

NBHS 1948 F H Beard Headmaster

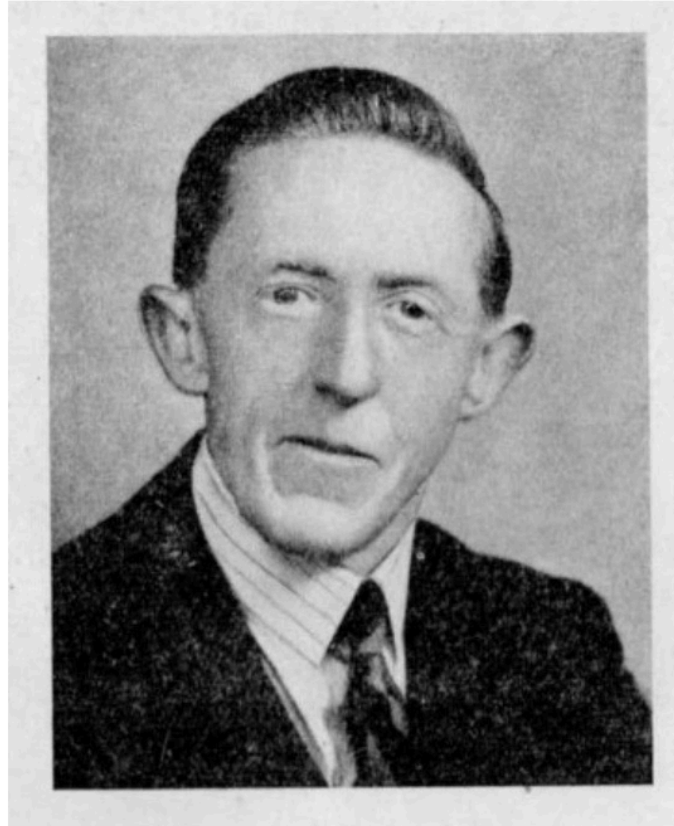


F H (Harold) Beard, Headmaster from 1948 to 1963

BEARD, Harold – Address to the Students, extract, 1948

His first year as Headmaster.

From the Novocastrian.



I want to remind you that you have to live with yourself all your life. This is the time when you indulge in hero-worship and form ideals. Whether you realise it or not, your heroes and your ideals are all the time forming your own character. Are they the ones that will make you a decent man in your own eyes, the sort of fellow that you won't be ashamed of when you are fifty? Remember that your future - and indeed the future of the nation and the world itself - depends on what you really are. The world has never known such change and upset before as we have seen in this century. But some things don't change. Love of truth, consideration of others, appreciation of the beautiful things around us - these will always have value. Include them in the make-up of that most important person of all to you - yourself. Then, collectively, you can go on to the task that fate has thrust into your hands - the building of a better world.

The attitude I feel we need to strive most for in this country, Ladies and Gentlemen, is one of enthusiasm for all things good. It is no use deceiving ourselves. Society isn't all we would wish it to be. Too many of our standards are taken from Hollywood—whose glamorous but apparently amoral alliances get far too much space in our press. The blight of greed and dishonesty which spread with the period of shortages has debased our social standards. The schools must—and as a matter of fact do—stand for the best in current social and moral standards. But it isn't as easy to get people as enthusiastic about, say, fair play, helping other people, thinking straight, as about success in business or sport.

One last point on attitudes: In an attempt to give our boys experience in social service, we have introduced the School Welfare and Social Service Committee (SWASSC for short). It consists of representatives of the Prefects and of all classes. It arranges the weekly collection (we aim at threepence a week from every boy) and it decides what good causes will be helped. I can't leave the reference to SWASSC without telling you of the wonderful work of 1B, which has topped the collection every week and far outstripped every other class in its total contribution. 1A is a good second. I really believe that the school is in for a great time as our present 1st Year boys go through. They are certainly shaping splendidly so far.

I have tried to give a picture, Mr. Chairman, of an integrated school. But we need a wider integration. The best education will come only when we have the home and the community with us. Time will not permit me to say much about this, but I would appeal to you to be always on the side of enlightenment, to banish narrow prejudices from your children's home environment, to remember that they have lives of their own to live, and that, with all the best intentions in the world, you have no right to try to live them for them. I advise you to avail yourself of the help that clubs like the Y.M.C.A. and the various church youth groups can offer them in their four-square development I have spoken of. Above all, I ask you to take a continued interest in them and in their school. If the business metaphor appeals to you, it will pay good dividends.

F. H. BEARD, M.A.,
Headmaster.

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If you have a boy at the High School, you owe it to him to join the P. & C. ASSN. and attend its meetings. They are held in the School on the Third Tuesday of the Month, at 8 p.m.

Subscriptions—Life Membership, 10/- per person.
Annual Membership, 1/- per person.

H. J. Sticpewich, President.
E. L. Gosper, Hon. Secretary.

KEEP THIS BY YOU AS A REMINDER.

I thought you might be interested in this. May I wish you a very happy Christmas season.
Newcastle Boys' High School
Sincerely,
J. H. Beard.

Extracts From The Headmaster's Report on Speech Night, 1949

(With the Compliments of the Parents and Citizens' Association).

The Headmaster opened his Report with a tribute to those former members of the school who had passed away, since its foundation in 1906, more particularly two well-loved teachers, Messrs. "Vince" Walker and "Clarrie" Jacobs, whose loss had been mourned during the preceding year.

After expressing appreciation of the work of members of the staff who had been transferred, and welcoming newcomers to the staff, Mr. Beard continued:

You will see from the information on your Programmes that the school has had a year of solid achievement—at least in those things that are measurable in examinations passed, positions gained, matches won. If you are interested in percentages, 88% of Fifth Year passed the Leaving, 91% of the Third Year gained their "Intermediates"—figures considerably above the average for the State. We congratulate our boys and their teachers on the results of their successful co-operation. I wish, personally, to congratulate those who gained Honours, those who will receive prizes and certificates this evening, and all those unsung heroes who did their best and have the inner satisfaction that comes from realising the fact. Some of the best things in the school, as in life itself, are those that cannot be measured by any such yardstick as success in examinations. I feel that we have made some little progress in those things, too, during the year, and it is about those things that I want to speak most to-night.

I still believe, Mr. Chairman, that education is the hope of the world. But it must be true education. We have all seen what Hitler's idea of education produced—a generation of ruthless fanatics. Perhaps as we have thought of the bestiality of the concentration camps, of the treatment of little children and old people, we have felt our faith shaken, in both education and in human nature itself. But, after all, these things only show how important—how desperately important—true education really is. For it has been aptly pointed out that indoctrination—the Nazi form of pseudo-education—is not education at all, but merely training—the same sort of conditioning as enables frogs in experiments to know which side of their tub will give them an electric shock and so avoid it. For true education can never be separated from a sense of values, and it is my sincere belief that the values most needed in the world today are those that have been expressed in Christian ethics. Thus education becomes a matter not for the school alone, but for the home, the church and the community.



Mr. F. H. Beard, M.A.

From the Novocastrian 1956

—Drawn by Victor Kalmykoff, 4C

Message from F. H. Beard, Headmaster, Newcastle Boys' High School

Fifty years ago, Newcastle was comparatively small and unimportant. The half-century which we are celebrating has been one in which both the City itself and our secondary schools have gone through tremendous change and development. It is good to think, as we look back through the years, that, while Newcastle industrially was playing a magnificent part in national life, particularly during two world wars, the torch which was lit on 5th June, 1906, with the establishment of Newcastle High School, has burned bright and testified to the importance of the things of the mind.

The "Old School on the Hill," and Girls' High and Boys' High which stem from it, have a proud record of achievement. Their sons and daughters have left their mark in the life of this City and far beyond it. Some of them are spoken of briefly in the Jubilee Book, but they are merely representative of the many who cannot be recorded.

I believe that the secret of the impact the school has had on the community is to be found in the devoted service of the teachers who have laboured in it through the years, in the friendly, co-operative attitude that seems always to have pervaded it, in the ambition of the pupils that has led so many of them far afield to gain fame and fortune, and in the high value that Newcastle as a whole has placed on education.

It is inevitable that the next fifty years will see many more changes than have the last, for progress is an accelerating movement. But the really important things do not change. If our pupils go on in the spirit of their fathers, learning at school to work together with their fellows, developing a sense of community responsibility, above all growing to realise that character counts most of all, we can confidently leave the future in their hands, whatever problems it may bring them to solve.



F. H. BEARD, M.A.



Headmaster's Message

1963

My Dear Boys,

This is my sixteenth — and last — Message to the School in "The Novocastrian".

It is a wonderful experience to be in charge of a school like Newcastle Boys' High for sixteen years and to be able at least to try to have a lasting influence on the thousands of boys who pass through it. I said, "to try". Only you and your many fellow-students down the years can say if I have succeeded.

These have been sixteen very happy years in many ways. It is good to feel part of the next generation, to be associated with bright-eyed First Years entering a new world, to see them gradually change to the young men of Fifth Year, and then to rejoice with them at the great successes that come to them and the happy and useful lives that follow. I believe that this is the story of the great majority of our boys and so I leave the school full of optimism and confidence in the men of tomorrow.

There have been many disappointments, of course. The school is not Utopia, and we are often told that "boys will be boys". A minority take this to mean that boys must be foolish and irresponsible. Some are, but they need not be and should not be. Every boy who comes into the school has been selected because his natural ability and his primary school record show that he is capable of leadership. He is one of those whose task it is to make a better world, a world saved from the threat of nuclear destruction and devoted to bringing greater well-being and happiness to all mankind. It is a tragedy when he wastes his powers and does not become the best man he is capable of being. I cannot but be sad when I look back on a number of really brilliant boys who went astray and ended in great disaster and unhappiness. It was all so unnecessary. I would say to every one of our present students: Have a worthwhile goal in life and examine all the things you do to see if they will help you achieve it. Whatever anyone else may do, do not waste YOUR life.

I am writing to you during a brief sojourn in hospital, and I have just come across something in one of the novels of John Steinbeck that I will pass on to you. Steinbeck is famous for his realism, which springs from a very deep understanding of life. Here is his summing-up.

"Virtue and vice were warp and woof of our first consciousness, and they will be the fabric of our last, despite any changes we may impose on river and mountain, on economy and manners. There is no other story. A man, after he has brushed off the dust and chips of his life, will have left only the hard, clean questions: Was it good or was it evil? Have I done well—or ill? We have only one story. All novels, all poetry are built on this never-ending contest in ourselves of good and evil." I leave that for you to think about.

My last word in this Message is one of gratitude to the whole school, past and present, for all the happy sides of our associations together: to the Deputy Head and the staff for loyalty, co-operation and good fellowship; to the clerical staff for fine, efficient service; to our friends in the tuck-shop for their care and consideration throughout my whole term here; to the Prefects for fine leadership every year; to the wonderful workers in the P. and C. and, finally, to you boys, for your brightness and friendliness, your ready acceptance of discipline and your real affection (whether you will always admit it or not) for your school.

And so I say farewell to you all. May you all fare well, indeed, throughout your lives.

F. H. BEARD

NBHS 1978 Harold Beard



This photo was taken at the 20 year reunion of the Year of '58 at the Newcastle Club, 1978. Photo provided by Rob Allan.



Old Boy Gary Boote (started at NBHS 1957) created this bust of Harold which, he said, "failed in the glaze process." He has kindly allowed these photos to be displayed on the OBA web page.



Excerpts from the Address to NBHSOBA, 8th August, 2015 by Warwick Beard, Son of the late Harold Beard.

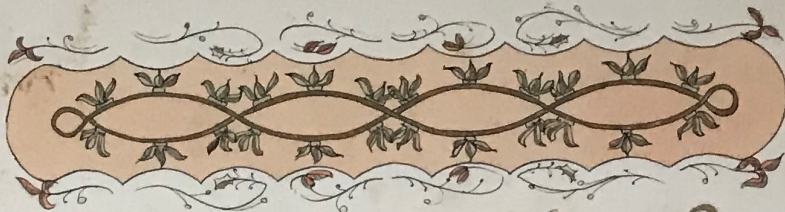
(Warwick is presently a High School Principal)

1. Some pet sayings of Harold: "It's the five per cent! ", "See me in the Office afterwards! ", "Who was that who mis-spoke the words of the song? " (some five percenters delighted in mis-pronouncing some words from Harold's favourite sing-along numbers).
2. After retiring from NBHS, Harold sold World Book Encyclopaedias to most schools in the Hunter Valley.
3. For a time, Harold worked for Woolworths as a careers adviser for careers in retail.
4. After 8 years, Harold went casual teaching in the Gosford area. He spent many years teaching OA classes (those for the disadvantaged). He was particularly attached to a special Year 9 class.
5. Harold and family eventually moved to Bellingen, where he engaged in his love of local history. He co-wrote a book, History of the Bellingen Valley.
6. During Harold's time in Bellingen, the age of "hippie communes" arrived, and this caused considerable angst among some of the residents of the Bellingen area. So much so that a "public meeting" was announced to air prevailing views on the issue. When it became obvious that this so-called "public meeting" was likely to be invaded by the hippie community from far and wide, the title of the meeting was changed to a "rate-payers meeting". Harold was incensed at this tricky sophistry, and let his feelings be known. Among some in the Bellingen community he became known thereafter as "that Communist, Beard".
7. Harold was understandably disheartened when he returned to see NBHS after it was re-badged as Waratah High School. In deference to Harold, a later Head of Waratah High restored the portrait of Harold to its original place of honour in the school library.
8. Harold is buried at Urunga Cemetery, where one of his immortal sayings was uttered, or is preserved, "The character of the boy is paramount".
9. Epitaph on his grave : "Harold Beard, a Scholar and a Gentleman".

Harold Beard Headstone



At Urunga Cemetery.



Frank Harold Beard

Dear Sir

On behalf of the past and present pupils, masters, parents, and citizens, and your many friends and associates we pay tribute to you on your retirement after serving as Headmaster of Newcastle Boys High School for the record period of fifteen years.

We recall that you were educated at Young District School & Sydney Teacher's College. You subsequently attended Sydney University where you gained your M.A. degree. After serving in many parts of New South Wales in various promotion positions in the Education Department you were finally appointed in 1948 to the most important position of Headmaster of Newcastle Boys High School.

Under your inspired leadership the School has achieved remarkable results, both scholastically and in the sporting field. The Jubilee Year Book published in 1956 lists some of the past students who have distinguished themselves in their chosen careers and you will know that this list, which includes several Rhodes Scholars, is far from complete. Many of these men owe their success to the training and kindly advice they received from your hands.

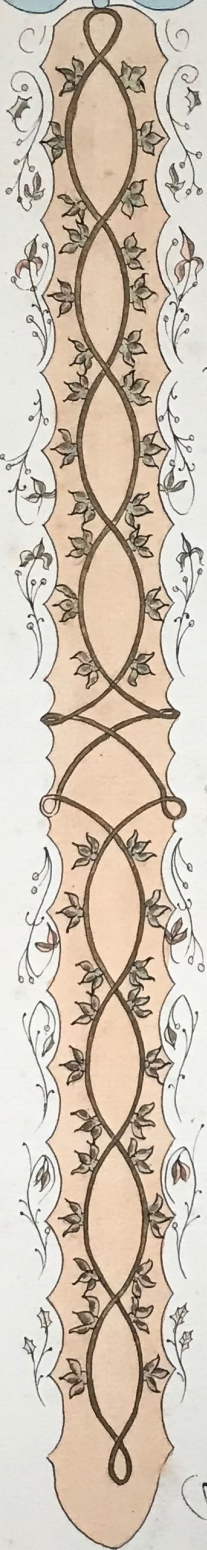
You have also earned the esteem of your fellow men by your unselfish devotion to civic and cultural affairs, and we refer particularly to your membership of the Council of the Far West Children's Health Scheme, your position of University Tutorial Lecturer to the W.E.A. and your past presidency of the Newcastle Branch of the Australian United Nations Association.

We now place on record our appreciation of your past services. We know that you are dedicated to your profession, and in your quiet, unassuming and dignified way you have endeared yourself to all those who have been privileged to know you.

We express the hope that you will be long spared to live a happy life and to enjoy the fruits of your retirement.

We are, dear sir,
Yours faithfully

<i>Therclair</i> President, Parents & Citizens Association	<i>Joyce Collett</i> President Ladies Auxiliary	<i>A. P. Deale</i> School Captain	<i>A. W. Stephens</i> Director of Secondary Education
<i>H. C. Boyd</i> Secretary, Parents & Citizens Association	<i>Edie McFarlane</i> Secretary Ladies Auxiliary	<i>Richard Thomas</i> President Old Boys Union	<i>W. A. Selby</i> Area Director of Education
<i>J. C. ...</i> Treasurer, Parents & Citizens Association	<i>J. P. O'Connor</i> Deputy Headmaster	<i>A. D. ...</i> Acting Mayor City of Newcastle	





Sanders family with Harold Beard 1978