



NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

**HEADMASTER'S
REPORT
2004**

**86th ANNUAL SPEECH DAY
AND
PRIZE GIVING**

TUESDAY 7 DECEMBER 2004

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PREFACE

FROM THE HEADMASTER

Dear Friends of Newcastle Grammar School,

It gives me great pleasure to present the Headmaster's report for the 2004 academic year. In this report we, the members of the School, outline the achievements and challenges that have been faced throughout this year. This is not a 'glossy report', but more of a factual recollection of the happenings of our School throughout 2004.

When we reflect on 2004, once again it is impossible not to be impressed by the achievements of the students of Newcastle Grammar School in all that they have been able to accomplish this year. The students of the School have excelled both inside as well as outside of the classroom. They have not all come first, but they have all achieved a great deal.

Our students are supported and encouraged by two groups of very dedicated and hard working people, those being the staff of the School, and their parents. Without the dedication and encouragement of the staff and parents, our students would not be able to achieve what they do. I would like to thank the staff for all that they have done this year, and I would also like to thank all the parents for their support of Newcastle Grammar School, and in particular for the support of their children in their journey of education at our School.

The Chairman and Board of Newcastle Grammar School have once again given of their time freely to govern our School. Their expertise and guidance has continued to see the School prosper, and has seen the School positioned so that it can continue to grow and prosper and meet the challenges ahead. The School Family owes a great deal to the members of the Board as they guide our School so successfully. We thank them for their contribution.

To those students and parents who are leaving Newcastle Grammar School and moving on to other challenges in life, on behalf of the School Family, may I wish you every good blessing for the future, and please stay in contact.

I recommend the remainder of the report to you.

With my very best wishes,

Mr Alan G Green

FROM THE CHAPLAIN

Newcastle Grammar School is a school with a distinct Christian ethos, expressed within the Anglican tradition of Christianity. The School enjoys close ties with the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and therefore it is appropriate to acknowledge the valuable contribution to the life of the School of our Patron, The Right Reverend Roger Herft. Bishop and Mrs Herft have had contact with the School over many years, not only with the Bishop as Patron, but also through their sons, Romesh and Jason, who are past students of the School. As Bishop Herft prepares to take up the role of Archbishop of Perth in 2005, we as a school community thank him for his ministry to us over the years since 1993. We wish Bishop and Mrs Herft well and pray that they may be blessed in their new role.

Newcastle Grammar School also acknowledges its close ties with Christ Church Cathedral, a beautiful building which functions not only as the spiritual heart of the Anglican Diocese of Newcastle and a parish church, but also as the School Chapel of the School. As always, the Dean of Newcastle, in his role as Dean of Newcastle Grammar School, supports and encourages the School and allows us easy and frequent access to the Cathedral. We thank him most sincerely for his warmth and involvement in the life of the School.

Last year in this report I spoke about the introduction of the subject *Studies of Religion* into Years 11 and 12 at Newcastle Grammar School. Our first group of students for this subject sits for the Higher School Certificate examination in 2004 and it is appropriate that I should acknowledge them as pioneers and indeed advocates for the subjects. I have enjoyed my two years with them and learnt a great deal in the process. I wish them well in their exams and every success in the future. In 2003 there has been a significant increase in the enrolment amongst Year 11 students. Seventeen students undertook the Preliminary (Year 11) course and all of these students are proceeding to the HSC (Year 12) course in 2005. In 2005 another group of Year 11 students begins the course and at this stage there is a further increase in the number of students electing to undertake the academic study of religion which the course demands. It appears that *Studies of Religion* is firmly established in the curriculum offerings of Newcastle Grammar School. This is an encouraging and positive sign of growth in our School Family.

Last year I also spoke about contact between Newcastle Grammar School and St Christopher's Home in Fiji. I am happy to report that much has occurred in this area. One of the Anglican nuns from St Christopher's, Sister Fehoko, visited Newcastle Grammar School early in the year and made a huge impression on staff and students alike. Her devotion to the children entrusted to her care was obvious. Sr Fehoko's example is a light shining in our broken world.

Nine students and three staff and two other volunteers from Newcastle Grammar School travelled to St Christopher's Home in the Easter holidays. This was a major undertaking and it was not without some difficulties in terms of cultural differences and just plain exhaustion. The students (and the teachers) worked very hard at helping and being a friend. The days were long and the pressure of beginning and ending relationships took its toll on some, but overall the pilgrimage was valuable. Our nine students were able and caring ambassadors of the school and I have enormous respect for each of them and their willingness to push the boundaries and do something great for God and others. I saw each of them grow significantly while we were in Fiji. They each faced enormous challenges related to their own limits and each one of them came through, growing in themselves, but also making a huge contribution to the lives of other people. I would like to thank Miss Wotton, my own wife Jane and daughter Alison who volunteered to come along and help. Each one of them devoted a huge amount of time and effort to the pilgrimage and assisted me and the students in a most outstanding manner.

One of the most positive aspects coming out of the pilgrimage was the beginning of a tertiary scholarship fund for St Christopher's Home. One of the older residents of St Christopher's, Poonam, who has been at St Christopher's since she was five months old, has reached the stage where she can enrol at the University of the South Pacific in Suva. Neither she nor St Christopher's have the necessary funds to allow this to happen and so Newcastle Grammar School has committed itself to supporting Poonam's education over the next three years. She is a delightful young woman who is prepared to work hard and take advantage of the opportunities a university education can bring. She is studying to be a teacher and hopes to give back to her community much of what she has received.

Newcastle Grammar School has been very fortunate to make contact with the Sunrise Rotary Club of Newcastle who has also committed substantial funds to the tertiary education scholarship. Through the work of one of our Year 12 parents, Mrs Megan Valentine, the club is donating a sum of money and sponsoring an application to Rotary International for a matching grant. When placed alongside the chapel funds of all sections of the School, the Rotary money will mean that Poonam will be able to complete her tertiary education.

The establishment of the tertiary education fund is a real working out of the School's Christian ethos in a positive and useful manner. We as a School should feel that we can make a difference to the lives of others through the power of connection and education.

The worshipping life of the School continues on its weekly round of Chapel Services and the Divinity programme. I would like to acknowledge the work of all who contribute to the Divinity programme in the School – Mr Sarich, Mr O'Callaghan and Miss Wotton who, like me, teach in the Divinity programme. I welcome Mr Peter Sanders to the teaching of Divinity in the Junior and Middle School. He began his work in Term 4 of 2004. It is through their efforts that our students have the chance to see something more of the love of God for them and their world. Chapel Services are held in the Junior, Middle and Senior Schools and students have the chance to contribute to worship and hear the Gospel of Christ proclaimed. The Chapel Services are always made more enjoyable with the music and talent of our teachers and students. I would like to acknowledge with thanks the use of our students' gifts of voice and instrument in Chapel and the enthusiastic involvement of our music staff – Miss Saunders, Mr Young and Ms Parkes. I also acknowledge the contribution of Dr Keith Murree Allen and Mr Peter Guy who play the Cathedral organ for us at major whole School services and Senior School Eucharists. Class teachers, House and Year Patrons also contribute greatly to the worshipping life of the school by organising students to read or serve and their involvement is sincerely appreciated.

Schools are busy and exciting places. The advantage that Newcastle Grammar School has as a School lies in its staff and students who work together to achieve the common good. We as a School are also fortunate to be concerned with more than the mind. At this School, the mind, the body and the spirit are all important and all acknowledged in the daily work of education. It is great privilege to serve in such a place.

It would be remiss of me not to acknowledge all who support the Christian ethos of the School, particularly parents and teachers, but also the students of the School. I also acknowledge with thanks the constant and ready support of our Headmaster, Mr Alan Green. He is always keen to support my work and promote the Christian ethos of the School. Together we grow in faith and life and together we make our daily walk with God – *Deo gratias*.

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

FROM THE HEAD OF SENIOR SCHOOL

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. It has allowed the School to evaluate and 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. This year, we welcomed the new Head of English/History/Drama, Mrs Cecily Grace, and the new Head of Mathematics, Mr Brendan Mannion. Their input has been most refreshing and most appreciated. 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. Over the past two years, an expanded subject choice has been introduced into the HSC and School Certificate course structure. The HSC course of Drama was studied for the first time by the current Year 11 and we look forward to this class presenting itself for the HSC in 2005. Also, our first Studies of Religion class has completed the HSC this year. These two courses which are new to the Senior School curriculum have again proven a popular choice for Year 11 (2005). Last year, Drama was also offered to students as part of the elective pattern for the School Certificate and three new courses, Information and Software Technology, Food Technology and Industrial Technology-Timber have been included in the choices for Year 9 (2005). All of these new courses have proven to be popular choices with students.

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 receive a mark of 50 or more. Marks are longer scaled to a fixed distribution (ie no longer are marks Norm Referenced).

The Universities Admission Index (UAI) figures are no longer supplied to Schools. However, it has been established that for the 2003 Higher School Certificate, 25% of the Year 12 group scored a UAI of over 90.00, with a top UAI of 99.15 and 21 of our students were published on the HSC Course Merit Lists with a total of forty-four mentions. Three students' Art works were selected for Art Express and one student in Visual Arts finished fourth in the State.

Our current Year 12 students 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 Camp Elim, 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 students formed an integral part of discussions in ensuring that Newcastle Grammar School continues to develop an environment of friendship, trust and support.

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 2003 Statewide School Certificate testing, the number of students placed in the top band (6) for English-Literacy was more than four times the State average, Mathematics nearly four times and Science over five times, with Australian History Civics and Citizenship over twice the State average and Australian Geography Civics and Citizenship also above the State average.

The Year 10 Musical "The Pajama Game" proved to be an outstanding event in the lives of all students involved. 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 contingent of our Year 9 and 10 students of Japanese, under the supervision of Mrs Jenny Davies, was involved in a highly successful cultural excursion to Japan.

Immediately after the School Certificate Examinations, all of Year 10 completed the Red Cross First Aid Certificate over a three day period.

Early in Term 2, Year 9 had their annual camp at Biloela on the Central Highlands. Students participated in a number of activities 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 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 2004, over 2,100 Level 1 awards were achieved. Almost 500 Level 2 awards and 49 Headmaster's Level 3 awards have also been earned by Senior School students.

Once again, 2004 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 2005 will bring as all seek 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

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. Thus, the challenge for both the School and families is to provide firm ground and emotional support while our students explore their inner resources, investigate the value of their personal relationships and probe the attitudes and beliefs that surround them in our society. In order to rise to this challenge, the School's Pastoral Programme is based on the three R's - Respect, Relationships and Resilience.

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 addition, those students who were willing to accept the challenges presented by the Year 10 Camp learnt about the importance of teamwork, the strength of the human spirit and the pleasure experienced in achieving a difficult goal.

Year 9 spent several Mentor sessions participating in discussions relating to understanding and accepting feelings, looking at all options when responding to situations, finding the positives in their lives and recognising those around them who can offer them help when it is needed. This programme was aimed at developing their resilience – such an important quality for us all to have when the world seems too difficult to handle.

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!)

2004 has been another successful year for Macquarie House as we continue to work hard to achieve our aims of maximum participation and creating a sense of belonging in our House.

Our Captains, Naomi Simpson and Angus Hancock assisted by Vice Captains Bronwyn Calford and Stephen Li really accepted the challenge of leading the House and through their enthusiasm, commitment and ability to share and include others have successfully made Macquarie House a caring and cohesive House. Participation at the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals was very impressive, most students exceeding minimum expectations and including many displays of individual and team stoicism and spirit. The House Cheer was a great success: loud, enthusiastic and red! The Music Festival showcased the depth of talent in our House and both the Senior and Intermediate Debating Teams performed admirably. Congratulations to the following Year 10 students who were elected as leaders for Term Four: Sarah Hinchey, Paige Campbell, Hamish Hancock and Jeremy Dawes.

Our charity this year was the St Christopher's Orphanage in Fiji. The fundraising barbecue coincided with the inspirational visit of Sister Fehoko to our School. We all found the charity one that touched our hearts and the inspirational sermon by Sister Fehoko is one that will be remembered by all. Our House Chapel Service included a dramatic display by each Mentor as well as the usual high level of musical performances we have come to expect. As usual Macquarie House enthusiastically supported the School by selling fairy floss to raise funds at the Spring Fair.

I would like to thank the Mentors for Macquarie House for 2004 for their pastoral care of our students. They have at all times had the best interests of their charges at heart and have continued to encourage students in their House participation as well as leading them spiritually, emotionally and through the academic challenges of the Senior School. The Mentors are Mrs Margaret McBride, Mrs Georgina Roberts, Mrs Marilyn Sainsbury, Mr Michael Dwyer, Mr Leigh Carroll and Mr Brendan Mannion.

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

**Mrs Sally Wood
Macquarie House Patron**

HUNTER HOUSE

Despite the fact that the Hunter Captains have not been kept busy polishing silverware, the year has been a success in terms of commitment and participation. Ably led by Captains PJ Duncan and Lauren Wilson and Vice Captains Holly Sharpe and Peter Imlay, Hunter strove for success in all events this year.

Lauren and PJ organised a fantastic House Cheer which featured colourful costumes and lots of enthusiastic cheering for their 'heroes'. The students who attended the carnival participated willingly. Jonathon Roberts-Thompson and Jade Joyner provided huge points for Hunter with their outstanding performances in the pool.

Hunter won the first round of the Senior Debating competition but was edged out by Shortland in the final. The Junior team performed well in their round but were narrowly beaten by Shortland again.

Hunter House chose to support Jeans for Genes Day on Founders' Day, combining the Music Festival with this worthwhile charity. Students across the school willingly supported the day. In terms of the Music Festival, again success was experienced in terms of participation rather than awards.

The theme for this year's House Chapel was 'Envy'. Hunter's leaders coordinated the music, readings and order of service with the help of Father Brian. It was a memorable Chapel service with an important message about envy.

The Captains, Lauren Wilson and PJ Duncan have been responsible and enthusiastic. They have led by example by demonstrating a high level of participation and I would like to thank them for their leadership. Holly Sharpe and Peter Imlay are also to be congratulated for their outstanding efforts this year. Holly ensured Hunter's Spring Fair stall ran smoothly. The stall, which sold balloons and toffee apples, was supported by many Hunter students who were happy to be involved.

I would like to acknowledge the efforts of the Hunter mentors who have shown great commitment to their charges. Mr Rob Barter, Mr John Butcher, Mrs Jenny Davies, Mrs Judy Jordan, Mrs Tonia Martin and Mr Kevin Young have been very supportive of the pastoral care curriculum. It has been a pleasure to work with such a dedicated team.

**Mrs Angela Colbert
Hunter House Patron**

SHORTLAND HOUSE

Shortland House continues to shine – fantastic participation in all Inter-House events, unflinching willingness to contribute to worthwhile causes, great house spirit and enthusiasm second to none.

This year the students have been successful in winning the Swimming and Athletics Carnivals, the House Cheer and the Senior Debate. They were placed second in the Intermediate Inter-House Debating Competition. Although they were unsuccessful in claiming the Music Festival Trophy, they enjoyed themselves on the day and put a great deal of effort into their rehearsals. I don't think we will ever forget the senior boys' impersonation of 'Kiss'.

Our House Charity this year has been 'Operation Los Ninos'. The students have raised money to assist a team of medical specialists from the John Hunter Hospital, who are travelling to Peru to assist disadvantaged children there.

House Captains Emma Buxton and Aiden Duffield, Vice-Captains Stephanie Miller and Sam Murray and Year Ten Leaders Coen Butters, Lindsay Cornell, Aaron Gibson and Georgia Roberts have been dedicated, creative and well-organised House Leaders for 2004. They have inspired, cajoled and encouraged students to become involved. They have led by example and I wish to thank and congratulate them for all their efforts. There have been many other students in the House who have demonstrated excellent leadership qualities, giving up their time and willingly participating in all House activities. This depth of House spirit is wonderful to see.

Finally, I would like to acknowledge the work of the staff responsible for Shortland House – Miss Karen Armstrong, Mr Rhys Blackmore (Term 4), Mr Mitchell Brain, Mrs Prue Gillan (Term 4), Mrs Lisa Peterson, Miss Dorothy Ramplin, Mr Mark Rowntree and Mr Reg Yates. They have played an important role in encouraging, guiding, counselling and supporting the students in their care.

When our students work together towards common goals, their shared experiences connect them, allowing strong friendships and a great support network to develop. This can sustain them in the difficult times and contribute to some of their fondest memories.

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

Ms Lynne Walker
Shortland House Patron

TYRRELL HOUSE

There was a high level of energy and commitment from both staff and students to Tyrrell House during 2004. At the beginning of the year we welcomed the return of Mrs Estelle Roberts. She, along with Mrs Mary Curran, Mrs Pat Squires, Mr Stuart Boyd, Mr Steve Eddy and Mr Andrew Coates, showed dedication and skill in guiding, encouraging and supporting the students in their Mentor Group. I would like to thank them for their commitment to the task. This assists in making my role both pleasurable and rewarding.

Nonetheless, it is the students who, by their cooperation and participation in House activities, are the key to a successful year. The 2004 House Captains, Rehana Sahu-Khan and Vaughan Lander assisted by the Vice-Captains Michael Giles and Amelia Giles, demonstrated outstanding and enthusiastic leadership qualities. Their first tasks were to organise student participation in the Swimming Carnival events and the Tyrrell House Swim Cheer.

The 2004 Tyrrell House Fundraising activity was organising the 'Easter Eggs' sale. Once again this proved a great attraction to all our chocoholics. Tyrrell House raised \$1500 to go towards the Samaritans 'Homeless Youth' Project in Newcastle. In an attempt to raise the awareness of the needs and plight of the homeless in Newcastle, it was organised for over thirty backpacks (donated from the Samaritans Opportunity Shops) to be filled with items such as combs, toothbrushes, toothpaste,

shampoo, soap, non-perishable food items, and more. These items were purchased using the profits from the Easter Egg sales. A well-organised and enthusiastic team of students placed these items into the back-packs. The packs were then taken to the Tyrrell House Chapel Service and presented to The Reverend Dr Julia Perry, Chaplain to the Samaritans. Dr Perry spoke at this Service on the work of the Samaritans among the Homeless Youth, and shared how these efforts are a practical means of support. News of these efforts spread, with an item on the radio and an article, complete with photo, in the local paper. This was a tremendous effort giving a valuable and tangible lesson to the students of Tyrrell House.

During Term 2 Tyrrell House assisted with the running of the weekly Chapel services. The participation of students from each Mentor Group in the Chapel enables them to identify with the service. It is pleasing to see the students perform these duties with care and dignity. The Athletics Carnival in June saw Tyrrell House coming in a close second on 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 the key to this success.

Students from Tyrrell House participated in the Inter-House debating competition. Their efforts were of a high calibre, with Tyrrell winning the finals of the Intermediate debates. Founders' Day cultural activities enjoyed a high level of participation in the Inter-House Music Festival. Tyrrell House won this event, with all three groups displaying the considerable musical talents among our students.

The Tyrrell House 'Lucky Dip' Stall at the Spring Fair was well supported with students from each mentor group bringing in donations. In particular, thanks must go to the Lander family for their generous contribution. Thank you and well done to all my able assistants at the Spring Fair. Tyrrell House was privileged to welcome Saara Kotkaniemi (TMC), on exchange from Finland, to our ranks. Saara was a fine ambassador for her country and willingly joined in activities within her Mentor Group and the School.

The Farewell Assembly for the outgoing Year 12 students highlighted the significant contributions of these young people to the life of Tyrrell House throughout their time at the School. Their presence among us will be missed. However, we wish them every success in their HSC and for their future endeavours.

At the beginning of Term 4 we welcomed Mrs Michelle Yates to our ranks. She is taking care of TPS while Mrs Squires is on Long Service Leave. Congratulations to the Term 4 Year 10 Leaders Henry Shepherd, Justin Bullock, Vicky Bray and Josephine Hartono, who were elected by their peers to assist with running House activities for the remainder of 2004 and the beginning of 2005.

I would like to take this opportunity to wish the staff, students and parents of Tyrrell House a restful holiday, and a happy and Holy Christmas. I look forward to our continued association in 2005.

Tyrrell Tigers are terrific ...

Mrs Noreen Robertson
Tyrrell House Patron

DEPARTMENT REPORTS - SENIOR SCHOOL

ENGLISH, HISTORY AND DRAMA

2004 has been a year of renewal and innovation in this large and conglomerate department. The energetic and multiskilled staff, which has included the new faces of Mr Tim Archer, Mrs Anita Ivancic, Mrs Lisa Peterson and Mrs Marilyn Sainsbury, has dedicated itself to implementing new programmes within the three faculties. The aim in our renewal programme was to make our subjects relevant to our students, and consequently more enjoyable, rather than to teach subjects which students feel they 'have to do'.

The English, History and Drama teachers have been eagerly involved in professional development throughout the year. The entire staff attended the National ETA Conference over Easter which proved to be a most inspiring and valuable experience. Several members of staff have been involved in BOS HSC English Marking, and Mrs Marilyn Sainsbury continued in her role as an itinerant Senior Marker in Drama. These activities are valuable in assuring that the staff is constantly in touch with the latest developments and assumptions which lie beneath the external assessment systems.

The teaching of English has been revamped with a completely new programme which adheres to the new Syllabus. Some experimentation has been involved but there are innovations which will remain constant. These are Portfolios, Wide Reading and Film Making.

Each student will maintain a portfolio of his/her best work samples, including assessment tasks. This will follow each through from Year 7 to Year 10. As assessment tasks now make up sixty percent of the yearly rank and examinations make up the other forty, it is considered that the fruits of the effort which goes into these tasks should be preserved and the development compared after the four year course, Stages 4 and 5, are completed at the School Certificate.

The implementation of a rigorous Wide Reading programme for all years has proved challenging. This assessment involves the reading of three, or more, texts; the maintaining of a Reading Log and the locating of related material. This wide ranging activity has been supported by our committed Librarian, Mrs Mary Curran, who has compiled extensive reading lists. This activity is aimed to help students organise their time and to manage on-going tasks, skills which often require support in youthful students.

The introduction of film making units to years 9 and 10, *Take One* and *Take Two* have proved to be engaging and popular and have raised the profile of English in the School. Two Showcase DVDs are available and have provided hours of often hilarious, sometimes serious, viewing at lunchtime showings for the whole school. Year 6 in The Middle School has also been involved in film making activities and became involved in the school-sponsored Roar Competition where students were challenged to make a film over one weekend. Film making has demonstrated to us that our students are extremely creative and clever and also that the visual world is certainly their world.

The introduction of Drama as an elective subject in Year 9 and Year 11 has been very exciting. The **NGS Players** were sensational at their inaugural performance of *The Red Balloon* and *Globalisation*. These largely student-devised presentations showcased, again, student creativity and talent. The Year 9 class also performed their Commedia del' Arte lazzis at the Spring Fair.

As well as performances, the students in all courses have experienced various live theatre performances. These included *The Servant of Two Masters* at the Opera House; *The Underpants* at the Civic; *On Stage* at the Seymour centre; Bell Shakespeare's Actors at Work: *The Things You Do For Love* and *Eye of the Storm*, in The Arts Space; *The Tempest* by Shakespeare Globe Co. at Riverside, Parramatta; *The Snow Queen* at STC and *The Comedy of Errors* at Civic. Debating has once again proved to be popular and both junior and senior teams competed in the Commonwealth Bank and Independent Schools' Competitions.

History excursions included visits to the Aboriginal Education Centre at Cardiff and the Nicholson Museum at Sydney University. Site studies were also carried out at Fort Scratchley and the Newcastle Museum.

Stage 6 modules and texts, in both English and History have also been renewed and a marked increase in the numbers of students who have chosen to study both subjects at the extension levels has occurred.

I would like to thank the nucleus of dedicated and committed staff for making this year of renewal so professionally fulfilling. The team comprises Mr Andrew Coates, Mrs Angela Colbert, Mr Tim Archer, Mrs Sally Wood, Mrs Lisa Peterson, Mrs Marilyn Sainsbury and Mrs Janean Saunders. We look forward to next year which promises to be a year of consolidation.

Mrs Cecily Grace
Coordinator English, History and Drama

LANGUAGE

The LOTE department has had a very busy and fulfilling year. We have again participated in language events in and out of the classroom with the highlight of all our activities, the trip to Japan in the September holidays. Fourteen students accompanied by Mrs Davies and a former student of Japanese of the School, Shann Joyner, toured Japan for ten days. It was delightful that Shann could join this trip, as she has lived in Japan for a year under a Rotary scholarship. The students had a wonderful and challenging time as they spent time in Tokyo, Makone, Kyoto, Hiroshima and Nara. Our thanks again to Mrs Davies who is so willing to organise these overseas trips for our students so that they can see and hear the culture and language they are studying.

We welcomed back from their study time in France two of our senior students of French, Georgette Brown and Chloe Hicks. Their home stays in France have increased their confidence and understanding of all that is French. It is good to have them back in the classroom as they can speak from personal experience as we pursue our goals towards the HSC.

Students who remained at School have not missed out in experiencing French and Japanese culture. Apart from visits to local restaurants to sample the food, students have participated in Pam Sensei's Japanese Culture Day when they practised calligraphy, origami and traditional Japanese games and dance.

French students were entertained by the théâtre LOTE's production of *L'Amour est Bizarre*. This musical had many songs which the students could quickly learn.

In August, the elective students again took part in the Australian Language Certificate Competition, which is held Australia-wide. Once again our student results (both the French and the Japanese) were outstanding with the majority scoring the highest grades in both the listening and the reading sections. Special mention should be made of Hannah Lloyd Hensley and Andrew Roddick in Year 10 French, Georgia Morris Year 9 French, Holly Hart and Nidhi Panicker in Year 10 Japanese and Ellese Cotterill and Aimee Petersen in Year 9 Japanese.

As always, Open Day is a very important occasion as it gives an opportunity for the LOTE staff to demonstrate the Language Laboratory to parents and members of the public. This room and equipment, together with the computer room next door with its many computer language programmes, enable students to move at their own pace through various courses. Students can also record their own voices and then compare their efforts to those of native speakers.

Meanwhile the staff have had several in-service days where the majority of time has been spent working on the LOTE syllabus K-10. This is a very innovative and challenging syllabus and the staff are keen to ensure the new programmes will be beneficial to the students' learning.

Next year, there is the possibility of another overseas trip – this time to a French destination.

Mrs P Squires
Language Coordinator

MATHEMATICS

Mathematics at Newcastle Grammar School continues to be a strong, vibrant academic area. This is a reflection of the enthusiasm, dedication and professionalism of the teaching staff, and the high work ethic of students, particularly those in Years 11 and 12. Teacher expectations and standards are high, and are being matched by student performance.

The Higher School Certificate 2003

The results in the 2003 Higher School Certificate were extremely pleasing, with the General Mathematics, Mathematics and Extension One courses having examination means well above the State means.

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

<i>Mathematics</i>	<i>Mathematics Extension One</i>	<i>Mathematics Extension Two</i>
Di He Matthew Jenkins Alana Johnson Keira Shaw	Di He Matthew Jenkins Alexandra Milne Emma Warburton Andrew Wilson	Andrew Wilson

The School Certificate 2003

20% of our students were placed in the top Band, which was nearly four times the State average. More than 50% of our students were placed in the top two Bands.

Mathematics Competitions

Our students performed very well in a wide variety of competitions. Students entered the Australian Mathematics Competition (Westpac), the Australian Intermediate Mathematics Olympiad, the University of New South Wales Mathematics Competition, the Colin Doyle Memorial Mathematics Competition and the Macquarie Business Mathematics Competition.

Australian Mathematics Competition (Westpac)

This year 119 students from Years 7 to 12 participated in the competition. Results were:

51 Credits

20 Distinctions

2 High Distinctions

In particular, Callum Tyler and Ellese Cotterill of Year 9 gained High Distinctions and were placed in the top 1% of students who entered this competition. A wonderful achievement.

University of New South Wales Mathematics Competition

Year 11 student Hyun (Joon) Chang was awarded a certificate in this very difficult and prestigious competition. A magnificent effort, as this competition attracts elite Mathematics students from across New South Wales.

Colin Doyle Mathematics Competition 2003

This competition is open to students in Year 11. Six students from Newcastle Grammar School entered and were awarded 4 Credits, 1 Distinction and 1 High Distinction. Michael Abbott was one of only eleven students to be awarded a High Distinction.

Australasian Schools Mathematics Assessment

Sixty-five students from Year 8 participated in this competition, and were awarded 19 Credits, 8 Distinctions, and 1 High Distinction. Evan Markby gained the High Distinction, and was placed in the top 1% of students who entered the competition. A fine effort.

Staff Professional Development

This has been a busy year, and staff have been heavily involved in inservice activities. Several members of the Faculty have taken advantage of the opportunity to attend courses such as the IMAT Presenting Mathematics Professionally Workshops, which provided guidance in using computer programs such as MathType, Geometer's Sketchpad, FX Draw and Powerpoint. The skills learned assist in setting assessment tasks and illustrating mathematical concepts.

A member of staff attended a conference at Knox College which focused on planning for implementation of the Stage 5 Syllabus commencing in 2005.

The Heads of Department Dinner was attended by the Department Head. This is a valuable opportunity to meet colleagues from other schools and to exchange resources for assessment purposes and revision for the Higher School Certificate.

All members of staff have been involved in a variety of meetings and workshops to prepare for the introduction of the new Years 9 and 10 Syllabus in 2005. These meetings have dealt with the preparation of Scope and Sequence Statements, Teaching Programmes and assessment procedures.

I would like to thank the staff of the Mathematics Faculty for their wonderful work throughout the year, and the students for their diligence.

On behalf of the Mathematics Faculty, may I wish all School staff, students and parents a happy and holy Christmas and a healthy and safe New Year.

Mr Brendan Mannion
Head of Mathematics

MUSIC

2004 has been a busy and successful year for the Music Department. The major development in the department has been the expansion of the School Instrumental Programme and new initiatives from ArtsLink, with the addition to our calendar of a composer in residence.

Peripatetic Staff

We welcome to the peripatetic staff this year the following teachers:

Classical guitar ~ Giuseppe Zangari

Violin ~ Hiedi Deitz

Cello ~Anthea Scott-Mitchell

Year 5 Wind Programme~Erin Sweetnam, Mitch Berrick, David Bull

At the end of first semester we farewelled Miss Dawn Murray who has been teaching violin at Newcastle Grammar School for over twenty years.

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*

Mr Giuseppe Zangari ~ *Classical Guitar ensemble*

Mr Kevin Young ~ *Brass Ensemble*

Ms Anthea Scott-Mitchell ~*Year 7 Trio*

Ms Peta Dries ~ *String Quartet*

I thank all these staff members and their students for such a wonderful contribution to the music making of the School. You can hear all of these ensembles perform on our recently recorded CD.

Year 5 Wind Programme

Following on from the String Programme in Years 3 and 4 where all students learn a string instrument, for the first time this year all Year 5 students have been learning a wind instrument. They have divided into small groups and studied either flute, clarinet or saxophone. All students have attempted two levels of internal assessment and combined for ensemble playing at the end of the year. In 2005 these students will pioneer the next stage of the instrumental programme and learn a brass instrument.

Musicianship

Students keen to study Musicianship have grown in number, and we now offer three separate classes for each grade. I thank Mr Michael Bell, Mr Andrew Chubb, Ms Nicole Segal and Ms Trish Williams for their keen work with the students.

The first major event for 2004 was the **School Music Camp**. Once again, the orchestra and choir combined for a camp at Stanwell Tops near Wollongong. The venue was superb and offered many outdoor activities outside the musical timetable for students. A new ensemble was on the agenda for this camp, and the string orchestra combined with selected wind and brass players to form a small orchestra. This ensemble was fortunate to be able to work with Mr Ron Prussing, Principal trombone with the Sydney Symphony Orchestra as their conductor. A musical highlight of the camp was the combining of the orchestra with the choir for a performance of *Va Pensiero* by Verdi. My thanks to Mr Leigh Sherringham, Mr Sam Crichton and the Music staff for their superb efforts to make the camp so successful.

Our **Scholarship Holders' Concerts** 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. Our official accompanist for these concerts is the very versatile Mrs Trish Williams.

Our second **Stringfest** was an intensive day of rehearsals and workshops organized by our Head of Strings, Miss Wendy Ireland. Year 3 and 4 students workshopped all day with over fifteen guest tutors,

and then presented a wonderful concert on the Friday evening with members of the String Ensemble and String Orchestra. We were also very fortunate to have donated to the school by Lathams Music an electric violin which was raffled at the concert. This was won by Lillian Main and donated back to the Music Department.

Our end of semester concert, **Crème de la Crème** presented an opportunity for all of our choral and instrumental ensembles, both large and small in the Middle and Senior Schools to perform. The concert was compered by our senior musicians, Ashlee Clement and Sophie Miller and several of our ensembles made their debut at this concert.

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. This is the second year in a row that the band has won this competition. Brass Razoo will be recording its own CD in the very near future.

At the start of Term Three, Year 10 once again ‘strutted their stuff’ before a wildly enthusiastic audience in their production of **Pajama Game**. 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 Mr Kevin Young, Director Mr Andrew Coates and Producer Mrs Sally Wood.

Founders’ Day and the **Sydney Eisteddfod**. Members of the Full Choir, Chapel Choir and Britten Choir performed in the Sydney Eisteddfod. Britten Choir won their acappella section. They were presented with the trophy and \$1000 at a public concert in Lane Cove.

Term Four began with two **ArtsLink** initiatives. Firstly, an outstanding visit from British pianist Mark Gasser. Mark held a Masterclass on the Friday evening and gave a recital on the following evening, with guest artist Ghillian Sullivan.

We were very privileged to have been loaned a Stuart and Sons concert grand piano for this occasion and we are very hopeful of a return visit in 2005. The Masterclass was certainly the musical highlight of the year. Not only did our students respond to Mark’s guidance in a very high pressure performance situation, they had the chance to make music on an exquisite instrument.

Shortly after this event, the Music Department hosted its first **Composer in Residence** with a visit from Sydney based composer, Damian Barbelar. Damian worked with all elective music students, particular senior music elective students, and they will work with him again in term one next year. This has been funded by ArtsLink.

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. Chapel Choir, Britten Choir, Clarinet ensemble, Year 7 Trio and the String Quartet performed at **Open Day**.

ArtsLink held a very successful **Sunset Jazz at the Lake**, where several Year 12 members, were farewelled. Ashlee Clement, Sophie Miller, Rebecca Mackenzie, Angus Harrison, David Kinsey and Jeremy Hands. These students have made a fantastic contribution to many Music Department and other School events and many outside functions as members of Brass Razoo.

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 and choral ensembles;

String Orchestra ~Wendy Ireland, Beth Porter, Sam Crichton and Trevor Mee
Wind Orchestra ~ Leigh Sherringham, Steve Morton and Kevin Young
Senior Choir ~ Craig Everingham, Trish Williams
Middle School Choirs ~ Jane Parkes

Several of our students participated in two different Festival experiences that were offered this year. Ten of our string players took part in the inaugural Canberra Festival, hosted by Radford College.

Students, were billeted for the three days and then performed with the other participating schools, St Leonards College (Brighton), Scotch College (Adelaide), Kinross Wolaroi School (Orange) and the National Children's Choir of Great Britain. The Festival culminated in a combined concert at the Canberra School of Music. In August the bi-annual HICES Music Camp was held at Meroo Conference Centre. This three day event brought the top music students from all the HICES schools together. They performed a spectacular concert at the Sydney Town Hall.

Our final project for the year has been to record all of the schools ensembles for a CD to be released in the very near future.

My special thanks to my colleagues Mr Kevin Young, Miss Jane Parkes, Miss Wendy Ireland and Mrs Kay Lane for their continued and tireless efforts for the benefit of our students. My thanks also to our Senior Musicians, Sophie Miller and Ashlee Clement and to Choir Leaders Sarah Harrison, Holly Sharpe, Cavelle Lindsay and Orchestra leader Bronwyn Calford.

My thanks also to the members of **ArtsLink**, who have continued to raise funds for the Music Department and assisted with all manner of tasks on Box Office for concerts, catering for suppers etc.

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. The phrase I most often hear from parents when discussing the Music Department programmes is "I wish I had that opportunity when I went to school".

My thanks to the Headmaster and Board of Newcastle Grammar School for providing and supporting these opportunities for our students.

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

Miss Rose Saunders
Director of Music

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

It would be remiss of me to begin this report without first congratulating the HSC class of 2003. In a great group of students the Class of 2003 – finished with nine times the State average in Band 6, and over two times the State average in Bands 5 and 6.

This year the PDHPE Faculty welcomed Mr Peter Juchniewicz and Mr Derek Keong to their ranks. Both gentlemen have made great contributions to our work this year and have been well respected by both students and colleagues at the School.

Next year we see a completely new syllabus begin in Years 7–10. New content, both in practical and theoretical units, is a feature of the new syllabus as well as integration of many units work. Our faculty was fortunate in having the PDHPE consultant from the Association of Independent Schools visit us early this year for a day's in-service. This proved very worthwhile and enabled us to present our new programmes to her for the appraisal and suggestion in improvement for them. The new programmes are ready to go, new textbooks have been ordered and the PDHPE faculty are excited about the new ideas and work to be presented.

The availability of HOWZAT remains a great asset to the School, and particularly to our PDHPE (practical) programme. Our students are now well aware that any lessons scheduled for practical work will go ahead regardless of the weather. If the weather dictates we go indoors the students know that we will simply hop on a bus to HOWZAT, causing minimal disruption to our lessons. I must also take this opportunity to thank Port Stephens Coaches with whom we have a great relationship. Their willingness to provide buses at short notice for local trips (particularly in the event of rain) has been outstanding.

The need for consistent work in both the practical and theoretical units within PDHPE cannot be stressed enough. It is not good enough for a student to work entirely on their physical skills and ignore the theory content or vice versa. Quite a number of tasks this year were constructed in preparation for the new syllabus and involved a combination of both practical skills and theoretical research and knowledge. This year our Year 9s were required to establish a training programme, based on various fitness principles. The training programme was based on two track and field events. The students were given a number of weeks to research, plan and execute a training programme. At the School Athletics Championships they competed in their chosen events and their results were compared to established Australian standards to determine a mark for each event. Their written work was marked and combined with their practical result for a final assessment. Many tasks in Years 7–10 in 2005 will involve this integration of units of work, and we look forward to great success in this part of our programme.

2005, like previous years, will present many challenges for staff and students alike. With co-operation and hard work from both parties I am sure we will achieve many good things in PDHPE over the next twelve months.

Mr Leigh Carroll
Coordinator Personal Development, Health and Physical Education

SCIENCE

During 2004 the Science Faculty has continued to work with their usual enthusiasm and dedication. Programming continues to be an on-going focus as we endeavour to give our students the best possible preparation for their external examinations as well as instil into all of them (hopefully), a love of Science.

The 2003 Higher School Certificate results were as follows:

Chemistry: *3 times the State average in Band 6 and over 2 times the State average in Bands 5 and 6*

Biology: *3 times the State average in Band 6 and over 2 times the State average in Bands 5 and 6*

Physics: *almost twice the State average in Band 6*

Once again, these results demonstrate the hard work of both our students and teachers. Many students from the 2003 cohort have chosen to pursue Science related tertiary courses.

The School Certificate results were equally pleasing. We had 5.3 times the State average of students, achieving a Band 6 outcome. We had 89% of our students in the top 68% of the State. Many of these students are now studying Science courses for their HSC.

As is our usual practice, Years 9 and 10 entered the Australian Schools Science Competition. Almost 50% of students who entered, received either a Credit or Distinction certificate.

Senior Chemistry students participated in the RACI National Chemistry Quiz. This is a particularly challenging competition and about 35% of our Chemistry students received Credit, Distinction or High Distinction Awards. Jayne Krempin, Oliver Leitch, Sam Murray, Michael Abbott and Evan Day were recipients of High Distinctions.

Twenty-one Year 12 Chemistry students participated in the National Titration Competition held at Newcastle University in June. Students work in teams of three for this challenging event, which enables students to demonstrate skill in careful manipulation of equipment and also chemical calculations. The team of Michael Abbott, Dean Redman and Sachin Shrestha performed brilliantly and were placed first in the State with an almost perfect titration result.

At the time of writing, these boys (who have just completed their HSC examinations), are about to compete in the National Final. We wish them success.

Over the course of the year many of our students have been exposed to learning experiences, which go beyond the normal classroom. Some of these have included

- Fieldwork activities at the Shortland Wetlands for Year 11 Biology
- CSIRO workshop for Year 11 and 12 Biology and Year 12 Chemistry, which allowed students to gain some 'hands-on' experience in technologies not normally available in schools, particularly Gene Technology
- Science and Engineering Challenge undertaken by Class 10A Science at Honeysuckle Railway Sheds
- An excursion to the rock platform at Newcastle beach for Year 9 to consolidate studies on ecosystems

As part of the curriculum all students are required to complete a **Student Research Project**. The main aim of this is to increase students' understanding of the processes involved in the 'Scientific Method'. Most students enjoy this activity and some have come up with some really interesting hypotheses, which they have spent weeks investigating.

The Science Staff consistently do their utmost to support and encourage students to achieve to their potential and to recognise that a sound understanding of Science will always be useful to them in whatever field they choose to specialise.

Mrs Estelle Roberts
Science Co-ordinator (acting)

SOCIAL SCIENCES

2004 has been another rewarding and busy year in the Social Science faculty at Newcastle Grammar School. As well as teaching Legal Studies, Economics, Business Studies, Commerce and Geography we have been preparing for new syllabuses in Stage 5 Geography and Commerce which will come into effect in 2005.

The 2003 Higher School Certificate results were pleasing:

Course	Band	NGS %	State %
Business Studies	4, 5, or 6	78	61
Economics	4, 5, or 6	66	72
Legal Studies	4, 5, or 6	100	68
Geography	4, 5, or 6	100	71

It was very welcome to see our students gain these results in the 2003 HSC. These results are a credit to the work that is being done by both the students and their teachers. It should also be noted that in Legal Studies 15% of our students gained a band 6 compared to 7% of the State and in Geography 17% of our students gained a band 6 compared to 8% of the State.

The 2003 School Certificate grades in Geography and Commerce were also welcome with 32% of our Commerce students receiving a Grade A, 30% a Grade B, 32% a Grade C, and 8% a Grade D. There were no Grade E's awarded in Commerce. In Geography 22% of our students received a Grade A, another 38% received a Grade B, 34% received a Grade C, and 5%, 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 a Grade C is described as 'substantial achievement'.

In the 2003 external examination In Australian Geography, Civics and Citizenship we gained the following results:

Band	NGS %	State %
6	5	4
5	51	18
4	35	34
3	5	22
2	1	18
1	0	2

It is very gratifying to note from the figures given above, that students at NGS in Australian Geography, Civics and Citizenship when the top two bands are combined were **2.5 times the State average**.

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. This year we had two wins and two losses in the first four rounds of the Competition and valuable insights into the legal system were learned along the way. Many thanks to our tireless coach, Ms Bronwyn Ambrogetti.

Commerce students entered the Money Stuff Challenge. This is a competition offered to students by the NSW Department of Fair Trading. Students are asked to choose a consumer situation that interests them and then to gather information and to communicate that information creative and original manner. Marks are especially awarded for creativity. In 2003 an entry from Newcastle Grammar School was chosen as **the Regional winners**. At the time of writing the 2004 entries are yet to be judged.

Congratulations Year 9 and 10 Commerce on your high level of entries in 2004 and good luck!

Our Year 9 and 10 Commerce students and Year 11 Economics students this year again benefited from playing the Sharegame. The Sharegame is run by the Australian Stock Exchange. Students are asked to form syndicates and each syndicate then receives a hypothetical \$50000. The aim of the game is to buy and sell shares over a ten week period. The syndicate which ends up with the highest value portfolio at the end of those ten weeks becomes the winner. There are both State and National winners. The trading is done in real time over the Internet via the Australian Stock Exchange's website. At the time of writing it is interesting to note that the syndicate which is coming first in the school consists of Virginia Burns, Sarah Colman and Victoria Bray. This is the same group of students who in 2003 were ranked 12th from more than 3,000 syndicates across NSW. Good luck girls. It looks like another excellent result is on the way. Someone in that group is a budding stockbroker!

Year 12 Geography students travelled to Sydney, a 'large city in the developed world', to study urban dynamics of change with respect to its future growth and sustainable management. The fieldtrip took place on the 4th February and reinforced the learning which began in Term 4, 2003 on the topic 'Urban Places'. Students must complete twelve hours of fieldwork in their HSC year and this was completed later on in the year, in June, when this same group of geographers travelled to Draytons Family Wines at Pokolbin to study an enterprise operating at a local scale relating to viticulture and wine making.

Year 11 Geography students, on 5 May, studied the interaction of the four spheres in the wetland environment of Ash Island, which is part of the Kooragang Rehabilitation Project. Students not only studied the ecological impacts on this ecosystem but also the wetland habitat rehabilitation, community involvement and development and the development of sustainable estuary management.

On a very hot day in early March, Year 10 Geography students travelled to Sydney to identify and investigate the contemporary issue of urban decline and urban growth. Students initially observed the urban sprawl of Sydney from Centrepoint Tower then lunched in Pitt Street Mall, and later cruised Sydney Harbour observing urban renewal of Ultimo, Pyrmont and Woollahooloo.

Seventy-seven Year 10 Geography students from Newcastle Grammar School challenged their geography skills and knowledge in the annual NSW Junior Geography Competition.

They were amongst 19,000 students from over 150 schools across the state that participated in the 2004 Competition.

The competition is designed to provide a means of preparing students for the School Certificate paper and helps provide a measure of our students' performances against others in the state. Additionally, this competition helps to promote the study of Geography in Australian schools and encourage a greater appreciation of the world around us.

A large number of students from Newcastle Grammar excelled this year and the results were very pleasing.

- ***22% of Newcastle Grammar School gained High Distinctions in comparison to the 8% gained by the State,***
- ***27% of Newcastle Grammar School gained Distinctions in comparison to the 13% gained by the State.***

The competition really extends students and for our school to have done so well is rewarding for both students and teachers,

It is heartening to see so many of our students at Newcastle Grammar School choosing to study in the area of Social Sciences. It is also satisfying when their achievements receive the public recognition that they deserve.

Mr Reg Yates
Social Sciences Coordinator

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT 5-12

THE JOYS OF TEACHING

Then Jesus took his disciples up the mountain and gathering them around him, he taught them saying:
Blessed are the poor in spirit, for theirs is the kingdom of heaven,
Blessed are the meek, Blessed are they that mourn, Blessed are the merciful, Blessed are they that thirst for justice, Blessed are you when persecuted, Blessed are you when you suffer. Be glad and rejoice for your reward is great in heaven.

Then Simon Peter said, "Are we supposed to know this?"
And Andrew said, "Do we have to write this down?"
And James said, "Will we have a test on this?"
And Phillip said, "Do we have to turn this in?"
And Bartholomew said, "I don't have any paper."
And John said, "The other disciples didn't have to learn this."
And Matthew said, "May I go to the toilet?"

Then one of the Pharisees who was present asked to see Jesus's lesson plan and inquired of Jesus, "Where are your anticipatory set and your objectives in the cognitive domain?"
And Jesus wept.

Many of the students in the Middle and Senior Schools who have received assistance from the Support Teacher are similar to those mentioned in the parody above. They are a little confused at times about the issues, aims and expectations of their schoolwork; they may be disorganised at times and lose things such as assignments, equipment and text books; they may have learned many work avoidance strategies; they may be seeking reasons why they have to learn particular things; and all of them are seeking fairness and equity in what is being asked of them.

This year students have received assistance in a variety of ways: individually, in small groups or from within class assistance. Special considerations and aid during examination periods, assistance with assignment and examination preparation, taped texts, and individual tutoring are also some of the methods of support that have been available.

Parental contact is an important part of my role and I have always found Newcastle Grammar School parents very supportive. The students have always been grateful and polite, and the staff has always been professional and willing to assist students to achieve their best outcomes.

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

SPORT

2004 saw Sport at Newcastle Grammar School take a different and very positive tact. Although the traditional Monday Sport afternoon, which was designed for all students in the School, no longer operated, the overall opportunity for individual sporting development increased.

This year teams represented the School across the board in Cricket, Touch, Netball, Soccer, Hockey and Tennis. Our Aerobics squad comprised fifty girls, while the numbers in the Rowing squad for the 2004-2005 season have almost doubled from last season. A large number of non-teaching staff were employed to coach the large number of teams fielded by the School this year. Their expertise has been excellent and their influence on our student's skills cannot be underestimated and I thank them for their efforts throughout the year.

The Monday afternoon fitness option for students across the School was reasonably well patronized and offered participants the chance to improve not only their fitness but also their gross motor coordination.

While our Cricket and Touch teams have only just begun this season our teams have had a good success rate. Our 17 years Soccer team were Grand Finalists while our 16 years team missed the semi-finals by one point. The A-grade girls Hockey team were beaten in the Preliminary Final. Nearly forty students participated in our inaugural year of participation in the local tennis competitions. Five teams made their way to the Grand Finals with three finishing up as Premiers.

Our Rowing Squad's success in the 2003-2004 season has been well documented. A number of our students competed at the National Championships in Victoria earlier in the year, while we were placed in a large number of events at both the Independent Schools Rowing Association Regatta at Morpeth and the Central Districts Rowing Association Regattas and Championships.

At Hunter Regional Independent Schools competition, Newcastle Grammar School won the Athletics, Swimming, Girls' and Boys' Hockey, Junior Boys' Tennis and was placed 2nd in Senior Netball and 3rd in Intermediate Netball. Students from Newcastle Grammar School represented HRIS in Swimming, Athletics, Hockey, Netball, Softball, Soccer and Diving. With some of these students going on to represent at Association of Independent Co-educational Schools (AICES) level in Swimming, Athletics, Hockey and Netball.

The NSW CIS, which comprises all students from all independent schools in NSW, selects teams to compete against the NSW Combined High Schools and the NSW Combined Catholic Colleges, from which NSW All Schools teams are selected. Selection in NSW CIS teams is outstanding. This year Newcastle Grammar School had two students selected in CIS Swimming team, two in CIS Hockey teams, one in the CIS Athletics team and one in the CIS Touch side. These are outstanding achievements in any language.

Participation for the School in sporting teams and indeed representing the School in various HRIS, AICES and CIS teams takes a strong commitment to the sport. Our Soccer teams clock up many kilometres travelling to games. Our HRIS, AICES and CIS representatives regularly travel to Sydney to compete. All of this means time out of school and at times students' regular schedules are disrupted. However, more and more students are becoming involved in sporting teams and being selected in representative teams because of their commitment and dedication to their sport. This discipline carries across to their academic work and their general work and activities around the School and all of this can only be positive and productive for the School.

I would like to take the opportunity to thank all of those students, staff, parents and outside workers for their participation, efforts and support. I look forward to continued success in 2005 and even further development and expansion of the Newcastle Grammar School Sports programme.

Mr Leigh Carroll
Sportsmaster

TECHNOLOGICAL AND APPLIED STUDIES DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

It has been another busy and eventful year in the TAS faculty. We welcomed Mr Greg Bowen to the staff who replaced Mrs Sewell whilst she was on maternity leave until Term 4 this year. Mr Bowen also took my classes whilst I was away on long service leave during Term 4. Mrs Julie Owers was also on maternity leave and we welcomed Mrs Michelle Yates who taught Mrs Owers' classes in her absence.

On top of teaching, assessing and reporting, teachers have also been busy this year interpreting and developing new teaching programmes for the 2005 year. The Board of Studies has introduced new syllabuses across the TAS curriculum and these will be introduced in Year 7 and Year 9 for these two cohorts next year.

Subjects that were offered at the School during the 2004 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
- Y 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 state of the art computing rooms that are networked and attached to a variety of printers, scanners and other peripherals. Mr Rob Barter, Mr John Butcher and Mr Neale Graham have been responsible for these courses this year.

Students have studied 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 word processing, spreadsheet, database and publishing software. Further to this, Microsoft Visual Basic and Pascal programming languages have been taught as well as graphics programs such as Fireworks, Freehand, Dreamweaver and Flash. Students have also been exposed to a new multimedia tutorial method to help them master the dreamweaver suite of software. The use of a digital projector and large screens in all labs support a high standard of instruction. Apple I-Macs and digital video cameras have provided tools for students to create digital imagery.

Australian Schools Computer Studies Competition 2004

Students from Newcastle Grammar demonstrated high level computer skills when they participated in the Australasian Schools Computer Skills Competition. The competition included tasks which assessed students' skills in word processing, databases, spreadsheets, understanding networks and programming and in research on the internet.

This year the competition attracted over 124,000 students across Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Region. Of the fifty-nine students from Newcastle Grammar that participated, 16 attained Credits, 8 Distinctions and 1 High Distinction.

The best performances came from the following students who gained **Certificates of High Distinction, Distinction and Credit**:

High Distinction	Distinction	Credit
Year 9		
<i>Callum Tyler</i>	<i>Nicholas Barnes</i>	<i>Andaleeb Hossain</i>
	<i>Jarrad Butler</i>	<i>Leigh Keogh</i>
	<i>Samuel Killin</i>	<i>Marija Petkovic</i>
	<i>Georgia Morris</i>	<i>David Schalit</i>
		<i>Ben Slater</i>
Year 10		
	<i>Andrew Brigden</i>	<i>Tiphonie Au</i>
	<i>Jeremy Dawes</i>	<i>Scott Bissaker</i>
	<i>Anthony Ford</i>	<i>Jonathan Cleary</i>
		<i>Sarah Coleman</i>
		<i>Josephine Hartono</i>
		<i>Mathew Lynch</i>
		<i>Hugh Manners</i>
		<i>Benjamin Torrance</i>
		<i>Jeff Wai</i>
Year 11		
	<i>Andrew Noble</i>	<i>Tim Boyle</i>
		<i>Hyun Chang</i>

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, an online web based tutorial. Skills taught in this course are mapped to the CSA10 computing skills assessment skill set for Y10 students providing support for learning computing skills across the curriculum. The Information Technology course has been taught by Mr Reg Yates and Mrs Janine Saunders this year.

STAGE 4 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

The Year 7 and 8 Design and Technology Course offers students a variety of design challenges over six units of work. Three units of equal time are shared throughout each school year. These units aim to introduce students to a variety of technologies in a design context. These include food design, wood design, textiles design and computing. Whilst Year 7 and 8 courses are a part of the Middle School, teachers from the Senior School have also been involved in the delivery of these units. It was pleasing to see a variety of design projects students completed throughout the year. A number of these were of exceptional quality. The Stage 4 course was taught by Mr Greg Bowen, Mr Ian McMurtrie, Mr Mark Rowntree, Mrs Sharelle Sewell and Mrs Michelle Yates.

STAGE 5 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

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 many students creating projects of an excellent standard. Wood design students produced some wonderful clocks, CD racks and coffee tables whilst in the food strand students created designs for a Café, Restaurant, and Brassiere, designing everything from the floor plan to the menu. This was a great success with some wonderful meals prepared in their final practical lesson. Year 9 food technology students also came up with some Australian meals from stir fry kangaroo to the Aussie lamington.

Mr Mark Rowntree has been responsible for the Food Design course this year whilst Mr Rob Barter has been responsible for the Wood Design course.

STAGE 6 DESIGN AND TECHNOLOGY

Year 11 students began the year working collaboratively in groups to design and construct some items for the Cathedral. After speaking with Father Brian Douglas and Father Graeme Lawrence, the class produced some marvellous banner holders, collection bowls and a crucifix stand made from cedar. Students then created a project of their choice for the second unit including furniture, a web page, magazine and a number of other innovative designs. Year 11 were taught by Mr Barter this year.

Under the direction of Mr Les Potter, students of Year 12 Design and Technology designed, produced and evaluated projects of a more rigorous nature and this year students produced a variety of projects including furniture, fashion garments, musical and leisure projects. We wish all of Year 12 the very best as they move on the next stage of their lives.

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

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.

2004 UNSW High Schools Programming Competition

The UNSW Programming Competition has the overall aim of raising awareness amongst high school students of the craft of programming and to encourage students to develop and apply their computing knowledge and skills. It is organised by The School of Computer Science and Engineering (CSE) at The University of New South Wales (UNSW). UNSW is actively involved in encouraging and supporting high school students with an interest in computing and Information Technology through several programs. The UNSW Program Competition has been run annually since 1997 and now attracts entries from all over the nation.

The competition has two rounds - an Open Round held in schools on Friday 25 June 2004, and the Grand Final held at The University of New South Wales on Friday 25 June 2004.

Each team of three shares one computer and attempts to solve as many of the set programming tasks as possible. Tasks can be completed using any programming languages.

This year Michael Abbott, Scott Studdert and Aiden Duffield, all of Year 12, participated in the Open Round of the competition. All three performed creditably, and although they did not progress to the next stage of the competition, it was a valuable experience for these boys in nurturing their programming skills.

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 these locations:

Forsythes IT
Trilogy Computers
JMC Beam Computers
Bramco
Cyber Cycle
Full Stream Studio
Master Builders Association
State Forests

Students in Year 12 have also had the opportunity to create an electronic year book as part of their studies under the direction of Mr Neale Graham.

HOSPITALITY – KITCHEN OPERATIONS (Y11-12)

Newcastle Grammar School now has a NEW smorgasbord of treats on offer. Cappuccino, Café Latte, Mocha Coffee, Flat White, Long Black and Hot Chocolates with the introduction of an Espresso Machine.

Hospitality students now can obtain hands-on experience and are given the opportunity to learn the art of Espresso Coffee making which is one of the competences in the hospitality course. The students also gain experience in taking orders and serving customers. They also provide some cakes and tarts all made by the Year 11 hospitality students.

Year 12 hospitality students as their end of year practical activity chose to celebrate by doing a dinner for their Year 12 teachers in recognition of their support throughout the year. It was a great success with the students designing the menu, decorating the classroom, and cooking a three course meal including quail, seafood pasta and strawberry sables.

The Hospitality, Kitchen Operations course is a VET subject and has also offered student's competency based training in the areas of commercial cookery and the hospitality industry. Under the guidance of 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 as Delaney Hotel, Crown Plaza, Goldberg's Café, Hot Crab, Lime Café and Customs House to name a few.

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

2003 HSC Results

Results of 2003 HSC courses are shown below. A comparison is given to measure student performance against state averages.

Course	Band	NGS
Design and Technology	4, 5, or 6	90% Above State Average
Software Design and Technology	4, 5, or 6	50% Above State Average
Information Technology	4, 5, or 6	50% Above State Average
Hospitality Operations	4, 5, or 6	75% Above State Average

Congratulations to all students for the variety of excellent work that was produced this year. It is also important to thank both staff and parents for their guidance of our students throughout the year.

Finally I would like to thank Mr Mark Rowntree for his efforts as TAS coordinator in my absence during Term 4 this year.

Mr Robert Barter
Coordinator Technological and Applied Studies

VISUAL ARTS

Congratulations to the Year 12 Visual Art students of 2003. These students worked hard for the excellent results they achieved. Phoebe Hindley received the highest School HSC mark of 99 with her Visual Art result. Phoebe's Body of Work went to Sydney for the Art Express Selection along with the work of Claire McDonald and Elise Whitelaw.

2004 has been a very productive year for the Visual Arts Department at Newcastle Grammar School. The commencement of the new year saw the addition of a number of Visual Art Scholarship students into the elective Year 9 and Year 11 classes.

In March one of our Year 12 students from 2003, Claire McDonald, had her Body of Work exhibited at the Newcastle Region Gallery as part of the travelling Art Express Exhibition.

The proximity of our school to the Newcastle Region Gallery has enabled us to access the many high quality exhibitions that have been shown this year.

The Nexus Art Exhibition that was held in June was an outstanding success. This exhibition featured the works of thirty prominent Newcastle artists. The links that are established through this exhibition are important for our School as we are not only providing a venue for Newcastle artists to show new work but it also provides our students with the opportunity to meet these artists and to study their works. The money raised from this exhibition will go towards a new hanging system for the Artspace and a new large format printer for the School.

This year at the Spring Fair we had our first sale of students' artworks. These were small format paintings and drawings. The sales were very successful on two levels. One, we raised money for the school and two, it provided another colourful and interesting stall showcasing the work of students.

Two of our Year 11 students Jacquie Lewinski and Ellye Yates, were selected from applicants from all over NSW for the Advanced Extension Course at the National Art School in Sydney. This is an intensive HSC Credited Course that is conducted in the September/October holidays and the Christmas/New Year break. This course, together with all accommodation and travelling expenses is paid for by the Board of Studies for the selected students.

Mrs Owers, who took maternity leave in the second semester, was replaced by Mrs Yates for the remainder of the year. Mrs Owers will return in 2005. Mrs Yates gained a permanent appointment at Bishop Tyrrell College to commence in 2005.

In Term Three we were invited to submit a mural design to the Charlestown Square Committee. Our design which was put together by Stephanie Miller and Jacquie Lewinski was selected to be reproduced as a full mural which will be displayed at the centre in December. The mural which will be painted in three panels is quite large. The students working on this will be Georgia Roberts, Laura Hambley, Skye Morrison, Sasha Ferguson, Amelia Rowland and Lindsay Cornell all of Year 10.

The HSC Itinerant Markers came to the School on 27 October to mark the 2004 Year 12 Bodies of Works.

They chose the Bodies of Works by Adam Valentine and Sascha Burgess to go to Sydney for the Art Express selection.

This year's Student Art Exhibition called '**COMMUNICATION**' was of an exceptionally high standard. Mr Bruce Rowland, Head of TAFE Art School, opened the exhibition. He chose the work of Ellye Yates of Year 11 for the School Collection. Ellye also received a merit certificate. Ten other students were awarded merit certificates. They were Alexandra Bruderlin, Bree Yates, Kate Armstrong, Jacqueline Lewinski, Bridget Elliott and Chloe Hicks all of Year 11, Sonia Pletz and Skye Morrison of Year 10, and Evan Murtagh and Louise Van Buuren of Year 9.

Mrs Margaret McBride
Head of Visual Arts

MIDDLE SCHOOL

From the Head of Middle School

Middle School continued its journey this year with around two hundred and eighty students comprising of two classes in each of Years 5 and 6 and four in each of Years 7 and 8. By third term Year 7 was full for the first time in several years. Accommodation was pushed to capacity and 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 again had to share three home bases between four classes. In many ways for them this continued to act as a fitting transition to Senior School. First semester also brought further challenges with the renovation of the Horbury Hunt Hall the final result is very much appreciated.

Throughout the year we faced a number of staff changes. Mrs Megan Anderson and Mrs Julie Owers both left on maternity leave at the end of Term 2 and subsequently gave birth to Wil and Zahlee respectively. Mr Greg Bowen and Mrs Michelle Yates replaced them. Mrs Annette Bilton left us at the beginning of Term 3 to retire and become a grandmother when her daughter Emma gave birth to Sophie in October. Mr Alan Small stepped down as Year 8 Patron at the end of Term 4 to become a full time classroom teacher. Following these movements Mr Jason Benn joined us as a Year 7 Class Patron, Mrs Sharelle Sewell returned from maternity leave as a Year 8 Class Patron and Mrs Rowntree became Year 8 Patron. The Middle School Teaching Team of 12 Class Patrons was supplemented with a large number of teachers who taught across the Middle and Senior Schools including over 30 people. I thank them all for their valued input over the year.

As part of their commitment to lifelong learning, many teachers have continued with their own study throughout the year. We congratulate Mrs Simone Muddle who completed her COGE (Certificate of Gifted Education) this year through the University of NSW Geric Institute. This constitutes half of her Master's Degree. Several other staff members have continued with further study including Mrs Rowntree and Mr Small, both of whom are working towards their Masters' Degrees, and Mrs Johnson who is undertaking her doctorate.

Staff in the Middle School this year undertook a variety of professional development opportunities including workshops, and seminars. 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. We welcomed the new Mathematics syllabus and we continued to refine and develop programmes across all KLA's and subject areas. In Term 1 we prepared for and passed Registration with the Board of Studies for the Years 5 and 6 programmes and enjoyed the positive comments that this experience brought from the inspectors.

In 2004 we implemented a new reporting system that was more user friendly for staff but still offered our parent body a comprehensive summary of their child's progress. The Heads of Schools also met regularly to maintain the continuum between the three phases of the school. Complementary to this in Term 4 we employed Mr Peter Sanders as Director of Staff Professional Development as well as Gifted and Talented Education. In 2005 we will add to this team an Academic Coordinator of Year 5 to 7.

Our Years 5 and 7 students undertook statewide testing in Literacy and Numeracy. Year 5 completed the Basic Skills Test and Primary Writing Assessment and Year 7 undertook the ELLA and SNAP tests.

I am delighted to report that in the Basic Skills Test in Literacy 78% of our students were placed in the top two bands (compared to 54% of the state) and in Numeracy 80% of our students were placed in the top two bands (compared to 52% of the state). In the Primary Writing Assessment close to half of Year 5 was placed in the top band (Band 6) in the state. This indicates that our Year 5 cohort is performing very well and is an excellent result.

In the ELLA Test, in Writing 96% of our students were placed in the top two bands (compared with 85% of the state), in Reading 98% of our students were placed in the top two bands (compared with 84% of the state) and in Language, 97% of our students were placed in the top two bands (compared

with 77% of the state). In the SNAP Test 92% of our students were placed in the top two bands (compared to 66% of the state).

All our students entered the Science and Computer competitions and volunteers opted to enter the English and Mathematics competitions.

Year 7 entered the Westpac Mathematics Competition and the results were excellent with 10 Distinctions and 10 Credits.

As always we saw some outstanding results. In the Australasian Mathematics Assessment out of 142 Years 5, 6 and 8 participants we were awarded 2 High Distinctions, 14 Distinctions, 35 Credits and 91 Certificates of Participation. In the Australasian Schools Science Competition out of 254 Years 5, 6, 7, and 8 participants we were awarded 6 High Distinctions, 29 Distinctions, 44 Credits 5 Certificates of Achievement and 170 Certificates of Participation. In the Australasian Computer Skills Competition out of 263 Years 5, 6, 7, and 8 participants we were awarded 1 High Distinction, 16 Distinctions, 50 Credits, 14 Certificates of Achievement and 182 Certificates of Participation. In the Australasian English Competition out of 176 Years 5, 6 and 8 participants we were awarded 5 High Distinctions, 26 Distinctions, 37 Credits and 108 Certificates of Participation.

The results of the Hunter Region Primary Mathematics Competition were also most commendable. Year 5 students were awarded 1 High Distinction, 14 Distinctions and 8 Merits. Year 6 were awarded 3 High Distinctions, 19 Distinctions and 17 Merits.

Maddison Allen was also offered of a place at the Gifted Mathematicians' Camp in 2005.

Over the year our top achievers in various competitions were as follows:

Year 5:

Jonathan Waugh achieved one High Distinction and four Distinctions;
Maddison Allen achieved one High Distinction and two Distinctions;
Ashleigh Bonica achieved two Distinctions;
Keshav Kausik achieved three Distinctions;
Huw Calford achieved one Distinction one Merit and three Credits;
Jack Lyons achieved one Distinction and three Credits.

Year 6:

Henry Roberts-Thomson achieved one High Distinction, two Distinctions and one Credit;
Bronte Jovevski achieved one High Distinction, one Merit and two Credits;
Ellie Hewitt achieved two Distinctions and three Credits;
Alexandra Kemp achieved two Distinctions and three Credits;
Derek Buchanan achieved two Distinctions and two Credits;
Zachary Bush achieved two Distinctions and two Credits;
Laura Fitzgibbon achieved one Distinction and four Credits.

Year 7:

Michelle Pollack achieved three Distinctions;
Adam Murphy achieved two High Distinctions and one Credit;
James Hughes achieved one High Distinction, one Distinction and one Credit;
Ben McDonald achieved two Distinctions and one Credit;
Jake McDonald achieved two Distinctions and one Credit;
Megan Morris achieved two Distinctions and one Credit;
Benjamin Chapman achieved two Distinctions;
Sam Clarke achieved two Distinctions;
Katie McMillan achieved two Distinctions;
Jordan Rothwell achieved two Distinctions;
Edward McDonald achieved one Distinction and two Credits;
Ayeeda Hossain achieved one Distinction and two Credits;
Oliver Whitton achieved one High Distinction and one Credit;

Liva Brash achieved one Distinction and one Credit;
Holly Katekar achieved one Distinction and one Credit;
Daniel Sprott achieved one Distinction and one Credit;
Toni Ambrogetti achieved three Credits;

Year 8:

Rosanna Olsen achieved two High Distinctions and two Distinctions;
Evan Markby achieved two High Distinctions, one Distinction and one Credit;
Rowan Katekar achieved two High Distinctions and one Distinction;
Lewis Mullens achieved one High Distinction and three Distinctions;
Louise Thomas achieved one High Distinction, one Distinction and two Credits;
David Cook achieved two Distinctions and two Credits;
Tom Boyle achieved two Distinctions and one Credit;
Georgina Burgess achieved two Distinctions and one Credit;
Edward Schalit achieved two Distinctions and one Credit;
Samantha Stott achieved two Distinctions and one Credit;
Tom Campbell achieved two Distinctions;
Chloe Bailey achieved one Distinction and three Credits;
Genevieve Ryan achieved one Distinction and three Credits;
Alexander Everitt achieved one Distinction and two Credits;
Laura Lavis achieved one Distinction and two Credits;
Matthew Le Bas achieved one Distinction and two Credits;
Annabel Whitaker achieved one Distinction and two Credits;
Sophie White achieved one Distinction and one Credit;
Sybilla Casinader achieved three Credits.

Anne Seah of Year 5 was a Regional finalist in the Nestle Writearound Australia competition and Bronte Jovevski and Zachary Bush of Year 6 and Ayeeda Hossain of Year 7 became our School OzSpell Champions, representing the school at the District Final. Ayeeda took out the District Championship with Bronte and Zachary coming in second and equal third respectively. This year there was no National Final and Ayeeda took home a \$600 cash prize for her efforts.

Each year students are selected from Years 5 and 6 to attend the HICES Gifted and Talented Camp in Sydney. Although for reasons beyond our control this year the camp clashed with our annual HSIE excursion, six students chose the challenge of the camp. This year's theme was *Courage*. Mrs Muddle accompanied the children for the week.

Georgia Clifton and Esther Posel from Year 6 undertook the Video Production core course; Keshav Kausik from Year 5 was involved in the Science core course, which was run by the CSIRO. Annabel Fidler from Year 6 entered a literature study core group, Mark Teale from Year 5 formed part of the Ancient Civilisations core group and Jacqueline Hipwell from Year 6 chose the Art core course. This was an interesting camp, and a wonderful opportunity for these students to interact with other children with similar interests and abilities.

Further to this we entered two teams in The Tournament of Minds regional competition at the University of Newcastle. Although not successful in winning, they performed remarkably well competing against much older teams. 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 biennial trip to Bathurst as a fitting end to their HSIE unit on *Gold*. Years 5 and 6 also attended the Life Education Centre as a supplement to their PDH&PE work and Year 6 took part in a CARES day in Sydney wherein they learned the rules of the road in relation to bike riding and passed a variety of cycling challenges. Year 7 went to Taronga Zoo in Sydney as a supplement to their Science and Geography programmes and then spent another day exploring Japanese culture with the visit of *Pam Sensei* and her team of Japanese students.

Mrs Bilton and Mrs Patchett continued to offer lunchtime Maths Clinics for anyone needing help throughout the year.

We continued the tradition that started last year wherein each class took turns in hosting the weekly chapel services and assemblies. Students used this opportunity to perform, accompany and comere these events as well as read and present in the public arena. We made each alternate assembly the Leaders' Assembly run by our two leaders, Lewis Mullens and Jacqui Duke. During this time the staff held Pastoral Care meetings in Year groups. Mentor periods remained as an integral part of Homeroom time and some programmes were continued in the areas of anti-bullying and friendships. A team of teachers further developed some programmes in this area and it is intended that this work continue again into 2005. In chapel we donated money every week to help the St Christopher's orphanage in Fiji and in particular, the students from the orphanage who are studying at university. At the Easter Eucharist it was pleasing to see so many boxes of food for the Samaritans' Easter Appeal. Classes were very creative in their presentation of the food. Thank you so much for these kind efforts.

Our Student Representative Council continued and developed 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 Genevieve Ryan and Sam Leitch from Year 8, Madeleine Macridis and Jack Murray from Year 7, Esther Posel and Zachary Bush from Year 6 and Lachlan Fitzgibbon and Ashleigh Bonica from Year 5. All but the Year 8 representatives will continue to serve 12 months until the end of Term 1 2005. With our Middle School Leaders, Lewis Mullens and Jacqui Duke as the chairmen, this group brought about some important and relevant changes, helped at various school functions, worked at the Spring Fair and organised fund-raising for the Starlight Foundation.

Our School transition programmes continued and developed. In Term 4 we brought Year 4 to the Hill Campus for a chapel service then held a Coffee Evening for parents in the Horbury Hunt Hall. Later in the term 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 October to sit their placement tests and have a barbecue lunch hosted by Year 11 prefects. Year 8 had their graduation dinner at the Brennan Room of the university 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 and their House Patrons 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 teachers.

Another part of our pastoral programme and our outdoor education continuum saw each Year group have an outdoor experience. Year 5 travelled to Myuna Bay, Year 6 to the Hawkesbury, Year 7 went to the YMCA Blue Mountains Camp very early in Term 1 and Year 8 went to Jindabyne for their camp. They all experienced a variety of activities including trekking, canoeing and challenge activities, 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 and their skills become more developed. As well as these skills, students also built upon their peer relationships.

We made a slight change to Founders' Day by holding the inaugural Middle School Inter-House Debating Competition Finals. Later in the same term debating teams of four from Years 6 and 7 attended the HRIS Debating Day at St Phillip's. They won all of their debates and had a most enjoyable day. Thanks go to Mrs Dart for training the debaters and taking them on the day.

In 2004 the Chess club continued under the guidance of Mr Paul Lumley then Mr Peter Sanders and formed teams to enter the regional competition against other schools. 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 October when we hosted the Middle School Student Production, 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. Mr Peter Juchniewicz, Mrs Janean Saunders, Mrs Michelle Yates, Mr Ian McMurtrie 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 and students.

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.

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.

In March I hosted the annual *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. I thank Mrs Janean Saunders, Mrs Heather Patchett, Mr Peter Juchniewicz, Mrs Annette Bilton, Mrs Anita Ivancic and Mr Brent Malcolm for their help on the evening.

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. Christian Moore and Gabriella Sanderson spoke as a 'new' and an 'old' NGS student respectively then we heard from Mr Rob Baxter, a new parent and Mrs Gabrielle Murray as an "experienced" NGS parent.

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 Carmen Li and Huw Calford 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.

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 have 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 third year in our journey into middle schooling and look forward to our progress in 2005.

Mrs Lesley Harrison
Head of Middle School

DEPARTMENT REPORTS - MIDDLE SCHOOL

SPORT

The sports programme at Newcastle Grammar School in the Middle School continues to flourish in 2004 offering students at the school the opportunity to participate in individual, team, activities at various different levels of competition.

Our co-curricular sporting teams have grown in number and ability with tennis being introduced for the first time and being a great success. Eight netball teams, one boys' hockey team, one girls' hockey team, one soccer team, nine touch teams, two cricket teams, thirty-five tennis players, forty-five aerobic girls and many students undertaking the gruelling regime of rowing.

These teams have been very successful this year with five netball teams making finals and the 13 years Division 3 team winning the competition. The aerobics teams have also progressed very well with two Funk Teams finishing fourth and fifth at Nationals, three Step Teams finishing second, third and fourth place at Nationals, and the fitness teams also being successful finishing first, third and fifth at Nationals. The individual competitions competed very well in tightly challenged contests with Lucy Clifton finishing in fourth place at State in the Mini Category, Georgia Clifton and Alison Mullens finishing seventeenth and twenty-third at Nationals in the cadet category, and Paige Campbell finishing in sixth place at Nationals place in the Junior division.

Our sporting programme relies a great deal on coaches who are drawn from staff at the School, the parent body and the community and I would like to thank these coaches on their dedication and commitment to the sports.

Students from Newcastle Grammar School have displayed a high level of achievement in Sport with six students representing Newcastle Grammar School at the AICES level, two students representing Newcastle Grammar School at NSW CIS level. Alison Mullens was selected in the Netball team, Liam Speers in the Athletics team.

The number of students who have been selected in the HRIS teams has been numerous.

Our Ski team was also very successful with Benjamin Chapman, Michael Weeks, and Rachel Kirby-Faust members of the team that competed at the National Championships held in August in Perisher.

Our School was also very successful at the HRIS Championships finishing in the top four schools in most events, winning the Swimming and Division B Soccer.

Overall it has been a very rewarding year for those students who have been involved in the sports programme at Newcastle Grammar School. I hope that 2005 allows students to develop their skills further and succeed in their chosen sports.

**Mrs Corey Rowntree
Middle School Sport Coordinator**

JUNIOR SCHOOL

FROM THE HEAD OF JUNIOR SCHOOL

Central to the life of the Junior School throughout 2004 has been the provision of effective teaching to enable effective learning. Literacy and Numeracy are key elements of the K-4 curriculum. Often students are grouped to enable them to work at a level that is appropriate for them. The Support Education Teacher also provides opportunities for students with particular needs to be supported. Challenges are also provided across a broad range of learning opportunities throughout the year. It is great to see the manner in which students rise to the occasion and master understandings and skills that will serve them well in the years to come. In a number of Australia-wide competitions it was most encouraging to see our students perform most creditably. Years 3 and 4 competed in the Australian Schools Mathematics Assessment and the Australian Schools English Competition. Our School's mean score was above the average in both competitions with one of our students gaining a perfect score in the Mathematics Assessment. In the Year 3 Primary Writing Assessment undertaken by schools in NSW - 26% of our students were in the top 11% of the State and 76% of our students were in the top 48%. In the Basic Skills Tests in Literacy 39% of students were in the top 17 % and 76% in the top 43%; in Numeracy 42% were in the top 15% and 74% in the top 43% - some quite outstanding results.

Much effort is spent in ensuring that the students in our care receive a stimulating and effective education that enables them to develop the knowledge, skills and attitudes that form a sound basis for further learning. During the year Park Campus underwent the process of Registration by the Board of Studies. The Staff were involved in a significant amount of work, much of which is ongoing, in the preparation of Policies and Programmes in regard to the provision of effective teaching of the students in our care. We were visited by two members of the Board of Studies and received Registration for the coming five years, the maximum period of time possible. Junior School Staff spend a great deal of time developing policies, preparing programmes and then teaching and assessing across a very broad curriculum.

There was a great variety of activities that were a part of life in the Junior School throughout the year. Years 3 and 4 went to Myuna Bay for their three day camp and engaged in activities such as archery, canoeing, kayaking, high ropes courses along with having a good deal of fun. There were excursions to the Museum, the beach, the Art Gallery, the Reptile Park and around the local area. There were visits to special concerts and musical performances. We also had a visit from a former student who is an author. A number of concerts showcased the musical and dramatical abilities of the students. The String Fest Concert, after a successful day of special string lessons for Years 3 and 4, showed how great music could be made with a little energy and much enthusiasm. Founders' Day Grandparents Day was a great opportunity for all in the School Family to join in some fun activities. Apart from viewing work in classrooms parents and grandparents were able to see the students perform a variety of dances, join in a picnic lunch and then have fun in a great treasure hunt. Variety Night also proved to be a highlight of the year with students dancing, singing, acting and reciting to entertain a full Hall on each of the evenings.

Education is seen as a partnership between the School and Parents. We appreciate the involvement of parents in a myriad of ways throughout the year - your time and effort is appreciated. From supervising homework and encouraging students as they learnt their part of performances to being involved in our 'Tutor Program', or helping on excursions and at carnivals. In particular we thank the Year Parents who coordinated the function which their year supported - without their help many of our activities would not be as successful.

One encouraging aspect of Junior School life during this year has been the willingness of students to support particular charities. We usually organise one fundraiser each term. It was good to see that Year 4 students were keen to organise the fund raising activity themselves. One of our students organised 'Jelly Bean' Month in May selling jellybeans to raise funds for research into juvenile diabetes - this also involved informing students about diabetes. Another group organised the 'Biggest Cake Stall' from St Christopher's Home to raise funds for cancer research. The School had an appeal for those suffering as a result of the

Beslan disaster. As well as this our weekly Chapel offerings went to support a young girl, studying at university in Fiji.

2004 has proved to be a busy and fulfilling year in the Junior School.

Mr David Sarich
Head of Junior School

DEPARTMENT REPORTS – JUNIOR AND MIDDLE SCHOOL

MUSIC

Music is part of life at Newcastle Grammar School. Whether it is as simple as singing the School Hymn in assembly each week or as involved as performing in a master class for an international pianist in front of peers and teachers. The opportunities are far-reaching and invaluable.

Through out the year, **The Sixes** have proven themselves to be an extremely dynamic and very talented ensemble of students who make a superb sound. Their dedication to completing the epic children's cantata – 'Adam in Eden' performed at the Music Department Music Concert, placed them on a higher level and taught them a great deal about two-part singing and performance etiquette. This was clear when we made our recording in November, that you should no doubt be enjoying quite soon. I do hope that many of these students will seriously consider auditioning for the 2005 Grammarphones.

The **Middle C's** comprises of all of Year 5 and although we rehearse only once fortnightly, we have achieved great things this year, the highlight of which was performed at MADD. Together they sang some Baroque 'favourites' with movement and were under the baton of their very own Chelsea. The Middle C's will all be auditioned for The Sixes 2005, so many of them can look forward to much more singing.

The **Grammarphones** continue to *wow* audiences with their mature sound. A highlight for me is when everyone gathers around the piano before Chapel services begin. The sound in Christ Church Cathedral is beautiful. There are some exceptionally talented students in the Grammarphones many of whom will grace Ms Saunder's choirs in 2005. Don't doubt – you shall be missed!

The Junior School Music programmes are in full flight with Years 3 and 4 firmly established as the beginner string players of the school. Wendy Ireland our Director of Strings is achieving great results with the help of a team of professional string players to tutor small groups. Their performances throughout the year have been inspiring, particularly those we heard at Variety Nights.

The **Tones, Semitones** and **Minims** (Junior Choirs) have spent some of the year learning great fun songs with movement and percussion accompaniment. Their joyous voices fill the Sandi Warren Performance Centre each Monday at Chapel when we sing our favourite hymns with Father Brian. It is a lovely way to start the week and even more so when a student volunteers to perform as part of the service.

Variety Nights were a smashing success with each teacher presenting a class item. The audience experienced the wonderful choreographic talents of Mrs Morgan to a poetry reading presented by Mr Wilson's class. The evenings were colourful and fun and all over in time for a good night's sleep. Mrs Pavitt certainly organizes things so that the disruption is minimal and the flow easy.

Once again this year has been truly successful and full of music – more than ever I do believe. I look forward to 2005 and the musical journey it brings.

Miss Jane Parkes
Junior & Middle School Music

KINDERGARTEN TO YEAR 4

PERSONAL DEVELOPMENT, HEALTH, AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION

All Junior School (Kindergarten to Year 4) classes are timetabled one hour of PD/H/PE every week. Years 3 and 4 have, in addition, one hour of Sport every Thursday. Opportunity exists for students to be involved in activities/sports after School as part of the co-curricular programme.

In the hour per week of PD/H/PE the units of work include basic skills of movement and ball activities; gymnastics; dance; and a variety of games. The emphasis is on the development of components of fitness – co-ordination and strength in the first instance. The other components of fitness are also developed and improved through the variety of activities undertaken. The Sandi Warren Performance Centre is an ideal teaching area and is used in conjunction with the School playground, National Park, and Howzat facilities.

A portion of many lessons is given to Health and Personal Development topics – Safe Living; Growth and Development; Personal Health Choices; Inter-Personal Relationships. Students have a folder in which they keep their work and a progressive record of their achievements and involvement in physical pursuits throughout the year. This programme is supported by a visit to the Life Education Centre.

Years 3 and 4 have participated in units in the following listed sports:

swimming	dance
gymnastics (fixed equipment)	basketball
netball	soccer
tennis coaching	t-ball
newcombball	cricket

as part of the Thursday sport programme.

Years 2, 3 and 4 have competed in swimming, cross-country and athletics School House carnivals. Macquarie House has been the champion House this year. Our School teams have competed keenly in the HRIS meets for these three sports. Several students were selected to represent HRIS (Hunter Region Independent Schools) at the Combined Independent Schools (CIS) meets. One student, Mitchell Cole (Year 2) reached the higher level and represented CIS in the 8 years swimming at State carnival.

Year 4 Students competed in the HRIS soccer/netball gala day – an important day in the sporting calendar, not only for the benefit of competition, but the opportunity to meet and compete in a friendly environment, with students from other schools.

An increasing number of students have been involved in our co-curricular programme – a large aerobics squad; four soccer teams; two netball teams; one cricket team. Young children thrive on encouragement, and the support and commitment from parents for these activities/sports have been fantastic.

Thank you parents. My job is certainly made easier due to your support and, notwithstanding, the enthusiasm shown by the children for all that we do.

Mrs Jill Kidd
Co-ordinator PD/H/PE - Junior School

SPECIAL EDUCATION AND SUPPORT K-4

Sending messages to students that education can be fun, rewarding and fulfilling isn't always easy. With warm smiles, support and encouragement, twenty volunteer Reading Tutors each devoted one morning a week to the achievement of this goal. My sincere thanks to these excellent mentors for their patience, professionalism and excellence.

Programmes catered for a variety of needs and allowed students to progress at their own rate. This had a very positive effect on the groups in that a less motivated student was often enthused by the success and achievements of a peer.

Entry into a programme was based on a perceived (by teacher or parent) need. If my assessment confirmed this, a programme was devised and progress monitored and evaluated during my weekly liaison sessions with each teacher.

Challenge groups rotated through a variety of activities in the afternoon sessions. Some examples are Drama, Literature Appreciation, Science, Logic and Numerical Thinking.

Individual computer programmes were used to support group work and provide students with opportunities to revise or consolidate Literacy and Numeracy skills. Specially selected programmes ensured that students engaged in meaningful and mastery-oriented activities.

As was the case last year, Kindergarten Sounds and Reading groups rotated through programmes I wrote specifically for them. These (with the help of the tutors) were fabulous sessions. Not only did the children get to know me, I had an early opportunity to observe present behaviours, skill acquisition and then anticipate future needs.

Long Service Leave in Term 4 required my handing over the responsibility for my students, programmes and tutors to Ms Melinda Luxon, and I thank her for supporting all aspects of my sphere of influence during my absence. I look forward to seeing parents, students and tutors alike when I resume my **SPECIAL EDUCATION** duties in 2005.

Mrs Frances Pavitt
Special Education and Support K-4

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF THE PRE-SCHOOL

2004 has been busy and fun!

The Shakers and the Groovers have worked and played really hard this year and have enjoyed their time with us. We have had lots to do and each year at Preschool seems to be getting busier and busier.

We had Miss Catherine return from having her beautiful twins and Miss Ange was back to job share. Now Miss Ange is pregnant (something in the water at Preschool!) and she will be off in 2005 to have her little baby. Miss Fiona was in the Shakers room full time and Miss Lizzie and I were in the Groover's room. Thank you to my great team who work so hard and are just so dedicated to these gorgeous children we care for.

Throughout the year we have been active with our large group lessons (3 a day), our small group lessons, (class divided into 2 and given more challenging tasks), indoor activities (fine motor, cognitive, language, creative, scientific, constructive, manipulative, computer) outdoor activities (gross motor development) group games and individual activities.

The staff were busy with individual programming, group programming, running records, observations, school readiness reports, parental feedback and everyday problem solving.

Our entertainment and excursions this year included:

The Fire Station, Dress Up Day , Ruby the Clown, Afro Mosses (African Rhythm), Blackbutt, Centennial Park, Junior School Athletics Carnival, Wacky Wombat, Kindy Gym, Reptile Visitor, Founder's Day (dress up day), Swag full of Instruments, Variety Night, Pyjama Day, Science Show, Dental Visit, Sausage Sizzle, Bird Man and J D Magician.

Wow, we've had a fabulous time!!

We have enjoyed Mrs Kay Lane again this year on Tuesdays and Fridays, at her 'house' in the Music room. She has taught us songs and rhythm, tone and pitch, dances, finger plays and circle games. Thanks Mrs Lane, we had lots of fun.

Thank you again Father Brian for your wonderful stories on Mondays and Thursdays again this year. The children have enjoyed your visits. You are very good at teaching 4 and 5 year olds about the art of questioning.

We had the pleasure of visiting the Library on Wednesdays this year with Mrs Johnson. Thank you Mrs Johnson for fitting us in to your schedule. The children enjoyed coming over and listening to your stories and looking at all of your books.

Fourth Term saw us doing more school readiness activities. We had 'News' (always interesting with this age group, *the stories we hear!*). We did more directed and challenging activities, visits to Kindergarten, lunch with the rest of the school, and visits from Kindergarten. After their orientations the children were too big for Preschool and wanted to start Kinder right away!

This year has just flown and I must say I am enjoying my job more and more, working with these fantastic children. They really make you want to get up and come to work!

Thank you to all the parents who have assisted us in any way this year, we really appreciate your time and help.

A few sayings we have collected this year..

"Do you know Miss Jacqui, my dad had a nighty on last night and he did a bow in it. It was silky"

Out shopping with his mum a child from the Shaker's room. Sales assistant, "Gee, you're a bit of a groover aren't you?"

Reply: "Na I'm actually a shaker!"

A child says to the teacher at listening time on the floor, lying on her leg, "This is nice, I'm lying on the fat bit", The other child says "Move over, I want to lie on the fat bit too".

"My mum doesn't cook sausages, she only lets dad cook them on the barbecue. She doesn't even eat them, she just licks them!"

Every day they make us laugh.

**Ms Jacqui Soto
Director**

TYRRELL LIBRARY

Providing Library services in the School generally takes a three pronged approach - encouraging reading, teaching Information Skills and providing Audio-visual support to the Teaching Staff.

This statement belies the complexity of the procedures involved in the monitoring of the Library collection for both fiction and non-fiction, print and non-print; acquiring those resources, processing them and making them available to the staff and students 'value-adding' to use a contemporary idiom. I was reminded of this again in the last week when I helped a Year 11 student who was amazed to find just what we held in the Library which would support her in her HSC English studies. "It's what we do," I said. "We acquire all this material to help you!"

Running parallel to this is the organisation of Book Hire - another essential service offered by the School and operated through the Library. All of this is done by the Library Staff, who thankfully, remain the same, both in name and attitude - patient, efficient and cheerful. At Park Campus and at Hill Campus on Mondays, we are fortunate to have Mrs Ann-Maree Johnson. On the Hill we have Ms Sue Forsythe, Mrs Betty Daly, Mrs Linda Williams and Mrs Diane Kenchington, backed up and rescued so often in a crisis by Mrs Bronwyn Green. We are supported everyday by the Ancillary Staff who work tirelessly and who do not often receive the public accolades. To all of these people I owe a debt of gratitude.

Along with the English Staff, we have expanded the Wide Reading Schemes to include Years 7, 8, 9 and 10. Aside from the wonderful opportunity to be exposed to more literature, this provides an occasion to cover an important aspect of the students' literacy skills - to be able to write a personal, analytical and critical response to their chosen book. This is a skill which must be refined by Year 12 and which grows steadily with each reading experience.

Through cooperative planning and teaching, we have examined Machines, Inventions and Communications in Years 3 and 4, explored the mysteries of the Solar System in Year 5, investigated our Asian Neighbours as well as France with Year 6, and produced elegant Powerpoint presentations along the way. More importantly, the students have begun, in the lower years, and revisited the process involved in research - an essential skill which has always been needed, but which is becoming more critical as access to information expands.

Book Week was embraced this year through the efforts of Mrs Ann-Maree Johnson, who brought to the School Ms Lindy Batchelor and her stories for K-4, and James Roy who conducted writing workshops with Years 5 and 6.

As Term 4 rolls out, the HSC has begun this week and already the Year 11s are taking their places in the Library for their independent study periods. As I write this, the students from the after-school group are flooding in through the door and the Library moves into its role of providing after-hours extended access to the 57,000 resources we now hold here in the Tyrrell Library. We must be doing something right!

**Mrs C Mary Curran
Teacher Librarian**

SERVICE AND ADVENTURE TRAINING UNIT

The Service and Adventure Training Unit 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 2004:

Senior Cadet Under Officer	–	CUO Boyd Schrader
Company Sergeant Major	–	WO II Nicholas Murphy
Platoon Commanders	–	CUO Peter Murphy
Platoon Sergeants	–	Sgt Michael Giles, Sgt Peter Imlay, Sgt Andrew Noble
Drum Major	–	L/Cpl Elliot Fraser
CQMS	–	Staff Sergeant Justin Langford
Flying Corps	–	Sergeant Ryan Bodilly

Also, we welcome to the unit Mr Brent Malcolm and Mr Dave Tompkins. The Unit is very fortunate to have Mr Malcolm and Mr Tompkins on board.

Mr Malcolm has had ARES and ARA experience and was a commissioned officer with the Sydney University Regiment. Mr Malcolm has been actively involved as an OOC with 1 Platoon this year and has already passed on some of his knowledge to these cadets on recent camps.

Though Mr Tompkins has only recently joined us, his knowledge and experience has been very helpful, this being particularly evident with matters concerning ceremonial procedures and protocols. Mr Tompkins last posting before joining us was as Base W.O.D. at Williamtown RAAF Base. He has had a long and distinguished career with the RAAF and although we are not wearing blue uniforms here at Newcastle Grammar School, we look forward to his continuing contribution.

CAMPS

1 Annual Camp:

The SATU conducted its annual field exercise from April 3-8. The activity was held at Singleton Military Area with three platoons and a headquarters detachment participating in training exercises including living in the field, navigation, radio telephone procedure, first aid, leadership, initiative exercises as well as a variety of other cadet activities.

A company exercise was also held for all members of the unit to validate their training. Staff were very impressed with the leadership shown by all NCOs as well as the enthusiasm and conduct of all members of the unit. Particular mention must be given to SUO Boyd Schrader for the planning and control of a very successful exercise.

2 Term 2 Bivouac:

Our unit bivouac was held at Singleton on 20-21 June of Term II. Training was conducted at platoon level and included navigation, first aid, radio telephone procedure and survival exercises. Once again we were very impressed with the leadership demonstrated by our senior cadets over the two days. This was the last camp for our Year 12 cadets as they approach their HSC studies and I am sure that there were some who felt a deal of sentiment after being involved with cadet camps since Year 7.

3. Army Reserve Activity:

Senior members of our unit participated in a range practice with the University of New South Wales Regiment. The activity was held at Singleton Military Area. Many thanks to Lt Brent Malcolm for being available for this activity.

PARADES AND ACTIVITIES

1 Dawn Service:

SUO Boyd Schrader represented the School at the Anzac Day Dawn Service at Nobby's Beach. Boyd also led our unit march later on in the day with much proficiency.

2 Anzac Day:

Members of the SATU participated in the Newcastle Anzac Day March on April 25. Many thanks also to our Drum Corps who did a fantastic job on the day. I was very impressed again with the standard of drill and the exemplary dress on the day.

3 School Anzac Service:

The School conducted an Anzac Service in Christ Church Cathedral. A traditional catafalque guard was mounted with a flag party and escorts. A wreath was also laid. I would like to pass on my congratulations to all students, cadets and staff for the conduct of an excellent service.

4 National Service Parade:

Our School supported the National Service and Returned Servicemen's Parade that was held at Civic Park, Newcastle. Members of our Drum Corps were Cody McKay, Philip Duncan, Jane Krempin and Alexander Everitt. The Drum Corp lead the parade for a short march along Auckland Street and into Civic Park, keeping a strong military beat for those marching. Once in Civic Park, a service was held and Sam Killin played **The Last Post** and **Rouse** with much clarity, volume and proficiency. I would like to thank the above members of our School for their dress and bearing and commitment in supporting this occasion.

5 National Servicemen's Association Ceremony:

A ceremony was held in Civic Park to officially mark the handing over of the governance of the National Servicemen's Association to the Newcastle Branch. A number of our cadets were asked to represent the Army Cadets on this occasion. Many thanks to L/Cpl Elliot Fraser, L/Cpl Georgia Morris and L/Cpl Elizabeth (Liz) Noble for their efforts. Well done again to Sam Killin who did a great job playing the bugle for the ceremony.

6 Fort Scratchley Stowing of the Guns Ceremony:

A number of our cadets participated in the Fort Scratchley 'Stowing of the Guns Ceremony' that was held to commemorate the beginning of major refurbishments to the Fort. I would like to take this opportunity to thank SUO Boyd Schrader who was the ADFC Tri Service Parade Commander, as well as CUO David Mathers, L/Cpl Georgia Morris, Cdt Lillian Main, Cdt Megan Morris and Cdt Cameron Rivett who volunteered their time to help make this ceremony an excellent occasion.

7 Battle for Australia Day/ Battle for Britain Day:

Many thanks to those members of the SATU who participated in the recent Battle for Australia Day Service (01 Sept) and Battle for Britain Day (17 September). L/Cpl Claire Davis, L/Cpl Helen Armstrong and L/Cpl Georgia Morris were involved as flag orderlies and Sam Killin played the bugle. From all reports our cadets represented the School with distinction. I would also like to thank Mr Dave Tompkins for all of the hard work he has done in preparing for these ceremonies, particularly in the lead up to our Passing Out Parade.

8 Passing Out Parade:

Congratulations to all members of the SATU for their excellent representation at our Passing Out Parade. It was very pleasing to see such a high standard of drill as the Unit paraded in honour of our departing Year 12 Cadets. On behalf of the unit I wish all of our Year 12 cadets the very best for their future endeavours and I thank them for their many contributions that they have made to enrich our unit.

Once again SUO Boyd Schrader performed impeccably as Parade Commander and he was ably assisted by our outgoing CSM - Warrant Officer Class II Nicholas Murphy. Congratulations to the Drum Corps

and Flag Parties also for their excellent drill on the day. It would be remiss of me not to thank the staff of the SATU who also worked very hard to help organise the parade. Many thanks to the parents of our cadets who supported their children on the day, I am sure they were as proud of them as we were.

Year 12 Cadets who marched out were SUO Boyd Schrader, CUO Sarah Hamilton, CUO David Mathers, CUO Peter Murphy, WOII Nicholas Murphy, and S/SGT Justin Langford.

Passing Out Parade Prize Winners:

Congratulations must go to the following cadets who were awarded prizes during our Passing Out Parade last Saturday.

Most Efficient Cadet - Year 7 Lillian Main and Edward McMahon (shared)

Most Efficient Cadet - Year 8 Emily Bowler

Most Efficient Cadet - Year 9 Elizabeth Noble

Most Efficient Cadet - Year 10 Jeremy Dawes

Most Outstanding Senior NCO - Michael Giles

9 Dining In Night:

Preceding our Passing Out Parade the SATU conducted a Dining In Night in honour of our Year 12 leaving cadets. The night was held in traditional military fashion and our Guest of Honour was LtCol Andrew Wyman (CO NSW Brigade, Australian Army Cadets). Our SUO, Boyd Schrader gave an excellent account of the experience of cadets from Year 7 until Y12. Other guests included Officers from surrounding Hunter cadet units as well as our Area Liaison Officer. Some presentations were also made to supporters of the unit who regularly give of their free time to assist with the unit's activities.

10 Promotions Courses:

During the first week of the Term 2 holidays, seventeen cadets attended cadet promotions courses conducted at the School. These courses prepare cadets for positions of responsibility in a cadet unit. It was very encouraging to see the proficiency demonstrated throughout each of the courses being conducted. We are looking forward to working with all of those who attended as they prepare for leadership positions within the unit.

11 Cadet of the Year Competition:

Again, congratulations go to SUO Boyd Schrader who was selected as the Hunter Region representative to compete against other regional nominations in the Cadet of the Year competition held at Singleton on Sunday, 11 July. With short notice, Boyd spent eight hours competing against six other cadets from NSW in areas including advanced fieldcraft, drill and first aid scenarios. Boyd was also expected to prepare and present a speech as well as sit a number of interviews.

Whilst Boyd was not awarded first place, we were very proud to hear that he was running very close and that he was leading in a number of the tests. We were particularly proud to know that our standards are as good, if not better, than any other units within NSW. Congratulations Boyd, ***well done!***

12 ADFA Education Awards

It was little surprise to us that our SUO, Boyd Schrader, was awarded an ADFA prize for a Year 12 student. Boyd received a laptop as part of this prize. He has already been selected for entry to officer training in the Army with a view to study Aeronautical Engineering and work in Army Aviation. Congratulations Boyd.

Congratulations also to Angus Harrison (Year 12) who has been notified as being a recipient of the sought after RAAF student prize for this year. Angus also received a laptop from the RAAF as part of this award. Angus has also recently passed his RAAF pilot selection testing at Tamworth. Angus began flying with the Flying Corps and has since been working hard to achieve his aim of becoming an RAAF pilot.

13 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. Ryan Bodilly has assisted instruction on several occasions. The School is indebted to Mr Chris Teale for his continued support and efforts in providing our cadets with this wonderful opportunity.

14 Cadet Website

Sam Shinnick (Y11) has been busy creating a web site for our SATU. The website can be found within the cadetnet website at www.adfc.gov.nsw.au. Sam has done this as part of a Design and Technology project and I would like to thank Sam for his hard work.

PLATOON REPORTS:

1 Platoon Report

This year has been an eventful year for 1 Platoon. Under the tuition of CUO P. Murphy and Sgt P Imlay, 1 Platoon has received training in navigation, first aid, bush craft and Army Ratel procedure. Our Annual Camp saw 1 Platoon conquer Brokenback and further camps helped harness these skills in anticipation of taking on leadership roles within the unit in 2005.

Once again Georgia Morris and Claire Davis were outstanding in the Flag party as were Helen Armstrong, Elizabeth Noble, Liam Williamz and Evan Murtagh as Honour Guard.

The mid year promotion course saw most of Year 9 back at school during the first week of the holidays. Here they were instructed and assessed on all aspects of being a Junior NCO. Some areas covered included lesson preparation and presentation, receiving and giving orders and the duties of a JNCO. This was a very successful course and I wish these students luck in their new roles as Corporals within the unit.

2 Platoon Report

It has been an exciting Year for 2 Platoon with about 18, Year 8, cadets. These students have been under the capable guidance of CUO Hamilton with valuable assistance coming from Sgt Giles. The cadets received training in navigational skills, first aid and correct Army radio procedures (RATEL), which were tested at a practical level at our Annual Camp in April.

Our Term 2 Bivouac was a great success working on navigation and first aid procedures whilst using cam and concealment on the various exercises.

Preparation for the Passing Our Parade was thorough with the students performing admirably.

The programme in 2004 was full of various activities and the cadets have acquired many skills that will assist them in the future including confidence and leadership skills. I look forward to future successes of this platoon in 2005.

3 Platoon Report

This year has been 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 that ranged from how to use a Hexi stove to cook food from ration packs, as well as how to navigate and set up shelter.

With a number of camps throughout the year and the Annual Camp early in April, most would say this was the highlight of the year. Term 2 Bivouac was challenging with the students working on their field craft skills, navigation, and small amount of first aid.

In Term 3 we prepared for the Passing Out Parade with intensive training during our Tuesday afternoon home training.

The work of Sgt Noble and Cpl Dawes under the capable guidance of CUO Mathers throughout the year has been invaluable. Thank you for your commitment to this activity.

VOLUNTEERS/SUPPORTERS:

I would 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 decided to leave us this year and we thank him for his contribution to the unit and wish him well in his future endeavours.

Mr Harry Matthew continues to support our cadets on Tuesday afternoons offering his wisdom and experience on many occasions. Harry has been particularly helpful with our ceremonial occasions.

Mr Dick Lynch has also been a great support in providing advice to our drummers on a variety of ceremonial matters.

Lt (AAC) Bob Hicks has assisted with our Q-Store this year. Bob's help in this area has been invaluable and we thank him for this.

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 (AAC) Robert Barter

CAREERS

2004 has been a busy and rewarding year. My role as Careers Adviser continues to be challenging and always full of interesting new information and opportunities to communicate to the students, parents and staff.

Communication and distribution of information to students, parents and staff continues to be my main undertaking. Information available covers all aspects of available career options and associated areas and at times the sheer volume of information is overwhelming. The variety of information available continues to expand and is becoming far more accessible to everyone.

The regular mailing system and the ever-expanding Internet are a constant challenge but at the same time an invaluable resource. Continual contact and access to tertiary institutions, government bodies, private providers and career developed resource centres enable up-to-date relevant information to be distributed more effectively and efficiently to those who will benefit from and are interested in the relevant areas.

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 Resources 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. Regular streams of students have continually taken up the opportunities advertised in the Newsletter with regard to job opportunities and applications, scholarships, cadetships, traineeships and further information relating to tertiary study options.

Direct links to the relevant websites and organizations, notification of any changes re application procedures and highlighting any new information that is available in the school or through the school, have been quickly and easily distributed on a weekly basis.

During the busy lead up to scholarship applications and University and College admissions this means of communication was invaluable.

Many University applications, information publications, scholarship information and application kits are now available online and there is a strong preference for students to apply online for many tertiary opportunities and enrolments.

Open Days and Careers Days are also a regular part of the preparation and decision making process for all Year 12 students.

During the June/July holidays 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 as a significant portion of our Senior students remain in the Newcastle area to undertake their tertiary studies.

Individual students have also had the opportunity to attend Information Days and Open Days at other University Campuses, with those in the Sydney Metropolitan area also proving to be very popular.

The Work Experience Programme is also available to interested students. Their work placement is organized during holiday periods and involves a five-day placement at the selected organization or business. Year 10 and Year 11 students have taken up this opportunity with enthusiasm and the number of students participating is increasing every year.

Students were placed in a variety of industry areas with placements occurring in physiotherapy, hospitality, customer service organizations, journalism, education, Taronga Park Zoo 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 2005.

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 and TAFE 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 two Rotary Exchange students for 2004 – 2005 Anna Boell from Germany and Eban Goosen from South Africa. We hope their experience here is a rewarding and happy one and that they take with them many pleasant memories of the School, our country and their new friends.

The School also has a number of students who will be undertaking Rotary Exchange during 2005: Adam Valentine to Ogaki, Japan for one year, Jade Joyner to South Africa for one year, Merinda Kennedy to Sweden for one year.

There are also two students who have been accepted for the GAP Programme: Bonnie Campbell to Tuscany for six months, Sophie Miller to China for six months and Angus Harrison to the United Kingdom or Canada.

All of the traveling 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 2005.

Mrs Tonia Martin
Careers Adviser

ARTSLINK

Artslink's purpose is to encourage and to enhance the opportunities for students in the visual arts, drama and music.

This year we sponsored a Composer-in-Residence, Martin Barbelar, and special coaching for the Year 7 Trio by Anthea Scott-Mitchell and for the String Quartet by Peta Dries. On 15th October Mark Gasser, an exciting young British pianist, gave a Master Class for our senior music elective students. The next evening, at the Sandi Warren Performance Centre, on a Stuart piano generously provided by Stuart and Sons, he gave a memorable recital, in the second part of which he accompanied Ghillian Sullivan in songs by Duparc.

To support these activities, Artslink organises Time to Tango each year, an opportunity for parents to polish up their dancing before the Debutante Ball, and Jazz at the Lake, a Dinner-Dance with Brass Razoo at Lake Macquarie Yacht Club. This year we also had a pre-performance dinner at Pippi's at the Point, with 1915 style menu, before attending the Hunter Opera's production of "The Marriage of Figaro", set in outback Australia.

I wish to acknowledge the support and advice of the staff at the School, particularly Miss Rose Saunders and Mrs Margaret McBride. I especially wish to record our appreciation of the outstanding contribution that Mrs Carolanne Clement and Mrs Chris Miller have made over the years through Artslink and its predecessor, the Society of the Arts, to promote artistic endeavour at Newcastle Grammar School.

Dr Roland Hicks
Chairman of Artslink

THE FRIENDS OF NEWCASTLE GRAMMAR SCHOOL

It is with mixed feelings I write this year's report. Although a very successful year it marks the end of my association with The Friends and Newcastle Grammar School. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those that have been involved in The Friends and to express how much I have enjoyed working with you over the years.

This year has been just as busy as past years with another enjoyable Founders' Day Dinner (thank you Mrs Melody Sharpe and helpers) and a very successful Spring Fair (thank you Mr Nick Killin, committee members and stall holders). I would also like to mention some of the School staff such as Mrs Elizabeth Barnes, Mrs Kathy Gallagher, Mrs Maxine Gardener, Mr Tony Redpath, Miss Sharon Rochester, Ms Colleen Brock, Miss Judy Wotton and Mr Denis Appleby and his team who all do an enormous amount of work behind the scenes for these events.

It is the fund raising from the Founders' Day Dinner, Spring Fair and canteens that enable us to purchase the extras that make our children's school experience second to none.

This year we have purchased air conditioning for the canteen at Hill Campus, a back drop and lighting for the SWPC, two pianos, six laptops, two video cameras, ten gazebos for Spring Fair and other school events, donations to a sports tour and LEGO teaching resources in the Junior School.

Over \$85,000 worth of resources and assistance that would otherwise have been a long way down the track or unattainable. The school provides an excellent educational environment but to borrow the Headmaster's phrase 'the Friends add the cream on top'.

This sort of extra spending is only possible due to the hard work of members of the School family. Whether being involved in the Spring Fair, Founders' Day Dinner or doing a canteen day it all helps.

It is a sad reflection of the wider social trend of people having less time to devote to volunteer work, that we had the need this year to employ a canteen assistant. Though this will ultimately affect the amount of money that will be available to return to the School, the declining number of canteen volunteers meant the service to the students was suffering.

We welcome Mrs Ruth Fenson to the Hill canteen three days a week bringing extensive experience and much needed relief to Kaylene and her remaining helpers.

I would like to encourage everyone to help in whatever way they can at some time during the year. Those that do canteen, donate, help with dinners, Spring Fair or other events always seem to enjoy the experience and meeting other parents, this is shown by the same people coming back year after year to help, but when there are too few helping the work becomes hard and the enjoyment fades. If every parent in the school gave just one day a year we would have more help than we could use.

Thank you to Mrs Kaylene Robson, Mrs Cheryl Mellan and Mrs Ruth Fenson for your tireless dedication and hard work. Also my gratitude to Mrs Philippa Killin, Mrs Joan Cresdee, Miss Judy Wotton, Mr Alan Green and all those that have attended Friends meetings throughout the year.

I invite every parent to attend the Friends meetings, whether you wish to enter the discussions, offer help or just sit and listen to what is happening in the School, you are warmly welcome.

**Mr Brett Schrader
President**



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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.

The facility is a business unit of Newcastle Grammar School and has spent prudently on capital works this year and focused plans for future development – we're serious about being the best.

We have over sixty-five employees with a weekly wage cost of close to \$10,000.

Each week for twenty years we have helped over seven thousand 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 institutions and charities such as 'The Good Samaritan Day' among others.

The Indoor Sports has over three hundred and thirty teams in our latest competition. This number is an increase of six percent on previous competitions, which compete in sports such as: Indoor Soccer, Netball, Cricket, Touch Football, Volleyball, and Beach Volleyball. All the lower level courts have had an upgrade and we are in the process of up-dating the skills of 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 growing at about 10% per annum. We also have 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 equipment in the cardiovascular area has been revamped. Three new Upright Bikes, a recumbent Bike and an additional Cross Trainer to cater for increased demand and membership growth have been installed. We are currently assessing all the weight and resistance training facilities and are to introduce a new computer software program to increase security and member's benefits.

Why are we here?

Overseas studies have proven that of those 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 two cause of disease burden in Australia behind only tobacco – 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 Federal and State Governments are currently seriously concerned over child and adolescent 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 rather inactivity is the main cause. Recent United States’ Research revealed that 60% males are overweight or obese; 70% of those were doing something about it, however only 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. Even completing their Bronze medallion!

The common denominator, whether it is Inge de Bruijn or Ian Thorpe swimming faster than anybody ever has, or its ‘Mr or Miss Average’ trying to get back to seeing only two figures before the decimal point on the scale is **COMMITMENT**. 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”**.

Howzat we can assist you achieve your goals.

Howzat Newcastle is currently used by seven educational institutions in the Hunter, and 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 programmes 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.

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, Mr Tony Redpath, Mr Hugh McKensy and the Headmaster for their commitment, knowledge and passion to the business, Mr Brian Bull and Mrs Patricia Bradley for their 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.

**Mr Ian Jack
General Manager**