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THE HISTORY OF THE NEWCASTLE HIGH SCHOOL

*Stephen Date*

For many years prior to 1906 it was necessary to travel to Maitland in order to gain a High School education. The existing schools there were the historic Grossman House and the East Maitland Boys' High School which was at that time under the Headmastership of R.J.Hinder, Esq. This was extremely costly and inconvenient as travel fares in those times were far from cheap. In 1905, pressure was levelled at the Department of Public Instruction by the Mayor and citizens of Newcastle for a High School in Newcastle itself. It was decided eventually that to save money and time, the buildings of the failing Newcastle Superior Public School would be suitable for use as a High School. The enrolment of the N.S.P.S had dropped drastically since it's construction owing to the opening of other schools in the immediate area. It had been constructed in 1879. At first the school was split down the centre by a paling fence and the Public School students were on one side and the High School pupils were on the other. The staff was appointed in June 1906. The 'Head' was C.R.Smith, M.A. and his Assistants were T.T.Roberts, B.A. and Miss L.Cole. The first enrolment was 28 students and by the end of the year had risen to 95. The number of classrooms allotted to the High School was three and the front office was occupied by the Headmaster and his assistants. The corridor outside this was used as a cloakroom. The opening of the Newcastle High School took place in July 1906 in the two rooms known as room one and room two. The guests present included the then Bishop of Newcastle (his sons attended the school) Dr Stretch, Alfred Edden, Esq., M.L.A., P.Board, Esq., Director of Education, Mr.W.Cann, Mr.G.Dick and Senior Inspector Beavis. In his address to the people present, Mr Beavis emphasised the need for a great school to grow in tradition and success i.e; the school is what YOU make it!

In late 1906, a competition was inaugurated to devise a suitable motto for the school. The result was disappointing and the students were disinterested which resulted on Mr Smith asking Dr Stretch for his help. Dr Stretch suggested the motto 'Remis Velisque' - 'With sails and oars' or with all one's might. With only three classrooms being used by the High School it was necessary to place two classes in one room. A special class was formed for Junior pupils studying for the Junior Examination in 1907. There were at that time fears and doubts as to their success but ten out of thirteen were successful. Mr Roberts was transferred to Sydney and was replaced by mess'rs Chas.Christmas, B.A. and the first Science Master Mr.T.Flynn. As the Science Laboratory was at that time not sufficiently equipped, the science classes made use of the Technical College facilities. Meanwhile the Science Master travelled between Maitland and Newcastle High Schools and only taught science to the

*Hard first few years*  
 - sharing quarters (fewer)  
 - constant change of staff  
 - no money spent on school or grounds  
 - deterioration in condition of grounds  
 - effect of war

*Several occup.*  
 a) to help boys & girls  
 b) - ... Study for primary

This heavily edited but extremely informative document was found while cataloguing the briefing material used by Audrey Armitage in preparing her book 'Newcastle High School - The First 75 Years. It appears to have been contributed by Stephen Date, an Old Boy.

*although helped discipline  
 no. of old boys & girls came back as  
 teachers - knew about the bell in  
 floor of one classroom.  
 "Even boys out!"*

probationary students (i.e. students intending to become departmental teachers). In 1907 the first Annual Sports' Meeting was held. The events were keenly contested and were witnessed by a large number of spectators. The first Speech-Night was held on December 18th 1907 and was Chaired by Inspector Beavis. It was held in the school science room.

In 1908 the staff was increased to four with the addition of Mlle J. Niau. Miss Niau was transferred to Sydney and a Miss Mitchell replaced her. The enrolment remained stationary. The 'Junior' Exam result was fourteen passes out of sixteen candidates. Four passes were achieved in the 'Senior' and five Teachers College Scholarships were won. The School also had a thriving football and cricket clubs. Matches were played regularly against the Maitland teams and an occasional match was played against a visiting team from Sydney. The girls had tennis matches on a rough court in the school grounds. In this year a School Library was formed which is said to have consisted of over 300 volumes but this library dwindled greatly and diminished to the point of non-existence by 1920. Funds were provided for this Library by subscriptions from the pupils along with some assistance from some of the leading citizens. In those days a Major Mulholland would visit the school and give instruction to the pupils in drill. In that year also the Manual Training Room (which was one of the present portables) was built but no master was appointed until 1909.

In 1909 the enrolment had risen to 131. A new Science Master, MR. E. Mc Kinnon, B.Sc replaced Mr Flynn, and the new members of staff were Mess'rs J.W. Hayes, M.A and Mr. J.T. McMiles, B.A. The Junior pass was 18 passes out of 19 candidates; with twelve matriculants. The Senior Exam results were five passes with four matriculants and two with honours. There were eleven Teachers College Scholarships awarded. The third school Sports meeting was held on November 3rd. A team of footballers under the charge of Mr Hayes. Two matches were played one against Fort Street which resulted in defeat, and the other against a combined team which was a Newcastle victory. The Manual Training building first saw use in 1909 with lessons in manual training being given to the probationary students by Mr. W.E. Jones who can lay claim to being the first Manual Teacher at Newcastle High. The work ~~was~~ produced by these classes was exhibited at the Public Schools' Exhibition held in Newcastle.

The Ex-Pupils' Union was also a feature of 1909. It folded up after Mr. Smith's departure however. An Annual Dinner was held every year during the Christmas holidays and the President was the Headmaster. Attendances at these dinners were often very large.

In 1910 the enrolment was 160. Miss Cole transferred to Sydney and was replaced by Miss Niau who had returned from overseas. Mr P.W. Hallett, B.A. joined the staff. The Junior Exam result was 22 passes out of 23 candidates - 9 matriculants and three Commercial Junior passes. Chas. Harrison was awarded the medal for geometry. Eighteen out of twenty-five candidates achieved Teachers College Scholarships and Miss Rose Brown came third in the list of candidates' State. In the Senior Exam, twelve candidates sat and all passed with seven matriculants. In sport a victory was had over Maitland High School in the football competition. A supper was held by the football club to celebrate and

\* prizes as eagerly sought :  
see Smith's memo

it was attended by Mr Inspector Walker and Mr Burgess of Maitland Boys' High School. The fourth sports meeting was held as usual and a great enthusiasm was shown by the attendance of spectators at this event.

The enrolment in 1911 was 209. The Newcastle Superior Public School ceased to exist and the whole school was given to Newcastle High. Mr. C.H. Christmas, B.A. left the staff and was replaced by Mr. H. Cowie, B.A.; Miss Spence and Mess'rs R. Edwards and A.M. Smith joined the staff as well. The Junior Exam results were 25 passes out of 27 candidates, 13 matriculants, 17 Teachers College Scholarships out of 22. In this exam Miss Doris Raysmith came equal first in the State. Three sat for the Senior Exam and all passed. In the competition Football and Cricket matches all teams won the rubber. The girls' tennis team was very successful in matches against other schools. The fifth sports meeting was held on 11th October.

In 1912 the enrolment was over 300. This was not as much of a worry as previously because of the extra rooms left by the Public School. The staff was enlarged once again with the arrival of Mr F.J. Heatley, M.A., M.Sc. as Science Master and R.J. McNiven as his assistant; Mr. David Scoular, B.A., Ll.B., and Mr. B. Schleicher, M.A. to the Classics department; R.F. Harvey, B.A. as Languages Master and C.D. Brown, F.C.I. as Master in charge of business principles. In the last Junior Exam, Basil Helmore wins the University Prize for general proficiency among male candidates. All 24 candidates were successful.

During the Michaelmas Vacation a group of boys from Taree High School visited Newcastle and were hosted by some of the Senior Students of the school. They were taken on a harbour tour and visited the Nobbys light house. They then played a game of football which resulted in a Newcastle High School victory by 9 to 3. In 1912 there were eleven forms divided between the existing rooms in the main building and the two portables provided earlier by the department. Where the present Science Demonstration Room now is was a tiny room which served as a latrine. In October 1912 the number one edition of the 'Novocastrian' was edited. It had a blue cover featuring a photograph of the school with three large Waratah flowers shown above it. It was 32 pages in volume and was edited by J.W. Hayes. Also in mid-year Mr Hayes was appointed as the school's first Deputy Headmaster. Towards August, Mr R.G. Henderson, M.A. joined the staff.

The year 1913 witnessed the founding of two new clubs to cater for the students; The Glee Club and the Debating Club. The Patron Master of the Glee Club was F.J. Heatley, M.A. and a performance of 'Hamlet' was held in the Science Room in October. The Debating Club was presided over by Mr Hayes and two of its members - G.R. Scott and V.H. Walker - were destined to return to N.H.S. in later years as masters. A complete set of current school text-books were placed in the lending library during June. Also at a meeting of all boys it was unanimously decided that a subscription of 7/6 per annum would be paid by each boy to cover sports, journals and library. Swimming was held for the girls at the Bogey Hole and mixed tennis matches were held on Friday afternoons. With cricket a 'staff vs pupils' match was held with R.F. Harvey as captain of the staff team. The staff team won.

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announced in the December 1913 edition of the 'Novocastrian' (Vol.2, No 1) is the quest for a ~~man~~ School Song. Printed with it was the University song 'Gaudeamus Igitur'. This competition was won by Mr R.G.Henderson, M.A. with his suggestion to the tune 'Dye Ken John Peel', 'Dye ken the school on the hill so high, bravely facing the wind and the sky'. The first verse is dispensed with after the move to Waratah but verses two and three are still the original ones.

In 1914 a new Languages Master was appointed to replace R.F.Harvey who had journeyed to France. Mr.P.Murphy, B.A was his replacement and Misses Herlihy, B.A and G.Brewin, B.A joined the staff. Also Mr C.H.Hudson was appointed to assist Mr C.Brown in the Business Principles department. The Novocastrian which had previously appeared four times yearly was enlarged in size and content (52 pages) and now only appeared twice a year. In football the school's 'A' team was defeated in four matches by Maitland (twice), Fort Street and Taree High Schools but defeated the Maitland team at Newcastle later in the year by 21-5. Mixed tennis matches were held on the school courts under the direction of Mr A.M.Smith every Friday afternoon. A tennis tournament was held in the half-year and the winner was Enid Collins who was presented with a prize of 5 shillings. The school cricket team was extremely disappointed when it was given the low-ground oval at Broadmeadow instead of the Newcastle Cricket Ground which its matches were to be played. Messrs Gibson and Henderson retained the cricket teams for 1914. A trip to Taree was arranged for the football team but they were defeated thoroughly by Taree.

The year 1915 was the beginning of the war years for Newcastle High. The entry of Australia into World War one meant that many ex-students of the school would be enlisting into the Armed Forces. A list of these was featured in the May 1915 'Novocastrian' (Vol.5, No 1) and the names were G.Smith - killed in action, Lt.T.L.Cadell - killed in action at Gallipoli, T.Beveridge, A.Chalmers, L.Connor, D.Fraser, D.Horne, E.Jones, Kilpatrick, Lt.R.May, E.Mulvey, T.Prince, F.Sharpe. New members of the teaching staff were Messrs J.H.Killip, B.A, A.L.Nairn, B.A., F.R.G.S., J.Monk, B.Sc and misses A.G.Long and M.H.Livingston, M.A. The Annual Swimming Carnival was held at Newcastle Baths with Messrs Hayes and Killip as judges. Miss B.Rouse was awarded a medal for the 100 metres with the time of 1 min., 20 seconds. Only one cricket match was played against Maitland High but it resulted in defeat. A tennis match against Maitland High was held at Maitland which also resulted in defeat. In the 'Novocastrian' of May 1915, the first mention of the state of the school playground appears. According to a report by a student, the lower playing area near the wall was full of dangerous ruts possibly due to soil erosion. In June 1915, the first Headmaster, Mr Charles R.Smith, M.A announced his appointment as Headmaster of North Sydney Boys' High School. A luncheon was held to farewell 'Caesar' Smith and was attended by many of his ex-students. Mr.W.Williams, B.A was appointed Headmaster and resumed his duties after Mr.Smith's departure. Mr.A.M.Smith of the staff left for the front in April, 1915 and he was followed by J.H.Killip who enlisted in early 1916. Mr R.J.McNiven, B.A was wounded at the front. Miss Herlihy was transferred to Fort Street and was duly replaced by Miss Gallagher. More old Novocastrians were to fight for King and Country overseas. No fewer than 26 old boys were in the services by Christmas 1915. A ceremony was held at the school in late 1915 to unveil the portraits of those old boys

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who had fallen in France or the Dardenelles. This ceremony was presided over by the Lord Mayor, Alderman Kilgour and the portraits were unveiled by Dr. Nickson, Dr. N. J. Dunlop, F. G. Adrian, Esq., W. A. Winn, Esq. The portraits were dedicated to the memory of Lts T. Cadell and F. Smith and Corporals Mulvey and P. Morrissey. The consuls for France, Russia and the Dean of Newcastle, Rev. H. K. Archdall were also present.

The schools first 'magic lantern' device for showing slides was ordered from England in early 1915. It was also decided that in 1916 a school tuckshop would be operating. A playnight was held in the science room by members of the Glee Club. Funds gathered were put towards the 'magic lantern'. As well as the Glee Club, a school choir was formed by Mr. P. L. Murphy, B.A. One innovation not previously mentioned was the school badge which originally appeared in 1913. It was made from silver and engraved with the school motto in a crest shape. The Prefects' badges (the first group of School Prefects were appointed that year) was also silver but was of a circular shape with an enamelled crest on it and was worn on the watch-chain or coat lapel. Girls' swimming was held at the Bogey Hole and the tennis championship was won by Ida Saunders. A boys vs girls cricket match was held in the lower playground which was won by the boys.

In the year 1916 at Newcastle High a school tuckshop was established and operated by the students themselves. This was located 'under the arches' which until recently was still used for the same purpose. The area under arches was not bricked in at that stage and flies were always rife. The first student managers of this tuckshop were Miss D. Chadwick and C. Preston. This tuckshop had folded up entirely by 1920 and pupils purchased their lunch from the local shop. Mr R. G. Henderson, M.A re-established the school library in room 8 with the assistance of two library prefects. A group of sub-prefects was appointed as well as the prefects to help maintain 'law and order'. Miss M. Joseph replaced Miss H. Livingston as mistress in the Languages Department. Thirty three old boys had enlisted and were now in France serving their country. Newcastle High school's cricket team was allowed to enter the N.D.P.S.S.A (Newcastle District Public Schools Sports Association) which signified that it could now play matches against the local Public Schools. The firsts Cricket team played Wickham and Hamilton and defeated both teams. A soccer football team was formed and successfully defeated Maitland by 5 - 3. The quarterly sports meeting for term 1 was held on the 31st of March, 1916. Mess'rs Murphy and Gibson acted as judges and in the challenge events against Maitland High Newcastle was greatly successful. The annual swimming carnival was held at the Ocean Baths on March 16th at 2 P.M. The first Northern District Combined Schools Swimming Carnival was held on the 24th of March. Six events were won by Newcastle High. Another exercise introduced mainly for the girls' benefit in 1916 was the purchase of several skipping ropes which were in use in the playground. During September 1916, Mr. C. Hudson who had been assistant master in the art & business principles department enlisted in the army and left for France. He was replaced by Mr. W. F. Piper, A.M.R.C.L and Miss W. H. Lipscomb, B.A., B.Ed. Also Miss J. H. Niau went on leave to Sydney. The 'Great Push' on the Somme resulted in the deaths of three old boys - Sgts R. Kilpatrick, Ernest Jones and Private A. Smith. Obituaries for these brave men appear in the 'Novocastrian' of December 1916. As a replacement for Miss Niau, Mme. M. Bulteau was appointed.

Efforts to make the school a cohesive one

- School spirit  
prefects badge

" duties up. last one.

At a special assembly in June 1917, tribute was paid to the memory of Captain Clarence S. Jeffries, V.C who had fallen in action at Passchendaele in France. Mr Williams explained briefly the history of the Victoria Cross and a moments silence was observed by all. By 1918, seventy five old boys of Newcastle High were in action overseas and ten had already fallen out of that number. The staff was consistent during 1917 and there was only one change with Mr. B. Schleicher, M.A who went to Sydney High School and his position was taken by the Headmaster, Mr. Williams. A Remove form and a Remove Commercial form were introduced, the latter being placed under the control of C.E. Brown, Esq. A concert was held in the Science Room to raise money for the Red Cross and especially the Red Cross Field Ambulance Service operating in France. The female students were encouraged to darn socks which were then sent to the men in the services. So much enthusiasm was shown that a large stock of field grey wool was kept in the Masters Common-Room. Speech-Night 1917 was held in the Central Hall and the Chairman was Mr T. Mitchell of the Technical College.

The year 1918 saw the approaching peace in France. Mess'rs P.L. Murphy and W.J. Monk and Miss Lipscomb were transferred to Sydney and Maitland respectively. The female students' 'wool brigade' sent in to the depot 80 pairs of socks and at the time of publishing of the 'Novocastrian' June issue, 70 pairs were still being made. Another old boy, Jack Donald, was killed in action after only being in France three days on June 2nd. An Empire Day Concert was held in the Science Room on May 24th. It consisted of a series of songs sung by the school and addresses by prominent civic figures. On September 5th 1918, the Governor, Sir Walter Davidson, and Lady Davidson were visitors to the school. A special assembly was held and after the National Anthem, the Governor addressed the assembly. 'You are here for the purpose of acquiring knowledge which you will carry for the rest of your life; your education is not intended for the actual knowledge gained, but to train your mind so that all through our lives you will be capable of taking and enjoying knowledge' was the theme of the Governor's address. A day's holiday was given to the school by the Governor who was in turn given three cheers by the school. The fourth annual concert was held on the 6th November at the Central Hall. The school choir, under the direction of Mr Gibson, presented a number of items and two recitations were heard. The play 'Blind Man's Bluff' was performed which was followed by a cornet duet and the play 'The Grey Heron'. The money raised by the concert was donated to the Jack's Day fund. The Athletics Sports Meeting was held on the 16th of October 1918 forty two events were held. In league football, five medals were presented to the best players in the 'A' team. In soccer, the school split into four teams and played matches similar to today's House football. The junior team defeated Maitland in three out of four games.

The year 1919 saw the return of all N.H.S old boys from overseas. A small circular was despatched to parents and citizens of Newcastle requesting for small donations to help pay for a Roll of Honour in memory of those who fell and as a monument to those who served in the war. Mr. W. Williams, B.A after four years as Headmaster, was transferred to Sydney. His place as Headmaster was taken by Mr. George C. Saxby, B.A who had previously been Headmaster at Maitland Boys High and Orange High School and who had taught at the old Sydney High School in the mid-1890's as an assistant Master.

Other changes in staff were the Deputy Headmaster, Mr. J.W. Hayes, M.A who had been promoted to Headmaster of the Cowra District School having been at Newcastle High since 1909 and having coached the first sport teams, and Mr F.J. Heatley, M.A., M.Sc who had been Master of Science since 1912. Mr W.L. Hammond, B.Sc was their replacement master. Miss Niau retired owing to ill health, and Miss Joseph also left the staff. They were replaced by Misses Watson, Black and B. Bootle respectively. <sup>87</sup>old-boys were still in France awaiting their return. The first Newcastle High School fifth year class had sat for the first fifth form Leaving Certificate in 1918. Honours were obtained by C.H. Miller, D.R. Blakemore, S. Riley, L. Israel, F. Firkin, U. Dawson, and J. Stinson. Also in 1918 a small Cadet Corps was founded and operated for a short time. Unfortunately it was not equipped with rifles or uniforms. In 1919 a committee was formed to decide all matters pertaining to the Swimming Carnivals. Mr A. Nairn was the Organiser and the secretary and Representative were G. Johnson and J. Cooksey. The Annual Athletics Carnival was held at the Showground on 2nd April, 1919. There were 15 silver medals awarded to the winners of the individual heats. The school was visited by Mr James the Minister of Education who had been a pupil in the Newcastle Superior Public School of twenty years before. He was asked by the students about the possibility of Newcastle gaining a new High School but answered in the negative because of a lack of funds. Also during the years 1918-19 the small hatroom which faced out onto Sydney Street (Tyrrell Street) was demolished and a Science room was built on the site of it. Also the ~~high~~ large and tall gothic 'pencil' chimneys which had long graced the Newcastle High School were torn down. The cadet detachment of the school was inspected by the area officer, Captain McMeikan, during a whole-day parade. A set of lockers was given to the school by the Department of Education for the use of the students. New staff members for 1919 were Mr W.H. Dive, B.A and Misses C. Watson, D.A, M. Bulteau and L.G. Whiteoak, B.Sc. Miss E. Ross, B.Sc joined the Science staff. A joint social re-union was held in Sydney by ex-students of Newcastle and Maitland High Schools in December 1919 which is reported to have been a success. A fourth year picnic and a number of beach teas are also reported to have been successful. An extremely unusual swimming carnival was held at the Ocean Baths. Visitors from Sydney High, Fort Street, North Sydney Boys' High, and Cleveland Street Intermediate were to total 64 visitors who were billeted by friends or members of the school.

In 1920 Mr W.L. Hammond, B.Sc was promoted to Headmaster of Broken Hill High School. Mr. Alexander Nairn, M.A., F.R.G.S of the maths staff was promoted to fill his place. Misses Batty, Long, Brewin and Mr W. Dive were transferred to other schools and replaced by Misses Martin and Segart and Mess'rs A.D. Fraser, B.A., A.W. Hemeleers and N.R. Hearn, B.Sc previously a member of staff in 1912. A set of Commercial Encyclopaedias were purchased for the school library. Three class libraries for the Remove classes were established. In 1920 the Old Newcastle Union which had folded up in years past was re-established. An ex-pupils' Social was held on December 19th 1919 at the Masonic Hall, Hamilton. Mr R.G. Henderson managed the Social and sold tickets. It received an excellent attendance. On the 18th of June 1920, an ex-students' Dance was held in the Lyceum Hall and was also a success.

*Late Apr ?*

The school tuckshop which had operated since 1917 was closed because of the huge expense encountered in purchasing supplies for it. A camera club was started for photography enthusiasts. A school concert was held on August 26th at the Central Hall. This was a great success and a large audience was present. Cricket matches were played against Maitland High and it resulted in defeat. Inter-team matches were held and the results were varied. A cricket team for junior boys was begun which encouraged competition greatly. The ninth annual Athletics Carnival was held on September 8th at the Showground. The attendance was fair and the events were well contested. A farewell Social was held for the Fourth Year in the St Andrews Hall on November 24th. Mr. Saxby presented prizes to the form captains and one of the captains presented a beautiful flag to the school. The Newcastle High School Sports Union Constitution was set out at a school assembly in July 1920.


Changes of staff for the year 1921 were few. Miss Johnson, B.A., B.Ed. was appointed as the school's first Supervisor of Girls. Miss G. Brewin, B.A. returned from leave and Mr M. Geddes, B.A. was transferred to the Maitland Boys' High School. Misses Blacklock, Dootle, M. Campbell, and Miss M. Black left the staff and were replaced by Misses Z. Lewis, B.A., M. E. Nicholls, B.A., H. Crisford, B.A., and Mr C. S. Yarwood, M.A. An ex-pupils' Social was held in the Central Hall and a second form beach tea was held. In the 1920 Leaving Certificate Exams, Honours were achieved by E. Nelson, E. Scholes, D. Toll, F. W. Vizzard, F. W. Cassidy, M. Hunt and D. Sharp. In the Intermediate Exam, best passes were G. M. Cook, E. Dawkins, A. C. Gray, M. Kinder, M. H. Millard, L. J. Quilkey and C. B. Riley. The girls' basketball played one match against an ex-students' team which resulted in even honours. A separate swimming carnival was held for the girls at the Ocean Baths on Wednesday March 23rd 1921. The school's baseball team was re-introduced after many years of non-existence and inter-form baseball matches were held on Fridays. In June 1921, a meeting of the ex-students association was held. It was decided that the union would be known henceforth as the 'Old Novocastrians' Association'. A subscription was fixed at 5 shillings per year for all members which included copies of the 'Novocastrian'. A couple of small Socials were held in Brown Street at which refreshments were had and games played. Another social was held on August 29 at the Parish Hall which was patronised by many Old Novocastrians at that time attending the university. A ball was held at the 'Oddfellows' Hall on September 8th for which an orchestra was hired. This was also well attended. A beach tea was arranged for October 15th but the attendance was small. A Fourth Year Farewell was held on 11th November at the Parish Hall which was Chaired by G. C. Saxby, B.A. - Headmaster.

The official unveiling of the school's Roll of Honour was held on 25th April 1922. The ceremony was a very short one and because of the absence of Mr. Bruntnell, Minister of Education, it was chaired by Mr. Chas. R. Smith, M.A. the first Headmaster. The marble tablet containing the names of all old-boys who served in the war was unveiled by Mrs. Jeffries, mother of the late Captain C. S. Jeffries, V.C. The Memorial was the work of Messrs Meldrum & Markey, stonemasons and was the result of a design by David Scoular, B.A., LL.B., Classics Master. The best passes in the Leaving Certificate for 1921 were R. J. Cochrane, M. E. Roger



and F.E.Helmore. The best passes in the Intermediate were E.G.Bell, C.L.Drake, D.C.Horne and C.Scobie. Mr David Scoular wrote another school song in Latin but it was never adapted for use by the school. Mr N.R.Hearns was transferred and replaced by Mr T.J.Clyne, B.A., A.S.T.C. Speech Day 1921 was presided over by Mr W.J.Elliot, M.A Senior Inspector of secondary schools. This featured the presentation of prizes by Mr Elliot, an address by Mr Saxby and several musical items. The Debating Society was resumed after having folded up years before. The first debate was held in July 1922 and the topic was 'Should German goods be allowed into Australia?'. It was decided in this first debate that 'No German goods should be allowed into Australia'. Misses Johnson, and G.Brewin left and were replaced by Misses Whitelaw, Swan and A.E.Turner (an old girl of N.H.S) the latter as Supervisor of girls. A framed portrait of Captain R.W.Howard, M.C who had been reported as missing in action during the war was presented by his parents. A school verses Old Newcastle cricket match held in September was won by the old boys. A staff versus pupils match was played and the best play was from the Headmaster (G.C.Saxby) and Mr C.Yarwood. The staff won by 29 runs in the first innings. At the Northern High Schools Athletics Meeting held at the Showground on September 6th, the schools present were Newcastle High, Cooks Hill Intermediate, Hamilton Inter, and Singleton Intermediate High. Newcastle High won the Senior Grade and Singleton the junior grade. Inter-school tennis matches with the Maitland Boys' High School resulted in defeat on both occasions. The Empire Park Commercial Courts were rented to the school for a small fee. Games with Wickham and Cooks Hill were victories for the N.H.S tennis players. A visit by Parramatta resulted in defeat for Newcastle High. A return match was played in Sydney and both Rugby teams drew. A visit from Armidale High also resulted in a 'licking' for N.H.S. The girls' tennis team, however, defeated both Parramatta and Armidale soundly. The Dramatic Society performed 'Seven Letters and a Postscript' at the St Andrews Hall.

The year 1923 saw several changes in the staff. Mess'rs C.S.Yarwood, M.A and A.W.Hemeleers were transferred and so were Misses K.Murray, Ph.D and M.Campbell, B.A. They were replaced by Mess'rs A.Y.Jennings, B.A B.King, and Misses P.Smith, B.A K.O'Rourke, B.A and M.Stafford, B.A. Also Mr.H.Walker, M.A left after being a member of staff for eleven years. A trip to Armidale was organised for the sports teams. The trip was a success as the firsts won the rugby match by 11-5. In athletics the school won the C.H.S championship and the P.S.A.A.A Cup with 15 and one half points, exactly one half point above Fort Street. The captain of the athletics team was J.Arthur and Mr J.Gibson, B.A was the coach. This was possibly the best sporting year for Newcastle High School as the team that travelled to Taree to compete for the Hooke Cup, won it. A telegram from Mr Gibson stated, "Won cup, becoming a habit". S.McKay also won a medal for his performance in the 880 yards championship. Also during the athletics season Maitland High School visited Newcastle and won once again. At the close of the meeting the points were; Maitland - 38, Newcastle - 25. The school also played Maitland in cricket but were beaten by Maitland by 7 wickets for 178 to 83. Also Mr.R.G.Henderson, M.A who had been a member of staff since 1912 was promoted elsewhere and replaced by Mr C.H.Harrison, O.B.E, M.C., M.A. The year 1923 also marked the arrival of the new 'tuckshop on wheels'.



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Poem  
Blag  
Mr A. Tuttle was allowed by the Headmaster to drive his small waggon laden with sweets and confectionary into the upper playground. Thus the problem of a tuckshop was solved, temporarily at least. The school fees for the beginning of 1924 were to be £2/2/0 per quarter.

During the early part of 1924 some renovations were performed to the main building and the portable classrooms. A new floor was added to one classroom and some new desks and cupboards were added. A new fence was placed on the eastern side of the school to replace the old wrought iron fence which had rusted almost completely away. Mess'rs Jennings, Harrison and Clyne were transferred as well as Misses O'Rourke, E. Ross. Mr W. Pillans, B.A., B.Sc succeeded Mr Clyne as Master of Science with Miss L.A. Skinner, B.Sc., Dip.Ed as his assistant and Mr J.E. Ireland, B.A., B.Ed joined the English Staff. Miss D. Michel was appointed as the school's first P.E instructor and Mr H. Brayden, B.A was appointed to the Classics staff. The enrolment at the beginning of term one was 430 pupils. At the Speech-Day held on the 22nd of February, Mr Saxby complained of the buildings in which the school was housed. He mentioned that during the recent school inspection, all of the inspectors agreed that the school was in need of new buildings and said as much. But Mr Saxby sadly noted that the same remarks had been made by school inspectors in the observation book for the years 1915, 1918 and 1921 as well. For the Intermediate Exam, 75 pupils sat and 60 gained their certificates. Two University Bursaries were gained. For the Leaving, 49 pupils sat and 45 gained their certificates, fifteen with honours. With regards to athletics Mr Gibson was instrumental in gaining the use of the National Park Sports Ground for training his teams. Mr F. Luckham very generously donated to the school an enlarged photograph of the Hooke Cup team which was displayed in 'Novocastrian' December 1923. The boys' tennis teams played against Cooks Hill and won but was defeated by Maitland. Also on the subject of athletics, two medals were donated to encourage competition in the junior events and an entry fee was charged during meetings to raise money for a stop-watch. A boys' and girls' swimming carnival was held in early 1924 but they were held separately. Also during that year Mr Bernard King of the Modern Languages Staff donated a cup in memory of his late daughter, Margeurite King. This was used in junior competitions. It was won by 1 A.C boys in 1924. In June 1924 a performance was made by the Dramatic Society to raise funds for the newly established school wireless club. Scenes were presented from 'Abraham Lincoln' and 'Julius Caesar' and some musical selections were performed by Miss D. Baile. £6 4s was raised by the playnight and an additional sum of £5 3s 9d was raised by the 4B class in some market days held at the school. Also acknowledged were £1 from a Mrs Clack and 5s from Tuttle's Ice-cream Factory. A number of Hospital Days were held during 1924 to raise money for the local hospitals. £24 6s was raised also in Market Days. Miss Michel the P.E instructor left and was replaced by Miss Bird. A Re-Union Club was successfully formed between Newcastle and Maitland High Schools in Sydney. Two dances were held and were well patronised.

14.  
An assembly was held to farewell the fifth year students. Speeches were delivered by representatives of the 4th and 5th year classes and an address was given by Mr Saxby. At the girls' athletics carnival; the school succeeded in winning the Wilberbear Cup. Mr A.J.Coombes, B.A was appointed English Master. A large number of new books were added to the school library by a number of students. A Ju-jitsu display was given by the boys to aid the wireless club. £4 14 s was raised.

At the end of December, it was announced that Mr G.C.Saxby, B.A was to assume the post of Headmaster at his old school, Sydney High. His successor was to be Mr Francis McMullen, M.A from Maitland Boys' High.

The £2/2/- school fee was lowered in 1925 by order of the Department of Education. Mr J.Gibson, B.A was transferred to Sydney and his place in the Mathematics staff was taken by Mr V.H.Walker, B.A an old boy of the school. Also Mr H.Brayden was transferred elsewhere. Mr McMullen was popular as a Headmaster but his stay was very brief. The separate swimming carnivals were held at the Newcastle Baths. The 'Old Novocastrians' Association held two dances early in 1925 but folded up completely later in that year. Inter-School sports were held against Maitland Boys' High but were all defeats. A set of three book cupboards was purchased for the school library.

The changes of staff for 1926 were Miss M.Champion succeeded Miss O. Dall as music teacher and Miss L.Dalgleish succeeded Miss Bird. Also Miss D.Martin was transferred and replaced by Mr G.R.Scott, M.A an old boy. Miss L.Giles succeeded Miss Turner and Mr R.K.Scott, B.A was appointed to replace Mr A.J.Coombes, as English Master. The School Football team was victorious over Maitland Boys' High School in the Dimmock Shield Competition but when it came to the presentation of the shield, Maitland could not find it! In May, Mr McMullen left to take up an appointment at the Technical High School in Paddington. His successor as Headmaster was Mr Robert F.Harvey, B.A who had previously (1912-1913) held the post of Master of Languages at Newcastle High. Mr Harvey was not as popular as his predecessor but did much to improve the academic standing of the School. His attempts to change the school badge and colours and his institution of a severe set of rules were not appreciated.

The 'Novocastrian' of term one 1927 was a much larger one than its previous editions. The school patronised the printing firm of Pogonoski as an alternative to McLuckie and Morriss who had printed the 'Novo' since 1912. It featured 88 pages and several large plates. At this same time several rumours were spreading about the purchase of the land on which Newcastle Girls' High School now stands. Mr T.D.Mutch, Minister of Education, had promised the construction of Newcastle Boys' High on that site in late 1926. The cost was estimated at that time to be £70,000. Agitation for a Newcastle High School Parents and Citizens Association was also begun. The enrolment for 1927 was 540 students with 15 classes and 14 classrooms. These had an average of 38 students per class at that time. The staff lost the services of Misses Smith, Gombert, Crisford and Whitecak and of the Languages Master Mr A.Fraser. New staff members were Mess'rs A.Evans, B.Sc, L.D.Woodward, M.A, J.Gibbes

new  
Schools  
planned

B.A and Mr A.L.Nairn, B.A was replaced by Mr W.Hatfield, B.A., B.Sc as Deputy Headmaster. Mr F.C.Wootton, M.A was appointed Language Master and Misses D.Nichol, M.Graham, J.Lemm and G.Cowell also joined the staff. The Headmaster's office was re-decorated and new linoleum placed on the floor. Several pictures were framed and hung around the walls and the furniture was re-arranged. The money for this renovation was raised by a display given by Mr Tate. There was no school uniform up to this period except a hat band on which was worn the school badge. A new one featuring red and blue horizontal stripes was introduced in 1927. A silver cup was donated by Mrs Gardner in memory of her son, Frank, and was first presented in November 1927 for the fifth form boy who showed 'great leadership qualities'. Also owing to lack of classrooms, many ~~stunna~~ children were refused enrolment at the school. Some parents even offered to donate desks and chairs for their children to sit on but these offers were refused. It was also mentioned at this stage that the school library had once again dwindled to a small pile of books. £ 20 were borrowed from Union Funds to purchase new books for the library. The Newcastle High School Union met on March 25th and the constitution was revised. An arrangement was made with the Newcastle City Council which allowed Newcastle High School sport teams use of the two turf wickets and one concrete wicket at National Park. Best passes for 1926 were - K.Williams - Intermediate, Francis Rundle - Leaving. Seven cricket teams were organised and matches were played against Marist Brothers and Maitland Boys' High School. Tennis was held at the Methodist Mission and Reid Park Courts. Swimming also featured greatly and a course in Life-Saving was taken by some students at Newcastle Baths. Boys' tennis was played at the Commercial Club Courts. Newcastle High won the Newcastle District Singles Championship for both 1926 and 1927. On June 3rd 1927 the Old Novocastrians' Union was re-formed. Mr R. Harvey, B.A was Patron, Mr B.Helmore was President and the Vice-Presidents were Mess'rs N.Cragg, E.Sara, G.Scott, V.Walker. A dance was held at the Lyceum Hall and at this a constitution was drafted for the Union. Another dance was held at the Cathedral Hall on August 17th and was attended by 250 people. Another branch of this Union was founded in Sydney with Mr J.Short and the first meeting was held on August 10th at the Sydney Teachers College. Another point which was often discussed by the students at this time was the state of the buildings at the school. The eastern paling fence which had replaced the old spiked fence ten years earlier was in a state of virtual collapse. Also the roof of the main building was a waterfall during every rain. Several floors were rotten and rat-holed and the Physical Education class did its exercises on a stone floor. During the middle of the year Mr Hatfield was promoted to Headmaster of Armidale High and his place was taken by Reg A.Page, B.A a great teacher of French and a brother of the Prime Minister, Sir Earle Page. During this same period, the early 'war cry' of the school, 'Nova, Nova, Nova - New' etc. was replaced by 'Boomalacka, Boomalacka, Bow, Now, Now'.

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Mr R. McNiven, B.Sc. was appointed to the position of Science Master to replace Mr Hatfield. A lady Doctor visited the school and gave an address on physical health and hygiene. The school sports day was held on August 19th and was well attended by both pupils and Old students. A meeting was held late in 1927 to implement the founding of a Parents & Citizens Association. It was proposed at this meeting that an annual subscription of 1/- be fixed. Sixty parents attended the meeting. The tuckshop operated by Mr Tuttle was only returning 10/- per week. In September Mrs R. Meillon, B.A. re-joined the staff having taught at the school as Miss Flynn in the early years of its existence. A new addition to the existing sport teams in 1927 was a girls' vigoro team.

The year 1928 saw the purchase of a new 'Gestetner' duplicator to replace the mimeograph previously in use. Misses Giles, Graham, Grady, Champion, and Mess'rs Ireland, G. Scott, R. Scott and A. Evans left the staff and were in turn replaced by Misses M. B. Henson, Crosby, Learmonth, and Mess'rs J. J. Forster, B.Sc., F. B. Jones, B.A., F. Fitzpatrick, W. D. Noakes, M.A. and B. H. Roberts, B.Sc. The enrolment for term one 1928 was 598 students and of those 316 were boys and 282 were girls. A set of reference books was ordered by the Headmaster for the school library and cost in excess of £ 10. Mr Sefton the Business College Principal gave a £ 2/2/- prize to the school and pledged to donate one every year. Another donation of an honour board was made to the school to be used to record the winners of the Gardiner Cup. Art work by members of the school was exhibited at the Farmer's and Grace Bros. Exhibition. At the Newcastle Show Art Exhibition the school gained 10 prizes for artwork by the pupils. The Minister of Education, Mr D. H. Drummond, M.L.A., visited the school on January 22nd. He also inspected the site of the proposed new school in Dumaresq Street, Hamilton. He described the buildings of the school on the hill as a 'blatant atrocity' but did not commit himself with any mention of the new buildings. A silver cup was presented by Mr. H. Dick to be used in competition for the girls' swimming carnival. It was first won by Le. Sullivan. Most cricket and football matches for 1928 were against Maitland Boys' High with the Firsts cricket team scoring a good victory. The Annual Sports Day was held on August 17th. The attendance was excellent and many parents and citizens of Newcastle attended including Alderman R. Christie, acting Mayor, Rev. A. R. McVittie, M.A., Mr J. Glassop, Town Clerk of Newcastle and Mr D. Jones who was president of the P & C association.

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A public appeal was launched in term 1, 1928 to obtain money for the school library and an equipment fund for the school. The P & C Association promised to raise £100. A frolic was held in the Palais Dance Hall on 19th July raised £45/10/8. On the annual sports day which was held at National Park on August 17th the P & C-ladies committee catered for the luncheon and a profit of £9/10/4 was made. An ice-cream stall also conducted by the P & C showed a profit of £3/15/6. Monthly meetings of the P & C were held at the Boltca St. Public School. Scholarships for students in 1928 were the Cooper Scholarship for Classics (no. 2), the Bowman Cameron Scholarship, the Freemasons' Scholarship, the Barker Scholarship and there were the Fairfax Prize and the John West and Graham medals. By this time it had become quite obvious that the school in Dumaresq Street would be neither co-educational nor a boys' high school as previously it was assumed. In the September 1928 edition of the 'Newcastle' it was made clear that the buildings were already designed and featured 16 classrooms and a splendid library. The assembly hall was at that time capable of seating 545 persons which was considered insufficient. A picture of the new school was published in the magazine with a complete floor plan.

Boys  
9  
There were several staff changes during term 2, 1928: the English Master Mr W.D. Noakes, M.A. was transferred to Sydney Boys' High School, Mr McNiven, B.Sc. was appointed to Deputy Head at Goulburn High and was replaced as master by Mr B.H. Roberts, B.Sc., Mr Roland H. Motte, B.I., D.A. was appointed to take Mr Reg Page's classes on his promotion to Deputy Headmaster elsewhere. However no Deputy Headmaster was appointed to replace Mr Page and the position was vacant. Mr H.M. Woodward, M.A. was appointed Master of English. In June 1928, a cyclone hit the school and partially destroyed two portable classrooms. For a short time, Mr J.H. Killip, B.A. was acting Deputy but was promoted to Headmaster of Mudgee. Also during 1928, repairs were carried out on the high school at a cost of £1,800. The school was repainted and a washbowl was added to the men's staffroom. It was mentioned for the first time in the term 2 1928 magazine that the new high school for boys would be built at Waratah and not at Hamilton as it was considered inadvisable to locate both new schools close to each other.

The year 1929 marked the last year of the co-educational Newcastle High School. Staff changes were: Miss M.D. Henson, B.A. went to Sydney and was replaced by Miss G. Brewin, B.A. (a former member of staff at N.H.S.) as Supervisor of Girls, Mr J. Gibson, B.A. was appointed as Deputy Headmaster. Misses J. Lema and L. Firth both transferred and were replaced by Misses B. Wilton and R. Trant-Fischer. Messrs A. Colville and B. Roberts were both promoted and were replaced by Messrs J.P. Austin, M.C., B.Sc. and G.L. Reid. An honour board was donated by Mr A. Waterer of the Maths staff to be used to record the winners of the Gardner Cup. Also framed photographs of Messrs C.R. Smith, M.A., W. Williams, B.A., and Francis McMullen, M.A. were donated to the school and hung in the Headmaster's office.

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Blags

The high school P & C Association had expended £40 on new library books and room in the old library presses was almost entirely taken up with the new additions. It was also mentioned in the 'Novocastrian' of term 1, 1929 that the ventilation in the school was pathetic. Several donations were given to the school for use as prizes for the Leaving Certificate Examination. These were given by Mrs. Alice Chichester. Also during term 1, 1929 a new water service was installed at the school, the old one being so corroded that no water could pass through it. As well as the poor ventilation and corroded water pipes the Department of Education only provided a barely adequate number of text-books. The annual swimming carnival was held at Newcastle Baths on March 14th. Good entries were received and competition was keen but in the boys' events the times were poor. The Newcastle Sun published photographs of the carnival free of charge. Representatives from the girls' swimming team swam at the N.H.S swimming carnival held at Domain Baths on March 3th. Boys' tennis was held under the direction of Mess'rs Jones, Motte and Roberts at the Reid Park and Commercial Club courts. In cricket only two Wednesday afternoon matches were played, both at the Sports Ground. The first match was vs. Maitland High School on February 27th and resulted in a loss and the second was a victory over the Tramway C.C.

By December 1929, the girls were already in their new school at Hamilton South. This school began under the guidance of Misses A.A. Brewster and L.Giles, M.A the latter having taught on the hill in 1926-7. Most of the female staff had transferred to the new school as well as Mr. V.F.Piper, Dip.R.A.C who transferred to the new school as Art Master. Other changes from the staff included Mr. J.Gibson, B.A who became Head of Armidale High, Mr.J.J.Forster, M.M., B.Sc who was promoted to Master elsewhere, Mr.F.B.Jones, B.A who went to Sydney High, Mr H.M.Woodward, M.A went to Maitland as Master, and Mr C.B.Lynch, B.A went to Canterbury. As a result of this, a large number of new masters were appointed: Mr.W.D. Ncokes, M.A as Deputy Headmaster, Mr. James W.Gibson, M.A as languages master; Mr R.A.Golding; B.A as Maths master, Mess'rs H.A.Jurd, B.Sc.; E.Ford, B.A., H.D.Kevans, B.A., T.Moroney, B.A., A.F.Henry, B.A., W.H.Judd, B.A., C.H.Black, B.Sc., T.R.Mason, B.Sc., R.J.Gillings, B.Sc., A.G.Aitken, B.Sc., J.D.Woolf, B.A., H.P.McCaffrey, B.A all joined the staff as assistant masters. The City Council made available the No 1 Sports Ground and Empire Park annually at the sum of £50 per year. The possibility of a new boys' high school was considered remote in 1930. A contract was arranged for the provision of some artistic fittings for the school library. Also an extra window was added to the library (room 3) and this also improved the ventilation. The school Speech Night took place at the new City Hall on Wednesday, 14th May at 7.45 p.m. An invitation was extended to the students of Newcastle Girls' High School to be present. At this function, it was announced that the sum of £89 was expended on the school reference library during the previous year. Also the old 'portable' mens' staffroom was relined and painted. Also it was anticipated that with the departure of the girls, the fourth year would number no more than 50 but in fact more than double this number were enrolled. Thus it was necessary to form an extra fourth form class.

In term one 1930 a special class was formed for boys who had not previously studied the subject. This was taught by the Languages Master Mr. J.W. Gibson, M.A. Also the old staffroom previously used by the female staff was turned into a store-room and an office for the Deputy Head, Mr Noakes. A send-off had been held for the 1929 fifth year students in the Central Hall on October 31st. Dr Idris Morgan of Newcastle Rotary Club addressed the students on this occasion. Another innovation to the school was the re-establishment of the school tuckshop in the area 'under the arches'. This area (when in use as a tuckshop in the late 19 war years) was open and previously flies and the fact that it was student operated led to its closure and the arrival of a commercial pie-wagon operated by Mr Tuttle. However when this was re-opened, the arches were bricked in to make the tuckshop more dry and hygienic. It was first operated by Mr & Mrs. Winney. The 1930 Sports' Day bog was held on Thursday 28th August. In term two, the school was faced with great difficulty in obtaining a sportsground for sportsday use. The £50 subsidy was withdrawn by the Department of Education and Waratah Council charged 6d instead of the earlier charge of 3d for batting fees. (It is interesting to note that some cricket matches of Newcastle High were played on the present site of Newcastle Boys' High). Published in the October 1930 'Novocastrian' was a photograph of the large valley at the rear of the school on the hill. It was suggested that for app. £6,000 the school might purchase this land (at that time used for the grazing of cows) and build it up into a fine playing field. The Headmaster, Mr R.F. Harvey, B.A., stated that in his opinion there was little likelihood of a Boys' High School being built - 'If I were to return to Newcastle in twenty years time there will still be no boys' high school'. Also at that time several trespassers were making a nuisance of themselves by breaking the school windows thus making a police guard necessary. Prizes for the school Speech Night were donated by Mrs. Alice Chichester, The Newcastle Business College, Mr Hepworth, The Old Novocastrians and Mr. J. Bridge. Mrs. Chichester Presented a set of volumes of encyclopaedias as the James and Elizabeth Meikle Memorial Prize. Within the 'Novocastrian' itself, a competition was begun where a camera was presented to the school by Mr R.H. Stewart a chemist for the boy who could find the most spelling errors in the magazine. Also a large number of photographs were featured in it for the first time. During the previous term a painting by Will Longstaff of 'Menin Gate at Midnight' was purchased and hung in the school library. The P & C Association paid for the instalment of a telephone in the staffroom.

1931 was the *most serious* year of the Great Depression. This did not prevent the addition of a new brick Headmaster's Office to take the place of the old sandstone one which had stood since 1879. The school drill lessons were discontinued and three extra portables were added to the school. The total enrolment for 1931 was 705 boys. New staff members were Mess'rs D. Short, B.A., M.S. Cannon, B.A., R. Farrell, B.A. (Languages Master), F. Hanly, B.A., A.H. Pelham, B.A., J. Williams, B.A., E. Barnard, M.A., H. James (technical drawing teacher), W.D.R. Wilson, B.A., W.D. Cummings, B.A., V. Pfeiffer, B.E. An antique chair and hall seat were presented to the school by Mrs.



Alice Chichester. Also donated were some linoleum, book-cases and a writing desk donated by the Headmaster, Mr Harvey. Also in 1931, a new P & C Association was formed to serve the Newcastle Boys' High School. Text-book supplies were still inadequate and only a few students were able to be supplied. Owing to the economic situation, the school was unable to pay the charge of £2/2/0 rental for use of the City Hall for Empire Day celebrations. As a result of this depression, there were not many boys leaving school and as a result the school enrolment was large, so large that fourteen additional prefects were elected to cope with the disciplinary problems (there had previously been only 13 prefects). The City Council showed some generosity to the school in allowing them to use their sports ovals free of charge. The school magazine had also been affected by the depression and had as a result shrunk from 124 pages in 1930 term II to 48 pages in 1931 term I. In the cricket season of 1931, the school's 1sts played against Morpet which resulted in a win for N.B.H.S. Five matches were played against Maitland Boys' High two of which Newcastle won.

Mr R.F. Harvey, B.A. accepted the position of Headmaster of North Sydney Boys' High School and assumed control in term one 1932. With him went the managers of the school tuckshop Mr & Mrs. Winney and were replaced by Mr & Mrs. Timmins. The new Headmaster of Newcastle Boys' High School was Mr Charles H. Christmas, B.A who had been previously a master at the school in 1908 and more recently Headmaster of Maitland Boys' High. New members of staff included Mess'rs F.J. Alls B.A., A.D. Hops, B.A.; O.N. Kelly, M.A (Classics Master), V.R. Outten, M.A. (Maths Master), T.E. Perzau, B.Sc., T.H. Hughes, B.Sc. (Science Master), C.A.C. Dimmock B.A. and R.G. Langford. In order to cope with the increased enrolment of the school, a second high school was established at the Hunter Street Technical College. This was known as Newcastle Boys' High School Annex. The Deputy Headmaster in Charge was Mr J.J. Forster, B.Sc. and his assistant masters were Mess'rs H.L. Yelland, B.A., W.J. Hardy, B.A., B.R. Noble, B.Sc., B.N. Farley, B.Sc., K.B. Ferdyce, B.Sc. and Mr J.C. Irish of Central School taught Technical Drawing. Newcastle was visited by the Directors of Education from a number of states on September 20th. They did not, however, visit Newcastle Boys' High. In 1932, much of the depression had abated and the school tuckshop was able to supply a school lunch consisting of mashed potatoes, packet peas, with meat pie, pastie, curried sausages and mince for 6d. School uniforms were officially introduced in 1929 but during the depression few boys wore the prescribed uniform. Mr. Harvey had altered the school hat-band from a plain navy blue one to a red & blue striped one. The Old Novocastrians' Association was flourishing and had arranged a hike and one party but neither were a great financial success. In the October 1932 'Novocastrian', most of the topics consisted of pleas for a new Boys' High School. For years there had been complaints about the poor ventilation, rotten flooring and leaking roofs but nothing had been done to change matters. With the girls' departure in 1929, the cramped conditions had eased slightly but now with the depression in swing the conditions had become considerably worse with overcrowding prevalent. Portable classrooms were provided but these were in poor condition, leaky and extremely dangerous in bad weather.

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The Newcastle Boys' High School Amexe closed in December 1932. The staff members from it were either transferred or joined the staff of the Boys' High School. As the effects of the Depression were wearing off, the students enrolled were able to either return to work or continue at the hill school. The influx of new pupils led to the addition of two extra portable classrooms in 1933. But already the new High School at Waratah was under construction and it was opened in late 1933. Some of the junior classes moved to Waratah in 1933 and the remainder in 1934. New staff members for 1933 were Mess'rs R.F. Goode, B.A and D. Davies, B.Sc.

REFERENCES FOR THIS HISTORY: 'The Newcastle' 1912-1932.

Interviews with: - Miss Mrs. M. Hoake (teacher at N.H.S 1927)

*The late* Mrs. J. Kempster

Mr C.R. Goffet (pupil 1922-6; teacher 1942-74)

Mr C.H. Black (teacher 1930-34)

*The late* Mr S.M. Bulford (pupil 1930-35; teacher 1951-73)

*The late* Mr D.H. Helmore (pupil 1910-13)

*The late* Miss Nell Crooks (pupil 1912-15)

Mr. L. C. Whitlock (teacher 1918-1920)

Some notes on the History of Newcastle High School

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Overall changes	Headmaster	
Mr Peter Board, Director of Education brought into operation the educational ladder period in NSW	1906-15 C.R.Smith, M.A. School gained recognition as a first-class high school in 1912.	Mr Smith was a Classicist and ran the school with a keen sense of humour. Always aware of school developments d.1941
World War 1 brought many female teachers into the school to replace men teachers recruited. 1917 saw the influenza epidemic hit Newcastle.	1916-18 W.Williams, B.A. An old-boy of All Saints' Bathurst, Mr Williams was highly respected as a Headmaster. Went to be Headmaster at North Sydney Boys High School from which position he retired	
Fees returned to the High school for much of the 1920's: instability of state governments up to <i>during</i> the Depression.	1919-24 G.C.Saxby, B.A. A renowned Headmaster, having served at Sydney High School in the 1890's, and previously Headmaster of Maitland Boys' High. He regarded teaching as a Christian vocation. d 1955	
	1925-6 Frank McMullen, M.A. was Headmaster, having previously served as Headmaster of Maitland Boys' High. He was well-liked by the students. d 1954	
1928-9 - co-educational high school ceases to exist, with the girls going to the Parkway Avenue school.	1926-31 R.F.Harvey, B.A. Previously taught at N.H.S. in 1912. Came from Lismore High. Abandoned the old school badge; tightened up the discipline of the school. Led the crusade for new buildings at Waratah. Headmaster at North Sydney B.H. 1932-47 d 1947	
1934 - the new buildings for Boys' High opened at Waratah.	1931-4 C.H.Christmas, B.A. Formerly Headmaster at Maitland Boys' High, and a teacher at Newcastle High in 1908. Went to be Headmaster at Fort St d 1969	

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1934 - with students from Cooks' Hill and Hamilton, the old school on the Hill becomes Newcastle Junior High

The new school buildings begin serving Newcastle in 1934.

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1937 - Mr Senior Inspector McKenzie visits the school: the New Education Fellowship supports the concept of progressive education.

1935-44 N.R.Mearns, B.A.  
Taught on the Hill in 1912; formerly Headmaster at Broken Hill High; like his predecessor, went to be Headmaster of Fort Street.

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World War II led to students making a contribution to the war effort both financially, and in terms of morale. The cadet corp became operational.

Mr Mearns compiled a list of those old-boys killed or wounded in action. This list became the basis for the school roll of honour.

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Democratisation had led to the admission into high schools of lower-ability students, owing to the discontinuation of the High School Entry Examination.

1945-7 William Pillans, B.A., B.Sc.  
Mr S.G.Keys had been appointed to be successor to Mr Mearns, but had died. Mr Pillans had been Deputy at Maitland Boys' High, <sup>in the 1930's</sup> and Science Master at Newcastle High in the early 1920's.

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1948 J.J.Forster, M.M., B.Sc. (Acting)

1948-63 F.H.Beard, M.A.

The expansion of the white-collar class, greater persistence rates at school and the effects of post-war immigration all had influence on this period of the history of the school. High schools became larger, with the increase in size of the senior years. By 1957, two things were apparent: one, that there were discipline problems; two, that the existing selective schools could no longer serve the demand.

Mr Beard imprinted much of himself on the school, its tradition, its spirit, and on its regard throughout the community.

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The 1950's saw the Wyndham enquiry into Secondary Education, which culminated in the 1957 Report. This report recommended the establishment of comprehensive high schools, and favoured the abolition of selective high schools. The report also recommended the addition of a sixth form to the High School.

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Mr Beard helped equip the high school to cater for the demands of secondary education in the 1960's.

By 1960, the Protestant flavour of education in New South Wales was in decline, as were the neo-Herbartian aims of education for citizenship, and the satisfaction with comprehensive education.

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During Mr Beard's time, a fine teaching staff produced examination results worthy of such a fine school.

Two long-standing governments came to an end; the N.S.W. Labor Government in 1965, and the Menzies Government on his retirement in 1966. The new morality gained a hold with the birth-control-pill in 1961, producing omenous results with birth-rates.

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1964-1974 L.T.Richardson, B.Sc.

Mr Richardson had taught in Newcastle at Central School, Broadmeadow 1936-7, and had been Mathematics Master at Lismore High, Maitland Boys' High; Deputy Headmaster of Grafton High; and Headmaster at Newcastle Junior High (1960) and Cardiff High (1961-2).

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The Wyndham System was slowly modified, with disillusionment over the aims and value of education. Examination systems came under scrutiny, many changes in the syllabus came about.

In 1973, and despite loud protests from Mr Richardson and many former students, the decision was taken to wipe out selective schooling in Newcastle. Newcastle Boys' High was to become Waratah High School.

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