

ABHS Old Boys

Newsletter

Vol 19

INTRODUCING 10TH ABHS PRINCIPAL BRYCE GRANT

An Interview with Bryce Grant

Bryce applied for the position of School Principal, in response to the advertised vacancy, following the retirement of Terry Griffiths, late 2016. Being the successful applicant, Bryce was appointed the 10th Principal of Asquith Boys High School in January this year. Bryce agreed to an interview for ABHS Old Boys.

Good morning Bryce. Can you recall any one experience from you childhood or youth that helped you on the path to become a teacher?

I do remember my first High School PE teacher. He was Stephen Knight a dual international for rugby union and league, who was still playing league for Manly at the time. Mr. Knight was a large, muscular, individual who sparked an interest in me to consider PE teaching as a career. This career was ideally suited to me as I love all sports and have a passion for healthy lifestyles.

I also had a number of other inspiring and engaging teachers throughout my high school years. I was determined to emulate them as a teacher. I regarded them as quality human beings.

(continued on p 4)



WORLD'S GREATEST SHAVE

In March, Asquith Boys High School took part in the World's Greatest Shave. The Leukaemia Foundations World's Greatest Shave is a charity that raises awareness and funds for people battling blood cancer. It encourages people to shave or dye their hair to show their support for the cause and help educate others on the experiences faced by people diagnosed with leukaemia.

A group of 20 boys from years 7-12, including Prefects and SRC members, shaved their heads on the quadrangle in front of a crowd of supporting peers. The boys bravely demonstrated their support for people with blood cancer. Together they ran the most successful World's Greatest Shave campaign the school has ever seen, collectively raising over \$4500 including the Mufti Day gold coin donation.



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EDITORIAL

Asquith BHS Old Boys thanks retiring principal, Terry Griffiths for his strong support, of the ABHS Old Boys Club, which commenced during the first year of his Principalship at the Asquith Boys high School.

An indication of his commitment to the service to public education and to students and staff of Asquith Boys High School is witnessed by his eleven year tenure. Principals choose to stay where they feel most welcome and know they can make their best contribution to youth development. Terry travelled across Sydney for hours each day to fulfill his role. Terry's achievement ranks him as the longest serving principal. The previous tenures of Austen Hughes (1976 – 1985) and Chris Bonnor (1991 – 2000) each of 10 years were the School's greatest.

We wish Terry well with his plans for further community involvement and travel in the years ahead.

Readers may recall the account of talented young ABHS athletes breaking several long-standing School Athletics records, in last year's Old Boys Newsletter. As this talented group of athletes move through the School they continue to leave a trail of broken records.

Lawrence Frederick managed to set 4 records on the School Athletics Day 2017. Firstly Lawrence broke the School's longest standing record. Robb Hirst's 1964 15 Yr Long Jump of 6.02m, is now superseded by Lawrence's jump of 6.09m. In the 15 Years High Jump Lawrence jumped a height of 1.76m, beating M. Lawler's 37 year old record by 1cm. Lawrence then went on to smash Stan Kohlhardt's 42 year old record in the 15 Years Triple Jump, beating the old record by 25cm, hopping, skipping and jumping to a length of 12.65cm. Lawrence's final record was in the 15 Years 100m Hurdles, where he smashed Jackson Tuynman's more recent 2015 record by nearly 1.5 seconds, hurdling in a time of 14.31 seconds.

Jackson Tuynman set his own record on the day in the 17 Years Triple Jump, where he beat the old record by a whopping 31 cm, jumping a length of 12.90m.

Lawrence's brother, Harry Frederick just edged out Ross Lamb's 40-year-old record in the 17 Years 100m sprint, where he ran a time of 11.44s; beating the 1977 record by just .6 of a second.

Congratulations to the new record holders and to the former students who held those respective records for many decades.

A report on the Schools Swimming Record foreshadowed in last year's Old Boys Newsletter is still in preparation. In the meantime it can be reported there were no school records broken in the water since 2016.

Last Saturday night I had enjoyed participation in the School's Annual Trivia Night held in the School Hall. I particularly enjoyed meeting current Principal, Bryce Grant's family and renewing friendship with immediate former Principal, Terry Griffiths. We shared a table at this event.

Can we arrange some Old Boy tables for this event in 2018? If you are a prospective participant in Trivia Night, contact your Editor to go on the list of invites when that date is decided for this event next year.

The School's 60th Anniversary will be celebrated in 2020. It is not too early to give consideration to particular events and souvenirs appropriate to this occasion. Please send in your suggestions, for a new range of ABHS souvenirs in particular as the current range is quite depleted.

Chris Kent - Editor

An Interview with Bryce Grant *(continued from p1)*

What are the main stepping-stones that led you to your position of Principal of ABHS?

After graduating my teaching skills were cultivated with three years teaching PDHPE at Granville South High School. A promotion followed, to the position of Head Teacher - PDHPE at Epping Boys High School. Fifteen years further on, I was appointed to the position of Deputy Principal at Muirfield High School. Following six years under the expert mentoring in educational leadership by Principal Jennifer Reeves, I was extremely fortunate to become the Principal at Asquith Boys High School.

Do you have inspirational models, either from personal experience or your reading that has inspired your work as an educator?

I have been very lucky to work with some very fine and inspiring mentors over the years, especially at Epping Boys and Muirfield High Schools. Many teachers in various faculties generously shared their experience and expertise. This enabled me to grow as an educational leader. I am indebted to all those who assisted me on path to becoming the Principal at Asquith Boys High School.

In your role as Principal, what do you find that gets the bulk of your available time? How would you like to change that if you could?

As Principal there is an extensive amount of administrative work that is required to ensure the daily running of a high school facility. I would love to invest that time back into nurturing and mentoring all my staff on their educational journeys, by viewing their classroom work. More importantly this would provide more opportunity to see how the boys are engaging with their learning.

What do you view as your most important contribution to the daily operations of your school?

A genuine desire to improve the educational opportunities and well-being of all our boys.

Is there anything you find particularly endearing about the students of ABHS?

I am highly impressed by the student's and their polite and friendly demeanour. The other factor that impresses me is their ability to deal with the challenges that come their way. Current challenges include the complete refurbishment of four Science Labs and concurrent redevelopment of a large play area. These improvements have short-term implications for the School Timetable, as do sudden changes in weather. Asquith boys impress me with their ability to manage these situations and others as they arise.

What are the qualities of the staff you work with that you admire most?

The qualities of staff at Asquith Boys High School that I most admire are how they constantly strive to engage all boys in their learning. Their commitment to boys' education, and incredible ability to make the ordinary appear extraordinary, is astounding.

I understand your current role, as Principal of ABHS is you first position as Principal. How has this position lived/not lived up to your expectation of the role?

The position truly exceeded my expectations. The students, staff and the local community have been amazing at finding the time to ensure that I have been able to integrate with the traditions and ethos of Asquith Boys High School. I have been made very welcome. I look forward to a long and productive relationship with everyone involved with Asquith Boys High School. Together we offer exceptional learning opportunities for boys.

With thanks.

Bryce Grant

Principal Asquith Boys High School



Bryce at opening night of the Annual Student Art Exhibition with Yr 12 student Nicholas Cowell & parents Mr Ken and Mrs Helen Cowell

HIGH HSC ACHIEVERS ASSEMBLY

Fifty years ago Alan Hayes was among the first group of students to graduate with a New South Wales HSC.

Alan has since received an Order of Australia medal in 2009, for his service to the community and to the environment as an author. Alan has perused his interest in herbal lore and natural alternatives for many years. He has created a self-sufficient and sustainable lifestyle with his wife on a small farm in a beautiful rural valley behind the Central Coast of NSW, Australia. Alan grows his own vegetables and fruit, recycles all sorts of material, and makes his own household products, from natural materials that are as effective as the harsher chemicals in commercial products. His home is carbon-neutral and is heated or cooled by the sun passing across the sky. All his energy needs are produced on-site and he lives the lifestyle that he encourages other people to try.

Alan's interest in herbs first began as a teenager. He became aware through his grandmother, of the herbal lore that had been passed down through his generations of his family. Now widely known to Australians through his *'It's So Natural'* writings, it is his knack of adapting the wisdom of the ages into solutions for the problems of the twenty-first century.

This led him to write a weekly newspaper column of environmentally friendly hints, tips and remedies for home, health and garden. The column *'It's So Natural'* is published in more than 300 newspapers and magazines Australia wide, in New Zealand, the United Kingdom, Ireland, Canada and the United States of America. Alan is recognised as one of the foremost exponents of the natural lifestyle. He has published more than three-dozen books on herbs, health, natural alternatives and sustainable living, and his wide range of best-selling books shares his down-to-earth and practical knowledge about natural living. He is committed to recycling, healthy living and utilizing natural resources. Alan's philosophy works three ways: do-it-yourself, save the planet, and save money.

Alan is now recognised internationally as the best-known exponent of the natural life. He has appeared regularly on a number of high rating national television programs as their natural alternatives expert. He speaks on, and demonstrates, the versatility of herbs for natural products. Thirty-four years ago he sold his successful advertising company to pursue a career as a full-time author and writer. Today he continues to write books and owns a number of independent newspapers throughout Australia.



When addressing the School's HSC Awards Assembly in February, Alan spoke about his life, successes, and the benefit he gained from two of his teachers when he was a student of Asquith Boys High in the mid 1960s. He gave the address to assembled students, staff, HSC award recipients and their parents in the School Hall.

'Two teachers in particular helped me to see what could become of the future. One of those teachers, John Gerrar, taught English. I was fortunate enough to have him for more than one year. He took an interest in what I was doing and became a mentor. He went beyond just teaching the normal English curriculum he would give me extra themes to write about, read my writing and tell me what I was doing right and what I was doing wrong. After I left School we became very good friends. Although my first book wasn't published till 1989, I would still see him and speak to him about writing. He said Alan; you have a way with words you need to use

those words to make your way in life. Initially I would send off my writing to places like magazines, hopefully to get it published. It was difficult to earn a living, writing, because magazines didn't want to pay too much for a story, but it kept me moving forward.

Another teacher who I had a lot of respect for, although he wasn't directing me in the path of writing, was Ray Kench. Again I was fortunate to have him as my teacher for more than one year. He taught me Geography and Economics, but above all else he taught me the value of a positive mental attitude. The importance in believing in yourself, reaching for the stars, and believing if you want something badly enough you can do it.

Mr Kench helped me to formulate goals to help me move towards what I wanted to attain in the future.

It's all right for one to think well, here I am at School, I will become a writer, a doctor, a journalist or an accountant, it doesn't matter what you want to do, you need to work towards achieving that goal. He showed me how to make those goals achievable. By planning ahead, identifying what I wanted to achieve by five years' time. What do I want to be in three years' time? Rather than just leaving that goal sitting there and me not achieving anything, he showed me how to do it by breaking it down into its component parts. Think about what you need to achieve each year, then each month, then each week and then each day. All of a sudden what you have to achieve each day is not much at all. By being disciplined and applying yourself, that goal can be achieved in a very short time; way before you thought you could achieve it. Ray Kench also explained the process of evaluating your progress and adjusting your goals. I've done this all my life, and I thank Ray Kench for taking that time to help me see the value in this process. He was a great role model as he was involved with other things like sport and things outside of school like the surf club. He became a very strong mentor.

The encouragement that I received from these two teachers and their friendship after school enabled me to keep moving down the path of becoming a writer. Even though after leaving school it was almost impossible to earn a living being a writer, as artists tend to starve most of their life. For me, writing is like being an artist. An artist uses a brush to create his vision. I see words as a brush going on to a canvas to make a picture to let others see what is my mind's eye. Eventually I found entry into the advertising industry and ended up owning my own advertising company. Both of these teachers helped me achieve what I have been able to achieve. Even though I knew what I wanted to do they helped me develop the confidence and skills I needed. In the advertising industry these tools are very important.

More recently I met another person away from School who helped me with further direction in life. I had by then, developed a desire to become self-sufficient and sustainable, to move out of the city to a small farming community. I did not intend becoming a full time farmer because I was still commercially orientated, but wanted to grow my own food, preserve some of that produce, to make a home sustainable. Independently, away from mainstream living. I found that I had to make a decision. Do I continue to do what I was doing or sell the advertising company and try a new goal to become a full time self-sufficient person. This person I met suggested I write a book about what you do. Rather than write a great Australian novel, which is what I dreamt about as a youngster, but to write about what I do.

I tried this for three years and found a small publisher in Shepparton in Victoria. This publishing company did not live up to my expectations so I decided to use the skills I had developed over the years, and remembering what people like Ray Kench had said about maintaining a positive mental attitude and believing that anything is attainable if you try and keep on trying. Soon I found myself appearing on TV, on some of the lifestyle programs, marketing the book. That was 43-books ago! I have found it possible to live some of my old dream. To establish myself as a full time author in this country! I've also taken advantage of opportunities as they present themselves as you go through life. This is another thing that Ray Kench taught me. You will find as you go through life opportunities will present themselves. What you do with those opportunities will make a difference. I've seen many people over the years that have had that opportunity and yet not taken the gamble of grasping it. Later they have regretted that lost opportunity.

Not always in seizing the opportunities does it work. One might stumble; the worst thing that can happen then is that you land on the bones of your backside. Instead of crying about it if this happens, you pick yourself up, dust yourself off and try again. Most importantly, you analyse what it was that caused you not to succeed the first or second time. One of the greatest success stories in this regard is Sir Lesley Hooker who built the L.J. Hooker real estate empire. He stumbled four times before he found his feet, but each time he analysed what it was that caused him to fail. Finally he achieved success that he wanted to achieve.

It doesn't matter what you want to do in life. If you set your goals and remember to continue to re-evaluate your goals, considering advice from those around you, from your teachers and those in your family that you spend a lot of time with. Share your dreams and aspirations because you never know how it can turn into a fortunate outcome as it has in my case. It doesn't matter what you want to be in life, you need to set those goals. At the end of the day, success comes not from having a great pile of money in the bank, success is enjoying what you do, being able to wake up in the morning enjoying the challenges ahead but most important sharing that with people around you, your family, your future spouse, no matter who that might be, then you will have a rewarding life'.

Thank you!



Bryce Grant, Zachary Duretto and Alan Hayes

PRINCIPAL TERRY GRIFFITHS FAREWELLS ABHS

The 9th Principal farewelled the School at its 56th Annual Presentation Ceremony (formerly 'Award Night' or 'Speech Night'), in December 2016. In his Principal's Address, Terry identified some of the many changes made under his Principalship.

Commencing with out of doors learning spaces; the School Oval Fitness Centre, Horticulture Garden, Alfresco Dining Deck and provision of hand ball courts for student play during break times on the renovated School Quad. Other outdoor improvements include the installation of the perimeter security fence, a School exterior repaint and installation of a Pedestrian Pathway entry to the School from the Pacific Highway.

Additional indoor improvements that support curriculum focused learning are the two industrial kitchens and the repurposing of a classroom into a Gymnasium. Planning for the complete renovation of all four Science Labs is in progress at the time of Terry's Farewell.

Curriculum development occurred in a number of Key Learning Areas, with the addition of Textile Design, Chinese Languages, Hospitality courses and Horticulture. Implementation of extra learning technologies such as the interactive white boards throughout the school enhances student learning.

With a focus on the cultural and social development of students, additional Leadership Training opportunities were introduced. Eleven more countries have been included in the Annual Football Tour Itinerary. ABHS students support residents living in high care in local Retirement Villages, participate in bush regeneration programs and maintain strong links and support for the Clark Road Special School. Asquith Boys High maintains its place as the highest earning School Sponsor of Legacy, in NSW.

The Student Scholarship program developed under Terry's leadership. Band Scholarships to provide instrument training expanded to include Scholarships in Visual Arts, and a Senior Student Two Year Scholarship in the name of the School's first Principal; Mervyn Brown.

Asquith Boys High students continue to perform better than most other comprehensive boys' secondary schools. HSC students are consistently among those receiving awards Mathematics Competitions, Art Express, In Tech and Encore, and as participants in Schools Spectacular.

A new maroon Senior Student Blazer was introduced in recent years, giving students extra recognition in the public arena. A few years ago an Asquith student was elected Premier, by his peers, in the NSW Youth Parliament.

Mr Griffiths reports his pride in the students of ABHS on all appropriate occasions. He regards the School as the best advertisement of a Public Education system that needs to be valued and well-funded; a fountain of our democracy. Terry believes public education in Australia to be the bedrock of our egalitarian society.

In finishing his Address, Terry paid testimony to the 'high calibre and hard work' of his School staff and their commitment to students, and congratulated all those who gained awards.

The full text of Mr. Griffiths Farewell Address to the ABHS Community can be read on the School's Website. Go to: OUR SCHOOL > Getting Involved > Old Boys Club > Significant School Principal Addresses.



Terry Griffiths and Eileen

THE GRADUATING CLASS OF 1991 (1986 enrolments) held their 25th Reunion on Saturday 19th November 2016.

The Reunion was under discussion for a year prior, with Chris Peckham, Peter Roberts and Scott Bovis working together on arrangements.

The event commenced with a walk through the School Grounds at 2.00pm. Access was arranged with Principal Terry Griffiths. The walk through brought back many memories. Changes noted included a change of external colour of the school due to repainting and removal of the Australian Flag wall to make way for playground improvements. Water tanks and a sports scoreboard on the oval were also notable additions.

The group then re-convened at Magpies Waitara (formerly the Asquith Leagues Club), for dinner at 6.00pm. This venue was chosen as it is close to Waitara Station.

Forty former students attended the Reunion, with some coming from interstate.

"It was good to see a lot of those who I haven't seen in twenty years. Everyone was made to feel welcome, there was great camaraderie. Nine hours felt like 15 minutes".

Mitchell Hall - for the participants.



Jason Borton, Mitchell Hall, Robert Standley, Trent Barnett & Nathan Bell. Front: Craig Gurney



David Neal, Vic Paice, Trent Barnes & Craig Gurney



Rob Standley, Alex Tossen & Chris Peckham



Chris Bostelman & Mitchell Hall



SURFING SCIENTIST

A group of our best scientists in Years 7, 8 and 9 were exposed to some great science action and ideas from Ruben Meerman, the Surfing Scientist. As always Ruben brought along plenty of fresh demonstrations, as well as his renowned LASER and liquid nitrogen experiments.

Several of the new ideas he presented to the boys used their smartphones to enhance their knowledge and understanding of science, including high speed multi-frame cameras in the latest phones to analyse motion and using the in-built accelerometer (used for the screen rotation) for graphing motion, vectors and acceleration due to gravity. Ruben also used the compass app on the phone to detect magnetic fields resonating from a current carrying coil.

The boys were shown how digital cameras have a wider range of sensitivities than the human eye by detecting Infra-red rays from a remote control unit. There was a laser demonstration on how a dark balloon absorbed more energy than a light coloured balloon by popping a balloon inside another balloon.

Change of state and particle kinetic energy was shown by deflating a balloon with liquid nitrogen whilst a cool trick of electrostatic repulsion was presented with a static charged balloon and some metallic tape.

Ruben was generous enough to stay behind for another hour to talk to the interested boys and share his knowledge. All the boys appreciated the cool nature of modern science and hopefully this will inspire some of the boys to pursue a career in science and technology.

Mr Robertson - Head Teacher Science



DIRECTOR OF ABHS STAGE BAND PASSES ON HIS BATON

After eleven years of building the ABHS Stage Band, the School has farewelled Iain Howick to new directions in his career. Iain has dedicated exhaustive hours each week during this period, building the Stage Band program towards achieving many accolades and awards.

Prior to his departure the Stage Band presented a fantastic performance at the NSW School State Band Festival, held at the University of New South Wales on July 24th 2016. The Band's achievement was recognised with a Silver Award in this highly contested event. This achievement was a fitting salute to Iain's dedication.

The School has since welcomed Joe Manton to the role of ABHS Stage Band Director. Joe is a director, tutor and composer who also manages the Stage Band at Asquith Girls High School.





THE PASSING OF AUSTEN JAMES HUGHES, OAM PRINCIPAL OF ASQUITH BOYS 1976 – 1985

Austen was loved by students and staff in his role at Asquith Boys. His Principalship coincided with a period in the School's history when the student population was at its greatest, notwithstanding that during those years, less than 50% of students completed their HSC. With a population of above 1,100 students two demountable classrooms were installed to cope with demand. Managing the large number of students was one of Austen's challenges at ABHS.

Austen's love for students at that time was remarkable whom he referred to as 'my boys'. Likewise his love of cricket was widely recognised. During his entire time at Asquith Boys he held the position of President of the Northern District Cricket Club, until 2002. Two years prior to his retirement from teaching and Asquith Boys, he was elected a Life Member of the Northern District Cricket Club. In 1984 Austen's service was recognised with Life Membership of the NSW Cricket Association.

Chris Kent, ABHS Old Boys Newsletter Editor

Reflections from Staff and 'Old Boys'

I remember Austen with great fondness. He was the Principal when I arrived at Asquith Boys High in 1984. Austen was a real "people" person. I remember his easy going manner and the way he trusted his staff to do their jobs efficiently and effectively. He loved sports of all kinds, but Cricket was his passion. When he retired, it was a sad day at Asquith Boys, and the next Principal had a big task to fill the void left by Austen.

Ronelle Laffer, current Maths Teacher

I will always remember Austen as the best boss I ever worked with'.

Brian Brook, ABHS HT Maths during the time of Austen Hughes.

I know this will sound weird and possibly not believed, however, it was only yesterday coming up the lift at work from getting a cup of coffee, that Austen came to mind. I was reflecting how much he supported the First XV Rugby and what a down to earth knock about, yet debonair guy he was. For some reason I remembered his green Toyota semi-sports car. I then thought to myself, given how old I am (56 years) that Austen was probably long gone to another place as would many of my teachers, particularly from primary school.

Ross Lamb (School Vice Captain 1977)

I remember Austen going out to see as many games as possible on Sports day. He was a great Principal of the 'old school' buying the best equipment especially for sport. He was wise and caring of his staff and students too.

Mrs Laine Saunders (Mrs. Jim) Special Ed teacher at ABHS from late 60s till late 70s. Laine is the late Jim Saunders (music teacher's) wife.

The vale for Austen Hughes made me reflect on ABHS times and I thought I would pen a memory. Mr. Hughes' first year as Principal in 1976 coincided with my last year as a student. At the end of the year, just before we broke up for HSC exams, I was summoned to the Principal's office. I went in trepidation, trying to think what had I done to warrant this meeting. To my surprise Austen asked me what my plans were after school, to which I replied that I planned to have a few months doing nothing much before I hoped to go to university. To my surprise he then offered me a job as the School Groundsman, full time for 6 weeks at the then princely sum of about \$300 a week. Before I could think I said yes, and so after exams I started as a casual employee, tending gardens and lawns. The main job was riding a tractor to mow the sports oval. I had never driven a tractor before and learned quickly. On wet days I was expected to work indoors, mending broken furniture, but it was summertime and I was always outdoors.

Working around the school and in the sheds, I had many curious looks from younger boys who thought they recognised me. I needed to buy fuel and parts for lawnmowers and the tractor, and asked Austen how should I organise this. He said that I could go to certain local suppliers where the school had accounts and that I could use his car to do this! It was a great feeling driving his Nissan sports car around Asquith/Hornsby several times to buy supplies, and watch boys incredulous looks as I left and returned to the school in the Principal's car and using his car space!

I am very grateful for the opportunity Austen gave me for an 'after school' job, and the trust he placed in me (and for the anonymous teacher who gave him my name). My memories of Austen in 1976 were good ones, as he led the school and gave privileges to Year 12 students (which we felt were duly earned).

Paul Harbon (ABHS 1971-76)



RUGBY RESURGENCE AT ABHS

Thank you to the generous ABHS Old Boy who, anonymously, sponsored the First XV team for 2017

Some highlights of ABHS performances in the 2017 season are:

- 2016 was a great year for ABHS Rugby Union and Rugby League. Three teams were entered in the Schools Rugby competition 13s, 14s, and 15s. All winning convincingly.
- ABHS competed in the Sydney North 7's competition where they entered three teams and won 8 out of 11 games
- ABHS have created a link with the Asquith Rugby League Club who offered to help the boys in their rugby league competitions and pursuits. Many of our students play for the Magpies and often go on to play for the Bears. We'd like to thank them for their support and we look forward to working with them.
- Asquith Boys High School has been named as the top Rugby School in the 2017 Zone competition.
- ABHS was represented in all age groups in the Zone finals series. This represents a strong foundation to build upon in the 2018 season.

ABHS First XV:

Three Open Rugby boys represented the School in the Sydney North West Region at the CHS Rugby Union Carnival held in Armidale. Selection for this team involved 10 weeks training, trial games, and numerous cuts to make the final squad of 20 that represented the best rugby players in the Sydney North West Region. The boys then went into camp at the University of New England, Armidale, competing in 4 games over 3 days. SNWR Team did exceptionally well and started the competition with a 21-10 win over the 2016 competition winner Sydney West. During this game, flanker Ben Collins scored an amazing try under the posts that made it easy for our kicker to get the extra points. In their second game they started slowly eventually scoring more tries than their opposition but going down 13-10. The boys worked hard over the next 2 days and got themselves in the final, against our rival Sydney North East team. They played hard, but the team suffered a substantial number of injuries and went down. All involved can hold their heads up high as they put in their all and played their hearts out. The team was also awarded the 'Run The Ball Don't Kick It' award for best try on the first day.

Coach, Chris Broome and Manager, Mark Miles could not be more proud of the boys' effort.

ABHS First XV

- ABHS opens were defeated narrowly in a hard fought battle with Ashfield Boys High in the season Zone Final Coach Mr. Broome (ABHS Old boy) was very impressed with the boys' determination against a much bigger Ashfield pack.

ABHS Ray White 16s

- The Ray White 16's went through the first half of their competition undefeated and qualified for the All Schools Rugby 7's competition held at The Kings School.
- Inoke Levaci won the 16's Player of the Competition Award at the Sydney Norths 7's Competition.

ABHS Ray White 15s

- Continued a winning run in the first half of the season, beating a much bigger Epping side 52-0.
- This team is coached by Mark Miles and welcomes Ray White Real Estate as its new sponsor.
- The Ray White 15's went down by 3 points to Epping in the Grand Final this year.

ABHS Coolibah Building and Design 14's

- This team coached by Mr Melrose won the 14's Sydney North West Zone Competition
- Mr Melrose is very happy with the performance of the boys
- The team is sponsored by Coolibah Building and Design

ABHS 14's Rugby Tour

- 14's Rugby tour, coached by Mr Miles, Mr Broome and Mr. Melrose, welcomes sponsors Mity Lawyers and Networx Group. The team will be touring the Gold Coast with games against the Bond Pirates and Helensvale State School.
- The ABHS 14's Rugby Tour group had Wellsey and Kells from the NSW Waratahs assist with a training session. The boys had a heap of fun and learnt a lot from the experience.
- Check out the ABHS Facebook page for footage of the boys in actions (Wow! Over 5000 views already)

ABHS 13s

- In the round against Epping, this team won convincingly 32 – 0.
- This Team is yet to attract sponsorship. If you know of an organization that would be prepared to get behind this team with sponsorship, that relationship should be most rewarding. Contact Mark Miles in the School's Mathematics Department: 9477 3508.
- Over thirty students trialed for this team at the beginning of the season, helping to ensure strength into the future.

In Rugby League:

ABHS Coolibah Building and Design 14's

- The 14's in the Buckley Shield Rugby League Gala Day. The boys fought hard but went down to Narrabeen Sports High in the semi-finals.
- ABHS was also represented in Rugby League 9's Tournament, University Shield, and the 2017 All Schools Competition.
- ABHS entered the North Sydney Bears Rugby League Day. It was a day with plenty of hard hitting footy that was played with great spirit. The 14's came back from a try down to beat St Leos in the Grand Final.
- Isaac Vuna won the 14's Player of the Competition Award at the Sydney Norths League Competition.

Thanks to our sponsors, supporters and parents for helping get the boys to the tournaments, the coaches for running extra training sessions and the boys for all their hard work and commitment.

Yours in rugby

Mark Miles (Mathematics Faculty), for ABHS Rugby codes.



A HALL OF SPORTS CHAMPIONS FOR ABHS

Currently School Team Sports trophies and shields are displayed in an overcrowded cabinet in the School Administration block. Individual Sports Awards, such as CHS Blue Awards and Zone Awards made to individuals hang, framed, in the hallway, lower ground floor of E Block, adjacent the PE and Sports Office. Students achieved the earliest of these Awards displayed in the 1970's.

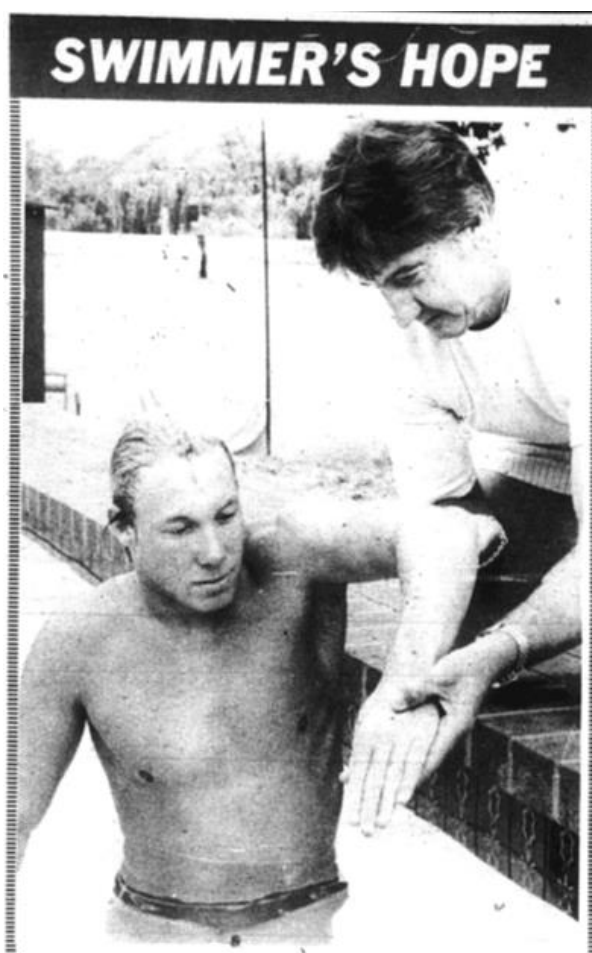
A plan has been developed to revitalise the space on the ground floor of E Block by creating an ABHS Hall of Sports Champions.

ABHS students who gain School Sports Awards have gone on to sports representation at State and National level. Other students, participating in sports not available at School (such as archery, table tennis, ten pin or darts) have achieved recognition at the highest level of participation. Some former students of ABHS have not achieved high level sports participation until their post school years. Recognising the achievement of any former student who has achieved State or National representation will be the purpose of the ABHS Hall of Sports Champions. Achieving this will be of considerable benefit to current students and the School Community.

The plan for the Hall of ABHS Sports Champions has been outlined and accepted by the ABHS School Council and P&C. Some funding has been provided by the ABHS P&C resulting in the installation of an Honour Roll of students who achieved a NSW CHS Sporting Blue whilst at School (see photo). Last year former students of the 1964 graduating class raised \$230 at a Reunion Dinner towards the Hall of Sports Champions.

Can you help achieve the Hall of ABHS Sports Champions, ideally before the School's 60th Anniversary in 2020?

Please contact your Old Boys Newsletter Editor if you have time and interest or information to contribute to this project. Alternatively, readers can contact PDHPE Head Teacher, Ryan Bolger: 9477 3508. Ryan, as a former student of ABHS, was captain of the First XI Cricket team in 1994.



Graeme Carroll, a young swimming and water polo champion from Asquith, is hoping to represent Australia in the next Olympic Games in Moscow in 1980.

Graeme, 18, of Baldwin Avenue, is one of the up-coming swimming stars who is tipped by experts to become one of Australia's top competitors.

By RIC PURCELL

swimmers Warren Devenish, Greg Windent, Brad Cooper and John Konrads.

coming good in medley events," he said.

Graeme, who left Asquith Boys' High School last year, is working in the surfboard industry.

Recently he won a bronze medal in the 200m breaststroke during the KB Games at North Sydney pool and just before that scored a placing in the 100m medley at the Newcastle KB Games.

He has also won the Combined High Schools Blue Ribbon which is the highest award for schoolboy swimming, and the Zone Blue award for water polo.

"I love swimming and anything which involves the water," says Graeme, who is also a keen surfboard rider.

Graeme also represented Australia in a national schoolboys water polo team which successfully toured Europe and Japan last year.

Last year he also won the Sir Henry Rawson Cup, a prestigious swimming award for schoolboys.

In the past it has been won by former Olympic

Gary Winram, who represented Australia in the 1958 Olympic Games and won a silver and a bronze medal in the 400m and 1800m relay, believes Graeme has the ability to become an Olympic swimmer.

But Mr Winram said it would depend on how long Graeme was willing to continue rigid training, which included swimming more than a mile every day.

"Basically he is a breastroker, although recently he has been

"I am a member of Freshwater Surf Club which is one of the top surf teams in the State," he said.

ABOVE: Former Olympic swimmer and present coach of Hornsby Amateur Swimming Club, Gary Winram, gives advice to up-coming swimming star, Graeme Carroll, who hopes to represent Australia in the next Olympic games.

Thanks to the Advocate, Hornsby for permission to reprint the 'Swimmers Hope' article. January 10th 1979

ABHS Old Boys is keen to contact these CHS Blues recipients. If you are in contact with any of these sportsmen, would you please recommend them to ABHS Old Boys?

Year	Name	Sport
1967	Richard Temple	Hockey
1967	Peter Reid	Swimming
1978	P. (David) Carroll	Swimming
1979	J. (Graeme) Carroll	Water Polo
1985	Brian Ellem	Football
1986	Geoffrey Clarke	Water Polo
1988	Quentin Peihopa (deceased)	Rugby Union
1993	David Brailey	Rugby Union
2001	Peter Montgomerie	Swimming
2007	Daniel Arnamnart	Swimming
2011	Gordon Broome	Rugby Union
2014	George Blackwood	Football



Chris Kent

MERVYN BROWN SCHOLARSHIP

This scholarship commemorates the school's founding Principal. The words and music of the School Song, Grow in Wisdom, were penned by Mervyn Brown.

The Mervyn Brown Senior Academic Scholarship has been awarded annually to a student in Year 11 for 2 years, since 2011. The recipient receives funding support to cover all school fees and to extend his learning in the subject for which the scholarship has been awarded. This scholarship is additional to existing scholarships in creative and performing arts.

Donations are still sought for this scholarship to support future student achievement. You can make a donation by phoning the school on 9477 3508 (credit card), mailing donations to Asquith Boys High School, PO Box 242 Hornsby 1630 or Fax 9482 2546. For further details contact Chris Kent at: christopher.kent7@det.nsw.edu.au

MERVYN BROWN SCHOLARSHIP PAYMENT ADVICE

Enclosed ☐ **CHEQUE** (payable to **Asquith Boys High School, PO Box 242 Hornsby 1630**);

☐ **CASH** for **TOTAL \$**_____

☐ If making a direct deposit, please advise Karen Ronald in the School Office of the purpose of your donation.

Phone 9477 3508. **Bank details are: Asquith Boys High School BSB: 032-001 Account: 149698**

☐ I would like to pay by **CREDIT CARD** - **TOTAL** sum of \$_____

Name on card: _____ **Card type:** ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Expiry Date: _____

Card number:

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Signature: _____ **Date:** _____

Phone Number: _____ (In case there is an issue with the credit card or direct deposit)

STAGE BAND VISITS CLARKE ROAD

Many readers will know of the strong relationship that exists between Asquith Boys High and the Clarke Road Special School in Hornsby. The Special School caters for students with disabilities from Kindergarten to Year 12. The relationship between the two Schools has been forged over decades with exchange student visits, joint art exhibitions, donations, fundraising and inter school events.

It is pleasing to note this relationship is being maintained with a visit of the ABHS Stage Band to the Clark Road Special School. The visit was organised by Keegan Morris, ABHS Stage Band's drummer, as part of his project for the Raise Foundation program. Many of the students at Clarke Road are unable to participate in events outside the school so this was a great way to give all students of Clarke Road a chance to participate in a musical performance. After the Stage Band introduced their instruments they played a number of popular tunes. Clarke Road students participated by using their rice shakers to provide a strong beat for the Stage Band instrumentation. All students enjoyed the experience immensely.



VALE, FORMER HEAD TEACHERS

Bob Henderson, Carol English, Brian Brook, and Head Clerical Assistant, Val Mullins.

Thanks to readers of the ABHS Old Boys Newsletter for the following information:

Bob Henderson

Died 17th September 2016

ABHS Master of Social Sciences; 1971 – 1984

Thanks to Bob and late Val's eldest son, Graeme, for kindly sending the Eulogy. Please contact your Old Boy Newsletter Editor, for a copy to be sent.

Carol English

Died 11th December 2016

ABHS Head of Art Faculty 1975 – 1982

Friend and teacher colleague at ABHS, Mary Ann Das Neves, spoke at Carol's funeral. Mary Ann kindly made her thoughts available. Please contact your Old Boy Newsletter Editor for a copy to be sent.

Val Mullins

Died July 2017

ABHS Head of Clerical Staff from mid 1970's till late 1980's.

Brian Brook

Died 12th July 2017

ABHS Mathematics Master 1975 – 1979

Thanks to former teacher colleagues and former students who have sent recollections.

Chris Kent - Editor

BRIAN'S EXPERIENCE WITH BULLYING

As Editor of the ABHS Old Boys Newsletter, I recently received the note below, from former student Brian Gibson. Brian Graduated from ABHS in 1994. Brian has written to ABHS Old Boys on other occasions. In 2011 he set up a fan page on Facebook, Twitter and Youtube for fans Football in Australia. For this Brian achieved a 'Best Use of Social Media Award'. Brian has remained a strong supporter of ABHS, assisting the school with processing media for the 50th Anniversary in 2010.

"Hey everyone, My name is Brian Gibson. I wanted to use this time to tell you that no matter what happens in life, in my experience, it can get better."

Growing up I was a smart child and one of the youngest kids in my classes at school. I was one of the quietest and was regularly bullied by other kids. This led to tall poppy syndrome when I reached high school as the bullying became physical; I stopped trying in class and hung out with 'the cool kids' as a means of coping. My dad was unaware of why my grades were slipping, and as he had great hopes for me, pulled me out of soccer to focus on school... It didn't work.

Soon after school finished I realised that I'd no longer be an easy target by being a wallflower and grew a strong desire to make up for lost time and make a difference to people, businesses and my chosen sport - football.

Who would have thought I'd end up managing large technology teams early in my career, then later, after a sea-change, winning an award for 'Best Use of Social Media' (reported in Vol 14 O.B. Newsletter). Currently I work as a social media mentor for Football Federation Australia working with everyone from Caltex Socceroos and Hyundai A-League players through to state federations and A-League clubs.

It has been a great journey so far with highlights including being involved in the first live streamed events for sports in Australia on both Facebook and Twitter, covering four A-League Grand Finals, helping build the Western Sydney Wanderers FC and working with some of the highest profile athletes in Australian sport including Tim Cahill and Alessandro Del Piero."

Thanks to Brian Gibson and Lenovo Australia and New Zealand for a substantial quantity of this content.

Chris Kent - Editor

CLEAN4SHORE

Members the School's Environment Council have completed another boat trip with Mr. Yates up the Hawkesbury River as part of the Clean4Shore project together with the founder, Graham "Jono" Johnson. As well as cleaning the remote beaches along the river, the boys found time to explore the many caves and discovered a rope swing.

After their efforts they were treated to a hot chip lunch.





YEAR 9 SOUTH COAST CAMP

On the morning of Thursday 1st December 2016, Year 9 was up bright and early awaiting their 7:15am departure to the south coast. Towards the end of the departure timeframe, everyone had arrived, packed the bus and departed surprisingly five minutes early.

The first stop was Minnamurra rainforest where we all enjoyed a scenic hike up towards the waterfalls of the rainforest. While on the hike, we engaged in several talks covering a variety of plants and animals, which included the stinging plant that can provide 10-15 times the sting of a bee and pain that would last for up to 6 months or the amazing face-on-a-rock which barely anyone could make out from a distance. A couple of hours later, with all our legs about to drop off, we made it to the top of the rainforest falls to view the great sight that was (kind of) a waterfall. At about 1pm, we headed off to our second stop, the Jamberoo Action Park where we spent the rest of the afternoon. It was comforting to know that most other schools at Jamberoo were leaving at around 3pm giving Asquith Boys an extra two hours with barely any queues. Rides such as the Taipan, Perfect Storm and the Funnel web were favourites, ensuring everyone to get bucketed with water. For anyone looking for a dry activity, you had to take the chairlift (where a few of us got stuck when it stopped briefly "leaving us hanging" above the trees) and then bobsled all the way down the hill.

Our next stop was our accommodation for the night at Chittick Lodge. For most of us, our spare time was well spent kicking around a ball in the front yard, or playing basketball in the centre. For others, it was just as good to sit down and enjoy a chat (and getting bitten by those pesky mosquitos). We were greatly catered for by the lodge staff, enjoying a burrito or two as well as chocolate brownies and a scoop of ice-cream for dessert. It was a very hot night (some boys lacking sleep), but we managed to get through it eventually.

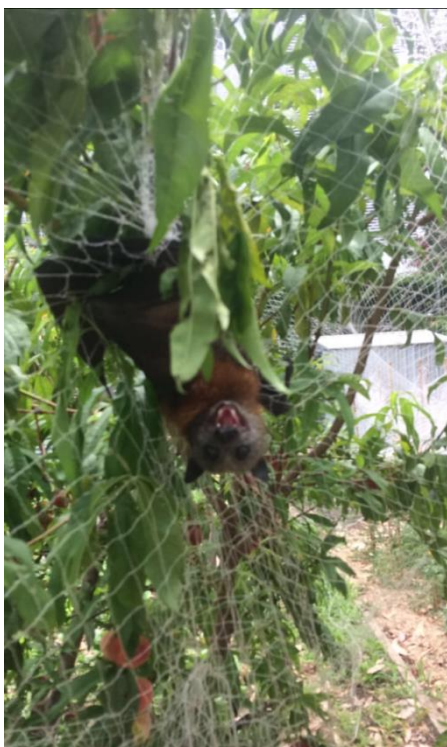
The next day, our most anticipated and final stop was at the Penrith Whitewater Rafting Centre. After a 10-minute safety briefing, we were guided through the rapids and enjoyed the fun of being splashed and pushed around in the water. At some stage during our session, we were told to leave our paddles behind and go "surfing" which relied heavily on everyone in the raft moving from side to side balancing the weight evenly to make sure no one fell in. Some would say this was the best part of the day, others would say differently. In the end, some of us fell in and some of us had a few minor cuts and bruises but we had time to chill and relax in the café before it was time to head back home.

I would personally like to thank our magnificent Year Adviser, Mr French, for all the outstanding work and organisation that he put into organising this camp. Over 6 months of anticipation led up to this event and none of us could have done it without your help. I would also like to thank the rest of the teachers (Ms Tapner, Ms Cufre, Mr Miles, Mr Wakewood and Mr Johnston) that came along and assisted in making our adventure, a drenched one!

Bradley Flood Year 9

SCIENCE HORTICULTURE NEWS

The Year 8 Horticulture class has been taking advantage of the warm weather to produce some fantastic produce. One of the most successful crops was the enormous lettuces in many different varieties. Pumpkins, tomatoes, corn, banana trees and strawberries have also been planted. The boys also got a solid crop of peaches that have ripened perfectly. Another longer-term project is the school vineyard, which is producing its first crop this year. There are a variety of red and white grapes including Shiraz, Sultana, Chambourcin and Black Isabella. These grape bunches should be ripe and ready to harvest around February next year.



On the 5th December Dan Morton stumbled across a bat stuck in the net of a peach tree. Ms Berryman, Ms Polson and the class ran towards the tree to take pictures. The bat got tangled in the net trying to eat our peaches. It was exhausted from struggling. Ms Berryman and Ms Polson worked together to cut it out of the net. The bat was still scared. It eventually flew away with no injuries.

Mr. Robertson (HT Science) and the students of Horticulture.

THE SIMPSON PRIZE

The Simpson Prize is a national competition for Year 9 and 10 students. The competition encourages participants to focus on the significance of Anzac Day and to consider what Anzac Day means to them and to Australia. Students are required to respond to the question using both the Simpson Prize Australian War Memorial Source Selection and their own research.

The winner is chosen to travel to Turkey and all State and Territory winners and runners up are given the opportunity to attend a two day trip to Canberra for the award ceremony and to visit various sites in Canberra.

2016 Simpson Prize Question

“The experience of Australian soldiers on the Western Front in 1916 has been largely overlooked in accounts of World War One.” To what extent would you argue that battles such as Fromelles and Pozieres should feature more prominently in accounts of World War One?

Kefah Farache, Year 11 student from Asquith Boys High School, was the 2016 Runner Up for NSW. He completed an excellent response focusing on the issues surrounding the celebration and commemoration of Australian soldiers. As Runner Up he travelled to Canberra where he was presented with a certificate and medallion at Parliament House. He also visited many sites in Canberra such as the National Archives, Old Parliament House and the Australian War Memorial. There was a dinner at the Royal Military College in Duntroon where Kefah got to meet some of the Commanding Officers and Junior Officers. ABHS staff and Kefah’s family are very proud of his achievements.

More information on this Award is available on:
<http://www.simpsonprize.org/>.

2017 Simpson Prize Question

Some historians have described 1917 as “the worst year of the Great War” for Australia and Australians. To what extent is this an accurate statement?

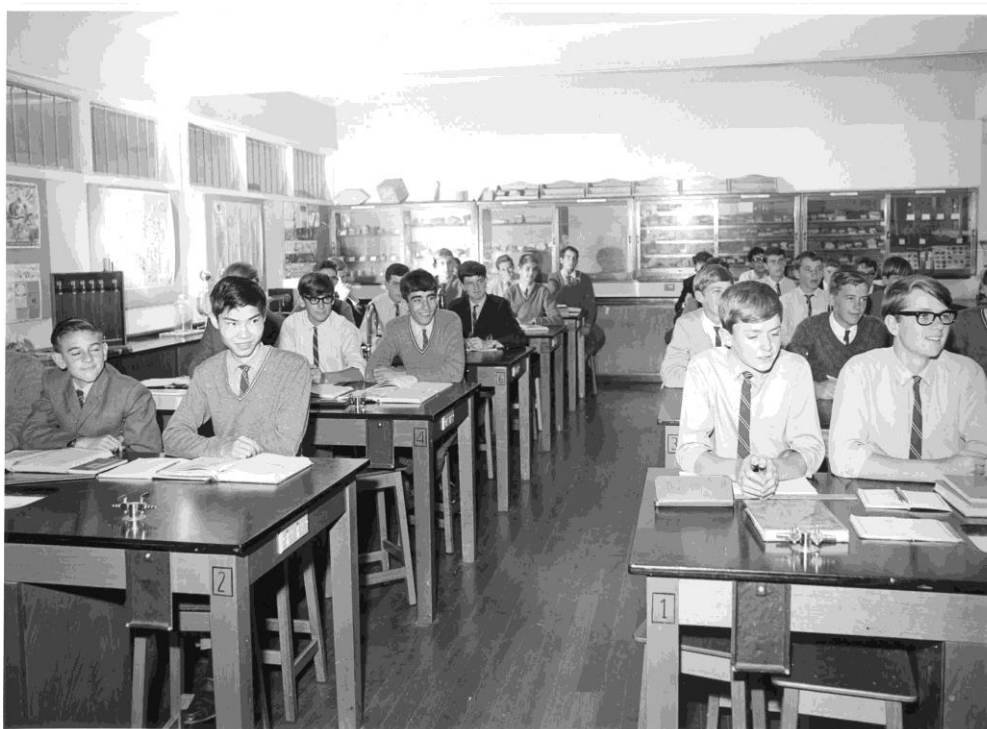
Mrs Fawcett HSIE Teacher and Simpson Prize Coordinator



FAREWELL MARYANNE MILLER

In May this year the School farewelled canteen manager Maryanne Miller. Maryanne has run the canteen tirelessly for the past 19 years feeding many thousands of hungry boys, no easy task. During her time in managing the Canteen Maryanne has overseen many changes in Canteen food policy and the introduction of new technology and processes. Maryanne has also helped out with the catering of many school events. Melissa Wonson, Maryanne’s assistant during much of this time, who managed the canteen on Wednesdays and otherwise assisted Maryanne is also retiring from her position.

Best wishes to Maryanne and Melissa for their futures.



NEW SCIENCE LABS

In recent months School Science Staff have been emptying equipment and chemical storage from four laboratories in preparation for complete lab renovations. Four brand new labs will replace the old labs.

The new labs have been designed in consultation with the Science Staff and will be contemporary, flexible and most importantly adaptable to learning in the 21st Century.

The labs will feature separate wet and dry learning areas, movable benches and will be technology friendly with extra power outlets, Wi-Fi and multiple interactive data projectors to enhance presentation options. Mobile furniture and chairs will provide students with more options for group work experiences as well as better comfort than traditional stools and static benches.

It is envisaged that the new labs will accommodate traditional science as well as being a technology and STEM hub for the school where we can run robotics and future focused learning in the same environment.

Staff and students are looking forward to be moving into these fantastic labs in the near future.

Stuart Robertson - Head Teacher



2016 ABHS COMMUNITY DAY

In excess of 100 ABHS students turned out to ensure the success of 2016 Community Day on September 11th. Sharing in this effort were their parents, School Staff and some former students.

Colourful Bali flags and bunting adorned the main entrance and welcomed visitors through the gate off the Pacific Highway (recently renamed Peats Ferry Road, by Hornsby Council). Visitors were soon lured by the aroma of freshly brewed coffee, served by the recently trained student team; the ABHS Barista Boys.

Whilst sipping coffee and meandering through the Concourse of Classic Cars display one had time to review the printed program and find events and activities for all ages. Bubble Soccer, in a contained field adjacent the Classic Cars provided thrills and spills for participants and many gasps and laughs for spectators. Community stalls, offering honey, jewelry, cupcakes, leather bags, fairy floss, Tupperware, Nutrimetics, and candles made a backdrop to this action packed event.

As one moved downhill through the School site, past stalls located on the School Quad, including the Legacy Stall and Book Stall, the sounds of one of the many local Bands could be heard. This free entertainment was provided throughout the day, by soloists and ensembles, including: Andrew Morrison, Ana Vaka, Asquith Girls Concert band, Amped Up, Amy Soloman and Joe Manton, Adventist Choir, RUSSELPRO and the ABHS Stage Band.

More stalls attracted visitors as the School Oval loomed. ABHS Old Boys Display and School Souvenirs were located in the space between E Bock and the TAS Block (formerly Industrial Arts). This space continues to be dominated by a large liquid amber tree. Other stalls in this locale included; the Year 8 Horticulture Stall (with student stall-holders producing thirst quenching homemade lemonade), School Cake Stall, a Coffee Van and the Apex BBQ, Face Painting and Jumping Castle.

Upon arriving at the School Oval, one soon became aware of the frenetic activity produced by competing Football teams, representing Wideview, Hornsby North and Waitara Schools in the Primary School Gala Event. If you arrived later in the day, senior Football teams provided entertainment. The Blackwood Shield and Moscos Cup Football trophies were both contested in brilliant sunshine.

The ABHS Community Day event has run for the past five years, with many Old Boys dropping in for a visit. This year, due to the complete renovation of four of the School's Science Labs, a large portion of the upper School Playground is unavailable, due to equipment storage and construction site management. That area was used for the Concourse of Classic Cars, stalls and games in recent years. Consequently, this year's Event will be a SPORTS GALA DAY. The SPORTS GALA DAY will be hosted by ABHS on the school oval. This event will be a football tournament for local primary schools on Sunday 10th September. ABHS Community Day will return in 2018.

Chris Kent - Editor



YEAR 10 INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY TIMBER STUDENTS CHALLENGED OUTSIDE THE SQUARE.

Technology and Applied Studies teacher, Natasha Jackson has challenged her Industrial Technology Timber class with an unusual task. To create a small timber container that has no straight edges or right angled corners. This quest required students to develop new machining skills and to refine their wood veneering techniques.



ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB MEMBERSHIP FORM

Full Name: *(please print)* _____

☐ Address: _____ Post Code: _____

☐ E-mail: _____ Phone () _____

Calendar Year Graduated: _____ Academic Year/form: _____

What recollections do you have of your school days? Do you have any photos? _____

What benefit did you derive from your time at Asquith Boys? _____

Are you interested in receiving information about events being planned by members of your ABHS enrolment peer group? _____

Mail to: Asquith Boys High School Old Boys Club: PO Box 242 Hornsby 1630 or

E-mail: Chris Kent (former student & Head Teacher): christopher.kent7@det.nsw.edu.au

Thanks to current members for passing this Application to prospective members