

Council to pick museum builder

A BUILDER is set to be awarded a \$10 million contract to start work on the new Newcastle Museum.

A recommendation to Tuesday's Newcastle City Council meeting is to award Sydney-based ISIS Group Australia the tender.

A council report said the national organisation specialised in fit-out and refurbishment of offices, hotels, and retail, heritage, education, hospitality, science and health care buildings.

The museum project involves refurbishing three heritage railway workshop buildings at Honeysuckle.

Fit-outs of exhibition space and a cafe are scheduled in a separate project after the building refurbishment.

The new museum, costing \$23.5 million, is set to open in mid-2011.

Bequests and sponsorship, a federal grant and proceeds from selling the former museum in Newcastle West will finance the project.

— Jacqui Jones



QUIET TIME: Students at Toogoolawa School, Wickham, began their day with meditation yesterday.

By **ALISON BRANLEY**

GETTING a class of teenage boys to sit still, let alone meditate, seems like a small miracle, but it's one the teachers at Toogoolawa School, Wickham, see every day.

The school caters to some of the region's most challenging

Learning to hear their true voice

13- and 14-year-old boys and starts each day with meditation, which teachers say settles the students before class.

"Sometimes they're all working away and you can

hear a pin drop," principal Neil Wales said.

Toogoolawa School is one of three non-denominational schools around the country founded by Queensland philanthropist John

Fitzgerald that aim to give students with behavioural and emotional problems a second chance by building character alongside schooling.

The school has had a surge

— Picture by Simone De Peak

in inquiries and employed an extra teacher this year because of demand.

Teachers are realistic about results, with the main aim to get students back to high school.

Past students have gone on to finish year 12, complete TAFE and play representative sport.