HISTORY OF
MAYFIELD EAST PRIMARY SCHOOL.

Newcastle Chronicle - Saturday, March 30, 1872.
Page 4, Col. 4.

WARATAH NORTH.

The people here have had several Public Meetings of late for the purpose of enquiring into and taking action in providing better school premises for the accommodation and teaching of their little children.

It appears that a great many years ago a Mr. Simpson who was nearly the first resident at Waratah, and named it as such, gave one chain square of land for ninety-nine years as a site for a non-vested school, and to be used for Church purposes as well, upon which was erected a building, certainly not fit for any such purpose, which yet has for as these years had to do duty as such, until at length it has fallen into so great a state of disrepair - besides being by far too small as to be an utter disgrace to the neighbourhood and the Council of Education in Sydney. For be it remembered non-vested schools, in the eyes of the Board, are apparently an abomination. Therefore not classed so highly as public ones, nor receiving so much support and encouragement. The inhabitants have decided to erect new premises on a new site, and with the sanction of the Board, to form a public school instead of a non-vested one.

Newcastle Chronicle - Saturday, April 6, 1872.
Page 6, Col. 3.

WARATAH NORTH (POLY).

On Tuesday evening the concert was held in the Hanbury Public School, for the purpose of raising funds for this Folly School.

In their desire to erect another and new Public School, in the neighbourhood they have met with great encouragement, and we can only wish them Godspeed in their work.

Newcastle Chronicle - Saturday, September 7, 1872.
Page 3, Col. 4.

THE FOLLY (WARATAH NORTH).

Paraphrase of the article.

One ¼ acre given by Mr. Simpson for School - Slab building put up but now totally inadequate.
Residents have tried to procure 2 acres but cannot because land is set aside for a botanical gardens by Government.
Mr. Hanneal has asked Minister of Lands for 2 acres of those 70 acres for Gardens. He gave a precedent where it had happened before from a Commonage Reserve.
At present 50 at Folly School.
About 50 at Tighes Hill.
50 not sent to school or attending Hanbury School who would (all 3) attend a school if it were erected.
NORTH TARATAH PUBLIC.

(Decisions on Public School.)

A meeting in support of the above was held in the Schoolroom. The Chairman said that there were three things for them to consider:

1st - Should a School be continued, and put under the care of the Public Board?
2nd - On what terms can a school be established?
3rd - How much could be raised. He said £300 would be sufficient so that taking the value of the land at £20, together with the money in the Bank, and Mr. Roe's promise, they would only require to raise about £45.

Collected = £30/16/-
Mr. Roe promised an acre of land + £5.

Proposed "That in the opinion of this meeting, it is desirable that a Public School be continued in this place".

Newcastle Chronicle - Saturday November 2, 1872.

"ARATAH NORTH.

Hope for School - Chairman had received a reply from Mr. Roe, defining the position of the ground (equally distant from Taratah North and Tighes Hill.)

They had now £50 in hand, and he hoped the day was not far distant when, with the assistance of the Council of Education, they would have a fine school in that place.

Newcastle Chronicle - Tuesday February 18, 1873.

"ARATAH NORTH - Need for School.

Another meeting held "for the purpose of further taking into consideration the means to be adopted to provide school premises suitable for the locality, as early as possible."

"The Chairman stated that the application to the Minister for Lands for two acres of land from the reserve for botanical gardens, had met with the approval and they could at once take possession of it and commence to clear and fence it."

The School, so long now in existence at that place, is now entirely closed, as the Council of Education refused to appoint or assist in any way to pay a schoolmaster until more suitable accommodation is provided, and nearly 100 children are left to run about."

£90 in hand. In regard to the land for school premises, promised to them by Mr. Roe the Chairman was instructed to endeavour to obtain a donation in money instead.

(The meeting wondered if the 2 acres would count as part of the 1/3 of the cost to be provided by the people. They were going to find out.)

School to serve Folly, Port 'aratah and Tighes Hill and save 2 teachers.
NORTH WARATAH PUBLIC SCHOOL - Funds

The inhabitants are raising by subscriptions funds to erect a substantial school and teacher's residence, of brick etc. Through the assistance of James Hannel Esq. they are in possession of 2 acres of land given to them by Government, which they are now clearing; further they have raised funds - nearly £100. But fortune has smiled upon them suddenly by a reply to their communications from the Directors of the Hunter River Copper Company through -- C. Thomas Esq., Manager of the above, instructing him to send the munificent donation of £50 to help them -- I trust other Companies and firms will follow in the wake.

A WARATAH SCHOOL - Apparently North Waratah.

We observe the following notification in the Government Gazette:-

"It is hereby notified for general information, in accordance with the provisions of the 24th section of the Public Schools Act of 1866, that an application has been received at this office for the establishment of a Public School at Waratah. By order of the Council of Education, W. Wilkins, Secretary."

WARATAH NORTH PUBLIC - Erection.

The proposed new Public School at Waratah North has not yet been commenced, although, I believe, both land and money are ready. The reason for this delay is said to be the reluctance of contractors to enter into any large engagements in consequence of the unsettled state of the labour market.

NORTH WARATAH - Erection.

A full meeting of the members of the newly appointed board was held at the old schoolroom, North Waratah, for the purpose of electing a chairman and secretary (R. Ingall (Chairman) and J. Williams (Secretary) elected.

We understand that the foundation stone is to be laid in about three weeks from the present date. Miss Toule, a young lady held in the highest esteem by the residents in this locality has been invited to perform the ceremony of laying the stone.
The ceremony of laying the Foundation Stone, took place on Friday last, the 24th instant, in the presence of the leading residents of the district and others, numbering in all about 600. The Lambton brass band was in attendance, and diffused some excellent and inspiring music throughout the day. The ground was gaily decorated with flags, and the number of ladies present on foot and on horseback, rendered the scene very picturesque and enlivening.

Mr. J. Hannell laid the stone. He talked of Mr. Ingall's great interest in the cause of education at North Waratah.

"It was surprising to him, when he looked round and saw the site chosen for the school, to think that, a few years ago, it was an almost impenetrable scrub, and at that time was called Neill Smith's Folly" (Man who had lost himself and had almost died).

Wallaroo Company promised £50 and this amount increased the funds to £111/12/- . The amount of Mr. John Ash's contract would be £672, and £50 would be allowed for extras, but this amount, by contributions and the endowment from the Government had been lessened to about £150. (Showed people had given).

£30 was collected on the spot.

Luncheon was provided free in the Marquee.

The Folly, Waratah, North Waratah, Mayfield and now Mayfield East.

Mayfield 1900 -1950" Jubilee Celebrations" - Souvenir Booklet

MAYFIELD EAST PUBLIC SCHOOL.

The first school at the "Folly" was conducted by Miss Tourle in a small wooden building at the end of Crebert's vineyard. Then a building of slabs was erected on a two acre block on the hill on what became the corner of Crebert and Ingall Streets. This was the Folly Public School, opened in 1874, which over the years has borne the titles of "The Folly", "North Waratah", "Mayfield" and "Mayfield East". The terms of the first three Principals here - James Kilgour, John Gillespie and Donald Robertson - covered a span of 35 years.
WARATAH.

North Waratah School.—The local board of the above school are about making some very important additions to the school building and teacher’s residence. A contract has been given to erect a large kitchen to the teacher’s residence at a cost of £105, and a large shed is to be erected in the school yard as a shelter for the children in hot or wet weather. The building is entirely free from debt, and the above improvements will be made at the expense of the Council of Education.

The Waratah Tunnel has worked full time this week.
DISTRICT NEWS.

(From Our Various Correspondence.)

NORTH WARABAH.

OPENING OF THE NEW LIBRARY.

The opening ceremony of the new library was performed by the Rev. A. Shaw in the presence of a large number of parents and pupils. The school was nicely decorated, with flags and greenery, and was comfortably filled. The proceedings opened with an overture, "The Old Folks at Home," by Miss J. Robertson; followed by a short address by the reverend chairman, who declared the library open, and expressed the hope that the books would be both carefully read and handled. The elder pupils rendered two songs, entitled "Minnie Darling" and "Autumn Song" in a very creditable manner. The infants also rendered an action song, "There was a young kitten" and "The babes in the wood." Mr. Gilbert, from Hamilton-Superior Public School, who represented the Teachers' Athletic Association, then gave an address explaining to the parents how the idea of libraries had originated, and hoped the public would appreciate the books. Master G. Robertson recited Kipling's poem, "Fighting Bob." Miss N. Dobbs recited the "Absent-Minded Beggar" in a very creditable way; a sum amounting to slightly over £2 was collected by three girls with tambourine in aid of the Patriotic Fund. The "Soldiers of the Queen," with violin and piano accompaniment, was also sung by several school pupils. Thirteen children presented books to the library. Mr. Robertson, the headmaster, thanked all present for their attendance, and the proceedings closed with "God Save the Queen," followed by cheers for the Queen, our soldiers, the chairman (Rev. A. Shaw), and teachers. The accompaniments were ably played by Mrs. Robertson.
ROLL OF HONOUR UNVEILED.

The unveiling of the Mayfield Public School roll of honour took place on Saturday afternoon, in the presence of a large attendance, including many parents and relatives of those whose names appeared on the board. The arrangements for the unveiling were made by the Mayfield Parents and Citizens' Association, of which Mrs. Duncan is vice-president, Mrs. Mills, treasurer, and Mr. R. Mitchell, secretary.

The Mayor, Alderman Griffiths, said he was there at the invitation of the parents and citizens' association for the purpose of unveiling the honour roll. Australia had every reason to feel proud of the number of men who have gone to the front, and he hoped that it would not be long before they would return. He hoped that the unveiling ceremony would spur on the scholars to be good men, good women, and good citizens of this fair land, sunny Australia. The Rev. A. Campbell said he was not born an Australian, but he claimed to be one. He had paid the price. The Rev. A. Campbell also spoke a few words. Mr. McMeekin, at the conclusion of a brief address, called upon Miss Alice Marshall, dux of the school, and a daughter of a soldier, to unveil the roll, which was designed and made in Hamilton, and contained the following names, 73 in all, those who have fallen being indicated by an asterisk:—

SUPERIOR PUBLIC SCHOOL,
MAYFIELD.

GRAND SCHOOL CONCERT,
Friday, 23rd September, 1921,
At 8 p.m.,
TIGHE'S PICTURE PALACE.

Programme.

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<th>No.</th>
<th>Song/Tune</th>
<th>Performer</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>&quot;Song of Australia&quot;</td>
<td>School Choir</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>&quot;Sweet and Low&quot;</td>
<td>School Choir</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>&quot;Song of Autumn&quot;</td>
<td>School Choir</td>
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<td>4.</td>
<td>Nursery Rhymes</td>
<td>Infants</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Duet—&quot;Canadian Boat Song&quot;</td>
<td>Infants</td>
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<td>6.</td>
<td>Ribbon Dance</td>
<td>Pearl Bennetts</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Recitation—Selected</td>
<td>Infants</td>
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<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Organised Games</td>
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INTERVAL

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<th>Song/Tune</th>
<th>Performer</th>
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<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>Action Song—&quot;The Brownies&quot;</td>
<td>Class 3B</td>
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<td>2.</td>
<td>Folk Dances</td>
<td>Senior Girls</td>
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<td>3.</td>
<td>Action Song—&quot;The Fishers&quot;</td>
<td>Class 4B</td>
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<td>Folk Dances</td>
<td>Senior Girls</td>
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<td>5.</td>
<td>Action Song—&quot;Ten Little Nigger Boys&quot;</td>
<td>Class 3B</td>
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<td>Folk Dances</td>
<td>Senior Girls</td>
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<td>7.</td>
<td>Flag Drill</td>
<td>Fifth Classes</td>
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<td>8.</td>
<td>Cadet Drill</td>
<td>Sixth Classes</td>
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R. A. SHIELDS, Principal.

M'Luckie and Morris, Newcastle
OLDEST SCHOOL IN THE NEWCASTLE DISTRICT

Mayfield East — Progressive School — Erected 1874
—Charming Gardens—Enthusiasm for Sports—
Good Examination Results

FIFTY-ONE years ago the Public Instruction Department erected a small, one-room school on a hill at Mayfield, overlooking a portion of a fine botanic reserve, around which the Hunter River wound its sinuous curve.

They called it the "Polly" school, but because of the advent of a school in such an out-of-the-way quarter was considered altogether foolhardy, but because the reserve referred to was then known as the Polly.

An inscription on the front of the building indicates that it was built by the Children's Committee for the Children's Mission in 1874.

The building was erected in 1874. Since then, many changes have been made, and the land which once was a swampy waste is now a bustling city.

Mayfield East was a small school until two years ago, when it was turned into a three-department establishment. The large building, once a school, is now a part of the community, housing offices and classrooms.

The residence of the first master, who was the back of the school. Today, part of this building is being used for a classroom.

Boys and girls are welcomed into the building, and are given a warm welcome. The building is well lighted, and has a feeling of spaciousness and comfort.

The school buildings at Mayfield East are now thoroughly up-to-date — the girls' and boys' buildings being erected in 1939, while the infants' department, in another portion of the grounds, has been renovated and adapted to suit modern educational requirements.

Mayfield East Public School, the new building, is well equipped, having a fine hall and gymnasium. The school is divided into three departments: Junior, Intermediate, and Senior. The school is staffed by experienced and qualified teachers.

THE HEADMASTER

The headmaster, Mr. J. I. Lynch, comes from the Newcastle district, and received his training at the Training College. He started teaching in 1955 and has been with the school ever since.

This man is a pupil teacher at Hunter in 1955, and eventually rose to first assistant at Cooks Hill. His appointment as headmaster was at Mayfield East, and he was transferred to Quirindi East, Newcastle.

The school has a fine staff of teachers, including Mrs. I. Ireland, who is the head of the Junior Department, and Mr. J. I. Lynch, who is the headmaster.

THE TEACHING STAFF

The teaching staff includes Miss J. C. Paton, who is the head of the Intermediate Department; Miss E. L. Johnson, who is the head of the Senior Department; and Miss M. H. Brown, who is the assistant headmaster.

The school has a fine teaching staff, all of whom are experienced and qualified.

THE SCHOOL BUILDINGS

The school buildings are well appointed, with plenty of light and air. The classrooms are well arranged, with adequate space for the children to work in.

The school has a fine hall, with ample seating for the children. The gymnasium is well equipped, with a fine floor and modern apparatus.

THE POND

The pond is located in the heart of the school grounds, and is a popular spot for the children to relax and enjoy nature.

THE GARDENS

The gardens are divided into three sections: the vegetable garden, the flower garden, and the ornamental garden. The children are actively involved in the care of the gardens.

THE SCHOOL SPORTS

The school has a fine sports team, with boys and girls participating in a wide range of sports. The team has a good record in both local and inter-school competitions.

THE SCHOOL EXAMINATION RESULTS

The school has produced a number of excellent students, with many gaining high marks in their examinations.

THE SCHOOL ANNUAL TASTES

The school annual tastes are held each year, and are a popular event among the students and their families.

THE SCHOOL FEATURES

The school has a number of features, including a fine music room, a library, and a reading room.

THE SCHOOL COMMUNITY

The school has a strong community spirit, with regular community events, such as the annual school fete and the school concert.
New Mayfield East School

THREE DEPARTMENTS

The new Mayfield East school, which was opened yesterday, is of brick construction, with tiled roof. The main building is of two stories, and the upper floor and staircases are of fireproof construction. The work cost about £8450.

Accommodation is provided for 448 pupils in seven ordinary classrooms and a kindergarten room. There are separate rooms for headmistress and staff, and the necessary bathrooms and store-rooms are provided.

Weatherproof and lavatory accommodation have been arranged in one block, designed to harmonise with the main building. Paths and assembly areas have been tar paved, and new gateways have been formed in fencing to give access to the building.

Mayfield East is a school of three departments—boys, girls, and infants. The enrolment at the end of last term was—Boys 342; girls 302; infants 319. Mr. V. A. Murray is the headmaster, Miss M. A. Butler mistress of the girls' department, and Miss R. J. McIntosh is in control of the infants. The assisting staff comprises 21.

Tenders for erecting the building were invited in August last, and the contract was let to Mr. W. Stronach, builder, of Hamilton.
INFANTS' SCHOOL FOR MAYFIELD EAST

ANNOUNCEMENT BY MR. DRUMMOND

WILL COST £5000

The new infants' school at Mayfield East is to be erected at a cost of £5000.

This announcement was made by the Minister for Education (Mr. Drummond) at a community meeting held at the local hall.

The Minister expressed his delight at the prospect of providing a new school for the area. He highlighted the benefits of having a modern, well-equipped school for the children of the community.

The new school, which will be built on land donated by the local council, will accommodate up to 300 pupils. It will feature classrooms, a playground, and other facilities necessary for a primary school.

The construction of the school is expected to take place over the next 12 months, with the facility expected to be operational by the start of the 2024 academic year.

PARENTS' COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

The Minister also emphasized the importance of community involvement in the planning and development of the school. He encouraged parents and residents to actively participate in the project to ensure that the new school meets the needs of the community.

The announcement was well-received by the audience, who expressed their support for the new school and their enthusiasm for its development.
Suburban and District

GOOD WORK ON SHELTERS

Mayfield East School

"The Public Works Department is doing an excellent job with the school trenches," said Mr. Hale at a meeting of the Mayfield East Parents and Citizens' Association last night. Although the trenches had been untouched until last week, the gangs of men working on them had done wonders, he added. All trenches were covered and were being drained. Material for the building of four triple Anderson shelters was ready at the school.

As these would shelter about 100 children, and the trenches will hold the same number, there would be no difficulty in finding sufficient space for every child, said Mr. Burgess.

Mr. Hale said that as the average attendance at the school was 400, and the shelters erected were intended to house 75 per cent., the result was very satisfactory. The shelters in the infants' school had almost been completed. A representative from the Health Department had visited the school during the week and taken samples of the water found in the trenches for tests of mosquito larvae.

Owing to the difficulty in arranging functions for raising school funds, Mr. Burgess suggested that a circular appealing for cash donations be sent to each parent, stating that approximately £12 was needed to liquidate liabilities.

Arrangements were also made for a flag bridge and card evening to be held on June 28 in the school library.

Girl pupils continue to do good work in the collection of garments for possible bomb victims.

An inspection of emergency bags carried by pupils was carried out at regular intervals, said Mr. Hale. Barley was needed to be replenished very frequently.
Mayfield park was lost to industry

More than 100 years ago a Newcastle settler, Peter Crebert, developed part of his vineyard land as a public garden in what is now known as Mayfield East.

Residents of that era visited the gardens each Sunday to buy Crebert's fruit and wine and stroll around the gardens.

The gardens were then known as Folly Park.

The park became known as Newcastle Botanical Gardens and on May 19, 1868, more than 100 acres of land extending from Crebert, Bult and Ingal Sts to Port Waratah Railway Station was dedicated in that name.

Mr Crebert died in 1895, 27 years after his land was dedicated.

The remains of this first Newcastle Botanical Gardens are now an overgrown quarry on the corner of the Industrial Highway and Ingal St, Mayfield East, behind the public school.

The Principal (Mr J. McMahon) and acacia shrubs growing in the grass-covered park earlier this year. He then found an excerpt from a souvenir booklet, "Jubilee Celebrations" estimated that the quarry was more than just vacant land.

"I noticed a sandstone path, thickly covered with grass and weeds, which must have been a walkway through the gardens," he said.

Yesterday, SCOPE cleared a small piece of the pathway in the deserted garden.

Only a few pieces of the canna and acacias remain but the garden is still, though barely, noticeable.

Most of the dedicated park is now industrial land.

Only the small block of land behind the school remains as a reminder of Newcastle's first botanical gardens—but even that is to go.

The Education Department's Properties Division told SCOPE yesterday that the land would be reclaimed and built up to the level of the present playground.

The department awaited detailed plans and costing from the Department of Public Works, a spokesman said. What remains of the first Newcastle Botanical Gardens as it appeared yesterday. Acacias and canna leaves are in the long grass. The "garden" is behind Mayfield East Primary School and looks on to heavy industries of the Mayfield area.

When the plans are completed and the costing is done the workers have only to reach that block on their works program and what remains of the first Newcastle Botanical Gardens will be no more.

ELIZABETH DRUHAN
Trust worried at mine bid

THE HUNTER Regional Committee of the National Trust has noted that an application has been made by J. and A. Brown-Abermain Seaham Collieries Ltd for a mining lease on 21 hectares at Hexham.

This has come before a Committee of Newcastle City Council in respect to planning control.

The National Trust is soon to produce an addendum to Hunter 2000 which will deal in greater detail with the Hunter Estuary than was the case in Hunter 2000.

Part of the addendum will deal with Hexham Swamp which is regarded as vital to maintenance of the ecology and food web of the Hunter Estuary.

I draw attention to the Hexham Swamp environmental impact report of the Department of Public Works dated December, 1972.

On P13 the report mentions that there is a strong possibility that either coal and/or washing dumps may be swept across the swamp in flood time causing considerable ecological damage.

At the end of its report the department also recommended that further development such as swamp drainage should be deferred until a comprehensive land use plan for the area is formulated.

The National Trust views with great concern any plan for further intrusion upon the Hexham Swamp by any kind of industrial plant.

R. S. WOODGATE,
Chairman,
Hunter Regional Committee,
Newcastle.

TEXT FOR TODAY

Therefore will I also deal in fury: mine eye shall not spare, neither will I have pity: and though they cry in mine ears with a loud voice, yet will I not hear them—Ezekiel 8:18.

Why no means test?

"STRUGGLING Parent" ("NMH," 22/10/74) has completely missed the point of my letter (17/10/74), I asked why are teachers' college students the only students who get an allowance, even through holidays, and a book allowance, without a means test?

I have children of tertiary education age. Unfortunately, for me, they wanted courses in Sydney; not teachers' college —so there is no allowance, no living away assistance and no book allowance.

T. MARKHAM, Stockton.

HAVE YOUR SAY...

Readers are invited to use the Letters to the Editor column as their forum.

Letters, except on specialised subjects, should be restricted to not more than 250 words. Pen names may be used for special circumstances, but preference will normally be given to signed letters. All letters must bear the writer's signature and address.

Memories of "Folly"

AFTER reading "Scope" ("NMH," 5/11/74) it brought back to me happy memories of my childhood 50 years ago.

What great excitement there was when we were allowed to go down and play in "Folly" as we used to call the former botanical garden.

I can still see those red and yellow canna flowers in our hair and yards of clover-chain necklaces that turned us into "hula" girls, the lines of oaks that became "Sherwood Forest," squeaky old swings under the Morton Bay figs and gathering acorns in an old faded rag sun hat. It was our world of "Let's pretend.

While I am writing this, I'm sitting with a group of young children in a world of their own, where their eyes are glued to a TV screen each afternoon. I wonder in 50 years time will they remember Roger Ramjet and Mighty Mouse as clearly as I remember those happy hours I spent each afternoon playing in "Folly."

"OLD MAYFIELD EAST KID," Merewether.

Johannesburg tower taller

THE article "Taller still" ("NMH," 29/10/74) mentioned that at 260 metres Sydney's proposed Centrepoint Tower will be the tallest building in the Southern Hemisphere. The J. G. Strijdom tower in Hillbrow, Johannesburg, tops 269 metres.

BRUCE R. TAYLOR, Rotary exchange student, South Africa.

Opposed to Sunday pubs

AFTER hearing the news that a friend of mine was killed by a driver who had too much drink and who drove in a manner dangerous to the public, why, oh, why do people still want Sunday liquor trading? Nearly every town has a club where one can get as much drink as one wants. Good people and little children are killed or maimed on the road every weekend. Something must be done, and quick.

"DISGUSTED," Marks Point.