

ASHWOOD HIGH SCHOOL

# THE ASHWOOD ROCKET

VOLUME 8

JOURNAL OF THE  
TRAIN TOUR

DECEMBER 1st – 6th, 1975

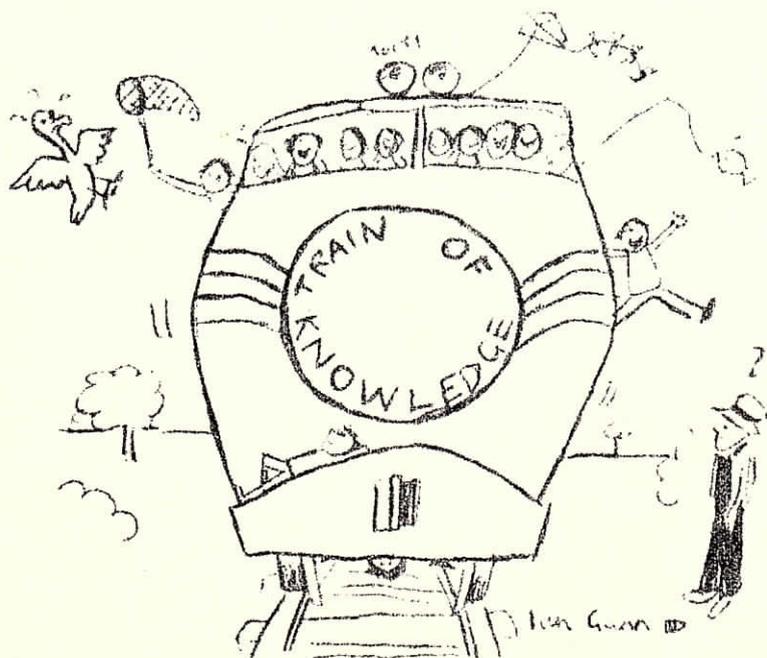


THIS IS THE STORY  
OF THE  
ASHWOOD ROCKET

MADE BY SPECIAL TRAIN

DECEMBER 1st - DECEMBER 6th 1975.

This journal, completed on the last day of the tour, includes the preliminary instructions, the daily news-sheets published on the train, and various other pages of notes and instructions.



## "THE TRAIN OF KNOWLEDGE"

"T.O.K." is the Victorian Railways name for our train, which will be your home for a week. Study the following list and the sketch below so that you will be able to find your way about.

Locomotive Although the Diesel locomotive is changed according to the needs of the Victorian Railways it will always carry a large name plate with the title T.O.K.

Power Car This supplies the train with electricity and also serves as Guard's Van.

"Murray" This is the Dining Car, which seats 48 of us in each of two sittings. The kitchen is here also.

"Day Car" Here comes our "assembly room". It is an ordinary carriage with a central aisle.

Car No. 1 Girls' compartments.

Car No. 2 Girls' compartments.

Car No. 3 Mostly girls.

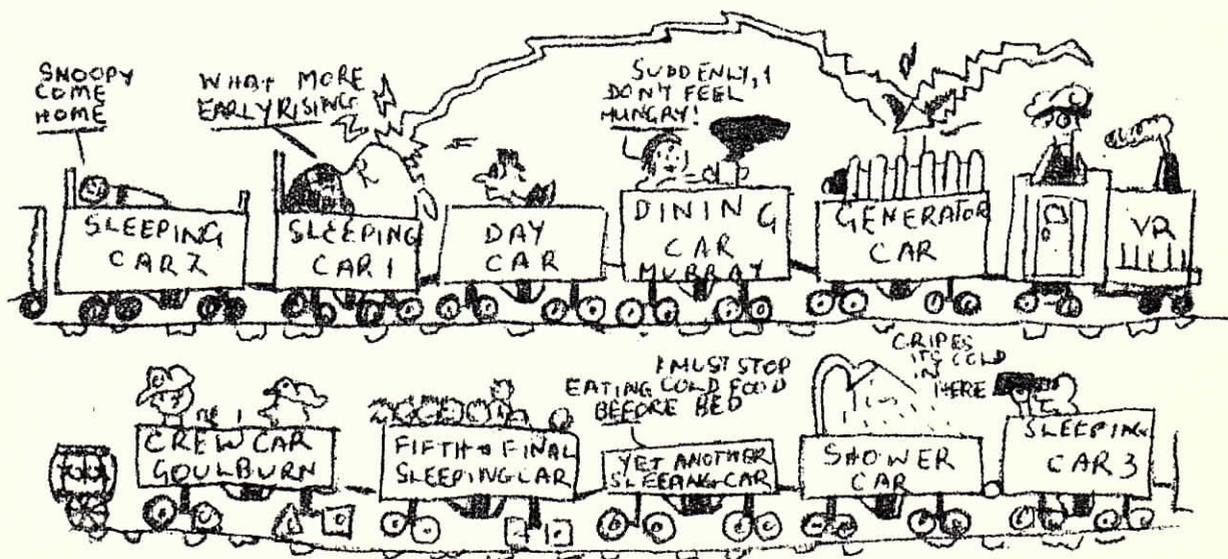
"Carey" The Shower Car.

Car No. 4 Boys' compartments.

Car No. 5 Boys' compartments.

"Goulburn" This is the car where the train staff will live. It is out of bounds to us.

THE "TRAIN OF KNOWLEDGE". The "T.O.K." was first made up for MacLeod High School, but these students did not sleep on the train and they had their meals at various towns. Mount Waverley High School in May 1955, arranged the first "T.O.K." that accommodated the tourists for meals and sleeping, though they had to make up their beds rather uncomfortably in ordinary second-class carriages. Mr. McKay chartered that train and this is his 10th "T.O.K." so far. Since 1955, so many other schools want to use the train that it is fully booked up to 1960, thirty-eight weeks each year. Ashwood High School has a permanent booking.



ITINERARY

Monday, 1st December, 1975

Spencer Street No. 10 Platform  
Corio

Dep. 8.40 a.m.

Arr. 9.50 a.m.

Geelong

Bus tour of Geelong

Dep. 11.50 a.m.

Lunch on the train.

Warrnambool

Arr. 3.25 p.m.

Bus to Tower Hill and tour  
of Warrnambool. Tea in  
Warrnambool shops.

Tuesday, 2nd December, 1975

Warrnambool

Dep. 6.40 a.m.

Hamilton

Arr. 10.30 a.m.

Bus to Agricultural Pastoral  
Research Station, picnic  
lunch, return to Hamilton  
approx. 3.30 p.m.

Tea on the train.

Wednesday, 3rd December, 1975

Hamilton

Dep. 6.30 a.m.

Ararat

Arr. 8.15 a.m.

Bus to Stawell, Hall's Gap,  
Bellfield Dam, Wonderland  
picnic lunch.

Tea on the train.

Ararat

Dep. 6.00 p.m.

Bendigo

Arr. 10.15 p.m.

Thursday, 4th December, 1975

Bendigo

8.40 a.m. Group 1 Bus to  
Pottery and Eucalyptus Farm.  
Return to train for lunch.  
1.30 p.m. Bus to Acquarium  
and Joss House, 3.00 p.m. to  
shopping centre.

9.00 a.m. Group 2. Bus to  
Eucalyptus Farm, 10.40 a.m.  
to Pottery, 12 noon to train.  
Lunch. 1.45 p.m. bus to  
Joss House, 2.30 p.m. to  
Acquarium. 3.15 p.m. to  
shopping area.

Tea at Bendigo shops.

Friday, 5th December, 1975

Bendigo

Dep. 7.10 a.m.

Echuca

Arr. 8.50 a.m.

9.00 a.m. walk to wharf,  
9.30 a.m. one hour cruise on  
Paddle Steamer, 10.30 a.m. to  
Perricoota, picnic lunch.

Tea on the train.

Saturday, 6th December, 1975

Echuca

Dep. 8.30 a.m.

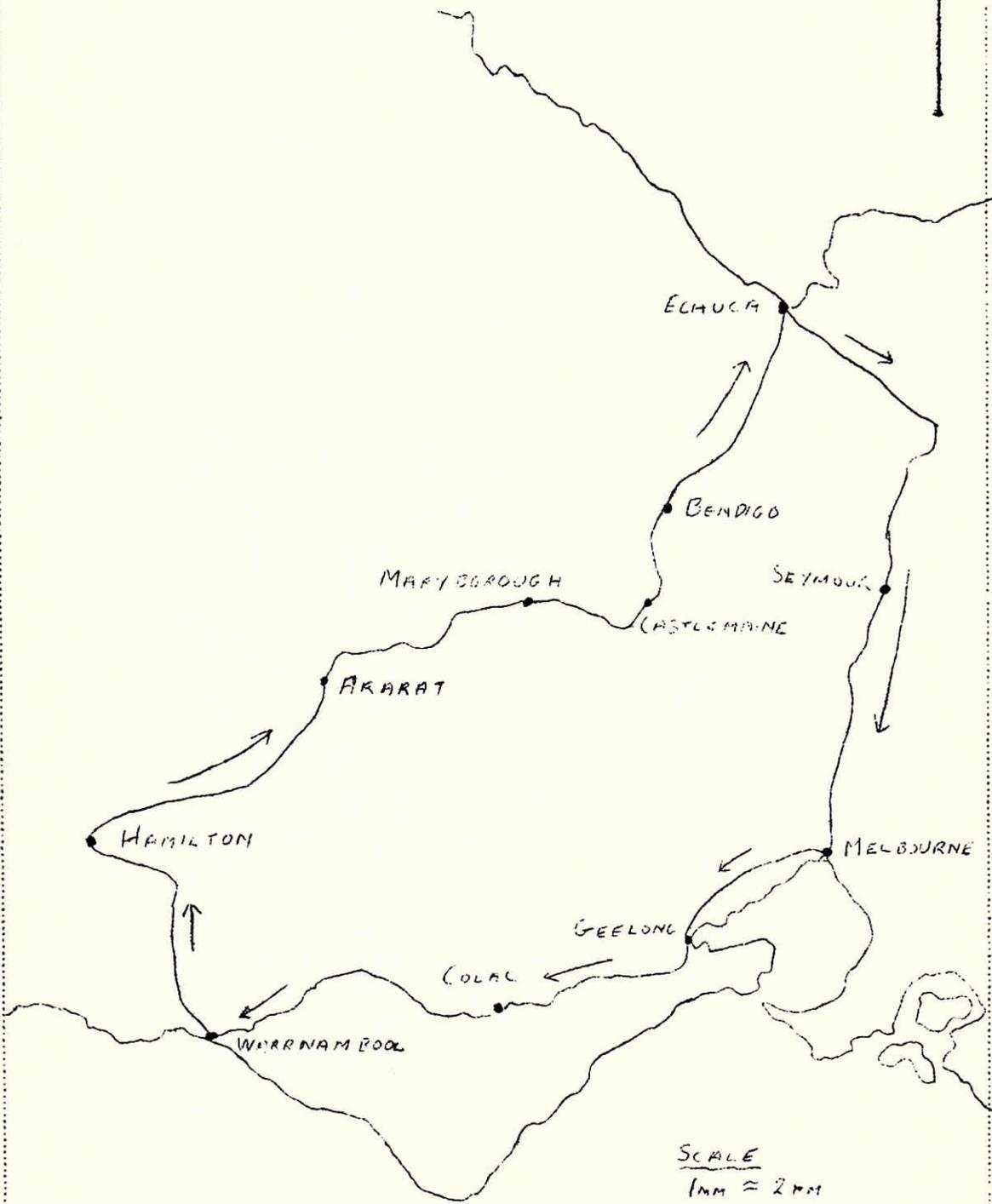
Tongala

Arr. 9.00 a.m. Swimming

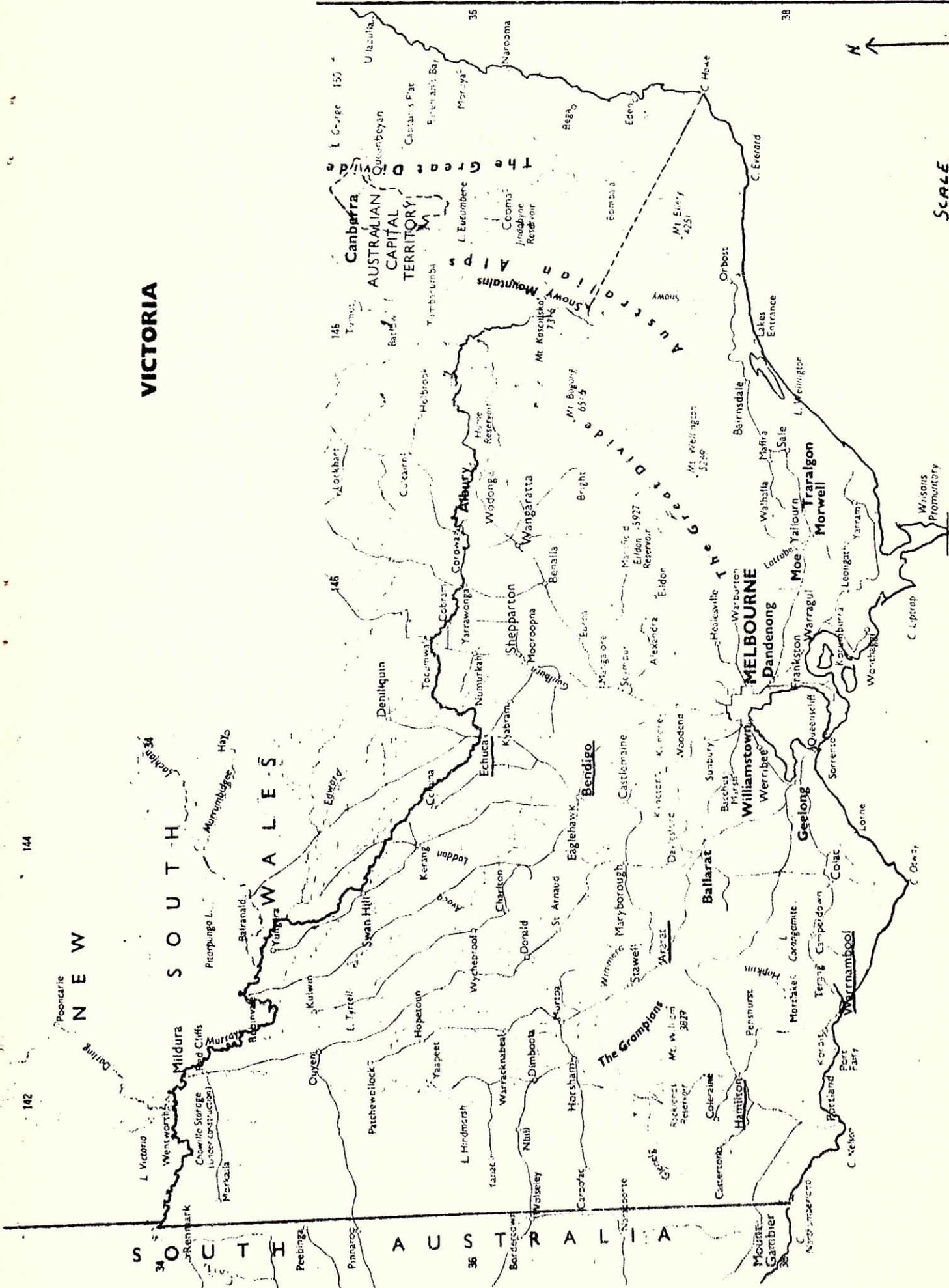
at Tongala Pool.

Arrive Spencer St. Station No. 1 Platform 3.55 p.m.

# ROUTE MAP.



# VICTORIA



SCALE  
1" TO 56 MILES

## D I R E C T O R Y

Cars and Compartments are numbered from the front of the train.

### SLEEPING CAR NO. 1

1-2 Karen Harvey & Carol McQuilken  
3-4 Melinda Beachley & Michelle Price  
5-6 Debbie Hayes & Elizabeth Lenton  
7-8 Linda Addison & Robyn Eddelbuttel  
9-10 Heather Beach & Bronwyn Horne  
11-12 Helen Coyle & Catherine Hill  
13-14 Sharon Cunningham & Elizabeth Drohan  
15-16 Julie Baker-Smith & Kim Barker  
17-18 Sharon Answorth & Tracie Hart  
19-20 Lynette Bowden & Sandra Farmer

### CAR NO. 2

1-2 Christine Bird & Ann McPherson  
3-4 Jacqui Kennedy & Lisa Magee  
5-6 Lorraine Fryer & Cheryl Williams  
7-8 Anette Corrie & Eleanore Synhur  
9-10 Rhonda Grimmer & Donna Smithers  
11-12 Glenda Fullalove & Diane Williams  
13-14 Julie Doswell & Karen Mitchell  
15-16 Gay Crook & Helen Dunne  
17-18 Carol Lee & Fiona Lomax  
19-20 Sue Allsup & Karen Smith

### CAR NO. 3

1-2 Claire Proven & Carolyn Eddelbuttel  
3-4 Sandra Legg & Greer Rydar  
5-6 Kaylone King & Belinda Morton  
7-8 Kathryn Stewart & Cathleen Meagher  
9-10 Miss Jones & Miss Ince  
11-12 Sharon Allard & Miss Drake  
13-14 Debra Coulson & Julianne Ward  
15-16 Ann Zvirbulis & Wendy Korke  
17-18 Greg. Edwards & Peter Stewart  
19-20 David Kidd & Jon Drohan

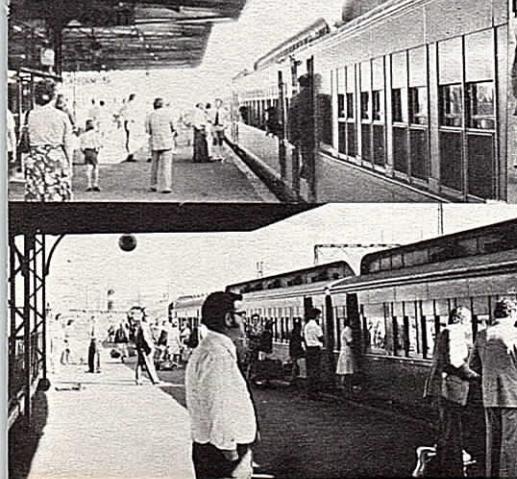
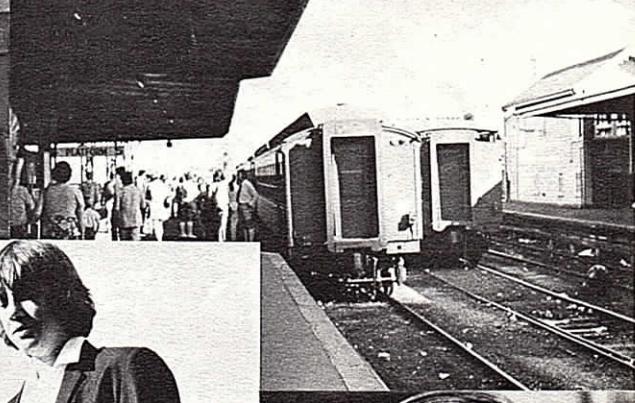
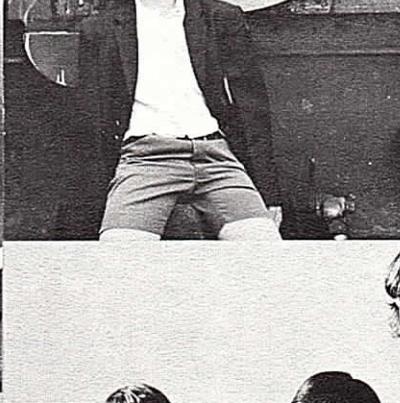
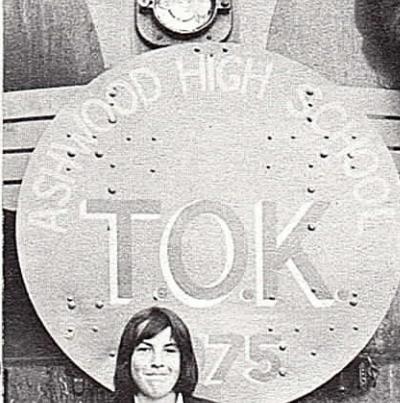
### SHOWER CAR

### CAR NO. 4

1-2 Michael Davey & Mark Rattray  
3-4 Frank Derwent & Malcolm Barker  
5-6 Peter Doyle & Mark Bunting  
7-8 Adrian Fowler & Stephen Hull  
9-10 Alan Atchison & Philip Knight  
11-12 Mr. McKay  
13-14 Tim Brown & Greg. Jamieson  
15-16 Cameron Miller & Stuart Parker  
17-18 Anthony Wilson & Andrew McDonald  
19-20 Peter Vadiveloo & Scott Oldfield

### CAR NO. 5

1-2 Brett Robertson & Philip Cahill  
3-4 Mark Jackson & David Hall  
5-6 David Feild & Andrew Ford  
7-8 Elys Johnson  
9-10 Gary Warren & Greg. Palmer  
11-12 Mr. Ashworth & Mr. Lucas  
13-14 Colin Harman & Alan Sedgwick  
15-16 Mark Smith & Jeanmé Allen  
17-18 Gary Hatcher & Chris Gunn  
19-20 Peter Tennison & Robert Gessert



## WHAT TO BRING AND WEAR

### GENERAL LIST

Small suitcase  
School-bag (or smaller bag)  
for daily needs.  
Sheets  
Pillow-slips  
Towels  
Toilet bag, with soap, toothbrush,  
nailbrush, comb, hairbrush, etc.  
Raincoat, preferably plastic  
Pyjamas  
Slippers or moccasins  
Coat hangers  
Needle, thread, buttons  
Writing materials & stamps  
(special envelopes supplied)  
Shoe-cleaning materials  
Something to read  
Note-book or exercise book  
Pencil and ball-point pen  
Bathers  
Thongs or sandals  
Underwear, socks.  
Handkerchiefs  
School Jumper

### FOR STREET WEAR

School summer uniform.

### TRAIN CLOTHES

Clothes from this list must be worn on the train and at certain other times.  
Girls Spare dress or skirt or shorts  
Dressing gown  
Shirt or blouse of any kind or skivvy etc.  
Boys Spare shorts, shirt, tee-shirt or skivvy.  
Both Long trousers of good appearance may also be brought if desired, but these may be worn only in the evenings (or on cold days if a general announcement is made).  
No long jeans or similar or Levi jackets.  
Also, if desired (not necessary)  
Camera  
Porch  
Board game

### DO NOT BRING

Blankets	Transistors
Pillows	Cutlery
Sleeping bag	Crockery
Runners	Jeans

NOTE At all times you will be expected to wear what you are told. You are a 12 year old group, not teenagers.

Boys' school uniform must include teteron (not drill) shorts except for any of the biggest boys who obtain permission to wear long trousers.

Shirts, etc., should be packed separately in plastic so that you can find what you want without disturbing other garments.

All clothing and other property must be clearly marked with the owner's name. Be sure to name (not merely mark) towels, sheets and pillow-slips. Put labels on suitcase and bag.

School uniform (summer, with blazer) must be worn in to Spencer Street, when you leave the train for home, and in most big towns, but not on the train.

### POCKET MONEY

\$2 or \$3 is to be sealed up in an envelope, with the amount and your name clearly printed on the outside, and handed to one of the train teachers on the Thursday morning before we leave. Enclose silver, not notes. In addition, take with you enough for the first two days - not more than \$1.

### IMPORTANT NOTES

DEPARTURE Our train leaves from No. 10 Platform, Spencer Street, at 8.40 on Monday morning, December 1st. Be there by 8.25 at latest. Some photographs will be taken then. Wait at the door nearest to your compartment, but do not enter the train until you receive instructions from a teacher.

ARRIVAL HOME No. 1 Platform, Spencer Street, about 3.50 p.m. Saturday.

IF YOU MISS THE TRAIN (It must leave at 8.40 sharp) Go to the Man-in-Grey and enquire for the Station Master. He will arrange for you to travel by a later train which will catch up to us at Geelong. Warning! Allow time for traffic and hold-ups if you come in to Melbourne by car.

ADDRESS FOR MAIL All letters for passengers on the train should be addressed as follows: Ashwood High School P.O.K., Railway Station, Bendigo (or other station). Use these addresses only: HAMILTON 3300 (post Monday); BENDIGO 3550 (post Tuesday); ECHUCA 3625 (post Wednesday); KYABRAM 3620 (post Thursday).

LEAVE THIS PAGE AT HOME WITH YOUR PARLITS

## RULES AND INSTRUCTIONS

You have been accepted for the tour on condition that you undertake to obey all rules cheerfully and carefully, including the following:

1. Evenings Observe "Lights Out" instructions strictly. The times will probably be different each night, according to our program. There will be no games or jokes or noise of any kind. No talking between "Lights Out" and "Reveille" and no unnecessary movement in the corridors. Compartment doors must be left unlatched at all times. Do not get out of bed or get dressed in the mornings until the "Reveille" signal is given. It will probably be a trumpet call.
2. Travelling Passengers must never open carriage doors (those leading off the train) except when instructed by teachers. Do not put your head or arms out of a window at any time as this is very dangerous. Remember this as we leave Spencer Street. Your conduct must always be quiet and orderly.

Walk carefully along the corridors. Never run!

3. School Uniform is to be worn when you leave the train at HAMILTON BENDIGO and ECHUCA, also when we reach Melbourne on Saturday. It must NOT be worn on the train until we are less than half an hour from these stations. Remember to change your clothes as soon as we leave Melbourne on Monday morning.

At Warrnambool you may wear train clothes or other neat casual clothes. Cords or other slacks allowed there, but not jeans.

4. Soft Footwear must be worn while you are on the train. Girls -- skirts or shorts. Boys -- any shorts except school ones. No flares, slacks or jeans.
5. Do not move about the train very much; otherwise we shall have to make stricter rules about this.
6. Toilets In Cars 1, 2, 4 and 5 the toilets at both ends of the car may be used by the passengers in their own car, but in Car 3 girls go to one end, boys to the other.

At over-night stops do not use the train toilets during the hour after arriving or the hour before leaving. Use the station toilets instead, during those two hours.

### BON VOYAGE!

As you students of French will know, "voyage" in that language means "journey". I hope that your very special journey through a large part of Victoria will be truly educational, thoroughly enjoyable and an experience that you will remember all your lives.

It will be something like living at a boarding school for a week, and yet something like a family camp too. To enjoy it fully you must always be considerate of other people - the pupils, the teachers and the train staff. Don't selfishly think of yourself first. Make it your business to see that all others are happy. There will be plenty of people trying to make the trip pleasant for you, so leave that part to them.

Remember that the teachers and other leaders are giving you a great deal more than ordinary school time. All their "after hours" time is an extra service to you, given freely. Ask your parents how they would like to look after a family of 20, each, night and day, for a week! They might faint at the very idea! But that's what your teachers are doing.

The train crew, too, will take a close interest in your welfare and will do many little things for you that are not in their paid duties. Repay the kindness that you will meet everywhere by your own pleasant manners.

M. McKay,  
Principal.

WELCOME ABOARD!

This is the first issue of your daily newspaper. It is called "The Rocket". That's not the name of the train, which is called "The Train of Knowledge" or "T.O.K." for short.

Every day you will get a news sheet like this. Post it home straight after reading it. You don't need to keep it with you because on Saturday you will get a magazine containing this and all the other sheets. If you post each day's sheet home you won't have to write long letters. If you don't, your parents will ask you why you didn't, when they read this in the magazine.

Happy travelling to you all! Start off by making your compartment safe and comfortable. Then change your clothes. Don't explore the train until after we leave Geelong.

There's a luggage cupboard under the bottom berth. Don't put hard or heavy things on the top berth in case they fall off. Don't make up your bed until the evening. Then you lower the back of the seat.

Wear train clothes during the bus trip at Geelong. Lunch will be served on the train.

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NOW - HAVE YOU REMEMBERED?

To change into soft footwear?

To hand in your pocket money?

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NEWS FLASH!

STRANGE HAPPENING AT SPENCER STREET

A remarkable disturbance occurred at No.10 platform at Spencer Street Station when nearly 100 Ashwood High students took over a complete train. At 8.40 the train moved out of the station. It is not known who was driving, but the chief suspect is a boy named Brett, surname unknown. The train crew was carried off, protesting loudly.

Left behind were many tearful parents. Not all were weeping. Some, in fact, were pushing the train and at least one group was opening a bottle of champagne to celebrate.

Signalmen closed their eyes and prayed, and stray cats, dogs and cows fled in all directions. Last words heard from the train were, "Alice Springs, here we come."

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THE TRAIN CREW

There are twelve members of the train crew - all men. Three are in the kitchen, four in the dining car; then there are the Driver and Fireman, the Electrician, the Conductor and the Supervisor. Remember your manners when you are talking to them.

Mr. Napier is the Railways man who supervises and arranges all the T.O.K. tours. This is his eighth with Ashwood High. He was on the first trip, too. (Mount Waverley H.S.) So was Mr. McKay. That was in 1965. The T.O.K., the only one in Australia, is now so popular that it is fully booked, 38 weeks each year, for six years ahead! And Ashwood High always gets the most-wanted week of the year.

At lunch time you will meet the Stewards (Waiters). The man in charge is called the Chief Steward. In a big hotel dining room he would be called the Maitre d'Hotel. They will all expect your manners to be very good, because they are used to serving meals on the Southern Aurora.

Leave your table and the floor as neat and clean as you find them.

At the end of each meal, wait for the announcements - then ask your Waiter's permission to leave.

Two boys (or one) must sit at each table, but not more than two. If two, then they sit at opposite sides. You are expected to see that all requirements are passed to the girls first.

MONDAY'S ACTIVITIES

1. NAME TAG COMPETITION

Each student is to make his or her self a name tag which will help the staff and other students to learn each person's name quickly. These will be judged and points allotted according to legibility, attractiveness and originality.

(10 Points)

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2. OBSERVATION TEST

What have you observed on your first day?

You will score 2 points for each correct answer.

1. Describe the weather conditions today.  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. How many miles is Geelong from Melbourne by rail? \_\_\_\_\_
3. In which direction is Geelong from Melbourne? \_\_\_\_\_
4. Name two industries you passed as you travelled through Melbourne's suburbs.  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_
5. How many level crossings are there between Melbourne and Geelong? \_\_\_\_\_
6. Name the Air Force Base you passed between Melbourne and Geelong.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. Name a famous farm which is located at Werribee.  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What is the approximate population of Geelong? \_\_\_\_\_
9. On which bay is Geelong situated? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Geelong ranks as the (1st, 2nd, 3rd) port in Victoria. \_\_\_\_\_
11. List 2 exports and 2 imports of Geelong.

<u>Exports</u>	<u>Imports</u>
(a) _____	(1) _____
(b) _____	(2) _____
12. For which area of Victoria is Geelong the Port? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Make a list of some of the major industries of Geelong which you saw.  
(a) \_\_\_\_\_  
(b) \_\_\_\_\_  
(c) \_\_\_\_\_  
(d) \_\_\_\_\_

Observation Test (continued)

14. Name 2 types of primary industry (i.e. farming) which you saw while travelling from Geelong to Warrnambool.
- (a) \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_
15. Name any types of factories which you saw between Geelong and Warrnambool.
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_
16. Name the factory for which Warrnambool is famous.
- \_\_\_\_\_
17. What is the approximate population of Warrnambool? \_\_\_\_\_
18. Near which small town is Tower Hill located? \_\_\_\_\_
19. How was Tower Hill formed? \_\_\_\_\_
20. Name 2 food crops which are grown in the area near Tower Hill.
- (a) \_\_\_\_\_
- (b) \_\_\_\_\_

(40 Points)

TRAIN MENUS

DINNER - TUESDAY

5.30 and 6.15

Chicken Soup  
Roast Lamb with Mint Sauce  
Roast Potatoes  
Peas Swedes  
Steamed Date Pudding & Custard  
Bread and Butter  
Tea Coffee

BREAKFAST - WEDNESDAY

7.00 and 7.45

Pineapple Juice  
Cornflakes  
Spaghetti  
or  
Fried Eggs on Toast  
Toast Butter Jam  
Tea Coffee

DINNER - WEDNESDAY

Picnic Lunch  
Tuesday

Tomato Soup  
Steak and Kidney Pie  
Mashed Potatoes  
Beans Carrots  
Apple Pie and Cream  
Bread & Butter  
Tea Coffee

Picnic Lunch  
Wednesday

ABOUT HAMILTON

Hamilton is a city of 12,000 people, important centre of a very rich grazing and farming district which produces the best wool in the world, Australian Merino grazing in ideal country. Wheat is grown, and there are some dairy farms. There are also some excellent herds of beef cattle.

If possible, visit one or more of the following interesting places in Hamilton.

The Zoo, small but worth seeing. The Botanical Gardens. Both of these are close to the Railway Station, just a little way up Brown St., then to the left. Look for the sign.

The Art Gallery is further up Brown St.

Hamilton has two or three interesting old places where you can see what colonial homes were like. Antiques and souvenirs are sold.

MEET THE CREW

Our Driver is Mr. Jack Dean, who has taken several Ashwood High groups on the Tour. He has driven all our important trains, including the Southern Aurora, but likes the T.O.K. and the boys and girls.

A great deal of our comfort and pleasure begins with Mr. Reg Miller the Chef, another old friend of Ashwood High. His kitchen is about the same size as a home kitchen, but in it he is able to produce a variety of hot three-course meals for over 100. This takes a special skill, and the knowledge of special methods, many of them learned by experience.

The man responsible for the whole running of the train is the Conductor (Guard), Mr. Alan Williams. You should meet him and speak to him when you get a chance. He has a short beard with a touch of grey in it. Mr. McKay thinks he should have been a High School teacher because he would make such a good one.

More Crew News later, if our reporters get busy.

MEMORIES OF WARRNAMBOOL

Fine weather, but the breeze was cool... The beach, the bluebottles, the pier and the toasted marshmallows. The race, with Mr. Lucas first, Cameron Miller second and Colin Harman third. Appeal lodged; hold all bets until after the photo. First night and first showers, both interesting. Breakfast while we moved. And, of course, the bus trip to Tower Hill.

A certain young fellow named Rhys  
Is fond of climbing up treece;  
When someone asked if  
He fell over the cliff,  
He said, "No, I was pushed by some fleece".

MORE T.O.K. LIMERICKS

There once was a dog called Doone,  
That sang every night to the moon;  
It also played Bach,  
But was best after dark  
At a Karen F. Mitchell pop tune.

A brown-haired young fellow named Malcolm  
Tried blonding his hair with some talcum,  
Which altered its hue  
To a dim shade of blue,  
And he's bleaching it now down at Balcombe.

MENUS

THURSDAY - BREAKFAST  
7.00 and 7.45

Orange Juice  
Rice Bubbles  
Sausage, Egg & Bacon  
Toast Butter Jam  
Tea Coffee

THURSDAY - LUNCH  
12.00 and 12.45

Beef Patties  
Tomatoes Mashed Potatoes  
Jellied Peaches & Custard  
Fresh Apples  
Bread and Butter  
Tea Coffee

Evening Meal in Bendigo. Allowance \$1.

THURSDAY'S EXCURSIONS IN BENDIGO

GROUP 1

(First Meal Sitting)

8.40 a.m. Leave train by Bus.  
Bendigo Pottery  
Eucalyptus Farm  
Lunch on train.  
1.30 Leave by bus.  
Aquarium  
Joss House

GROUP 2

(Second Meal Sitting)

9.00 Leave train by bus.  
Eucalyptus Farm  
Bendigo Pottery  
Lunch on train  
1.45 Leave by bus.  
Joss House  
Aquarium

About 3.10 In city, leave buses  
Time for swim or exploring  
Keep in groups of not less  
than 4 or more than 8.  
Be back ON the train by 7.15

SOMETHING SERIOUS

From Mr. McKay

Here is something for you to think about. I read it in a book yesterday and enjoyed it for about the twentieth time.

You may not understand it at first, but I hope that you will read it again in later years and come to appreciate it. When you do, you will have gained wisdom and as well, you will know then that you have learned to enjoy the excellence of our language and its literature.

It is a short extract from John Bunyan's "Pilgrim's Progress". This book tells the story of the journey made by Christian and some friends through an unknown land (life itself). Some find the journey a long one; others end their journey sooner. Here is the part that tells of one man's Journey's End (death).

"After this, it was heard that Mr. Valiant-for-truth had received a message; and had for this a token that the message was true, That his pitcher (jug) was broken at the fountain. When he understood it, he called for his friends, and told them of it. Then, he said, I am going to my Father's; and though with great difficulty I am got hither, yet now I do not repent me of all the trouble I have been at to arrive where I am. My sword I give to him that shall succeed me in my pilgrimage, and my courage and skill to him that can get it. My marks and scars I carry with me, to be a witness for me, that I have fought his battles who will now become my rewarder.

When the day that he must go hence was come, many accompanied him to the river side, into which as he went he said, Death, where is thy sting? And as he went deeper, he said, Grave, where is thy victory?

So he passed over, and all the trumpets sounded for him on the other side."

(I consider that last sentence to be one of the most noble ever written in the English language. M.McK.)

COMMENTS ABOUT THE TOUR

Collected by Peter Vadiveloo

The Agricultural Research Station near Hamilton.

"Smelly ... Cruel ... Interesting ... Too much manua (!) ... I'm glad I'm not a bull." (Not many Young Farmers at A.H.S.)

The T.O.K. "Very good food ... not enough to eat (one boy; guess who) ... we like the waiters ... no ice cream ... water not too good ... nice people, the crew ... beds O.K.... meals very good ... up too early."

The Weather "Too hot, but the swim was great ... very hot at the Research Farm ... pleasant on the buses. Four boys started a game of Strip Jack but the Seniors stopped them and took the cards. Hardly any flies or mosquitoes around. It's nice in the evenings."

They call it a leprechaun Seen by a member of the crew. (Keep your eyes open.) A stowaway - Height 2 ft. 6 inches; Hair, mauve; Skin, blue; Eyes, pink; Biceps 24"; Knees, knobbly. Married (7 times). Children, 12½. Job, who knows? Licence number, 23468 (for what?).

WE FORGOT TO TELL YOU

Prime Minister Fraser's country property is near Hamilton. It is along the Black Stump Road, more to the Right than the Left.

THE TRAIN CREW

Watch out for Graham the Electrician (with the magnificent Jimmy Edwards sideburns). He tries to keep up with the electrical, plumbing and breakage problems as we go along. Don't bother Mr. McKay; bother Graham instead, if you can find him. You will usually see him at the main stations, climbing about on the roof and squirting water down any opening he can find. The Chef is used to him, but still doesn't like a hundred gallons coming down the ventilator pipe on to his stove.

Mr. John Pfeiffer (pronounce it Fyfer) our Head Steward, a music lover, is not long back from a trip to Adelaide, to a wedding. He has been the Commissioners' Steward on their special train. Among his many responsibilities is looking after our food supplies.

THE GRAMPIANS

Problems, problems, problems. Is the day going to be hot or cold or wet. At 10.30 a.m. it began to rain in Ararat, so Hall's Gap is probably wetter still. News of the trip tomorrow.

You have heard of the name Ararat in Bible stories. Noah's Ark came to rest on Mount Ararat. If you are not too tired after the Grampians hike look around our Victorian Ararat, a fine town.

This evening we move off about 6 o'clock and travel through Maryborough to Bendigo, to arrive there at 10.15, by which time you should be sound asleep. Tomorrow begins like today, with an early bus trip.

GREAT THOUGHT FOR THE WEEK

by Mark

Only 21 days to Christmas. Only 16½ shopping days. Only 9 school days after we get home. Only 60 days till we start school again.

Roses are reddish,  
Violets are bluish;  
If it wasn't for Chrissmuss  
We'd all be Jewish.

LIMERICKS

A noisy young sleeper named Doyle  
Tried soaking his tonsils in oil,  
This altered his snore  
From a terrible roar  
To a sound like a jug on the boil.

Two weird kind of poets named Ann  
Wrote poems that never would scan;  
If you try asking, "Why?"  
They'll reply with a sigh,  
"Well we always like to get as  
many words into the last  
line as we possibly  
can."

THIS EVENING

8.30 Be in your OWN compartment and STAY THERE.  
9.15 TICKETS OFF.



# THE NORTHERN END of the GRAMPIANS.



\* McKENZIE FALLS : These waterfalls are the biggest of the half-dozen or so in the Grampians. Watch out as you walk down the path to the bottom of the falls because the spray will drench you after heavy rain has fallen. There are several small waterfalls before the big drop so don't think you've seen it all from the top. Be very careful with matches as a fire recently burnt through the top of the falls and spoilt the scenery. There is a kiosk at the falls.

\* ZUMSTEINS : Just down the McKenzie River from the falls is this delightful little spot where you can feed the kangaroos - the best time being in the late afternoon.

\* MT. ABRUPT : Way down south in the Grampians - near Dunkeld - this peak gives a great view over some of the biggest sheep farms in Victoria. It's about a one hour climb to the top and it's very easy to miss the track back down. There are some small caves on the way up.

\* JAWS OF DEATH : About a  $\frac{1}{2}$  hour walk from Reed's Lookout on Mt. Victory, these rock overhangs are a spectacular sight. (See cover photograph.)

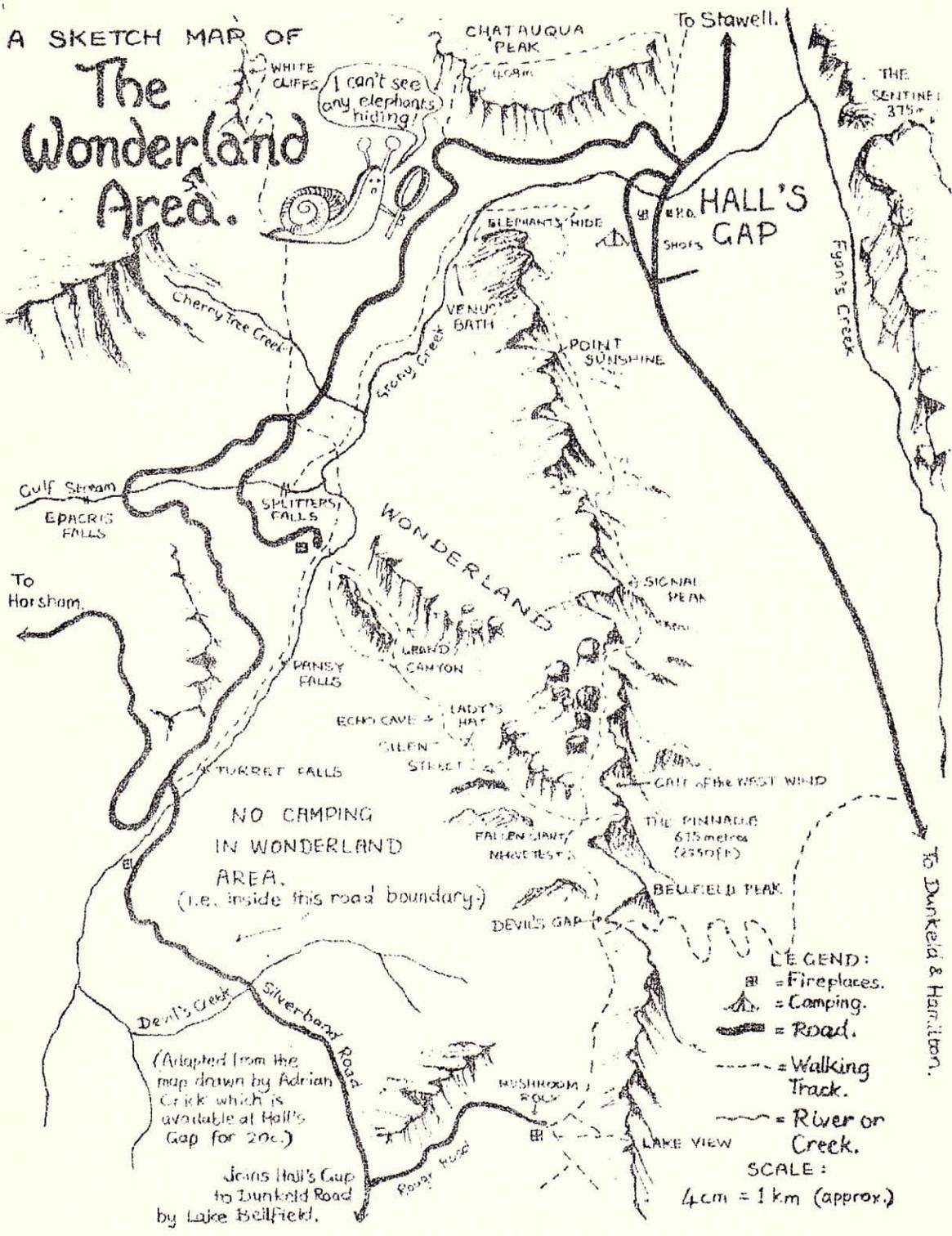
Meanwhile,  
at Zumsteins....



\* LAKE WARTOOK : Together with the other lakes in the Grampians area, this lake forms part of a huge irrigation scheme which sends water to the dry Mallee and Wimmera regions of Victoria. As well as a nice picnic and camping area at the lake, there is a colony of koalas on the island in the middle of the lake.

\* SAFETY IN THE GRAMPIANS : Every year people have to be rescued from the Grampians area - especially from the rugged Victoria Valley. It is wise when walking to take a waterproof parka with you - and a pack full of emergency rations such as health bars and barley-sugar. Carry a good map and compass and know how to use them - don't just rely on our centre page map. If driving, stick to the main roads unless it's very dry weather or you own a Land rover.

A SKETCH MAP OF  
The  
Wonderland  
Area.



GREG, T.O.K.E.E.

The E.E. stands for Electronics Engineer. Ably assisted by Gary, Greg does marvellous things for us with radio and tape. It isn't easy because there is no permanent wiring available and the train does not use the 240 volts electricity that we have at home. Greg's cabin is overloaded with equipment that he brought with him. We don't know how they find room to sleep.

Providing music in the day car was not difficult, though it needed a good deal of preparation at home. The big problem was how to bring the Reveille and Lights Out signals right down the train. Greg solved this by using radio. He feeds in tapes to his transmitter and radios the calls to several walkie-talkie units along the train. So you are wakened and sent to bed by radio from station 3GP-TOK.

The bugle calls (actually played on a trumpet) were supplied by Mr. Beach at school. He is one of the very best in the world at playing these. He knows dozens of National Anthems from memory, also most of the important bugle calls of all nations. He has played them on countless important occasions, including the funeral of the American President, John Kennedy. The calls he recorded for us are the American "Taps" (Lights Out) and the Reveilles used by the British Army and Navy.

WEDNESDAY'S ACTIVITIES

by Cassie Meagher

We arrived at Ararat at 8.15. Mr. Lucas gave out our pocket money and then we piled into the waiting buses. We were driven to the Grampians and everyone started exploring as soon as we could. We had a picnic lunch which consisted of a can of drink, 2 Rolls, 2 pieces of tomato, lettuce, orange and cheese.

When we were packing up nine people were missing, so the senior boys looked for them with their walkie-talkies. It began to rain heavily and about five minutes later the nine people came back from their exploring, soaked. Because of the rain we could not go for the hike we had planned, so we went up to some different mountains, but because of the low cloud and rain we could not get out of the bus. So then the bus took us to a Milk Bar where we bought souvenirs and things to eat and drink.

As it was still early the bus driver arranged for us to visit the Great Western vineyard. We were divided into two groups and two ladies showed us around underneath, in the cellars. Mould was growing everywhere and it was cool and damp down there. After the tour we were given glasses of raspberry cordial.

Later on, back at Ararat we were given the choice of going into the town or waiting on the platform until our train was shunted into place. Then we left for Bendigo at 5.10 and arrived there at about 9.45. By that time we had been in bed for half an hour and many of us were asleep.

A BIT ABOUT HAMILTON

by Tracie Hart

On Tuesday my part of the Train Tour students walked around the town of Hamilton. We went to the Art Gallery. Malcolm Barker and Frank Derwent decided they would like a souvenir from the Zoo. The poor cockatoo lost a couple of feathers and Malcolm and Frank were proud of their free samples.

WHAT A TRIP

by Kathy Stewart

More about Ararat. We went on a hike for not very long before the rain came down. Soon we went to a wine place and the smell was foul but what we saw was interesting and the people were very nice, also the drinks.

On the way back, Mr. Lucas said, "Let's sing some songs," so we sang Ten Green Bottles, Hole in my Bucket, Old Macdonald, and we all felt slightly nuts, especially when we sang Ten Men Went To Mow.

ABOUT A STEWARD

by Rhys Johnson

His name is Raymond Fewster. He is a waiter and a steward. He said that the crew was good to work with and he prefers to work on the TOK than any other. He prefers Nyora to the rest of the state. He has a 14 year old daughter named Adele. Ray is hard to get out of bed in the mornings and the others have to pull off his blankets to get him to move. He is also very touchy in the mornings but gets better as the day goes on.

The ones that haven't been written about yet are Barry Watkins (Fireman), Daniel Barraza (Cook), Victor Joe (2nd Cook) and two Stewards.

GOLDEN CITY QUEST

Discover the answers to the following questions and earn 2 points for each correct answer.

1. How far is Bendigo from Melbourne? \_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the direction of Bendigo from Melbourne? \_\_\_\_\_
3. How much is a first class return fare by rail to Melbourne? \_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the present population of Bendigo? \_\_\_\_\_
5. What are the names of the local newspapers?  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Which Australian explorer is remembered by a statue outside the Church of England buildings? \_\_\_\_\_
7. When was the Bendigo School of Mines and Industries established? \_\_\_\_\_
8. Which large department store had its beginnings on the site where Drug Houses of Australia now stands?
9. What are the buildings to the north-east of the High School (not in the High School grounds)?
10. Where is the Bendigo Art Gallery?  
Name the streets.  
1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Who was the Mayor when the fountain was built in 1881? \_\_\_\_\_
12. Who is the present Mayor of Bendigo? \_\_\_\_\_
13. Name the structure which reminds us of one of Bendigo's early industries.  
\_\_\_\_\_
14. Name 2 manufacturing industries now found in Bendigo.  
1. \_\_\_\_\_  
2. \_\_\_\_\_
15. (a) What is the name of the Bendigo dragon?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
(b) When does he parade through the streets?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(30 Points)

ECHUCA BY THE MURRAY

Here we are, at 9 o'clock in the morning, within sight of the Murray River and New South Wales even nearer. That state actually begins this side of the river. The Murray and about 20 metres of land on the Victorian side are in New South Wales. While we were having breakfast we travelled through the plains north of Bendigo and came into the irrigation areas where the grass is greener and the cattle seem fatter. Can you tell the Jersey cows (tan or brown) and the Friesians (black and white). Both kinds are used for dairying.

Echuca has at least two very fine schools - the Technical School, where this issue of the Rocket will probably be duplicated, and the High School, out further on the river bank among the gum-trees. The river is the Campaspe. Both it and the Goulburn enter the Murray near Echuca.

There are a great many interesting things to see at Echuca - the river and the paddle boats, the old timber-and-wool barges, stranded on the river bank, the Customs House (where you checked in before crossing into the "foreign" colony of New South Wales), the red-gum saw-mill (biggest in the world for that timber), and other links with the past, when Echuca was one the state's busiest ports. Look at the wharf, very high in order to cope with the rise and fall of the river. Red-gum timber is very heavy and hard and it lasts for centuries while growing and when used for building or as posts.

This morning the Ashwood High tourists are doing two trips, one on the river and the other to Perricoota, a fine old homestead with extensive citrus (mainly oranges here) plantations.

STILL MORE LIMERICKS

One of our girls, named Deb,  
Was once a bit of a reb.,  
Though now on the train  
She's a lady again,  
Just wait till you see her in Feb.

At One, 9 and 10, you'll meet Heather,  
Where Bronwyn and she are together.  
At the sound of the Horne  
They have showers at dawn,  
But would rather the Beach in this  
weather.

G.P.

by Ann and Chris

We've got a Senior named Greg  
Who reminds us all of a peg.  
He puts his hair in curls  
To attract all the girls.  
He uses eucalyptus hair oil  
Which makes the girls simply boil.  
That's our Senior named Greg.

VISITORS TO THE T.O.K.

Yesterday six young females visited the boys' end of the train, Alleyne, Gregoria, Stacey, Colleen, Adrienne and Tammie. When asked their opinions Stacey said, "Mm, I'm not impressed," Adrienne said, "A rather immature lot", and Colleen agreed, "I prefer a more sophisticated type". Young Alleyne, however, said, "Boy-o-boy-o-boy!" and the other young chick Gregoria just said, "Boys, boys, boys." Soon afterwards the girls were asked to leave and Gregoria and Alleyne were dragged off, screaming and kicking.



PERRICCOOTA

By the Three Phantom Reporters.

As we crossed the river into New South Wales we could tell immediately that we had left behind the best part of Australia. There lay the foreign territory in front of us, and a scruffy little town it was. The white natives seemed hostile too.

Still, we had to admit that we'd like to own Perricoota. It had recovered very well from the floods and the orange trees looked healthy. The old homestead looked fine and you could still see signs of the pioneering days.

Highlight of the visit was when a tractor and five orange trailers were hijacked by the Ashwood invaders. It is suspected that a teacher by the name of Mr. Lucas was driving. The trailers had hard floors, even harder edges and no springs - and the tracks were rough. Mr. Ashworth, Miss Jones, Miss Drake and most of the others collected large bruises and still preferred standing to sitting this evening.

Mark Smith broke a world record by devouring a large orange in 14.13 seconds. He will notify the Guinness Book of Records.

PADDLE STEAMER NOTE

The mystery of the strange objects in the river has been solved. They were the periscopes of a fleet of Russian submarines.

LAST NIGHT REVELS

The night began with a parade of colorful characters including hippies, witches, Arabs, Chinese, the American singer John Denver, an undertaker, and even a Roman Senator. There was a correctly dressed waiter, The carnival was led around by an eccentric squire (Mr. Lucas) singing and dancing. Some of the boys dressed as girls looked prettier than the real girls and some of the girls dressed as hippies looked tougher than any of the boys.

Then we all played Bingo and sang songs. It was a terrific night. Thanks, Miss Jones and Mr. Lucas!

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apologies ffor the txping mistakws. This pa ge was tryped wghile the T.O.K wax bouncingg alongthe rails betwven Eg-vae Echuca and Tonganola.

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The Herald, Wed., Nov. 5, 1975

# FRUIT ROTS AS FLOODS HIT FARM

From RON CONNELLY

**ECHUCA.** — Perricoota Station, once the biggest citrus farm in the southern hemisphere, is a soaked and sodden mess today.

Hundreds of orange trees are under water. the fruit we could not get it off the property.

A thousand acres of wheat is ruined, and the rest of this year's picking will stay on the trees and rot.

Since the property was flooded in 1916, levee banks had been built up to a record height, but this was not enough.

Photographer Ken Rainsbury and I waded through two kilometres of thigh-deep floodwaters to get to the property.

At Echuca, floodwaters from the Murray, Goulburn and Campaspe Rivers have started to drop slightly.

We found the owners, the Watson family — father Geoffrey and sons Rupert and Ren — hard at work on levee banks only feet from their packing sheds.

But while weary volunteers sleep today, flood officials warn that another flush in the rivers could send the floodwaters racing back towards the city.

We sloshed past valuable Poll Dorset and crossbred sheep up to their necks in water and without feed.

The many breaks in the levee banks between Cobram and Echuca are probably what saved the area.

Wild ducks had taken over and most of the 10,000 hectare property was under water.

The magnificent two-storey family home has been left marooned.

Ron Watson, 41, took time off to tell me the sorry story.

Financial losses, he said, would run into tens of thousands of dollars.

"They could even run higher than \$80,000," he said.

"Even if we could pick



RON WATSON inspects a fruit tree in a flooded orchard at his Perricoota Station property, near Echuca. — Picture from KEN RAINSBURY.

The Murray seemed much the same as usual this morning. It just keeps rolling along. Actually it doesn't roll; it just drifts, very lazily, in the sunshine, except above Albury, where Mr. Rowney sometimes goes to worry the trout and sometimes catch them.

But Perricoota was not looking its best. Still recovering from the floods, it showed signs of the ordeal it has been through. It was quite cut off for a while. Vehicles just couldn't get through the mud and water.

It is still a most impressive property, and we are grateful to Mr. Watson and his sons for allowing us to visit it, especially as they now have so much extra work to do.

## TOMORROW, TONGALA

At about 8.30 a.m. we leave Echuca for Tongala, about 16 miles away, on the first short stage of our homeward journey.

There we will meet members of the Tongala Swimming Club and there will be a swimming contest to see whether Ashwood Form 1 can regain the Challenge Trophy from the present holders, Tongala. It will be a hard task. Ashwood will use only Form 1 members, but Tongala can select from Forms 1 and 2. That is because we have far more Form Ones to select from.

Mr. Lucas needs volunteers to help assemble the complete magazine on Saturday.

DISCOVER NORTH CENTRAL VICTORIA

Each correct answer will earn you two points.

1. Name the towns which the train passes by between Bendigo and Echuca.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What is the name and number of the highway which the train crosses en route to Echuca.  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. List some of the crops you see growing en route.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. Name the river on which Echuca is located.  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Name the State on the opposite side of the river.  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. Name the first town on the otherside of the river.  
\_\_\_\_\_
7. How is the land near the river used?  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. What evidence do you see of there having been floods recently?  
\_\_\_\_\_
9. What types of boats are moored along the river? \_\_\_\_\_
10. Name the paddle steamer in the park. \_\_\_\_\_
11. Find out the names of any other famous river craft in the area.  
\_\_\_\_\_
12. How do the modern steamers differ from the old ones?  
\_\_\_\_\_
13. When was the Customs House used? \_\_\_\_\_
14. Name the main crop at Perricoota.  
\_\_\_\_\_
15. Why do some of the windows of the old homestead have bars across them?  
\_\_\_\_\_

(30 Points)

A PAGE OF T.O.K. GOSSIP

Greg Edwards, the medium-height good-looking fellow with brown hair, has a few hobbies - like girls, cars, and match-box label collecting.

His ambition is to become a playboy and his possible future job Prime Minister.

He has a girlfriend by the name of Annette.

(by Cheryl Williams)

About Reg Miller the Head Cook. He has a son who is 21. He started cooking 33 years ago. He makes 1700 meals a week for a full 5-day trip. He knows Mr. McKay well and likes our school. He was in the Air Force during World War 2.

(Eleonore & Anette)

Peter Stewart said, "You should have interviewed me a week ago before I started rehearsing my Alice Cooper role."

Ambition - to be a rich famous hep-cat and to have foxy chicks. Probable future job - rat-catcher. Wants a 351 Falcon GT 6.3 litres, 300 b.h.p. at 5000 r.p.m.

(David Hall)

Erratum. Thursday's "Rocket" attributed the article "A Bit about Hamilton" to Tracie Hart but it was in fact written by Ann McPherson.

Gary Warren interviewed. Hobbies - None. Ambition - None. Job - None. Probable future - None. Political opinion - None. This was a difficult interview.

(Andrew McDonald)

Greg Palmer's hobbies are electronics and ham radios. His ambition is to be a technical director of a T.V. station and a job Greg would like and enjoy is to be a video operator at a television studio. switching when he felt like it from his favorite character, Daffy Duck, to his favorite comedy "War and Peace".

(by Gay Crook & Helon)

Percy Gailis has been a waiter for about a year. He has been married for 8 years. He likes singing Rock and working on the Southern Aurora, and he is a supporter of South Melbourne football team.

(David Hall)

Diane Williams. Ambition - to be a telephonist. Probable fate - to be electrocuted at her switch-board. Hobbies, swimming, chasing butterflies and being with Greg O'Donnell.

(Jerome Allen)

Glenda's interests are boy-watching and bashing her brothers. Ambition - to be a nurse. Probable fate - a fixer of broken dolls. Her boy-friend is believed to be that Menace to Sleepers, Greg Palmer. She packs a powerful straight left and a deafening yell, as I found out when she heard about this article.

(Mark Smith)

Rhys bravely had the first ride on a donkey at the Eucalyptus Farm. Miss Jones wasn't sure who was which.

PROTEST by A.A.

The mark of 25 out of 10 given to Mr. McKay at cabin inspection was highly over-rated for several reasons. (a) The dimly-lit smoky area cunningly concealed several bad breaches. (b) Cigarette ash on the floor. (c) Litter deliberately hidden all over the place. (d) The poor tired eyesight of the cabin inspector. (e) Old stale tea dregs left in cups. (See reply, next page.)



REPLY TO SHOCKING ACCUSATION

by M. McKay

I am innocent. So is the cabin marker. If anything, he was a pretty mean marker. I claim the right to be considered innocent until proven guilty. And I will make no comment until I have telephoned my lawyer. (Perry Mason taught me that bit.) The trouble is that A.A. is just plain envious. I think the A.A. also stands for Alans Anonymous. In future, if any such person invades my cabin he will be charged with trespassing. I still think I should have been given 30.

ANOTHER CREW MEMBER

by Frank Derwent.

Our Assistant Cook is Victor Joe of New Zealand. He came to Australia two years ago and worked with Commodore Motels before working with the Railways. He enjoys the work and says he works harder than anyone else. He likes the Train Tours and Ashwood but is looking forward to two months on the Southern Aurora during the school holidays. He says he doesn't smoke or drink, or at least not as much as the others.

FOUR VISITS AT BENDIGO

by Helen Coyle &amp; Cathy Hill

Thursday's activities were interesting to most of us, even when we were nearly thrown into a pottery kiln, drugged by consuming too much eucalyptus, confronted by a large snake and haunted by strange Chinese gods. The day began with two separate tours of the Eucalyptus Farm and the Pottery. After these we came back to the train, had lunch and then went on the afternoon tours.

At the Aquarium Miss Drake kept well away from the snakes. When one was taken out and handed to us, we chased Miss Drake with it until she was crouched on the floor, nearly kissing it.

After or before this (whatever group you were in) we went to the Joss House. Then we bought tea in the Bendigo shops and ended the day by seeing the film "Great Expectations" which everyone watched quietly and seemed to enjoy.

HOMEWARD BOUND

So now, at 8.30 on Saturday we have left Echuca and are on the way to Tongala for our Swimming Contest there. If possible, results will be added below.

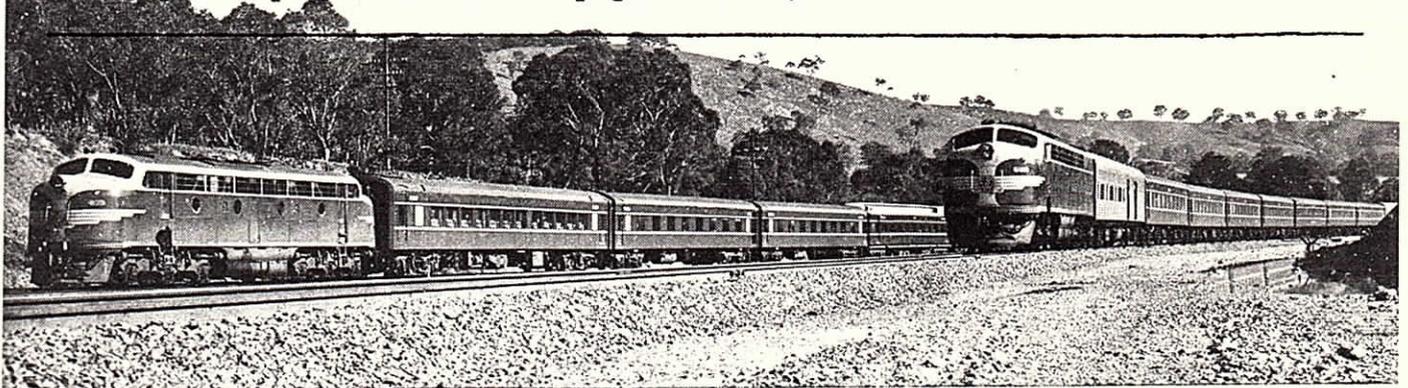
We begin to say our farewells to the train crew. All twelve of them have been very friendly and we thank them for helping to make the tour so enjoyable.

Mr. McKay wants to add his own thanks to the train people, and his special compliments to Mr. Bob Napier. We were very lucky to have had such a fine group of teachers, and the Seniors were excellent too, every one of them. He hopes that this year's Form 1 tourists will realise in years to come that very few senior students would be willing to leave their own friends and their own age-groups and give so much time to looking after and entertaining juniors. Greg Palmer's astonishing collection of apparatus and his handling of it, with Gary, added greatly to the pleasure of the tour. Mr. McKay is grateful, too, to the many who went to great trouble to look after him - cups of tea at all hours from Gary, Alan and Mr. Ashworth, and many other services.

STOP PRESS TONGALASwimming Results

This was Tongala's year. With only one race to go the Local Club had won all events. Some were close but in others Tongala boys and girls were well ahead. Congratulations to the winners and also to the Ashwood triers.

We will be back again Tonnie to try to recover the trophy. Our thanks to the Swimming Club officials and to the good people of the Shire of Deakin's office who helped to produce these last pages of the journal.



# AUTOGRAPHS !