

TO THE STUDENTS

This is my 11th and last contribution to the Novocastrian. I find that many points for consideration by students have not altered since 1964.

The aims of a school can be stated in many ways, but to produce an end-product that stands up to the test of modern society with its quickly increasing distractions, is a real achievement. Surely this requires a young man of sound moral values, strong character and some sense of mission. This school has a long record of old boys with distinguished careers in many walks of life. Let us not be satisfied with these past performances — the present and the future are too vital.

Look at the great potential in the school enrolment. What percentage of this enrolment realises its ability level? Every student who under-achieves is a loss to the community and ultimately to the development of Australia. This country needs the full development of the talents of its young people and we must aim at their full realisation.

Why does he under-achieve academically? This is a challenge to you. The solution must be found — Why not by you? The problems of the future generations are your problems! It is obvious that one of the major problems will be the use of leisure. This use of leisure must be such that the vitality of the nation is not lost: if increased leisure means increased inertia, then we shall soon become a decadent race.

However, success in this field can only come at the personal level. The balanced, thoughtful young man can face these facts squarely and you must look to the home and school for preparation. The home can contribute to your spiritual well-being, to your sense of security and, together with the school, can develop characteristics of loyalty, honesty, sincerity, determination, and a sense of justice. A young man who benefits from these influences will not under-achieve and the society he builds will not fail.

It has been a great experience to have been Headmaster of this school for 11 years. It has given me a deep pleasure to have shared the life of the school with the staff and the students. I found in this school the core of quality that has built the high standards and traditions of this school.

Newcastle Boys' High School is to disappear but I have no doubt that it will be some generations of time before the school is forgotten. There will be so many people with so many great moments to remember that the school traditions will live on.

The call of B-O-Y-S H-I-G-H! B-O-Y-S H-I-G-H! when heard and felt is hard to forget. It is a memory I will keep and treasure.

My best wishes to you all.

Remis Velisque.

L. T. RICHARDSON

