



2015 Newington Medal - Australia

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 David Lo AM (ON 1953)

David Lo came to Newington College in 1946 and was an active member and leader in the College community. David's family lived in Darwin where his father was a Methodist Minister, serving the Chinese community. As a boarder at Newington, he soon displayed personal qualities that gained him the respect and affection of his fellow classmates and College staff.

David was a first-class scholar at school, and was Dux of Wyvern House and runner-up to Dux in his final year at school. He won a Commonwealth Scholarship with his Leaving Certificate, including two Honours passes and an 'A' pass, and matriculating to Medicine at the University of Sydney.

David participated fully in the life of the College. He contributed significant articles to The Newingtonian, for which he was co-editor in 1953, and displayed leadership through being a Monitor in 1948, a Prefect in 1953, as a Cadet Lieutenant and as a student representative in the Student Christian Movement.

David excelled at sport. He was a member of the College Athletics team for each of his five years, gaining athletic colours in 1952. In 1953 he was a member of the 1st XI and of the premiership winning 1st XV for which he was awarded rugby colours.

Following graduation in Medicine at the University of Sydney, David worked in Sydney's RPA & Royal North Shore hospitals and then in Brisbane. In 1967, he relocated to Darwin, where he was appointed as a Senior Physician at Darwin Hospital. He remained employed by the hospital in senior positions, before retiring in 2000 after 33 years' service and operating a general practice in Darwin. During his long and distinguished career he made a significant contribution to the health care of the community of the Northern Territory and of Darwin in particular. When Cyclone Tracey struck in 1974, he remained behind in Darwin and provided valuable medical support at a very critical time.

His contribution to medicine in the Northern Territory was formally recognised in 2000 when he was made a Member of the Order of Australia for services to medicine in the Territory as a specialist physician assisting the development of medical services, including improved access for Indigenous Australians to health services. His book, The Long Road to Territory Health is regarded as the definitive history of medicine in the Northern Territory.

David was an outstanding scholar and sportsman during his years at Newington and his professional life and service to the community over many years has brought great distinction both to himself and the College. He is a worthy recipient of the Newington Medal for 2015.