



Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletter

Vol 16 August 2014

ABHS Community Fun Day September 14th 2014



RAFFLE

**SOCCER
GAMES**

MUSIC



STATIC CAR DISPLAY

FOOD



DUNK TANK

MARKET STALLS

**BOOK STALL &
OLD BOYS
MEMORABILIA**



Editorial:

'Youngsters' with whom I enrolled at ABHS, had a Reunion recently, to celebrate 50 years since sitting the Leaving Certificate in 1964. I am fortunate in being in a group, who through the foresight and efforts of a few, have kept in contact over the years, more so recently. In truth, one of our group, Stig Falster has taken on the task of rounding us up periodically, to mark an anniversary. The group has met on three occasions in the past decade to celebrate our passing out of ABHS. These occasions have not in any way been exclusive to those who were encouraged to continue school education for 5 years rather than leave after the Intermediate Certificate, at the end of 3rd year. In the 1960s most students left school after only a couple of years in secondary education, to continue learning on the job, through career pathways, or as apprentices.

Wives or partners were also invited to this Reunion although fewer than one handful took up that challenge. Those who did enjoyed a great meal and a few short speeches. Stig spoke, remembering those of our group who have passed on in the intervening 50 years. Greetings and apologies and anecdotes from those in far flung locations around the globe were read out. Several of us spoke of our recollections of incidents during our schooldays, and of what is owed to our teachers. After dinner we gathered for a group photo, viewed a photo display, perhaps purchased a School souvenir and swapped more yarns. One of our number, Gary McKay, had an ABHS Flag made for this occasion, as can be seen in the group photo. At other times his School flag may be seen flying from the flagpole in his garden of his home on the NSW south coast.

The backchat from this Reunion in July is still reverberating. Here are a few slices and some photos. Thanks to Helen, Stig, and Peter for the photos.

- I had a great night chatting to Bill D, Leigh S-K and others. I remember those two guys (and Michael R of course.....who we have to catch up with) as if it was yesterday. I even thought it was remarkable that Gordon T remembered seeing me one night at the Gosford Greyhounds in 1971. Nothing wrong with his memory! The big plus for me is that Leigh and I have a date to play golf in Thailand in the not too distant future. Others are welcome to join us, for golf, or just a drink.
- Great seeing the usual run of victims plus of course Gary C & Peter H being special for me (I started kindergarten in 1953 with Peter)
- Please let me know which one of you young men told me that their father worked with my father on Hornsby County Council many years back please? Errol J T.
- What a great night ..great fun for all ...first time I can remember the ref got a gurnsey and..... well deserved at that! Sad to hear of the passing of some makes you realise how valuable today and every day is.

Alan

ps I will be releasing my hair dye formula ...soon





The ABHS Old Boys Club has contact with approx 900 former students and former teachers. If your group is approaching a date for an anniversary celebration, why not start towards achieving it? It takes one to start the ball rolling. If your group is planning a Reunion, the Old Boys Club database may be useful in helping with communication and contacts. Former students from most to the School's 54 years are represented in that record, contact this editor for more details.

Chris Kent: Editor

COMMUNITY FUN DAY Sunday 8th September 2013

The morning of the annual Community Fun Day was grey and cloudy and everyone was hoping that the rain would stay away. School staff, pupils, Mums and Dads and ABHS old boys started arriving at 7.30am to erect marquees and to get the stalls ready. Everyone was high in spirits as we eagerly awaited the start of the Community Fun Day at 10am.



Entering through the Pacific Highway gates, people were able to look at the "Concourse of Cars Display" set up in the quadrangle, before moving down to the School Oval with its plethora of entertainment and stalls. There were soccer games on the go, as well as musical entertainment throughout the day from Public School Bands, Vocalists, and Rock Bands. When feeling hungry, the school BBQ stall was cooking up a storm; it was great to see students from hospitality classes cooking and serving in their chef attire. Snacks were also popular, with homemade cakes and slices baked by students and staff in the School's kitchens. Coffee, Soft Drinks, Fairy Floss and Mini Melt Ice Creams were also available throughout the day.

ABHS Old Boys Club set up a photo display and stall, selling School souvenirs. Photos displayed from School archives, documented the 1960s as well as School events at five year intervals, from 1983. These proved to be of great interest to many visitors to our well positioned stall on the sidelines of the School Oval. Thanks to: Bruce Morgans, Gordon Forsyth, Lynden Norgate, Max fisher, Graeme Bolton, Les Drake, Ken Davis and Errol Trimmingham for greeting visitors, setting up and packing up and selling School Souvenirs during the Day.

Raffle tickets were drawn throughout the day, with people choosing from the many great prizes. Thanks to local businesses who donated



to the day; we appreciate your generosity. The School Hall was a popular venue with people looking at the Art exhibition and several of the Year 7 Personal Interest Projects projects. Thanks to art teacher Ms Cooke and School general assistant, Steve Sonter for organising the display for the day.



A special Thank You goes to School parents: Dr Kim Pinnock who was the driving force behind the Fun Day, to Kirsty Berryman and Jenny Williams who also worked behind the scenes, to Rizwan Ali who arranged the inaugural Concourse of Cars Display, Tim Andersen for organising the Porsche for the Advocate editorial, Michelle Roscarel for organising the cake stall and Fiona Johnson for the Fairy Floss stall. There are so many others who helped to get the day organised on time and throughout the day - we appreciate your help very much. Thank you to Mr Terry Griffiths (Principal) , Mr Andrew Skehan (Deputy Principal), teachers and office staff who have supported the P&C for our special

day.

In the end we have raised \$3,400 for the school. Funds raised will go to the building of an outdoor café to be used by the hospitality (TAS) students.

Hope you will join us again on Sunday September 14th this year!

Dianne Stoddart: P&C Publicity Officer

Are you able help in staffing the Old Boys Stall this year, on Sunday 14th September? Please contact your editor by return email if you are available to assist. See roster for times below:

Time available	Set up (8.30 – 10am)	10am – 12noon	12 noon – 2.00pm	2.00 – 4.pm	Pack up: 4pm



COMMUNITY FUN DAY 2013 - FOOTBALL REPORT

The weather conducive, the crowd anticipatory, the football excellent – what more could you ask for?

Once again, the matches played in the 2014 Community Day at Asquith were up to expectation, although it must be admitted, the pitch was rugged, bumpy and hard due to the lack of rain. Still, the



matches were strenuously fought and competitive throughout the day.

Hornsby North Public School defeated Asquith in the first match with some excellent long range goals by both sides. Fine goalkeeping kept both sides in the match and in a very clean and competitive game, 3-2 to the Visitors was the outcome. Well done Hornsby North.

Game two saw a depleted Mt. Colah Girls' team take on next year's Junior Tourists from Asquith and although the score was high, it was not a true indication of the closeness of the match and thanks once again to Simon Cant's team for their solid participation on the day.



The Blackwood Shield saw both sides really come to grips with the conditions and football flowed from end to end. Mr French's side really turned it on and an excellent goal from Mr Thomsett saw them take an early lead only to be negated by the Asquith Invitational side. As much as both sides tried to unblock the stalemate, the game ended in a 1-1 draw and the points were shared.

The final match of the afternoon, the Moscos Cup was a thriller. Mr Jones brought together a really formidable side of former students who were the "Internationals" of earlier years. It was great to welcome the likes of Luke Smith, Matt Smith, Daniel Rojas, Shaun Johnston, Mitchell Ansems, Michael Solling and Ali Beck. Indeed, it was Ali who scored two goals on the day, reliving the excellent Tour of Thailand in 2007; but for the first time, Tim Buwalda's First Grade was too good and a 5-2 to Asquith was recorded. Well done Jayke Browne on a hat trick!

Thanks to all for an excellent and memorable day. This is what Asquith is all about – a Community proud of its heritage and its outcomes – a fine group of men playing football and handshakes all round at the end.

Congratulations to all on a great day and thank you!

Mr G Moscos



DUKE OF EDINBURGH EXPEDITION

In June a group of 35 boys led by teachers: Mr Yates, Mr Broome & Mr Murphy began a 3 day 35km walk from Cowan to Wondabyne which follows the Great North walk.

On the first day we passed Jerusalem Bay, where we spent some time relaxing by the water. On the first night we camped at Brooklyn dam. Next morning, we boarded the ferry to Patonga. The trip took about 20 minutes. The bronze D of E group, which had arrived by train to meet up with the silver group went first as the ferry was not big enough to take all across in one trip. Fortunately there was a kiosk to buy hot chips and drinks for those awaiting the second group. The walk followed the beach and then uphill to a lookout where we had great views across the Hawkesbury River, up Cowan Creek, to West Head, Lion Island and the Barrenjoey lighthouse. The trig station nearby is one of many around Australia, which were used to help in surveying. Each station has a known position and altitude, which allowed surveyors to determine another point's location.

Fire trails led us past Woy Woy landfill, an eyesore which has destroyed acres of bushland and then a track across heathland with views across Brisbane Waters. The campsite was at the base of Mount Wondabyne, a prominent peak with a rocky top. Some of us scrambled up to the top to watch the sunset. We had 360 degree panoramic views from there and decided we would get up early to see the sun rise.



It was cold that night, so we lit two camp fires to keep us warm and cooked some dinner. After watching the sun rise, and breakfast, we continued our hike until we reached a water hole with a waterfall. We spent some time playing on the rope swing across the pool and had morning tea. The climb out of there was steep but most of us reached Wondabyne station in time for the train.



We are now looking forward to our next trip - to the Blue Mountains.

Report by Michael Cowell (Year 10)

Ian Alwill, the School's first Vice Captain Addressing the HSC Awards Assembly.

As a student, Ian's leadership skills were recognised. He was voted in among the first group of School Prefects and became the School's first Vice Captain. At School in the 1960s, Ian showed outstanding ability on the sporting field and in the swimming pool. Ian represented the School in athletics track events, in sprint swimming, basketball, rugby and squash. Post School, Ian studied Commerce at University where he also played 1st grade Rugby. His career in marketing led him to work in the Phillipines, Japan and on many trips to Switzerland.

Good morning to all of you here today, students, former students parents, and teachers. Thank you for the opportunity and honour of being asked to return to the School to address this HSC Awards assembly. The last time I was in this assembly hall was to celebrate the anniversary of the school; it was a great occasion to reconnect with others who were the first pupils of the School. A number of my school friends remain my friends now 50 years later.

I promised myself when I accepted this honour to address you, not to bore you with reminiscences. I will however refer to some things that are relevant to the points I will make. It might be instructive and useful to talk to you about success, and the lessons I have learned here. I am conscious that there are some different groups of people assembled here, so I shall try to address something to each of you, particularly the students.

It seems to me that there are three groups of students:

- * those just embarking on the journey of secondary education and learning
- * those who are into the thick of learning and headed to the HSC
- * and those who are headed to the next phase of education and earning, those whose success we are here to celebrate.

To those of you just starting out; sitting here with both excitement and a little anxiety. Can I suggest that you relax and enjoy the journey. Learning never stops. Through the maturity of my years I have realized that there is always something new to learn. In my career and in life I've met with success and failure. Yes, failure and mistakes are OK, so long as you recognize and learn from them.

Learning has different phases. This new phase, you have just entered has challenges. More will be expected of you than in primary school. Fortunately you will have some wonderful people to help you. Your teachers. All will want to help you learn, and succeed ... and you will, if you let them and engage them. You may not realize it now, but teachers will have an influence on your life well after your schooldays.

Allow me a moment of reflection about this point. In my first year here I had the good fortune to be taught by Dr Ezra Goldstein. 'Goldie' to us. He was the languages master. He taught French and Latin, ...but not German, though he spoke it because he was a survivor of the Holocaust of World War II. Goldie was a very refined and gentle man.

Those of us in his French and Latin classes. including me, exploited that gentleness and gave him hell, fooling around, mucking up and generally disrupting class. So much so that he resorted to use of the cane as a punishment to establish discipline. We realised years later that he abhorred it. We wished we could apologize for our poor behaviour. Despite our disrespect he must have been a wonderful teacher because what he taught us sank in, through the arrogance of our behaviour. For me it meant that in that latter part of my career, working at Nestle, a multinational Swiss Company, with very few post school lessons in French, I was able to understand and communicate reasonably well with my work colleagues in Switzerland ... and that I feel was an important part of my success in that company.

My point is, gentlemen, how much more would I have learned, and more capable would I have become, if I and my classmates had engaged him and allowed him to give us all he was clearly wanting to give and capable of giving? I understand that Dr Goldstein went on to be a Professor of Languages at a leading University.



The second group I would like to address is the much larger body of students. You have moved out of the aura of that first year and are the fabric of the school and well into the learning at high school ... maybe you're feeling that school will never end!!

The next few years will be those in which you lay the foundations for success at the HSC, if that is your desire to pursue. These years will be when you begin to mature both physically and intellectually and form some friendships of a lifetime. During this time you will be able to engage with the wider aspects of learning that this school provides. The Student Council, Interschool Sport, Duke of Edinburgh Award, The Legacy Program; aspects of learning that will stay with you long after you leave this place. This will be a time when you can take on extra challenges both inside the school and outside. This will form the foundations of future success and the enjoyment of life, so long as you keep it all in balance!

Why balance? Because in this period of learning here, there will be distractions and temptations which, I am sure, if my experience and that of my school friends at the time is anything to go by, will challenge your resolve and focus. My school friends have been successful in their careers and in life; they are doctors, scientists, businessmen and an army colonel, decorated for valor in the Vietnam War. All agree when we meet, and we still do so regularly for lunch and a glass or two of wine, that had we applied ourselves more and engaged in the opportunities provided, and not succumbed to some of the distractions, we would have gained a lot more from our time here and probably gained further success.

For my part it was sport that provided some of the balance. Involvement in interschool tennis, swimming and particularly in rugby led also to greater enjoyment in later years of first grade rugby at University. For me a major distraction, at this time, one that caused me to fail the Leaving Certificate, what is now the HSC, was GIRLS!! One girl in particular!! Now, I know that your school organizes social activity with girls schools in the area, and that is great. However ... I allowed this one girl to become a very considerable distraction from what I should have been focusing upon. The learning and study that I needed to do to succeed in that final year to be able to get to University and the course I wanted to study. Indeed I achieved barely enough to matriculate, despite having the ability and the expectation to do so! Just after failing that final exam, she gave me the flick for another guy.



Disaster ...failure ... on all counts!! But ... there was learning in the failure and the mistakes I made. Fortunately I recognized what I had to do and was able to sit an exam held by the University some eight weeks later. As a consequence I blew what should have been a great holiday of summer surfing, to do the study I should have done earlier. I did matriculate then, achieving the level of pass I was capable of.

After that little homily may I address that group to whom a key part of this assembly is dedicated. Those who were, perhaps, not so distracted, those who focused themselves, challenged themselves and absorbed to the full, the learning that their six

years at this school was able to provide. Gentlemen Congratulations on your success!!

I trust that each of you got the entrance rank you wanted and the University and course of your preference. If you did not achieve your first choice remember it is not your only choice. You are entering a phase of education in which the options to learn and the breadth of that learning will expand immeasurably and present many more choices. In careers and in life. When options present themselves, choose and pursue those about which you are most passionate. That will also help you enjoy both to the maximum.

Again, congratulations on your success to date. You are ready to succeed in this next phase of your education. Your learning will extend well beyond this phase, into the real world, outside the institutions of learning. The world sometimes works very differently to that which your education might lead you to expect. Many challenges you meet won't have an answer that has been taught! You will know a lot when you graduate but you will never know it all. To continue to succeed you will need to keep learning. About your career and more importantly, about life. You will need to keep both in perspective and balance to succeed.

In closing may I offer to all of you a piece of prose written by an American philosopher Ralph Waldo Emerson. I found it in an autobiography of Dr Fred Hollows, the eminent Australian eye surgeon who contributed much to the world in his lifetime and left a wonderful legacy here and for third world countries.

He used this as a personal reminder of what it is to succeed.

Success

To laugh often and much
To win the respect of intelligent people
And the affection of children,
To earn the appreciation of honest critics
And endure the betrayal of false friends,
To appreciate beauty
To find the best in others,
To leave the world a bit better,
Whether by a healthy child, a garden patch
Or a redeemed social condition,
To know even one life has breathed easier
Because you lived
This is to have succeeded.

Thank you all for the opportunity to be here today ... I have enjoyed it very much And I wish you and the School continued success.

Asquith Boys' High Roll of Honour?

A Roll of Honour commemorates the service and passing of those personnel who have served their country on war service. The Roll also indicates those who were killed in action, died in service or were wounded in action. Rolls of Honour go back to pre-World War One times and were usually erected in Town Halls, local churches for members of the congregation and schools, colleges and universities. After the Great War of 1914-18, many towns erected memorials often topped with a uniformed soldier his rifle reversed downward and with head bowed. An accompanying tablet would list those from the area who had served their country and those who had been killed or wounded in action.

Asquith Boys' High School has had a number of its graduates serve either as conscripts in South Viet Nam or as Regular members of the Defence Force in other areas of conflict. It would be a fitting tribute to those who served their country to erect a Roll of Honour that could be placed in the assembly Hall or other such public venue to remember those who had done their duty.

Gary McKay

Comment:

Thanks Gary for your suggestion. Support for your proposal has been expressed by former ABHS Servicemen. Your editor supports this suggestion for the reasons given in Gary's proposal. In addition, a Roll of Honour at ABHS will continue to develop student's pride in their School and sense of history.

What do you think about Gary's proposal? RSVP: Mr Gary McKay, PO Box 3181 Minnamurra, NSW 2533, or garymckay@bigpond.com.au

SCHOOLS BOAT BUILDING CHALLENGE @ THE SYDNEY BOAT SHOW

In July 2013, five ABHS students represented the school at the Sydney International Boat Show Schools Boat Building Challenge. It was the first time the event had been opened up to schools, normally being reserved for shipwright apprentices. There were three teams in the schools section, with ABHS competing against teams from Marsden High and Meadowbank TAFE's TVET boatbuilding class. In the apprentice section, there were about 14 teams, two of which were from New Zealand.

On Tuesday night, the school students marked out and cut the plywood from which the boats were constructed on Saturday at the Boat Show. There were usually around 100 or so people at any given time, watching the boys put the boat together, with the TAFE teams coming up with some very imaginative designs. They made a sea plane and Santa's sleigh as well as some very serious competitors who in 2 hours both cut out and put together some very fast craft.

In the main on water event, a team from Midcoast Marine just beat home the first of the two Kiwi teams in a very exciting race. We, however, started the proceedings with the Schools Race. Around 1000 people lined the shores of Darling Harbour to watch the races. We made a strong start but ran into problems when we snapped the blade off our paddle (which we didn't make) early in the first leg. This left us at a distinct disadvantage, but despite this we managed to finish second behind the TAFE team. The reason we managed to perform so well despite the setback was due to the excellent building quality of our boat. Our boat had barely a leak while both the others took on considerable amounts of water.

A great day was had by all and I'm proud to report we won the best built boat award!

Thanks go to Daniel Adam, Ben Winstanley, Jack Gammie, Connor Woolsey and Luke Alexander for their excellent efforts and participation outside of school hours.

Mr C Philip, Head Teacher Technology and Applied Studies (TAS)



Wordsmiths in their 60s arise from classroom desks of the 60s

Three popular authors share their very different life experiences and learning through the pages of their writing. They were among the first enrolments at Asquith Boys High. Gary McKay and Alan Roberts were among the original student enrolments with Greg Smith enrolling in the following year, 1961.

'Greg's' writing will appeal to those looking for mystery, intrigue, suspense and action. Gary is Australia's most prolific writer on the Viet Nam War. Alan's words and photos document Australian history. His most recent publication commemorates a century of Canberra's private and public homes.

Greg Smith

Originally from Sydney, I moved to the United States in 1999 after meeting a fabulous lady on the internet. I now live with my wife, Trish, two border collies - Shadow and Sydney, and one cat, Roo, in the Pacific Northwest region of the United States. My interests include: Traditional longbow archery, kayaking, traveling, movies, camping, meeting new people, seeing new places, writing, drawing, and watching my grand kids grow up!

With over 30 years experience as a graphic designer in the publishing and printing industries, I'm now turning to my other passion - writing. I consider myself a 'late bloomer' as a writer but have discovered the thrill and excitement to be had in putting my ideas and imagery into words THE PITS has received great reactions from readers, so much so that I have begun the production of an audiobook version of THE PITS - Book One while I write YOU CAN RUN - Book Two of THE PITS series. In the meantime I am also working on a major project, an historical fiction novel, THE ARCHER OF COED CADW, set in Medieval England & Wales. <http://gregsmith-writer.weebly.com/>



THE ARCHER OF COED CADW

The day James Alderton buries his parents he inherits a mysterious heirloom that has been passed down by the women of his mother's lineage for centuries—a small treasure chest containing a handful of relics, a diary and documents outlining his intriguing genealogy.

James's mother also leaves him with a mission—complete the extensive investigation she has started into the history and authenticity of the relics and diary, then decide if the world is ready for the discovery.

The young Alderton sets out from Sydney with his best friend, Gavin Wanganeen, an Australian aborigine, for London, in search of answers concerning not only James's strange inheritance but the truth behind the supposed 'accidental' death of his parents.

What he and Gavin uncover will astound, cause an international uproar, and virtually rewrite history. There are those who wish to keep their discovery secret from the world; and others who want his inheritance for themselves—at any cost!

THE PITS

THE PITS begins in Afghanistan where the scene is expertly set by the author. It is clear that the author has researched Marine life and the reader feels immediately at home in the world he has created. The heat, the dust, the constant danger are all excellently wrought and by the time the street battle commences in which Kramer and Shadow are both injured, the reader is well invested in both characters and rooting for their safety. This sets up the rest of the novel perfectly. A strong story with an intriguing premise, there is plenty here to keep a reader gripped throughout. Overall, there is much to be admired in this novel. The plot is well thought-out and intricately woven. The characters are strong and relatable – I particularly liked the character of Kramer's mother. The author did a great job of bringing her to life. In fact, the chapter where Kramer visits his mother and father on the farm feature some of the best writing in the book and some great dialogue. Dialogue is a particular talent of this author's, with interactions being natural and snappy throughout.

WILDsound Writing Festival - critique committee

Alan Roberts

A student pioneer at ABHS is now an historian and author. Alan currently presents courses on Researching and Writing History. Alan is a member of the Independent Scholars Association of Australia.

100 Canberra Houses - A century of Capital architecture was co-authored with Tim Reeves, to commemorate our Capital's Centenary.



The authors spent the previous four years considering more than 160,000 Canberra dwellings, built since 1913, and whittled them down to a representative 100. The volume covers the period from the original homesteads of the 1920s, to the slick contemporary architect-designed homes that dot the suburbs. From the stately gables of Government House to the knocked-together prefabs in Narrabundah, and the retro-chic Forrest townhouses to the dingy public housing flats around Civic. There's a lot of architecture crammed into those 100 years. A 1977 home in Giralang, designed by Glenn Murcutt, the only Australian architect to have won the international Pritzker Prize, is included. The post-war prefabricated 'Tocumwal' homes of O'Connor and Ainsley are represented as are the townhouses of Forrest, designed by Roy Grounds and built in the early 60s. Coloured drawings, plans and many photos illustrate this well researched book.

Read more:

<http://www.canberratimes.com.au/act-news/new-book-100-canberra-houses-celebrates-capitals-eclectic-homes-20131126-2y8dl.html#ixzz382jFbQM0>

A BIG BOLD SIMPLE CONCEPT: a history of the Australian Academy of Science dome.

This volume celebrates the 50th anniversary of the opening of the unique spiritual home of the Australian Academy of Science, in Canberra. The flying saucer shaped building, designed by award winning architect, Roy Grounds, was opened in May 1959. Author and historian Dr Alan Roberts explores the Dome's design, construction and history. Previously unknown or forgotten information unearthed in numerous archival collections is revealed, through words and images, *A Big, Bold, Simple Concept* highlights the Dome's unusual architecture, from conception to construction and, later, renovation. It provides an unparalleled insight into a remarkable building, renamed the Shine Dome, and the people who brought it to life.

MARINE OFFICER, CONVICT WIFE: THE JOHNSTONS OF ANNANDALE

An earlier publication, authored by Alan, provides a fascinating insight into the life of George Johnston. Johnston gained notoriety for deposing governor Bligh in 1808. This book, a study of place as well as personality, traces the development of Annandale, from 1793 when Johnston's farm and mansion dominated the district just west of Sydney, to the 1870s when the suburb began to take shape.

Gary McKay

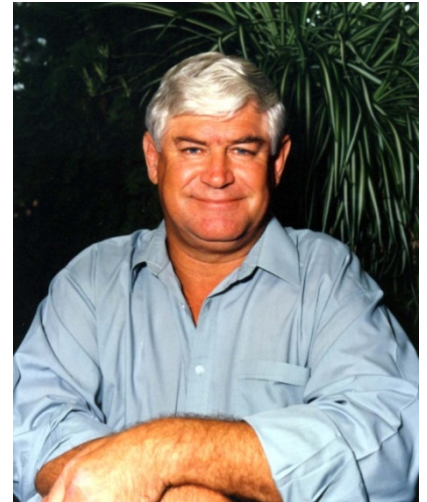
Four years after graduating from Asquith Boys, Gary was drafted into the army in 1968 as a National Serviceman. After initial training with an Infantry Corps, Gary progressed to a posting with the 9th Battalion, then to the 4th Royal Australian Regiment which was then preparing for service in Viet Nam. Gary was posted as a rifle platoon commander and saw active service until he was severely wounded in late 1971. For his actions during a major battle in September 1971 he was awarded the Military Cross for gallantry.

After Viet Nam, Gary decided to stay in the Army and served as a company 2IC in 6 RAR, an operations officer in New Zealand, as company commander in 8/9 RAR and later the commanding officer of the 8th/9th Battalion RAR. Further training at Staff College in Canada led to a position at RMC Duntroon and Army Command as Senior Instructor. He maintained this role in the Army Reserve between 1995-98 as a project for Training Command.

Gary has been back to Viet Nam several times since the war to complete research and interviews of the former enemy. He has worked as the historical advisor to Mr. Tim Fischer (then Deputy Prime Minister) and Mr. Bruce Scott (Minister for Veterans' Affairs). Gary currently leads NSW Anzac Scholarship tours that are taken to Viet Nam every two years. He has completed four of those tours in the last six years.

Gary has also studied Vietnamese at the School for Modern Language at Queensland University. Today he lives in Kiama with his wife Margot and spends much of his time trying to convince her that writing is a real job.

Some of Gary's numerous publications on the Vietnam War include:



In Good Company – One Man's War in Vietnam.

An autobiographical account of his time as a platoon commander and being drafted. Published in 1998, is now used as a reader at RMC, ADFA, NZ OCS and the USMC School of Infantry.

Delta Four – Australian Riflemen in Viet Nam

A book that was funded in part by the Australian War Memorial Research Grant that Gary won and looks in depth at his rifle company and how infantry operated in Viet Nam.

All Guts & No Glory – the Story of a Long Tan Warrior

By

Bob Buick and Gary McKay. Gary edited Bob's account of his tour of duty with D Company 6 RAR in 1966-67, including Bob's experiences as a platoon sergeant at the battle of Long Tan. Published in 2000, it is an account, by the most senior ranked Australian soldier to survive the battle of Long Tan.

Going Back – Australian Veterans Return to Viet Nam

This book was published in 2007 for Australian veterans wanting to return to the former war zone. Gary used a case study group of men from 5 RAR to produce this important reader for those wanting to go back. It is crammed with places to visit, tips for travelling and a heads up on what to expect.

Other publications authored by Gary include:

Firefighters

More than 50 firefighters recount their experiences when saving lives and property. From fires in homes caused by arsonists, gas explosions, electrical faults or carelessness, to rescue from burning vehicles, this book tells of the professionalism, courage and dedication of the firefighters who place their lives on the line every time the alarm bell rings.

Tracy

At midnight on Christmas Eve, Cyclone *Tracy* roared in from the Arafura Sea and in six hours wiped out Darwin. It was at that time, Australia's worst natural disaster. A night of fear and horror, a storm of unprecedented savagery and destruction. Winds of 300 kilometres per hour destroyed most of Darwin's buildings and caused the deaths of more than fifty people.

Author Gary McKay was then a captain in the Australian Army, spent sixteen weeks assisting in the clean-up operation. Nearly three decades later, Gary returns to Darwin to document residents frightening recollections of survival and courage. He discovers how people have put their lives back together since the clean up and evacuation of more than 20,000.

EXCITING NEW DESIGN FOR THE NORTHERN PLAYGROUND

Background

In the 1960's, when the school was less than ten years old, a new basketball court and tennis "hit up wall" were built near the new 'G' block (Art and Science). This area had a basketball court and a tennis court. Recently, a School parent did some research and found out the following;

"It was interesting to see that the school grew in area c1967 to absorb land to the north of the hit up wall which would originally have been close to the school boundary at what appears was planned as the 'back' of the school".

In 1980, a group of year 12's did a nocturnal paint job on the wall, which was the original painting of the Australian flag as part of their last school day 'muck-up activities', that were common at the time. Close examination shows that since then it has been repainted on many occasions. The Aboriginal flag was painted on the other side of the wall in 2011. To facilitate opening up safe playground space and redesigning pedestrian entry to the School removal of the wall was necessary.

Wall Memory Ceremony

On Friday 8th of November a photo display and ceremony was held to mark the removal of the Wall. Old Boys and former teachers gathered with current staff and prefects to share memories and reminisce about the flag wall. You can read the article on the Advocate web site at

<http://www.dailytelegraph.com.au/newslocal/the-hills/asquith-boys-high-school-to-say-goodbye-to-iconic-flag-wall/story-fngr8i1f-1226765880532>

Proposal

The bird's eye view photos show the existing site and redevelopment proposal.

An amphitheatre learning space is being considered for the space beneath the trees at the top centre of photos. The area to the right of the new paths, adjacent the Pacific Highway boundary, could become a passive area with tables and chairs with the oval shaped area in the centre of the new path to be a possible extension to the sculpture garden.



existing.



with proposed changes

Where to From Here?

Fundraising for this project is advancing. Commissions on family portrait photographs in April and a very successful Trivia night held in May have resulted in funds for this project. Bricks from the demolished wall, painted with sections of the flag murals are available to purchase as a memoir of the wall with all proceeds going towards the redevelopment. These are \$10 each.

Former student, Danny Beecroft and his associates have provided valuable input, enabling the preparation of a quality grant applications. School parent, Jenny Williams will welcome your fundraising ideas and donations.

jw863881@bigpond.net.au

The assistance of a former student is sought to help turn existing sketches into final drawings. Those drawings will accompany a further grant application.

If you are in a position to offer help, please contact Craig Philip at 9477 3508.

More details about this redevelopment proposal will be found in the December 2013 issue of Backchat, on the School Website,

Mr Craig Philip; Head Teacher TAS, Grounds Improvement Officer

Another Outstanding Football Tour

Hong Kong and Singapore beckoned and we responded. Ten games resulted in Asquith Boys scoring 43 goals, with 11 scored against the touring teams. An impressive record indeed and with a 0-0 draw against the Hong Kong National Under 17's side thrown into the equation. This illustrates the tenacity and ability of our Asquith sides as they carried on the impressive work of International sides in the past.

We left expectantly on Tuesday 8th April. After a ten hour flight we arrived in Hong Kong late that night. With a game organised for First Grade the next day, it was straight to sleep.

Chelsea Academy were to provide good opposition but with a 5-1 outcome in our favour, we savoured the moment. The next night saw the Invitational side play Chelsea under 15's whilst the Firsts played clearly their toughest opponents – the Hong Kong National Under 17's. Hong Kong Under 17s were about to participate in the Asian Championships in Thailand, drawn in the same pools as Australia. In what proved to be a most inspiring match for all concerned, we drew 0-0 and in fact were unlucky not to win. News came through that the Invitational side lost; so it was bitter-sweet. The next night, the Invitationals played Chelsea again, this time winning comfortably.



After the cool of Hong Kong, we left on Sunday after a day of sightseeing, shopping and Ocean Park. We were greeted in Singapore by an opposition as intense as the climate. On an artificial surface, we played the Chelsea Singapore academy and the Invitationals really rose to the occasion. After a torrid first few minutes, they were down 3-0 but incredibly came back with thirteen goals (!) to win 13-3 and set a new Tour record. Firsts easily accounted for the Chelsea Under 17's by 8-1 with George Blackwood scoring the fastest goal I have ever seen – 2 seconds from the kick off! a day of records being broken.



Penultimately on the next afternoon, a double header saw the Invitationals go down in a tight encounter 2-3, whilst the First Grade, in a lightning delayed match, won 2-1 against Balesier Tigers – an S League junior side.

With one match left for each team, wins were required to make this a tour to remember and they were forthcoming. Singapore's International Soccer Academy were the hosts. Asquith's First won 11-2; the Invitationals won 1-0.



A fitting Indian dinner and awards were celebrated that night. The next day we went to the Chinese Market where we shopped until we dropped.

A truly awesome trip – probably the best ever in terms of performance, manner and memories – the boys were so well behaved and focussed we could not

even hand out the traditional "Plonker Shirt"!

Our only disappointments were to our late injuries – Ollie, Daniel J and Matty – you were missed!

Mike and I would like to thank Tim Buwalda who filled in so capably as trainer and especially – Basril – what a guy!

On to Tour number 13...

Mr George Moscos, Tour Organiser

ENGINEERING STUDIES EXCURSION

On May 21, Year 11 Engineering Studies students visited the Clark Equipment head office and manufacturing facility in Hornsby. Clark Equipment is an Australian owned manufacturer and distributor of equipment for the construction, infrastructure, agricultural, mining, materials handling and logistics sectors.

After a safety induction the students set out on a tour of the facility led by the Engineering and Technical Manager. The tour covered all aspects of the manufacturing, testing and maintenance of heavy lifting equipment. Students were able to see the subject of their recent studies of hydraulics and braking systems as applied in real life situations. They were also provided with a valuable industry perspective on engineering careers in the mechanical, electrical and mechatronics fields.

The final highlight of the tour was experiencing the latest Bobcat technology - a fully remote control excavator. The childhood toys of many of the students had suddenly become life size!

Many thanks to Clark Equipment and their staff for providing this opportunity for Asquith students to experience a successful world class engineering operation in our local community.

Mrs N Jackson, Technology and Applied Studies Teacher



BIG BAND BLAST GOES OFF AT PORT MACQUARIE

On Friday 30 May the Stage Band set off for Port Macquarie to participate in John Morrison's BBB (Big Band Blast) <http://www.bigbandblast.com.au>. The weekend featured a 30 piece 'heavy metal jazz orchestra' with the guest artist Angry Anderson of Rose Tattoo fame. There were performances from a myriad of bands from all over Australia that had converged on 'Port' for 3 days of fun, sun, jazz & intermittent rain which seems to be attracted to live music wherever it is played.

Our boys were outstanding ambassadors of all the good things that we do so well at Asquith - teamwork, problem solving, performing at a very high level, participating and having a thoroughly enjoyable time! Apart from the boys, special mention must go to Head Teacher, Ms Holder, for organising the endless things that



must be prepared for such an undertaking; Band Director, Mr Howick for his continued enthusiasm & dedication; Band parent Mrs Roscarel whose contribution re-defined 'camp Mom' to a whole new level. We were treated to food & refreshments on a military scale that would make most restaurants/parents envious. Many thanks to Asquith Boys SRC for assisting with Tour expenses. The bus driver earned his keep, by driving through pouring rain in the dark, passing B doubles with ease and finding the appropriate 'pit stops' along the way. The driver also calculated, almost to the minute, the exact time the bus would return to school!

the high standard required, can be maintained. Stage Band has been invited for a return visit next year. Well done, Asquith Boys High School Stage Band!

Mr Mike Williamson (Music Teacher, intrepid bus driver) CAPA Faculty ABHS

1ST GRADE CRICKET COACHED BY MR BLACKWOOD

Firstly, I would like to say that, of all the Grade Sport teams I have coached over the last few years, I don't think I have seen one as dominant as our 1st Grade cricketers who have now won the Zone Premiership an amazing 4 years in a row!

Winning the North West Met Zone Cricket Premiership was a priority for captain Edward Hollis and his team. It came down to a final between Asquith and Normanhurst Boys. Normanhurst were convinced that after 3 years of Asquith dominance this was the year in which they took the Premiership away from the defending champions. After all, they had beaten Asquith during the season and were very confident of doing it again. Their players were up for it and they were clearly confident in the warm ups.

However, the game was dominated by Asquith who let their actions do the talking, and it was Normanhurst, who were unable to match their words with action. Normanhurst's confidence gradually drained away as Asquith's team spirit and ability to perform under pressure paved the way for a 5 wicket win. It was a great afternoon for the boys. Normanhurst were lucky the win was not by a bigger margin. After a break at the end of the day's play

Normanhurst thought they had got away lightly, when their team meeting was hijacked by Asquith's victory song, Asquith had done it...4 years in a row!! The song was belted out louder than usual. It was a huge achievement.

Credit must go to the whole squad of 13. Players who often did not get a bat or a bowl still supported those who did. Although there were some terrific individual performances, everyone recognised the contribution that all players made to Asquith's success.

The side also made it into the Resi cup semi-final which was a play off for the top 4 schools in the state. Unfortunately our last game was washed out. By beating St Ignatius though, we had beaten the champion Catholic school. Other highlights for Asquith's 1st Graders this year was finishing 3rd in the Davison Shield (a state wide comp for state High Schools) and in gaining a position in the semi-finals of the Northern Districts Cup.

Finally I would like to pay tribute to the behaviour and sportsmanship of boys in this team. For some it was their 4th year in the side, for others it was their first but all took to the spirit generated over the last few years which not only lent itself to playing positive cricket in the right way, but was also about playing for your school, your mates, and creating great memories to share again in later years.

Well done boys and I am sure that future sides can draw plenty of inspiration from your achievements.



The team after their convincing win against Normanhurst Boys

Report by Mike Blackwood, 1st Grade Cricket Coach.

Mervyn Brown Scholarship Payment Advice

Please ensure you have ☒ the relevant boxes to indicate your form of payment.

Enclosed ☐ CHEQUE (payable to Asquith Boys High School, PO Box 242 Hornsby 1630); ☐ CASH for TOTAL \$ _____

☐ If making a direct deposit, please advise Karen Ronald in the School Office of the purpose of your donation. Phone 9477 3508.
Bank details are: Asquith Boys High School BSB: 032-001 Account: 149698

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

Name on card: _____
MasterCard

Card type: ☐ Visa ☐

Expiry Date: _____

Card number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Signature: _____

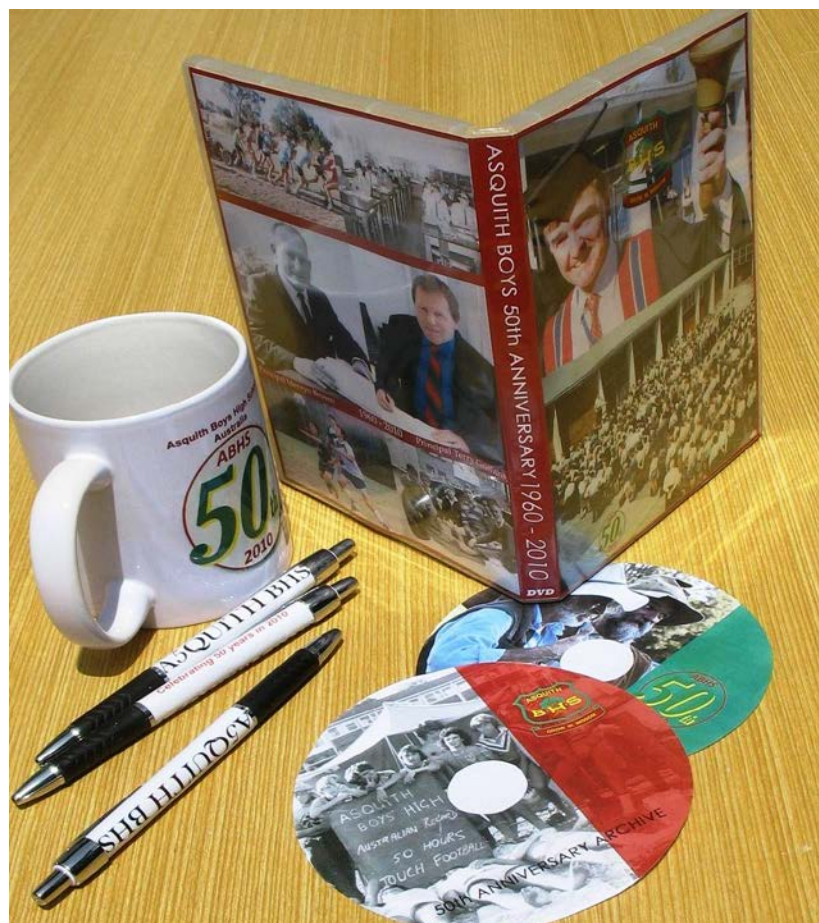
Date: _____

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

50th Souvenir DVD's

Available NOW

The Souvenir DVD pack contains two discs.



The '50th 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.

Funds raises from the sale of DVD's goes to The Mervyn Brown Scholarship.

\$30 *includes postage*

To order: phone Cashier 9477 2062, fax form 9482 2546 or post form ABHS PO Box 242, Hornsby 1630

PAYMENT ADVICE

Name: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Enclosed ☐ CHEQUE (payable to Asquith Boys High School);

☐ CREDIT CARD - TOTAL sum of \$ _____

Name on card: _____

Card type: ☐ Visa ☐

MasterCard

Expiry Date: _____

Card number:

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

Signature: _____

Date: _____

A former student shares his business experience with Year 12 classes.

On Friday 20th June, former student Ian Alwill spoke with Year 12 Business Studies classes in the School Library.

During his career, Ian rose to the position of Group Marketing Director of the Nestle company, for Oceania, Ian is well placed to help develop the students knowledge of the central role of sound marketing, to a company's success in business.

In his talk, Ian teased out students understanding of the role of marketing in developing a company's market share. He explained how the success of a product depends on many factors; strength of the logo and slogans, manufacturers reputation and an understanding of a country's environmental policies. Most countries have mandatory packaging recycling policies in place to help protect the environment. Ian explained how success in a marketing career depends on more than success in examinations. Thinking inclusively and valuing input from people working at all levels, when bringing a product to the point of sale will help to ensure success. People working on the factory floor can have great ideas.

Ian outlined a case study by referring to a product he had personal experience in developing in Australia, for the male youth market, the Kit Kat Big Finger. He explained how a unique marketing strategy can drive a brand and grow a market category. Ian finished his presentation by sharing his pathway through his career, emphasising the importance of gaining experience and a broad understanding of all facets of his role.

The lesson finished on a sweet note with distribution of Kit Kats for all, including Teacher, Mrs. Parker.

Report by Chris Kent



Experience jazz:
John Morrison's
SWING CITY
with Jacki Cooper at

Supported by:
Berowra Public School Concert Band
ABHS Jazz Ensemble
ABHS Stage Band

Asquith Boys High School 2014

BIG BAND JAZZ FUNDRAISING CONCERT

in aid of the development of a junior concert training band

Sat Sept 6 @ 7.30pm ABHS Concert Hall

Tickets: \$15/\$10/\$45 Family + Prebooked tables of 10 available - 94773508 or at door

Sponsored by:

Asquith Family Butchery for Quality and Personalised Service 9476 3597 412 Pacific Hwy Asquith
Cupcakes For All Occasions - Live..Love & Eat Cake...9602 3598 cupcakesforalloccasions@bigpond.com

2013 ANNUAL VISUAL ARTS EXHIBITION

August is our favourite and worst time of the year in Creative and Performing Arts. We both look forward to our showcases and dread the enormity of what has to happen. 2013 was no exception.

The 19 HSC Bodies of Work (formerly Art Major Works) were due to be delivered early to the HSC Marking Centre and we also had a Year 12 Music and Drama class with performance exams imminent. As a support to the HSC students we held two extra showcase evenings, one for Drama on the Tuesday and one for Music on the Wednesday. On these two evenings, performing arts students presented their examination programmes to external audiences for the first time. They were both wonderful and well attended evenings when Mr Williamson and Ms Mashman shared insights into the examination and marking procedures with families and friends.



Mr Sonter, the School's General Assistant, was so organised, he was ready for exhibition week, one week prior. As usual the exhibition took days to put up and 3 periods to dismantle. Art teacher, Ms Cooke was chief curator and it was her vision and her dedicated hand-picked team of student assistants, with the support of our prac teacher Ms Minkley that got the work on to the walls for such a fine display. Year 12 worked solidly to get their works up but with 19 students, there were many, many works and it took much longer than in past years. Thanks to Mr Philip (Head Teacher TAS) and the Hall Crew led by student Hayden Dudfield who provided valuable assistance to students in hanging and presenting their artworks.

When the work was finally up, after a sneak preview for staff, a final look andTEARS...of relief for me and also pride in the achievements of all our boys at ABHS, especially year 12. I can't believe we actually made it. The most exciting group of HSC works I had the pleasure to be involved with for 10 years.

It was a fantastic opening night with loads of people attending. Many students were issued with excellence awards for their art and performances. There was immense satisfaction from year 12 and staff alike. It was all about recognising the outstanding commitment of ABHS CAPA staff....as it should be...they are FANTASTIC!



Following Opening Night, the Exhibition was open for a further three days for Community viewing.

Thank you so much to all involved. It is so important for students to put their artworks and performances in front of audiences.

As in 2013, this years student artworks will be exhibited at the Community Fun Day on 14th September 2014.

Caroline Cooke: Curator,

Catherine Holder Head Teacher CAPA

THE ABHS WALL – A TRIP DOWN MEMORY LANE....

Thirty-three years ago, School Prefects from the 1980 HSC group decided to paint the Australian Flag on the hit up wall in the northern playground, as part of their 'Muck up Day celebration'.

Normally those in authority would have considered with such an idea with trepidation, if it were known at the time. It is unlikely it would have been approved had it been widely known in advance. Prefects discussed the idea with Prefect Master, Mr Bob Henderson, at the time, who gave permission for the proposal, on his own volition. The small group 'in the know' completed final planning. On the eve of Muck up Day a group of 18 School Prefects and Year 12 supporters met on site to draw up and paint the Flag on what was previously a pristine brick hit up wall. Under



Photo supplied by Iain Gorry.

arranged lighting that included that provided by the car headlights of Prefects and borrowed vehicles, this project was completed in the early hours of the groups last school day. One Prefect, Iain Gorry made an impromptu photo of some of the mural team the following morning. Ian has recently supplied his photo. I find the clarity and precision of the Flag image in this photo in remarkable contrast to the tired, somewhat bedraggled appearance of these young men.

As was hoped, school students and staff at the time were surprised by the Flag's appearance. It is reported that initially the School Principal was not happy with this 'prank'. Numerous phone calls and expressions of appreciation from the community were received at school in the days following. Soon this new landmark was being extolled by one and all.

Last Friday's ceremony was held to advise the Asquith Boys community of the need to remove the wall and to outline planning of a redevelopment proposal. Those present included former students, including a representative of the Flag painting team, former teachers, including the afore mentioned 1980 Prefect Head Teacher, current School Prefects and School Staff and representative of the P&C, Deputy Principal Andrew Skehan and Principal Terry Griffiths. Former student, now Hornsby Councillor, Nathan Tilbury was also present. Two representatives from the local press were present throughout, taking notes and photos. Meeting on site this group exchanged recollections and viewed a display of photos of school events from that era. Andrew Palmisano, of the original Flag painting team enjoyed finding photos of himself and his mates enjoying school excursions and Duke of Edinburgh hikes in the late 1970s. Andrew was invaluable in providing names to faces in the photo taken of Flag painting participants.

Following the initial meeting the group convened to Science Lab 5 where Grounds Redevelopment Coordinator, Craig Philip had prepared an informative presentation. Terry Griffiths welcomed participants and thanked the P & C and Old Boys Organisation for their participation in this project. Other speakers included Chris Kent, on behalf of former students and former staff. Chris read a couple of the many emails received from old boys who sent their recollections and apologies for not being able to attend in person. Bob Henderson narrated his first hand recollections. Mr Philip outlined planning to date; which includes removal of the concrete and bitumen basketball base due to hazardous surface. When that occurs the Flag wall will be divested of its original function for student handball and for hitting tennis balls against. In place a more expansive grassed area for diverse student use, is planned. Also an outdoor tiered space for student drama and music rehearsals and for student meetings. This space will be further enhanced by extension of the existing sculpture garden. The whole proposal will provision a more welcoming aspect for pedestrian visitors who enter through this main gateway, including students arriving at the School by train each day. The proposed redevelopment will more satisfactorily link the School to the recent upgrading on the Pacific Highway street front.

Following Craig's informative visual presentation visitors enjoyed refreshment provided by staff of the TAS Faculty.

Thanks to staff and prefects for hosting this significant, reflective and enjoyable event.

Chris Kent, for ABHS Old Boys

Farewell & Thank You to Joan Wilson

On the last day of term 2 we farewelled our long serving "Reception Mum" Joan Wilson who decided to go into retirement. Mrs Wilson had been part of the Administration team since 2001 and amazed us all with her incredible skill of remembering the boys' names. Besides caring, organising and loving 'her boys' she was the friendly & compassionate voice answering the phone and speaking to the parents and caregivers.

Not surprisingly, you will still see her at ABHS as retirement for Joan certainly doesn't mean sitting still....she is going to help out in the Learning Support area.

The staff, students and parent community thank you, Joan, for the years of dedicated service.



HAVE YOU REGISTERED WITH THE ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB?

(If you receive the Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletters 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 and School.
- Communicating information about ABHS and former student achievements and events.

To facilitate these goals, an Old Boys Newsletter is published once a year. It is e-mailed or posted 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 enrolment peer group? _____

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

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

Thanks to current members for passing this Application to prospective members

