



2016 Newington Parent Citation

Mark Bland (ON 1983)

Mark Bland (ON 1983) attended Newington College from 1978–1983.

He has always said that his parents sacrificed everything so he could attend Newington and he has been one to give back ever since.

Mark was a capable student and thrived in 'A' stream classes. He gained his School Certificate in 1981 and his Higher School Certificate in 1983.

While at Newington, Mark was a member of the Boarding House and of the College's Cadet Unit. He enjoyed sport and played Cricket and Rugby, both of which have remained passionate interests, particularly Rugby. In his final year, Mark was named captain of the 4th XV Rugby team.

Since leaving Newington College, Mark attended the University of Western Sydney where he qualified as a Chartered Accountant and obtained his certificate in public practice in 1999. Working in public practice since 1992, Mark has been a highly respected Chartered Accountant and Business Advisor for the past 25 years.

Mark takes great pride in serving the community and has many long term clients and in some cases he now serves three generations of the same family. For the past 25 years, as a service to his Old Boy community and his professional community, Mark has mentored many young Old Boys as they commence their careers.

Mark's connections with the College took on a new dimension when his son Timothy started in Wyvern in 2004 and graduates this year having completed all his schooling at Newington. He served two years as Wyvern P&F President, followed by a term as President of the Rugby Support Group from 2011– 2013. Mark has been a member of the Old Newingtonians' Union Council since 2006 and served as President for three years from 2008– 2010.

It was during this time that relations with Tupou College in Tonga were re-established by the Headmaster Dr David Mulford. Mark is very proud that the ONU Tongan Bursary Program was established during his term as ONU President following the successful 2009 visit to Tonga with the Headmaster and fellow Old Boys.

Mark was a member of the Newington College Foundation Advisory Board from 2009–2012 and was for many years the Sesquicentenary Committee's Honorary Treasurer. He was also responsible for the organisation of the hugely successful 150 Years of Sport Lunch held in 2013.

Mark is a generous supporter of the fundraising endeavours of the College and is a member of the Founders Society, the College Bequest program.

The College is proud of Mark's achievements as a student and in his subsequent life and is grateful for the ways in which he has served the Newington community. We congratulate him on being awarded the Newington Citation for 2016.