



**NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

**HEADMASTER'S  
REPORT  
2001**

**83<sup>rd</sup> ANNUAL SPEECH DAY  
AND  
PRIZE GIVING**

**WEDNESDAY 5 DECEMBER 2001**

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***PREFACE***

***FROM THE HEADMASTER***

Dear Friends of Newcastle Grammar School

It gives me the greatest of pleasure to present my annual report. This report, the Headmaster's report for 2001, is compiled department by department, and activity by activity, so that you can review the achievements of our students and our School. Please take the time to read this report, as it outlines our wide ranging activities and our achievements. It truly demonstrates that Newcastle Grammar School offers its students a holistic education of the highest order.

The 2001 School Year has once again been full of so many achievements, where our students have excelled inside and outside of the classroom. The 2000 Higher School Certificate results saw 40 per cent of our students with a UAI over 90, and 70 per cent over 80. For the second year in a row, a student from Newcastle Grammar topped the State in an individual subject in the HSC, and all of our students in Computing were placed in the top 10 per cent in the State. Three students across the School topped the State in the Australian English Competition.

Outside of the classroom, students have won at local, State and national level in sport, and our aerobics teams for the second time are eligible to represent at the World Titles. The School's Chamber Choir, while on their European tour, was successful in winning an international competition in Verona. 2001 has continued to see individual and collective excellence at our School. The School once again was blessed with drama performances which were of a professional standard, and our Year 12 students' visual art works were described as 'mature and sophisticated - the best Year 12 works that they have seen'.

This year we have witnessed how quickly our world can change. September 11 has changed our world, however the light of goodness will always outshine darkness.

On behalf of the School, I would like to thank all those parents who have helped the School in any way in 2001. We are forever grateful.

I commend the remainder of this report to you.

**Alan G Green**

## ***FROM THE CHAPLAIN***

As the first full time School Chaplain at Newcastle Grammar School I have come in 2001 into a situation of the 'known' and the 'unknown'. I know the School since I was part of the Cathedral clergy team who taught Religious Education here in the years 1992-1994. One of the 'knowns', much appreciated by me, has been the continued involvement of the Dean of Newcastle, the Very Rev'd Graeme Lawrence, in the life of the School. His advice and encouragement to me has made the 'unknowns' more easy to know. I am sure the whole School community wants to thank him for his significant ministry in the School over many years since 1984. We look forward to the fulfilment of his new role as Dean of Newcastle Grammar School.

A school is a busy place. Students and teachers always have much to do, many things to say and various places to go. One of the wonderful things about a school with a Christian tradition though, is that the work of the school is not only concerned with the academic, the emotional, the physical and the pastoral but also the spiritual. The thing that distinguishes a Christian school from any other is this holistic attitude and focus. Whilst I have been involved in many aspects of the School's life, the spiritual aspects have concerned me most. It is my aim to allow students to see something of the God who has created them, redeemed them through Christ and who sanctifies them through the Holy Spirit. The awakening of a spiritual dimension in the life of a young person begins with the presence of God in our midst. Looking beyond the immediately obvious and the rational processes of the brain allows us to know more and to grow in faith and life. There are many aspects to the spiritual journey.

Chapel Services are a regular feature of the daily routine and the place where students have the chance to encounter God in corporate worship. At present there are five Chapel Services a week: Preschool Chapel, Kindergarten to Year 2 Chapel, Hunter and Macquarie House Chapel, Tyrrell and Shortland House Chapel and Years 3-6 Chapel. Preschool Chapels have begun for the first time this year, and together with the K-2 Chapel, are held at Park Campus. The other Chapels are held in the Cathedral. Two Eucharists have been held each Term in the Cathedral for the students in Years 3-12.

It has been my privilege to baptise a student this year (Edwina McGregor, Year 6) and to prepare several others for admission to Holy Communion (Samantha Anderson, William Blanch, Clara Davis, Kathryn Lambert, Riley Lewis, Edwina McGregor, Aarja Price and Caitlin Wilson-Homer). It is pleasing to see so many children and their families growing in faith in the life of the School.

Religious Education classes are conducted by me in the Senior School in Years 7-10. In Year 7 students have focused on the Bible - what it is and how it came to be. In Year 8 students have studied the person and work of Jesus. Year 9 has looked at the power of myth, their own personal journey of life and faith, writing a Bible story for younger children and at other faith traditions. Year 10 have done a Term's work on ethics and discussed some modern film texts with spiritual significance.

An exciting initiative this year has been the visit of the Chapel Choir to a number of parishes in the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle. Four parishes have been visited and the students have led the singing at the services and provided anthems during the service. The Chapel Choir has been enthusiastically received by the parishes and we already have a waiting list of parishes for next year. Thanks are especially due to Rose Saunders for leading the Choir and providing such great enthusiasm.

I have also visited a number of camps and conducted services. These include the Year 7 Camp, the Year 12 Retreat, the Music Camp and the Year 11 Senior Camp. There have been opportunities to worship in some beautiful surroundings in the open and once again to develop a spiritual component in the life and work of the School.

I wish to thank the Headmaster, Mr Alan Green, for his support and advice to me in beginning this new role. His witness and example in the School is a source of strength to many, including me, and we as a School community need to pray for him and give thanks for him on a regular basis. The development of a spiritual component in the life the School owes much to our Headmaster and the influence of the Board.

Thanks also to many staff who support my work. I especially mention the music staff who work with choirs and provide music for Chapel, particularly Evanne Sherringham, Rose Saunders and Jane Parkes and the House Patrons, Eric Villari, Megan Phillipson, Emily FitzSimons and Lynne Walker. The work of students who have contributed to Chapel in any way, as musicians, readers, servers or intercessors is also acknowledged with thanks. It makes a great difference in the life of our School to have staff and students so actively involved. Please be assured that your contribution is greatly valued.

The work of any priest is a great privilege. I thank all who have shared part of their journey with me and allowed me to share mine.

**The Reverend Brian Douglas**  
**Chaplain to the School**

## ***FROM THE DEPUTY HEADMASTER***

It is with mixed emotions that I write this report. On the one hand there is the challenge and excitement of a new direction in the Middle School and yet there is sadness in “letting go” of the day to day running of Newcastle Grammar School. I recall when I left my previous school I looked forward to life in a smaller school where there would be an opportunity to work more closely with students and parents. This has certainly been the case and I have greatly enjoyed the exhilaration of assisting young adolescents along the sometimes perilous path to maturity. This path has not been easy or well signposted for parents, students nor teachers and especially Deputy Headmasters.

Professor Loretta Giorcelli, our Educator in Residence this year, reminded staff and parents that our young are becoming more defiant, more attention seeking, less attentive and more impulsive. This is a world wide trend and all schools have experienced the effects in varying degrees. This certainly has caused reviews of the methods used by both teachers and parents to direct and correct. What has become vividly apparent in the light of these findings and the last five years in the capacity of Deputy is that students today are aware of their rights. They expect to be heard and they expect to be treated fairly, even at times when their behaviour is very frustrating. The “Student Voice “ cannot be ignored. To plot a course in this changing environment is one which has required a solid foundation, and one needs to look no further than the Bible and its Christian values for such a foundation. Correcting students and guiding them requires the development of trusting relationships. As well as trusting relationships I would now also add that these relationships, especially with the children in our care, need to be based on love which includes aspects such as *love is patient and kind, love is not ill mannered or selfish or irritable, love does not keep a record of wrongs, love never gives up.* (1 Corinthians Ch 13.)

In 1997 my report included the following statement from Patrick Duignan, Professor of Educational Leadership at the Australian Catholic University: “The quality of relationships greatly influences everything else that happens in organisations such as schools. Trusting and caring relationships are identified in many studies as central to the development of a culture or climate where values relating to honesty, integrity, loyalty, justice, equity, freedom and autonomy are internalised and find expression through everyday practices and procedures.”

It is significant that the Middle School has as its focus the introduction of Home Room Teachers to address stronger relationships between student and teacher in the very fragile years of emerging adolescence. One would hope that this increased focus on the pastoral aspect of education will yield dividends in the later years of schooling where so many schools experience behavioural problems with Year 9&10 students who have not developed a confident self image in their earlier years.

It is in some way prophetic that my final days “in the job” were spent accompanying Year 10 on an Outward Bound Expedition. This has equipped them with the ability to face new challenges, to take risks and to push themselves beyond their comfort zones in preparation for the next stage of their Life Journey.

I thank all staff, students and parents who have given me support during the past five years and I look forward to the next stage of my Life Journey out of the comfort zone of administration and back to the classroom, to face new challenges as a Home Room Teacher.

**Mr Ian McMurtrie**  
**Deputy Headmaster**

## ***FROM THE SENIOR HOUSE PATRON***

The analogy of life as a journey is an old one but it still holds good; and it does seem that the path we follow through our adolescent years, as we try to assert our independence and establish ourselves as individuals, can seem very rocky. Others seem to be doing everything right while we stumble, we feel pressured to move in directions we do not feel comfortable about and the signposts that were once so clear start to look blurred.

Our Pastoral Care programme aims to help smooth the road throughout these school years. Together with parents, our goal is to see our young men and women achieve in adulthood a life that is both fulfilling to them and valued by the community.

In our everyday interactions we are involved in nurturing and educating our students towards this goal. Stepping into Mrs Craig's role this year while she is on leave, I have been able to get a broader, overall view of how the Pastoral Care programme that she has developed in the School facilitates this.

Of course, the Pastoral Care calendar has events that have quite specific objectives. The St John Ambulance First Aid Senior Certificate course prepared many of our Year 11 students to make a contribution to the community. The Year 11's were also given the opportunity to develop leadership skills in the Peer Support programme and then to share with Year 7 the values and attitudes that will help fit them out for the future. In the Year 12 Pastoral Programme we address issues confronting and challenging young adults who are about to step out into the wider world.

Yet it is in the Mentor system where close relations are formed over the years between staff and students. Informal chats in the playground, discussions and activities together in Mentor groups, times to listen, times to encourage – this facet of Pastoral Care is impossible to measure but must never be undervalued.

Through our Pastoral Care policy we are promoting tolerance, compassion and positive relations among our students. We are striving to engender in them pride in themselves and in their School, knowing that they will always be safe, comfortable and supported, within its walls.

For me, it has been a pleasure to watch our Pastoral Care in action from this different viewpoint, and a privilege to work with our House Patrons, whose enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment I have found inspirational.

**Mrs Lois Simpson**  
**Senior House Patron**

## ***PASTORAL CARE COMMITTEE***

Evolution of the Pastoral Care programme is a must and again in 2001 the Pastoral Care Committee has been active in evaluating, modifying and improving, as they re-examine a range of issues from bullying and resilience to team spirit and leadership.

In February our priority was to ensure a warm welcome and a comfortable transition for Year 7 and all new students into the School. The Year 11 Peer Support leaders impressed all as they provided an orientation programme for the Year 7 students and then led them through a series of sessions aimed at developing skills and strategies for problem solving and social interaction.

The Peer Support Camp, under sunny skies at Point Wolstoncraft, was a great success. Both Year 7 and Year 11 students had a wonderful time swimming, canoeing and raising the adrenalin on the ropes course. From the staff's point of view, though, the most rewarding thing was to see the new Year 7 students getting to know each other and forming friendships and to see the Year 11 students guiding, leading by example and, through the sessions that they themselves organised, sharing their wisdom.

Running concurrently with the Camp were the Year 11 Personal Development days which were conducted effectively again this year by Mrs Frances Pavitt and Mr Jerry Prietto.

This has been the fifth successful year of the Year 12 Pastoral Programme. This involved a visiting speaker addressing our students each fortnight on topics relating to the areas of Responsibilities, Reconciliation, Career Choices and Relationships. Mrs Pavitt once again organised a varied and dynamic programme of speakers which was well received and most beneficial for our Year 12 students. In conjunction with the programme, the Friends of Newcastle Grammar School generously sponsored a Parent and Student evening presented by Professor Trevor Waring entitled "Surviving the HSC".

Founders' Day this year laid the emphasis on celebration. After a Eucharist at the Cathedral and a short lesson period, it was party time: Year 7 skated the afternoon away at Warner's Bay; Year 8 went to see "October Sky" at the Regal Cinema; Years 9 and 10 exhibited their musical talents; and Year 11 hosted Year 12 at a luncheon in Horbury Hunt Hall, where they were entertained by a debate between Year 11 and a team of ex-students and staff. Congratulations must go to House Patrons and senior students for the smooth running of the afternoon.

A 2001 innovation that brought students together and raised House spirit was the Music Festival. All organisation was student based, and the result was a very entertaining afternoon in which every student of the School participated.

At the beginning of Term 4, Year 10 elected the Year 10 House Leaders. As Year 12 moved on to focus on their HSC, these Leaders stepped in to support their House and to display their leadership skills.

Year 10 Peer Support Leadership training days were held in November this year at the Fletcher Wing of Hunter Health. Students responded well to the activities prepared for them. The two days culminated in the Year 10 Dinner held at the University Union.

The year has been busy and rewarding. The Committee has implemented the Pastoral Care programme with thoughtfulness and enthusiasm. The changes in the School's structure in 2002 will bring new challenges that will be embraced with energy and the Committee will again be dedicated to providing Pastoral Care to best suit the needs of our students.

**Mrs Lois Simpson**  
**Senior House Patron**

## ***MACQUARIE HOUSE ..... (Red Hot!)***

Macquarie House has had a great year in 2001. Although we missed out on winning the Swimming Cheer Competition we have had many other successes, all of which have been driven by the enthusiasm of the members of Macquarie House, especially our energetic student leaders: Year 12 House Captains, Elizabeth Brown and Timothy Harris, and Year 11 House Vice Captains, Emily Simpson and Hamish Graham.

We did have some sadness early on in the year when we lost Tamar Scobie, a member of our House from Year 7 - 1995 to Year 12 - 2000, in a tragic car accident. Our thoughts and prayers go out to her family and friends. We will always remember Tamar as a beautiful and talented young lady whose kindness and enthusiasm touched many.

On the sporting front, Macquarie students displayed immense enthusiasm and participation at the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals and the Annual Cross-Country championships. Musically we gave

Ricky Martin and the Wiggles a run for their money at the inaugural House Music Festival. In the battle for the House Debating trophy we gained 3<sup>rd</sup> place in the Junior Division, 2<sup>nd</sup> place in the Intermediate and 1<sup>st</sup> place in the Senior Division.

Macquarie House raised funds this year for the Children's' Medical Research Institute's 'Jeans for Genes Day' on Founders' Day and via an entertaining as well as profitable Fairy Floss Stall at the Spring Fair.

Our Captains were ably supported during Term 4 by our Year 10 House Leaders: Alana Johnson, Katherine Holland, Mitchel Bates and David Bowen-Thomas. These students were voted in to this position by their peers.

All in all, what a year! An extremely large **Thank You** goes to our inspiring and dedicated Macquarie Mentors: Mrs Bilton, Mr Carroll, Mrs Cooper, Mr Dwyer, Mrs Green, Mrs Maitland, Mrs Rowntree and Miss Saunders, without whom we would never have achieved all that we have. On a personal note I would like to thank them for the support they have given me during this year in David Braggett's absence.

***MACQUARIE HOUSE..... too hot to handle!***

**Miss Megan Phillipson  
Macquarie House Patron**

## ***HUNTER HOUSE***

It is always interesting to see the students of one's House develop and mature over the course of a year. At times, international events can make us aware that we are living in times which will be regarded, in the future, with disbelief. Many students were curious and interested to plumb the depths of what motivates these actions. I was very impressed by the caring and sensible way the Hunter Mentors addressed these dark occurrences in their sessions.

I am always heartened to see the maturity and commitment with which our Hunter students approach the social, cultural and sporting events which contribute so much to the life of the School.

Hunter, in 2001, has continued its support of the Fred Hollows Foundation which, of course, is responsible for providing vision restorative eye surgery to disadvantaged communities. We know that our contributions have a positive effect on individuals.

The most striking characteristic of our students, I feel, is their ability to galvanise into action when the going gets tough. The annual swimming and athletic carnivals and, inaugurally for 2001, the music festival, gave our people the opportunity to work as a community driven by common goals.

To this end, of course, it is the Mentor who provides the initial focus and motivation for both the group and the individual and we are blessed with the talents of Mr Barter, Mr Butcher, Mrs Grace, Mrs Patey-Dennis, Mrs Iredale, Mrs Owers, Mrs Jordan, Mrs Yates and Mrs Davies. Hunter Mentor groups are indeed in safe and competent hands. I thank the Mentors for their support and hard work. I'd like to thank Mr Butcher especially for his regular, and highly successful Ten Pin bowling nights. These events are open to all boys, not only those from Hunter House, and they have proven to be "great bonding sessions" as well as great, wholesome fun.

Hunter proved to be a great "breeding ground" for senior leadership talent in 2001 and our captains and vice captains have been diligent and highly professional in the performance of their duties. Captains Ryan Grob and Claire Smith, along with Vice-Captains Ashley Carruthers and Emma Hamilton have been ever-positive and indefatigable as organisers, motivators and role models for Hunter and for the School generally. I am grateful for your services to Hunter House. Thanks also to that loyal coterie of Senior students (you know who you are!) who provide the backbone for voluntary work at House related events.

Hunter students excel in the areas of music and our lives have been enriched by their tuneful talents at many functions, Chapel Services and celebrations throughout the year. One of my enduring memories of 2001 will be that of the ensemble from Hunter performing at the music festival. Their talents are prodigious and stand comparison with professional adults in the field.

Almost on a weekly basis I am distributing special awards to individuals for speech, debating, citizenship and community related events. Again, Hunter's Spring Fair Balloon Stall was a colourful success. I was struck this year by the joy that an object as simple as a helium filled balloon can bring to both children and adults.

Essentially though, it is the students who **ARE** the House. They are a great community. I look forward to working with you all again in 2002.

**Mr Eric Villari**  
**Hunter House Patron**

## ***SHORTLAND HOUSE***

Students and staff of Shortland House have been very busy this year.

We have supported and raised moneys for three charities. Firstly, we have sponsored a child from Sri Lanka through World Vision, with each Shortlander contributing part of the yearly sponsorship amount. We have raised money for **CANTEEN** by organising 'Grandpa's Swim' at the Swimming Carnival and by selling bandannas on 'Bandanna Day'. Finally, we have contributed to cancer research by selling badges and other items on 'Daffodil Day'. Apart from contributing financially to three very worthy charities, students have also helped to raise awareness in the School community about the goals these organisations are trying to achieve.

The House has been very successful in all Inter-House competitions this year, due to excellent levels of participation, wonderful House spirit and talent!

We won both the School Athletics and Cross-Country Carnivals and produced a fantastic performance in the Swimming Carnival Cheering Competition. In a hotly contested inaugural School Music Festival we were also the victors. Our Junior debaters won their division with the Senior team coming a close second to give the House an excellent overall result in the Inter-house Debating Competition.

It was most pleasing to see the involvement of students in the Shortland House Spring Fair Stalls. A group of dedicated and well organised Year 11 students ran the 'Fish Hoopla' while many others ably assisted them. The 'Impossible Bike', 'Impossible Billy-Cart' and 'Waiter-Skater' were great additions to the fun of the Fair. Many students volunteered their time and energy to make these stalls a great success.

The work of Amnesty International was highlighted in the Shortland House Chapel in Term 4. The procession into the Cathedral was a wonderful sight. Each student and staff member carried a small candle which was placed around the altar before the Amnesty candle was lit. This was to symbolise that each of us, even in a small way, can make a difference and contribute to making the world a better place for all.

All of the activities described above would not have been as successful without the leadership and enthusiasm of the Shortland House Captains, Cassie Stronach and Tom Clark, and the Vice-Captains, Helen Paterson and Rowan Grace. They have been well supported by all the senior students. I would like to congratulate these students on their efforts and thank them for the fine job they have done this year.

Shortland Mentor teachers have met bi-weekly throughout the year to discuss the activities of the House and to ensure the welfare of the students in their care. We are fortunate to have staff who are interested in the progress and aspirations of their students. I would like to thank Miss Karen

Armstrong, Mr Mitchell Brain, Mrs Susan Ellicott, Miss Tara Fraser, Mrs Lesley Harrison, Mrs Carol Knox, Ms Dorothy Ramplin, Mrs Noreen Robertson and Mr Reg Yates.

**Shortland shines!**

**Ms Lynne Walker  
Shortland House Patron**

## ***TYRRELL HOUSE***

As a new recruit to Tyrrell House this year I was delighted to take charge of such an enthusiastic group of students. With a passionate collection of seniors to lead the way, we began the year by making history. We were the first House ever to make a “clean sweep” at the Swimming Carnival by winning the Swimming, Diving and the House Cheer. Our participation in the Athletics and Cross Country were a credit to our House, but a special mention must be made of this year’s Year 12s who have competed with dedication in a wide range of events and set a fine example to all students.

In the more cultural pursuits we have, again, shown our talents in debating and singing. For the students who witnessed it, our rendition of “Love Shack” and “Old Time Rock N’ Roll” will provide lasting memories. Our House Chapel, under the theme of *Life – Be In It*, saw Tony Butterfield speak to the students about motivation, goal-setting and achievements in life.

But perhaps one of our proudest achievements this year has been the fundraising for John Hunter Hospital Adolescent Ward. With our Retro Day, we raised in excess of \$600 for the ward and donated a huge collection of gifts (including guitars, videos and books) for the patients’ use. We would like to thank the School community for their support of this cause.

Thank you to our tireless House Captains for 2001 – Peter Lister, Kylie Grant and David Lack – and our Vice-Captains - Jessica Lack and Jordan Burgess – all of whom have led the House for another successful year. Congratulations to all Tyrrellians for their achievements this year!

**Miss Emily FitzSimons  
Tyrrell House Patron**

## **JUNIOR SCHOOL**

### ***FROM THE MASTER-IN-CHARGE***

2001 has been an important year in the history of our nation. We have celebrated the Centenary of Federation, the coming together of the six States and two territories to create our Federated nation. It has been a year of looking back at our history, reflecting on how fortunate we are to live in such a wonderful country and to enjoy the freedom and democracy of our nation.

The Junior School marked this occasion by being involved in a special HSIE Unit on Federation where the classes learnt about this important event. For Primary classes part of this Unit involved visits from the Electoral Officers from both the Newcastle and Patterson Electorates. They spoke to the students and ran a mock “Federation Election” with the students learning about some of the politicians involved in the Federation Debate and then also acting as Polling Officials. Edmund Barton – who had connections with the Hunter region, was a clear winner! On the 9<sup>th</sup> of May, the actual date of the Proclamation of Federation in 1901, we held a special Assembly at Park Campus for all Kinder to 6 students with parents and special guests in attendance. The students presented a number of items including a visual time line of our history. Our special guest Mr Prietto told the students why he had chosen our country to be his home. Later commemorative medallions were presented to all students to mark this important day.

In academic areas the Junior School continued to achieve some outstanding results. Two of our students, Bronte Jovevski (Year 3) and Caitlin Boulter (Year 6), were equal first place in their Divisions of the Australian Schools Writing Competition. In other Competitions we had outstanding results including more than 20% of students receiving Distinctions or High Distinctions, being the top 10%, of the Australian Schools English, Mathematics and Writing Competitions. Throughout the year we have sought to cater for the individual needs of students, teaching much of our Literacy and Numeracy work in groups, using special groups for remedial as well as extension work. Students also took part enthusiastically in the Tournament of the Minds Competition. Although none of the three groups won their division they all developed significant skills in the process of developing their responses. We also saw some of our students writing in print in the "Anglican Encounter" when some of Year 4's work on peace was published in the November edition.

Throughout the year we saw the talents and abilities of the students show cased on a number of stages. The Infants celebration of Easter enabled parents to see some of the music work undertaken in Term 1. The Variety Nights of Term 3 revealed the real talent of the students as they sang, danced and performed their way through a great variety of items with consummate ease. The "Sixes" involvement in the JSHAA Music Festival revealed the talent that has developed over a number of years – the highlight being our students singing as part of a 300 voice choir. At other less formal times such as the Spring Fair or the workshops on Open Day the students showed their ability to adapt to the situation and provide some great entertainment.

On the sporting field our students have been well represented. A number of students have represented Hunter Region Independent Schools in a variety of Sports including Swimming, Athletics, Cross Country, Soccer and Netball. Lindsey Graham and Jonathon Roberts-Thomson were representatives in the Combined Independent Schools Swimming Team at the State Carnival. As well, Kate Williams was a member of the School Aerobics Team that won the State Finals and went on to the National Championships. The sporting programme aimed to enable students to develop skills in a wide range of sports and physical activities, everything from traditional sports to gymnastics and aerobics.

During the latter part of this year it has been good to see the students' willingness to support those less fortunate than themselves. In our regular Chapel giving we are collecting funds to go to school children in New Guinea. As part of their work on "Who Will Buy?" Year 4 sold cakes and biscuits, raising money for the Samaritans. On "Footy Friday" students raised money in support of the work of Can Teen to help children with cancer. The students also "built" a wall of cans of food to give to the Cathedral for their food fund. As well, two groups of Year 6 students took it upon themselves to raise money for The Stewart Centre and Can Teen. All of this is most encouraging as we see young people think of others rather than themselves, especially considering the division and conflict that has arisen internationally in the last part of this year.

This year will be an important year as we mark the final year of a Junior School catering for Kindergarten to Year 6 at Newcastle Grammar. In 2002 we begin our transition to a Three School focus with the Junior School comprising Kindergarten to Year 4 all at Park Campus. Through the years we have seen a number of changes with the move of the Junior School into the new Stewart premises in 1992, the commencement of the Park Campus with Kinder to Year 2 in 1998 and now the development of a Middle School. All of these changes reveal a School that is adaptive and seeking to develop the most appropriate model for the education of young children, giving them the best opportunity to develop the skills and understandings that will fit them for their place in the wider world. I know that the educational experiences undertaken in the Junior School during 2001 will certainly contribute to our students being responsible community members in the years to come.

**Mr David Sarich**  
**Master-in-Charge**

## ***PRE-SCHOOL***

*Fab, fun and fantastic*, describes 2001.

This year we continued to adapt parts of the Reggio Emilia 'Philosophy of Programming', which as in 2000, gave the children choice and consistency their activities. It also gave them opportunities to build on their works of art in an ongoing process.

In the collage room we saw robots, dogs, masks, 'Pikachus', cats, televisions, diggers, treasure boxes, fairies and rakes to name just a few of the wonderful creations. Our science area, thanks to Mrs Cook, always creates interest and exploration with hands-on experiments and activities where the children discover cause and effect (or sometimes no effect, as the case may be).

Our vegetable garden has proved very successful this year thanks to Miss Catherine. The strawberry patch has taken off and the children are helping themselves to a quick snack as they play outside. We even made some strawberry jam. Yum! Yum! Soon to come are lots of passionfruit and mandarines.

I would like to thank my great team of Mrs Cook and Miss Catherine who create a great balance in the Pre-School and are full of exciting ideas and fun activities.

Small group lessons again proved popular and informative. The children love the more structured activities with pre-writing, pre-reading, maths and problem solving activities being some on offer. It has been very rewarding to see the children develop so much in these areas over the year.

These small group lessons give us the opportunity to observe the children in a semi-formal setting and document the development of skills, which then enables us to expand on their individual programmes.

This year we have been ever so lucky to have Mrs Lane for music twice a week, something the children look forward to immensely. Mrs Lane has taught us lots of wonderful songs and movements. Thanks, Mrs Lane.

We have also been very lucky to have had Father Brian to visit us once a week. He either reads to or tells the children a story, finishing with a little prayer. He has had lots of invitations to BBQ's, dinner and even sleepovers! Thank you to Father Brian.

This year, for the first time, we performed at Variety Night. What fun!! We were called the 'Prancing Pre-Schoolers' and performed 'Dingle Dangle Scarecrow', 'Incy Wincy Spider' (in sign language) and finished with 'The Macerana', which stole the show. It was certainly a fun night with some children loving the limelight.

We did not venture out much this year, due to the fact that we could not fit (due to numbers), onto the Grammar School bus. However, we still had great experiences at Kindy Gym and the Fire Station, story telling at the City Library, picnics in Centennial Park, running at the Junior School Athletics Carnival, experimenting at the Newcastle Museum, jumping at Megamania and sight seeing at the Sydney Aquarium (repeated by popular demand).

We stayed 'at home' for Ruby the Clown (always a favourite), the Science Shows, the Storytellers and the Luxford Hatcheries. On top of all these activities we had pyjama days, dress-up days and sausage sizzles.

Term 4 was aimed at making the transition to Kindergarten a smooth and exciting one. On one occasion we had Kindergarten visit us and on another we visited them in their classrooms so that we could observe what they did during class.

We had lunch with the Infants for a week and we performed on stage at the Junior School End of Year Assembly. The children are very excited and looking forward to going to Kindergarten in 2002.

Lastly I would like to thank all those fabulous parents who assisted us in some way during the year or who gave so generously to help in our purchasing of equipment. Thank you all for creating such exuberant children who filled our year with lots of laughter, challenges and enjoyment.

I have had another fantastic year at Park Campus in 2001, and 2002 sees us getting just a little bigger.

**Ms Jacqui Soto**  
**Director**

## ***PARK CAMPUS K-2***

The Park Campus has once again managed to fill our School year with wonderful experiences and learning. When asked recently as to exactly what made Park Campus such a unique and effective learning environment, I described it as a place that brings Infants children carefully and considerately into a world of learning. It just so happens that the world of Park Campus is inhabited by an extended group of people that are truly talented in their roles.

The Kindergarten of 2001 joined Park Campus and were soon exploring their new environment with excitement and expectation. The ease with which these new learners took ownership and felt comfortable in their play and expression, is really a reflection of what Park Campus provides.

Each week began with Monday morning Chapel with Father Brian and the Headmaster. These lovely services allowed the children to sing, pray and give thanks. Father Brian's stories always provided great considerations and messages for the children to take with them into each new and very busy week.

During the course of each week, classes and K-2 as a group were visited by numerous wonderful specialist teachers. Mrs Pavitt continued to visit Park Campus for four days each week to work with children in each year group requiring additional literacy support. These literacy mornings also saw very pleasing numbers of parent helpers doing an outstanding job in assisting Mrs Pavitt and the children in these groups.

Mr David Sarich (MICJS) joined Park Campus each Tuesday and spent time in each classroom during his weekly divinity lessons. We welcomed Mrs Kay Lane each Tuesday to continue our School's ability to provide structured musical experiences during the early years of schooling.

Wednesdays saw Mrs Kidd arrive at Park Campus, early, for a full day of class Physical Education and Health lessons. Mrs Johnson also visited on Wednesdays to share literature and borrowing time in the Library.

We also welcomed Mrs Marie-Paule Capodicasa each Thursday and Friday as she instructed each class in French language and culture. Mrs O'Donnell could be found in the Library after Recess each day working with a small Mathematics extension group.

Other visitors during the year included various community and organisation members. These visits allowed children to share experiences and utilise expertise in a variety of fields, and supported the children's learning in the theme-based units of work undertaken during the year. The units of focus for 2001 were: Pets, Easter, Australian Federation (which included a marvellous and very enriching Junior School Assembly), Our Community, Transport, Food After The Farm and Santa's Toy Shop. These units also involved some truly wonderful excursions outside the green fence of Park Campus.

Park Campus children visited Tocal Farm, explored their local community, and bussed, trained and boated on an enjoyable and valuable Transport excursion. Children also visited Hunter Life Education to continue this important programme. Special visits to services at Christ Church Cathedral continued to provide an introduction to the tradition and sense of place our School holds.

Infants children found themselves fully involved in annual Athletics and Swimming Carnivals during 2001, and Term 4 saw the continuation of an intensive ten day swimming school.

This year also saw the Performance Centre at Park Campus bursting with theatrical endeavour as the Junior School presented a Variety Night the likes of which has never been seen. Dance, music, comedy and drama spilt from the stage and poured over appreciative and spellbound audiences.

In the midst of all the coming and goings Mrs Karan Main and Mrs Debra Goldsworthy continued to provide selfless support to the children and staff at Park Campus. These two ladies are indeed invaluable. Miss Luxon and Mrs Horwitz (Kindergarten), Miss Coles (Year 1) and Miss Richards (Year 2) maintained a standard of care and commitment that allowed all at Park Campus to grow and learn together in a truly marvellous environment.

The year 2002 will see Park Campus continue to grow, with some Junior School classes joining us. The new Park Campus building now sits complete and ready to accommodate more children and more learning. I'm sure it will soon be full of that special Park Campus feeling.

**Mr Andrew Carr**  
**Director of Park Campus**

## ***MUSIC***

This past year has been another musically prosperous and productive year in the Junior School.

One notable change has been to our Chapel Services during which we are now blessed with student performances. Not a week has passed without enthusiastic musicians approaching me to place their names on the list. The performances to date have been of exceptional quality and my pleasure to accompany. Fr Brian has brought us new insight, leadership and care.

The String Ensemble has reached a new level with a more balanced sound in 2001. Two violas make such a difference to the warmth and tone of the sound. Our performance at Variety Night was a true expression of the students' rapport with one another and their utter joy in music making. Two of our leading players joined the String Orchestra and are enjoying the next stage of their musical development greatly.

Dawn Murray has been a great inspiration to Year 3 String Class. The feeling for pitch, intonation and rhythm amongst her students is quite mature. There is likely to be a large number of students pursuing their instrument privately, which is one of our primary aims.

Variety Nights were a huge success and what wonderfully flowing, colourful, and varied evenings of entertainment they were! Each class offered an item of either dance, song or drama and the quality was brilliant. Mrs Pavitt coordinated the nights and did a superb and creative job from the programmes to backstage assistance. The choirs and instrumental groups also prepared terrific items.

The Sixes have come to make a beautifully balanced sound this year. They have worked very hard on works such as Rutter's *Clare Benediction* in 3 parts, whilst also having great fun with movement and song. They love to move! Term 3 was particularly busy for The Sixes with involvement in the Sydney Eisteddfod, HRIS Cultural Festival and JSHAA Music Festival. All were excellent and challenging performance opportunities which the group embraced.

The Junior Choir was 'bumper' size once again. Students have sung a plethora of songs, the favourite being 'Tomorrow' from Annie. Not a rehearsal passes without some dear soul asking to sing Annie.

Junior Choir members were involved in a workshop at the beginning of the year led by Mrs Patricia Wood; and Melina Nicholson paid us a visit on this day to talk to the students and encourage their full participation in the Malcolm Sargent Music-a-thon, which was a great success for all.

Perhaps one of the most precious memories is that of the Italian Centre Star Choir. A group of 21 students from Years 3 and 4 were chosen to sing for some elderly folk at the Italian Centre in Hamilton. The reception was so welcoming and the invitation stands for 2002 on the proviso we stay for lunch.

As the School moves into a new era, I take this opportunity to thank Mrs Evanne Sherringham for her collegiality, mentorship and guidance. Dedication to musicians and their development has been the number one priority for Mrs Sherringham. The busy, productive and flexible Music Department will definitely miss the expertise, experience and skills of Mrs Sherringham - organist, pianist, accompanist, coordinator, conductor, director, mediator, worker, creator and Music teacher.

Thank you, everyone, for your involvement in the world of making music.

**Miss Jane Parkes**  
**Coordinator – Junior School Music**

## ***KINDERGARTEN to YEAR 6 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION***

All classes have one hour of PD/H/PE every week and Years 3 to 6 have 75 minutes of Sport after lunch each Thursday. All classes are instructed in units of basic skills, athletics, games, gymnastics and dance. Development of the students' co-ordination and strength is emphasised in the early years with the other components of physical fitness being improved on as students experience these various activities offered.

The Health and Personal Development programme is supported by a visit to the Life Education Centre and work in class on the topics of Growth and Development, Safe Living, Personal Health Choices and Relationships.

During Sport each Thursday students practise for those sports in which they can compete for the School at the various levels of competition. The Hunter Region Independent Schools holds Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics Carnivals as well as Gala Days for Basketball, Soccer, Netball and Tennis. Our Swimming team came first; our Cross Country team came fifth; and our Athletics team finished second; at the HRIS Carnivals this year, NGS also participated in the HICES Carnivals held for Swimming and Athletics at the venues at Homebush Bay.

All Kindergarten to Year 2 students attended a ten-day Intensive Swimming course in Term 4. Infants children also enjoyed their own swimming and athletics carnivals held in conjunction with the Junior students. I never cease to gain pleasure from the enthusiasm that all of our students show when competing in School Carnivals; and their spirit when competing for our School.

Many of the students were involved in at least one of several co-curricular sports: Cricket, Netball, Soccer, Hockey and Aerobics being the most popular this year, and their reports at Assembly each Monday morning were greeted enthusiastically by all.

Strong parental support of our students has been very much appreciated and the keenness of the students is to be commended in both their physical education classes and on the sporting field.

**Mrs Jill Kidd**  
**Sport Coordinator**

## ***SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT K-12***

The real test of a child's education is the amount of pleasure experienced in the exercise of the mind. After all, we don't try to block the pleasant memories out, do we? The students at Park Campus certainly appeared to enjoy their sessions this year and once again we were fortunate enough to have the assistance or parent reading tutors. In this, the official Year of the Volunteer, many dedicated parents and friends of the School found a morning each week when they could work with children from Kindergarten, Year 1 and Year 2. I know I shouldn't single anyone out for special mention but the

'boys' did steal the show. (Martin Pavitt and Mr Scott Evans were very popular and excellent role models in this unique setting).

Whilst at Park Campus I also acted in a consultancy mode for the Preschool where I was able to assist them with the acquisition of some resources and specialist personnel.

Years 3-6 sessions were held at Hill Campus. These were small homogeneous group sessions that focussed on the acquisition and consolidation of Reading and Spelling skills. Most of these were held in the Special Education Room but with others, such as Year 4's, the sessions were a mixture of withdrawal and team teaching.

In the Senior School my main area of focus was Year 7. This too was a mixture of withdrawal and team teaching, especially in subjects such as Science. As always, a few new customers emerged as a result of the Half Yearly Examinations.

Special Provisions were again provided for all formal assessment periods. This included the use of computers, readers and scribes. I also organised the very popular 'Study Smarter Not Harder' sessions which ran in the three weeks immediately prior to the Yearly Examinations.

As Ralph Waldo Emerson said, 'The person who makes hard things easy is the educator'.

My thanks to everyone who supported me this year while I was trying to make the hard things easy.

**Mrs Frances Pavitt**  
**Special Education and Support K-12**

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### ***From the Head of Middle School***

It has been a busy year of researching and planning for the sixteen members of staff who opted to be part of the Middle School Planning Committee. Much of their work is now coming to fruition with progress occurring on a daily basis. Work was carried out on academic, pastoral and logistical areas of planning.

I was honoured and delighted to be chosen to be the inaugural Head of the Middle School and look forward to the challenges that lie ahead. I am also thrilled to have a positive team of staff who are most enthusiastic about this new journey. Their training as a team in the pedagogical theory and practices of Middle Schooling will begin very soon and will be an ongoing process. Some individuals have already undertaken some training in this area.

Next year we begin the establishment of our Middle School with Years 4, 5 6 and 7 being housed in the Stewart Building in Homerooms. This will roll over to Years 5, 6, 7 and 8 in 2003. For many students and staff there might not seem to be many changes but for others it might feel a little different. Students will still travel to the Senior School for many of their lessons such as Music, Art, Science, Design and Technology, Library, Languages and Computers but their base will be in Stewart.

We look forward to the support of the School community in this exciting new venture.

**Mrs Lesley Harrison**  
**Head of Middle School**

## ***ACADEMIC COMMITTEE***

The Subject Co-ordinators, Heads of Department and members of the Executive, together with the Director of Studies in the chair, have continued to meet each fortnight during 2001 to discuss a wide range of issues relating to the academic environment of the Senior School in particular, and of the K-12 offering in general.

The format for the School Certificate (which was introduced for the first time in 1998) uses Course Performance Descriptors to describe particular levels of achievement (from A to E) in each subject for each student in Year 10. These Performance Descriptors are based upon specified curriculum criteria and consequently Year 10 students receive a complete summary of academic achievement for all of their subjects. In early November, Year 10 students undertook externally set, Statewide Tests in English-Literacy, Mathematics and Science. Students will receive their actual mark in each of these tests, as well as a Performance Grade described above. It is pleasing to note that in the 2000 testing, the number of students placed in the top band (6) for English-Literacy was over five times the State average; for Mathematics nearly three times the State average; and for Science over four times the State average. The School looks forward with interest to the results from this year's School Certificate Tests. Year 9 are currently studying the mandatory Australian History and Geography for the first time and these students will be examined externally in a Statewide Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship examination during the 2002 School Certificate as well as in the three subjects mentioned above.

The Universities Admission Index (UAI) figures were not supplied to Schools for the 2000 Higher School Certificate. It has, however, been established that 40% of the Year 12 group scored a UAI of over 90, with a top UAI of 99.60 and 6 students with a UAI of over 98.00. Also a student from Newcastle Grammar School was placed 1<sup>st</sup> in the State the HSC course, 2 Unit Personal Development, Health and PE, and all of the School's 2 Unit and 3 Unit Computing Studies students were placed in the top 10% of the State.

A major focus for the Academic Committee for 2001 has been the curriculum changes associated with the impact of the new Years 11/12 courses and the subsequent preparation of Year 12 students for the "New HSC" which was examined for the first time this year. Two Unit Courses provide the basic building block for the new HSC. Extension Courses, which require students to work beyond the standard of the 2 Unit Courses on which they are based, are offered in English, Mathematics, History, Music, some Languages and Vocational Education and Training. Vocational Education and Training (VET) Courses can count towards the award of the HSC and will lead to qualifications recognised across industries.

The New HSC assesses students against standards (Standards Referenced Reporting) of achievement set for each course and the reporting methods are designed to provide the fairest and clearest indications of knowledge, skills and understanding achieved by each student in each course. Students will receive marks on a scale of 0 -100 together with descriptions of the standard of performance they have achieved. All students achieving the minimum standard or better will received a mark of 50 or more. Marks will no longer be scaled to a fixed distribution (ie no longer will marks be Norm Referenced). The School looks forward with interest to the Year 12 results from this "New HSC".

As with every academic year, there have been a range of important issues discussed during 2001. These have included changes to Parent/Teacher Interviews, the implementation of some new alternative examination and reporting structures to better meet the needs of each student, and the processes necessary to assist the integration of new staff and students into the life of the School.

The Academic Committee continued to support the Year 7 RIBIT programme and to confirm its commitment to the TENEX Programme for Year 10 students. Each Year 7 and Year 10 class was able to spend one lesson a week in the Tyrrell Library during either Semester 1 or Semester 2. This time was specifically designed to reinforce and rediscover the joys of reading as well as to assist students to appreciate and utilise the Library as one of the most valuable resources for their senior secondary studies. Both of these programmes are now well established, and students continue to derive full

benefit from them. Over the years, the “Friends” have contributed to the expansion of the fiction section of the School Library, and we are very appreciative of this and also of the continuing support of Mrs Curran and her Staff in the Library.

No matter where an individual student is placed or what results are achieved, it is those students who work consistently towards achieving their best results who must also be congratulated. The Academic Committee is very pleased each year to oversee the distribution of Academic Awards for consistent effort, for a noticeable improvement in a student’s work, or for excellent achievement for a particular task. During 2001, over 2,500 Level 1 awards were achieved. Almost 700 Level 2 awards and 76 Headmaster’s Level 3 awards have also been awarded to students.

Once again, 2001 has seen the constant rhythm of academic, cultural, spiritual and sporting pursuits which assist our students to develop in a holistic manner. Likewise, the constant rhythm of curriculum oversight, of co-ordinating students and staff, of organising assessment and reporting schedules and of responding to the many other varied issues as they arise, are all the business of the Academic Committee. The Co-ordinators now eagerly await all that the New Year will bring as they seek to play their part in ensuring the provision of a most challenging and stimulating learning environment for all members of the School Community.

It is with some sadness that the Academic Committee is losing two of its long term members. The Director of Music, Mrs Evanne Sherringham, will be retiring after a long and distinguished career at Newcastle Grammar School. Mrs Sherringham was the inaugural Director of Music and was appointed in 1986. The Music Department has flourished under her leadership and we thank her for her outstanding contribution to the School. Mrs Jenny Green, who has been Head of the English Department for the past 12 years, is retiring from this position, and we thank her for the dedicated service that she has given to the School and for the professionalism that she has always maintained in her guidance of students. Mrs Green will teach part time at Newcastle Grammar School during 2002. The Academic Committee would like to thank them both for their support over many years and for the positive input that they have made to this Committee. We wish them all the best in their future endeavours.

**Mr Merv Filby**  
**Director of Studies**

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS - SENIOR SCHOOL**

### ***ENGLISH***

The year began well with news of Andrew McLeod’s achievement of a place on the 2 Unit General Merit List. The English staff were busy this year preparing students for the new Year 12 Courses: Standard, Advanced, Extension 1 and Extension 2. There were many hours spent at inservices and workshops so that all students would feel confident with the challenges of the new courses. It was gratifying to see the enthusiasm for the new Extension 2 Course (4 Unit), which involved the creation of a major work. The eight students in this course chose from the video, critical response, speeches and short story options and worked hard to meet the September deadline. For 2002, we have twelve students planning their major works for 4 Unit.

A number of them were fortunate to attend a workshop at the Central Coast Campus of the University of Newcastle, which helped them with ideas for managing their major works.

I thank the English staff for organising such excursions as HSC Theatre visits to King Lear and Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead. Such experiences give our students an excellent opportunity to extend their understanding of drama. Some of our Year 11 students have already enhanced their poetry appreciation with a workshop presented by HSC poet, Peter Skryznecki . Others attended a performance of Dymphna Cusack’s “Morning Sacrifice” earlier in the year.

In-School drama experiences for Years 9 and 10 included the Bell Shakespeare's interesting excerpts from various plays. Years 7 and 8 experienced productions of Sticks and Stones and Mates.

Our students are progressing with their oral skills, as we see in the Oral Tasks set for every Year group. A team of Year 9 students practised these skills in the Lions Club Debating Competition, and I thank Mrs Cooper for coaching these students.

Our Year 11 students were represented by Nick Boyle and Chloe Rayfield at the Plain English Speaking Competition, and by Nick Boyle, Wendy Hicks, Chloe Rayfield and Gemma Williams in the Commonwealth Bank Debating Competition. I thank these students for representing us so ably and willingly; and it was a pleasure to coach them.

The Chess players have met most Thursdays throughout the year, and gained valuable experience in the interschool competition.

Our prose writers and poets have been busy this year and we were pleased with the Highly Commended Certificates of Mary Cresdee and Sophie Miller in the Dorothea MacKellar Competition. Lisa Soo came 2<sup>nd</sup> in a NSW wide writing competition for a very moving poem and Chloe Rayfield received a handsome plaque and a cheque for her poem about the Deb Ball. We had four students from Years 8 and 9 receive High Distinctions in the Australian Schools' English Competition, including Jayne Krempin who was awarded a medal for 1<sup>st</sup> in the State in her age group.

Miss FitzSimons continued her highly successful directing of the Year 10 Musical production and the Year 11 Drama production with a season of "42<sup>nd</sup> Street" and of "Twelfth Night". We are fortunate indeed to have the talents and energy of "Miss Fitz".

We had several staff changes throughout the year and I would like to thank Mr Kidd, Mrs Leach, Mrs Iredale and Miss Fraser for their contributions to the English Department.

We farewell Mrs Ellicott and wish her well in her new home and career, and on behalf of the students I thank her for her untiring efforts in coordinating the various writing competitions throughout the year.

We also farewell Miss FitzSimons who has contributed enormously to the English and Drama in the School and wish her well for her new life in Adelaide.

We congratulate Mrs Harrison on her new role as Head of Middle School and acknowledge her energetic contribution to the English Department and in particular, thank her for her coordination of the School Newspaper Competition this year.

I am retiring from Head of Department, to be a part-time teacher, and hand over to Mrs Cecilia Weston with best wishes to her and to the English Department for 2002 and beyond.

**Mrs J Green**  
**English Coordinator**

## ***HISTORY***

2001 has witnessed significant changes in the History Department both in personnel and in new courses. Mr. Prietto retired at the end of 2000 and was replaced as Ancient History teacher by Mrs Cecily Grace, mother of Bernard and Rowan. A new mandatory Australian History course was introduced into Year 9 and these students will sit for the first external School Certificate Australian History course in November 2002. The new HSC courses in 2-Unit Ancient and Modern History changed substantially in content and focus and the implementation of the new History Extension Course has been interesting. The department has continued to expose all students to a variety of historical experiences in order to foster an increased awareness of the relevance of their study of history.

Once again, insight into a number of historical events was provided by a series of guests of the School. Year 8 students were fortunate when members of the Maluerindi Clan used a 'hands on' approach to

demonstrate different aspects of Aboriginal culture including art, dance, didgeridoo and story telling artefacts. The aim was to provide a new and positive perspective of Aboriginal culture. I wish to thank Mrs Lesley Harrison for organising this. The Year 10 History classes enjoyed listening to Mr Duncan Price discuss his experiences at Mitle Pass as a corporal in the British Army during the Suez Crisis. Drama students from the Faculty of Creative Arts at the University of Wollongong entertained Year 9 with a game show called *Birth of a Nation* which encouraged pupils to examine the relevance of Australian Federation to today's modern society. In addition, both of these years heard reminiscences from the School Registrar, Mr. Graeme Kidd about the conditions of combat in Vietnam that he had personally observed, and the moral concerns that the Vietnam War provoked in Australia. Year 11 Ancient History students were privileged to attend an in-house workshop on Ancient Egyptian society which was conducted by archaeologist David Coltheart .

All junior History students were involved in an excursion throughout the year in order to 'experience' history, not just read about it. Years 7 and 8 boarded the replica of the Dutch sailing vessel, the Duyvken, in Newcastle Harbour. The original ship was captained in the 17<sup>th</sup> century by Willem Janszoon who was the first European navigator to acknowledge setting foot on Australian soil. Year 7 also visited the Nicholson Museum at the University of Sydney and the Hyde Park Barracks. The aim of this excursion was to examine archaeological evidence of our heritage and of the past. Year 9 History classes travelled to North Head to explore the Quarantine Station and the North Fort in order to gain an understanding of both Australian society in the first two decades of the Twentieth Century and also Australia's fortifications and defence system during World War 11 by looking at weaponry and tunnels. To broaden their understanding of the Holocaust, Year 10 students visited the Great Synagogue and the Sydney Jewish Museum where they spoke to survivors.

Senior students attended Study Days to prepare them for their HSC Examinations. Year 12 Ancient History students attended a study session organised by the University of Newcastle and Year 11 travelled to Sydney to participate in a series of Preliminary seminars on Archaeology. Year 12 Modern History and Extension students were involved in an HTA Study Day at the Newcastle Museum and Year 11 enjoyed the presentation by noted historian, Christopher Condon at the Museum of Sydney.

The Year 2002 promises a number of changes for the students of History. The new external School Certificate examination will be held in November and Year 7 will become part of the integrated HSIE programme of the new Middle School.

**Mrs Margaret Maitland**  
**Head of History**

## ***LANGUAGE***

The LOTE Department in 2001 has been very busy. As well as conducting our usual busy schedule in and out of the classroom, our staff has been changing as well.

At the end of 2000 we farewelled Mr and Mrs Braggett as they took long service leave for six months before heading to Taiwan where they are to teach at the Taipei American School for two years. We wish them well in this new venture. Mrs Craig took leave at the end of 2000 for a year and we are looking forward keenly to her return in 2002. We also farewelled regretfully Mrs Richardson who retired after nearly twenty years of loyal service to this School and in particular to this Department. Joining our staff this year have been Mrs J Davies, Mrs A Iredale and Madame Capodicasa. They have been welcome additions to our Department and their enthusiasm is much appreciated.

We also said goodbye to our two French exchange students, Florent Neuville and Amandine Duché in May this year. They were excellent ambassadors for their country and Florent's parents joined his senior French class the day he left.

Shann Joyner (Year 12 Japanese 2001) has been offered a Rotary Exchange Scholarship to Japan for twelve months and she is very keen to undertake this next year. This has been a wonderful achievement and we wish her all the best in the coming year.

Laura O'Brien from Year 10 French left at the end of Term 3 to spend several months at a home stay in France. We look forward to her return and her new French fluency.

Meanwhile our LOTE classes have been enjoying the culinary delights of the languages they are studying by visiting local restaurants and preparing French breakfasts at School. Last May, French students from Years 7 to 10 were treated to a delightful performance from the *Théâtre Fantastique* of *L'amour est bizarre* in Horbury Hunt Hall.

In August Miriam Lowe and Sally Carr of Year 10 Japanese took part in the Newcastle-Ube Speaking Competition at City Hall. This is a very demanding contest and our School is very proud of the manner in which both contestants represented us. Although not successful in taking out first prize, Miriam and Sally were very worthy representatives.

As is usual, elective language students in both French and Japanese undertook the Australian Language Certificate competition which is conducted throughout Australia. Once again our students' results were outstanding with the majority scoring the highest grades in both the listening and the reading sections. Particular mention should be made of Emma Warburton, Laura Buchanan, Sally Carr, Alison Dillon and Jessica Meadows who all scored in the top 10% for both the reading and listening.

Open Day in October was an important occasion as it gave an opportunity for the LOTE staff to demonstrate the language laboratory to parents and members of the public. It is an invaluable teaching aid as it reproduces the accents of native French and Japanese speakers in faultless digital sound. Students are able to move at their own pace through the various courses and can also record themselves, giving them a chance to compare their speaking ability to native speakers.

Next year will provide new challenges and opportunities for the LOTE staff as we undertake the Middle School organisation.

Again I would like to thank the language staff who give so willingly of their time and energy to provide a richness and depth to language study at Newcastle Grammar School.

**Mrs P Squires**  
**Language Coordinator**

## ***MATHEMATICS***

### **The Higher School Certificate 2000**

The following students were placed in the published Mathematics Order of Merit List for students who achieved a mark of 90% or more in a Course in the Higher School Certificate.

#### **MERIT LIST**

<b>Mathematics in Society</b>	<b>2 Unit Mathematics</b>	<b>2 Unit Mathematics</b>	<b>3 Unit Mathematics</b>
Lauren Barratt	Claire Armstrong	Christopher Howard	Luke Arms
Edward Giles	Cathryn Banks	Andrew McLeod	Emily Barbour
William Howard	Emily Barbour	Kaya Michener	Jeffrey Davis
Jaime Mortimer	Nicholas Burlinson	Lauren Michener	Nicholas Ferguson
Lauren Oakey	Jacqueline Carruthers	Sarah Morawetz	Jacqueline Hicks
Maryann Paterson	Christopher Colman	Olivia Naylor	Christopher Howard
Rachel Pope-Couston	Jeffrey Davis	Michelle Scott	Seth Tarrant
Matthew Smith	Michael Deed	Kathryn Vickers	Jessica Wilson
Kanella Souris	Elaine Donnelly	Andrew Williams	Morgan Wishney
	Brianne Gallagher	Jessica Wilson	

Following are the statistics of the overall performance of the Year 12 Mathematics classes in 2000 Higher School certificate:

<b>Course</b>	<b>% in top 30% in State</b>	<b>% in top 10% in State</b>
3 Unit	87%	60%
2 Unit	88%	62%

**The School Certificate 2000**

The number of Newcastle Grammar students placed in the top Band was twice the State average.

**Australian ( Westpac) Competition**

This all Year 7 and Year 8 students plus all students in Advanced courses together with volunteers from Years 9 to 12 participated in this competition. There were a total of 275 participants. Results were:

*131 Credits*

*32 Distinctions*

*2 High Distinctions – Michael Abbott and Sam Murray*

*Sam Murray is to be congratulated on achieving the highest standardised score in the School.*

**Mathematics Challenge**

A total of 57 students from Years 7 to 10 Participated in this programme this year and 10 of them gained Credits while Distinctions went to James Stievenard, Patrick Easton, Holly Hart and Rhiannon Thomas. Tiphonie Au is to be congratulated on gaining a High Distinction.

**Talented Students Day**

In July this year a group of 4 Unit students attended a day of presentations at Macquarie University which consisted of lectures on a range of topics related to the study of Tertiary Mathematics, revision sessions on 4 Unit topics and presentation of awards to the most successful students in last year's Higher School Certificate.

**Year 7 and 8 Mathematics Tournaments**

Students from Newcastle Grammar School were able to attend two tournaments this year. At each of these the team of two Year 7 and two Year 8 students competed in group and individual problem solving competitions and the day was concluded with a Maths Relay.

During Term 2 a team consisting of Bronwyn Calford, Sam Murray, Lindsay Cornell and Andrew Roddick accompanied by Mrs Knox travelled to Hunter Valley Grammar School for the Hunter Region Tournament and were very successful, gaining second place in the competition.

In Term 2 a team went to Hills Grammar School to compete in the HICES Maths Tournament. On this occasion the standard of the competition was very high and the team, consisting of Andrew Plummer, Jacqueline Davis, William Ryan and James Stievenard were placed comfortably in the middle of the field.

**Staff Inservice**

This year has been a busy one for staff professional development. Mrs Bilton travelled to Sydney in March to attend the annual HSC markers' meeting and Mrs Knox attended the Newcastle Mathematics Teachers' HSC meeting at the University of Newcastle. Mrs Robertson and Mrs Knox participated in a workshop provided by the Board of Studies designed to develop an understanding of Standards Based Assessment as it is used in the HSC. Mrs Jordan attended a meeting at Ravenswood College held by the AIS to discuss the proposed review of the Years 7 to 10 syllabus. Mrs Knox took part in the annual Mathematical Association of NSW Conference held in the Blue Mountains where Mr James Taylor gave some fascinating presentations.

Mrs Jordan is to be congratulated on the completion of her Certificate of Gifted Education. We are all delighted that Miss Karen Armstong has returned to good health and is back with us making her usual highly value

**Mrs Carol Knox**  
**Head of Mathematics**

## ***MUSIC***

This year began with a high for the Music Department as **19 Chamber Choir** members prepared for their trip to Europe over the Easter Vacation. This was a very successful tour for the Choir particularly as they gained 1<sup>st</sup> Place in the Choral Festival in Verona, Italy. Ms Saunders and Mrs Harrison, as well as two parents, accompanied the choristers.

### ***Chapel Choir***

The Choir as usual has been kept busy throughout the year, with our new Chaplain, Father Brian Douglas initiating a '**Parish Outreach**'. Twice a Term the Chapel Choir visits a Parish Church and sings the service for them. The Choir was also part of our 'Proms at the Park' during June, competed in Sydney Eisteddfod, our Founders' Day Service and other special services we have held in Christ Church Cathedral. The Chapel Choir was invited to sing an Evensong for the Cathedral Festival this year.

The annual **Choir Camp** was held at Milson Island, with special tutors, and shortly after the Full Choir took part in the '**University Proms Concert**' held in the Great Hall at Newcastle University.

### ***Instrumental***

**The String Orchestra** of approximately 20 members is sounding very professional this year and members are very happy to be working with their specialist conductor, Mr. Trevor Mee. The pieces he chooses are quite varied in style and their standard is very pleasing. They have performed also at Founders' Day, HRIS Festival, Spring Fair and the 'Polished Brass Dinner Dance' in November.

### ***The Wind Orchestra***

**The Wind Orchestra** has worked extremely well under the leadership of Mr Leigh Sherringham. They have performed for Founders' Day, Proms at the Park, and "United Nations Day" in the Newcastle Town Hall.

The Wind Orchestra also travelled to the University of Western Sydney to compete in the **State Band Championships**. We have never competed in this before and were Graded 'B' and we gained 2<sup>nd</sup> Place. Three pieces had to be played, a set piece, a religious piece and an own choice. This was an excellent result for the Wind Orchestra as this is not just a School competition but it has professional bands from anywhere in the State. Our Wind Orchestra which now has 65 members has attained a high standard and we appreciate the conducting of Mr Sherringham and also the help from Mr Morton and Mr Parish.

A very special performance was in Christ Church Cathedral for a "**Battle for Australia**" Service, where they had to play the National Anthems of New Guinea, America and Australia, with Ashlee Clement singing with the Orchestra. This was also a great honour for Rowan Grace who cherished the loan of a bugle that was used for both the 1<sup>st</sup> & 2<sup>nd</sup> World Wars. This made the local papers & TV and Rowan played it superbly.

### ***Brass Ra-Zoo & Bamboozle***

Two Jazz Bands are now available to students as an extra musical activity.

**Brass Ra-Zoo** is known throughout Newcastle now for its professionalism and many invitations are received for its services. They have played for several Balls, Proms at the Park and our own Founders' Day Dinner Dance this year.

**Bamboozle** has also been performing and both Bands played for the Hamilton Jazz Festival. Bamboozle also played for the Cancer Council's 'Relay for Life' at the Paceway, and both Bands and the String Orchestra delighted us when they played for the Society of the Arts Dinner Dance "Polished Brass" at the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club in November. The vocalists with the Bands are Jessie McMurtrie, Jeremy Simpson and Ashlee Clement.

## ***Junior School Music***

**The Junior Choir and The Sixes** have performed a number of times. They competed in Sydney Eisteddfod, sang at Proms at the Park and also in the HRIS Festival in Newcastle, as well as at many School functions.

**The Junior Wind Band** is becoming very competent and although many have only been learning for one or two years, they are producing a real band sound with many up and coming instrumental players. They performed just recently at Junior School Assembly in the Horbury Hunt Hall. As they develop these students will audition to become members of the Wind Orchestra.

**String Classes** are begun in Year 3 and quite a number of students are continuing on with their instruments. Miss Parkes has a very good **String Ensemble**, which enables students to have the pleasure and experience of making music together. They then graduate to the String Orchestra when they are proficient enough.

## ***Meet the Music***

This year we have again been attending “**Meet the Music**” concerts held in the Concert Hall of the Sydney Opera House. These are five concerts that are open to any interested student, but are especially beneficial to Elective Music Students because of the Premiere of an Australian work at each concert. In March we were privileged to have a concert by the **Mirre Aboriginal Dancers**, who helped Year 7 in their study of Aboriginal and Australian music.

In June the Music Elective Classes attended a local production by the Gilbert & Sullivan Society, of “**The Pirates of Penzance**”.

Our ‘**Proms at the Park**’ held again this year by The Society of the Arts was very well patronised and offered a splendid opportunity for the Music Ensembles throughout the School to perform in the one concert. We are very fortunate to have the lovely theatre at Park Campus to use.

## ***HICES***

The HICES Music Festival is held biannually and students from the many HICES Schools were auditioned for Symphony Orchestra, Wind Orchestra, Concert Band, Jazz Band and Choirs. Twenty-three of our students were accepted and attended a 3-day camp at Merroo Conference Centre followed by a Concert in Sydney Town Hall. This was a wonderful experience both musically and socially. Our guest conductor was Mr. Richard Gill who is known and loved for working with young musicians all over Australia.

## ***Lunch-time Student Concerts***

Student Lunch-time Concerts are held twice a Term in the Arts Space and these give students the opportunity to perform a piece which they have worked on up to performance standard. Friends and parents are encouraged to attend and Music Scholarship holders are required to perform at least twice a year.

We appreciate all the time and expertise given by the **14 peripatetic teachers** who visit our Music Department each week, teaching firstly often in pairs then individually and preparing students for examinations in musicianship and the many instruments that are available for them.

## ***Higher School Certificate***

We offer all the Board of Studies Music Courses for the HSC and this year we had our largest class ever of 12 for these exams. Eleven students did Music 1 and one student did Music 2 with Extension. It was very exciting for everyone when one of our outstanding music students, pianist Jacqueline Malouf, was chosen to audition for "Encore". This is a small selection of outstanding performances by Higher School Certificate Music students. The concert is held in February in the Sydney Opera House Concert Hall.

Over the past 16 years this Department has grown in both size and standard. We have Music Scholarships available and many students wish to come to our School for its music. It was my responsibility as the first full-time Music Teacher, to set up the Music Department and present a Musical Production each year.

### ***Farewell***

This is my last year as Director of Music and I am so pleased to have had the honour of developing this Department, which as you can see from above offers so much in both classroom music and extra curricular music for the students. I wish the students and teachers of the Music Department well and know that under continued guidance it will continue to grow from strength to strength.

**Mrs Evanne Sherringham  
Director of Music**

## ***PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION***

It would be remiss of me to begin this report without once again congratulating Jessica Wilson on her first placing in the State in this subject in the 2000 Higher School Certificate. This, to state the obvious, was a tremendous achievement and certainly set a high standard to which students of this subject can aspire.

In fact 36% of the PDHPE Class of 2000 finished in the top 10% of the State and 64% finished in the top 20% of the State.

2001 saw 19 students from Newcastle Grammar School sit the HSC PDHPE paper, the first of the new syllabus, while 20 have recently finished their Preliminary course and have begun their HSC year. The new course is similar in content to the old, with the emphasis being on the health status of Australians and the factors that affect performance. The process of critical inquiry involved, and the use of practical application, enhance learning, increase relevance and support further independent investigation of topics within the syllabus. Requirements of the need to question current understanding of health and movement is essential and therefore there has been a real emphasis on students reading widely and gaining as many facts and views on topics as possible. The range of tasks required in the Preliminary and HSC courses has demanded students apply their theoretical knowledge to practical situations, both personally and throughout the community, and many of these tasks have been extremely well thought out and presented.

Years 7 to 10 continues to offer a wide range of areas of study in both theoretical and practical units.

A visit this year by the Young Australia Workshop to discuss, through dance, music and mime, various relationship and friendship issues was very successful and more visits are planned for 2002.

A two hour long, practical, hands-on, promotional visit by Gatorade was also very successful with students from across the years learning about the body's temperature regulatory mechanism and hydration during sporting activities. Again, more such activities are envisaged for 2002.

Our Year 11 students recently spent a pleasant few days on a camp which was organised by the class to enable them to put into practice concepts and strategies learned in class.

The opportunities to have these visits by outside groups, and to participate in various exercises, gives many students the opportunity which they may not normally have, of seeing the practical application of theoretical concepts.

We remain indebted to the staff and management of the James Fletcher Hospital for the continued use of their grounds for PDHPE classes, a facility which we would struggle to do without. The close proximity of HOWZAT means that should the weather be particularly inclement practical classes can be

easily bussed there, meaning that very little practical class time is lost due to adverse environmental conditions.

We hope to further develop the PDHPE programme in 2002 to increase the relevance of all topics and to provide a large range of challenging informative activities.

**Mr Leigh Carroll**  
**Coordinator Personal Development, Health and Physical Education**

## ***SCIENCE***

The Science staff have had a busy and challenging year mastering and refining the many aspects of the new syllabi.

All of the Junior Science students are now using a new text from the Tracks series. This text was selected because it contains an excellent variety of the skill tasks that are now mandated by the new syllabus. Staff and students have applied themselves enthusiastically to the job of trialling the experimental and processing exercises in each unit, with the view to utilising this content as the basis of our future teaching programmes.

A major change for students in all stages has been the necessity for them to be aware and to be able to utilise the particular Glossary of Terms that are used in a syllabus statement. These terms provide the student with the depth of knowledge for content as well as the focus for the interpretation in the wording of questions and therefore the key to the correct answers.

We have also purchased new texts for each of our Senior disciplines and they are structured in a similar manner as the Junior books and designed to best effect the skill areas designated by the syllabus.

Of course, for our Senior students in Stage 6, this renewed emphasis on literacy is of even greater importance and they need to work hard to master this skill.

The key competencies of collecting, analysing and organising information and communicating information reflect the core processes of scientific inquiry. We have endeavoured to incorporate these important literacy skills in classroom activities and assessment tasks as the students' ability to perform in these areas will ultimately determine their position in one of the performance bands.

We entered our Year 7-10 students in the Australian Schools Science Competition and the results and number of achievement awards received were excellent. Almost half of the participants received either Credit or Distinction Awards. Congratulations to all of those participants and in particular, Stephanie Miller, Oliver Leitch and Angus Harrison for their High Distinctions. More than 450,000 students throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region competed in this competition.

The Royal Australian Chemical Institute, National Chemistry Quiz was attempted by the Senior Chemistry students and those from 10A and 9A. We were very pleased with our results as almost 50% of Junior entrants and 40% of the Seniors gained Merit Awards and this augurs well for our pursuit of Chemistry in the next few years. A special mention to those High Distinction recipients: Brent Slattery, Patrick Armstrong, Nicholas Boyle, Evan Calford, Chris Doherty, Andrew Stewart, David Kinsey, Phillip Woolcott and Boyd Schrader.

Michael Abbott, of Year 9, has achieved a special commendation for his performance and a recognition of being amongst the top 700 entrants by being awarded a special plaque from the RACI. Michael's presentation was made at a recent assembly.

The National Science Youth Forum in January will be attended by two of our talented Senior boys, Nick Boyle and Charles Lawson. There was a selection panel for aspiring candidates and these students obviously impressed that panel with their enthusiasm and interest in Science and Technology. We look forward to a report on their involvement at a later date and we thank the Rotary organisation for their continued sponsorship of our students in this activity.

There have been a variety of other experiences our students have encountered as part of their work programme including excursions to the Wetlands, the Rock Platform and Wonderland for Physics.

Some Years 8 and 9 students participated in the 'Murder Under the Microscope' for the first time. This was an environmental mystery played via the Internet by over 1000 schools and although we were not successful in reading the clues correctly we all enjoyed tuning into the weekly sessions.

Senior students have also benefited from taking part in University Enrichment Days.

All of these activities we present to our students in the hope that they too act as an enrichment for their programmed work and encourage them to enjoy learning.

**Miss Dorothy Ramplin**  
**Science Co-ordinator**

## ***SOCIAL SCIENCES***

2001 has been an especially challenging year for the Social Science Faculty at Newcastle Grammar School. As with all other high schools in NSW we were faced with the "New HSC". Also we prepared our first Year 12 Legal Studies class for the "New HSC". Additionally, in 2001 we have introduced the new Mandatory Geography course into Stage 5, Year 9 which will then follow on to Year 10 in 2002.

We were very pleased to welcome Mr Boyd and Mrs Roberts to the Social Science Faculty this year. Mr Boyd came to us from Sydney Grammar School and Mrs Roberts from Mount View High School. Both these teachers are experienced and well qualified to teach Social Science. I would like to take this opportunity to mention that Mrs Roberts was given an Excellence in Teaching Award from the Department of Education and Training in 2000.

The 2000 School Certificate results in Geography and Commerce were once again pleasing with 29% of our Commerce students receiving a Grade A, 24% a Grade B, 41% a Grade C, and 6% a Grade D. There were no Grade E's awarded in Commerce. In Geography an impressive 44% of our students received a Grade A, another 25% received a Grade B, 19% received a Grade C, and 12%, D. Again there were no Grade E's.

The 2000 Higher School Certificate results were encouraging with:

2 unit	<i>Top 30% of the State</i>
Business Studies	76 % of NGS
Geography	70 % of NGS
Economics	62 % of NGS
General Studies	55 % of NGS

It should be noted that Business Studies achieved 14/25 students in the 91-100% percentile band which is an EXCELLENT result, and means that 56% of our Business Studies students were in the top 10% of the State, or more than five times the State average. Congratulations to Mr Dwyer, their teacher, and to those students.

Legal Studies was studied for the first time in Year 12 at Newcastle Grammar School this year. Students had to choose two focus studies for 50% of their course time and they chose to study the Consumer and Workplace. The Legal Studies class was able to travel to Sydney in June this year for lectures presented by the Economics and Business Studies Association. The lectures covered the "New HSC Legal Studies Course". The highlight of these lectures was an address by Justice O'Keefe. A number of our Year 11 Legal Studies students participated in the Law Society of NSW's Mock Trial Competition. Thanks to Sara Rayment, Elizabeth Knock, Russell Boyd, Katy Renton, Evan Calford, Jane Hamilton and Sara Wallace for the many hours that they spent in preparation and for their performances in four Mock Trial rounds this year. Thanks also to Mr Hamilton and Miss Weber for the time that they spent in coaching our Mock trial team this year.

Economics students also travelled to Sydney for a day of Economics lectures on the "New HSC" where they enjoyed the expertise of Dr Chris Caton speaking on macroeconomic management, amongst other expert speakers.

A number of Year 11 Business Studies students continued their studies beyond the classroom and once again formed the "E" Team. Kendall Sowerby, Chris Doherty, Mark McFarlane, Nick Southwell and Sara Rayment from Year 11 Business Studies spent a week at the John Hunter Hospital's Radiology Department. They were there to solve the problem of lack of communication and communication problems between wards-people and central office. This exercise certainly did help our students appreciate the problems of the real world and to get beyond the textbook. The Quality Council and Mrs Jan Howard are to be thanked for their assistance. Year 12 Business Studies classes attended lectures in Gosford which were given by executives from Masterfoods Australia. This helped our students to create their case-study which is necessary for their HSC examination. The lectures gave our students insight into the workings of this large organisation from the point of view of management dealing with change, employment relations, and global business.

We also found time to take our Year 9 Commerce students to the Department of Fair Trading, the Newcastle Courts and to conduct a survey on retail stores in the Mall.

Our Geography students have also benefited from fieldwork experiences this year, including the following:

Year 7 Geography excursion to Sydney Aquarium and Sydney Harbour cruise.

Year 8 Geography went sailing at Nelson Bay to do some dolphin watching as part of their Tourism unit.

Year 9 Geography made it to Taronga Zoo where they were able to explore endangered species.

Year 10 Geography went to Centrepoint Tower and Sydney Harbour, studying urbanisation and the sprawl of suburbs in Sydney.

Year 11 Geography travelled to Ash Island to identify ways in which man has impacted on the biophysical environment. Ash Island allowed these students to study a specific environment functioning in terms of biophysical factors.

Year 12 Geography students were able to analyse the changing spatial and ecological dimensions of an economic enterprise by visiting Drayton's Family Wines at Pokolbin. In supporting viticulture in the area, boutique wineries have an important role to play in this economic activity. Tower Winery is one such boutique, visited by the students. Students were also involved in analysing contemporary urban dynamics and applying them in specific contexts. One such dynamic studied was urban renewal. Consequently a local study of Honeysuckle was completed.

A highlight of this year has been the excellent results obtained by Social Science students at NGS in a number of competitions. Congratulations to Brent Slattery for receiving a High Distinction in the University of New South Wales Economics Competition. Brent in addition to receiving a monetary prize was invited to attend the University of New South Wales and was presented with his award by Professor Ingleson (Deputy Vice- Chancellor) and Professor Birkett (Associate Dean- Faculty of Economics) on 31 August. In that same Competition we had 11/38 or 29% of our Business Studies students gain Distinction Certificates and 9/13 Economics students or 69% gained a Credit or higher!!

Our students also did very well this year in Geography Competitions. 46 students from Newcastle Grammar School were amongst 13,800 students from 136 schools in NSW who took part in the NSW Junior Geography Competition. Our students who entered the competition were studying Geography in Year 9, only. (The competition was open to both Years 9 and 10). As well as skill based questions, the paper tested their knowledge of developed and developing countries, environment issues and geopolitics. Results for the Newcastle Grammar Year 9 Geography students were:  
43% - High Distinctions; 33% Distinctions and 24% Credits.

We also entered Years 9 and 10 students in the 2001 Australian Geography Competition. In this Competition they were amongst 60,028 students from 719 schools around the country. Students entered in the Competition were those currently studying Geography in 9X and 9Y and elective Year 10. As well as skills based questions, the paper tested their knowledge of developing countries, environmental issues, geopolitics – and maps and mountains. 58 of our students entered the Competition and they gained: 14 High distinctions, 11 Distinctions, 6 Credits and 27 Participation Certificates. This means that 25/58 or 43% of our students gained a Distinction or a High Distinction in the Competition.

The outstanding results obtained by our students in BOTH of these competitions is proof positive that our students are coping well with the new mandatory Geography in Year 9 and augurs well for their School Certificate results in Geography in 2002.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Social Science team this year: Mrs Roberts, Mr Boyd, Miss Bailey, Mr Kidd and Mr Dwyer. We look forward to continuing to provide the best opportunities that we can in educating your children in the Social Sciences.

**Mr Reg Yates**  
**Social Sciences Coordinator**

## ***SPORT***

The Sports programme at NGS continues to offer all students in the School the opportunity to participate in individual, team, vigorous, recreational and competitive activities at all levels. The programme has also given our coaches the opportunity to coach at representative level and it has been good to see their skills recognised in their appointment to these positions.

Our co-curricular sporting teams have grown in both number and ability. This year the Senior School fielded eight Netball teams, six Hockey teams, one Soccer team, four Touch teams, five Cricket teams, five Basketball teams, a Rowing squad of eighteen and as usual a very strong and dedicated group competing in Aerobics.

The A-Reserve Hockey team was successful in winning their premiership, while numerous other teams played in their respective finals series, making for a very commendable season overall. To build upon the success of our teams, a trip to New Zealand has been planned for 2002 which will see a number of our Hockey and Netball sides spend ten days in the South Island playing matches against various provincial schools. Our sporting programme relies a great deal on coaches who are drawn from the parent body and the community and I would like to take this opportunity to sincerely thank those individuals. The invaluable assistance of our parents is especially highlighted in the School's Rowing programme where a large amount of work is done by our Rowing Supporters' Group, without whom, due to the nature of the sport and the constant maintenance required of boats and equipment, the programme would not have grown to the size it is.

The continued success of our Aerobics teams has also relied on the greater School community. This year NGS was represented at the World FISAF Aerobics Championships and only recently our Junior Aerobics team of Anna Williams, Kate Williams, and Paige Campbell, **as well as the Senior team of Elizabeth Hughes, Vivienne Winborne, Sara Rayment and Melanie Wright** have qualified for the 2002 World Championship in Europe. Our Aerobics supporters have provided, and continue to provide their expertise for fundraising to enable these girls to compete overseas and do the best they can.

Apart from our Australian Aerobics representatives, eight students have achieved the honour of representing the NSW Combined Independent Schools: Jade Joyner and Ashley Carruthers (Diving), Patrick Bergin and Phillip Woolcott (Swimming), Lachlan Harben (Basketball), Sam Clifton (Cross Country) and Jacqueline Pacey and Emily Simpson (Touch). As an added bonus to their representative honours, Jacqueline and Emily were appointed captain and vice-captain respectively of the NSWCISSC Open Touch side.

The number of students who have been selected in Hunter Region Independent Schools (HRIS) and Association of Independent Co-Educational Schools (AICES) has been numerous. The keen skiers in our student body formed two teams to compete in the Northern Region interschool competition with both advancing to the NSW Championship, while our senior side travelling to Victoria for the next stage, that being the National Championships.

Our Junior Boys and Junior Girls Basketball teams, our Senior Girls Touch side and both our NGS Swimming and Cross Country teams won their 2001 HRIS Championships, and these results certainly highlight the range of abilities which are in our student ranks.

The deeds of our students on the sporting field were recognised at yesterday's Awards Assembly and the School looks forward to more of the same in 2002.

The Monday afternoon Sports programme regularly offers students a large range of activities in which they may participate. The range of sports cater for a range of abilities and interests and allows students the opportunity to participate in sports which perhaps, they would not otherwise attempt. From Self Defence classes to Yoga and from Walking to Wall Climbing and Archery, the students would be hard to please if they could not find an activity which interests them. A number of students have just completed their Surf Survival course run by Surf Life Saving Australia and it is hoped this course can be offered in Terms 1 and 4 each year, while all Year 8 students have been coached in Tennis over the last semester.

In 2002, we hope to build further upon our students' abilities and successes, regardless of the level at which they were attained, and with the support of both students and parents, this will be achieved.

**Mr Leigh Carroll**  
**Sportsmaster**

## ***TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED STUDIES***

The new HSC consumed a good deal of staff effort this year with new programmes to be written and new resources to be developed.

Brand new courses introduced to our School were Software Design and Development and Information Technology. Changes were also made to the Design and Technology syllabus, as well as the Hospitality syllabus.

Teachers have been very busy with the organisation and implementation of these changes.

Subjects that were offered at the School during the 2001 School year were:

❖ Y7/8	Design and Technology
❖ Y9/10	Design and Technology
❖ Y9/10	Computing Studies
❖ Y11/12	Design and Technology
❖ Y11/12	Software Design and Development
❖ Y11/12	Information Technology (VET)
❖ Y11 /12	Industry Studies, Hospitality – Kitchen Operations (VET)

### ***Design and Technology***

The Years 7 and 8 Design and Technology course offers students a variety of design challenges over eight units of work. These units aim to introduce students to a wide variety of technologies in a design context. These include food, wood, plastics, computing, numerical control and a design graphics unit.

In Years 9 and 10, students spend a semester each completing design projects of a more challenging standard. This has proven to be a popular subject amongst students who appear to enjoy the wood and food design areas.

Students studying the preliminary HSC course demonstrated their design skills by designing and making some new equipment for the Pre-School as part of their course work. Some also dabbled in the development of Virtual Reality Models as an extension of their CAD work.

Our HSC class completed some impressive projects for their Higher School Certificate Examination and these can be viewed on our School web site.

## ***Computing Studies***

Years 9 and 10 Computing Studies also continues to be a popular subject that is taught in one of two dedicated computing rooms that are networked and attached to a variety of printers, scanners and other peripherals.

Students have learnt about computers in both theory and practice with a number of exercises designed to introduce students to a range of software packages. Microsoft Office applications continue to be the main platform for class-work. Our two computing labs have also been reorganised to provide a more spacious learning environment. The use of a digital projector and large screens in both labs support a high standard of instruction.

Information Technology and Software Design and Development are new HSC courses that allow students to study computing at their level of interest.

Those students who are interested in computer programming and software design have elected to study Software Design and Development. This course is quite challenging with a substantial amount of content. Mr John Butcher has been primarily responsible for the implementation of this course.

The Information Technology course has offered students skills in supporting an information technology environment as well as providing a general grounding of computer knowledge. It is competency based, in line with the VET framework, and students have been required to attend industry experience through work placement. Further to this, interested students will have the opportunity to pursue industry recognised courses such as the Microsoft Certified Professional (MCP) course under the direction of Mr Neale Graham. This is a unique opportunity to gain an industry valued accreditation. Mr Graham has also spent a deal of time setting up a third computing lab in Parnell. This lab is purpose built for the MCP course, and allows other students access to high-end hardware.

## ***Hospitality***

The Hospitality, Kitchen Operations course is a **VET** subject and has also offered students' competency based training in the areas of commercial cookery and the hospitality industry. Under the guidance of Mrs Sharelle Sewell and Miss Megan Phillipson, students experience vocational training and are also required to undertake work placement as part of their course.

The School has also been fortunate to have assistance from Mr Gary Sewell who is a Commercial Cookery teacher at TAFE. Mr Sewell has been able to pass on his industry and assessment experience to our students.

**VET** courses continue to be gaining popularity across the State each year as students recognise the benefits that can be gained from vocational courses.

## ***Minister's Young Designers' Awards***

This year 24 Year 8 students participated in the Minister's Young Designers' Awards. The aim of the competition is to encourage excellence in design over a range of design situations. A number of our students were selected as State Finalists.

Congratulations to Samantha Connors, Stephanie Miller, Sarah Harrison, Karly Curtis, Kate Armstrong, Chloe Hicks, Amelia Giles and Gemma Harben.

Further to this, Samantha, Stephanie, Sarah and Karly's project was selected for exhibition in Sydney where awards were presented by the Minister of Education and Training, the Hon. John Aquilina.

Many thanks to Miss Megan Phillipson who coordinated and guided these students throughout the competition.

## ***Australian Schools' Computing Studies Competition***

Students at NGS showed their mastery of computing skills when they competed in the Australian Schools' Computer Studies Competition that was held in August this year.

This year, over 78,000 students from schools across Australia and New Zealand participated in the competition. The competition was coordinated at School by Mr John Butcher.

### **Certificate of Credit**

#### **Year 9**

Angus Harrison  
Jock Campbell

#### **Year 10**

Jessica Meadows  
Robert Lacey  
Di He  
Clare Gordon  
Jonathon Ford  
Toby Fallas  
James Fahey  
David Bowen-Thomas

#### **Year 11**

Ashley Carruthers  
Chris Doherty  
Andrew Stewart  
Russell Boyd

### **Certificate of Distinction**

#### **Year 9**

Mary Cresdee  
Aiden Duffield  
Laurie Mahon  
Gareth Nicholson  
Dominic Shillington

#### **Year 10**

Alex Milne  
Abigail Cutfield  
Leisl Davis

#### **Year 11**

Chris Oakey  
Nicholas Boyle

### **Certificate of High Distinction**

#### **Year 11**

Patrick Armstrong

## ***Worldskills Australia - Commercial Cookery***

*VET* in Schools Worldskills Australia competitions are a prestigious event sponsored by the NSW Department of Education and the Australian National Training Authority to recognise outstanding achievement in Vocational Education courses. Course competitions include such varied subjects as Commercial Cookery, Building and Construction, Retail, Horticulture and Information Technology.

Under the direction of Mrs Sharelle Sewell, Claire Wilkinson from Year 11 Hospitality Operations was selected to compete in the Hunter Schools regional final. The competition was held at Hamilton TAFE on Friday 31 August and ran for a period of six hours. In this time Claire produced a two portion set menu of:

#### ***Starter:***

*Green Prawns in a Tempura Batter served with a Soy Dipping Sauce*

#### ***Main:***

*Stuffed Ballotine of Chicken with a Cranberry Jus, Lyonnaise Potatoes, Turned Glazed Carrots,  
Braised Red Cabbage*

#### ***Dessert:***

*Warm Poached Pear with Anglaise Sauce*

**Mr Robert Barter**  
**Coordinator Technological and Applied Studies**

## ***TYRRELL LIBRARY***

Technology has once again taunted and teased us. This year we upgraded our Library Software in the form of **Alice-for-Windows**. Built on the earlier school-based OASIS, this software is more sophisticated with many benefits, sometimes of dubious quality, such as direct links to the WWW. Having mastered this by trial and error, and a series of training sessions through the CSO, we then embraced SCIS ONLINE. This allows us to download cataloguing data very quickly, reducing the time it takes a resource to reach the shelves and therefore be available to the students. All this required major shifts in our work patterns and proved very challenging. As usual, the Library staff maintained their equilibrium and their standard of service, for which I am very grateful.

This year saw Ann-Maree Johnson consolidate her position as Teacher Librarian with a special interest in children's literature. We have been successful in gaining extended hours for her next year so that her talents will be enjoyed by children from K-6 in both Campuses.

The move to a Three-School structure will involve a shift in focus of the collection, both in fiction and non-fiction. There will, of necessity, be duplication of some resources as we cater for the variety of learning styles and reading ranges in our students. Much work behind the scenes will be done by the staff in the physical relocation of the resources and the accompanying editing of the library data to reflect these changes.

Of particular note this year was the appearance of the Library web page. As well as reference web sites, we have included supplementary sites specially chosen to support the History syllabus from Stages 4-6. This enables students to find relevant web sites for any History assignment which may be set for Years 7-12. Much of the work for this was done by a visiting work experience student, Susan Bright, who spent time with us in Term 3. Susan was ably assisted by the History Staff and our Webmaster, Luke Arms, who patiently props up our faltering web skills on a daily basis.

Exciting plans are afoot to catalogue web sites in Alice. This will mean that all resources on a search topic, both hard copy and virtual, will be displayed at once on the screen. A great service, particularly for senior students who are so pressed for time!

Although only six years old, the Tyrrell Library, in its present form, has seen many changes to its collection and in its readers. The design and layout of the building have coped with these changes, allowing even more flexibility, with expanded seating, extra technology and differing collections than was imagined when we first drew up the plans.

The Library Staff would like to thank the Support Staff for all their assistance this year. In particular, we would like to mention the Computing/Technology Staff, who ease our way through this complex technological world with infinite patience and charm.

**Mrs C Mary Curran**  
**Teacher Librarian**

## ***VISUAL ARTS***

In 2001 Visual Arts at Newcastle Grammar School has benefited from the installation of an Apple Computer and software specifically designed for our area. This along with a digital camera, scanner and sophisticated printer has made it possible for our students to use the most up to date technology as is found in tertiary institutions. Four of our Year12 students used computer manipulated images as part of their Body of Work for the HSC examination.

At the commencement of the year a group of students who had been working on the John Hunter Hospital Adolescent Ward project were asked to attend the launch of the new room for which they had been involved in redecorating.

A number of our students' artworks were also selected for display in the main area of the hospital. We have committed a display of works for February 2002 in the Oncology Unit of the Mater Hospital.

During Education Week we presented a collection of works for an exhibition at Garden City.

In September we held a preview and cocktail evening for 2001 Year 12 students, their parents and friends to view the artworks of these students. This year the students were required to present a 'Body of Work' instead of the 'Major Work'. Many students chose to do a collection of works spanning many artforms. The exhibition displayed the diversity of the students' abilities and the high standard of work. Cressida Green's illustrated book was chosen by the HSC markers for the Art Express selection in Sydney.

The continuing implementation of the New HSC Syllabus in Visual Arts was assisted by several inservices for the staff and consultation with other schools and educational bodies.

This year Mrs Martin was on leave and was replaced by Mrs Yates. We will be sorry to lose Mrs Yates with her skills in Ceramics and Photography and wish her well for the future.

Overall it has been an exciting and rewarding year.

**Mrs Margaret McBride**  
**Head of Visual Arts**

## ***SERVICE AND ADVENTURE TRAINING UNIT***

Our SATU has had another busy year with a variety of activities taking place. Along with this, the Federal Government has revised its support for cadets and will be increasing its budget for cadets to "enhance" the priority given to uniforms, equipment and military personnel for cadet activities. This is a result of a report entitled "Cadets: The Future Review" that reinforced the fact that Cadet Units are a valuable youth training organisation. Further to this, the Australian Army Cadet Corps will now be known as Australian Defence Force Cadets.

Here at NGS we continue to use the title of Service and Adventure Training Unit to best describe the balance of training we seek to provide in a school environment.

This report will outline a number of community service activities undertaken, as well as the adventurous and other activities that have made up this year for our members.

### **Senior Appointments for 2001**

*Senior Cadet Under Officer – CUO Alex Lowe*  
*Cadet Under Officers – CUO Anthony Campbell, CUO Kuni Ishii*  
*CSM – Warrant Officer Ashley Carruthers*  
*Drum Major – Sgt Gemma Williams*  
*Platoon Sergeants – Sgt Gemma Duffield, Sgt Joanne Main, Sgt Gemma Williams*  
*Officers of Cadets – Lt (ACC) Joanna Patey-Dennis, Lt(ACC) Corey Rowntree,*  
*Lt(ACC) Mark Rowntree, Lt Lois Simpson, Lt(ACC) Lynne Walker.*  
*Instructors of Cadets – Warrant Officer Harry Matthew, Sgt Duncan Price, Sgt Paul Dennis*

### **Promotions**

#### **Promoted to Corporal**

R Boyle, D Bowen-Thomas, J Ford, O Redman (completed SNCO course)  
T Saunders, F Sims.

#### **Promoted to Lance Corporal**

P Boyle, D Cooke, S Hamilton, A Harrison, J Langford, D Mathers, S Mackay, S Moscovis, P Murphy, G Nicholson, A Roussos, B Schrader, D Shillington.

### **Home Training**

Tuesday afternoons continue to be primarily training days. Cadets have undertaken lessons in Navigation, First Aid, RadioTelephone Procedure and Drill. The standard of lessons has varied this year, and those that were well prepared were usually those that were the effective lessons. Training of cadet instructors takes place during promotions courses, and then staff and CUOs assist these cadets on a regular basis. I look forward to seeing these people working even more closely together next year to further improve our standard of training.

### **School ANZAC Service**

The SATU provided a Catafalque and Flag Party for our School ANZAC Service. All those who participated in the Service conducted themselves to a high standard with minimum preparation time. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of CUO Anthony Campbell who with very short notice was given command of the guard and fulfilled these duties with much competence.

Our Drum Corps worked very hard to support the Service, and special mention should be made of Rowan Grace and Andrew Raymond who played the Last Post and Reveille with much proficiency.

Melanie Wright and Alex Lowe also represented the School with distinction at the Combined Schools' Anzac Ceremony held at the City Hall.

### **ANZAC Day March**

An SATU contingent also represented the School for the Newcastle ANZAC Day march. Our Unit marched very well on the day, marching along with other Army Cadet Units. The dress and bearing of our cadets was commendable. Our Drum Corps played exceptionally well and provided a good marching beat for many of the participants.

### **Annual Camp**

Our Annual Camp was held from 16-20 April at Singleton Military Area. The first two days of the camp involved the preparation and conduct of "Exercise Lost Soul". This exercise was to consolidate such skills as navigation, first aid, camouflage and concealment, and radio procedure, as well as providing an environment to demonstrate leadership and teamwork skills.

The SATU then left the field and looked forward to the "comforts" available in the barracks. Senior cadets had the opportunity to participate in a range exercise using the F88 Austyre. All members of the Unit enjoyed the challenge of the School of Infantry confidence courses - one of the highlights of the camp. As well as this, cadets were fortunate to be taken through the night vision training centre and experienced the use of NVEquipment.

The indoor weapons simulator was also used where each cadet was given an opportunity to use a most technologically advanced training facility.

Junior cadets were also fortunate to visit the military museum as well as take part in initiative exercises, lessons on knots and lashings, as well as some drill.

I wish to congratulate all members of the SATU for completing such a challenging camp.

Special congratulations go to LCpl Boyd Schrader who was presented with the main camp prize for most efficient Junior Cadet, and LCpl Sophie Mackay who was runner up. Both of these cadets received excellent prizes from the University of NSW Regiment - our foster Unit.

All staff, CUOs, Sergeants and Corporals demonstrated most diligent and competent efforts for the duration of the camp.

### **US Naval Visit**

The **USS John S McCain** (DDG 56) was in Newcastle Harbour during Term 2. Several Senior cadets were fortunate to be invited to tour the vessel. The tour went for about two hours, including a detailed description of most of the ship. One of the more interesting places on the ship for the computer students was the CIC, which we were lucky to even see. The CIC houses all the combat information systems, capable of tracking thousands of objects for several hundred nautical miles and is driven by the most state of the art computer and radar equipment.

### **Reserve Forces Day**

The SATU marched exceptionally well on Reserve Forces Day. Our cadets represented the School and the Army Cadet Corps with much proficiency and our Drum Corps once again provided us and other contingents with a good marching beat.

### **ARMY Work Experience**

Thomas Saunders and Jonathon Ford spent a week working with 8CER Regiment at Adamstown Military Depot during our mid-semester break. Many thanks to Capt Scott Corrigan for the support he has given to Tom and Jonathon.

### **Abseiling Bivouac**

Our abseiling bivouac was conducted in the Olney State Forest (Watagan Mountains) during Term 2. The bivouac provided cadets with a range of abseiling challenges, as well as a variety of initiative exercises and campcraft activities. The abseiling activities were provided by Mr Darrin Gray of Hunter Expeditions. Mr Gray has a wealth of experience in this field and ensured that all participants were sufficiently challenged.

### **Caving Expedition**

Our senior cadets travelled to Jenolan Caves on the same weekend as our abseiling bivouac to participate in a caving expedition that was run by the guides at Jenolan. From all reports, the caving provided a challenging experience for all those who attended. Many thanks to Mrs Lois Simpson for supervising this weekend.

### **Dining In Night**

The SATU held its annual Dining In Night in the lead-up to our Passing Out Parade. The dinner is to acknowledge the efforts of our senior cadets, whilst provide the experience of a traditional military dinner. I also wish to acknowledge the efforts of our Y10 cadets who served on the night. The evening was enjoyed by all.

### **Passing Out Parade**

The SATU conducted its annual Passing Out Parade on the morning of our Spring Fair. The Reviewing Officer, Lt Col Russell Mullins was very impressed and commended on our cadets' high standard of dress and bearing.

On behalf of all members of the SATU, and the School in general, I would like to thank our senior cadets for their many and varied efforts throughout their cadet life. These are SUO Alex Lowe, CUO Anthony Campbell and CUO Kuni Ishii. These cadets have been members of our Unit for six years and have participated in many activities including representing the School on ceremonial occasions and an average of twenty courses or camps. I am sure that the skills learnt during cadets will be an asset for their future endeavours no matter what they may be.

### **Prize Winners for 2001 Passing Out Parade**

Congratulations to the following cadets who were awarded the prize of "*Most Efficient Cadet*" for our 2001 Passing Out Parade:

*Y7 - Cdt William Ryan*

*Y8 - Cdt Dominic Lowe*

*Y9 - LCpls Boyd Schrader, Peter Murphy*

*Y10 - Cpl David Bowen-Thomas*

### **Long Service Medal**

Congratulations to **Mr Graeme Kidd** who has recently been awarded with the Australian Cadet Forces Services Medal. The ACFSM recognises 15 years of efficient long service by Officers and Instructors of Cadets, with a clasp for each additional period of five years. Mr Kidd had been involved with cadets from the Manning Valley Cadet Unit, Pittwater House Service Unit and our SATU for over twenty years! Well done, and thank you Mr Kidd.

### **Flying Corps**

This year we have been fortunate to offer regular powered flying activities to members of our SATU. The activities have been organised by Mr Chris Teale who is a School parent. Mr Teale is a professional Qantas pilot and has been a member of the British RAF, Australian RAAF and also the RAAF "Roulette" aerobatic team. We have now formed an SATU Flying Corps, and with Mr Teale as our flying instructor over thirty cadets have taken to the air. Activities have included familiarisation flights, aerobatic flights and also instructional flights. I would like to thank Mr Teale for his tireless efforts throughout the year in providing these wonderful opportunities. The Flying Corps also has its own logo, and this was design by Sgt Gemma Duffield.

### **Volunteer Staff**

We are most appreciative of the many staff who have assisted the unit this year. I particularly would like to thank **Mr Harry Matthew, Mr Duncan Price** and **Mr Paul Dennis** for their support of our Unit. I would like to officially welcome Mr Dennis who has joined our Unit this year and is currently undertaking officer training with the ADF Cadets. Many thanks also to Mr Price who has volunteered a huge amount of time in support of our Unit this year, particularly with ceremonial instruction and training support.

Many thanks for the support given by our parents throughout the year for the many activities undertaken to date.

Finally – *well done* to all members of our Unit for completing another successful year in the SATU.

**Capt (ACC) Robert Barter**

## ***CAREERS***

In last year's report we promised to have our own Careers website in operation at the beginning of Term 1. I am pleased to report that thanks to the dedication of our Webmaster, Luke Arms, the site was up and running early in the year and has proved to be a huge success especially with senior students. The site is upgraded regularly with appropriate links added as they arise. It is accessible via the School web page and a click on the Careers link, which takes you to a number of options including overseas opportunities and HSC help.

In June this year many Year 12 students attended the Annual Careers Day at the University of Newcastle and found it extremely helpful. Individual students also attended open days at other university campuses around the country.

The Annual Careers Market in 2001 unfortunately coincided with our Half-Yearly examinations and the organisers cancelled the afternoon and evening sessions so our students were unable to benefit from this worthwhile event.

Many Years 10, 11 and 12 students organised their Work Experience at various workplaces around the Hunter and all reports have indicated that valuable experience and knowledge was gained.

A new and very successful programme was introduced this year for all Year 10 students who underwent Careers Aptitude and Ability Testing as an aid for their subject choices for their senior years. An Educational Psychologist, Emma Goodsir, from Sydney, conducted this programme. The feedback from both students and parents was so positive that we intend to repeat the programme with Year 10 in 2002.

For the first time ever all Year 9 students were treated to a Careers lesson once per cycle and I was able to negotiate the curriculum with each class. Students chose to undertake a wide variety of activities including job research, compiling resumes, deciphering the language of job advertisements, writing job application letters and developing and conducting job interviews including role-plays and being dressed for the part! Students said they found the sessions meaningful and relevant so it is hoped that these lessons will be available for Years 9 and 10 for 2002.

As in previous years a number of guest speakers have given presentations to students. These have included representatives from various university faculties and private training organisations as well as Defence Force personnel and community speakers. Usually held during lunch breaks, these opportunities provided helpful information and insight.

The main thing we have learned this year in the area of Careers is that more and more information is available to our students via the Internet and there are more opportunities and choices out there than ever before. Although we acknowledge that this can make decision-making more difficult in some ways, it also means that there is a smorgasbord of options open to our students. What they have to realise is that with a few hours of research time you can unearth careers that you never dreamed existed.

Many of our senior students have applied for scholarships and traineeships and await their fates. David Lack was successful early in the year in being offered a prestigious traineeship with *Price Waterhouse Coopers*.

#### ***INTERNATIONAL EXCHANGE PROGRAMMES***

Elizabeth Brown and Fiona Beverley were both chosen as international exchange students with the **GAP** scheme for all of 2002. Fiona is going to Oxford and at the time of going to print Elizabeth's placing was still undecided. Anna Rose was chosen to go to Bristol for the year under the Tutors Worldwide scheme and Shann Joyner and Wendy Green were both selected as Rotary Exchange students. Shann is going to Japan for 12 months and Wendy to New Zealand in mid 2002 for a short-term exchange. Laura O'Brien and Tristan Davidson are both currently in France. The School has hosted a number of exchange students throughout they year. Sanna Suontaka joins us from Finland with the Rotary Scheme and earlier this year we farewelled exchange students Armandine Duche and Florent Neuville from France.

It is with much sadness that I leave the position of Careers Adviser as I move on to the Middle School because it has been a great learning experience for me and very rewarding to watch students make career path discoveries and find great satisfaction in following them.

**Mrs Lesley Harrison**  
**Careers Adviser**

#### ***THE SOCIETY OF THE ARTS***

The Society of the Arts continues to support Music, Art and Drama within our School. The first function we organised this year was "*Time to Tango*", which perhaps helped parents considerably to tidy up their dancing for the Ball Season, especially our own School Formals.

In June we again presented the ever-popular "*Proms at the Park*". It is a delight to use our Park Campus Theatre and to present an opportunity for our ensembles from throughout the School to perform to a capacity audience. This was a free concert, however we raised about \$1000.00 by holding a raffle and we are extremely grateful to the parents who made such wonderful donations for this purpose.

The "Brass Ra-Zoo" CD, supported by the Society, was launched at the Proms by our Headmaster and at this stage there are only about 10 remaining copies.

The School Art Exhibition "*Fragments*" was opened on Thursday evening 25 October; again the standard of work amazed the crowd who came to view it. Sophie Miller was invited to perform on piano for the official opening and played delightfully.

On Friday 2 November we presented the Dinner Dance “*Polished Brass*” at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. It is always a most enjoyable evening for guests and a splendid opportunity to show the talent of our wonderful musicians. It was a delightful evening to be at the lake and ‘Bamboozle’ performed splendidly while guests enjoyed their champagne and hors d’oeuvres. The String Orchestra played some wonderful music while we had the main course and Brass Ra-Zoo pepped up the evening with their dance music. We again thank friends for their donations towards our raffle prizes and for supporting the evening so well.

We were hoping to organise a day of ‘Jazz in the Vines ‘ this year, but hopefully this will be a function to look forward to in the near future.

Six years ago I felt the need in the School for some support for my own growing Department and also for the Art and Drama areas within the School. After speaking with Mr Green, the *Society of the Arts* was formed at the commencement of 1997. We have been able to present a wonderful variety of Musical and Dramatic performances for the students to experience. The very first function was an unforgettable evening recital given by Soprano Ghillian Sullivan from Opera Australia. There have been performances by ex-students, exhibitions and workshops that have been of great benefit to our students, events they can experience and others where they can be performers or exhibitors themselves.

This is my last report as I am retiring from the School and my hope is that the *Society of the Arts* will continue to strive to give our students those extra experiences and opportunities that are vital for students of The Arts.

My heart felt gratitude for all that has been accomplished and my best wishes for an exciting and rewarding future.

**Mrs Evanne Sherringham**  
**Founder - The Society of the Arts**

## ***THE FRIENDS OF NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL***

It is very pleasing to be able to report another successful year of activities for the Friends of Newcastle Grammar School. To have maintained our support role in the many varied traditional ways and to have achieved continuing outstanding fund raising results is due to the ongoing high quality contributions within and beyond the School and its current family.

Social events including the Barbecue to welcome new families, light refreshments following the Carol Service, and particularly the wonderful Founders’ Day Dinner have highlighted the activities of the Friends. These events plus the regular monthly meetings provide the platform for all parents to meet, discuss ideas, and above all to support the School for the betterment of all.

Most of you will have been aware that our Canteen Supervisor Kaylene Robson was absent on sick leave for the majority of Term 3. During this time I accepted the challenge to cover her absence, understanding that the Friends’ fund raising activities are underpinned by the ongoing profits from the Canteen. I wish to thank most sincerely all the parents who donate their time and energies to the Canteen operations. I must state that apart from the first few days of the Term when the scheduled roster did not function I thoroughly enjoyed my time there. There were days when only one person turned up to help, those days were extremely difficult. There were days when two people turned up and we coped. There were great days when a full complement turned up and we sailed through comfortably. My point in mentioning all this is that in the year 2001, the International Year of the Volunteer, by helping we can generate great success and have a very enjoyable time doing it. So, a big thank you to all those who assisted during my time in the Canteen, the reward for me was to meet so many parents, teachers and students who made my time memorable.

This year we have been able to commit over \$65,000 to many different projects. Special thanks must go to Mr Graeme Kidd who has worked tirelessly to raise funds through the sale of Entertainment Books,

and by organising his highly successful Spring Fair Raffle. A special thank you, too, to Valeria Escobeda, Jane Hamilton and Ann Robertson for helping out at peak times in the Canteen. My personal thanks also to Caron Simpson, Brett Schrader, Nick Killin and his Spring Fair committee, to Sandra Ellis and Bronwyn Green for the outstanding efforts in the clothing pool, to Trish White and her Founders' Day Dinner committee, and to Mr. Green for his unfailing attendance at our meetings.

On behalf of the Committee I extend a sincere invitation to all parents to attend and participate in the activities of the Friends of Newcastle Grammar School.

**Mr Russell Carter**  
**President**