

“Do you remember the old homestead, Billy, the old homestead with the bush-clad hills rising on either side, the crystal clear lagoon, the rippling stream, the birds, the horses and the cattle? Do you remember the bush, Billy?

‘The bush and its sadness,  
Its grandeur and gladness’.”

Did he remember? Was it possible to forget his youth—his glorious youth? What memories the old homestead recalled! How he remembered those exhilarating gallops along the tree-clad banks of the shining lagoon, the beautiful lagoon of his childhood! Once more he was gambling in the cool water; once more he was on one of those exciting shooting expeditions.

A vision came to him of the beautiful, little creek that flowed into the lagoon; the creek that leapt, screened in spray, over the moss-covered boulders and tiny waterfalls, trickling through “cool wildernesses” of moisture-laden ferns. In his imagination he could hear the pealing notes of the haunting bellbirds; could feel his soul gladdened by the ringing of their songs. His mind conjured up visions of them living entirely in the environment enshrined to them by the lines:

“By channels of coolness the echoes are calling,  
And down the dim gorges I hear the creek falling;”

and singing with that softness and melody aptly described in:

“And softer than slumber and sweeter than singing,  
The notes of the bellbirds are running and ringing.”

How the old homestead dwelled in his mind! He always seemed to think of the gaiety and tragedy of life that had been enacted within its hospitable walls. He could see it now in eventide—the little basin floored with the crystal lagoon mirroring the colourful evening sky; the diamond-like spray rising from the turbulent, tumbling stream flashing in the last rays of the dying sun; the graceful, sombre-green gums hanging peacefully over the banks of the lagoon and extending back towards the purple hills. There flooded into his mind a picture of the drooping strands of the weeping willows softly caressing the calm water as they swayed in the gentle breeze; the brown rock



A corner of the library at Waratah.

Photo: "Newcastle Herald"

faces decked abundantly with the brilliantly-hued blossoms of the twisting vines; the high hills thrown into clear relief against the ever-changing sky. He could hear once more the crooning murmur of the creek, the sweet trill of the birds and the soft sigh of the breeze in the rushes and the gums.

Gradually, his mind began to wander, and he unconsciously compared the gradual and beautiful sunset of his birthplace with the evenings he had seen in his ramblings—the evenings of the islands and the Pacific.

Evening in the Islands! He felt a yearning ache to return to the islands and witness once more their beautiful sunset—their sudden but beautiful sunset. To see the golden sun suddenly drop, the feathery fronds of the graceful palms silhouetted sharply against the dark sky, the unexpected arrival of the night, the sudden rush of the stars and, later, the romantic Pacific moon. To hear once more the soft murmur of the sea and the moaning sigh of the sea-breeze in the palms, the sharp rattle of pulley blocks from the trading vessels and the bellowing voices of the officers.

He longed to see again the glisten of the dying sun on an unbroken expanse of water, seeming to form a golden pathway to Paradise; the sky with its myriad stars, beauty unrivalled; and the reflection of the cold moon on the ocean, forming a highway along which the romantic strain in one desires to journey, to explore lands unknown.

But this was in his youth—his glorious youth that had departed for ever. With a broken sob he buried his face in his hands and wept—wept like a child. The sun slowly sank and the evening shadows crept softly over the valley, and the birds trilled their evening song.

Dawn found him still in the same position. Then, from up in the fastnesses of the valley, the ringing notes of bellbirds began to peal. A paean of melody arose from their throats and echoed around the peaceful valley. The silvery-grey head slowly rose, and the lined face broke into a smile of joy as the soul of the old man drank in the ringing melody.

—J. R., 4A.

## THE CALL OF THE BUSH

Lazy clouds of grey dust rise and powder her tiny frock. She is but five—a wandering nymph. A call had reached her ears, and, ankle deep in the fine dust, she is answering the call—that irresistible, overpowering call of the bush.

On either side of the beaten path giant blue gums, rearing their stately heads to the blue skies, welcome her with outstretched arms. Twining ivy, as if with clutching fingers, vainly attempts to reach the very top of a withered oak crowned with foliage. Brilliantly marked butterflies flutter to and fro as the east wind croons a lullaby in the leaves. On the grass silvery beads of icy dew-drops shiver and melt, as the warm sun peeps around the purple line of hills. In every nook and cranny fantastic shadows play hide and seek among the delicate ferns. Myriads of tiny insects flit above.

An eternity of confused flowers bathed in brilliant sunshine bedeck the verdant hill slopes. Down in the cool glen a rippling brook gurgles in delight as it races across the smooth pebbles, chasing the flickering sunbeams. Where the crystal waters are stillest, a busy bee pauses for an instant and then is gone.

Overhead a flock of white cockatoos wheel and screech, and on settling down chatter loudly, arguing like a crowd of politicians. At intervals the reign of silence is broken by the liquid notes of the magpie, after which the swift bird darts unerringly, adding to its menu of lizards and worms an unlucky field mouse. Not to be outdone by this deep deep-throated call, the ringing notes of the bell birds awake resounding echoes in the gorges below.

At the head of the valley the winding track dwindles to nothingness amid the coarse bracken, and a weary form reposes beneath the silver-leafed willow. Brown cliffs rise sheer out of the valley, and over their glistening backs pour cascades of silver waters, which lose themselves in ever-eddying streams, winding, like countless shining serpents, across the burning plains.

In the west the golden sun, less brilliant than before, yet losing none of its splendour, sinks to rest, tinging the heavy blanket of clouds with an orange-yellow hue.

A sleepy owl blinks its round, staring eyes. A scurrying rabbit crosses the beaten path. Soft shadows steal through the trees and the breeze sighs no more. Soon, very soon, the moaning howl of a solitary dingo awakens the night wanderers. The rosy flush of the setting sun fades even as the mellow moon, like a pure white feather dropped by some homing bird, kisses the back of the weary one in a last farewell.

—"A.D.," 4A.

### AN OLD HOUSE

There was a rustling as the yellow-red leaves, borne on the wind of Autumn, fluttering on the old, thatched roof. It was old and dilapidated, with a green ivy vine half covering the decayed wood and giving a weird, ghostly appearance.

Slowly, at the foot of the garden, flowed a peaceful stream, murmuring softly to itself as it glided smoothly over the well-polished stones. The stately, gigantic willow trees growing along the banks of the stream reflected a beautiful picture of fairyland.

The long, green, juicy grass surrounded by a tall, miserable hedge along the fence gave a very untidy appearance. Great cushions of green velvet moss clung to the ancient woodwork, and rich, orange rosettes dotted the old wall. The scrub-oaks thrust out their gnarled boughs from either side, as if to clasp hands over the babbling brook.

Regularly, artists arrived to sketch this magnificent, picturesque cottage, which was a beauty spot of the countryside.

—W. Eastham, 1B.

### THE TRAGEDY OF TWO LOVERS



Catherine	An anonymous person
Her father, Squire Barrentop	Mr. W. Butler
Her Lover, Henry Gaylad	Master E. Roddenby
An unfavoured lover, Bonaparte Bonanzo	Hi Lo Young
The Robber Chief, Bluebeard	Monsieur Webb
The Robber Band	Brothers Robertson, Lee, Solomon, Flick, Turner, Walker
The Two Drunken Soldiers	White, Mulhearn
The Fairy Queen, Elainora	Another anonymous identity
Her followers, Fairies and Elves	More anonymous persons

[The above was the original cast when the play was first produced at the Boomerang Theatre, so called because most of the crowd generally wanted their money back.]

#### SCENE I.

[In the garden by Catherine's home.]

Henry: My dearest chuck, 'tis time I went, for pale  
And wan the moon is dying fast away.

Catherine: Thou'rt true, but to ensure the due success  
Of this our plan I linger to complete it.

Henry: Of this I know,  
That you meet me by this oaken tree  
At this same time when comes to-morrow night,  
And I will take you through the woods to safety.

Catherine: But hist! I fancy that I heard a sound!  
What foul, miscreant rascal can it be  
That keeps to darker shadows than the night?

Henry: Thou'rt overwrought, my love,  
'Twas but the sound of wind up in the trees,  
Or else the creep of cat through undergrowth  
From midnight serenading.  
So now, adieu, and I will on the morrow  
Take you by coach to happiness from sorrow.

[Exeunt]

[Enter Bonaparte from behind tree.]

Bonaparte: Ha! Ha! They make their plans to 'scape  
to-morrow.  
'Tis well that on my prowling round her house,

To find that rascal who has stol'n her heart,  
 I luckily should hap to cross their path,  
 And overhear their misbegotten plan.  
 To their surprise, upon the morrow night  
 I will on them take vengeance for myself;  
 For with her father will I ambush them  
 As on to safety, as they think, they flee.

[Exit

SCENE II.

[The next night, at Bluebeard's Camp.]

Bluebeard: My merry men, sup heartily to-night,  
 For I, with multitudes of men to fight,  
 Will hold the coach which comes by light  
 Of moon at witching hour of night.

All: We hold a coach to-night! Hoorah! Hoorah!

Elainora: [behind tree] You will, will you, you lying, mangy  
 dogs,

Whom I may soon turn into swilling hogs  
 For harming of the mortals in the fogs  
 Of night and of the woods.

I shall be there and with my wand  
 Will soon disperse this filthy band.

[Exit

SCENE III.

The Road through the Woods.

[Bonanzo and Squire hiding behind a tree. Bluebeard and  
 band are hiding behind a hillock, Elainora watching them.  
 Enter coach. Bluebeard springs at horses.]

Bluebeard: Hola! There! Stop, and get you down, or else  
 Your brains will find another resting place.

Henry: Thou scoundrel! Never will I give to you  
 The lovely, precious burden in this coach.  
 For this alone I'll quarter you.

[Draws dagger, jumps down and stabs Bluebeard.]

Elainora: Oh, thieves and denizens of poor and rich,  
 May all you robber band now turn to hogs!

[Waves wand, and pigs scamper from behind hillock and are  
 driven off by elves.]

Elainora: Come, now, fairies, into night.  
 Let these mortals' quarrels light  
 Be on their heads as well they might.

[Exit Queen and Fairies.]

Squire: Too good a father have I been to you,  
 A base, ungrateful, wayward wench,

Who, when your careful father's back is turned,  
 Doth seek to vent your spleen upon the suitor  
 Chosen by me to mould and shape your  
 fortunes.

I could not have a daughter that lives so,  
 For I am come of aristocracy  
 That ever holds a proud head up on high.  
 But it may hap that you were so beguiled  
 And led away by this so boasting wretch,  
 Who for that sin must die a lingering death.

[Springs at Henry, but Catherine throws herself in front of  
 him, and is stabbed by mistake.]

Squire: Oh, wretched me, what evil have I done  
 That I should merit such a dogged fate—  
 To stab my only daughter in the ribs.  
 I never should survive this fearful thing,  
 So, dagger, help me to unmake myself.

[Stabs himself.]

Henry: Thou lousy, sneaking dog!  
 'Twas you we heard in gloomy trees last night,  
 Creeping away from pale moonlight  
 To basely hear the forming of our plan!

Bonaparte: Yes, Yes! But much I fear me that you will  
 not live  
 To tell the dismal tale, without doubt stretched  
 To gain you favour.

[They start to fight, and at last both drop dead from wounds.]

[After a long pause, enter two drunken Soldiers.]

First Drunk

Soldier: Hold, there! Seest thou dead bodies four  
 Or are they spectres, conjured up by fear,  
 Imagination, and too much beer?

Second Drunk

Soldier: Our duty first, then, grisly though 't be,  
 Is to put to cover these dead bodies, for  
 I seem to see the very things you see,  
 And am transformed back to mine own senses  
 And saneness by the sight.

[They cover bodies with leaves and walk off shakily.]

[The Dead March]

[The End]

[God Save the King]

INVOCATION

[Towards evening, in the Spring of 1815, the little churchyard at Piazzo, in Italy, is deserted except for the bent frame of an old man who is reclining on a patch of ground by newly turned up earth. He appears frail and unkempt, but still there remains in him the majesty of old age. His hair is exceedingly white, and hangs over his forehead in its abundance as if to afford him a haven of retreat. However, on his face there is an air of tranquillity which belies his present condition. Quite inert is he except for the spasmodic tremors that pass through him. Then a look of frenzy transfigures his face and his hands wave wildly in the air, but the storm of passion and anguish soon passes like a wave, leaving him listless.]

Old Man: Why must we through this dense wood struggle? Why lead me here? You promised to guide me to my son. Do you betray me?

Guiding Spirit: Follow!

Old Man: Have I not? Have I not followed you through thickets and briars till my clothes were rent and torn? Has not my body been pierced by thorns, and my feet lacerated by stones? But where is my son—where is he? Is it to increase my sorrow that you promise to lead me to Florio, who but a short while ago died of that accursed plague that swept the country like a tidal wave, carrying all before; and so unexpected it was that one day we were living in full security, in joy, in happiness, and the next, we were separated by insurmountable barriers. Oh, the curse of it! The curse of it! May all who have been happy as I be parted from their homes, their families and friends. May—

Guid. Spirit: [threatening] Beware!

Old Man: Beware! Beware! Why speak so? Why utter that word so menacingly? You have not undergone the misery I have suffered! No! Nor likely to—not in thrice three hundred years. But you advance, a patch of light, passing through trees as if they were space, passing through thickets unmindful of thorns, and passing across streams as if you

were some winged creature. But ghost you are, silent and gliding, enemy to the sun and spirit of the dark. Has Lucifer hired you to lead me astray? How long must we still travel through this haunted forest? How long must I endure the mockeries of the scornful beings in this wood? Why, even the trees seem human, nodding and bowing their heads merrily and pointing knowingly ahead with their gnarled fingers. They seem to mock at me, jeer at me; to upbraid me for the purposeless journey and to forewarn me of my fate. But how long, I say, must I endure this?

Guid. Spirit: [commanding] Endure!

Old Man: Endure! Yes, I would endure everything for Florio. I would undergo the torments of Hell for him. Oh, that the plague had taken me in his stead! No! It takes the young and spares the old that they might earn a meagre existence by working in the fields. Indeed, No! By slaving in the fields; by sweating under the eagle eye of the overseer who would take the bread out of a child's mouth. Curse all humanity! Curse—

Guid. Spirit: [contemptuous] Be silent!

Old Man: [abashed] I obey! Are—are we there yet?

Guid. Spirit: [abrupt] Almost!

Old Man: [sad] Always "almost" have we been to Florio, yet still are we apart. We are almost there, then it flits ahead, elusive as a shadow, swift as a dream. [A river appears in sight] What river is this that flows by verdant banks, that seems so wondrous yet so mystical; that flows so swiftly yet impelled not by wind or current? Yes! What river is this?

Guid. Spirit: This is the River of Life that gathers up the universe in its flood and bears it along to eternity. One slip and you will be cast into its depths. Take care!

Old Man: What need I with care? My life is almost spent; all joy is gone and I am as if awakened from a deceptive dream, sad and alone. I have laboured and lost, so what if I but lose this poor, worthless life of mine also. I can be no worse off.

[A bridge over the River of Life appears in sight.]

Yonder looms a bridge. What bridge is that?

Guid. Spirit: The bridge that joins the land of the living to that of the dead. Beware of it, for on it are concealed as many ingenuous traps as there are at the mouth of Hell.

Old Man: [undaunted] Then I can cross it?

Guid. Spirit: Yes! But you can not set foot on the Land of the Dead.

Old Man: [perplexed] But Florio — how will I see Florio?

Guid. Spirit: All will be well. Now that I have carried out the duty designated to me, here will I leave you. [Exit

Old Man: Alone once more! Yet will I obey his commands.

[He approaches and commences to walk across the bridge. When only a short distance from the end, he suddenly stops.]

Why do I halt? Is all my will power gone? Is my brain no longer the master of my action?

[Florio advances from the Land of the Dead, but stops at the end of the bridge. He is tall, handsome and slender, and is in his twenties. Around him there hangs an atmosphere of melancholy, while his sunken, listless eyes indicate that he is given to brooding.]

Old Man: [excited] Florio! It is Florio! Why can I proceed no further? Why stop you there?

Florio: No further may I venture for I am of the dead. Be you not so eager to enter here. This is a land of darkness and melancholy. Here there is no joy; here mirth never penetrated. Be not tempted by deceptive thoughts; they are but snares to trap unwary game. Here we wander among our fellows

but never can speak; here we act in the same monotonous routine but never can change it; here we sicken with regret but never can soothe it until—

[A flight of spirits enter and hover over Florio menacingly.]

But of that I must be silent.

Old Man: [sympathetic] What years have ploughed such anguish across your brow?

Florio: [bitterly] Years! Indeed my soul has passed through eternity enduring the grief, the trials and sorrows of every man. Be content with the Earth with its joys and sadness rather than endure the untold miseries of this land of blight. Return! Return, I say!

Old Man: Never such a tale has ever been told. Surely life there cannot be as drab and pitiless as you paint it? Surely it can not be colder and more cheerless than the earth?

Florio: Return! Do not attempt to outwait Time. The devil but sets his snares to entrap you in their meshes and to gain for you a fate similar to mine. Return!

Old Man: [resolute] Never again will I return to battle against sorrow and despair, 'gainst misery and loneliness. By the earth am I rejected, here will I be admitted. Attempt not to hinder me or snatch rudely from my grasp what my whole soul cherishes.

Florio: [desperate] Trust in me! Return! Do not be so cunningly enticed into such squalor as that to which I have been reduced. Return!

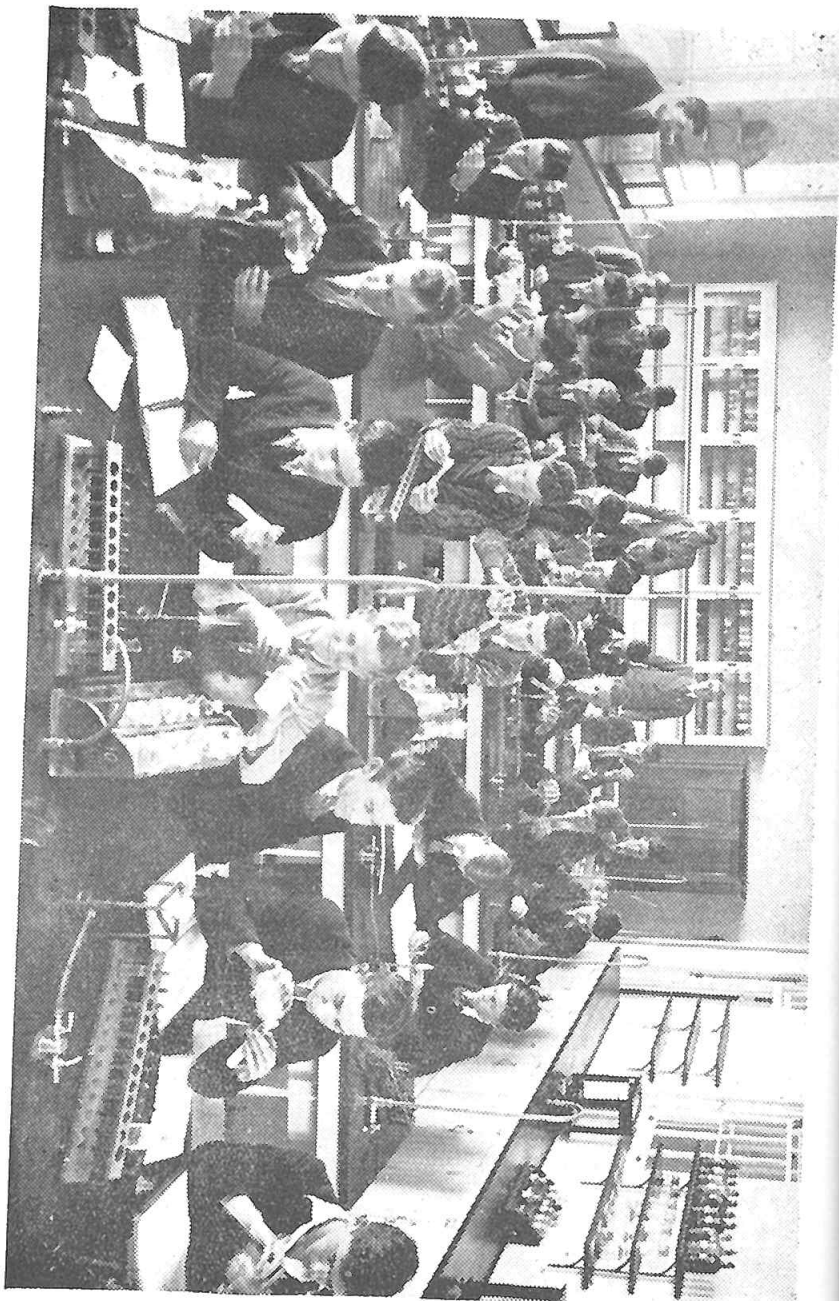
Old Man: [determined] Return? Never! I will cross into yonder land! I will cross, I say, I will. My God, I will. I . . .

[The intense strain he exerts on his mind snaps the chord of his brain. He collapses and is hurled into the River of Life, which bears him on. Florio sorrowfully departs into the darkness of the Land of the Dead.]

\* \* \* \*

[Next morning, in exactly the same position, in the same posture and with the same expression on his face, lay the old man, but—lifeless.]

—C. Reines, 4A.



## ACTIVITIES

### SPEECH NIGHT

THE Twenty-Eighth Annual Speech Night was held in the Newcastle Town Hall, and was a very impressive function. The large attendance of parents and friends was a flattering tribute to the esteem in which the School is held in the city. The Mayor of Newcastle (Ald. R. G. Kilgour) presided, and the main speech was delivered by the Director of Education (Mr. G. R. Thomas).

#### THE HEADMASTER'S REPORT

Mr. Christmas quoted figures showing that the highest enrolment for the year had reached 800, and commented on the larger percentage of boys in the fourth and fifth years. It was to be regretted, however, that so many boys had been forced to repeat the fifth year after passing the Leaving Certificate, as positions could not be found for them. Indeed, many younger boys were securing positions while better qualified boys were remaining at School. The Headmaster appealed to citizens to correct this defective balance.

The School had presented 82 successful candidates for the Leaving Certificate, 45 of whom qualified for matriculation. Ten University exhibitions were won, 12 Teachers' College Scholarships (five of these being permitted to attend the University, a rare privilege these days), and nine gained passes for the State and Federal Public Service. The School won 14 first-class and 22 second-class honours in the examination. In the Intermediate there were 92 passes.

There follows a report of the speech of the Director, from the "Newcastle Herald":

"Now that the new High School is an established fact, I must congratulate those who worked so hard to make it a reality," said Mr. Thomas. "When the needs of technical education in this district are satisfied, some of the educational requirements of this great city will be catered for to an adequate degree. The march of scientific progress cannot be stopped, and the technical schools must be given every attention. But one cannot foretell the expansion that will take place in such a large city as Newcastle, and extensions must be made from time to time, and the old replaced by modern, year by year."

Mr. Thomas said that the report presented by the Headmaster was particularly pleasing to him. The results obtained in school work and examinations proved that the scholars were taught by conscientious and able masters. He was also pleased to observe that the house system had been adopted in school sport. He thought that the idea was the best possible for a big school, and that it assisted to a further degree in the moulding of character. Sport should be encouraged, for personality was brought to bear to a greater extent on the play-ings fields than elsewhere.

"Newcastle is to be congratulated on its provision for adolescent education," Mr. Thomas continued. "It now has four big schools in which provision is made for the education of pupils between the ages of 12 and 18. These expenditures must be interpreted as investments, the gilt-edged securities being these children in the schools. On high schools rest a great burden of responsibility, for it is in those schools that youth is moulded to serve as citizens. Parents can co-operate with the educational system of this State in its effort to make splendid citizens by keeping their children at school after they have turned fourteen. It is most pleasing to find that children over that age are being allowed to remain at school, for then it is possible to develop a child's personality to a greater extent. Our desire is that the children should not leave school to take a place among the crowd of this world that cringe and fawn and refuse to face the problems. We wish to see them citizens of use in the world's worries, tempered with a fire and fervour that will make them leaders."

Speaking to the scholars, Mr. Thomas said that each one had a part to play in life, but that life was going to be hard for them, and that they would have to take many hard knocks. The path that lay before them was difficult, and called for courage and faith if they were to become more than the ordinary civilian. Boys must be fit physically, mentally, and spiritually before they were sent out to face the world, and must recognise that they had to face squarely the difficulties that they were certain to meet. In the years ahead cities and countries would demand the best of citizens to lead. He advised the boys to gain the habit of thinking clearly and quickly, and to refuse to admit defeat.

A pleasing feature of the evening was the musical programme, contributed to by scholars. For the first time the School orchestra played in public, and performed with considerable credit. It was augmented by some well-known Newcastle musicians, but it was evident that even without their services the schoolboy performers would have done well. The School choir, also appearing for the first time, sang sweetly, and received great applause, especially for the rendition of "Come to the Fair." Master Jack Bottrill

played a violin solo, and Master George Garratt a pianoforte solo. The musical side of the programme was arranged by Mr. G. L. Reid.

#### PRINCIPAL PRIZES

Dux of School—James Meikle Memorial Prize: R. C. Wilson.  
 Intermediate Dux—P. & C. Prize: G. Desgrand.  
 Bridge Prize for History—G. Griffiths.  
 Newcastle Business College Prize for English: John Rich.  
 Dux Prizes (donated by Old Novocastrians): 4th Year, F. Willis; 2nd Year, N. Hunter; 1st Year, A. Thomas.  
 German Consul's Prize for Best Pass in State in German: R. C. Wilson.  
 Liversedge Scholarship for Chemistry: J. N. Ellis.

#### SPORT—NEWCASTLE P.S.A.A.A. COMPETITIONS

##### Rugby League—

- A. Grade: Major and Minor Premiership.
- B. Grade: Major and Minor Premiership.

Soccer—A. Grade: Joint Premiership.

Tennis—Major and Minor Premiership.

Cricket—B. Grade: Major and Minor Premiership.

Baseball—Major and Minor Premiership.

Athletics—Championship Shield.

Life-Saving—The Hendry Cup, presented by the Royal Life-Saving Society for general excellence in Life-Saving, and open for State-wide competition, was won by the School. A total of 104 awards was won by the pupils.

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#### SCHOOL NEWS

The first assembly of the whole School at the new building at Waratah was held on May 10th, 1933. The examination classes had been meeting for a whole term in the old building on the Hill. A picture taken at this assembly hangs in the vestibule as an interesting record.

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We offer our congratulations to Mr. B. A. Helmore on securing his LL.B. from London University.



Mr. W. E. R. Wilson's recent research on the history of the A.A. Company will be of peculiar interest to Newcastle people. Mr. Wilson was awarded his M.A. this year on submitting his thesis on the subject to the University.

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The list of authors who adorn our Staff is reaching staggering proportions! Mr. Wootten's "Guide to Intermediate French" has been on the market for several months. "A Students' Guide—English Composition," by Messrs. Reid and Allsopp, is also ready. A new and enlarged edition of "Intermediate Geography," by Messrs. Ford and MacInnes, has been published. Mr. Gillings has published a little book, entitled "Crazy Cards." "Mathematical Tables," by Outten and Gillings, has also been issued this year. We do not mention previous publications.

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Mr. Williams has become an income tax expert, employing the sonnet form as a vehicle of expression.

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Jack Hills and Tom Hills, two former 1st XIII. players, were selected for the Northern Districts team which played the All Blacks in Newcastle recently.

\* \* \* \*

Stan Ray is a prominent player in Metters Soccer team.

\* \* \* \*

S. Wood, former junior champion swimmer, is now prominent among the Northern District's distance swimmers.

\* \* \* \*

W. Reines won the Newcastle Premier Club breast stroke championship.

\* \* \* \*

Owing to the disorganisation of the School through its division earlier in the year, only one issue of the "Novocastrian" will be published this year.

\* \* \* \*

Four prizes were offered for contributions to the "Novocastrian" Each prize is ten shillings. These were awarded by the master in charge of the Magazine, in consultation with other members of the Staff.

### LITERARY PRIZES

#### Senior School—

##### (a) Short Story.

Not awarded as no short story of sufficient merit was handed in. Several excellent pieces of prose were submitted, but none of these could be classed as short stories.

##### (b) Verse.

Awarded to W. Reines for "Della Robbia," which is printed in this issue.

#### Junior School—

##### (a) Prose Composition.

Awarded to W. Landy for "Greed."

##### (b) Verse.

Awarded to W. S. Quinn for the poem, "My Dream," which is printed in the verse section. Several worthy attempts from first year are also highly commended.

\* \* \* \*

The School is indeed fortunate in having Mrs. Timmins to run the Tuck Shop here at Waratah as was done at the old School. Mrs. Timmins, and her team of helpers, is giving a fine service combined with rare cheerfulness and kindness, and we record our appreciation here.

### OFFICIAL OPENING

On Saturday, 18th August, the new building was officially opened by the Minister for Education, Mr. D. H. Drummond, M.L.A. The Minister was welcomed by the President of the Parents' and Citizens' Association, Ald. Richardson (Mayor of Hamilton), who was supported by Ald. Kilgour (Mayor of Newcastle), Ald. Webb (Mayor of Waratah), and Ald. Lloyd (Mayor of Merewether).

Addressing a large gathering, Mr. Drummond said that all that architectural science could give was comprised in this new building. In the hands of the people of Newcastle, however, lay the real future of the School. A good education was not the end of everything. It was sometimes the beginning, but the real thing that made education complete was the spirit of the people. The main object of education and buildings was to train children to an understanding and appreciation of the world and its people.

### NEED FOR UNDERSTANDING

The greatest folly that was expressed in modern times was exemplified in the use of the word "foreigners," said the Minister. Some people did not seem to think that what they described as a foreigner was real, or human. Never in the history of the world was it more essential that men and women should lose that word, and develop an appreciation of the fact that the whole world, and not the little part of it in which they lived, consisted of human beings.

To-day the speed of aerial travel—magnificent flights like those of Sir Charles Kingsford Smith and that gallant little lady, Miss Jean Batten—brought home the speed at which the world and its people were changing. It was no more possible to retain the word "foreigner" and all that it implied than it was to maintain national barriers. In the institutions of this country, and through life and art, citizens must rise to an appreciation of the point of view of others.

### "IGNORANCE A MENACE"

Ignorance was a menace to the world. It was to break down the barriers of ignorance and learn the point of view of other people that schools were built. People who regarded the foreigner as a person of bloodless abstraction, who did not feel as they did, must learn to realise that there was no greater lie. Of all the rivers of blood that had been spilt by the human race, most had been spilt because people had forgotten that the people of other nations were not foreigners, but humans with hopes, loves, hates, and aspirations as much to be recognised and respected as their own.

The Minister was then entertained at afternoon tea, which had been prepared in the Assembly Hall by the ladies of the P. & C. Association.

Ald. Richardson called for speeches from the Headmaster, Mr. Christmas, the President of the Old Novocastrians, Mr. Hughes, Mr. Harvey and Mr. Armstrong.

In his address, Mr. Christmas appealed to the citizens of Newcastle to complete the furnishing of the School. Mr. T. Armstrong had presented a beautiful trophy, the "John Brown" Shield, for the House competition, and also had promised pictures. Dr. Roberts had donated beautiful

pictures, and several firms were preparing pictures for the Science rooms. Added to the Meikle Memorial Clock and furniture presented by Mrs. Chichester, these made a fine beginning. With the advantages of a fully-equipped building the School would achieve even greater success than in the past.

Mr. D. H. Watkins, M.H.R., proposed a vote of thanks to the Minister and was supported by Mr. Wootten and Mrs. Kilgour.

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### STAFF CHANGES

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Mr. W. D. Noakes, who was Deputy Head of the School for four years, became Headmaster of the new Junior High, which now occupies the old school building on the Hill. We congratulate Mr. Noakes on assuming fresh responsibilities, and record our appreciation of four years of faithful service to the School.

Mr. D. Short has left us to be Master of Modern Languages at Fort Street.

Mr. F. C. Wootten came to us from Fort Street, where he has been Modern Languages Master for seven years, to be the new Deputy Head.

The Classics mastership, for some time left vacant, was this year filled by Mr. W. Furnass, who was on the staff of Canterbury High.

Mr. A. M. Hall, for some years on the Sydney High staff, becomes Master of English.

Mr. M. Dinter was transferred to Coff's Harbour after a short stay on the staff.

After a trip abroad for travel combined with the gaining of experience in English schools, Mr. K. Barnard returned to the staff this year; while Mr. R. Farrell is still in Germany studying on his travelling scholarship.

We expect Mr. Crosswell, who took a six months' trip to Europe, to return shortly.

During the year, Mr. E. Lamerton was transferred to North Sydney Boys' High.

## MESSAGE FROM MR. C. R. SMITH

We print the following message from Mr. Smith because it must ever remain unique. Mr. Smith, the first headmaster of the Newcastle High School, is the only man living after whom a school house has been named.

To the Members of the "Smith" House,  
Newcastle Boys' High School.

Dear Boys,

I look upon it as a great honour that your House has been named after me—"The Smith House." I was the first Headmaster of the School and spent several very pleasant years while occupying that position. It was, therefore, with very great pleasure that I learnt that my name was to be perpetuated in the School that I love so much.

Now, there are just a few things I should like to say to you as members of the Smith House. First, I should wish that the members of my House should be distinguished by their manly and honourable conduct on all occasions. Let them be known throughout the School as good sports, always "playing the game," and never trying to take a mean advantage of anyone. Never do anything that would bring discredit on the School or on the Smith House. Always put the honour of Newcastle High and of the Smith House before everything.

Be obedient pupils, painstaking and earnest in your School work, trying always to be as near the top of your class as possible.

On the cricket or football field, your rallying cry is to be "Caesar!", which, I believe, was the name given me by boys in the various schools in which I have been a teacher. I am proud of the name, for one of the most famous men of ancient times bore that name. When, then, you hear it called aloud on the field, let it inspire you to put forth your utmost effort to win the game.

With regard to your Housemaster, Mr. A. H. Pelham, he is very well known to me, for he was a pupil of Sydney Boys' High School during my Headmastership. He is an excellent sport and a distinguished scholar, especially on the Classical side. On leaving the Sydney High he won the Cooper Scholarship for Classics, passed through Sydney University with high distinction and gained a travelling scholarship, which enabled him to visit the Old Country and study at Cambridge. I am sure you will find him a most efficient Housemaster; one who will encourage you in everything that is right and proper.

Your Headmaster, Mr. Christmas, I also know very well, for he and I were together for several years in Newcastle High and we worked harmoniously for the building up of the reputation of the School. From what I know of his character, I feel sure that

your feelings towards him must be those of the utmost respect and esteem.

In conclusion, let me say that some day I hope to pay a visit to the School, in order to become personally acquainted with you and see how you are getting on.

I wish you all the very best of luck in your school work and in your sporting activities. Whether at work or play, always cultivate the spirit of the School motto—"Remis Velisque"—which may be freely translated as "With tooth and nail," or "With all your might."

Yours faithfully,

C. R. SMITH.

## THE PREFECTS' NOTES

Room "X." Lurking somewhere, hidden in the deeper recesses of the minds of the "powers that be," there were, we think, the aspirations and desires for a prefects' room. On arriving at the new school, we immediately started to solve the mystery of room "X." We looked here, we looked there, but still we could not find it; and still the mystery of room "X" has not been solved. Nevertheless, we are still happy, and as we muse over the ever-increasing frequency of changes that have taken place in our school lives, there stands one chapter which has precedence over the rest of the book.

With the transfer of the School from the old site on the Hill to the present site at Waratah, there began for the prefects a new responsibility, which has been greatly lightened by the enthusiastic assistance of the staff, particularly Mr. Ford, our chief instructor and adviser. Thanks to their assistance and the moral support of the School, we have been able to maintain a high standard of efficiency; and because of the fine understanding that exists between the School and the prefects, there has been an almost complete absence of petty friction that sometimes alienates the prefects from the remainder of the School.

This year, the School found it necessary to elect a Senior Prefect, as well as a Captain and Vice-Captain. There is one little privilege we would very much like to obtain for the Senior Prefect—that is a badge. We understand that the School intends in future years to obtain some

sign of office, and we think that it is only fair that our present Senior Prefect should be presented with some symbol of office.

As a band we are fairly representative of the whole School. We have representatives in all branches of School activity, both intellectual and sporting.

Talking of sports—a great many of our members were eagerly awaiting the advent of the Girls' Sports, but, alas and alack! their fond hopes and aspirations were to be dashed to the ground by that awful and fateful decree of Mr. Christmas that no fifth year boy was to attend the Girls' Sports. Nevertheless, we have it that one of our members at least was seen—or could not be seen (I don't know which it is)—behind the blackboard by the vigilant eye of Miss Read, the Headmistress of the Girls' High. Things have not been quite the same since for our sports official. Never mind, Wally, aren't we all?

Nevertheless, as our brief sojourn as schoolboys draws to a close, there flits through our minds old reminiscences that shall always be inseparable from Newcastle Boys' High, whether on the Hill or at Waratah. From first year to fifth year have we travelled, and may that spirit of friendship, which has been ours for so long, exist and remain in our hearts as we tread the various pathways that lead to the ultimate goal.

### OLD NOVOCASTRIANS' ASSOCIATION



The Old Novocastrians' Association is a union of the ex-students of the Boys' and Girls' High Schools, whose aims are, amongst other things, to keep alive the old "School spirit" (by re-unions of various kinds), to help the Schools, to encourage sportsmanship and scholarship, and to help present students to honour their Alma Mater.

Prizes are donated annually by the Association for the girls and boys who are dux of their year, and the captains of the Girls' and Boys' High Schools, respectively, are presented each year with a gold bar brooch and a pair of

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gold sleeve-links, each bearing the Old Novocastrian crest and a scroll with the word "Captain" upon it.

A series of dances have been held by the Association throughout the year, and have all been most successful both socially and financially. The Committee intends holding more dances before the season closes, as well as bridge and crazy-card parties, tennis parties, and, when the weather is warmer, lake excursions.

All ex-students are cordially invited to join up with the Association. The annual subscription is only 3/-, and for those who desire them, badges may be obtained at a cost of 2/6, on application to any member of the Committee. All inquiries may be addressed to the Secretary, O.N.A., Box 146, P.O., Newcastle.

In order to stimulate an interest in the Association, students from both schools are now permitted to join up at a fee of 1/- a year, and are called Associates. Miss K. Rouse and Mr. R. Lew are the Associates' representatives at Committee Meetings.

The Committee of the Old Novocastrians' Association this year includes Mr. T. H. Hughes (President), Mr. B. A. Helmore (Vice-President), Miss D. A. Johnson (Secretary), Mr. J. F. Brier (Treasurer), Misses S. Towler, D. Brant, E. Holt, J. Truscott, M. Reynolds; Messrs. J. Halcrow, H. Mitchell, L. Deed, H. Bennett and G. Thomas. Mr. J. Howard is the Auditor.

Representatives in other centres are: Miss E. Martin and Mr. A. Brown (Sydney University), Mr. Bailey (Sydney Teachers' College), Miss N. Blumer and Mr. S. Williams (Armidale Teachers' College).

—D. A. J. (Hon. Sec.)

Our Sydney Representatives write:

Novocastrians down here number fifty, but so scattered is the University campus and so widely do courses taken differ that they seldom meet. A few weeks ago, a Re-union Dance was held in the University Union Hall, and was quite a success, being the first held for over a year.

There are seven Old Novocastrians in 4th year, five in 3rd year, five in 2nd year, nine in first year at the 'Varsity,

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and an additional seven in second year and four in first year at the Teachers' College, making a total of thirty-seven—a very good representation. In addition, some who finished College last year, Coady, Cohen, Laycock and McConnell, are doing a University course at night while awaiting appointments.

Bill Engel is organiser in Sydney for the Adult Deaf and Dumb Institute. Occasionally, a Deaf & Dumb Institute team plays the College soccer team, and Bill is the only man it is who can speak!

In sport the Old Novocastrians are well represented, and practically every team at College and University has a Novocastrian or two in it. Stan Ray has distinguished himself as a player with Metters in State League Soccer. The Cranna twin brothers are both doing Uni. courses, and one of them had the misfortune to lose a leg lately as it was badly crushed at football and had to be amputated.

David Jones is completing his final year in Agricultural Science, Max Reines his final year in Economics, Tom Brown and Ern Adderley their final years in Science.

Des. Peate is just about half-way through the Medical course and is now senior resident of Wesley College. Trevor Perry and Bill Wells are doing their professional year at the College. Harry Eddy and Bill Wells received the B.A. degree at the recent conferring ceremony.

Harry Roarty is teaching at a Metropolitan school, Jack Britton at a private school at Townsville as English master (Jack was School Captain in 1929). Jim Smith is teaching in a metropolitan High School, Len McRae at Cessnock High, Bob Grierson at Drummoyne High, and Ted Smith at Taree High.

Novocastrians in Sydney wish those in Newcastle the best of luck.

—W. Bailey.

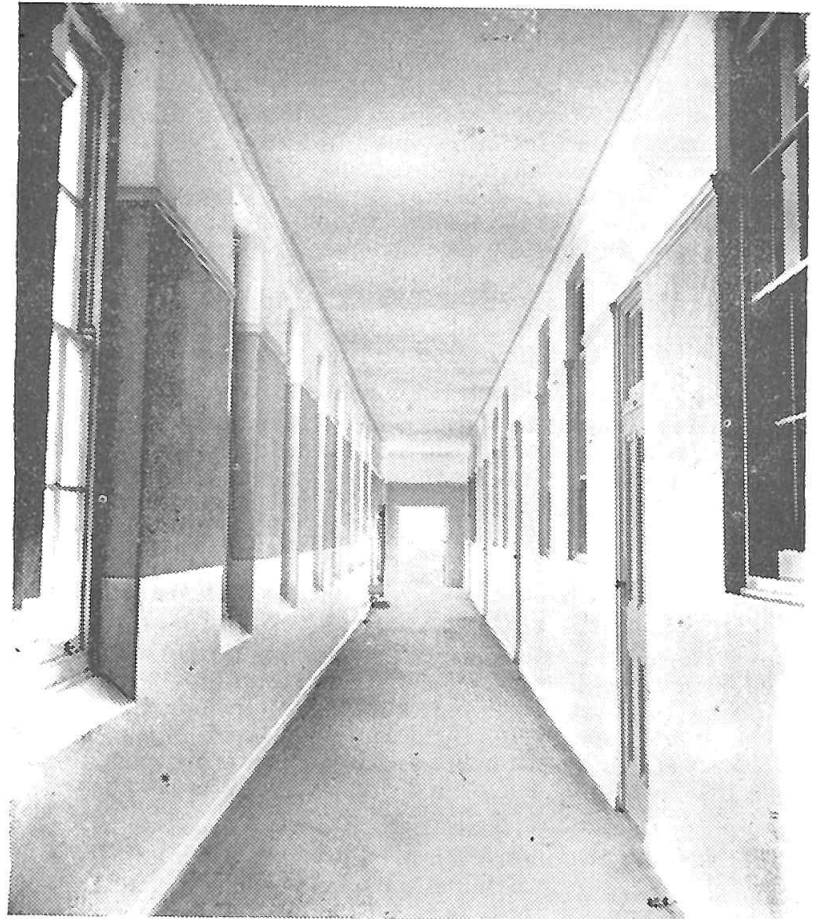


Photo: "Newcastle Herald"

A long vista in a Corridor.

UNIVERSITY SHIELD COMPETITION



Taking all the facts into consideration, the 1934 football season must be regarded as among the most successful in the history of Newcastle High School. With a late start in training due to the division of the School, our prospects did not appear bright at the beginning. Most of our experienced players had left, and the boys offering for selection were rather young and in comparison with recent teams seemed to be lacking in weight. However, a few scratch matches revealed an abundance of football talent, and after a few weeks of experiment and training there began to emerge a team worthy to don the red and blue jerseys of N.H.S.

**N.H.S. v. Taree High School. Won 12—3.**

This opening match of the Competition was played at Taree, where the local residents lived up to their reputation for hospitality. The second half was played in torrential rain, but our players soon adjusted themselves to the changed conditions, Marks, Lew and Ringland playing fine football.

**NORTHERN SEMI-FINAL Played at Waratah.**

**N.H.S. v. Cessnock High. Won 16—4.**

Newcastle showed marked superiority, although Cessnock was handicapped by a player being incapacitated during the first few minutes. The outstanding players in the home side were Burdekin, Lew and Marks in the forwards, Hume, Ringland and Brown in the backs. Moore in his first game performed creditably.

**SEMI-FINALS**

**N.H.S. v. Goulburn High. Played at Sydney Sports Ground. Won 15—0.**

The match was played under almost impossible conditions, the ground being literally under water, while heavy rain fell continuously throughout the game. Having experienced similar conditions at Taree, the Newcastle XIII. had an advantage over their opponents, who attempted to pass the ball, while we kept it low on the ground. The final score was 15—0: Burdekin, Brown, Hume, tries; Marks, 3 goals.

FINAL

**N.H.S. v. Commercial Secondary Classes. Played at Waratah. Lost 3—5.**

Unexpectedly called upon to play at only a few hours' notice, the Newcastle team took the field at a distinct disadvantage. Team training had been disorganised by the Annual Sports Meeting held the same week; many of the players were weary from strenuous athletic contests; and our star wing three-quarter, Ringland, was absent owing to injuries received in the semi-final. In their opponents they had to meet an older, heavier and more experienced team, but they played with great spirit, dash and skill.

Below is an account of the match taken from the "Newcastle Herald":—

RUGBY LEAGUE

UNIVERSITY SHIELD: NEWCASTLE LOSES FINAL

(By "The Onlooker.")

Newcastle High School Rugby League team was defeated by 5 points to 3 by Commercial Secondary Classes in the final of the University Shield, at Waratah Oval.

The Newcastle team was unfortunate to lose, and had it enjoyed similar luck to the Sydney team would have won the Shield. Newcastle's team was a much smaller side physically. When play began it appeared from the shouts of the many enthusiastic spectators that a Newcastle player by the name of "Birdy," who is the school's champion athlete (Floyd Burdekin) and captain of the team, was the star on which Newcastle's hopes rested, but the others of the team supported him nobly.

Applause for most of the first half was dignified in its equality, but with Newcastle down 5 to nil at the start of the second half, one supporter, discouraged by the appearance of the leg-weary Newcastle players, chanted the school war cry. It was immediately taken up by the well-filled stand, and brought into use with great frequency. The unintelligible words appeared to act as a tonic to the players, who, tired but a moment before, re-entered the game with valiant determination. Newcastle soon scored an unconverted try, and there was great excitement. But the Sydney side defended stubbornly, and seemed content to keep the line intact without worrying about its own score.

With the end of the match in sight Newcastle's efforts were redoubled, and a dashing centre three-quarter, J. Hume, who played a splendid game, made a fine opening, caught the defence on its wrong foot and gave his winger, H. Longworth, a nice pass. Longworth, the school sprint champion, went for the line and reached it at the same time as three Sydney players. Longworth

threw himself among the defenders and the full-back pushed him, but the Newcastle player lost the ball over the dead-line. Newcastle tried again against a defence that had tightened, and Hume was allowed no more room to send Longworth away. Then in what was the last minute, the Newcastle full-back, Roach, made a desperate effort. He received the ball about 40 yards out from the Sydney goal, and attempted a field goal. The ball hit the post, high up above the bar, and fell into the field. The game ended almost immediately.

The match was most interesting from start to finish, and was said to be a fair indication of the standard of the competition. If the claim is correct, school football has reached a high plane. Tackling was solid and always around the ankles, while the line kicking merited the applause it received. It might be said, to the credit of the Newcastle team, that it played football, whereas the Sydney side was inclined to mark the man, and at times a tackler unnecessarily pushed his opponent's head farther into the dirt. Headlocks were also used, but although Newcastle players made protest, they kept their tempers.

1st XIII., 1934.

- F. BURDEKIN (Captain and lock forward).—The terror of opposing halves. With his outstanding speed and 14 stone weight should be an asset to any team. Always played with courage and spirit.
- R. LEW (second row)—A brilliant forward who won praise for his dash and determination in every game. The School has probably never produced a better second row man.
- R. MARKS (second row)—Almost the equal of Lew. Strong in defence and handy in attack. His kicking was a useful asset to the team, his bag being eight goals in competition matches.
- R. MOGG (front row)—Second only to Burdekin in weight and height. Lacked experience, but was always a willing worker.
- A. WRIGHTSON (rake)—Considered one of the finds of the season. Raked the ball consistently and made a capable dummy-half.
- J. SYMES (front row)—A vigorous, hard-working forward. Not gifted with much speed in the open, but useful in the rucks. A deadly tackler.

- S. TURNER (front row)—A determined forward. Not a regular member of the team, but played well when needed.
- C. BARRACK (half back)—Inclined at first to attempt too much, but overcame this defect as the season went on. Capable of giving a neat pass from the scrum and adept at dummyming.
- R. MOORE (five-eight)—A young player of great promise. Handled well and passed accurately. With experience will be a valuable member of next year's team.
- H. HUME (centre three-quarter)—A player of great natural ability. Ran trickily and made many openings. A little inclined to hang on at first, but soon overcame this tendency. A safe tackler. Should be a representative Newcastle centre of the future.
- G. BROWN (centre three-quarter)—A fast, vigorous player, strong in attack and defence. Should be one of the mainstays of next year's team.
- K. LONGWORTH (wing three-quarter)—Though handling was weak at times, his speed was an asset to the team. Tackled well. Another player who is expected to star in the 1935 team.
- A. RINGLAND (wing three-quarter)—The fastest player in the team. His strong, determined running was a feature of the back-line movements. His absence from final probably lost us the Shield.
- A. ROACH (full back)—Handled faultlessly and kicked with judgment. Knew when to come up with three-quarters. Not a strong tackler, but always managed to bring his man down. His glorious though unsuccessful kick at goal in final will long be remembered.

SWIMMING



The outstanding success of the Annual Swimming Carnival, held at the Ocean Baths, on December 12th, was mainly due to the splendid work accomplished by Mr. Ford, who was assisted by a committee elected from the senior students, this committee being: R. Mogg, F. Burdekin, A. Anderburg, T. Ridgway and W. Reines.

The record number of entries received reflects creditably on the inclusion in the programme of several novelty events, in which practically every boy in the School could participate.

It is our pleasant duty to place on record our gratitude to Messrs. H. Field (Hon. Sec. of Newcastle Premier Swimming Club) and A. Bull (Vice-Captain of the Club) for their valuable assistance and advice.

Three records were broken — one in each division. W. Reines, who won the Senior Championship of the School, in covering 50 yds. in the Breast Stroke Championship in 37 1-5 secs., broke F. York's record by 5 4-5 secs. The Junior Champion, F. O'Donnell, broke S. Wood's record of 31 2-5 secs. for the Junior 50 Yds. Championship by 1 2-5 secs.; while W. Quinn, the Under 14 Champion, broke the Under 14 50 Yds. record by 2 415 secs.

DETAILED RESULTS

Senior—

50 Yds. Senior Championship: W. Reines 1st, R. Timbury 2nd, D. Sowerby 3rd. Time, 29 3-5 secs.

100 Yds. Senior Championship: W. Reines 1st, R. Timbury 2nd, D. Sowerby 3rd. Time, 1 min. 12 2-5 secs.

220 Yds. Senior Championship: D. Sowerby 1st, J. Elge 2nd, F. Willis 3rd. Time, 4 mins. 28 2-5 secs.

50 Yds. Senior Breaststroke Championship: W. Reines 1st, D. Sowerby 2nd, F. Willis 3rd. Time, 37 1-5 secs. Record.

100 Yds. Senior Breaststroke Championship: W. Reines 1st, D. Sowerby 2nd, W. Sowerby 3rd. Time, 1 min. 57 1-5 secs.

50 Yds. Senior Backstroke Championship: W. Reines 1st, R. Timbury 2nd, D. Sowerby 3rd. Time, 42 2-5 secs.

100 Yds. Senior Backstroke Championship: W. Reines 1st, R. Oliffe 2nd, F. Willis 3rd. Time, 1 min. 52 4-5 secs.

Senior Diving Championship: R. Timbury 1st, D. Sowerby 2nd, F. Willis 3rd.

Senior Championship (6 events): W. Reines, 39 pts., 1st; D. Sowerby, 22 pts., 2nd; R. Timbury, 18 pts., 3rd.

Junior—

50 Yds. Junior Championship: F. O'Donnell 1st, F. Strudwick 2nd, T. Ridgway 3rd. Time, 30 secs. Record.

100 Yds. Junior Championship: F. O'Donnell 1st, J. Ratcliffe 2nd, T. Ridgway 3rd. Time, 1 min. 13 secs.

220 Yds. Junior Championship: F. O'Donnell 1st, R. Oliffe 2nd, T. Ridgway 3rd. Time, 3 min. 7 secs.

50 Yds. Junior Breaststroke Championship: F. O'Donnell 1st, T. Ridgway 2nd, F. Strudwick 3rd. Time, 52 1-5 secs.

100 Yds. Junior Breaststroke Championship: F. O'Donnell 1st, J. Ratcliffe 2nd, T. Ridgway 3rd. Time, 2 mins. 14 3-5 secs.

50 Yds. Junior Backstroke Championship: F. O'Donnell 1st, R. Strudwick 2nd, R. Arndt 3rd. Time, 42 secs.

Junior Diving Championship: J. Cairns 1st, K. Bate-man 2nd, R. Arndt 3rd.

Junior Championship: F. O'Donnell, 39 pts., 1st; T. Ridgway, 12 pts., 2nd, F. Strudwick, 10 pts., 3rd.

Under 14—

33 Yds. Under 14 Championship: W. Quinn 1st, H. Young 2nd, J. Nash 3rd. Time, 21 4-5 secs.

50 Yds. Under 14 Championship: W. Quinn 1st, J. Nash 2nd, H. Young 3rd. Time, 33 1-5 secs. Record.

33 Yds. Under 14 Breaststroke Championship: J. Vaisey 1st, W. Quinn 2nd, J. Reid 3rd. Time, 30 4-5 secs.

50 Yds. Under 14 Breaststroke Championship: J. Vaisey 1st, W. Quinn 2nd, J. Reid 3rd. Time, 54 secs.

33 Yds. Under 14 Backstroke Championship: W. Quinn 1st, J. Reid 2nd, H. Young 3rd. Time, 35 secs.



50 Yds. Under 14 Backstroke Championship: J. Reid 1st, H. Young 2nd, T. Jones 3rd. Time, 64 4-5 secs.

Under 14 Diving Championship: K. Spence 1st, J. Nash 2nd, L. Campbell 3rd.

Under 14 Championship: W. Quinn, 29 pts., 1st; J. Reid, 14 pts., 2nd; H. Young, 12 pts., 3rd.

### RECORDS

#### Senior—

50 Yds. Freestyle, F. York, 27 secs. .... 1932  
 100 Yds. Freestyle, F. York, 63 secs. .... 1932  
 220 Yds. Freestyle, W. Reines, 3 min. 53 secs. .... 1932  
 50 Yds. Breaststroke, W. Reines, 37 1-5 secs. .... 1933  
 100 Yds. Breaststroke, W. Reines, 1 min. 57 1-5 secs., 1933  
 50 Yds. Backstroke, C. Hingst, 38 secs. .... 1932  
 100 Yds. Backstroke, W. Reines, 1 min. 52 4-5 secs. . 1933

#### Junior—

50 Yds. Freestyle, F. O'Donnell, 30 secs. .... 1933  
 100 Yds. Freestyle, S. Wood, 66½ secs. .... 1932  
 220 Yds. Freestyle, S. Wood, 2 min. 54 secs. .... 1932  
 50 Yds. Breaststroke, S. Wood, 40 secs. .... 1932  
 100 Yds. Breaststroke, F. O'Donnell, 2 m. 14 3-5 sec. 1933  
 50 Yds. Backstroke, S. Wood, 37½ secs ..... 1932  
 100 Yds. Backstroke

#### Under 14—

33 Yds. Freestyle, G. Brown, 21 secs. .... 1932  
 50 Yds. Freestyle, W. Quinn, 33 1-5 secs. .... 1933  
 33 Yds. Breaststroke, G. Fairhall, 30 1-5 secs. .... 1932  
 50 Yds. Breaststroke, J. Vaisey, 54 secs. .... 1933  
 33 Yds. Backstroke, G. Brown, 30 secs. .... 1932  
 50 Yds. Backstroke, J. Reid, 64 4-5 secs. .... 1933

### LIFE-SAVING

Prior to 1931, life-saving had received but scant attention at the High. By re-instituting life-saving in 1931, Mr. Black formed the nucleus of the squad that won the Hendry Cup, presented by the Royal Life-Saving Society for general excellence, last year. This Cup, open to State-wide competition, is not restricted only to schools, Manly Amateur Swimming Club having won it.

The following is an extract from the "Newcastle Morning Herald":

"The Hendry Cup, which has been won by the Newcastle High School for life-saving tuition work in competition with schools throughout the State, was displayed to the students. The Cup was held last year by Fort Street High School, which has consistently fought with Manly for the honour of holding it. Points in the competition were awarded on the percentage basis, according to the number of awards won by individual students in the competing schools. Newcastle's win was more meritorious by virtue of the fact that the instruction had been given by one of the students, W. Reines, who is a qualified instructor."

Outstanding among the instructors was Charlie Hopkins, who achieved two possibles and two nines out of ten, his final mark being thirty-eight out of forty — an excellent performance.

### DETAILED RESULTS

#### Instructors' Certificates:

##### First Class—

C. D. Hopkins . . . . . 38 marks — 95%  
 R. L. Mogg . . . . . 34 marks — 85%  
 K. D. Peterson . . . . . 33 marks — 82.5%

##### Second Class—

W. Sowerby . . . . . 26 marks — 65%  
 O. Anderberg . . . . . 25 marks — 62.5%  
 N. R. Williams . . . . . 25 marks — 62.5%

#### Bar to Bronze Medallion:

F. Perkins, K. C. Bateman, R. Thomas, T. Reid, W. Cor, E. Tyler.

#### Bronze Medallion:

F. Stuart, B. Brown-Bishop, A. J. Cairns, F. Willis, J. S. Mackie, V. G. Giles, T. G. Parkes, D. V. Johns, H. N. Cor, R. Francis, A. Little, A. Lilly, F. Mather, L. Maley, J. Brooks, T. Percy, G. Ferguson, W. Gould, A. Ferguson, D. Morrison, W. Robertson, R. Coulton, J. O'Neile, R. Britz, E. Wood, C. Reines, John J. Truscott, J. N. Nash, N. Young, V. Millington, L. Soane, E. Tyler, C. Matthews, W. Roddenby, W. Robertson.

#### Intermediate Certificates:

F. Sturt, B. Brown-Bishop, A. Cairns, W. Roddenby, W. Mackie, V. C. Gies, T. Parkes, D. Johns, H. Cox,

R. Francis, A. Little, A. Lilly, F. Mather, L. Maley,  
 J. Brooks, T. Percy, G. Ferguson, W. Goold, A.  
 Ferguson, D. Morrison, W. Robertson, R. Coulton,  
 J. O'Neille, K. Britz, E. Wood, C. Reines, J. Truscott,  
 J. Nash, N. Young, V. Millington, L. Soane, E. Tyler,  
 C. Mathews.

**Elementary Certificates:**

P. Walker, T. Turner, R. Stove.

**THE LEAVING CERTIFICATE, 1934**

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|--|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. English.</li> <li>2. Latin.</li> <li>3. French.</li> <li>4. German.</li> <li>5. Mathematics I.</li> <li>6. Mathematics II.</li> <li>7. Mechanics.</li> <li>8. Modern History.</li> <li>9. Ancient History.</li> <li>10. Physics.</li> <li>11. Chemistry.</li> <li>12. Botany.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>13. Geology.</li> <li>14. Geography.</li> <li>15. Art.</li> <li>16. Lower Standard Mathematics.</li> <li>17. Economics.</li> <li>18. Music.</li> <li>19. Physiology and Hygiene.</li> <li>20. Zoology.</li> <li>21. Greek.</li> <li>22. Dressmaking.</li> <li>23. Technical Drawings.</li> <li>24. Domestic Science.</li> </ol> |
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The letters "H1" signify first-class honours; "H2," second-class honours; "A," first-class pass; "B," second-class pass; and "L," a pass at the lower standard. The sign \* denotes those who have gained honours in mathematics, and the sign "o" those who have passed in the oral tests in French or German.

Adams, Walter James, 1B 3B 5B 6B 8B.  
 Anson, Lindsay Allan, 1B 5A 6B 7B 10A 14B.  
 Attwood, Leslie Alexander, 3B 5B 6B 7B 10B.  
 Ball, Clifford William, 1A 3B 5B 6B 8B.  
 Banks, Albert Dennis, 3B 5B 7B 10L 11B.  
 Barrack, Cecil, 3B 5B 6B 8B 11B.  
 Bishop, George Anthony, 1H2 2A 3B 5B 6B 8B 11B.  
 Blaxell, Alwyn Charles, 1B 2B 3B 5B 8A 13B.  
 Boylan, Thomas Henry, 1B 5B 6B 7B 10L 14L.  
 Brent, William, 1B 2B 3B 5A 6B 10B 11B.  
 Brown, Richard James, 1B 2B 5B 6B 10A 11B.  
 Buchanan, Alan Thomson, 1B 5B 6B 8B 14H2.  
 Campbell Charles Douglas, 2B 3B 6B 11B.  
 Cane, Leonard F. Du, 1B 3B 5B 6B 7B 10B 11A.  
 Coates, Frederick Macleay, 1A 3B 5B 6B 8B 11B.  
 Cocking, Arthur James, 1B 3B 5B 6B 10H2 11H2 17B.  
 Cox, Henry Norman, 1B 3B 5B 6B 8B 11A.  
 Cruickshank, Robert J., 1B 2B 3A 5A 6A 8B 11A.  
 Dent, James Mayfield, 3B 5A 6B 8B 11B.

Diemar, Alfred Ernest, 1B 3B 5A 6A 7B 10H2 11B.  
 Digby, Robert Bruce, 5A 6A 10L 11B.  
 Ellis, James Neilson, 1B 3B 5A 6B 7B 10A 11H1.  
 Ferguson, George Robert, 1A 3B 5B 6B 8B 11B 14H2.  
 Gaites, Arthur Stephen, 1H2 2A 3A(o) 5B 6B 8A 11B.  
 Garratt, George Edward, 1H2 2A 3B 5A 6B 11B.  
 Geary, Alfred Carroll, 1A 3B 5B 6B 8B 14H2.  
 Glen, Gordon Livingstone, 1B 3L 8B 11A 14B.  
 Goodenough, K., 1B 2H2 3H1(o) 4H2(o) 5B 6B 11B.  
 Griffith, Geoffrey Lloyd, 1A 6B 8A 14B 17B.  
 Hamblin, John Miles, 1B 2B 3B 5B 6B 8B 11L.  
 Harris, Leon, 1B 3B 5A 6A 7B 10B.  
 Hassall, Raisbra Knowles, 5B 6B 7B 11B.  
 Hobson, Roy Percival, 3B 5B 6B 11A.  
 Hopkins, Charles Douglas, 1B 3B 5A 6B 8B 11A 14A.  
 Hunter, John, 1H1 2H2 3H2(o) 5B 6B 8B 21B.  
 Jackson, John Sydney, 5B 6B 10B 11B 14B.  
 James, Trevor Alfred, 2L 3L 5A 6B 10B 11A.  
 Johnston, Mervyn Leslie, 1B 2L 3B 5A 6A 10B 11B.  
 Kay, Thomas Leslie, 1H1 2B 3H1(o) 5B 6B 8A 11B.  
 Lowbridge, Eric, 1B 3B 5A 6A 10B 11A 14H2.  
 Martin, Leslie Donald, 1A 2B 3B 4B(o) 5B 6B 11L.  
 Mathieson, Thomas C., 1B 2L 3B 5B 6A 10L 11B.  
 McConnell, Jack Foster, 1B 2A 3B 5A 6A 10H2 11A.  
 McLuckie, Mervyn David, 1B 5B 6B 8B 11L 14A.  
 Moore, John William, 1B 2A 3A 5A 6B 11H1.  
 Nelson, Charles, 1A 2B 3B 5A 6A 11H2.  
 O'Grady, Raymond Francis, 1B 3B 5A 6B 11A.  
 Oldham, Alexander George, 1B 2B 3B 5B 6B 8B.  
 Owens, Henry Barry, 2B 5B 6B 8B 11B.  
 Percival, Alan Noel, 1B 2B 3B 5A 6A 10A 11A.  
 Percy, Thomas E., 3B 5B 6B 8B 14L.  
 Pike, John Samuel, 1A 3B 5B 6B 8B 13H1 17B.  
 Pullen, Wallace J., 1B, 2B 3B 5A 6A(x1) 10H2 11A.  
 Quinn, John Kevin, 3B 5A 6A(x1) 7B 10B 14B.  
 Rees, Selwyn Lloyd, 1B 2B 3B 5A 6B 8B 11B.  
 Roddenby, William Hugh, 1B 2B 3B 5B 6B 11B.  
 Roxby, Harry, 3B 5A 6B 8B 11A 14B.  
 Sheehan, George Hareus, 5B 6B 10B 11A 14B.  
 Shellshear, Kenneth John, 5A 6A(x1) 7B 10H2 11B.  
 Skelton, Algar Peden, 2A 3A(o) 5A 6B.  
 Soane, Dudley Gerald, 1B 2B 3B 5B 6B.  
 Sommerlad, Verdun Clive, 1B 3B 5B 6B 8A.  
 Still, Keith, 1B 3B 5A 6A 11A 14A.  
 Talamini, Leo Richard, 1A 2B 3B 5B 6B 10H2 11A.  
 Tripet, Robert G., 2A 3A 4L 5B 6B.  
 Venning, Harry B. R., 1B 2B 3B 8B.  
 Whitford, William Francis, 5A 6A 7B 10B 11A.  
 Williams, James Lewis, 1B 3B 5A 6A(x1) 10H2 11B.  
 Willis, Keith Albert, 1A 2B 3B 5B 6B 11B.  
 Wilson, Ralph C., 1H2 2H1 3HI(o) 4HI(o) 5B 11B.  
 Withycombe, Peter S., 1B 3B 5B 6B 10A 11B.  
 Woodman, Vincent Arthur, 1B 5B 6B 11B.  
 Wright, Alphonsus John, 2B 5A 6B 8B 11H2.

**NEWCASTLE SUPPLEMENTARY SECONDARY  
CLASSES**

Burgess, William Charles. 1B 5B 6B 8B 10A 14A 17B.  
 Buxton, Edward John. 1B 5A 6B 7B 10B 17B.  
 Escott, Ronald. 1B 5A 6A 7B 10H2 23B.  
 Hargraves, Mervyn Dudley. 1B 5B 6B 8B 11L 17B.  
 Hopwood, Allan Spencer. 1B 5B 6B 8B 14L 17B.  
 Robertson, Allan James. 1B 5A 6B 7B 10A.  
 Rowland, Allan Hassall. 1B 5A 6B 11B 14H1.  
 Williams, William Henry. 1B 5B 10B 11B.  
 Millington, Frederick. 1B 5B 6B 8B 14H2 17B 23B.

**INTERMEDIATE CERTIFICATE, 1933**

In the subjoined list of passes, the numbers refer to the following subjects:—

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. English.</li> <li>2. History.</li> <li>3. Geography.</li> <li>4. Mathematics I.</li> <li>5. Mathematics II.</li> <li>6. Latin.</li> <li>7. French.</li> <li>8. German.</li> <li>9. Physics.</li> <li>10. Chemistry.</li> <li>11. Elementary Science<br/>(Physics and Chemistry).</li> <li>12. Botany.</li> <li>13. Geology.</li> <li>14. Physiology.</li> </ol> | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>15. Business Principles.</li> <li>16. Shorthand.</li> <li>17. Technical Drawing.</li> <li>18. Woodwork.</li> <li>19. Metalwork.</li> <li>20. Art.</li> <li>21. Music.</li> <li>22. Needlework.</li> <li>23. Agricultural Botany.</li> <li>24. Agriculture I.</li> <li>25. Agriculture II.</li> <li>26. Practical Agriculture.</li> <li>27. Greek.</li> <li>28. Home Economics.</li> </ol> |
|---|--|

(o) Denotes a pass in an oral test in French or German.  
 (s) Denotes a pass in a shorthand speed test.

Anderberg, William. 1A 2A 3B 4B 5B 6A 7A 11B.  
 Anderson, John A., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6A 7A.  
 Beale, Roy L., 1B 2B 3A 4A 5A 7B 11A 15B 16B.  
 Beauteument, Vincent. 1B 2B 4B 6B 7B 11B.  
 Beck, Francis G., 1A 2A 3B 4A 5B 6A 7A 11A.  
 Boardman, Bruce S., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5A 7B 11B 15B 16A.  
 Boyd, Cecil A. J., 1B 3B 5B 6B 7A 11B.  
 Brattan, Douglas H., 1B 4A 5B 7B 11B.  
 Braye, Norman L., 1B 2A 4B 5B 6A 7A 11B.  
 Bremmell, Wallace, 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.  
 Brown, George E., 1A 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B.  
 Brown, Ivan T., 1A 2A 3B 4B 5B 6A 7B 11B.  
 Carter, Peter F., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.  
 Chambers, Albert C., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5B 6A 7A 11A.  
 Chard, Henry John, 1A 2A 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11B.  
 Clark, Richard K., 1B 2A 3B 11A 15A 16B.  
 Cliff, Sidney. 1B 4B 5B 6A 7A.  
 Cole, Eric F., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7A 11B 21A.

Conway, Ord L., 1B 2B 4B 5B 7B 11B.  
 Coote, Lionel R., 1B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.  
 Coulton, Robert, 1B 2B 3A 4B 5B 6A 7A 11A.  
 Crossman, John Dallas, 1B 2B 3A 5B 7B 11B.  
 Daisley, Gordon S., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6A 7B 11B.  
 Dalby, John L., 1B 4B 5B 7B 11B.  
 Desgrand, Geoffrey V., 1A 2A 3A 4A 5A 6A 7A(o) 11A.  
 Dews, Archie G., 1A 2A 3B 4B 6A 7A 11B.  
 Dunning, Raymond, 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6A 7B 11A.  
 Edwards, James F., 1B 2A 3B 6B 7B 11B.  
 Erwin, Kenneth J., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5A 11A 15B 16A(s).  
 Frost, Rae Rees, 1B 2B 3B 4A 5A 7B 11A.  
 Geddes, Alexander W., 1B 2A 3A 4B 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 George, Douglas W., 1A 2A 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 Gibson, George, 1A 2B 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 Grimson, Thomas R., 1A 2B 3B 4B 5B 6A 7A 11B.  
 Hamonet, Edgar, 1B 2A 3B 4B 5B 6A 7A 11B.  
 Heath, William G., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5A 6A 7B 11A.  
 Henning, John L., 1B 2A 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 Herd, Clive R., 1B 2B 4B 5B 6B 7A 11B.  
 Hewitt, Edward J., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5B 6B 7B 11B.  
 Hipwell, Wallace L., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5A 6A 7A 11B.  
 Hogan, Allan B., 1B 4B 5B 6A 7A 11A.  
 Hogan, Basil M., 1B 4B 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 Huggup, Robert J., 1B 3B 4B 5B 11B.  
 Hunter, Leslie C., 2B 3B 6B 7B.  
 Hyeronimus, Ronald, 1B 2A 3B 5B 6A 7B 11B.  
 Johns, Douglas V., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11B.  
 Jones, Roy E., 1A 2B 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 Kanard, Donald A., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5A 6B 7A 11B.  
 Kibble, Charles J., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5A 6A 7A 11B.  
 King, Robert J., 1B 2A 3B 4B 5B 11B.  
 Laycock, Geoffrey L., 1A 2B 3B 4B 5A 6A 7A 11B.  
 Lewis, Gordon F., 1B 3B 5B 6B 7B 11A.  
 Lindus, William A., 1A 2A 3B 5A 6B 7B 11B.  
 Longworth, Kenneth A., 4B 5A 7B 11B.  
 Lorraine, Allen E., 1B 2A 4B 5B 6A 7A 11B.  
 Lowes, Austin. 1B 2B 4A 5A 7B 11A.  
 Mainprize, Ronald G., 1A 2A 4B 5A 6A 7A 11B.  
 Mascord, Douglas H., 1B 4B 5A 7A 11A 15B 16A.  
 Mayo, Timbury A., 1A 2A 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 McMillan, Wallace, 1B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11B.  
 Noble, Raymond A., 1B 2B 3B 4A 5A 6B 7B 11B.  
 Outten, Raymond G., 1A 2B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 Owen, Jack L., 1B 5B 6B 7B 11B.  
 Owen, Robert J., 1B 2B 4A 5B 6A 7A 11A.  
 Peters, Walter T., 1B 4B 6B 7B 11A.  
 Pitt, Rowan B., 1B 4B 5B 11B.  
 Pratt, Robert A., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5A 6A 7B.  
 Pullen, Kenneth J., 1B 3B 4B 5B 6B 11B.  
 Quayle, Harold W., 1A 2B 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A(o) 11A.  
 Radcliffe, John A., 1A 2B 3B 4A 5B 6A 7B 11B.  
 Reines, Colin, 1A 2A 3B 4B 5A 6A 7A 11B.  
 Rich, John F., 1A 2A 3B 4B 5A 6A 7B 11A.

Richards, Alwyn, 1B 2A 4B 5B 6A 7A(o) 11A.  
 Richardson, David J., 1B 2A 3B 4A 5A 6A 7A(o) 11B.  
 Robertson, William, 1A 2B 3B 4A 5A 6B 7B 11B.  
 Robinson, Rupert F., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 7B 11A.  
 Rodgers, Norman, 1B<sup>2</sup> 2B 3B 4B 5B 6A 7B.  
 Rodgers, Thomas J., 1B 4B 5B 6A 7A 11B.  
 Rundle, Philip A., 1A 2A 3B 4B 5B 6A 7A 11A.  
 Shaw, Charles, 1B 5B 7B 11B 15B 16B.  
 Simpson, Clifford S., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 11B 15B.  
 Sowerby, Douglas H., 1B 2B 3B 5B 11B 15B.  
 Stronach, Sydney F., 1B 2B 3B 4B 5B 6B 7A.  
 Sutherland, Gordon W., 1A 2B 4B 5A 6A 7A(o) 11B.  
 Sutherland, Malcolm, 1B 2B 5A 6B 7A 11A.  
 Tapner, Harold J., 1B 3B 4B 5A 7B 11A 15B 16B.  
 Tate, Robert, 1B 4B 5B 6A 7A(o) 11B.  
 Tonkin, Jack R., 1B 2B 4A 5A 6A 7A 11A.  
 Tubb, John A., 1B 2B 3A 4A 5A 6A 7B 11A.  
 Wright, Norman M., 1A 2B 3B 4B 5B 6A 7A 11A.  
 Wrightson, D., 1B 3B 6B 7B 11A.  
 Young, Godfrey E., 1B 4B 5A 6B 7B.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS

Ken Clark, 3A.—“Sunset on the Lake” is a typical form of a topical essay.

C. Declerck, 1D.—Theme unsuitable. Style bombastic and unnatural. We know there are two spellings, “waggon” and “wagon,” but why not stick to one or the other? “Jim took aim and two Indians and one horse dropped.” What a shot the man was! He seems to have a telepathic trigger which needs no pulling.

D. Smith.—The only thing original about your contribution was the fact that you pinned your papers in the right hand corner.

A. Brown, 1D.—The metre was hiding and halting among the green trees.

I. Crawford.—Four of a kind and that is not a literary kind. Other contributions good.

R. Brown, 1D.—“Mud.” Rhythm faulty, theme uninspiring.

W. Oakes, 4D.—A well-worn plot. You have a long way to go yet.

A. Mullard, 1A.—An English essay is not a proposition of Euclid.

R. Woodman, 2A.—Good, but savours too much of the conventional school exercise for publication.

C. Smith, 1A.—“Wrecked on a Cannibal Isle.” Even a cannibal has his limits.

E. Bay, 1C.—Beyond the wildest dreams of fancy.

L. Bridges.—Some people are trying to forget the war—why wake it up?

J. Bottrill, 2A.—One who can play “Le Cygne” so delightfully does not usually write stories about “The Mystery of the Faked Carburettor.”

R. Sills, 1C.—A fair peg, but the hat you hung on it had no colour or shape.

R.C.—Now, do you think it is fair to H. G. Wells?

J. Simpson, 4C.—We have to suffer stories such as yours on the wild west American pictures.

E. Forbes, 1C.—Try again.

R. Brown, 4D.—“Mud” unsuitable.

N. Anderson.—“Liner.” Spelling bad, writing worse; sentence structure atrocious.

Serum, 2A.—Expression weak. Topic unsuitable.

K. Manning, 1A.—Unsuitable, uninteresting and weak.

N.I.B., 4A.—“Leaves from the Diary of a Tramp.” Melodramatic? Poignant! Bathetic! Exactly!

W. McLeod, 1A.—A fertile imagination. Among many other things, we doubt your ability to scale up and down a canvas tube under the sea. We have a great admiration for the native who did so.

C. Mackenzie, 4C.—“An Essay on Time.” A school magazine is not the place in which to deliver insincere cant. This is a sanctimonious pulpit message appropriate only to a Pharisee.

P. O. Rundle, 4A.—Style ponderous; sentence-structure weak. You have a delightful manner of writing “Xample.”

C. McCormack, 1A.—Composition extremely weak. Topic unsuitable.

A. Imbrie.—Your sketch has at least the trace of an action.

K. Kirsop.—“The Highwayman’s Escape” just missed.

E. Scalley, 1A.—Unsuitable.

T. Mayo.—A weak and puerile parody.

C. Kibble, 4A.—Mere making of description, consequently lacking sincere emotional interpretation.

A. Snedden, 1A.—It is pleasing to see a beginner such a trier.

R.J.L.—Rhyme, wit and reason faulty.

Norman Rodgers.—“Houses.” Though this essay has distinct possibilities, it is almost entirely marred by sheer bombast. While you have been striving after effect in loud-sounding futility, your imagination has led you along many obscure avenues; consequently, in several places you lapse unconsciously into insincere tripe.

W.L., 2A.—“A Trip to Chicago.” The main defects are lack of suitable plot, thought, language and expression.

F. Jones, 1A., J. Simpson, and a host of others.—Typical topics lacking enthusiasm.

K. Fisher, 1C.—“Brr—rrr—rrrr—ing—ing! At the sound of the clock, I jumped out of the bed and the next moment I was in it.” Perhaps the clock was warmer. If so, what caused you to “shiver in your imagination”?

G. Laycock, 4A.—The only commendable quality of your so-called story was its shortness.

D. Craig, 1A.—Extremely poor topic, your treatment not improving it.

B. Rich.—“Suddenly, Churnside cried, ‘Hi, Ali!’ and a tall, finely-built youth rose from the ground.” Perhaps Churnside was a prefect in disguise.

T.G., 4A.—“The First Seeds are Set.” Congratulations!

D. Swaney, 2B.—“The Mystic Ring.” Enough! No more!

A. Lloyd.—In the last issue of “The Novocastrian,” a poem composed by you, “Night,” was severely but justly criticised. Taking the despicable advantage of a change in the Editorial Staff, you had the unmitigated hide to hand in that very contribution this issue. We refer you to page 63 of the last issue.

“The End of the School Year” is sadly wanting in style, sincerity, and emotional response.

“Retreat” has a very patchy metre, if any, and no poetical thought. There is no need for criticism when you write:

“I have retreated to my little den,  
To scribble o’er this paper with my pen.”

Even what remains in “Christmas” after the plagiarisms have been omitted is not worth printing.

J. Bottrill, 2A.—Your sketch is certainly a sobbing ecstasy of sound.

H. N. Young.—The title, “Widespread Knowledge,” is inapplicable here.

R. Murray.—“The Airman.” A human prodigy. However, this is definite promise.

J. Grant, 1A., N. E. Anderson, 1A.—Weak parodies are not only unsuitable but offending.

D. Parry, 2A.—Unless you are a poetical genius, or free verse visionary, it is fatal to rhyme ridges and rivers in a poem, almost utterly devoid of metre.

R. Kirsop, 1B.—Not quite up to publication standard, but shows that you have poetical ability. You have not a sufficient grasp of metre yet. That, however, will come with experience and time.

J. D. Greentree.—The thought and feeling behind “Recompense” is so bathetic that it becomes ludicrous.

S. Jones, 4D.—A school song is not an appropriate topic for literary lapses.

J. McLaughlan, 1C.—Not suitable.

B.B.B., 5C.—The quality of your humour is debatable. In re-telling a hackneyed tale you certainly achieve force. However, this force savours rather of the rhetorical element, apt to make the first years laugh, but only producing a mild grunt from the more sophisticated fifth year.

“Goofy.”—“I’ve Changed My Mind” certainly lives up to the name of its perpetrator. Startlingly reminiscent of a certain May in America. We positively blushed.

H. Allen, 2C.—Your ambition is evidently to become a copying clerk.

Unsigned.—“The House System.” Your conception of the sporting activities of the High School is entirely erroneous. At first we thought you sincere, but on the second reading we realised that this attack was due to the over-development of a biased and parochial imagination.

B.A.N.D.—“The Mystery of the Wax Museum.” No motive; all violence and movement. Plot fearfully disjointed and hazy. We are still wondering how it was that Cruickshank was killed by the horrors of the museum, and was found dead beside the body of his victim, and how, at the same time, he could have faced a murder charge for the crime.

K.L.C., 1C.—Not quite up to standard.

R. Murray, 2A.—“Menu.” Like aesthetic meat to an undernourished nigger.

G. Bentley.—Your “Tale of Olack” has many merits and contains some imposing lines of excellent blank verse. But other considerations besides its length preclude publication. The confusion of an Egyptian goddess and a Greek sun god is hard to reconcile. I would suggest that more time and pruning would make it a fine piece. Submit the piece again.—A.M.H.

.....  
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