

1986 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

I am very pleased to be writing the Principal's Report this year. I regard it a privilege to be associated with such a fine school as Whitebridge High. Many changes have occurred since my first appointment to this school in 1969 as Social Science Master. However, I continue to be impressed by the many achievements of the students in the academic, sporting and cultural fields.

Whitebridge High has traditions which have been established under the guidance and leadership of former Principals and I would like to acknowledge the contribution to the school of my predecessor Mr. Alwyn Hunt. I wish also to acknowledge the dedication and sincerity of the staff who work so willingly for the benefits of the students of the school.

A significant change which has occurred in the senior school has been the introduction of an Assessment Policy which will result in an assessment mark appearing on the H.S.C. for the first time this year. This mark should reward the students who have worked well over the period of assessment and it is hoped that this will ease the pressure slightly of the final examination. However, as a school we must be careful not to introduce too many assessment tasks as this will place intolerable stress on our students. Our Year 12 students have set a fine example this year. They are a fine group of young men and women with whom it has been a pleasure to work. We wish them every success for the future and hope their aspirations are fulfilled. I am confident they will continue to achieve the fine academic results of previous years.

As a school, we continue to be proud of the success of our sporting teams. In the various state competitions held this year, Whitebridge High has finished first in the Boys' Squash for the second consecutive year, fourth in the Bill Turner Cup Soccer and we reached the last eight in the Commonwealth Cup Soccer and the Under 15 Years Australian Rules. However, our successes have not been confined to sport. Our girls' ballet group has performed outstandingly and has been selected to participate in the dancing at the Entertainment Centre. The school band and choral group have also brought great credit to the school.

I hope that many more parents will interest themselves in the affairs of the school. Active participation in the affairs of the P. & C., assistance in the school canteen and attendance at Parent/Teacher nights are all avenues of involvement.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to everyone who has helped me make this an enjoyable and rewarding year for me. I look forward to sharing with you in the development of this fine school.

1987 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

This year, we commenced with a student population of 1122 with 235 in Years 11 and 12. This represents the largest senior school in the history of Whitebridge High. However next year we anticipate a senior school of 271 in a total school population of 1102.

STAFF:

At the end of last year Mr. Bob Payne retired after being at Whitebridge High for 22 years. Mr Figures retired at the end of first term this year and Mrs. Murray concluded teaching at the end of third term this year. We wish them well in their retirement and thank them for their many years of service at Whitebridge High.

Mention must also be made of the promotion of Mr. Bob Stewart to deputy Principal at Mountview High School. Mr Stewart was Head Teacher, English at Whitebridge for 9 years. Mr Bob Ralston also resigns from teaching this year to join the R.A.A.F. as a full time officer after 12 years of service to the students of Whitebridge.

INNOVATIONS:

An important innovation this year was the Peer Support programme. Year 11 leaders spent some time each week for the whole of First term with a group of Year 7 students. The programme was very successful and all students made favourable comments. Peer Support will continue next year for Year 7 students.

Two school development days have been held this year. On these days the staff discussed pupil welfare, school discipline, student reports and references, child sexual abuse, staff development and subject programming. Positive suggestions and planning resulted and these will be introduced either by the end of this year or early next year.

CONGRATULATIONS:

While our sporting teams did not equal the outstanding performances of last year they continued to bring great credit to the school. The boys' squash team won the regional final for the third consecutive year. Other teams which performed very well were the boys' tennis, Commonwealth Cup soccer, the girls' hockey. The school congratulates the following students who gained high sporting honours this year; Bruce Hogben (squash), Peter Watts (swimming), Shelley Andrews, Allison Lippey, Megan Lippey (hockey).

Our Ballet girls continue to excel. The girls gave several outstanding performances at the Public Schools' State Dance Festival held at the Seymour centre. Five of the girls were selected to perform at the School's

Spectacular in Sydney. Mrs. Barker and the girls deserve our heartiest congratulations.

P. & C

I wish to express my sincere appreciation to all parents who have supported the school this year. Particular thanks are due to those ladies who have worked regularly throughout the year in the school canteen. Over \$1500 has been handed to the P. & C. from the canteen. I have been impressed by the work of the P. & C. under the leadership of Mr. Ted Herrett. Numbers have grown this year and I hope that more parents will interest themselves in the affairs of the school and in attendance at P. & C. meetings.

Another area in which I solicit parental support is school uniform. I continue to be disappointed with the attitude of some parents and students to the wearing of school uniform. This applies particularly to shoes. White sandshoes and various coloured joggers should not be worn. Parents show their support for the school by encouraging students to wear full school uniform. Wearing school uniform by all pupils enhances the appearance of the school and helps students develop pride in their school.

IMPROVEMENTS

Improvements have been made to school environment this year. The completion of the multi-purpose sporting complex has met an important need for the school. Library security has been upgraded and plans are in hand for the carpeting of several rooms and for the provision of seating to the Year 7 area. It is my strong hope that further improvements will be made to the sporting fields and the school environment next year.

I take this opportunity of thanking the staff, Captains, Prefects, students and parents who have supported me this year. It is a privilege to work with yo.

D.T. RENTON
(PRINCIPAL)

1988 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

No copy available at present.

1989 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

Enrolment and Staffing

We commenced the year with a school enrolment of 114, with Years 7 – 12 totalling 805 and Years 11 – 12 309. This is the first time in the history of the school that the figures in Years 11 and 12 have exceeded three hundred. We welcomed Mrs F Lewer (Art) from leave, Mrs K McGregor (Science) and Morisset High, Mr K Titcume (Industrial Arts) from Singleton High, Mr G Smith (Careers) from Bourke High and Mr P Hall (Leading Teacher) from Newcastle High.

Mr Hall, who has the status of Deputy Principal, has already made a significant contribution in the area of curriculum development and staff development.

During the year we farewelled M C Cousins, Mr M O'Brien, Mrs B Newing and Mr D Newing. I was especially sad to lose Mr Newing, Head Teacher of Science. It is a pity that the Education Department did not recognise his outstanding talents. At the end of 1988 Mr D Taper was promoted to Head Teacher – Administration at Chatham High after teaching at Whitebridge for twenty one years.

Academic Excellence

We have continued our emphasis on encouraging our students to strive to do their best. Students from Whitebridge High gained outstanding results in both the Higher School Certificate and in the School Certificate Moderator.

In the H.S.C., three students gained results which placed them in the top 2% of the state; twelve students (11%) were in the top 10%; thirty students (26.3%) were in the top 20%; fifty-two students (46%) were in the top 30%; sixty-two students (54.3%) were in the top 40% and eighty-one students (71%) were in the top 50%. The average mark for our students was 292.42 compared with the state average of 255.00. The Regional Director, Mr Alan beard, sent a letter to the school congratulating the students and staff on the very fine H.S.C. results.

In English and Maths in the School Certificate, the students gained results well above the state average.

A further magnificent result was gained by our students in the recent Secondary School Mathematics Competition. Schools were invited to select twelve students, two from each of Years 7 to 12, to sit for an examination sponsored by Promaths. Not only did the Whitebridge team come first in the Hunter Region, but it also came second in the whole competition. Being

beaten by only Knox Grammar, a very selective private school from Sydney. St Ignatius College, another Sydney private school, came third. In addition to the team result four of our students excelled in individual results. Grant Webber (Year 8) came fourth in his year, Paul Colvin (Year 9) came seventh from all the Year 9 students, Paul Wilson (Year 11) came fifth and Trina Rowland (Year 12) came seventh. Only Knox Grammar had more than four students who achieved the best results. This is a practical example of excellence in achievement.

Paul Wilson has gained other prestigious awards in Mathematics. He has been selected to participate in the 1989 Esso Amoc Interstate Final in Maths (one of 300 in Australia) and he has also been placed in the top 40 students from NSW Mathsearch Competition. He has also been selected as only one of about 30 students from NSW to attend the Twenty First National Mathematics Summer School in Canberra in January, 1990. Paul was also awarded a scholarship to attend the 25th International Science School for High School Students which was held at the end of second term. These are outstanding achievements from talented students.

Our school captain, Trina Rowland was successful in four rounds of the Youth of the Year winning the District Final in Wyong. She was narrowly beaten by a contestant from Kempsey in the State Final. This was a very fine performance which brought great credit to Whitebridge High.

This year, a special programme has been held in both English and Mathematics for those Year 7 students who display special abilities in these subjects. A small number of talented students have been withdrawn for one period a week for English and one for Maths. They have been given work which extends their ability in the particular subject. This organisation follows a very successful programme which was introduced for a number of Year 8 students in English last year.

The academic excellence programme for Years 11 and 12 has continued this year. This scheme involves a number of students in each of these years who are prepared to complete at least 20 hours a week home study. The students involved spend a certain time each fortnight with a teacher, discussing the study programme over the previous two weeks.

Cultural and Sporting Activities

The school's successes have not been restricted to the academic areas. Our girls studying dance have brought great credit to the school. Earlier this year they participated in the NBN Telethon and received praise from the Telethon organisers as well as spectators. The dancers received much acclamation for their very professional performances in the Hunter Region Dance Festival. The girls' audition for the Sydney Schools Spectacular was highly successful. The fact that the majority of the girls participating in the Spectacular from this region are from Whitebridge High is a wonderful achievement. The girls and their teacher, Mrs Fleming, deserve our heartiest congratulations.

This year has also been successful for many of our sporting teams. Our girls' basketball team reached the regional final, before being defeated by Morisset. The open Rugby League team reached the fourth round of the competition before losing a close game to Scone. The school was regional winners in senior boys soccer, the girls hockey and Under 15 Australian Rules. In the soccer we played Drummoyne for a position in the quarter finals. The game was extremely close and the score was 0-0 at full time and after time. We lost 5-4 on the penalty shoot-out. The girls hockey team had to travel to Murwillumbah to play Kingscliffe, who were state champions last year, for a place in the semi finals. The score was 1-1 at half-time but Kingscliffe proved too strong in the second half and ran out winners 4-1.

The Australian Rules team travelled to the far North Coast to play for a place in the state semi-finals. Whitebridge won the game and played the strong Albury side in the semi-finals. Our boys played well but were soundly beaten by the team which was the eventual state champions. In the play-off for third and fourth, Whitebridge was defeated by Blacktown by only three points. We congratulate the players and coaches of all our teams. They have played the game in the right spirit and brought great credit to the school.

Several of our students gained very high sporting honours this year. Shelley Andrews, Allison Lippey, Megan Lippey and Ben Simes were all selected to play hockey at State level; Mia Tolfree represented Australia in roller skating; and Peter Watts again excelled in swimming. Many other students were selected to represent at zone and regional level.

One of the special events of the year was the school performance of Revue 89 which was held over three nights. Our students displayed their talents in dance, music and drama and gave a very professional performance. The highlight of the evening was the segment from the Rocky Horror Show. The students and teachers deserve our heartiest congratulations.

Community Contacts

Several meetings have been held with parents this year to discuss student progress and subject selections. I have appreciated the support and co-operation of the members of the P and C. We have spent a great deal of time discussing the Curriculum paper, the Fair Discipline Code, the Scott Report and School Councils. A special thank-you is due to Mrs Duck and the ladies who have worked tirelessly at the school canteen raising money for school needs. Over the past year about \$17,000 has been given to the P and C from canteen profits. This money has been used to purchase much needed equipment for the benefit of our students and teachers.

I wish to express my appreciation to all the parents who have co-operated with the school in improving the wearing of school uniform. There has been a noticeable improvement. I hope it continues because wearing school uniform by all pupils enhances the appearance of the school and helps students develop pride in their school.

Senior Students

At this time of the year we farewelled another Year 12. They are a fine group of young men and women who have set a good example. I have been particularly impressed by the excellent leadership qualities of our captains, Trina Rowland and Steven Waugh with whom it has been a pleasure to work. We wish Year 12 every success for the future and hope their aspirations are fulfilled. I am confident they will continue to achieve the fine academic results of previous years.

The School Magazine

This year we have included an historical section in the School Magazine to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the school. I have been impressed by the co-operation of students, teachers and parents in compiling this section. I hope you enjoy the historical development of Whitebridge High.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the staff, students and parents who have helped make this a rewarding year. I look forward to sharing with you in the development of this fine school.

D T Renton
Principal.

1990 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

Enrolment and Staffing

We commenced the year with a school enrolment of 1072, with 763 students in Years 7-10 and 309 in Years 11-12. We welcomed Mr B Deller (Head Teacher – History) from Glendale, Mr V Northwood (Head Teacher – Science) from Raymond Terrace, Mrs E Connor (English), Mr D Moore (Computers), Mrs K Kennewell (Art) and Ms E Knight (Language Programme Primary and Secondary).

Academic Excellence

Students from Whitebridge High performed exceptionally well in the HSC and the School Certificate Moderator.

In the HSC five students scored 440 or more and fourteen scored over 400. Two other students scored 398. 18 students (12.9%) were in the top 10%, 34 students (24.3%) were in the top 20% and 76 students (54.3%) were in the top 50%. Only 15 students (10.7%) were in the bottom 25%. Trina Rowland came first in the region in 3 Unit German and Meredith Walton first in 3 Unit Japanese. Three of our students, Jodi Morris, Paul Ramsland and Russell Bryant came in the top ten in the region in Art.

In English and Maths the students gained results which were above the state average.

The school has also gained very fine results in Science and Mathematics competitions held this year. In the Tritation Competition the school entered two teams in Year 12 section and they came first and second in the region and so both represented the region in the Australian Competition. In the Australian National Chemistry quiz for senior students, Matthew Jessop (Year 12) gained a Certificate of Excellence for gaining the remarkable result of a perfect score of 100 per cent. In Year 12, three other students gained High Distinctions and one credit.

Our students also gained outstanding results in the Australian Science competition for students in Years 7-10. They gained three high distinctions and fifty-five credits. One of our students, Sandra Cashin (Year 9) gained first place for her age and sex in the zone which had approximately 6000 entrants. Sandra attended a special ceremony in Sydney to receive her award.

Whitebridge High again performed very well in the state Promaths competition coming second in the Hunter Region. Six of the twelve students excelled in individual results coming in the top 45 students in their age division. They were Joanne Cashin (Year 7) 44th, Phillip Coombs (Year 8) 21st, and Sandra Cashin and Grant Webber (both Year 9) equal 27th; Paul Colvin (Year 10) 8th, and Paul Wilson (Year 12) 11th.

Results in the Westpac Maths Competition were also highly commendable. Our students gained fifty-five distinctions and ninety-five credits.

Other students who have brought great credit to Whitebridge High are Paul Colvin in the NSW University Maths Competition; Kirewen Payne in photographic competition and Elizabeth Freihaut in the Lions Youth of the Year Competition.

Our girls studying dance, under the direction of Mrs. Fleming continue to receive acclaim for their professional performances and the school band has received invitations to perform at various ceremonies.

Approximately one hundred and fifty students were involved in the musical drama Quake, Rattle and Roll which was held on three nights in Term 3. Rock and Roll and a mixture of humour, satire and romance kept the audience entertained.

Programs for Year 7 students with special abilities in English, Maths and Science have continued this year and many of our senior students have been involved in the academic excellence scheme.

Sporting Successes

This has been an outstanding year for our sporting teams and for certain individuals. Four of our teams reached the final stages of statewide competitions. The Bill Turner Cup Soccer team finished second in the state, our lawn bowls team also gained second place in the State Open School Fours, the girls hockey came equal third and the boys' tennis fifth in state competitions. These are remarkable performances for one school. The teams and their coaches deserve our heartiest congratulations.

Several of our students gained very high sporting honours this year. Megan Lippey and Ben Simes were selected to play hockey at state level, Mia Tolfree was the Australian champion in figure roller skating, Aaron Hunt, State Cross-country tam, Paul Kirby, Under 15, State Australian Rules team and Sean Rosa, State Water-Polo team. Many other students were selected to represent at zone and regional level.

Community Contacts

This year has been an active year for the P and C and I have appreciated their support and co-operation. Recently our constitution for a School Council was accepted and by the end of the year Whitebridge High will have a School Council operating. In September a giant garage sale was organised by the P and C and amount in excess of seventeen hundred dollars was raised to upgrade the school grounds.

Continued appreciation should be expressed to Mrs Duck and the ladies from the canteen who work tirelessly to raise large amounts of money for the

school. I would also like to say thank you to all who have assisted with the Reading Tutor Scheme on Tuesday mornings.

Sister School

This year we have formalised sister relationships with Nakajima High School in Japan. Their school captain spent a few days at Whitebridge High and some of our students and Mrs Carter spent some time at Nakajima High School

Senior Students

Recently we said farewell to our Year 12 students. We thank them for their contribution to Whitebridge High and wish them every success in their examinations and future career.

Thank You

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those parents and teachers who have supported the school and worked tirelessly for the benefit of the school and the students. It has been a privilege to work with you. If Whitebridge High is to continue to maintain a high standing in the community it will require co-operation and hard work by the teachers, parents, citizens and students.

D. T. Renton
PRINCIPAL

1991 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

This year has been another period of consolidation in spite of increasing competition from the selective high school, language schools and technology schools. It is my role as principal to acquaint the school community with the very fine programs that my teachers are organising at Whitebridge High.

Our school mission statement "THE BEST OF BOTH EDUCATIONAL WORLDS – EXCELLENCE AND DIVERSITY" embraces our aims. We are encouraging all students to achieve to their full potential and we are providing a wide curriculum and educational experiences to give the students as much choice as possible.

Our students continue to perform with distinction in examinations and competitions. At the end of last year two of our students, Paul Wilson and Elizabeth Freihaut were placed in the top 1% of the state in the HSC and twenty-eight students were in the top 10%. Paul Wilson was also awarded the Ministers of Education's Award for Student Excellence.

Three Year 11 students, Leah Clemens, Stephanie Smith and Salina Jeffries, won the Prudential Assurance Youth Achievement award in recognition of team excellence in research and presentation of industry experience projects. Our students have also gained very fine results in English examinations, and Maths and Science competitions. The school also won the Hunter Region Rock Eisteddfod and our dancers have again been invited to perform in the Sydney Spectacular.

The sporting section of this magazine illustrates the very fine standard of our students both individually and as members of school teams.

At the end of last year we formed a School Council which has operated very successfully. I welcome the frank discussion and the advice from the members of the council. The P and C continues to operate efficiently under the leadership of Mr Lavell.

I express the school's sincere thanks to all who help at the school canteen and with the special reading programme held on Tuesday morning. The time you devote to the school is deeply appreciated.

Thank you to all who have helped make this another successful year. I hope we continue to work together for the development of this fine school.

D T Renton.

1992 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

A caring community committed to Excellence, Diversity and fostering of individual talents

This year we have enlarged our Mission Statement to "A CARING COMMUNITY COMMITED TO EXCELLENCE, DIVERSITY AND FOSTERING INDIVIDUAL TALENTS". We are continuing to encourage our students to reach their full potential and provide them with a wide curriculum. However our new Mission Statement acknowledges the very fine program we have in Student Welfare.

Recently we have been awarded the honour by the Lake Macquarie North cluster of being a school of excellence in fostering individual talents. This award recognises the outstanding programs across the whole school curriculum which cater for individual students and help them to achieve their full potential.

This year our students have continued to excel and bring great credit to their school. At the end of last year our students gained very fine results in the HSC and Carolyn Williams received the Minister's Award for Student Excellence. This is the third year in succession that a student from Whitebridge High has won this prestigious award.

Our students have performed with great distinction in Maths and Science competitions and our dancers have continued their very fine performances. One of our Year 11 students, Karina Hilton, has gained three outstanding achievements. She finished as the second female student in the State in a Science Competition to go to Singapore, she was awarded an OTC Scholarship of one thousand dollars and was selected to attend the Queens Trust Seminar in Canberra.

Two excellent results were achieved by our sporting teams. Our boys' soccer team finished equal third in the state and our girls netball team fifth in the state. The sporting section outlines other successes of teams and individuals.

Congratulations to Mrs Jensen, Mr Reed and their helpers, teachers and students for producing this quality magazine.

I have enjoyed working with the P and C and the School Council this year. The school appreciates the work of those who helped in the canteen and with the reading program. A special thanks to Mrs Duck, our Canteen Supervisor who retires this year. Thank you to all who have helped make this another successful year.

D. T. RENTON,
PRINCIPAL.

1993 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

This year has been noted for its consolidation, expansion and planning. We have continued to emphasise our Mission Statement and encourage our students to reach their full potential.

This year we have expanded our programmes which foster individual talents in keeping with the cluster award of a Centre of Excellence in Fostering Individual Talents. I have greatly appreciated the additional time that many of the teachers have devoted to these programmes and students.

Our students have continued to bring great credit to the school through their fine achievement in external examinations, Science, Mathematics and English competitions. At the end of last year, Paul Colvin received the Minister Award for Student Excellence. This was the fourth year in succession that a student from Whitebridge High has won this prestigious award.

Four of our Year 12 Economics students came first in region and fourth in the state in the Mobil – Managing the Economy Competition.

The sporting section highlights the successes of our teams and individuals. However one outstanding result was achieved by our girls' netball team which finished second in the state.

Our Student Council under the leadership of Mr McFayden has made an outstanding contribution to the school in the areas of student leadership, the environment and service to the community through their fund raising activities.

The upgrading of the main field and its surrounds have resulted in a welcome improvement to the school environment. The school and the parents are combining to upgrade the hockey field.

In addition next year, external maintenance and other improvements will take place.

I have been privileged to spend another year with the many committed teachers who are initially concerned with the progress and welfare of our students.

I want to express the school's sincere appreciation to members of the School Council, P & C, Parent Tutors and canteen helpers for their assistance to the school.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Jensen, Mr Reed, teachers and students who have produced this outstanding magazines.

1994 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

Students continue to excel and bring great credit to Whitebridge

This year, building programs, external maintenance and ground beautification have been important aspects of school planning. The result of all this activity has been a greatly improved appearance of the school and additional facilities for students and teachers to use. I hope we all take care of the new facilities and continue to take measures to improve the school environment

Excellent Results

Our students have continued to excel and bring great credit to Whitebridge High. At the end of last year our students gained excellent results in the Higher School Certificate and they were commended by the Assistant Director-General for their results.

Minister's Awards

Karina Hilton received the Minister's Award for Student Excellence and the school has recently been notified that this year's Girl Captain, Kerrie-Anne Arthurson, has continued the fine tradition of excellence by also receiving the same award. This is the sixth year in succession that a student from Whitebridge High has won this prestigious award.

I have been impressed with the student leadership this year and the role of the Student Council in initiating programs and following them through.

The support for community projects has been pleasing. Mr McFayden deserves commending for his work with the Student Council.

Sporting Success

The sporting section of the magazine illustrates the fine performances of our students and teams in the many competitions with which we are involved.

Mr Dally and the teachers who are involved in coaching the teams spend a great deal of time preparing the students for the games.

Publications

One of the highlights of this year was the launched of the book, "The Tree", which contained contributions from several of our talented writers.

Under the guidance of Mrs Psaltis, the students devoted a great deal of time to preparing short stories for publication. The result was an excellent publication which brought great credit to the teachers, the students and the school.

I have enjoyed working with the P and C and the School Council who are both committed to providing the very best facilities for our school. The school community appreciates the work of those who have helped in the canteen and with the reading programs. Thank you to all who have helped make this another successful year.

Finally, congratulations to Mrs Jensen, Mr Reed and the teachers and students who have produced another outstanding magazine.

Mr. D T Renton.

1995 Span Magazine – Principal’s Report

Mr Renton retires

Links with Whitebridge span twenty five years.

When Mr David Renton retires next year, he will be ending an association with Whitebridge High School which has extended over a quarter of a century. Few Principals could match his record as Head teacher, Deputy Principal and Principal of the same school.

Mr Renton is the school’s fourth Principal and its most enthusiastic advocate. He believes in the high quality of the school, its students, parents and teachers. He is proud of the fact that for six consecutive years a student of Whitebridge High has won the Minister’s Award for Student Excellence.

“encourage good students to do better”

An important duty of his stewardship of the school has been to try to encourage good students to do better, though he admits that he respects the wide-ranging interests of the children of today and their part-time jobs, sport and social life.

Like many of his colleagues, Mr Renton attended Newcastle Boys High then, because he liked working with children, completed his teachers training at Newcastle Teachers’ College. Here his interest in sport intensified and he gained special awards in Hockey, Athletics and Cricket. This interest and involvement in sport has been an enduring feature of his professional and private life.

As a young teacher at Stratford he trained his team of small school athletes for the Athletics Competition which, to the surprise of larger schools, Stratford won. So enthusiastic had been the Stratford coach that he had almost joined in every event. An onlooker was heard to ask, “Who was that young bloke who ran along the sideline for every race?”

Later, having completed his degree through a Correspondence Course from Armidale, Mr Renton moved into High School teaching at Gloucester High. Here he found himself involved in English, History and Social Science. The job of Sports Master was also his

“Lethal player named Doug Walters”

This was the occasion of a grand dream shattered when he proudly dispatched one of the best Cricket teams he had ever coached to a sporting exchange visit with Dungog High. They returned defeated. The Dungog side had feathered an unknown but lethal player named Doug Walters!

In 1963 Mr Renton, now married, returned to Newcastle Boys Junior High School where he taught Commerce for three years. From 1966 to 1968 he taught at Newcastle Girls High School then in 1969 he was appointed to Whitebridge High as Head Teacher, Social Sciences. He left the school for three years to work as Deputy at Wyong High School but was back at Whitebridge in 1983 as Deputy Principal. He was appointed Principal of this school in 1986.

Looking back over his years at Whitebridge Mr Renton remembers such memorable occasions as watching the landing on the moon in the Canteen where a television had been set up and the official opening of the Assembly Hall by the then Premier, Mr Neville Wran. He considers his worst experiences to be those occasions when he has had to select teachers for forced transfer to other schools when student numbers have dropped.

In retirement Mr Renton, who played competition soccer until he was forty-five and gave up cricket at fifty-four, intends to play golf, catch up on his reading, travel and become more involved in church work.

He has given a great part of his life to Whitebridge High School. He is widely admired for his fairness, his good humour and his genuine concern for the welfare of staff and students. He has consistently encouraged all those under his care to extend themselves through the academic, cultural and sporting opportunities offered by the school.

The “young bloke” who followed his runners along the sideline for every race is still urging his students to aim for excellence so that they might achieve fulfilment of their potential and the realisation of their dreams.

“enduring legacy – commitment to excellence, diversity and fostering individual talent”

David Renton or “D.T.” as he is affectionately known to the students, will be missed by the wide range of people who make up the caring community of Whitebridge High. His enduring legacy will live on in the school’s “commitment to excellence, diversity and the fostering of individual talents”.

1996 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

This is my final report for the school magazine after twenty five years at Whitebridge High, the last eleven years as principal. I regard it as a privilege to have been associated with this very fine school over this extended period.

I have noticed many changes since I was first appointed Head Teacher of Social Sciences at the end of January, 1969. Additional buildings have included E Block which includes the Library, the multi-purpose centre and the Music Block. The Presentation Day ceremonies have changed from the canteen area, to the corridor at the top of A Block when it rained, to the bini-shell at Gateshead High to our own multi-purpose centre.

I remember the time when we set up several television sets in the canteen area to watch man's first landing on the moon in 1969. Several staff changes occurred in 1972 when Mrs Jensen, Mrs Owen, Mr Dobinson, Mr O'Sullivan and Mr Wenham joined the staff. They have served the school well over a period of twenty five years. I reflect with sadness the deaths of Mr Muir, Head Teacher Administration, Mr Sievert, a former principal and several students while still members of Whitebridge High.

I have observed the increased number of ancillary staff, the greater use of technology in administration and teaching, and the introduction of global budgeting. I have been delighted to observe the success of our students over many years in academic, sporting and cultural areas in regional, state and national competitions. Their results reflect the very high quality of many of our students and the dedicated teachers who have helped them gain these successes. One of the highlights has been the success of our students as winners of the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement.

We have had a winner in each of the past seven years and most probably the eighth this year as the school's nominee, Louise Walker, has been forwarded to Sydney as the representative of the Newcastle District.

I conclude this brief report with a number of expressions of appreciation:

- Mrs Hill who has worked diligently as Senior Assistant over many years, and her office staff.
- Miss Blythe and Mr Hall who have assisted me in running the school.
- The Head Teachers who have shown fine leadership in their faculties.
- To the dedicated teachers who have made an important contribution to the success of the school.
- To the students who have worked consistently in many areas to bring great credit to the school.
- To the active members of the Student Council under the leadership of Mr McFayden who have shown positive leadership among the students.

- To the parents who have shown active support for me and the school. I wish to acknowledge the very fine work of the School Council and the P and C, under the leadership of Mr Timbrell.
- To Mr Rae and Mr Fitzgerald who have been a big help in improving my computer skills.

I have appreciated deeply the loyal support of these groups. The fact that so many will continue gives me great confidence in the continuing success of the school.

My final thanks goes to Mrs Jensen, Mr Reed, Mr Fenwick and the magazine committee who have again produced a school magazine of fine quality.