



**NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL**

**HEADMASTER'S  
REPORT  
2003**

**85<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL SPEECH DAY  
AND  
PRIZE GIVING**

**WEDNESDAY 3 DECEMBER 2003**

## CONTENTS

|  |           |
|--|-----------|
| <b>FROM THE HEADMASTER</b> .....   | <b>3</b>  |
| <b>FROM THE CHAPLAIN</b> .....   | <b>4</b>  |
| <b>FROM THE HEAD OF THE SENIOR SCHOOL</b> .....                          | <b>6</b>  |
| <b>FROM THE SENIOR HOUSE PATRON</b> .....                                | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>MACQUARIE HOUSE</b> .....   | <b>8</b>  |
| <b>HUNTER HOUSE</b> .....  | <b>9</b>  |
| <b>SHORTLAND HOUSE</b> .....   | <b>10</b> |
| <b>TYRRELL HOUSE</b> .....   | <b>11</b> |
| <br>   |           |
| <b>DEPARTMENT REPORTS - SENIOR SCHOOL</b>                                |           |
| <b>ENGLISH</b> .....   | <b>12</b> |
| <b>HISTORY</b> .....   | <b>13</b> |
| <b>LANGUAGE</b> .....  | <b>14</b> |
| <b>MATHEMATICS</b> .....   | <b>15</b> |
| <b>MUSIC</b> .....   | <b>16</b> |
| <b>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND<br/>    PHYSICAL EDUCATION</b> ..... | <b>18</b> |
| <b>SCIENCE</b> .....   | <b>19</b> |
| <b>SOCIAL SCIENCES</b> .....   | <b>20</b> |
| <b>SPECIAL EDUCATION &amp; SUPPORT</b> .....                             | <b>22</b> |
| <b>SPORT</b> .....   | <b>23</b> |
| <b>TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED STUDIES</b> .....                           | <b>24</b> |
| <b>VISUAL ARTS</b> .....   | <b>26</b> |
| <br>   |           |
| <b>FROM THE HEAD OF THE MIDDLE SCHOOL</b> .....                          | <b>27</b> |
| <b>DEPARTMENT REPORTS - MIDDLE SCHOOL</b>                                |           |
| <b>SPORT</b> .....   | <b>31</b> |
| <br>   |           |
| <b>FROM THE HEAD OF THE JUNIOR SCHOOL</b> .....                          | <b>32</b> |
| <b>DEPARTMENT REPORTS - JUNIOR SCHOOL</b>                                |           |
| <b>MUSIC</b> .....   | <b>33</b> |
| <b>PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL<br/>    EDUCATION</b> ..... | <b>34</b> |
| <b>SPECIAL EDUCATION</b> .....   | <b>35</b> |
| <br>   |           |
| <b>FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRE-SCHOOL</b> .....                         | <b>36</b> |
| <b>TYRRELL LIBRARY</b> .....   | <b>37</b> |
| <b>SERVICE AND ADVENTURE TRAINING UNIT</b> .....                         | <b>38</b> |
| <b>CAREERS</b> .....   | <b>42</b> |
| <b>ARTSLINK</b> .....  | <b>43</b> |
| <b>FRIENDS OF NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL</b> .....                         | <b>44</b> |
| <b>HOWZAT</b> .....  | <b>45</b> |

## ***PREFACE***

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

*Dear Friends of Newcastle Grammar School,*

It gives me great pleasure to present my report for the 2003 academic year. This report is provided for you to give you comprehensive and detailed information about the achievements and challenges of this year. This is not a glossy report; it is a factual account of the achievements of our students, staff and parents, by department. Please take the time to read the report and join with the School in recognizing the many achievements of 2003.

Newcastle Grammar School is a Pre-school to Year 12 community, and I would like to thank and congratulate our students, staff and parents for all that they have done to make 2003 such a successful year. Without your dedication, effort and hard work, the School would not be able to achieve what it does. It is of great credit that Newcastle Grammar School achieves what it does, which matches and often surpasses many bigger schools. The main reason for this, is that the community of Newcastle Grammar School is so strong and vibrant. The community of Newcastle Grammar School – the School Family – students, staff and parents, are to be applauded for their commitment and dedication in 2003. Congratulations; well done!

I would also like to thank the Chairman and members of the Board of Newcastle Grammar School for all that they have done in their very important and time consuming role of governance of our School. Without their dedication and expertise, our School would not have been able to achieve what it has in the last decade. Thank you.

The 2002 Higher School Certificate results have set a new benchmark for Newcastle Grammar School. The Year 12 of 2002 demonstrated what can be achieved when you work together under a common purpose. For a non-selective School to achieve 55% of students with a UAI of 90 or more, is remarkable. This result placed Newcastle Grammar School 35<sup>th</sup> in the State, the first non-selective School outside of Sydney. You do not have to leave town to find a high quality, academic, independent education. Newcastle Grammar provides its students with every opportunity to excel.

2003 has been a highly successful year, and 2004 will once again see an increased enrolment at our School. I commend the remainder of the report to you.

With my very best wishes,

**Alan G Green**

## ***FROM THE CHAPLAIN***

Growth continues to be part of the spiritual life of Newcastle Grammar School. During 2003 there have been several significant new developments and several continuing works in the spiritual life of the school.

One of the greatest points of growth and one of personal satisfaction and excitement for me as School Chaplain is the fact that *Studies of Religion* was begun in 2003. The subject *Studies of Religion* is a Board of Studies course which at present has the fifth highest enrolment of the 80 courses offered for the HSC in New South Wales. It is a broad based academic study of religion which is of value not only in assisting students to appreciate the nature of religion as part of the universal experience of humankind, but also in assisting with the development of tolerance and understanding in the school and the wider community. There are significant advantages to be gained by completing this subject for those students considering careers in any people related work (such as medicine, nursing, law, business, government etc). The University of Newcastle (and most other Australian universities) now offer Religious Studies as an academic discipline. Eight outstanding students of the School opted to take *Studies of Religion* as an elective and during 2003 the class has completed the Preliminary Course. The topics have included the nature of religion, religion in Australia 1788 to 1900 and depth studies of Christianity, Islam and Buddhism. Several excellent excursions, to an Islamic mosque, a Christian cathedral, a Jewish synagogue and a Buddhist temple have made the study of religion real, giving students the chance to experience various traditions at first hand and to speak with people who practise and live the religious traditions. All students are taking the subject into their HSC years and a visit to an Aboriginal community is being organised so that students can see Aboriginal spirituality (the first section of the HSC course) at first hand. At the time of writing a new Year 11 class is being formed for the Preliminary Course of 2004 and it is exciting to note that 17 students have elected this subject for their senior years. This trend of increasing enrolments suggests a new phase in the teaching and study of religion at Newcastle Grammar School has begun.

Divinity continues to be taught to all classes from Preschool to Year 10. Miss Wotton teaches Divinity in Years K-2 and Mrs Harrison, Ms Johnson and Mrs Anderson teach Divinity in the Middle School. I thank them for their efforts and the enthusiasm they convey to the students. I teach Divinity in Preschool and Years 9 and 10. The programme of Divinity is varied and stimulating and includes both written, oral and video materials.

Chapel is attended by all students of the School over the week. I take all the chapel services (two services or story times a week in the Preschool, and one service a week in each of the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools). There is opportunity for students to read and to lead the prayers and several students have spoken on issues of concern throughout the years. In the Senior School there are also House Chapels, where each house has the chance to pursue a theme in the context of worship. I would like to thank the Senior School House Patrons (Mrs Smith, Mrs Wood, Ms Walker and Mrs Robinson) for their support in ensuring that students are rostered for duties and for assisting with the organisation of House Chapels. There are also several other major services throughout the year, including Commissioning of School Leaders, ANZAC, Founders Day, Year 12 Valedictory and Remembrance Day, as well as the twice a term celebration of the Eucharist in the Middle and Senior Schools. This year 5 students were confirmed and 10 were admitted to Holy Communion. It is good to see these students growing in faith and having this recognised in the context of the Church.

Newcastle Grammar School is indeed fortunate to have Christ Church Cathedral as its School Chapel (perhaps the best school chapel in Australia!) and it is important that we as a School community thank the Dean of Newcastle, the Very Reverend Graeme Lawrence, for his support of the School in allowing us such easy access to this wonderful building. We also acknowledge with thanks those who work to get the Cathedral ready for us on chapel days (Peter Neville, the verger, and Margaret Fauchon, the assistant verger).

Music plays a large part in the worshipping life of the School and the quality of the music we enjoy is mostly due to the talents of our students and the skill and enthusiasm of our music staff. I particularly want to thank all those students who have contributed to music in chapel over the year. Your efforts are much appreciated. I also thank the School and Chapel Choirs, various music groups and individual musicians and the teachers (Miss Saunders, Mr Young and Ms Parkes) for their work and support.

Mission giving to the Anglican Board of Mission during 2002 was for the Anglican schools in Papua New Guinea and we were able to raise about \$6400 for this work through regular chapel giving across the School. This is in addition to another \$1600 raised by Tyrrell House in their Easter Chocolate Drive. This means that this year the School has contributed about \$7500 to the work of ABM and additional significant amount will be sent at the end of this year. A big thank you to all those students and families who shared some of their money with others and made such a huge difference in the lives of many people who do not have as much as we do. Newcastle Grammar School, for the second year in a row, raised the highest amount for ABM of any Anglican school in Australia and this year was awarded the Compassion Cup, a trophy presented by the National Director of ABM, The Rev'd Geoff Smith, at one of our chapel services. During 2003, giving has been directed throughout to the work of Anglican Schools in the Philippines. We were able to benefit from a visit to the School by the Bishop of the Northern Philippines, the Right Revered Edward Malecdan, who told us about the urgent need for the most basic of resources in the schools under his control.

Looking ahead another new venture for Newcastle Grammar School is planned for 2004. We have been invited to join The Armidale School and New England Girls School in a pilgrimage to Fiji at Easter time, 2004. Students in Years 7, 8 and 9 from the three schools will spend Easter at St Christopher's Orphanage in Fiji, helping to care for the children who live there. The orphanage is poor and in urgent need of assistance and students from the two schools in the New England region have been visiting St Christopher's for some years now and assisting in any way they can (helping with school work, playing, sport, garden work etc). The aim of this Pilgrimage is to offer service and at the same time experience something of another culture. The Fiji Pilgrimage offers the chance for a life changing experience for our students, while at the same time offering service to others, and we look forward to undertaking this work.

The work of a School Chaplain is not done alone. It is a shared work and depends on the goodwill and support of all the members of the School Family. Can I express my thanks to the teaching staff for their support, to students and their families for the privilege of being involved in their lives, to the Heads of Schools (Mr Filby, Mrs Harrison and Miss Wotton) and especially to our Headmaster, Mr Alan Green. Mr Green through his own Christian faith and through support of my work has done much to make the work easier and more successful. I thank him most sincerely and encourage the whole School Family to pray for him and his family in the tireless work they do amongst us.

Psalm 67 is one of my favourite psalms. It speaks of the generous and giving nature of God. Please reflect on the words of this psalm and give thanks for all that God does for us in the life of our School. May God continue to bless us and may we as God's people in this place praise God who gives us his liberating and saving power.

*May God be gracious to us and bless us  
and make his face to shine upon us,  
that your way may be known upon earth,  
your saving power among all nations.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
Let the nations be glad and sing for joy,  
for you judge the peoples with equity  
and guide the nations upon earth.  
Let the peoples praise you, O God;  
let all the peoples praise you.  
The earth has yielded its increase;  
God, our God, has blessed us.  
May God continue to bless us;  
let all the ends of the earth revere him.*

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

## ***FROM THE HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL***

The introduction of the Three School Focus (Junior, Middle and Senior) has given us the opportunity to reflect on what it means to be educated at Newcastle Grammar School and has allowed the School to focus on the important issues of pastoral care, the learning environment, curriculum development and changes to daily routine with the aim of providing the most appropriate model for students to follow.

The Subject Co-ordinators and Heads of Department, together with the Head of the Senior School in the chair, have continued to meet each fortnight as the Senior School Academic Committee. As with every year, a wide range of issues relating to the academic environment of the School have been discussed. These have included changes to the daily routine, the implementation of alternative examination and assessment 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 expanded subject choice has been introduced into the HSC and School Certificate course structure. The HSC course, Studies of Religion, which was offered for the first time to the current Year 11 has again proven to be a popular choice for Year 11 (2004). We look forward to our first class of students completing the HSC in this course next year. Also the HSC course, Drama, was offered to students in their final years of study. Drama was also offered to students as part of their elective pattern for the School Certificate. Again, the demand for Drama in each year has been most pleasing.

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 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 2002 Higher School Certificate. It has, however, been established that 55% of the Year 12 group scored a UAI of over 90.00, with a top UAI of 99.6 and four students with a UAI of over 99.00. It was also pleasing to note that more than 72% of this group achieved a UAI of over 80.00. Also two students were placed on the Distinguished Achievers List which meant that they scored more than 90% in all courses. One student's Art work was selected for Art Express and over 90% of students gained places at University.

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. The Year 12 Retreat was held at the end of February at Pacific Palms, just south of Forster and students participated in what was a relaxed atmosphere, showing great commitment and professionalism to their task. They displayed exemplary behaviour and commitment to group spirit. 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 Senior Camp at Myall Shores at the end of Term Three. A major aspect of this 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 May, Year 11 also were involved in a memorable production of "Living With Lady Macbeth by Rob John".

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 School based academic achievement for all of their subjects.

In early November, Year 10 students undertook externally set, Statewide Tests in English-Literacy, Mathematics, Science and examinations in Australian History, Geography, Civics and Citizenship. Students receive their actual mark in each of these external tests, as well as School based Performance Grades (from A to E) described above. The School looks forward with interest to the results from these external School Certificate Tests. It is pleasing to note that in the 2002 Statewide School Certificate testing, the number of students placed in the top band (6) for both English-Literacy and Mathematics was over twice the State average, Science over three times the State average, Australian History Civics and Citizenship over seven times the State average and Australian Geography Civics and Citizenship over three times the State average.

The Year 10 Musical "Fame" proved to be an outstanding event in the lives of all students involved. Our Year 10 students were transformed into a wonderful acting, singing and choreographic ensemble who gave performances of an outstanding quality. In the Spring Vacation, a large contingent of 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. Immediately after the School Certificate Examinations, all of Year 10 successfully completed the Red Cross First Aid Certificate over a three day period.

In Term 1, our Year 9 was challenged at their annual camp 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 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 School Library continues to be a most valuable resource for 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 the Librarian and her Staff.

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 2003, over 2,500 Level 1 awards were achieved. Almost 700 Level 2 awards and 69 Headmaster's Level 3 awards have also been earned by Senior School students.

Once again, 2003 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 year 2004 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***

Academic achievement has always been highly valued at Newcastle Grammar School. This is rightly so, of course. We are aiming to build a foundation for young adults who will take their places in the workforce and in society with a deep and broad knowledge of the world in which they live.

However, there is no doubt that, in order to reach their potential academically, young people need to feel good about themselves and safe in their environment. To this end, Pastoral Care at our School focuses on three R's that go hand in hand with academic progress – Respect, Relationships and Resilience.

For their families and their school the challenge is to provide firm ground and emotional support while they explore their inner resources, investigate the value of their personal relationships and probe the attitudes and beliefs that surround them in our society.

Earlier this year the House Patrons engaged Year 9 students in a “Resilient Kids” programme, encouraging social and problem solving skills to help them overcome the obstacles and failures that all of us inevitably face in our lives.

Fortnightly throughout the year, Year 12's Pastoral Programme has addressed Relationships, Responsibilities and the Future. A varied and dynamic programme of speakers confronted, challenged and encouraged these young adults as they prepared to launch themselves into the wider world. Parents too were involved when Mr John Waring presented an evening on “Surviving the HSC”.

Year 10 responded well to their three-day Red Cross first aid course. Not only were they able to extend their knowledge and skills, but they have also better fitted themselves as responsible members of the community.

In the spread of House activities there is fertile ground for leadership, teamwork, camaraderie and lots of good fun. Swimming and Athletics carnivals saw loyal members in every House supporting, encouraging and participating wholeheartedly. The creativity, resourcefulness and organizational skills of the House Leaders were very impressive in the House cheers, and never more so than on Founders' Day, where we were treated to fine performances at the Music Festival. Working together in student-led activities helps to affirm a sense of belonging and worth within the School Family.

The giving of encouragement and support by our Mentor teachers to each individual student, not only in the grand events but in the sometimes quiet, informal meetings in the playground or classroom, is crucial in the promotion of that student's talents and character.

I would like to conclude by acknowledging the efforts of the House Patrons, who have been inspirational in their roles. In their interaction with each one of their charges, they listen, they enthuse, they care. The House Patrons form the linchpin of our Pastoral Care system. I am proud to work with them and applaud their dedication and commitment to their task.

**Mrs L Simpson**  
**Senior House Patron**

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

I have been impressed with the level of commitment and team spirit shown by Macquarie House this year. Ably led by Captains Katherine Holland and Christopher Thornton and Vice Captains Naomi Simpson and Nicholas Murphy, Macquarie participated with enthusiasm in all events this year.

The House Cheer at the Swimming Carnival was the first opportunity for our Captains and the then year 10 leaders, Sally Pritchard-Davies, Naomi Simpson, Angus Hancock and Nicholas Murphy to practise their leadership skills. Assisted by many senior students they arranged and rehearsed an extremely loud and colourful House Cheer. Participation in the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals was also very enthusiastic.

The Music Festival, Senior and Intermediate Debating Competitions and the Cross Country were ably contested by our students. These events allowed our students to develop and consolidate their ability to work as part of a team, to motivate each other and to feel a sense of responsibility to their team mates.

As part of our contribution to the community, Macquarie House raised money for SIDS by selling noses, pens and pins on Red Nose Day. Spring Fair gave our students another chance to show their contribution to the School community. By selling hundreds of sticks of Fairy Floss, Macquarie raised over \$600. Many dedicated students also helped to raise funds for Macquarie House at a BBQ at the soccer one Saturday. It was great to see the commitment these students were willing to show for their House.

In Term 4, some of the Year 9 and 10 students organised a Touch Football Round Robin Competition. Held on the oval during mentor time, it was a great opportunity to develop team spirit within mentors. The students were responsible for supplying referees, time keepers and scorers as well as each mentor fielding a team of 7 players.

Katherine Holland, Christopher Thornton and our Vice Captains Naomi Simpson and Nicholas Murphy have been dedicated, enthusiastic and highly responsible. I take this opportunity to congratulate and thank them for their efforts. I also welcome the Year 10 leaders who have been elected by their peers this term: Bronwyn Calford, Alyce Burgess, Stefan Li and Cameron White. They have already begun their duties as leaders and are showing great potential.

I would also like to acknowledge the Mentors of Macquarie House – Mrs Angela Colbert, Mrs Georgina Roberts, Mrs Sharelle Sewell, Mr Leigh Carroll, Mr Michael Dwyer and Mr Paul Lumley. They have continued to provide guidance, care and support for their charges. It has been a pleasure to work with such a committed staff.

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

**Mrs Sally Wood  
Macquarie House Patron**

## ***HUNTER HOUSE***

2003 has been a very busy and fulfilling year as House Patron for Hunter House. From the outset the students were keen to show their enthusiasm and dedication by participating in record numbers at both the Swimming and Athletics carnivals and getting involved in fund raising and other inter-House activities.

Although success in the sporting arena eluded us this year, we more than made up for this through our efforts in other cultural pursuits. We started the year on a high note by winning the House Cheer at the Swimming Carnival. It was wonderful to see such involvement by the majority of the House and the willingness of so many students to take on leadership roles. For the second year running, Hunter House took out the House Music Festival Trophy with inspiring performances from our musicians in the smaller groups and the whole House choir. The leadership shown by our Year 12 students was truly inspirational.

Success was also achieved in the Intermediate Debating final where a tightly fought battle with Shortland House resulted in a win for us. This followed up a narrow defeat in the Senior Debating final where Shortland achieved success.

Hunter House supported two new charities this year. On St Patrick's Day, students sold green ribbons in support of The Hunter Medical Research Institute and coinciding with Founders Day, we raised funds for Jeans for Genes Day. All students were keen to be involved and it was rewarding to see the enthusiasm with which they approached each fund raising venture.

The theme for our House Chapel this year was 'courage' and the service was ably run by the Year 10 students who chose the music, the readings and organised the order of service. The four students chosen as Year 10 leaders were Peter Imlay, Bree Yates, Holly Sharpe and Ryan Bodilly. They have already demonstrated leadership qualities through their running of House assemblies and taking on the responsibilities of senior leaders.

Our efforts at Spring Fair were justly rewarded through the raising of almost \$400 at the balloon stall and an early finish (we had sold out by 1pm!). My thanks go to all of the students from Years 9-12 who assisted on the stall that day and made it such a success.

The most rewarding thing about taking on the role of House patron has been witnessing the positive feeling within Hunter House this year and experiencing the students' willingness to participate so enthusiastically in any number of activities. Hunter House has been privileged to have two very able students at the helm, Laura Buchanan and Andrew Wilson, supported by our Vice Captains, Lauren Wilson and Liam Potter. Along with a very dedicated group of senior students, these four have ensured that House spirit has remained high throughout the year and they have lead by example, involving themselves in almost all of the House activities.

Once again, thanks must go to the mentor teachers who provide invaluable support and pastoral care for all of our students and make the job of the House Patron much more manageable. Mr Barter, Mr Butcher, Mrs Davies, Mrs Jordan, Mrs Martin and Mr Young, thank you for your continued support and encouragement of our students this year.

We look forward to continued involvement and even greater success in 2004 and there is every reason to believe that we will achieve this.

**Mrs Terry-Anne Smith**  
**Hunter House Patron**

## ***SHORTLAND HOUSE***

One of the more important aspects of being part of the Mentor and House system is the sense of community and support we all experience. The encouragement and friendship that students and staff extend to one another is often a gossamer thread, which helps us to persist when things seem too hard to go on with.

In the words of one the hymns we sing at Chapel:

*"We are pilgrims on a journey and companions on the road;  
we are here to help each other walk the mile and bear the load."*

This year, the students have participated in Swimming, Athletics and Cross-Country Carnivals, the Music Festival, Debating Competitions and fundraising. They have done this with energy and wonderful House Spirit. It has been exciting and pleasing to note how students come forward, at just the right time, to share their special talent – whether it be as a sportsperson, a singer or musician, a public speaker, an expert organiser, an artist, a cheerer, an "ideas person" or a member of the "chorus". We are a great team!

My two favourite memories of student performance this year would have to be the "Miss House Pageant" the students presented for the House Cheering Competition and their fantastic rendition of "The Time Warp" at the Music Festival. Their sense of humour and talent are astounding!

Shortland has been very fortunate to have a fine group of leaders. I would like to thank and congratulate House Captains; Miriam Lowe and Tom Saunders, Vice Captains; Sophie Miller and Aiden Duffield, and the Term 4 Year 10 Leaders; Sarah Harrison, Dominic Lowe, Stephanie Miller and Sam Murray.

Students in the House have benefited from their interaction with their Mentors, who not only supervise their academic progress and pastoral well-being, but come to know them as individuals and, often, as friends. This is always most noticeable when it is time for Year 12 students to leave our School. The bond established between students and Mentors is invariably a strong one – founded on shared experiences, respect and genuine fondness for one another. I would like to thank the Shortland Mentors for all they have contributed to the development of their students this year; Miss Karen Armstrong, Mr Mitchell Brain, Mrs Carol Knox, Miss Dorothy Ramplin, Mr Mark Rowntree and Mr Reg Yates.

**Ms Lynne Walker**  
**Shortland House Patron**

## ***TYRRELL HOUSE***

The contributions of both staff and students to Tyrrell House during 2003 demonstrated a high level of energy and enthusiasm towards House activities. At the beginning of the year we welcomed three new staff among our ranks: Mrs Janean Saunders, Mr Steve Eddy and Mr Andrew Coates. They, along with Mrs Mary Curran, Mrs Pat Squires and Mr Stuart Boyd, have shown great skills as Mentors guiding, encouraging and supporting the students in their care. I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Mentors for their dedication and hard work. This helps make my role a more pleasurable and rewarding experience.

However, it is the students who really come to the fore in House activities. To this end, the House Captains, Hollie Alford and Murray Fletcher, assisted by the Vice-Captains Rehana Sahu-Khan and Sabin Shrestha, demonstrated positive and enthusiastic leadership qualities. Their first tasks were to organise student participation in the Swimming Carnival events and the Tyrrell House Swim Cheer.

Term 1 was allocated for Tyrrell House to assist with the running of the weekly Chapel services and for their major Fundraising activity. The participation of students from each mentor group in the Chapel enables them to identify with the service, and it is pleasing to see the students performed these duties with dignity. Our Fundraising activity was to organise the 'Easter Chocolate' sale. This proved a great attraction to all our chocoholics. Due to the fine efforts of both staff and students, and in particular Year 9 student Patrick Easton (TAC), Tyrrell House raised \$1600 for the ABM 'LIFE Project' in the Philippines. The Reverend Geoff Smith, director of ABM, was the guest speaker at our House Chapel Service. He spoke to the School on the work of the ABM 'LIFE Project' in the Philippines, and vividly described the work and activities of the group that our Fundraising monies are supporting.

The Athletics Carnival was held in June and Tyrrell House won the day. The significant achievement of many of our students gaining Age Champions is to be commended. However, the overall enthusiasm and participation of the students in the various events was a delight to witness, and in the end is what made the winning difference. Well done!

Students from Tyrrell House participated in the Inter-House debating competition. Though their efforts were of a high calibre, they were out-debated in both the Intermediate and Senior debates. Founder's Day cultural activities saw a high level of participation in the Inter-House Music Festival and once again provided an opportunity for the students to display their considerable musical talents. The Tyrrell House 'Luck Dip' Stall at the Spring Fair was well supported with students from each mentor group bringing in donations. Many thanks and well done to all my assistants on the day. Tyrrell House was privileged to welcome two exchange students among our ranks. During the first half of the year Ine Malbakken (TMC), and in the second half of the year Saara Kotkaniemi (TMC) from Finland, joined our ranks. Both girls were fine ambassadors for their country and willingly joined in activities within their mentor group and the School.

Congratulations are extended to Vaughan Lander, David Kinsey and Marcella MacAdam-Kellie on becoming Year 11 Prefects for Term 4. Further congratulations also to our Term 4 Year 10 Leaders Michael Giles, Drew Tarrant, Amelia Giles and Cavelle Lindsay, who were elected by their peers to assist with running House activities for the remainder of 2003 and the beginning of 2004.

***Tyrrell Tigers are terrific ...***

**Mrs Noreen Robertson  
Tyrrell House Patron**

# DEPARTMENT REPORTS - SENIOR SCHOOL

## *ENGLISH*

***“It’s not what we teach any longer, but rather what and how students learn.”***

Tony Moore; (NSW Board of Studies, ETA Conference 2003))

The subject called English is changing and the impact of the new 7 – 10 Syllabus is having enormous effect on the teaching and learning of English at Newcastle Grammar School. The emphasis has moved from “what” to teach to “what” and “how” students learn. The key focus is on the enjoyment of engaging with texts. Furthermore, there is an emphasis on empowering students with the ability to express their evaluation of a text with insight and confidence. An added emphasis lies on equipping students with the ability to reflect and thus enable them to become life-long learners. A part of this manipulation and evaluation of texts, rests on the recognition that we are teaching a generation of “Screenagers”, who must be able to decipher visual text as easily as the written text which surround them. The study of English is concept centred, rather than text centred. The experience of learning English, consequently, will be significantly different from that of parents, older siblings and even those who are teaching the subject.

Needless to say, the English staff at Newcastle Grammar School is approaching these challenges with enthusiasm. Much of our energy has been focused on the renewal the Preliminary and HSC modules and completely rewriting the Stages 4 and 5 program. This is a large, yet exhilarating, undertaking and students will begin to experience the new curriculum emphasis next year. This vast renewal has been significantly facilitated by the untiring support of Mrs Mary Curran and the Library staff.

There have been several staffing changes in the faculty over the past year. Mr Andrew Coates, Mrs Angela Colbert, Miss Fiona Rees and Mrs Janean Saunders joined our teaching staff, bringing with them expertise and energy. The faculty has, by necessity, practiced diversification, and to some degree, transformation, as staff members branched across three subject areas (English, History, Drama), with agility and flexibility.

The results of the 2002 HSC Examinations in English were very pleasing. Of particular note is that 49 of the 57 students, who sat the HSC Advanced paper, were placed in Bands 5 and 6. One student, who sat the Standard paper, attained the commendable position of 16<sup>th</sup> in the State.

The two major dramatic productions closely involved the directorial talents of two of the English staff. Mr Andrew Coates coached Year 11 through the most enjoyable, *Living With Lady Macbeth* and Mrs Sally Wood worked closely with Mr Kevin Young in the Music Department on the Year 10 production of *Fame*. Once again, *Bell Shakespeare* brought their “Actors At Work” program into Horbury Hunt Hall which was enjoyed by both Middle and Senior School students. Their performances included excerpts from both the comedies and the tragedies. Year 12 was also privileged to share a workshop on the nature of power in *King Lear* with Peta Downes, an experienced actor and director from the Bell Shakespeare Company. Year 12 also traveled to Taree to see the live performance of *King Lear* by the Cut Theatre Company as it toured country areas.

Students were once again actively involved in various debating competitions throughout the year, in particular, the Commonwealth Senior competition, the Lions Club Year 9 competition and the annual debate with the Rotarians.

Our year 9 and Year 10 students received outstanding results in the University of NSW English Competition for 2003, which included 4 High Distinctions and 14 Distinctions. These results indicated that our students are significantly above the State mean in the three areas of reading, writing and language.

Years 10 and 11 attended full day workshops organized by Faraway Films from Melbourne. These workshops gave first hand experience and knowledge into cinematographic techniques.

Owing to the new emphasis on response writing in the HSC, a creative writing workshop was organized with Rob Reil from the University of Newcastle. This expertise has been vital in building the confidence of all HSC candidates.

The entire English staff attended the Annual English Teachers' Conference at the University of NSW in October. This was a valuable and also enjoyable experience, (as all English experiences should be!) This opportunity to key into the latest discourse on educational philosophy and trends ensures that the students at our school are at the forefront of current learning. A telling moment at this Conference was when the serious discussion broached the indefensible – how long will it be before teachers of English will have to teach our “screenagers”, *Playstation 2*, alongside Jane Austen and William Shakespeare? Food for thought for all of us!

**Mrs Cecily Grace**  
**English Coordinator**

## ***HISTORY***

We have experienced a busy and rewarding year in the History Department during 2003. After bidding Mrs Margaret Maitland a fond farewell, the four senior History teachers, including our newest recruit, Mr Andrew Coates, set about organising events and the running of the department for the year.

Once again we attempted to have all years experience ‘hands on’ history through a series of excursions aimed at developing students’ skills in research, historiography and source work.

Year 7 History and Year 11 Ancient History travelled down to the Nicholson Museum at Sydney University where they experienced an ancient civilizations exhibition with accompanying explanations by resident archaeologists. Students also had the opportunity of analysing various artefacts from different cultures in the ancient world. This experience is invaluable, as students need to be able to elicit information from remains of civilizations and draw conclusions from these rather than just relying on written sources for information.

Students in Year 10 completed their mandatory site study at Fort Scratchley and the Newcastle Regional Museum with a focus on Australia’s involvement in WWI and WWII. Volunteers at Fort Scratchley walked and talked the students through the attack on Newcastle and explained the extent of the Fort’s involvement in defending Newcastle from the Japanese submarine attacks. The students were then taken on a tour through The Newcastle Regional Museum where they were given detailed information on the involvement of men and women from the Hunter Region in WWI. Students could look up relatives who fought in WWI and look at a variety of sources including diaries, photographs, medals, uniforms as well as a trench that had been made according to scale complete with sound effects.

Year 8’s study of Australia’s indigenous people was enhanced through their visit to The Yamuloong Resource Centre. Situated at Garden Suburb, The Resource Centre offered the students the opportunity of learning about Aboriginal culture and bush survival methods. Students were taken on a walking tour of the site, experienced dot painting, dreamtime stories and playing the didgeridoo. This was a most valuable experience for the students and the teachers who accompanied them.

The results achieved in the 2002 HSC in all three History courses were outstanding, with ten out of sixteen Ancient History students scoring band 6 and eight of the eleven Modern History students scoring band 5 and above. This was complemented by an excellent set of results in the Year 10 School Certificate Examinations.

The number of students electing to study History in the senior years is showing a marked increase and it is pleasing to note that many are opting to take on the challenge of the History Extension course in Year 12.

Over the next couple of years, there will be significant changes implemented in both the Stage 5 syllabus (Years 9-10) and the Ancient and Modern History syllabuses. These changes are being welcomed by the teachers of History who are already writing programmes to implement over the next two years.

We look forward to continuing interest shown by students in the senior History courses and in maintaining a very high level of academic achievement.

**Mrs Terri-Anne Smith**

## ***LANGUAGE***

We were saddened in the LOTE department, when, at the end of last year, Sharyn Craig, a senior language teacher at this School for over a decade, succumbed to her illness. Always a dedicated and inspirational teacher, Sharyn has inspired generations of students to a love of Latin, French and learning. Her graciousness, scholarship and commitment to excellence in the classroom, will be greatly missed. Vale, vale, vale Sharyn.

Mrs Jenny Davies has now joined the LOTE department full time and we are very grateful for the energy, enthusiasm and expertise she brings to her teaching. This year, Mrs Davies and some parents, accompanied French elective students to Noumea in July. This trip, which involved thirteen Year 9 and 10 and 11 students, spent eight days in Noumea where students attended French lessons in the morning (where no English was spoken) and then spent the afternoons sightseeing. This was a wonderful LOTE 'immersion' experience and one these students will remember for the rest of their lives.

Our two language students this year were Natsumi Fujimaki and Baptiste Chève-Melzer. Their presence in the classroom at this senior level, is invaluable and adds much to the 'colour' of our lessons.

Many of our LOTE students continue to travel to the country whose language they are studying. In August, Tonny Soetanto and Stephanie Miller (Year 10) participated in the Newcastle-Ube sister city Japanese Speech contest at Newcastle City Hall. Both performed brilliantly and Tonny won a two week, fully paid trip to Japan. This he undertook in the September holidays and it has inspired him in his studies.

Chloe Hicks competed in the Southern Cross Cultural Exchange 20<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Scholarship to France and was one of the eleven finalists in this NSW competition. While Chloe did not win, she was commended by the judges and she has since travelled to France and is staying with a French family at Saint-Cast-Le-Guildo. We look forward to her return in January next year.

Students who remained at school have not missed out experiencing the culture of France and Japan. Apart from visits to local restaurants to sample the food, students have also participated in Pam Sensei's Japanese Culture Day. During this day, they practised calligraphy, origami, traditional Japanese games and dance.

French students were entertained by the Théâtre Fantastique's production of *La Princesse et la Révolution*. This is a musical based on Marie-Antoinette's life as Queen of France and students were encouraged to ask questions and participate in the post-play audience interaction.

In August, elective students, both French and Japanese, took part in the Australian Language Certificate Competition which is held 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 Bronwyn Calford, Lindsay Cornell, Bernard Cresdee, Jacqueline Davis, Richard Hilliar, Hannah-Lloyd Hensley, Hugh Milligan, Andrew Roddick and Rhiannon Thomas who all scored in the top 10% of the test in both the listening and speaking sections. In the Japanese, Jayne Krempin, Stephanie Miller, Tonny Soetanto, Tiphonie Au, Blake Fidock, Holly Hart, Nidhi Panicker, Christopher Vitsitanis, Siu (Jeff) Wai performed in the top 10% as well.

Open day is a very important occasion in the School calendar as it gives an opportunity for the LOTE staff to demonstrate the language laboratory to parents and members of the public. It is an invaluable teaching aid as it reproduces the accents of native speakers in faultless digital sound. Students are able to move at their own pace through various courses and can also record themselves, giving them a chance to compare their accent to that of a native speaker.

The computer room next to the language laboratory also has French and Japanese programmes which record students' voice patterns and then compares these to those of native speakers. They also assist in correcting voice intonation. There are less sophisticated, but more colourful programmes for junior classes. These are wonderful aids to classroom education.

2003 has been a rewarding and busy year and as we look forward to the new year, we are anticipating that the next trip overseas will be to Japan.

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

## ***MATHEMATICS***

Mathematics at Newcastle Grammar School continues to be a very strong academic area. Results in the 2002 HSC show an increase in the number of students achieving results in the top band. In the Australian Mathematics Competition for 2003 there has been an increase in the number of Distinctions and High Distinctions gained by our students. These results are a reflection of the high standards that are being expected by staff and maintained by students in the Mathematics Faculty.

### **The Higher School Certificate 2002**

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

#### **MERIT LIST**

| <b>General Mathematics</b>                            | <b>Mathematics (2 unit)</b>  | <b>Mathematics Extension 1</b>   | <b>Mathematics Extension 2</b> |
|---|--|--|--------------------------------|
| Emma Hamilton<br>Jacinta Hooper<br>Katherine Torrance | Patrick Armstrong<br>Russell Boyd<br>Chris Enno<br>Jaclyn Fiddes<br>Hamish Graham<br>Jessica Lack<br>Charles Lowson<br>Madeleine McDonald<br>Samuel Roberts<br>Thomson | Nicholas Boyle<br>Evan Calford<br>Riley Clement<br>Tristan Cuffe<br>Chris Enno<br>Wendy Hicks<br>Imran Kader<br>Jessica Lack<br>Andrew Raymond<br>Samuel Roberts<br>Thomson<br>Cameron Unicomb | Evan Calford<br>Riley Clement  |

### **The School Certificate 2002**

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

### **Australian ( Westpac) Mathematics 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 263 participants. Results were:

***108 Credits***  
***40 Distinctions***  
***7 High Distinctions***

In particular, Michael Abbott gained a High Distinction and was placed in the top 20 students in the total of 462,000 students from all over the world who entered this competition. A fine achievement!

Andrew Brigden and Bernard Cresdee both in Year 9, had equal scores and gained High Distinctions and the highest standardised score in Newcastle Grammar School.

Other High Distinctions were gained by Bronwyn Calford in Year 10, Henry Shepherd in Year 9 and Callum Tyler and Benjamin Slater in Year 8.

### **Mathematics Challenge**

A total of 54 students from Years 6 to 10 Participated in this programme this year and 4 of them gained Credits while Distinctions went to Ellese Cotterill, Sophie White and Ayeeda Hossain. Tiphonie Au is to be congratulated on gaining a High Distinction for the third year in a row.

### **Staff Inservice**

This year has been a busy one for staff professional development. A member of the staff attended the Australian Association of Mathematics Teachers Conference in Brisbane in January, Higher School Certificate Markers Days at Macquarie University and at University of Newcastle in March and the annual Mathematical Association of NSW Conference.

Several members of staff have taken advantage of the opportunity to attend courses such as the IMAT Presenting Mathematics Professionally Workshop lead by Morris Needleman at Kincoppal Rose Bay which provided guidance on the preparation and use of Power Point lessons. This is a wonderfully clear way of illustrating a large number of mathematical concepts. Another member of staff attended a course run by the AIS on teaching Years 11 and 12 Extension courses.

The Heads of Mathematics Departments dinner was another event at which we had a representative who returned with many valuable resources for assessment purposes and revision for HSC.

All members of the staff have been involved in a wide variety of meetings and workshops dealing with the implementation of the new Year 7 and 8 syllabus next year. These meetings have dealt with preparation of work programmes, assessment procedures and presentations by some of the publishers.

As a result of these meetings with publishers, new text books for Years 7 and 8 have been chosen for next year. These have the exciting addition of CD ROMs which cover the entire text as well as providing extra extension and revision exercises. They also contain access to technology which is becoming an increasingly important component of education.

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

## ***MUSIC***

2003 has been a very successful year of growth and consolidation for the Music Department. We began with wonderful new acquisitions to the Music Department, a new set of choral risers, a new concert marimba and a wonderful new set of instrumental lockers, all of which have made a tremendous difference to the operation of the Music Department.

There have been a few changes in the permanent and peripatetic staff. Kevin Young has worked in the Senior and Middle schools, Jane Parkes in the Middle and Junior Schools and Kay Lane in the Junior School. We welcomed to the staff, Wendy Ireland who was appointed to the position of Head of Strings and has worked in the Junior school designing a new programme for Year 3 and 4 Strings, and with the Senior String Orchestra.

Our peripatetic staff has grown this year with the appointment of a new guitar teacher, Gavin Beck, a new violin teacher, Beth Porter, and a new viola and piano teacher, Andrew Chubb.

Many of our peripatetic staff are conducting ensembles within the school. Ms Julia Nagy - *Clarinet Ensemble*, Mr Craig Parish - *Saxophone Ensemble*, Mr Steve Morton - *Percussion Ensemble*, Mr Grant Fraser - *Blues Guitar Ensemble*, and Mr Gavin Beck - *Classical Guitar Ensemble* and Kevin Young - *Brass Ensemble*. This is a wonderful adjunct to the co-curricular instrumental programme, and all these ensembles have performed on different occasions and delighted their audiences. I thank all these staff members and their students for such a wonderful contribution to the music making of the school.

Students keen to study Musicianship have grown in number, and we now offer three separate classes; Grade 1, Grades 2 and 3, and Grade 5. Next year all four grades will have separate classes. I thank Mr Michael Bell, Mr Andrew Chubb and Ms Nicole Segal for their keen work with the students.

The first major event for 2003 was the **School Music Camp**. For the first time the orchestra and choir combined for a camp at Stanwell Tops near Woolongong. The venue was superb and well suited to the needs of a large Music camp. Guest tutors to the camp were Roland Peelman, strings and choir, and Peter Bishop and John Morrison, wind orchestra. The programme for the camp was varied and fast paced. Students rose to the high expectations of the staff and some truly exceptional musical results were achieved. My thanks also to Leigh Sherringham and the Music staff for their superb efforts to make the camp so successful.

Our first **Scholarship Holders Concert** took place in the Arts Space. There are two of these each year and give the scholarship holders an opportunity to participate in a formal concert.

The Wind Orchestra took part in the **National Band Championships** at Easter, performing in the Junior B Grade. They were awarded a third place and the Adjudicator commented on the phrasing, expression and the warm sound of the band.

In May this year members of Brass Razoo performed at the **Rothbury Estate Boutique Food and Wine Fair**. The crowd and Rothbury Estate were delighted with the band.

Our inaugural **Stringfest** was held over a weekend in June. Year 3 and 4 students presented a wonderful concert on the Friday evening and String Ensemble and String Orchestra joined them in the afternoon and then worked on Saturday and Sunday to present a concert in the Cathedral under the direction of Mr Richard Gill.

The students were fortunate to have the expert tuition of tutors. We were also very fortunate to have Mr Bruce Rowland, puppeteer, come in for the Friday concert with his handmade puppets. I can say with certainty that the weekend was the most successful musical venture I have seen in my time at Newcastle Grammar School.

Our end of semester concert, **Classic Assortment** presented an opportunity for all of our choral and instrumental ensembles, both large and small in the Middle and Senior Schools to perform. Many audience members commented on the variety and quality of all the performances. It was wonderful to be able to use our new choir risers for the first time, and also hear to our new concert marimba played in the percussion ensemble in its maiden performance. My thanks to the Board for their support of the Music Department, in making these acquisitions possible.

Our jazz bands, Bamboozle and Brass Razoo have been very busy this year. Bamboozle performed fantastically at the Great Hall as part of the **HICES Cultural Festival** and Brass Razoo performed in the **Morpeth Jazz Festival** secondary schools competition at the Heritage Mall in Maitland. The band won first prize and a received a trophy and a cheque for \$1000. The adjudicator commented on their *'beautiful blend'* and *'tight and polished performance'*.

At the start of Term 3, Year 10 once again 'strutted their stuff' before a wildly enthusiastic audience in their production of **FAME**. Wonderful new talent was discovered, an enormous amount of hard work from all those in the cast and crew was brought together, under the watchful guidance of Music Director Kevin Young, Director Sally Wood and Choreographer, Nikki Anderson.

Following Fame, two other musical events were on the calendar, **Founders Day** and the **Sydney Eisteddfod**. Members of the Full Choir, Chapel Choir and Britten Choir performed in the Sydney Eisteddfod and received two Highly Commendeds and a third place respectively.

We were very fortunate to have a visit from the **Sydney Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra** in term three. The String Orchestra and selected Brass, Wind and percussion players enjoyed a wonderful afternoon of music and a chance to play alongside the members of the Sydney Conservatorium Chamber Orchestra. Conductor Harry Lyth took the rehearsal and was impressed with the standard of our performers. We were all treated to a wonderful program from the orchestra performing in the Cathedral under the baton of Wolfram Christ.

The final week of Term Three brought a visit from **Barker College** who our students billeted and then performed with in a combined concert. It is wonderful to have the support of so many families who offered their homes to our visitors.

Term Four saw all of our instrumental ensembles performing at the **Spring Fair** in the morning, and a very successful **Battle of the Bands** in the afternoon (*won by Dangerfield*).

The smaller choirs, Grammar Singers, Chapel Choir and Britten Choir and sax, brass and clarinet ensembles performed at **Open Day**.

ArtsLink held a very successful Sunset Jazz at the Lake, where the two year 12 members, **Alana Johnson and David Bowen-Thomas** were farewelled.

An enormous thank you must go to all our peripatetic Music staff who are the backbone of all our ensembles. Our students are very fortunate to have such expert tuition available to them. My thanks to the conductors of our instrumental ensembles, **Wind Orchestra** - Leigh Sherringham and Kevin Young, and the **String Orchestra** - Trevor Mee and Wendy Ireland. Leigh Sherringham who works with the jazz bands, Brass Razoo and Bamboozle, continues to produce wonderful results.

My special thanks to my colleagues Kevin Young, Jane Parkes and Kay Lane for their continued and tireless efforts for the benefit of our students. My thanks also to our Senior Musician, Eliza Morrison, to the orchestra leader, Sophie Miller and to the choir leaders, Ashlee Clement and Dominic Shillington, Sascha Burgess, Victoria Pandevski and Naomi Simpson.

My thanks also to the members of **ArtsLink**, who have continue to raise funds for the Music Department and assisted with all manner of tasks on Box Office for concerts, catering for suppers etc. They have recently purchased a wonderful digital piano.

Finally an enormous thank you to the students of the school for your participation in all that the Music Department has to offer, and to the parents for their support of all things musical, whether it be in encouraging your children in their practise, providing suppers for shows, helping out at the Box Office, taking billets, or attending the concerts and hearing your child perform.

There is a wealth of talent in our school and it is indeed a pleasure to assist in its growth and development.

**Miss Rose Saunders**  
**Director of Music**

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

The 2002 PDHPE results were once again, very pleasing with 5% of the class placed in Band B (State average 3%), 71% of the class placed in Band 5 (State average 24%) and 24% of the class placed in Band 4 (State average 31%). Our 2003 candidates have just completed their HSC and we look forward to their achieving great success, not just in PDHPE, but across the board.

The PDHPE course in Years 7 to 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 2003 Year 10's to become fully involved in this unit was extremely pleasing, as was their ability to choreograph their own small sequences.

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.

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 2004. 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.

Like a number of subjects the Years 7 to 10 PDHPE syllabus has been thoroughly revised and Newcastle Grammar School will be implementing much of that new syllabus in 2004. A change of focus in many areas will strengthen the programme and the PDHPE faculty is looking forward to the year ahead.

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

## ***SCIENCE***

This last year has been a year of consolidation for the Science Faculty. We have tracked through one complete sequence of new syllabus content from Years 7 to 10 and we have improved in our presentation for the implementation of the Senior Sciences. There have been some minor changes to the Senior syllabi but the focus remains on the same content and skill areas as before. Our students are familiarised with these requirements as they are being worked through and presented in class as each student is given the syllabus outline for that particular unit of study. As well, they also have access to the information on the Board of Studies website.

The 2002 Higher School Certificate Results were as follows:

| Course    | Band     | NGS% | State% |
|-----------|----------|------|--------|
| Biology   | 4,5 or 6 | 94   | 66     |
| Chemistry | 4,5 or 6 | 95   | 54     |
| Physics   | 5 or 6   | 100  | 37     |

These results were excellent and were indicative of the calibre of students and the sustained effort they were willing to apply to all tasks. These results also made it possible for students to enter tertiary courses for their chosen professions including Engineering, Environmental Science and Occupational Therapy.

The 2002 School Certificate Results were as follows:

| Band   | NGS% | State% |
|--------|------|--------|
| 5 or 6 | 84   | 59     |

These results are also very pleasing and they should provide a solid foundation for those students continuing with Science at the senior level.

Staff are to be commended for their enthusiastic and purposeful application to the work plan that has allowed our students to do so well.

Participation in the Australian Schools Science Competition contributes to the confidence of the students and this year, almost 40% of the 156 Year 9 and 10 students who participated, received either a Credit or Distinction Award. This is a competition which has over 450.000 entrants throughout Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific. Our students are very well placed in most facets of this testing material.

The RACI National Chemistry Quiz is attempted by the senior chemists. From a total of 45 students there were 4 High Distinctions and of the remaining 41, 37% received a Credit or Distinction. Congratulations to the high achievers Michael Abbott, Jason Monteath, David Bowen-Thomas and Andrew Wilson.

All students are required to participate in Student Research Projects. These projects are done in both Stage 4 and Stage 5. While many of the projects are novel and creative, the main aim of the task is to promote an understanding of the processes involved in organising an experiment. The experiment is to investigate a hypothesis of the student's choosing. Some designs involve experimentation over a long period of time and others can be performed within a couple of lessons but despite the varying degrees of complexity the staff are always pleased and often surprised with the efforts of the students.

There have been a variety of other experiences our students have encountered as part of their work programme. Some of these included excursions to the Wetlands and the boardwalk through the mangroves at Carrington. Seniors had the opportunity to participate in the very worthwhile University Enrichment Days and we again took advantage of one of the travelling exhibitions of the CSIRO entitled "Forensic Frenzy". The latter was designed to present students with some challenging activities related to techniques used in forensic science.

The Science staff have been dedicated in their approach and in their support and encouragement of our students. Hopefully we have been able to develop a good interest in Science and assisted each student to do their best.

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

## ***SOCIAL SCIENCES***

2003 has been a year of strengthening and reinforcement for the Social Science faculty at Newcastle Grammar School. It was the third year of the "New HSC" and the third year that we have offered Legal Studies at HSC level. It is the second year that the new Mandatory Australian Geography course was examined externally at the School Certificate.

The 2002 Higher School Certificate results were excellent:

| <b>Course</b>    | <b>Band</b> | <b>NGS %</b> | <b>State %</b> |
|------------------|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| Business Studies | 4, 5, or 6  | 96           | 64             |
| Economics        | 4, 5, or 6  | <b>100</b>   | 80             |
| Legal Studies    | 4, 5, or 6  | <b>100</b>   | 61             |
| Geography        | 4, 5, or 6  | 92           | 68             |

It was very pleasing to see our students gain such tremendous results in the 2002 HSC. These results reflect the hard work that is being done in our classrooms by both the students and their teachers. It should also be noted that in Geography 67% of our students gained a band 6 compared to 9% of the state and further that **Alexandra Pritchard-Davies came sixth in the State** in Geography. Legal Studies students' results were also exceptional with 31% in band 6 compared to 6% in the State.

The 2002 School Certificate grades in Geography and Commerce were also gratifying with 28% of our Commerce students receiving a Grade A, 26% a Grade B, 37% a Grade C, and 9% a Grade D. There were no Grade E's awarded in Commerce. In Geography 23% of our students received a Grade A, another 32% received a Grade B, 31% received a Grade C, and 12%, D. Again there were no Grade E's. 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".

In the 2002 external examination In Australian Geography, Civics and Citizenship we gained the following results:

| <b>Band</b> | <b>NGS %</b> | <b>State %</b> |
|-------------|--------------|----------------|
| 6           | 15           | 5              |
| 5           | 13           | 10             |

|      |    |    |
|------|----|----|
| 4    | 39 | 29 |
| 3    | 25 | 37 |
| 2    | 0  | 14 |
| 1    | 0  | 3  |
| None | 7  | 2  |

It is very rewarding to note from the figures given above, that in only the second year of this external examination, students at NGS in Australian Geography, Civics and Citizenship were 3 times the state average in the top band and that we had no students in the lower two bands.

Year 11 Legal Studies students participated in the Law Society of NSW's Mock Trial Competition. This is an excellent competition in which students role play the roles of barrister, solicitor and witnesses and are given actual cases. One school team is the prosecution and one side the defence. There are then 2 winners in each case, the winner of the case and the school winner based on points awarded for the team which carries out their roles the most realistically. After the first four rounds the competition becomes a knock out competition.

In the University of New South Wales Australian Economics Competition for 2003 students in Years 11 and 12 classes distinguished themselves. Michael Abbott and David Kinsey gained High Distinctions and Jason Monteath, Nicholas Barnes and Matthew Jenkins gained Distinctions. In order to gain a High Distinction students needed to be in the top 5% of the State in the Competition. Michael also was awarded a monetary prize for being in the top 2%.

Students in Year 9 Commerce earlier this year took up the Money Stuff Challenge. This was a competition offered to students in NSW by the Department of Fair Trading. Students were required to choose a consumer situation that interested them and then to gather information and communicate that information creatively and originally.

At the time of writing one of our entries has been short-listed for an award in the Money Stuff Challenge. Two students and their teacher, R Yates, have been invited to the Awards Dinner at the Art Gallery of NSW to be held on November 24th and to meet the Minister, Reba Meagher. We are also invited to attend a Youth Forum being held on the same day. The aim of the forum is to develop broad recommendations in relation to youth debt. The recommendations will be presented to the Minister.

The students involved are James Stievenard, Kate Hamilton, Daniel Sutton, Geoffrey Brown and Matthew Bond and their short listed project was a brochure, which the group created, giving advice on buying a second-hand car.

### **Congratulations Year 9 Commerce on this excellent achievement!**

Our Year 9 and 10 Commerce students and Year 11 Economics students this year benefited from their experience in playing the Sharegame. The Sharegame is also a role play and it is run by the Australian Stock Exchange. Students are asked to form syndicates of no more than four students. Each syndicate then receives \$50000 in the account. The aim of the game is to buy and sell shares over a ten week period. The syndicate which then has the highest value portfolio at the end of those 10 weeks becomes the winner. There are both State and National winners. The trading is done in real time over the internet and through the Australian Stock Exchange's website. We were very thrilled this year when one of our syndicates in year 9 on the final day of trading for the second game this year was ranked **12<sup>th</sup> out of 3,445** syndicates in NSW and **29<sup>th</sup> out of 10,628** nationally. The syndicate's name was SYKE and its members were Virginia Burns, Sarah Colman and Victoria Bray. The girls turned their original \$50,000 into \$58,862, which is more than a 17% increase in 10 weeks (85% pa!).

Year 10 Geography students travelled to Sydney to observe and study the spatial and ecological dimension of the contemporary geographical issue of tourism. Students cruised Sydney Harbour for two hours, before catching the monorail from Darling Harbour across the city to the Pitt Street Mall. After lunch the students experienced a virtual reality tour of Australia and observed the sprawl of Sydney from Centrepont Tower.

Year 11 Geography students visited Ash Island near Hexham to study the ecological impacts of man on this ecosystem.

The concept of the need for sustainable management was the key focus of this field trip.

Year 12 Geography students travelled to the Pokolbin vineyards to complete a geographical study of viticulture and winemaking operating at a local scale. Students relaxed afterwards with a drive through the vineyards and lunch organised and cooked by themselves at Hunter Gardens.

A record number of over 20,000 entries from 163 NSW schools competed in the 2003 NSW Geography Competition. This competition is excellent for preparing students for the skills section of their School Certificate. Students from NGS Year 10 Geography classes achieved commendable results with the number of High Distinctions numbering 4 times above the state average. The top performer of NGS was Mathew Lapinskas. Altogether 21 of our students gained High Distinctions and a further 17 gained Distinctions.

The results in the Australian Geography Competition this year also were excellent with 17 High Distinctions and 14 Distinctions being achieved. This represented 21.5% and 17.7% of our students, respectively.

I am of course pleased when our students do well in competitions and examinations. I am also very delighted to see many students choosing to study Social Science subjects. However, we have to be aware that not all of our students will win prizes, but all students can achieve the recognition that they deserve through making their best effort. The great majority of students at NGS do make their best effort all the time.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank the Social Science team for their support, Mrs Roberts, Mr Boyd, and Mr Dwyer.

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

## ***SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT 5-12***

The role of the Support Teacher in the Middle and Senior Schools is by necessity a flexible one. Changes in emphasis are required on an annual basis dependent upon the staff and student clientele attending Newcastle Grammar School. In the Middle School, regularly working within classrooms is the preferred model with only a few children being removed from class for specific time periods in small groups or for 1:1 assistance. In the Senior School, individual students can be assisted on a regular basis for mainly literacy based assistance.

Some students at the Hill Campus are offered the opportunity to sit their examinations with the Support Teacher and are given special considerations such as extra reading/writing time, or having the paper read aloud to them. The students who take up this option are always appreciative of the offer and make the most of the opportunity given.

Parental contact is important for the Support Teacher and I have always found the Newcastle Grammar School parents to be supportive and willing to assist their children to perform at the best educational level possible. This has been particularly so when educational assessments have been requested by parents or teachers to develop learning programs to assist students. The staff has also been willing to modify their teaching programs and style (where appropriate) to achieve the best outcome.

**Mrs Heather Patchett**  
**Special Education & Support Teacher Year 5-12**

## ***SPORT***

The Sports programme at Newcastle Grammar School continued to offer students a wide ranging and number of opportunities this year.

Throughout 2003 the Monday afternoon sports programme has been successful in providing students the opportunity to participate in activities in which many would not otherwise have the chance. The best part of twenty sports were offered in each term ranging from high to low intensity, individual to team and from recreational to very competitive. In Term 3 and 4 all Year 8 students have undergone a seven week tennis coaching programme. Mountain Bike riding was introduced this year and under the very mature leadership of Year 11 student Scott Studdert a small number of boys had very physical sessions racing around Glenrock Lagoon. Indoor Soccer, Walking and Volleyball remain popular whilst many opted to keep fit at the Howzat Aerobics and Circuit rooms.

Over seventeen teams represented the Senior School in various competitions this year. The School fielded teams in competitions conducted by the Newcastle City Touch Association, the Newcastle-Port Stephens Soccer Association, the Newcastle Hockey Association, Newcastle Netball Association and the Newcastle Junior Cricket Association. Added to these was our Rowing squad of over thirty students who are currently in the middle of their season, participating in regattas run by the Central District Rowing Association and the NSWRA. Our Aerobics programme also remains strong, with a large number of girls competing in events conducted by the FISAF and Sports Aerobics Associations.

The fourteen-school Hunter Region Independent Schools competition becomes stronger every year and is the first step in the representative ladder for our students. This year Newcastle Grammar School were HRIS Champions in Swimming, Cross Country, Junior Boys Tennis, Girls and Boys Hockey and runners up in Junior Boys Touch, Senior Netball, Intermediate Netball, Junior Girls and Senior Girls Tennis, Junior Boys Soccer and third in Senior Girls Touch.

Large numbers of students have progressed through to AICES representation and many attended NSW CIS trials used to select teams to compete against the NSW Combined High Schools and the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges. This year six students were selected in NSW CIS teams: Sam Clifton in Touch, Jacqueline Simpson in Basketball, Naomi Simpson in Netball, Angus Harrison in Hockey, Gavin LockLee in Rugby League and Patrick Bergin in Swimming. Particular congratulations to Naomi who was not only the first Newcastle Grammar School girl selected in an Open NSW CIS Netball team but was also selected as Captain of that side.

Special congratulations are also due to our 16 years Soccer team who became the first Soccer Premiership winning team in the School's history. Playing in the NPSSA competition these boys dropped only two games throughout the season and played great soccer to defeat the minor premiers firstly in the Major Semi-Final and then in the Grand Final.

Our coaching ranks are becoming stronger every year and with a number of outside coaches joining our staff ranks our coaching ranks are looking good for 2004. A special thanks to Mr William Pryce who guided our 16 years Soccer team through to the Premiership and Mr Daniel Gardner for taking our 12 years Soccer team through to the final. Congratulations also to members of staff in their accomplishments - to Miss Armstrong in being appointed Manager of the NSW U16 Girls Touch team and to Mr Rowntree as coach of the NSW CIS Open boys Hockey team, to Miss Fraser as coach of the AICES Open Girls Basketball team and to Mrs Rowntree in once again being selected to compete in the FISAF World Aerobics Championships held earlier this term in Prague.

As I note every year, there is no doubt in my mind that the students from this School possess great abilities on the sporting field. I also have no doubt that if Newcastle Grammar School would field the best possible teams available to them, at HRIS level, this School would win more than its fair share of competitions. Sickness, examinations, clashes, and at times apathy all conspire against us at times in fielding our best possible team. To this end I congratulate all those students who are called into teams due to the above at late notice and who go on to perform so well. Also to those who make considerable sacrifices to travel to Sydney, Scone or wherever to represent the School and achieve personal satisfaction in every way, you, too, must be thanked and congratulated.

Just last week Newcastle Grammar School was one of only five schools invited to compete in the inaugural Pittwater House Schools Surf Lifesaving Carnival held at Queenscliff Beach. The first of its kind within the Independent sector. Our School is very well respected in sporting circles and this reputation will only become stronger with the support of the staff, students, parents and friends of the School.

2004 sees a slight change in the structure of our Sporting programme, but one which will contribute to the greater success of our individuals and teams on the sporting field. A tour to Queensland for Hockey, Netball and Touch teams has been organised for Easter next year and this, too, will be a great experience for those students who tour.

I look forward to everyone supporting each other again in 2004 to build on the great successes of the year just gone.

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

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

### ***DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY***

Subjects that were offered at the School during the 2003 School year were:

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

### **COMPUTING STUDIES**

Year 9 and 10 Computing Studies continues to be a popular subject that is taught in either of three 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 graphics programs such as Freehand, Dreamweaver and Flash. The use of a digital projector and large screens in all labs support a high standard of instruction. The new acquisition of an Apple I-Macs and a digital video camera have provided tools for students to create digital imagery.

#### ***Australian Schools Computer Studies Competition 2003***

Students showed their mastery of computer skills when they participated in the recent Australasian Schools Computer Skills Competition.

This year, over 105,000 students from schools across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific region participated in the Competition.

The best performances came from the following students who gained **Certificates of Distinction**: Brenton Roberts-Thomson, Andrew Plummer, Hyun Joon Chang (Year 10), Timothy Kemp, Jeremy Dawes, Andrew Brigden (Year 9).

The following students gained **Certificates of Credit**:

Aiden Duffield, (Year 11), Andrew Noble, Kairsten Marley, Matthew Lapinskas, Justin Dryden, Tim Boyle, Ryan Bodilly, Jeff Wai, Ben Torrance, James Stievenard, Cody McKay, Jonathan Cleary, Scott Bissaker (Year 10), Mathew Lapinskas (Year 9).

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY – Y9/10**

All students in Year 9 and 10 have been working through the International Computer Drivers Licence (ICDL) course that has covered important skills necessary to understand basic word processing, spreadsheets, databases, presentation software, internet and e-mail. The course also covers topics on managing files, how computers work and how they are used in society. The course is primarily computer based learning and has been facilitated by Websters E-Learning.

### **DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY**

The Year 7 and 8 Design and Technology course offers students a variety of design challenges over eight units of work. These units aim to introduce students to a wide variety of technologies in a design context. These include food, wood, plastics, textiles, computing, engineered systems and a design graphics unit. The introduction of a Middle School structure has warranted that Mrs Megan Anderson has been in charge of the Year Seven course this year and Mrs Sharelle Sewell has been responsible for the Year 8 course.

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

Students of Year 12 Design and Technology design, develop and evaluate projects of a more rigorous nature and this year students produced a variety of projects including furniture, videos, garments and advertising materials.

These projects can be viewed on the School's web site.

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

The Minister's Young Designers Awards encourage students to look at the world around them, to investigate products, systems and environments, and to design a successful solution in an area of interest to them. The awards are open to students in Year 7 and 8 in all schools in NSW. The challenge offered to students is to develop a project that meets a clearly identified need.

This year the maximum of five student projects per school were submitted to District judging. Students selected were Ellese Cotterill, Fiona Hart, Eleanor Jenkins, Sophie Monteath and Bridie Wade from Year 8, who all produced projects of an excellent standard.

Congratulations to Ellese whose project was successful in gaining an award and recognition at District level and further progressed to State judging.

**Mrs Sharelle Sewell**  
**(MYDA Competition Coordinator)**

### **SOFTWARE DESIGN AND DEVELOPMENT (Y11-12)**

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.

#### ***2003 UNSW High Schools Programming Competition***

Three students from Year 11, Aiden Duffield, Scott Studdert and Michael Abbott, participated as a team in the 2003 University of NSW High Schools Programming Competition. The NGS team finished a creditable 39th of the 64 competing teams this year. This competition attracts a high level of entrants and identifies some of the best students across Australian High Schools. Several previous winners of this competition have represented UNSW in the worldwide ACM Programming Competition and became Australian and South Pacific Champions.

The Competition has the overall aim of raising awareness amongst students of the craft of programming and to encourage students to develop and apply their computing knowledge and skills. It is also intended to foster links between UNSW and high schools. The competition has been run annually since 1997.

**Mr John Butcher**  
**(Computing Competition Coordinator)**

### **INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY (Y11-12)**

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 the RAAF Base Meteorology Section, Just Byte Computers, University of Newcastle, Port Waratah Coal Services, Total Internet Café, Forsythes Information Technology and Bowers Suspension. 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.

### **HOSPITALITY – KITCHEN OPERATIONS (Y11-12)**

The Hospitality, Kitchen Operations course is a VET subject and has also offered students competency based training in the areas of commercial cookery and the hospitality industry. Under the guidance of Mrs Sharelle Sewell and Mr Mark Rowntree, students experience vocational training and are also required to undertake 70 hours work placement as part of their course.

Students have worked at venues such Mad Hattaz, Annacapri, Rendez-Vu Café, Milanos, Croudace Tea House, Lone Star Steakhouse and Saloon, Beaches Hotel, Juicy Beans Café, Chez Pok, and Benevenuti Restaurant.

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

### **2002 HSC Results**

Results of 2002 HSC courses are shown below. A comparison is given to measure student performance against state averages.

| Course                         | Band       | NGS % | State % |
|--------------------------------|------------|-------|---------|
| Design and Technology          | 4, 5, or 6 | 91    | 50      |
| Software Design and Technology | 4, 5, or 6 | 100   | 54.2    |
| Information Technology         | 4, 5, or 6 | 71    | 41      |
| Hospitality Operations         | 4, 5, or 6 | 75    | 44      |

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

## ***VISUAL ARTS***

The Visual Arts students at NGS in 2003 have participated in many activities additional to their school class work. In March, Patrick Armstrong (Year 12, 2002) was invited to talk about his artwork as part of the Art Express Exhibition at Newcastle Regional Gallery. The audience were teachers from the Newcastle and Hunter Region.

Five students were represented in Operation Art which is an exhibition which draws on all students in NSW. The works were framed and exhibited in Penrith Art Gallery and then later distributed to

hospitals for exhibiting. Grace Murray's work was selected for a CD Rom which is available as a teacher's aide for all teachers in Primary and Secondary Schools.

Middle School Visual Arts students took part in two competitions – the Australian Mint Competition and the Christmas Card competition organised by a well known charity group.

Holly Sharpe, Kate Armstrong, Tim Boyle, Chloe Hicks and Ellye Yates participated in the Weston Art Show with Ellye Yates receiving a special mention.

Adam Valentine and Ellye Yates were selected to produce a large drawing each reflecting the theme of Women in the Workforce for a convention being held in the Cathedral. These works are touring regional areas of NSW.

Years 5 and 6 have works in the HRIS Art on the Move Cultural Festival. This is a touring exhibition. A number of Year 11 students applied for the Board of Studies Extension Visual Arts Course at the National Art School. Emma Buxton was successful in achieving one of the very limited places for Regional students. She will attend these over several holiday breaks.

Sasha Ferguson's Year 9 naïve painting was used for the Spring Fair Poster this year and Georgia Roberts' (Year 9) naïve painting was selected for the School calendar.

A highlight of the year was the Year 12 Body of Work Exhibition held on Monday, 1 September. The works by these sixteen students were of a very high standard. In the evening we had a Mocktail Party with the students, family and friends to enable them to view the completed works.

The 2003 Student Exhibition called 'Ideas and Objects' displayed the work of the Years 9, 10 and 11 elective art students. Fifty-seven students exhibited one hundred and fifty-four artworks which were in the forms of painting, sculpture, printmaking, drawing, mixed media using a wide variety of materials and techniques.

The winner of the School Acquisition prize was Bonnie Campbell (Year 11) with a number of other students receiving a Merit Certificate. These included: Sasha Ferguson (Year 9), Gemma Harben (Year 10), Chloe Hicks (Year 10), Ellye Yates (Year 10), and Emma Buxton (Year 11).

This exhibition again demonstrated the excellent level of student achievement in the Visual Arts at Newcastle Grammar School.

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

## **MIDDLE SCHOOL**

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

#### ***OVERVIEW***

2003 saw the Middle School finally become complete with the inclusion of Year 8 for the first time. With around 270 students comprising of two classes in each of Years 5 and 6 and four in each of Years 7 and 8 we had in some ways already outgrown the Stewart building. Of the twelve home classes Years 5, 6 and 7 were able to maintain their Homeroom system, which was so well established in 2002, but Year 8 had to share three home bases between four classes. In many ways for them this acted as a fitting transition to senior school.

Throughout the year we faced a number of staff changes. At the end of Semester I Mr Tony Pieterse left us; at the end of Term 3 Mr Ralph Smith left us to become a full time member of the Fire Brigade and at the end of the year Mrs Nikki Anderson leaves us to join her husband in Melbourne. We wish all these fine staff members the very best in their new paths and thank them for their valued input to our Middle School. In Semester II we welcomed Mr Alan Small onto the teaching staff as well as into the role of Year 8 Patron, and Mr John O'Callaghan as a Class Patron in Year 7. Mrs Suzanne Johnson took Year 6 for the final term. For 2004 several positions have been advertised and we look forward to a staffing structure suited more specifically to the needs of middle schooling.

## *ACADEMIC*

With our focus continuing on pedagogy and the inevitable adoption of several new syllabi over the coming years, staff in the Middle School this year enjoyed a wide variety of professional development opportunities including workshops, one-day seminars and two major conferences. Much material and many ideas were shared with other members of the teaching teams so that teaching and learning could be enhanced and continually improved upon.

Assessment and reporting were reviewed through Faculty and team meetings and some new approaches established for 2004 that are more in keeping with middle school pedagogy. The Heads of Schools also met regularly to make sure that we maintain a continuum between the three phases of the school.

We were able to maintain some integration of the curriculum particularly at Years 5, 6 and 7 level and we hope that with the employment of a Curriculum Coordinator in 2004 this will be further developed.

As a result of consultation with parents, students and staff, many of the competitions that we entered this year were made optional. We kept Year 7 Science and all Computing Competitions as compulsory so that we maintained a benchmark for these areas but in literacy and numeracy wherein we are externally tested annually using ELLA, SNAP and Basic Skills Tests, we offered the competitions as enrichment opportunities only. As always we saw some outstanding results.

Jake MacDonald in Year 6 took out the medal in the Australasian Schools Computer Competition and Adam Murphy received the medal in the Australasian Schools English Competition having both scored 100%. From the Newcastle Permanent Hunter Region Mathematics Competition, two of our Year 5 students Henry Roberts-Thomson and Bronte Jovevski were chosen to attend a Mathematics Camp in March next year. Georgia Lowe and Ayeeda Hossain of Year 6 were Regional finalists in the Nestle Writearound Australia competition and Bronte Jovevski of Year 5 and Andaleeb Hossain of Year 8 became our School OzSpell Champions, representing the school at the District Final.

Years 7 and 8 entered the Westpac Mathematics Competition and the results were excellent with two High Distinctions 18 Distinctions and 58 Credits. Similarly, Year 5 and 6 performed extremely well in the Hunter Region Primary Mathematics Competition wherein we gained 9 High Distinctions, 27 Distinctions and 34 Merits! In the Australasian Mathematics Competition we entered 116 students from Year 5, 6, and 8 and we gained 2 High Distinctions, 21 Distinctions, and 33 Credits. These results are all most commendable.

In the Basic Skills Test and Primary Writing Assessment our Year 5 students once again performed above the state average in all areas of the tests. Similarly, Year 7 performed well above the state average in the ELLA and SNAP tests.

Each year students are selected from Years 5 and 6 to attend the HICES Gifted and Talented Camp in Sydney. This year we had a record number of students accepted. Mrs Muddle accompanied the children for the week. The students and their chosen fields were: from Year 5, Ellie Hewitt (Video production and journalism), Bronte Jovevski (Drama) and Zachary Bush (Literature) and from Year 6, Oliver Whitton (Science), Livia Brash (Music), Cameron Rivett (Debating), Fergus Carlton (Drama), James Hughes (Robotics) and Meggie Morris (Maths). Further to this we entered two teams in The Tournament of Minds regional competition at the University of Newcastle. Our thanks go to Mrs Muddle for the weeks of preparation and time that she put into preparing for both events.

A number of excursions have taken place throughout the year as an enhancement to the teaching and learning of the classroom. Year 5 and 6 had their annual trip to Canberra as a fitting end to their HSIE unit on government. Year 6 also visited Fairfax Press at Chullora to support their media studies work in Reading and Mr McMurtrie's Year 6 Science class visited a mine as part of their unit on machines and were overawed at the sheer size of trucks. Years 5 and 6 attended a Life Education session entitled, *Don't blow it*. They participated in many activities about the dangers and health risks of smoking and passive smoking. The children were also involved in role-plays about peer influence, and developing

refusal skills. It was an excellent educational experience. They also visited the rainforest and had a visit from well-known illustrator, Kim Gamble.

Year 7 went to the Nicholson Museum in Sydney to see some real Egyptian artefacts and spent another day exploring Japanese culture with the visit of *Pam Sensei* and her team of Japanese students. Mrs Bilton and Mrs Patchett ran lunchtime Maths Clinics for anyone needing help throughout the year. All students in the Middle School attended a Percussion workshop in April at Honeysuckle.

### ***PASTORAL***

We continued the tradition that started last year wherein each class took turns in running the weekly chapel services and assemblies. Students used this opportunity to perform, accompany and compere these events as well as read and present in the public arena. Mentor periods remained as an integral part of their Homeroom time and some programmes were trialled in the areas of anti-bullying and friendships. We intend that these programmes will be further developed in 2004. In chapel we donated money every week to help the schools and communities in the Philippines. Then at the Easter Eucharist it was pleasing to see so many boxes of food for the Samaritans' Easter Appeal. Some families had even gone to the trouble of creating very imaginative meal kits. Thank you so much for these kind efforts.

Our Student Representative Council was established this year and met regularly with the help of Mrs Jenny Davies and Mrs Heather Patchett. The 8 members of the Stewart Council, voted into office by their peers were Grace Murray and Tom Burgess from Year 8, Jacqui Duke and Lewis Mullens from Year 7, Holly Katekar and Ben Chapman from Year 6 and Bronte Jovevski and Matthew Barter from Year 5 who will continue to serve 12 months until the end of Term 1 2004. With our Middle School Leaders, Akira Weller-Wong and Lindsey Graham as the chairmen, this group helped at various school functions, organised and ran the Talent Quest on Founder's Day, worked at the Spring Fair and organised fund-raising for the Westpac Rescue Helicopter.

Our transition programmes continued and developed. In Term 4 I visited Year 4 then brought them up to the Hill Campus with the new enrolments for an afternoon's orientation. Their Farewell Barbecue at Park Campus followed this. Year 7 2004 came to school individually with their parents for an interview and tour of the school then visited en masse in November for their orientation morning. The new students also came to school on a Saturday in September to sit their placement tests and have a barbecue lunch hosted by Year 11 prefects. Year 8 experienced another historical first in that we held a graduation dinner that included some musical performances and the symbolic crossing of the bridge to the Senior School where Mr Filby, the Head of the Senior School greeted them.

Year 7 undertook a leadership afternoon at the end of November as part of their preparation for being the seniors of the Middle School next year. This interesting programme was developed by Mr Ian McMurtrie and implemented by a team of 8 teachers.

Another part of our pastoral programme and our outdoor education continuum saw each Year group have an outdoor experience. Year 7 went to the YMCA Blue Mountains Camp very early in Term 1 as part of their transition and familiarisation with each other and their Class Patrons. They experienced trekking, canoeing and challenge activities. Year 5 had a similar experience at the same site then Year 6 went later to camp at Castle Mount Centre on the Hawkesbury. Year 8 had to wait until later in the year to experience another middle school first, an outdoor programme in the cold country. They experienced snowshoe trekking, downhill skiing and boarding and snow craft skills including the building of a snow cave. All of the activities become more challenging as the students progress into each school year so that by the time they reach Year 10 they are well and truly prepared for their Outward Bound experience.

### ***OTHER NOTABLE EXPERIENCES***

A number of Heads of Middle School from all over the Hunter met regularly throughout the last 18 months to plan an inaugural Hunter Middle School Students' Conference. We involved students in this planning and early in the year several of our students were part of this. Lindsey Graham, Akira Weller-

Wong, Hannah Lyons, Jack Zygadlo, Esther Posel and Zachary Bush shared their thoughts with others regarding this significant event. Then in October Jacqui Duke, Erin Plummer, Dominique Wood, Hannah Lyons, Rowan and Holly Katekar, Oliver O'Sullivan, Andaleeb Hossain, Stephanie Heard and Sophie Boyle attended the MYSA Hunter Middle School Conference named *Compass 2003 – Facing the Future*. It was a remarkable and most worthwhile experience and a great opportunity for our students to mix with others their age from the region.

Four debating teams of four from Years 6 and 7 attended the HRIS Debating Day at St Philips. They won all but one of their debates and had a most enjoyable day. Thanks go to Mrs Dart for training the debaters and taking them on the day.

There was also a great deal of hype and excitement in the playground when, for the first time, the Middle School students were invited to compete in the SUMO competition run by Year 12. We discovered some amazing talent amongst both the boys and the girls and I am sure the tradition has now been cemented in the calendar.

In 2003 we established a Chess club and formed teams to enter the regional competition against other schools. The four primary competing teams were:

| <b>Rookies</b> (beginners team) | <b>Knights 1</b> | <b>Knights 2</b> | <b>Knights 3</b>  |
|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| Patrick Davis                   | Lachlan Stronach | James Hughes     | Derek Buchanan    |
| Oliver Young                    | Andrew Boyle     | Oliver Whitton   | Louis Sharpe      |
| Billy Leitch                    | Zachary Bush     | Cameron Rivett   | William Blanch    |
| Mark Teale                      | Thomas Frith     | Michelle Pollack | Brittany Monaghan |

We had other teams entered in the Senior Competition. These students included:

Rowan Katekar  
Patrick Easton  
Ben Slater  
Tim McPherson  
Robert Ambrogetti

To further enhance the chess club and with the help of the Friends' Association we converted the old sandpit into an outdoor chessboard with large pieces. There have been some great chess games on this outdoor setting and the gesture has been very much appreciated by the students. We are also indebted to the parents who helped with transport to chess venues, especially those that were far afield.

We enjoyed Open Day in September when we hosted the Middle School Student Production, which took the form of a MADD presentation. This wonderful display of Music Art Drama and Dance was a fitting showcase of all the marvellous things that have happened in the school every day throughout the year. Mrs Nikki Anderson, Mrs Julie Owers and Ms Jane Parkes were instrumental in putting the day together but it was also a great team effort from all the Middle School teachers.

Our Ecowarriors have continued to have an impact on the sustainability of the School and have been proactive in developing a paper recycling system that has now been adopted throughout the Hill Campus. Some of them with the help of several Year 6 students were involved in a tree-planting day in July. This keen green group hope to grow in number and support in 2004.

Parents had many opportunities to become involved in the Middle School. They are always welcome at weekly assemblies and chapel services and it was good to see so many do this throughout the year. We also held forum information sessions for each year group early in Term 1 followed by individual teacher interviews after the Half-Yearly Assessment period. Many families also attended the Barbecue at the beginning of the year for new families.

In March Mrs Nikki Anderson and I hosted *Middle School Melange*: a fun Adults Only night wherein we placed parents into a Middle School classroom for a couple of hours and gave them a taste of education as it happens today. This was a fun and informative night and very much enjoyed by parents.

In August we hosted the annual Coffee Evening for next year's Year 7 parents. This was a chance for them to hear presentations from two Year 7 students and two Year 7 parents and to meet with each other and ask questions of the staff who attended.

There have also been an abundance of Class Parent gatherings at each Year group and a Disco organised by these parents for all the students of the Middle School. In June Lulu O'Sullivan and Alexander Woolcott did a wonderful job as flower girl and pageboy respectively at the Year 11 Debutante Ball continuing the tradition that this job is given to the younger siblings of students in Year 11.

A number of Middle School families hosted billets from The Armidale School Chapel Choir and musicians from Barker College at the end of Term 3.

As always, as well as all of the abovementioned experiences, our students have been blessed with an abundance of SATU, musical and sporting opportunities and events throughout the year. These have been reported in their respective sections of this publication but I would like to acknowledge how important these three aspects of our school are and how dedicated the staff has been in providing such wonderful support for our students.

In writing this report it makes me realise just how much has been packed into a year and I thank everyone in our School community for their continued support in this the second year in our journey into middle schooling and look forward to our progress in 2004.

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

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS - MIDDLE SCHOOL**

### ***SPORT***

The participation level in the sporting arena during 2003 at Newcastle Grammar School has been wonderful with five netball teams, five basketball teams, one soccer team, four hockey teams, two touch teams, six aerobics teams and one cricket team. With numerous individuals also competing in individual events such as swimming, athletics, cross country and rowing.

This year has been a very successful year in sport for the Middle School with our 12 years Division 5 netball team winning their grand final in the Newcastle Netball Association Championship and our 11 years Division 4 and our 14 years Division 3 team finishing in 4<sup>th</sup> place.

Five teams and two individuals were successful in gaining a place in the NSW team to represent Newcastle Grammar School at the Australian FISAF Aerobics & Fitness Championships held in Adelaide in October, where our two funk teams finished in 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> place and gained a position in the Australian team to compete at the World FISAF Aerobics & Fitness Championships held in Adelaide in May 2004.

Outstanding individual results were achieved by Sam Crook being selected in the CIS Basketball team, Madeleine Macridis and Lindsay Graham in swimming, Liam Speers in Athletics, Robert Ambrogetti and Lindsay Graham in Cross Country. Robert gained a bronze medal in the All School 13 Years team event which was an outstanding result.

Our rowers were also successful with our quad team consisting of Liam Brown, Liam Williamz, Nicholas Barnes, Patrick Lowe and Chloe Hicks as Cox finishing in 1<sup>st</sup> place in the men's novice quad at the ISRA Rowing Championships.

The skill level of all our athletes over 2003 has definitely improved due to their dedication and overall commitment to their various sports and I look forward to this continued effort during 2004.

**Mrs Corey Roundtree**  
**Middle School Sport Coordinator**

# **JUNIOR SCHOOL**

## ***FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL***

After two years as The Junior School K-4 on Park Campus, there is a great sense of belonging and consolidation and a happy relaxed atmosphere permeates this lovely campus. There are now double classes in each year, Kindergarten to Year 4. Two new members of staff joined the team, Ms Charlie Howard for Kindergarten and Mr Paul Russell for Year 2. The relationship between the Junior School and Preschool remains very close.

Year 4 again took on the role of ‘buddies’ for the new Kindergarten classes. Most of the children had been in the Preschool here and it became obvious after several weeks that this group of children found the transfer from ‘one side of the fence’ to the other very easy. The School year started with all students except Kindergarten, joining Middle and Senior Schools in Christ Church Cathedral for the traditional service, giving us a focus for our Spiritual life and a sense of belonging to the School as a whole.

Our first K-4 Swimming Carnival at Mayfield pool started the year’s activities and this again helped consolidate the K-4 focus. Many children then went on to represent the School at the HRIS Carnival at Lambton. The Athletics Carnival took place at National Park and again, students then went on to compete in the HRIS carnival at Glendale. Howzat was used for the Year 3 and 4 sports programme. Many students also participated in the co-curricular sports offered by the school.

Visiting performers this year included, ‘Street Sense’ which was sponsored by RTA and a puppet show of ‘Peter and the Wolf’. The whole school visited the Newcastle Conservatorium for a concert with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra conducted by Richard Gill. Our Book Week visitor this year, Kim Gamble, a wonderful illustrator, dazzled the children by creating two pieces of art as he talked. He donated these artworks and they now hang in the Library.

The stairwell in ‘The Ark’ has housed many class art exhibitions as well as the travelling HRIS ‘Art on the Move’. A book fair was organised by our Librarian, Mrs Johnson, which resulted in over \$1,200 being raised to buy books for the Library.

The Year 3 and 4 Camp at Myuna Bay, a new venue for this camp, was very successful. HSIE units were the focus for excursions which included a visit to the Royal Botanical Gardens Sydney, Tocal, Buttai Barn, The City Hall and Hog’s Breath Café.

In Music, Strings are now being taught in Years 3 and 4 by Ms Ireland, Miss Murray, Ms Porter and Miss Parkes. Ms Wendy Ireland was appointed Head of Strings and a day was set aside for Years 3 and 4 to be involved in Stringfest which culminated in a concert attended by parents. Under Miss Parkes direction, the Year 3 and 4 choir ‘The Tones’, took part in the City of Sydney Eisteddfod. Mrs Lane trained the K-2 Choir ‘The Semitones’ for many performances finishing with the traditional Carol Service in Christ Church Cathedral. Music in the Junior School is a wonderful foundation for involvement later on in the School and it has been rewarding for the students to be included in many ‘whole School’ activities this year.

Many events are important in the life of the Junior School but the ones that involve the School Family capture the spirit of the School. The weekly Chapel services conducted by Father Brian, the end of term assemblies, the Easter Breakfast and many other events are always wonderfully supported. Chapel Services are always well attended by parents. Chapel offerings have been given to the Church in the Philippines. We also raised money for the ‘World Festival of Magic’ for children with Special Needs, as well as the Children’s Ward at John Hunter.

Founders’ Day and the Variety Concert are now two events that are very important in our Calendar. Founders’ Day again saw hundreds of parents and friends crowd into the Park Campus Performance Centre for a Multicultural presentation followed by family picnics on the grass. Variety Concert was packed on both nights with family and friends. Teachers involved their classes in all different ways and it truly was a night of variety. The teachers do a magnificent job in coming up with new ideas each

year – some even writing their own scripts. Matthew Perry, the composer of ‘Safari’ the musical performed by Years 3 and 4, attended a performance. Once again Miss Parkes did a magnificent job in bringing out the best in the students. The costumes for the whole night were the work of parents who put in a lot of time and effort. Mrs Pavitt once again pulled it all together.

This year we introduced a new system of reporting to the parents. At the end of Term 1, Teacher/Parent interviews were conducted. At the end of Terms 2 and 4, a report was sent home. Next year will see Teacher/Parent interviews available at the end of Term 3. This will mean feedback to parents is available each term. Mrs Pavitt also organised Parent Information Evenings for Literacy, Numeracy and Special Education which were well attended by parents.

Once again Years 3 and 4 participated in the Australasian Schools English and Mathematics competitions. The results were excellent with Angela Collins in Year 3 receiving a medal, the highest award in the State in the English Competition. The Year 3 Basic Skills results were again excellent with results well above the State average.

2003 has been another well-rounded and rewarding year for the students and staff at Park Campus. Many joys are to be found teaching Kindergarten to Year 4 children and the nurturing and encouragement by the dedicated staff here is very evident in the attitudes and achievements of the children. As I hand back the ship to Mr David Sarich, I thank Mrs Karan Main without whom I could not have carried out my role. She founded the Park Campus Office and with all her skills, made sure that we were all kept on track for which I thank her wholeheartedly. Her dedication to her role has been exemplary and the nursing profession to which she is returning will be gaining a wonderful person. To Miss Jacqui Soto and her team at Preschool, Mrs Hodgins and her staff at After School Care, all the teachers Kindergarten to Year 4 and our Specialist Staff, I thank them for being such loyal and empathetic professionals. It was my great privilege to have been involved in the foundations of the three-school focus and these two years have enriched my life with great joy. I thank Mr Alan Green for asking me to stand in during Mr Sarich’s absence. The continuous support of our Parents in the Junior School is valued and ensures that Park Campus is a wonderful place in which to be for staff and students alike.

**Miss Judith Wotton**  
**Head of Junior School**

## **DEPARTMENT REPORTS - JUNIOR SCHOOL**

### ***MUSIC***

The opportunities for musical children at our school are endless. This year, students have experienced such a breadth of fine music including workshops and performances with the best jazz musicians in the country at the annual music camp to singing the Hallelujah Chorus in a massed choir on the stage of Sydney Town Hall.

A highlight for Years 3 and 4 who all learn an orchestral string was the String Festival in which they found themselves performing alongside the best string players in the school. This both delighted and inspired them immensely. Wendy Ireland who is now the Head of Strings at the school has developed and placed into practice a fantastic programme for young string players in the Junior School. The children are keen to perform and are gathering excellent skills whilst playing fun music with great accompaniments on CD, all of which are composed by Ms Ireland.

The Junior School Variety Nights were fantastic. The first half of the evening comprised of colourful and varied class performances and the second half was *Safari*. Matthew Perry the composer of *Safari* was thrilled to be in attendance on the closing night and praised our production. He was especially impressed by the quality of the singing and costumes. Everyone did such a great job of preparing the costumes to make our performance so special. Thank you for all of your efforts and thought.

Year 5 worked extremely hard in preparation for their performance in the JSHAA Music Festival. Together they produced a beautifully polished performance and were enthusiastic members of the massed choir items at the close of the night. I am extremely proud of them for their dedication to

producing such a quality performance of three contrasting, two part songs about the environment and caring for animals.

The Grammarphones is represented by a group of 'hard core' singers who never miss a rehearsal. I would like to thank them for being part of fun and productive rehearsals. The sound they have developed is beautiful - I know Miss Saunders is dying to get them into her choirs!

The Middle School production called M.A.D.D. - Music, Art, Drama and Dance. The single performance that took place on Open Day was a huge success. The programme was wonderfully varied and everyone was able to offer something in some way. Stunning solo performances, excellent works of art, energetic aerobics, simple and effective class items and of course choir items. Congratulations to all who made this production come to life and particularly Mrs Anderson who directed the show.

Middle School groups such as The Octaves worked together with students from Barker College to create a superb evening of performances. Apart from the friendships sparked by this opportunity, we will no doubt visit them in the future and perform for their school family.

In closing, I would like to thank all of the parents, students and staff who oil the engine in the basement called the Music Department. It is a busy and exciting place to work and there is no doubt of the enjoyment and enrichment our students receive from having music in their lives.

**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 one hour of Sport each Thursday. During this time all students have participated in the sports of swimming, gymnastics, netball, basketball, touch, T-ball, cricket, 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 and CIS Cross Country held at Eastern Creek.

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-4***

**S**pecial. We all like to think that we have something special that we can do or be or say don't we? Sometimes a child needs time before they are prepared to reveal or share their 'speciality'.

Students who do not feel good about themselves do not succeed. Every child has a quality to praise and nurture. Every Junior School student participated in a special Education programme in the Special Room this year. It is often difficult to 'sell' the idea of participating in a Special Education class. Not so at Park Campus. Involvement is sought after because we the staff put a positive spin on selection so that every child who works in my room feels special.

**P**arent information evenings were held in February and March. Junior school staff and guest speakers introduced the new maths syllabus, provided literacy and numeracy strategies for parents to use at home and on the final evening, remediation and extension aspects were covered.

**E**nthusiasm for the task at hand is enhanced by preparation and confidence. To that end I attended several Professional Development sessions in order to keep myself up to date with recent information and resources. One example of this was when I invited speakers from the Association of Independent Schools to address my colleagues from other Hunter Independent Schools in the Park Campus Library on Funding Issues.

**C**hallenge groups were very popular again this year. We tried to rotate children through homogeneous groups and activities so that all were able to participate. Drama was the hot favourite with the Science and Math Challenges running a close second.

**I**nvolvement in a variety of things adds interest to one's day. This was certainly the case for me as Assemblies and Variety Nights are my responsibilities outside the classroom. Student involvement was at its peak in Variety Night but they have also been encouraged to perform, speak, compete and lead at morning and end of term assemblies.

**A**chievement should never be measured in terms of quantity. All activities in the Special Room challenged students to aim for success, not perfection. Those who succeed the least often require support the most. Programmes were structured in such a way that students were provided with achievable short term goals thereby gaining the confidence to attempt long term goals.

**L**astly but certainly not least, I would like to thank my wonderful volunteer reading tutors. The involvement of these mothers, grandmothers, grandfathers and staff spouses was crucial to the success of my programmes. Mrs Nina Bashford, Mr Frank Brown, Mrs Vicki Bonica, Mrs Peta Cominos, Mrs Margo Collins, Mrs Frances Chapman, Mrs Elizabeth Egan, Mrs Janet Hill, Mrs Toni Langford, Mrs Dawn McDonald, Mrs Mary Matthews, Mrs Aspasia Patsan, Mr Martin Pavitt, Mrs Michelle Satler, Mrs Barbara Schalit, Mrs Ruth Spigelman, Mrs Bronwen Tyler and Mrs Georgina Wicks – the children thank you. Some of these tutors having been coming every week for the last four years and now that their own children are moving to the Middle School I will probably lose them so if you can spare one morning each week I would love to hear from you.

**Mrs Frances Pavitt**  
**Special Education and Support K-4**

## ***FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRE-SCHOOL***

### ***WOOWIE describes 2003!***

Yet again the Pre-school grew. We had 36 children every day and 70 children over the week. We also had a waiting list of children wanting to attend. So it was a very busy year for 'The Shakers' (group of 16 children) and 'The Groovers' (group of 20 children).

Miss Catherine left us to have her beautiful twins, Finn and Lilli and Miss Angela came to play. Miss Angela came to us from being Director of Hamilton Child Care Centre. What a fabulous team of Early Childhood professionals I have on board! Miss Lizzie, Miss Fiona, Miss Catherine, Miss Angela and Mrs Hodgins. I say thank you to my fabulous staff, who have worked so hard this year and are a bunch of amazing women.

2003 the children have been like little sponges. We have seen some of them develop sooooo much. From rolling all over the floor during group time, at the beginning of the year, to sitting up, listening, putting their hands up and answering questions, at the end of the year. They have been such a delight to teach.

We have continued to enjoy the wonderful teachings of Mrs Lane at her 'house' in the music room. The children look forward to her songs and musical games, which we often repeat back at Preschool. Thank you Mrs Lane for lots of fun.

We also loved our visits from Father Brian on Mondays and Thursdays. The children often asked if it was 'Father Brian' day for they very much enjoyed his teachings and his stories. He was always happy to answer some of the 'tricky' questions that 4 and 5 year olds ask.

Our vegie garden is surviving without our green thumb Miss Catherine, with a good crop of strawberries again this year. It is great to observe the children just picking the strawberries, washing them and then eating them straight from the garden. The passionfruit vine that we planted in memory of our beautiful Mrs Cook is now huge, with lots of passionfruit growing.

Our garden teaches the children many things, from how to care for and look after nature, to what grows and lives in the garden. Many a time the 'Bug-catcher' is grabbed so that we can observe a creature through magnifying glasses.

Large group lessons (3 a day) were so enjoyable. The children asked some really challenging questions and through these, discussions developed into all sorts of learnings. We based some of our teachings on the Reggio Emilia philosophy, which encourages teachers to go with the children's interests and to further their learning through this. Sometimes a whole lesson would be put aside to follow a topic that was of interest to a child or group. At times we had to get out the Thesaurus, Dictionary, or science books to make sure we were on the right track!

Small group lessons, where the children were divided into focus groups, were run fortnightly and the children loved them. They would often yell with joy when it was announced it was small group time. In these groups the children were given more challenging activities to perform, in line with Kindergarten activities.

This year we visited some great places; the Fire Station, the Chinese Dinosaur Exhibition at the Museum, Peter and the Wolf at Park Campus Hall, the Wacky Wombat Show at the Newcastle Library, the Junior School Athletics Carnival, Santa's Kingdom (Sydney).

We have also had lots of interesting visitors this year; an Ambulance officer, a Flamenco Dancer, Purple Moon Theatre, Dimmock's Musical Instruments, a Dental visit, a Science Show, Bird Capers and Ruby the Clown.

These activities, along with dress up days, Founder's Day, a Pre-school Disco, the Junior School Assembly and performing on stage at Variety Nights made for a very active year.

Fourth term, as usual was a busy one, with us doing lots of School readiness activities, preparing the children for Kindergarten. This included visiting Kindergarten and lunching with the rest of the school, performing pre-writing and pre-reading activities and testing sounds.

I would like to thank all of the parents that assisted us this year in our Preschool. Whether it was coming on our excursions, donating equipment, assisting with the Disco or just your kind words and support.

I would like to say it has been an absolute pleasure working with your adorable children in 2003 - they have made coming to work exciting, and enjoyable all year round.

Here are just a few examples of some of the funny things we heard during our fun filled days...

Child 'Do you know why Shrek has no skin?'

Miss J "No tell me why?"

Child "Cause Pinocchio took it!"

"My dad has fur all over his body to protect him from the sun"

"My dad's from Italy and my mum's from earth"

2004 will be another busy year with the Preschool being full and with a large waiting list. We look forward to another spectacular year with lots of laughs.

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

## ***TYRRELL LIBRARY***

Just as the School is growing, so, too, is the Library. This year our additions to the Park Campus Library have taken the number of resources there beyond the recommendations of the Australian School Library Association for an adequate collection. This has been achieved by purchasing specifically for the Library from the library budget, boosted by the Premier's Grant to Primary Libraries, as well as completing the transfer of all the appropriate stock from the Hill campus collection. The Library accommodation is now overflowing, and will soon be housed in a more generous space. Thanks to the wonderful efforts by Mrs Johnson, and Mrs Karan Main, backed up by the Hill Library staff, this is now a vital place of learning and reading in a vibrant School.

Term Three saw the expansion of our audio-visual technology into the Stewart building and the Merrick Lecture Theatre. As it required an upgrade to our existing hardware as well as an increase in the number of outlets, the staff experienced major retraining in its use. This sophisticated operation is now driven by Mrs Daly who supports the teachers with great patience and a calm demeanour, very necessary in the everyday rigours of the school day.

Bookhire, under the operation of Mrs Diane Kenchington, is entering its second year of automation. We have been extremely busy adding the backlog of School text resources, as well as purchasing and processing the new texts bought as a result of the apparently constantly changing syllabus requirements. We are confident that this process will lead to an efficient system for operating this vast collection of resources.

Meanwhile, in the Tyrrell Library at the Hill campus, the students continue to use the array of resources, now numbering in the 50,000s at every available opportunity. The afternoon opening hours till 5.30 pm remain very popular with an average of thirty students attending each day. These students are in the daily care of Mrs Williams whose job it is to catalogue the thousands of resources which we accrue, adding to their accessibility. The change in the emphasis of the English syllabus and the increased interest on Visual Literacy has brought about a return to reading Picture books by the senior students—a delightful plus for the students and the staff. The face which greets most students each day belongs to Ms Sue Forsythe, who patiently communicates with the students about their reading and academic needs as well as caring for our collection of academic journals and cataloguing resources with Mrs Williams.

Our daily operations in this School are supported by the Office staff, the Grounds staff and the Canteen ladies, led by Mrs Kaylene Robson. With their assistance, the Library staff is able to enjoy such a satisfying work environment supporting the students at this School.

**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.

### ***Senior Leadership Appointments for 2003***

Senior Cadet Under Officer – David Bowen-Thomas  
Company Sergeant Major – Thomas Saunders  
Platoon Commanders - CUO Rebecca Boyle, CUO Fuchsia Sims, SSgt David Mathers  
Platoon Sergeants – Sgt Patrick Boyle, Sgt Sarah Hamilton, Sgt Liam Potter  
Drum Major – SSgt Peter Murphy  
Training WO – Warrant Officer Boyd Schrader  
CQMS – Sergeant Justin Langford

### **Newcastle Show Honour Guard**

A contingent of cadets formed an Honour Guard for the official opening of the Newcastle Show. The standard of drill was very good and it was pleasing to hear many positive comments regarding the bearing of our cadets. SUO David Bowen-Thomas and Warrant Officer Tom Saunders demonstrated exemplary leadership for the parade.

### **Annual Camp**

Our annual camp was held at Singleton Army Base during the last week of first term. Good weather, a wide variety of training exercises and excellent conduct of all cadets present guaranteed a most successful week. I wish to also acknowledge the efforts of our senior cadets and staff for their assistance in running such a large exercise.

A number of presentations were made to cadets at the end of the camp during our march out parade. These were:

UNCoy UNSWR CAMP AWARD FOR OUTSTANDING CADET

*Awarded to* CDT SOPHIE BOYLE

AWARD FOR MOST PROMISING CADET ON CAMP YEAR 7

*Awarded to* CDT JARRYD BRENNAN

AWARD FOR MOST PROMISING CADET ON CAMP YEAR 8

*Awarded to* CDT PATRICK LOWE

AWARD FOR MOST PROMISING LANCE CORPORAL ON CAMP

*Awarded to* LCPL JEREMY DAWES

AWARD FOR MOST PROMISING SECTION LEADER ON CAMP

*Awarded to* T/CPL PETER IMLAY

THE UNCoy UNSWR AWARD FOR MOST PROMISING CADET ON CAMP

*Awarded to* T/CPL MICHAEL GILES

### **Anzac Day Civic March**

A solid contingent of our Cadets participated in the Newcastle Anzac Day Parade and Service on April 25. Our SUO David Bowen-Thomas and CSM Thomas Saunders are to be congratulated for their efforts in leading the parade. Our Drum Corps also marched during the parade and should be congratulated for their efforts. SSgt Peter Murphy, Drum Major led the Drum Corps, many of who are new members with limited experience. Congratulations to all who represented our School on this important day of our national heritage.

### **Anzac Day Cadet Drill Competition**

We were delighted to hear that our Unit won the inaugural Anzac Day Cadet Drill Competition. SUO David Bowen- Thomas and Warrant Officer Thomas Saunders were presented with a perpetual shield and plaque during the Newcastle Anzac Day Service by representatives from the National Service and Combined Forces Association of Australia, Newcastle Branch. Congratulations to all who participated, demonstrating a commendable level of drill and bearing.

### **Abseiling Bivouac**

Our abseiling bivouac was held on 22-23 June at Gap Creek, Watagan Forest. Cadets participated in abseiling, rock climbing, initiatives, navigation and a variety of fieldcraft activities. It was pleasing to see cadets working together at all times in the conduct of these activities, and the leadership of our senior cadets was also commendable.

### **Reserve Forces Day**

A small contingent of cadets from NGS participated with other Defence Force Cadets in the Reserve Forces Day Parade held at Newcastle during the holidays on July 5. The parade formed up in front of Customs House and then Marched to Nobby's Beach for a short service.

### **Promotions Courses**

During the last week of the mid semester break the SATU conducted promotions courses at School for Y9 and Y11 cadets. Appointments and promotions positions will hopefully be finalized soon. Many thanks to Capt Potter, Sgt Price and to Lt Gallagher for their efforts in instruction over the courses.

Ryan Bodilly also spent two days with Mr Teale completing more advanced flying lessons involving more solo flights.

### **Dining In Night**

Our Dining In Night was held on Friday evening September 19 in the School Hall. The evening was attended by all senior cadets, CUOs, OOCs and invited guests from various military units. Our special guest was Col Peter Christie who reviewed our Parade on the following day.

Various presentations were also made at the dinner including farewell gifts to our Year 12 cadets. I would like to wish our Year 12 cadets all the very best for the future and acknowledge their efforts and contribution to the Unit over the past six years! Our Year 12 cadets for 2003 were SUO David Bowen-Thomas, CUO Fuchsia Sims and WOII Thomas Saunders. Our Year 10 cadets helped serve on the evening and our Flag Party ( Cpl Michael Giles, Cdt Claire Davis, Cdt Georgia Morris) were exemplary on the night.

### **Passing Out Parade**

The SATU conducted our annual Passing Out Parade on Saturday September 20. I would like to thank all cadets, NCOs, senior cadets and OOCs for their efforts in ensuring the parade was a great success. I was also very pleased to see so many parents and friends supporting the Unit on the day. Well done!

A number of prizes were awarded during the parade.

These were:

|                              |   |                    |
|------------------------------|---|--------------------|
| Most Efficient Cadet Year 7  | - | Cdt Samantha Stott |
| Most Efficient Cadet Year 8  | - | Cdt Claire Davis   |
| Most Efficient Cadet Year 9  | - | LCpl Jeremy Dawes  |
| Most Efficient Cadet Year 10 | - | Cpl Michael Giles  |
| Most Outstanding SNCO        | - | WOII Boyd Schrader |

## **Promotions and Appointments for 2003/2004**

Congratulations to the following cadets who will have been appointed with leadership responsibilities within our unit for the 2003/2004 year:

SUO - Boyd Schrader

CSM - WOII Nicholas Murphy

CUO - Sarah Hamilton, David Mathers, Peter Murphy

SSgt - Justin Langford

T/Sgt - Michael Giles, Peter Imlay, Andrew Noble, Guy Fletcher, Dominic Lowe, Ryan Bodilly,  
Oliver Leitch, Scott Slattery

Cpl - Jeremy Dawes, Ben Evans, Geoffrey Brown, Cody McKay, Timothy Macdonald, James Dykes

T/Cpl - Paige Campbell, Peter Lyons

## **Open Day**

On Saturday 25 October a number of cadets volunteered their time to help set up and man the SATU display for Open Day. Many thanks to all those who did a wonderful job on the day. A large cargo net was used as a backdrop whilst photos, hootchies, videos and even an Army landrover provided much interest. SSGT Duncan Price and Mr Chris Teale generously assisted with queiries on the day.

## **Williamtown RAAF Camp**

On 3-4 November our Unit had the privilege of attending a two-day camp at Williamtown RAAF Base. Cadets had the opportunity to learn about the operations of the base and participated in a wide range of many interesting and enjoyable activities. These included the Security Dog Section, Fire Emergency Section, a RAAF fitness test with the PTIs and a survival exercise with life jackets and Dinghies in the RAAF pool. We were accommodated at 26 Squadron and meals were in the Airmen's Mess. The following day cadets were fortunate to participate in Squadron briefings, visit the Air Traffic Control Tower, look over an F-18 fighter jet, attend an instructor brief on fighter training and visit the Search and Rescue (SAR) Helicopter and crew. The camp concluded with a visit to Fighterworld. I would like to acknowledge the efforts of Mr Chris Teale, our Flying Instructor for his direction in planning this camp. Many thanks also to Group Captain Bill Johnson who gave us his full support in ensuring the success of this activity.

## **FLYING CORPS**

### **First Solo Flights**

David Bowen-Thomas (Y12) and Ryan Bodilly (Y10) participated in a Flying Corps Camp for the duration of the Easter Vacation. Under the direction of our instructor Mr Chris Teale, both boys completed the camp that resulted in their first "solo" flight. They were then presented with their "wings" by Mr Teale and the Royal Newcastle Aeroclub at the completion of the camp. This is a significant achievement, and I know that both David and Ryan have aspirations to continue with a career in aviation.

Ryan has since completed 3 days of intensive pilot training and completed his first area solo flight around the Hunter Valley. With continued Flying Corps Training, it is hoped that Ryan will obtain his Private Pilot Licence next year.

### **Flying Activities**

A number of flying activities have been held throughout the year. These have been conducted on a number of Tuesday afternoons and School Holidays. Activities have included familiarization flights in a Cessna 172 for first timers, and instructional lessons and flights for those who wish to learn how to fly. The School is indebted to Mr Teale for his continued support and efforts in providing our cadets with this wonderful opportunity.

## **1 Platoon Report**

This year has an exciting year for all the new cadets; we had a large number of Year 7 cadets join at the start of the year. The cadets learnt a number of new skills from how to use a heximine stove to cook food from ration packs, to how to navigate.

With a number of camps throughout the year and the annual camp early in the year, most would say this was the high-light of the year. The term four visit to the Williamtown RAAF Base was also a great way to finish the year off.

The work of SGT Boyle and Cpl's Noble, Imlay, and Fletcher under the capable guidance of CUO Sims throughout the year has been invaluable.

**Lt Mark Rowntree**

## **2 Platoon Report**

It has been an exciting year for 2 Platoon under the capable guidance of Sgt Murphy (now the Unit's new CSM) and assisted by Sgt Hamilton. The cadets received training in navigation skills and correct Army radio procedures (Ratel), which were tested at a practical level by Annual Camp in April. Our abseiling bivouac was also great fun with more than one cadet overcoming their fear of heights and taking on the large descent. Preparation for the Passing Out Parade was thorough and two 2 Platoon cadets, Georgia Morris and Claire Davis, were outstanding in the Flag Party. In fact Sgt Price was so impressed with these two girls that he has already booked their services for future parades! More recently the cadets were briefed on rank in the RAAF, which came in handy for our visit to Williamtown RAAF Base. It was a full programme in 2003 and the cadets have acquired many skills that will assist them in the future including confidence and leadership ability.

**Lt Tara Fraser**

## **Drum Corps Report**

It has been pleasing to see the progress of the Drum Corps this year, considering the number of new members in the group. The Drum Corps has supported the SATU at the Newcastle ANZAC Day March, The School ANZAC Service which was held in the Cathedral, The National Serviceman's Association Parade, The SATU Annual Passing Out Parade, The School's Remembrance Day Service and at the School's Annual Speech Day Ceremony. Many of these parades and services do not fall during School time, and the drummers are to be commended on their willingness to give up their own time to represent both the School and the SATU.

I would like to thank Mr Steve Morton for the wonderful work he has done with the group. He has met with them during lunchtime on Tuesdays, to teach them drumming skills and their cadences. In addition, the students have benefited from the experience of Mr Dick Lynch, who has given his time to work with them on several Tuesday afternoons this year.

The members of the group this year have been; Sgt Peter Murphy, LCpl Cody Mackay, Cdt Charlie Mathers, Cdt **Alex Ma**, Philip Duncan, Andrew Roddick and Jayne Krempin. During first term, Beatrice Carey and Stephanie Miller played snare drums for the group.

I would like to thank the students in this group for their enthusiasm, excellent presentation and fine drumming.

**Lt(ACC) Lynne Walker**

## **Support Staff**

It is important to acknowledge the ongoing support of those people who have volunteered their time for our cadets this year. I would like to particularly like to thank Mr Chris Teale for his energy and enthusiasm providing our students with an opportunity to experience a variety of many excellent flying activities.

Mr Duncan Price 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.

Mr Dick Lynch has been most generous in providing advice to our drummers on a variety of military and ceremonial matters.

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***

2003 began with me feeling far more familiar with my role as Careers Adviser and with a clearer perspective of the busiest times of the year.

The information and resources available to the students and myself continues to amaze me. The steady stream of mail I receive continues on a daily basis. It covers all aspects of available career options and associated areas and at times the sheer volume of information is overwhelming. The regular mailing system and the ever-expanding Internet are a constant challenge for me.

How do I get this information out to the interested students?

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.

Regular entries in the School Newsletter have also proven to be one of the most effective ways of disseminating the relevant information to both the student and parent bodies. I was able to publish direct links to the relevant websites and organizations, notify of any changes re application procedures and highlight any new information that was available in the school or through the school. During the busy lead up to scholarship applications and University and College admissions this means of communication was invaluable.

Open Days and Careers Days are also a regular part of the preparation and decision making process for all 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, especially those in the Sydney Metropolitan area.

Year 10 and Year 11 students have also been actively involved in the Work Experience Programme, within the School. It has continued to be popular, with students organising their work placements during available holiday periods.

Students were placed in a variety of industry areas, with the IT industry proving very popular. Other placements have occurred in physiotherapy, hospitality, customer service organizations, journalism, education, and The John Hunter Hospital. On behalf of the students I would like to thank the organizations and businesses that have provided these opportunities for the students.

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 2004.

All Year 9 and Year 10 students have continued regular Careers lessons with each class group attending one lesson per two-week cycle. Students have found the lessons to be relevant and meaningful providing them with knowledge and skills that will be invaluable as they progress through school and their careers.

The lessons include activities such as job research with an emphasis on using the resources available on the Internet, deciphering job advertisements, writing letters of application and compiling resumes. It has been rewarding to see students acquire part time work after they have applied for positions, submitted resumes and attended interviews.

The opportunities and choices available to our students are expanding more quickly than we can imagine. The Internet is 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.

As we approach the last weeks of this academic year we wait to hear of the successes and achievements of the students, particularly Year 12. Many of them have applied for scholarships and traineeships, university entry and other study and career opportunities. I hope the information available to them has helped in their transition from school to tertiary education and/or career paths. As they begin another period of their life and development I wish them every success.

#### ***International Exchange Programmes***

The School is currently hosting three exchange students for 2003 - 2004, Baptiste Cheve-Melzer from France, Saara Kotkaniemi from Finland and Nikolaj Haubroe from Denmark.

Chloe Hicks has been selected as an international exchange student for 2003-2004, and will be spending six months in France. Andrew Wilson has been accepted for the GAP Programme. He will be spending a year in England at the Sibford School, located in the Cotswolds, near Oxford. Andrew will be undertaking a role as a member of staff aiding in the teaching of the students. Sibford School is a music/sport/acting based school. Both students will no doubt have a wonderful experience and we wish them well.

It has been a very rewarding and satisfying year and I look forward to the challenges and success for 2004.

**Mrs Tonia Martin**  
**Careers Adviser**

## ***ARTSLINK***

ARTSLINK is a parent group, which supports the Visual, Dramatic and Performing Arts at Newcastle Grammar School. Our aim is to provide opportunities for our students at all levels to display and perform work and thereby gain experience and enjoyment. We also hope that some of these occasions will provide enjoyable social interaction for parents.

***Jazz in the Vines*** this year was held in conjunction with The Rothbury Estate Wine Festival. Brass Razoo entertained in the main garden area and the patrons really enjoyed their music.

ARTSLINK hosted ***The Sydney Chamber Orchestra*** with conductor Wolfram Christ in an evening of music in the Cathedral before they left for a world tour. Our school musicians were able to see that the Conservatorium musicians were not much older than they were, and that a future in music may indeed be possible.

***Jazz at the Lake*** was our last event for this year and we returned to the venue of the Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. A wonderful variety of music was presented by groups and individual musicians from the school. Brass Razoo played for dancing and as many students from Bamboozle have just joined Brass Razoo, the sound is big and very enjoyable. The new Roland digital piano was purchased for the school by ARTSLINK.

Dawn Mullane is leaving ARTSLINK this year and I would also like to take this opportunity to thank her for the wonderful support she has given over many years. She has been a very dedicated member and we will miss her organisation skills and ideas very much.

The ARTSLINK committee now has only two Year 11 parents still active! We would love to see some new members next year when we resume, so that the work of the ARTSLINK Committee can expand and continue in the future.

**Chris Miller**

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

I welcome the opportunity to once again acknowledge the enormous amount of work undertaken during the past year by the Friends and its band of willing helpers. There are occasions when one wonders, 'where am I going to get time to give to this function' or 'who am I going to pester to help with this. Yet every challenge gets a good result. We all cope with the stresses and strains of everyday life and each day we demonstrate to our children how to attend to issues large and small in the hope that they will possess the strength required to make appropriate decisions for their own futures. The trick of course is determining what is and what is not a large issue in a world where hype and aggression create a cloudy image at best and invariably hide the truth. By actively supporting our children in their daily pursuits directly or indirectly to me epitomises the role of the Friends of Newcastle Grammar School.

May I thank Philippa Killin, Brett and Ellice Schrader and Sandra Ellis for their unfailing support throughout the past year. They have given far more of their valuable time to the Friends than is obvious, and have contributed welcome assessments to the allocation of support to various requests for funding.

During the year we have continued sponsorship of the Year 12 Pastoral Programme, supported French Class students to Noumea, provided Chess Sets to the Middle School, purchased equipment for After School Care, provided funds to increase the size of classroom libraries at the Junior School and have allocated funding to provide updated lighting and other theatrical items needed to enhance the quality of student performances at park Campus.

My thanks again to Kaylene and Cheryl for their tireless work in the canteens. Thanks also to all the parents who have volunteered for canteen duties, and thanks, too, to the class parents for organising themselves for the many varied events they undertake.

My special thanks to Melody Sharpe and her team for organising such a delightfully fitting Founders' Day dinner.

It is appropriate to also acknowledge the considerable co-operation and assistance provided by the School administration staff particularly Sharon, Colleen, Cathy and Maxine, as well as Dennis Appleby and his crew.

As in the past I extend a warm welcome to all parents to attend the Friends meetings, Mr Green and Bronwyn are always in attendance and my personal thanks to them particularly for their consistent encouragement and unfailing support.

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



Howzat Newcastle, established in 1984 as the latest and greatest, is still one of the largest multi-purpose sports and fitness centres in the country.

Each week for nineteen years we have helped over 7000 Novocastrians enhance their quality of life. The facility also has strategic alliances with a number of cultural, sporting and military associations including a support sponsorship of The Hunter Pirates NBL team. These alliances help promote the centre to a wide variety of people throughout the Hunter. We also support many worthwhile intuitions and charities such as The Good Samaritan Day.

The Indoor Sports has over 310 teams in our latest competition. This number is on par with recent competitions, which compete in sports like Indoor Soccer, Netball, Cricket, Inline Hockey, Volleyball, Beach Volleyball. All the lower level courts have had an upgrade and we are in the process of up-skilling the umpires to ensure patrons have an enjoyable and comprehensive workout.

We also have Newcastle's only indoor Tennis court with resident coach Keith Williams operating clinics and personal tuition. Keith also operates his own tennis shop to cater for all your needs.

The Health Club has nearly 2000 members and is growing at about 10% per annum. It also has dietician and massage facilities to support any particular needs.

The club has recently upgraded the circuit room with a new sports-floor and equipment, the cardiovascular area has revamped all the equipment and installed three new treadmills. We are currently assessing all the weight and resistance training facilities and about to introduce a new computer software program to increase security and members benefits.

#### ***Why are we here?***

Overseas studies have proven that people who do not exercise are 300% more likely to die prematurely, from all causes, than those who do exercise.

Physical Inactivity is the Number 2 cause of disease inactivity, to the extent that new guidelines are being developed to promote "kids in gyms" with supervised activities. Their study has concluded that child obesity is partly caused by incorrect diet but inactivity is the main cause.

Recent United States' Research revealed that 60% males are overweight or obese while 70% of those were doing something about it, 20% were doing enough to be effective! Australia has similar statistics.

The qualified staff here at Howzat, have been lucky enough to meet and work with a large number of exceptional athletes. They have also worked with a large number of unexceptional athletes who have accomplished what some would regard as exceptional things, like finishing triathlons, or running their first 10k, or running a marathon or even doing the Ironman Triathlon. Some are even completing their Bronze medallion!

The common denominator, is **COMMITMENT**, whether it is Inge de Bruijn or Ian Thorpe swimming faster than anybody ever has, or Scott Wevers trying to finish top ten in the Ironman, or Denise Clark trying to run a successful legal practice, manage a family, complete her law degree part-time and finish the Ironman, or its "Mr. Average" trying to get back to seeing only two figures before the decimal point on the scale. Those who succeed are those who are committed. Once you've made the commitment, it gets easier from there. Just remember the age-old saying "**If it is to be it's up to me**". At Howzat we can assist you achieve your goals.

Howzat Newcastle is currently used by seven educational institutions in the Hunter, which run activities as part of their sport and physical education studies. Newcastle Grammar School is a major supporter of the centre with team and individual programs supervised by teachers and our qualified staff. The facility also assists with the school programs such as Rowing and will be running development and coaching clinics, with the assistance of the Hunter Pirates, for the school Basketball programme. There are six national health priority areas and exercise can help in addressing five of

these – cardiovascular disease, cancer control, mental health, diabetes mellitus and injury prevention and control.

***The future***

We believe that the next biggest phenomenon after the dot.com boom will come from the wellness Industry. This is supported by Health and Government studies highlighting concerns about health and fitness in Australia.

Howzat Newcastle's challenge is to position ourselves to be at the forefront of this movement. We will need to update your facility to a state of the art facility with new innovative equipment, focus on our staff development and training and ensure our marketing and promotional activities are targeted to the correct audience.

We will achieve our Duty of Care by ensuring we comply with all Occupational Health and Safety, Privacy and Risk Management requirements.

We will promote an image of professionalism, corporate governance and be actively involved in Newcastle Grammar School and Community events.

I would like to thank the Board of Management, Tony Redpath, Hugh McKenney and the Headmaster for their commitment, knowledge and passion to the business, Brian Bull for his financial control and our loyal and dedicated staff for their contribution to the business throughout the year.

Howzat is proud to be part of the School family and we welcome all students and their families to take advantage of this unique facility.

**Ian Jack**  
**General Manager**