

Newcastle Girls' High School
3rd year - 5th year, 1951-1953.



5th YEAR



A happy scene at Newcastle Girls' High School speech and prizegiving ceremony yesterday afternoon when Marlene Small and Barbara Joyce, two third-year students, who won the Helmore prize for improvement, discuss their success with fifth-year student, Marie Morris. Marie also won a proficiency prize.

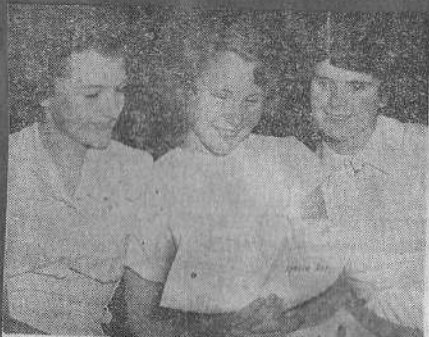




With 3rd year friends.



*3rd year French teacher,
Miss J. Bolsom.*



A happy scene at Newcastle Girls' High School speech and prizegiving ceremony yesterday afternoon when Marlene Small and Barbara Joyce, two third-year students, who won the Helmore prize for improvement, discuss their success with fifth-year student, Marie Morris. Marie also won a proficiency prize.

Newcastle Girls' High Speech Day Ceremony

Enrolments, particularly in the upper school, increased considerably during 1951, the acting principal of Newcastle Girls' High School (Miss J. G. Simons) said at the annual speech day in the City Hall this afternoon.

Miss Simons, deputising for the principal (Miss P. R. Smith), who is ill, said it was a matter of regret that many girls capable of further study left school at 15 years of age.

The cultural value of the later years was inestimable for the girls who remained.

"That the city is fully aware of the value and advantage of cultural pursuits and higher education is shown by the large enrolments of the high

schools, the establishment of a Conservatorium of Music here and the opening of a college of the University of Technology," she added.

An address was given by the Lord Mayor (Ald. F. J. Purdue), who congratulated the girls on their year's achievements. Prizes and certificates were distributed by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Purdue), Mrs. A. Chichester and Mr. B. Helmore. The president of the school P. and C. (Mr. M. Stones) distributed the sports trophies.

A feature of the function was the investiture of Alison Hunt (captain), Jan Meletios (vice-captain), Betty Anderson, Elizabeth Clarke, Gladys Clarke, Jennifer Cooksey, Pat Jackson, Jasmine Keyes, Jacqueline Magennis, Joy Rees, Norma Steel, Ruth Thomas, Jacqueline Wells, Annette Whitaker and Wendy Young as prefects for 1952.

Sport Records

The captain of the school for 1951 (Jane Campbell) read the sports report for the year which was a record.

The Elizabeth Meikle prize for the best pass in the 1950 Leaving Certificate examination was won by Marion Lansbury. Mrs. Mill's prize for courtesy, scholarship and sportsmanship, Judith Parsons; Mr. B. Helmore's prize for improvement, Barbara Joyce and Marlene Small; J. E. Henson Memorial pass for the Historical Society essay, Gladys Clarke and Elaine Orton; Mrs. Bramble's prize for senior debating, Jan Meletios, Robin Thomas and Jeannette Gorrett; senior debating cup, Walle House; junior debating cup, Parry House.

Dux prizes were: Fifth year, Jocelyn Morris; fourth year, Gladys Clarke; third year, Suzanne Crane; second year, Helen Miller; first year, Fay Bennett.

Bluses were presented to Jennifer Cooksey, Helen Clark, Marion Jones (Hockey), Deirdre Prowse, Barbara Redfern, Jennifer Pearce, Janet Johnson, Mary Jones, Susan Morjorbanks, Margaret Pearson (basketball), Jacqueline Wells (athletics), Jocelyn Morris (tennis), Janet Johnson, Colleen Edmunds, Beverley Clark and Kaye Wyman (swimming).

NEWCASTLE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

PROGRAMME

**Shakespeare's
"TWELFTH NIGHT"**

The School Assembly Hall
on Monday, 21st July, 1952, at 7.30 p.m.

... CAST ...

ORSINO, Duke of Illyria	Janice Boyd
SEBASTIAN, Brother to Viola	Judith Farrell
ANTONIO, A Sea Captain, Friend to Sebastian	Janice Evans
A SEA CAPTAIN, Friend to Viola	Glenys Davies
VALENTINE	Jennifer Mills
CURIO	Margaret Cockrane
(Gentlemen attending on the Duke)	
SIR TOBY BELCH, Uncle to Olivia	Barbara Morris
SIR ANDREW WAGUECHEEK	Carol Hodges
MALVOLIO, Steward to Olivia	Joan Sawyers
FABIAN (Servants to Olivia)	Barbara Alder
FESTE, a Clown	Wendy Nelmes
OLIVIA, a rich Countess	Eleanor Macaulay
VIOLA, Sister to Sebastian	Ruth Small
MARIA, Olivia's Woman	Pam Creary
A Priest	Lurline Abrahams
A Servant	Margaret Hewitson
First Officer	Pam Tannock
Second Officer	Lynne Swarbrick
Third Officer	Margaret Avis
Lords, Attendants, Musicians and Sailors	Third Year Girls
First Announcer	June Lewis
Second Announcer	Hilary Charter
PIANO	Margaret Wright

SCENE :A City in Illyria ; and the Sea-Coast near it.

A.B.C. Audition



Pamela Slarks, 15, of Hamilton (left) and Marion Brogden, 16, of Wallsend, receive instruction on playing their piano duet from the A.B.C. State Music Supervisor (Mr. Werner Baer), at the A.B.C. Studios, Newcastle, yesterday, while the N.S.W. Programme Director (Mr. J. J. Donnelly) looks on.

Pamela and Marion sought inclusion in the A.B.C.'s Young Australia broadcasts, and were among more than 50 artists who were given auditions in Newcastle this week.

Mr. Donnelly said young

artists were given some instruction so that they would be heard to best advantage in the audition.

The A.B.C. wanted to present more district talent in Newcastle programmes. He

and Mr. Baer said there was a dearth of instrumentalists. They would like to see young professional artists and senior students from the Conservatorium undertake ensemble work "which formed the basis of musical culture."

NEWCASTLE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

NEWCASTLE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL

As You Like It

SCHOOL ASSEMBLY HALL

MONDAY, 27th JULY, 1953

Ticket 2/6

Commencing at 7-30 p.m. sharp

ON MONDAY, 27th July, 1953, at 7.30 p.m.

... CAST ...

DUKE, living in banishment	Janet Slack
FREDERICK, his brother, and usurper of his dominions	Lynne Howland
AMIENS, lords attending on the	Margaret Hogan
JACQUES, banished Duke	Elizabeth Sweet
LE BEAU, a courtier attending on Frederick	Robyne Garner
CHARLES, wrestler to Frederick	Marion Gregory
OLIVER, sons of Sir Roland de Boys	Rosemary Woolley
JACQUES, sons of Sir Roland de Boys	Joycelyn Green
ORLANDO, sons of Sir Roland de Boys	Elizabeth O'Connell
ADAM, servants to Oliver	Jean Lyall
DENNIS, servants to Oliver	Maureen Hall
TOUCHSTONE, a clown	Lola Rodgers
SIR OLIVER MARTEXT, a vicar	Barbara Miles
CORIN, shepherds	Joan Reid
SILVIUS, shepherds	Daryl Hawkins
WILLIAM, a country fellow, in love with Audrey	Carole Hodges
A person representing Hymen	Nola Arkinstall
ROSALIND, daughter to the banished Duke	Julie Kierath
CELIA, daughter to Frederick	Marianne O'Donnell
PHEBE, a shepherdess	Robin Poyner
AUDREY, a country wench	Judith Bullerwell
Attendants on Frederick	3E girls
1st lord	Maureen Taylor
2nd lord	Lorna McDonough
Attendants on banished Duke	3A, 3B, 3C girls
1st lord	Dianne Campbell
2nd lord	Margaret Campbell
Foresters	3D, 3E girls
Attendants on Hymen	3A, 3B, 3C girls
Two of the banished Duke's pages	Judith Mort
	Clare Howarth
PROLOGUE	Beverley Jurd
	Rosemary Buckland
Piano	Joycelyn Green
	Eloise Preston
Scenery	3B girls



MISS ELIZABETH O'CONNELL (right), of Newcastle, which lost the English-speaking Union's debating trophy to North Sydney Girls' High School, congratulates the winners — **MISSSES JEANNETTE THIRLWELL, SHEILA SMITH and ANN WHIGHT.**

SCHOOLGIRLS DEBATE FOR TROPHY

SIX fourth-year schoolgirls were given an hour yesterday afternoon to prepare their cases for—or against—“Closer Relationships Between English-speaking Peoples.”

Then each had to speak for ten minutes—from behind a bench on which stood the English-Speaking Union's debating trophy for girls' High school teams, last awarded in 1941.

It was won then by Newcastle Girls' High School. Yesterday, Newcastle was represented by Misses Elizabeth O'Connell, Marilyn Russell, and Elizabeth Sweet, who affirmed the motion.

Misses Sheila Smith, Ann Whight, and Jeannette Thirlwell—the North Sydney Girls' High team — comprised the opposition.

The issue seemed to centre on closer relationship with America—“and the American way of thinking,” argued Miss Ann Whight, “is different from ours. Americans only like British Royalty because they think it's rather cute.”

“Was it only because America thought Royalty 'cute,’” demanded Miss Marilyn Russell, “that it has bought more Coronation films and more books on Royalty than any other country?”

The argument was tossed back and forth for about an hour until the chairman, the Minister for the Philippines, Dr. Roberto Regala, asked the adjudicators — Mr. Ernest Burbridge and Mrs. H. T. Glover — to announce their decision.

“The opposition,” said Mr. Burbridge, “has won the trophy—by one mark.”

Girls' Speech Day



School prize-givings. Above: At Newcastle Girls' High School prize-giving at the City Hall yesterday were (left to right) Alison Hunt (school captain), Julie Goffett, Dana Rubin, Shirley Morris and Suzanne Crane. At the back are Barbara Millar and Patricia Lathwell.

Girls Get Leaving Certificates

Fifty-four former pupils of Newcastle Girls' High School were presented with their Leaving Certificates by the Lady Mayoress (Mrs. Purdue) yesterday.

The presentation was made at a special assembly at the school.

The girls passed the examination last year.

Nineteen other former pupils who passed the examination were unable to attend the assembly.

It was the first time a special function has been held at the school for presentation of certificates.

Many of the former students are now studying at Sydney and Newcastle Universities and Newcastle Teachers' College. The presentation was held yesterday because these students are on vacation.

Last year's school captain, Julie Goffet, who is an Arts student at the University of Sydney was loudly applauded by the girls as she went on the platform to receive her certificate.

"Good Luck"

After the presentation, Mrs. Purdue wished all the former students good luck in their new careers.

The Lord Mayor (Ald. Purdue) congratulated the Headmistress (Miss D. Wallent), the school staff and the girls, on their success in the examination.

Other guests were the Area Director of Education (Mr. W. A. Gelfius) and Mrs. Gelfius.

Mr. Gelfius reminded the former students that the community looked to the women to set the standard of general behaviour and culture. They had the responsibility of being an uplifting influence in the community.

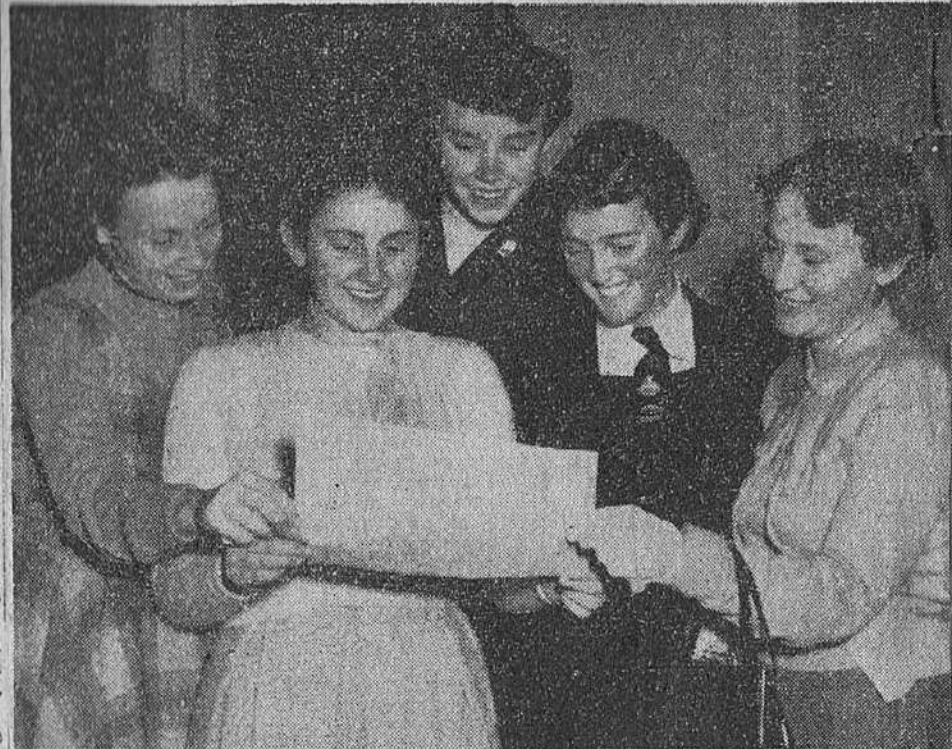
"We look to women to make gentlemen out of men," he said.

Thanks Given

Joan Elvin, present school captain, thanked Ald. and Mrs. Purdue for their interest in the school.

On behalf of the pupils, Miss Wallent thanked Ald. Purdue for the portrait of the Queen he had presented for the school library.

Received Certificates



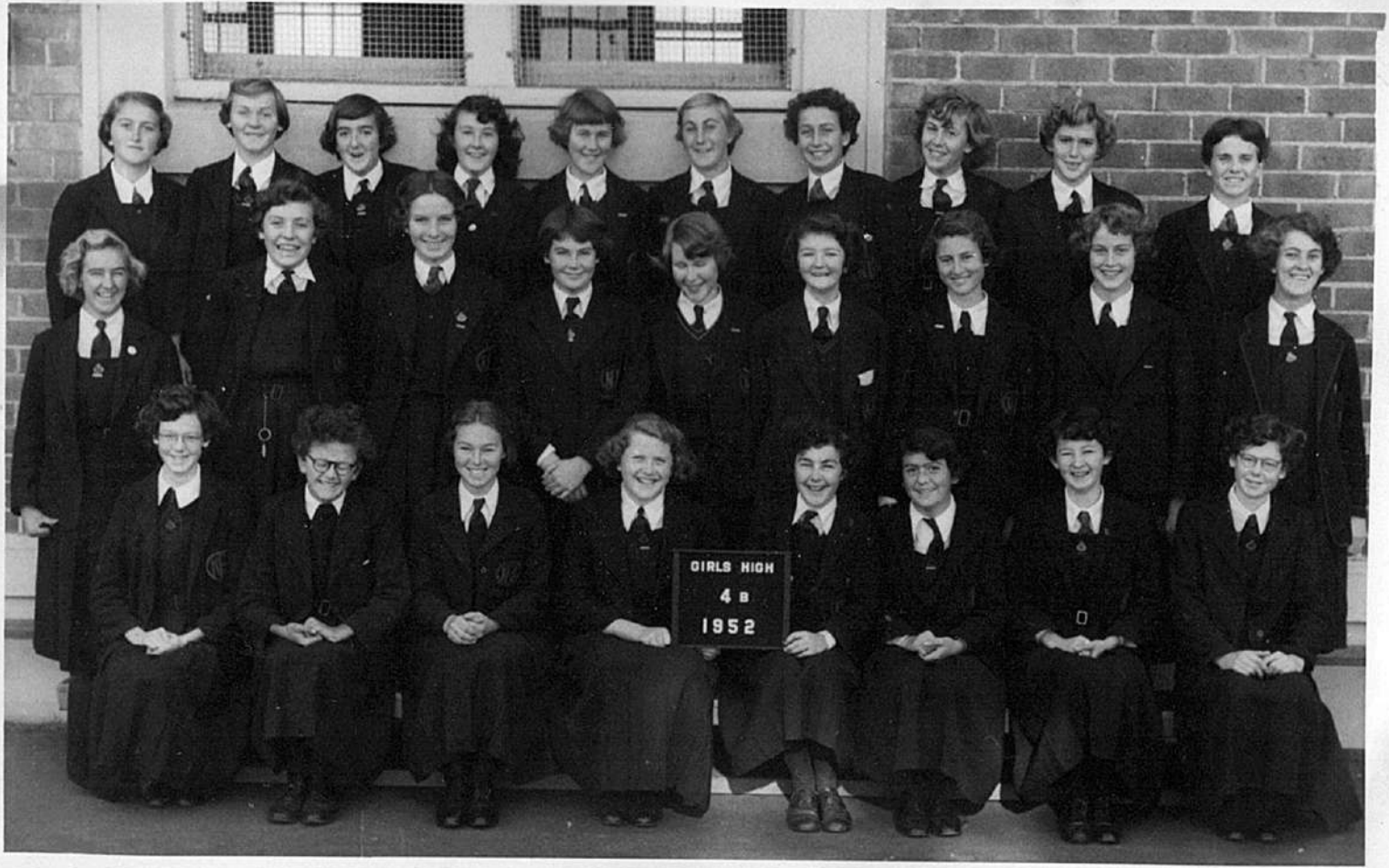
Girls from Newcastle Girls' High School, who gained the Leaving Certificate last year were presented with their certificates at the school yesterday. Pictured are (from left): Bab Bordiss, Julie Goffett, Helen Campbell, Joan Elvin (school captain this year) and Robin Smith.

AN innovation at Newcastle Girls' High this year will be the presentation of 1953 Leaving Certificates at the school on June 4 by the Lord Mayor (Ald. Purdue).

NEWCASTLE GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL: Adam, L. K.; Andrews B. J.; Arkinstal, L. J.; Asher, A.; Atherton, P. M.; Bacon, J. B.; Barfoot, H. M.; Benning, C. A.; Blackshaw, A. J.; Blair, E. F.; Bobro, H. P.; Body, B. J.; Boisman, R. I.; Bordiss, B. A.; Bradley, B. L.; Bradley, E.; Brogden, M. A.; Brown, B. A.; Brownsmith, M. E.; Bubb, J. P.; Cameron, M. A.; Campbell, H. E.; Campbell, M. I.; Cavanagh, A. F.; Cavanagh, B. F.; Chick, J. M.; Clark, B. J.; Clark, J. M.; Clarke, S. R.; Cleary, P. J.; Cox, K. L.; Craig, J. J.; Craig, R. J.; Crane, H. S.; Cromarty, L. J.; Cunningham, B.; Cuthbert, H. A.; Daniels, C. R.; Davis, E. J.; Davis, R. O.; Douglas, J. E.; Douglass, D. M.; Dunkley, J. A.; Dunn, F. E.; Dunstan, B. J.; Edmunds, C. M.; Elvin, J. G.; Evans, S. M.; Ferguson, R. G.; Finegan, E. M.; Fisher, D. E.; Fisher, E. M.; Ford, R. A.; Forrest, M. A.; Fraser, B. A.; Fry, J. A.; Glasson, A. M.; Goffet, J.; Grandidge, S. D.; Grant, J. M.; Gray, J. P.; Gresham, A.; Hard, J. M.; Harris, F. P.; Harrison, P. B.; Harrison, P. B.; Harry, B. L.; Henri, M. H.; Higgs, C. Y.; Hill, N. M.; Hoff, P. A.; Horne, L. J.; Hoskings, J.; Hughes, J. R.; Hull, E.; Hurst, J.; Jackson, J. E.; James, S.; Jenkins, J. L.; Johnson, D. P.; Johnson, V. P.; Jones, D. E.; Joyce, B. M.; Kelly, B. A.; Kendall, M. C.; Lathwell, P. J.; Laverick, E.; Lee, M. M.; Lewis, J. F.; Lewis, M. E.; Lewis, P. J.; Lingard, T. N.; Lister, S. B.; Lloyd, B. J.; Locking, B.; Lyford, J. I.; McCallum, A. N.; McCormack, M.; McKennery, P. G.; Matthews, W.; Maybury, R. E.; Mehan, G.; Millar, B. A.; Mills, M. A.; Milton, J. M.; Mitchell, R.; Morgan, T. D.; Morris, S.; Morris, S. R.; Nicholas, V. J.; O'Donnell, M. J.; Osland, E. M.; Palmer, M. A.; Parsons, P. C.; Punch, J. A.; Radlmev, B. F.; Rees, L. C.; Renwick, A. D.; Robertson, M. D.; Rodgers, M. F.; Rubin, D. D.; Saunders, B. M.; Saunders, S. J.; Slarks, P. J.; Small, M. M.; Smith, R. M.; Sneddon, B. A.; Snelson, T. A.; Stephenson, P. J.; Stones, M. A.; Sullings, J. R.; Sylow, P. M.; Taylor, H. H.; Tempest, J. G.; Thompson, K. M.; Thornton, S. H.; Trevela, W.; Vaughan, V. M.; Vercoe, L. R.; Whalen, J. J.; Williams, J.; Wilson, B. A.; Wilson, J. A.; Wood, R. J.; Wyman, M. M.



With 3rd year friends.



With Fourth Year friends.

Name *Barbara Joyce*
Gwendra Mehan.

NEWCASTLE
GIRLS' HIGH SCHOOL



5th YEAR

Farewell Party

FRIDAY, 30th OCTOBER, 1953

— AUTOGRAPHS —

Marlene M. Eborn
Pamela Harrison
Patricia Harrison
Jan. Evers.

TOAST TO

N. M. Paruse.

TOAST TO

Lavinia Rees

Reply

Patience Lattwell

TOAST TO

Reply

Katherine Thompson
Barbara Brady

TOAST TO

Reply



. . . Programme . . .



TOAST TO "OUR QUEEN"	CHAIRWOMAN—PREFECT 4A.
TOAST TO "THE SCHOOL"	CAPTAIN, 1953
Reply	HEADMISTRESS
TOAST TO "FIFTH YEAR"	CAPTAIN, 1954
Reply	VICE-CAPTAIN, 1953
TOAST TO "THE STAFF"	VICE-CAPTAIN, 1954
Reply	MISS TILSE



*With Marion Brogden,
Sports Day, 1951.*



With Fourth Year friends.

4th & 5th year French teacher.

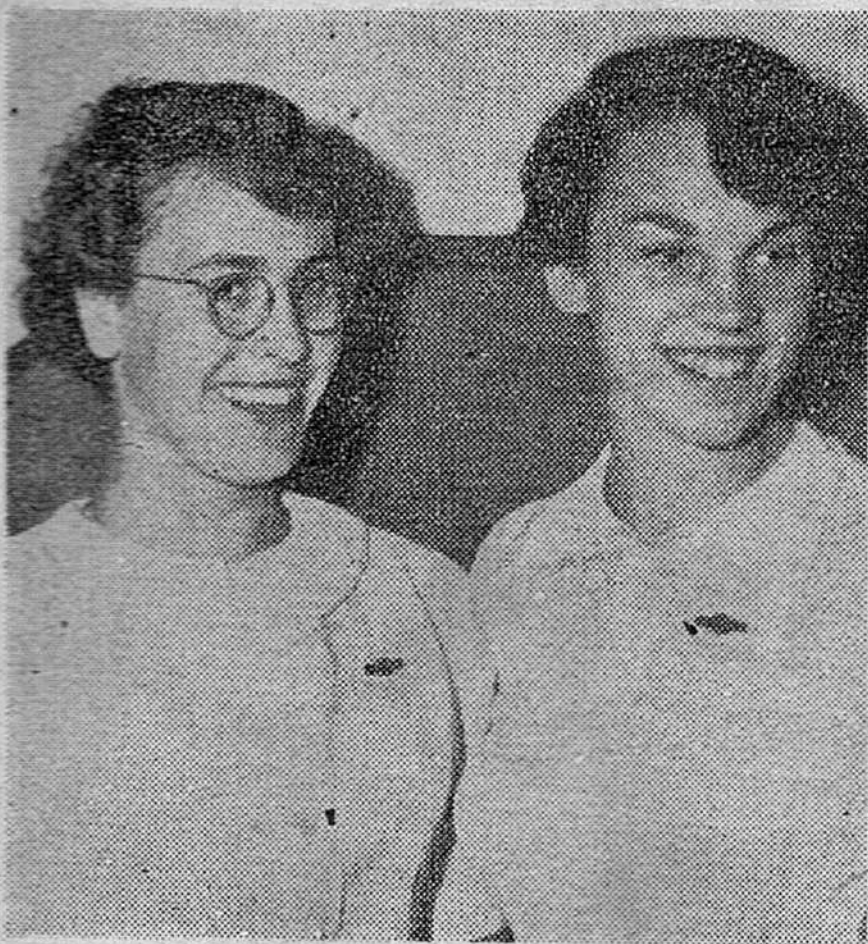
*Miss
Kosma
Loun.*



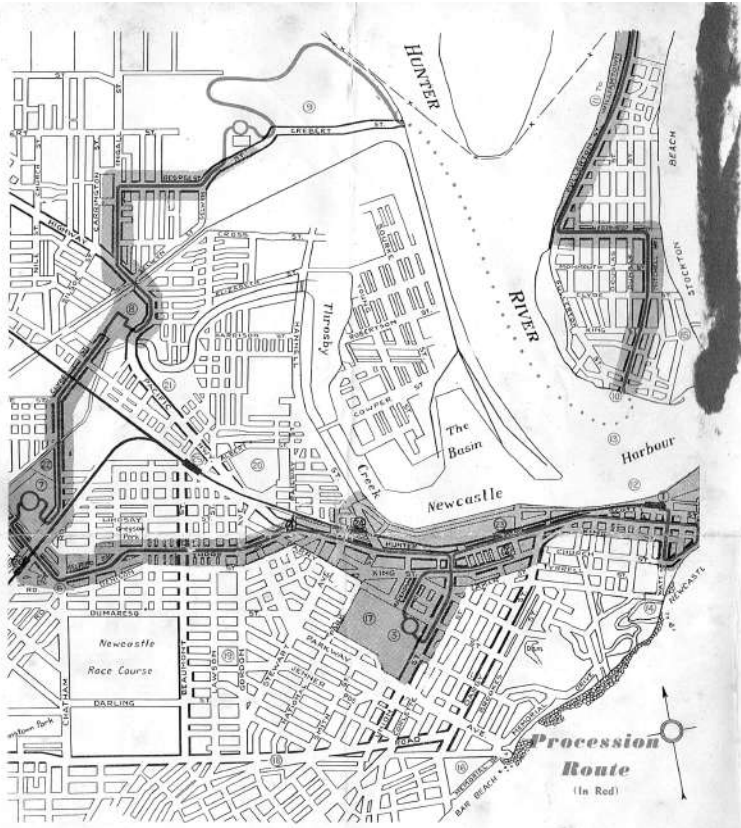
Girls' High Prizes Presented



At Newcastle Girls' High School speech day at Newcastle City Hall yesterday were (top, left to right) Jocelyn Morriss (Dux), Anne Hamilton and Miss A. Byfield, a teacher. Left: School Captain for 1952 is Alison Hunt (left). She is with the Vice-captain, Jan Meletios.



1951 Speech Day



ROYAL PROGRESS.

1. Newcastle Railway Station: 1.10 p.m. to 1.15 p.m.	4. Cnr. Tudor and Railway Sts.: 2.18 p.m.	8. B.H.P. Steelworks: 3.5 p.m. to 3.55 p.m.
2. City Hall: 1.21 p.m. to 1.31 p.m.	5. Cnr. Tudor and Beaumont Sts.: 2.50 p.m.	10. Stockton Ferry Wharf: 4.10 p.m.
3. Sports Ground (Ex-servicemen): 1.54 p.m. to 2.12 p.m.	6. Broadmeadow Junction: 2.53 p.m.	11. Willington Aerodrome: 4.15 p.m.
	7. Showground: 3.30 p.m. to 3.50 p.m.	
	9. University of Technology: 2.37 p.m.	

ENTERTAINMENT CENTRES.

12. Parade and Square Dancing: Friday, 9th February, 1954, at 7.30 p.m.	13. Harbour Regatta: Tuesday, 10th February, 1954, at 10 a.m.
3. Carnival: Saturday, 6th February, 1954, at 7.45 p.m.	11. Fireworks Display: Tuesday, 10th February, 1954, at 8 p.m.

CARAVAN PARKS. 15. Stockton Beach. 16. Empire Park. 17. National Park. 18. Rowland Park. 19. Learmonth Park.

CAMPING AREAS. 20. Wickham Park. 21. Dillington Park. 22. Richardson Park.

RAILWAY STATIONS. 1. Newcastle. 23. Civic. 24. Wickham. 25. Hamilton. 26. Broadmeadow. 27. Adamstown. 28. Waratah.

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OFFICIAL
SOUVENIR PROGRAMME
 ON THE OCCASION OF THE VISIT OF HER MOST GRACIOUS MAJESTY
QUEEN ELIZABETH II

TO NEWCASTLE, ON TUESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 1954

Issued by Newcastle War Memorial Cultural Centre Committee.

PRICE 1/-



NEWCASTLE ROYAL VISIT CELEBRATIONS



FOREWORD (By the Lord Mayor)

THE City of Newcastle will be highly honoured and its citizens, together with those from surrounding areas, greatly thrilled by the visit on 9th February, 1954, of Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and His Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. Our Royal Visitors will be welcomed not only by decorations and pageantry, but by a spirit of loyalty and devotion, affection and warmth of heart. We hope that the memory of this visit may remain to inspire us with a new and steadfast devotion to God, loyalty to our Queen and service to our Country.

GOD SAVE THE QUEEN.

FRIDAY, 5th FEBRUARY, 1954.

- 7.30 p.m. Official Opening of the Newcastle Royal Tour Celebrations at the Post Office, Hunter Street, by the Lord Mayor of the City of Newcastle.
- 7.45 p.m. Pageantry — Parade of Marching Girls, Costumed and Uniformed Groups, and Bands, from corner Pacific Street and Hunter Street, along Hunter Street to Perkin Street.
- 8.15 p.m. Gala Evening in Hunter Street — Square Dancing — Concert Parties, etc. (Hunter Street, from Pacific Street to Perkin Street, will be closed to traffic for the Parade and Gala Evening).
- 8.00 p.m. Musical Revue at the City Hall, King Street, Newcastle.
- 8.00 p.m. Trotting Meeting at Broadmeadow Show Ground.
- Exhibition arranged by Newcastle Dahlia Society and the Hunter District Canary and Birds' Society, at the Supper Room, City Hall, from 12 noon to 10 p.m.

SATURDAY, 6th FEBRUARY, 1954.

- 10.00 a.m. Exhibition arranged by Newcastle Dahlia Society and the Hunter District Canary and Birds' Society, at the Supper Room, City Hall, to 8 p.m.
- 1.00 p.m. Coursing Meeting arranged by the Newcastle Jockey Club at Hamilton Coursing Track.
- 1.30 p.m. Representative District Cricket Match at No. 1 Sports Ground.
- 1.30 p.m. Grand Bowling Carnival arranged by Newcastle District Bowling Association, on District Greens.
- 7.45 p.m. Monster Carnival — No. 1 Sports Grounds.

SUNDAY, 7th FEBRUARY, 1954.

- 10.00 a.m. Organised Tours of Lake Macquarie.
- 2.00 p.m. Regatta at Belmont. Sailing Craft — yachts, 16-footers, V.J.'s, V.S.'s
- 2.00 p.m. Monster Aquatic Carnival, arranged by the Lake Macquarie Royal Motor Yacht Club, at Toronto.
- 3.00 p.m. Organ Recital. Newcastle Cathedral, Church Street, Newcastle.
- 3.00 p.m. Band Recital. Newcastle Beach.
- 8.30 p.m. Grand Concert. City Hall, King Street, Newcastle.
- 8.30 p.m. Swimming Carnival. Ocean Baths.

MONDAY, 8th FEBRUARY, 1954.

- 7.30 p.m. Aquatic Carnival. The visiting New Zealand swimming team will attend. Ocean Baths, Newcastle.
- 8.00 p.m. Operetta.—"Merrie England." City Hall, King Street, Newcastle.
- 8.00 p.m. Community Singing and Films. Newcastle Beach.
- Ocean Yacht Race. Sydney to Newcastle.

TUESDAY, 9th FEBRUARY, 1954.

- 10.00 a.m. Entertainment of people along the route of the Royal Progress.
- Aerial Pageant by Royal Newcastle Aero Club.
- 10.00 a.m. Regatta on Newcastle Harbour.

At 1.15 p.m., Her Majesty, Queen Elizabeth II, and the Duke of Edinburgh, accompanied by the Royal Party, will depart from the Newcastle Railway Station, Scott Street, on the Royal Progress Route, which is: Scott Street, Watt Street, Church Street, Pacific Street, Shortland Esplanade, Telford Street, Hunter Street, Union Street, King Street to the City Hall, arriving at 1.31 p.m., where Her Majesty and His Royal Highness will be welcomed by the Right Worshipful The Lord Mayor of Newcastle and presented with an address of welcome, to which Her Majesty will reply.

The Royal Party will depart from the City Hall at 1.51 p.m. and will proceed via King Street, Ravenshaw Street, across Parry Street to No. 1 Sports Ground, where Her Majesty will review at 1.56 p.m. a contingent of ex-Service personnel, war widows, mothers of single deceased sons, and Legacey wards.

The Royal Party will depart by the Union Street gate at 2.14 p.m. and will proceed via Union Street, Hunter Street, Tudor Street, Belford Street, Broadmeadow Road, Curley Road, to the Showground, arriving at 2.26 p.m., where Her Majesty will be welcomed by 35,000 school children, representing over 400 schools. The children will form a tableau, "Welcome to Our Gracious Queen." A Choir of 500 voices will lead the children in singing the National Anthem.

At 2.50 p.m. the Royal Party will leave the Showground, and travelling via Brown Road, Chatham Road, Clyde Street, Technical College grounds, Maitland Road, Inghall Street, George Street, Selwyn Street, to the Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd. Administrative Building, arriving at 3.05 p.m. Following an inspection of the Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd. plant, Her Majesty will depart from the Broken Hill Pty. Co. Ltd., Selwyn Street Wharf at 3.55 p.m. by the Royal Barge via Newcastle Harbour. All ships and small craft dressed will line the route. Her Majesty will disembark at the Stockton passenger ferry wharf at 4.10 p.m. and proceed via Mitchell Street, Hereford Street, Fullerton Street to Williamtown Aerodrome, arriving there at 4.40 p.m. The Royal party departs from Williamtown Aerodrome at 4.45 p.m.

- 7.30 p.m. Coursing Meeting, arranged by Newcastle Jockey Club at Hamilton Coursing Track.
 - 8.00 p.m. Monster Fireworks Display, King Edward Park, Newcastle.
- The monster fireworks display will be completely aerial and should be viewed from not nearer than a quarter-mile.

"Give Me One Dozen Raspberries"

Newcastle Herald, Feb. 16, 1952.

On Wednesday this week, a small parcel arrived in the mail for 15-year-old Pam Ryan, a fifth-year Newcastle Girls' High School student, of Bull's Gardens-road, Whitebridge.

The parcel contained a limp, slightly-soiled hat, on the crown of which were inscribed the autographs of the West Indies cricketers who recently toured Australia.

Pam was wearing the hat when she and some school-mates went to see the West Indians play in Hobart during the Christmas holidays. With nothing else on which to collect their autographs, she took off her hat and left it with West Indian spin bowler, Ferguson.

Ferguson had it signed by each member of the team and took it to Sydney with him. There one of Pam's friends picked it up, and, in due course, sent it home.

To Pam, the hat is not only a reminder of the day she saw the visitors in action, but also a souvenir of a six week's adventure that began on the first day of the long vacation.

She was one of a party of 17 which set out to spend the holidays berry-picking in Tasmania. The party comprised 10 students from Newcastle Girls' High School, two from North Sydney High, one from Armidale University, two from Newcastle Teachers' College, and the mothers of two of them who went along as chaperones.

THE idea of the berry-picking jaunt, began when 16-year-old Alison Hunt, of Queen's-road, New Lambton, heard a pre-Christmas radio message in 1950 that the Tasmanian crops were in danger of being lost because of a lack of pickers.

Thinking the position might be the same for the 1951-52 season, she suggested the girls go south and wrote to various Tasmanian sources for information.

Eventually, she clinched a mass job with the aid of the Secretary of the Australian Berry Fruits Board (Mr. A. J. Honey), who arranged for the party to work on one of the four plantations owned by Mr. R. C. Crane, in the Sandfly district, 15 miles south of Hobart. The girls set out by flying-boat from Sydney and were somewhat baffled when, after being airborne some time, they consulted a compass one of them was carrying and found they were heading north.

The air hostess was equally baffled till she went in to see the pilot. He told her the aircraft was returning to Sydney because of bad weather off the Tasmanian coast.

The 31-hour journey was made the following day, with the party occupying all but one seat on the flying-boat's upper deck. When the ship skimmed down on the Derwent, the girls were met at the landing stage by a lorry in which—"in our Sunday bests"—they rode through Hobart in rain.

Sandfly proved to be a hamlet that consisted of a post-office store, a hall, and "nothing else." Houses were scattered in an area of farms, where gooseberries, raspberries, blackcurrants, redcurrants, apples, plums, pears and cherries grew in precision rows.

Mr. and Mrs. Crane, whom they liked immensely, welcomed them and allotted them three of the 25 huts provided for seasonal pickers.

The huts ("like Dudley's old houses") were unlined, but in one of their three or four rooms had an open fireplace which gave a means of warmth.

ONE of the huts in which the Newcastle party lived had the only stove, another the only bath for the 25 dwellings; but the girls pointed out that the stove was unnecessary "except for such things as cakes," and that many of the 69 pickers on the property lived in the district and could go home to take a bath.

"One man used to go home at night to milk his cow,"



Pam Ryan (left) and Alison Hunt, with hat in hand and raspberries in mind.

Pam said. "He'd come back in the morning with the milk."

The huts were available free —along with honey from Mr. Crane's apiary, potatoes and firewood—but otherwise the pickers were responsible for their own welfare and board.

On the day they arrived, the girls "rather panicked" the Sandfly store with an unexpected order for 12 loaves of bread, 10lb of butter, half a dozen tins of jam, and a few sundries like a hunk of cheese.

"We are the whole time," Pam recalled, with a slight degree of horror.

"I've never eaten so much in all my life. Never go there."

The party had to wait a week before starting to bring in the crops because the berries were still unripe. To fill in time, they went hitch-hiking up and down the island, sometimes in groups, at other times en masse.

Their first trip was to Margate for a freezing swim, and on through Hobart.

"We were wearing shorts and jeans, and tartan shirts," Pam said. "The people were disgusted."

"They wanted to know if we were bogies or widgees," Alison said. "The craze hasn't arrived in Tasmania yet, and they didn't know the difference."

The girls and their chaperones climbed Mt. Wellington, explored historic Port Arthur and Richmond, visited Launceston and, among other intriguing spots, the Hastings Caves.

THE GROUP which toured to the limestone caves, near the southernmost tip of Tasmania, hitched 79 miles each way.

"It rained nearly all the time, but we did little walking," Alison said. "People in Tasmania are always ready to give you a lift."

"They are terribly kind," Pam said. "They will stop and apologise if they can't take you, or are going a different way."

"Hitch-hiking is an accepted thing down there," said Alison. "Up here, it's considered vulgar; not a thing a young girl should do."

"People knew we were coming all along the way. One family would ring up another. Sixty miles from home, strangers would ask us: 'Are you the people from Bob Crane's farm? They are so wonderfully friendly.'"

When the picking started, each hut was given a section of plantation to work and each picker a row.

The Newcastle party picked only raspberries and redcurrants, because the other berries were still not ready.

The raspberries, growing to rosebush height on plaited

canes, were picked first. As they were gathered, they were dropped into picker tins which the girls tied around their waists. In various sizes, the tins held five to 14lb. of berries and as each was filled, it was carried back and emptied into a large tin at the end of the row. There were five pickings from the raspberry canes as the fruit progressively ripened.

Then work began on the grape-sized redcurrants, which were stripped off the branches —leaves as well—into basins. The leaves had to be removed later.

"It was terribly hard, monotonous work," Pam said. "Pickers normally work about 12 hours a day, seven days a week," said Alison. "They usually start at six in the morning, but we didn't start till seven, and went no more than 10 hours. We had heard that people were getting fabulous pay, but that isn't true. The pay was 27/6 per 100lb at the end of the season."

"We were told we would pick 100lb a day at first, and when we got used to the work, 300lb a day. But experienced pickers were only getting about 90lb. We averaged about 65lb."

ON a roster system, two of the party were left at the huts each day to housekeep and cook for the others, and competition was keen to see which team could prepare the most enjoyable dinner.

The girls expected to go home at night with aching backs, exhausted after picking all day, but were surprised to find that they never felt really tired. The worst they suffered was the mild discomfort of having eaten too many berries.

On Saturday nights, some of the girls, with a chaperone, went to dances. Once they arranged a dance in the Sandfly Hall, but "only five boys—and 25 girls—turned up." Most of the boys had cars and the night was turned into a success when everyone bundled into the autos, and drove to a dance at Margate.

The girls left Tasmania on January 25, flying home—with some gooseberries for jam—in time for school on January 29 and for Alison to assume the role of School Captain for 1952.

This week, with still plenty to tell of their adventure, the girls had a busy time showing the autographed hat to school-mates. Pam wore the hat when she worked on the plantation and more than one student, looking at it, was not so much thinking of cricket as wishing next Christmas and the prospects of a berry-picking holiday were not quite so far away.