

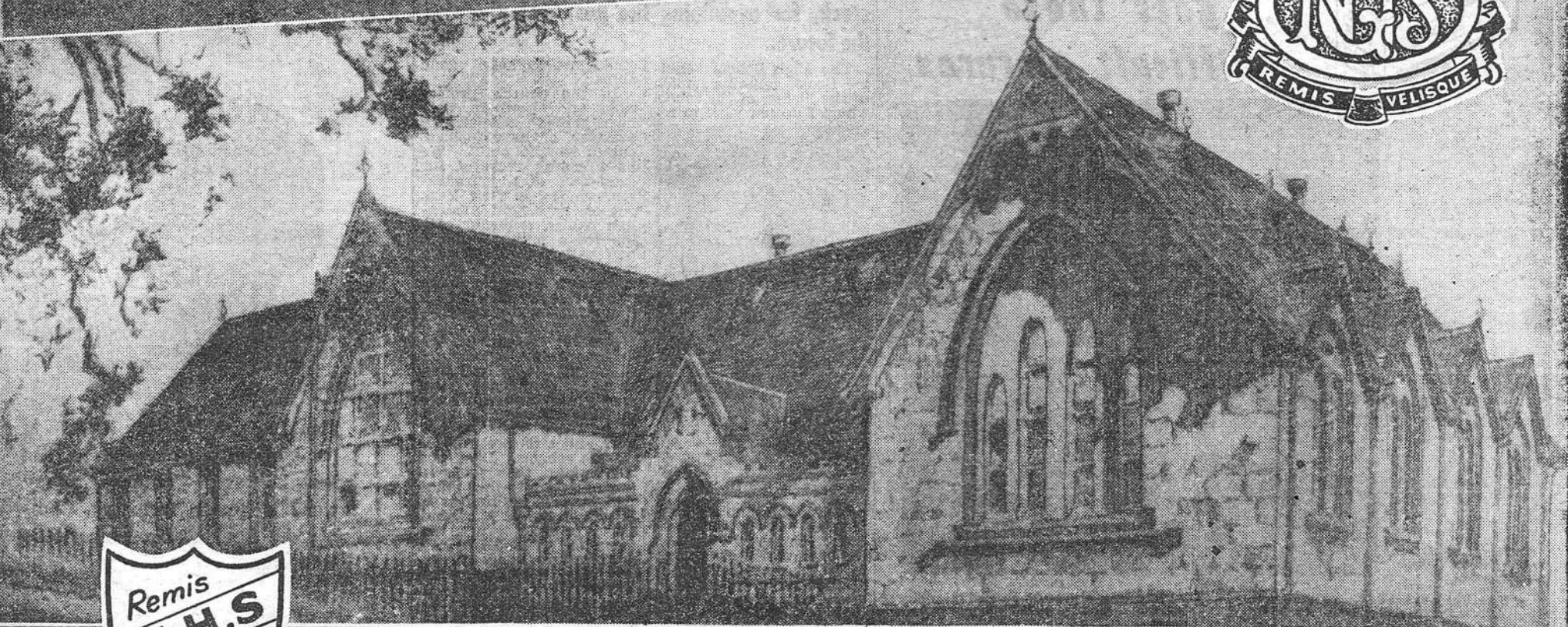
NEWCASTLE

HIGH

SCHOOL

Jubilee

1906-1956



"THE NEWCASTLE SUN"

Fifty Years Of Secondary Education In Newcastle

Great Progress Says Minister

By Mr. R. J. Heffron, Deputy Premier and Minister for Education
The Jubilee of public secondary education in Newcastle is a reminder of the traditions now associated with educational endeavors in the second city of New South Wales and its surrounding districts.

These celebrations also serve to recall the progress which has been made over the years in providing schools, teachers and equipment for a steadily growing community.

It is 140 years since, during the governorship of Lachlan Macquarie, the first small schoolhouse was opened in Newcastle. Seventeen children be-

tween the ages of three and thirteen were enrolled—a humble beginning out of which many fine advances have sprung.

During the 19th Century various attempts, some successful and others not so blessed by fortune, were made to extend the benefits of schooling to young children.

For example, an attempt to establish a grammar school was made about the year 1840 while the first national school opened its doors in 1858.

Our forefathers succeeded in spreading primary education to those parts of Newcastle which were then settled. However, it was not until after the passing of the Public Instruction Act in 1880 that high school education became available to the young people of Newcastle—and even then they had to travel to Maitland.

More than 20 years passed before the city itself could lay claim to a public high school.

This year sees the jubilee of Newcastle's two high



Among those who attended the official opening of Newcastle Boys' High School at Waratah in 1934 were (back row, 1 to r.) Inspector of Schools H. H. Laird, deputy headmaster F. C. Wotten, Mayoress of Newcastle, Mrs. R. G. Kilgour; second row, Ald. E. Lloyd, Miss Drummond, Mr. D. Watkins, M.H.R., Mr. R. F. Harvey, Mr. W. D. Noakes; front row, Capt. Chichester, Mr. J. Fletcher, Ald. E. R. Richardson, who was then president of the P. and C. Association, the Minister for Education, Mr. D. H. Drummond, the Mayor of Newcastle, Ald. R. G. Kilgour, the headmaster, Mr. Chas. H. Christmas and the Mayor of Waratah, Ald. S. F. Webb.



Mr. R. J. Heffron

schools which, over the years, have laid claim to a tradition and have acquired for themselves a fine reputation both for scholarship and for sport.

Occasions of this kind, of course, are not only useful in directing the pub-



lic mind backwards over the years, but also in reflecting upon the present and the future.

The people of Newcastle rejoice over the city's educational progress and they can be assured that the task of providing our girls and boys with the best education we can offer will be undertaken with every resource which the Department of Education can command.

Lord Mayor Pays Tribute

By ALD. D. G. McDOUGALL.

It is very fitting that the citizens of this city and all ex-students should celebrate the Jubilee of the Newcastle High School.

The school has always enjoyed an excellent reputation and it would be interesting to go through the old rolls and trace the scholars to the various parts of the country and the world, where many have made great names for themselves. No doubt they think back with deep gratitude to the school which set them firmly on the ladder of success.

On behalf of the City, I would like to convey sincere thanks to the teachers (both past and present) for the wonderful work they have done, not only in imparting academic knowledge to the pupils but, by precept and example, in teaching them the finer things of life and moulding them into the type

of citizen of which this city will always be justifiably proud.

The Education Department, its Area Director and Inspectorial Staff must also share in the praise and thanks of the students and citizens for the work they have done over the years to assist as much as funds and time available would permit them to do.

It is my earnest wish that the splendid work that has characterised the Newcastle Boys' and Girls' High Schools and their pupils will continue and that its tradition will be handed on as a flaming torch, burning ever brighter in the hearts and minds of the students.

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Students Have Been A Credit

Says Mr. F. H. Beard, Headmaster, Newcastle Boys' High School.

Anniversaries are occasions for taking stock, for examining the past and planning the future.

The High School "Jubilee Book" contains much of the history of the school which I do not wish to re-



Mr. F. H. Beard.

peat in this Jubilee Supplement of "The Newcastle Sun." However, as this is the 12th year I have spent in Newcastle, either as a headmaster or deputy head, there may be some observations I have made which will prove of interest.

I believe that there is a closer link between school and community here than in any other place I know. It may be that they have grown up together.

When the High School was established Newcastle was a small city. It has gone through great pioneering days which have left something of their spirit behind. Evidence of this, I believe, is in the large number of former

students who have gone abroad.

In the church, professions and elsewhere, they have gained scholarships overseas, or have just set out to see the world. We have heard recently, for example, of a journalist representing in New York one of the biggest Australian dailies, a doctor caring for a million and a half natives in Nigeria, a professor in charge of a college on the Gold Coast and a forestry expert in a Canadian logging camp—all former students.

Another evidence of the link between school and community is to be found in the confidence the people of Newcastle have in their schools. I know of no place where so few boys and girls are sent to private schools. I am not suggesting that there is any objection to that practice, but the position as it is here suggests a certain social cohesion in the community which I believe is absent in many others.

Finally, I believe that education in Newcastle is very fortunate in the support given it by the Press. I congratulate "The Newcastle Sun" warmly on the publication of this supplement. I believe that, like its similar supplements in Education Week, it will do much to strengthen the interest of this city in the work of the schools which are celebrating their jubilee now and also of those other fine schools which have been established since the birth of secondary education in Newcastle 50 years ago.

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MANY YEARS' FIGHT FOR "HIGH"

Every worthwhile community enterprise has its pioneers and the progress of a city can usually be measured by their energy and enthusiasm.

The establishment of Newcastle's first high school was the result of 25 years of constant agitation, which began immediately after the Public Education Bill became law in 1880.

Within a few days of the bill being passed "The Newcastle Morning Herald and Miners' Advocate" said that it could not understand why Bathurst, Goulburn and West Maitland had been chosen for the high schools.

It asked what particular qualifications the three cities named had in preference to other towns and cities, such as Mudgee and Newcastle, whose populations were higher.

The newspaper said that Newcastle had 2007 electors and a high school at Newcastle would meet the requirements of the city proper as well as those of the outlying district. It said that pupils could easily travel by rail from Hexham, Wallsend, Waratah,

Lambton, New Lambton and adjacent places.

However, despite constant agitation, it was not until 1906 that the original Newcastle High School was established on The Hill, in the building now occupied by Newcastle Junior High School. The first headmaster was Mr. Charles R. Smith, who was principal until 1915.

Overcrowded

His scholars achieved outstanding results in the fields of scholarship and sport. They also played notable and worthy parts in the public life of the community and on the battlefields of two world wars and Korea.

The school commenced with 28 original pupils, grew to 104 at the be-

ginning of 1907 and by 1927 504 pupils were enrolled.

The original high school became so overcrowded that agitation was commenced in the twenties for a separate girls' high school and in 1929 the Newcastle Girls' High School at Hamilton South was completed. The first headmistress was Miss A. Brewster, who then had a staff of 25, including Miss S. Leslie, who remained with the school until she retired recently.

The present headmistress is Miss D. Wallent.

The boys remained at the original high school on The Hill until 1934 when they moved to the present Boys' High School at Waratah. Today the Boys' High headmaster, Mr. F. H. Beard, guides the destiny of hundreds of boys who pass through the school each year.



Newcastle High School's 1st XIII of 1910. They are: Back row: Ted Armstrong and Al Robinson. Second row: Fred Smith, Pierce Morrissey, James Hayes, Warren Payne, Clarence Hobson. Third row: Tom Beveridge, Ed. Smith, Jack Smith, Terry Harris, Bob Howie, Mervyn Chippendale, Jack Chapman, Bill Alexander, J. Jenkins, Reg. Dunlop, Dave Horne.

JUBILEE SCHOOL CAPTAINS



John Anderson



Robin Hamilton

Girls' High Is 26 Years Old

Newcastle Girls' High School has established a fine record of achievement since it moved into its imposing buildings in Park-way-ave., Hamilton, on Feb. 4, 1930.

In its first term the school had an enrolment of 505, with 110 in the senior years. Now there are 683 girls enrolled.

In every way Newcastle Girls' High has justified Sir Henry Parkes's impassioned support for higher education for girls, made in Parliament in February, 1880.

At that time Mr. Charles, M.L.A., attacked the 24th clause of the Public Education Bill which provided for the establishment of high schools for girls and said that the bill was certainly going too far.

He attempted to justify his remark with the taunt, "If you educate any female highly she at once considers it her duty to write a novel and would also consider herself not only the equal to man but his superior in intellect and end up less useful to her husband and society than if she had been trained to ordinary housework."

An editorial in the "Newcastle Herald" on Saturday, Feb. 28, 1880, referred to Mr. Charles's statement as "This sweeping and ridiculous aspersion," and went on to quote Sir Henry Parkes, who very pertinently inquired why education should disqualify a woman for the domestic duties of life.

Sir Henry asked why a female who could speak French and sketch a landscape, or play a popular song, should be less capable of making a pudding or darning a stocking. "We know that here and there women, as well as



men, may be found, of special achievement, who are sent into the world to excel in one speciality and, therefore, tend to ignore the nobility attaching to the faithful performance of the regular duties of life. We ask what greater blessing can a man have in this world than the companionship of a woman through life whose educated intellect affords him encouragement, consolation and strength in the daily battle of life."

The editorial commented: "Nothing can be more absurd in our opinion than Mr. Clarke's proposed amendment to establish high schools for boys but not for girls."

'Preposterous'

"Would not such an idea, if carried out, tend to the belief that while superior education was beneficial to the male sex it would be ultimately injurious to females. Can there be anything more preposterous?"

"Where are the instances upon record in which women have gone wrong through having been blessed with superior education?"

The achievements of Newcastle women in all fields during the past 50 years have fully justified the faith and support of Sir Henry Parkes and the editorial.

Greetings

TO NEWCASTLE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL AND NEWCASTLE BOYS' HIGH SCHOOL ON THEIR JUBILEE.

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on the 50th anniversary of their inauguration and pay tribute to the work done by their Teachers and by their Parents' and Citizens' Associations throughout the years.

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During The War Years



This was 1939, the first year of World War II and Hitler and his crony, Mussolini, were still figures of fun for the fifth year students of Boys' High.

Boys' Annual Trek

Each November for about 10 years—until World War II brought it to an end—the residents of Parkway-ave. grew used to an invasion of their neighborhood by hordes of noisy, hilarious, oddly-clad horsemen.

The horsemen were the vanguard of a motorised column, whose destination was the Newcastle Girls' High School.

Crammed into the cars—old "bitzers" for the most part—was an assortment of the most bizarre "characters" ever let loose in the streets of Newcastle.

This street parade used to be one of the functions held by Boys' High to celebrate the beginning of "stewvac" prior to the Leaving Certificate Examination.

Just before World War II personalities featured were usually Hitler and his brownshirts, Mussolini and his blackshirts and other easily recognised figures, topical then.

The leader reviewed his troops from the porch entrance and the headmistress then received a formal call.

Permission was then granted for a parade through the school grounds and the girls had an early lunch break to join in the fun.

Later the rest of the senior boys arrived and were shown round the school and an impromptu concert or dance usually followed.

The boys would become the spectators while Leaving Certificate girls entertained them and the junior girls with original revues.

MEMORIES OF ORIGINAL STUDENT The Boys Baulked At New Teacher

Among the original students at Newcastle High School in 1906 was Mr. R. E. Davis, who recently retired from the Public Service after being deputy-headmaster of Junction Demonstration School for many years.

Among his many memories are the long walks to school from nearby suburbs, the horrible smell of new concrete and the experience of being taught by a woman teacher, Miss Linda Cole, for the first time.

"We didn't take kindly to it, I'm afraid," said Mr. Davis. "Miss Cole was engaged to give us our first lessons in art work. The boys poured the paint water down cracks in the floor."

"An hour or so later there was a proper commotion when the girls went to collect their coats. They were wet and stained with multi-colored paint water. We had emptied the water straight into their cloak room!"

"However, they were good sports," he added.

Mr. Davis said that only probationary students were supposed to attend on the opening day of the High

Home Science School, 3/1 on and Porteus 2/1 on.

Mr. Davis is looking forward to the ex-students' reunion next Saturday when he hopes to meet two other original students, both teachers. They are Ernie Jones and Bill Dransfield.



Mr. R. Davis.

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School Days Were A Lot Of Fun

From the earliest days of the Newcastle High School, Girls' and Boys' High students of the various years recall a host of amusing incidents.

The Newcastle creep of 1907 occurred during a public examination at the High School. A tremendous noise like the sudden collapse of hundreds of piled-up forms roused students from their absorption.

When they went home for lunch there was further excitement over windows that would not open and doors that would not close.

After-school visits were paid to see the terrace that had collapsed a few blocks down from the school. This was the creep that struck the foundations of the Cathedral—but the school remained unharmed.

One of Newcastle's few haunted houses 50 years ago was in McCormack St. and an object of interest to students on the way to the High School. Newcastle pupils used to dare those who lived in the suburbs to use the knocker. Stories varied as to the results.

Newcastle Girls' High first year girls and their parents sometimes expressed surprise at the strong wiring of the windows in the assembly hall.

The rest of the school is not screened. Reason for this was the popularity of the hall with the local pigeons who roosted on the beams and found the sing-

ing lessons soothing; they flew in and out continually, causing considerable distraction at assemblies.

When parents of students from other "birdless schools" lodged a complaint the windows were "barred" to the pigeons.

When the war in the Pacific came to an end in 1945, Newcastle Girls' High was in the throes



of annual inspection. At the joyful impromptu assembly the inspectors joined the staff on the platform.

But after one or two solemn speeches the principal's was ruined by shrieks of girlish laughter as one "visitor" and the language mistress were seen to be performing the steps of a stately gavotte behind her back.

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