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**MEDIA RELEASE**

**GOSFORD HIGH SCHOOL ALUMNI ESTABLISH SCHOLARSHIP FUND**

Gosford High School's leaving class of 1964 will celebrate their 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary next Saturday (20<sup>th</sup>) by establishing scholarships for students enrolling at Gosford High School. The scholarships will be offered with the support of the Public Education Foundation. Among those attending the function will be the recently retired Australian High Commissioner to the United Kingdom, John Dauth AO, who was the boys' captain in 1964 and who is an Ambassador for the Public Education Foundation.

The Public Education Foundation is a not for profit organisation dedicated to providing life changing scholarships to young people in public education. The Foundation works in collaboration with schools, communities, business and government to help students achieve their full potential, while enhancing the value and reputation of public schools.

Donating to public education can be a complicated process and in most cases donations to public schools are not eligible for tax deductions. The Public Education Foundation's Scholarship Fund provides a tax-deductible way to support public school communities.

Anne Dornan, one of the locally based organisers of the anniversary function, said "this is a wonderful opportunity for ex-students of the school to give something meaningful back to the school. The scholarships will be offered to students living on the Central Coast who are enrolling in year 11 at Gosford High. We hope that alumni from other years, and local Central Coast individuals and businesses will contribute to the fund to increase the number of scholarships available."

Jenni Neary, the Chair of the Public Education Foundation and a 1964 alumna said "The Foundation was established 6 years ago to administer a Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) scholarship program so organisations and philanthropic individuals could finally get tax deductions for donations to support public school students. Since then it has been providing scholarships for talented students in need, and promoting the proud role public education plays in creating Australia's future."

"Already many successful scholarship programs are up and running. More than 100 students have already received awards from the Foundation including talented science students, creative arts students, rural students, aboriginal students, and refugee students. I am very excited to be doing something special for Gosford High School which gave me my education and my start in life as a teenager."

Lynne Searle, Principal of GHS said "on behalf of our school community, we greatly appreciate the generosity of the Class of '64 and for their proactive advocacy of public education, crucial to our future as a nation."

For more information please visit the Foundation's website [www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au](http://www.publiceducationfoundation.org.au)

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