



Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletter

Vol. 4 March, 2008

EDITORIAL

In October a small group of 'old boys' met at the Asquith Bowling and Recreation Club for lunch. Food, company and conversation contributed to the enjoyment of this occasion. On this occasion we were joined by Canadian photographer, Greg Wahl-Stevens. Greg, an original student of Asquith Boys was in Sydney to visit friends and family.

Gareth Cole, a close friend of Greg's, represented Old Boys, in addressing the first School Assembly at Asquith in February. This Assembly, an established tradition, is held annually to award high achieving students of the previous year's HSC class. Gareth enthralled students, staff, parents and former students, in his address, with his personal journey of experiences as a student, which helped form his passion for solar and ecologically sustainable architecture. At the Morning Tea following the Assembly, Gareth was 'mobbed' by a group of senior students, eager to ask questions and find out more. Gareth has since revisited the School to speak to students enrolled in senior Science and Technology classes. The full text of Gareth's address to the School is available in this edition.

Thanks to members who have shared recollections and knowledge for the developing Sports Hall of Fame (refer to Ryan Bolger's 'Sporting Honour Board' article in the last edition of this Newsletter). Ryan is continuing this research and values the knowledge and suggestions of all former students and staff. A progress report will be made in a future edition. If you know of any former student who represented any sport at State or National level, please share your knowledge.

Two recent graduates from the School currently have their art on show at the Art Gallery of NSW and the Hazelhurst Gallery in Gympie. Con Rongas & Toby Fenn, completed their artworks as submissions for their 2007 HSC. Congratulations to you both and to your talented art teachers who have worked hard to maintain this standard over many years.

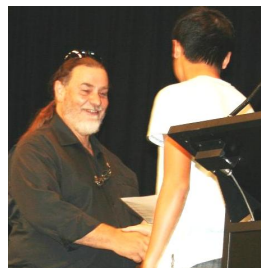
Congratulations also to Daniel Arnarnart, recently graduating from Asquith Boys as an elite Australian Swimmer. Whilst in his final year (2007), Daniel was awarded '**Outstanding Sportsperson of the Year**', and received a Blue Endorsement by the President of the Sydney North Schools Sports Association. Daniel will compete on Easter Monday, in his quest to join the Australian Swimming Team for the Beijing Olympics. Go Daniel!

The next meeting of your committee will be held in the School Library, 9.30am. 10th April. Members are welcome, RSVP phone: 9477 3508. One of the items on the Agenda for this meeting is to review School Archives, maintained by the Librarian, Mrs. Barbara Harrison. It is anticipated that development of these archives will occur with planning for the School's 50th Birthday in 2010. In the intervening period it is hoped that all members will reflect on a production or achievement whilst enrolled as a student at Asquith Boys that grew into something more in post School years. Gareth's reflections adjacent, may assist this process. More specific requests for your memories of schooldays will be made in future editions of this Newsletter.



Chris Kent
Former student 1960 – 1965
Former Head Teacher
Creative Arts 1982 – 2005

HSC AWARDS ASSEMBLY



At the **HSC Awards Assembly** Mr Gareth Cole, a successful former student addressed the Assembly. School Captain Patrick Boyle introduced him.

"Today we have the company of an ex student of Asquith boys. Mr Gareth Cole. Mr Cole was in the first year through the school in 1960 when the school opened, he graduated in 1965."

Mr Gareth Cole has become a very well known architect with a string of awards, scholarships and commissions that has put him at the front of his field of ecological architects, and kept him in the public eye for the last 25 years. His specialty has been in residential solar and ecological architecture. Recently Mr Cole moved his company 'The Ecologie Group' to a new office in Hornsby, where he is the Principal Architect.

Mr Cole has won National energy Awards as well as 44 industry awards. He has written energy policies for many Sydney Councils, he is the author of 3 books on solar architecture, produced 2 documentary films on solar housing and was the Environmentally Sustainable Design consultant for many of the buildings at the Sydney Olympics.

He is passionate about the environment and the ecology of his architecture and a good example of what an Asquith Boys High student can achieve.

Mr Gareth Cole:"

"Good morning teachers, students and parents.

Thank you for inviting me today, seeing my old school some 42 years later has certainly brought back many interesting memories. Memories of assembly in the courtyard often in the rain, running late for class, and getting into trouble for running, and sabotaging experiments in the science class. I recall the fun of making tool boxes in woodworking class with Mr Potter, a tool box I still use and lessons in the library, art classrooms. I remember getting the cane for misbehaving. I also remember the teacher's the good, the bad and the ugly. I used to hate the PE teacher making us run around the oval 3 times faster and faster each time. I recall Mr Riddett's class in Descriptive Geometry and Drawing, my favourite class. I learned how to draw, using my compass set correctly, and I learned physical geometry. All have stayed with me all these years and has been the basis of my career, in which I am now branching into a very definitive world of sacred geometry, in my architecture.

But my school story is not one of success. I guess I was a pretty average student. I did OK, just getting through most exams; constantly being told 'you can do better.' I fell many times before I found who I really was and what I really wanted to do. I failed my final School exams and consequently repeated my Leaving Certificate year, not exactly good for my self-esteem. Having to repeat, with students from the year below, was the most humiliating experience and a real torture. But I did it and I passed. I'm not suggesting this, as a formula for success but that's how it happened for me. It taught me a huge lesson, get organized, do it right and do it once.

When I left school and had a weekend to myself. My dad got me a job in the Commonwealth bank on the following Monday. "No son of mine is going to sit around and waste time" Dad was an accountant. When I told him I hated the job he said well "you have the choice to change it" - so change I did.

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Asquith Boys High School Stage Band

presents a night of swingin' jazz

in support of the Royal Flying Doctor Service

featuring

John Morrison's

SWING CITY

ABHS Stage Band and

Hornsby Heights Primary School Senior Band



ABHS Hall, entrance off Pacific Highway, Asquith
Concert starts 7pm Saturday 21st June, 2008

Tickets - \$20 adult, \$10 child or \$50 family of 4 (2 Adults/2 child)

Purchase tickets in advance

by cash (in person), cheque to Asquith Boys High School (post) or credit card (phone)

Phone: 9477 3508

P O Box 242, Hornsby 1630

RECENT GRADUATE DANIEL ARNAMNART

Elite Athlete, Australian Swimming Champion Daniel has an exemplary swimming career and is admired by the Asquith community. In recent times he has competed at the World School Games, Australian Age Championships, Telstra Dolphins Open West Coast Tour of the USA, the Stanford Meet, the Santa Clara Meet and the Telstra Grand Prix Meet. He achieved medal success at all these meets. Daniel has been selected to compete in the trials for the Beijing Olympics.



Daniel has had a phenomenal year, winning everything there is to win. He has broken nearly all NSW and Australian Records for his events.

Daniel is now ranked #2 in Australia for Backstroke behind Matt Welsh (our Olympic Champion).

Despite his National status, Daniel supported School Swimming Carnivals whilst enrolled as a student.

Beijing 2008 Olympics is his next GOAL! Daniel has been selected to compete in the swimming trials over the Easter Weekend.

Good luck Daniel.

AU REVOIR MR FORD

Popular teacher and cheerful, friendly colleague, Steve Ford finished his work at Asquith Boys last year.

'Fordy' as his students affectionately named him had been closely involved with students in a number of programs, including:

- Leader of the Peer Support Program
- Student Representative Council Co-ordinator
- Drama Co-ordinator, as well as the winner of a NIDA award for Acting & Direction for 'Mad Men & Specialists'
- Teacher in Charge of Teasdale, Karl Kramp & the Commonwealth Bank Debating Seniors for over ten years. Steve himself was a State Champion debater in the Teasdale competition during High School

Steve, a former student of Asquith Boys High achieved his HSC in 1978. Following School, Steve completed his BA Dip ED in Literature, Education, History, Philosophy & Politics at Macquarie University in 1982. He commenced teaching at Richmond High School, following his studies.

Outside his educational accomplishments, Steve and his wife Melanie found time to raise two lovely children. Their elder child Jessica is close to finishing her B.Bus with Honours, whilst their younger child, Ben has recently completed the HSC.

Steve has taken up a position at Cheltenham Girls High School. *We wish him well with his future endeavours.*



SHAUN OPENS A BASE FOR HIP-HOP CULTURE IN HORNSBY

Graduation from Asquith Boys in 2000 enabled Shaun Daniels to pursue his boyhood passion for Hip-Hop.

Initially Shaun took an apprenticeship in landscaping. When a snowboarding accident resulted in a broken finger, Shaun was unable to continue with landscaping. Following several tedious unfulfilling jobs, he accepted a security position with a Dutch investment bank. During this time Shaun maintained his enthusiasm for Hip-Hop, leading to his eventually founding *Nurcha Records*, an independent record label specialising in Hip-Hop artists, in 2005. When developing this Label, Shaun travelled extensively around Australia to sign some of the best Hip-Hop artists. In addition, international artists have also been attracted to *Nurcha Records*. This year, Shaun was joined with his good friend Danny aka Double, one of *Nurcha Records* recording artists, in opening '*Nurcha Records Hip-Hop Store*' at 12A Coronation St. Hornsby.

Shaun regards the Hornsby Store as 'an extension of the record label and a point of contact for artists'. To this end, the store provides a 'chill zone' in the store, allowing youth and artists a 'home away from home' space in which to enjoy music, meet and plan events. There is even a TV, a PS2 and a huge seven-seater couch to assist this process. The store is an outlet for an extensive range of Hip-Hop recordings, available on vinyl LPs and CD, including those on the *Nurcha Records* label. In addition a spectrum of aerosol colours for mural artists, clothing, magazines and DVDs are on sale. A range of original Hip-Hop art works, on canvas, by numerous artists are also available.

Since opening, Shaun has had several meetings with Hornsby Shire Council to market his services to the community and to plan local events with youth and Hip-Hop as the focus. Extensive media coverage is in the pipeline. Meanwhile Shaun retains other business interests in the Hornsby area as he is also employed by a timber firm.

To celebrate the opening of the *Nurcha Records Hip-Hop Store*, in Hornsby, the business hosted a free BBQ at the Store on Saturday March 1st. This event attracted extensive local interest and the support of other Hip-Hop devotees, many of whom travelled from the South Coast, Canberra, Brisbane and Melbourne to attend.



After 3 months of uncertainty I got a job as a draftsman working for a large project home building company. Life started to be fun and I enjoyed the buildings and being on site.

I went on to win a scholarship and I found my passion in life: architecture. It was that passion in architecture and design that helped me top the year three years in a row at Architecture School. I topped the year and I had a lot of fun, I had learned to do it right do it once and do it with passion. Oh, yes and have fun.

I also spent a lot of time dreaming about what I wanted to do once I graduated, envisaging your future is important. I listed that (1). I wanted to be recognized for my work, (2) I wanted to run my own architectural practice and (3) I wanted to be successful. I have achieved all those goals. I am still known for my love and passion for the ecology of architecture and ways of building that is caring for the ecology of the planet.

How did all this come about? Three majors themes: focus, discipline and management that is self-management. It is also about setting goals and priorities. Once I decided my priorities I dedicated myself to architecture. For a while I put aside distractions. I was playing cricket each week, I was in the Sydney fencing team, played reserve grade squash and competition tennis. The choice was difficult but I had a goal in mind and I dropped the sports and spent my days, weekends and evenings on design and doing twice what was expected of me. Why? Because I knew what was the best for me rather than just trying to please my tutors.

My life continues to be full; I work 9-10 hours a day and often a 7-day week. I do it because I love my work and I'm dedicated to making the world a better place through better ecological buildings. Buildings that are cost effective to build and cost nothing to run. They can be sustained without town water, process waste without polluting the environment and run on solar collectors for hot water and solar panels for electricity.

Back to school for a second, I learned at school more valuable lessons than were taught in the classroom; I learned how to handle the bullies, smart alecs, and how to get on the right side of teachers. All are life lessons. For example I often met people on building sites who are bullies and planners and consultants who are 'smart alecs' and council officers who one needs to get on the

right side to have plans approved. These people are no different to those I met at school. I remember many of the good times at school with my mates. Those long talks and dreams about what we would do after leaving school was always on our mind. Yes girls were part of that, but adventure and travel was our main desire. We dreamt about travelling to the outback to climb mountains and spend time walking the bush and being survivors, and for the 3 years after school, two mates and I did just that climbing the mountains at the Warrumbungle's, camping in the bush areas and canoeing down major rivers in the national parks.

For a while after leaving school, I let life and experience take over the running of my life. When I realised what I wanted to do I made choices for something I could be passionate about. Life is not an interest, it is a passion. Now, as an employer I look for staff who have 'a fire in their belly', and a passion to do better. In my office we work as a team and it is the team spirit that drives us all, we each want to help each other develop better skills and do our tasks with pleasure and to achieve the best in less time. I've learnt that I can manage time to include anything that I would like to do; I'm now back playing tennis, bowling, and drive a tractor around my farm. Its fun and I enjoy my life.

So for those of you who did well and achieved your goals in the HSC, congratulations. You have a lot of choices because you were committed to your goals, its time to find the fun and passion in life, hard work is only hard when there is no passion.

For those of you who didn't do so well, you are just limited in your choices for now. Retrace your steps and see where you have not put in the effort, where can you change. It's now time for hard work to get back on track but once you achieve your goals life gets easier. Remember, whatever you choose to do, shop assistant or nuclear scientist, do it with passion and have fun doing it.

School is an experience, and when you get to my age you begin to realize just how much you did get out of the whole school environment.

Be proud to be an Asquith boy, always to do your best, be organised, and be passionate and live life to the fullest.

Thank you

NEW WEIGHT TRAINING FACILITY AT ABHS

In the last edition of the Old Boys Newsletter, Ryan Bolger, former student, now PE Teacher at Asquith Boys outlined a staff goal to establish a Weight Training Room. Happily the PE Staff report the Stage 1 goal has been achieved with the setting up of nearly \$20,000 worth of weight training equipment.

Students now press, pull, lift and punch their way to health and fitness, whilst developing their triceps, biceps, latissimi dorsi and calf muscles. Equipment available includes: exercise bikes, punching bag, chin-up bar, medicine balls and pin loaded resistance training machines. In addition, the following state of the art machinery is available for the young athletes:

- Leg and Calf Press
- Shoulder Press
- Multi Press-Adjustable height press
- Bicep/Tricep Curl Machine
- Cable Cross Over Machine
- Tricep Pushdown Machine
- Seated Row Machine
- Lat Pulldown Machine

Equipment to date has been funded by the Asquith Boys High School Council, Asquith Boys High School Student Representative Council, Rebel Sport, in addition to several School families.

This resource is utilised by students enrolled in School courses, implemented by the PDHPE Staff:

- Yr 11 & 12 Personal Development Health and Physical Education
- Yr 11 & 12 Sport Lifestyle and Recreation
- Yr 9 & 10 Physical Activity and Sports Studies
- Year 10 Personal Development Health and Physical Education

Outside class time, students have been allocated access time to further their training, for a small charge. It is envisaged that the success of the School's sports teams will be enhanced with access to these facilities.

The purchase of additional equipment, including a rower, stepper and back hyper extension machine is planned, as funds become available.



KIM'S KAPERS

Former student, Visual Artist and Artistic Director, Kim Carpenter received good news in February when a new three – year funding partnership with the NSW Department of Education was announced. Earlier he had been informed that another benefactor's funding had been discontinued, threatening his acclaimed, 20 year old, Theatre of Image. The new funding amounts to a commitment of \$300,000 by the NSW Department of Education, and supplements the \$200,000 Toll received annually from the Australia Council and Arts NSW combined. Before February's announcement, Kim's hopes had been raised during a meeting with the NSW Education Minister. He is reported to have said his proposal "got a very good hearing".

Theatre of Images 2008 season will commence in April with a show at the Seymour Theatre Centre called *Pixel and Friends*. Kristina Chan, who danced in Tanja Liedtke's *Construct*, in the recent Sydney Festival will feature in this performance. In June, Oscar Wilde's classic fairy tale: *The Happy Prince* will be staged at The Theatre. Kim will design and direct this production.

Kim Carpenter is one of Australia's leading visual theatre artists. He is currently Australia's only Director/Designer. He has designed and directed over 60 productions, including most recently: *Lucie The Iceberg*, *Stella & The Moon Man* and *Go Pinocchio*. A graduate of both the National Institute of Dramatic Art, Sydney, (where he is a member of the Board of Studies) and the English National Opera School of Design, London, Kim is a Churchill Fellow (1990), has served as a Co-Artistic Director of Nimrod Theatre, Sydney and was a recipient of the Loudon Sainthill Scholarship in 1982.

Kim founded Theatre of Image in late 1988, having established an outstanding reputation for producing distinctive visual theatre. Whether it is for a child or adult audience, his way of story telling is largely visual. A production by Theatre of Image can see any number of combinations of performers skilled in mime, puppetry, acting, dance and song, integrated with an inventiveness of contemporary production techniques: film, video, animation, sound, music, light, costume and puppets (shadow, rod, string and glove). During school holidays, Theatre of Image also runs a Creative Holiday Workshop program. In April the Program will be held at the Powerhouse Museum. During the school holidays in July and October the venue will be UNSW.

Kim's student peers, at Asquith Boys may remember his calligraphic animated drawings, such as that illustrated, from the Schools 1965 Annual. Kim completed other illustrations for this journal and had an essay published, entitled The First Australians. Theatregoers familiar with his current visual style will recognise a kinship with his earlier images, conceived as a student in 3rd Form (year 9), 43 years ago.

Stage sets for Kim's 2008 Production of *The Happy Prince* can be viewed below.

For more information: www.theatreofimage.com.au.



Drawing:
K. Carpenter, Third Form.



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 50th 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