

Newington College Creative Arts Association

TERM 1 2008

2007 was another absolutely wonderful and hectic year for creative arts. Just to give you a brief overview here are some of the events in which the boys participated:

The choir boys sang at 9 chapel services, an Old Boys chapel service, induction services, and the very successful Chamber Concert in November.

Unfortunately the Advent service was cancelled with little notice. This event is usually the highlight of the year as we have a supper afterwards at which the boys are acknowledged and the senior boys farewelled; hopefully it will be back on the agenda in 2008.

Our musicians performed in the Strings Concert, Wind and Brass Concert, Founders Concert, small ensemble evenings and GPS music weekend at Kings. They also competed in the Yamaha Music Festival and Macdonald's Cup. The Concerto Competition provided an outstanding opportunity for boys of more advanced skills to compete presenting major pieces from the solo repertoire. We also held a concert band concert including a delightful selection of jazz and our rock culture was cemented by the inaugural RockFest in September.

Music composition continued to thrive under the mentorship of Gerard Brophy, our Composer in Residence. We were especially honoured in September to be nominated as a finalist in the 2007 Australian Classical Music Awards in the "Outstanding Contribution to Australian Music in Education" section, which was broadcast live on ABC Classic FM.

Other highlights include performing at the Opera House with students from the Meitoku School in Japan and PLC and the wonderful farewell performance for Mr Jock Heath at Speech Night.

Drama has also had a highly successful year including plays by boys from all years such as the Year 7 performances and the major production of Macbeth with staff and students from MLC. Other elective students responded to stimulus to create self devised performances, scripted performances and movement pieces. Year 11 targeted junior pupils as their audience for the self devised comedy 'The Gift'. Pupils and parents were entertained with Pirates, Vikings, Hobbits, Mad Deities, Harry Potter and fish fingers. Year 9 created a powerful movement piece based on James Thurber's 'The Last Flower'. Year 10 devised mask performances and short scenes based on Australiana such as Ned Kelly, Dreamtime and Gallipoli. Year 8 enjoyed being cowboys and saloon girls for 'Make Your Play'. There were also five theatre visits to Belvoir St theatre with an additional 20 parents attending meaning the Newington had about 90 people at each show.



Visual Arts also had a terrific year. Dr Dawson has reported that Visual Arts at Newington is forging ahead with ever-increasing numbers. He has double the numbers of classes in electives compared to previous years. He reiterated that the boys continue to produce remarkable works and that his students are incredibly dedicated.

We have started 2008 with just as busy a schedule. The IB in Music has begun this year and Drama will commence in 2009. The choir boys have already sung in a House Chapel service as well as the Heads of Independent Schools service. They are currently working very hard on their repertoire for the Easter Service next Sunday which we are all hoping will be well attended not only by the choir parents but by the community in general. Paul Vickers is the new head of Woodwind, Brass and percussion and he has already begun new initiatives. Many of our musicians participated in the Chinese New Parade which was great fun. Gerard Brophy is again with us as Composer In Residence.

All our co-curricular clubs are over-subscribed with two Year 7 drama afternoons, two Visual Arts Club sessions and a Taiko Club. A year 9 & 10 Production and Training Group is being established. This group will be responsible for all lighting, sound and recording and stage management requirements at Newington for co-curricular activities from music to drama to sport.

Much of the credit for the success of Creative Arts at our school goes to the four department heads: Mr Mark Scott, Dr Dawson, Mr David Roy and Mr Bob James and members of the CAA would very much like to thank them. But we should also be extraordinarily proud of the students who participate in the various programs. Yes some of them are involved in Creative Arts because of their elective curriculum programs, however an enormous number participate by choice, give generously of their time and substantially represent the school through their own interests as well as making a major contribution to the sense of community at Newington. At one stage late last year a group of boys had to be at school 32 days running because of their creative arts commitments. Don't forget most of these boys play sport and some are significant members of their school teams. They also actively support their senior sporting teams, for example at Back to Newington Day, Head of the River and GPS Athletics. It's enriching for them if and when they receive similar levels of support back from the school community, and we seek the support of the P&F, teachers and students to help give them the recognition they deserve.

Connie Therkildsen
President
Creative Arts Association