



# Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletter

Vol. 3 2007



## EDITORIAL

Membership in our Asquith Old Boys Club is currently 250+. As you can imagine members represent many walks of life, living locally and in many countries. This Newsletter makes it easy to maintain communication, and is issued free to all members who provide an e-mail contact.

As the School moves towards celebrating its 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday in 2010, it is the goal of the Old Boys Club Committee to contact the many thousands

of former students. Membership thus far has been achieved in response to an advertisement in the local Advocate and North Shore Times newspapers. In addition, former students who have organised School Reunions for their anniversaries have helped with contacts. Former students who have registered with the UK organization Friends Reunited have been contacted and invited to join this organization. New members are joining after hearing from current members. Thanks to members who are passing on application details to former student or staff contacts. Please see the revised membership application in this edition.

Two articles in this edition, contributed by former students, give a sports/fitness bias. These prompted my recollections of participation in PE classes and sport on Wednesday afternoons. In the early 60's the 'sports uniform', worn to School on Wednesdays was generic white. This is as far removed from the uniform featuring corporate colours of more recent decades, as is current sports footwear from Dunlop sandshoes.

As a First Year student in 1960 I recall an escapade one Wednesday afternoon, following 'House Tennis', at the local Coady Tennis Courts. My friend, Graeme and I returned to School intent on harvesting a crop of mulberries from a tree growing near a boundary fence near the present location of the School's Cricket Nets. Before the School oval and Cricket Nets were established this southern part of School Grounds was 'out of bounds', overgrown with tall weeds, as it had been some years since the horses and cattle referred to in the School Song, had grazed these parts.

Anyway, back to the mulberries. Graeme and I clambered around the branches collecting mulberries in our lunchboxes and some paper bags. On deciding we had as many as we could transport home, we headed to Hornsby station for the trip home. We hadn't walked far before we realised the paper bags were not going to support some of the overripe mulberries. White tee shirts served the purpose. When pulled out they formed a pouch that cradled the harvest till our destination was reached.

When I arrived home, my mother was furious about the large purple stain down the front of my shirt and shorts. The mulberries were great however, when cooked for dessert later in the week.

Have you a Sports Afternoon or PE class anecdote to share with our readers? Your editor will be pleased to assist. Your thoughts and comments are appreciated.

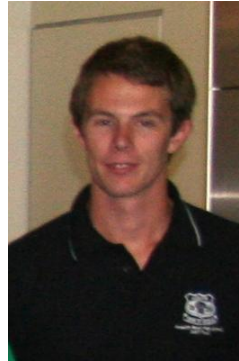
In this edition you will read details of your Club's first Dinner, to be held in the Asquith Bowling and Recreation Club, on Saturday evening 20<sup>th</sup> October. On this occasion, Mr Chris Bonnor, will address members. Chris, a Principal of Asquith Boys during the 90's decade and strong advocate for public education will be known to Sydneysiders for his media commentary on issues of education. Chris is also a noteworthy author and provocative and entertaining speaker. The dinner will be a chance for members to share ideas about the advancement of this Club and learn of the program for the forthcoming 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebrations. The cost of the dinner excellent value at \$50. See details page 3.

**Chris Kent**

**Former student 1960 – 65**

**Former Head Teacher Creative Arts 1982 - 2005**

## INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL TOURS



I would like to begin by thanking all in the Asquith Boys High community who have supported the formation of the ABHS Old Boys Club, and the Old Boys Newsletters. Hopefully this initiative will contribute to maintaining some of the many memories and traditions that are embedded in the school's history. Tradition is a very important part of life at Asquith Boys. From school songs, to poetical debates, to

sporting events, these customary activities makeup some of my fondest recollections of my time at Asquith, as I am sure they do for many others. I would like to talk in some detail about my experiences with what is becoming a relatively novel tradition at ABHS, that is, the annual overseas football tours.

Over the past five years, a very fortunate group of Asquith Boys students and staff have embarked on journeys all over the Asian-Pacific region to test themselves against some of the best footballers. As a senior student I was privileged enough to travel to New Zealand (2003) and Vanuatu (2004) as a part of the senior playing group under the guidance of Mr George Moscos, Mr Mike Blackwood and Mr Gavin Lister. In subsequent years, I gratefully accepted the opportunity to join Mr Moscos and Mr Blackwood en route to Fiji (2005), Malaysia (2006) and Thailand (2007) as part of the coaching staff.

With insight into these tours from the position of both player and coach, I am endowed with a unique perspective on what these tours mean to Asquith Boys, from the point of view of student and former student. Most obviously they provide an opportunity to not only play football against foreign opposition, but for many of us to play against some of the best players we have ever seen, let alone played against. Over the years, the Invitational and Elite sides of Asquith Boys have played International (age limited) Teams from Vanuatu and Malaysia, as well as Representative and School Boy Champion teams from New Zealand, Fiji and Thailand. I am sure the now former Vanuatu National Coach Juan Carlos Buzzetti and his teams (including the said to be Southampton scouted "big bopper" forward) will forever live large in the minds of all who saw and played against them in 2004.

On a personal note, I believe there are perhaps more rewarding adventures and experiences to be had on these tours than playing football, namely, the opportunity of comradeship and exposure to different and diverse cultures. My mind is cast back to the inaugural tour of New Zealand when we travelled the south island; from Christchurch to the heavily Scottish influenced city of Dunedin and on to the adventure haven that is Queenstown. Each city providing not only a different experience of what it is like to live across the Tasman, but also a new opportunity to room with a different fellow Asquith Boy. The many hotels of New Zealand are warmly remembered, but it is hard to beat my personal favourite in the tour accommodation stakes. Situated on our own Island in Vanuatu, a short dinghy ride from the local school and training pitch, all 30 plus boys shared one large barracks style housing. The accommodation consisted of bunk beds, a communal kitchen and a backyard,

*continue page 3*

## SCHOOL OPEN NIGHT

This School event was held in the School Hall on the 6<sup>th</sup> March this year. The Old Boy's Club was represented by Chris Kent and Rod Cunningham.

Setting up our display, on two tables and back panels didn't take long we did not have a lot of material to display. This will change in the future as more Old Boys come on board to show and tell of their experiences at the school. We were nestled in between the Soccer display (which was very well attended by interested Parents and prospective Year 7 students), and a table of Awards.

Two former students were among the many visitors to our stand. We had good discussions about their times at the school as well as their observations on how things have or have not changed in the prevailing years.

No opportunity was lost in handing out published Old Boys Club Newsletters to interested visitors. Several former students, now fathers of prospective students joined the Club on this occasion.

Mothers also stopped to chat to us about their Old School Unions and how they have recently organised reunions for varying years and the level of interest shown by former students.

*Rod Cunningham, Former Student 1963 - 66*



## Charity Concert Event in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service


Saturday 15<sup>th</sup> September, 2007  
7.30pm @ Asquith Boys High School Hall

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

The aim of the concert is to raise funds in support of the RFDS in Dubbo and to continue the strong partnership we have with the organisation.

Asquith Boys High School Stage Band  
presents a charity concert night of swingin' jazz featuring

**John Morrison's**  
**SWING CITY**  
and the **ABHS Stage Band**



ABHS Hall, Jersey St, Asquith  
**7.30pm Saturday 15 September 2007**

Tickets \$20 adult, \$10 child, \$50 family of 4  
Advance purchase with credit card facilities available 9477 3508 and also at the door  
In support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service

## FORMER STUDENTS PERFORM IN SCHOOL VARIETY CONCERT



Former students Ben Zoumpoulis & Peter Prior performed as a duet of renown during their later years at Asquith Boys. This combo agreed to a request to perform as invited artists at this year's School Variety Performance Night. On the Night, they performed: Old Camel Boy (in honor of Albert Namatjira), Rip Rip Woodchip (J. Williamson) and Cape York Peninsula, as an encore.

This year Ben and Peter were among several 'Old Boys' who contributed to Performance Night.

Following their performance Ben, the vocalist in the partnership agreed to a short interview.

**Interviewer:** What benefit/enjoyment did you get from performing as a former student, at this Performance Night?

**Ben:** As a student I always looked forward to and enjoyed our School Variety Nights. They give performers and audience a chance to catch up with friends and enjoy live music. In addition performers have the opportunity to express themselves creatively. I had fun in this last concert, and used the night to promote my own music to the community. As a former student I felt privileged to be invited back to play.

**Interviewer:** What challenges, as a former student, did you meet in planning your participation in the Performance Night?

**Ben:** Organizing rehearsal times around work and Pete's study were the biggest challenges in planning our act for Variety Night. It certainly didn't help living on the Central Coast either, but we got there in the end.

**Interviewer:** How do you define your current musical style? Your style has evolved in recent years. Who were your main influences during this time?

**Ben:** I would define our genre as Australian country/folk music. In the past I have played rock, jazz and heavy metal. So by playing country music, immediately came contrast. I suppose I've grown up listening to country music. Artists like Johnny Cash, Rolf Harris and John Williamson to mention a few. I used to play this sort of music back in primary school where I won competitions. It was after I lost my wonderful Pop in 2002 that I began to change. Being very close to him, it made things harder. I began to conform to my peer group, playing heavier and more aggressive music. One night when I remembered Pop's words; "Never give up that guitar Ben!" I then undertook a huge turn around by selling my drum kit in order to buy a new guitar. I soon got back into the swing of country music. The first country performance at school was the hardest. I didn't know what people would think. I'm so lucky I had such good mates and people around me that didn't care, they just enjoyed it, making every performance a pleasure.

**Interviewer:** I am interested to hear of your plans to continue your aural studies next year. What motivated your interest in this area Ben? What do you hope to get from this course?

**Ben:** I have always loved music and always will. I would love to perform music, professionally, for the rest of my life but naturally it's not realistic. I decided years ago that I wanted to do something in the field of sound. I am currently in the process of filling out an application to do a 2008 TAFE course in this area. The course is called Music- Technical Production. It's located at Ourimbah, which is about a 30-minute drive from home. I hope to further my knowledge by completing this course, which may assist me with a career in the industry as a live sound engineer.

**Interviewer:** Is there any particular anecdote/incident from your participation in the Performance Night that you would like to share?

**Ben:** Having played Cape York Peninsula many times at Asquith, I feel the need to mention how many times I forgot the lyrics in my final performance. I'm sorry about that. However I don't know what it was, but no one said anything about it. I couldn't believe it. Thank you. I really have enjoyed my time at Asquith and hope we can stay in touch.

Performers among the 'Old Boys Community' interested in arranging 'an invitation' or other participation in next year's School Variety Performance Night should contact your Editor, or Mike Williamson of the Music Department at Asquith Boys.



## ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB DINNER

# LET'S TALK

BE PART OF THIS OCCASION & BRING YOUR IDEAS FOR  
CELEBRATING THE SCHOOLS 50<sup>TH</sup> IN 2010

**VENUE:** Asquith Bowling Club

**DATE:** Saturday, 20<sup>th</sup> October 2007

**COST:** \$50 per head includes: Buffet Dinner and Dessert  
Tea/Coffee and limited table drinks

**TIME:** 6 – 10pm

**RSVP:** 21<sup>st</sup> Sept 2007 Group bookings welcome

**Entertainment:** Asquith Boys High School Stage Band

**Guest Speaker:** Mr Chris Bonnor

*Chris is a recent President of the Secondary Schools Principals Council  
and former Principal of Asquith Boys throughout the decade of the 1990's*

### Asquith Boys High School – Payment for Old Boys Club Dinner \$50

Phone: 02 9477 3508 Fax: 02 9482 2546 Email: christopher.kent7@education.nsw.gov.au PO Box 242, Hornsby NSW 1630

☐ Cheque enclosed - please make cheque payable to **Asquith Boys High School**  
or

☐ I would like to pay the amount of \$..... by credit card \* (fill in details below)

Number of tickets: ..... Name(s): .....

Who would you like to sit with: .....

\* Name on card (please print): .....

Address: .....

Type of card: ☐ Visa ☐ Bankcard ☐ Mastercard Card Expiry Date: ..... / .....

CARD NUMBER:

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Signature: ..... Date: .....

## SPORTING HONOUR BOARD



Asquith Boys High School boasts a long history of outstanding sporting achievements. From individual to team events, in the water and on the land, past and present students have succeeded at the highest level.

Currently some of the students at Asquith Boys performing at the highest level include:

Daniel ARNAMNART (12) – Member of the Australian Swimming Squad

Tonu LIIBAND (7) – NSW Aged Doubles Champion – Tennis

Jarrod ANSEMS (7) – NSWCHS Cross Country Age Champion

As a school we would like to have an honour board to recognise the amazing feats of these talented athletes. To make this list complete, however, we need your assistance. If you know of anyone (or yourself!!) from your year group who represented NSW (or another state) or Australia (or another country) during his time at Asquith Boys or following his departure, we would like to know. If possible please provide: Year, Students Name and Sporting event.

Once all of the details have been collated we are intending to develop a 'Sports Hall of Fame' in the corridor near the PE staffroom. The PE staff are currently keeping themselves busy transforming D1 (one of the old technical drawing rooms) into a weights room. We are hoping that this honour board and the weights room will provide our students with additional resources to soar to great heights and inspire them, while also providing an opportunity to reflect on past achievements.

Details of sporting achievements can be forwarded via email to:

[ryan.bolger@education.nsw.gov.au](mailto:ryan.bolger@education.nsw.gov.au)

[Christopher.Kent7@education.nsw.gov.au](mailto:Christopher.Kent7@education.nsw.gov.au)

Thank you for your assistance,

**Ryan BOLGER**

**Asquith Boys High Student 1989-1994**

**PDHPE Asquith Boys High 2000-current**

## INTERNATIONAL FOOTBALL TOUR *continued*

where the ever present game of "coconut" would take place with resident coconut "Dexter". For those Old Boys who are not accustomed to the game, it consists of standing in a circle whilst throwing Dexter (or any other coconut) to each other as quickly as possible, without dropping him (or it). Year 12 member Kris Lacis soon learnt that a coconut to the head can not only lose you a game, and its consequent bragging rights, but also easily dislodge a tooth (good shot Michael Solling!).

Like all Old Boys, the Old Boys of the tours have many more stories involving their mates on which to reminisce and share. But perhaps more uniquely, Old Boys of the tours can also share tales of the cultural awakenings that they were (and still are) presented with at such a crucial stage of their lives. In each country there is always something or someone new and different to see or meet. Not many will forget the trip to the modest local community we visited in Vanuatu, or the unforgettable friendliness and sincerity shown by the Fijian locals. Malaysia provided some insight into the future, where the hotel we stayed in housed its very own theme park, not to mention the abundance of sustainable artificial football pitches. More recently, I know it will be a longtime before we forget the sights, sounds and smells of Bangkok, nor the all inspiring presence of the Reclining Buddha.

Over the years we may have travelled to different countries, played different opposition, stayed in different styles of accommodation, and seen many changes in playing and even coaching staff. However, there remain a couple of very important common denominators I should thank, on behalf of all Old Boys from these tours. Firstly, I would like to thank and congratulate all the supporters of the tours. To the principals Mr David Short and Mr Terry Griffiths, your past and present support and encouragement is undoubtedly necessary and gratefully appreciated. Also, a special thankyou for the continuing assistance provided by the Student Representative Council, the Kuringai-District Soccer Association, Mount Colah Soccer Club and the Asquith Soccer Club. Lastly, a sincere thankyou is directed to Mr Moscos and Mr Blackwood for their unprecedented work involved in the organisation and implementation of the tours. Without you two, these tours, and the inherent priceless rewards reaped by all who embark on them would not be possible.

**Corey Pendlebury: Former student – 2004 HSC**

## AUSTRALIAN MATHEMATICS COMPETITION

There is a long tradition of students from Asquith Boys High School participating in the Australian Mathematics Competition with many of them receiving Credit, Distinction and High Distinction certificates over the years. This year the competition was held on 25<sup>th</sup> July and we had approximately 100 students competing. We decided to make participation compulsory for the enrichment class in Year 7 and for the top classes in each of Years 8 - 12, but other students were welcome to join.

Each year the Australian Mathematics Competition involves around 400,000 students from across the nation. The aims of the competition are:

1. To highlight the importance of mathematics as a curriculum subject
2. To give students an opportunity to discover talent in mathematics
3. To provide resources for the classroom and general discussion

Competitors are asked to solve 30 problems in 75 minutes. The questions become progressively more difficult through the test and the final few questions will challenge even the most talented student of Mathematics. The nature of the problems tends to be quite different from the types of questions we tackle during normal Maths classes and some students find that they have a hidden talent for thinking through these problems.

To help our students prepare for the competition Mrs Laffer ran lunchtime lessons in the two weeks leading up to the competition. Students had the opportunity to work through problems from previous years and received general hints on how to approach problem solving.

Thanks to Mrs Laffer for both the lessons and for her organisation of the event.

**David Arblaster,**  
**Head Teacher Mathematics**

## DEBATING REPORT

*"That reading is a thing of the past"* was the topic for the recent debate for Year 10 against Galston High School. We were in the negative position and the first two speakers, Sean Szabo and Zac Fenn, came out strongly with good supporting evidence and an impressive team line. Lastly, Nick Gross's extroverted and succinct closure added humour to a nailbiting debate. Thanks to Tom Van Den Berg for his refutes and guidance as Team Advisor. Yes we did win this one after two defeats against Hornsby Girls previously. The adjudicator noted the great improvement in the boys' manner and teamwork. Congratulations on the win! We are looking forward to being a more competitive force next year.

Congratulations to Thomas Slade, Jeff Carrick, Mark Easterbrook and Ben Hill for participating in the Year 11 debating competition. They debated valiantly against North Sydney Girls' best, but were unfortunately defeated by a small margin. All members of the team structured their arguments well and made some great points about international governance. *Well done boys!*

**Mrs Nathalie Bodley**  
**Relieving Head Teacher, English**

## DEVELOPING LITERACY AND NUMERACY AT ASQUITH BOYS

Parents of boys in Years 7 to 10 may have noticed, as part of the Year Advisor's section of their son's Half Yearly Report, a comment on either 'satisfactory' or 'unsatisfactory' participation in Literacy and Numeracy lessons. This comment is a reflection of each boy's participation in our cross curricula Literacy and Numeracy program, which has been running on Monday and Friday mornings since the start of this year.

The objective of the program is to firstly improve basic literacy and numeracy skills in our junior school, then use this as the basis to target more specific areas of concern, such as the quality of extended written responses across all subjects.

The origins of our literacy and numeracy program are drawn from a number of areas. Primarily, our annual analysis of ELLA and SNAP test results among our Year 7 & 8 students, School Certificate results for Year 10 students, and ultimately HSC results for boys completing Year 12. All of these results clearly show the need for constant reinforcement of all of those basic literacy skills which ultimately lead to perceptive and comprehensive reading, along with effective written responses. The same conclusions certainly apply to numeracy skills across a range of subjects.

The nature of all of these public examinations - no matter what the subject - place increasing emphasis on numeracy and more particularly literacy skills, in determining which students achieve the higher band examination results. Accordingly, teachers at Asquith Boys have been working in cross faculty teams over the past 18 months, taking advantage of regional and federal government funding, in order to produce literacy and numeracy lessons which are designed specifically for our boys, drawing on content from the subjects they are already familiar with, in order to improve their ability to achieve success in these examinations.

**Michael Hensley, Head Teacher English on behalf of the Literacy & Numeracy Team**

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## HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH THE ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB?

*(If you receive Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletters by e-mail you are already registered as a Member)*

This Club was commenced in 2006 with the purpose of:

- Assisting former students of The School maintain links with their peer group and their former School and teachers
- Organising and communicating information about former student events
- Assisting in the development of a program for celebrating the School's 50<sup>th</sup> Birthday, to be celebrated in 2010

*To facilitate these goals, an Old Boys Newsletter is published twice a year. This is e-mailed to members free of charge*

### ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name: *(please print)* \_\_\_\_\_ *(tick your preferred contact)*

☐ 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? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

How would you like to celebrate your years at Asquith Boys, in 2010? \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**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@education.nsw.gov.au

**Thanks to current members for passing this Application to prospective members**