

1997 Span Magazine – Principal's Report – Mr Len Swarzes

Span 97 highlights student achievements and activities

Many high schools publish an annual school magazine. A quality school magazine provides a pictorial record of student achievement throughout the year. It captures the diversity of a school's activities and conveys the uniqueness of the particular year. Ideally the production of the magazine will provide practical media experience for students.

By any criteria SPAN IS A FIRST CLASS, IMPORTANT PUBLICATION OF Whitebridge High School. Congratulations to all students and staff who made this year's SPAN a reality. I appreciate your efforts and share your pride in SPAN 97.

All schools aim to provide a high quality of education for their pupils and are engaged in raising achievement in order to ensure that young people succeed in all aspects of their lives. At Whitebridge we are committed to excellence, diversity and fostering individual talents. By what criteria can we judge whether we are achieving our aim and meeting our commitment?

SPAN provides ample evidence to make a judgement. A glance through the following pages will quickly reveal excellence and success in a diversity of endeavours from a great number of our students.

Sport is a good starting point. Heidi Crawford, Holly Faint, Luke Burt, Chad Mansley and Jared McMillan are established stars. Brook Jones, Erin Lovegrove, Bree Harker, Allison Woodward, Andrew Stewart, Anthony Gardem and Ben Hodges can all claim elite status in their respective sports. And there are many more who have completed successfully at zone, regional and state levels.

Any discussion of our academic quality would have to begin with Alan O'Loughlin whose efforts have been a highlight all year. Exceptional HSC results are also expected from Leigh Tickle, Robert Timbrell and Tim Hellyer.

Peter Armstrong had outstanding success in the Hunter Area Australian Institute of Energy Awards as did Danielle Verdon in the ADI Minehunters Painting Competition. Jarrod Hugo gained a high distinction in the Australian Schools Science Competition and nine students were awarded distinctions. Martin Howes and Alan O'Loughlin earned distinctions in the AMP Investments Economics Competition. These examples give an indication of the scale and scope of our students' academic successes.

Cultural pursuits also play an important part in our school life. Merci Bremmell and Hayley Alexander were recognised for their excellence in ballet. Our students made significant contributions to the success of STARSTRUCK through their participation in choir, band and dance. Kate Andrews came a very commendable second place in the district finals of the Sydney Morning Herald Plain Speaking Competition. And what a fine production VILLANS was!

A brief quality survey would be deficient without acknowledgement of the contribution of the members of the Student Representative Council and the Year 11 Dance Committee. Both these groups play a crucial role in the school's activities and reflect the talent and responsibility of our student body. This would be reinforced by even a short visit to the Year 7 Camp.

Finally, I want to make reference to our two finest ambassadors – Alison Hicks and Robert Timbrell. Our captains have carried out their duties with distinction and have received accolades wherever they have represented us. It has been a pleasure to work with them and I thank them for their outstanding leadership.

The above is not an exhaustive list of achievements. Of necessity I have had to restrict the examples and so there are many worthy successes I have overlooked.

I know students will find SPAN 97 a valuable, interesting magazine and a source of fond recollections in the years to come

1998 The Bridge Magazine – Principal's Report

THE ADMIRAL'S VOICE

Principal's Report – 1998 has been a special year. It was the International Year of the Ocean. It was the year in which we celebrated 150 years of Public Education – I trust you enjoyed the insert developed by our school cluster and delivered within the Lake Macquarie Post. It was the year in which four of our students represented Australia in their respective sports. It was also the year in which 'Span' became 'The Bridge'.

Many high schools publish an annual magazine. A school magazine is like an annual report providing a pictorial record of student achievements throughout the year. Ideally it captures the diversity and quality of a school's activities and provides practical media experience for the students involved in its production.

The Bridge '98 meets all these requirements. By any standard it is a first class annual school magazine. Congratulations to all students and staff who make it a reality. I appreciate your efforts and share your pride in The Bridge '98.

At Whitebridge High School we strive to be a caring community committed to excellence, diversity and fostering individual talents. We claim to be a high performing school and I think the Bridge substantiates our claim. A glance through the following pages will quickly reveal excellence and success in a diversity of endeavours from a great number of our students.

Our sporting achievements are outstanding. Eleven of our students represented the Hunter area at the NSW CHS Swimming Championships and 21 represented at State Athletics. Our Years Seven and Eight Girls Indoor Netball team won the NSW title and Melanie Dickson won State Cross-country. Luke Burt, Chad Mansley, Heidi Crawford and Nerissa Brownlea represented Australia in their sports. Holly Faint, Aynsley Schumaker, Jared McMillan and Bree Harker are established stars. And there are many, many more who have competed at Zone, Regional and State levels.

Cultural pursuits also play an important part in our school life. We hosted students from our sister school in Nakajima and Koutio.

Singers, dancers and instrumentalists made a significant contribution to the success of Starstruck which feted Jacqui Lawler as a soloist. Our own Variety Night was a spectacular with 150 students displaying their diverse talents. And our school radio began regular broadcasts.

Throughout 1998 Whitebridge students continued to build on their reputation for responsibility and service. Many charities, especially World Vision, and school projects benefited greatly from the fund-raising efforts of the Student Representative Council and the Year 11 Dance Committee. Whenever Legacy, Red Cross or the Salvation Army were seeking student button sellers, we were always over-subscribed with volunteers.

The academic reputation of the school is our central concern. We were very pleased when our 1997 HSC candidature achieved above state average results in all Key Learning Areas. I am confident that our 1998 students, led by our dux Alison Walker, will perform even better. Our students also performed with distinction in the mock trial, debating, English, mathematics, languages and science competitions. The

intellectual quality of our students was no more exemplified than when Rebecca Roach impressed all in attendance following her exceptional address at the combined school's ANZAC ceremony.

Traditionally our student leadership is of the highest quality. Heidi Kolatchew and Martin Smith have maintained that tradition. Our captains have demonstrated excellence in performing their duties and have been highly commended wherever they have represented us. I congratulate Martin and Heidi on their leadership and thank them for their school dedication.

The above is a brief survey of student achievements. Of necessity I have had to restrict the examples and so there are many worthy successes I have not mentioned. I recommend The Bridge to you. I know you will find it an exciting, interesting magazine and a source of fond recollections in the years to come.

Mr L Swarzes
Principal.

1999 The Bridge Magazine – Principal's Report

THE PRINCIPAL

Every school in New South Wales publishes an Annual Report. For High Schools the length of the report is prescribed by the Department of Education and Training as are the number of sections and the headings. The result is a ten page report and analysis which provides important details and information. It is, however, "heavy" reading.

In many respects *The Bridge 1999* is an annual school report, admittedly a limited one designed for a different purpose, but certainly one that is more user-friendly. *The Bridge 1999* provides a written and pictorial record of staff and student activities and achievements throughout the year. It portrays the diversity of the school's activities and captures the distinctiveness of the particular year. An additional benefit of the magazine is that its production provides practical media experience for interested students.

The Bridge 1999 is an expensive publication. The proceeds from sales, sponsorships and advertising all well short of the actual production costs. Historically, the expenditure has been justified on the grounds that both *The Bridge 1999* and its precursor *Span* were exceptional school magazines and are highly valued by students and staff. The quality of *The Bridge 1999* continues that tradition.

Congratulations and thank you to all those made this year's magazine a reality – especially to Mr Nakkan (The Editor). I appreciate your efforts and share the pride in the final product.

As I said, *The Bridge 1999* is an annual report. A glance through the following pages will give a quick overview of what we do and how well we do it. At Whitebridge High School we strive to be a caring community, committed to excellence, diversity and fostering individual talents. *The Bridge 1999* confirms we are what we profess.

A school is only as good as its students. A quality school has quality students. It is my belief, and the pages of *The Bridge 1999* will testify, that few schools are blessed with the quality we take for granted.

Whitebridge High School has an enviable academic record. Any survey of our scholastic quality would have to begin with Rebecca Roach of Year 12 who has been assessed by the school as Dux of her year throughout her high school career. In addition to Rebecca, outstanding HSC results are expected from Nicola Vaughan, Kelly Hayes, Michael Santarelli and Amy Love.

Amber Findley of Year 11 has been selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum and Matthew Sas was chosen to compete in the National German Reading and Speaking Competition conducted by Goethe Institute. In the Westpac Mathematics competition Neil Caddis, Katherine Gibson and Jonathon Lindsay gained High Distinctions. Amy Love was awarded a High Distinction in Australian Schools' English competition and there were eight students who were awarded a Distinction.

Our sporting achievements are many and varied. Chad Mansley was selected in the Australian Schoolboys Soccer Team for the third time and Ben Punton (Diving) and Melanie Dickson (Triathlon, Athletics) won medals at State level. Amber Findley (Badminton), Nerissa Brownlea (Indoor Netball), Melanie Dickson (Triathlon) and

Rian O'Hara (Netball) all represented New South Wales, while our Year 10 and under Girls Ruby Union team were Regional Champions. There are many more high achievers who competed at Zone, Regional and State levels.

Similar quality was exhibited in our cultural pursuits. Natalie Hicks, Nadine Arendts and Selina Jacobs were selected to join the Olympic Youth Band. Once again, singers, dancers and instrumentalists made a significant contribution to the success of Starstruck with Alan Ross, Mary Seymour (Dance) and Catherine Britt (Vocals) playing starring roles. Paulo Macchia designed and constructed a wine press which will be displayed in the Statewide Design Tech Exhibition.

In terms of leadership, responsibility and service Whitebridge can match it with the best. Rebecca Roach was one of forty Year 12 students in the State to receive the Minister's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement – the eleventh year in a row that a Whitebridge student has been honoured in this way. Our School Captains, Kate Andrews and Clarke Richards, carried out their duties with distinction and received accolades wherever they represented us.

Kate Andrews, Amy Love and Rebecca Roach competed with distinction in the Lions Youth of the Year competition. Amber Findley and Serena Craig played major roles in the Newcastle District Leadership Forum. Many charities, World Vision (\$7,500) in particular, and schools projects benefited greatly from the fundraising efforts of the Student Representative Council and the Year 11 Dance Committee. Whenever Legacy, Red Cross or the Salvation Army were seeking student button sellers, we were always overwhelmed with volunteers. Also a record number of students donated blood to the Blood Bank.

This report is only a brief survey of student achievements. Of necessity I have had to restrict the examples and so there are many worthy successes and achievements I have not mentioned. You will find a comprehensive coverage in the following pages.

I commend *The Bridge 1999* to you. Read it, enjoy it and treasure it. I know it will be a source of fond recollections in the years to come.

Len Swarzes
Principal

2000 The Bridge Magazine – Principal's Report

THE PRINCIPAL

Many high schools publish an annual school magazine. A quality school magazine provides a written and pictorial record of student achievement throughout the year. It captures the diversity of a school's activities and conveys the uniqueness of the particular year. Ideally the production of the magazine will also provide practical media experience for students.

By any criteria "The Bridge" is a first class annual school magazine. Congratulations and thanks to all those who have made this year's magazine a reality – especially to Mr Nakkan, the Editor. I appreciate your efforts and share your pride in "The Bridge 2000".

All schools aim to provide a high quality of education for their pupils and are engaged in raising achievement to ensure that young people succeed in all aspects of their lives. At Whitebridge we are committed to excellence, diversity and fostering individual talents. How can we assess whether we are achieving our aim and meeting our commitment?

"The Bridge" provides ample evidence to make an assessment. A glance through the following pages will quickly reveal excellence and success in a diversity of endeavours from a great number of our students.

Sport is a good starting point. Rian O'Hara, Melanie Dickson and Ben Punton are established stars. Our Year 9/10 Girls Indoor Netball team is the State champion. Jai Curry, Daniel Edge, Mark Sherwood and Bree Harker can all claim elite status in their respective sports. Lauren Bertram received the 2000 Pierre de Coubertain Award in recognition of her achievements in Sport and there are many others who have competed successfully at Zone, Regional and State levels.

Whitebridge High School also has an enviable academic record. Chris Styan, Tom Powell and Jason Yelds have led the way and will achieve a UAI greater than 95. Exceptional HSC results are also expected from Andrew Wafer, Lee Whiting and Glenn Livingston. Our students also achieved success in Debating, as well as the English, Mathematics, Science and Language Competitions. In the National Science Competition, ten students were awarded distinctions. Amber Findley was selected to attend the National Youth Science Forum in Canberra. Mitchell Stallard received the annual German Community prize.

Cultural pursuits also play an important part in our school life. Michael Bell and Kooreil Lester auditioned for Encore, a showcase of HSC 2000 Music students. Catherine Britt, Stephanie Lawler, James Braye, Kooreil Lester, Britt Adamthwaite, Lorie Younger and Jarrod Croft featured in Starstruck as did 48 of our dancers. Our students also performed in the Opening Ceremony of the Pacific School Games and the Olympic

Games Closing Ceremony. Jessie-Rae Jacobs toured with the Marching Koalas, while Natalie Hicks played in the massed band at the Olympic Games Opening Ceremony.

Throughout 2000 Whitebridge High School students continued to build on their reputation for responsibility and community service. Many charities, especially World Vision, benefited from the fundraising efforts of the Student Representative Council. A record number of students donated blood to the Blood Bank. Emily Reeves and Eden Simic helped to organise Education Week celebrations in the Newcastle District. Our Hospitality students earned an enviable reputation through catering for such functions as the NSW Netball Association's Annual Meeting.

Traditionally our student leadership is of the highest quality. Serena Craig was one of fifty Year 12 students in the State to receive the Minister of Education's Award for Excellence in Student Achievement. This is the twelfth year in a row that a Whitebridge student has been honoured in this way. Toni Powell, Amber Findley and Serena Craig represented the school in the Lions Youth of the Year competition. Our School Captains, Stephanie Lawler and Derek Bowman carried out their duties with distinction and received accolades wherever they represented us. It has been a pleasure working with them and I thank them for their excellent leadership.

This is not an exhaustive list of achievement. Of necessity I have had to restrict the examples cited, so there are many equally worthy successes I have not reported. You will find a comprehensive coverage in the following pages.

I recommend "The Bridge 2000" to you. I know you will find it a valuable, interesting magazine and a source of fond recollection in the years to come.

Len Swarzes
Principal

2001 The Bridge Magazine – Principal's Report

THE PRINCIPAL

Every school in New South Wales publishes an Annual Report. For high schools the length of the report is prescribed by the Department of Education and training as are its content areas.

In many respects a school magazine is an annual school report. Although limited in the areas it covers, *The Bridge 2001* does provide a written and pictorial record of student and staff activities and achievements throughout the year. It portrays the diversity of the school's activities and captures the special qualities of 2001. An additional benefit of *The Bridge 2001* is that its production provides practical media experience for interested students.

The Bridge 2001 is not cheap to publish. The proceeds from sales, sponsorships and advertising fall well short of the actual production costs. The P & C makes up the short fall, justifying their expenditure on the grounds that *The Bridge 2001* is an exceptional school Magazine which is highly valued by its students and staff.

Congratulations and thank you to all those who made this year's magazine a reality especially to Mr Nakkan (The Editor). I appreciate your efforts and share your pride in the final product.

As I said, *The Bridge 2001* is an annual report. A glance through the following pages will give a quick overview of what we do and how well we do it. A quality school has quality students. In is my belief, and the pages of *The Bridge 2001* confirm, that few schools are blessed with the quality we take for granted.

Whitebridge High School has an enviable academic record, gaining School Certificate and Higher School Certificate outcomes above the state average. Any survey of our scholastic quality would have to begin with Elisa O'Loughlin (P & C award for the most outstanding result in the HSC assessment program), Jenn Comerford and Jonathon Lindsay who are expected to achieve a UAI in the very high nineties. Outstanding HSC results are expected from Kate Drew, Ruth Clulow, Kristie Munro, Nathan Walshe, Lucy Walker, Bronwyn Knight, Kate Donegan and Chelsea Johnson.

The following examples given an indication of the scale and scope of our students' academic successes. Ruth Clulow (Year 12) was awarded a high distinction in the Australian Chemistry Quiz while Neil Caddis (Year 10) and Ben Saliba (Year 7) were also awarded high distinctions in Australian School Science Competition. Neil Caddis also earned a high distinction in the Australian Maths Competition and Remy Ford (Year 10) earned a high distinction in the Australian Schools Computing Studies Competition. Australian Languages Certificates for students achieving in the top 10% nationally were won by Annie So (Year 10) in Japanese and Laura Archibald (Year 10) in German. Nathan Thomas (Year 8) was awarded high distinctions for both the Australian Schools English Competition and the Australian Writing Competition.

Our sporting achievements are many and varied. Daniel Edge (hockey), Rian O'Hara (netball), Melanie Dickson (triathlon), Michael Lewis (mountain bike riding), Ben Punton and Katrina Punton (diving), Ashley Shaw (touch football) all represented at state level while Melanie Dickson and Michael Lewis were medallists at national level. Years 9/10 and open girls netball teams reached the state finals in their

competitions. Rian O'Hara was awarded a prestigious NSW Blue for netball – an exceptional honour. And there are many more high achievers who competed successfully at zone, regional and state levels.

Similar quality was exhibited in our cultural pursuits. Once again our dance groups made a significant contribution to the success of both Starstruck and the Hunter Region Dance Festival. Our instrumentalists and vocalists, Simon Archibald, Tessa Daley and Lauren Smith performed at the Newcastle Show. Talia Champagne, Stephanie Kelaher and Genevieve O'Neil were selected to join the Hunter Youth Drama Ensemble. Leith Hamilton won the Schools Photographic Competition. In the Commonwealth Cup Debating, Mark Bennett, Anastacia Totoeva, Ksenia Totoeva and Brianna Stewart were the Champion Open Team in the Hunter. Nicole Gaff (Year 10) was selected in the Regional Junior Debating Team.

Throughout 2001 Whitebridge students continued to build on their reputation for leadership, responsibility and service. Many charities, especially World Vision (\$4,500), and school projects benefited greatly from the fundraising efforts of the SRC and the Year 11 Dance Committee. Emma Tickner, Rebecca Tutty, Hayley Churchill, Eil Michelsen, Catherine White and Stacy Crooks contributed to the Lake Macquarie Council's banner painting project. Our students of Education Week and Public Education Day at Charlestown Square.

Traditionally our student leadership is of the highest quality. Kate Drew was the Dudley/Redhead section of the Lions Youth of the Year competition. Our School Captains, Ruth Clulow and Nathan Walshe, are wonderful ambassadors. They have carried out their duties with distinction and have received accolades wherever they have represented us. It has been a pleasure to work with them and I thank them for their outstanding leadership.

The above is not an exhaustive list of achievements. Of necessity, I have had to limit the examples and so there are many worthy successes I have overlooked.

I commend *The Bridge 2001* to you. Read it, enjoy it, and then treasure it. I know it will be a source of fond recollections in the years to come.

Len Swarzes
Principal.

2002 Span Magazine – Principal's Report

THE PRINCIPAL

The main goal of Whitebridge High School is to be “a caring community committed to excellence, diversity and fostering individual talents”. The school demonstrates its commitment to this goal by providing a wide range of subjects and interests which meet Board of Studies requirements and the general, individual and vocational needs of our students. We believe that a comprehensive educational institution such as Whitebridge best equips students for life after school.

We offer this broad curriculum in a context which encourages high standards for all and which fosters a sense of pride in individual achievements. The School Commendation Scheme is a broad indicator of the extent of student achievement at Whitebridge High School. This year, one hundred and nine students have attained a Bronze Award, eighty eight students a Silver award, forty nine students a Gold Award, eleven students a Gold Plus award and six students an Outstanding Achievement Award.

These awards recognize high standards in academic, sporting, cultural and school/community activities. These students have demonstrated a commitment to high standards in a diverse range of contributions to the Whitebridge High School community.

Whitebridge High School has maintained high standards over many years. Our history demonstrates that. What are the reasons for the success of Whitebridge students? The determinants of student success at school are numerous but there are three which are most important.

The first is the quality of teaching and learning. We at Whitebridge seek to maintain high standards by continually improving the quality of educational programs available for students.

The second is the quality of parental support for the education and aspirations of their children. The values that children develop about the importance of education and the acceptance of every student's right to an education are a responsibility that is shared by the school and parents. Only through this shared responsibility can we hope to give our children the confidence they need to be successful at school and maintain the high educational standards that the broader community expects from students who attend Whitebridge High School.

The third is the quality of the partnership between the school and the wider community. Local organizations provide financial and other support, opportunities for students to develop public speaking skills, work placement for vocational education students and many employment opportunities for students from Whitebridge High School.

I take this opportunity to thank the Parents' and Citizens' Association, the School Council, parents, organizations and members of the community for your continued support for Whitebridge High School. Only with this support can Whitebridge be the comprehensive community high school we offer ourselves as.

Please accept my best wishes for the festive season. May you and your families have a happy and fulfilling new year.

Ken Lawson
Acting Principal