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# Amors Centenary of Education Medalets for New South Wales

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## SHORT HISTORY OF SCHOOLS IN EARLY N.S.W.

No provision was made in the complements of the First Fleet for teaching facilities for the Colony of New South Wales. However, by 1779, Isabella Rosson a First Fleet convict, was conducting classes. She later married William Richardson of the New South Wales Corps. He, in turn, became the Colony's first male teacher.

In 1793 the Chaplain, the Rev. Richard Johnson erected a building at the corner of present Castlereagh and Hunter Streets for the Society for the propagation of the Gospel. This functioned as a school along with that of the Military Regiment.

In 1801 the Orphan School for Girls was opened, and in 1819 a similar establishment came into operation for boys. Both of these schools were Government financed. Until 1810 the money came from Dues and Customs, but in that year Governor Macquarie separated this into The Police Fund<sup>1</sup> and The Orphan Fund. A silver, hand inscribed prize medal dated 1821 issued by the Male Orphan Institute has survived (Plate 1)<sup>2</sup>.

Under Governor King the citizens of the Hawkesbury district were assisted in the erection of a two storey church and school. This was conducted by a "person of the Missionary Society who was sustained by food from the Government Store and a levy of 2d. an acre per year on the local farms".

By necessity tuition fees were often paid with produce. Thus, Thomas Pascoe Crook when advertising the re-opening of his boarding school at Paramatta in 1805 set the fees at "£30 per annum if paid in wheat or pork, £27 if paid in cash or approved bills".<sup>3</sup>

The earliest Government financed school was not on the mainland. It was established on Norfolk Island in 1794. The funds were raised by Lieut. Governor King by a levy on Duties and Customs.

From 1819 the number of schools increased dramatically. The more important institutions included the Sydney Free Public Grammar School (1819), the Charity School House (1820), the Sydney Female School of Industry (1829), King's School Parramatta (1832) and the Sydney College (1835). At the same time there were many private schools which came and went. Their standards varied with the competence of their proprietors and many offered only to teach the social graces to what must have been very gauche colonial maidens.

In 1836 Governor Bourke proposed a National School system based on that of Ireland. The sum of £3,000 was allocated for buildings and stipends. These wages were to augment the "head money" of one half penny a day contributed by each pupil whose parents could afford it. Both

1. See Mira, W.J., *The Note Issues of the Police Fund of N.S.W. 1810-1824*, Metropolitan Coin Club of Sydney, 1979.

2. The Medal is in the collection of the Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney.

3. *Sydney Gazette*, 9 June 1805.

government and church schools received equal grants. Even so, in 1844 only half of the 26,000 children in the Colony between the ages of four and fourteen were having any education.

The year 1848 saw the setting up of two Education Boards; a National School Board and a Denominational School Board. The Military Hospital in Fort Street was converted into a Model School and opened in 1850. Two inspectors were appointed in 1850; one was responsible for the Port Phillip District the other for all East Coast settlements. In 1851 the entire system was reorganised under a Mr. Wilkins, who also set up a teacher training program.

The first Act of Parliament to consolidate an elementary system of education was passed in 1866 by Sir Henry Parkes. This abolished the two boards and set up the Council of Education. This body managed all schools receiving State Aid whether National or Denominational. All teachers had to be trained and a common

curriculum for all schools was instituted. In 1865 there were 1,067 private and public schools teaching 53,453 students; by 1875 this had risen to 2,542 schools teaching 127,756 pupils.

The beginning of full State Education in New South Wales is placed in 1880. In that year aid to Church Schools was repealed and responsibility for public education was accepted by the Colonial Government and the Department of Public Instruction was established. All employees of this Department became Public Servants. A uniform scale of fees of three pence per child or a shilling for four or more children from the one family was then instituted.

Thus around 1980 thirty-six of the States oldest places of learning celebrated the Centenary. Part of the celebrations included in many cases the production of a commemorative medal. Together these form a series to mark the occasion of "100 years of Education in NSW".



**Plate 1.**  
The medal is in silver, probably on a smoothed Spanish four reales, and is hand engraved.  
(Courtesy, The Museum of Applied Arts and Sciences, Sydney). 35.5 mm.

## CATALOGUE OF MEDALS STRUCK BY AMORS

The medals are listed according to the year of the schools centenary.

Stock Reverse (Plate 2)

Legend: 100 YEARS OF EDUCATION

Design: Branch of leaves, left



Plate 2 — Stock Reverse

1976

### COOGEE

Obverse:

Legend; COOGEE PUBLIC SCHOOL - CENTENARY OF EDUCATION 1876-1976

Reverse; Stock reverse

Diameter; 30 mm

Mintage;

Brass 1,000

Brass, silver plated 12

St. silver 28

1978

### MILTON

Obverse:

Legend; MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY 1878-1978  
Design; School badge

Reverse:

Legend; MILTON PUBLIC SCHOOL

Design; View of original school

Mintage; Brass 575 (unpunched 12)

Brass, silver plated 25

St. silver 1

## RYDE NORTH

Obverse:

Legend; RYDE NORTH PUBLIC SCHOOL 1878-1978

Design; School badge

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 650 (unpunched 12)

St. silver 50

## SPICERS CREEK (29.5 mm)

Obverse:

Legend; SPICERS CREEK PUBLIC SCHOOL

Design; Original school building

Reverse;

Legend; CENTENARY CELEBRATIONS 1878-1978

Design; Spray of leaves (L)

Mintage; Brass 300

1979

### MORUYA

Obverse:

Legend; MORUYA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Design; Original school building

Reverse;

Legend; CENTENARY 1879-1979

Design; School badge

Mintage; Brass 800

St. silver 50

### BOGGABILLA

Obverse:

Legend; BOGGABILLA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Design; Original school building

Reverse;

Legend; CENTENARY BOGGABILLA PUBLIC SCHOOL 1879-1979

Design; Two sprigs of leaves

Mintage; Brass 500

## **ANNA BAY**

Obverse:

Legend; ANNA BAY PUBLIC  
SCHOOL 1879-1979

Design; School badge

Reverse;

Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 500



**Anna Bay**

## **MUMBIL**

Obverse:

Legend; MUMBIL PUBLIC  
SCHOOL

Design; Original school

Reverse;

Legend; MUMBIL PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1881- 1981

Design; School badge

Mintage; Brass 750



**Mumbil**

**1981**

## **TUNCURRY**

Obverse:

Legend; T P S UTILE DULCI  
Design; A leaping dolphin

Reverse;

Legend; CENTENARY  
EDUCATION TUNCURRY  
1881-1981

Design; Seven fish (around)

Mintage; Brass 750



**Tuncurry**

## **GILGANDRA**

Obverse:

Legend; GILGANDRA PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1881-1981

Design; Stylised wind mill blades

Reverse; Plain

Mintage; Brass 1,000

## **SEAFORTH**

Obverse:

Legend; SEAFORTH PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY

Design; Original school building

Reverse;

Legend; 1881-1981

Design; School badge

Mintage; Brass 1,000

1982

**BLACK SPRINGS**

Obverse:

Legend; BLACK SPRINGS

PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY

Design; School badge, pine trees (L and R)

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage Brass 125



Black Springs

**BLAKEHURST**

Obverse:

Legend; BLAKEHURST PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; Original school building. School badge.

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 1,000

**CAPERTEE**

Obverse:

Legend; CAPERTEE PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; Original school

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage;

Brass 200

Unpierced and boxed 20



Capertree

**KIRKTON**

Obverse:

Legend; KIRKTON PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; School badge

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 50



Kirkton

**MOONBI**

Obverse:

Legend; MOONBI PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; Original school building

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 110



Moonbi

**MONTEAGLE**

Obverse:

Legend; MONTEAGLE PRIMARY SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; Original school building

Reverse; Stock reverse.

Mintage; Brass 150

**STROUD**

Obverse:

Legend; STROUD PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; School crest

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 500

## **HILLSTON**

Obverse:

Legend; HILLSTON CENTRAL  
SCHOOL 1882-1982

Design; School badge

Reverse; stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 275

## **NYNGAN**

Obverse:

Legend; NYNGAN PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; School badge

Reverse; Stock reverse.

Mintage; Brass 1,000

## **BURRAGA**

Obverse:

Legend; BURRAGA SCHOOL  
CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; School building and figures

Reverse;

Legend; 6TH NOVEMBER 1982

Design; School badge

Mintage; Brass 100

## **LEGUME**

Obverse:

Legend; LEGUME PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; School badge

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 250

## **BLACK MOUNTAIN**

Obverse:

Legend; BLACK MOUNTAIN  
PUBLIC SCHOOL CENTENARY  
1882-1982

Design; School buildings

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 500

## **CURRABUBULA**

Obverse:

Legend; CURRABUBULA PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; A tree

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 500

## **WOONONA**

Obverse:

Legend; WOONONA PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1882-1982

Design; School badge

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 1,000

## **1983**

## **DENMAN**

Obverse:

Legend; DENMAN PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1883-1983

Design; School badge

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 1,000

## **JUGIONG**

Obverse:

Legend; JUGIONG PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1883-1983

Design; School badge

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 250

## **BERRIDALE**

Obverse:

Legend; BERRIDALE DISTRICT  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1883-1983

Design; School building

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 200

## **CRANEBROOK**

Obverse:

Legend; CRANEBROOK  
PRIMARY SCHOOL GROW  
WITH PRIDE / 1883-1983

Design; School building, two horse  
riders

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 300

## **PILLIGA**

Obverse:

Legend; PILLIGA PUBLIC  
SCHOOL 1883-1983 /  
CENTENARY

Design; School bell

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 500

**YEOVAL**

Obverse:

Legend; YEOVAL CENTRAL  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1883-1983

Design; School crest

Reverse; stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 650

**1984****NARRABRI WEST**

Obverse:

Legend; CENTENARY 1884-1984 /  
NARRABRI WEST / PUBLIC  
SCHOOL

Design; Old school building

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; Brass 250

**MAYRUNG**

Obverse:

Legend; MAYRUNG / PRIMARY  
SCHOOL CENTENARY 1884-1984

Design; School badge

Reverse; Stock reverse

Mintage; 250

**TOMINGLEY**

Obverse:

Legend; 1884 CENTENARY 1984  
Design; School Crest

Reverse;

Legend: TOMINGLEY PUBLIC  
SCHOOL

Design: Old school building

Mintage; 200 Brass

**STANMORE**

Obverse:

Legend; STANMORE PUBLIC  
SCHOOL CENTENARY /  
1884-1984

Design; View of school entrance.

Reverse; Stock reverse.

Mintage; Brass 1200

**DEEPWATER**

Obverse:

Legend; DEEPWATER PUBLIC  
SCHOOL 1884-1984

Design; School crest

Reverse;

Mintage; Brass 125

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