



Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletter

Vol. 1 2006

Asquith Boys welcomes new Principal



As the new principal of Asquith Boys High School I have quickly become aware of the culture and traditions of the school. I am proud to lead a school that

has been providing for the needs of young males in the community for some 46 years. The school has a great tradition of camaraderie and mateship which is still very much in evidence in today's students as it was decades ago.

As we approach our 50th anniversary an old boys union can have many functions. Renewing old acquaintances and recounting former glories is, of course, only part of the process. Students past and present will also benefit from any fund-raising activity and upgrading the school's profile in the local community. Establishing enduring links with mates from school days is now much easier in the electronic age. Reaffirming these links on a regular basis can have all sorts of advantages, from the purely social to business and community initiatives.

I would like to thank Chris Kent, a recently retired long-term teacher at the school (and former student), and current Deputy Principal Bruce Collins for their work in establishing the Asquith Boys High School Old Boys Union. I urge you to join the union and participate in the planned activities to help create a new chapter in the proud history of the school.

Remember, "Grow in Wisdom".

Terry Griffiths Principal

ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE DUBBO NSW

Unique Partnership between Asquith Boys High School and Regional and Country NSW



The Royal Flying Doctor Service Base at Dubbo Airport

We are currently into our second year of a very unique partnership with RFDS that comprises not only a fund raising focus (\$2,000 raised through the Student Representative Council in 2005) but one that includes a teaching and learning component. I recently visited the RFDS base in Dubbo where I had the privilege to meet up with members of the Board and key fundraisers and supporters. At a function held in Dubbo on Thursday May 25th, I had the opportunity of giving a report to the Board and supporters about what our school offers in the partnership formed last year. Although they were impressed by the amount of money raised by the boys and community, the teaching and learning focus caused the most discussion. To their knowledge no other school in NSW has such a partnership where students can learn so much about the RFDS and the culture and history of regional and country NSW, in the classroom. The teaching and learning part of the partnership is as follows:

- **English** – Emphasis on "Difference and Diversity" Year 9 unit of work that focuses on an indigenous perspective. The unit will be taught during Term 3. The unit of work will comprise a substantial internet research component, focusing on RFDS interaction with aboriginal communities in specific regions of the outback. This work will form the basis of a revised School Certificate assessment task (Research and a Formal Speech) to be completed by all year 9 boys.
- **Technology and Applied Studies** – years 11 & 12 Engineering Studies will be undertaking a module of study on Aeronautics that will include a field study trip to Bankstown or Dubbo. The class will be investigating testing and servicing of aircraft such as crack testing, die penetrant testing, x-ray testing as well as routine maintenance and flight control.
- **Careers** – investigating work experience links with RFDS and Aircraft Maintenance for boys wishing to choose this area as a career as pilots, air craft controllers and management.

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ORIGINAL STUDENT & FORMER HEAD TEACHER WRITES

My involvement with Asquith Boys spans half of my lifetime. I am now 58 years young and commenced with the first intake of students in February 1960. No, it has not taken me all these years to graduate. In 1982 I returned as the Head Teacher of Visual Arts.

ABHS Stage 1 of the School buildings was incomplete when student enrolments commenced so it was decided that Asquith boys be billeted at two campuses. Chatswood High School, then a new school under construction, and the burnt out remaining classrooms from the Hornsby School of Arts (occupying the site of the present day Hornsby TAFE) were used. The Hornsby site had been severely damaged by a bushfire. The fire on the 30th Nov 1957 destroyed homes and damaged church buildings and the old Primary School (present day TAFE) on the eastern side of the Pacific Highway. Following several months on a split campus, Asquith students attending Chatswood were united with students using classrooms at Hornsby. Asquith Boys High School was first occupied by students and staff in June. I remember the day students assembled at Hornsby before marching up the Highway to enter our new School for the first time. The image that struck me first was the use of the School colours on the exterior of the Stage 1 buildings. New green roof tiles, white window frames and maroon wall panels. During subsequent years the remaining School buildings were constructed.

Some of my favourite teachers from that era included Ray Kench, Barry Wilson, Miss Dear, Mr Potter and Mr Reynolds. During those years students witnessed the making of the School Oval. Bulldozers clanked and squeaked back and forth over the land to level the site that became the venue for many first grade rugby and soccer games between Asquith students and students from other boys schools in the Sydney North Western Metropolitan Zone. One of the earliest functions of the new School Oval was to practice the House March Past, for the Annual Athletics Carnival. Marching behind our House Banners, students in formation would 'dress off', 'by the right quick march', 'left and right wheel' a short path around part of the oval, before returning to present to the judges, with a 'mark time' and 'halt'.

The School was officially opened on 7th August 1964, by Mr. A. W. Stevens who was the Director of Secondary Education. On several occasions beforehand, students assembled in the new School Hall to rehearse singing the School Song, which our principal Mr. Mervyn Brown wrote. As Mr Brown was a former music teacher, he took on the role of conducting and playing the piano accompaniment to our vocal efforts. I do recall some students trying to sabotage the principal's best effort by singing a larrikin version during these practices. My favourite subject was Art. In this subject we sketched with clutch pencils, designed with coloured inks, painted numerous figure compositions, studied reproductions of some of the great masterpieces of European art and made lino cut prints. In our intermediate years, Paul Milton was our teacher. Mr. Milton eventually became an inspector of Art for the NSW Department of Education.

Woodwork and Metalwork were popular with many students throughout the 60's and 70's. In Woodwork, students constructed teapots, stands, laminated breadboards, desktop accessories such as pen & pencil holders, jewellery boxes and coffee tables. In Metalwork, students formed ashtrays from a single piece of copper, soldered sugar scoops and nickel-plated cake lifters. Courses encouraging similar skill development are as popular as ever with students enrolled today. Nowadays concept development and design awareness has replaced copying a predetermined model or following a pattern. Much dexterity acquired with hand tools and labour has been replaced by the mastery of power tools. Students enrolled in the early 60's would remember the School Excursion to the Everleigh Workshops, at Redfern. Here students spent a day visiting the different workshops used to maintain steam trains. The sights, sounds and smells of this occasion made a lasting impression. In those years steam trains still hauled goods throughout NSW. The School oval was an outstanding viewing location for watching such trains hauling goods along the Jersey Street embankment to locations across NSW, or bringing coal to the Sydney power stations.

In our later years of Art study, we continued with the aforementioned practices and also made ceramic forms and designed architectural models of bachelor apartments, complete with furnishings. Our Art teacher of the time, Eva Murray, entered our art and design work in the Annual Sydney Furniture Guild Exhibitions, held at the Show Ground. On several occasions students were invited to the official opening, held in the evening. Some students received awards for their work. I have managed to maintain the architectural design model that I made for my Leaving Certificate (precursor to the HSC), in 1964. A photo of this was included in the first edition of the School Magazine, later to be named 'Northerly'.

My personal contact with Asquith Boys waned from the time of my graduating with the Leaving Certificate in 1965 and throughout the 1970's. During those years Les Miller established the Cadet Unit and the School's academic reputation was enhanced with two students, on separate occasions, achieving a first place in the NSW Higher School Certificate Examination. As my wife, Jane, also a Visual Arts teacher joined the staff in 1973, I heard of the School's progress at this time.

In 1982 I was promoted to Head Teacher of Visual Arts. My two predecessors in that role at Asquith Boys were John Fraser and Carol English. One of the most significant changes I observed in school administration and curriculum was with the introduction of computers from the mid 1980's. Microbees were followed by Apples then Macintoshes and DOS computers then machines running Windows. I was able to enrol in a Master of Design course of studies at UTS in the early 1990's. Through this I learned of the power of computers in graphics and publishing design.



Architectural design model
Artwork for 1964 Leaving Certificate

The popularity of photography resulted in a Photographic Darkroom being built. At this time Curriculum administration moved to Key Learning Areas. In time the Visual Arts Head Teacher role evolved into that of Creative Arts. Teaching and learning programs became more performance focused. Drama flourished under the creative direction of Rose Parkin. For several years major musicals were produced by hard working teams of staff and students. These productions included 'Little Shop of Horrors', 'South Pacific', 'Joseph and his Technicolour Dreamcoat' and 'Chess'. Meanwhile music students and staff presented their talents and achievement to the School Community through Variety Nights. Throughout the decades thousands of talented boys showed their artworks, to the acclaim of the community, at the Annual Student Art Exhibition. One of these students, Lachlan Anthony topped the State in HSC Visual Arts in 2001. 2005 witnessed the end of a chapter for Creative Arts education at Asquith Boys, as I retired from teaching. Ms Catherine Holder was appointed as my successor, having gained a promotion to become the fourth Teacher to fill the role of Head Teacher at Asquith Boys.

It is my hope that Asquith Old Boys will consider Arts Events as we develop a program for celebrating the School's 50 years in 2010.

Chris Kent
Former student and
Head Teacher

Royal Flying Doctor Service continued

- **PD/HPE** – role of RFDS in management and care in relation to health in outback and rural areas
- **Year 9 in August** – whole year excursion to Dubbo base, Western Plains Zoo, Parkes radio telescope.
- **Human Society and its environment (HSIE)** – unit of work has been developed on 'Deserts – Year 7' and an excursion is being organised for Year 10 to the RFDS base in Dubbo.
- **Science** – Firstly, Mary Bentley (RFDS Sydney) will be giving talks to various classes on RFDS. Secondly, Year 9 unit of work 'Techno' includes a substantial study of Aeronautics with tasks devised to use research on RFDS as well as a unit on 'Body Works' that includes references to RFDS first aid and medical and health care in regional Australia.

I would particularly like to thank Mr David Short (immediate past Principal of ABHS) and Mr Terry Clark (President Royal Flying Doctors Service Dubbo Support Group) for initiating the partnership between Asquith Boys High School and RFDS in Dubbo 2005.

We look forward, as a school community, to continuing the fund raising activities to support RFDS and further developing the unique curriculum partnership. Through both partnerships we hope to not only raise the profile of RFDS in our community but to expose our boys to the values and culture that makes the Australian culture so relevant to young people's lives.

Bruce Collins Deputy Principal



CAPTAIN'S COMMENTS

It is an honour to welcome you to the inaugural Old Boys Magazine. After being elected School Captain for 2006, I was privileged to have been given the opportunity to be involved in the formation of the Old Boys Club as I represent this decade of School history in the organising committee.

In assessing the year ahead, it is necessary to see how and where the Old Boys Club can positively impact on the School and its past and present students. Over the past few months, the Old boys Organising Committee has come up with a number of initiatives.

Fundraising for the School will provide new facilities, a general improvement in school grounds and greater opportunities for present students and a drawcard for potential students.

There is expected to be a great deal of school history hidden away in ABHS Old boys. The club hopes to engage in maintaining links with you and all former students to learn more about our past, in a school that is relished by many that pass through. Hopefully this will build a network among the Old Boys and ultimately a variety of ages from the 60's through to the 90's. The formation of a vast membership allows the club and the school to move ahead. Also, in the not too distant future, organising a program for our 50th birthday celebration in 2010 will commence.

With the birth of the ABHS Old Boys Club, we hope the return of many proud ex-students will build a foundation of a successful union and essentially raise the School profile.

As my schooling at Asquith Boys draws to a close, I look forward to joining the ranks as an Old Boy in 2007, along with my classmates of 2006. The quality of each year group that is produced by Asquith Boys is a credit to the School, and I believe our year will be no exception. For this reason the committee is passionate in undertaking to establish the Old Boys Club.

The Old Boys Club promises to be an effective, exciting and rewarding venture and I encourage you to get involved. I welcome you to the ABHS Old Boys Club and look forward to uniting with the history of the School as we forge towards the future.

Craig Cosier School Captain 2006

Have you registered with the Asquith Old Boys Club?

The Club aims to link former students of Asquith Boys High with the large Asquith Boys Community as the School approaches its 50th Birthday in a few years. News from former students and teachers, together with current School events will bring readers up to date through the publication of an Old Boys Club Newsletter. All former students who register interest will receive the first Newsletters free (thanks to a small grant from the School Budget). It is envisaged that, for the present, E-mail newsletters will be free of charge. Full colour mailed copies of the Newsletters will cost \$10 annually.

See over for details

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL WELCOMES YEAR 7 (2007) BAND SCHOLARSHIP WINNERS

On the 24th August 2006 we were delighted to hold a luncheon for our four successful scholarship winners. All four went through a rigorous selection process including an audition, review of academic achievement and reports from their respective band leaders and tutors. Thomas Pederson, Michael Thorley and Brendan O'Brien who attend Hornsby North Public School and Jack Everingham, who attends Mt. Colah Public School were successful.

They were greeted on the day by us and some other Year 7 boys. The boys and their parents were treated to a big lunch prepared by our canteen that included pavlova, chocolate cake, chicken skewers, spring rolls and delicately made sandwiches. The hall was decked out with an Art Show, and music was played by the school stage band. Other performers included Ben Zoumpoulis (Year 12), Mat Piukala (Year 9) and Peter Prior (Year 12).

There were many special guests including our local member Judy Hopwood, scholarship winners parents and their band leaders and teachers and current scholarship winners.



Michael Thorley (*flute* Hornsby North Public School) Brendan O'Brien (*trumpet* Hornsby North Public School) Judy Hopwood (Member for Hornsby) Thomas Pedersen (*trombone* Hornsby North Public School) Jack Everingham (*trumpet* Mt Colah Public)



Bruce Collins (Deputy Principal, Scholarship Coordinator) with David Short (former ABHS Principal 2002-2005 and scholarship founder)

Mr Griffiths, our Principal welcomed our scholarship winners and their guests. This was followed by Mr Collins our Deputy Principal and coordinator of the scholarship program, who introduced the new members of the stage band to the school. Both complimented the new boys on their outstanding achievements and welcomed them and their families to Asquith Boys High School. We wish all boys every success at our school.

Thanks to all participants for sharing this occasion with us.

Marcus Chan (7E) & Tasman Buie (7E)

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ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB REGISTRATION

Full Name: (please print) (tick your referred contact)
 Address: Post Code:
 Phone () E-mail:
 Year enrolled & graduated:
 Names of teachers you can recall:
 What recollections do you have of your school days? Do you have any photos?

 What are your current passions?
 What benefit did you derive from your time at Asquith Boys?
 How would you like to celebrate your years at Asquith Boys in 2010?
 What would you like to hear of your 'Old School'?
 Can you advise us of mates who can be added to the mail out contact?

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

E-mail: Bruce Collins (Deputy Principal) & Chris Kent (former student & Head Teacher): asquithboy-h.school@det.nsw.edu.au