



Newington College

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Newington Medallist 2011 Connie Therkildsen



2011 marks the 12th year of Connie Therkildsen's involvement with Newington, beginning with her son Lewis Jones who started in Kindergarten at Lindfield Prep. Her two older sons, Seamus and Duncan also joined Newington in 2000 and 2001. Connie has helped with daily reading groups, supporting and coaching debating teams, running the Uniform Shop and finally serving as President of the Lindfield P&F.

Despite not being musically trained herself, Connie was always determined that her boys would experience the gift of music. When Seamus entered the Senior School in 2003, she became an active member of the Creative Arts Association and spent four years as its president. At the time, the school was determined to put Newington back on the map in the areas of music, drama and visual arts, and the CAA rose to the occasion, providing support at Creative Arts events, the highlight of which was the outstanding success of *Seussical the Musical* in 2010. Besides the hospitality, Connie and the CAA team also created an entire range of weird and wonderful black and white headwear for the entire 'Whos' ensemble and the amazingly exotic 'Birds'.

Some of Connie's greatest passions are books and literacy, especially for children and young adults. Connie combined these with her professional experience as a bookseller and as a member of the organising committee of the last three bi-annual Newington Literature Festivals which are among her longest-lasting and fondest memories of her time at Newington.

During this time, Connie, and husband Hugh Jones, also helped form the nucleus of the Fencing Support Group, providing much-needed sustenance to competitors at fencing events held at school and during 'away' days. The group was recently accepted by the Newington P&F Association as an official Support Group. Connie has also been an active member of the Stanmore P&F Executive, most recently in the role of Vice President. She has run the online payments system, helps at numerous 'Back to Newington' Days, and was heavily involved with the marketing and sales of the wonderful Newington Black & White Cook Book.

Connie has contributed to the Newington community through her volunteer work, active participation and her initiation and leadership of various creative and performing arts endeavours. Her commitment, dedication and enthusiasm towards Newington College is a wonderful example to us all.