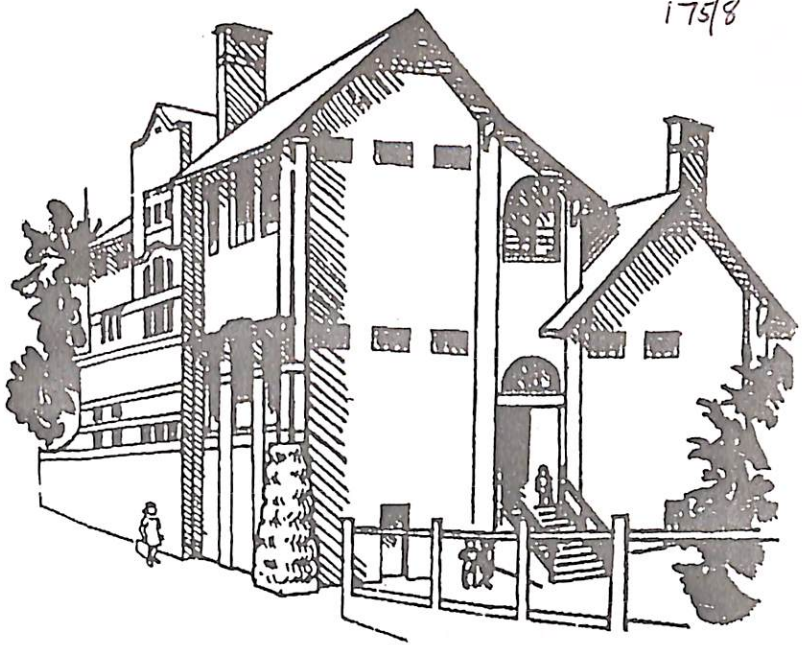


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Newcastle East Public School



SOUVENIR PROGRAMME



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- 1816 Schoolteacher, Henry Wrensford and seventeen convict children aged 3-13 yrs. commenced education in Newcastle. Wrensford was a convict on a conditional pardon. At that time Newcastle had about 400 people with 38 children. The school started in a slab hut near Watt & Bolton Sts.
- 1818 The church was completed and Wrensford gained permission to move to the vestry.
- 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.
- 1860's Christ Church School by now had an enrolment of 160. Fees were sixpence per week.
- 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. (Next year is therefore our centenary under that name.)
- 1888 Enrolments had reached 324 and another new classroom built for £100. A series of strikes at this time led to hardship and the cancellation of school fees in many cases. Enrolments continued to rise.
- 1909 A new two storey brick building containing four classrooms was built at a cost of £3690. When the Superior Public School closed in 1911 three further classrooms had to be added to Newcastle East School. (This is now the building we have just vacated).
- 1966 The 150th anniversary of continuous education was celebrated and a history of the school was researched and written by Dr. E. Braggett.
- 1980 Extensive building, including a parking station, encroached on the school. Traffic, noise and pollution added to this problem. An action committee of parents was formed to lobby for the relocation of the school. These problems combined with a population drift out of the city and the expansion of Newcastle Grammar School to include primary age children led to a steady decline of numbers to only 88 pupils in May, 1982.
- 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 Shields. Over 800 pupils were enrolled!
- 1880 It became a Superior Public School where teaching was of a higher standard. Number reached a peak of over 1000 students in 1884 but shortly after this Newcastle East School was enlarged and other schools opened causing a drop in enrolments. There was no High School in Newcastle at this time and so it was suggested one classroom could be used for this purpose.
- 1906 Opening of Hill High School in one of the rooms vacated by the Public School. The principal was Mr. Charles (Caesar) Smith. Bishop Stretch suggested the motto 'Remis Velisque'.
- 1911 Newcastle Public School was closed, leaving the High School to expand. By 1912 there were over 300 high school pupils and the first school magazine 'The Novocastrian' was published.
- 1915 School uniforms were introduced.
- 1929 The school tuck shop opened. Previously, Mr. Tuttle's horse and cart had brought pies for sale to the children. Numbers had now risen to 618 pupils and the overcrowding led to the building of Newcastle Girls' High School at a cost of £36,395.
- 1931 There was still overcrowding with now 705 boys. As a result, 100 boys were sent to the Technical College and three portable rooms were added.
- 1934 Newcastle Boys' High was built at Waratah. The School on the Hill was now given the name Newcastle Boys' Junior High School.
- 1956 Golden Jubilee of the High School.
- 1967 The school's tower was removed.
- 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.

ENTERTAINMENT PROGRAMME

Saturday, 16th October, 1982

- 10.45 - 11.15 am New Lambton Primary School Choir - A selection of songs from their Choral Festival Repertoire.
- 11.30 - 12.00 noon Playhouse Theatre Company present songs and excerpts from "The Venetial Twins" and "Choice Ladies - From Molly Morgan to Joy Cummings".
- 12.00 - 1.30 pm Shoey's Jazz Band - Great entertainment from Jack McLaughlin and the boys.
- 2.30 - 3.10 pm Newcastle Repertory Theatre present "Grass Widows" - Fully costumed period comedy.

- 8.00 pm A Victorian Drawing Room Concert - presented for your pleasure by the eminent operatic baritone, Mister Robert Bickerstaff and the famous soprano, *prima donna assoluta*, Madame Pearl Berridge, accompanied by Mr. Ulric Burstein from the Continent. Arias, Songs, Ballads and Duets from famous operas and the Victorian and Edwardian Drawing Rooms.

Sunday, 17th October, 1982

- 12.00 - 12.30 pm Kahibah Bowling Club Brass Band - good stirring
and band music.
- 1.00 - 1.30 pm
- 2.30 pm Newcastle University Choir Madrigal Choir -
First public performance.