



Asquith Old Boys Club Newsletter

Vol 15 August 2013

John Hartigan speaks to students at High Achievers Assembly

An original student of ABHS, John Hartigan is widely acknowledged as an industry leading figure in Australian media. John was appointed chief executive officer of News Limited in 2000 and chairman and chief executive officer in 2005. Since resigning his role as CEO of News Limited, John has maintained and developed his community responsibilities. He is a director of The Bradman Foundation, the American Australian Association, the NSW Wine Industry Council, the NSW Export and Investment Advisory Board and is a trustee of the Sydney Cricket and Sports Ground Trust.

In February this year John returned to his School to address students and high achieving HSC students and their parents.

Good morning to everyone, a special good morning to Terry Griffiths your headmaster and all the teachers of Asquith Boys High School. I'd also like to congratulate the award recipients for their inclusion in the Honour roll for their achievement in last year's HSC, and very rightfully their parents who must be very proud.

I'd like to say how much I really am privileged to be here. I'm delighted to stand in front of you, being an old boy. I really do consider it a profound honour to be here.

One of the reasons I consider it such an honour is because of the all the old boys who have gone through the School. I am, truly, the least likely to ever be asked to return in any capacity. I think that over the next 10 minutes or so you might get an appreciation of why that is the case.

It's almost 50 years since I walked out the gate for the last time, prior to today. The most rewarding thing I'd had from that was to finally have the opportunity to put that wide brimmed felt hat that used to be part of the School kit, in the bin, as I walked to the railway station. It was the most useless part of any part of the uniform in my personal view and I promise you, that School hat was just about the worst.

I was at the School in the last year of the Leaving Certificate exam before the introduction of the HSC. I was what educators at the time would call a problem. I was rebellious. I liked humour more than hard work and the reason is truly, quite straight forward. There is no complexity to it, I was immature; put more simply I was really foolish with those last couple of years of my educational performance. I've regretted that ever since and my marks reflected that same state of mind. But strangely enough I was lucky and the reason I was lucky was that I was given a second chance.

In today's more complex world, I doubt that many people would be afforded that same second chance that I got. Today, as you heard your headmaster say, you are not just competing against the people in your classroom, across the road or anywhere in the state or the country. Ultimately you are competing to be part of a global competition for the best jobs. The winners will get the careers they cherish; the losers will get the leftovers. Make no mistake the leftovers are going to become increasingly less attractive. But there is a frightening new category and reality.



continued page 2

Who Owns ABHS Archives?

Asquith Boys has been established for 53 years, during this time the collection of archives has grown. What is their use and value now? How can they be best managed? Do they have a function in supporting student learning?

Annika Evans, a current member of the History staff, recognises the need to further develop the History curriculum to include local heritage and specifically, school history. Annika would like to team with those who have a passion for telling the ABHS story to students and the ABHS Community. History and Humanities Head Teacher, George Moscos, will provide a location for the display and management of the archival materials.



The School archives include past issues of the School's newsletter, Backchat, photos of School events (going back to the construction of the School during the late 1950s), pennants, badges, banners, sports and debating achievements, videos of School events, recordings and various pieces of the evolving school uniform. The collection is housed in cupboards in the Library and is not normally accessible to students, although many are naturally inquisitive. Some old black and white photos are fragile and fading. Management, including digitization, will improve access and protect the archives.

Annika is keen to establish an archival display facility at ABHS. If you know of others who may be interested in this project, but are not usually readers of this publication, would you please let them know? If you are able to assist please contact George or Annika at ABHS, 9477 3508.

Editorial

During recent months a review of the ABHS Old Boys Club has been undertaken. Thanks to the School Council and former deputy Principal, Bruce Collins for contribution to that review. That Report is available upon request. One outcome of that process is a strategy to encourage volunteering for ABHS, from the Old Boy Community.



Old Boys Club represented at school Open Night

The move towards increased local management of Public Schools in NSW, and other states continues. As schools are required to manage their own resources, they increasingly draw upon the diverse skills knowledge and energy of their community. This trend creates more opportunities. If you have a few hours, annually you could donate to ABHS please consider some of the suggestions in the article, Volunteering for ABHS, in this edition. The suggestions in the article, are just that. If you have other skills, knowledge or resources that might enhance the learning opportunities for students attending this excellent school, please contact Principal Terry Griffiths, or your Newsletter Editor for further information.

During the past two years two former students, have represented the Old Boys Club on the School Council. That role will conclude for Stig Falster and Ian Imrie early in the New Year. Thanks to both for their valued contribution. An old boy will be needed to fill the vacancy left by Stig and Ian. If you are considering applying, contact your Editor for more information.

Events such as the School's Annual Community Fun Day, has provided more opportunities for the participation of former students and former teachers. A report from last year's very enjoyable occasion, and information about this year's event is detailed in this edition. The Concourse of Cars, new in this year's program, provides an additional highlight.

October is the month when ABHS Student Scholarship applications are considered and interviews conducted. The School has made provision for an old boy to be involved in that process. The School's Open Evening for prospective students and their parents is held one Tuesday evening early in March each year. Old Boys Club representation is required for that occasion. If you have an inclination to volunteer for either of those roles, requiring only a few hours during the year, don't hesitate to contact your Editor for more information.

The 'tyranny of distance' that a few years ago would have precluded all but those who lived in close proximity to the School from participating in volunteering adventures, is diminishing. Communication technologies bridge time and space, providing opportunities to contribute to communities in a way not possible in the past. Maybe you are able to help blaze a trail of online support to ABHS, or to the Old Boys Club?

Readers of this Edition of OB Newsletter will also note the expansion of curriculum at ABHS in recent years. HSC eligibility requirements still provide a framework for student choice and core subjects are foundational. Subjects such as Japanese, Horticulture and Hospitality reflect the diversity of those available now in this Comprehensive High School. Reports on student achievement in these courses and others are available in this edition.

Chris Kent

continued from page 1

John Hartigan speaks to students at High Achievers Assembly (cont'd)

Many of the losers in the chase for new skills will be consigned to a relatively new under class and that is something we have not really seen in an affluent country like Australia before, certainly not in the numbers that I'm talking about. Because make no mistake, no skills, no jobs - no quality of life!

Whether we want to acknowledge it or not, countries of our region have raised the education bar. They are demanding new levels. They in their cases will be challenging you for the very jobs that you aspire to.

So let me take a step back and personalise this a little bit. You're probably looking at me and saying, why did a boofhead like you, get a second chance? Well, it's because I had an overriding passion, and that passion was journalism.

A newspaper company educated me on the run. I was 16 years old and 16 year olds are not afforded that same opportunity today. When you hit the ground running you're expected to go through tertiary learning and once you hit the new job you're expected to have the skills that I didn't have. As you heard I got a job as copy boy which is about as basic, you know, running to get peoples cigarettes and lunches and all sorts of gofor type jobs. But finally I got a cadetship in journalism, the thing I wanted so passionately. That took me two years. I became a runner for two years and that got me on to the ground floor. I was off and running, in arguably the most exciting and rewarding career that you can ever imagine. And I'll tell you a little bit more about that just to whet your appetite. Its a career of absolute privilege, editing newspapers in Queensland and New South Wales. Spending two years working in London, two years working in New York was great, great fun and a great learning curve. Then to ultimately become the chief executive and chairman of Australia's biggest and the world's biggest media company in News Corporation and the Australian arm, News Limited. The Australian operation included 140 newspapers across every state and territory in the country and included management of Foxtel, the pay subscription company, it included the management of Foxsports, and a host of digital businesses, not the least being the majority shareholder in realestate.com which is an engine room of digital business that some of you might be familiar with. And then there was 50% of the NRL, the National Rugby League, and for god sake don't mention the Storm salary cap issue because we also managed 100% ownership of the Storm and the Broncos, the Broncos being a public company but again we were the majority shareholder and still are. And then just to make it more attractive, to have at your whim a chauffeur driven car and indeed a private jet to take you around Australia and around the world!

So I can again see you looking at me and saying, is this the same old boy from Asquith Boys High School who was the problem child. And the answer I'm embarrassed to say is, yes it is! I wasn't alone at being a bit of a misfit at school, one of my classmates became one of the country's greatest artists, this, the same young man who was dragged feet first out of a geography class, after raising an inkwell to his lips, yes there were inkwells before biro's when I went to school and he raised the inkwell to his lips and skulled the ink as he toasted the teacher. In my day we didn't have a peer group to adjust ourselves and to which we could gauge our progress. We were the first students in a new, entirely new, school. Today you have an amazingly good and talented successful school leadership group, the very boys that are here today from last year's HSC.

In closing I'd like to offer some of qualities that I believe today's boys need to be able to go forward and to be confident about their role after school. To me it doesn't matter whether you want to be a mechanic a butcher or a lawyer. The fundamentals are precisely the same. You need to learn how to compete in the world, and Australia's place in that world. Imagine the future! Imagine how things are changing! Every business, it doesn't matter whether it is a media company or a bootmaker, everything is changing at such a rapid rate because of the pace of technology driving innovation. There are no shortcuts. Hard work is the only thing that is going to get you to look across and be confident in getting what you deserve in the world. And make no mistake, if you really want to achieve you are entering not the 38 hour week but, if you really want to achieve, you're entering the world of the 60 hour week. My other advice is to do something that you love, because as much as you love something, you are going to find days when its absolute rubbish, let alone something you don't want to do at all.

Choose your friends wisely and I mean that during your schooling years particularly in the last two years because unless they share the inspiration and aspiration that you have they can drag you down, unbeknown. The other issue is the most important. When it comes to the October of your HSC year, the only thing that matters is your academic achievement as measured against everyone else in the state. You don't get the second chances that I got. So don't be fooled that you can goof off for a few days or a few months and still achieve your goal.

Finally, education is much, much more than simply sitting in a classroom. The most successful graduates that I ever came across were those that had widespread interests besides purely their academic learning. Whether it's sport, debating, chess or any interests, the best students are the busiest students.

To wind up my contribution today, my advice is to put on your seatbelts and to enjoy the ride the education system gives you. The goals were there for me 50 years ago, and I believe firmly, they are still there for you with one small but important difference, today you must fight just a little bit harder to get them.

Thank you for listening to me. Just remember that your dreams can come true but you have got to work for them.

Thank you and good luck.



Left to right: Andrew Skeehan (Deputy) John Hartigan, Terry Griffiths (Principal) George Moscos (Head Teacher)

Jazz charity festival 2012

This music festival is held every two years in August, in the ABHS Hall. It celebrates jazz performances across primary and high school as well as at a professional level. The Festival provides opportunities for School student bands to work with internationally recognised performers to stage a musical event. It is an event staged to support the Royal Flying Doctor Service.

Saturday 18th August was the ABHS Stage Band's night to shine....AGAIN. MC for the evening was Sam Gibbons who managed the evening and led us with dignity and well-practiced ease. We welcomed Asquith Public School Concert Band led by the energetic Matt Dalziel for a buzzing opening set featuring many familiar and fantastic pieces. Mary Bentley was warmly welcomed to the stage to tell us what the Royal Flying Doctor Service does for our nation. Following Mary we were charmed by the jazz funk of the sparkling Thornleigh West Public School's Funk Band led by David Bell (who is also a long time music tutor at ABHS).

Next on the program, Asquith Boys High's Stage Band. Fresh from gaining silver and gold recognition at Eisteddfods, they played a fantastic and dynamic set of tunes which lit up the room.

Interval became a 'festival of cake' as the School's Stage Band director, Iain Howick, provided a feast of home baking. Iain's spread was soon reduced to crumbs by the hungry audience who were not put off by Iain's 'I Don't Share!' apron.

Following Interval we were launched into the world of Big Band Jazz by John Morrison's Swing City and vocalist Emma Pask. A blistering set travelled through familiar pieces and arrangements written by different band members. We were treated to solos by band members whose musical talents were extraordinary. Emma's voice rang through the hall with an old fashioned swing, transporting us to somewhere else.

The evening closed with John Morrison's favourite drum solo....THAT DRUM SOLO...the one we had been waiting for.

The evening concluded with many thanks to the Festival's musicians, directors and presenters.

It is recommended that former students and friends check the School's calendar on the website, early in the new year, for details of next year's Festival.

Ms C Holder, Charity Concert Co-ordinator



Inaugural Japan Tour

In April, students and staff of the Languages faculty participated in the School's first Japan tour. The purpose of the tour was for ABHS Language students of Japanese to experience Japanese life and culture during the Cherry Blossom Season. Students had the opportunity to further develop their language and communication skills whilst gaining understanding of the interface where traditional culture meets 21st century society in Japan.

One of the Tour destinations was the Fushimi Inari Shrine, an important Shinto shrine in southern Kyoto. This venue is famous for its thousands of vermillion torii gates which straddle the network of forest walking trails that lead up the mountain behind the main buildings. This shrine is dedicated to Inari, the Shinto god of rice, and its ancient origins predate Kyoto's choice as the capital city in 794 AD. Those of the tour party who took the trail challenge found the experience 'invigorating' with a breathtaking view of Kyoto once the summit was reached.

Another destination was a day trip to Universal Studios in Osaka where riding the 'Hollywood Dream', giant roller-coaster was the thrill magnet. Several boys rode many times.

Never on a School Tour would students be told to 'get lost'! However, that was the purpose of the Ghibli Museum in Tokyo. Students explored room upon room of amazing interactive activities. Cameras were banned so no images can document their experiences.

Other highlights of this Tour included the Shibuya, Tokyo's fashion centre for the young and the island of Miyamima, site of the world heritage listed Itsukushima shrine.

Students and teachers participating in the Japanese Tour expressed thanks to the SRC for providing distinctive Tour jackets, seen here at a School assembly upon their return.

More details of this 'awesome' Tour can be found in the May edition of Backchat on the School website. A report on the ABHS Easter Football Tour to New Zealand will also be found at that location.



Asquith Boys 1st XI & the Alan Davidson Shield Success

Earlier this year Asquith Boys first XI defeated Epping BHS in the final of the North West Met. Zone competition. This win was the 3rd consecutive one for ABHS.

The team also won the Regional Competition of the Davidson Shield. Asquith overcame Blaxland High and Maitland High to earn an away game against Wauchope High School. Wauchope were restricted to 105 but in 4 overs Asquith took the remaining 7 wickets of the innings for only 13 runs. Indeed, they took the last 5 wickets for 0 runs to shock the home side who had looked comfortable going into the last overs of their innings. After a solid start to Asquith's innings, the batsmen played sensibly and the total was chased down with 6 overs to go. Asquith won by six wickets.

That result earned the ABHS team a place in the Alan Davidson State Shield Competition, final series. That Series was held in Bathurst in April. Following hard fought games, Asquith Boys First XI finished 3rd.

During the season Asquith's batting has been consistent, their fielding has improved and they also possess a terrific team spirit. The team has some outstanding individuals but as a team they work hard for each other and at all times bring an excellent attitude and sportsmanship to the game.

Mr Mike Blackwood, Coach



Horticulture @ ABHS

School gardens provide a unique learning environment to promote environmental and sustainability learning, to connect students with healthy food choices and lifestyles, and to learn valuable waste reduction methods.

This is the third year the School has participated in Hornsby council's Ready Set Grow program. Staff has attended workshops on composting, pest management and maintaining a school food garden. The program has provided funding for tools, seeds, garden materials and a water pump for connection to the tank.

Currently students elect Horticulture in Year 8. Earlier this year the boys planted carrots, garlic, onion, lettuce, celery, bok choy, beetroot, peas and beans. A small orchard has been established with mandarin, nectarine, lemon, mulberry and olive trees as well as a 'fruit salad tree' with several varieties grafted on the one root stock. Comfrey and nasturtium have been planted to keep pests at bay and to provide an additional compost source. Food waste collected from the School canteen and kitchens sustain a worm farm.

Dishes made with fresh produce from the vegetable garden have been used at School functions. The aim is now to increase yields in order to supply students enrolled in the School's Hospitality courses.

I welcome any input from school old boys to our year 8 horticulture class which runs 4 periods per fortnight. More expertise, interest and knowledge will be of value. Guest speakers, more resources or those with time to get into the soil are all welcome.

Please contact Chris Yates, Science Teacher, 9477 3508



VOLUNTEERING *for* ABHS

Sharing your skills and interest will make a difference in the lives of students and staff at Asquith Boys. Join a team of like-minded former students/former staff and/or current staff.

Please look at these suggestions to see if you have a couple of hours annually to support our School. Other suggestions are welcome.

- Development of the School's website
- Videoing and editing video of school activities for inclusion on School's website
- Fluency in speaking Japanese
- Career choice mentoring
- Horticulture. (See article in this edition of Old Boys Newsletter)
- Assisting students & staff with Duke of Edinburgh Award challenges
- Developing student reading skills
- Developing student debating skills
- Fundraising
- Helping with School grant applications. (See article in this edition of Old Boys Newsletter)
- Sponsorship of ABHS Old Boys Club or Mervyn Brown Senior Student Scholarship
- School archives, memorabilia (photos and objects, see article in this edition of Old Boys Newsletter)
- Assisting with publication of ABHS Old Boys Newsletter. (80% online, 20% print and post)
- Assisting students with small construction projects within School (carpentry, tiling, bricklaying etc.)
- Presenting student concerts and performance nights
- Former student/s as guest artists at ABHS performance nights
- Musical instrument tuition
- Selection panel for annual Mervyn Brown Senior Student Scholarship
- Initiating and developing an ABHS Old Boys link with local Sports Clubs
- Develop or contribute to development of an ABHS 'Sportsman Hall of Fame'
- Organising Committee of Annual ABHS Community Fun Day, or other involvement on the Sunday in September
- Setting up student art displays and exhibitions
- Help with School governance via ABHS School Council. Volunteer to be a future Old Boys representative
- Participation in former students Guest Speaker at School Assemblies program
- Sports coaching

Phone the School Office: 9477 3508 or email christopher.kent7@det.nsw.edu.au for more information.

Chris Kent.

ABHS Community Fun Day 2012



Asian food stall



Face painting

Can you help with Community Day 2013?

This year the Community Fun Day will be held on Sunday 8th September, the day following the recently announced Federal Election. Old Boys will run the ABHS Souvenirs and Old Boys Stall. If you have some time and are visiting on the day, please consider volunteering time to the roster below. Please reply via return email or to Chris Kent, c/o Asquith Boys High School, PO Box 242, HORNSBY 1630.

Name:

Email:

Phone:

Mobile Number:

Please indicate which time slots you prefer. If more than one, please place “1” as first choice, “2” as second choice etc.

Time	Set up (8.30-10.00am)	10am-12noon	12noon-2pm	2pm-4pm	Pack up (4pm...)
Preference (with comments)					

RSVP Friday 30th August. Your rostered time will be confirmed during the week before the Community Day.



This day, held on Sunday September 9th last year, in perfect weather. There was entertaining and high quality musical performances all day, a number of very competitive soccer matches, great food and many interesting stalls. The event was very well supported by the ABHS community with hundreds of visitors throughout the day, including local federal Member of Parliament, Mr Paul Fletcher. This event, held on the School Oval and surrounds, has become a regular feature on the School Calendar.

The Old Boys Club, under the leadership of Peter Chong ran the popular Asian Food Stall. Fresh ingredients for the Thai Chicken Curry and Noodle and vegetable dishes were prepared in the School's Kitchen the night before, by P & C members and Old Boy volunteers. The tasty meals were served hot, or as home take away during the day. Former students with the assistance of current staff manned the stall. Former students who assisted included: Bruce Morgans, Alex Wardrop, Matt Buwalda, Les Drake, Ken Davis, Gordon Forsyth, Bruce Northcott, Paul Denyer, James North, Peter Chong and Chris Kent. Former ABHS teachers assisted, including Trish Byrnes, Tony Ward and Barbara Tuyzman.

Original ABHS Geography teacher, Mr Ray Kench visited and entertained some of his former students with anecdotes from the past. Ray performed the official opening of the Community Fun Day and also awarded prizes to students who participated in the Science Competition Display.



Ray Kench centre, Chris Kent, with a carpenter who worked on original building construction



Old Boys Blackwood Shield football

Street Art Toilets @ ABHS

During Term two 2012 our School Captain Max Sharkey and our Art Teacher Miss Ryan were at a P&C Working Bee Day and had an idea to clean up and repaint our toilets with a Street Art Theme. Max took the idea to our Principal Mr Griffiths who thought it was great. Other student and teachers thought it was great and we received some generous donations from students' parents and from our school environment committee to buy materials.

Every student in our school was invited to submit designs and to volunteer to be on the paint committee. Miss Ryan chose a core group of us to manage the project. We finalised the designs and some of us went with her to Newtown to buy paint supplies from a professional Street Art Shop. Miss also bought us masks and lent us her aprons.

The core group spent the last week of term in the toilets spraypainting all the walls and doors with mermaids, fish, sharks, octopus and many more underwater creatures. Miss Ryan arranged a local professional 'Graffiti Artist' to come in on the first day to help us get started. During the week around 40 more boys were involved in the preparing, painting and cleaning. It was a really fun project. We made it a real artmaking environment. We played music and helped each other paint and taught each other some new skills and worked really well as a team. The end result is great and we hope will encourage boys to not do graffiti as vandalism but to start doing more artistic work.

The project is a huge success and the whole team would like to thank the parents and environment committee, Max and Miss Ryan and most of all Mr Griffiths for letting us do this.

Hopefully we can do heaps more.

by Deacon Mirabile (Year 9)



Inaugural Kitchen Battles Competition

The competition was held in December 2012. It consisted of two qualifying rounds with nineteen competitors ranging from Year 8 to 11. Mr Philip, Mr Lappas and Mr Moscos had the challenging job as judges. Points were awarded for time management, organisation, presentation, taste, and the ability to clean up.

The second round was "Designer Cupcakes". This challenge was constructed by Ms Bird, an expert in cake design. The judges for this section included representatives from the ABHS P&C and staff.

Eventually the field was reduced to eight; with Kobe Blonner-Sullivan, Keegan Waters, Oliver Bidgood, Jack Gammie, William Van Egmond Jones, Ben Felettigh, Andrew Sloggett and Zach Hughes progressing through to the semi-final.

Adam Foy and his apprentice Luke, from Adam's Cakes and Chocolates in Turrumurra, made guest appearances and demonstrated a Croque En Bouche. Thanks to judges: Adam Foy, Nick Berman (Hornsby Shire Councillor) and relieving deputy Mr Robertson.



Stuart Robertson (left) Nick Berman, Adam Foy (centre) and contestants

Finalists cooked homemade pan-fried smoked salmon ravioli with baby capers, tomato concasse, rocket and parmesan salad; with a warm lemon, tomato and extra virgin olive oil dressing. This was followed with New York baked lemon infused cheesecake with a cinnamon tulle, Chantilly cream and mixed berry coulis.

We were very lucky to have Chef Steve Krasicki, from the Shangri La Hotel Sydney with his Human Resources manager, Vanessa Falzon, to judge the finals along with Mr Crewe, formerly Executive chef of City Extra at Circular Quay, and John Koellner, the President of our P&C Association.

The winner was Keegan Waters who just edged out Zach Hughes. Kobe Blonner-Sullivan and Andrew Sloggett finished 3rd and 4th respectively. The students exceeded expectations in all sections of the competition.

Kitchen Battles 2012 was such a success that other schools in the area have expressed interest, with a final being organised between 4 local high schools in 2013.

Thanks to the judges and to Nick Salerno of Stella Blu, Dee Why, Stuart Cosgrove at Asquith Golf Club Restaurant and Brett Byron at Café 3 David Jones, Hornsby.

Mr T Josephs Hospitality/Food Technology Teacher



Boys v Wild

I read recently of the death of Maurice Hertzog, the first person to scale a 8000m peak in 1950, and watched a documentary about Douglas Mawson. Because Mawson was a Yorkshireman like me, I reflected on the character building of the adventures I had there as a boy. My heroes were the members of the 1975 expedition to the NW face of Everest and a teacher of mine, Paddy McCaskie, who took me climbing. More recently, in the Blue Mountains, I would frequently meet, work with and talk to Lincoln Hall, the Australian mountaineer (sadly passed away last year), who famously survived a night at the summit of Everest. All were also committed to volunteering their time towards community projects around the world. How do we nurture that stoicism and altruism which provides us with resilience throughout life? In an increasingly material, technological, virtual world, do boys in Australia experience hardship to develop perseverance? How can we take them out of their comfort zone? What level of risk is acceptable to achieve these goals and how do we manage it? Could they survive in the wild? In the Duke of Edinburgh's Award, our boys complete their sports activities without much encouragement but it is in the expeditions and community work where we see most value.

Each year, about 40% of our Year 9 boys register with the Duke of Edinburgh's Award. By creating experiences which push them beyond their comfort zone, and allow them to contribute to their community, we can develop values which are often lacking in our social network world. One of our key objectives is to develop resilience, decision making and leadership skills. If we foster autonomy in a wilderness environment, where the consequential risks are carefully managed but potentially dire, boys develop self confidence in making rational decisions. This type of program allows adolescent boys to see that they have an identity that affects the decisions and outcomes of other people in a group.

It may take the form of instructors "thinking out loud" about a particular decision allowing students to be privy to the instructor decision-making process, when to bail out when difficulties are met and seeing that there is no shame in doing so. Unforeseen circumstances, such as a river in flood, no clean drinking water or a track that is overgrown, can lead to a decision that may jeopardise the group (events which occurred in 2012).

So what evidence do we see that some change is occurring? A comment, which is made by all teachers who assist in an expedition, is that they are able to break down barriers between students and teachers, a situation which endures. They notice a comradeship in the classroom as a result of having endured a shared experience. Sharing resources on a scale rarely seen in the playground is volunteered automatically. The boys regularly discuss a warped sense of time and astonishment that the evenings without mass entertainment seem longer. They become more attuned to the weather and the sun as dictating their activities. We see altruistic behaviour such as offers to lighten the weight of a pack, and sensitivity to the needs and limitations of others. They learn lessons about materialism – what to eat, what is necessary, rationing water. They are observant about changes in vegetation, what is flowering or scurrying in the undergrowth.

We may not breed another Mawson, Hertzog, Hall or McCaskie, but maybe, just maybe, someone of character more attuned to their community and natural world.

Mr Chris Yates 2013 Duke of Edinburgh Co-ordinator



The report accompanying this photo from the Royal National Park Coast Walk, Bronze Expedition, is available on the School's website. Select 'Newsletters' from the Home page, Backchat, March 2013

Vale: Terry English

Terence Mavon English passed away on October 3rd 2012, aged 74 years. Terry was the husband of former Art Head Teacher, Carol English, well known to staff and students of ABHS in the 1970s and early 80s. Carol and Terry's son Jolyon, attended Asquith Boys during the 1990s.

During his later years Terry worked at the Furniture Branch of the Department of NSW Education and practiced as an artist, holding exhibitions of his work, locally.

THANK YOU! to the English family for a substantial donation to the ABHS Creative Arts Faculty in memory of Terry.

Achievements of some recent Old Boys

Shane Brouwer, 2001 graduating class, recently had success in publishing videogames, a passion he developed at age 15 years.

Shane has been recognized as Runner Up for the prestigious Qantas Spirit of Youth Awards, in the Interactive Gaming category. Super Lemonade Factory is a game that was initially released for iOS (software used to develop Apps) Super Lemonade Factory works on iPad and iPhone as well as computer. Last year Shane worked as a visual effects artist during the day, creating Super Lemonade Factory at night. The story is based on real life situation of a married couple who own and operate a soft drink factory in the years succeeding World War II.

In addition to successful video games, produced under his moniker 'Initials', Shane has been awarded visual effects credits on hundreds of television commercials, the recent Watch With Mother web series and the Cannes nominated short film Yardbird.

Interested readers will find the Super Lemonade Factory at <http://superlemonadefactory.initialsgames.com/>

Tonu Liiband, 2010 graduate, pictured here to the right of Socceroos Captain Lucas Neil, is continuing to pursue his professional football career as a goal keeper.



Tonu (Right) with Tim Cahill

Mervyn Brown Scholarship

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 have been established for these subjects).

The Mervyn Brown Senior Academic Scholarship is funded by donations from former students and former staff of Asquith Boys High School.

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: _____

Card type: ☐ Visa ☐ MasterCard

Expiry Date: _____ Card number:

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

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Upgrading North Section of School Playground

Over the School's fifty plus years changes have been made to the ABHS landscape. Past changes have seen an old incinerator removed, repositioning of the School's flagpole, installation and removal of demountable buildings, installation of the grandstand adjacent to the school oval, provision of water tanks, outdoor gym, creation of Palm Court and planting of shade trees on the school quad, to name a few. Such changes are made in response to diverse needs: safety, environmental, educational and aesthetic.



Such needs are currently directing a plan to upgrade the northern pedestrian entry and playground, off the Pacific Highway. Safety necessitates removal of the old outdoor basketball courts. Concrete slabs that underlie bitumen have moved creating a basketball court that is 'out of bounds' because of the hazard. It will be too expensive to renovate. Removal of the old basketball court will make the adjacent brick wall, now rarely used for handball, obsolete. Removal of this wall, painted long ago by students with the Australian and Aboriginal flags, will be missed by former students and teachers.

The benefit for current students will be a larger open space, and the opportunity to develop surrounding

facilities. A venue, in close proximity to the Drama and Music rooms, for use by students for rehearsal and small group performances is overdue. Provision of a small outdoor theatre is a possibility, with more grassed areas. An improved environment for student and visitor entry to the School is another positive outcome. The plan will complement the upgrading of the main pedestrian entry to the School completed in recent years and the developing Sculpture Garden. Proposal for these changes have been discussed with staff, students and parents.



Old Boy input will be welcome. If you have suggestions, questions or resources that you are able to contribute to this project please contact Head Teacher, Craig Philip at ABHS: 9477 3508, or Chris Kent by return email.

Miss Mashman & Machu Picchu Inca Trail

Miss Mashman (Drama Teacher) is about to take on the Youngcare Australia MACHU PICCHU INCA TRAIL 2013 Challenge. Will you show your support?

My challenge:

Did you know that right now 7,500 young Aussies are living in aged care, simply because there are no other options? This isn't right, and you can help to make a difference.

Youngcare is an organisation that brings greater choice in care and housing for young people with high care needs. I am taking on the 2013 Youngcare Machu Picchu Inca Trail to help raise funds and awareness for Youngcare. All young people deserve to live a young life, and this challenge is celebrating the essence of what it means to be young.

Youngcare has a history of adventure challenges to encourage people to go out of their comfort zone and experience some of the mental and physical challenges that could be compared to a young life in aged care. But this is no life, it's merely an existence.

I will be conquering one of the most isolated tracks on the Inca Trail with the altitude peaking at 4,000 metres. While I will conquer my own limits, my most important challenge will be to raise money and awareness for young people with high care needs.

With your support

Together we can help Youngcare create real change for young Aussies in desperate need. I am committed to completing the Machu Picchu Inca Trail Challenge 2013 and through this challenge, raise awareness and much needed funds.

One of the New Seven Wonders of the World is waiting for me, and I am determined to conquer the high altitudes and the isolation of the trail to give young Aussies greater choice in their care and housing options.

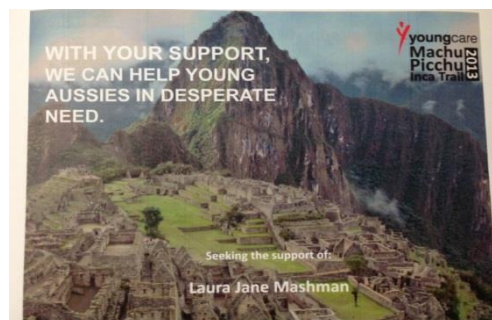
By the time readers of this publication see this request I will be on The Trek. There is still time to make a tax deductible donation. Small donations are welcome. Please contact me: c/o ABHS, PO Box 242 Hornsby 1630, or ljmashman@gmail.com or laura.mashman@det.nsw.edu.au

http://www.youngcaresupporters.com.au/laura_jane_mashman

Sponsor Miss Mashman online at

http://www.youngcaresupporters.com.au/laura_jane_mashman

I am asking for your support to help me complete the Youngcare Machu Picchu Inca Trail 2013. To qualify, I must raise \$8,000 to help drive change and create real choices for young Australians with high care needs. Thank you for your help.



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

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:

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