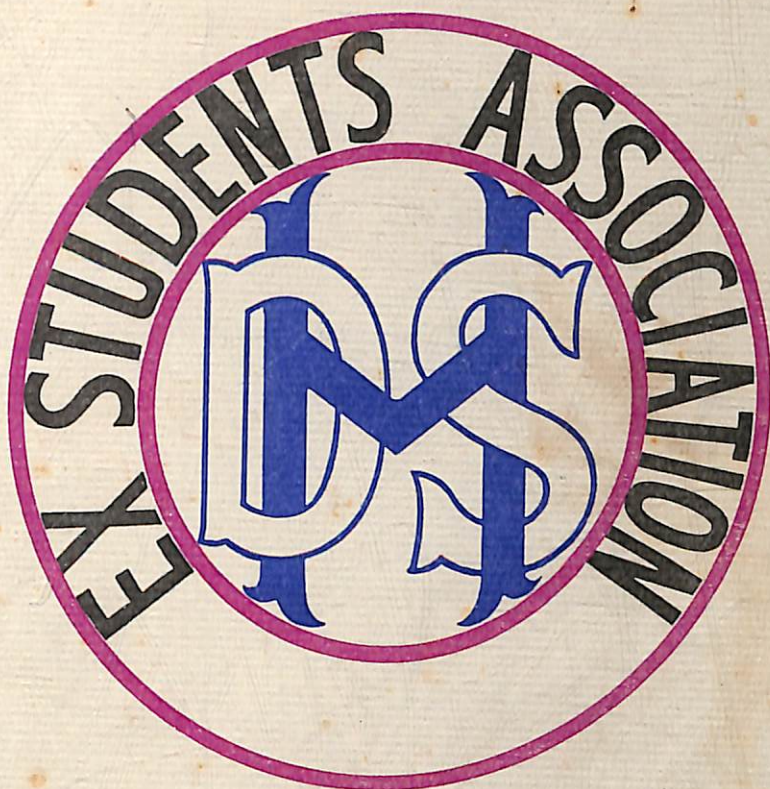


BACK TO DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL

1960



Presents



To Mr Greg Dickson,
Thank you for all
your assistance, advice
and co-operation

Ted Hook.

President Dandenong
High School
Ex-Students Association

14th April 1960

Dandenong & District Historical Society



THIS BOOKLET
has been compiled by the
Dandenong High School Ex-Students'
Association
to commemorate the first "Back to D.H.S.
Celebrations"
and the Fortieth Anniversary of the School.

Back to Dandenong High School

1st, 2nd and 3rd April, 1960

ALL ADVERTISING
in this booklet has been generously donated
by ex-students of Dandenong and district

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FABER QUISQUE FORTUNAE

1. We are the School,
We make the rule;
This is the song that we pass along,
The word and the rhyme,
The tune and the time
That the School will sing forever.

Chorus:

Work to win,
Despair is sin;
The best may fall to rise again,
The School will win that tries again,
Work conquers all.

2. This is the gate

To the way long and straight
That leads to the road
Where we carry our load
With gladness or care,
With courage to dare;
While we travel we'll sing together;

Chorus.

3. Work is our aim,
Till our fortune we frame,
Till we vanquish our foes
And forget all our woes,
Till we win every game
And earn the fair name
That the School will sing forever.

Chorus.

INTRODUCTION



TED HOOK

Since 1957 Mr. Ted Hook has been President of the Ex-Students' Association. After matriculating in 1956, he graduated from Burwood Teachers' College and is at present studying full time for his Bachelor of Commerce degree at the University of Melbourne.

WHY BACK TO D.H.S.?

Do you know what made you come back to this school? Do you know why you travelled so many miles just to see some friends! Can you answer the question, "Why did I return?"

Yes, you came back because it was the first reunion of the school, and it was also the fortieth anniversary of D.H.S. We all like going to parties, don't we? And I'm sure that you will thoroughly enjoy to-day's. But who will cut the cake? Each one of the 25,000 of us who have walked through the gates is entitled to do it. What, you may ask, has all this chatter got to do with such a noble occasion as the "Back to D.H.S.?" Have you answered the question yet?

Did you come back because you hoped to see Peter, Marie, Allan, Dorothy or some of your school buddies that you hadn't seen for years? Did you return because you wished to see some of your teachers from the good old days? Is this the answer to your question?

Were you one who came back to walk the familiar pathways of your school days? Did you return so that you could sit in the same old desk

you sat in ten, twenty, thirty years ago (and carved your name on it while dull old Mr. So-and-So gave a boring lesson?), or did you come back to see the oval and recall some of the titanic struggles you participated in against other schools? Are these the answers to your question?

Perhaps you came back because you read about it in the paper and thought—well, I haven't been near the place since I left, so I suppose I'd better do the right thing and come back. Or was your answer to the question along the lines that there is only a back to school if the school is in some financial trouble, so, acting very righteously, you thought that I'd better see how the old school is?

Why did you come back? The answer then may be found partly in what has just been written; but surely there was something stronger calling you back to Faber Quisque Fortunae! Something you couldn't quite put your finger on, but an inner compulsion drawing your mind back to the pleasant memories and the glad and melancholy days of your school life. What did this school give you?

Dandenong High School gave each of us only what we wanted to take. Some of us took more of one thing than another. Many of us took a little of a lot, whilst others took a lot of a little. How did we make out when we walked through the gates for the last time? Most of us succeeded, some failed. Many of us have been knocked down, but we've risen to our feet again and surmounted our difficulties. What has given us that urge to keep going, to get on top and to succeed?

Some of us are natural-born fighters, but mostly we have to learn how to overcome our difficulties, how to be able to give and to take, how to make friends and keep friends. What, then, does this all lead up to?

I feel that the answer to "Why did I return?" can be summed-up in these two words: SCHOOL SPIRIT! Without it Dandenong High wouldn't be worth the paper it is written on! It wouldn't have had this booklet prepared, nor would it have had this Back to D.H.S. celebrations. Instilled into each of us, and carried on down through the years, the school spirit of Dandenong High School is such that it can be rarely equalled anywhere in this State.

The early years of the school were difficult. Students suffered many disabilities during the depression, but they overcame all by resolutely facing them, sticking together and all acting as one happy family. To-day the school is faced with accommodation problems and staff shortages as it was immediately after the war. The school spirit prevailed then, and with one accord these difficulties were overcome. And so it will be to-day.

To conclude this introductory note, I would like to thank most sincerely every one who in some way, be it small or large, has contributed to the success of this great event. And so, as we look back on the fortieth anniversary of the school, let us remember four very short lines which each of us has sung on many, many occasions—

"Work to win! Despair is sin!
The best may fall, to rise again!
The team will win that tries again!
Work conquers all!"

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FOREWORD



MAURICE JARVIS
Mayor of the City of Dandenong
(Student of D.H.S. 1929-31)

Maurie Jarvis attended School from 1929-31, and students from those years will remember that the Depression was at its height.

Students of those days suffered many difficulties, but Maurie Jarvis is an excellent example of how students triumphed and made a success of their lives.

IT'S GOOD TO SEE THE SCHOOL WE KNEW

(By MAURIE JARVIS)

Over the forty-year period of its existence, the Dandenong High School has built up a very proud tradition.

Our school has the distinction of having produced leaders in all walks of life—scholastic, cultural, professional, sporting and, most importantly, citizens in general of a very high calibre.

The excellent leadership and guidance of the Headmasters and staff over the years has invariably left an indelible imprint on the minds of the many thousands who have been privileged to attend the school.

Looking back over the years, ex-students scattered far and wide remember with gratitude the sound advice and encouragement available to them at all times.

During the initial years of the school's history, its first Headmaster, Mr. Perc Langford—a most capable and understanding leader—was ably supported by a staff of a very high calibre. Incidentally, Mr. Langford married my favourite teacher—Miss Wilson.

I feel at this stage that I must pay a personal tribute to another two really "greats" of the school in Mr. W. Leslie Brumley and the late Miss Dora B. Taylor (Headmistress).

Mr. Brumley not only set a high example for we earlier students, in class and on the sports field, but also in service to the community in so many ways.

Miss Taylor was loved and respected by all and she exercised a great influence on the many girls who were privileged to pass under her guidance.

The outstanding administration of such Head-

masters as Mr. Langford, the late Dr. James, Mr. Griffiths and Mr. Andrews, has been a feature of Dandenong High School.

This tradition-building leadership is now in the capable hands of Mr. Cooke, ably supported by ex-student Miss Mitchell as Headmistress, and a very efficient staff.

Situated in such a delightful setting, with its spacious playing fields surrounded by many stately trees, the school now reflects the careful planning by the Department so many years ago, when the Dandenong of to-day could hardly have been envisaged.

I personally consider the Dandenong High School as a COMPLETE school of a standard well able to cater for the children of to-day in an academic, cultural, physical and social manner, thereby encouraging the healthy development of our Australian youth.

As ex-students of the school, my wife and I congratulate those who have seen fit to organise this first-ever "Back to Dandenong High School Celebrations."

We realise the tremendous amount of work involved in delving into the past history of a school such as ours, which is full of pleasant memories.

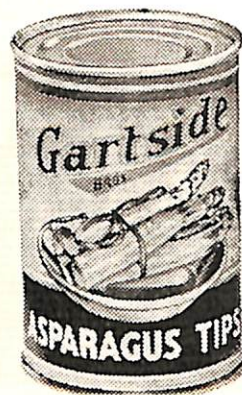
Therefore we say to the Ex-Students' Association "Well Done" and urge you to support and encourage them in all their activities.

Looking forward to meeting old friends once again during the celebrations at "the best school of all."

MAURICE G. JARVIS, J.P.,
Mayor, City of Dandenong.

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Mr. P. C. LANGFORD

We of Dandenong High School were most fortunate that our first Headmaster, Mr. P. C. W. Langford, was a man of tremendous initiative, drive, zeal and resource. During his sixteen years here Mr. Langford became an institution as far as the school is concerned, and evidence of his presence can still be seen in the wonderful school spirit which has been carried on through the last forty years.

Mr. Langford is at present enjoying a healthy and active retirement and is only too glad to swap reminiscences with his fellow staff-members and students.

REMINISCENCES

WE OPENED the school in 1919 (the year of the severe pneumonic influenza epidemic) in the middle of March, with eighty pupils, approximately, in three buildings—the Temperance Hall, the Church of Christ Hall and the Fire Station. Previously the Education Department had acquired 7½ acres on the Prince's Highway, and the new school building was started almost immediately, but owing to industrial trouble progress was very slow, and it was not until the Third term in 1920 that we occupied the new building, which was designed to accommodate a maximum of one hundred and fifty pupils, although we had an enrolment of about two hundred and twenty,

which meant that we were well over our quota. This necessitated extensions, and the Department almost immediately built a new wing to accommodate two hundred and fifty pupils. In a very little while we have over four hundred and fifty pupils, and a second extension was built; this accommodation remained for a great many years.

When during the depression the number of students was reduced to under three hundred, I had to move because I was above the classification, being a First Class Headmaster, and the numbers had gone down, making the school a Second only. There were two or three others: the man from Warragul had to move to Shepparton, and I had to go to Mildura, while the man from Castlemaine had to move to Essendon High School. So the three of us were all moved because of the scarcity of numbers at the schools.

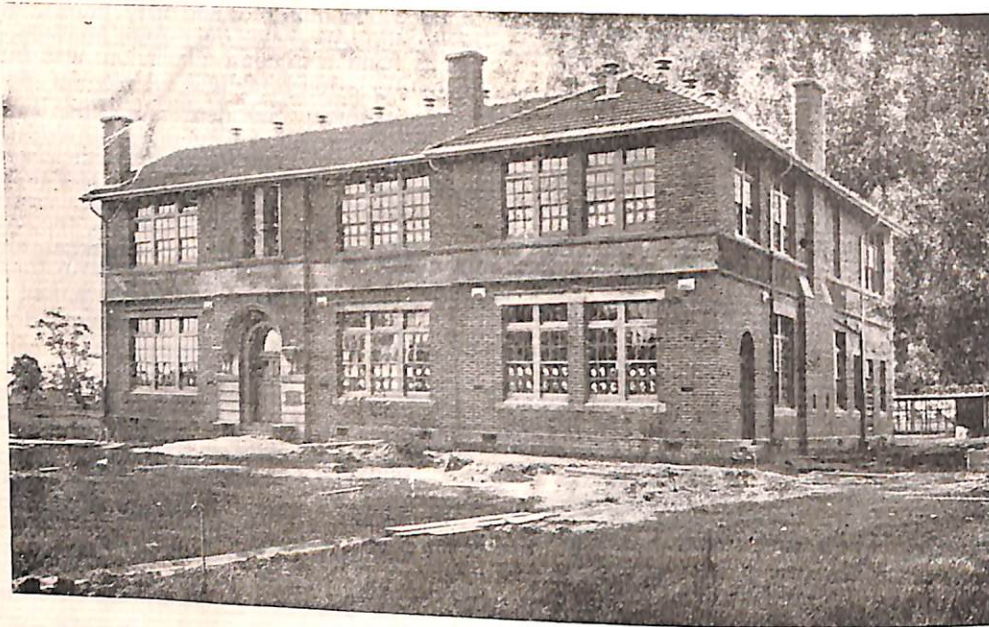
Doctor James followed me then; after I moved out he was appointed temporarily as Headmaster of the school for two years, after which time Dandenong High and three or four other schools were re-advertised; but as I had been compulsorily transferred, I preferred to move to Frankston, and so Mr. Griffiths took over. He was followed by Mr. Roy Andrews, who later went to a Special Class School, Camberwell, and then Mr. Cocke, who was my assistant at Frankston for some time, was appointed Headmaster. This was the sequence of Headmasters.

In 1934 one of the severest floods ever experienced in Gippsland occurred and hundreds of people throughout Kooweerup Swamp were forced to take to the roofs of the buildings. They were rescued by motor boat, and three train-loads of refugees were brought to Dandenong. The women and children slept in the school classrooms for most of the following week, and the men were accommodated in the Scout Hall.

This occurred in December and portions of some of the properties were ten to twenty feet under water. In fact, one man told me that after he went back he was riding round his property and found three sheep which had struggled on to the platform of one of his windmills which normally was sixteen feet above the ground. They were practically the only living creatures on his property. Another man had his cows in the bail just near Kooweerup and he heard an unusual noise. It was the noise of the flood waters coming across his property in a wall about three feet high. He rushed his two sons over the railway embankment and went back for his wife. When he reached the house his wife was standing on the kitchen table, her back bent against the ceiling. So quickly did the water rise that they were nearly drowned in trying to get out through the door. As soon as they did get out, it was only a matter of seconds until they were washed to the embankment, where they stayed for three days before they were rescued and brought by special train to the High School.

I think the reason we were able to give them our school was that the school was doing the University exams. We gave them all that wing by the old cookery centre; we spread straw on the floor, and the Red Cross sent out blankets and food from Melbourne, and we fed them over in the Scout Hall.

DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL, 1920



DANDENONG HIGH SCHOOL 1960



GROUNDS

In the beginning, the property purchased was covered with stumps and scrub, and had a large dam in the middle. The boys and the male members of the staff grubbed the stumps and filled the dam. We also planted the pine trees on the boundaries. We had a boy who was a bit of a scamp, and on the day we were planting these trees near the small gate, which used to be almost immediately in front of the front doors, Johnny Bryant, one of the Inspectors arrived, and so he planted one of the trees—the nearest tree to the small gate, which has now gone—and he told this boy to look after it until the next year. Well, the boy never looked at it once from then on until the time when Johnny Bryant next came along, but, strange to say, it grew better than any of the others—by this time a foot taller—so he asked me to send for this boy and, when he came and stood in my office, Johnny complimented him on the way in which he had looked after the tree, and the kid wore an expression which suggested that he had been watering it every week or so!

Later on, that gate was closed when we had the big commemorative gates in memory of Cr. Wally Tharle installed; and the small gate at the left, where the boys go in to-day.

All the trees grew to the full stately stature that we now admire.

Another story about those pine trees is that on one very wet morning we found most of them were leaning at an angle of forty-five degrees. There had been a very heavy windstorm which had blown the trees at this angle, so we jacked them up to the fence with wire, twitched them up and straightened them. We then forgot all about them for several years until the depression came and a man came looking for work, so Mr. Brumley came to me and said, "What work can we give this fellow?" We said we would get him to take the wires off the trees. Well, he went out, and he was back at my office inside three or four minutes and said, "I can't take that wire off; come out and have a look." I went out with him and found that the strain of the wires had cut into the bark, which had then grown over it, and so nearly every one of those trees has a band of wire around the base.

The Department originally planned to put the school near the centre of the ground, but was persuaded to bring it into the south corner, although they would bring it no closer to the road than one hundred feet. This left barely enough space to map out the playing areas. Some of the girls who have played hockey on the school's ground may be interested to know that the hockey field is shorter than it should be. On my staff at this time was a Miss Derwent, who was very keenly interested in hockey. We had a very big old gum tree right in the north-west corner (it has probably been removed by now, as it was half dead in my time, some thirty years ago) and another very imposing one ten or fifteen feet from the road. It was too good a tree to destroy, so I decided to curtail the hockey field, although I expected trouble from Miss Derwent. However, we marked the field out and filled the dam which was in the middle, with a mass of yellow clay. Right in the middle of all this, out came Miss Derwent just as we were marking out the ground.

We had the lines down twenty-five yards back from each end, and she said to me, "That's a short twenty-five yards, isn't it?" So I invited her to step it out. She did this and, by taking little steps, she made it exactly twenty-five yards and, as far as I know, from that day to this, nobody has ever known that it is only ninety yards long, and in the Sports Association we were supposed to have grounds one hundred yards in length.

At this stage we had the football ground, the hockey field, two tennis courts (laid out mainly by Mr. Brumley) and, I think, four basketball courts. Later on, when the quadrangle was asphalted, we had a basketball court in there; but it was too small, so we discarded that idea altogether.

INTER-SCHOOL SPORT

The Leongatha and Warragul High Schools were both in existence a little before us, and with them we formed the Gippsland Sports Association. This Association developed until in one year it took in the private school at Berwick run by a Mr. Zirco (whose brother, I think, has a college named after him still in Melbourne), and the schools at Leongatha, Warragul, Sale, Bairnsdale, Traralgon and Orbost. In the latter case it took three days to play the matches, one day to come, one day to play, and one day to go home. This arrangement was soon abolished: Orbost dropped out and, before long, the Association broke up into smaller sections. As the schools developed, Leongatha joined an Association on the South Gippsland line. We became pretty strong, and although we had about the same numbers as Warragul and Leongatha, we were much stronger than them—our standard of play was infinitely higher. They made us divide up, both boys and girls, into two sections, pupils whose names started with the letters from A to M, and those from N to Z.

However, when Leongatha left the Association we joined the Metropolitan High Schools' Sports Association (there being no Frankston or Mordialloc High Schools then), and Warragul was left without competition. We had been given a shield by the branches of the A.N.A. throughout Gippsland, and we agreed to meet Warragul every year in competition for this shield—they would come to us for the winter games and we would go to them for the summer, and the next year we would reverse the order. The shield was to be kept for good by the school that could win it for three years in succession; but I think we won it about eight or nine times and never lost it, so we put it back for perpetual competition. Besides this, all our sport was played against the Melbourne schools, which included all those out as far as Geelong.

I remember at one time our Sports Master wrote to Geelong to ask whether we should go on a Wednesday or a Friday in order to give the boys a chance to recover over the week-end, and the Sports Master at Geelong wrote back and said "Yes," which left us none the wiser.

Incidentally, we had some excellent boys in our football team, and Alec MacKenzie, the Sports Master at Melbourne High, was taking some boys over to Adelaide to play their annual match against the school there, and for practice he wanted to play some of the other schools, so he got in touch with me (I had known him for a long while; he used to be a League footballer and

FORM CAPTAINS 1919



STAFF ON PICNIC—1924



played for Geelong and I played for University when they were in the League) and asked me if we would have them over at Dandenong to play a game. We agreed, and we thrashed them on our ground. I think Alec had thought it would be just a trial run for them, but we gave them a pretty good hiding, so we journeyed to Melbourne to play them again, and one of our star boys broke his collarbone in the first few minutes, yet we beat them by three points on their rather poor home ground.

For some of our Gippsland sports meetings we sometimes left between four and five o'clock in the morning. The School was on the Dandenong platform at about four o'clock one morning, and I woke up one man who was sound asleep on the seat of one of the first-class carriages. I said to him: "Look, old man, we've hired this train, it's ours." He made no demur, and when we got to Sale, which was where we were going for the sports, they introduced me to the M.L.C. who was going to be the head serang at the sports—the man I had awakened in the train. He had been at an all-night sitting of Parliament and thought to have a nice sleep in the train on the way home.

EQUIPMENT AND WATER SUPPLY

In the very beginning we were very short of equipment and very short of water. The State Rivers and Water Supply Commission had a very poor service before they built the dam which now have near Gladstone road, and which brings the water right past the school. When this was built we were not so badly off, but before that we had no water at all during the day; the people in the lower-lying parts of the town would use all the water and we would not even get a trickle. The Department was persuaded to supply us with a one-thousand gallon tank, which we erected underneath the stairway. The youngsters would drain this, perhaps on a very hot day, and it would be necessary to refill the tank, generally after midnight. We had a great deal of trouble in the Science room over the Cookery centre: during the day-time a youngster might go to the basins to obtain a drink or use the water and, finding that no water came through when the tap was turned, was equally likely to turn it full on as full off. Often the plugs would be left in the basins, with the result that flooding occurred in the early hours of the morning and, on some occasions, as I was coming out from the town and walking along the footpath, when I was about a hundred yards away from the school, I would hear this deluge of water falling from the top floor through the tan division between the ceiling of the bottom room and the floor of the Science room, and it would run down my cookery teacher's wall and stain it with the brown tannin from this division. This happened a dozen times at least.

Also, one night I became fed-up with waiting and left the tap full on into the tank, and went home. Now, there had been instructions given not to waste water, and during the night it came on. On my way to school the next morning, the water was coming to meet me, down the gutter! In the Science rooms, in the early days, equipment was meagre, and we had to use spirit lamps for experiments requiring heat. Eventually we were supplied with a gas plant which we housed at the end of the back balcony. It had heavy

weights on it and had to be wound up periodically to produce gas. On one occasion the boy who was doing this for the Science Master over-wound it, with the result that the spring burst. It went off like a 4.7 cannon just as I was coming outside. I heard this terrific report and was just in time to see the boy who had caused it break ten seconds for the hundred yards!

Eventually the the Oakleigh Gas Company extended its main, bringing it right past the side of the school, and our worries over the gas supply were at an end.

At about this stage we were given the opportunity to buy, for seven hundred and fifty pounds, a further seven and a half acres adjoining the school, but the Department refused, saying that it was not their policy to buy up land ahead in that way. The owner of this land had been kicked by a cow at the cattle market where he worked, and had died as a result of the injury he suffered. His widow eventually sold the property to a man named Dick Knot, who kept it for about eighteen months and then sold it for two thousand pounds to a syndicate, which had it surveyed and cut up so that on one Saturday they were able to sell over seven thousand pounds worth of building blocks, and had several more left. However, during the surveying a chap came into my office one day and said, "Your fence is out of line, we've had to put a new one up. It's fourteen feet six inches out at the front and tapers to nine inches at the back, but it's your way—you're entitled to fourteen feet six more than you have." So that is why there is that wide strip of lawn on both sides where the cars drive in; I think in the early days they must have just stepped it out!

We began with a staff of four teachers, plus myself. The original teachers were Miss McKinnon, who has since become a Mrs. Roach and Kinnon, who has since become a Mrs. Roach and now resides at Yarragon; Miss Kirkham, who later married the Mayor of Caulfield, and died some years ago; a student teacher named Stevens, and Mr. Brookes, who was later Principal of University High and has since died. It was Miss McKinnon who, as art teacher, was responsible for the design of our school badge. Mr. Brookes told me afterwards that he had always wanted a fire to break out in Dandenong so that he could gallop out with the boys and take the reel to the fire before the brigade could get there. We were there for nearly two years and no fire occurred in the day-time, so he was frustrated in his wish.

At this time the fire station was an old iron building situated next to the Council yard, where they stored all their carts and trucks. We had no playground except the cattle rings, and the youngsters would help the drovers head bulls off and also herd the cattle which came in from what was the stock route from Keysborough. (Others came past my place at the back of the school, while those from Gippsland came up the main highway and others came past Mr. Brumley's place and over the creek).

MOTTO

In the early days we decided to find a motto for the school, so I visited the Public Library, looked up numerous Latin mottoes, and the one that I thought sounded all right I showed to L. J. Wrigley, who was a literary man, and who told me that we could not use it, as it had been taken

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already by, I think, Brighton Grammar. I then saw one of the men on my Council, John Abbott, who had a French motto. Never having done any French myself, I took it to Mr. Wrigley, who told me that it was obsolete. Well, at last I found the one we eventually adopted, "Faber Quisque Fortunae"—Each Man is the Architect of His Own Fortune—and it was approved by everyone.

Originally we were not going to be given a foundation stone because of the cost—it was going to cost twenty pounds—but eventually we persuaded the Department into letting us have one. I went in to the Department one Saturday—I practically lived there at week-ends then—and Mr. Hansen suggested that I should go down and look at the stone and see how it was getting on. I went down and was shown the stone and the blue-print with the inscription on it. They had spelt the motto, "Faber Quisque Fortunae." When asked who had given him this, the mason replied that it was Peter Hansen, so I pointed out that the spelling should have been Fortunae. At this he replied that it was lucky I had been down, as they were intending to start work on the stone on the next Monday, and that Peter had just told him the motto and had not spelt it out. Hence the was that, after the fight to obtain the stone, we nearly had it spoilt at the outset by having the wrong spelling.

SCHOOL COLOURS

When I joined the 4th Light Horse Regiment, our two colours had been red and white, an oblong with the red and white divided diagonally, but on being sent to the Peninsula we had so many reinforcements after the evacuation that it was decided to divide the Light Horse into two sections (one went through Palestine and the other through France) and that meant we had four colours—red, white, and two blues. In those days, to register school colours there had to be three, so one of the girls suggested that we take my two Regimental colours and combine them, omitting the white and arranging the other three to suit ourselves. The first flag that the school ever had—a Union Jack—was given us by a ship's captain, whose vessel, The Perth, had been wrecked on the coast of New Zealand, and the only thing he had rescued from the wreck was this flag. When he returned home he decided to donate it to the school, having lost the ship from which it came. After a time he wondered what was the use of giving us a flag if he did not give us that pole which from which to fly it, so he gave us that pole which is in front of the school. We had it erected, and not long afterwards the school was broken into and the safe stolen; the thieves had smashed through the gates by driving a truck straight through them, but in trying to turn they hit the flagpole and brought it down across their truck, smashing in the cabin and breaking about six feet or so off the end of our pole. Hence, like the hockey field, that pole is shorter than it should be.

BUILDINGS

Originally there was only the first row of brickwork which faces the highway, the cookery centre, my offices, the entrance, and then the art room, with the chemistry room above it. Above the cookery centre we had a science room and behind it the building extended a further twenty or thirty feet on one floor only. This was, as I said earlier, insufficient for our requirements, and

when I was next in at the Department I happened to go into the Public Works Branch, and Frank Tate, who was the Director, came along as I was talking to one of the P.W. men, and he said, "How are they getting on with the school over there, Langford?" I replied that I was trying, with the Council, to obtain extensions, but that everybody had told me that there was no money. Tate immediately answered me with, "Who said there's no money?"

"I've been told by the Minister and the Education Department."

"What do you want?"

"If they built us another storey above the girls' locker room we would have enough for present accommodation."

"Go ahead and tell the contractor to build you another room."

"He'd take no notice of me."

"Don't be silly."

"Go out and tell him to build you another room and submit details of it straight away."

"But they've got the tiles on. They've put the tiles on."

Well, go and tell him to pull the tiles off and extend the balcony so that you can get into the new room he puts on top."

No subsequent Director would ever have taken on anything like that on his own, but Frank Tate was a Director; he would tell the Minister what he wanted and would go ahead and do it. So we got our room and the contractor had to take the tiles and the rafters off and build another floor.

As our numbers increased they built us the wing where the ladies have their staff room and on to where the boy later blew up the gas plant, and where the boy later blew up the gas plant, and where there was a room opening off that, past the ladies' staff room. That was the second extension, and the next time they went right along on the side where they had put that extra room for us, and built Mr. Randles' woodwork room and another two rooms above.

There is a detached building just past where the gas plant was, joined to Room 9 by the fence which encloses the quadrangle. The site it now occupies is its seventh; it came to us from the East school to serve as our woodwork room after having been moved six times. Later it became the boys' locker room, and now it is a gym. Further accommodation was provided by those buildings ("The Huts") over by what used to be Hemmings' Tip, one of which was burned down, and the other brought over to the school to its present site within the last few years.

OLD PUPILS' ASSOCIATION

Two prefects of the school, Jean Abbott (Mrs. Cussen) and Jim Sharkey, were instrumental in commencing the Old Pupils' Association as it then was, the first president being Jim himself.

ADVISORY COUNCIL

The Advisory Council was formed at the inception of the school and worked very harmoniously with the staff in building a strong foundation for the school. The first president was the Rev. Hugh Buntine. After a few years Mr. Buntine moved to a new charge in Albert Park, and Mr. F. Singleton became the chairman of the Council. He and Mr. Jack McAfee retired from the Council in 1953.

1928—QUALITY STREET



The Boomerang Theatre (now called the Mayfair Theatre) was well filled on August 23, 1928, when the School Dramatic Club presented J. M. Barrie's "Quality Street."

Long and earnest preparation of the young players by Misses Schneider, Tassell and Abbott was responsible for the very high standard which won hearty applause.

The principal characters were admirably sustained by Enid Keddie as Miss Phoebe Throssel; A Donohue as Valentine Brown, and Gwenda Bush as Miss Susan Throssel.

The artists were well supported by Rita Cowen (Miss Fanny Willoughby), Kathleen Brumley (Miss Willoughby), May Ferguson (Miss Henriette Turnbull), Alma Tharle (Patty), Nancy Butler (Isabella), May King (Miss Charlotte Parratt), Ruth Lade (Harriet), E. Nabb (recruiting sergeant), A. Lewin (Arthur Wellesley Thompson), J. Palmer (William Smith), W. Henshaw (Ensign Blades), D. Brodie (Lieut. Spicer), E. Robertson (old soldier), Maurie Callard (a gallant).

The unenvied lot of the wall-flower card players fell upon Rose Butcher, Lyla Wilson, Evelyn Black, Gertie Chippendall and E. Sedsman. Others taking part as the school children were Dorothy Lanvan, Edith Le Fevre, Margarethe Christenson, Marjorie Glover, Norma Anderson, Rita Curtis, Doris Melgaard, Dorothy Ingram, Tessie Chapman, Joyce Taylor, Marjorie Ahern, Thelma Price, Ronald Vincent and Mervyn Brumley.

Kathleen Tivendale provided the music, and school children danced the minuet. The girls, under the direction of Misses McKinnon, Denton and Axford, made their own costumes.

The net profit amounted to £32/10/7.

High School Annual Concert

("Advertiser," 1947)

Next Monday and Tuesday nights Dandenong High School is presenting, in the Dandenong Town Hall, its annual concert, for which an excellent programme has been arranged, consisting of choral items, folk dancing, a play from the junior pupils, and excerpts from the Gilbert and Sullivan opera, "H.M.A.S. Pinafore." These presentations have proved very popular in past years and all who attend are assured of a delightful evening.

BASKETBALL TEAM 1924



VIEW FROM TOP WINDOW—SPORTS DAY JULY 1924



1932 LACROSSE TEAM



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FOOTBALL TEAM 1924



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KELVIN PRIOR (1949-51).
CHERRIE GILLINGHAM (1953-56)
OLIVE McDERMID (1952-5)

THE LATE DR. JAMES—HEADMASTER 1935-36

The late Dr. James was Headmaster of the school for two years—1935-36.

He was a brilliant geographer and geologist, and his many textbooks on the subjects of geography and natural science bear witness to this. These text-books are used extensively throughout secondary school in Australia.

The years in which Dr. James was at Dandenong saw the school struggling out of the dark days of the depression. Unfortunately, records of these days are few and hard to come by, and we cannot inform you of a great deal concerning him.

Dr. James,—then Mr. James—came to Dandenong from Colac. In attendance at the school were his three sons—Ken, Des and Max. After leaving Dandenong, Dr. James became Headmaster of

several other high schools and he played a large part in the early years of the new Camberwell High School.

In May, 1957, Dr. James passed away. However, we are pleased to note that Mrs. James is keeping very good health and is now residing at 34 Eva street, Malvern.

Students who were here with either Ken, Des or Max all know that Ken lost his life whilst serving with the R.A.A.F. during World War 2. Des is now a successful dental surgeon at Mildura, and Max is lecturing at the Bendigo Teachers' College.

We are very sorry that Dr. James cannot be with us to complete the ranks of the great Headmasters who have served this school so faithfully and so well.

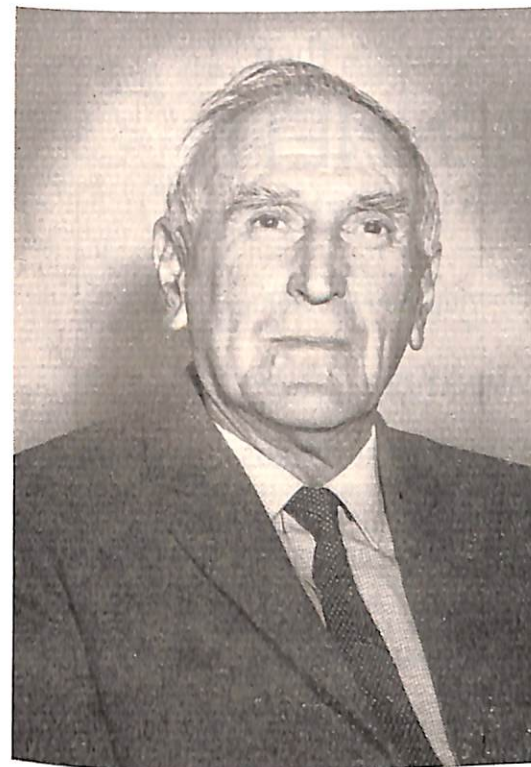
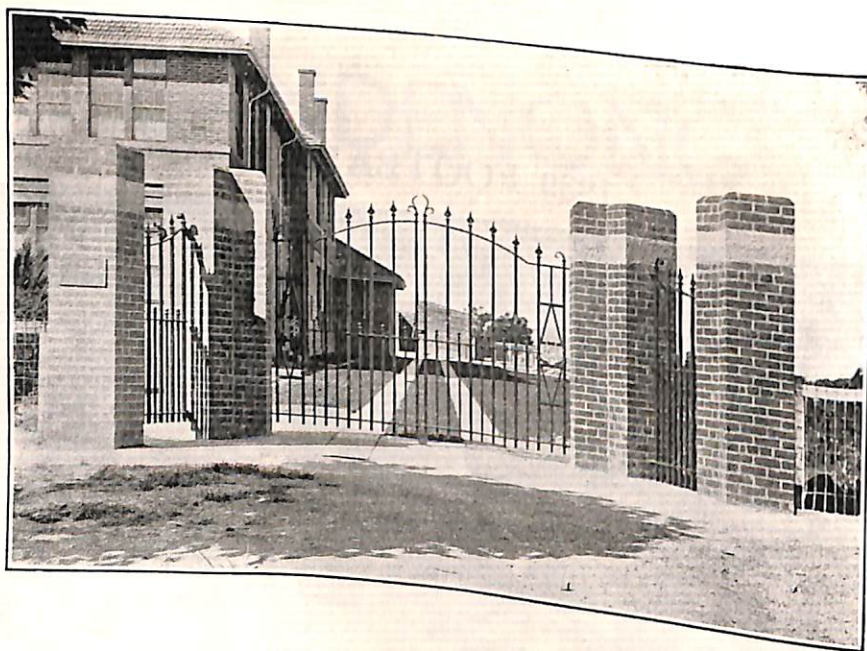
1939 FOOTBALL TEAM



Standing: S. McLeod, J. Reid, W. Adamson, L. Courtney, C. Cole, K. Griffiths, M. Hamilton.

Centre: D. McFarlane, T. Jones, A. Baird, R. Weeks, M. Oldmeadow, M. Powell, G. McPherson.

Sitting: R. Powell, R. Payne, D. Morris (capt.), K. Fryer, R. Hurley.



Mr. J. L. GRIFFITHS

Mr. J. L. Griffiths had a brilliant scholastic career and was an equally brilliant teacher and Headmaster. He came to us in 1937, just as the depression was ending, and he continued the fine work of Mr. Langford. During his sixteen years as Head, thousands of us passed through his hands and no matter whether we were a junior or senior we all knew that in "Griff" we had a loyal and staunch friend.

It was with very mixed feelings that "Griff" announced his retirement in 1952. We are very pleased to record that he has been enjoying an active and healthy life in his retirement and we earnestly hope it will so continue for many years to come.

MEMORIES

(By J. L. GRIFFITHS)

When I came to Dandenong High School in 1937 the school, in common with others, was recovering from the effects of the depression. It had an enrolment of 450, with a Leaving Certificate form of nearly 50.

Prior to it being made a Class A school it was impossible for pupils to travel to Melbourne to sit for exams on account of transport difficulties. In 1938 Dandenong was made a Class A School to Intermediate stage and Class A to the Leaving stage the following year. In 1940 we commenced Leaving Honours, or Matriculation as the Sixth Form is known to-day.

It was at this time that World War 2 occurred

and the school lost many fine ex-students. However, numbers at Dandenong did not fall, but steadily increased until at the close of the war there were nearly 600 attending.

Numbers continued to increase, and upon my retirement the roll-call numbered 783. We had several brilliant Matriculation teachers on the staff and our results were phenomenal. One year, out of 22 students, twenty gained their Matriculation Certificate, and the two who didn't were late enrolments. In 1952 seventeen out of nineteen gained the Matriculation Certificate.

Until recently there was only a relatively small number of pupils attending the school who lived in Dandenong. The number in attendance usually varied from a quarter to a third of the total. The main supplying centres were the Berwick, Pakenham, Kooweerup and Murrumbeena areas.

In those years pupils travelled almost entirely by train—there were no subsidised buses and no refunds of conveyances. In addition, tuition fees were charged in all forms and consequently students coming from a distance suffered many disabilities. Many travelled in dilapidated railway carriages attached to a goods train which started in complete darkness in winter. Lighting was not provided and the journey took two hours. Often pupils had to travel six miles to the train by bicycle, horse and buggy, or by "Shanks's pony." Kooweerup students had to be at the station at 7 a.m. and travelled to Dandenong in "dog-boxes" with neither lighting nor heating.

The Kooweerup students had to be at the station at Dandenong at 4 p.m. to catch the "goods" train. Sometimes the return journey did not commence until 6 p.m., or even later, but pupils had to be on the station at 4 p.m. in case the train was on time. It can be understood that, under such conditions, homework studies were impossible, but boys and girls enrolled because they and their parents valued what the school could give them, and they were not likely to leave without completing a course. It goes without saying that many of Dandenong High's finest students were those from these areas.

At one stage subsidised buses brought children from as far as Yannathan, picking up en route. Students from here often made a bus trip of approximately 90 miles to school and home. In 1952 twelve subsidised buses brought students from a large area, but the number from Dandenong was increasing annually.

No classes had more than 35 pupils—most had thirty. Compare this with to-day's figure of nearly fifty in each class, particularly up to Intermediate level. It is necessary for students to gain a thorough knowledge in the lower forms to succeed in their Leaving and Matriculation studies. Every available space was used, including the entrance hall and the Headmaster's office.

There were only two additions to the school in my time. Old Room 33, now known as Siberia because of its isolated position, was a country rural school. The other was a room formerly in the grounds of the Dandenong East State school. It was shifted from that school to the High and the Advisory Council were told to do what they liked with it. The Education Department took it over, put in a new floor, strengthened the ceiling and walls and it became the boys' locker room. To-day I believe it has been fitted out to act as a

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boys' gymnasium. A few months later we received a letter from the Education Department enquiring as to the whereabouts of the classroom!

Early in 1944 the Advisory Council was promised that, in addition to proposed extensions to the school, a hall would be built to accommodate 1000, provided the school raised £3000 within five years. The response was prompt and enthusiastic. The necessary money was raised in four years and plans for the hall were prepared. I hoped to see the hall in use before I retired, but it remains something to be hoped for in the near future. However, the £3000 was invested in a Hall and Furnishings Fund Account by the Advisory Council and to-day, with interest, it should be in excess of £4000.

During the school holidays of 1952, Room 33 was moved to its present position at the James street entrance to the school, and four prefabricated rooms were built which enclosed the quadrangle upon its eastern side.

My sixteen years at the Dandenong High School have provided me with many pleasant memories: the co-operation of staff and pupils in all our undertakings whether it were in the classroom, or at a palais, on a picnic, at the school concerts, on excursions to plays and factories, or whilst on a sporting trip to a district or neighbouring school, contributed to the very friendly atmosphere of the school.

The friendships which I formed with teachers and students will always endure, for in the words of that famous song—

"For working days are holidays,
They are great days and jolly days
At the Best School of All!"

ATTENDANCE

Before the depression the peak number was in 1930. Total pupils, 432, Intermediate, 74; Leaving,

32. 1933 (Mr. Langford's time), figures dropped from 432 to 197. Intermediate, 36; Leaving, 18. 1934: Mr. Langford left.

Improvement in 1936 (Dr. James' time): 1935-36, 290 pupils.

1938: Made a Class A School to Intermediate Stage.

1939: Class A, Leaving stage.

Prior to its being made a Class A School, it was impossible for pupils to travel to Melbourne to sit for exams on account of transport difficulties. Pupils began to remain longer at school as a result of Class A.

1940: Commencement of Leaving Honours (Matriculation).

During the war years (1939-45), the attendance did not fall, and it steadily increased to almost 600.

1952: 783 pupils.

In Mr. Griffiths' last years at D.H.S. there were 19 and 20 doing Matric. each year. The results were phenomenal: One year 22 students (Matric.), 20 gained Matric, two who didn't were very late enrolments.

POINTS TO NOTE

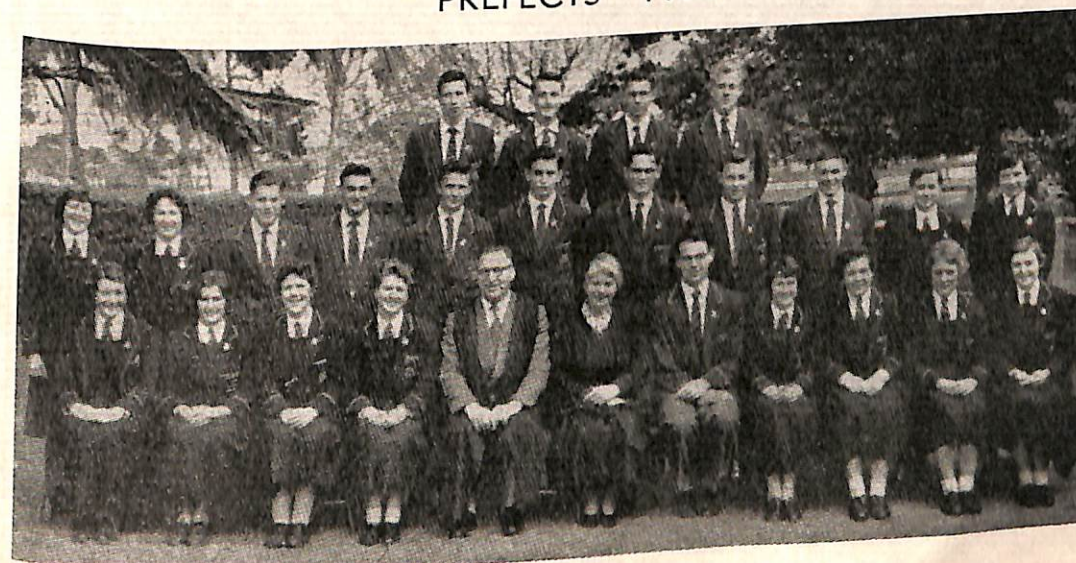
The relatively small number of pupils who came to the High School from Dandenong itself. The number in attendance at D.H.S. from Dandenong proper varied from one-quarter to one-third of the total attendance. In the depression year there were 56 new pupils and only 7 from Dandenong.

The main supplying centres at that time were Berwick area, Kooweerup area and Murrumbeena area.

1953: Prefabs added (Mr. R. Andrews' first year). No classes had more than 35 pupils, mostly 30. Every available space was used for classrooms, even the entrance hall and Head Master's office.

The attendance increased from 600 to nearly 800 in Mr. Griffiths last years at the Dandenong High School.

PREFECTS 1958



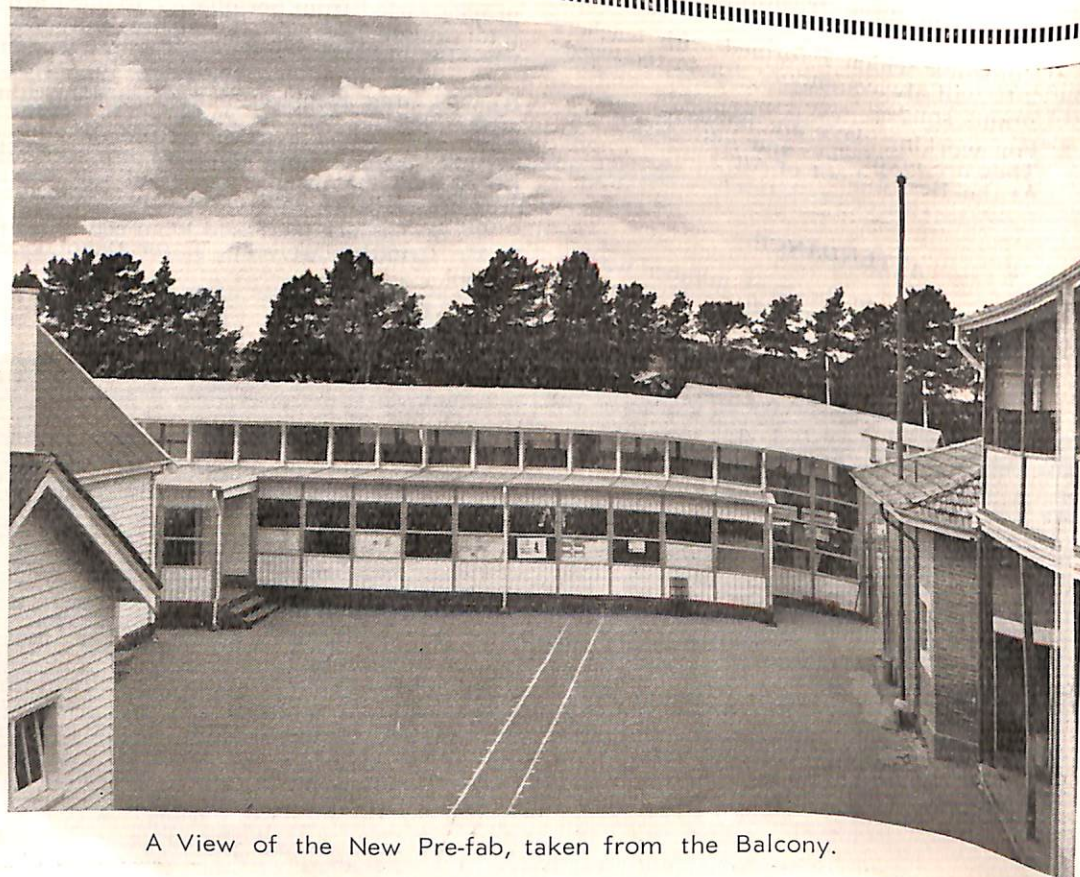
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A View of the New Pre-fab, taken from the Balcony.



Mr. R. W. ANDREWS

The school was very fortunate in having as a successor to Mr. J. L. Griffiths a man of vision and energy capable of continuing the excellent work of his predecessors.

A brilliant mathematician, scholar and teacher, Mr. Andrews was also noted for the outstanding sporting abilities of his younger days, particularly at football. During his term of office, from 1953 to 1957, he saw the school grow tremendously, and it is due in a large part to his foresight that the Domestic Arts building was erected in 1957. Mr. Andrews is at present Headmaster at Camberwell High School.

MY DAYS AT D.H.S.

(By R. W. ANDREWS)

Dandenong High School had been functioning for a period of thirty-four years when I was appointed as its Headmaster in 1953. My three predecessors in that office, Messrs. P. C. W. Langford, A. V. James and J. L. Griffiths, had all entered the secondary division of the Education Department practically at its inception and all had played valuable parts in the development of the Victorian High School system. Under their able direction the school had achieved a high reputation, not only in the large district which it served, but also throughout the State, and consequently one of my main objectives, as its newly appointed Headmasters was to endeavour to maintain the high standards set by them. But there were two other matters that demanded continuous attention and thought: one, an accommodation problem, of coping with the steep increase

in the local demand for secondary education consequent upon the unprecedented expansion of industry and population that was taking place in Dandenong; and the second, an educational problem, of developing and expanding the curriculum so that it might cater more adequately for the needs of pupils in accordance with the growing conception that secondary education was the right of all children and not the prerogative of the privileged few.

The need for additional accommodation had been foreseen, and in late 1952 work had begun on the erection of a four-roomed Bristol pre-fabricated unit, but when the school was resumed in the following February the building was far from complete. The result was that although all accommodation in the main building and in the Army hutments in Hemmings Park was pressed into service, only a little more than half of the ex-Grade VI pupils seeking admission could be enrolled. The remainder were obliged to stay in their respective primary schools until the new unit became available for use. This occurred in April and the enrolment then rose to 921, an increase of 130 on that of the previous year, and the school achieved the distinction of being second only to Melbourne High School, in point of enrolment, of all Victorian high schools.

With the opening in 1954 of the Dandenong Technical School, and the Springvale High School, the enrolment dropped to the 800 mark. About 70 of our ex-Form I pupils were transferred to the latter school, and it is of interest to recall that they became the senior pupils (Form 11) of that school, and from them came the first prefects, school, and from them came the first prefects, house captains, etc., of that school. The establishment later of the Dandenong Girls' Secondary School and the proclamation of the Kooweerup Higher Elementary school as a high school further relieved the immediate pressure on our school, and for the next three years the enrolment remained stable around 800.

It was obvious, however, that with the establishment of vast industrial enterprises such as H. J. Heinz & Co. Pty. Ltd. and General Motors-Holden, and the extensive housing construction schemes being implemented, the relief in the pressure on our accommodation would be only temporary, and the School Advisory Council had been pressing for major additions to the school. It was therefore a memorable day when the Education Department, early in 1957, commenced the erection, on a site adjoining the main school ground, of an extensive new wing which was to include a domestic arts kitchen and demonstration room, laundry, needlework room, craft room, two art rooms, music room, commercial room and a general class room. Not only would this building provide additional accommodation, but the provision of these special rooms would enable the curriculum to be broadened and to be more effectively taught.

Repeated efforts had also been made to overcome the need for using the Army hutments in Hemmings Park which had for many years provided "temporary" accommodation. With the rapidly increasing volume and speed of the traffic along the highway, its crossing by the pupils had become more hazardous, their ventilation and lighting were most inadequate, and their location—alongside the shire rubbish tip at that time—was, to

1932 LACROSSE TEAM



HOCKEY TEAM 1923



FOOTBALL TEAM 1924



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say the least, most unsatisfactory. In 1956 the persistent efforts of the Advisory Council, backed by the Shire Council, to whom the school is greatly indebted for its assistance over the years, were rewarded, and at the end of 1956 the Education Department agreed to transfer the huts to the main school site. During the process of dismantling them for removal, one was destroyed by fire. The other was re-erected in a corner of the playing field, the site being selected so that when the new building had been constructed, it might be converted to a sports pavilion, for which it was much more suited than for classroom purposes.

Representations had also been made to the Education Department to purchase additional land for use as playing fields, and action was taken to secure a very suitable and convenient area adjoining the Ann street ground and running through to David street.

Reference to the work of the Advisory Council would not be complete without a tribute being paid to the outstanding services of Mr. Singleton and Mr. McAfee, both of whom retired in 1953 after thirty-five years of office. Both of these gentlemen were members of the original committee which was formed for the purpose of having a high school established in Dandenong, and for over thirty years Mr. Singleton had presided over the Council.

The Ladies' Welfare Club also rendered sterling assistance to the school, and its support was always given most willingly and cheerfully. The Ex-Students' Association was re-formed in 1952 and was responsible, in conjunction with the Welfare Club, for providing much valuable equipment and amenities for the school.

The school has been fortunate in having a very well qualified, efficient and loyal staff which has been concerned not merely with instruction, but with the education of the pupils in the widest and truest sense. Members of the staff have always given willingly and freely of their time and talents not only in the classroom, but also in the many and varied extra-mural activities that play a most important role in secondary education. In speaking of the staff, I desire to make special reference to Mr. W. L. Brumley, M.A., Dip.Ed., who served this school with devotion and distinction for a period of thirty-two years and who retired in 1956.

Of the achievements of the many hundreds of pupils who passed through the school from 1953 to 1957, I do not write. Some aspects of their achievements and the parts they played in the life of the school will be found in the school records, but the school will not have fulfilled its full purpose if it has not sent them out keen for further knowledge and with a desire to serve their local community, their country and the world in which we live.

"THE QUAD"



A view of the Quadrangle, showing new stairways to upper classrooms

Programme

FRIDAY, 1st APRIL, 1960

Presentation of a

VARIETY CONCERT

in the Dandenong Town Hall.

The Programme will include:

- ★ A ELIZABETHAN FAIR
- ★ A ONE-ACT PLAY, "Family Album"
- ★ CHORAL ITEMS.

This Programme is being entirely administered and organised by present pupils and staff of the School.

SUNDAY, 3rd APRIL, 1960

ANNIVERSARY AFTERNOON

Dandenong Town Hall
Commencing at 2 p.m.

A CULTURAL AFTERNOON presented by Past Students or Close Associates of the School.

The Programme will include:

- JOHN McCURDY (Baritone)
- ELAINE FENN (Pianist)
- DIANA BEGG (Violinist)
- DANDENONG MALE VOICE CHOIR
- IAN LOWE (Pianist)
- GLENTHORNE PRIOR (Trumpeter)
- LAURIE DAVIS
- NOEL DAWSON

A Souvenir Programme has been prepared and we hope that this ANNIVERSARY AFTERNOON will conclude a wonderful week-end's re-union.

Programme

SATURDAY, 2nd APRIL, 1960

Commencing at 2 p.m.—on Front Lawns.

- ★ INDIVIDUAL WELCOME
- ★ DISTRIBUTION OF LAPEL BADGES
SOUVENIR BOOKLETS
- ★ SIGNING OF VISITORS' BOOKS

Commencing 3 p.m.:

"BACK TO SCHOOL"

in following Rooms:—

- ★ Langford Ex-Students—Room 5
- ★ Griffiths Ex-Students—Double Rooms
- ★ Andrews Ex-Students—Room 8
- ★ Cooke Ex-Students—Room 16.
- ★ DEVONSHIRE TEA in the New Buildings to the south of the Oval from 4 p.m.

Commencing 5.30 p.m.:

- ★ BARBECUE TEA ON THE OVAL:
Steak, chops, sausages, bread rolls, sauce and mugs of tea are all available.

Commencing 7.30 p.m.:

- ★ FLOODLIGHTING of the School
- ★ Palais in Upstairs Double Rooms
- ★ SEATING accommodation will be provided on the verandahs
- ★ SUPPER 10 p.m.
- ★ The School will be open the entire day, and in the Library there will be a display of old "Gates," Photographs, Magazine and Records.

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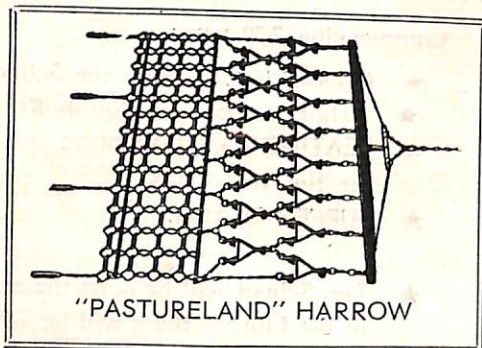
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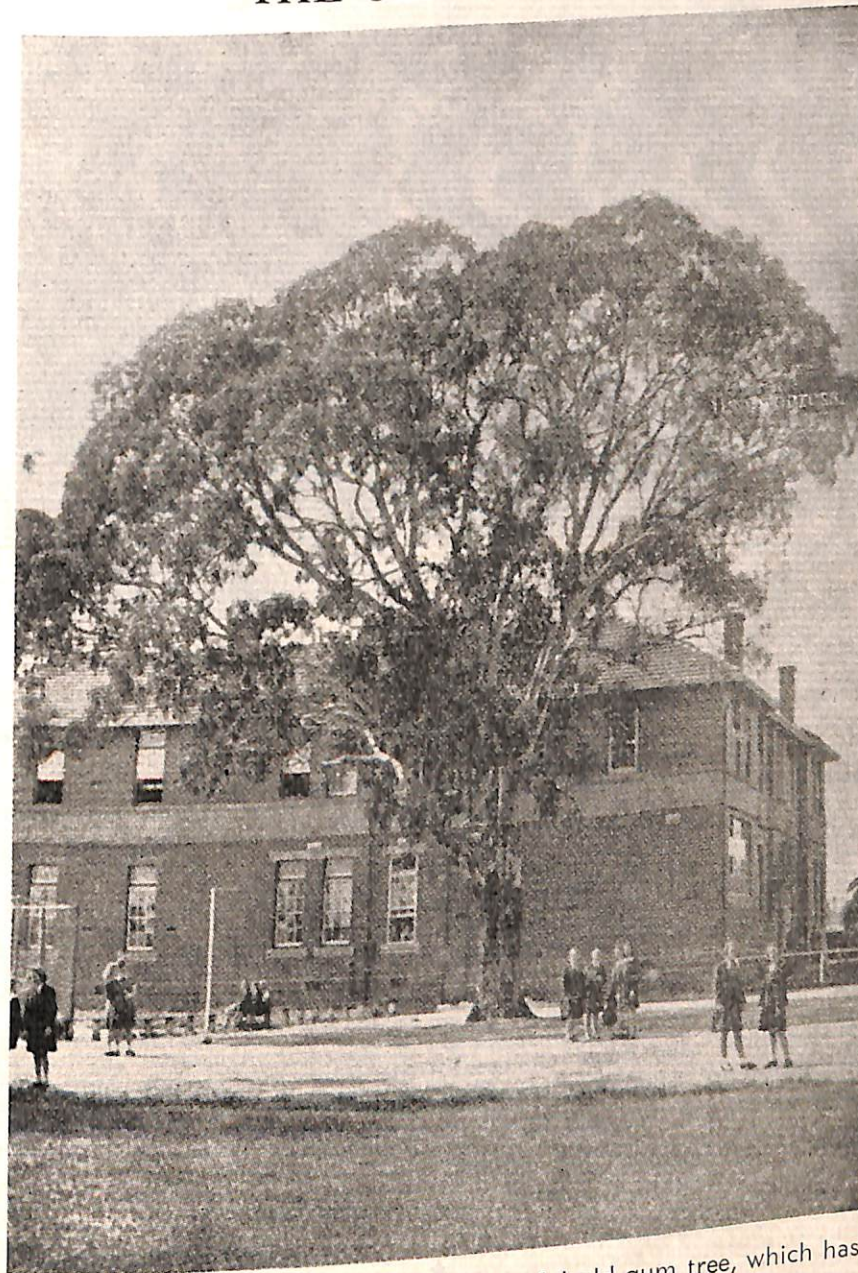
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THE OLD GUM TREE



Many will remember the shade of this wonderful old gum tree, which has since been removed.

HOCKEY TEAM, 1940



Left to Right: M. Dawson (captain), E. Gascoigne, M. Perry, I. Stooke, L. de Graaff, P. Dawson, J. Platt, A. McDowell, B. Rodd, J. Sinclair, K. Murphy.

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Australian and Continental Delicatessen

OSBORNE'S DELICATESSEN was opened in the present premises in 1933 by Mr. T. D. Osborne, with his sons as assistants, among them being Mr. Len., fresh from D.H.S.

The business has seen many changes in the intervening years, both in itself and in Dandenong. The influx of people from the Continent has caused a great improvement in the type and variety of goods being sold. Many Continental lines have been added to the already large range of Australian smallgoods, making it a most comprehensive delicatessen.



Remember . . OSBORNE'S for Quality and Service
325 LONSDALE STREET, DANDENONG



Mr. LEN COOKE

Upon the departure of Mr. R. W. Andrews to his old school (Camberwell High), we welcomed our fifth Headmaster, Mr. Len Cooke.

During his term with us, Mr. Cook has introduced many new and excellent ideas to the school. He has been, and still is, beset with problems of accommodation and numbers. He has co-operating with him a staff of forty and nearly 1,100 students.

We hope Mr. Cooke's stay with us is a pleasant and enjoyable one—one which we are sure will combine the great traditions and school spirit of "Faber Quisque Fortunae."

Although the last two years is a relatively short time in the history of the school, much seems to have happened. The most striking of the material changes has been the taking-over of the new building with its well-equipped specialist rooms for music, art, commercial work, cookery and needle-work.

Old boys will also be interested to know that what was once their locker-room has now become a well-equipped gymnasium, and the girls will be pleased to find that the old Army hut which stood for so many years in Hemmings Park is becoming a gymnasium for the girls, with shower-rooms under way.

The old cookery centre has lost its stoves and other fittings, and instead is crowded with books. When it is properly re-fitted according to a rather interesting plan, it will be an excellent library. The many other minor improvements in the buildings will doubtless be noted.

The grounds, too, have changed quite a lot, with

a new fence around the oval, seating everywhere, a new basketball court behind the new buildings, permanent jumping pits, and the old rustic fence replaced by a modern wire-mesh one.

One very pleasant item of news is that the school now owns the whole five acres in the Ann-David streets allotment. This is only the first step, as we must now make it fit for playing and erect a fence around it. With the original 7½ acres, this makes a total area of 12½ acres, which will give the school many fine playing areas.

Ex-pupils of many years ago who visit the school will be forcibly struck by the great increase in its population. Since the end of 1957 the enrolment has grown from 820 to nearly 1,100 pupils, and it is quite a problem to fit them all in.

Although the junior forms have grown considerably, the biggest increase is in the senior forms, where there are now 45 in Matriculation and 86 in Leaving. Forms IV and III each have five parallel forms. Despite these large numbers, the school has a strong corporate spirit, and it is plain that the pupils are just as proud of their school as others could have been in years past. In particular the "house" spirit is still very strong and it is possible that here the large numbers make for better and even keener competition. The staff, too, has grown and we now have 44 teachers, as well as an office staff of two and cleaning staff of four.

Inter-school sporting visits are still a permanent feature of school life, and in the competitions our teams are always to be respected. We are very happy that this year our girls have won the swimming shield for what may be the first time in history, and we are hoping that the boys will equal that performance in 1961.

The school's social life is very good, with end-of-term socials and palais still very popular.

Another pleasing feature is the increased appreciation of merit in academic work. In the last two years new internal scholarships have been added to those which have been provided by Dandenong and the surrounding shires for some years. The International Harvester Company has donated ten scholarships annually of a value of £80, and the Advisory Council has followed this excellent example with two of £10 each. This year the Ladies' Welfare Club have donated two of £10 each, which are open to children of financial members of the Club.

This brief outline shows that the school is progressing in all fields and can look forward to a future which should be as happy as its past has been.

There is, however, one sad note. Because of the growth of Dandenong City and district, more secondary schools are needed, and this year the new Doveton High School has opened. This is making a splendid start, and we wish it well, but it means that we shall no longer enrol pupils from east of the Dandenong Creek. In the past the mixture of town and country pupils has proved a very happy one, but it appears certain that very soon our school will serve only Dandenong City, and we are sure to miss the country pupils.

Another change in our make-up is caused through the enrolment of many children born in other lands, and we are finding that these are a valuable asset, somewhat offsetting the loss of the country children. One of the best features of our school is the fine welcome given to these children, who very quickly feel at home with us.

SOME ANECDOTES

WAR-TIME LECTURES

How many of us remember the lectures by Mr. Brumley during the war. A brilliant scholar and teacher, "W. Leslie" delivered many lectures to the public on how to prepare ourselves against the danger of invasion. Subjects included preparations on how to protect against air raids, strafing, bombing and shelling and methods by which to minimise the dangers of gas poisoning. Upon the completion of the lectures a short examination was held. Do you recall them?

THE DAY THE INSPECTOR DIDN'T COME!

When Mr. Slater was in charge of the sloyd room many years ago, an incident occurred which he and many others are unlikely to forget. P.C.W. was Head at the time.

Now on this particular Friday Mr. Slater wanted to leave at 3 p.m. to prepare for a Lodge investiture and asked P.C.W. for approval. "Perc" agreed and nothing more was said. Just after lunch a phone call came for Mr. Slater: the inspector wished to inspect the sloyd room that afternoon, and would Mr. Slater be prepared?

With great enthusiasm Mr. Slater prepared the room and the sloyd, sharpened his pencil, brushed down his dustcoat and made sure everything was in order. Two o'clock, three o'clock, four o'clock — no sign of the Inspector; but every now and then in would pop various members of staff asking if he wanted assistance.

Only when school was dismissed did he find out that he'd been had — and did P.C.W. and a certain junior teacher, who arranged the phone call, do it on Monday!

PREFECTS, 1942



Standing, from left: W. Masters, G. Brown, A. Reid (Senior Prefect), W. Harrington, G. Campbell.
Sitting, from left: K. Beavis, M. Hill, B. Crump (Senior Prefect), B. Gardiner, G. Ward, J. Badenhop.



Mr. W. LESLIE BRUMLEY

Mr. Brumley, or as he was known to us all as "Brum," spent thirty-two years with us from 1924 to 1956. To each of us he was a gentleman, a man with whom we all made contact either in the classroom or through the bookstall.

A most methodical and meticulous man, he knew exactly the life and history of every shilling that was spent in the school. We all knew, as "Brum" often told us, that we could never cut a piece of string in two, but we could cut it in half, or, again, one never bought a compass please, but always a pair of compasses. And we can always remember that "Brum" was on time all the time, particularly at 12.25 p.m.!

And so it is with great pleasure, and most appropriately, that Mr. Brumley has written the article on the next page.

"Brum" is now residing at 83 Clow street, Dandenong, and would welcome visits from his many friends of Dandenong High School.

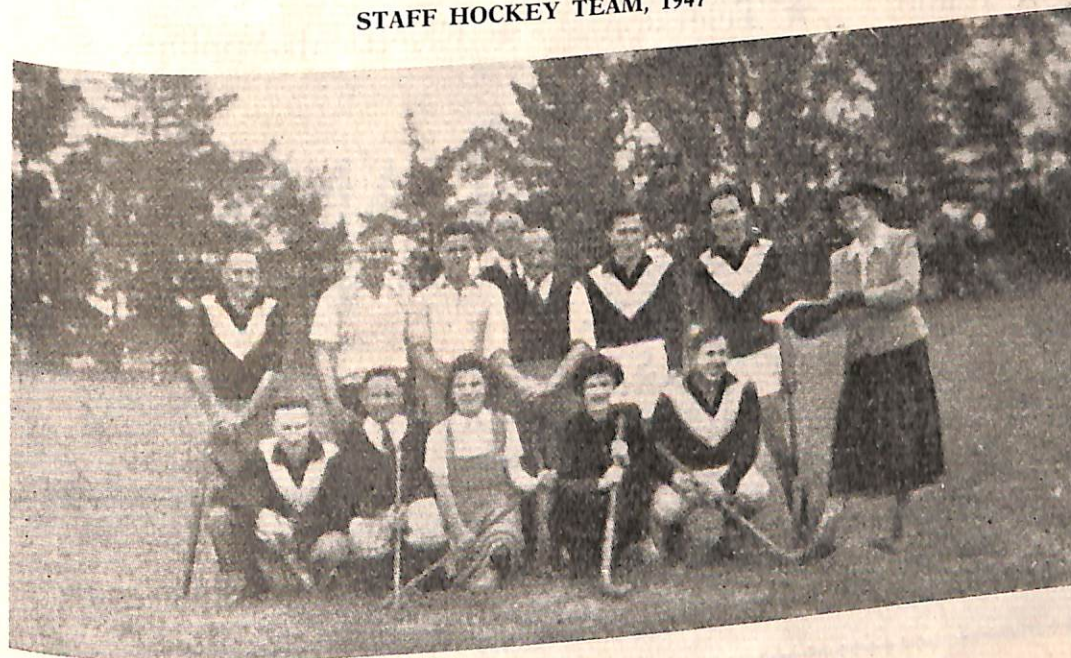
PLEASANT DAYS AT D.H.S.

(By W. LESLIE BRUMLEY)

It's a considerable time ago now when one refers to the calendar, but in retrospect it seems of more recent vintage. I refer to my introduction to the Dandenong High School.

Much water has run under the bridge since then and many changes have taken place, but I can well recall that portion of the building known as the bookstall, where I spent many happy periods, and some more wearisome than happy.

STAFF HOCKEY TEAM, 1947



Thomas's Gippsland Meat Supply

(IVAN THOMAS and GRAHAM WESTAWAY, Proprietors)

Quality Beef - Mutton - Lamb - Pork

★ Corned Beef and Sausages a Specialty !

We're always pleased to MEAT you !

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WIDE RANGE OF MODERN RECORDS AND SHEET MUSIC.

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★ SPECIALISTS IN PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEMS and AMPLIFIERS
PHONE DANDENONG 343.

★ Personalised Attention — See RAY WESTMORELAND and BOB WILLIAMS

during the thirty years of my connection with the school.

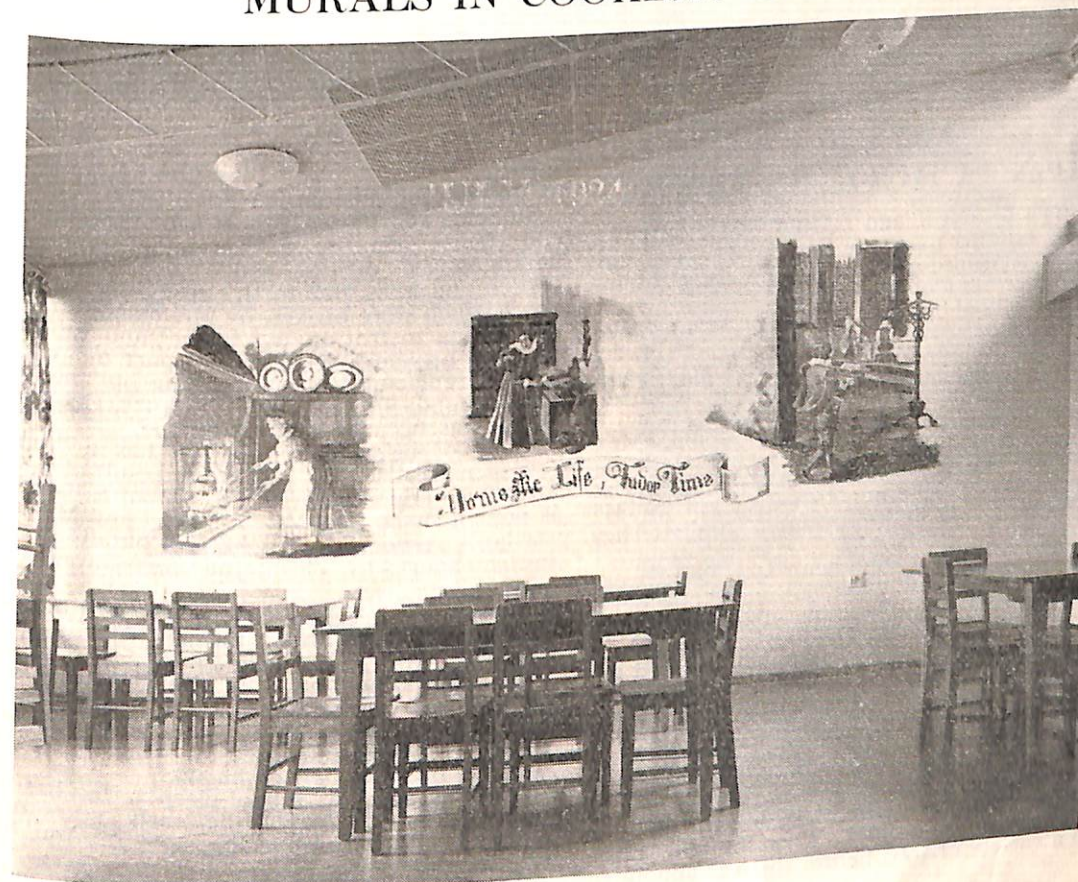
The room was not large enough, but every now and then more accommodation was provided by adding shelves nearer and nearer to the ceiling. Its single window opened over the quadrangle and gave an excellent view of much that went on therein. This window, with its wide sill, was also the sales counter, and many students I am sure can well remember lining up at the beginning of the year to make payment and receive an issue of books and requisites. Regularly there appeared strung across the window articles which had been lost and found. These could be claimed by the fortunate owners on reasonable proof. Unclaimed articles were usually sold at the close of term—any article could be purchased for threepence, but only one at a time till others waiting had had a chance. Found money was also handed in here, the name of the finder written on it and, if unclaimed, was distributed at the close of term. All this is no more. The bookstall, with its adjuncts, is now situated in more commodious premises and has, I believe, considerably increased its "lines."

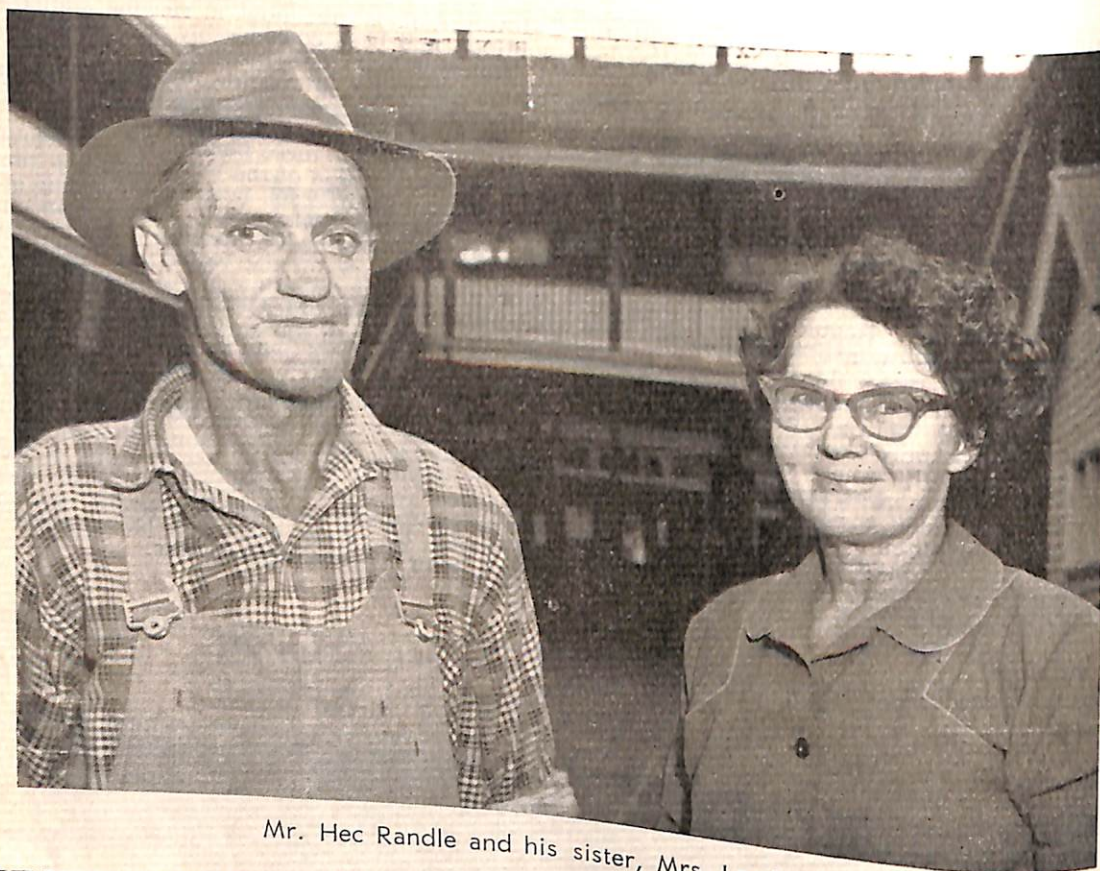
However, it is not now a viewing station—its outlook had been considerably narrowed.

This was only one facet of my period at the school. Another interesting and valuable episode was the introduction of tennis courts. On the site where they will stand an area was set aside and netted in. Within these boundaries was carefully set out the position of the two courts and the red gum posts put in. Then began the levelling of the area, which was done mainly with a home-made, or, rather, school-made water level. The necessary camber to throw off the water was allowed for, and pick and shovel came along to complete this stage of the work; then, with the co-operation of the shire engineer, the surface was covered with tar. This provided a good surface for many years, fresh dressing being given now and then. Later we grew up: the old courts were torn up and two splendid porous courts took their place.

And so, as time moved on, alterations and improvements were made. All the time, however, the school retained its identity and to-day, though mostly new faces are seen, the same spirit still exists, and we of the years that have passed still watch, with interest, its progress.

MURALS IN COOKERY CENTRE





Mr. Hec Randle and his sister, Mrs. Lambert

WHEN SCHOOL IS DONE

(From the CLEANER and CARETAKER STAFF)
Pictured on this page are familiar faces—faces which you recognise as belonging to the cleaning and caretaker staff of the school.

When the school opened in 1919, the first cleaner was Mrs. Randle. Mrs. Randle still lives with her family at 31 Hemmings street, Dandenong, and she still gets around with the help of a wheel-chair.

When she started cleaning the school, Mrs. Randle had to walk to the Temperance Hall, the Fire Brigade Station and the old Church of Christ Hall. She retired from our cleaning staff in 1945 and her place was taken by Mrs. Lambert, her daughter.

Both Mrs. Lambert and her sister Beryl were students of D.H.S. and, while still at school, Beryl assisted her mother. When the school was built, only the front section and the northern wing were in operation. Later, Room 9 was added next to the boys' shower-room and a classroom from the Dandenong East State school became the boys' locker room. Now this is known as the boys' gymnasium.

Perhaps the best-known member of the cleaning and caretaker staff is Hec Randle. Known to thousands of students, Hec has been associated with the school since 1919. When he left D.H.S. he had a variety of jobs before he was appointed

to his present position in June 1929. Students remember Hec with his friendly words and cheery grin, for no matter whether he was trimming the cypress hedge, attending to the garden and Miss Hainforth's roses, replacing windows which were broken by Mr. Nobody (remember having to trot up to "Brum" and report that you had broken a window and part out with the cost of replacing it!), or marking out the oval Showgrounds for the athletic sports, Hec's life at D.H.S. has been an interesting one.

Many of us wonder why Hec has a limp, but few of us realise that it was the result of a severe attack of influenza. With the school as large as it is now, it takes Hec, Mrs. Lambert and Mr. Mayer—who is responsible for the new building—nearly twelve hours to clean the forty rooms and surrounds.

Each morning, from 6.30 onwards until breakfast, Hec and his sister are on the job. Always fond of shooting, Hec's dogs have been familiar sights around the school early in the morning. During Mr. Griffiths' era, Hec and "Sinny" (as Mr. Sinclair was known) would often go shooting at Bangholme, so if you didn't see Mr. Sinclair till about 10 a.m. you knew where he was.

In thirty years as school cleaner Hec has many stories. "Exies" during the early years of Mr. Griffiths will remember the story of Ann Street and the sheep.

The Ann street ground is very fertile and the



Mr. HEC RANDLE

grass grows rather quickly. To combat this "Griff" and Hec put their heads together and decided that twelve sheep would be an economic proposition, because not only would they save the expense of cutting Ann street, but they would also provide the school with £ s. d. when they were shorn.

With the approach of summer the sheep grew thick fleeces and shearing time came around. After examining the sheep, a retired shearer was engaged for the job. However, the animals had to be yarded and caught. Setting to work, Hec constructed a temporary corral made of wire-netting on the Herbert-Ann street corner. All that was needed now was to guard the sheep and catch them for the shearer. As you may remember, most of the boys came from farms, and there was no shortage of volunteers.

Hec asked for six boys to help him—instead, he got nearly sixty! The boys accomplished the first part all right—the sheep were yarded without any trouble, but here the trouble started. The sheep—poor frightened animals—had to be caught and Hec asked for someone to catch one for the shearer. Almost to a man the whole group of schoolboys leapt forward! The sheep panicked, disregarded Hec's corral and set sail for home. What a sight! A dozen scared sheep racing for their lives down Ann street with a mob of schoolboys chasing them. About an hour later eleven sheep had been caught, but one was missing. It was not until late in the evening that the story, and the sheep, returned. The frightened animal was something of a sprinter and had outdistanced its mates. A small group of boys were determined to catch it.

They did! They caught it in the middle of the Ordish Brickworks quarry!

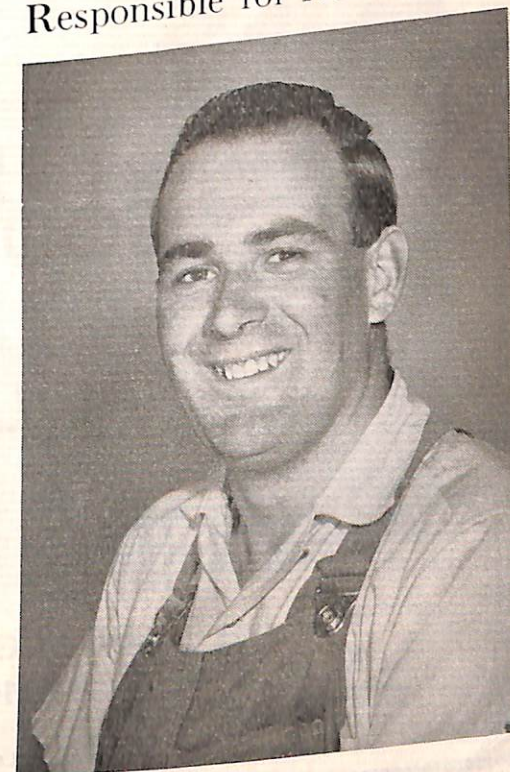
The end of this story came out next day when the sheep, freshly shorn, were sold to a butcher by the name of Suding.

Because he arrives at the school early, Hec sees many unusual things. For instance, one very cold morning he was surprised to see a thick column of smoke billowing from the centre of the girls' basketball court. Upon investigation, there plumb in the centre of the court was a man sitting around a roaring fire with a pile of "dead marines" near him. Hearing Hec coming, the man up and took to his feet and hasn't been seen since!

You may remember that before the prefabs were built the milkman delivered the milk around the back. About 4 a.m. one morning the "milkie" was surprised to hear singing in the yard. Apparently a group of bicycle riders were having a party, for Hec says that he collected several dozen bottles and had to clean up a mess of sandwiches that morning.

Those of you who attended under Dr. James may remember this story Hec told us. As you know, the late Dr. James wrote many books on geography and consequently had many assistants. One day in 1936 a most peculiar procession wound its way into the school oval and, before the bewildered gaze of students, several camels, donkeys and horses made themselves at home. Shortly after, a huge tent was erected and Dr. James's assistant and his wife, who had travelled from

Responsible for New Building



Mr. "BILL" MAYER

It's good to see the School we knew
and

Where? It's better to meet our Friends again!

Why, at
JOHN RICHARDS'
Milk Bar and Hamburger Shop
DROMANA

FOR
GOODNESS
SAKE, BUY YOUR
POULTRY
at the
WHITE HOUSE
BEACONSFIELD
K. R. & M. F. SYMONS, BEACONSFIELD
Beaconsfield 47

Alice Springs, pitched camp. To the great enjoyment of students, passers-by were amazed to see camels, donkeys and horses parading on the oval and hockey field for the next few days, with students as their riders.

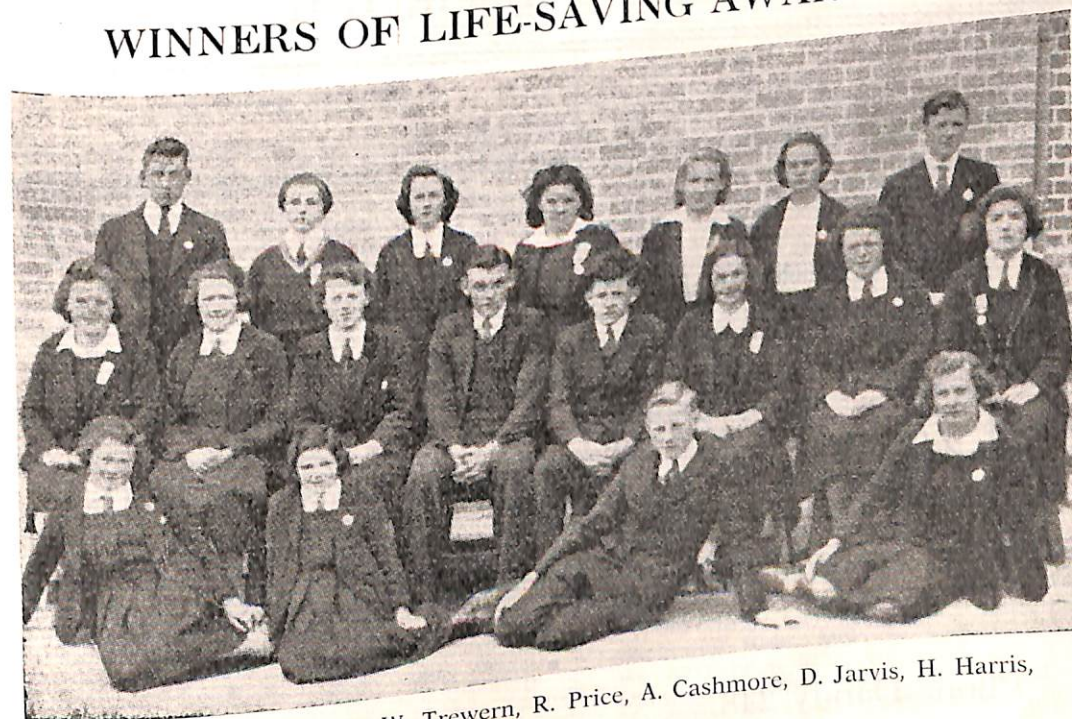
In his job, Hec has come across many strange cars, but none perhaps so strange as Mr. Bill McCubbin's ancient model. The fun Bill had with it, and the noises it made, kept everyone in suspense. Whilst on the subject of cars, Hec recalls the last day of school in 1954 and 1958, when he went to clean the quadrangle. He couldn't! Why? End of year pranks by students, to the dismay of teachers, were exceptionally well done.

The teachers, in a hurry to leave, found that the "quad" was full of staff cars parked in such a manner that they all had to be moved before one could get out.

Early last year Hec enjoyed three weeks' long service leave, and we are sure that the school owes Hec, his sisters and his mother, and Mr. Mayer, a great deal. When we left school each night it was filthy, yet every morning when we went in each room was spic and span.

Therefore we pass on the thanks of the thousands of students who have had their days at school made brighter by such a cheerful and magnificent cleaning and caretaker staff.

WINNERS OF LIFE-SAVING AWARDS 1944



Standing: G. McCashney, W. Trewern, R. Price, A. Cashmore, D. Jarvis, H. Harris, T. Davis.

Sitting: J. Little, L. Keys, P. Chadwick, A. Cashmore, T. Birchill, S. Ward, F. Egerton, H. McPherson.

Front: O. Egerton, N. Ward, J. Tweddle, G. Holt.

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Phone Dandy 248.

Peter Wagstaff, Ptr.



Mr. DAVE MORRIS

During the troublesome thirties the school faced a great number of difficulties, but under the inspiring leadership of Mr. Langford and Mr. Griffiths it produced many outstanding citizens. Such a one was Dave Morris, head prefect in 1938 and 1939 and a Wattle House captain.

To those who were at school with Dave he became a legend, and students of recent years strive hard to emulate him. Now residing at Noble Park with his wife, formerly Norma Campbell (also a Wattle House captain) and young family, David still maintains a close contact with his old school and schoolmates, of whom he is so fond.

Forty Years On . . . When Afar and Asunder

When one sits down to reminisce on the events which took place some twenty years ago, one is confronted with a feeling of haziness.

As we stood up at School Assembly and beefed out "Forty Years On, When Afar and Asunder," it was hard to speculate what life 10, 20, 30 or 40 years on would hold in store for each of us.

Now that twenty years have gone, we have a clearer conception of this, but, unfortunately recollection of our schooldays, which then seemed vivid and unlikely to be forgotten, become very indistinct. The passage of time has certainly dimmed our memories, so much so that, with most of us, we find all but the outstanding or spectacular remains but remotely clear.

With the last twenty years this is particularly so, for during this time much has happened, excluding the tragic years of the second great war,

when a great number of ex-students so nobly served their country, many, unfortunately, to pay the supreme sacrifice. The period of post-war development since that catastrophe has been spectacular, particularly in and around Dandenong.

It is with thoughts such as these that one attempts to recall the years immediately preceding the war, and to capture once again the atmosphere associated with such a school as Dandenong High.

It is difficult to define anything in particular which reminds ex-students of their school days. To some it will be a great scholastic record, fine sporting achievement, or perhaps the members of staff who so ably guided us through our school years.

But, to many of us, perhaps the most important thing was the very warm comradeship which helped to bind us into a great body of students, ever willing to uphold the best traditions of the school. Friendships that found their beginnings within the walls of Dandenong High School have in many cases endured, and the effluxion of time has only seemed to make these bonds of friendship stronger.

Unfortunately, on leaving school and pursuing their many and varied careers, students have been scattered to the four winds, and it is difficult to keep track with the many fine acquaintances we knew so well. However, what great pleasure we feel on meeting some school colleagues of former years and to talk and ponder upon the subject of our school days. There seems to be a mutual understanding between such people, and one feels that we are on common ground to be able to relate those happenings of yesteryear.

This feeling of a common link with the past undoubtedly stems from a sense of tradition within the school. This tradition of comradeship, justice and sense of fair play is indefinable, but it helps to fit us for the world in which we strive to succeed. It is not until after leaving school that we realise to what extent we are indebted to our teachers for their efforts to guide us during those all-important years.

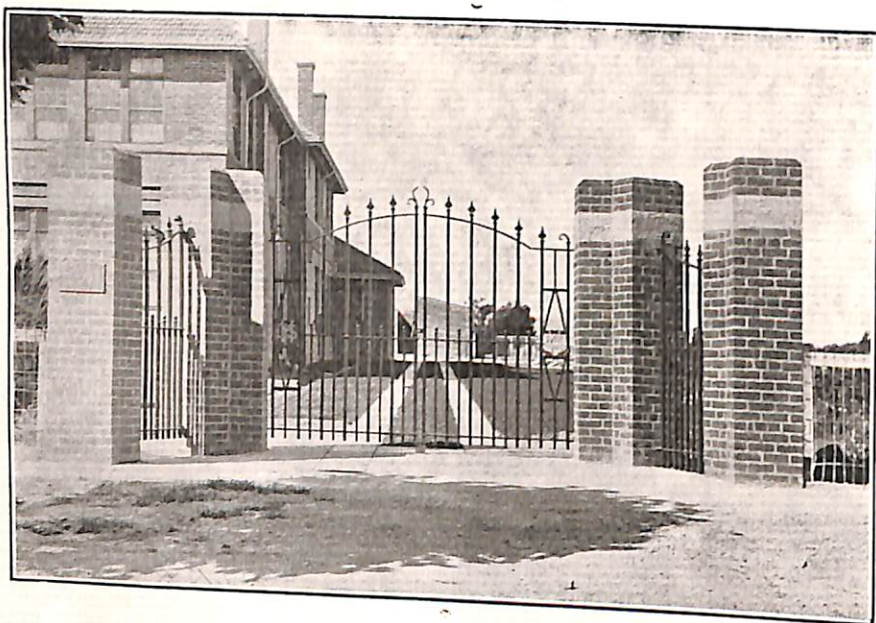
When one is thrust into life's stream on leaving school, it becomes abundantly clear, with the ever-increasing years, that those values and standards which characterised our school days would enable us to withstand the trials and tribulations of our chosen careers. Whatever our success during the intervening years, it does each of us good to remember those happy school days when we strove so hard at work and at play.

To think of the great and friendly rivalry which existed between Forms and Houses within the school, and between the different competing schools, gives us a sense of belonging to a particular House or School. This helps to mould character and to stimulate us to give of our very best.

It is indeed difficult to single out personalities or particular items of interest or note. These events will be well known to those present at that particular time. More important is the fact that we have been associated with a school such as Dandenong High and that we uphold those standards by which we lived during our carefree school days.

Above all, let us feel proud to be identified with Dandenong High School and the multitude of friends it was our good fortune to have known during those days at "the best school of all."

DAVID J. MORRIS, 1936-1939.



Commemorative Gates

(Extract from "Gates," 1930)

"Much has been done to make our school more attractive from an external point of view, and there has just been completed a set of gates which makes a noble entrance to the school grounds. Heavy, strong and artistic, they are supported from massive brick piers which fittingly match the general scheme of the school building. These gates have been erected by the citizens of Dandenong to mark their appreciation of the work and worth of Cr. W. B. Tharle, J.P.

"Cr. W. B. Tharle, J.P., was an ardent supporter of the proposal to establish a High School in Dandenong. He became a member of its first Advisory Council and retained a love for and active interest in it till the time of his death, in December, 1929."

The Commemorative Gates were opened officially by the President of the Advisory Council, Mr. F. A. Singleton. Mrs. Singleton was asked to cut the ribbon across the gates. In her eagerness to do so she cut the ribbon before the photographer had completed her task, and the photograph of her cutting the ribbon shows her holding the ribbon which had already been severed!

THE FIGHT FOR THE HOCKEY TITLE

The sporting event of the year—at last—and the sun shone down from a cloudless sky as the teachers made their way on to the field amid roars from the huge crowd that had gathered. A few words from their experienced and capable coach, Mr. Brumley, and the teachers were read to begin.

The home side was away to a good start, having drawn the number one barrier position, and had gained a good three lengths on the pupils, who, however, were not to be denied: a snap from the scrimmage had them back in the fight.

Half a mile from home Mr. Goldsmith, the undefeated bay colt, was making the pace a cracker, with Miss Dawson, the New Zealand champion, a neck away, second.

The excitement became a frenzy when Mr. Alexander, employing vigorous methods, had his opponent on the canvas after a series of lightning rips to the body, a feature of which was Mr. Toomey's 20-foot putt to finish the round two under par.

Enthusiasm was redoubled when the pupils,

inspired to better efforts, took a chance and called for two no trumps, but were outclassed by the wily Mr. Randles.

Disaster befel the teachers when their mainstay, Mr. Barnes, had to be carried off after having broken a fetlock at the log-jump. The pupils shot to the lead when they passed Mr. Ford at the net—a good move which earned them the next three sets.

But Mr. Clancy's ring experience was being used to best advantage and, with the estimable Mr. Horsfall brilliant on the centre court, the game looked safe for the teachers.

The crowd became paralysed with excitement when Miss McDonnell made an opening for the pacy Mr. Sinclair who, coming at a fast clip over the last 25 yards, was first to breast the tape. But the pupils steadied and, with only time on to play, levelled the scores, the result being two.

Thus ended an eventful day and a day to be remembered by us great sports—a day worthy of Dandenong High School.—RON MORS, IV.D., 1947
"Gate." (See photograph on page 39).

Dandenong & District Historical Society