

TRIBUTE TO A FORMER HEADMASTER

(M.M.H.)

Recorded in the issue of August 18th, of the "Sydney Morning Herald," is the demise of Mr. John Henry Tonkin, a former Headmaster, of Tonkin St., Cronulla.

As an ex-student when the enrolment was over the thousand mark, may I pay humble tribute to this great educationalist who had a remarkable influence upon the children who came under his care. Along the coast and more especially along the tablelands and Newcastle district, there will be thousands of men and women who will readily pay tribute to one of the big men of the teaching service.

They will recall with pride their school with its large experimental farm, its well laid out flower gardens, its gymnasium, its rifle range, its cooking school, its photographic department, its fire band, and its museum equal to any school in the State if not the best and lastly his great love for music.

All these were due in the main to his lofty educational outlook and untiring efforts to give the best to students.

Many former students who were fortunate to come under his influence, will read of his passing in silence, but these inarticulate expressions of respect will be the true index of his worth.

The "Herald" reference was as follows:

"Death of Mr. H. Tonkin.

"The death has occurred at Cronulla of Mr. Henry Tonkin, former headmaster of Elligrove and Cronulla Public Schools. He was 88.

"Mr. Tonkin was secretary of Cronulla School of Arts for 37 years and resigned only a few months before his death. He had been a member of the Masonic craft for 56 years and was Master of his lodge three times.

"His wife, three sons, and two daughters survive him."