

The  
**Ruytonian.**



**1st JULY, 1909.**

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## RUYTON, 1878-1909.

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Ruyton dates from the year 1878. It was begun by Mrs. Anderson, mainly with the object of educating her children. In order to secure a competent governess, she arranged for a few other pupils to study with her family, and in this way the nucleus of Ruyton was formed. The first and only governess at that time was Miss Flora Barton, who subsequently went to England, where she married a member of the House of Commons. The first pupil was Miss Maud King, now Mrs. Butler Walsh, and our present secretary. The class consisted of some half-dozen pupils, who met at a cottage in Bulleen-road, Kew, then the residence of Mrs. Anderson. The numbers, however, gradually increased till the class had reached the dignity of a school of between twenty and thirty pupils, including three boys; a large classroom was added at the rear of the cottage, and to the ordinary daily routine were then added music, dancing and drawing classes.

Mrs. Anderson was a woman of immense energy, enthusiasm and courage, with a personality that influenced everyone with whom she came in contact. Given her character and personality, it was impossible for the school not to develop. Consequently it soon outgrew its quarters, and then it was in 1871 that Mrs. Anderson purchased the property in Studley Park-road, Kew, to which she gave the name of Ruyton. It increased by leaps and bounds, and the available accommodation for twenty-four boarders was rapidly filled, while the daily attendance numbered about sixty—by this time the boys had disappeared. Ruyton then took its rank amongst the foremost girls' schools of the day, and included in the staff were such well-known names in the educational world as Irving, Beecher, Alexander, Haydon and Julius Herz. From this time the School was conducted



on more modern lines, and some old-time school conventionalities were dispensed with. One girl with sporting instincts inaugurated a sports meeting, which became an annual affair until the enterprising girl and her contemporaries grew diffident about appearing in their gymnasium costumes. Great interest was shown in the sports, which were conducted on similar lines to those of boys' schools, and included high jumping, vaulting, Siamese races, potato races, flat races, etc., all participants being suitably clad in physical culture dress. We all went into active training weeks beforehand, except that we jibbed over the orthodox diet, which included one raw egg per diem.

The School property contained over four acres of ground, so it was possible, as we thought in our maiden bashfulness, to hold a meeting sacred to our sex only. But nothing is sacred to a schoolboy, and the date of the Sports Meeting got abroad through some erring sister. There was much perturbation when we discovered we had been overlooked by some High School boys, who had hidden in trees next door. The next excitement was a challenge from Shipley House—then Mrs. Webster's school—to tennis. We accepted, immediately got together a four and fought, and, I believe I am right in stating, won, though it is difficult at this stretch of time to recall the details exactly, even though the event was so highly important to us at the time. It was the first of a series of matches in which the honours were even.

Another function of interest was the school concert, held for two or three years in the Kew Recreation Hall. Ruyton was exceptional in having many very clever pianists, and backed up as they were by the leading stringed quartet of the day, the concerts were a great success. The rows of school girls all dressed in white made a conspicuous patch in the audience. For some time beforehand we worked hard for the annual schol breaking up, when we generally, before the distribution of prizes, acted a play, played our piece—and the horror of that remains with me to this day—and had tableaux. I come now to that last sad breaking up, when Ruyton was to lose its head-mistress.

A gloom was over the whole school when it was announced that owing to a severe illness, Mrs. Anderson had to abandon her place at the helm, for we all loved and honoured her deeply, and her influence had all been for goodness and highmindedness. She had loved her School, and the individuals in her charge, and each girl felt and responded to the personal interest. As one aptly remarked,



"The worst of Mrs. Anderson is that she makes it so hard for us to do anything wrong. While she lay in bed recovering from her illness, she gave us a farewell supper in the big class-room. The long table, which was the length of the fifty feet room, was filled—the oldest and biggest girl presiding at one end of the table, the smallest girl, a tiny speck, at the other. It was a tribute to the love and esteem in which Mrs. Anderson was held when, after the farewell speech on her behalf was made, and we had each been presented with an "R" brooch as a farewell token from her, that we all unreservedly broke down. To Mrs. Anderson herself there was much consolation in feeling that Miss Bromby, one of her oldest and best friends, who had materially helped her at the outset, was taking over her responsibilities. Miss Bromby was joined by Mrs. E. H. Gubbins and Miss Lilian Irving, the latter of whom had for some time been connected with Ruyton, where she had gained the affection and esteem of the pupils in her charge.

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#### Part II.

The new regime began on the first of August, 1888, in somewhat inconvenient premises in Princess-street, and was carried on there for a year. At the end of that time all, whether principals, teachers, or pupils were only too glad to migrate to the house built for their use in a'Beckett-street, where, ever since, work has been carried on with varying fortunes. For several years the house was full, and there were a good number in the day school. Then came the great depression of the nineties, and at one time it almost seemed as if it might be necessary to close. About this time the partnership between Miss Bromby, Mrs. Gubbins and Miss L. Irving was dissolved, Mrs. Gubbins desiring to have a name for herself and her family.

The year 1896 began the last phase of Ruyton. Miss Bromby was joined by Miss E. S. Lascelles, and since then the school has been under their rule; as it is at the present time. Miss Irving remained on the staff for some years, leaving, to the great regret of all, to join her sister in a school of theirs in Malvern. At the end of 1899 it was found necessary, owing to the increase in the number of boarders, to enlarge the premises. A few years later, the wooden schoolroom which was brought up from the temporary residence in Princess-street was removed, and a brick room put in its place. For a short time, a Kindergarten was added, but none of the rooms were suitable, and it was judged



better to hold it in a separate building, and the charge of this was given to Miss Westmoreland, by whom the work is carried on in Barry-street.

The last change took place at the beginning of the present year, when the next door house was taken in order to have separate accommodation for girls who, having left school, wish to continue special studies, whether former boarders or others. Such is the outward history of the School during the last twenty years. Many girls have come and gone. Some have won distinction, not only in their own school, but in the wider circle of the University. But though many have passed successfully the entrance examination to the University, only a few have continued their studies further. Of these, the names of Mary Watkins, Eleanor Simpson, Doretta Hedderwick, Mabel Daniell and Hilda Daniell may be mentioned. The first name of these is now Head of the Girls' Division of the Rockhampton Grammar School, the second, after a brilliant career at the University, is a teacher at Merton Hall. The third, in spite of a long interruption through illness, successfully passed all examinations. The fourth and fifth are sisters who both went through their University course while teaching, one at Oberwyl, the other at St. Andrews, and both passed with honours in the Arts course. Miss Hilda Daniell returned to Ruyton this year as senior teacher.

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## ODE TO THE RUYTON TENNIS FOUR.

Will the Ruyton Tennis Four  
Win the pennant as before,  
And retain their ancient fame  
At this ever favourite game?

Many guess, but none can know,  
Time, and Time alone will show,  
We have now a chance to gain,  
But the issue's far from plain.

You should see them on the court,  
Yes indeed, you really ought.  
'Tis a sight for all to see,  
For they play so gracefully.

Now we know the members well,  
So to you their names we'll tell.  
'Tis a privilege, we say,  
Just to see them for a day.

First we'll mention little May,  
Who is very good at play;  
Watch her game, 'tis quite a treat.  
See her place the balls so neat.

Doodie (may her oft-spoken name  
Evermore be known to fame)  
Hardly ever lets a ball  
Pass beyond her reach at all.

Bon, with many a telling stroke,  
Saves us from the other's croak;  
Long with us may she remain,  
For to lose her would be pain.

Marjorie is ever seen  
To be full of interest keen.  
Always to improve gives care,  
And doth show a promise rare.

Of our four we're **very** proud,  
We could sing their praises loud,  
But then that would be to boast,  
So let's give a hearty toast.

Toast the Ruyton tennis four!  
May they conquer as before!  
If they're victors in the game,  
We'll sing their everlasting fame.

F. M. Hawker.



## TENNIS CLUB.

During the past eighteen months the Ruyton Tennis Club have been most successful. The members of the four are Marjorie Young (captain), Mabel Fitzgerald, Veronica Ronald, and Lily Whybrow; these girls may well be proud of their record. Last year they were unbeaten, and became the holders of the Kia Ora Club pennant for the fourth time since its inauguration in 1902.

This year, 1909, they are again doing well, and the scores up till the beginning of June are:—

Ruyton v. Aldworth.
39 games—38.
Ruyton v. The Priory.
39 games—39.
Ruyton v. Strathhearn.
48—5.
Ruyton v. Lauriston.
48—6.

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## THE HOCKEY CLUB.

The Ruyton hockey team is not quite as strong this year as it might be; they are rather handicapped by not having a ground near to the School where they can practice often. The following is the team:—

Gladys Grey-Smith (captain).  
 Mildred MacDougall.  
 Emma Resch.  
 Kathleen Grey-Smith.  
 Audrey Lascelles.  
 Molly Wallace.  
 Fairie Moffatt.  
 Winsome Cowen.  
 Vera Aldom.  
 Lucy Tickell.  
 Marjorie Young.

The scores for the half-year are.—

Merton Hall v. Ruyton.
6 goals—3.
Ruyton v. Haverings (Brighton).
9—0.



Ruyton v. Tintern.

0—3.

Ruyton v. P.L. College.

3—4.

Ruyton v. M.L. College.

2—0.

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## A COACH DRIVE 6000 FEET ABOVE THE SEA.

On Easter Tuesday morning, a few years ago, a commodious and luxurious coach, drawn by four fine horses, drove up to the boarding house in Bright to take several friends and myself to Mt. Hotham.

Our driver was well known in the township and district as "Lying Nick." His marvellous stories made the long journey seem short, and it is said he entertained Lord Brassey so well on his drive to Omeo that he sent him a marble clock.

We set off in fine style, and six miles out of Bright, Mt. Feathertop began to rear his grand summit before us. Specks of snow even then could be seen, though so early in the year.

The road goes right into the hills for 16 miles to Harrierville, where we stopped to change horses, and for lunch. The "billy" was boiled, and we thoroughly enjoyed our lunch in the bracing air. It was an ideal spot for a picnic, on the banks of the Ovens, with higher hills than those of Bright all around. After an hour's rest, the coach came up, and we all got in again to begin the ascent of the Alps.

Harrierville is at the entrance of a great valley. The coach ascends one side of this valley, and on the other side the mountains in all their grandeur rise. The road winds round and round the hills, and from the coach it could be seen ahead higher up like a red strip cut out of the side of the great hills. Feathertop appeared again on the left against the sky, then Hotham and Blowhard.

About six miles up we caught sight of the Hospice on Mt. St. Bernard, a white speck in the distance. Just at that point, Nick, the driver, told us one of his stories. One day he was driving two ladies up the same road, and he was telling them how a kangaroo always came for the mail at a certain spot. This, of course, was pure invention, but strange to say, just then a kangaroo did appear. Nick thereupon



stood up and gravely said, "No letters to-day." The kangaroo, on hearing that, hopped away. The ladies were astonished at the cleverness of the kangaroos, equally so was Nick at the coincidence.

After four hours' drive up this wonderful road, with its deep gullies and high hills, we reached the Hospice, and the view that met us as we stood on the verandah was most beautiful. On looking back, ridge after ridge of hills of the most wonderful blue appeared, and to the right the giant peaks of the mountains.

The air was intoxicating, and we were all ready for dinner and, soon after, bed. At half-past seven the next morning we were off again to continue the trip to Mt. Hotham. It is  $5\frac{1}{2}$  miles from the Hospice to the Mount, and the rise in that distance is 1400ft. The road winds greatly, and as the view opened up, nothing could be seen but mountains in ridges like the waves of the sea of the loveliest blue.

In one place the road looked like a goat's track in the very face of the mountain, and when it was reached, it almost made one shudder to look down a sheer drop of 2000ft. in the gully beneath. At length the road came out along the front of Hotham, and we actually went to its summit in a coach. It is the highest coach road in Australia—Mick, the driver, said in the world—6100ft. above sea level.

As we turned the summit of Hotham there was the pure white snow lying in big patches, just like the picture in the Gallery, "The First Snow." The coach left us there and went on to Omeo, while we indulged in snowballing just for a few minutes, but not any longer, as our hands lost all power of feeling. We walked back to the Hospice, enjoying every moment in that wonderland of beauty.

N. Winspear.

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### OLD RUYTONIANS.

Marion Griffiths, who was a most prominent member of the Tennis Four last year, is now studying at Lusanne, in Switzerland.

Beth Austin has just returned from a most enjoyable trip to Japan, and is to be married to Mr. Newton Lees very shortly.

Seven most enterprising Ruytonians are going to spend July at Mt. Kosciusko. They are Trixy, Gladys and Molly Hay, Claire and Edith Peterson, Margaret McWhae



Jessie Ramsden was married to Mr. Willie Gayer, at Brung Brung on Wednesday, June 2.

Mary Wynne, who at present is in London, is shortly going for a trip to South America; we hope she will send us some of her experiences for the next number of the Ruytonian.

Carrie Hunter is with her sister, Mrs. Dane (Dorothy Hunter) in London.

The engagement of Mab Kelly to Mr. Russell Grimwade is announced.

Eveline Lascelles is leaving for England with Mrs. Govett, of Geelong.

Freda Burston and Nonie Madden have inaugurated a Flannel Shirt Club in Melbourne. This club has only been in existence one month, and during that time over eighty shirts and jackets have been made and distributed.

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### OLD GIRLS' ASSOCIATION.

An association of former pupils of Ruyton was formed last year, and a gathering of Old Ruytonians was held at Ruyton on November 25th. Nearly two hundred came, and a most enjoyable afternoon was spent. A committee was formed, and it was decided to hold a gathering of old girls at the end of every year, the first one having proved such an unqualified success.

Any girls desirous of joining the association can do so by sending their names to Mrs. Butler Walsh, the hon. sec., or Miss M. Simpson, the hon. treasurer, whose address is Highbury Grove, Kew.

The annual subscription is 2/6.





