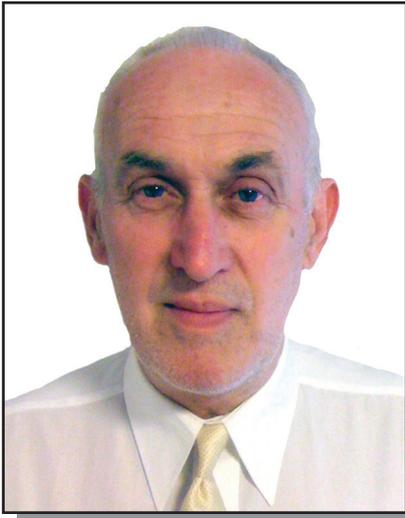




Citation Recipient for 2012

The Citation acknowledges the considerable contribution made by parents or families to support Newington's vision during and beyond their sons' schooling.



THOMAS HARMON

Mr Thomas Harmon's association with Newington College began in 2001 when Tom Jr. started at Wyvern in Year 3. He immediately began contributing to the Wyvern community; volunteering with BBQ duties when required.

The focus of Tom's volunteer work reflected the chosen sports of his son when Tom Jr. commenced Year 7 at the Senior School in 2005. He became casually involved with the rugby and cricket communities and was always available to assist when volunteers were needed. Tom is one of those individuals who is always the first to lend a hand when the call goes out; the last to finish up when the job is down to a few. In particular, Tom was always ready to assist on the rugby BBQ whenever volunteers were needed.

In 2006, with rowing now Tom Jr.'s chosen sport, Tom threw himself into the activities of the Rowing Association. He spent considerable time at the boatshed, on BBQ duty as well as helping with boatshed clean outs. He was an active "Shed Father" and spent many nights at the boatshed preparing evening meals and staying overnight when the rowers slept over.

From 2007 onward, the Rugby Association became the beneficiary of Tom's considerable energies, very much to its benefit. Tom has been the Rugby Association's Vice President – BBQ for the last six years and intends to again fulfil that role in 2013, despite his son graduating from the College back in 2010. Over the last six years Tom has been the driving force, the heart and soul, behind the Rugby Association's home game BBQs.

The work on the rugby BBQ is not glamorous – indeed it is hard, dirty work – but it is the cornerstone of the Rugby Association's fundraising and a massive logistical exercise. At each round of home games during the season, the Rugby Association runs two BBQ sites – Old Boys Oval and Johnson Bank – and will feed between 1,000 and 1,500 people each week using four commercial BBQs. The quantities of food involved are enormous and more than 60 volunteers are required to work the BBQs every week.

Tom is always there from set up at 6:30 in the morning and is always still there at clean-up; often after 6pm when volunteers were scarce. Often, Tom is left to handle the clean-up with only two or three assistants, and yet he diligently works away without complaint and in good humour. The most remarkable feature of Tom's efforts is that he suffers a medical condition which makes standing up for extended periods of time uncomfortable and quite painful at times. Despite this, he somehow manages to remain on his feet working throughout the day.

It is largely due to Tom's efforts on the BBQ that the Rugby Association has been able to increase its financial support to the College rugby program from \$25,000 in 2006 to nearly \$80,000 in 2012.

In addition to the fundraising aspect, the rugby BBQ is for most members of the College community, the only interaction they will ever have with the Rugby Association. Tom is a superb ambassador for the Rugby Association and very much the public face of the Association and the College during home rugby games.

In his capacity as a Vice President, Tom has attended every Executive and General Meeting of the Rugby Association over the last six years. He is a valued member of the Executive Committee.

He has been intrinsically involved in developing funding policies and fundraising strategies. He has been enthusiastically involved in the Year 7 information nights, manning the rugby stand and providing new students with information about rugby at the College.

Tom has also acted as Back to Newington Day Convenor for the Rugby Association. He operates the main BBQ on the Johnson Bank, and under his steady hand, the Association has pro-actively worked with the P&F and the other support groups to help make Back to Newington Day the great success it has become.

He has made a very real contribution to the College since his son started at Wyvern some twelve years ago, and has made a most substantial contribution to both the Rowing Association and Rugby Association over the last six years. Thomas Harmon not only meets the criteria for the Newington Citation, he personifies it. He is the type of parent and person that the Newington Citation was created to recognise.