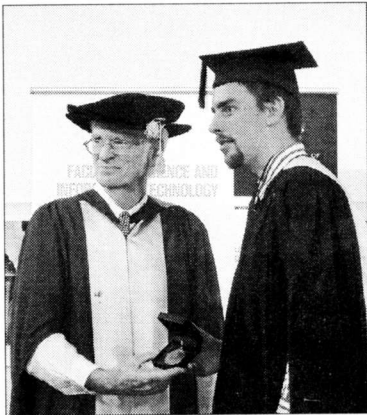


# Duxes hit new heights

By Mitchell Jennings

2005 was a hell of a year and at around the same time that Makye Diva was winning her third Melbourne Cup, the Sydney Swans were ending a 72-year premiership drought and Schapelle Corby was checking out her new digs, Chris Nolan and Karen Barnard were being lauded as joint duxes of Chatham High School.

Whilst 2005 proved the end of



**Former Chatham High Dux, Chris Nolan receives the Newcastle University Medal awarded to only the most outstanding of Honours students presented by Professor Bill Hogarth, Pro-Vice Chancellor of the faculty of Science and Information Technology.**

the line for the class of 2005 notables, the Diva was promptly retired, the Swans quickly became also-rans and Schapelle Corby, well...enough said, it proved to be just the beginning for the Chatham pair.

Chris Nolan has gone on to win Newcastle University's prestigious University Medal and Karen has graduated from Griffith University with first class honours in law.

Karen has fond memories of her time at Chatham and the Manning Valley but wanted to extend her life experience further afield and enrolled at Griffith University with a desire to experience the Gold Coast lifestyle.

"Everyone seems to go to Newcastle which is great but I just wanted to go somewhere different," Karen explained.

Though attracted to the lifestyle of the party-strip, Karen spent more time in the library than on Cavill Avenue after enrolling in a gruelling dual program combining the Bachelor of Laws with the Bachelor of Arts.

"I always wanted to do law so when I was offered Honours I was happy to take it up."

Karen has now graduated with first class Honours and in February will take a up a position with Brisbane-based law firm

Allen Parker Robinson.

The soon to be high-flying legal eagle still finds time (and will also take every chance she gets) to return to Taree.

"Most of my family is still back home in Taree so I still get back to visit whenever I can."

Chris Nolan, in contrast to humanities specialist Karen, was the scientist of the pair completing a Bachelor of Science (Physics) at Newcastle University winning the prestigious University Medal in the process.

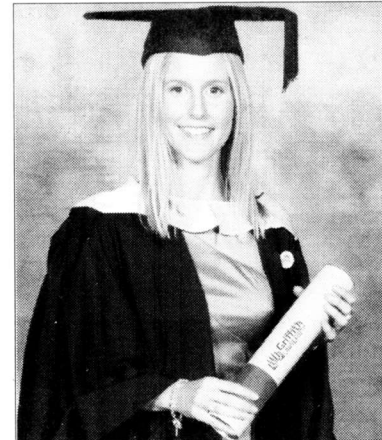
"The medal is typically only given to one student per faculty so it was great to win the award," Chris said.

To be eligible for the award an undergraduate student must boast an impressive Grade Point Average (GPA) of 6.5, no mean feat given that the required GPA for Honours is 5.0, a stretch for most students.

"You basically have to average between Distinction and High Distinction grades for your entire course," Chris explained.

The journey in academia will continue for Chris, who is currently working for Newcastle University as a researcher, when he begins his PhD. studies at ANU Canberra in March next year.

"It's funny really, when you



**Former Chatham High School Dux Karen Barnard has graduated from Griffith University with First Class Honours**

start uni you look at professors and think wow eight years of study, no way, and here I am doing it now."

Like Karen, Chris' family and friends still reside in the Manning Valley and he returns as often as he can.

Both Chris and Karen love what they do and with many of the Manning's high school students having just finished the HSC, their success stories built in the Manning are sure to be emulated in the future.