

STAND

School Song

Newcastle East, here's a song for you
The City, The Hill, and the beaches too
Sing it as we've always sung it loud and true
As we climb up the hill in the morning

Chorus

*For two hundred years we've been learning it all
Convicts and settlers, free to all
Our school gives us all a rallying call
To still do our best night and morning*

Sand hills to harbour, from beach to creek
We're striving and learning the truth we seek
From all 'round the world we're ready to speak
The name of the school in the morning

Chorus

In sport, and in class and the playground too
Newcastle East will always win through
When the old bell rings to call to you
The name of the school in the morning

Chorus

Please remain standing for the Blessing and the procession

The Blessing

Organ Postlude

*All members of the congregation are invited to join the banner bearers, choir,
Principal and staff, and process directly from the Cathedral to the School.*

Acknowledgements

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Christ Church Cathedral, Newcastle



A Service to Celebrate

NEWCASTLE EAST
PUBLIC SCHOOL

200
YEARS

1816-2016

Sunday 7 February, 2016

11.30 am

History from Newcastle East Public School

(Source: NEPS website)

Newcastle East Public School has a long and proud history of provision of quality education to the children of inner-city Newcastle, stretching back to the earliest days of the settlement of Newcastle, Australia's second oldest city. The school plays a central role in the history of education in Australia, and has served its diverse community for two centuries.

1816 - Schoolteacher, Henry Wrensford and seventeen convict children aged 3-13 yrs. commenced education in Newcastle in a slab building. Wrensford was a convict on a conditional pardon. At that time, Newcastle had about 400 people with 38 children. The cathedral's booklet, *The Vision Splendid* by Joan Murray (p14), says of the building in which the school was located in 1817:

In its early life the Church was considered to be a "handsome" building incorporating with its walls a schoolroom and a Churchwarden's room. The schoolroom was of great significance for the school, which had already begun in the settlement under the charge of the convict Henry Wrensford, was moved from its first primitive location nearby into the church and then became known as Christ Church School.

1820 - Wrensford became a free man and went back to Sydney. He was replaced by another convict, Samuel Dell. There were now 33 children at Christ Church School. In 1826 the control of the school changed from the government to the church. By the early 1830's overcrowding led to the school moving to the site at the corner of Church & Bolton Sts.

1859 - Some parents wanted a government controlled school and so an additional school, Newcastle Public School, was opened in Brown Street, later to move to Tyrrell Street.

1883 - The success of the Public School, now a Superior school in Tyrrell St, led to the State Government taking back control of the church school and renaming it Newcastle East Public School.

1966 - The 150th anniversary of continuous education was celebrated, and a history of the school was written by Dr E. Braggett.

THE SCHOOL ON THE HILL

1878 - The foundation stone for the new building of Newcastle Public School was laid by Mr Clarence Hannell. The final cost was £10,000. The architect was Mr. G.A. Mansfield. There were boys', girls', infants' and babies' rooms. The boys' headmaster was Mr. Willis and the girls' headmistress was Miss Shield. Over 800 pupils were enrolled.

1911 - Newcastle Public School was closed, leaving the High School to expand. By 1912 there were over 300 high school pupil and the first school magazine 'The Novocastrian' was published.

1934 - Newcastle Boys' High was built at Waratah. The School on the Hill was now given the name Newcastle Boys' Junior High School.

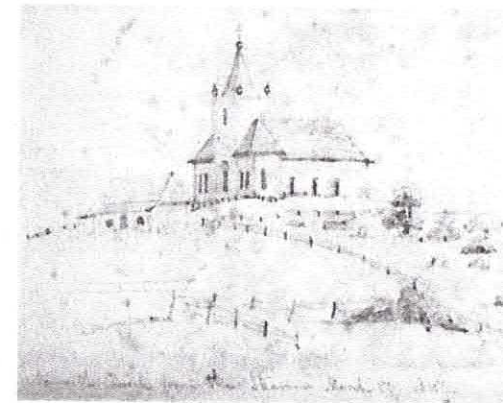
1973 - Closure of Junior High and transfer of pupils to new building at Lambton.

1974-81 - Building used by the Society of Artists and other groups as workshops. Renovation of building commenced. \$920,000 set aside for this purpose. It is recorded by the National Trust.

September 13th, 1982 - First day of Newcastle East Public School at its new site in the School on the Hill.

2000-2010 - School's drawing area was further restricted to manage increased enrolment pressure, due to changing demographics in Newcastle's inner-city.

2016 - NEPS will be Australia's first school to celebrate its bicentenary.



Please switch mobile phones to silent.

Please stand as the procession enters the cathedral, and join in singing the hymn:

Hymn

Joyful, joyful, we adore you,
God of glory, God of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before you
opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness,
drive the dark of doubt away;
giver of immortal gladness,
fill us with the light of day.

All your works with joy surround you,
earth and heav'n reflect your rays,
stars and angels sing around you,
centre of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain,
flowery meadow, flashing sea,
singing bird and flowing fountain
call to praise you joyfully.

You are giving and forgiving,
ever blessing, ever blest,
well-spring of the joy of living,
ocean-depth of happy rest.
You our Father, Christ our brother,
all are yours who live in love;
teach us how to love each other,
lift us to your joy above.

Together in Song 152
Henry Van Dyke 1852–1933 alt.

SIT **Welcome** *The Very Reverend Stephen Williams, Dean of Newcastle*

The Lord be with you
And also with you.

We acknowledge the Awabakal people as the traditional custodians of this land, together with their elders past, present and future: those who were here before us, who have loved and cared for this land from time immemorial:

**We honour their traditional custodianship of this land,
the land on which we meet today, and offer them our deep respect.**

Let us close our eyes, and quieten our minds as we pray to God.

Father, we thank you for the life of Newcastle East Public School, for its history, and for the great benefit it has brought to this community. We thank you for the many students who have been educated here, and for the staff who – down through the years – have taught and guided the young minds in their charge. So we ask that you bless the students and their families, the staff, and all those who support this school, that it will continue to be a great place. We pray that you will guide us in all ways, and that we will seek your will in everything that we do. We ask this in the name of Jesus Christ, our Lord. **Amen**

SIT **The First Reading** Proverbs 1.1-5

To know wisdom and instruction, to understand words of insight, to receive instruction in wise dealing, in righteousness, justice, and equity; to give prudence to the simple, knowledge and discretion to the youth – let the wise hear and increase in learning and the one who understands obtains guidance.

Hear the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Anthem: The St Nicholas Choir

For the Beauty of the Earth

John Rutter

The Second Reading Romans 12.6-7

We have different gifts, according to the grace given to each of us. If your gift is prophesying, then prophecy in accordance with your faith; if it is serving, then serve; if it is teaching, then teach.

Here the word of the Lord.

Thanks be to God.

Video Presentation: Newcastle East Public School

Anthem: Neptunes

Every Voice That Sings

Glyn Lehmann

Presentation of Symbols Mr John Beach, Principal, with students

The Slate

In the beginning, in 1816, our sixteen students assembled on this very spot, to form the first charity school, with the encouragement of Governor Lachlan Macquarie. They met in a slab building, which was the first church building in Newcastle, under the direction of the first teacher, convict Henry Wrensford. They were boys and girls, children of free-settlers and convicts, all welcomed in our school. Learning began on slates, not books, with children practising their writing from the King James Bible. The slate represents learning, reading, and writing.

A Set of Scales

The brass scales symbolize the values and opportunities presented by our school. Scales represent balance and fairness. Our school was established in equity, to give all students, regardless of their beliefs, wealth, disabilities, lifestyle, or their parents' social status, an equal access to schooling, a right which was not available in Newcastle at that time. We offer these brass scales, our symbol of a fair and equal go for all our children. The scales represent equity.

The School Bell

This bell, a replica of our first school bell, represents the rhythms and routines of school life, which have continued without interruption for two centuries, through war, through economic depression, and through natural disaster. The school bell, for two hundred years, has regulated school life, calling children to lessons, sending them joyfully home at the end of each school day, and ringing out continuously to mark the end of conflicts and the return of peace. The bell gives us order.

iPad

We offer, as a symbol of our future, this electronic tablet. Through its use, we have unlimited access to the knowledge of our world. We know too, that knowledge can be used for good or evil, and that we must use it wisely. But knowledge empowers us, and gives us opportunities to learn about our world, its cultures, people, and its environment. This iPad can open doors to deeper understanding, and it allows us to make sense of our sometimes confusing world. It represents the future.

The Plaque

This plaque is to be placed in the Cathedral. It reads as follows:
Newcastle East Public School Bicentenary 2016. On this site in 1816 Henry Wrensford began teaching seventeen convict children aged 3-13 years. In 1817 this school moved into the replacement church building and became known as Christ Church School, which has now evolved into Newcastle East Public School, the oldest school in Australia.

The Prayers

Let us close our eyes, and bow our heads as we prepare ourselves to pray to God, who created this world and everything that is good and beautiful, and who loves each one of us as his own children.

We pray for our School, giving thanks for all the good things we enjoy at Newcastle East.

God of wisdom, we thank you for those who founded our school 200 years ago. We thank you for their vision and for their hard work. May we build on that foundation and continue to improve in everything we do.

Lord, for learning and for life,

All: **we give you thanks.**

We give thanks for our richly diverse community, and the relationships we share. May we be your people in this community, accepting and supporting each other.

Lord, for our differences and for our life together,

All: **we give you thanks.**

We thank you, Lord God, for those who have administered our school, for those who have taught in our school, and for the many students who have passed through the classrooms. Lord God, for the love of learning instilled in so many minds, and for the commitment to teaching and learning over two centuries,

All: **we give you thanks.**

We give thanks today for the generosity of spirit alive in our community, for parents and friends who work together to support the life of our school. Lord God, for their commitment and generosity,

All: **we give you thanks.**

On this day, as we give thanks for the past, we look to the future. Lord of hope and inspiration, strengthen us by your Holy Spirit, and encourage us to embrace the years ahead with confidence and with courage. This we pray through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

All: **Amen.**

The Lord's Prayer

So now we say together the prayer our Saviour Jesus Christ has taught us,

**Our Father in heaven,
hallowed be your Name,
your kingdom come,
your will be done,
on earth as in heaven.**

Give us today our daily bread.

**Forgive us our sins
as we forgive those who sin against us.**

**Save us from the time of trial
and deliver us from evil.**

**For the kingdom, the power,
and the glory are yours
now and for ever. Amen.**