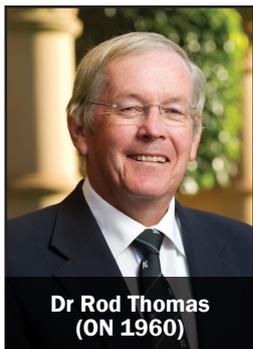


Newington Medal Recipients 2014

The Newington Medal recognises outstanding contributions, actions and achievements of Old Boys who have gone beyond the normal expectations. This is the highest honour Newington can bestow on an Old Boy for meritorious and commendable achievement. The Medal acknowledges an Old Boy (both Australian and International residents) whose work, profession, skill, dedication, generosity and/or support has involved meritorious and commendable achievement in business, the professions, community service, industrial development, technology, human relations, education, cultural development, sport, international relations, the arts or philanthropy.



**Dr Rod Thomas
(ON 1960)**

Dr Rod Thomas (ON 1960)

NEWINGTON MEDAL (AUSTRALIA) 2014

Rod Thomas was a student at Newington from 1955 to 1960. Throughout his time at Newington, his academic abilities were in evidence, culminating in the award of Dux of the College in 1960. His First Class Honours in Chemistry and Second Class Honours in both Physics and Mathematics saw him gain a Commonwealth Scholarship and entry to study Medicine at the University of Sydney.

As Dux of the College, Rod was awarded the Halse Rogers Prize and Schofield Scholarship whilst his Leaving Certificate results earned him the Hardy Medal, awarded for the best pass in the Leaving. Rod's father Noel (ON 1930) and his son Peter (ON 1988) were also Dux and Hardy Medallists, being the only instance of three generations of the one family so recognised in the College's 151 year history. Earlier this year, the Thomas family honoured the memory of Noel by endowing the College and naming the Chemistry Superlab in his name.

Rod was also an accomplished sportsman, playing cricket and rugby, rising to the 2nd XV in 1960. He was a keen rower but golf was his passion. With the establishment of golf as a school sport in 1958, Rod regularly represented Newington at both District and State competitions and the sport remains a passion to this day. He was also a Prefect and Cadet Under Officer (CUO) in 1960.

As a medical practitioner, Rod took over the family practice at Northbridge from his father Noel and served the local community with distinction for many years. Rod and his wife Ann's three sons all attended Newington via Lindfield Prep, David (ON 1985) and twins Peter and Richard (ON 1988).

Rod has remained an active member of the Newington Community all his life. He served on the Council of the Old Newingtonians' Union (ONU) in 1961 and 1962 and was a regular competitor in the ONU's annual golf days and later tennis competitions. In 1995, the Centenary Year of the ONU, the ONU Centennial Trust was established and following Peter Thomas being named the inaugural endowee, Rod, together with his brother Ian (ON 1963), have become the major benefactors, with Rod the driving force behind its now unqualified success.

In recent years, Rod has also been the Chairman of the Founders Society, the College's Bequest Program, leading from the front, as usual. After only five years, the Founders Society can boast a membership in excess of 100, with the eventual goal of 400 active members.

Rod Thomas continues to be an example of the very best that Newington can produce and it is with great pride that we have the opportunity to recognise a lifetime of service to the Newington and greater community with the awarding of the 2014 Newington Medal (Australia) to this fine Newingtonian.