an Shadi Nabavieh for the English teacher, organisation of Year 11 Theatre excursions, Tom Melrose for being such a welcome new addition to our faculty, Rebecca Kelly for the adroitness with which she led the Extension 2 English students and finally it is with a melancholic heart that we farewell the wonderful David Roberts who will be taking up a teaching post in London.

Enjoy you holidays, have a wonderful break and most importantly take advantage of the extra time this will allow you to read widely, for pleasure. As Napoleon Bonaparte said "Show me a reader, and I will show you a person who moved the world."

Ms J. Schadel Head Teacher English

Greetings from HSIE!

As this is our last Backchat of the year, I would like to recognise some of the events that have been of significance to me personally over the last 15 years at Asquith Boys High School. I arrived in 1999 as Head Teacher History and

I arrived in 1999 as Head Leacher History and was placed in what is now the English Staffroom. Within four years I had taken over the Social

Sciences at the retirement of Jim Tulloch and the HSIE Faculty was initiated. Of the original staff members, only Cameron Laing remains but it has always been a happy, united, dynamic and professional staff all the way through my tenure. Names such as Helen Russell, Bob Dawson, Trish Byrnes as well as Tina Kontos, Lettica Foster, Rachel Woolley, Annika Evans and Liana Stopford have graced the Staff and as you can sense, most have moved on only through retirement. It has always been a mixture of experience and youth; with energy emanating from the corridors and classrooms constantly.

I have had the personal satisfaction of working with - never leading - this grand group of colleagues through some memorable experiences and periods of crisis. We have always put the needs of the students first and our staffroom has been renowned as a place of personal support for many students with needs. We have always striven to develop students' skills towards their personal ambitions and have been very proud and satisfied when they have achieved milestones. Results, although mixed, have always been fair and arrived in the knowledge of Best Practice and Quality Teaching and Learning. I thank all of my staff for these efforts on behalf of all the boys they have so caringly taught.

Personally, these years have been a halcyon period for me. I can, with great satisfaction, look back on my career as both an Educator and School Executive at Asquith as I can indeed on all the Government Schools I have encountered in almost 40 years — Dulwich High, Mackellar Girls' High, Enmore High and Pendle Hill High. I have had the honour of teaching some excellent people and no matter what their ability, admired their journey through life. I hope I have helped prepare them for their lifelong journey in learning.

I have had the unique pleasure of gaining global experience as I have travelled with our select football groups overseas – New Zealand, Vanuatu, Fiji, Malaysia, Thailand, China, Vietnam, Greece, Cyprus, Singapore, Turkey and Hong



Kong have all been visited and revisited – outstanding and memorable tours where the boys have excelled both on and off the field on each occasion. I have also had the great delight of travelling with great friends in Mike Blackwood (always a great traveling companion), Gavin Lister, Corey Pendlebury, Sam O'Connor and Drew Jones.

I have never wished to leave the classroom and Asquith will not be lost to me. I am returning as a classroom teacher next year and in that capacity will continue to enjoy the Teaching and Learning of this excellent school.

Thanks...

To Terry Griffiths: for his unwavering understanding of boys' needs and clearly a great Principal and friend.

To all my Executive colleagues over the years thank you for your united support towards the outcomes for the boys and personal friendship.

To the boys – be proud of this very fine school and develop positively through your years and experiences here and in whatever path you choose, be proud to display the Asquith name.

To the parents and entire staff I have worked with: thank you for the opportunities you have afforded me and I look forward to repaying your support and friendship for many more years!

Finally to my personal staff mentioned above – you all have great talents – never forget that.

En Avant Asquith!

Mr G. Moscos Head Teacher HSIE

MATHS

After a busy and productive year it is now time to take stock and plan for next year. It has been good to look back, both for teachers and students, at the things that have been achieved this year.

Part of the planning process at the moment is to work out class lists for 2014. We predominantly use marks or class rankings to help with this process however there is also consideration given to individual student needs and to this end teachers are consulted thoroughly to determine the most appropriate class for each student.

The Mathematics faculty has many strategies to support students with different learning styles and levels of ability. Streaming classes into approximately similar ability groupings helps to do this, however within each class there are many opportunities to differentiate the curriculum.

Opportunities for extension arise within textbooks as well in other learning activities – especially with the technology available today. At various times in the year individual teachers provide open ended activities and discovery learning activities. These are particularly attractive to gifted and

talented students as they allow them to work at their own pace on meaningful quests for deeper knowledge.

Special opportunities are available for the top classes in each year such as the Australian Mathematics Competition. Mrs Laffer does an exceptional job organising this and invites any student who wishes to challenge themself to have a go. It really is a joy to see the enthusiasm of

students with a thirst for knowledge engaged in meaningful activities that challenge and develop their knowledge and interest in the subject. The Mathematics faculty at Asquith Boys High School aims to provide such opportunities for our students.

Mr D. Lappas Head Teacher Maths



CAREERS

Coming Events

Forward notice that the 2014 Apprenticeship and Traineeship Expo will be held on Wednesday 13th August 2014 in the War Memorial Hall in Hornsby.

Recent Events

A **White Card Course** was held on Monday 9th and Tuesday 10th December for 20 Year 9 students. This was the 3rd and final course for the year. The school is extremely fortunate to be able to call upon Mr McCubbin, a Work Cover Accredited trainer, to deliver this course.

Barista Boys Café host morning tea for Retirement Village residents

On Monday 2nd December, students who run the Barista Boys Café hosted morning tea for residents from Woodlands Retirement Village and Christophorus House. Residents were provided with their favourite cappuccinos and treated to a delicious array of cakes, slices and sweets. These superb tasting delicacies were cooked by hospitality students under the very capable supervision of Ms Karen Bird.



Important Information

- HSC results are released on 18th December 2013
- ATAR'S are released on 19th December.
- Closing date for change of preferences is Sat 4th January 2014. Remember that universities are holding info days around this time. E.g. UTS, Sydney Uni, UNSW & Macquarie Uni all on 3rd January 2014, UWS on 2nd January. Please check the university websites.
- Main round university offers are released on Thursday 16th January 2014.

Year 12 Careers Advisory Service is available from Thursday 19th - 24th December 2013, 9am to 5pm. This free service is available by phone on 1300 300 687 or through the website www.cas.det.nsw.edu.au.

The Careers Advisory Service website contains helpful information to assist students in clarifying course choices, employment opportunities, career pathways and training options.

Important Information from Macquarie University Early Admissions

Macquarie has recently introduced an **Early Entry Program**. If students list a participating Macquarie degree as their first preference by 1 January 2014, they could receive an early offer through the Early Entry Program.

There's no need to register or apply for an Early Offer at Macquarie. Offers will be based on HSC performance bands in subjects that relate to their chosen degree and are made on 3 January 2014 prior to the main round.

For further information visit: mq.edu.au/admission-advantage Guaranteed Entry

Macquarie has also recently introduced a Guaranteed Entry Program. If students meet or exceed the published ATAR for the degrees listed in our Guaranteed Entry Program, they simply put that degree as their first preference before the UAC main round closes at midnight 4 January 2014. This means that as soon as students receive their ATAR, they'll know whether they're guaranteed a place in their chosen Macquarie degree. For further information visit: mq.edu.au/graduate-advantage

Pre-Apprenticeship Test

Thinking about a career as a tradesperson, health worker or in retail? This is a link to Maths and English aptitude tests which show you the entry levels expected for different industry areas. http://www.ulmitb.com.au/PreApprenticeshipPracticeTest/HomeState.do

New Skillsroad website with FREE tools set for launch in December! NSW Business Chamber in conjunction with Australian Business Apprenticeships Centre are relaunching a new and improved version of their national careers advice portal **Skillsroad.com.au**. The new website, set to launch in December, will be tablet and mobile friendly and feature free information and resources for students and jobseekers to assist them in navigating career options. Additionally, they are launching new sections for supporters including teachers and careers advisors, parents and employers. Exciting new resources include the all new FREE Career Quiz app, new FREE Resume Builder app and career information on over 350 occupations including videos, job growth and wage statistics, training and qualification pathways plus more.

Labour market information

Health Care is Australia's fastest growing job sector. Healthcare and Social Assistance has experienced strong growth over the past decade and is Australia's largest employing industry, with almost 1.4 million workers, or 11.9% of national employment.

Over the five years to November 2017, employment is expected to continue to increase strongly, up by 13.0% (or 177,800). This represents more than one fifth of the total number of new jobs.

For information visit the website ww.myhealthcareer.com

My Health Career offers over 100 videos about 10 different health careers from real health practitioners. Everything from the future of pharmacy in Australia to the difference between a nutritionist and a dietitian, to 8 areas of specialization in podiatry plus much more.

New Department of Education Careers website----- www.seek2b.com Version 2. To access this website you now need the password "gorilla".

If you are wondering what career might best suit you go to "Find My Career" You can gain a better understanding on a career by watching a video about it. There are 4 handy quizzes you can also try.

The UNI section has the following drop down menu options – Open Days, Scholarships, Bonus Points, alternative Entry, Educational Access Scheme, Deferment etc. Lots of great information in employment for vacancies, Resume builder, Interview videos etc.

www.careersworks.com

Careersworks is an organised grouping of careers resources for students, parents and teachers. This valuable information is under the headings of Resources, HSC, ATAR, Bonus Points, University, Tafe, News & Events Scholarships, Jobs, Students, International Common questions. The password is "plan".

www.mhscareers.com will have a new password from 1st January 2014 which will be "14 cairns".

Mrs J. Fry, Careers Adviser



Canteen Menu 2013

ROLLS & LAVASH	HOT FOOD (available daily)			
(available daily)	Beef Roll - with Tom/Cheese/Tom Sauce\$3.80			
Chicken/lett/Mayo \$3.00	Chicken Burger - with Lett/Mayo \$3.40			
Lavash ½:	Chicken & Corn Roll\$1.50			
Beef & Salad\$2.00	Chicken Chips\$1.50			
Chicken & Salad \$2.00	Chicken Wraps: Chilli Chicken Tenders/Lett/			
BOLLO O LALVAOLI	Carrot/Cheese/Mayo\$4.20			
ROLLS & LAVASH	Egg & Bacon Roll\$3.70 Garlic Bread\$1.00			
(available by order)	Hot Dogs\$2.30			
Buttered\$0.60	Lamb Roll:			
Cheese\$2.00 Chicken\$3.00	With Tom/Cheese/BBQ Sauce \$4.00			
Chicken & Salad\$4.00	Meatball Roll:			
Egg & Lettuce\$2.00	With Tom/Cheese/Tom Sauce \$3.70			
Ham\$3.00	Meat Pie\$3.00			
Ham & Salad\$4.00	Pizza Pie\$3.00			
Peanut Butter\$1.50	Potato Pie\$3.00			
Salad\$3.20	Potato Wedges\$1.50			
Shredded Beef\$3.00	Pizza\$2.80			
Vegemite\$1.50	Pizza Rounda\$2.40			
Lavash:	Noodles\$2.20			
Chicken/Lett/Carrot/Cheese/Mayo\$4.00	Sausage Roll\$2.00			
Beef/Lett/Carrot/Cheese/Mayo\$4.00	Sweet Chilli Tenders(2)\$2.40			
	HOT FOOD (available by order)			
	HOT FOOD (available by order) Beef Spring Roll\$1.60			
SALADS	Chicken Burger:			
(available by order)	On Buttered Roll\$2.40			
Plate/Tub\$4.00	With Lett/Mayo/Pineapple\$3.60			
With Meat\$4.50	With Salad\$4.00			
	Corn Cobbettes\$0.70			
	Dim Sims (3)\$1.80			
SUSHI	Vegetable Burgers\$3.40			
(Tuesday & Thursday)				
Tuna/Chicken/Californian\$2.80	HOT MEALS (One available daily) Butter Chicken & Rice\$3.40			
EDIT	Ravioli\$2.20			
FRUIT Second Fruit available daily Price veries	Spaghetti Bolognaise \$2.20			
Seasonal Fruit available dailyPrice varies	Vegetarian Hokkien Noodles \$2.20			
YOGHURT\$2.00				
γ2.00	DRINKS			
CAKES & SNACKS	Milk: Plain 600ml \$2.10			
Cheese & Bacon Rolls\$1.20	Flavoured: 375ml			
Pikelets\$0.70	600ml\$3.40			
Banana	Juice: 375ml\$2.20			
Bread\$2.20	500ml\$2.60			
Muffins (Low Fat-when available)\$1.80	Up & Go\$2.20			
Fun Buns (")\$1.80	Quencher Flavoured Spring Water\$3.20 Water 600ml\$2.00			
Chips\$1.00	Pump Flavoured Water\$2.80			
	Cans\$2.00			
	Bottles of Diet Drink\$3.40			
	Iced Tea\$2.50			
	Hot Chocolate:			
	Before School/Winter Only)\$1.50			

Packsociation

Parents and Citizens working together for our School

Hello ABHS community,

Your P&C met for the final time this year, on Tuesday 22nd November.

Congratulations to Jackson Besley who was a featured artist at the recent 2013 Schools Spectacular. This talented musician has entertained us at many ABHS events, and is shortlisted for the "Encore" music event for his HSC submission. Well done Jackson!

The School Representative Council (SRC) Leadership camp was recently conducted, with the leaders of our school together, for two days to conduct elections for 2014 office bearers, participate in leadership specific planning sessions for 2014, preparation activities for the 2014 Year 7 "Leadership Day", finalisation of the 2014 Year 7 "Code of Conduct" and to undertake several leadership development activities.

At the meeting Mr Griffiths spoke about the 2013 NAPLAN results for our school. These are the results for Years 7 and 9. This year's Year 9 cohort has registered very significant improvement on their 2011 Year 7 results. This is now happening every year, as the school's long-term whole school learning strategy is being realised. The programs being managed are proving very effective in boosting students' results in literacy and numeracy. When compared to boys across all schools in NSW, public and private, our overall mean score gain across all five NAPLAN categories was 44.2 marks as against 39.3 marks gained for all boys in NSW. Mr Griffiths stated that these results mean that students at ABHS are consistently doing 13.5% better than boys at all other schools. This has happened now for the last three years. This is clear evidence that boys at ABHS have a distinct advantage over boys in other schools. These results, year on year, are truly remarkable.

The great thanks of the P&C go to Mr Griffiths, the school executive and all faculty members for the excellent management of these programs, and in achieving these brilliant results.

It has been great to see so many new faces at the P&C this year. My personal thanks go out to all those parents, citizens & faculty who have attended our meetings this year.

Please keep your interest in our school and encourage others to become involved in 2014.

The first P&C meeting for 2014 has been set down for Tuesday 4th March.

Wishing you all a Merry Christmas & a Happy New Year.

Thanks,

John Koellner

P&C President

President: John Koellner
Vice Presidents: Kim Pinnock

Kerry Limbert Nicky Morrison

Secretary: Nicky Morrison Treasurer: Jenny Williams

Ground Maintenance: Michelle Roscarel, Kirsty Berryman & Kerry Limbert

School Council Reps: Linda Stanford, Kim Pinnock

The next P&C meeting

in the Library.

All welcome.

ABHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 4 2013

Week December 16 December 17 December 19 December 20 Dec 21/22 December 18 11A PRESENTATION NIGHT Yr 7-10 Reports issued Staff Development Staff Development Day End of Term 4 Day

2014 DATES

Term 1 – Tuesday 28th January till Friday 11th April

Years 7, 11 & 12 start Wed 29th January, Years 8, 9 & 10 start Thu 30th January

Term 2 – Monday 28th April till Friday 27th June

Term 3 – Monday 14th July till Friday 19th September

Term 4 – Tuesday 7th October till Friday 19th December

Staff Development Days Tue 28th Jan, Mon 28th April, Mon 14th July, Thu 18th & Fri 19th Dec

ABHS CALENDAR OF EVENTS TERM 1 2014

	Monday	Tues	Wed	Thursday	Friday	Sat/Sun
Week	January 27	January 28	January 29	January 30	January 31	Feb 1/2
1A						
	Australia Day Holiday	Staff Development Day	Years 7, 11 & 12	Years 8, 9 & 10		
Week	February 3	February 4	February 5	February 6 Formal Assembly	February 7	Feb 8/9
2B				(HSC High Achievers)		
Week	February 10	February 11	February 12	February 13	February 14	Feb 15/16
3A	•	,	,	,	ID Photos	
34						
Week	February 17 Year 7 Camp	February 18 Year 7 Camp	February 19 Year 7 Camp	February 20	February 21 SWIMMING	Feb 22/23
4B					CARNIVAL @ Knox	
Week	February 24	February 25	February 26	February 27	February 28	March 1/2
5A		Open Night				
Week	March 3	March 4	March 5	March 6	March 7 Zone Swimming Carnival	Mar 8/9 Enrichment
6B		5.30 for 6.30pm Parent/Teachers BBQ				Class Yr 7 2015 entry test
		P&C AGM				

Asquith Boys High School P&C Association Commemorative Path



ABHS and the P&C Association are constructing an outdoor learning centre and garden at the main entrance to the school. This will include a commemorative pathway for former and current students and staff. Order your paver to be part of this project and be included in the school's history.

All orders receive a colour memento certificate. INDIVIDUAL PAVER Engraving details: Please print clearly in block letters. Each square represents one letter, number, space or punctuation mark. (36 max) DOUBLE PAVER Engraving details: Please print clearly in block letters. Each square represents one letter, number, space or punctuation mark. (64 max) Orders close 31st March 2014. The path will be laid later in 2014. Simply complete this form with payment details and return to: Asquith Boys High School, PO Box 242, Hornsby 1630 Ph: 9477 3508 Fax: 9482 2546 Email: asquithboy-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au _____ Phone: _____ Name: Address: **PAYMENT ADVICE** Enclosed ☐ CHEQUE TOTAL \$_____ ___ (payable to ABHS P&C Association) OR ☐ MasterCard CREDIT CARD □ Visa **TOTAL \$** Name on Card: _____ Expiry Date: ___ /___ _ Date: _ OR

Please photocopy and pass this form on to friends, relatives, business associates

Pay by Direct Deposit into BSB 032-084, Acc 12 0216, ABHS P&C Association

Please include your surname when making the deposit.











Master the Art of Wing Chun Kung Fu, just like the famous Bruce Lee and Ip Manl

Wing Chun training provides practical self defence skills that can help keep children and adults safe from violence. Even if they never need to use it, the peace of mind is invaluable!

However, Wing Chun is a lot more than just a martial art. Classes start with the Siu Nim Tao form, kind of a standing meditation. Benefits of this training include:

- ✓ Improved focus and concentration
- Better posture and body awareness
- Physical and mental relaxation
- ✓ Stress relief
- ✓ Practical self defence skills

*Early Bird Bonus: Be one of the first 5 in each issue of Backchat to take up this offer and also receive a \$50 discount off your second class pass purchase and a FREE Hornsby Wing Chun Academy T-Shirt!

Location:Hornsby Uniting Church, 24 William St Hornsby
Contact: Instructor Mark Laing 0425-265-491 wingchun@hwca.com.au
Price: 10 class pass for only \$29. Normal price \$175 adult, \$140 concession.



DISCLAIMER

Advertisements in this newsletter are included as a community service or a source of revenue to offset newsletter production costs. They should not in any way be seen as an endorsement or recommendation by the school.

CAPA BACK PAGE GALLERY







Year 7 Museum of Contemporary Art Excursion "ABORIGINAL ART"



























