



NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**HEADMASTER'S
REPORT
2002**

**84th ANNUAL SPEECH DAY
AND
PRIZE GIVING**

WEDNESDAY 4 DECEMBER 2002

CONTENTS

FROM THE HEADMASTER	3
FROM THE CHAPLAIN	4
FROM THE HEAD OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL	6
FROM THE SENIOR HOUSE PATRON	8
MACQUARIE HOUSE	8
HUNTER HOUSE	9
SHORTLAND HOUSE	10
TYRRELL HOUSE	10
DEPARTMENT REPORTS - SENIOR SCHOOL	
ENGLISH	12
HISTORY	13
LANGUAGE	13
MATHEMATICS	14
MUSIC	15
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	18
SCIENCE	19
SOCIAL SCIENCES	20
SPORT	21
TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED STUDIES	23
VISUAL ARTS	25
FROM THE HEAD OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL	26
DEPARTMENT REPORTS - MIDDLE SCHOOL	
SPORT	29
FROM THE HEAD OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL	30
DEPARTMENT REPORTS - JUNIOR SCHOOL	
MUSIC	31
PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION	32
SPECIAL EDUCATION	32
FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRE-SCHOOL	33
TYRRELL LIBRARY	34
SERVICE AND ADVENTURE TRAINING UNIT	35
CAREERS	38
ARTSLINK	39
FRIENDS OF NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL	40

PREFACE

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Friends of Newcastle Grammar School,

It gives me the greatest pleasure to present my annual report, my fourteenth, and the 84th year of the founding of the Church of England Girls' Grammar School. This report is assembled for you so that you can have an opportunity to reflect on the achievements of 2002. It is a factual report and is not meant to be a "glossy production", but a window into each department and each area of this great School.

2002 has seen the introduction of the three school focus at Newcastle Grammar School; our Junior School, situated at Park Campus, catering for Pre-school to Year 4 students, and our Hill Campus catering for our Middle and Senior Schools. This year the Middle School has catered for Years 5 to 7 and next year will accept its full enrolment of Years 5 to 8. The introduction of the Middle School has created a great deal of extra work, but it has all been worthwhile, as now we can better meet the needs of the emerging adolescent. I would like to thank Mrs Harrison and the Middle School staff for all that they have done to make this transition so smooth and yet so productive.

Students of Newcastle Grammar School continue to be successful both inside and outside of the classroom. Last year's Higher School Certificate results saw over one-third of our students with a UAI greater than 90, and six students with a UAI over 99. Quite remarkable, considering we are a small, non-selective School. This year we have been treated to an enviable level of drama and musical productions. Each and every one of them has been outstanding, and the pinnacle of the year was the opportunity many of our students had to perform on stage with the Jazz musicians, James and John Morrison.

Newcastle Grammar School continues to improve in all areas, and at the same time widens the choices and expands the facilities that are available to our students. I would like to thank all parents for their valuable support throughout the year as we continue to strive to offer your children, our students, the best possible all round education.

Sadly this year the School was faced with a number of tragedies. Mrs Alison Cook (Pre-school teacher) died suddenly from cancer, and the son of Kaylene Robson (Canteen supervisor) was killed in Thailand. I would like to thank the School Chaplain, Fr Brian Douglas, for his compassion and sensitivity in caring for these families. The sense of community and support continues to grow and thrive amongst our School family.

The world in which we live has changed so quickly in the last fifteen months, and I am now convinced more than ever that an education which is holistic and based on sound Christian values, will place our students in a position to meet the challenges of tomorrow with tenacity, resilience, dignity and with a sense of compassion for our fellow man, and also to value diversity.

2003 will see a record enrolment at Newcastle Grammar School as the new building at Park Campus will be fully utilised for the first time. I wish to thank all the staff for their efforts in 2002 and for making it a year full of activity and full of so many wonderful achievements.

I commend the remainder of this report to you, and take this opportunity of wishing you every God's blessing for the future.

Alan G Green

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Growth is so much part of the life of people and schools – growing in life, growth in learning, growth in our relationships with one another and growth in knowledge of ourselves. Growth is integral to the Christian faith as well. Scripture reminds us that it is God who blesses our growth (Psalm 65: 10) and that so blessed we grow strong in righteousness like a mighty tree (Psalm 92: 12). Growth is a process that it is never finished, never completed and always revealing. When I reflect on the fact that only a few years ago, I barely knew what the Internet was and I had never sent an email, I realise that I have grown so much in my knowledge of technology and its use in education. Growth in faith has also been part of the shared journey and it is the journey that strengthens us all as we walk together in the presence of God.

Growth has certainly been part of Chapel and Divinity at Newcastle Grammar School over the past year. In Chapel I have been more and more conscious of the growing willingness of students to lead worship, to plan worship and to engage in worship.

The regular weekly chapels and House chapels in the Senior School have been truly the work of the people (what liturgy means). The encouragement of House Patrons is much appreciated. I thank Mr Villari, Miss Armstrong, Miss Walker and Mrs Robertson for their work, encouragement and support. It is the students however, who have made the real growth here. As I have the opportunity to be part of these services, designed and led by students I become more and more aware of not only their ownership of the worship but of the particular way in which they interpret the universal message of the Gospel. To my mind this is good and healthy. The message of the Gospel is new and refreshing. I particularly rejoice in the fact that several senior students have felt capable of speaking at these services. Guided by the Spirit they have presented a clear message, applying the universal to their particular situations. I pray that this may continue.

The chapels in the Middle School and in the Junior School have also continued in their normal pattern, with the additional a regular Eucharist in the Junior School for those students who have been admitted to Holy Communion. I thank the staff and students for the offering of their worship and for their sacrifice of praise and thanksgiving. As in the Senior School students have worked to make the worship something of their own, with readings, prayers and musical interludes being presented by the students. I give special thanks to the Music Department for their continued support of Chapel, especially Miss Rose Saunders, Mr Kevin Young and Miss Jane Parkes who have capably led musical groups who serve as a Chapel Choir and Chapel Band. This year we have had no regular organist in the Senior School and so music students from Years 9, 10, 11 and 12 have provided music for the singing of hymns. Special thanks must go to them for the way in which they share their music with the whole school in worship and for the ownership they show of the worship.

Mission giving through Chapel collections has continued throughout the year. Last year a total of \$5,127 was given by the members of the School family to the work of the Anglican Board of Mission. This was by far the highest single donation to the work of ABM of any school in Australia and the school can feel proud of this achievement. The money was sent to ABM for the specific work of Anglican Schools in Papua New Guinea and provided much needed resources for these schools.

Towards the end of 2002 Bishop Edward Malecda, the Anglican Bishop of the Northern Philippines, visited the school and spoke at chapel and in some classes about the development work of ABM in his diocese. Projects such as water and electricity have transformed people's lives and given new hope. The bishop spoke about both spiritual and practical assistance and for the need for mission agencies to work in partnership with local people on projects of importance to them. Students in both the Middle and Senior School have been making a close study of the work of ABM in the Philippines in their Divinity classes and coming to realise that older models of top down and paternalistic missionary activity is a thing of the past. During 2003 the focus of our missionary giving will be directed to the work of the Anglican Church in that part of the world and further contact with Bishop Edward will be encouraged. The continued giving and prayers of the School are encouraged for this work.

This year one student in Year 12 has completed the 2 unit Board of Studies course Studies of Religion. This was necessary since the student transferred from another school at the end of his preliminary year. I have had the pleasure of teaching this course again this year. Next year 7 students in Year 11 have elected to study the same 2 Unit course, Studies of Religion. This is a very positive development in the life of the school. Studies of Religion is an academic study of religion, where students examine the nature of religion generally and where they have the chance to study in depth religious traditions other than Christianity. In the current world climate it is vital that we in Australia have a greater understanding of the various religious traditions in our world and the ways these traditions influence our world, since this helps to build tolerance and understanding. I look forward to developing this course within the school programme.

The message of Christian leadership and growth at Newcastle is always modelled for the whole community by our Headmaster, Mr Green. His witness to the faith and the example of his life and work, in the life of the School and the Cathedral, are at all times an encouragement to all those who see themselves part of the Newcastle Grammar family. We as a community of faith must continually give thanks that God has called him into ministry in this place, in this way and at this time.

I also take this opportunity to thank the heads of our three schools (Mr Filby, Mrs Harrison and Miss Wotton) for their support and encouragement of the work of religious education in the School. The staff of these three Schools also are to be thanked for their active and supportive contribution to the Christian ethos of the school.

Growth is never easy but always necessary. The Christian faith must be about growth. If it is not then the faith we preach and live is stagnant. There is ample evidence to show that the community of Newcastle Grammar School has experienced a time of growth during the past twelve months. Let us give thanks to God for this, since it is from God that growth comes (1 Corinthians 3: 7) and let us commit ourselves to continued growth in the future.

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

FROM THE HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

With the introduction of the Three School Focus (Junior, Middle and Senior), the year 2002 gave us the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be educated at Newcastle Grammar School. A Senior School Review Committee was established early in the year and met on a regular basis. This committee focused on the important issues of pastoral care and the learning environment. Curriculum development and changes to daily routine were also discussed with the aim of providing the most appropriate model for students to follow.

The Subject Co-ordinators, Heads of Department and members of the Executive, together with the Head of the Senior School in the chair, have continued to meet each fortnight as the Senior School Academic Committee. We welcomed the new Coordinator of English, Mrs Cecelia Weston, and the new Director of Music, Ms Rose Saunders to this committee. Their input has been refreshing and most appreciated. This year saw the creation of a new executive position of responsibility within the Senior School, the "Dean of Students". Mr Les Potter's appointment and commitment to this position has proven to be invaluable as he continues to make a positive contribution to the Co-curricular and Welfare Programmes within this School as well as efficiently fulfilling his many day-to-day administrative duties. As with every year, a wide range of issues relating to the academic environment of the Senior School have been discussed. These have included changes to Parent/Teacher Interviews and Parent/Student Information Evenings, the implementation of some new alternative examination structures to better meet the needs of students, and the processes necessary to assist the integration of new staff and students into the life of the School. An evaluation of the current reporting system also is under way.

The Senior School Academic Committee continues to evaluate the curriculum changes associated with the "New" HSC. 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 receive 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 Universities Admission Index (UAI) figures were not supplied to Schools for the 2001 Higher School Certificate. It has, however, been established that one-third of the Year 12 group scored a UAI of over 90.00, with a top UAI of 99.75 and 6 students with a UAI of over 99.00. It was also pleasing to note that more than 60% of this group achieved a UAI of over 80.00. Also one student was placed on the Distinguished Achievers List which meant that they scored more than 90% in all courses. One student's Artwork was selected for Art Express and another student was invited to audition for Encore (Music).

The format for the School Certificate 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. It is pleasing to note that in the 2001 testing, the number of students placed in the top band (6) for English-Literacy was over three times the State average; for Mathematics, twice the State average; and for Science over four times the State average.

Our current Year 12 have experienced a demanding year and they have left their mark on the School as a most cooperative and delightful year group who enthusiastically added a great deal to the academic and co-curricular life at Newcastle Grammar School. We hope that they achieve all that they wish for when they receive their HSC results in late December. The example that they set for the rest of the School in their final days of attendance prior to the HSC was indicative of how mature young adults should behave.

Year 11 have now moved into the vacuum left by Year 12 and commenced the final leg of their journey at Newcastle Grammar School with the start of their HSC courses in Term Four. It was very encouraging to work with this group at the Leadership Camp at the end of Term Three. A major aspect of this Leadership Camp was to focus on Team Building. Year 11 formed an integral part of discussions in ensuring that Newcastle Grammar School continues to develop an environment of friendship, trust and support. In July, Year 11 also were involved in a memorable production of the Shakespearean tragedy, "King Lear".

The Year 10 Musical "Les Miserables" proved to be an outstanding event in the lives of all student involved. The transformation of our students into one of the finest ensembles ever witnessed in a School Production was deserving of the standing ovation received on each of the three performance nights.

In early November, Year 10 students undertook externally set, Statewide Tests in English-Literacy, Mathematics, Science and the new mandatory examination in Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship. Students will receive their actual mark in each of these tests, as well as a Performance Grade (from A to E) described above. The School looks forward with interest to the results from these external School Certificate Tests. Immediately after the School Certificate Examinations, Year 10 students took part in the Outward Bound Expedition. This expedition 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.

In Term 1, our Years 8 and 9 were challenged at their annual camps to encourage confidence and develop the skills of team building in readiness for their final years in the School. This experience is a very important aspect of education at Newcastle Grammar School.

Students from every year level participated in a plethora of regional, statewide, national and international competitions from a variety of faculties. It never ceases to amaze me that students from our School continue to achieve outstanding success in virtually all the competitions entered.

The Senior School Academic Committee continued to confirm its commitment to the well-established Year 10 TENEX Programme which is 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. 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 Senior School 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 in a particular task. During 2002, over 2,600 Level 1 awards were achieved. Almost 900 Level 2 awards and 87 Headmaster's Level 3 awards have also been awarded to students.

It is with some sadness that the Senior School is losing one of its long serving members. The Head of History, Mrs Maitland, will be retiring after a long and distinguished career at Newcastle Grammar School. Mrs Maitland has been teaching at Newcastle Grammar School since 1986 and was appointed Head of History in 1993. The History Department has flourished under her leadership 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.

Once again, 2002 has seen the constant rhythm of academic, cultural, spiritual and sporting pursuits which assist our students to develop in a holistic manner. Likewise, curriculum oversight, co-ordinating students and staff, organising assessment and reporting schedules and responding to the many other varied issues as they arise, are all the business of the Senior School. The climate of a School greatly affects all else that goes on within it and strong relationships between Home and School are the foundation of this climate. We now eagerly await all that the New Year will bring as everyone seeks to play their part in ensuring the provision of a most challenging and stimulating learning environment for all members of the School Community.

Mr Merv Filby
Head of Senior School

FROM THE SENIOR HOUSE PATRON

The term “schooling outcomes” evokes the idea of academic success, but parents and teachers both, recognise that equally valuable outcomes for our young people must be their social development and their capacity to contribute to the workforce and the community.

We are aware that the development of the whole child, with his or her mental health, learning and life options, is affected by social and personal, as well as educational, experiences at school. As part of a whole school approach, our Pastoral Care programme encourages everyday interactions through which we hope to lead our students towards the achievement of these outcomes.

Of course, the Pastoral Care calendar has events that have quite specific objectives. The St John’s 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.

House activities offer lots of opportunities for students of all ages to use their varied skills and to display their talents. They also have the chance to take up the challenges of leadership and responsibility, to work cooperatively, to support and acknowledge each other and, not least, to have fun. To contribute by working and playing together in this way promotes a sense of connectedness or attachment to our School family. This is a protective factor for our young people.

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 endeavouring to promote 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.

In this transition year towards a three-tiered School, the Pastoral Care Committee has found it timely to review, and to plan our structure and programme in readiness for 2003. For me, it has been a pleasure to work within our Pastoral Care system and a privilege to work with our House Patrons, whose enthusiasm, teamwork and commitment I have found inspirational.

Mrs L Simpson
Senior House Patron

MACQUARIE HOUSE (Red Hot!)

Our House Captains, Alexandra Pritchard-Davies and Hamish Graham along with our House Vice Captains, Alana Johnson and Byron Jones, were highly responsible for the enthusiasm with which Macquarie has participated in its many events this year. Congratulations to these four students for their efforts.

All Macquarie members participated enthusiastically in the Swimming Carnival, the House Cheer Competition and the Athletics Carnival. Well done to Shortland House who reigned supreme. The effort by everyone in the House Music Festival was outstanding and was rewarded with first place for the House’s rendition of Jeremiah was a Bullfrog in the full House song cheer section. Also, well done to Hunter House for their triumph on the day.

The House Debates were keenly contested with both the Senior and Junior teams representing well. The House supported The Red Shield Appeal this year with many students organising and volunteering as door knockers to help raise money for a very worthy cause. Fairy Floss was aplenty at the School Spring Fair, very ably run by students of the house and again making a profit.

In Term 4 our very capable year 10 leaders, Naomi Simpson, Sally Pritchard-Davies, Nicholas Murphy and Angus Hancock, were elected by their peers and helped the Vice-Captains to take care of House affairs for the remainder of the year.

Thanks to all the Mentors of Macquarie House for their endless support- Mrs Cooper, Mrs Simpson, Miss Fraser, Ms Saunders, Mrs Maitland, Mr Dwyer, Mr Lumley and Mr Carroll. A fond farewell to Mrs Margaret Maitland who is finishing her teaching career to spend some well-deserved time in her beautiful garden. A huge thank you from me to all the students of Macquarie for their support as their temporary leader. I have thoroughly enjoyed this experience.

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

**Miss Karen Armstrong
Macquarie House Patron**

HUNTER HOUSE

Every year is a busy year at Grammar and House events, which comprise much of the life of the School, certainly contribute to the vitality of the place generally. 2002 has been, all in all, a great year for Hunter. Having success elude you can be a frustrating experience but our House members know that the "**Thrill for the Hunter is in the chase!**" Hunter achieved a respectable second in the House Cheer Competition this year and managed, through the hard work of the Captains and Seniors, to secure victory in the Diving championships. We were all extremely thrilled by this. Next came brilliant performances by the Senior boys' and girls' relay teams at the athletics carnival. Their performances will go down as the stuff of legend in the years to come.

Culturally, of course, Hunter has always held its head high and an unequivocal victory was secured by the members of the intermediate debating team...they were indeed proficient, professional and polished. On another cultural note, and one which has already received considerable "press" was Hunter's splendid performance in the School's current Music Festival. I am glad to report that Hunter's win was the House's first since 1968! The musical talent in the Hunter ranks this year is truly stupendous and it was a combination of this talent and the leadership skills of the seniors which assured the win. Congratulations to you all on the great job you did both in the preparation and the execution of the material.

Citizenship is a major strength of our House. The desire to help and to give enriches us as a school and as a community. I have literally lost count of the citizenship certificates I have distributed since the beginning of the year. If you are owed one please see your mentor! Again, our fundraising efforts have had as their focus the Fred Hollows Foundation.

As always, I remain impressed by the mentors of Hunter House who approach their various duties with concern, care and good humour. The "Family feel" is very evident when I "Do the Rounds" on Wednesdays and Fridays. On a more personal note, I would like to thank the Hunter staff, both established and recent, for their hard work and support over the past five years...I am confident that Hunter is in excellent hands for the future. Also, and naturally, I thank the Hunter student cohort, whose collective energy, enthusiasm, generosity of heart, and incredible talents have made being your House Patron an unforgettable experience.

REMEMBER...THE THRILL FOR THE HUNTER IS IN THE CHASE!!!

**Mr Eric Villari
Hunter House Patron**

SHORTLAND HOUSE

Shortland House has had another wonderful year – fantastic participation in all Inter-House events, unfailing willingness to contribute to worthwhile causes, great house spirit and enthusiasm second to none.

This year we have been successful in winning the Swimming, Athletics and Cross-Country Carnivals, the House Cheer and the Senior Debate. We placed second in the Intermediate Inter-House Debating Competitions. Although we were unsuccessful in retaining the Music Festival Trophy, our performances were tuneful, eye-catching and energetic!

Despite the feelings of pride and excitement at all this success, it is important to remember that the House System is not just about winning the Inter-House Competition. When our students work together towards common goals their shared experiences connect them, allowing strong friendships and a great support network to develop. This can sustain them in the difficult times and contribute to some of their fondest memories.

We have continued to sponsor Priya Sana, a young girl who lives in Sri Lanka, through our donations to World Vision. In addition, the students in SCW worked with Miss Armstrong to raise money for Daffodil Day and Wendy and Amanda Green organised Canteen's Bandanna Day for the Middle and Senior Schools.

The Senior students selected 'Peace' as the theme for our House Chapel. The words of the hymn chosen for the service really say it all:

***"Let there be peace on Earth,
Let it begin with me."***

Helen Paterson, Thomas Clark, Rebecca Boyle and Tobias Fallas have been dedicated, creative and well-organised House Leaders for 2002. They have inspired, cajoled and encouraged students to become involved. They have led by example and I wish to thank and congratulate them for all their efforts.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of the staff responsible for Shortland House – Mr Mitchell Brain, Mrs Jill Kidd, Mrs Carol Knox, Ms Sally Macdonald, Mrs Carol Raby, Miss Dorothy Ramplin, Mrs Cecelia Weston and Mr Reg Yates. They have played an important role in encouraging, guiding, counselling and supporting the students in their care.

Shortland House – participation and enthusiasm, contribution and service, fellowship and friendship.

**Ms Lynne Walker
Shortland House Patron**

TYRRELL HOUSE 2002 ... The Year In Review ...

Terrific, Tremendous and Tireless are three words among many to describe the contributions of both staff and students to Tyrrell House during 2002.

The year in brief:

- ◆ **February:** Jessica Lack and Jordan Burgess undertook their first tasks as Tyrrell House Captains and organised student participation the Tyrrell House Swim Cheer! The Swimming carnival saw the fabulous performance of the 'blue' people and the 'break' dancers in the House cheer. TSB mentor group won the Pizza lunch for the highest participation award. Our first House Assembly for the year was a great success with the Sculling Competition.
- ◆ **March:** Tim Sullivan and Hollie Alford were elected as our House vice captains, their first task was to help organise the 'We Care' NBN Telethon appeal, with the 'Easter Chocolate' raffle. This proved a great attraction to all our chocoholics.

- ◆ **April:** Year 11 students from Tyrrell House ran our Tyrrell House Chapel Service. They did an excellent job, with Tim and Hollie taking the lead, along with a small group enacting the parable of the Good Samaritan. Welcome to Mr Rowntree who has joined the Tyrrell Team during Mrs Sewell's maternity leave.
- ◆ **May:** Congratulations to Mrs and Mr Sewell on the birth of their son Ethan. The Year 10/11 debating team equipped itself well, only to be out-debated by the team from Hunter.
- ◆ **June:** The Athletics Carnival saw TSB yet again top the list in Tyrrell House for highest participation level. What an effort! What a mentor!
- ◆ **August:** Founder's Day saw an excellent level of participation in the Inter-House Music Festival. Our House Group sang 'Faith'; Small group instrumental performed 'Hero' and Small group vocal sang 'Respect'. Congratulations to all those who participated on the day. A job well done.
- ◆ **September:** The Year 8/9 debates saw another team give of its best in debating the topic 'Tall poppies deserve to be pruned'. Tyrrell House were the affirmative and equipped themselves well. Unfortunately, they were out-debated yet again by the team from Hunter House. The Tyrrell House 'Luck Dip' Stall at the Spring Fair proved a great success, with students from each mentor group bringing in donations and then wrapping them, ready for sale on the day. The assistance from both staff and students on the day was greatly appreciated. We were all 'sold out' by 11.30 am! Many thanks and great work! The annual Trivia Competition allowed TGR to demonstrate their superior 'trivia' knowledge by winning the individual mentor group section.
- ◆ **October:** Congratulations to Alison Dillon and Murray Fletcher on becoming Year 11 Prefects for Term 4. Congratulations to our Year 10 Leaders for Term 4. They are: Sabin Shrestha, Sachin Shrestha, Ruth Donnelly, Rehana Sahu-Khan.
- ◆ **November:** Donations for the new Tyrrell House Banner were highly successful thanks to the efforts of the vice-captains and the Year 10 leaders. The banner is to be unveiled at the Swimming Carnival 2003. Launched the 'Tyrrell Tiger' mascots.

Other activities:

- ❖ Throughout the year each mentor group were given the opportunity of assisting with the weekly chapel services.
- ❖ Each mentor group took the opportunity to show their individual style on the Tyrrell House Noticeboard for a month. Many thanks to all those efforts.
- ❖ Two exchange students were part of Tyrrell House for the first half of the Year. Robert Neely (TSS) and Sanna Suontaka (TMC). In the second half of the year Ine Malbakken (TMC) joined us, and made a valuable contribution to the life of the School.
- ❖ Year 7 from the Middle School joined with us in the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals. Their enthusiastic contribution was most welcome.

My personal thanks are extended to Jessica and Jordan as House Captains for 2002. Their support, cooperation and enthusiasm were most appreciated. I wish them every success as they complete their HSC studies and move on to other ventures. Hollie and Tim fulfilled their duties as vice-captains, demonstrating strength and confidence in leadership. Sabin, Sachin, Ruth and Rehana, our Year 10 House Leaders, proved inspirational with their efforts during Term 4.

My personal thanks are extended to the staff of Tyrrell House. Their support and input were most appreciated and made my first year in this role a rewarding experience. Many thanks to: Mrs E Roberts, Mrs G Roberts, Mr Pieterse, Mrs Sewell (Term 1), Mr Rowntree, Mrs Squires, Mrs Curran, Mrs McBride and Mr Boyd.

**Mrs Noreen Robertson
Tyrrell House Patron**

DEPARTMENT REPORTS - SENIOR SCHOOL

ENGLISH

*“A thing of beauty is a joy forever:
Its loveliness increases; it will never
Pass into nothingness; but still will keep
A bower quiet for us, and a sleep
Full of sweet dreams, and health, and quiet breathing”
KEATS*

John Keats encapsulates the passion for life, learning and literature that we, in the English Faculty at Newcastle Grammar School, share.

There have been many changes in the faculty in 2002. Mrs Terri-Anne Smith and Miss Sally Macdonald have joined me as new staff members this year. As we welcome the new, other long-standing teachers of English are leaving us. Mrs Lisa Palmer brought vitality to the faculty in fourth term, replacing Mrs Cooper who was on long-service leave. Mrs Jenny Green has now retired and Mr Eric Villari is taking on a promotional position as Head of Humanities at Bishop Tyrrell Anglican College. We wish them well.

We have embraced the spirit of the new Stage 6 Syllabus by continuing to refine the Year 11 and 12 programmes. Our aim is to give students experience, knowledge and skills to communicate in the modern world.

The establishment of The Middle School has presented the exciting challenge of developing a continuum through the programming of Stages 4 and 5. Mrs Lesley Harrison and I have welcomed the opportunity to introduce students to a range of relevant and accessible texts that provide a gamut of varied learning experiences. A variety of skills and concepts, such as metacognition and analysis, that form the foundations of their senior studies are being introduced as early as Year 7 and are developing as they continue through to Year 10.

Our Year 11 students under the professional guidance of Mr Eric Villari and Mrs Terri-Anne Smith produced an engaging version of William Shakespeare's tragedy *King Lear*. We should also acknowledge Miss Sally Macdonald's contribution to the exceptional Year 10 Production of *Les Miserables*.

The students were fortunate to have been entertained by a number of dramatic performances of a high calibre. *Bell Shakespeare* performed excerpts from *Romeo and Juliet*, *The Tempest* and *The Taming of the Shrew* for our Year 9 and 10 pupils. Year 11 and 12's were enthralled by their masterful reading of *King Lear*. Vanessa O'Neill offered us insight into *Shakespeare's Women* and Steven Herrick brought poetry to life for Years 8 and 9.

Newcastle Grammar School competed in numerous debating competitions throughout the year. These included The Commonwealth Bank Senior Competition, The Lions Club Year 9 Competition and the highlight for many, Year 10 successfully debating adult Rotarians on the topic "that sport is life".

Our students received very pleasing results in The Australian Schools English Competition, The Dorothea Mackellar Poetry Competition and the Newcastle Herald Newspaper Competition.

It has been a very busy but productive year for the English Faculty. We are excited by the challenges that 2003 may bring. For each of us English is "a thing of beauty" and "a joy forever."

Mrs Cecilia Weston
English Coordinator

HISTORY

Last year was an exceptional one for the History Department at Newcastle Grammar and I wish to congratulate all the Senior History students for their outstanding results in the 2001 HSC Examination. The Ancient History results exceeded three times the State average with 27% of our students in the top band, the Modern History results were four times the State average with 33% of our students were in the top band and in Extension History, 100% of our students were in the top band. This was even more pleasing to note as the new courses in Ancient and Modern History had changed substantially in content and focus and the new History Extension Course was extremely different from the previous 3-Unit Courses.

History 2002 has witnessed significant changes in the History Department both in personnel and in new courses. Mrs Cecily Grace transferred to the Middle School but continued to teach the HSC Ancient History this year. We welcomed to the History Department Miss Tara Fraser, Miss Sally MacDonald and Mrs Terri-Anne Smith . The new mandatory Australian History course was examined in the first external School Certificate Australian History Examination in November 2002.

The department has continued to expose students to a variety of historical experiences in order to foster an increased awareness of the relevance of their study of history. During Term 3, Year 8 students studied the Aztec civilisation and the impact on its society of colonisation by the Spanish. To complement this study, we took the students to Mucho's Mexican Restaurant for lunch. I wish to thank Mrs Smith for organising this. In order to gain an understanding of both the experiences of Australian servicemen in World 1 and 11 as well as the Newcastle experience of war, Year 9 students visited the 'Shadows of Wire' Exhibition at the Newcastle Regional Museum and Fort Scratchley. In addition, a veteran of the New Guinea campaign, Mr Harry Matthew, a former warrant-officer in the AIF, addressed the students.

Year 11 Ancient History students travelled to Sydney to the Nicholson Museum to further their knowledge of Archaeology. Year 12 Modern History and Extension students were involved in an HTA Study Day at the Newcastle City Hall and Year 11 enjoyed the presentation by noted historian, Christopher Condon at the Museum of Sydney.

This is my final year as Head of the History Department and I am pleased to have been involved in the development and implementation of the new Ancient, Modern and Extension Courses at the senior level and the mandatory Australian History course in Years 9 and 10. I wish all the students involved well in their future studies.

Mrs Margaret Maitland
Head of History

LANGUAGE

2002 brought many challenges and achievements to the LOTE Department. We had anticipated the return of Mrs Craig to our teaching staff at the beginning of January but unfortunately she had to extend her leave for another year. Also on leave were Mr and Mrs Braggett as they continued to teach in Taiwan at the Taipai American School. We look forward to their return to our staff in August next year. Joining our department this year was Mrs Raby who took classes in both the Senior and Middle Schools. Her enthusiasm and expertise have been much appreciated.

We have also been fortunate in having two exchange students, Carole Souchet and Ine Malbakken, join our senior French class. They have added much to the "colour" of our lessons as they can relate stories of their European life to our text book situations. Shann Joyner (Year 12 Japanese 2001) has been in Japan for a year on a Rotary Scholarship and we look forward to her return as she will have enriched her life by living the language she learnt at school.

Laura O'Brien has returned from her stay in France during the last part of last year with an enviable accent and fluency. Next year, Georgette Brown (Year 10) will also "home-stay" in France for several months and this should be an unforgettable experience for her.

Next July, elective students form Years 9, 10 and 11 (and some parents) are to travel to Noumea for an eight day stay, under the supervision of Mrs Davies. As this trip to a French speaking island contains French lessons every morning, these students should gain much by way of study, as well as a wonderful holiday.

Meanwhile our “live-in” students have been enjoying French breakfasts and lunches as well as plays and songs. We have begun a new course in French in Year 7 which places more emphasis on speaking and listening as well as the skills of reading and writing.

Japanese students in Years 7 and 8 participated in Pam Sensei’s Nippon Culture Day and they enjoyed Japanese games, calligraphy and some Japanese cooking.

In August, elective language students in both French and Japanese took part in the Australian Language Certificate competition which is conducted Australia wide. Once again our student results were outstanding with the majority scoring the highest grades in both the listening and speaking sections. Particular mention should be made of Jacqueline Davis, Richard Hilliar and David Kinsey who scored in the top 10% for both sections of the test.

Open Day again gave the opportunity for the LOTE staff to demonstrate the language laboratory to parents and members of the public. This is an invaluable teaching aid as it enables the students to move through their courses at their own listening and speaking pace. This ability has been supplemented by the computer room next door to the laboratory as the School is installing many computer programmes in both French and Japanese, from beginners level to the sophisticated language demanded by the HSC. This is an on-going project by the School and should prove to be a wonderful asset for the students.

The Middle School will be fully implemented next year and this will, no doubt, bring new challenges to our department.

Once again, I would like to thank the LOTE teaching staff who so willingly give of their time, expertise and energy to provide a richness and depth to the language study at Newcastle Grammar School.

Mrs P Squires
Language Coordinator

MATHEMATICS

The Higher School Certificate 2001

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

Mathematics (2 unit)	Mathematics Extension 1	Mathematics Extension 1	Mathematics Extension 2
Jane Bowen-Thomas	Jane Bowen-Thomas	Jeremy Simpson	Kylie Grant
Benjamin Burgess	Kylie Grant	Peter Shumack	David Lack
Thomas Killin	Lindsay Henry	Brent Slattery	Peter Shumack
Brent Slattery	David Lack	Lauren Tarrant	Jeremy Simpson
Andrew Watt	Cameron McAdam-Kellie	Andrew Watt	Lauren Tarrant
		Martin White	

The School Certificate 2001

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

Australian (Westpac) Competition

This year 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 287 participants. Results were:

95 Credits

37 Distinctions

4 High Distinctions – Ellese Cotterill, Callum Tyler, Michael Abbott and Sam Murray

Ellese Cotterill is to be congratulated on achieving the highest standardised score in the School.

Mathematics Challenge

A total of 85 students from Years 7 to 10 Participated in this programme this year and 9 of them gained Credits while Distinctions went to James Stievenard, Andrew Roddick, Kairsten Marley and Sam Murray. Tiphonie Au is to be congratulated on gaining a High Distinction for the second year in a row.

Year 7 and 8 Mathematics Tournament

Students from Newcastle Grammar School were able to attend the Day for Gifted and Talented Students which was held at West Wallsend High School this year. This event took the form of a tournament in which the team of two Year 7 and two Year 8 students competed in group and individual problem solving competitions concluding with a Maths Relay.

The members of the team were Ellese Cotterill, Callum Tyler, Nidhi Panicker and Tim Kemp and they were accompanied by Mrs Bilton. They acquitted themselves very well, had an enjoyable day and were excellent ambassadors for the School.

Staff Inservice

This year has been a busy one for staff professional development. Mrs Knox travelled to Sydney in March to attend the annual HSC markers' meeting. In May Mrs Bilton, Mr McMurtrie, Mrs Anderson and Mrs Knox were in Sydney for a seminar with Charles Lovitt on creative approaches to the teaching of Mathematics in the middle years. In addition, Mrs Knox went to the Head of Mathematics Departments dinner where many valuable teaching resources were exchanged, attended a workshop at the University of Newcastle where representatives from the Board of Studies provided information relating to the syllabus standards for the HSC and took part in the annual Mathematical Association of NSW Conference held at Manly where she was able to learn a great deal about use of technology in the classroom.

Mrs Jordan has been on Long Service Leave during Term 4. We have missed her and look forward to having her back with us rested, relaxed and ready to continue with her teaching which is valued so highly by us all. During her absence, Miss Naomi Riley has been taking her classes. We thank her for stepping into this role and performing with such competence and efficiency.

**Mrs Carol Knox
Head of Mathematics**

MUSIC

2002 has been a tremendous year of music making at Newcastle Grammar School. We have welcomed to the staff this year Mr Kevin Young. Kevin has spent many years in Dubbo and brings to the School a wealth of experience in many areas of music. Kevin has worked in the Senior and Middle Schools, Jane Parkes has been involved with both the Middle and Junior Schools, and Kay Lane has taught in the Junior School.

CURRICULAR MUSIC PROGRAMME

Several new developments have taken place this year.

In the Junior School, the **string programme**, where every child learns either a violin/viola or cello in Year 3, has been expanded into Year 4. The string programme in the Junior School is taken by Miss Parkes, Mrs Dawn Murray and Ms Wendy Ireland.

In the Middle School, 20 Guitars have been purchased, so that Year 8 can do a semester's study on guitar. This has proved a very popular addition to the keyboard laboratory. Our Guitar students were able to hear an inspiring lecture/demo, by guitarists Terry Murray and Bruce Matthiske.

Elective music classes (one per term) have also taken over the responsibility for providing the music at the weekly *Chapel Services*. This regular performance opportunity has been a wonderful motivator and confidence builder for our students. Elective music classes in Years 9, 10 and 11 also entertained the crowds at the Hamilton Jazz Festival early in the year.

Three of our students, Madeleine Ellicott, Kaila Darcy and Sophie Miller have also performed the duties of assembly pianist.

A new addition to the music calendar this year has been the *Music Scholarship Holders Concerts*. These were held in Terms 2 and 4 and were compered by senior music students. The first one featured some of our new ensembles, saxophone ensemble, brass ensemble, flute ensemble and clarinet ensemble.

SENIOR SCHOOL CO-CURRICULAR MUSIC

Our co-curricular programme involves over 150 students. Their work this year was showcased on many occasions, including the Melting Moments Concert at the end of Semester 1, and Powerhouse Jazz in November.

CHORAL PROGRAMME

The Senior Choir began the year with their annual choir camp at Milson Island. Our guest conductor, Karen Ashworth, worked with all our choral students and provided an energetic and dynamic leadership.

The Choir's first performance this year was at the Melting Moments Concert in the Cathedral at the end of Semester 1. They performed a very popular medley from Les Miserables. The Choir is very fortunate to have had the assistance this year from Trish Williams accompanist, and Craig Everingham has worked with Tenor and Bass sections.

It was a great buzz for the Choir to perform a 'soul' version of the Halleluiah Chorus with James Morrison and company at 'Powerhouse Jazz'

In addition to the Senior Choir, three smaller ensembles have continued to function this year.

Grammar Singers have worked under the direction of Mr Kevin Young and have specialised in popular/jazz repertoire. They performed at Jazz in the Vines in March, at several assemblies and most recently entertained the throngs at Powerhouse Jazz with their rendition of Tears in Heaven and St Louis Blues, with the assistance of James Morrison on trumpet!

Chapel Choir

The Chapel Choir is a non-auditioned group, and this year have undertaken its first mini-tour. Together with the String Orchestra both groups travelled to Forster at the invitation of the Great Lakes Hospice Fundraising Committee and performed a programme of sacred music for strings including Mozart 'Ave Verum' and Bach 'Jesu, Joy of Man's Desiring'.

Chapel Choir also leads the singers at all eucharists and special services throughout the year.

Britten Choir

This is an auditioned ensemble of twenty voices and was formed five years ago to sing the Benjamin Britten 'Ceremony of Carols'. They have worked this year on various SSA arrangements and another performance of the Britten 'Ceremony of Carols' for the annual carol service.

INSTRUMENTAL PROGRAMME

Our School has a staff of fourteen different instrumental staff who teach at the School and provide our private tuition to any interested student.

We have two large ensembles, the Wind Orchestra, and String Orchestra.

The *Wind Orchestra* is conducted by Mr Leigh Sherringham and assisted by Mr Steve Morton and Mr Kevin Young. They have performed at the Founders' Day Concert, and at the Powerhouse Jazz concert, where they played 'Satchmo' a Tribute to Louis Armstrong with James Morrison. In Term 2 they also had the opportunity to work with clarinettist Mr Andrew Firth in a workshop and demonstration concert. Andrew is a wonderful musician and worked in detail on intonation and articulation with all ensembles.

The *String Orchestra* is conducted by Mr Trevor Mee, and has been assisted this year by cellist, Ms Wendy Ireland.

The strings joined with the Chapel Choir on a tour of Forster in term 1 and took part in the Melting Moments concert at the conclusion of Semester 1. A highlight of the concert was the performance of the Vivaldi Concerto in Grosso in A minor for two violins performed by Hayley Bullock and Eliza Morrison. The strings also performed at the HRIS Festival and joined in the Powerhouse Programme with James Morrison playing a Beatles medley.

Brass Razoo

This ensemble of very keen jazz musicians under the direction of bandleader, Leigh Sherringham, has performed throughout the year on many occasions including the Hamilton Jazz Festival, Spring Fair, Debutante Ball, Year 12 Formal, Jazz in the Vines and Milanos on the Lake.

The highlight of the year for this group has been the opportunity to perform alongside James Morrison and his sextet at the Powerhouse Jazz concert.

Many of our Year 12 musicians have been performing with Brass Razoo for several years and I would like to thank Ashley Carruthers, Tristan Cuffe, Rowan Grace, Emma Hamilton, Jessica Heard, Jessie McMurtrie and Andrew Raymond for their contribution to the musical life at Newcastle Grammar School.

Bamboozle

This is the Junior Jazz band who has been working with Mr Leigh Sherringham. Bamboozle has performed this year at Jazz in the Vines, Hamilton Jazz Festival, Spring Fair and Powerhouse Jazz.

LES MISERABLES

Our Year 10 production for 2002 was the Australian Premiere of the new school edition of Les Miserables. Although reduced from the original show by 45 minutes, this was a huge undertaking for all concerned. The lead roles were taken by Angus Hancock (Valjean), Gareth Nicholson (Javert), Victoria Pandevski (Fantine), Patrick Boyle (Marius), Sophie Miller (Cosette), Mathew Jordan (Enjolras) and Ashlee Clement (Eponine). Congratulations must go to all of Year 10 who performed outstandingly, the highly polished backstage crew and the fantastic team who worked tirelessly to produce our 'best ever' production!

THANKS

At the conclusion of a very busy year, I would like to thank my colleagues, Kevin Young, Jane Parkes and Kay Lane for their support and devotion to music-making. Thanks must also go to the Senior Musicians, Jessie McMurtrie and Jessica Heard, Orchestra Leader Leisl Davis, Orchestra Manager Scott Warren, and Choir Leaders, Yvonne Mullane, Andrew Wilson, Alana Johnson and Emma Warburton, and to Artslink members, for their continued and valuable support of the Music Department.

Miss Rose Saunders
Director of Music

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The 2001 PDHPE HSC results were very pleasing with 28% of the class being placed in Band 5 (State average 10%) and 72% of the class being placed in Band 4 (State average 36%). Our 2002 candidates, as you know, have just completed their final examinations and we look forward to them achieving great success, not just in PDHPE, but across the board.

The PDHPE course in Years 7 – 12 continues to offer students a wide range of opportunities both on the sporting field and in the classroom. It would be naïve to think that the practical content of the activities in place are suited to each and every student's capabilities; however, it is hoped that all have the opportunity to achieve to the best of their ability. The Year 10 Dance unit although approached with some trepidation by students has once again proved to be very successful for most students. The ability of the 2002 Year 10's to become fully involved in this unit was extremely pleasing, as was their ability to choreograph their own small sequences.

Year 7 welcomed Mr Smith to the PDHPE faculty while two Year 8 were in the charge of Miss Fraser. For the first time in this subject, the skills Mr Smith and Miss Fraser brought to the classroom were well honed through their Department of Sport and Recreation experience and vast personal experiences of PDHPE, and I am sure their classes had successful and enjoyable year.

Being located in the centre of the city has a number of benefits for our PDHPE programme. The close proximity of the James Fletcher Hospital oval, HOWZAT, District Park Tennis courts, the Junction Pool and Newcastle Ocean Baths, means that our students have access to some excellent facilities. Indeed the use of HOWZAT has meant that our programme is rarely, if ever, interrupted due to the wet weather. The flexibility of being able to call on Port Stephens Coaches to transport us, at late notice, to HOWZAT when the weather is poor, has proved to be a real bonus to us.

Like a number of other subjects the Years 7 – 10 PDHPE syllabus is currently undergoing change with the new syllabus document due in March 2003. The next 12 months will see a number of changes to our programme which can only assist in enhancing our students knowledge and skill in this subject.

Personal responsibility is a very important theme across PDHPE and indeed across the community. The need for students to take responsibility for their own health by way of correct sports clothing, caps, etc, is an issue that will be further developed in 2003. The need for students to take responsibility for practising not only their class work but also their physical skills at home is necessary for many to improve upon their skills. The responsibility for individuals to demonstrate tolerance towards their cohort is what is vital in one's personal development. PDHPE classes comprise students of varying abilities, both in the classroom and on the playing field. All students should be tolerant of the abilities of others. Students of lesser ability in any area should also be aware of their responsibility to work as hard as possible to ensure they are contributing positively to group activities. It is not a perfect world but greater tolerance will most certainly help.

I take this opportunity to thank the management and Staff of James Fletcher Hospital for the use of their oval for Sport and PDHPE activities. All children/adolescents can be noisy and boisterous and NGS students are no exception. I thank the James Fletcher Hospital for their patience when up to 50 students may descend on their grounds for class.

Finally I would like to thank my PDHPE colleagues, Mrs Kidd, Mrs Rowntree, Mr Smith and Miss Fraser for their support and work throughout the year.

Mr Leigh Carroll
Coordinator Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

SCIENCE

2002 has been another interesting year of structural change for the Science Department; some reflecting change in the School ethos through the introduction of the Middle School and some imposed by the Board of Studies.

In order for the link to be retained between Stage 4 and Stage 5, Middle School has remained under the umbrella of Senior School. The plan of work for these students provides for the same content and skill to be taught as in the previous year and Year 7 have been allocated a fair share of laboratory usage to enable their practical skills to be improved upon. So while we no longer have Year 7 students in the immediate vicinity they certainly have full use of the specialised equipment and facility of the laboratories.

It has been apparent that the Junior students have shown great enthusiasm in tackling the experimental tasks presented by their teacher and they have enjoyed the investigative nature of a variety of activities. However, the Board of Studies has recently issued a new Draft Syllabus for Stages 4 and 5 with the final format to be distributed next year. The extent of any change is not immediately evident although the emphasis on the key competencies will remain. The new syllabus is to be implemented in 2005 for Years 7 and 9 and the following year for Years 8 and 10.

The other major change from the Board concerns the structure of the Senior Science courses, Stage 6, where there has been some significant deletions from the Biology, Chemistry and Physics syllabi. The new Preliminary structure will commence next year and we are already implementing the HSC changes.

The Australian Schools Science Competition occurred in the first semester and we entered 209 students from Year 8-10. Of these 42% received Awards of Credit or better. Our students are very well placed in comparison to the State average on all facets of this testing material. We are very pleased with the manner in which the students attempt this competition and all are deserving of our congratulations. A special mention though, to the High Distinction recipients, Bernard Cresdee - Year 8, Oliver Leitch and Sam Murray - Year 9, Michael Abbott, David Kinsey and Boyd Schrader - Year 10.

The other major competition we entered was the RACI National Chemistry Quiz. We usually limit entrants to senior chemists but this year a number of students in the junior years were keen to attempt it. The results were exceptional, with 60% of the entrants gaining a Certificate of Merit. Performances in each Year level were better than the State average. The High Distinction Awards went to:

Andrew Brigden, Bernard Cresdee, Jeremy Dawes, William Ryan, Timothy Boyle, Bronwyn Calford, Jane Krempin, Andrew Plummer, Michael Abbott, Dominic Shillington, Phil Woolcott, Nick Boyle, Charles Lowson, Jessica Lack, Andrew Stewart.

Some of these students of course, have been previous award winners at this outstanding level and mention should be made that two of these students, Philip Woolcott and Dominic Shillington had their research project from last year selected for the Intel Young Scientist Award. This type of presentation displays an enthusiasm and a commitment to scientific rigour, which is an attitude we hope to engender in all of our students.

We again took advantage of the travelling exhibition of the CSIRO. Our students are able to gain experience in practical activities that we cannot always readily duplicate. Year 10 participated in tasks related to electrical circuits and electronics, Year 7 were involved in a series of clever interesting experiments in the “Science and Technology Show” and the Senior Biology students were shown how to extract DNA.

As well, Senior Chemistry students travelled to Sydney to take advantage of the practical expertise of the Chemistry School at the University of Sydney in the High School Workshops ‘Kickstart’ Program. This activity was designed to present some of those practical experiences that were a little more challenging than usual.

The Science staff have been dedicated in their approach and in their support and encouragement of our students so that we may continue to develop a good interest in Science.

Miss Dorothy Ramplin
Science Co-ordinator

SOCIAL SCIENCES

2002 has been a year of consolidation and “firsts” for the Social Science faculty at Newcastle Grammar School. It was the second year of the “New HSC” and the second year that we have offered Legal Studies at HSC level. It is the first year that the new Mandatory Australian Geography course was examined externally at the School Certificate.

The 2001 School Certificate results in Geography and Commerce were once again pleasing with 23% of our Commerce students receiving a Grade A, 23% a Grade B, 43% a Grade C, and 11% a Grade D. There were no Grade E’s awarded in Commerce. In Geography an impressive 33% of our students received a Grade A, another 28% received a Grade B, 28% received a Grade C, and 11%, D. Again there were no Grade E’s. It is worth noting here that to achieve a Grade A, the School Certificate Descriptor says that student has gained “excellent achievement”. To achieve a Grade B the student’s achievement is “high” and that a Grade C is described as “substantial”.

The 2001 Higher School Certificate results were impressive:

Course	Band	NGS %	State %
Business Studies	4, 5, or 6	87	64
Economics	4, 5, or 6	93	79
Legal Studies	4, 5, or 6	86	39
Geography	4, 5, or 6	100	62

It was very pleasing to have gained such excellent results in the 2001 HSC. I was especially thrilled with the Legal Studies result, as it was the first year that students at NGS had sat the HSC in Legal Studies. Having ALL our Geography students in Bands 4, 5, or 6 speaks for itself! It should also be noted that three of our Business Studies students achieved Band 6.

The Year 12 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 HSC Legal Studies Course. The highlight of these lectures was an address by Justice O’Keefe. Also a number of our Year 11 Legal Studies students participated in the Law Society of NSW’s Mock Trial Competition.

Economics students 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.

Business Studies students benefited from a series of talks presented by executive staff from Masterfoods, Wyong and our Year 10 Commerce students and Year 11 Economics students this year benefited from their experience in playing the Sharegame.

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

Year 10 Geography students through fieldwork undertook the study of an issue relating to human elements of environments – WASTE MANAGEMENT – and investigated its spatial and ecological dimensions. Students visited the Burwood Beach Wastewater Treatment Works, the Summerhill Waste Management Centre and the Materials Recovery Facility at Thornton. The purpose of this fieldtrip was to develop student environmental and ethical awareness.

Year 11 Geography students visited Ash Island near Hexham in order to fulfil their mandatory fieldwork hours by studying the interaction of the four spheres in this wetland environment and to study the ecological impacts of man on this ecosystem. Sustainable management by the Kooragang Rehabilitation Project on Ash Island was also observed on the day.

Year 12 Geography students travelled to the Pokolbin vineyards to complete a geographical study of an economic enterprise operating at a local scale. Draytons Family Wines was the enterprise studied and the students enjoyed an intense learning session with John Drayton as to how the enterprise operated. Questions such as the nature, locational factors, ecological dimension, linkages and flows and the effect of global changes in the economic activity on this enterprise were fielded and answered expertly by John. Students relaxed afterwards with a drive through the vineyards and lunch organised and cooked by themselves at Hunter Gardens.

As this is the first year of the Mandatory Australian Geography course for our year 10 students we were especially concerned at their progress. Their results in the NSW Junior Geography Competition augur well for their School Certificate Examination One hundred and two Year 10 and Year 9 Geography students from Newcastle Grammar School were amongst 19,000 students from 149 schools in New South Wales who took part in the 2002 NSW Junior Geography Competition. As well as skill based questions, the paper tested their knowledge of developed and developing countries, environmental issues and geopolitics.

Results for the Newcastle Grammar Year 10 and Year 9 students were excellent, with the number of high distinctions awarded being almost 4 times the state average.

	<i>NGS</i>	<i>STATE</i>
High Distinction	27%	7.5%
Distinction	29%	12.5%
Credit	25%	30%

Results in the Australian Geography Competition held earlier in the year also were excellent with 25 High Distinctions, 14 Distinctions and 22 Credits.

In the University of New South Wales Economics Competition two of our six students gained Distinctions and three gained Credits. It is noteworthy to mention that there were 3700 entrants in the competition and that Evan Calford and Nicholas Southwell each beat more than 3000 of the entrants with their Distinction awards.

All in all it was a pleasing year of consolidation and “firsts”. I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Social Science team this year: *Mrs Roberts, Mr Boyd, and Mr Dwyer.*

Mr Reg Yates
Social Sciences Coordinator

SPORT

Over 30 teams represented NGS in various competitions this year. The School fielded teams in competitions conducted by the Basketball Association of Newcastle, Newcastle – Port Stephens Soccer Association, Newcastle Junior Cricket Association, Newcastle City Touch Association, Newcastle Netball Association and Newcastle Hockey Associations. Added to these was our Rowing Squad of over 30 students participating in regattas run by the Central Districts Rowing Association, the NSWRA and the Independent Schools Rowing Association and also our Aerobics teams competing in events conducted by the FISAF and Sports Aerobics associations.

The students from NGS are given the opportunity to compete in these competitions against both adolescents their own age and, in the case of Touch and Rowing, against adults as well. The experiences the students have is invaluable, gives them a good feeling for "outside school" competition and opens up many avenues for representative opportunities. From the Rowing programme Gavin Ellis (Year 12) was selected to join the Hunter Academy of Sport programme, from Touch Jacqueline Pacey (Year 11) was selected in the Newcastle Open Women's Touch team, from Cricket Matthew Jordan (Year 10), Clayton Colbert (Year 10), and Scott Bissaker (Year 9) were selected in the zone representative teams for their age, and Angus Harrison (Year 10); and David Kinsey, (Year 10) were selected in Newcastle age representative teams for Hockey.

However, these are examples of representative opportunities gained through students participating in the co-curricular sporting teams at club level. Even greater opportunities exist for representation within the School system. Many of our students attend trials to be selected in teams which may lead to selection in NSW Combined Independent Schools teams. These teams compete against the NSW Combined High Schools and the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges to select NSW All Schools teams, which, to be selected in, is a magnificent achievement. This year 10 students have made NSW CIS teams, Jonathon Roberts-Thomson and Patrick Bergin in Swimming, Jade Joyner in Diving, Sam Clifton, Lindsay Graham and Robert Ambrogetti in Cross Country, Jacqueline Pacey in Touch, Matthew Sellers in Rugby League and Angus Harrison and Libby Colman in Hockey. On top of this Jade Joyner was also selected in the NSW All Schools Diving Team which contested the National Championships in September, finishing with a gold medal in his age division.

Our Aerobics teams have continued to achieve great success at the representative level with teams attending the World FISAF Championships in Montpelier, France earlier this year and more recently students represented NSW at the 2002 FISAF National Championships.

The dedication of the NGS coaches has played no small part in the success of many of our teams and individuals. Mr Green and Mr McCool's huge efforts in establishing the NGS Cricket programme has reaped great rewards over the past few seasons with none better than our 15 years teams which won the Under 15 Division 2 premiership for the 2001/2002 season. Mr Rowntree's work with Hockey has seen the number of school teams rise each year and has also seen his selection as coach of both the NSW CIS Open boys and the U16 girls teams. Mrs Rowntree's time and effort have also seen our Netball programme grow and the high levels at which our Aerobics team are competing, including World Championships, are a credit to Mrs Rowntree. Mr Boyd, Ben Stevenson and Cheryl Silcock have raised the standard of our Rowers to a level which sees them achieving huge successes at local regattas and I feel sure we can look forward to continued success in this area. In Basketball, Miss Fraser's experience and enthusiasm is rubbing off on the players in her charge and this has had a very positive impact on the Basketball at NGS. We also congratulate Miss Fraser on her appointment as coach of the Open Boys HRIS and AICES Basketball teams this year.

Our school teams have performed very well at HRIS level this year, with NGS winning the Swimming and Cross Country Championships and Year 7 Netball title as well as being placed in Intermediate and Senior Division Netball, Senior Girls Touch and Senior Girls and Junior Boys Tennis. The HRIS competition continues to increase in both number of schools and standard, and this can only benefit students from NGS.

The best part of twenty sports are offered each term for the Monday Sports programme. Students have the opportunity to participate in activities of all intensities, from Yoga to Indoor Soccer, individual or team sports such as Archery and Volleyball respectively and lifetime (Tennis/Squash) or fitness (Walking). This term we have had a number of students complete their Surf Survival Certificate, which has been conducted by the Surf Lifesaving Association while all Year 8 students have undergone a seven-week Tennis coaching programme over Terms 3 and 4. Those students who take advantage of the opportunities available to them of a Monday afternoon will certainly reap the rewards, be it in fitness, sportsmanship or simply enjoyment.

Having been involved in NGS Sport for quite a number of years now, there is no doubt in my mind that the students at this School possess great abilities on the sporting field. I also have no doubt that if NGS could field the best possible team available to them, at HRIS level, this school would win more than it's fair share of competitions. Sickness, exams, and at times apathy prevent us fielding our best possible side on many occasions. To this end I congratulate all those students who are called into teams due to the above and perform so well at such late notice. Also to those who make considerable sacrifices to travel to Sydney or Scone or wherever to represent the school and achieve personal satisfaction in any way, you too must be thanked and congratulated.

I would also like to thank the parents of the School who, after on many occasions, drag themselves out of bed for their children to catch early busses and then come back sometimes 12 hours later to collect them. Without that support the students of this School would be fairly limited in their ability to compete and participate in the wide range of opportunities open to them.

Mr Leigh Carroll
Sportsmaster

TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED STUDIES

There have been some changes in the TAS faculty this year with regard to staffing and subject organisation.

We welcome Mr Les Potter to the faculty. Mr Potter has been responsible for teaching Year Seven Design and Technology and also Year Eleven Design and Technology. He has also been appointed the position of Dean of Students in the Senior School. Mr Potter has come from Trinity Grammar School. Mrs Sharelle Sewell has been on maternity leave this year. Mr and Mrs Sewell have a new child, their first born – Ethan Jacob. From all reports, all are well.

As a result of Mrs Sewell's leave, we welcomed Mr Mark Rowntree to the faculty. Mr Rowntree has taken over Mrs Sewell's classes in her absence.

Mr Rowntree is also a qualified chef and has been undertaking VET training to deliver senior Hospitality to our students. Mr Rowntree has also enthusiastically undertaken Design and Technology classes in Years 8, 9 and 10.

Subjects that were offered at the School during the 2002 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 Year Seven and Eight 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, textiles, computing, numerical control and a design graphics unit. A new computer facility has recently been set up in T4 to assist in the delivery of these subjects. Mrs Megan Anderson has been in charge of the Year Seven course this year as we begin a new phase with the Middle School. Mrs Anderson has been busy setting up a textiles programme and training staff in this area.

In Year Nine and Ten, 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.

Our HSC students excelled this year with two students having their Major Design Project nominated for "DesignTech" selection. These were Evan Daley and Jordan Burgess who both designed and completed instructional videos for their HSC.

We were excited to recently hear that Evan's project was selected for the "DesignTech" Powerhouse Museum Exhibition. This is an outstanding achievement considering that only about fifteen projects are selected for this across the state!

COMPUTING STUDIES

Year Nine and Ten 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. Further to this, Microsoft Publisher, Visual Basic and Pascal programming languages have been taught as well as three dimensional Computer Aided Design Modelling, Virtual Reality Modelling Language and Raytracing. 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. The new acquisition of an Apple I-Mac and a digital video camera have provided tools for students to create digital imagery.

Information Technology and Software Design and Development courses 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 teaching 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. Work placement has taken place this year at businesses such as the Commonwealth Bank, Newcastle Computer Wizards, Mortgage Exchange, Hunter Area Health and the Industry Development Centre to name a few. 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 Graeme. This is a unique opportunity to gain an industry valued accreditation.

A new computing lab, PF4 has also been set up to deliver this course along with some other specialised applications.

AUSTRALIAN SCHOOLS COMPUTER STUDIES COMPETITION 2002

Students showed their mastery of computer skills when they competed in the Australian Schools Computer Studies Competition.

This year, over 102,000 students from schools across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region participated in the Competition.

The best performances came from Patrick Armstrong (Year 12) and Michael Abbott (Year 10), both receiving High Distinction Awards.

Nick Boyle (Year 12), Mary Cresdee, (Year 10), Tim Boyle, Oliver Leitch, Alexander McGregor, Sam Murray, Drew Tarrant, Andrew Noble (Year 9) gained Certificates of Distinction.

Im-Ran Kader, Andrew Stewart (Year 12), Jonathon Ford, Toby Fallas, Robert Catterall, (Year 11), Scott Studdert, Dean Redman, Holly Edmunds, Aiden Duffield (Year 10), Matthew Lapinkas (Year 9) all gained Certificates of Credit.

The modern curriculum requires that all students develop computer skills in all subject areas at all ages. The Competition tests skills called for in curriculum and also provides a range of questions to challenge the 'computer wizards'. Skills tested include using common operating systems, software and hardware. At a higher level it also tests internet skills, understanding communications and networks and programming and systems analysis.

The Competition is an initiative of the Educational Testing Centre of the University of New South Wales. "This year we have seen a large increase in the number of entries in the Competitions," said Kerry Hudson, A/General Manager of ETC. "The Computer Skills competition has been designed to cater to all levels of competency, and all students benefit from participation."

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 Megan Anderson and Mr Mark Rowntree, students experience vocational training and are also required to undertake work placement as part of their course.

Students have worked at venues such as Bayviews Restaurant and Function Centre, Clarendon, Delaney and Duke of Wellington Hotels, The Brewery Brassiere and Café De Beaumont to name a few.

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

2001 HSC RESULTS

Faced with the challenge of the "New HSC" our students gained very solid results last year. These are indicated in the table following.

Course	Band	NGS %	State %
Design and Technology	4, 5, or 6	100	67
Software Design and Technology	4, 5, or 6	50	39
Information Technology	4, 5, or 6	88	37
Hospitality Operations	4, 5, or 6	63	47

Mr Robert Barter
Coordinator Technological and Applied Studies

VISUAL ARTS

The year commenced with the confirmation that Cressida Green's artwork would be included in the Art Express Exhibition at the NSW Art Gallery and the travelling exhibition in 2002.

The results of 2001 HSC Visual Arts students were excellent with 25% of our students placed in Band 6 while the overall state percentage was 4.35.

Students who made the merit list were Cressida Green, Sonya Redman, Anna Rose and Cassie Stronach.

Our Year 11 and 12 continue to take full advantage of our excellent computer set up for their artmaking. Fifty percent of Year 12 students in 2002 included computer generated and manipulated images in their body of work. Others used it for lead-up work for drawings and paintings.

At the commencement of the year, Year 11 and 12 travelled to Sydney to view Art Express and the Buddha Exhibition at the Art Gallery of NSW, and attended the Visual Arts Enrichment lectures at the University of Sydney in June.

The Schools proximity to the major Newcastle galleries enables our students to regularly view the exhibitions at these venues.

There were many competitions during the year in which our students participated:

Sascha Burgess completed an artwork specifically for the Anglican Newspaper Easter edition. This is a National publication which resulted in her work having a wide viewing audience.

Several Year 9 and Year 10 students were commissioned by an external 'client' to design a logo for a National Conference which will be held next year. We are awaiting the results of that venture.

In July, Nexus V was held. This exhibition showcased the artworks by a number of leading Newcastle artists. The exhibition was opened by Mrs Margaret Sivyer OM, Director of the City of Maitland Art Gallery.

In October the School Annual Student Exhibition "Artlook" displayed the artworks of elective Visual Arts Students from Year 9 to Year 11. There were 158 works exhibited. It was a very successful exhibition, opened by Father Graeme Lawrence, Dean of Newcastle.

The winner of the Acquisition Prize was Year 11 student Tiffany Choi with her large drawing titled "Look at Me", a self portrait. Ellye Yates was awarded the Echersley's Art Prize and ten students received an Honourable Mention Certificate.

Year 12 Body of Works were on display in the Margaret Mitchell room of the Library on 3 September. Again the standard was very high and two works were chosen by the HSC Markers to go to Sydney for the selection for Art Express.

The students Holly McDonald and Patrick Armstrong, are to be commended for their commitment and hard work. Holly produced a series of beautifully crafted and sensitive drawings while Patrick chose to work in a conceptual way in the form of an installation.

A number of students artworks were selected for framing to decorate the administration areas of the School. The framing was funded by "Artslink".

2002 has been a very productive year with the talents of our Visual Art students reflected in their many achievements.

Mrs Margaret McBride
Head of Visual Arts

MIDDLE SCHOOL

From the Head of Middle School

Now that we have been in operation for one year it gives me great pleasure to report on our inaugural transition year as a Middle School.

What a wonderful year it has been. We have survived a flood, participated in two lots of athletics and swimming carnivals, three camps, a trip to Bathurst and Dubbo, a number of music performances and festivals, HRIS, HICES and CIS sporting events, hosted two medieval nights, conducted a Mouse Trap Derby, run a talent quest, a House points competition, sent a group of Year 5 & 6 students to the HICES Gifted and Talented Camp and attended the HRIS Debating competition. As well as this we have had our weekly assemblies and Chapel services, regular formal assemblies and our regular sport and co-curricular activities.

The research and planning that was carried out by our dedicated Middle School Committee has proven to be invaluable and I believe, one of the major reasons that the Middle School has had such a successful beginning. No organisation can work effectively without careful planning, shared philosophy and total commitment

From the start we defined our middle school model of students from Years 5 to 8 as:

“a discrete learning environment set up to cater specifically for young adolescents (boys and girls between the ages of 10 and 15).

In this transition year we have had eight classes comprised as follows:

2002 Enrolments

- 2 x Year 5 classes
- 2 x Year 6 classes
- 4 x Year 7 classes

Years 5 & 6 remained as in the past in homogenous groups but separated into Upper and At groups for Reading and Mathematics. Year 7 classes were graded into four classes. Children stayed with their Home groups for all of their classes other than this. The externally conducted Basic Skills Test, ELLA and SNAP tests and the many competitions into which we entered all students have proven that our Literacy and Numeracy Standards are excellent and in some cases many times above the state figures.

One of our aims is to create a gradual transition from Junior to Senior School, through the Middle School, and we are addressing this by trying to achieve the optimum percentage of time a child in each year will spend with a Homeroom Teacher and other Specialist Teachers. We were very close to this model in 2002.

One of the triggers for this model came from an attempt to reduce the number of teachers a Year 7 student normally has to encounter hence reduce anxiety and stress that reportedly occurs in many schools. This is the model we are aiming at.

	Homeroom Teacher	Other Specialist Teachers
	%	%
YEAR 5	84	16
YEAR 6	70	30
YEAR 7	50	50
YEAR 8	35	65

One of the things we have been blessed with in 2002 is the group of people that I call our “Dream Team”. Anyone who came on board as part of our teaching team volunteered to be there and I believe this has been a major factor in creating this effective group. They are truly committed and have embraced the pedagogical change with great enthusiasm.

THE PEDAGOGICAL CHANGE

In the staff development days in January we employed Darryn Kruse from Victoria to train the Middle School Team in the philosophy behind and implementation of the Thinking Curriculum. Darryn is considered to be one of the “Gurus” of Middle School Philosophy across the country and he certainly inspired our team. Much of the material he gave us has been adopted.

All classes have had the benefit of physical Home Room bases this year. As we expand in 2003 and because of the space restriction, we will not have this luxury. The 4 Year 8 classes anticipated for 2003 might have to share three or fewer learning spaces as part of their transition into the senior school.

In 2002 due to necessity, with some teachers working across both the Senior and Middle Schools, we adopted the same timetable for both with six 50-minute periods each day. This made the recess and lunch breaks common and the playground shared space. We anticipated some problems with this, but they have been minimal and have mostly been sorted as they appear. The worst was the canteen lines, which grew a little too big, especially at recess. We still need to adopt some organised playground activities for our younger boys in particular running space for the boys. This is one of our goals for 2003.

We aimed to create an integrated curriculum through quality communication between teachers on each team. Links were made between subject areas such as Music, Drama, HSIE and Art. These links will be adopted with even more rigour through guidance by the Year Patrons in subsequent years as we develop into a discrete middle school.

Drama has been an enormous success. Cecily Grace took on the Years 5 & 6 Drama which in the past had been handled by their Class Teachers. In Year 7 we “borrowed” two English periods per cycle and called it Drama on the timetable. Drama it certainly is, but it also fulfils many of the syllabus requirements for a variety of teaching modes for Stage 4 English. This has been rather opportune because the students LOVE their Drama lessons. They have fun and are totally engaged but they are actually learning things that would have in the past been taught in a more formal way as part of their English lessons.

The ultimate endorsement of the success of the Drama programme came with the medieval nights in the Cathedral. This colourful original production came from the students themselves and was a showcase of their creativity and teamwork.

We are offering choices and chances for children to succeed. Gardiner’s Multiple Intelligences, Bloom’s Taxonomy and de Bono’s Six Thinking Hats are just three examples of the various models we have adopted. In the past this type of education was saved for the gifted children but global research and practice has shown that it can be a success across the spectrum and in fact should be offered at all ability levels.

We are also using a well-known system called Cooperative Group Learning wherein students are learning to be integral members of a team. (Being a team player is something our workforce regards highly these days). This has been our most exciting and successful tool. Our hope is that the learning is more meaningful and our students become more connected.

Students are also being given the opportunity to experience what is known as “Metacognition” or reflection on one’s own learning. This has become an important part of the new HSC English (and other subjects) Syllabus for Stage 6, so we feel that by starting these children off this way in the Middle School, by the time they reach the Senior School this will be easy for them to work with. For this purpose we have purchased Middle School Journals in which the children regularly reflect on their learning.

In this way we are noticing that the classrooms are different. Rows of tables and chairs with a teacher out the front and the old “chalk and talk” method is banished in the Middle School! Students are becoming more engaged in their learning, taking responsibility for what they need to know and hopefully becoming more connected to their education for life. The classrooms are probably a bit more noisy but we want these children to enjoy being at school, be happy and embrace meaningful learning experiences.

Many of these methods were demonstrated in a hands-on way at the Middle School Mélange evening for parents held early in Term 4. By all accounts this night was a great success so we will be repeating this evening in Term 1 2003.

The Middle School is a very happy place wherein many of our goals are already being achieved. The students are well on the way to displaying those three important elements of connectedness, resilience and self-worth. We know we haven’t “made it” and possibly never will, with there always being something to improve. However I personally feel that we could not have had a better inauguration than this year and I thank all members of the School community: parents, students, teachers and The Board for their positive support in this our first year as a Middle School.

One of the most exciting projects in the Middle School this year has been the development of a "green" team who named themselves The Ecowarriors. Under the guidance of Mrs Owers they are exploring the ways in which we can become a more sustainable school. Amongst many things they have started a reuse/recycle campaign, audited the Middle Schools use of energy, started making the School greener, have joined SCRAP and have developed a proposal that was presented to the Headmaster. At the time of going to print the team has been nominated for a national award.

Mrs Lesley Harrison
Head of Middle School

DEPARTMENT REPORTS - MIDDLE SCHOOL

SPORT

Newcastle Grammar School's Middle School has started off with outstanding participation levels in school teams, in local competitions and representative levels.

The students have taken the opportunity to compete at HRIS, HICES, CIS, All Schools and at National Championships.

The teams have been very successful finishing in the top four schools in most competitions. The most outstanding results being, our 11year netball team winning the year 6 Division B competition in the HRIS Netball gala day. Our year 7 team winning the year 7 HRIS Netball Competition, and our two year 6 boys gaining first and second place in the HRIS Tennis gala day.

Our 12 year Division 5 netball team was also very competitive in the local competition finishing runners up in a closely contested grand final.

This year we have had three middle school aerobics teams compete at the National FISAF Aerobics Championships with great success finishing in 6th, 9th and 10th place.

Liam Speers has been very successful with his Athletics representing Combined Independent Schools at the All Schools Athletics Championship in three events. Lindsey Graham and Robert Ambrogetti also excelled representing Combined Independent Schools at the All Schools Cross Country Championship. Lindsey gaining a bronze medal, and Robert a silver medal for their wonderful achievements.

The Middle School students have been very busy participating in the following co-curricular sports. We have had two cricket teams, six basketball teams in the summer competition, one in the winter competition, four netball teams, four hockey teams, two soccer teams, and four aerobics teams in the local competitions. We have also had four students represent the school at numerous equestrian competitions throughout NSW all with great success. This level of participation is well above our previous level and is wonderful to see such great athleticism coming through the ranks within our students.

The students throughout the year in the sports programme have had an opportunity to undertake a variety of new sports such as rugby for the boys, touch, volleyball, softball, netball and basketball as well as training for their co-curricular sporting teams.

I am very pleased with the progress of the students in the Middle School and their level of participation has been wonderful. I look forward to the success to follow in the year 2003.

Mrs Corey Roundtree
Middle School Sport Coordinator

JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

There was a much exciting newness about the commencement of this year for the Junior School. Year 4 became the 'top dogs' and buddies to Kindergarten as the School moved into the Three School Focus. All except Kindergarten found themselves in the pristine new building which we affectionately nicknamed "The Ark". For Year 4 it meant returning from Hill Campus.

The year started with years from Junior and Middle Schools combining for the Swimming Carnival. Years K-2's excursion to Tomaree emphasised the sense of belonging to the School Family. Years 2, 3 and 4's excursion was a visit to the "Windeward Bound" a replica of Matthew Flinders's ship. However, the most important event in Term 1 was the Opening by Professor Barry Maitland and Dedication by the Dean, Father Graeme Lawrence, of the new building. The day started with a breakfast organised magnificently by the parents, followed by the End of Term Assembly. The parents and friends then returned in the afternoon for the opening and inspection of the new building.

Term 2 commenced with Years 3 and 4 off to three days at Camp Mac on the shores of Lake Macquarie for their annual camp. Students took part in Soccer and Netball Gala Days. Students walked to a wonderful exhibition of art works at the Regional Gallery. The Athletics Carnival took place at Glendale but as it was raining, K-2 held theirs later at Park Campus.

During the term our dear Mrs Cook from the Pre-School became ill. The sad news of her death came at the beginning of the holidays. She was loved by many of the Junior School students who had her as their "mother hen" in After School Care or Pre-School. The staff and students of Park Campus miss her very much.

Term 3 proved to be the busiest. Founder's Day at Park Campus took on a French flavour. Madame Capodicasa, our LOTE teacher, organised presentations from each class, a demonstration of Petanque and the School Family took part in a picnic a la Francaise. This was a wonderful day with Park Campus turning into a very colourful picnic venue.

As soon as this was over, the students rehearsed for the Variety Concert. The Pre-School joined us for wonderful performances from each class. The joy of involvement and variety of talent was quite evident.

As part of the HSIE syllabus, K-2 visited the Reptile Park at Gosford while Year 3 and 4 visited The Maritime Museum at Darling Harbour. A visit from Patricia Bernard, an author, highlighted Bookweek as she talked about "Writing can be fun", while Eddie Quansah once again fascinated the students with his wonderful array of African drums.

The term ended with all the students singing at the Spring Fair and Year 4 participated in the Cathedral Music Festival. Kindergarten was involved in their first Valedictory Service and Clap Out. Year 2 entertained Year 12 at the traditional luncheon which saw twenty eight Year 12 students being presented with certificates acknowledging their time spent in the Junior School.

The sense of our K-12 School was present in Term 4 when Junior School students took part in the Year 10 production of Les Miserables as well as the Power House Jazz concert with James and John Morrison. Both events were of a very high standard and it gave Junior School students a sense of what they could achieve in their school life.

Chapel took place every Monday morning with Father Brian Douglas, our School Chaplain. During Chapel, Miss Parkes organised students to play. Parents attended this service each week. In Term 4 we had our first Eucharist. As part of our Christian life, the students gave money for the work of ABM in New Guinea schools. The students also gave generously for the Shave for Cure as well as Easter eggs and Christmas gifts for The Samaritans. At the end of each term, an End of Term Assembly followed Chapel.

The Junior School in its new form had a very happy 2002. The dedication of the Staff ensured this with their ever present willingness to 'go the extra mile' if necessary. The Junior School at Park Campus has a wonderful firm foundation and this is due to all the constant support given by the Board, Headmaster, Parents and Staff. I have had quite a few happy years at this school - but 2002 has been one of the happiest.

Miss Judith Wotton
Head of Junior School

DEPARTMENT REPORTS - JUNIOR SCHOOL

MUSIC

The division of our school into three sections, Junior, Middle and Senior, has allowed for even further scope in the musical development of students at Newcastle Grammar School.

The 2002 productions are fine examples of the age-appropriate material we are better than ever able to use. For example, the Middle School production in Christ Church Cathedral of "Two (K)nights in Newcomen", was created by the students. Their quirky energy became focused as they worked together to present dance, costume, song, theatre and court life of the Medieval period. The script, humour, choreography, etc. was worked through by the Middle School students as they workshopped, juggled studies and explored the Medieval period in almost every subject. Integration is the key!

The Junior School Variety Nights also brought dance, song and theatre to the Park Campus stage. Each class presented an item offering colour and contrast. Years 3 and 4 sang about the virtues of each orchestral section in their wonderful performances of "A Family Feud". Thanks to the foresight and experience of Mrs Pavitt, the Junior School Variety Nights were as hassle-free as any teacher could hope.

Another change in our school has occurred at Chapel Services. The new hymn/worship song repertoire in the 2002 Programme Books has lifted the spirits and voices of Middle School students. Each Service has seen individual performers playing for the processions. An excellent performance experience and opportunity for any student learning an instrument. The solo and small ensemble work of our Music students never ceases to amaze me - how soulful and skilled the students become is a credit to their parents, teachers and friends.

Typically, our school family gathers for Spring Fairs, Assemblies, Eucharists, concerts, music festivals. On all of these occasions we have enjoyed music from The Semitones and The Tones from the Junior School and the Middle Cs and Grammarphones from the Middle School. Two particularly outstanding performances opened Powerhouse Jazz. The Middle Cs performed a terrific rendition of Swingin' Samson, whilst The Tones, combined with Grammarphones, had the thrill of sharing the Club Nova stage with John Morrison, playing the School's congas.

String Ensemble has exploded to over twenty members and, once again, we have a keen double bassist. The warmth and rich harmonies, along with improved sight reading, intonation and bowing, prepared the foundation for confident string players, who love to make music. That is the number one aim.

Visitors to our Music Department include Eddie Quansah, who tickled the littlies with his "cool" drumming. Their bodies and heads were bobbing around as their natural music appreciation poured out.

Pastance Medieval Minstrels performed songs on period instruments for Middle School students. This performance linked perfectly with the medieval theme for "Two (K)nights in Newcomen", and the students responded with enthusiasm, asking many informed questions at the conclusion.

Music is a huge part of life at Newcastle Grammar School, with opportunities around every corner. Taking opportunities from the plethora available in the music-making life at Newcastle Grammar School will ensure our students will love music in the future.

Life is learning.

Miss Jane Parkes
Coordinator – Junior School Music

KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 6 PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

The teaching in PDHPE comprises a range of units of work. Each class has an hour with me every week. The units of work include the basic skills of movement and ball activities, gymnastics, dance and minor games. The emphasis is on the development of each child's co-ordination and strength in the early stages. These and the other components of fitness are improved through the variety of activities offered and through participation in minor games. A lot of these activities are able to be practised in the Performance Centre.

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

Years 3 and 4 have 75 minutes of Sport each Thursday. During this time all students have participated in the sports of swimming, gymnastics, netball, soccer and tennis.

Those students selected in our School Swimming and Athletics teams have travelled to Homebush to compete in the HICES carnivals for these sports, enabling them to experience competition involving some twenty schools.

The opportunity to represent at a higher level is offered through the HRIS Association as a member of the School team in Swimming, Cross Country and Athletics. Several of our young students were selected to represent HRIS at the CIS Swimming and Athletics carnivals held at Homebush.

Many students were involved in co-curricular sports – soccer, netball, hockey, cricket and aerobics. Positive parental support of our students, particularly at carnivals, is much appreciated and the enthusiasm of the students never ceases to amaze me – both towards their PE classes and at sporting carnivals and events. It is my pleasure to be their teacher.

Mrs Jill Kidd
Sport Coordinator Junior School

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT K-12

What works well for one teacher may not work for another as all good teaching involves a highly personalised set of skills, attitudes and strategies. Similarly, what works well for one learner may not work for another as all good learning involves a highly personalised set of learning styles. The Park Campus students were extremely fortunate to have the assistance and individualised literacy instruction from a wonderful group of volunteer Reading Tutors. These nineteen ladies (Spittaler, Sharp, Patsan, Langford, Kemp, Gooch, MacDonald, Baker, Holland, Craig, Tyler, Bonica, Toner, Matthews, Egan, Paton, Lyons, Wilson-Homer, Lucas) and two gentlemen (Kranswick, Pavitt) encouraged and guided forty students from Kindergarten to Year 4 through their Individual Literacy Programmes. Ladies and Gentlemen, thank you so very much.

Between Recess and Lunch each day small groups participated in Writing Workshops and Literacy and Numeracy enrichment programmes.

After Lunch, Challenge groups from K-4 puzzled, dramatised, hypothesised and in general had a fantastic time trying to solve the “What if” questions I threw at them.

The Special Education Room, or SPECIAL room as many students call it, was a very popular place this year. A parent even coined a new phrase regarding it when he said that his child was being "Pavitted" in the Special Room. In 2002 there was lots to do and in 2003 it's the place to be!

Mrs Frances Pavitt
Special Education and Support K-12

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRE-SCHOOL

2002 began with the expansion of the Pre-School and the playground. Our Licence was once again increased, from 25 children a day to 36 children a day. With the increase in children meant that the group had to be divided in two. (DOCS Regulations state the group size is to be no larger than 25) So a group of 20 children and a group of sixteen was formed. The playground also needed to be expanded with the Pre-School taking a little bit of the Junior School's playground. (Sorry about that Junior School!).

Then, with the increase in children meant we had to employ another staff member. The lovely Miss Lizzie joined our great team.

The year was progressing beautifully with the children settling well with lots of laughter and fun, great works of art being produced, challenging activities being attempted and beautiful friendships being made. Then our wonderful Mrs Cook got sick and was diagnosed with cancer. Six weeks later she very, very sadly passed away. The Pre-School was devastated. Alison had been with me from the opening of the Pre-School in March 1999 when there were only 19 children and the staff was just Mrs Cook and myself.

The children loved and adored her. They would call her “Silly Mrs Cook, Mrs Chook, Mr Hook and Cookie”. Alison always made the children laugh. She was great at science experiments and loved to dress up in amazing costumes on our dress-up days. Mrs Cook was such a bright spark, constantly laughing and joking. I still expect her to come through the door and say, “Just joking, Miss Jacqui, I'm here!” Mrs Cook, you are so greatly missed!!!

Term 3 saw a shuffle round of staff and Miss Fiona joined us. I would like to thank my fantastic staff who have been so supportive and have worked so well and hard to maintain a stable, caring and happy environment for the children at our Pre-School. They are a group of highly dedicated Early Childhood professionals.

The children's experiences were expanded again this year with the fabulous teachings of Mrs Lane, the music teacher. The children love visiting her 'house' at the music room for many a song and dance. Thank you Mrs Lane for your great musical expertise!

Father Brian came to us once more this year to tell us some interesting and informative stories. His stories always captivate the children's attention, with them often asking some unusual and funny questions. Thank you Father Brian for your Divinity teachings!

This year we had the opportunity to have Madame come to Pre-School on Monday afternoons to teach us some French. We had a bit of difficulty getting our tongues around some of those words but the children loved her little songs and games. Thank you Madame!

Small group teachings continued in 2002. Some of our children were onto quite difficult pre-reading and pre-writing activities. These small group activities were very popular with the children, with them asking for the more structured activities every day. Large group activities continued as usual with three to four group lessons a day. These lessons are comprised of language, maths, science and geography. News time at the end of the year is always a favourite.

We performed once more at Variety Night. This proved a bigger challenge than last year because we had 59 children to fit on the stage. 'The Perfectly Performing Pre-Schoolers' presented 'Charlie Chaplin went to France' and 'Mother Gooney Bird'. They loved their chance to express themselves on the stage. We are looking forward to our Christmas Concert on 11 December to use those stage skills once again.

In 2002 we had some entertaining visitors. The RSPCA, Purple Moon Theatre, The Police (Stranger Danger), Luna the clown, an Aboriginal dancer, a Multicultural dancer and Ruby the clown. We cooked our own lunch on Multicultural cooking day, we went on a teddy bear's picnic and had a sausage sizzle and had a picnic in Centennial Park. We travelled to the fire station, to Blackbutt reserve, The Art Gallery to the Matisse, Chagal and Monet exhibition, went to the Town Hall to see Captain Senses, to the Museum to see Australia's lost Kingdom exhibition and our old favourite – The Sydney Aquarium.

It has given us all such great pleasure to see these beautiful young children develop their skills over the year. Whether it was their social skills, cognitive skills, fine motor skills, language skills, gross motor skills, emotional skills or their self help skills it is so rewarding to witness their growth and to challenge these skills.

The Pre-School is full and overflowing for 2003, with the two rooms full on every day. We look forward to the new treasures who will be coming to us with lots of fun and laughter to follow.

Ms Jacqui Soto
Director

TYRRELL LIBRARY

One word I would use to summarise the endeavours in the Library this year would be "Consolidation". When I reread last year's report I realised that not all our ambitions were realised. The year passed speedily, as it does, and we were consumed with the everyday business of providing support and service to our students and staff.

This year we continued to strengthen the collection at Park Campus. With the growth on that Campus to K-4, we are nearing the completion of the transfer of all the relevant fiction from the Hill Library, duplicating titles where necessary and of course, purchasing specifically to meet the needs of those children. Next year will see the reviewing of the non-fiction and the subsequent transfer of those resources. At any time, the staff and students have access to this the larger library which houses the bulk of the Tyrrell collection. We are happy to say that this year we have passed the benchmark set by the Curriculum Foundation regarding the size of libraries in relation to student enrolments. Such has been the growth in the Park library that we expect extra shelving to be installed in the near future to cater for this.

Over the Christmas holidays, last year, we began the automation of the textbook collection, better known as Book Hire. This facility had been serviced for years by the generosity of many parents, putting in hours of voluntary effort in the covering and mending of these resources. Such an effort by so many people, is indicative of the support given by the Parents to the School, and it was with trepidation that the Library took this operation under its wing using an adjunct of Alice for Windows, the Library software, designed for this purpose.

After hours of labour by the Green girls, Amanda, Margot and Wendy, and backed up by the Library staff, in particular Ms Forsythe and Mrs Daly, we were happy to have Mrs Diane Kenchington appointed to consolidate the maintenance and growth of this vital resource. Now housed in the new Uniform Shop and the revamped Old Canteen, Bookhire is now in the capable hands of Mrs Green and Mrs Kenchington, an indomitable team which has remained unflappable through a difficult year.

As part of a Distance Education programme run through Charles Sturt University, the Library hosted another Study day in their field trip for students in Information Science. Such a visit provides an opportunity to review one's operations while sharing "a day in the life of Tyrrell Library" with inquisitive and questioning minds of enthusiastic information specialists. Evaluations suggest that their visit, including a discussion led by myself, and a tour led by Sue Forsythe, a Charles Sturt graduate, was a success.

At the end of a year which has exposed us all to so much humanity - often brutal, sometimes loving and often joyous, I am reminded of my great good fortune to work in an environment such as this. Behind any successful venture, there is always a collection of workers who are not necessarily seen. This library is blessed with a great team - Mrs Johnson and Mrs Main at Park Campus, Mrs Daly, Mrs Williams and Ms Forsythe at Hill, and now, tucked under our wing, Mrs Kenchington in BookHire. Even more hidden are the Support Staff of this School, who do just that - support us, protect us and goad us on.

Thank you, everyone.

Mrs C Mary Curran
Teacher Librarian

SERVICE AND ADVENTURE TRAINING UNIT

The Service and Adventure Training Unit has had another very busy year with a variety of adventurous and ceremonial activities taking place. Following is a brief report on some of these activities:

Leadership Appointments 2002

The following leadership positions were appointed for the year 2002.

1. *Senior Cadet – CUO Joanne Main - Year 7 Platoon Commander*
2. *Platoon Commander Year 8– CUO Gemma Duffield*
3. *Platoon Commander Year 9– CUO Gemma Williams*
4. *Company Sergeant Major – Warrant Officer Thomas Saunders*
5. *O.I.C. Year 7 Platoon – Capt R Barter (O.C.)*
6. *O.I.C. Year 8 Platoon – Lt M Rowntree*
7. *O.I.C. Year 9 Platoon –Lt L Simpson*
8. *Drum Corps – Lt L Walker*
9. *2IC, Adjutant – Capt L Potter*
10. *Drill and Ceremonial – Sgt Duncan Price*

Promoted to Lance Corporal - Guy Fletcher, Michael Giles, Peter Imlay, Oliver Leitch, Dominic Lowe, Andrew Noble, Joshua Roussos and Anthony Russo.

Promoted to Corporal - Patrick Boyle, Sarah Hamilton, Justin Langford, Sophie Mackay, David Mathers, Stephanie Moscovis, Peter Murphy, Alex Roussos and Boyd Schrader.

On behalf of the unit may I extend a warm welcome to Capt. Les Potter (Dean of Students) who has been a member of Trinity Grammar Cadets before coming to NGS.

Newcastle Show Honour Guard

A contingent from our SATU provided an Honour Guard for the Governor of New South Wales, Professor Marie Bashir AC, for the official opening of the Newcastle Centenary Show. Our Senior Cadet CUO Joanne Main performed her duties as Guard Commander with distinction. SSgt David Bowen-Thomas was proficient in his responsibility as flag orderly, as were our Flag Party CUO Gemma Duffield and Sgt Fuchsia Sims. Our CSM, Warrant Officer Thomas Saunders also did an excellent job.

Annual Camp

Our Annual Camp was conducted at Singleton Military Area from April 8 -12. Seventy cadets spent three days in the field and two days in the barracks undertaking a variety of activities. These included fieldcraft and navigation exercises as well as such things as the School of Infantry confidence course, Weapons Simulator, Night Vision Facility and Infantry Museum.

Officers and NCOs were kept extremely busy in the conduct of these activities which ran from early in the morning until late at night. I would like to thank all members of the unit for their hard work during camp. I am sure everyone gained valuable skills during the week and were suitably challenged whilst having a bit of fun.

Combined Schools Anzac Service

A select group of cadets provided a Catafalque and Flag Party for this ceremony. From all reports the standard of drill was excellent. It should be noted that these students travelled from the field at Annual Camp and after a quick shower donned their ceremonial uniforms for this ceremony in the Town Hall before returning to camp - a huge effort, and well done!

Anzac Day March

Our unit participated in the Newcastle Anzac Day Parade and Service held on April 25. This was the first ceremonial occasion for which our new flags were flown. Well done to our SUO Joanne Main for leading our contingent, as well as Warrant Officer Thomas Saunders, CUO Gemma Duffield. Our Drum Corps did an excellent job on the day. Staff Sergeant David Bowen-Thomas (Drum Major) also participated in the Newcastle Dawn Service, Playing the "lone drum" during the parade.

Anzac Day is an important day in Australia's heritage. Along with other representatives from the community our cadets represented our School, The Australian Army Cadets, and youth in general on this day and we thank them for their participation.

School ANZAC Service

Newcastle Grammar School's annual ANZAC Day Service was once again an excellent ceremony involving a number of groups within the School. Members of the SATU and the musicians and choristers provided a wonderful and moving commemorative service held in Christ Church Cathedral.

Wallaroo Bivouac

Our second term bivouac was held in and around the Wallaroo State Forest, Clarencetown. The purpose of this bivouac is to consolidate field work learnt and to extend the leadership training of our cadets. Each platoon and section was given a field exercise to complete over the weekend carrying packs and using ration packs. This was a most successful weekend and I am please to report that the aims of this exercise were met.

Dining In Night

Our annual Dining In Night was a most enjoyable occasion. Our Year 12 cadets were acknowledged for their service and commitment to our Unit as well as other presentations to those who have assisted our unit this year. Many thanks to Mr Teale who delivered a most informative and entertaining address as guest of honour. Many thanks must go to our Officers of Cadets for their hard work in organising the night, as well as our Year 10 cadets who served.

Passing Out Parade

A most outstanding parade was reviewed by Maj(ACC) Greg Kerr. Well done to SUO Main (Parade Commander), CUO Duffeld, SSGT Bowen-Thomas (CSM), Sgt Boyle and Sgt Sims for their leadership on the day. The Flag Party and Drum Corps also deserve to be congratulated for their efforts. On behalf of the School, well done to all cadets, NCOs and Officers for a most successful parade. The following cadets were presented with prizes on the day.

"Most Efficient Cadet" Year 7 - Cdt Elizabeth Noble, Year 8 - Cadet Jeremy Dawes, Year 9 - Lance Corporal Michael Giles, Year 10 - Corporal Boyd Schrader.

Battle for Australia Ceremony

A special contingent from our unit provided flag orderlies for the Battle for Australia ceremony held in Civic Park. Representatives from Papua New-Guinea, USA and Australia were present. Once again, our contingent were exemplary on this occasion.

Open Day

Members of the SATU constructed and manned an SATU display for open day. Many thanks to Warrant Officer Thomas Saunders, Sergeant Fuchsia Sims and Cpl Peter Murphy for setting up and manning an excellent SATU display for open day on Saturday.

Promotions Courses

At the time of writing promotions courses have been planned for those cadets wishing to be considered for an appointment in a leadership position within the unit. A Sergeants and Cadet Under Officers course is held at the Adamstown Military Depot over four days and a Corporals course is planned for early December. These courses combine leadership training with coursework that qualifies cadets for these positions of responsibility.

CadetNet

The Australian Army Cadets have issued some IT support to all cadet units in Australia. As a result of this we have received a new computer and printer, as well as several second hand PCs for use in the administration and conduct of cadet activities. These systems are currently being setup for implementation at School.

SATU Drum Corps.

The Drum Corps has performed with distinction this year at various ceremonial occasions, including the Newcastle ANZAC Day Parade, the School's ANZAC Day Ceremony, All Services Day Parade, The SATU Passing Out Parade and The School's Annual Speech Day . They have been dedicated to their rehearsal schedule and the new members have made excellent progress. The members of the Corps this year have been Sgt David Bowen-Thomas (Drum Major), Cpl Peter Murphy, Cpl Boyd Schrader, Pt Daniel Mathers, Pt Cody Mackay and Philip Duncan.

The Drum Corps have been able to benefit from the talents of Drum teacher Mr Steve Morton. He has written several cadences for the Corps to learn and has developed the students' skills during their weekly rehearsal time. We are very lucky to have had his input over the last few years.

I would like to thank the members of the Corps for their special contribution to the SATU.

Lt (ACC) Lynne Walker

Flying Corps

The Flying Corps have had a busy year. A number of flying activities have taken place on weekends, school holidays and Tuesday afternoons. Held at the Royal Newcastle Aeroclub at Rutherford, activities have included familiarisation flights for new members and graded instructional flights for those cadets who wish to learn how to fly.

Aerobatic activities have also been conducted at Action Aerobatics. A highlight of one of these activities was a formation aerobatic flight involving three Pitts Special aircraft. I am sure that the cadets who participated in these exercises will never forget the experience.

A special flying camp has been planned for senior members of the Flying Corps who have the opportunity to complete their training towards a private pilots license and undertake their first "solo". These activities would not be possible without the commitment and ongoing support from our flying instructor, Mr Chris Teale. There have been approximately 50 cadets who have had the opportunity to experience these activities to date. I would like to once again thank Chris for his continued efforts in providing this excellent opportunity.

Volunteers

It is important to acknowledge the ongoing support of those people such as Mr Teale who have volunteered their time for our cadets this year. I would like to particularly like to thank Mr Duncan Price who has spent endless hours at the School assisting with ceremonial training, attending camps and bivouacs and also helping to keep our Q-Store in order as well as many other things.

Mr Harry Matthew continues to support our cadets on Tuesday afternoons offering his wisdom and experience on many occasions. As a recent St John First Aid instructor, Harry has often helped us with this area of training. He is also a guide at Fort Scratchley and recently guided a group of Year 7 cadets around the Fort.

Miss Melissa Thomson from Un Coy UNSWR has also generously visited our Year 7 cadets on a number of afternoons to speak about her experiences in the Army Reserve.

In conclusion may I thank all cadets, those who are in positions of leadership and responsibility, Officers of Cadets, Instructors of Cadets, volunteers and parents for their many and varied efforts throughout this year.

Capt (ACC) Robert Barter

CAREERS

It was with much excitement, and some apprehension, that I accepted the position of Careers Adviser at the beginning of this year.

As expected my first year in this position has definitely been a great learning experience.

The year began quite smoothly allowing me to become familiar with the types of information and resources available to the students and myself. The amount of mail I receive regularly is phenomenal; it covers all aspects of available career options and associated areas. There is definitely more information available to our students than ever before, through the regular mailing system and of course the ever-expanding Internet.

Our own Careers website has continued to be a huge success particularly with our senior students and also for Year 10 during their period of subject selection for Years 11 and 12. The site is accessible via the School web page and a click on the Careers link, which takes you to a number of options including resume information, overseas options, HSC help and various links to many Universities and Tertiary institutions.

Throughout the year there have been a multitude of Open Days and Careers Days available to our Year 12 students.

In June this year many Year 12 students attended the Annual Careers Day at the University of Newcastle and found it to be an extremely valuable experience. Individual students have also had the opportunity to attend Information Days and Open Days at other University Campuses around the country with selected Year 12 students also attending Talented Student Days at Universities within the Sydney Metropolitan area.

The Work Experience Programme, within the School, has continued to be popular with students organising their work placements during available holiday periods.

Students were placed in a variety of industry areas, such as architecture, physiotherapy, sound and lighting, and computing. The John Hunter Hospital has also provided work experience opportunities for our students. David Bowen-Thomas and David Mathers, who are also members of the SATU, gained exposure to Defence careers with placement in the Work Experience Programme at the RAAF base, Williamtown. David Bowen-Thomas and Boyd Schrader were also placed with the Engineering division at the Adamstown Barracks.

Many Year 10, 11 and 12 students organised their work experience to be at various workplaces around the Hunter area with some venturing further a field to explore opportunities available in Sydney. Victoria Pandeovski spent time with the Sydney Opera Company and Joshua Whitaker organized an exciting week at Taronga Park Zoo.

All Year 10 students underwent Careers Aptitude and Ability Testing as an aid for their subject choices for their senior years. This programme was begun in 2001 and has been conducted by Educational Psychologist, Emma Goodsir, from Sydney. From all reports, both parents and students, this continues to be a successful programme and we intend to repeat the process with Year 10 in 2003.

An exciting and challenging aspect of my new role this year was to continue the implementation and teaching of Careers lessons, conducted once per cycle with all Year 9 students. Due to its success with the 2002 Year 9 students the programme was extended to address the needs of our current Year 10 group. For the first time all Year 9 and Year 10 students have regular Careers lessons. The focus of the lessons has been quite diverse including activities such as job research with an emphasis on using the resources available on the Internet, deciphering job advertisements, writing letters of application, compiling resumes and providing the students with the skills to source the vast range of career and tertiary information available to them. Students have found the lessons to be relevant and meaningful providing them with knowledge and skills that will be valuable for many years to come.

It is becoming increasingly evident that our students have what appears to be an inexhaustible source of available information accessible to them. This presents them with an enormous wealth of options, career, tertiary, study and also learning options. At times such a range of choices can make decision-making difficult. However our students have the opportunity for exposure to ideas, careers, courses and pathways which we may never have dreamed existed. There are more opportunities and choices available than ever before.

As the year draws to a close we wait to hear of the successes of our senior students as many of them have applied for scholarships and traineeships. I hope the information available to them has helped in their transition from school to another period of their life and development, be it tertiary education and/or career paths.

International Exchange Programmes

The School is currently hosting two exchange students for 2002 – 2003, Carole Souchet from France and Ine Malbakken from Norway.

Georgette Brown has been selected as an international exchange student with the Southern Cross Cultural Exchange Programme for 2003, and will be spending six months in France. Gemma Williams will also be undertaking an exchange programme for all of 2003, spending her time in Belgium as part of the Rotary scheme. Both girls will no doubt have a wonderful experience and we wish them well.

My first year in this role has been exciting, stimulating, and a constant learning experience. It has been a very rewarding and satisfying year as I have watched students grow, develop and discover.

Mrs Tonia Martin
Careers Adviser

ARTSLINK

This year saw the a change of name from ‘The Society of the Arts’ to ‘Artslink’ for the group of parents who are supporters of the Visual, Dramatic and Performing Arts at Newcastle Grammar School. ‘Artslink’ was the name chosen by the group following a request to staff to offer suggestions which would closely reflect the goals of the group – a junior and senior school group of parents who support the school’s arts program to link the students of arts at the school to opportunities to perform and gain richer experiences in these fields. Artslink members are determined to seek and welcome new parents to the group.

This year they presented a very successful 'Jazz in the Vines' day at the Tower Vineyard, and a series of Time to Tango lessons, aimed at increasing the dancing techniques not only of the parents of Debutantes and their partners, but of parents in the wider school community. These hardworking Artslink parents hosted a supper with James Morrison after the inspiring Powerhouse Jazz concert at ClubNova. They have facilitated the framing of several artworks for the school, assisted with Nexus, and also hosted the ever-popular Dinner Dance at Milanos at the Lake.

These events add a richer dimension to Visual, Dramatic and Performing Arts at Newcastle Grammar School.

Dawn Mullane and Chris Miller

THE FRIENDS OF NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

On behalf of the Friends of Newcastle Grammar School it is a pleasure once again to offer sincere thanks to all those ever willing members of the School family who have assisted throughout the past year. The Friends have enjoyed a busy financial and organisational year with all of the traditional undertakings met, and in addition have had new challenges for the ongoing benefit of the School and its students placed before it. We can be very proud of the Friends' achievements this year which have included the continuation of the Year 12 Pastoral Programme, purchase of a new piano and a small public address system for Park Campus, purchase and installation of acoustic curtains for the Artspace in Parnell and provision of motorised acoustic blinds now installed in the Performance Hall at Park Campus. Smaller sponsorships have also been provided to assist NGS students to compete in National diving and aerobics championships during the year.

As in the past we must convey special thanks to Kaylene Robson in the canteens. You will be well aware that the profits generated by the canteens contribute by far the bulk of the funds available to the Friends. This year has seen the establishment of a full time supervisor at Park Campus and we have welcomed Cheryl Mellan to the team. Kaylene and Cheryl both possess the necessary qualifications and experience to successfully operate the canteens for the ultimate benefit of the School, they do so with a great deal of support and encouragement each day from the many volunteers and thanks again are due to them.

Special thanks are also due to Sandra Ellis who has supervised the very successful Clothing Pool for yet another year. This past year has seen several changes to the operational structure of the pool and its valuable contribution cannot be underestimated. Sandra has willingly spent countless hours each week providing this facility which now operates in conjunction with the Uniform Shop.

It is appropriate to now thank all those individuals who have directly supported the Friends and to acknowledge their commitment which has absorbed more of their limited precious time than they are perhaps willing to admit. My personal thanks must go to Philippa Killin and to Brett Schrader who have been wonderful support to me, support which, due to my absence for periods during the year, has been greater than I anticipated would be necessary. I wish to also thank Bronwyn Green, Trish White for her excellent Founders' Day Dinner/Dance, Melody Sharpe for her availability at very short notice with whatever needs to be done, the Class Mothers for their contributions, and Mr Alan Green for his unfailing support and recommendations.

I extend a very warm welcome to all parents to attend the Friends' meetings which are announced in the Newsletters. Many important issues arise which require discussion to resolve to the benefit of all and the meetings also provide an insight to the varied activities of the School and its achievements.

Mr Russell Carter
President