

HELEN NEW.
O.F.AUSTRALIAN HISTORY.
LOCAL HISTORY TRANSCRIPT.

Good morning, I'm Helen New. I am interviewing Lottie Young, former teacher of Hunter Girls High School. The item is, Domestic Science Schools in the Thirties. Today is Friday, the eighth of September, 1989.

(We'd better test it in a minute hadn't we.)

The schools came into that site, you asked me why it was a swamp. H. Wasn't it owned by the Australian Agricultural Company ? I wouldn't be surprised. It could be and old Roy Davis who taught at The Junction for years and years and years, he can remember, where the racecourse is, and where that hockey fields are on Union Street, that was all a big swamp.

H. What was that man's name ?

Roy Davis.

H. Oh right.

He's dead but his son was Jack Davis who was the Inspector around the place for a long while. He was at The Junction for years but anyrate the Education Department had that land. Now Central School was built in the Depression... and that's why there were staircases at each end only, there are no fireplaces in it.

H. Oh right.

You didn't know that did you ?

H. No I didn't realise.

There was a staircase at each end only and there were no fireplaces and what else did it lack ? I'm not sure that it lacked air vents, I think that might be wrong, but there was certainly no fireplaces.

H. It didn't even occur to me why.

(can we test that ?) Stop.

Anyrate I can't remember, I'm not sure when Girls High opened, whether one was ahead of the other. I'm not sure of that at all, but it came there it says here, it was known as Newcastle Central Domestic Science School... And it was that until according to this paper the 36, that it became a high school then it was changed to

Hunter Girls High School. I don't think that's accurate either
I don't think those dates are accurate.

H. Home Science, doesn't it say there Newcastle Home Science
High School ?

No it became a High School, that's right in 58 it became Hunter
Girls, look my appointment to that school was in 46 and it was
there as Newcastle Home Science High School, that was the name
of it...And that the graduate teachers came in.

H. Graduate teachers ?

Yes, graduate teachers came in, is this thing still on ?

H. Yes.

Well that'll be good for you, the graduate teachers came in
because it was a high school.

H. What did it mean by graduate teachers ? they...

People who had a degree...degree, people who had a degree,
because prior to this, the school out at Broadmeadow had been
staffed by people who were Primary trained. There were people
who may have done a home science course and I suppose they had.
Now Dorothy Henson who came in there eventually as the Headmistress
after Will, I think her name was Will Sutherland. But after she
came in after her, she I think was primary school trained..and
her sister was Madge Henson who was Maths..and at one stage both
of them were Principals at ~~Beeton~~^{each} School and they didn't speak
to each other. They walked opposite sides of the road... its a
long story, but that was that.. So the schools came in there now
but in its early days, now when I first came home in 46 the school
was Newcastle Home Science High School, they'd had staff training.
Now even at that time the school was divided into two kinds of
courses. There was a domestic science course or home science, I
think it got its name then, home science course and a commercial
course.

Now they all did their basic stuff but the home science students
did five periods of home science a week and they did three periods
of needlework a week.

H. Oh yes I remember that.

And the commercial students would have done shorthand and typing
and business principals. Now whether they did needlework, or not

I can't remember, I have a vague idea that the whole school did needlework, I'm not really sure about that. Ah if you had to make up five periods of home science you would have say, two of shorthand two of book-keeping and business principals. Yes they could well have done it because the timetable had to balance. While those people were off having five periods of home science the commercial people had to get in their shorthand, book-keeping and typing, and I think that everybody did needlework, I think that's right because the needlework staff was a large staff. There were about five of them at the time, that was a big staff for needlework.

H. Yes there were lots of, there were quite a few degrees there.

And the people who, who did the commercial course went off afterwards if they wished to become teachers, they went off to Sydney Teachers College and they became commercial teachers and in turn came back and replaced or took appointments in what was then been known as these Home Science schools and the domestic kids or home science, that's the newer name, went off and took appointments as primary needlework teachers and teachers of home science and needlework in home science schools and my two sisters went to that school and did that course.. so that's how the teachers until recently, that's how the placement was staffed.

H. Right, then in the 60's wasn't it they , or the late 50's..

L.58 it became Hunter Girls High School.

H. The Wyndham Scheme came.

L. The Wyndham Scheme came in 66.

H. 66.

L. Before that the residency got changed to Hunter Girls High, do you think I ever told you this.

H. No I didn't know.

L. Aileen Treglown who was the Principal of the place in the time had taught at Newcastle Girls High School; she was there when I was at Girls' High as a pupil she was there as a teacher and she taught Business Principals and Typing and Commerce and Geography.. and she was the teacher who got jobs for those kids who left Girls High in fourth year, didn't go to their fifth

year for their leaving certificate, but they left in fourth year..
 ...(not audible)...She was a very good tennis player very good,
 anyrate when she was appointed to across the road she always felt
 that the school was second rate in peoples' minds to Girls High.

H. Yes.

And Aileen had a degree and she was a.. so she got sick of this
 home science tag on it she got sick of the school being labelled home
 science, ah because they took for granted everyone did some cooking
 and then she had the name changed to Hunter Girls High School, that
 was why that was done.

H. Didn't the students from Newcastle Girls High School go over and ?

That was only later when ^{Evatt} Everett brought in the fact that everyone
 had to do cooking, that was later.

H. Yes I can remember my older sisters coming from, going over from
 Girls High and doing cooking.

That was later when Clive ^{Evatt} Everett put that through, but before
 and that would have been, must have been in the early 60's but it
 wasn't, it certainly wasn't there because Aileen was the one who
 was responsible for that, She was the one who put that school on
 its feet. I'll tell you that.

H. Yes I was there when that was announced I was there in 57,58,59.

Well you must have been there when I was there.

H. Yes.

Who are you ?

H. Helen Wilson.

Can't remember, I can't remember, no I came I went back to Jesmond
 fifty seven I can't even remember 56 I came back to the Hunter 57,
 58 I've forgotten.

H. I remember you were at Jesmond, I can remember that.

That's right I came back in then, well anyrate that that's it
 and then, some time or other Clive Evatt had the bright idea that
 everybody in N.S.W. was going to have to learn to cook. So the school
 er had to accomodate in its rooms the a the crowd across the road
 the, the first formers they were only first formers from across the
 road and I think by then it had been changed in the junior schools
 to how much they had to do they were no longer I don't think they

nearly had to do five periods anymore. I think that got changed, I can't remember when, but I think that happened because there would have been no way in the world that that school could have accommodated first formers from Newcastle High, Girls High and First Formers from all the rest in those kitchens. They had that they couldn't have fitted in with them doing five periods right from the word go, so they must have cut down on that and I can't remember really. H. And then I think it was either 58-59 that French languages came in.

Yes, that that's true and I I'll tell you by looking at the magazines if you'd like to stop the tape for a second. STOP.

Well that was right then the French came in in 59 and I would imagine that one of the reasons when it came in was that Aileen was very keen that the people who had finished their leaving certificate at Hunter, what was it Hunter Girls High? I think it was 59, would have been eligible for Sydney University, it was one of the pre requisites, was French.

H. I see.

And you see prior to that they would not have been able to matriculate, no pupil from that school untaught, they had what was a prerequisite in those days, and that was for language. They would not have been able to matriculate; they wouldn't have been accepted into University to do anything because they had Shorthand, Typing, Book-keeping. They had Home Science so they couldn't apply for University.. and her idea of getting French in I suppose in preference to Latin because I suppose Latin was a bit deadened by then and ah at that time anyway to get into the (Newcastle) to Sydney University remember Newcastle didn't exist. You had to have Honours, so that would affirm why she did that.

H. I see...why did you choose teaching as a career?

Well it was what I wanted to do you should be asking how could I to present it, that was a more pertinent question. No I had always wanted to teach, ah and I got a scholarship to go to Sydney and how I got into Physical Education, we had to choose an option, I can't sing a tune and I certainly wasn't going to do

music and I can't draw so I ended up choosing to do Physical Education as an option for two years . I did Two years primary I did that at the end of those two years. Broughton Young had arrived from Canada and he was starting up National Fitness and ah, he put in, there was a Physical Education course put into Sydney Teachers College and four of us who had done it as an option were given an extended scholarship and got into Physical Education.

H. Did you find teaching rewarding ?

Mm Mm Mm very much whether it was these days is another story.

H. (laugh) I think you've just answered that question, the choice of...

I'm glad to be out see when we taught in at Hunter that's a particularly good school, it was a selective school. If the kids were there wanted to learn, they had brains and in addition to that I ended up being teaching..... but you know the kids were good and the staff really worked for those children they were, it was a very good staff it really was. Those kids had a terrific education. Aileen Treglown, she would get on the phone and she'd ring up so and so she'd been playing tennis with who she'd known in her younger days. The kids got really good jobs, because of her, especially the promising ones, you know the ones who were leaving, what was being say, in third year. You see when those kids left school in third year they left with a Shorthand Certificate saying they could do x words per minute, with a Typing Certificate saying they could do this and that and the other and they did Business Principals. Sure there were no computers and all that jazz in the offices but they went into offices fully trained and they got some of the best jobs in Newcastle.

H. Did you have the same choices as the men teachers in subjects ?

When I was at college yes, yes we did I can't remember who yes there were fellows in the 'Phys Ed'. Yes we were yes we went into primary teachers primary school or sports and ah we were in our section. I suppose I can't remember but we all had choices of options, we had to do an option its called an option. Can't remember how many hours a week but anyway we did and there were fellows who were in 'Phys Ed', there were fellows who were in art as well, so yes mm.

H. Why do you think, what do you think was the purpose of Domestic High schools, Domestic Science High Schools and why the accent on Domestic Science ?

Because I think at that time they had the bright idea that anyone ah who was going to have even secondary education, made sure how to cook and sew. See don't forget as early as late as as early as what say 23 that was after the first world war there would have been very few girls who would have had secondary education and so they would have put them into this to do home science. Taken for granted that that was the thing to learn to do. They didn't need an academic course and I would think that until this school was established the only other school in Newcastle would have been the school on the Hill, and after, I don't know when Hamilton started and I don't know Wickham started. Nor do I know when ah what else was there? I don't know when those two domestic schools started I don't know.

H. I have a little bit of information about them at home I think, ah well this is a magazine when Central in 1933.

No well I haven't seen that, what's that say?

H. Oh its talking about the cottage there, its not a very good copy.

Oh its the cottage at the front of the school, .

H. Yes....and theres an accent there on 'the girls who come are obtaining practical knowledge of home making which are carried out faithfully and well now and in the future should aid in the building up of homes of which a new country or nation should be justly proud'.

Mm bla bla bla, bla bla bla... there's that photo.. this is you've got this out of here, haven't you?

H. Yes that's right, yes there's Mrs. Chipchase.

Hazel mm ah I thought I had a shot of the cottage in here look you know that just sounds so much like hi falooting

Education Department stuff (laugh) because if you did home science at the school you will remember that you went into that place and alternately you had a turn in the cottage and alternately you had a turn to do cooking and they used to make the beds clean the bathroom. Remember you learned how to clean a bathroom, make the beds learn how to fill the.. make toast or what have you. You know the kitchen...But I don't think they ever did any real shopping or any budgeting I'm damn sure they didn't.

H. No, no I can remember when..

They learned how to make the beds.

H. we learned how to manicure our nails (laugh) and ah sitting at the dining table.

Yes setting the dining table that would be right. Sitting round the dining room table remember that. I think that's just a lot of you know hi falooting stuff for the paper or whatever they were putting in there because I wouldn't have

thought that until the senior school, with the Domestic or Home Science kids would really have had a true appreciation of menus and table linen and so on. Now I remember because my two sisters in law did this and I also remember it from others, but in the Higher school in the home what's it called the Leaving Certificate for the home science students, they had to cook up a full er a full, a meal, possibly a three course meal. They had to bring their own table linen their own glassware.

H. Yes we did that.

And they had to do all of that. That wasn't in Junior school that would have been in Senior school. They would have learned how to er you know do things perfectly. There would have been of course nothing wrong because there was nothing around in those days and I would think that the people who did five years in the home science school then, would have known a great deal about cooking and a great deal about ah I suppose cutlery and glass and I suppose about cleaning and looking after, you know looking after silver and glass. I can remember when I, I can remember once walking around a first year exam, a home science exam, you know what makes a good garbage bin, now that was hilarious to me. Yes...I can remember one day when about after a month a junior class probably a first year came over to P. E. clutching cake tins, remember they had cake tins and all this jazz came over and I said 'and what have you done today' ? They said they made toast and orange juice and washed up. It took them five periods. So you see there's the other side to it too, isn't there ?

H. Yes.

I think that in the senior school that that cooking stuff was really good. It's not nearly as good as it used to be.

H. I can remember having a really good basic learning.

In junior school ?

H. Yes.

They would have.

H. We had a demonstration class in the morning.

They would have a demonstration prep class and you had a practical class.

H....and we had to set the table and sit down and eat as well.

That's right I remember that too mm mm.

H. Yes and everything had to be checked in the drawers and everything positively clean.

Yes and you would have been taught table manners, I remember that. But that's all gone that has gone by the board, because now they haven't enough time and there's this panic and rush to get through.

H. Yes it's the same with needlework...the girls these days don't have the skills that we learned when we were..

Yes you would have how to draft, that's right and you would have learned how to do every kind of seam and stitch and you had to do little samples and you had to make those tissue things remember that.

H. We did that in primary schools ^{too,} we also learned, did our basic stuff in primary school.

Well I suppose if life is different and if there are a lot of stretch fabrics and if there are better sewing machines then you can well ask what is the need?

H. Oh well by my experience of what my children have learned and what the young lass next door has learned it's, pretty hopeless.

I think that you know, your basics are the things, but whether you need to spend hours and hours drafting a pattern when you can go and buy one I don't know.

H. Yes fair enough, although I did I didn't particularly like the drafting that I can remember but, later on when my children were small, the Enid Gilchrist patterns were very easy to follow and it just gave you the groundings to do that.

Well you see I've never done needlework in my life and when my child was small I used the Enid Gilchrist patterns too, because it was sheer mathematics. Drafting is pure mathematics isn't it. Yes so if your good at maths..

H. Well that's funny I wasn't good at maths but I still managed to do drafting and different things like that you know....

Did you teach mostly at the domestic science schools ?

I began teaching in 44 and I went to Dulwich Hill Home Science School and I ~~spent~~ ^{taught} two years there and then I came home in 1946 and in 1946 remember it came Newcastle Home Science High School and I taught there till half way through what 50 and then I left and I went back at the end of 51. I taught there till term three in 53 and. Then I left then I came back there to teach in let me think perhaps 58..57-58.

H. There was a Miss Edmunds...

At the time yes she was there I saw her a couple of weeks ago, yes she was there, I came back in there in 58 and 59. It'll be in the magazines I can't remember exactly when, and then I stayed there until I went to a.. stayed there and I took language I did a degree after that in modern languages and I taught there and then I went out to Waratah when the school was coalesced, amalgamated or whatever word they used and finished out at ~~Waratah~~ ^{Waratah}. 59 was the answer I wasn't there in 58.

H. That was formerly Newcastle Boys High.

Thats right.

H. Well did your perspectives change after you learned after you taught German.

What do you mean did my perspectives change, what do you mean by that ?

H. Well from doing P.E, from teaching P.E.... well did you have a different outlook on teaching then at from when you first began teaching.

I think so I wouldn't have stayed that long if I had had to get kids through high school certificate but didn't have to do any Phys Ed. did you...Oh I don't think so I think you know we still worked very hard for them.

H. Do you think that the students in the 50's-60's had a well rounded education ?

Compared with what ?

H. Compared with well in the 30's when the accent was on domestic..

I think so yes because in the time that I was in there the kids did more maths, they were able they had time to do more Honours there were different there was more Geography there was more History, there more Social Studies. I think so think they did and there were a lot more avenues open to them, because you know in the early 30's, all those could done from that school if they had left with a ... if they'd left in fifth form, they could have gone to teachers college ah to become those kind of teachers we talked about earlier. If they had left in third form with a decent certificate in typing and shorthand they would have got jobs and apart from that if they I suppose if they'd been home science kids they would have worked in chemist shops.

H. Shop assistants

Shop assistants they never would have gone into Banks I don't know...I just know this , the time Aileen Treglow was Headmistress at that school, those kids got really good jobs you know she really hard to put those kids on a par with Girls High across the road.

H. Yes I remember the competition between the schools.

Not least amongst them in sport.

H. You mentioned earlier about the site of the school and you mentioned about a racecourse ?

Yes I'm talking about the racecourse as it is now, where it is in Hamilton South, that was swampy land too. I believe I'm not suggesting that it was joined to it, but Hamilton South was a very swampy area and another interesting thing you probably don't know this either, but you know the city drains that ran along the school the side of the school ?

H. Jenner Parade.

Jenner Parade and then they run along the side of the school remember ?

H. Yes.

They went back behind the hockey fields down behind No.2 Sports Ground and round between No.1 and No. 2, right beside the hockey fields and then Jenner Parade one came in toward near those flats.

H. Yes.

Remember that ? Well Dorothy Henson Madge Hensons father was the Engineer who was brought out to do those with the Water Board and they lived at Mayfield. That's what people that's the Engineer who'd been responsible for that and I'm very you know, you find that out with the Water Board. I don't remember I don't remember Newcastle before the two schools were built on the site. I don't remember the hockey fields not being there. I remember the ones nearest the school being developed but the ones on Union Street were always there to my mind and I certainly remember the play ground I wish to god there were some pictures of it. When I came home to teach because ah you know you couldn't, lets see you know where the caretakers cottage, I remember that being built, the caretakers cottage was built there, well beyond that or even before that, that's where the school finished and there was aniseed swamp all down along that drain.

H. Wasn't the Chinese market gardens somewhere down there ?
Somewhere down there.

H. Where the athletics field is now and they filled it up ?

I don't remember that, when I went back to Girls High in the late 30's, that was a swamp. That was an ana when I say aniseed that tall aniseedy weed thing. That was a swamp, there were no Chinese gardens there. I think the Chinese gardens from what I hear Roy Davis or heard Roy Davis talk about. I think the Chinese gardens were down Union Street. I'm not sure where they were but they were there somewhere; and how the Education Department aquired that land on the other side of Union Street for the College I don't know. but they must have at the time aquired a hunk of land around Hamilton South.

H. I think I did come across something, I know the Australian Agricultural Company owned a lot of land, they had land at Tamworth and they had land at Port Stephens and I think the Education Department bought some of the land from them.

In the early days the A.A.Company, there are a couple of interesting books I've just been reading that, the A.A. Companies or their shipment was at Taree and Port Stephens and the A.A.Company...stop. (end of tape)

H. I came across the history of Dumaresq Street the reason that..

Did you. yes was a surveyor or was he an explorer ? I've forgotten, Roy will tell you, I don't know but he was one of the two.

H. Yes I can't quite recall now, he was a famous, I think he was part of the Australian Agricultural Company too.

Yes he could have been too.

H. He was, there were a few names mentioned.

Yes well you see, when those when those two schools were built, now this makes me think that Girls High was built before ah Newcastle before Home Science because it was built with a gym with a sprung floor and an Assembly Hall and when the other school was built they had to share there were numerous fights about it because of the timetables, and I ah and it makes me think that the crowd from the Hill moved down to Parkway Avenue about 28 about 1928. I haven't got as many Girls High magazines as I have of Hunter and if they moved down there in 28, (looks at magazines) oh there's the answer, they did, right.

H. Oh yes.

So that school was built prior to the Depression, 28, Newcastle Girls High was built prior to the Depression. So therefore it had every thing, it had a library, it was magnificent were you ever in it ? with plate , er stain glass doors on it with some badges on it the library.

H. Only once or twice.

Well it did and that's no longer there, but it did have that library upstairs in the centre. It had chimneys and fireplaces in every room, it had two staircases, but it wasn't as long a building as Home Science and it had wings, Home science is a squat block,

H. Yes.

and then the kitchen tacked out here and the cottage out the front. Newcastle was built like an archer, the science rooms were down one side and there was a stair there and then there was the centre of the school but there weren't nearly as many class rooms. The corridors weren't nearly as long and they had stairs and they had an assembly hall built in the middle of the 'U' and then they had a gym which was built with a sprung floor and the deal was when this school was when Home Science was built in whatever it was 31 or whenever it was, that they had to share.

H. Yes... then Hamilton South that was an Intermediate Home Science School, that was built around period.

I didn't know that, I think, I don't know that school I don't whether that was just an extension of the primary school that was there. See that could have been a big primary school in its day; and they had, more people were wanting a secondary education and they could have just said right your going in there. But see as far as I can remember Hamilton Home Science School and Wickham Home Science School and I'm sure that Wickham would have developed from a primary school to a central school. See in the country ages ago before the war or straight after the war there were very few High schools, they were central

schools and the person who was in charge of them, was also in charge of the primary school, Cooks Hill was like that. Anyway the children who came from Wickham and Hamilton came into us in senior school and the Cooks Hill kids as far as I remember at one stage anyway, had a choice of going into Newcastle or coming to Hunter.

H. Yes.

and if they wanted languages in Junior school at Cooks Hill then they would have been going to Newcastle. H. There's a library book I've had at home, I should have brought it with me but it got I think 1929, Newcastle, stories about Waratah, Mayfield and there's mention of a few of the schools and about Lysaughts and oh just the whole development of Newcastle, so it does have a little bit of the fact. In that.

Well I know that the girls left the Hillside to come down to Parkway Avenue Senior then the boys left to go to Waratah. Waratah school was built after Girls High. I don't know how long after but I know that it was and the a..for a while the boys were up on the Hill and then of course when they both left then it became a Junior High School and it was a boys only. And it was, see the same time now I don't know, I suppose in about 31 when the girls left Broadmeadow to come to Newcastle then Broadmeadow would have been Broadmeadow Central school and it was a boys school so it was having what the girls were having in town and then when the Hill was able to lose its top pupils to Waratah and to Newcastle, to Parkway, then I suppose the Hill was able then to take more boys in a central type situation, although that also, they also were High school kids because a friend of mine had left from there to Waratah.

H. Does that school exist now ?

No it doesn't. *Exists as a primary school. (1959)*

H. I remember the boys coming down from there.

But you see the boys, the people who were at the Hill if they wanted, I can remember this too; the people who were at Broadmeadow, if they wanted to go beyond their Third year in those days to do their Leaving Certificate then they had to go out to Waratah. Now the Captain of Central School was Ray Vintage very good at sport. He went out to Waratah I'm sure for a while, whether he stayed there or not. He was very good at sport, he ended up being Captain

but he was an example of somebody who went from Central, Broadmeadow to get more than Intermediate education, they had to go to Waratah. Now I don't know whether at Waratah they had a section into which they could go, because they were obviously, they would have had no one with them. They

would have had all the woodwork, tech. drawing, metal work and those things and the kids from Junior High, whether they had those or not I don't know, but they would have also had French. And see the kids from Cooks Hill, at that stage Cooks Hill was a High school and the girls from there were going to Central to Home Science High or Newcastle and the boys in town would have been going out to Waratah; and then the next school that opened was the Tech. High. Newcastle Technical High School that opened at Tighes Hill and then it got transferred to Chatham Road; and then of course the other schools which were opened around the town and I think Belmont is the oldest. I'm not sure, but I think it is. They opened as full High schools offering everything, you know Languages and Home Science, Woodwork and all that jazz. But Belmont, I'm sure Belmont, well of course Belmont was opened before the Wyndham that would have to have been, Belmont's been there god knows 30, 40, 30 years.

H. Jesmond High school was a brand new school too, didn't it open in 57 ?

Might have been 56 I went there, in 57 I think it could have been 56 but the children who were designated for Jesmond were boarded at other schools. They were boarded at Broadmeadow I think Cooks Hill, I'm not sure about that and at Wallsend and the person who was the Headmaster Algy used to wander round to these schools because the school came on upon ships from England in packages. It was pre ^{fab} plastic and until they got it built he had his pupils there. Now I went there in I think 57, I think it was there 57, probably 57-58 so I think the school was there in 56. I think that's right I'm not sure when they actually got into the building there that was a pre fab school and that's where that was.

H. It's close to that time because I had the opportunity of going there and I wanted to go to..

Where did you go from to school ?

H. Waratah, Waratah Primary.

and did Waratah feed into Jesmond at that time ?

H. Yes yes, I lived at ah Georgetown.

Did you ?

H. Yes I preferred to go into Newcastle Home Science High School.

Well do you see any of the girls you were at school with still, do you see anyone ?

H. Oh not very often but, it was weird going back to the school after so long. I'd been in the grounds before but walking, oh walking back into that school was, it was like a trip back in space, in time.

The Home Science Department is all the Metal work.

H. Yes, yes everything was changed but..

The cottage became the Art Department didn't it?

H. I think so, where we had sport, I asked the girls the other day, they said it's called the Ted shed and as long as they've known it's just been called the Ted shed and it's just got all storage..

That was the gym.

H. The gym yes

See that was, Aileen Treglown was responsible for getting that too I believe because, there was nothing. When I first came home to teach there was nowhere to teach, we taught outside.

H. Yes, it's all stored up with equipment and tools and different things.

It's not good, now what else did you want to know ?

H. I think it's pretty well rounded, rounded off, there was music but they teach music these days in schools too don't they, yes and Art ?

When I came home to teach in 46, now I don't know who had music before that, but from all the time that I was there, there were qualified music people by that I mean people who had done their courses in music, their degrees in music and likewise in Art. Now I don't what it was like before that, but from 46 onward that school had what I would term specialist teachers in those areas.

H. Those areas, well thank you Mrs. Young, it's been interesting.



Helen New

Hattie Young

Resolution of Hunter High School
from Home Science High School.

Transcript

Vintage Hattie Young, Helen! The interview gives an interesting insight into the origins & philosophy of a home science high school - and one of its founding principals, Aileen Treglown. She did get some of the best secretarial jobs for her brightest students. Whether that was in their best interests is another matter! Hattie Young emerges a very strong forthright character I remember her. An interesting insight into her perception. Some of your questions elicit surprising responses e.g. whether her perspective changed. There is flesh too much comment from you, Helen & your questioning jumps round a fair bit from topic to topic. I hope you follow up some of the areas Mrs Young admits she knew nothing about. Your questioning was often from the view point of curiosity, with little background. You missed a few opportunities e.g. how much sharing of facilities was there between schools - how much competition? The relationship between principals, staff & students. Did students at Hunter feel inferior to staff. Did the change of name make any difference, etc. But a mammoth task & well worth doing.

$\frac{5\frac{1}{2}}{10}$

Summary a bit disorganised, Helen. Needed to be put into some logical order $\frac{2\frac{1}{2}}{5}$

Tape Domestic science in schools in the 30s? Is that the topic? More Hattie Young's experience. Quality not the best. Outside taping is not advisable. Mrs. Young seems nervous of the tape recorder.

$\frac{3}{5}$

Paper Needs to be a good paper

Helen New.

O.F. Australian History.

Oral History Summary of Transcript.

Newcastle Central Home Science School was built adjacent to Newcastle Girls High School during the Depression.

In 1936 it became a High School and the name changed to Newcastle Home Science School.

When the name changed to Hunter Girls High School in 1958, the school gained an influx of graduate teachers, formerly the staff were primary and mostly home science trained.

In 1946 the school had two courses, home science and commercial subjects, plus needlework. The commercial students later became commercial teachers and subsequently home science students were teachers of home science.

The Wyndham Scheme was introduced in 1966: Aileen Treglown, then Principal of Hunter also taught Commercial subjects and Geography at Newcastle Girls High. She helped the Intermediate students get jobs, she felt that Newcastle Home Science High School was viewed as second rate to Newcastle Girls High School; she endeavoured to change the label of 'home science', subsequently the school was called Hunter Girls High School.

Clive Everett decided everyone should learn to cook, so Newcastle Home Science School had to accommodate the students from Girls' High; that scheme was phased out before 1957. French was introduced in 1959 to upgrade the standard, students were required to Matriculate with Honours to enter Sydney University, (~~Newcastle University was non-existent~~) languages were a pre requisite.

Mrs. Young chose teaching as a career; she went to Sydney Teachers' College on a scholarship and chose Physical Education as an option to Primary teaching. Broughton Young from Canada started National Fitness, then introduced a Physical Education Course into Sydney Teachers College, she and three others were given an extended scholarship in Physical Education; she found teaching very rewarding.

Hunter was a selective school, the students had the best tuition from their teachers, with specialist teachers in Art, Music and those areas. Commercial students left with full training and certificates to get the best office jobs in Newcastle.

At Teachers College the same choice of subjects were open to both men and women.

After the first world war, few girls had any secondary education. In the curriculum of the Domestic Home Science Schools, they were required to do cooking and sewing; the accent was on home making, it was believed they did not need an academic education. At that time the only other school was on the Hill.

In the cottage at Newcastle Home Science School the students learned alternately with cooking lessons, home making, table manners, meal planning, the care of linen, silverware and glassware and laundry. A demonstration period and practical lessons consisting^{ed} of food preparation and presentation, eating the meal and clearing up efficiently.

Needlework and drafting skills were taught; today stretch fabrics and good sewing machines and patterns are available.

Mrs. Young taught in some domestic schools and then completed a Modern Language Degree and taught at Newcastle Boys' High School at Waratah.

The students had a well rounded education in the 50's, 60's compared with the 30's. They did more Maths, Geography, History and Social Studies; an Honours Degree was more viable, greater opportunities were open to them. The pupils of the 30's only had teaching and office job prospects, home science girls procured shop assistant jobs.

In the vicinity of Hamilton South which was mostly aniseed swamp, there was a racecourse and Chinese market gardens were near the athletics field. The city drains ran behind the hockey fields and no.1 and no.2 Sports ground; these drains were Engineered for the Water Board by Dorothy and Madge Henson's father. The Education Department would have acquired the land from the Australian Agricultural Company. ^ Girls' High was built prior to Newcastle Central and had a spring floor gym, an assembly hall and other facilities which the two schools were expected to share. In 1928 the girls from the Hill moved to Parkway Avenue and the boys to Waratah.

As the demands grew, more people needed secondary education. After the war there were few High schools, mostly Central schools. Hamilton and Wickham would have grown from Primary to Central schools, then eventually to Intermediate Home Science Schools.

The pupils from Cooks Hill, Hamilton and Wickham came to Hunter or Girls High to complete senior high school, selecting Girls High for Languages. Broadmeadow and the Hill schools became Boys' high schools, (the Hill school is now non-existent) and the boys from Broadmeadow completed their Leaving Certificate at Waratah.

Newcastle Technical High School opened at Tighes Hill, then transferred to Chatham road. Belmont and others were full High Schools offering everything. When Jesmond was built the pupils were boarded at other schools, it was a pre-fab school shipped out from England.

(Hunter has greatly changed, it is now co-educational and amalgamated with Girls High and is called Newcastle High School.)

UNIVERSITY OF NEWCASTLE

OPEN FOUNDATION COURSE

1989.

I, Charles C Young give my
permission to Helen New

to use this interview, or part of this interview, for
research, publication and/or broadcasting (delete one of
these if required) and for copies to be lodged in
the.....

.....
for the use of other bona fide researchers.

Signed

Charles C Young

Date

8. 9. 89

Interviewer

Helen New



Cooking students at work in a Domestic Science school. Early 20th century.

An Item of Interest.

Lieutenant Colonel Henry Dumaresq was an official of the Australian Agricultural Company, he retired from the Army after the Battle of Waterloo. When he came to Australia in 1825 he lived in the New England District. As brother-in-law to Governor Darling he succeeded Sir Edward Parry as Commissioner of the 'A.A.' Company. Dumaresq Street is the site on which Newcastle Central Domestic Science school was built, which was adjacent to Newcastle Girls High School.

School Encircled by Water

(By "Sigok.")

"Hurrah for the stormclouds sweeping!
Hurrah for the driving rain!
The dull earth out of her sleeping
Is wakened to life again.

There are mirrors of crystal shining,
Whenever the cloud-wrack breaks
And grass-clad banks are twining,
A wreath for the fairy lakes,
Lakes that are links in an endless chain,
For the water is out in the swamps
again!"

(Will H. Ogilvie.)

Central School, Broadmeadow, presented a stormy spectacle. It was surrounded by a turbulent lake which extended in all directions for hundreds of yards, with every possible entrance from the roadway cut off by a menacing stream of stormwater. The rain pelted down unceasingly, adding further havoc to the scene of desolation. It was impossible to reach the entrance without wading through a rushing stream of water, more than a foot deep.

The first school teacher to brave the elements was quaintly, yet most appropriately garbed for the stormy occasion. He made his way down the street from Lambton Heights, with an attache case tucked lightly under one arm and his shoes under the other, and his trousers were rolled up above the knees.

The first tram with school children, to arrive in front of the school, discharged its load into a pool of muddy water. There the pupils were stranded; the tram continued its journey into the city; the rain pelted down with unabated fury, and the water rushed in upon them from all sides. However, the emergency was met heroically by boys discarding shoes and socks and carrying the girls to safety. Many such scenes were enacted within the next half hour. With the arrival of members of the staff, the scene became more embarrassing. Gallantly, the men on the staff lifted the ladies and carried them through the sea of water.

Many amusing episodes occurred, to the enjoyment of eye-witnesses looking on from comfortable vantage points. Quite seriously, a stranger greeted me: "It's a very wet morning, this morning, isn't it?" "Very wet!" I replied. "Very wet indeed, isn't it?" "Very wet indeed!" I agreed. "More than usually so, isn't it, even for this time of the year?" he persisted.

Trams and buses, crowded to capacity, pulled up at the school to enjoy the panorama. One teacher stumbled on a submerged boulder, causing his fair burden to cling more closely to his neck. Another male carrier, desiring to alter his position, seated his fair charge for a moment on one of the gate posts where she remained perilously, while the necessary adjustment was made.

Necessity is the mother of invention. Two barefooted lads crossed hands, and formed a support for a teacher who, thus safely seated, with a huge umbrella held aloft, was conveyed to his classroom.

Inside the school building the scene was anything but normal. Teachers and pupils stood barefooted and removed drenched clothes from their backs. Fires were lit; and hot coffee was prepared for the "patients."

In the circumstances, school in the ordinary sense was "off." Of the thousand pupils on the rolls, less than 10 per cent. put in an appearance, and, of these, the majority were drenched to the skin, and were sent home as soon as the storm slackened in its ferocity.

Central School is situated on one of the lowest lying flats of Broadmeadow.

PINT TRAFFIC STOPPED

THE SCHOOL COLOURS

During World War 1 relatives of the students and a number of teachers of Newcastle Central School served their country in the forces. Many of them belonged to the 35th Battalion which was proudly known as 'Newcastle's Own'.

The colours of the Battalion were chocolate and green, a symbol of honour and service.

Permission for the school to adopt these colours was granted and in 1925 a commanding officer, Colonel B. B. Rodd, V.D. A.A.I.I., presented the colours to the school.

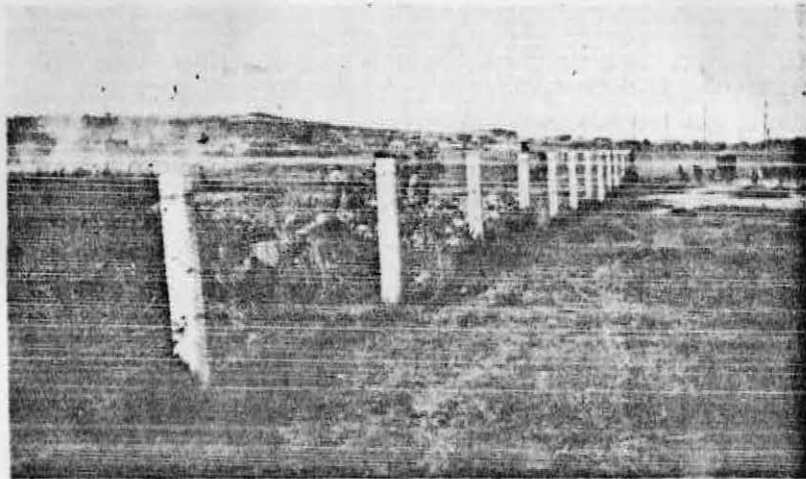
more trivia

A SHORT HISTORY OF 35th BATTALION.

This Battalion of 9th Brigade (First AIF) was the only one of the Third Division AIF Units to be raised and trained in Newcastle and was proudly known as 'Newcastle's Own'.

The battalion embarked from Sydney on May 1, 1916 in the 'Benalla' with a nominal roll of 30 officers and 1000 other ranks. They arrived at Plymouth on July 8.

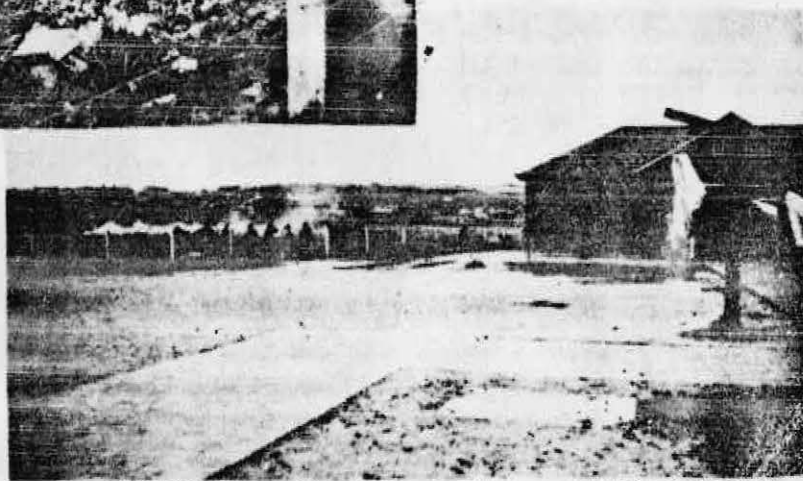
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OUR SWAMP

The School society of 1932 well remember the swamp adjacent to the school and the unpleasant odours which were a constant source of annoyance during that first year.

The filling used to reclaim the land on which National Park is situated included garbage disposals, refuse from the Steele Street vegetable markets and 'Night soil'.



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Photo copies from the School Magazine of the outskirts of the school.



THE CENTRAL

Editorial Staff: M. MOONEY, D. HARDING.

Vol. 8, No. 1.

August, 1933

EDITORIAL.

It is only fitting that we should consider in this, the first copy of our School Magazine since we have been in our present fine building, the new motto that has been chosen for our School: "Nobility, Courage, Service"—three words suggesting the ideals to which we strive.

Kingsley has written:—

"Be good, sweet maid, and let who will be clever,
Do noble deeds, not dream them all day long."

What are these "noble deeds" he bids you do? Perhaps they are little acts of kindness and unselfishness, of obedience to duty, and of endeavour to do one's best in spite of unfavourable circumstances.

Courage is a virtue you all wish to possess. No girl likes to be thought a coward. But you must remember that moral courage is even more important than physical courage. You must never shelter behind an untruth, you must learn to say, "No" if your conscience so directs, and you must try to express your own opinions fearlessly.

"I serve" is the motto of the Prince of Wales, and we may well feel proud that these words form part of our own School motto. Can we have any higher ideal than to be of service to others? I think not. Opportunity to serve comes to you while you are still school girls. When you leave School and take your places in the home, the office, or the shop, greater opportunities for service may come and you will find that in serving others you gain the only true happiness.

Most of you wear on your hat bands the School Badge with the letters, N.C.S. Always keep in mind that these are the initial letters of NEWCASTLE CENTRAL SCHOOL, and of our motto—NOBILITY, COURAGE, SERVICE.

D. M. HENSON.

FOR ALL BOOT REPAIR SUPPLIES—"THE STORE"

*Photo copy of Principal's address to
students. First copy of school magazine, 1933.*