The 2014 Acquisition prize was awarded to James Sara of Year 10. James’s work is an oil painting on paper. James completed his work as a response to the Issues Unit - where students are encouraged to explore and investigate the issues that they feel are pertinent to them. James’s artwork was in response to a recent school-bombing incident.

James’s work was purchased by Newcastle Grammar School and will become part of the permanent School Collection.
From the Head of School

As you sit down to read this edition of Spectemur Agendo, I hope you enjoy the many and varied activities of Newcastle Grammar School. This edition certainly highlights the energy, talent and engagement of our students and gives the reader a snapshot of the School over the last six months as students built connections with each other and their School.

The value of an education that challenges students academically and allows growth within a holistic framework is at the core of a Newcastle Grammar experience. As students mature, their connectedness with school is a significant factor in their overall success and providing opportunities for this to occur is at the heart of education at our School.

Studies have shown direct links between engagement with the school itself and engagement in the classroom. These ‘flow on effects’ translate as a student’s belief in the importance of their education. In addition, as attitudes to learning develop, engagement with the school encourages a sense in an individual’s mind of life-long learning. Participation in co-curricular activities - even those not obviously associated with academic achievement - leads to increased commitment to school and school values, which leads indirectly to school success. (Marsh, 1992) Similar studies (Gerber 1996, Coffman 2012 and Voight, Austin and Hanson 2013) have supported these findings. When students believe a good school climate exists - one that has high quality teachers, effective discipline, high levels of student learning and a positive school spirit, student performance and learning improves.

It is my hope that every student feels a sense of connection with the School and both enjoys and is challenged by their experiences at Newcastle Grammar School.

Congratulations to our HSC Class of 2014

- In the 2014 HSC, Newcastle Grammar School ranked 49th out of 641 schools in NSW and is the Hunter Region’s Leading Independent School
- Top ATAR received by our students 99.80
- Three students received an ATAR over 99
- 18% of students received an ATAR over 95
- 63% of students received an ATAR over 85
- Four students were included on the All Round Achievers list (achieving 90 or more in 10 course units).
- One student was included in the Top Achievers list for Business Studies
- 55% of students on the Distinguished Achievers list (achieving 90 or more in a course unit)
- One Student’s HSC Visual Arts Work was selected for 2014 ARTEXPRESS exhibitions
- Three Students’ HSC Body of Work was nominated for 2014 DesignTECH exhibitions
A Green Farewell

A heartfelt farewell to Mr and Mrs Green as Newcastle Grammar said their final goodbyes in Term 4. On Monday, 1 September, Mr and Mrs Green were invited over to Park Campus for the day. The day was organised as a way to say “Thank you, for nurturing the growth of Park Campus over the past 15 years,” said Mr Peter Sanders. Mr and Mrs Green enjoyed some time in the classrooms, then saw a preview of the performances from the cast of Park Campus’s upcoming show ‘Outback’, followed by a BBQ lunch. It was a wonderful day, enjoyed by all.

As expected the Headmaster’s final assemblies were a mix of emotions as staff and students said their goodbyes. Stewart and Berkeley Houses presented Mr Green with gifts including yellow gumboots, a blue flannelette shirt, red pyjama pants and a green plant. The Greens will now be prepared for country life! “We hope that the gifts will bring Mr Green many fond memories from Newcastle Grammar School” said Ms Lynne Walker.

Mr Merv Filby said it was “a most significant time in the history of Newcastle Grammar School with the retirement of Mr Green as Headmaster of the School after 25 years of distinguished service. Each of the School assemblies at both Park Campus and Hill Campus paid tribute to the dedicated service that Mr Green and his wife Bronwyn provided to the School.”

On behalf of Newcastle Grammar School, Mrs Lisa Peterson expressed her gratitude towards Headmaster Green saying, “he has worked tirelessly to ensure the students in his care received the best education possible, be that in the classroom or in life. His decisions are guided by a strong commitment to do what’s in the best interests of the student – always.”

“He has enriched the lives of so many people; inspiring them to pursue their goals, seek their potential and realise their ambitions. He has encouraged us to do what it right, to act with compassion and justice, to be a pilgrim,” said Mrs Peterson.

Mr Merv Filby described the farewell Eucharist, involving the whole School, saying “It was wonderful that Mr Green provided the address at this service. It was fantastic to see so many past and present parents, past students and distinguished guests at this final farewell. Following the Eucharist, Mr and Mrs Green were given the traditional School ‘clapout’ as everyone present provided a guard of honour when they left the Cathedral.”

In appreciation of Mr and Mrs Greens service to the NGS community, Mrs Glenda Young organised a farewell dinner at City Hall on the 23 August 2014. The dinner included performances by the Chamber Choir and senior music students. “It was a lovely night and I would like to thank everyone who made this evening so memorable,” said Mrs Glenda Young.

“On behalf of Bronwyn and myself I would like to say how much of a pleasure it has been for us to serve the Newcastle Grammar School community over the past twenty-five years. We wish you all the very best for the future and look forward to continuing to hear about the achievements of the students, staff and parents of the School. Newcastle Grammar School is a great place but we all are charged with the responsibility of ensuring that it becomes an even greater place for all who have the privilege to be associated with it. God bless and byes for now”. Mr Alan Green
New Beginnings

Welcome Mrs Thomas

2015 has brought some big changes to the School as we entered the new-year with Head of School, Mrs Erica Thomas. Mrs Thomas commenced the Headship in Term 4 on the 22 September 2014 with information sessions for parents. It was with great pleasure that we welcomed our new Head of School with the traditional Commissioning Service on the 10 October 2014 at Christ Church Cathedral.

Mrs Thomas was touched by the welcome, saying, “I greatly appreciated the Commissioning and Welcoming Service and thank the students for their input into the service and I thank the many parents who attended”. To complement the warm welcomes some Park Campus students offered their advice to the new Head of School, telling her to ‘always check her calendar so she knows what is on each day’ and make sure she ‘pays her bills on time’! Some sound advice.

This year she has continuously engaged with staff and students while managing the School, showing strong leadership in our values and culture at Newcastle Grammar School.

Mrs Thomas shared some wisdom on Creativity during the Berkeley assembly discussing Howards Gardner’s view of ‘Five Minds for the Future’;

• The Disciplinary Mind: the mastery of major schools of thought, including science, mathematics, and history and of at least one professional craft.

• The Synthesizing Mind: the ability to integrate ideas from different disciplines or spheres into a coherent whole and to communicate that integration to others.

• The Creating Mind: the capacity to uncover and clarify new problems, questions and phenomena.

• The Respectful Mind: awareness of and appreciation for differences among human beings and human groups.

• The Ethical Mind: fulfillment of one responsibilities as a worker and as a citizen.

The Head of School highlighted the key messages of understanding broad ways of thinking and the power of creativity, which was practical and insightful.

Parent Committee Invites You

The committee is a great forum for parents and carers to liaise with the Head of School and contribute to the strategic direction of the School, as well as helping organise community events. Meetings will take place approximately twice per term and it would be beneficial to have representatives from Park Campus and Hill Campus. Please contact Mrs Glenda Young via email at glenda.young@ngs.nsw.edu.au if you would like to be a part of this new group that will help make decisions on School issues and events.
Lessons of 2014

Wellbeing Workshop

In Term 4, students worked through the idea of forgiveness and why it is important to forgive. The wellbeing workshop gives students the ability to internalise feelings and make better decisions when faced with difficulty. The idea behind the forgiveness workshops is to teach our students the benefit of forgiving. If a person has been hurt it is more beneficial to forgive as it leads to healthier relationships, greater spiritual and psychological well-being, less anxiety, stress and hostility, lower blood pressure and fewer symptoms of depression.

“Forgetfulness doesn’t mean that you deny the other person’s responsibility for hurting you, and it doesn’t minimise or justify the wrong. You can forgive the person without excusing the act. Forgiveness brings a kind of peace that helps you go on with life,” explains Ms Lynne Walker (Director of Wellbeing).

“The Key to Happiness

Newcastle Grammar School endeavors to promote physical, mental and emotional wellbeing for all students and to compliment these values a workshop and discussion on the article ‘4 Ways of Choosing Happiness from Within’ written by Javy W Galindo (Humanities and Social Science professor at John F Kennedy University) was held and explored.

Students discussed the article as “research indicates that our long-term level of happiness is significantly influenced by how we choose to think and what we choose to think about,” says Ms Walker.

The ‘4 Ways of Choosing Happiness from Within’ include; Don’t be Your Own Worst Enemy, Practice Gratitude, Savour Pleasant Experiences and Exercise Optimism.

“How empowering it must be for our young people to learn that happiness is not a buried treasure that they need to search for – but a consequence of how they choose to experience each day of their lives,” Ms Walker said.
Celebrations

Speech Day
The 96th Annual Speech Day was a wonderful celebration, allowing us to congratulate all the 2014 achievements. It is a difficult feat to commit and persist when faced with challenges and those who have excelled this past year were recognised for their hard work. Students face many challenges throughout their school years and celebrations like Speech Day give them the opportunity to reflect on their success. Whether students are academic, musical or sport driven, here at Newcastle Grammar School we endeavor to support these interests by fostering every learning opportunity possible.

Reflecting on the year, Mrs Thomas expressed her congratulations to students saying, “The 2014 year has been characterised by our strong commitment to others. Projects in Farkwa and two outreach trips… Academic success both in external testing and in competitions… Student involvement in all aspects of School life including co-curricular activities continues to foster wellbeing, connection with each other and building resilience.”

Thank you to Mr Peter Francis, the Executive Manager of the Port Development in Newcastle who was our guest speaker on Speech Day. Mr Francis shared some words of wisdom on the topic of ‘thinking uniquely’.

Founders’ Day
The 2014 Founders’ Day service is a commemorative celebration of the opening of Newcastle Grammar School. After the service the audience enjoyed a concert with performances from The Minims, Semitones, Grammarphones, Chamber Choir and the Symphony Orchestra. Senior Musicians Elise Newling and Nicholas Young compered the concert and were outstanding. We are indeed fortunate to have dedicated young musicians to work with.

Founders’ Day Dinner was a night to remember! Elegant decorations of chandeliers and balloons created a wonderful ambiance for the evening. Guests enjoyed the tantalizing tastes of Italian inspired foods created by the award winning Restaurant Mason.

Held on the Saturday, 26 July, the Sandi Warren Performance Centre hosted 160 people to celebrate Founders’ Day theme of an evening in Rome – La Dolce Vita.

There was a surprise performance by Opera singing trio ‘The Three Waiters’ who blew the audience away with their talented voices. Brass RaZoo also put on an excellent performance.

A special mention must be made to Holly Overmyer in Year 11 for her fine solo work on clarinet at the Founders’ Day Dinner. Holly performed Begin the Beguine with Brass RaZoo backing her and it was an excellent first performance of this well-known standard. Well done!

Thank you to the organisers, sponsors, volunteers, donations and guests for making the Founders’ Day dinner such a magical night.

We would also like to take this opportunity to thank the families / businesses who donated such generous prizes to make this year’s collection of raffle and auction prizes the most amazing we have ever had. Thank you all.
### 2015 Leaders’ Induction

#### 2015 School Captains
L to R: Dominique Murphy, Toby Noon, Lauren Merrit, Patrick Nicolle

#### Senior Musicians
Celine St George, Holly Overmyer.

**Senior Cadet:** Adam Krause (P).

**Social Justice Prefect:** Danielle Wickens.

**Prefects:**
Angela Adera, Monique Aganovic, Clarissa Becker, Talina Danuser, Samuel Davidson, Luke Davies, Rebecca Ellis, Felix Ferguson, Radhika Feron, Alexandra Halpin, Alexandra Kerras, Andrew Kilgannon, Dominique Oakley, Gemma Oakley, Timothy Rogers, James Robinson, Mackenzie Smith, Beatrice Wardhaugh, Verity Webb.

**Senior Prefects:**
Camille Moore, Michael Sebastian.

**Stewart Council Leaders:**
Emily Prickett, Connor Henderson.

#### Hunter House
**Berkeley**
Beatrice Wardhaugh (P), Hamish Burge, Ms M Thomas.

**Stewart**
Chloe Banks, Ryan Turner, Mr P Lumley

#### Macquarie House
**Berkeley**
Mackenzie Smith (P), Andrew Kilgannon (P), Mrs S Wood.

**Stewart**
Jade Williams, Lukas Lechner-Scott, Mrs V Dart.

#### Shortland House
**Berkeley**
Angela Adera (P), Samuel Davidson (P), Mr P Juchniewicz.

**Stewart**
Sophia Drinkwater, Max Ventura, Mrs J Saunders.

#### Tyrrell House
**Berkeley**
Alexandra Kerras (P), Michael Waring, Mrs N Robertson.

**Stewart**
Isla Hutchison, Nicholas McGrath, Mrs C Holmes.
Academic Opportunities

Exercising the Mind

Learning and problem solving skills were put to the test at the 2014 Hunter Region Tournament of the Minds challenge. Held at the University of Newcastle, Newcastle Grammar School students were organised into teams. The challenge requires teams to work collaboratively, creatively and critically to solve a ‘Spontaneous Challenge’ and a ‘Long Term Project’.

The TOM ranges in disciplines with Applied Technology, Language Literature, Maths Engineering and Social Science. The 2014 Teams consisted of Hill Campus students Sophie Franks, Jadon Routley, Jackson Boden, James Ireland, Miruthan Kumar and Anishika Kendukar; as well as the Park Campus team comprising of Josephine Armstrong, Laura Keane and Milan Umesh from Year 4, Sebastian Spencer, Ruby Macdonald and Alexander Macdougall from Year 3, and Lucy Nightingale from Year 2.

The Newcastle Grammar School students put in a considerable amount of time and effort into producing their ‘Long Term Project’ and were on their A game during the ‘Spontaneous Challenge’.

Mrs Peterson (Director Learning and Teaching) who supported the Hill Campus team throughout the competition said “Teams were required to design and build a working model of distribution centre capable of doling out resources equally across the fictitious country of Eutopia. They were required to use a range of skills to complete the challenge over a five-week period.”

The Park Campus team worked on the question about whether an icon from one country should be relocated to another country, in the Social Science category.

The teams were all a success on the day with Mrs Peterson saying they performed marvelously. Congratulations to our brainiac winners for being awarded Honours.

Speech Day - Dux Winners for 2014

Year 1: Lucy Teyhan Year 7: Acacia Ozturk
Year 2: Lucy Nightingale Year 8: Emma Reid
Year 3: Alexander Macdougall Year 9: Yi wen Yang
Year 4: Josephine Armstrong Year 10: Azleena Akhand
Year 5: Emma McGrath Year 11: Michael Sebastian
Year 6: Jackson Boden Year 12: Christopher Burnitt & Joshua Merritt

Creative Writing

Putting pen to paper and making the pages come to life is an art form. For some of us it is a natural process and for some it is a learned endeavor.

The 2014 Creative Writing Competition was an invitation to students from years 5 to 10 to create a short body of work on the theme of ‘Social Intelligence, Confidence; You and I’.

The concept of ‘Social Intelligence’ is the negotiation between individuals in an effort to get along. In essence ‘Social Intelligence’ is people skills. This Term Tyrrell House was responsible for choosing a topic and what a good one!

Mr I Parr
English Faculty Coordinator

The NGS Hill Campus TOM Team Members: Miruthan Kumar, Jackson Boden, Jadon Routley, Sophie Franks, Anishika Kendurkar, and James Ireland (absent).
Pre-School

Fire Station Excursion

Cooks Hill Fire Station welcomed our Pre-schoolers for a tour and hands on experience of being a fire fighter.

Greeted by fire fighter Chris, students were given a tour of the station and equipment followed by a fire safety talk. Chris asked lots of questions and the children were very responsive. During the fire safety presentation one of the fire fighters dressed in the fire suit and highlighted all of the important functions.

The children were shown two different fire trucks one with a cherry picker and the other was a rescue truck. At the end of the visit everyone had a turn at spraying the hose. Mr Jason, who was until then enjoying the excursion, was accidently sprayed by the hose. The children thought this was very funny!

Low Waste for our Future

In Term 3, Newcastle Grammar School Pre-school embraced Low Waste Lunch week, a week dedicated to awareness of the waste we produce as consumers. In an effort to reduce waste Pre-school is hoping that zero waste lunches become the norm to help save our planet from further pollution.

To compliment this project children have also embraced the composting programme. The children are now confident in determining what is degradable and goes into the compost and what goes into the waste bin. The compost has been up and running for three months and is almost ready to be placed in our garden to feed our strawberries, cabbage, carrots and daisies. The children have been involved in the composting process since day one – helping to shred paper and add the various ingredients to the bin. In the next couple of weeks they will help dig the compost into our garden.

“Encouraging low waste lunchboxes and composting are important components of our sustainability policy. Other smaller things we try to do are to limit use of electricity – turning lights off when leaving the room for outside play, music, library etc. and being conscious of using the air conditioner unnecessarily,” explained Mrs Angela Tapp.
**Book Appreciation**

The children have been encouraged to bring in their favourite books to discuss and share with the other children. It has been a wonderful task watching the enthusiasm and contribution the children have made towards reading.

“A special Book Week treat was having Year 2 students visit Pre-school on Wednesday. Children from 2U and 2T came to share a book with a friend (or sibling) at Pre-school. Initially, they were a little daunted by a room full of excited Pre-schoolers, however, after a couple of introductions by staff, all the children thoroughly enjoyed their time together.

It was lovely to see the children all reading books with each other, particularly siblings sitting and reading together. The older children appeared to be taking their roles very seriously. So much so, that we joked about all the teachers ducking down to The Junction for a quick coffee because Year 2 had everything under control”.

Angela Tapp  
Director of Pre-school

---

**Pancake Day**

Baking is a fun way of learning, incorporating measuring, timing, safety, coordination, patience, sharing, persistence, listening skills and following instructions. On Pancake Day the children dressed in colourful aprons and chef hats and were ready to take on the pancake making challenge.

We used an egg-free recipe and lots of children were intrigued with the fact that there were no eggs. This led to a fabulous discussion about allergies and anaphylaxis; An opportunistic discussion before ‘big school’ next year.

The pancakes were delicious and the children enjoyed devouring the end result with big smiles and sticky fingers. The day finished with more cooking, this time in the sandpit!
Year 3 and 4 set off on their two day Bush Camp on the 14 August 2014. The camp is designed to give students “the opportunity to explore new interests, develop new skills, and forge new friendships,” said Ms Waters. During the camp students were given the chance to experience rock climbing, archery, a giant swing, high and low ropes, dual flying fox, bushcraft and orienteering.

The Great Aussie Bush Camp, located just 30 minutes north of Newcastle was a great way to challenge and nudge students out of their comfort zones. The students are to be commended on their enthusiasm and behavior over the two days.

Some camp students shared testimonials of their thoughts and experiences over the weekend saying;

“The first activity that my group did was Giant Swing! I was confident to go up to the top and I did! I loved the Giant Swing. It was awesome”. - Millie

“We went to the high ropes. I was a scaredy cat because I'm scared of heights. Then we did bush-craft, one of my favourites because I cooked my damper all the way through”. - Alana

“When it was my go, my butterflies got bigger and bigger. When I was at the top I pulled the rope. I swung so high. It was so fun”. - Amy-Jorjia

Thank you to all of the teachers who made the weekend so enjoyable and in turn the teachers were very proud of students saying they were wonderful ambassadors for Newcastle Grammar School.
Outback The Musical
On the 16 and 18 September 2014, our young actors and production crew put on a very Aussie show. The ‘Outback’ took us on a journey of Australian history. The play presented energetic dances, great songs and a guided commentary.

Well done to all of our students, parents and staff at Park Campus for making ‘Outback’ a fantastic show.

Book Week a Bestseller
Mrs Bennett and the Book Week Committee have outdone themselves putting on a fabulous Book Week. Commencing on Monday, 25 August, the week consisted of a colouring competition, Crazy Hair and Hat Day, buddy readings, reading hour and presentations.

Fathers Treated to a BBQ
Newcastle Grammar School welcomed fathers to a BBQ breakfast on the 5 September 2014. The morning also had games to play and a tour of the ‘Rogues Gallery’, with portraits of fathers to view.

“There was great delight when fathers visited the ‘Fathers’ Day Gallery’ of portraits which had lovingly been prepared by the students. Thank you to all involved in this very special event,” said Mr Filby.

Fun for everyone Fair
On Friday afternoon, 17 October, Newcastle Grammar School hosted the annual Fun Fair! There were zorb balls, adrenalin rush obstacle course, chair-o-plane, tidal wave slide, jumping castle, blue kahuna, straight-line obstacle course and mini putt putt golf. There were cool drinks, food, fairy floss, cake stalls and a coffee van. Thank you to the organisers and sponsors for making the Fun Fair a success in 2014!

On Your Bike
On the 24 November, Park Campus embraced Bicycle Day with almost 180 bikes. The day involved a trip to National Park, safe riding tuition and challenging bike courses for students to conquer. Good effort Year 3 and 4 and thank you parents for your assistance during the day.
Hill Campus

Senior Adventures

The Adventures that come with being in high school are beyond exciting. We have had students head off to New Zealand on a ski trip, Year 9 went on adventure to Barrington Tops and Outreach students went to Fiji and Cambodia.

Here are some snapshots from a few of the incredible experiences Newcastle Grammar School students have participated in.

New Zealand

Ski Trip

The trip was a fast-paced, non-stop experience and I am pleased to report that all students were very well behaved and remained free from injury. The melting spring snow was often soft, providing a lot of fun, and the mountains were absolutely beautiful,” reported Mr Lumley.

Tanzania, Farkwa

Nine students visited Farkwa secondary School in January 2015.

“If I could chose one phrase to sum up my experience visiting Tanzania, it would be ‘LIFE CHANGING’. I don’t think I fully prepared myself for the anthology of emotions I experienced. I think I speak on behalf of the group when I say that we were totally and utterly moved by the people we met,” said Claudia Boyce.

Cambodia, Outreach

Fiji, Outreach

At present, we have two proposals, Fiji ‘Community Outreach’ or Cambodia ‘Come With Nothing, Go Home Rich’, for International Outreach in 2015. These will be offered in the coming December, depending on students’ interest.

If you are interested in learning more about this opportunity for your son or daughter, could you please complete the form sent home with your son or daughter return this to the Hill Campus Office.

For more information about Rustic Pathways, follow the link: https://www.rusticpathways.com.au/

“The Cambodia 2014 Outreach tour was an unforgettable experience that enabled us as students to view the world from a completely new perspective. Engaging with the Cambodian culture was enriching, and it was great to have spent the time with such a fantastic group,” described Andrea Tiernan.
Emotions ran high as Newcastle Grammar School Year 12 students said their final farewells to their school family. They are certainly an impressive group of young men and women whose talents, strengths, passions and actions have helped to make our School a flourishing community.

Over the years, our School community has built upon some lovely farewell traditions including the Awards Assembly, the Year 2 and Year 12 Luncheon, Graduation Dinner, morning tea, Valedictory Eucharist with the customary ‘clap out’.

One of the highlights is the Year 2 and Year 12 Luncheon where the two grades eat lunch together and seal a capsule, which will be opened with Year 2 students in ten years’ time. During this time Year 12 students become acutely aware that their school days are drawing to an end and that the past ten years have flown by.

The Graduation Dinner was a night of celebration and reflection. Year 12, together with their parents, commemorated their time at Newcastle Grammar School. During this reflective time Ms Lynne Walker expressed her thoughts in saying there are “so many wonderful memories shared over the past week and such anticipation as each individual leaves the safe harbour of NGS, sails set… perhaps to destination yet unknown”.

Shortland Term

During the Summer Break our dedicated House Council got together and decided that the strength of ‘love of learning’ would be best demonstrated by a theme of ‘Love to Learn, Learn to Love’, complete with the very necessary cake and lolly stall for recess and BBQ/Ice Cream Spiders for lunch. The plans and advertising were laid out and the heats were held to decide our ‘Grammazing Academia’ finalists. Year 12 and Year 8 students, and particularly our House Captains, took control and organised the whole event perfectly.

The big day came and Shortland House could not have been more proud of the way in which the rest of the Hill Campus embraced our celebration. It was a day to remember and $1500 was raised to donate to our worthy cause, the Smith Family’s ‘Learning for Life’ programme. Obviously, the day could not have been a success without the assistance of Mrs Robson (from the Canteen), the Maintenance staff and of course the parents and students of Shortland House who I have no doubt will remember how the School expressed their love of learning.

Ms Lynne Walker
Performance and the Arts

Nexus Exhibition

The annual art exhibition, Nexus, was held on the 5 September at Newcastle Grammar School. The showcase is an incredible forum that allows talented Newcastle artists to connect with our School community, allowing us to raise funds for the Nexus Pediatric and Adolescent Mental Health Unit at John Hunter Hospital.

Opening night was a chatty affair as guests, artists and volunteers discussed the paintings, sculptures, photographs, ceramics, jewelry and prints. Dr Margaret McBride was our guest for the evening and she “reflected on the growth and development of the Nexus Exhibition – an idea and subsequent event that was started by her whilst she was Head of the Visual Arts Faculty at Newcastle Grammar School,” explained Mrs Martin (Visual Arts Faculty Coordinator).

“The night is always a celebratory affair with fine wine, champagne and canapés supplied by Cranky Chef Catering,” explains one attendee, and with more than 35 displays and the chance to discuss works with the artist makes for a fantastic night.

The exhibition has been going strong for almost 20 years and has progressed as the Nexus portfolio grows with the Committee also hosting the Inaugural Nexus Youth Forum – Creating Community Connections to the Nexus portfolio.

“The NGS Nexus Committee has a great sense of satisfaction from the annual exhibition and from knowing that in a small way we are assisting young people in our community who are experiencing difficulties with mental health,” said Mrs Martin.

On behalf of Newcastle Grammar School we sincerely thank the Nexus committee, sponsors, artists and volunteers.

As the Nexus exhibition and other events such as the morning tea and youth forum begin to grow, we would like to invite interested parties to be apart of the Nexus committee. Planning for the 2015 Exhibition has already begun. If you are interested in joining the sub-committee please contact Mrs Tonia Martin the Visual Arts Faculty Coordinator via email at tonia.martin@ngs.nsw.edu.au.

Musical Fundraisers

The Afternoon at the Proms and the Winter Concert were a great success. In total $3,485 was raised for Farkwa Secondary College in Central Tanzania. Mr Kevin Young said that the fundraisers were such a success due to the “tremendous effort by those involved in music making at our School.”

“Congratulations to the students, staff and parents who supported these events at the end of last term”. It is Newcastle Grammar School’s strong commitment to others that makes our School so wonderful.
Congratulations to Lillian Bennet (3rd grade Bass) and Margot Roberts (5th grade French Horn), Julius Roberts (6th Grade Trumpet) and Emily Bell (3rd grade Viola) for being successful in their recent AMEB examinations. All students did exceptionally well achieving fine results these exams.

Year 10 presented a tremendous production of Happy Days, the musical, in Term 3.

Performing to record audiences, the cast, musicians and production crew did not lose their enthusiasm, energy or professionalism throughout the three shows.

On behalf of the School Mr Green said a big, “thank you to the staff who were involved in the production - Mrs Saunders, Mrs Holmes, Miss Sweetman, Mr Boyd, Mr Power and Mr Sherringham.”

All those involved are to be commended and congratulated.

Abermain Eisteddfod

Well done to all of our performers at the 97th Abermain Eisteddfod. Held on 13 and 14 September, eight students took to the stage and did Newcastle Grammar School proud.

“Newcastle Grammar School students showed dedication to their work and courtesy to other competitors throughout the weekend,” said Ms Chipsham. Thank you and congratulations to Hunter Rowntree, Kalen Routley, Alexandra Lange, Jadon Routley, Jackson Boden, Miruthun Kumar, Tyla Casey-Knight and Stephanie Illiadis.

Music Triumphs

Congratulations to Lilian Bennet (3rd grade Bass) and Margot Roberts (5th grade French Horn), Julius Roberts (6th Grade Trumpet) and Emily Bell (3rd grade Viola) for being successful in their recent AMEB examinations. All students did exceptionally well achieving fine results these exams.

Congratulations to Nickson Raftos who has recently been awarded outstanding marks for his Grade 2 cello examinations. Well done!
Flower Power

Christ Church Cathedral’s annual Flower Festival fundraiser for 2014 was a delightful four days dedicated to the theme ‘renewal’. The festival offered flower displays, entertainment, morning and afternoon tea, soup and bread rolls for lunch and a silent auction.

Newcastle Grammar School’s Chamber Choir was honoured to perform on the opening night to support such a worthy cause. There was an overwhelming response to all of our performers, including Sundays line-up of various ensembles and soloists. Audiences were in awe of the NGS performers, with one audience member from the UK approaching Mr Young, after the Symphony Orchestra. Mr Young said, “she was totally blown away with the orchestra and said we were worthy of a Royal Albert Hall performance!!! That’s an idea for a future tour perhaps”.

Dean, Fr Stephen Williams was also impressed by the standard of our entertainers, which is a tremendous compliment. Our musicians can be very proud of themselves and their level of professionalism.

“My gratitude is extended to all but especially to the Year 12 students who are coming to the end of their time with us across their groups. You are amazing musicians and have supported us for so long,” said Mr Young.

Thank you to all the staff and students who gave up their free time to support the Flower Festival you are truly a credit to the School.

Music Camp 2015

The 2015 music camp was a wonderful opportunity for Newcastle Grammar School students to bond with new classmates and learn new music skills through tutorials and rehearsals.

The intensive three days was held at Camp Toukley on the Central Coast and hosted guest conductors Mr George Ellis (Orchestra) and Mr Paul Jarman (Choir).

“We are very fortunate to have spent some time cashing in on their expertise and their comments about our ensembles were glowing,” said Mr Young.

The two concerts were a huge success with students developing their musical talents and encouraging one another. The camp also welcomed ex-student Ollie Brown who showcased his strong songwriting and quality performance skills. “It’s always wonderful to have ex-students return to camp as tutors,” explained Mr Young.

A big thank you to all staff whose commitment and organisation made the 2015 music camp possible, and thank you to our guests who encourage and inspire.

Cultural Festival

On 30 July, performing arts students made their way to Hunter Valley Grammar School for the 2014 Hunter Region Independent Schools Cultural Festival. The festival was organised by school staff and a great opportunity for students practicing varied art forms to meet and create high quality pieces.

Over 300 students participated in the Cultural Festival. 18 musicians from Newcastle Grammar School were involved in the Chamber Choir and the String Orchestra.

“The concert was well prepared and well presented. This event was a great way to catch up with like-minded people from schools around our region. Well done to all,” said Mr Young.

HICES Festival

Six Newcastle Grammar School students are to be commended on their selection and performances at the 2014 HICES Festival. Held on the 6 August at Sydney Town Hall, our students had the honor of representing our School and what a fantastic job they did.
Sophie Mill - Artist in Residence

Sophie Mill is an internationally recognised contemporary author and artist whose work with students in the ‘Artists in Residence Programme’ during 2014 continues to inspire. Ms Sophie Mill offers great insight into what it means to be creative and has said, “to be a creative thinker takes time, and it is a learnt lesson”.

The ‘Artist in Residence Programme’ is an after school activity which gives students the skills to tap into their artistic abilities through painting and creativity.

“Sophie Mill has dedicated her career to being able to express an emotive thought and turn it into a creative oil painting,” explains Ms Martin (Visual Arts Faculty Coordinator).

Newcastle Grammar School is pleased to continue this programme in 2015 with Ms Mill. Ms Mill has been a contemporary artist for over 20 years with back-to-back exhibitions in Australia, Italy and the USA.

This type of workshop is a great asset to our School.

Under the Microscope

The quality of work being produced by some of our art students is outstanding. Margot Roberts (Year 9) recently sketched drawings as part of her work ‘Under the Microscope’.

Artwork produced during one of the workshops in 2014
Special Interest

Check Mate!

Think outside the square and broaden your skill set by partaking in co-curricular activities like Chess. “A holistic education is the basis for a successful and balanced life. Holistic education is of the mind, body and spirit. Over the years, the students of the School who have excelled have thoroughly embraced the co-curricular programmes that Newcastle Grammar School has to offer,” said Mrs Rowntree (Head of Co-curricular).

The famous, Reuben Fine, grandmaster of Chess and psychologist who was one of the strongest players in the 1930s to the 1950s once said, “Combinations have always been the most intriguing aspect of Chess. The masters look for them, the public applauds them, the critics praise them. It is because combinations are possible that Chess is more than a lifeless mathematical exercise. They are the poetry of the game; they are to Chess what melody is to music. They represent the triumph of mind over matter”. There are lessons to learn in everything we do and Chess creates a higher level of thinking, planning, logic, attention, discipline, problem solving, overcoming obstacles and sportsmanship.

Service and Adventure Training Unit

On Monday afternoon, 25 August, members of Newcastle Grammar School SATU’s First Platoon found themselves poised precariously halfway up the wall at the Newcastle Uni Forum.

Actually, that might require a small amount of explanation. The unit’s older cadets began their promotions courses several weeks ago, leaving First Platoon, which, being made up only of Year 8 students, contains all the unit’s youngest members, devoid of any older students to take our lessons. For this reason, 2LT Chamberlain and WO Price arranged for us to spend Monday afternoon at The Forum’s rock climbing facilities.

After a quick demo and safety briefing, we partnered up and alternated between climbing and belaying; that is, either grappling with the handholds and finding purchase with your feet to propel yourself up the wall, or trying to lean backwards far enough to catch sight of your friends who are climbing, and simultaneously keeping hold of the rope in case you need to catch them.

As well as justifying the loud yelling of weird whooping noises, the arrival at the top of the wall after dedicated climbing, and the noise your hand makes when you slap it down on the dusty lip, gives a unique feeling of triumph (only bolstered by friends’ shouts of ‘do a backflip’ on your descent).

The excursion turned out to be an insightful choice of activity and a fun way to spend a potentially dull afternoon. I’m sure all the members of First Platoon who were present are glad we had this opportunity to enjoy ourselves while everyone else had to stay behind and do promotions courses. Ha ha, guys, you missed out. - Cadet Margot Roberts of First Platoon Year 8 Student

Book Club

Great News - we are forming a Book Club at NGS! Join us to broaden your reading interests, encourage reading for pleasure and to share ideas, passions and thoughts.

Please contact Beatrice Wardhaugh, President of NGS Book Club or Ms Bright – Coordinator of NGS Book Club for further information.

Science Club

Commencing Week 2, Term 2, 2015 students in Years 7 and 8 will have the opportunity to participate in a newly developed Newcastle Grammar School Science Club. This is an exciting and innovative addition to the Core Science units presented in class allowing students to explore, and expand upon, their love of Science.

There are a variety of activities planned that incorporate aspects of Biology, Physics, Chemistry and Geology. In addition students will have the opportunity to participate in a variety of Science challenges hosted by organisations such as CSIRO, RACI, Yates and Landcare. Students will also have the opportunity to direct their own learning by suggesting experiments and activities they may wish to conduct.

Contact Mrs R Chamberlain - Science Faculty Coordinator for further information.
Beyond Grammar

Hunter House Supports Allambi Youth

The Hunter House spirit is strong, raising $1,804 for the Allambi Youth Services, a not for profit organization providing residential care and support to youth.

In Term 4, Hunter House students put on a fun filled day with costumes, dancing, baked treats, film screenings, picnic and BBQ lunch. The theme for the day was ‘Down to Earth’ which brought some fabulous costumes.

Ms Thomas and Mr Stevens describe the highlight of the day saying “The pinnacle of the day was the Hunter Film Festival which was held at lunchtime in Horbury Hunt Hall. The space looked absolutely gorgeous and truly set the scene for a lovely afternoon of film-watching… complete with picnic blankets, pillows and popcorn”.

Hunter House has supported Allambi for three consecutive years and in that time, developing a strong and lasting friendship.

Reflecting on the Term Mr Stevens and Ms Thomas expressed their appreciation;

“The list of things we been able to achieve this term is seemingly endless and includes presenting a lovely House Chapel service, writing newsletter articles each week, serving at Community Lunches, collecting a large amount of food for our Hunter Food Drive for Charity, hosting Chapel and writing prayers for Chapel each week, presenting musical items, painting canvases, discussing ethical dilemmas of forgiveness in Mentor, sharing narratives and important notices at every assembly and lastly, trying to involve every Hunter student in our ‘Down to Earth’ Hunter Day. What a wonderful Term!”

In gratitude for Newcastle Grammar’s support over the years Toby and Lexi were asked to present the “Education Award” at Allambi’s presentation dinner. Our students were also given a plaque as a gesture of thanks.

Students Take to the Streets

Year 10 students have thoughtfully put together backpacks for homeless youth. Overall 25 backpacks were handed over to the Samaritans Foundation to assist those most vulnerable. This was a hands on project that encouraged students to think about what it would be like to be homeless and what items would be most beneficial.
Senior girls underwent a ‘Stress Less’ workshop. Held at the Yoga Loft in town, the workshop offers practical coping mechanisms to deal with the pressures of life. The workshop was held prior to the HSC exams, giving our students ways to manage stress through mindfulness, meditation and yoga.

One participant explained that “the session focused on self-confidence and ways of thinking that have developed from yoga such as the idea of ‘one being’ and that we are all part of that one being. It was useful in that it gave us multiple strategies, to deal with discontent, stress and our ‘ego’. With three inspiring mentors we went through this theory, and then did yoga, starting off with some chanting, then sun salutations/ poses/ and finishing with the ‘corpse pose’. Overall I found it really inspiring and surprisingly helpful.”

“It is wonderful to see students accessing initiatives in the community,” said Ms Patel.

Embracing the Language

The 2014 Language Festival was a thoroughly enjoyable day with French students cooking and participated in French mime, Japanese students experiencing calligraphy, cooking and were taught the traditional and artful tea ceremony.

Year 8 Students really embraced the occasion and were able to speak to native speakers during the festival.

Mindful Meditation

Senior girls underwent a ‘Stress Less’ workshop. Held at the Yoga Loft in town, the workshop offers practical coping mechanisms to deal with the pressures of life. The workshop was held prior to the HSC exams, giving our students ways to manage stress through mindfulness, meditation and yoga.

One participant explained that “the session focused on self-confidence and ways of thinking that have developed from yoga such as the idea of ‘one being’ and that we are all part of that one being. It was useful in that it gave us multiple strategies, to deal with discontent, stress and our ‘ego’. With three inspiring mentors we went through this theory, and then did yoga, starting off with some chanting, then sun salutations/ poses/ and finishing with the ‘corpse pose’. Overall I found it really inspiring and surprisingly helpful.”

“It is wonderful to see students accessing initiatives in the community,” said Ms Patel.

Samaritans

Students and families rally together for the Samaritans Christmas appeal, donating toys for children in the Hunter. Collected at the End of Year Assembly it was incredible to see so much generosity during the holiday season, which can be a difficult time for others.

Farkwa a Success

After 7 years of commitment to the Farkwa School in Tanzania, World Vision and subsequently Newcastle Grammar School are now in their final year of fundraising. Senior students and staff are currently brainstorming for ways to raise a large amount of money in an effort to complete projects like the construction of dormitories before the year comes to an end.

So much has been achieved over the years and it is because of our school contribution that the project has been so successful. Mrs Erica Thomas, Head of School, has said that “the significant contribution from the Newcastle Grammar School community is one reason why the project is winding up – many of the goals there have been achieved.”

Congratulations to our students, staff, parents, sponsors, donations, and volunteers for your continual support over the years!

Jeans for Genes Day

Gold coins were donated on 1 August 2014 for Jeans for Genes Day, a charity dedicated to helping children born with birth defects and diseases. Students arrived to school in jeans to support the cause and raised over $525.
Sport

Rugby Union

Congratulations to our Under 16s and Under 14s who travelled to Maitland on 18 March 2015 for the HVGS Invitational Sevens competition.

On what was a very hot and humid day, both teams acquitted themselves very well, in their first hit-out of the year.

The Under 16s, comprising Oscar Nicholson, Jackson Bartley, Michael Rewitt, James Davis, Patrick Krause, Nicolas Gentizon, Michael Sharpe, Zachary Perry, Lachlan Earp, Ryan Campbell and Sam Fairbrother, had a win over Scone Grammar School and a loss to HVGS.

The Under 14s, comprising Henry Riddell, Felix Prince and Lachlan Harbury, had players from other schools fill their team for the day to ensure they got a run. The 14s were beaten by both Scone and HVGS. A big congratulations to Lachlan who, in his first game of Rugby, had a very positive game, displaying very sound skills on a somewhat limited preparation.

Rugby continues on Wednesday afternoons at National Park.

The NGS squad at the HVGS Invitational are pictured below, resplendent in the new NGS Rugby strip.

Surfest

Congratulations to the following students for their selection to the Newcastle Grammar School Surf Squad. 12 students Jess Finlay Jones, Seraina Danuser, Kyle Robinson, Michael Sharpe, Kate Hackett, Sophie Sherman, Nick Tonks, Caleb Agostino-Morrow, Charlotte Parsons, Sabrina Kliousis, Alex Ferch and Alex Marsh represented the School at the state-wide schools competition as part of Surfest.

This competition was held on Thursday, 19 February at South Bar Beach.

Congratulations to the winning team – Caleb Agostino-Morrow, Michael Sharpe and Claudia Kerr.