Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletter



## **EDITORIAL**

The ABHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir DVD team are within a few days of completing a task that was commenced in July 2009.

The Souvenir DVD pack contains two disks. Disc 1 includes video and a sound/slide show, the result of collaboration between students, staff, former students and parents. Disc 2 is a photo archive reflecting aspects of the 50 Years of ABHS, from 1960 – 2010. The photos were sourced from School Archives and the many former students and former staff who sent in their scanned photos or had their photos scanned at one of the School Open Day Anniversaries in recent decades. Both disks have a contents menu to assist with easy and enjoyable viewing. Both can be played on DVD and computer. More details can be found on the flyer in this Newsletter. Congratulations Bruce Northcott and your team for this outstanding production!

Profit from the sales of the ABHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir DVD will go to the Mervyn Brown Senior Academic Scholarship Fund.

The conclusion of the School's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year provides the opportunity to thank those who guided the planning of events in the time prior to 2010. Many worked at running events and ensured their success. Events included: an ABHS 50<sup>th</sup> stall at the AGHS Open Day Celebration, participation in the Hornsby Anzac March, the Short Film Competition, Open Day, Golf Day, Lawn Bowls, the Reunion Dinner, Church Service, Football Tournament and the making of the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir DVD. Thanks to former students, former staff and their families for attending and contributing to these events. Many insightful and colourful memories of your schooldays at ABHS, recorded on Open Day for the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary DVD, make fascinating and entertaining viewing.

If one person is to be singled out for special thanks, it must be jenny Lewis of the clerical staff at ABHS. Jenny has been tireless, creative and accommodating throughout. Jenny has organized volunteers, managed publicity, promotion and sponsorship, kept detailed minutes for all 50<sup>th</sup> meetings and endeavoured to keep the rest of us on track. Thank you jenny for your best endeavour.

At this point, it is necessary to refine the function of the Old Boys Club. A prime function of this organization, into the future, will be to provide support to the Mervyn Brown Senior Academic Scholarship Fund which was established this year. To assist with this, the ABHS Council has amended its constitution to make provision for Old Boy representation on this governing group. How this is to be achieved and maintained in the years ahead remains one of the challenges that will engage some in 2011. If you have ideas, time, or skills to contribute to the management and direction of the ABHS Old Boys Club please contact your editor.



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

#### MERVYN BROWN SENIOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP

I am very pleased to announce that funds raised by the Old Boys Club after the recent 50th anniversary are to be allocated to providing for a senior school (Years 11 and 12) academic scholarship. The two year scholarship will be awarded each year (commencing 2011) to a boy in Year 11.

The scholarship will support the recipient in paying all school fees and provide funding support to extend his learning in the subject for which the scholarship has been awarded. This scholarship will not replace the existing scholarships currently in place in the creative and performing arts.

Applications have been received and interviews will conclude in late November, with the winner being announced at Presentation Night, 13 December.

**Donations are still sought for this scholarship** to ensure its success over the years. 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.

# **50TH SHORT FILM COMPETITION AWARDS ASSEMBLY**

Recently, all students who entered the Short Film Competition, a 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary event, received their Certificates of Appreciation at a special School Assembly. In addition to their Certificate, they received a souvenir backpack.

On this occasion, boys who made an outstanding contribution to the School's 50<sup>th</sup> were also recognised, with a Certificate of Appreciation. These boys received a souvenir mug and pen.

During the Assembly, four films that gained prizes were screened to the audience which comprised of proud parents, students, staff and former student representatives. These films were:

- 'How Does a Coastie Get to School' by Will van Egmond-Jones (Special Encouragement Award)
- 'School is Lifestyle' by Christopher Bissett (equal 2<sup>nd</sup> prize)
- 'Back to the Future' by Daniel Griffin (equal 2<sup>nd</sup> prize)
- 'First Day' by Hamish McCarthy (1<sup>st</sup> prize)

The audience showed their appreciation of the films and all of the boy's efforts with enthusiastic acclaim.

A former student, Mr Bruce Northcott, gave a short, interesting address to the Assembly. Bruce graduated from ABHS in 1978. In June 2009, Bruce volunteered to produce the School's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary Souvenir DVD, currently in the final phase of production. Mr Northcott shared a couple of anecdotes from his school days and his passion for making short films. His address, below, was illustrated by a demonstration of some of the technological advances made in film making in recent decades.

Following the Assembly, award recipients, parents and former student representatives enjoyed a special morning tea, served in Palm Court, adjacent the School Canteen.

#### **Chris Kent**

Bruce's Address - Good morning students, parents, staff and former students.



I still have trouble believing that 32 years have passed since I completed Year 12, my HSC and left Asquith Boys' High School forever (or so I thought at the time). If you had asked me back in 1978 whether I would ever return to this place, my answer would have been a loud and emphatic, "NO!"

I remember my mother saying to me when I was about 14 or 15, "Son, your school days are the best years of your life. Make the most of them!" You could have heard a pin drop, before my reply, "Mum, if these are the best days of my life, then what on earth have I got to look forward to?"

Time has certainly changed my attitude. The years that pass have a strange knack of changing the way that a person looks at the past. I believe the term for this is, "looking at the past through rose-coloured glasses". You

tend, after a while to remember the good times and forget all the bad, and this is not a bad way to look at things at all! This habit of "backward glancing" led to me to be appointed Producer of the ABHS 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir DVD.

After I returned from a trip to Britain in 1983, I found myself looking for a good way to capture moving images of the past. My father lent to me his Bolex Super 8 (silent) movie camera. When I returned, just short of three months later, I had amassed a total of about 25 minutes of footage. There just had to be a better way! As it turned out, there was.

I bought my first portable Video Camera and Porta Pack in 1984. How on earth did I carry that thing? Editing was done by plugging one Video Cassette Recorder into another, you used the pause, and play buttons continuously. Up until then, the school used black and white Video Cameras hooked up to Reel to Reel Porta-packs with 2" video tape that took a crew of two or three to lug around. These days' video cameras sit in the palm of one hand and the way they are shrinking you may fit two soon! Moreover, editing is done on a PC.

Over the years my hobby has seen me collect countless numbers of VHS & VHS-C tapes, DVDs and others with many hours of memories of family, friends (some of whom are no longer with us), events, parties, weddings, concerts and more. I produced around a dozen wedding videos, assisted in the production of four videos for my employer and others and I even worked at TCN Channel Nine for a while. So what's this got to do with Asquith Boys High School?

The first time I became aware that ABHS was turning 50 was when I got a flyer in the post from Chris Kent of ABHS Old Boys Club. He asked for volunteers to help with the 50<sup>th</sup> birthday video and I indicated I would help, assuming that my former school would no doubt have already organised a large group of people for the task. As it turned out, I was the ONLY volunteer for the role of Producer. I accepted the opportunity to fill this role.

All that was nearly 15 months ago, and now the project is slowly but surely approaching its climax. THE RELEASE! It has been a lot of fun. I have now a great team of video experts (if they weren't at the beginning, they sure as heck are now!), led by organiser, Chris Kent, and the star-of-just about everything, jenny Lewis. Not forgetting the rest of the team, Visual Arts teacher Caroline Cooke, School Prefect James Logan, semi-retired ABC staff member Max Fisher, Old Boy Graeme Bolton, Old Boy (in Grafton) Graeme Goldrick, Principal Terry Griffiths, Deputy Principal Bruce Collins and our latest recruit, parent David McCarthy... I apologise to anyone I have left out.

I have enjoyed being back here working on this project. This is a great school and you can all be proud of it. I sure am.

I ask every one of you to support the efforts of those who made the 50<sup>th</sup> celebration and the DVD possible and urge you to order your copy(ies) now!

Thanks for welcoming me back. It has been a pleasure. After it is all over, I will miss the place... despite all I thought and said 32 years ago.

Readers will find further information about the 50<sup>th</sup> Souvenir DVD pack elsewhere in this Newsletter.

#### **MERVYN BROWN SENIOR ACADEMIC SCHOLARSHIP**



the School, phone 9477 3508.

The first recipient of this Award will be announced at the School's Presentation Night, Monday 13 December 2010. Mervyn Brown was the first Principal at Asquith Boys High School from 1960 – 1968.

The idea for this Scholarship was suggested at an ABHS 50th Anniversary planning meeting in 2009. It was thought that establishing such an Award would be a worthy objective for surplus funds, after 50th Anniversary expenses had been met. Former students and a former teacher (ABHS old boy) were present at this meeting. The family of the late Mervyn Brown was contacted with the idea that the Scholarship be given the name of the School's First Principal and they agreed. Subsequently, funding of the Mervyn Brown Senior Academic Scholarship was identified as an objective in publicity for ABHS 50th Anniversary events. It is hoped that ABHS old boys will maintain their role as the major sponsor of this Scholarship into the future. Donations to the Scholarship Fund can be made by contacting

The Mervyn Brown Senior Academic Scholarship will be offered to students enrolled in Year 10 each year, and awarded to a boy entering Year 11, for his two years of Senior School studies. It will be awarded in one curriculum area, excluding Music, Visual Arts and Senior Band (a range of Creative and Performing Arts Scholarships are currently available to students in this curriculum area). The scholarship will support the recipient by paying school fees and in providing additional funding support to extend his learning in the subject for which the scholarship has been awarded. Further details will be available on the School's website in the near future.

If you are interested in assisting in the management of the Mervyn Brown Senior Academic Scholarship, please contact your Editor, Chris Kent by email: christopher.kent7@det.nsw.edu.au.

#### **85 YEAR OLD'S NOTEWORTHY PERFORMANCE FOR ASQUITH BOYS**

After nearly 50 years of service at Asquith Boys, the School's Grand Piano is due for replacement. Mervyn Brown, the School's first Principal, purchased and played 'Old Bluthner' early in the 1960s. Ever since, it has performed for countless students and staff for HSC Performance pieces, original compositions, Variety Concerts, playing the National Anthem and to accompany School Musicals.

During this time, development in piano technology, and cost effectiveness suggests now is the best time to replace the Grand Piano with a quality instrument that will serve the needs of students during the decades ahead.

Music Teacher, Mike Williamson said, 'In recent years, much upgrading has been done of School Hall infrastructure. New lighting, sound, staging, curtains and heating has been installed. Consideration is being given to a Kawai or Yamaha Grand, at a cost of \$15,000. The Music department has raised a good portion of this amount to date, but welcomes donations'.



If you would like more information, or are considering making a contribution to the new piano, please contact Mike Williamson, at ABHS 9477 3508.

#### DISTANCE NO BAR TO WORK ON ABHS 50TH DVD



When the small team planning the School's 50th Anniversary Video received advice that former student Graeme Goldrick ticked the box to assist with the 50th video production (on pre Anniversary publicity), they were bemused as to how this offer would be accepted. Graeme is a resident of Grafton, NSW. Planning meetings for the 50th DVD were held in the ABHS Library.

As planning for the video progressed Graeme was asked to assist with editing some ABHS archival recordings from past School events. The DVD containing three hours of unedited recording from the ABHS 40th Anniversary celebrations was posted to Grafton. Within a remarkably short time Graeme

returned 15 minutes of succinct 40th Anniversary Highlights for the Souvenir DVD. Further requests, for assistance with editing the School's 25th Anniversary Cabaret and the current Principal Terry Griffiths Interview, met with the same generous and efficient response.

Graeme has made other contributions to this Souvenir DVD. The fruits of Graeme's involvement and expertise will be enjoyed by viewers of the School's 50th Anniversary DVD, when it is released in December 2010.

# 50th Souvenir DVD's Available NOW

The Souvenir DVD pack contains two discs.



The **'50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Souvenir Video and Slide Show'** disc contains nearly three (3) hours of entertaining and informative live interviews interspersed with prepared sections on School History and three landmark School Anniversary events during the first 50 years. Glimpses of ABHS in its 50th year and student prize winning entries from the 50th Anniversary Short Film Competition are also a feature of this disc.

The **'50th Anniversary Archive'** disc is a photo archive reflecting aspects of the 50 Years of ABHS, from 1960 – 2010. The photos were sourced from School Archives and the many former students and former staff who sent in their scanned photos or had their photos scanned at one of the School Open Day Anniversaries in recent decades. Photos from all 50th Anniversary events are on this disc.

Both discs have user friendly contents menus to assist with easy and enjoyable viewing. Both can be played on DVD and computer.



# **PAYMENT ADVICE**

Please ensure you have 🗹 the relevant boxes to indicate what your payment includes

Name:	Phone:			
Address:				
Enclosed 🛛 CHEQUE	(payable to Asquith Boys High School);	🗆 CASH	for TOTAL sum of \$ OR	
I would like to pay	by CREDIT CARD - TOTAL sum of \$_			
Name on card:			Card type: 🛛 Visa 🛛 MasterCard	
Expiry Date:	Card number:			
Signature:		Date	::	

# **HSC INDUSTRIAL TECHNOLOGY TIMBER MAJOR PROJECTS**

The big news in the TAS faculty is the marking of the Industrial Technology Timber major projects on the 16<sup>th</sup> August. All 14 students managed to submit their work on time, much to the relief of yours



truly. These projects have taken 10 months from conception to realisation and it is a credit to the class as a whole that despite many glitches, hiccups, minor and major disasters the projects were all submitted on time and ready for the markers to assess.

Among the excellent works presented are a stunning Mahogany Hall Table with cabriole legs by Craig Robinson and a charming and highly appealing Rocking Horse by Andrew Buzelin. They share the student of the month award for this month.



Please enjoy the photos and marvel at the skills of Yr 12 at ABHS.

Mr C Philip Head Teacher TAS



















by Liam Kissick, Year 8

Selected students from Year 8 at Asquith Boys High School have helped the school by providing the sports oval with a drainage system. Students who chose not to participate in their year groups Snow Excursion have volunteered for this monumental task.

On Tuesday 17 August, most of Year 8 got on a bus at 7:30 in the morning to go on their snow camp/excursion. The rest of Year 8, being smart, chose not to go to the snow and to sleep in. However this sleep in didn't last long. All around Asquith, Berowra etc. alarms were ringing and parents were telling their children to get ready for the 'School to Work' program at ABHS.

The students got to school at normal time only to be faced with a monumental task of not only putting the

drainage system into the oval, but to do several maintenance jobs around the school.

On Tuesday the crew shovelled and barrowed mulch all over the school to the new gardens that the Year 8 Elective Horticulture class has been working on. They finished the day with a well-earned hot chocolate and computer time.

The following day the drainage system work got under way. After the two contractors finished the digging, the 'little workers' jumped into gear and started filling the trenches 50mm deep with gravel. This wasn't as easy as they thought and a few of the students were not coping very well with the workload. So at the end of the day, as a reward, the students got to choose, either to keep up the treacherous labour B or play sport with Year 7 D.





On Thursday the team rocked up to school again and just worked non-stop while lazy old Mr Murphy and Mr McCubbin stood around chatting and watching the kids work. Most of the students didn't mind, though, because they knew that the oval would be 100 times better than it was before.

On Friday, again the students turned up to work and were surprised to find out that they would be receiving a reward if they gave Mr. Blackwood no trouble (of course, there was bribery involved). The reward, your choice of Domino's pizza and a bottle of soft drink each.

Overall, the students had a great time and so did the teachers in charge (because they didn't need to do any of the work). But either way they all had a ball.

\*The oval was nearly complete by Friday but will need to be finished off in the school holidays at the end of Term 3.





# **UP AND COMING SPORTING LEGENDS**

#### Jiapeng (Justin) Han, Year 11 2010

Congratulations to Justin who is currently at training camp on the Gold Coast, as he will be representing Australia in Table Tennis at the XIX Commonwealth Games Delhi 2010. The Table Tennis competition runs 4-14 October.

Well done to Justin and Asquith Boys wishes you all the best in your matches.

#### Tonu Liiband, Year 10 2010

The Asquith Boys High School 1<sup>st</sup> grade goalkeeper and Manly United goalkeeper was, last Wednesday, formally announced as the latest Lucas Neill Scholarship winner.

This Scholarship presents itself as a wonderful opportunity for Tonu, as on September 25 he will fly to England for trials with two English Premier League clubs and a Championship club.

Asquith Boys wishes Tonu all the best for his future football career and maybe one day we will see Tonu in between the sticks for the Socceroos!

#### Joshua Mawhinney, Year 9 2010

Congratulations to Joshua who recently won three medals whilst competing at the 2010 Combined High Schools Athletics Championships held at the Sydney Athletics Centre in Homebush.

In an outstanding effort, Joshua won bronze in the 200m sprint and long Jump and secured a silver medal in the 100m sprint.

Once again, well done to Joshua and we look forward to hearing about his future results!

#### Daniel Arnamnart, Year 12 2007

Congratulations to Daniel for gaining membership of the Australian Senior Swim Team at the 2010 Telstra Australian Championships. Daniel achieved a silver award in the 50 metre backstroke.

Daniel recently represented Australia in the 100m and 50m backstroke events at the Delhi Commonwealth Games. He gained a place in the 50m backstroke final and swum a time of 25.66sec. Congratulations Daniel.

Please share your knowledge of recent sporting achievements by other former students, by contacting the ABHS Old Boys Newsletter Editor.

## IN 2011, HORNSBY HEIGHTS PUBLIC SCHOOL WILL CELEBRATE ITS 50TH ANNIVERSARY

A current teacher and ex-student, Nicky Hall is seeking contact with past students and teachers from Hornsby Heights Public School to help create a Yearbook, which celebrates the last 50 years at Hornsby Heights Public School.

Nicky is looking for photos and stories to include in the yearbook. If you have anything you feel would be useful, please contact her nicola.hall@det.

http://www.facebook.com/l/4b355mMTfJZ1YI9Gz-YKLbrhypg;nsw.edu.au More information will be found at http://www.facebook.com/group.php?gid=114460565273043&v=info&ref=nf#!/group.php?gid=114460565273043&v=i nfo&ref=nf









# **50**<sup>TH</sup>

SPONSORSHIP

Ex-students and ex-teachers can still make donations to ABHS 50<sup>th</sup>. You can become a Patron with a donation of \$300 or more, a Sponsor with a donation of \$150 or more or a Supporter with a donation of \$50 or more. Following the 50<sup>th</sup> weekend celebrations, profits will go towards an Old Boys Senior 2 year Academic Scholarship.

#### Thank you to:

## PATRON

Ronelle Laffer David Morris Philip Knudsen Richard Pilgrim Alex Wardrop

# SPONSOR

Lloyd Babb Christopher Bingham Bruce Collins Keith & Genevieve Dennis Ray Elkin Iain Gorry Bob Henderson Christopher Kent Alan Rix David Wilson

## SUPPORTER

Mary-Anne Armstrong Peter Bagshaw Neville Castle Errol Edge Maxwell Fisher Robert Fitton Ian Imrie Raymond Kench Judith Kennedy Sandra Macleod-Miller Edward McKenna the late Les Miller (Teacher) Bruce Morgans Rod Nurthen Alan Perkins Robert Reeve William (Bill) Roberts Tony Smith Peter Snitch Jon Stephenson Bob Symington Ian Taylor Ben Veling Kevin Wallace Anthony Ward Vernon Wildy Warren Willis

# WE WOULD ALSO LIKE TO ACKNOWLEDGE THE FOLLOWING FOR THEIR DONATIONS

A10tion 2D-tail Car Detailing 0410 046 882 **Asquith Boys High School PDHPE Faculty Asquith Boys High School SRC** Asquith Bowling & Recreation Club **Asquith Family Butchery Asquith Golf Club BMJ Music Hornsby** Phone: 8407 9694 **Boffa Hairdressing Hornsby Captain Cook Cruises Coca Cola Company Community Church Hornsby Curry Chemist Hornsby Darrell Lea Hornsby** For The Love of Beauty **Greater Union Cinemas Harbour Bridge Climb Hino Motor Sales Australia Hornsby Berowra Eagles** Junior AFL **Hornsby Rugby Club Hornsby RSL Club Hornsby Shire Council** 

**Hornsby Slot Cars Hornsby World of Fitness Judith Kennedy Kmart Hornsby** Learn 4 Fun, Hornsby As Luna Park Sydney igh School **Mrs Sandra Miller** Myer Hornsby **New Dimension Developments Officeworks Hornsby P B Tiling** Perfume Connection Hornsby Priceline Hornsby Suncorp Bank Sydney Bridge Climb The Tea Centre Travelscene Wahroonga Vern Sotter (1965) Wendy's Ice Cream Hornsby Westpac Marketing Head Office Westpac Hornsby The Wrigley Company Asquith



# Jane Sheridan A teacher's life, well-lived! 19-10-1958 — 17-02-2010



In 1999 an industrial chemist, highly qualified and at one stage entrusted with the secret recipe for Coca Cola, arrived on the doorstep of Asquith Boys High School. She wanted to sit-in on some science lessons. That person was Jane Sheridan. Part of her work as a chemical auditor had also been to produce Australia's lifeblood, beer, when she worked for Tooheys Brewery. But she was seeking new horizons. Over the next few weeks with her toddler, James, being cared for by neighbours and friends and Stephanie and Jennifer at local schools, she regularly came and watched the Asquith students interacting and enjoying experiments in the laboratories. She liked what she saw and a career change followed.

Ms Sheridan studied education at university part-time and in 2000 did one of her practicum's at Asquith. It was clear then that she was a person with special qualities. Her knowledge and experience of the scientific estate was extensive and excellent. She also showed a tenacity and assertiveness, forged in the cauldron of commerce and industry. Her attitudes had been shaped by the harshness of a workplace dominated by men. Glass ceilings preventing womens' promotion and the sidelining of capable women during pay discussions challenged her sense of justice. These experiences were to shape her passion and the values she was to teach her male students in her maturing role as a teacher.

Ms Sheridan's first placement (but not a formal appointment) as a new graduate teacher from UTS was to Manly Selective High school in 2001. In 2002 a position opened up at Asquith Boys. It was well known that science teachers were in short supply, and still are. To have someone of Ms Sheridan's experience and obvious ability, and knowing her placement had been temporary, was too much for us at Asquith. We set about to poach her. With appropriately placed staff in the hunt, it was not long before they were successful in securing Ms Sheridan for Asquith much to the chagrin of Manly! Jane was overjoyed to be able to serve her local community now and, as well, the new school was only minutes from home.

Ms Sheridan threw herself into her new role. She taught Science in the junior school and Earth and Environmental Science to the seniors. She learned quickly and her students thrived. The noise of busy students issued from her classroom, Lab 2, with happy, engaged kids doing good experiments, learning creatively and achieving high standards. Generating a massive amount of written resources over several years, Ms Sheridan led her students to excellent results in the HSC in both Earth and Environmental Studies and in Senior Science.

Every December she took it upon herself to welcome all the Year 6 students enrolling at Asquith the following year. She would screen-print a hundred plus Christmas cards. She would then write a personal greeting before addressing each one to the most important master of the household - a new 'Asquithian'. All current (original Year 7) students would have been welcomed this way with one of Ms Sheridan's cards. A hand-made welcome from a caring teacher.

Ms Sheridan's confidence and capacity matured as her experience grew. She taught other subjects including Geography and History and her role widened as she became the computer co-ordinator for a time. There were many extra programmes such as 'Habits of Mind', 'Rock and Water' that Ms Sheridan joined or initiated along with preparing her laboratory for Open Nights, sharing in parent-teacher events and developing her own teaching skills through extra training courses. All the while Ms Sheridan was growing in the esteem of her colleagues as well. She was a regular in staff social events and proud of her devoted partner, Brian, and especially his karaoke ability! She was committed to her family and always spoke glowingly of James', Stephanie's and Jennifer's successes due to the quality state education system of which she was a part.

It was not long before Ms Sheridan stepped further out of the Science Faculty into the wider responsibilities of ABHS and sought the role of Year Adviser. She became mentor and mother for the current Year 11 students who entered Asquith in 2006. She quickly became their favourite: especially when, as she checked whether they were using their homework diaries or come report time, she would have her bag of chocolate frogs or 'Mars Bars' with her. And then there was the Year 7 Camp and the 'ropes challenge'! There are some wonderful photos of Ms Sheridan covered head to toe in mud. She was a person of short stature but with a big heart. She used it all. And her students knew that. In the combat part of the 'Rock and Water' personal development programme students would shy away from her come the time for the Kung Fu routines. But she was primarily a person of peace, of good thoughts and good ideas. As Year Adviser she would observe her students' occasional conflicts, often from a distance, not intervening unless necessary. At times, hers was a tough love. She felt their pain as her charges wrestled with their growth from boy to young man. Her counselling skills were substantial and her patience boundless.

By the close of 2007 Ms Sheridan's commitment to teaching was taking her beyond the school fence and she had started a Master in Education degree. One day she announced that she wanted to leave ABHS and work in community education. We were devastated. To make matters worse she wanted a job reference from the same people who only a few short years earlier had moved heaven and earth to get her to Asquith! She won the day as we all know Ms Sheridan could, and took temporary leave to test herself in an education role with Hornsby Council. Privately, she confided that she was sad to leave her students, especially those in her care as Year Adviser.

It was part way through her leave in 2008 that a persistent, painless cough was diagnosed as oesophageal cancer.

Following surgery and several long stays in hospital, Ms Sheridan emerged optimistic as always, and sent this text to her friends: 'Scan clear. Beaten the odds. Don't waste any more time dwelling on what may or may not be the case. Just live each day with me'. Ms Sheridan returned to Asquith and to full time teaching.

Unfortunately, cancer is a cruel disease, with few masters. It returned in 2009. She wanted to continue doing the two things she loved the most; enjoying her family and teaching in her school. No trips away, no self-pity, no debilitating therapies. She just wanted to live normally with us and for as long as possible. In fact she was teaching at Asquith just two weeks ago.

In the final weeks at times colleagues would often take her classes and supported her as she found faceto-face teaching sapping her energy. During last Christmas holidays nearly half the staff of Asquith appeared at her home together with neighbours, ex-students and friends for a painting and landscaping makeover on her home. That is love, true and simple.

What remarkable spirit, dedication to her students and display of resilience! What an inspiring person! She has led us through her journey without bitterness or regret. Through her dignity in the face of misfortune she has enlightened those around her. In this she has been a teacher for all of us.

In Jane Sheridan's short nine year teaching career she has planted the seeds of knowledge and hope in the minds of her students. She knew that Indian saying 'the flowers of all the tomorrows are in the seeds of today'. May her teachings flourish in the hearts of her students.

*Mr Jacobsen* ABHS Science Faculty



Vale Ms Sheridan

# Souvenirs for Sale



Two (2) Mugs

	Mug (White ceramic) with printed colour logo \$10 each
ONLY \$15	500th

# T-shirts still available \$10 each

Order by contacting ABHS Cashier on 9477 3508 <u>Postage additional</u>

NOMINATE AN OLD BOY FOR ABHS SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES You will know that former students speak to current students on School Assemblies. Students and staff enjoy this and benefit from the experience and passions of former students.

# HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH 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 teachers
- Communicating information about former student events

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)		
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 e	nrolment 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	J	
Thanks to current members for passing this Application to prospective members		