



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS



Newcastle Region  
Library



CELEBRATING 100 YEARS

*Exhibition*

Lovett Gallery  
Newcastle Region Library  
3rd-17th June 2006



## *The Story*

Newcastle Public High School, with three teaching staff, enrolled 28 students on 5th June 1906 in a room of the Newcastle Superior Primary School in Sydney Street, The Hill (now Tyrrell Street). The school was unique in New South Wales by being a high school for both boys and girls, the Public Instruction Act only allowed for separate Boys High Schools and Girls High Schools. Secondary education at High Schools prepared students for the Junior and Senior matriculation, Public Service entry and Teacher Training College examinations. It was a four year course.

Student numbers increased so that the last classes of the Primary School were moved out at the end of 1911. In 1913 the enrolment was over 300 when the first Intermediate and Leaving Certificate examinations were held. However it was not until 1923 that secondary education became a five year course. Newcastle Public High School established a reputation for providing a sound, rounded education, including academic excellence, high standards of personal behaviour, sporting and cultural pursuits.

In the 1920s changes in public attitudes saw an increase in the numbers of students seeking secondary education. This put such pressure on the school accommodation on The Hill, that a new school was built on a site in Parkway Avenue Hamilton. In 1930 Newcastle Girls High School opened its doors in the new school and Newcastle Boys High School became 'the school on the hill'. With funds restricted during the depression, it was not until 1934 that a new building was constructed at Turton Road Waratah to house Newcastle Boys High School.

These two 'new' schools maintained the standards established on The Hill and continued to develop broadly educated students who excelled in many fields of endeavour. Cultural and sporting activities were encouraged along with the pursuit of academic achievement.

1965 saw another change in the time students spent at High School, when the 4th Form classes attempted the School Certificate examination for the first time, followed in 1967 by the first 6th Form to sit the Higher School Certificate examination. In 1976 selective schools arrangements in Newcastle were abandoned and these two high schools were disbanded.

This exhibition displays objects from the Newcastle High School Caesar Smith 1906 - 1976 Collection, reflecting aspects of the first 70 years of secondary education in Newcastle.



The exhibition was opened by an ex-student  
Sharon Grierson MP, Member for Newcastle on 3rd June 2006.

This exhibition has been made possible through the work of many people,  
including

Curator: Gillean Shaw

Staff of Newcastle Region Library, in particular  
Carol Edmonds  
Sue Ryan  
Ross Zimmerman

Ex-Students  
Joan Cobb  
Carolyn Rigby  
Bill Storer  
Greg Wilson

With the assistance of  
Janet Storer

Catalogue Design: Naomi Ross  
Banner Design: Angela Vangelov, Nicole Leary and Brooke Partridge  
Contributing Designer: Emily Quail  
Project Manager: Abby Farmer  
Visual Communication Applied Research Laboratory  
University of Newcastle

