



Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletter

Vol 14 August 2012

Ray Kench will give Awards at this year's Community Fun Day

Popular original teacher at Asquith Boys, Mr. Ray Kench, will visit this year's **Community Fun Day**, on **Sunday 9th September**. Ray will be available to greet his former students and colleagues, from 10.30am, till approx 1.30 pm. During this time he will also be giving Science Awards to students who have successfully gained distinction in the Annual University of NSW Science Competition.

Ray was a Geography and Economics teacher, in what was then the Social Science Faculty (now HSIE Faculty). Ray was well known even by students who were unable to enrol in his classes, due to the many extra roles he held in the School throughout the 1960s and 1970s. Some of those roles included Kurrajong House Patron, Sports master, School Photographer, and patron of the Bushwalking Club. Ray initiated and developed the Duke of Edinburgh Program. Ray finished his work at Asquith Boys when he gained promotion to the position of Special Master (Head Teacher), at Beacon Hill High School.

Peter Chong, graduate of the 1964 class, has volunteered to run the Asian Food stall at this year's Community Fun Day. We extend our appreciation to Peter for giving this leadership. Thanks to former students who have already volunteered to help Peter cook and serve his delicious curry and noodle dishes. **Proceeds from the Asian Food Stall will support the Mervyn Brown Senior Student Scholarship.**



Peter Chong and Chris Kent at Community Day 2011

There are vacancies on this roster. Please email your availability to assist, or phone the School on 9477 3508, or reply ABHS Old Boys PO Box 242 Hornsby 1630. The timetable below may guide your offer of assistance on the Asian Food Stall. The busiest time will be from 10.30am – 2.00pm. Assistance is needed for the setting up from 8.30am and packing up the stall.

The Timetable below may guide your offer of assistance on the Asian Food Stall

A group of helpers will prepare Asian food the evening before Community Fun Day. This will be done in the School's Industrial Kitchen (previously a metalwork room), from 5.30 – 9.00pm, on Saturday 8th September. Thanks to some who have offered help already. More offers will be appreciated.

Please RSVP, using one of the nominated options above. **Peter will cook and serve a tasty Asian dinner, for all helpers during the evening.** No children by request, for the food preparation.

Set up 8.30 – 10am	10am – 12 noon	12 noon – 2.00pm	2pm – 4pm	Pack up 4.00pm
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Old Boys win the first Blackwood Shield Game.

Old Boys won the inaugural Blackwood Shield game held at the 2011 Community Open Day. Former students, with three teachers, playing as 'The Asquithians', proved too skilled and fit for the opposing 'Invitational' Team. The Blackwood Shield is named in honour of ABHS teacher, Mr Michael Blackwood. Michael, a current teacher in the Technology and Applied Studies faculty, gained this honour because of his outstanding support of the School's Football International Tours program. Michael, with Head Teacher, George Moscos, has toured with the boys for all ten of the tours. Congratulations to Michael and George for this outstanding achievement.

If you played in the Blackwood Shield game and wish to rejoin fellow Asquithians in defending your title, please contact teacher, Jim French, during School hours. **New players are welcome to join** the team for this annual game. Phone: 9477 3508 The Blackwood Shield game is scheduled for a 1.00pm kick off September 9 2012.



Editorial

Following the success of last year's Community Open Day at ABHS, it was decided to hold one annually. This year's Community Fun Day will be held on the School Oval and surrounds, on Sunday 9th September (See adjoining poster for further details). ABHS Old Boys will run two stalls at Open Day: **ASIAN FOOD** (thanks to Peter Chong) and **Old Boys Souvenirs & Memorabilia**.

If you have a couple of hours free on the Sunday, and are near the School, call in for great food, free entertainment, the Football Tournament, bargain books and much more. 2012 Community Fun Day starts at 10.00am. The final Football game will be played for the Moscos Cup at 3.00pm.

In May two former students took up roles on the ABHS School Council. We thank Ian Imrie (ex 1971) and Stig Falster (ex 1964), who had their nominations approved by School Principal, Terry Griffiths. The School Council, comprising parent, staff, student, former student and other community representatives meets with Mr. Griffiths eight times during the year, on Tuesdays 6.00 – 8.00pm. School Council roles are for a period of one year. Thanks to several other former students who have nominated for this role, to assist with School governance, in forthcoming years. If you have interest and that time available, please contact the editor. At least one new former student councillor will be needed to take on that role from May 2013.

Community Open Day 2011 provided the time and opportunity to open, officially, the 50th Anniversary Commemorative Path. This project was an initiative of the ABHS P & C, during the School's recent Anniversary. The path, comprising the School logo and individually/family sponsored pavers is used to convey visitors to/from the School Admin building. Thanks to all former students and former teachers who sponsored pavers. This project will be extended, on a suitable occasion in the future. In addition, a new School Oval Sports Scoreboard was unveiled at Open Day. This sturdy structure will communicate Asquith Boys sporting prowess for many years to come.

Chris Kent



A Pioneer Prefect Advises Students on Leadership

Stig Falster, a Pioneer Prefect of Asquith Boys, was invited to speak about leadership to the Schools HSC Award Assembly in February. He is well positioned to make the address from his current position as Business Manager of Leadership Management Australia.

In opening remarks, Stig challenged the students to consider different aspects of leadership. In doing so he identified the difference between leadership and management, summarised as:

- Leadership - is about being a leader of people
- Management - is about managing risk and resources

Leadership is unique to the individual. It may be learned and enhanced through coaching or mentoring. Leadership in an organisational role involves:

1. Establishing a clear vision
 2. Sharing that vision with others so they will follow willingly
 3. Providing the information, knowledge and methods to realise that vision, and
 4. Coordinating and balancing the conflicting interests of all members or stakeholders.
- Leaders come to the forefront in a crisis and are able to think and act creatively in difficult situations.

Stig cited the importance of a pioneer in Leadership Studies; Warren Bennis, the Founding Chairman of the Leadership Institute, and Distinguished Professor of Business Administration at the University of Southern California. Bennis believes that 'Leadership is a function of knowing yourself, having a vision that is well communicated, building trust among your peers or colleagues, and taking effective action to realise your own leadership potential'. The leadership styles of Theodore Roosevelt and Bill Gates were also highlighted.

Stig outlined a study of the importance of goal setting, undertaken with students in the MBA Program at Harvard University. This study demonstrated conclusively the benefits of having clear, measurable and time bounded goals. Having established with his audience, the importance of goal setting, he concluded by identifying reasons people don't set goals. Understanding the problem can help one deal with the issue. Reference was made to Brian Tracy's bestseller, 'Goals'.

The reason for not setting goals include:

- Not knowing how. Goals must be clear, specific and measurable, not general ideas.
- Fearing failure. Failure hurts, but will guide future success. One should not limit themselves by only setting easily achievable goals.
- Fear of rejection. One may be afraid of the criticism of others if goals are not achieved. Some goals can be kept to yourself. Results achieved will generally speak for themselves.

Stig challenged all to become 'goal seeking organisms', by making a daily habit of setting and achieving goals.

Following his address, Stig assisted with the presentation of Certificates and in congratulating, individually, the Award recipients.



‘Education brings empowerment. Learning stuff is the joy of my life,’ says Mick Marr

In his address to assembled students at the February Awards Assembly, former student Mick Marr journeyed students through his life experience. Mick left Asquith Boys after two years of interrupted schooling, in 1966. He was then in Year 8. Mick’s family had faced hard times. They knew poverty and mum was the sole provider. Moving home frequently resulted in Mick attending 12 different primary schools before attending Asquith Boys High. Illness impacted Mick’s school attendance and the opportunity to develop friendships. Truancy followed. Mick knew the inside of Hornsby Courthouse.

Upon leaving school, Mick could barely read and write and his spelling and social skills were poor. Mick spent some time in Yasmarr and Anglewood Correctional Centres where he experienced the culture of harsh institutionalised punishment. An interest in motorbikes led to work as a motor mechanic. TAFE entry was denied due to lack of entry qualification.

Mick had a serious bike accident in his teens and a workplace accident in his late 30’s leaving him with permanent impairments and changing his life and career paths.

Recognising the importance of physical fitness as a teenager, Mick joined classes in Karate, Judo and Boxing at Hornsby PCYC. He won Australian Titles in Thai and Kick Boxing and Taekwondo and is now a 6th Dan Black Belt in Taekwondo.

A desire to become educated motivated Mick to gain a degree in Psychology and three Diplomas to supplement his trade certificates. His knowledge of the behavioural sciences currently supports his work for the House With No Steps in Sydney.

Mick believes in the value of Taekwondo to develop physical fitness and social skills, a perfect opportunity to ‘balance the pressures of senior schooling’. Sports such as Taekwondo and Boxing give younger students the opportunity to spend time with adults, learning from positive role models, in a safe environment which may not be available elsewhere.

Mick still instructs Boxing at the Hornsby PCYC and has been running his Taekwondo Club – Wundurra, in Berowra for over 30 years.

Mick and his family live sustainably in Berowra. He is a strong advocate for sustainable housing and local amenity. His son Lewis became Sports Captain, graduating from Asquith Boys almost a decade ago now. At the conclusion of his address, Mick advised students of the necessity to prepare for the certainty of change. “Education brings empowerment. Learning stuff is the joy of my life,” he said.

If you have gained some wisdom or life experience, that may enlighten, or challenge current students at Asquith Boys, please contact the editor.



Farewell Bruce Collins - Asquith Boys Deputy Principal 2000 – 2012

Asquith Boys dedicated and very capable Deputy Principal, Bruce Collins, was farewelled from his esteemed position, at a Special School Assembly on Tuesday 17th July. He received a standing ovation from students and staff. Bruce’s career was honoured by his colleagues, at an enjoyable function the following evening, at Asquith Golf Club.

Bruce initiated and led many successful welfare programs for students and teachers in the School and local educational region. His leadership has been essential in maintaining the status of Asquith Boys, as a high quality Comprehensive School in a competitive and high achieving local educational environment. He pays tribute to the effective collaboration he enjoyed with his three principals at Asquith Boys: Chris Bonnor, David Short and Terry Griffiths.



When interviewed recently by Head Teacher, George Moscos about his many significant achievements in educational and welfare programs at Asquith Boys, Bruce, as always, claimed the successes to be team achievements. ‘It’s not what I have done but what we have done..... Everything we do here is for the boys, first and foremost’. It is important that his humility does not mask the effective way Bruce has engaged in the developing lives of many hundreds of young men who have gone on to success in further education, careers in business, trades and as caring parents.

Bruce was instrumental in establishing the ABHS Old Boys Club, in 2006. He has maintained his support throughout, in his role as Patron. Bruce initiated the school’s Strong Student Scholarship program and has been a tireless and generous supporter of the Mervyn Brown Senior Student Scholarship.

Thank you Bruce, for the valuable work you have done at Asquith Boys. Wishing you enjoyment with your future plans.

More tributes to Bruce Collins’ work at Asquith Boys can read in the June edition of the School’s Newsletter, Backchat, at www.asquithboy-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

Chris Kent

Congratulations to ABHS students and staff on the 10th International Football Tour.

A big THANK YOU also to the number of former ABHS students; Gavin Lister, Corey Pendlebury, Sam O'Connor and Drew Jones, who have accompanied a number of these squads during the past decade.

Greece and Turkey were the destination for the 10th Anniversary Tour in Easter this year. Expectation was high among students at the evening departure at Mascot. Channel 7 cameras rolled as students were interviewed prior to their long flight to Athens.

After sleep and a hearty breakfast, the group set off on a walking tour to experience the sights, sounds and smells of Athens. Parliament Square and the Flea Market were two stopovers on this first foray. The Greek economy received a much needed boost as the boys got value for their Euros, enjoying delicious souvlaki and gyros rolls, huge strawberries and chestnuts.

Football games later that afternoon were against Faliro, a local coastal school. Asquith Boys showed promise but were not able to record wins.

Later in the day, respects were paid at the Allied War Cemetery.

More sightseeing and games followed. Students and staff enjoyed local culinary delights. Tour Leader, Head Teacher, George Moscos described some meals as: 'so splendid and tasty you'd think it was prepared by the gods themselves'.

A trip to Delphi was on the agenda a few days later. One stop off point included Thermopylae, the site of the Spartans epic battle. The Statue of Leonidas was admired as the battle was recounted and the boys reflected on the bravery of the Spartans. George recalls: 'We marvelled at the scenery as we drove up to Delphi and there, were transfixed by an idyllic sight. Temples and Stadia glistened in the sunlight under the calm protection of Mt. Parnassus. Our guide, Penelope, was enthusiastic as she described what we beheld'.

The following day, Sunday, was Acropolis day. The walk around the Acropolis and through the Ancient Agora proved inspirational for the boys. A training run at Kyfissia and a visit to the Panathenaic Stadium followed. The Greek visit finale was an evening visit to a European competition match at the Athenian Stadium 'Karaiskaki; home of Olympiacos. The boys absorbed a typical European Football match. Some flares, and 30,000 singing football fans waving colours, and throwing streamers.

The flight to Istanbul the next morning was short by comparison. Our Touring Group met rain and cold – quite the opposite to the weather in Athens. A friendly guide, Recep, greeted the arrival. He directed the coach on a five hour trip to our accommodation, the Tusan Resort, by the entrance to the Bosphorus.

Weather the following morning forced training indoors, to the local gym. Shy young children observed inquisitively. The children, it was later revealed, were Kurds, displaced by the devastating earthquake in Van last year. Some were orphaned and destitute. This provided the opportunity for Asquith boys to give away the small gifts they brought from Sydney. The soft koalas brought the biggest response and provided a memorable occasion for the boys and the children. It was confirmed that this exchange provided the greatest happiness since the terror of the catastrophe that shook their tiny lives.

The Anatolian sun shone on the ferry trip to the Peninsula early next morning. The pilgrimage to Gallipoli and ANZAC Cove was to be the culmination of the Tour. Again George explains: 'As we were the only ones at ANZAC Cove that morning, it was a privilege to



honour the Fallen without the chatter of other visitors. At the ANZAC Cemetery, row after row of graves were visited. The boys stopped and pondered. They relived the Landing in their own minds and were visibly affected. The Ataturk Speech to the Fallen (in 1934) was communicated and explained. The boys shared a minute's silence at the spot. We continued, visiting the Lone Pine Memorial, reflecting the Battle that took place, viewed the Sphinx, the Nek and the wondrous Statue of Respect for Turkish Soldiers. The Ataturk Statue, alone in its vision of the Aegean, was iconic'.

Five hundred local school children greeted the visitors at the municipal stadium at lunch time. Coach 'Jonesy' prepared the Senior team. Within four minutes of the first whistle, the home team was 1-0 up. Asquith responded with three quick goals before half time. Lots of determination was shown in the second half, by both teams. Asquith Boys prevailed, with no more goals scored. The visiting Junior team didn't fare so well with a loss recorded. Both games were screened on Turkish television.

The final matches were held against very strong Dardanelle teams. The Dardanelle teams were victorious in both games. Tour debriefing and presentations were held that evening at the Resort.

Tour Leader, George, summarised The Tour. 'The boys we took showed not only a dedication to the principles of the tour but to their own personal pride and in their school and their nation. Their behaviour was exemplary. On the field they were never disgraced. They walked the paths of the Fallen and absorbed the emotive events of the past. They admired and reflected at the Historic places they visited – Sounion, Thermopylae, Delphi, the Acropolis and Troy – and touched at the very foundations of human heritage'.

George Moscos

International Football Tour Organiser

Q & A with Sam Gibbons, First Recipient of Mervyn Brown Scholarship



Who/what influenced you to apply for the M.W Brown Senior Scholarship, in 2010?

I was motivated to apply for the scholarship in the hope that the Scholarship would help me excel in my area of interest, the subject Legal Studies. My focus has changed slightly during the past two years. My intention now is to study a combined International Studies and Law Degree in my quest for a career as a Diplomat. I hope my Scholarship award will also be a useful when applying for university and a future position, as it will show my commitment to and interest in the area of law.

Has the Senior Student Scholarship been as useful to you, as you had hoped?

I will admit that when I first thought of applying for the scholarship I couldn't see how I would use the financial support. I have however, made use of the funds this year and it has been extremely useful.

How did you make use of the Scholarship?

So far I have used the scholarship fund to pay for a very useful and interesting set of lectures on Crime, the first topic this year of my HSC Legal Studies course. In Term One I purchased an Excel study textbook, which I shall be using to study for my Trials and HSC exams. I am also planning to use the scholarship to pay for more lectures coming up soon.

Do you have any advice to Year 10 students considering applying for this Scholarship this year?

Yes, don't be dissuaded from applying for the scholarship just because you believe that you will not use what it has to offer, it certainly didn't prevent me. Even if you don't use the opportunity to apply for extra financial assistance the Scholarship provides, the Scholarship award will show your commitment and interest in the subject you have selected for the scholarship.

Do you have any more comments about the Scholarship program that might be useful?

I would like to say that I feel privileged to be the first recipient and would like to thank the Old Boys Club for their support. Finally, I would like to add that simply going through the application process is a useful experience, apart from winning the Scholarship which is a great benefit, even if one doesn't use the monetary support available.

The Mervyn Brown Senior Academic Scholarship was established in 2010, the 50th Anniversary of Asquith Boys High School, in memory of the first Principal (1960 – 1968). The Scholarship is awarded each year to a Year 11 student, for 2 years. The scholarship supports the recipient by paying school fees and in providing extra funding support to extend his learning in the subject for which the scholarship has been awarded. The scholarship can be in any subject (excluding Music, Visual Arts and Senior Band, as separate scholarships are available for these subjects).

If you wish to make a donation to this Scholarship Fund, please contact School reception on 9477 3508

2012 JAZZ FESTIVAL

Headlined by John Morrison's Swing City

See local school bands perform with jazz legends

SWING CITY

featuring the gorgeous jazz vocals of Emma Pask



ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL HALL
7pm Saturday 18 August 2012
Tickets on sale from August 6 94773508



Supported by performances from:
Yamaha Award Winning ABHS Stage Band

PRESENTED BY ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL STAGE BAND
IN SUPPORT OF THE ROYAL FLYING DOCTOR SERVICE

Life Membership of Berowra RSL Club Awarded to ABHS Club Member.

On March 25 this year, after years of service to Berowra RSL Club, outgoing Club Vice President, Ross Foster, atypically speechless at the Annual General Meeting when, instead of the quiet retirement he had expected, he was awarded a Life membership and a farewell lunch. Ross is a former student of Asquith Boys High School, having graduated in 1966. Ross's son is also a former student of the School.

Berowra RSL Club regulars will attest to Ross's persuasiveness, drive and can-do attitude, which have all been evident since he joined the Club in 1970. Some of the many services Ross has rendered include: assisting the Club's transition from being under administration in the early 2000's, to being an ongoing concern and filling the position of Club Vice President since 2005.

Ross has left a visual legacy in the form of two outdoor decks, including the recently completed (and now open) upstairs deck. Ross was Project manager who spent a lot of time arranging the work, materials and labour, then supervising the construction. When needed, he stepped in and wielded a broom or paintbrush too! Despite many impediments, Ross pushed these projects through in a timely manner and with huge cost savings to the Club.

He has spent a lot of time over the years sharing his business skills and ideas with the Club management and Board, consulting and assisting in reorganising and improving the Club's layout and appearance.

Life Membership can be awarded to a person who has rendered outstanding service. Ross has contributed outstanding service for over 40 years and his efforts have greatly assisted in making the Club what it is today.

Thank you, Bush Telegraph Weekly, for permission to reprint this article.

A National Media Award for a Former Student.

Brian Gibson (ex 1994), a resident of Berowra Heights, has won an Australian National Social Media Award. The 2011 Footy Fans Down Under Award Presentation, was held in Sydney. Brian gained the 'Best Use of Social Media Award for Australian Football', for the development of his fan page on Facebook, Twitter and YouTube.

'The Australian Football public were crying out to be heard', Brian said. Since starting the page on Facebook in 2010, support has grown to 30,000 fans. 'There was already a Socceroos page, Matildas page and an A-League page, but nothing that gave supporters an opportunity to discuss all facets of The Game in one place. In our desire to sell the game to potential sponsors, we've neglected the most important market – the fans', Brian said.

Socceroos midfielder, Tim Cahill was a surprise guest at the Awards night.

Interview with Old Boy Bruce Northcott

Hi Bruce. What have you been doing since making the ABHS 50th Anniversary DVDs?

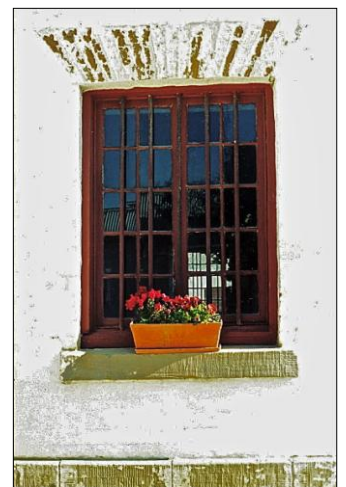
It's been two years since you addressed students, in the Asquith Boys Assembly Hall, at the screening of the winning student entries to the 50th Anniversary Short Film Competition. What filmmaking have you been doing since then?

True answer is not very much unfortunately. Shortly after Asquith Boys Anniversary I turned 50. Following, I learnt my mother had a terminal illness. Sadly she passed away in April this year. These events have prompted a time of reflection, 'where am I going, what have I done, what am I going to do'? Presently I'm on sabbatical. I have had some preliminary discussion with a mate about entering a short film competition and would certainly like to do that in the future. Last year I scripted, filmed and edited a short promo for Asquith Boys High's 50th Anniversary DVDs. I have for some time considered setting up a small business, doing video transfers, copying videos, making slide shows, that sort of thing. Video and photography was always my first love. See accompanying photos. Thanks to Bob Henderson, a former ABHS teacher for his photography tips. I plan to arrange selling my photos at the Woy Woy Art Market, held on 2nd Sunday each month at Anderson Reserve Woy Woy. I've been asked to make a video for the Tangeloes, a local A' Capella group that I sing with. This will be uploaded to You Tube. The year following Asquith Boys 50th Anniversary was the 50th Anniversary of Hornsby Heights Public School. I was tempted to support their celebration in the same way I supported Asquith Boys, until my wife said NO!

I am now in a position to consider requests to make small production videos or to assist with video production.

Video technology is still developing rapidly, making more opportunities available. What are some of the recent developments that have caught your attention?

The technology for encoding sound and image is still progressing rapidly. It started with reel-to-reel 3/4 inch video tape (U matic), then to 1/2 inch (Beta and VHS). Then to 8mm Video 8 and Super VHS, then to SD cards, things are continuing to get smaller. I'm very impressed with the technology. HD cameras are now the norm; these were only a dream a few years ago.



*Photo of a Goulburn Window
Bruce Northcott*

Film makers learn from the film making of others. What have you been watching lately that inspires you?

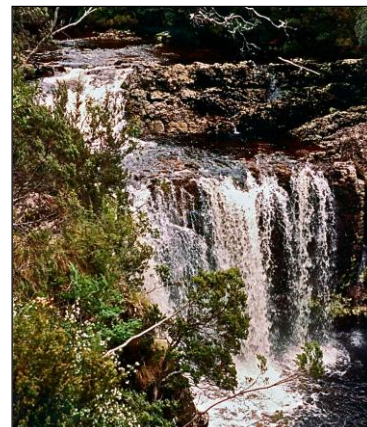
One that comes to mind is 'The Tunnel'. It's a terrifying movie, recommended for watching only with another. It's set underneath Sydney, in the disused St James railway tunnels, and is rumoured to be based on truth. This film was not made for commercial release, but made specifically for YouTube. I found the funding strategy the producer used, inspirational.

Your leaving Suncorp/Asteron has given you time and opportunity to plan a different career path. How are they progressing?

Not progressing fast as I have not completely severed my employment ties to Suncorp Life. I'm presently examining the possibility of running a small business from home. Perhaps also I will pick up some part time work up here on the Coast. Bicycle repair is a second string to my bow. I have renovated several bicycles recently for customers.

I'll always be pleased to talk to groups of students about developing technology.

Thanks for your time for this interview Bruce. We will keep in touch.
CK



*Falls Tasmania Photo taken 1993
Bruce Northcott*

ASQUITH BOYS HIGH SCHOOL

COMMUNITY DAY – Sunday 9 September 10am – 5.00pm

Come join us for a fun day at Asquith Boys - eat, drink and catch up with friends.



FOOD

BBQ, Barista, Hospitality

LIVE MUSIC

Rock bands, solo & stage bands

MARKET STALLS

Get in early for Christmas

FOOTBALL

Primary, Current & Past Students



WIN great prizes in our RAFFLE

Rock Climbing, River Cruisers, Gym Memberships
Restaurant Vouchers, Movie Passes and much more.



Opportunities for High Achieving Students and those identified as Gifted and Talented, at ABHS

In 2007 the Enrichment class program was offered for the first time at Asquith Boys high. The School's improving NAPLAN results have been attributed in part, to this initiative. All NAPLAN results achieved by students are now above State average. This improvement is expected to reflect in HSC results in coming years.

High achieving students, gain a place in the Year 7 Enrichment class, offered at Asquith Boys High, by sitting an external entrance test, in year 6. Successful students are offered a place in a class where a differentiated curriculum has been designed to extend the learning of high achievers. All teachers of the Year 7 Enrichment class have undertaken additional training in teaching gifted and talented students. Enrichment class students retain their additional opportunities in Year 8. In year 9, students gain access to graded classes in individual courses or electives of their choosing.

One of the main challenges in teaching gifted and talented students is not to stifle their creativity. This might seem obvious but in a world dominated with exam results, many students are becoming risk averse and fear the consequences of failing. At ABHS we allow our boys to express themselves in an atmosphere where lateral thinking and creativity is encouraged. In a nutshell, we allow our 'boys to be boys', which is not always the case in a co-educational school environment where boys will often hold back their thoughts so they don't embarrass themselves in front of the girls.

Creativity is one of the highest orders of thinking. It requires lower order skills such as understanding and applying well as higher order skills like analyzing and evaluating and putting these all together to synthesize something new and original. With the digital era comes a new challenge. How do we keep students creative and engaged in the classroom, when in their world they are surrounded by an array of electronic gadgets (mobile phones, iPods, iPads, laptops, video games)? Can teachers make use of these gadgets, to let students express themselves in a medium that is at their fingertips?

Here are some ideas we are using at Asquith Boys to make learning more authentic to their world. Instead of writing a story, how about creating a podcast, photo story or voice recording. Sure, this would require a camera, video camera and sound recorder, but these capacities are standard on modern phones, laptops and iPads, all multimedia workhorses. As an alternative to writing about genetically modified foods, students could make a short video, or animated movie or cartoon on the topic.

The same content can be presented in a way that develops creativity and hopefully engages the boys by challenging them to use 21st Century tools to present information. The great thing is that there is a load of great tools (generally free) on the web to help students present ideas and information that was only a few years ago only accessible by using expensive software programs.

So where do you find all of these great creative tools <http://edorigami.wikispaces.com/> is one source. This can be found by a Google search for blooms digital taxonomy. This site provides an enormous amount of information on 21st century teaching and learning tools. These resources are recommended for anyone wishing to develop skills for tomorrow's workplace.

Mr Stuart Robertson

Gifted and Talented Co-ordinator



Blazing in the Green Asquith Boys Prefects

Prefect Reports:

Thursday 31st May was a day of teamwork and leadership development for the Year Sevens. The prefects run this program. Excitement and energy filled the morning, as the Year Sevens entered the Hall. They looked and acted pretty normal, unlike we prefects who were dressed in a variety of bright or absurd clothing.

Mr. Griffiths spoke from a Principal's perspective on what makes a leader. All attention then turned to Max Sharkey, our School Captain, who explained how the day was organised and introduced the activities and their leaders.

I retrieved my group, who were a little anxious. My fellow prefect, Tom, and I luckily had some lollies, Ghost Drops, to use as incentives whenever correct answers to the quiz were given. The purpose of this activity was to experience the effectiveness of teamwork. My large group was divided into smaller groups. One group of boys worked individually on the quiz questions. The other group was further divided into two teams to face that challenge. All participants in the activity experienced working individually, as well as in a team. All had the chance to see what skills they needed to be a leader, and also a team member.

I really appreciated observing the quirky empirical methods the Year Sevens quickly developed during the game. Some muttered suspiciously to themselves or their teammates. Others shouted their own version of the correct answer. I noticed some would often



shout the wrong answer to throw others off the scent, an interesting survival tactic that just seemed to appear on that day. After the day we developed new ideas that could be used in next year's Leadership Day.

M.L. Year 12 Prefect.

Our activity was Water Retrieval. The aim was to get the Year Sevens working as a team, communicating and developing a plan to retrieve the bucket of water, without falling into the 'toxic waste'. The boys loved this activity, especially when we gave them a second go, after putting 'incentives' into the bucket of water. The boys worked well together, enjoying the day and the BBQ the School provided.

As a prefect, it was fun being on the teaching side of the day, rather than a student. I know that we the prefects would not have been able to do all the preparation and making the day run smoothly without Mr. Laing's constant nagging and support from all teachers, and the help and knowledge of Mrs. Aime Liiband. Next year will be bigger and better. Let's keep Leadership Day as an annual event on the School Calendar.

N.B. Year 11 Prefect.

As Games Master, it was my job to ensure the smooth running of the day, timing was maintained throughout, everyone was where they needed to be, scoring was consistent and most importantly, everyone had a good day.

26 enthusiastic prefects coordinated the twelve activities. There were six different activities in each circuit to ensure a variety of skills and challenges.

At the conclusion of the day Deputy Games Master, Tim, debriefed the young participants. From all reports they had a great day and learnt a lot about teamwork and leadership. It was also a valuable learning activity for the prefects. A big thank-you to Mrs Aime Liiband, the professional Leadership Consultant, who helped us develop and run this successful day over the past three years.

Max Sharkey, School Captain.



Michael and I were the facilitators for the activity, Spider's Web. The objective of the activity was to get all the team members from one side of the web to the other. Whilst going through the web spaces, one must not touch the web. Teamwork is required, in the form of encouragement and finding optional pathways as once an individual has gone through one space in the web, that space cannot be used again by another team member. If one touches the web they must start again.

This activity was very challenging and I was very surprised that every team were able to get at least half of their members through to the other side in the available time.

L.P. Year 12 Prefect.

The River Crossing activity demanded more than just leadership and discussion. It demanded teamwork, thinking and communication skills. Some of the Year Sevens realised this straight away. Others took more time. In this activity no particular individual was the leader, but everyone was a team player. Making it across the 'river' together was the objective. This was achieved through thinking, communication and teamwork. It was amazing to see how each group demonstrated their own method to arrive at that point.

R.G. Year 12 Prefect.

Year Seven Reports:

On Leadership Day we did six events. My favourite was minefield. The two leaders explained the rules and objectives. We had three paper plates and needed to cross a 'minefield'. We could send two at a time from our team. One of our team had a 'broken leg' so we had to work out a way to get him across the minefield also. In the end we got everyone across.

M.C. Year 7

Year 11 and Year 12 Prefects and Captains held leadership Day. In our first activity we did Charades. This was my favourite activity because I had to act out Harry Potter, Transformer, Barack Obama and Sponge Bob. It was a great day and I want to do it again.


M.C. Year 7

More engaging Reports from Leadership Day can be read from the School's June Monthly Newsletter 'Backchat', on the Web: www.asquithboy-h.schools.nsw.edu.au

'Masterchef' at Asquith Boys, Sponsors needed!

Hospitality teacher, Tim Josephs, will be hosting a Masterchef for students in Term four this year. This program will help students to discover latent abilities and to highlight the benefits of a new range of Hospitality Courses on offer for students.


If you are in a position to provide sponsorship, in the form of prizes for winning students, could you please contact Tim, at Asquith Boys, during School hours. Phone: 9477 3508.



ASQUITH
ABHS Inaugural
Masterchef
Competition
2012
GROW IN WISDOM

When: Term 4
Where: Kitchen 1
Cost: \$15 entry
Teacher: Mr. Josephs

Compete for the inaugural ABHS masterchef winner. For prizes and fun. Compete in quarter, semi and grand final.



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 emailed or posted to members free of charge

ASQUITH OLD BOYS CLUB MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Full Name: *(please print)* _____

☐ Address: _____ Post Code: _____

☐ Email: _____ 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

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.

\$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:

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