



Students enjoying a lunchtime game of football on the multipurpose Futsal court



60th Anniversary Book



The Asquith Boys High School 60 Year Anniversary book has arrived! Purchase is online via TryBooking: www.trybooking.com/BWDUO

At well over 400 pages, this \$60 volunteer-driven hard cover book contains hundreds of photos, illustrations, anecdotes, clippings and reports on school life, and has been produced for past and present ABHS students, families and staff alike. Following online purchase, an email will be sent to you to arrange for book collection in Mt Colah. Postage can also be arranged.

technology + applied studies



duke of edinburgh



inter-school sport



Asquith school's four grade titles



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EDITORIAL

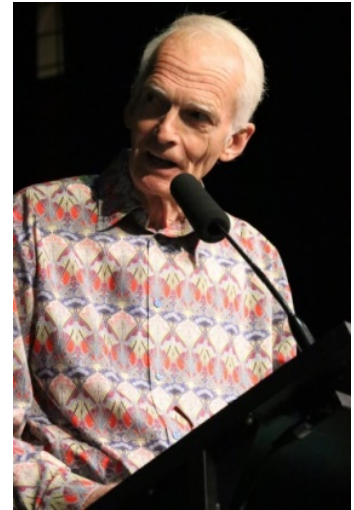
This Newsletter is issued in the third year of the COVID-19 pandemic. That event has impacted our School, like no other in its 63 years. Teaching and learning encountered by students, staff and their families during this time has been very different from that experienced by most former students and teachers.

Apart from State mandated closures, the challenge of staff shortage due to illness was met. Students had lessons on all other days except on state mandated closures. Postponement and cancellation of some events was necessary. Where events such as inter school sport has continued it has been due to the efforts of staff who have 'gone the extra mile'. One such example was given at a recent P & C meeting. The School's sports master prepares schedules of public transport timetables for students who may have otherwise be stranded due to the unavailability of arranged bus transport returning to School following grade sport games in Sydney. That need arose as the result due to the shortage of bus drivers due to COVID-19. Other events previously open to parents and community, such as music performances, concert nights, student art exhibitions, graduation assemblies and others, have been screened live on line or broadcast on U Tube. Some events students have looked forward to for years such as overnight excursions and football tours have been unavoidably cancelled.

In addition to COVID-19, the record-breaking rainfall in coastal NSW this year has impacted opportunities for students. Out of doors classroom activities for students in science, art and other subjects were diminished. None more so than those conducted by the PE staff, this year, more than any in recent memory, has highlighted the need for additional School infrastructure, specifically an indoor sports facility that will ensure essential programs will not continue to be jeopardised by the weather. Discussion of the need for a Multi-Purpose facility for the School commenced in the 1990s. Provision of a Multi-Purpose facility for the School, is a goal the current principal has been working towards for several years. Changing weather patterns and local circumstances indicate this facility is urgently needed now.

The outstanding effort made to continue provision of the best opportunities to students possible in these difficult circumstances deserves recognition. Principal Bryce Grant and his staff have taken every opportunity to ensure programs that could continue have. He reflected at a recent ABHS Parents and Citizens meeting that he has not/will not hide behind the pandemic as a reason for not doing this. The School has a lot to be thankful for quality leadership exercised during this difficult time, that has had the support of staff, students and parents.

Chris Kent – Editor



MESSAGE FROM CURRENT PRINCIPAL BRYCE GRANT

It is with a tinge of sadness that I write this message in this newsletter. After almost 20 years of service to the Old Boys Chris Kent will be signing off on his duties in this role, with this being his last newsletter and contribution to this role. Chris was not only a first enrolment when ABHS opened in 1960, but returned as Head Teacher Visual Arts and made a significant contribution to the education of thousands of boys from this community as an educator.

His contribution to the growth of the 'Old Boys' network since he finished his teaching career has been enormous. Over the years he has attended and represented the Old Boys at Presentation Nights, Graduation Assemblies and the annual HSC High Achievers assembly, as well as attending many Visual Art Exhibitions, MAD Nights and P&C events including the Community Days. His various involvements culminated in the writing / collating/ editing of the ABHS 60th Anniversary Book.

Chris is a wonderful man, father and grandfather who has made an unmeasurable contribution to ABHS for over 30 years. His sincerity and genuine calm and reassuring persona will be missed, not only from the Old Boys coordinating role but ABHS in general.

Thank you, Chris, for all that you do and all that you have done!

Bryce Grant

WHAT IS TO BECOME OF ABHS OLD BOYS?

The School's first Captain writes of the first ABHS Old Boys Union established in 1966, in his 'recalls and reflections' piece, in this Newsletter. More about that enterprise can be read in this year's published book; 'Asquith Boys High School, Celebrating 60 Years, 1960 – 2020'. That book is highly recommended. It is beautifully designed, entertaining and informative, and very robust. My copy has withstood many hundreds of searches this year and it still performs as new because of its strong binding.

This Old Boys Newsletter will be the last of this series as the current Editor is finishing in this role and standing down from being the ABHS Old Boy coordinator. My thanks to current and former School Principals, who have supported these endeavours throughout seventeen years. The School owes twenty two Old Boys Newsletters and the 60th Anniversary Book to the strong ABHS community; including past students and parents, together with former and current staff.

Some future possibilities for managing the ABHS Alumni and communication

One or more ABHS Old Boy members might see an opportunity to use communication technologies as a means to further develop membership and communication? Recent ABHS School Principals have provided an Old Boy email account to ensure support for former students and staff located across Australia and around the world. Please contact current Principal Bryce Grant, or myself for more information.

Will a current member of School Staff adopt the ABHS alumni group? Some Sydney public schools make this provision.

Chris Kent

THE SCHOOL'S 60TH ANNIVERSARY BOOK

Volunteers from the ABHS community produced this 440 page volume, of which they are justifiably proud. Former students researched press articles from what seemed like kilometres of microfilm in the Hornsby Library. Current and former staff saw value in turning over their collections of photos, 35mm slides, floppy discs and CDs, anecdotes and recollections of their ABHS School life. School archives were searched. Former students and teachers wrote articles and shared illustrations from their Schooldays as well as donating seed funding to help defray printing costs. All manner of other tasks were performed by yet more volunteers who scanned drafts for proof-readers, and printed advertising flyers. The effort of the many was coordinated by a couple of additional volunteers; super talented book designer and parent; Lucy Bal, and Chris Kent the Editor. More detailed recognition of all contributors is acknowledged in the book.

Asquith Boys High School CELEBRATING 60 YEARS: 1960 – 2020, is available in hard cover. Being section stitched and bound, it is very robust, as my frequently used copy testifies. At \$60, plus extra if postage is needed, it is excellent value. You can only purchase a copy online via the following TryBooking link: <http://www.trybooking.com/BWDUO>. To date, well over half the print run has been sold to subscribers in all Australian States and the ACT, as well as recipients overseas.

Chris Kent

HAVE YOU BOUGHT YOUR COPY YET?

The Asquith Boys' High School 60th Year celebratory book, warts 'n' all, is receiving some great feedback.

Here's what the Local's think of 'ABHS Celebrating 60 Years 1960-2020'.

"Congratulations on a fantastic production. The ABHS Celebrating 60 Years Book is truly an amazing achievement. The vast collection of photos covering so many aspects of school life and the information about the rich history of ABHS makes really enjoyable reading. I can see why the book took three years to produce."

Mary-Anne Barnes, Art Teacher: 1978-79, 1982-86.

"I have read ABHS Celebrating 60 Years 1960-2020, from cover to cover and what a tome, what a great piece of work, what a great book! Thanks to you and the team. You have produced something that shall live for ever and be full of memories for me. Thank you also for allowing me to contribute (financially) to this great work. I hope that this book gets into the hands of all current and ex ABHS attendees as it really does encapsulate a great chunk of history - history that is worth preserving."

Paul Mitchell; student; 1966 –71

"My copy of ABHS Celebrating 60 Years 1960-2020 arrived today and have had a quick look through.

Congratulations to all involved in creating such a comprehensive document. I will take time and go through the book slowly and enjoy the memories it will bring back. I read at the bottom of page 16 ... "Sadly we have lost Ray Kench..." thought I was going to read my own obituary then realised it was written by Ellis Reynolds when referring to my promotion to another school. Had a good laugh when I shared it with (my wife) Frances. I have very fond memories of Asquith, all the staff, many of the boys, and the various roles I had when I was there. I can honestly say it was the happiest 19 years of my 40 year teaching career."
Ray Kench, Geography teacher and Sports Master. 1960– 79

"I received my copy of the 60th Anniversary Book yesterday and just wanted to congratulate your team on a job very well done. The book certainly covers a lot of history, and is set out really well. There isn't much about the early years (1962 to 1965) when I was a student, but there probably wasn't a lot of history recorded at the time because the technology just wasn't there, and as stated at the start of the book, it's an incomplete 60-year history dependant on what was contributed, found, and what could be fitted in. The book is beautifully printed & presented, so congratulations again to you and all

involved, a fantastic effort."
Ian Thomson; student; 1962-'65

"I was very pleased to receive my copy of the 60th Anniversary book and was completely overwhelmed with its quality. Congratulations to you and the team of people who put in the many hours to make this volume possible, the book is a tribute to you all. I thank you and I think all ex-students owe you a mammoth vote of thanks for capturing the first sixty years of the school's history so faithfully."
John Gibbeson; student, 1961-'65

"I have just purchased my copy of the ABHS 60th anniversary book and am just blown away at the incredible quality of the research and the overall publication. I have had the most thoroughly enjoyable evening reading through the book and having a laugh seeing a few photos of me and articles I wrote for Backchat! Even a cheeky centrefold photo of my late Uncle Stephen Berry! What wonderful memories the book has brought back for me! I want to express my sincere thanks to all involved in the book, and for ex (and some current!) ABHS staff providing me with the most fabulous 6 years of my teenage years."
Michael Edwards; student 1997-2002



"We received our book in the mail about a month ago. My husband is an 'old boy' and we have thoroughly enjoyed pouring over the pages. What an amazing job! Congratulations to the team for capturing the history of ABHS."
Caroline Cooke; Visual Arts teacher, 1999 - 2021

Photo above: Chris Kent, ABHS Old Boys Newsletter Editor, Dawn Kil Kelly, ABHS P+C President, Lucy Bal – book committee member.

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DAVID WILSON FORMER PIONEER STUDENT; 1960 – '64, RECALLS AND REFLECTS



David Wilson speaking at the 40th Anniversary dinner.

Sixty or so years ago the events that moulded us - moulded our school - can hardly be recalled, but a few of those times, especially concerning people, are just as vivid as when they occurred. Good memories. But there is always a danger when being nostalgic to romanticise the good things, and to ignore the not so good.

Just like seatbelts not being mandatory, things were simpler, almost predictable - but we pre-teens were in the vanguard of remarkable changes that were sweeping throughout the world and to change it forever. Mostly for the better. For example the introduction of the contraceptive pill empowered women to take more control over their own lives, and chauvinistic attitudes to women were forced to change with the advent of feminism. Our wild music made our parents cringe - the Beatles, Rolling Stones, along with the fashion, hair styles, and dance steps. These were the beginnings of a revolt against the establishment, and against questionable archaic traditions that had persisted for so long.

You see there was still corporal punishment. Bullying was rife. Minimal sex education. The general attitude to any person of diversity, including aborigines, was disgraceful, mainly due to ignorance. No support structures for those who were in need. Conscription to a war in Vietnam. Drink driving, road accidents. Many of us did poorly in the fifth year "Leaving Certificate" and repeated, aiming to get better grades to win a Commonwealth Scholarship to university.

We knew something exciting was happening, and most of us revelled in it. Just imagine being the first wave of students in a new school - we never had a grade above us! So we were obliged to forge traditions, some of which perhaps still stand today. But apart from the all-suffering staff, we never really had role models. We were precocious, promiscuous and had to grow up quickly. As a result, enduring friendships were forged.

When we left school - jobs were easier to secure then - some wanted nothing more to do with the place (and still haven't until this day). But others had happier memories and did not want to lose contact with each other. So the first Old Boys' Union [sic] was established in 1966 with 66 members, and flourished for several years.

Early Presidents were David Wilson, Richard Coates, and Ian MacKay.

Newsletters and a free copy of "The Northerly" kept members in touch. Social functions included bar-b-ques, car rallies, ferry cruises, theatre outings and dances. But a formal ball in 1971 with the A.G.H.S. Old Girls Union, although attracting 160 people, was a financial disaster. This, and the fact that most of the members were from the first pioneering year, with little interest from later years, meant that the Union eventually became moribund - until the current A.B.H.S. Old Boys Club which commenced in 2006.

The "pioneer" year group, though shrinking in numbers, still meets periodically due the laudable efforts of Stig Falster and Jim Hobbs. The Pioneer former student group has its own website, where old boys can happily wallow in their nostalgia.



David Wilson (1st ABHS School Captain, 1964) addressing a morning student assembly in 1985 with Principal A. Hughes and School Captain Shane Bilham in the background.

Footnote:

David has remained a strong supporter of ABHS.

He is now living in Adelaide.

'The battered waste bin (we called them garbage bins in those days) at the bottom of this photo is testimony to many school yard lunch time cricket games, played in that era'.

HSC HIGH ACHIEVERS ASSEMBLIES

2022 witnessed the discontinuation of a 17 year old tradition of an ABHS old boy addressing the first formal assembly, which acknowledges the HSC High Achievers. The unpredictability of COVID-19, and the impact that had on a wide range of school events has been a factor. Former students who have made addresses to those High Achievers Award Assemblies are acknowledged in this Newsletter.

Dr. Hayden Beck, a School graduate from 2001, delivered his address in February 2020

Dr Hayden Beck gained his doctorate in Philosophy (Science) in 2015. He is currently working as a Senior Ecologist for the RPS Group. Hayden graduated from Asquith Boys H.S. with an outstanding HSC result in 2001. Enjoy his speech below.



Parents, teachers, award recipients and students,

First up, congratulations on those receiving awards today. Nice work fellas. But I'd also like to acknowledge all the students here at Asquith Boys that are putting in their best efforts.....your rewards will soon come.

So guys, my names Hayden Beck. I went to Asquith Boys High from 1998 – 2001. My old brother Mitch and younger brothers Ryan and Alex also went to Asquith Boys, so our family knows the school well.

I think the last time I was in this school was for this very ceremony. So it seems right to come back and a bit about what life's like after school. I know it can be pretty hard to imagine....but I assure you, it comes around very quick. I'd also like to let you know what the school gave me, and the opportunity you have being an Asquith Boys.

Since finishing here on this very day in 2001 and walking out the gates for the last time, I decided to follow my passion for the ocean. It took me to 30 countries, created bonds with people all around the world, gain a doctorate degree in Marine Ecology and introduced me to my beautiful partner Kira. My passion for nature also led me to a career in ecology – which is the study of plants and animals. I currently work as a Senior Environmental Consultant in Newcastle, and rarely miss a good surf with Kira.

ABHS provided me with the right environment to do my best. And that's what I've always strived to do – my best. I developed this attitude at this school. It has been important in getting me to where I am today – in my career and generally in life.

Before coming to Asquith, I was a pretty average student. I was absolutely shocking at English - particularly spelling. But when I got here, I found the encouragement and personal support from the teachers that gave me the momentum to succeed. I tell you guys, if you show the teachers you are keen and put the effort in to do your best, they will be in your corner and push you toward your goals.

So, I want to personally thank the teachers here for their efforts. Some of which are still here, such as Mr Laing and Mr Blackwood.

It's an interesting and exciting time for you guys, particularly for the senior students and recent graduates who are starting to think about their next steps. But it can also be a confusing time. There can often be many pressures on your decisions – what your parents think, what society says is the right way to do it and worrying about how much you may be paid.

What I'd like to share with you is two lessons that I've learnt, and I hope they can help you too.

1. Follow your passion

2. Work hard for it – never give up

On that first point – passion. It's important to follow your passion, and do something that you find interesting and captivating, as on average each of us will spend around 90,000 hrs of our time at work. That's a long time to be doing something you don't like.

As a kid, I loved nature. Whether it be catching crabs at the beach or cicadas in the bush....nature is truly my passion. So - I genuinely enjoy working as an ecologist. Luckily my brothers also followed their passions and love their jobs:

My older brother Mitch loved planes from a young age. And now is a Qantas pilot - where he thrives.

My younger brother Ryan always loved working with his hands, making things and working outside – he is now a builder and a good one at that.

My youngest brother Alex is a caring person who likes helping people out. He also finds the human body fascinating, having been a high-level soccer player. He is now a nurse and loves supporting others to get their health and life back on track.

Guys, please take the time to think about what you are passionate about when thinking about your careers. And if you are brave enough, here's a challenge for you - reach out to people in the industry to ask about their jobs. I know I'd be stoked to hear from someone at High School interested in ecology!

You have a passion, decided where you want to head. You probably won't get there unless you will have to work hard to make it happen!

What does this mean? Strive to be the best at it! This will require commitment, focus and discipline. It means making time to do the work needed – in School, University, TAFE....wherever you need to go to get there. It also means turning the play station off – which I know can be tough...

Part of this is also never giving up! Even if you don't get the marks to study your desired course – it doesn't stop there. If you are passionate about it, you can always find a way to make it happen. For instance my brother Mitch didn't get the marks to do the course to become a pilot. So he started out working wherever he could, saving toward getting his private pilot licence. He then worked checking in luggage at Sydney airport, then working as a flight attendant. He then got his commercial pilot licence, flying sky diving planes in Queensland and sea planes in the Northern Territory. After getting experience flying there, he then got a start at Virgin flying longhaul to LA. Finally, after studying hard and making the right connections, he landed a job with Qantas – a life long dream. The difference between my brother and many others who failed to get there – he was more passionate and worked harder to get there.

Are you guys brave enough to follow your passion, and to work hard to get there?

Now some of you may be sitting there saying – what is this guy going on about? I don't have a passion?

If this is you, try some new things out when you get a chance. If something seems interesting, have a go. You can also ask yourself some questions – as passion might not be obvious:

- *What am I doing when I lose track of time?*
- *What do I look forward to doing? It's not a chore or boring?*

Once you've worked out your passion, do your very best to achieve it. And if you do, the teachers here at Asquith Boys (and teachers after school) will be right behind you, helping you get there.

All the best with your futures guys!



(R-L) Dr Hayden Beck, Mr French, Chris Kent

Saber Attar Motlagh, a School graduate from 2017, delivered his address in February 2021



Thank you Dominic (Senior Prefect – Dominic Tony-Jiare) and thank you Mr Grant, (Principal) for inviting me back today to speak to you all. It is a massive privilege and a huge honour to be standing here presenting.

Some of you may already remember me, so I'll keep my background short. I was a former student and captain of Asquith Boys Highschool, graduating in 2017. Upon finishing my studies, I spent the next 3 years at University completing a Bachelor of Information Technology as Dom has already mentioned. Throughout my time at university, I have managed to always be working alongside studying, finally starting a full-time position as of December last year in my chosen field. It's a little crazy to think that 4 years ago I was sitting in a chair like you all today listening to former student give a similar presentation.

Life out of school is a blend of known habits and new challenges. Similar and different all at the same time. Somethings you will face will require an adjustment, but many routines remain familiar. For example, you will be responsible and accountable for the choices and decisions you make as an adult way more than you have experienced so far in your lives. But you will still at the same time get up every morning to get ready for work or University instead of high school.

Enough about me and life after school, we are all here to celebrate the magnificent achievement of the boys sitting here in front me being awarded today. Year 12 is stressful enough as it is, so I congratulate you all for the amazing results you have achieved considering the many unique challenges faced in the unprecedented year that was 2020. You have worked hard to reach this point, and your hard work and determination is being recognised today, and you all should be incredibly proud.

Three bits of advice I recommend you keep with you when you walk out of the assembly today. Firstly, maintain that same drive and hardworking attitude that got you here today for the future. In school you have put in the effort to achieve great things, and the same applies for post-graduation. Think of life as a gym membership. If you want to go to the gym and get super fit, but only show up once or twice month, you won't get results. If you put the work in and train hard, you will look like Rock in no time. If you maintain that mindset of working hard and apply it to everything that you do, success will follow you were ever you go.

Secondly, don't be scared of failure. As long as you give your best to everything, you have no reason to be scared or ashamed of not reaching the mark. Author Chris Bradford once said 'There is no failure except no longer trying'. Use mistakes and missteps to propel you onto bigger and better things. Learn from them and come back stronger than before.

Last but not least, this advice was actually given to me by my mother but one I live by every day. Treat others like you want to be treated. At the end of the day, we are all human, all living together in the same society. Be kind and respectful towards others, and you will receive the same in droves.

To the boys sitting in the classrooms who still have a few months or years of school left, look at what these students have achieved, and set yourself the goal of achieving your best like they have. Work hard and put the effort in during your time at school, it will set you nicely to follow similar habits when you to graduate. Most importantly, enjoy your time at school. You may think all you want is to quickly grow up and move on with your life, but once you are out of school you will see that in some ways, you actually miss it. The memories you make with your friends and teachers will stick with you for ever. Enjoy it while you can. Teachers, students and high achievers, thank you for listening to my speech today. Boys, you may not remember everything I said today however if you take away three simple things, I'll be happy. Success is earned not given, work hard and treat others with respect.

FORMER STUDENTS ADDRESSES TO HIGH ACHIEVING HSC STUDENT FORMAL ASSEMBLIES

Since 2007 the School has supported a program of inviting former students to address the High Achievers assembly in February.

YEAR of Address	FORMER STUDENT	STUDENT YEARS AT ABHS
2007	Colin Scully	1966 – '71
2008	Gareth Cole	1960 – '64
2009	Dr Jeremy Cahill	1960 – '64
2009	Lloyd Babb SC	1979 – '84
2010	Bruce Northcott	1973 – '78
2011	Darren Riding	1982 – '87
2012	Stig Falster	1960 – '64
2012	Mick Marr	1965 – '66
2013	John Hartigan	1960 – '64
2014	Ian Alwill	1960 – '64
2015	Stephen Pickering	1974 – '79
2016	John Reynolds	1969 – '74
2017	Alan Hayes	- '66
2018	Christopher Kent	1960 – '64
2019	Adam Hawse	1988 – '92
2020	Hayden Beck	1996 - 2001
2021	Saber Attar Motlagh	2012 - 2017

WELCOME RECENT NEW ABHS OLD BOYS MEMBERS

Scott Langtree;	1975 – '80	Graham Garner;	2014 – '19
Greg Street;	1963 – '69	Prof. Ross Stephens;	1960 – '64
Adam Chivers;	1982 – '86	Steven Vandertouw	
Leon Sadubin; staff	1973 – '76	R.S. Martyn;	1967 – '72
Saber Attar Motlagh;	2012 - 2017	James Warner;	1960 – '64
Bob Lawton staff;	1965 – '66	Harry Wirth;	1960 – '64
Bill Shute; father of Peter, Tony and David; sons at ABHS in late 1970 – 80s.			

FORMER ABHS STUDENT NEWS

ABHS student Oscar Enasio has been named in the Junior Wallabies Squad. Oscar is the second international sporting representative from ABHS this year.

Corey Miller is representing Australia in the One Day Cricket international 19's World Championship.

Harrison Endycott continues his golfing success and is currently playing in the PGA Tour.

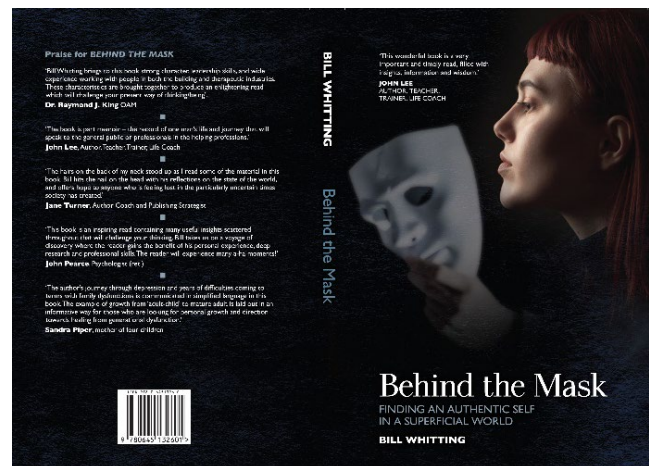
FORMER STUDENTS WHO HAVE EACH PUBLISHED A BOOK IN THE LAST 12 MONTHS

These former students enrolled in the first intake of ABHS students, in 1960. Now in their mid 70s, they share some of their life's experiences, knowledge and passion.

'Behind The Mask, Finding An Authentic Self In A Superficial World' by Bill Whitting

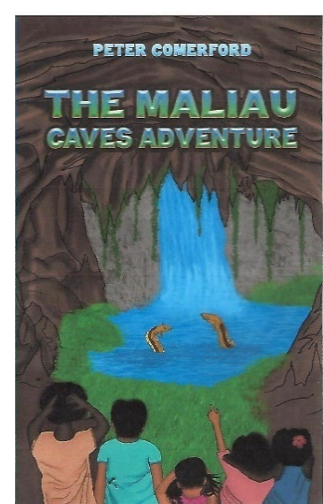
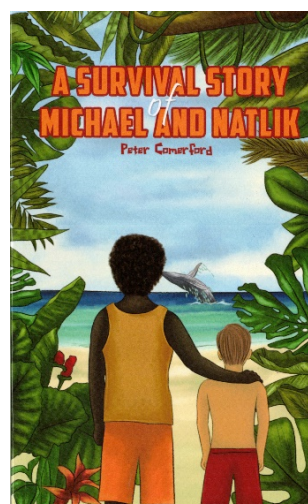
Bill Whitting joined the building industry after leaving school with his Intermediate Certificate in 1962. Following 30 years as a member of the Master Builders Association, Bill changed direction to pursue qualifications with The Counsellors and Psychotherapists Association of NSW - a quest in part for answers to his personal life struggles.

This led Bill into advocacy for farmers struggling with depression and loneliness. A sought-after presenter and speaker at national conferences and men's gatherings, Bill is known for his compassion, his insight and for 'walking the talk'. His book *'Finding An Authentic Self In A Superficial World'* is now available.



'A Survival Story of Michael and Natlik' and 'The Maliau Caves Adventure' by Peter Comerford

Following his graduation with a Leaving Certificate in 1964, **Peter Comerford** was drawn to teaching. Peter completed teacher training at the Australian School of Pacific Administration with a view to teaching in New Guinea. He taught at Madina and Utu High Schools in New Ireland and Popondetta High School in Oro Province where he became headmaster, before gaining Principalship of the Panguna International Primary School on Bougainville. Civil unrest and the closure of the giant Panguna copper mine resulted in Peter returning to Sydney with his family, to head the Primary section of Redfield College.



Peter's fiction and non fiction books, drawing on his experiences in New Guinea, are widely acclaimed and make enjoyable and memorable reading. Recent fiction volumes have the upper Primary – junior Secondary school age market in mind, including *'A Survival Story of Michael and Natlik'* for which a sequel is currently being worked on. Peter is currently checking the proof copy for *'The Maliau Caves Adventure'* which is planned for release before Christmas.

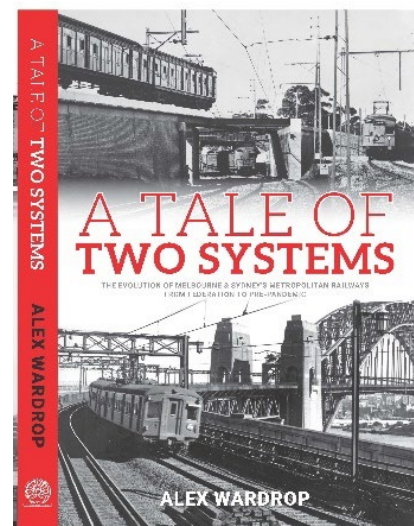
'A Tale Of Two Systems' by Alex Wardrop

This book narrates the comparative development of the Sydney and Melbourne metropolitan rail systems.

How did the unique characteristics of these two systems develop? What were the defining technological changes adopted by these systems? 'A Tale Of Two Systems' is a fascinating insight into electric railways and urban development drawing on Alex's decades of experience working in the rail industry, profusely illustrated in full colour.

Pre-sale orders are now open. This book will be available in October 2022, available from the Australian Railways Historical Society bookshop, for \$65 + postage.

Email: sales@arhsnsw.com.au

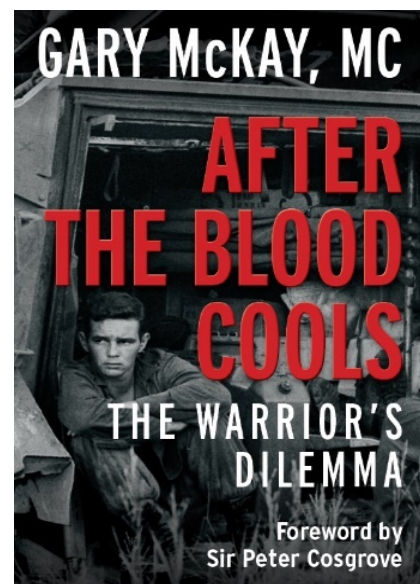


'After The Blood Cools, The Warrior's Dilemma' by Gary McKay

Gary McKay served as a rifle platoon commander in Vietnam in 1971 and was awarded the Military Cross for his gallantry during the Battle of Nui Le, the last major battle fought by Australian and New Zealand forces in South Vietnam.

After 30 years military service, Gary retired from the army. He has continued to share his experiences and provide support to other veterans and their families through his work as a battlefield guide leading tours to Vietnam, and as a historian and non-fiction writer.

Fifty years on, in his latest book 'After the Blood Cools – The Warrior's Dilemma' his memoir recaps his full military experiences.. From being conscripted and training for war, to the sudden violence of combat in Vietnam. From being wounded at the Battle of Nui Le through the long road to recovery. And the unexpected demons that haunted him decades after the fighting had stopped.



Reflecting on his experiences, Gary explores The Warrior's Dilemma: how do ordinary people cope with the overwhelming mental and physical challenges of combat? How does it change them, and what emotional baggage do they carry from the battlefield?

This important book sheds new light on what it really means to go to war, and asks the essential question: how can we better support our frontline fighters, our men and women in uniform and our first responders?

Gary's previous best-selling books include *In Good Company: One Man's War in Vietnam, Bullets, Beans and Bandages*, *Delta Four* and his book with Bob Buick *All Guts & No Glory*.

One can watch Gary's book launch interview hosted by Mat McLachlan with Sir Peter Cosgrove, at: [After the Blood Cools – a Warrior's Dilemma](#)

MERVYN BROWN SCHOOL HALL SIGNAGE



Thank you to the School's P&C for their organisation and investment in the new sign for the School Hall. The late Mervyn Brown was Asquith Boys high School's first Principal. This idea was first recommended by former P&C President Tempe Bevan and implemented by the current P&C group. It is strongly endorsed by ABHS Old Boys.



Staff enjoying their weekly Thursday morning tea outside the Mervyn Brown Hall

Mervyn Brown Scholarship Appeal

SCHOOL SONG: "GROW IN WISDOM"
Words and Music by M. W. Brown

3. Let us remember what we owe
To those who planned in former years

This Scholarship was set up during the School's 50th Anniversary in 2010. It funds a senior student annually, for two years.

If you can assist, please refer to the details attached.

Mervyn Brown Scholarship Payment Advice

If paying by **cash** please enclose this Payment Advice in the envelope:

☐ **CASH for TOTAL \$ _____**

Please include your name and contact details:

Name:

Contact details:

Address:.....

.....

Phone:

.....

Payment by **Credit Card** is via the ABHS website: asquithboy-h.school@det.nsw.gov.au

Select: MAKE A PAYMENT, from the top of the ABHS Home Page. Enter your Given Name and Surname and the current date in the Date of Birth fields, then follow the prompts.

ABHS BARISTA CAFÉ

Many of us enjoy a daily coffee, or more. ABHS student baristas are well into their second decade of running their Café, now serving coffees at Tuesday lunchtimes and Thursday recess, from the School Canteen. The Café has seen several changes of venue and at least one upgrade of technology. Pre COVID-19, the Barista team hosted special morning teas for local retirement villages and other visiting groups. Two training intakes each year train year 9 students to take over the running the following year. More about ABHS Barista Boys can be read in the recently published 60th Anniversary book.



Some of the current ABHS baristas ready to brew and serve.



Barista Boys Café Shop front at the Canteen.



Staff member ordering their coffee.



Pre-paid coffee cards help to manage regular orders.

The Year 7 Café Club, meet on Thursday mornings with their teacher patron. The meeting provides the opportunity to discuss topics of mutual interest, and to learn more about each other. Each week the Year Adviser selects a handful of boys to enjoy this special time together.



ASQUITH BOYS HIGH P&C TRIVIA NIGHT 2022

Calling Old Boys to help defend our last ABHS Trivia Night title. This will be the School's first fundraising since the 2019 Trivia Night when Old Boys won the best dressed table prize. See photo. Wives and partners are most welcome to join this event.

An Old Boys Table, for 10 has been booked with trybooking for Saturday 19th November 2022, 6.00pm – 11.30pm in the recently named Mervyn Brown School Hall. Let me know if you can join our group, for a cost of \$15, payable on the night. BYO food and drink. Your Newsletter Editor has prepaid a table. Other Old Boys Trivia tables can be pre-booked as demand requires. For that reason it is important that you signal me your intention. Please reply to: christopher.kent7@det.nsw.edu.au.

Theme for the night is the 1960s. That means dress, table display and trivia questions will reflect the 60s. There will be plenty of opportunities to win other prizes throughout the evening. The theme for the 2019 trivia Night was 'Second Childhood'. That provided the opportunity for hastily convening the Mervyn Brown Choristers for a one off rendition of a couple of verses of the School Song, accompanied by former student Dr. Jeremy Cahill on flute. If a pianist can be found to play the School's Grand, this year's event may be just the occasion for another crack?

The 2022 Trivia Night is an ABHS P & C event.

Chris Kent



THANK YOU ASQUITH BOYS HIGH P&C

The School's Parents and Citizens are to be congratulated for their vision, work and investment in School grounds improvement.



Flowerbox against Admin Block wall. Built by the GA, Murray Robson.



New garden beds built by Construction students with flags at half mast in recognition of passing of Queen Elizabeth II.

SCIENCE LABS

When I returned to Asquith Boys as Head Teacher Science, it had been 21 Years since I had left ABHS as a student. Back in 1980's the labs were looking their age and by 2017 they were basically like teaching in a museum!

Thankfully, all the Science Labs have been upgraded over the last 5 years and we now have some of the best-equipped labs in the state. The final lab to be upgraded was Lab 1 in April this year. The is now the dedicated lab for Chemistry and the home room of Ms An Phan who was treating the boys to a lung dissection on the day that the 'Old Boys Newsletter Editor' Chris Kent came for a visit. Even in todays technological world, the boys still love to do traditional animal dissections and Ms Phans Year 8 class had a first-hand experience of seeing and touching a set of lungs and heart from a sheep.



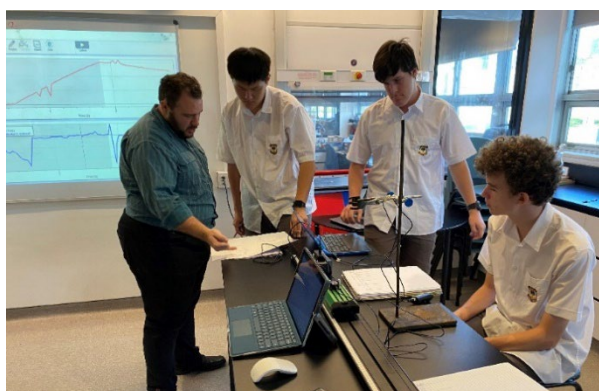
The labs are very different from the previous generation. All of the taps, sinks and gas are located around the perimeter and the desks are mobile which means there is far more flexibility in the way the lab can be set up depending on the nature of the lesson. This is combined with the latest wireless projectors and Bluetooth data logging equipment and the boys now have the full experience of Science in the 21st Century.

Very different provision for learning as contrasted in the 1967 ABHS Year 10 Science class photo.

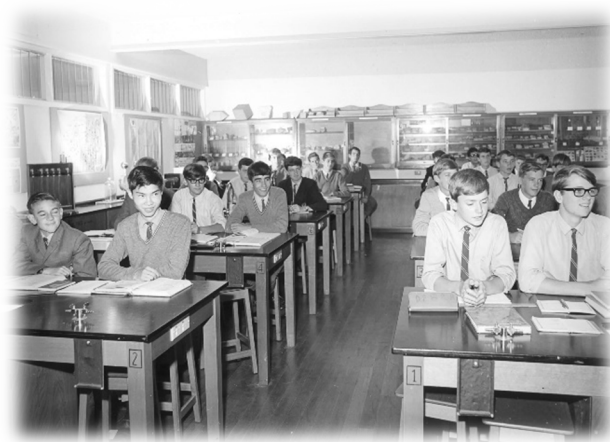
Mr Stuart Robertson – Head Teacher Science



Ms Phan teaching in the new Lab 1 - 2022



Mr Bonser teaching Physics in Lab 5 - 2022

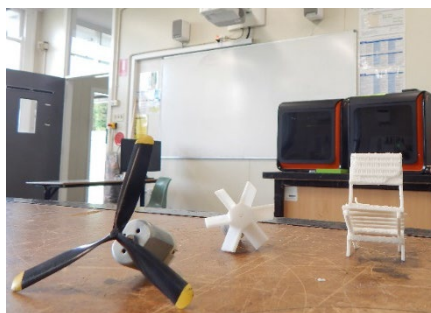


1967 Year 10 ABHS Science Class

IN AND AROUND THE SCHOOL GROUNDS



Recently installed Laser Cutter in the former metal work room



Laser printed student projects



Tiered seating under construction alongside the Hall on the Jersey Street side being built by the 'School to Work' students under the guidance of Murray Robson, GA.



Landscaping along Peats Ferry Rd (formally Pacific Hwy) school frontage



Native garden at school gate entrance



An additional demountable Kitchen

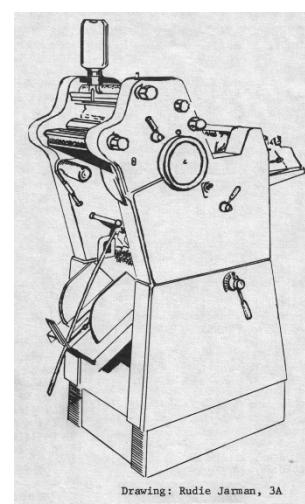
SCHOOL ARCHIVES

The School Librarian, among her many roles, is currently working to review and organise School archives. This will result in a more coherent and accessible School resource.

Recently a former 1972 graduate, who identifies himself as R.S. Martyn, donated to School archives his copy of a 1970 student publication; 'Fehler'. This foolscap production, looks to have been printed on the School's Offset Duplicator, which was claimed to be only the second of its type in a state school, and printing more than one colour. Fehler was published for student entertainment, to raise funds for a forthcoming School dance.

If you, or former student mates have unwanted School items of historic interest they may be relocated to ABHS Archives if mailed or delivered.

Adjacent 1970 Fehler articles, and a contemporary student drawing of the Offset Duplicator are included here.



Drawing: Rudie Jarman, 3A

CONFESSION OF THE YEAR

As this is a student paper, I feel that the following ghastly revelation can be printed without fear of the school's chief henchman catching me.

Last Wednesday, early before school began, I secretly entered the Maths staff-room, safely negotiating the highly sophisticated alarm system and silently removing several huge iron bars from the door with a jack hammer.

Once inside this terrifying room, full of the unknown and reputed to be haunted by the ghosts of students who died while calculating the decimal equivalent of Pi. I proceeded to commit the most daring crime in the history of ABHS. By stealing Mr Johnson's basketball whistle, I would instantly be idolised by my fellow students.

Carefully I broke open the drawer, which contained his favourite jumper and bright pink rubber duck. Out of sheer spite, I decided to take his 'Uncle Scrooge Annual' in addition to the much coveted whistle.

I hastily fled the room, only to be confronted by a frightful werewolf, which on closer inspection, turned out to be the mad cleaner of G Block, alleged to inhabit the Lab 4 fish tanks, from which she emerges each night. Foaming at the mouth, she gargled that I should report to the warden.

I ran past, hoping to escape her broom, but copped it on the shin and fell to the basketball courts below. Fortunately I was saved by some well trained but insignificant first formers, who proved ideal cushion to soften my fall. I then ordered them

THE NOISIEST ROOM IN THE SCHOOL.

Since the new rules were laid down about borrowing books from the school library, strange things have been going on.... plots against the establishment, the theft of school property (which includes a Bren-gun, several teachers' cars, 6,248 canes, 4 tons of chalk, 402 blackboard dusters, one male teacher, four female teachers and one rubber duck). Police feel that these crimes against the establishment are results of secret meetings held in the library by extremist groups who disguise themselves as students.

One report is that the librarian is mixed up with these radical signs of uprising.... One party which has emerged from these meetings is a group of students and teachers who believe in "perfect mind and perfect body" and produce members with unbelievable powers, but lately these groups have had low enlistment figures, so as a last resort they have been trying to recruit some of the school's super heroes... which have (naturally) been unsuccessful.

Good Guys unite! Fight the radicals who use the Senior Study and Book Room as haunts. Thanks to the help of Bean-Man, Jim Neighbourly and Damien Porks these groups will soon cease to exist.

MEDIAEVAL TORTURE CULT EXPOSED.

The unaccountable disappearances of language students over the last few years was solved the other day when prominent members of the language department openly confessed that they had tortured and disposed of certain students who had failed respective languages.

One student, previously threatened with death if he attempted to reveal these primitive goings-on revealed everything on hearing that the teachers concerned had openly revealed their sins.

This miserable wretch reports-

"They made me listen to tape recordings of the school song played alternately in French, German, Latin and Hindustani. However, even under this unbearable strain I would not break," he raved on incoherently, "but when they forced me to listen to 'Selected General Assemblies Reproduced in Living Stereo Sound', it was the last straw. I submitted and promised to become a Secondary High School teacher at the age of 16, and as a reward for this sacrifice they sent me to Callum Park, although I'm not sure whether it was a result of my ordeal or my insane promise.

ARTICLES FROM VARIOUS BACKCHAT IN BRIEF EDITIONS

NEW SCHOOL CAPS FOR YEARS 7 – 10

I was able to present to Years 7 to 9 their new school cap, on behalf of the school and in conjunction with the Asquith Boys High School 60th Anniversary. The cap has been designed in consultation with the student leadership groups and P&C, and will now be considered part of the Asquith Boys High School uniform. Students are only to wear this cap to school as part of their school uniform.



If your son was absent when they were distributed please send them to see me for their cap. All caps have a name tag and upon receiving their cap students wrote their name on the tag. If any student would like to purchase a cap, they will be available from the school canteen.

There are a limited number of portal chargers left over from Year 11 and 12's, so Year 10 students will be offered the opportunity to choose between receiving a school cap or the portal charger as their gift.

Mr Bryce Grant, Principal - October 2020

REMEMBRANCE DAY SERVICE – WEDNESDAY 11 NOVEMBER 2020

Thank you to Ms Cufre and her Elective History class for their organisation and the conducting of the Remembrance Service on Wednesday's morning assembly. This service marked the 102nd Anniversary of this significant event in our history, where so many young men and women gave so much for their country. The handmade red poppies (for the men who served and lost their lives) and white poppies (in recognition of the females and children who lost their lives) were an excellent addition to this very special ceremony. They were worn proudly by students and staff throughout the day.

Several students read moving profiles of young men who lived in the local area, before giving their life serving their country. This was a particularly moving part of the service. Our Master of Ceremonies, Nicholas Read, summed it up best when he said: 'Those in victory, lost just as much as those who were defeated in this war'.

'Lest we forget'

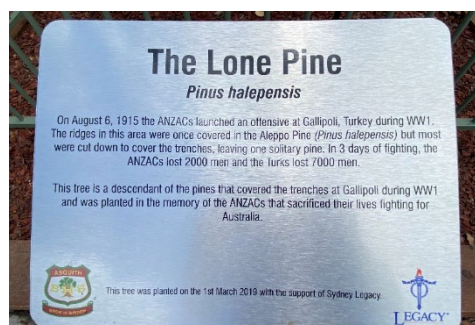


LEGACY AND THE LONE PINE - 2020

To commemorate the strong links between ABHS and Legacy, a 'Lone Pine' has been planted at the front of the school.

The Aleppo Pine (*Pinus halepensis*) was grown from seeds collected from a specimen outside of the Australian War Memorial in Canberra.

Thank you to Legacy for donating funds for the Lone Pine and new sign.



George Moscos (right), former Head Teacher HSIE, has provided massive advocacy for Legacy over the decades at ABHS.

This is acknowledged further in the 60th Anniversary Book.



INDIGENOUS CULTURE TOUR – GURINGAI COUNTRY - MARCH 2021

Last Friday, 12 March, the Indigenous students in the school went on a tour to Guringai Country to learn more about their culture and to engage with a local elder.

We met Uncle Laurie Bimson near West Head and he gave the students an introduction to Aboriginal tools as well as lessons on how to identify bush tucker.

The boys learnt how to throw a boomerang, what a sarsaparilla tree looks like and Uncle Laurie told the boys what it meant to be an Aboriginal man. All students made a connection with their culture and the land by painting themselves with ochre.

We are looking forward to welcoming Uncle Laurie into our school at some point later this year.

Mr Timmins – Aboriginal Education Coordinator

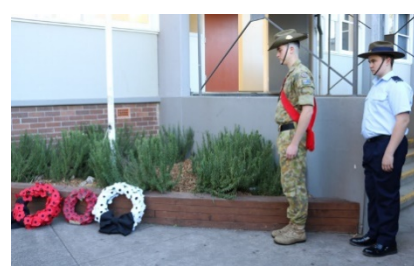


ANZAC DAY CEREMONY - MONDAY 26 APRIL, 2021

Mr Timmins and his Year 9/10 Elective History class conducted a very special morning assembly in recognition of ANZAC Day. A number of the students in this class read tributes and stories from their relatives and local heroes who were involved in war efforts over the past 100 years.

Wreaths were laid at the base of our National flag in the quad, by myself and the School Captains to acknowledge the service of these heroic men and women in the time of war. Declan Wagshall's playing of the 'Last Post' and the 'Reveille' was exceptional.

Our School Captains - Cameron Hay and Harrison Hegarty represented Asquith Boys High School long standing tradition of attending the Hornsby RSL Dawn Service on ANZAC Day with a number of staff also in attendance at this very special service, on this very important national day.



WEIGHTS ROOM

Recently the weights room was upgraded by expanding the area and size of facility and the purchase of more equipment for this excellent facility.

