

Timeline: NHS to NGHS and NBHS to NHS

before 1906	About 50 young Novocastrians catch the train daily to Maitland, to the only State high school in the Hunter.
1906	The original school on the hill opened on Tuesday 5 June; Charles Rattray ("Caesar") Smith is Headmaster, with a staff of Mr T Roberts and Miss Louisa Cole; school comprised primary students plus 28 older girls and boys; assembled at 9:00 in Room 2, one of three that formed the school); tables but no chairs, blackboards, chalk, maps . . .
1917	12 October; Captain Clarence Smith Jeffries killed winning his Victoria Cross, in the Battle of Ypres, Belgium.
1919-1924	George Campbell Saxby is Headmaster; "His Majesty"; "The Grey Ghost"; former Captain and Dux of Sydney Boys' High; deeply religious, with a stern moral code; disallowed dancing.
1922-1926	Charlie Goffet attends the "School on the Hill".
1924-1928	Len McRae attends the "School on the Hill".
1925-1926	Frank McMullen is Headmaster; "One of Nature's Gentlemen"; a strong bias towards sport; "exercised a fairly soft discipline on the School".
1926-1931	Robert F (Bob) Harvey is Headmaster; "a grim visage" and "a formidable reputation as a disciplinarian"; unsuccessfully tried to change the school colours; set up a school tuck-shop and banned Mr Tuttle's horse-drawn pie cart from the school grounds; disliked Newcastle intensely - "you can't make a silk purse out of a sow's ear"; continually stressed the need for "school spirit"; insisted on the wearing of a school uniform.
1928	Two portables destroyed by a cyclone; contract let for the construction of Newcastle Girls' High School, at a cost of 34,120 pounds (\$68,240).
1930	On 4.2.30, with NHS overcrowded, girls moved into the all new NGHS at Hamilton; first Headmistress Agnes Brewster; replaced by influx of Cooks Hill Intermediate High students; NBHS created; The Great Depression; overcrowding in the "archaic architectural anachronism" (Newcastle Morning Herald); Alfred Freeman sets NBHS long jump record of 21 feet 9.5 inches (6.64 m), which still stands.
1931	Silver Anniversary; 820 enrolled (including 120 overflowing to the Hunter Street Technical College).
1932	Country deep in depression, NHS seriously overcrowded, and the promise of a new school at Waratah long overdue; NHS described as "an archaic, architectural anachronism". Enrolment was 700 + 120 in the Annexe at Newcastle Technical College (with its own staff of 5).
1932-1934	Chas A ("Daddy") Christmas is Headmaster (see Note 1 below).
1933	Move to Waratah commenced during "half-yearlies"; school spartan, noisy.
1934	NBHS starts at Waratah; first Headmaster Charles ("Daddy") Christmas; NHS becomes Newcastle Junior High School.
1935-1944	Norman R Mearns is Headmaster.
1939	David Stewart, Rhodes Scholar, is dux.
1939-1945	World War II; 333 to RAAF, 142 to AIF and 45 to RAN; 51 died; 14 missing; 13 decorated.
1941	F H Beard is Deputy Headmaster.
1942-1975	Charlie Goffet teaches French and coaches athletics.
1945-1947	William Pillans is Headmaster.
1946	Allen Knott, Rhodes Scholar, is dux.
1948-1963	Frank Harold Beard is Headmaster; sex education, SWASSC, CAB, uniforms, "esprit de corps".
1949	Kevan Gosper sets NBHS records, which still stand, in 200 and 400 metres; the wearing of school uniforms now common.
1951, 1952	Don Barnes is the only dual Dux.
1952	World War II Memorial Entrance unveiled by Lieutenant General Ivan Dougherty; F H Beard introduces sex education.
1956	Jubilee Year; the Jubilee Celebration speech was delivered by ex-student and Sydney journalist Oliver Hogue; popular English teacher, Fred Smith, drowns in Newcastle Baths, aged 34.

- 1957 Wyndham report released (28 October).
- 1963 F H Beard retires.
- 1964-1974 L T (Tom) Richardson is Headmaster; sport, Easter church parade; parent-teacher night.
- 1966 Change to HSC; no Dux.
- 1966, 1967 M Simpson is the only dual Captain.
- 1967 First sixth form.
- 1971 Students' Representative Council set up.
- 1973 Announcement that selective schooling is to end.
- 1974 L T (Tom) Richardson retires.
- 1975 Charlie Goffet retires.
- 1975-1976 Vic Webber is Relieving Headmaster.
- 1975-1978 There is intense construction activity to make the new Waratah High School.
- 1976 NGHS and Hunter High amalgamated.
- First musical record produced by the School, "Red on Blue", featuring jazz band, string quartet and brass band.
- 1977 First Year 12 (formerly referred to as sixth form).
- 1978 June; NBHS completes its metamorphosis (by Government decree) to WHS by the removal of the name "Newcastle Boys' High School" from the front of the school, and its replacement with "Waratah High"; this sparks a "sit-in revolt" by Year 12 students.
- The last students, who enrolled at NBHS, complete their schooling (with Waratah High School references).
- David Wells, the last School Captain, who attended the school from 1973-1978 inclusive, said: "We as students were always being told that we had to start new standards, leaving the old behind and go forward with a deeper interest in Waratah High. They did not realise that we at NBHS wanted to keep up 'our own standards' and work towards our own traditions, something that the governing body did not seem to understand. To be able to finish off the NBHS spirit, just as we had started, was the feeling of the students, which was shown throughout the last years of the old school. *Spirit does not end with the change in a school's name; it lives on within all those students whom it touched.*"
- 1981 Ben and Margaret Timmins (school tuck shop) retire.
- Note 1: The following appeared in the Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate on Saturday 30 July 1932, under the heading 'The City's Disgrace':
- "A gentle reminder that the proposed Newcastle Boys' High School building is still in the 'blue print' stage was given by the Headmaster (Mr C. H. Christmas) yesterday, when he advised visiting footballers not to judge Newcastle by Hunter Street or by its railway approach. 'Have a good look around,' he said 'but for heaven's sake do not come near my school. It is the only place that is a disgrace to Newcastle.'"