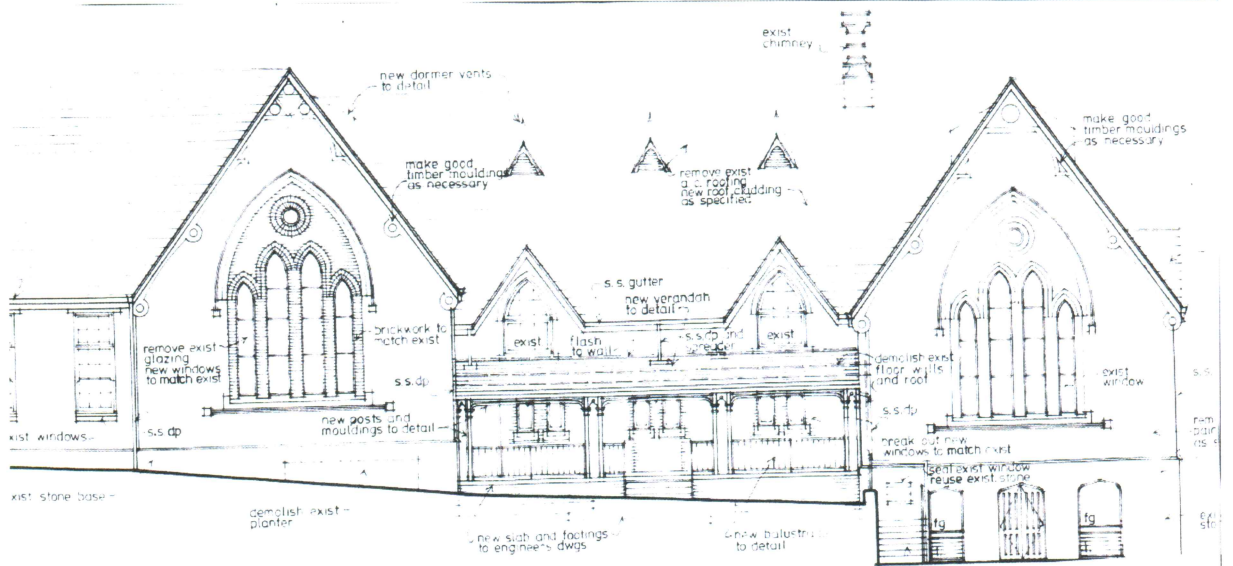


Australia's Oldest School Celebrates Its Two Centuries of Education

- In February 2016, Newcastle East Public School turns 200 years old.
- From its beginnings in 1816, when Governor Lachlan Macquarie established it as Newcastle Charity School, the school has maintained the highest standards of quality education for all children of inner-city Newcastle.
- NEPS' Bicentenary is a nationally significant event, with participation by former Prime Minister Gillard, High Court Judge Michael Kirby, Newcastle's Lord Mayor, and thousands of ex-students. A professionally-devised media plan assures prominence of all NEPS200 events.
- NEPS200 events run over three days, and include the launch of a school history, written by both professional historians and former students of the school; a formal dinner at Newcastle's City Hall; the unveiling of a sculptural installation, representing aspects of the school's long history; an ecumenical service at Christ Church Cathedral; a bush dance; performance of a play commissioned for the event; inspections of the two school sites still extant, in Bolton Street and in Tyrrell Street; and many other "fringe" events.



Our beautiful heritage-listed neo-Gothic building was constructed in the 1860's, and today rests in a precinct of historic structures reflecting the long history of Australia's second oldest city.

- Opportunities exist for local businesses and their host organisations, such as Newcastle Now, to gain media exposure nationally, by lending support to one or more of these events.
- NEPS lies on top of Newcastle's highest landmark, The Hill, and is an enduring, powerful symbol of the central role played by education in our city's history.
- For fifty years NEPS was a centre for the education of deaf children, many of whom have gone on to successful business careers.
- Well-known alumni of the school include Senator Arthur Sinodinos, prominent local business-man and NRMA Director Kyle Loades, actress Miranda Otto, naval architect Ben Lexcen, and performer Olivia Newton-John.



Students from the school's Deaf Unit farewell their retiring teacher, circa 1955.

Possible sponsorship options include:-

- Sponsorship of History Garden project, bringing together certain key elements of school's history
- naming rights sponsorship of the City Hall dinner;
- sponsorship of the publication of the school history book;
- sponsorship of the sculptural installation

Benefits for Newcastle Now

- National exposure of inner-city Newcastle and its revitalisation
- National recognition of Newcastle's significant role in history of education in Australia
- Heightened community awareness of the important work carried out by Newcastle Now

Key Dates

Friday February 5	Unveiling and Dedication of NEPS200 Sculpture on school forecourt Traditional Bush Dance
Saturday February 6	Launch of School History – To Climb Up the Hill Open Schools History Walk Bicentenary Dinner – Newcastle City Hall
Sunday February 7	Memorial Church Service – Christ Church Cathedral

For further information: -

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<https://www.facebook.com/NewcastleEastBicentenary>